



Off-Leash Areas Transition To Summer Guidelines

Keep Dogs Leashed Until Inside Designated Off-Leash Areas

Steamboat Springs, Colorado-April 29, 2026-Seasonal changes are taking effect in portions of two popular off-leash areas: Whistler Park and Butcherknife. Areas that operated under winter guidelines will soon shift to summer use.

“The changing seasons bring new conditions to our off-leash areas, and with that comes a shared responsibility,” said Community Service Supervisor Krista Amatuzio. “By being mindful of rules and respectful of one another, we can ensure these spaces remain safe and enjoyable for everyone—both people and their pets.”

Dog owners must keep dogs on a leash until well within designated off-leash areas and should carry a leash at all times in case of wildlife or other encounters. Dogs must remain on leash in parking lots and on all trails leading into off-leash areas. While off leash, dogs must be under voice and sight control, and owners are required to properly dispose of dog waste.

Whistler Park

Beginning from May 1 through October 31, seasonal changes will take effect:

- The southeast portion of the park, including the sports fields and playground, will require dogs to be on leash.
- The western portion of the dog area, previously restricted during winter due to elk winter range, will transition to off-leash use for the summer.

Butcherknife

Starting in early June, school-hour leash restrictions on the Butcherknife Trail will be lifted for the summer while school is out of session.

- The off-leash area is limited to the section between the bridge and the “Y” of the trail.
- All other sections of the trail require dogs to remain on leash.
- Leash requirements will resume when school returns in August.

All of the off-leash areas are clearly marked with signage at entry and exit points, including maps outlining designated zones. Off-leash hours for all city dog parks and areas—including Rita Valentine Dog Park, Spring Creek Dog Park, Butcherknife, Sailors Way, and Whistler Park—are from one hour after sunrise to one hour before sunset.

In the past year, Community Service Officers responded to 5,203 total calls for service, including 43 bite reports, and issued 50 citations. To report an animal-related concern, contact Police Dispatch at 970-879-1144. Additional information and maps are [available on the city’s website](#).



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