

Things to Gnaw on

Always pick up after your dog. Bags are provided at the trailhead.

Keep your dog on a leash --- be parks & open space friendly.

Bring plenty of water for you and your dog when you hike.

If streams and creeks are not safe for you to drink from, they probably aren't safe for your dog. Dogs are susceptible to giardia, too!

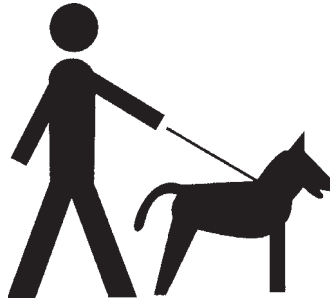
Your dog should be current on all vaccinations as well as whatever your vet recommends for your outdoor-loving friend.

Just as humans need physical conditioning, so do dogs.



And, it's the law

In accordance with Larimer County Policies, Ordinances, and Resolutions . . .



. . . dogs must be physically controlled at all times.

Leash your dog.

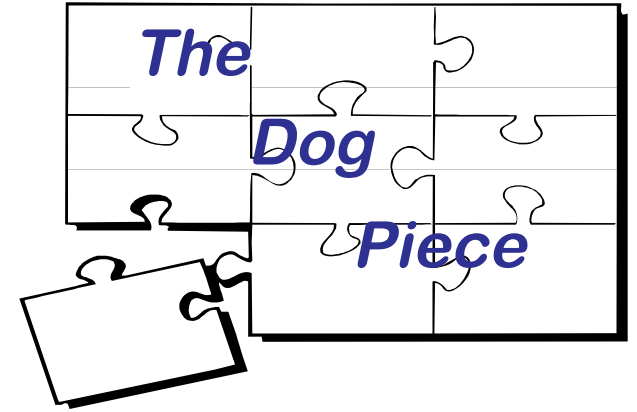
This brochure was developed with the assistance of Christa Sandelier, Volunteer Naturalist.

www.larimer.org/parks



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Do you know how your dog impacts this open space?



Larimer County Parks and Open Lands

Dogs impact nature

- ❗ Digging or disturbing soil leads to erosion and invasion by weeds.

- ❗ In heavy use areas, dogs off trail trample and kill native vegetation.

- ❗ Carnivore poop is chemically different than herbivore poop. In nature there are fewer carnivores than herbivores, so the concentration of carnivore poop is much lower in nature than in areas where dogs are present.

High concentration of nitrogen from dog waste along trails encourages weeds to grow instead of native plants that are adapted to need less fertilizer.

Dogs disturb wildlife

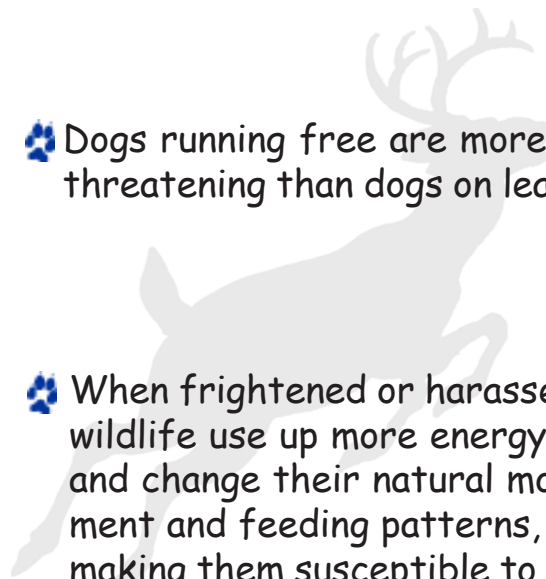
- ❗ Dogs are predators, like their wild cousins, coyotes and wolves. Wildlife, such as deer, squirrels, elk, and prairie dogs, are afraid of them.



- ❗ Ground nesting birds have had their nests and eggs destroyed by loose dogs.

- ❗ Dogs running free are more threatening than dogs on leash.

- ❗ When frightened or harassed, wildlife use up more energy and change their natural movement and feeding patterns, making them susceptible to disease, starvation, or even death.



Dogs can be harmed

- ❗ Rattlesnakes have been known to bite curious dogs that don't leave them alone.



- ❗ Loose-running dogs can be attacked by other dogs.

- ❗ Dogs have become sick from eating or drinking something bad.

- ❗ Dogs can bring fleas from plague-infested prairie dogs back to your home.