

Rotary Glen Dog Park Project FAQs



What is the project?

Salt Lake City's Trails and Natural Lands Division will be adding fencing along the edge of the off-leash dog park to protect the open space woodland area between Rotary Glen Dog Park and Donner Trail Park. Additionally, the on-leash woodland nature trails will be upgraded to prevent erosion and improve user experience. Finally, native plants will be planted in the woodland area and along Emigration Creek to support hillside bank stability and ecological health.

What is the project time frame?

Fencing installation and trail construction/improvements will begin mid-August 2024. Native plant plantings and ecological restoration will continue through spring of 2025.

Why is this project happening?

In 2023, Salt Lake County Dept. Of Health, Salt Lake County Watershed, and the Utah State Division of Water Quality notified the City that unhealthy levels of E.coli were found in Emigration Creek below the dog park and required that dogs be fenced off from entering the creek. This fence was installed in 2023 to support these efforts. However, dogs are still accessing the creek, which continues to threaten water quality.

Additionally, the south side hillside above the dog park has seen natural habitat and trail degradation from dogs running up the hill from the dog park. Fencing and signage delineating the on-leash and off-leash areas will support restoration efforts in the woodland area.

Can I still take my dog on the trails in the woodland area?

YES! Dogs are welcome on trails in the woodland area, ON LEASH. There may be temporary trail closures to be aware of while crews are regrading and rebuilding trails. Please be aware of trail crews and keep your dog on-leash at all times when visiting the woodland area.

Rotary Glen Dog Park Project FAQs, cont



How can I help?

Park visitors can help maintain the beauty and health of the park by picking up dog waste and disposing of it in waste receptacles, and by staying on trails and keeping dogs on-leash in on-leash areas.

Additional water protection information:

As early as 2002, Emigration Creek was declared an impaired waterway due to high levels of E.coli. Bacteria levels are at their highest in summer months due to warmer temperatures and high visitation from dogs whose waste contaminates the water.

E. coli contamination is dangerous for humans AND animals. E. coli typically enters surface and/or ground waters within plant, mammalian, and/or avian wastes.

More information about the rehabilitation of Emigration Creek:

A vegetative “filter strip” will help catch and treat dog park runoff as it flows downhill into Emigration Creek. This filter strip landscape is fenced to keep dogs out and protect vulnerable plants as they establish. Vegetation creates a buffer for people and dogs, keeps the water in the creek cool by shading, and filters bacteria from runoff.

Are there two separate parks in this area or only one?

TWO. The lower park with off leash dog area is Rotary Glen Dog Park, located on Emigration Canyon Road and adjacent to Rotary Glen Park. Donner Trail Park is the upper park, located on Kennedy Drive. The two parks share a border, with Rotary Glen Park’s border extending to the edge of the woodland area at the top of the south hillside.

What is the history of Rotary Glen Park?

Rotary Glen Park was opened in 1953 and the Dog Park was formalized in 2016. In 2020 dog park amenities were added including a walking path, dog fountain, and dog exercise features.