

# Pawm Springs

An Oasis of Fun for Your Canine Companion



*Written by Sarah Tucker Select Photography by Marisa Hugonnett*



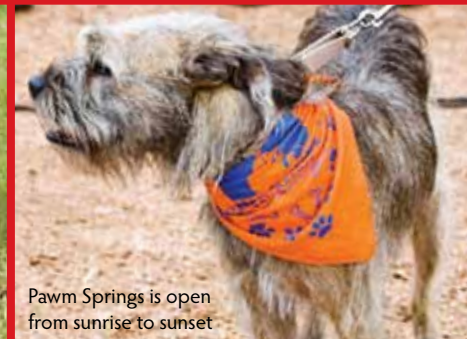
Dogs can explore without a leash



Drake kicks back at the park



The park is a great way to socialize your dog



Pawm Springs is open from sunrise to sunset

It's a beautiful summer day at Pawm Springs Dog Park. There's a light breeze, and the sun is shining. All one can see for miles is green grass and blue sky, while dogs of all breeds play together and splash in the pond. At Pawm Springs, both dogs and their owners come to relax and have fun. Brandi Thieme of First Colony enjoys bringing her border collies, Bella and Enzo, to the park once a week. "We adopted them five or six weeks ago, and we've been here almost every weekend," she says. "It's a great way to spend an hour or two - it's fun."

The park is the perfect getaway for her two furry friends. She uses the empty field in the big-dog area to help exercise Enzo, who is blind, while Bella has fun splashing around in the pool. "The first time we came here, she ran around," Thieme shares. "But once she found the water - that's all she does now."

### It's a Dog's Life

With dog parks continuing to grow in popularity, it was only a matter of time before Sugar Land got its very own. Located at Memorial Park at 15300 University Blvd., Pawm Springs consists of six acres of fenced in large and small-dog areas. The dog park features a seven-foot deep freshwater pond, palm trees, doggie bags, human and dog drinking fountains, and two showers for the dogs.

There is also agility equipment for the larger dogs, the result of a local Eagle Scout's project. Owners can relax on benches by the pond or under the shade pavilion while their pets play. "As the palm trees grow in, Pawm Springs will have an oasis-like feel," says Joe Chesser, the assistant director of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation.

Open from sunrise to sunset, the dog park is rarely empty. Attendance varies with the weather and is typically busier on the weekends and after work. Rules are posted at the entrance to Pawm Springs, and owners are encouraged to pick up after their dogs to help maintain the cleanliness of the park. "It's been well-received, but there's been a learning curve," says Chesser. "We're trying to do things that people request, and we hope people can use it and enjoy it."

### Enjoying the Dog Days of Summer

Kayla Wiltsey of Missouri City has taken her mini-schnauzer mix, Izzy, to Pawm Springs since it first opened in October of 2009. "We heard the park was coming," she says. "We drove by one day and it was there. Before this park, we went to a dog park in Pearland. But Pawm Springs is closer and convenient and the only place where I can take my dog off the leash and let her run."

Sugar Land resident, Tanya Chochua brings her Brittany spaniel, Arty, to Pawm Springs several times a week. "I used to go to different parks, but they're too far away. This one is quite close [and] very convenient," says Chochua. Sometimes, Arty uses the agility equipment or swims in the pond to keep cool. Chochua likes how well-behaved the dogs and their owners are. "Most of the owners are very responsible," she says.

Pet owners are friendly, and there's always a new dog breed to check out. "It's just fun to watch all the dogs play," says Thieme. "It's great to chat with other dog owners, too."

### Barking up the Right Tree

One of the only dog parks in Sugar Land, Pawm Springs definitely has a leg up on other pet-friendly places, with ongoing improvements made throughout the year. "Over time, we'd like to add more trees and benches, and we're working to develop a donation program for the dog park," says Chesser. "We feel like it's coming together nicely, and it's a good asset for the community. People really enjoy it."

Thieme looks forward to the welcome addition of more benches, along with more shade. "A lot of the dogs like to play in the water. It'd be great to put a shade structure around the pond," she says. But with or without shade, her and her dogs still love Pawm Springs. "It's great," she shares. "It's nice that we finally have something like this in Sugar Land." SLM

*SARAH TUCKER is a freelance writer and lifelong resident of Sugar Land. She plans to attend the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of Missouri this fall.*



## 10 Pointers for Pawm Springs guests

- 1 All dogs must have up-to-date vaccinations.
- 2 Children under 12 are not allowed in the dog park for their own safety.
- 3 Clean up after your dog. Doggie bags are provided.
- 4 Do not bring any dog or human food inside the dog park.
- 5 Do not bring any other animals into the dog park.
- 6 Dogs in heat are not allowed.
- 7 Feel free to use the dog showers if your dog gets muddy or decides to go for a swim.
- 8 Keep puppies or dogs younger than 4 months at home.
- 9 Leash your dog when entering or exiting the dog park.
- 10 Unleash your dog once they are inside the fence. Leaving them on the leash may cause them to become territorial.

Contact the Sugar Land Parks and Recreation Department at 281-275-2885 or visit [sugarlandtx.gov/parks\\_recreation](http://sugarlandtx.gov/parks_recreation).

## Convenient Pet Care in the Comfort of Your Own Home!

Serving Sugar Land and the surrounding area since 1994  
Does your dog need a break during your long workday?  
Flexible pet sitting . . . no term too long or short



Quality personal care • Current clients short notice okay

### POOCH PATROL

SUGAR LAND, TEXAS

[www.poochpatrolpetsitting.com](http://www.poochpatrolpetsitting.com)

[poochpatrolpetsitting@comcast.net](mailto:poochpatrolpetsitting@comcast.net)

281-343-5777

**Kumara S. Peddamatham, M.D.**

**Nitesh Vachhani, M.D.**

**Stacy Meuth, N.P-C**

Diplomate of American Board Of  
Internal Medicine And Gastroenterology

*Specializing In*

**Diagnosis & Treatment Of  
Colon, Stomach, Liver,  
Pancreas, Gall Bladder Diseases,  
Hepatitis, Colon Cancer Screening,  
Crohn's Disease, Colitis**

*26 Years of Service*



**Richmond Prof. Bldg  
1601 Main St., Ste 401  
Richmond, TX 77469**

**Methodist Prof. Bldg 3  
16805 S.W. Frwy, Ste 435  
Sugar Land, TX 77479**

**Doctor's Center**

**4911 Sandhill Dr., Sugar Land, TX 77479**

**281-342-9530**