

Memorial Park District Policy for Service Dog-

It is the policy of this organization to allow individuals with disabilities to bring their service animals onto our premises and into our public buildings/Parks. We recognize the importance of service animals in providing assistance to individuals with disabilities and are committed to complying with all applicable laws and regulations regarding service animals.

Definitions:

A service animal is a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, do not qualify as service animals.

Policy Guidelines:

1. Service animals are welcome in all areas of our public buildings/Park where members of the public are allowed to go. This includes but is not limited to lobbies, hallways, elevators, meeting rooms, and restrooms.
2. Service animals must be under the control of their handlers at all times. The handler is responsible for the care and supervision of their service animal, including cleaning up after the animal if necessary.
3. Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the handler's disability prevents using these devices. In that case, the handler must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective means.
4. If it is not obvious what service an animal provides, staff may ask the handler two questions: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform? Staff cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.
5. If a service animal becomes disruptive, staff may ask the handler to remove the animal from the premises. The handler must still be given the opportunity to obtain goods, services, and accommodations without having the service animal present.

Conclusion:

This policy is intended to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to our public buildings/Parks and services.