

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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## “Dog Owners Reminded to Clean Up After Their Pets”

There’s nothing more disgusting than stepping in animal waste. Pat Mrsny, City of Norfolk Park Superintendent, said park staff has noticed that some people have not been cleaning up after their pets in Norfolk parks this spring.

“It is the obligation of the pet owner to clean up any wastes from a pet whether it be on someone’s lawn or in one of our city parks. City code states that a fine of up to \$500 plus court costs can be assessed for those who neglect to do so,” said Mrsny.



Jason Loukes of Norfolk takes his two basenjis, Chili and Salsa, on a walk at Skyview Park this week.

Mrsny said besides it being a mess, there is a health issue with animal waste in public areas.

“Animal feces have to be picked up and disposed of properly. The wastes may contain harmful organisms and parasites including E. coli, tapeworm and roundworm. Contact with the feces of a sick pet can make other animals sick. It’s a health issue and an environmental issue,” Mrsny said.

In order to help pet owners pick up the wastes, there are dog stations in Ta-Ha-Zouka Park and Skyview Park that contain bags in which to place the feces and a receptacle to dispose them in.

“We purchase nearly 24,000 bags a year to put in the dog stations in our parks so there are a lot of responsible pet owners who are

diligently picking up after their pets,” Mrsny said.

Park staff check the bag station twice a week in the summer and less often the rest of the year. Mrsny said that it would be a good idea for pet owners to bring their own plastic bag when they take their pet for a walk just to make sure they’re not caught without something to scoop the wastes into.

“It’s a problem that will be addressed with stricter enforcement. Keeping our parks clean and safe is a priority,” Mrsny said.

