



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Commission Meeting Date: October 20, 2004

Staff Report #: **04-01**

Agenda Item #: F1

REGULAR BUSINESS: Consideration of Options for Off-Leash Dog Activity Areas and Forward Off-Leash Area Recommendations to the City Council

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission consider options for off-leash dog activity areas and forward off-leash area recommendations to the City Council.

BACKGROUND

The City has an established law that requires that dogs be kept on leash. The issue of off-leash dogs in City parks came to the attention of City staff in October 2002 after staff received complaints of off-leash dogs at the Little League field at La Entrada School. Community Services staff and the Police Department's Code Enforcement staff worked together to educate the dog owners at La Entrada and enforce the City's leash law. At about the same time, off-leash dogs were appearing at other locations throughout the City. Community Services staff met several times with dog owners at Nealon Park and Willow Oaks Park to discuss and enforce the City's leash law. The owners expressed concern that there was no dedicated space to run dog's off-leash.

In November 2002, staff began looking at possible locations throughout the City that could serve as a site for an off-leash dog area. Staff considered the Little League field at La Entrada School, Willow Oaks Park, Burgess Park and Nealon Park. After an analysis of those sites, staff decided to schedule off-leash hours at Nealon Park. La Entrada School was not considered because the field is located on school property. Willow Oaks Park is a small park with very little grass and is near a school. The area has no fence and is close to homes bordering the park. The area is also directly adjacent to the children's playground. Burgess Park is the City's most heavily used park. The grass area at Burgess has no fencing except for the Little League field. Nealon Park was chosen because it is conveniently located in the middle of the city, the ball field is self-contained and allows for better control of the dogs, and the entire park was scheduled for renovation, thereby allowing the use of the field without concern for further damage to the field.

The Parks and Recreation Commission approved the Nealon Park trial period for off-leash dogs at its December 18, 2002 meeting. In this trial, dogs were allowed to be off-leash Monday-Friday between the hours of 7:00-9:00 am, beginning February 2003.

Evening hours were not considered due to the field's extensive schedule of sporting activities. At the May 2003 Commission meeting, the Commission approved the extension of the off-leash hours through August 2003. At the September Commission meeting, there was opposition by neighbors of the park to the early hours of the off-leash activity. The Commission approved the further extension of the trial period through the beginning of the Nealon Park improvements, scheduled for January 2004, and changed the hours to 7:30-9:00 am. The trial period ended when the Nealon Park improvements began in May 2004.

In terms of the number of users, the Nealon Park off-leash trial period was considered a success. An average of twenty dogs used the park on a daily basis. Staff received very few complaints from sports teams and park staff regarding the condition of the field. The dog owners informally monitored the area to ensure that owners addressed aggressive and loud dogs immediately. It wasn't until a meeting notice was mailed in mid-August 2003 to neighboring residents regarding the proposed permanent dog park at Nealon Park that staff began to receive complaints regarding the noise level of the dogs in the field area.

In preparation for the conclusion of the trial period, staff explored the feasibility of building a permanent dog park in Menlo Park. Staff believed that such a park was feasible and that Nealon Park represented the best location at the time.

The advantages of the Nealon Park location were identified as the following:

- Began to address the needs of people who wish to exercise their dogs off-leash;
- Space was available at Nealon Park;
- Ability to integrate the dog park into the already planned Nealon Park improvements;
- Ability to use Measure T funds;
- Central location in the city; and
- Organized group of responsible, involved dog owners

Staff met with the Nealon Park project architects to develop a site map that included a dog park. After reviewing the plan, staff met with dog owners at the site and shared the plan. The group, known as the Dog Owner's Group of the Menlo Area, or DOGMA, had good suggestions for the park that included: adding a water faucet for the dogs in the park, taking out a proposed small dog area, having only one staging area, and enclosing the dog park with a five foot fence. Staff incorporated many of these suggestions into the final plan. The City Council awarded the contract for the Nealon park improvements, including the dog park, at its February 24, 2004 meeting.

At its May 11, 2004 meeting, the City Council discussed a written communication by Mayor Duboc regarding concerns of the location of the proposed dog park at Nealon Park. At its May 18, 2004 meeting, the City Council discussed the inclusion of the dog park as part of the Nealon Park improvements and asked whether there were alternate locations at Nealon Park that could be used for a dog park. Council directed staff to further study alternate locations and report back at a future Council meeting. At the June 8, 2004 meeting, staff presented a written communication to the Council providing information on the alternate location considered for an off-leash dog area. Staff presented five options to consider: (1) place a dog park between Middle Avenue and the tennis courts, (2) place a dog park between the ball field, tennis courts and parking lot, (3) allow the use of the rehabbed ball field for limited hours off-leash dog use, comparable to what had been allowed, (4) consider any other areas within Nealon Park that could potentially be fenced off, and (5) do nothing, which means to not accommodate off-leash dogs in Nealon Park. After discussing the

options, the Council approved the “do nothing” option, deleting the dog park from the improvement plans at Nealon Park. The Council directed the Parks and Recreation Commission to study alternate locations for off-leash dogs at all City parks and come back with recommendations.

ANALYSIS

Committee Formation

In July 2004, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved the creation of a committee to explore off-leash dog areas at all City Parks. The committee's task was to determine the feasibility of off-leash dog activity areas in City Parks and forward a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The seven members of the committee included: two Parks and Recreation Commissioners and four residents whom either supported or opposed the trial period off-leash area at Nealon Park. Additional outreach was extended through area newspapers. One additional committee member was accepted as a result of the newspaper coverage. All committee members are Menlo Park residents. One member has moved from Menlo Park since the inception of the committee. The committee was made aware of this immediately and subsequently, voted to retain this person as a committee member because of their vast knowledge related to dog activity.

The committee met nine times between July - October 2004 to develop a list of potential off-leash dog activity areas that would be presented to the public. The process by which the committee followed is outlined below.

Process

Choosing the Parks to Consider

The committee's first assignment was to visit each of the City's thirteen parks. After each member's evaluation of the parks, the committee decided to delete only Tinker Park and Fremont Park from the list of parks for consideration of off-leash dog areas. Tinker Park is located adjacent to Hillview Middle School and consists of a heavily used playground and small grass area. Fremont Park is located at the busy intersection of Santa Cruz and University Avenues and is used heavily by the downtown business community and local residents for breaks and lunchtime visits. The deletion of Tinker Park and Fremont Park meant eleven parks remained for rating for off-leash dog activity. The parks were: Kelly, Market Place, Willow Oaks, Seminary, Burgess, Nealon, Lyle, Stanford Hills, Sharon, Sharon Hills and Bayfront. The committee agreed that Burgess, Kelly and Nealon Parks each had two well-defined areas that should be rated. This created a list of fourteen areas that would be rated for potential off-leash dog activity.

Rating Criteria, Criteria Weight & Criteria Parameters

The committee discussed criteria from which to rate each park. Each member had the opportunity to identify criterion that would be important to him or her when rating a park for potential off-leash dog activity. The committee discussed the complete list of criteria and agreed on six criteria that would be used to rate each park area. The criteria were: (1) size of area, (2) proximity to homes, (3) dog safety, (4) human safety, (5) accessibility and (6) intangibles. Other criterion was considered such as: long-term use, level of ongoing maintenance, hours of operation, initial start-up costs and enforceability

of rules. The committee agreed to re-evaluate the park areas using these criteria after the initial rating of the park areas.

Once the criteria were identified, each member weighted the six criteria based on a total weighting of 100%. Higher weighting was given to the criteria that committee members felt was more important in rating each park area. The final weight of each criterion was determined by adding all members' weighting and taking the average. The six criteria and their weighted value:

- Size of area – 20%
- Proximity to homes – 20%
- Human safety – 20%
- Dog safety – 15%
- Intangibles – 14%
- Accessibility – 11%

The criteria's parameters were based on a 1-100 scale. A score of 100 represented the best possible option. A score of 1 was deemed the least desirable option. Initially the committee wanted to place objective parameters with each criterion but through discussion, it became clear that not all criteria could be rated this way. For example, the committee agreed that an ideal size for an off-leash area would be 65,000 square feet, earning it a rating of 100. Within the size criterion, an area of 10,000 square feet or less would earn a score of 1. The committee felt that criterion such as human or dog safety could only be based on an individual's personal belief system and, therefore, could not be dictated by definable numbers. In the end, two of the six criteria (size of area and proximity to homes) used objective parameters and four used subjective parameters.

Rating the Parks

The committee individually rated the fourteen areas within the eleven parks. The final scores of each of the park areas are in the table below:

Park Area	Score	Park Area	Score
Burgess Soccer	70.49	Willow Oaks	61.16
Sharon Grass	70.40	Nealon Baseball	58.04
Kelly Soccer	69.95	Bayfront	55.54
Burgess Little League	69.52	Sharon Hills	51.88
Kelly Baseball	68.34	Nealon Grass	47.85
Stanford Hills	62.36	Seminary Oaks	40.31
Lyle	61.39	Market Place	26.99

After reviewing the aggregate results of the committee, the committee agreed that the lowest five rated parks would be eliminated from consideration. Those parks/areas were: Market Place Park, Seminary Oaks, Nealon Park grass, Sharon Hills and Bayfront Park. These areas were considered too small, inadequate terrain for off-leash dogs, and/or lacking parking. Bayfront Park received mixed reviews. The committee agreed

that the park was ideal for the development of an off-leash dog area. Future plans for development and the potential environmental issues stalled any thoughts of a near-term off-leash solution at Bayfront Park. It was the consensus of the committee to make a strong recommendation to include an off-leash dog area when future development at Bayfront Park is discussed.

The decision to delete five areas meant nine areas remained, all within seven parks. The parks were: Sharon Park, Stanford Hills Park, Nealon Park, Lyle Park, Burgess Park, Willow Park and Kelly Park.

The committee noticed that of the parks that remained, there were possibilities to group parks together in specific regions of the City. The committee agreed on four regions: **Hills** - Sharon Park and Stanford Hills Park, **West** - Nealon Park and Lyle Park, **Middle** - Burgess Park and Willow Oaks Park, and **East** – Kelly Park. The regions met the committee's desire to distribute potential off-leash areas throughout Menlo Park thereby making the areas a short walking or driving distance for most dog owners. By having multiple off-leash areas and distributing the areas throughout Menlo Park, the impact on a single area is not as great.

Scheduling the Public Meetings

The public meetings were scheduled in the month of September. A location within each region hosted a public meeting. Meeting dates, locations, park focus and meeting registrants were:

September 20th - Burgess Recreation Center (Willow Park and Burgess Park) (47)

September 23rd - Onetta Harris Community Center (Kelly Park) (18)

September 27th - St. Bede's Episcopal Church (Sharon Park and Stanford Hills Park) (49)

September 30th - Little House Adult Center (Lyle Park and Nealon Park) (43)

Public Meeting Publicity

Upon final agreement of the proposed off-leash areas, notification was mailed to residents within 300 feet of the proposed park. Approximately 1,200 flyers were mailed to Menlo Park homes. Specific groups such as AYSO and Little League were also notified of the meetings. Additional flyers were placed in the following areas; Burgess Recreation Center, Onetta Harris Recreation Center, Menlo Park Library, Belle Haven Library, Stanford Park, Sharon Park, Nealon Park, Lyle Park, Willow Park and Kelly Park. Notices for the Kelly Park meeting were printed in English and Spanish. The four meetings were posted on the City's web site under Public Meetings.

On September 9, 2004 the committee made a press release regarding the public meetings. This resulted in 4 announcements in local papers and generated further awareness of the meetings.

During the days leading to the meetings, staff received over sixty phone calls and emails regarding the meetings and their agendas. If a person indicated he or she would be unable to attend a specific meeting, they were invited to attend another meeting and/or complete a survey. Surveys were returned via mail, fax or email.

Summary of Public Meeting Input

Each of the four meetings was conducted similarly. Staff facilitated the meetings. A power point presentation outlined the process and public input followed the presentation. Committee members documented the public's comments. The attendees also completed a two-page survey (Attachment B) at the end of each meeting. The survey allowed residents to further detail their opinion and/or in some cases, state their opinion for the first time. One hundred twenty-two (122) surveys were completed at the four meetings. If residents were unable to attend one of the four meetings, staff invited the residents to complete a survey. This resulted in an additional sixty-six (66) surveys being completed for a total of one hundred eighty-eight (188). In all meetings, the public opinion echoed the information extracted from the surveys.

A summary of the four public meetings and pertinent survey information is provided below:

Burgess Park and Willow Oaks Park

Meeting participants were overwhelmingly supportive of off-leash activity in Burgess Park and Willow Oaks Park. 87% of survey respondents strongly support off-leash activity compared to 8% that are strongly against off-leash activity. The support came exclusively from residents in the Willow Oaks Park neighborhood or those residents that currently use Willow Oaks Park for off-leash activity. Supporters sighted a strong sense of community at Willow Oaks Park during the informal gathering of dogs and their owners. Some concerns included the area's proximity to the tot lot.

Kelly Park

Kelly Park meeting participants unanimously agreed that they did not want off-leash dog activity areas located within Kelly Park. 79% stated they were strongly against off-leash activity while 14% said they could support an area under certain conditions. No respondents strongly supported the proposal. Most attendees stated that due to the large presence of Pit Bulls, Rottweilers and Doberman Pinchers, unleashed dogs at Kelly Park would be a physical threat to the people who used the park.

Sharon Park and Stanford Hills Park

The Hills area was the most vocal in their opposition to the off-leash areas for dogs. A small network of neighbors distributed information regarding the proposal and meeting to their neighbors resulting in a large volume of phone calls and emails. 49% of individuals stated that were strongly against off-leash activity at either park while 38% were strongly supportive of off-leash activity. Common statements against off-leash activity expressed concern for youth and elderly safety and an increased use of the parks by people from outside the immediate neighborhood. Although the committee's proposal for use of a large grass area at Sharon Park was not supported, there was some support for the area near the corner of Klamath Drive and Sharon Park Drive. Others felt that any area for off-leash activity in Sharon Park should be fenced.

Nealon Park and Lyle Park

The "middle" section of Menlo Park provided a strong contrast between supporters and those against the off-leash activity proposals for the two parks. 88% of survey respondents stated they strongly support off-leash activity while 9% strongly opposed such action. Many speakers in support of the proposals spoke of the good sense of community and the benefits gained from the trial period at Nealon Park. Opponents of

the proposals spoke of concerns over mixed usage of the areas, especially youth and the elderly, with off leash dogs.

The most telling question in the survey asked respondents, “How do you feel about providing some form of off-leash activity area at local parks?” Listed below is a matrix of responses broken down by park meeting and level of support/opposition.

Source	Strongly Support	Support Under Certain Circumstances	Strongly Against	No Opinion
Burgess and Willow Oaks Park Meeting	87%	8%	5%	0%
Kelly Park Meeting	0%	14%	79%	7%
Stanford and Sharon Park Meeting	38%	13%	49%	0%
Nealon and Lyle Park Meeting	88%	3%	9%	0%
Email / Fax / Mail	29%	20%	51%	0%
Combined Total	51%	36%	12%	1%

Other off-leash activity areas

Staff contacted thirteen agencies to determine best practices as it relates to off-leash dog activity areas. Attachment A provides information related to those agencies that have off-leash dog activity areas. Common characteristics of off-leash activity areas in other cities include:

- Fenced areas
- 4 ft. fence
- Approximately 20,000 square feet or larger
- Decomposed granite surface area – grass wears out
- Very little scheduled maintenance
- Self-policed
- Very few incidences
- Flea/tick problems not reported
- Registration and user fee not required

Of the agencies that staff contacted that do not have off-leash areas, the County of San Mateo does not allow dogs in their parks, leashed or unleashed, Los Altos has no plans to develop such an area, San Mateo is in the planning stages of an off-leash area, the Towns of Woodside and Atherton do not have areas for off-leash dogs, and the Town of Portola Valley has some of the same concerns as Menlo Park but does not have the land to dedicate space for off-leash dogs.

Committee’s Recommendations

Upon completion of the series of public meetings, the committee met for the final time on October 4, 2004. The committee discussed the public meeting comments, survey results and initial off-leash proposals and made the following recommendations:

Burgess Park **Unfenced on grass** **M-F** **6-9 am**
Capital Costs: \$10,000 signage (rules & hours), drinking faucet for dogs; receptacles for dog waste, dog bag dispensers
*Ongoing Costs: \$1,000** dog bags, additional maintenance time (specify), turf and related materials

Willow **Fenced on grass** **7 days** **dawn-dusk**
Capital Costs: \$35,000 4ft. chain link fence and gates, signage (rules & hours), drinking faucet for dogs; receptacles for dog waste, dog bag dispensers
Alternates: decomposed granite, 5ft chain link fence, 6 ft chain link fence, irrigation
*Ongoing Costs: \$1,000** dog bags, additional maintenance time (specify), turf and related materials

Sharon Park (Tree Area) **Fenced on mulch** **7 days** **dawn-dusk**
Capital Costs: \$48,000 4ft. chain link fence and gates, signage (rules & hours), drinking faucet for dogs; receptacles for dog waste, dog bag dispensers;
Alternates: decomposed granite, 5ft chain link fence, 6 ft chain link fence, irrigation
*Ongoing Costs: \$1,000** dog bags, additional maintenance time (specify), mulch, turf and related materials

Stanford Hills **Unfenced on grass** **M-F** **7-10 am**
Capital Costs: \$10,000 signage (rules & hours), drinking faucet for dogs; receptacles for dog waste, dog bag dispensers
*Ongoing Costs: \$1,000** dog bags, additional maintenance time (specify), turf and related materials

Nealon Park Field **Fenced on grass** **M-F** **7:30-10 am**
Capital Costs: \$10,000 signage (rules & hours), drinking faucet for dogs; receptacles for dog waste, dog bag dispensers
*Ongoing Costs: \$1,000** dog bags, additional maintenance time (specify), turf and related materials

Lyle Park **Unfenced on grass** **M-F** **7:30-10 am**
Capital Costs: \$10,000 signage (rules & hours), drinking faucet for dogs; receptacles for dog waste, dog bag dispensers
*Ongoing Costs: \$1,000** dog bags, additional maintenance time (specify), turf and related materials

*The cost estimates for the ongoing costs have yet to be determined. The estimates will be available at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on Wednesday, October 20, 2004.

The committee stressed a desire for additional night and weekend hours at the parks that are recommended for limited use hours.

than wood chips. The capital cost of decomposed granite is considerably greater than the initial cost of wood chips or grass.

Off-leash concerns

Throughout the public meetings, residents voiced their concerns regarding a number of issues including: health issues related to urine and fecal matter of dogs, enforcement of the off-leash areas, the liability issues related to unleashed dogs in parks, aggressive dogs, and the notification process of the public meetings. Those issues are addressed below:

Health and Hygiene

Staff has identified a number of diseases that can affect both dogs and humans through parasites and transmittable diseases. Fecal matter from dogs, if not properly cleaned, has been proven to cause illness in humans. Given these potential risks, no off-leash dog area or park has reported any major incidents of illnesses caused by the activity areas. With a minimal amount of maintenance by the responsible agencies and self-policing by dog owners and health care provided by the dog owners, disease transmission has been kept to a non-reportable minimum at other local off-leash dog areas.

Enforcement

The Police Department, and more specifically, code enforcement, enforces Menlo Park's leash law. Currently enforcement is taken after a call is received regarding an off-leash dog or if the code enforcement officer views the infraction in the course of his or her duties. If off-leash dog activity areas were implemented, enforcement of sanctioned or unsanctioned areas would remain consistent with current practice.

Liability

With assistance from the City Attorney, staff has determined that a majority of cities that have off-leash dog play areas do not provide unfenced off-leash dog play areas due to liability concerns. By fencing the area, it limits the ability for an uncontrolled dog to bite someone not in the play area. Anyone entering the area is entering at his/her own risk with the knowledge that one is entering an off-leash dog play area. The liability risk is to other users of the park who would not be expecting to encounter an unleashed dog. Of special concern are off-leash dog play areas in close proximity to tot lots, children's play areas and active sports fields that might be in use during the same hours as the off-leash dog play area.

Aggressive Dogs

Throughout the public meetings, residents raised concerns about aggressive dogs being allowed to run off-leash in parks. During the Nealon Park off-leash trial period, staff received no calls regarding aggressive dogs. Staff believes it has addressed the concerns of residents by recommending fenced, off-leash areas.

Public Outreach

In summary, the committee:

- Provided 2 press releases to 10 separate news sources that resulted in 8 printed news references over a 2 month period;
- Received and responded to over 60 emails and an unidentified amount of phone calls;
- Mailed over 1200 flyers throughout the community; and

- Posted flyers in the potentially impacted parks.

IMPACT ON CITY RESOURCES

The estimated cost to construct off-leash activity areas in Menlo Park is listed below, separated by the committee's recommendations and the recommendations made by staff:

Recommendation	Committee	Staff
Burgess Park	Capital: \$10,000 Ongoing: 1,000	Not recommended
Willow Oaks Park	Capital: \$35,000 Ongoing: \$1,000	Capital: \$185,000 Ongoing: \$1,000
Sharon Park	Capital: \$48,000 Ongoing: \$1,000	Capital: \$386,000 Ongoing: \$1,000
Stanford Hills Park	Capital: \$10,000 Ongoing: \$1,000	Not recommended
Nealon Park	Capital: \$10,000 Ongoing: \$1,000	Capital: \$116,000 Ongoing: \$1,000
Lyle Park	Capital: \$10,000 Ongoing: \$1,000	Not recommended
Total	Capital: \$123,000 Ongoing: \$6,000	Capital: \$687,000 Ongoing: \$3,000

Currently, no funds have been designated for the construction or ongoing maintenance of off-leash dog activity areas. If off-leash areas were constructed, a source of funds would need to be identified and approved by the City Council.

POLICY ISSUES

If off-leash activity is permitted in Menlo Park, the ordinance pertaining to off-leash dogs will have to be amended.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

No environmental review is needed.

Dirk Alvarado
Recreation Supervisor

Curtis Brown Jr.
Director of Community Services

Bob Roessler
Community Services Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE: Public Notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Other City’s off-leash dog activity areas

Attachment B – Survey

ATTACHMENT A:

**Off-leash Activity Areas
In Other Cities**

	Sunnyvale	Mountain View	Palo Alto	San Carlos	Redwood City	Belmont	Foster City
Size of area	22,000 sq. ft Las Palmas Park	30,000 sq. ft. Shoreline Park	32,400 sq. ft. Mitchell Park	Small area on hillside at Heather Park	32,000 sq. ft Redwood Shores	7,000 sq. ft	20,000 sq. ft. Bark Park
Hours of operation	8 am - dusk	6 am – 30 min. past sunset	Dawn – dusk	Dawn – dusk	Dawn – dusk	Dawn – 8:30 pm in summer; lighted in winter	Dawn – 10 pm; lighted
Fenced	4 ft & 6 ft	4 ft	4 ft	No	4 ft	4 ft.	5 ft
Surface type	Decomposed granite – grass eventually wore down	Decomposed granite – graded well and raked	Decomposed granite – grass wore down	Grass	Grass – but extremely worn	Grass/wood chips – reported that chips cause splinters in paws	Synthetic turf/gold dust granite
Maintenance	As needed	Steam clean fencing weekly	Replace dog bags, empty trash, water area 2x year	Not well maintained	As needed	As needed	Irrigate daily
Incidents	1 in 8-9 years	1 noted	Dog fights	None reported	Large groups of dogs – dog walkers	1 – large dog bit small dog	Small dog died/irresponsible owner sited
Off-leash in other parks	No	Training in 3 parks between 5-8 am (permit required)	Yes Hoover Park Greer Park	No	No	No	4 parks 5-8 am unfenced
Organized group	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Organize when funds are to be raised
Enforcement	Self policing	Rangers (CLM)	Comm. Service Officers/citations	Self policing	Self policing	Self policing	Police
Registration/Fee	No/no	No/no	No/no	No/no	No/no	No/No	No/no
Flea/tick problem	None reported	None reported	None reported	None reported	None reported	None reported	None reported



COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Parks and Recreation Commission

Off-leash Dog Activity Area Survey

Thank you for your interest in off-leash dog activity areas in Menlo Park. The Parks and Recreation Commission is seeking input from the general community on potential off-leash dog activity areas at City parks. Your input will assist the Commission in forwarding a recommendation to the City Council.

Please answer the following questions and provide comments when applicable.

1. Are you a resident of Menlo Park? Yes No
2. How many dogs do you own? None 1-2 3 or more
3. Which parks and/or spaces do you most frequently use (for any use)? _____
4. How frequently do you use the parks? (Check one) Daily
 Several times a week
 Several times a month
 Several times a year
5. What amenities do you use at the park? (Check all that apply) Lawn
 Playground/tot lot
 Sports field - open space
 Other _____
6. How close do you live to the park you most frequently use? Adjacent
 One to two block
 Three blocks or more
(approx. distance _____ miles)
 I live outside of the City limits
7. How do you get to the park? (check all that apply) Walk
 Bike
 Drive
 Other _____
8. How do you feel about providing some form of off-leash dog activity areas at local parks?
 Strongly support Support under certain circumstances Strongly against No opinion

Comments: _____

9. What concerns do you have about off-leash dogs in parks? (Check all that apply)

Sanitation Human safety Dog safety Noise impact Excessive wear None

Other

Comments: _____

10. How would fully enclosing an off-leash dog activity area influence your opinion?

More inclined to support Does not change my opinion Less inclined to support

Comments: _____

11. How would limited hours for off-leash dog activity areas influence your opinion?

More inclined to support Does not change my opinion Less inclined to support

Comments: _____

12. Should dog owners be encouraged to pay an annual user fee for use of an off-leash dog activity area?

Yes No

Comments: _____

13. If you are a dog owner, how much would you be willing to pay on an annual, household basis to use the off-leash dog activity areas?

None up to \$25 per year \$26 - \$49 per year \$50 - \$99 per year \$100+

N/A

Comments: _____

Additional Comments: _____

THANK YOU!