

**Town of Portola Valley
Parks and Recreation
Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 15, 2024
7:30 p.m.**

**Patty Dewes, Chair
Karen Askey, Member
David Bailey, Member
Lindsay Bowen, Member
Jon Myers, Member
Cindy Rowe, Member**

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM

To access the meeting by computer:
Zoom Link : <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81523248653?pwd=Cy9xfVexdCtD2H1JJQbwIN1Pla4E3i.1>
Meeting ID: 815 2324 8653
Passcode: 069835

To access the meeting by phone:
1-669-900-6833 or 1-888-788-0099 (toll-free)
*Mute/Unmute – Press *6 / Raise Hand – Press *9*

- 1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
Speakers' time is limited to two minutes.

- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - a. September 17, 2024

- 4. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **New Member Application – Mike Chang**

- 5. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Zotts to Tots/Town Picnic Review**
 - b. **Game Night Update**
 - c. **Discuss Hawthorns Property Planning Status**
 - d. **Discuss Town Court Outstanding Topics**
 - e. **Review updates for Off-Leash Dog Area: Survey results attached**
 - f. **Discuss status of request to Town Council for a study session on recreational facilities**
 - g. **Discuss PV Recreational Facilities Opportunities Status**
 - h. **Review and Discuss updates on CA Sate Grant/Ford Field Bathroom**

- 6. ADJOURNMENT**
The next regularly scheduled meeting date is Tuesday, November 19 @ 7:30 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement:
The Town of Portola Valley acknowledges the colonial history of this land we dwell upon—the unceded territory of the Ramaytush (rah-my-toosh) Ohlone, Tamien Nation, and Muwekma (mah-WEK-mah) Ohlone, who endured a human and cultural genocide that included removal from their lands and their sacred relationship to the land. Portola Valley recognizes that we profit from the commodification of land seized from indigenous peoples and now bear the ecological consequences. We seek to understand the impact of these legacies on all beings and to find ways to make repair.



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
Date & Time: September 17, 2024 @ 7:30 PM
765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

Roll Call: Members present: Patty Dewes, Jon Myers, Karen Askey, Cindy Rowe, Lindsay Bowen, Dave Bailey **Members absent:** None

Approval of Minutes: Minutes were approved unanimously.

Oral Communications: None

New Business: None

Old Business:

a. Zotts to Tots/Town Picnic – Saturday, September 21st:

- **Zotts starts at 10:00 a.m. Picnic is from 11:00 – 2:00 p.m**
- All vendors/rentals for the picnic are complete.
- Hats/visors have been received.
- The booth for the 60th anniversary is in the final stages of planning and execution w/ the Historical Resources Group. Also, a 60th anniversary video has been produced by several of our Town residents and will be highlighted at the picnic.
- We will have a meeting of the “Finish line” volunteers before the race
- The BP&TS committee is managing the road closure volunteers and logistics w/ the Sheriff.
- Woodside Robotics team is confirmed. Several Town committees have also signed up to sponsor booths this year.

b. Game night: We think Singo/Bingo could be fun, maybe call it PV PaSingo?, Cindy is going to run a test with some volunteers to see how it would work. We proposed a January time for this and maybe another Trivia night in May. Patty will check on the availability of the Community Hall for either Jan 11 or Jan 25.

c. Hawthorns Planning: Karen provided a link for Town residents to stay informed and to know the timing and availability of public forums to provide feedback about the parking sites.

d. Town Courts:

- The Town has approved the purchase of a courtside AED. We are working to coordinate a training session when this is received.
- The Town has approved the purchase of replacement nets. Cindy is getting the invoice from the supplier.
- We still want to make a proposal to the Town:
 1. **Court #1:** Convert to permanent Pickleball. Purchase nets which are heavier and harder to move and keep them up permanently (approx. \$2K each). Re-paint court for PB lines only. Retain tennis net as a PB backstop.

2. **Court #2:** Keep as is; tennis and PB may be played here but tennis has priority
3. **Court #3:** Re-paint court for tennis and BB lines only. PB not allowed on this court.
 - Public Works rec'd a quote of \$8K to repaint a court. Plus \$2K to fix cracks.
 - Patty will talk to the interim Town Manager about the next steps including how to gather resident feedback.
 - It was also mentioned that the Town should be updating its Master Plan which would include Recreation facilities. Patty will inquire about this as well.
- e. **Off-Leash Dog Area:**
 - Karen provided some interim data regarding the survey results, 271 responses rec'd so far!! We will discuss it at the October meeting.
 - Patty is still trying to find out from Town legal counsel if the agreement with Spring Down allows us to fix the existing fencing at Spring Down and whether dogs are prohibited.
- f. **Parkland and Recreational Facility Dedication:** The proposal has been submitted to the Town Manager with a request that it be added to the agenda for a future Town Council meeting.
- g. **PV Recreational Facilities Opportunities:** No update
- h. **CA State Grant:** Patty is working w/ the Town Manager to understand if we can use the grant money to develop an engineering proposal for the Ford Field bathrooms.
- i. **Parking at Rossotti's/Ford Field:** No update

Town Staff Action Items:

1. **Town Manager:** Agendize the Parkland and Recreational Facility Dedication proposal for a Town Council meeting.
2. **Town Manager:** Next steps on Town Court usage proposal
3. **Town Manager:** Status of Master Plan including Recreational Facilities
4. **Town Manager:** Status on Rossotti's parking lease renegotiation.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Patty Dewes, Secretary

From: webmaster@portolavalley.net <webmaster@portolavalley.net>

Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2024 11:02 AM

To: Town Center <TownCenter@portolavalley.net>

Subject: Committee Application

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name: Committee Application

Date & Time: 09/26/2024 11:02 AM

Response #: 206

Submitter ID: 7358

IP address: 2600:387:15:c18::b

Time to complete: 12 min. , 7 sec.

Survey Details

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Name of committee which I am interested in serving on (please note that only committees currently seeking applicants are listed)

(o) Parks & Recreation

Applicant Information

Full Name Mike Chang
Email Address mchang@alxoncology.com
Street Address 135 Shawnee Pass
City/Zip Portola Valley, CA 94028
Number of years in Portola Valley 24
Cell Phone (650) 303-3247
Home Phone (650) 303-3247
Other Phone Not answered
Emergency Preparedness Not answered

Preferred Phone Contact Number

(o) Cell

Please state why you have an interest in this committee, and state any background or experience you may have that would be helpful to your service to this committee.

I would like to volunteer time to help manage fun events in the Town including Zotts to Tots, the Town Picnic, and other events build a community spirit and contribute to making Portola Valley a special place to live.

Do you have any personal or financial interest that could be perceived by others as a conflict of interest related to this committee? If so, please describe.

No.

TIME COMMITMENT: Generally committees meet monthly and require a significant time commitment and regular meetings. Please consider this level of commitment when evaluating your interest in serving on one of the committees.



Results for PV
Off-Leash Dog Area S



Off-Leash Dog Area
Survey - Questions 9

Attachment to Off-Leash Dog Area Survey Results - Responses to Open-ended Questions As of October 8, 2024

9. Why would you NOT be in favor of an off-leash dog area in Portola Valley?

- People would bring their dangerous dogs. Dog parks are a bit notorious for this. It might be nice if you had to "check in" and if altercations ensued then there was a process to address. Another reason is the owners. For some of the more formalized "dog meetups" at Town Center, one issue that we see is the owners are often so busy talking with each other that they do not notice when their dog poops on the grass. We think of ourselves as responsible owners so this behavior is very frustrating as we likely get lumped in with this crowd. My suspicion is that these same folks would congregate in the newly created area. Creation of such an area might lead to a crack down in non-sanctioned areas. We are generally pretty good about this but tend to prefer self-policing rather than a bunch of ordinances and provisions strictly enforced. It's another town resource, which is another cost. It would also no doubt be used by others outside of the town and perhaps attract more traffic.
- If the area were too small for a dog to run, or if it were unfenced.
- Only if it was too small and poorly maintained. If it's just dirt, may be too muddy in winter or dusty in summer. The people (and dogs) need a little shade. Foxtails are a big problem so it would need to be mowed/maintained to feel safe.
- An off leash dog area may lead to less acceptance of dogs off leash elsewhere. It will tame the town, not in a good way
- There are many dog owners who don't have control of their dogs (also a lot of older dog owners). Our dog was bitten by an off leash dog - we have to remind everyone of the rules.
- I feel that the current situation as is meets the needs of all residents. The dog owners are very polite and respectful in our town.
- Find a way to give warnings to dogs who are dangerous to other dogs.
- Some town dog owners are bossy and unpleasant company. Would prefer not to be subjected to them just to exercise my dog.
- Aesthetics, fencing in a town which discourages fencing.
- Encourages encroachment into other areas as some/many owners already walk trails with dogs off-leash. If they can off-leash here, then why not there mentality. Regulations already aren't enforced on trails, and this may possibly lead to greater encroachment of trails and exposure to walkers/hikers to aggressive dog behavior.
- My hesitation has to do with size. The space would need to be large enough to accommodate lots of dogs and space to really run. A small/tiny park is useless.
- It is not safe no one can guarantee their dogs is 100 % fine all the time
- It's not necessary
- Cost. Portola Valley's current finances to not allow for non-mandatory projects.
- Potential for dog fights
- Some people might think that ANY part of PV is off-leash
- if violent dogs were allowed to participate
- If you own a dog, it is your responsibility to exercise it, not the town's responsibility to build and maintain a place. Also, now there are many people whose dogs are ill-disciplined and who do not pick up after themselves. Such a facility would only concentrate the problems where townspeople must pay for the solutions.

- Concern about dogs biting/harming children and others.
- I personally don't do the big doggie playdates that occur daily at the Town Center and SMS because there are too many dogs in too small an area and it seems more social for the people, than true off leash play for the dogs. My dog just gets bombarded by so many dogs and doesn't really get to play frisbee (other dogs take the frisbee which she doesn't like) so not really tired...just over stimulated.
- Questions about unvaccinated dog policy
- I'm in favor
- I would be worried about an off leash area that's not fenced in
- If it was a smallish fenced dog-park-like area, that would be dangerous for dogs.
- if it drew a lot of dogs from outside the area
- Drawing more people to Town filling our few parking spaces. Sacrificing our few Town owned areas of open space/park for the benefit of a few dog owners. Fences looking ugly along the scenic corridor.
- Just needs enclosure
- The area needs to be kept far away from the equestrian trails. Even the most well behaved dog of leash could decide to attack a horse causing serious injury to the rider, horse and the dog.
- We have inadequate playing fields and off leash dog area would impact.
- Fenced dog play areas are bad for dogs I would not join one.
- Owners are frequently unaware of their dogs approaching people without dogs
- If it grows too large. Plus you need a small dog and large do area if it is to be fenced off which is also an eye sore.
- If owners don't pick up after their dogs (enable good practice like in the ranch where poop bags and bins are available)
- We need to keep dogs off school property so I would be against any on school property. Also we have had issues with aggressive off leash dogs at Corte Madera and ormondale (off leash ordinances are not unforced at these school locations seemingly!)
- Well, it seems like there are already 2 unofficial off-leash areas in PV: Town Center and Corte
- madera School. Im in favor of those being officially sanctioned, but i never use them as my dog is a rescue and not Good with other dogs
- Sometimes hard to police
- Because owners often fail to observe their dogs defecating in off leash areas and don't pick up their waste. Especially in the school fields of Ormondale and Corte Madera and in the town center fields this results in fouling of the fields where kids play.
- If large dogs were not given separate time from small dogs
- Depends upon location
- It could be unattractive and reduce the existing peaceful cooperation between dog owners and non dog owners.
- 'm a dog owner but I don't like (other) dogs chasing me. It has happened (bit me and ripped my running shorts) on PV trails.
- I don't want a dog field to add to the town's already stretched operating budget. I think it should be an unmaintained natural area.
- Clear communication and signage would be important to make sure that dog owners do not have their dogs off leach in all other areas. For now this is not being reinforced by the town and every day I encounter dogs off leach on trails as well as dogs on trails which does not allow for dogs
- If it is not enclosed and free from fox tails and other weeds that catch on dogs resulting in vet costs.
- If it consumes one of the "prime" open fields near ford field or the town hall
- Owners do not control their dogs now, even when they are on a leash.

- The presence of off-leash area may imply stricter off-leash rules elsewhere. I want to be have the chance to responsibly walk our dog without a leash when there are no other dogs, kids or people around us.
- cost prohibitive / could be noisy
- noise disruption; need to control the area
- If it was NOT fenced in would not be of personal value. Ambiguous if "off-leash" implies fenced or not.
- If dog owners still took the dogs on "no dogs" trails then they wouldn't deserve this benefit
- If the area is too small, it ends up being boring for the dog and we wouldn't use it. For example, the relatively new area in Los Altos Hills is used very little. It's small, on a hill side, has a dirt surface and is just not very nice. We drive by often for tennis but would never take our dog there.
- Also, we generally have not had a good experience with the dog groups that meet at town center. People come to hang out with other people and to let their dogs run wild so there is a lot of uncivilized dog behavior. Because town center is not fenced, people at least have to watch their dog a little bit. In a fenced area, they could focus entirely on their human interactions.
- if dogs are dangerous
- would not be in favor if the off-leash area substantially limited park area for all people in PV. Which area(s) are you considering separating for just dogs?
- Dog owners rather than town tax payers should be paying for these features.
- safety issue
- I would not want the creation of a dog park to result in the restriction of the areas dogs are accepted in town.
- Could attract out-of-towners to area with resultant congestion.
- I don't want more reasons for out of town people to come for recreational purposes to our town. We already have issues with parking, trash along the side of the road and crazy bikers blocking our traffic when we try to drive.
- If not a secure fenced in area
- The town's resources (public outdoor spaces, sports fields, park/rec and maintenance staff, budget, etc) are already overloaded. A off-leash park is a waste of resources that benefits only a small portion of the residents. It will also draw more non-residents into PV (we already have the parking and traffic mess of Windy Hill, and soon the Hawthorne Open Space). There will be more non-residents to clean up after, yet we don't have enough Town staff to even take care of the existing residents.
- Too many safety issues, attacks on smaller dogs, escape from area, etc.
- It would have to be a site that doesn't impact other recreational activities in town or disturb the view corridors since it will be fenced. Also cannot be near trails where people hike or ride horses. FYI, I wouldn't use it since we have a backyard for our dogs.
- Important that dogs do not have behavior issues (biting, particularly).
- Noise from barking dogs
- Generally, I'm not comfortable around strange dogs (though I like dogs). I worry for their safety and that of their owners on trails and other areas where they might run if encountering a mtn. lion, coyote, etc. They disturb birds and other wildlife. And the county, as I understand, mandates leashes except on homeowner property or specific off-leash areas.
- It would attract non residents and over crowd the scene
- Zero reason, am thrilled to see it being considered. I have used dog parks for years both in Santa Clara county and San Mateo County. Well exercised dogs are well behaved dogs that hopefully do not spend all day barking
- All open space should be prioritized for affordable housing ahead of dog parks. Or something. Fire safety? Idk what the reason to not have an off leash dog area would be. Horses? Off-leash

cat area first?

- In other places I have lived, or where my dog-friendly friends have lived, so-called “dog parks” have been a huge draw, creating lots of additional traffic and parking, additional neighborhood noise (which can be substantial), additional safety incidents (including injuries to dogs and humans inflicted by both dogs and humans), the ultimate addition of further “improvements,” (including outdoor lighting, security apparatus, fencing, trash collection, and other things not consistent with our town’s General Plan, which focuses on living more harmoniously with nature). Yes, Portola Valley residents own dogs, but do we wish to make our town a mecca for out-of-town dogs, with resultant impacts?
- I personally have no reason to object to an off-leash area. I imagine hypothetical reasons will be conservation and attracting visitors from outside of town.
- Depends on the location, fencing openspace I would oppose
- Wouldn’t fit the look for the area. Fields are occupied by children for sports and practices and recreation. Leaves little space for permanent dog area in town centre.
- If it’s at the public schools during off times i would not support this.
- cost issue especially now that PV has a huge deficit, more people from outside PV adding to our traffic and parking issues, lack of oversight
- on trails
- Confusion about various regulations and the priorities of the parks district might be better focused on other things
- If there were poorly defined boundaries it would seem to only exacerbate issues
- Type of dogs that don’t socialize well and don’t have good recall
- Only thing I can think of is if it was not done in a thoughtful way, which it’s clear from this survey will not be the case.
- Favor fenced in area for dogs to be off leash. This is also a sanitary issue with keeping other areas free of fecal matter.
- If the contemplated off-leash dog area would just be a small, stinky patch of dirt, dogs won’t like it and neither will people. I’m not in favor of creating that kind of dog park.
- Leash laws are already abused by dog owners. So many unleashed dogs at Town Center. I wish there was more consideration. I believe dog owners would abuse this privilege too.
- Invites nonresidents, takes someone to care for it
- Many times people allow their dogs to run free and scared children or other pets. A few months ago, a dog jumped on my toddler and scratch his face. The dog owner who was not from the area, confronted me stating that if there were fenced up areas for dogs to run free the incident would not have happened. Also, not all pets who run free are friendly towards other pets and many times people allow their pets in areas where no dogs are allowed and don’t pick up the poop.
- I am afraid of dogs and so don’t want them off leash
- People generally don’t control their dogs. I’ve had groups of kids and dogs routinely run up to them scaring the heck out of some of them.
- Dangerous
- While most owners are responsible, I already see many owners abusing the regulations on trails and in neighborhoods. In addition, many owners feel that they do not have to pick up their dog waste. I like using Corte Madera and Ormondale areas with our family and I an always having to worry about dog waste and dogs running around out of control while the owners are looking at their cell phone. If there was an exclusive fenced off area restricted to dogs only and not mixed use, I would support that strategy.
- Mixed use with the occasional irresponsible set of dog owners does not work.
- Large dogs sometimes bully smaller dogs.

- Concern it may bring more cars and traffic to the town.
- An off-leash dog area should be properly fenced in and it should accompany better enforcement of leashing rules for other areas. Dog owners routinely ignore leashing laws on public property in town. Additionally, there is a lack of enforcement of leashing rules around the Town Center and this has contributed to the persistence of the problem. Perhaps an off-leash dog area would help alleviate this issue to a degree, in which case I would support it.
- To protect the kiddos in areas such as playgrounds and schools. Also for wildlife if there's ever a scientific reason.
- Would this dog park be restricted to citizens within the town limits of PV? Typically, residents with the PV zip code but not dwelling within town limits are excluded from Town services like the annual clean up day, electronics recycling, etc., access to classes, etc. Who would be allowed to use this park?
- If it were fenced in.
- Current solution at town center works well and shares open space - a great embodiment of town values
- Because I already pay my taxes for what is available .
- I would not take my dog there . I do small playdates with people I know and not with random dogs
- If we could rely on continued lax enforcement for well behaved and socialized dogs on existing town fields when reasonably available. Thereby avoiding the expense of
- If it was in a stupid location or impacted the beauty of portola valley.

10. Is there anything else you would like us to consider?

- Maybe just put a bit more process around existing areas. If there's a formal morning dog meetup at town center, have someone observe and write citations for fecal matter that isn't picked up. Maybe work with the organizer(s) if this behavior continues. Or open up a few trails where dogs can run off leash if they are well controlled. Not sure if we need an entirely new location.
- Would whoever now owns the orchard behind the Town Center let us fence an acre
- I currently enjoy the 1 mi walk to Town Centre. I do not want to be "forced" to have to drive farther for exercising my dog. If the TC can allocate a playground for kids to run & play, they can allocate an area for us with only fur babies. We pay taxes too.
- Do we need to consider whether limited to PV residents only? Pros and cons to that but if not, parking and crowding could become issues.
- I have seen some communities install doggy wash stations at the beach/dog park and the revenue helps support the costs of maintaining a dog park. It's very helpful at a beach - maybe not so much in town though, although it would be nice to have
- Morning Doggie Play is currently a vibrant part of the community.
- Bathroom near any off-leash exclusive area
- Please remind the town of the on-leash rules
- If you do pick a place for dogs, the current designated baseball diamond is a very good spot. It allows dogs exercising opportunities and socializing as well. I would like to know what prompted they wish to change the current situation. If it is due to fecal matter on the field, perhaps the people with dogs would be willing to pay to have additional cleanup there? In my experience, when I see a dog poop on the grass. I clean it up even if it isn't my own dogs.
- Poop bag and trash cans are nice to have. Pv community is a dog friendly community!
- I have very small dogs ie. 8 lbs... an off leash area should accommodate for smaller dogs...not just large ones that could run over these smaller dogs.
- Availability of shade
- Perhaps the joint offering of an off-leash area(s) concurrent with fines for those walking dogs off-

leash on trails where they are not allowed may help others to approve this needed off-leash area that so many dogs would enjoy.

- A separate time for small dogs. Friendly big dogs dashing around scare my little one, especially when 2 or more loom over him.
- Grass and/or surface. A dirt or tan bark park would be unappealing. Grass provides a clean surface to play on without turning into a mud puddle.
- Fining off leashed dogs all the time
- Enough room to walk, not just a congregate and let the dogs loose
- Thank you! I wrote town center because when I dog sit for my sister, that is where I take her dog. I have let her run free as I thought it was allowed. It is so important for the dogs to be able to run. Thank you!
- Consider funding and maintaining a dog park through user fees or private donations by the users.
- Be sure the area is posted that liability is owners responsibility
- Separate area for small dogs for those who opt in. Some shade.
- It would be nice is some trails were designated off leash.
- Safety first.
- Dogs would utilize off leash space should be NON AGGRESSIVE and owners need to pick up after their dogs. Thanks for the consideration of an off leash space.
- Pls consider the safety issue of dog owners who have their dogs on leashes or dog owners who are just walking at the town center (without their dogs). Dogs have run towards us and even jumped on us! This is a safety issue as the leash law is not enforced. Thank you for doing this!!
- A certification program for well behaved off leash dogs...research green leash laws in Boulder CO
- I am opposed to establishing any area for off leash that would be expected to be the only off leash area. So question 7 seems to indicate this survey as a lead to restricting multiple options. And variety is what we want and how we live. So if the motivation is to restrict the variety I will actively oppose this initiative. And if this is your motivation then why not say it and not make it seem like a good thing. We currently in my opinion have a good thing.
- Question 7 is problematic - not looking for an off leash area to be THE exclusive area for other dog play/hiking w dogs etc -
- I am a responsible owner who picks up poop, doesn't forget or leave bags but it's really hard to have a dog that likes to run always be on a leash. Maybe if there was a dedicated area, I could pick and choose my hours when its more quiet? That would be awesome. Thank you for spearheading this!!! I think we really need it!
- 2 separate fenced areas (if possible), one for larger dogs (35+ lbs) and one for smaller dogs (under 35 lbs).
- Do it sooner than later
- I am a runner in the town and have been approached by off leash dogs who seemed unfriendly. I'm in favor of an area where dog owners can legally take dogs that's fenced in so they have a space of their own.
- I love dogs as much as the next person, but running by the off leash dogs in town center doesn't always feel safe and I would like to see more enforcement of leash laws there.
- Shade and a bench or 2 .. most of us are older
- Just so you know, though I currently don't have a dog I have had several over the years and intend to get another soon.
- Just so grateful to have this much needed amenity in our town addressed.
- Important that the dogs that attend are not aggressive. Could a video be set up/rules be clearly posted and enforced? (video only for after the fact if issues arise - not for anyone to view.
- Might POST open 1 of its trails to off leash? Might the Town of Portola Valley designate one of its

trails OK for off leash? Might Hawthorns include an off leash area?

- A permanent fenced area would be amazing and I believe that there are a lot of people that would pay an annual fee for its upkeep and use.
- Any fenced area would be greatly appreciated. It would also be necessary for the town or other official entity to enforce the leash laws if a fenced area was created so that people use it and not the other rec areas.
- There is a real need for an off leash, dedicated area for people to bring their dogs to. Separate from other areas. I am with a group of dog owners that meet at the Town Center that would like to make this exclusive to only people that live in Portola Valley. I do not think that is fair. Never in my life of going all over with my dog have I ever been to a public dog park that wasn't for the public. Some of their concern, which is a fair one, is that people who come in to play ball at the ballpark often leave their dogs unattended and so no one's watching them when they're pooping and we end up picking up their poop. One way to mitigate that problem would be to have a rule that no dog is left unattended in the dog park. Also seating for owners who are disabled and shade.
- Avoiding plants that are harmful to dogs
- It would be IDEAL if the off leash area could be separated into two separate areas: one for smaller dogs and one for larger dogs.
- I would like a gated area to a dedicated dog park with key fob entry for town residents only. Too often we have shared the public spaces with outside people who are playing in sport events and who leave their dogs off leash unmonitored. Their dogs are pooping and they do not pick up. We the residents pick up the dog messes. So I feel as many others do that we should have an enclosed area for town residents' use. We should help also to pay for the yearly maintenance by charging for a key fob. The town's dogs who currently are active in the dog meetings are wonderful dogs whose parents respect the town's beauty and cleanliness .
- Fenced in , high enough for dogs to not be able to jump over
- This is an interesting study on dog longevity, of which one of its findings correlates more time socializing with other dogs to increased dog lifespan: "the effect of spending time with other animals on mobility significantly interacted with dog age, where more time was considerably more important for the mobility of older dogs. Our town fields are used for sports by people from all over the Bay Area, yet the many PV households that include dogs aren't permitted to use any of the fields with their beloved pooches....and OUR taxes pay for them, not the others who come from all over the Bay Area. have been to many dog parks in other cities/towns in the Bay Area, and none of them require membership and a key. I've lived in many areas in California, other states, and overseas, and I have not once encountered a private dog park. I understand a paid system is being considered for PV, but this feels exclusive. The last thing PV needs is more bad press about exclusivity.
- Think big. Think about shared spaces. I've been going to the Woodland field daily for 21 years. It works. It's mostly fenced. There are several trash cans. Bags are provided. People are generally super respectful of each other and of the facilities. We bring wine on Fridays - it's such a social thing, for us and the dogs.
- I think it's a great idea that is long overdue.
- Fence restrictions in Portola Valley make it almost impossible to find a central location that would permit a 8-10 foot fence which would be necessary to protect equestrians.
- There would need to be a way to manage how many people & dogs crowd into a small area. If it is too over crowded it will not be successful and people with dogs will return to other fields.
- An ugly & out-of-the-way area (as LAHills did) would be useless, as nobody would use it. Dog owners are a large part of PV, and shouldn't be shunted off into a backwater.
- Town Center has several locations that would work well for a Dog Park; and it would be located in the middle of town.

- Please allow use of town center before 10 am daily. It is beautiful social venue, everyone loves it , a great way for dogs to learn to be dogs in freedom at voice control only.
- Those who are frightened of dogs should not have to worry about dogs off leash, especially at the Town Center.
- Safety of kids from poorly trained dogs
- Consider a non-fenced area. This would be problematic for small dogs.
- Dog parks are great if they don't disrupt others. Seems like best placed at town center (isn't that what a town center is for?).
- if possible water
- I don't currently use the unofficial areas because they are not fenced and it seems like a really bad idea to use school fields for dogs because of fecal matter.
- Better regulation of trail systems so that leash laws and dog free trails are enforced.
- Large dogs intimidate my smaller dog. Would like to see separate availability for each group
- Considering fencing playing fields to keep dogs out, enforcing current rules
- Large dogs intimidate my smaller dog. Would like to see separate availability for each group
- Considering fencing playing fields to keep dogs out, enforcing current rules
- It would be nice to have an off-leash area for dogs to run around, and eventually to have a dog park.
- I don't own a dog now, but all of my former doggies loved being able to run with other dogs off-leash. I enjoy being able to watch dogs playing together even though I no longer have one of my own.
- I own a dog who is reactive to other dogs so an off leash dog park wouldn't work for me but I believe there should be a dog park for well socialized dogs. Looks like the town center has been an off-leash play area for years. It makes it difficult for folks like myself to walk my dog there because off leash dogs will approach us. I walk around town every single morning and there are many areas I cannot go because of off leash dogs. Many folks do not realize that all because their dog is friendly it doesn't mean that mine is. Just an FYI, there was a group of us that started the process of creating an off leash dog area probably about 20 years ago. Can't remember what we called ourselves but we got donations, (even Bill Lane contributed), opened a checking account, had meetings but could never come up with any open space for such a park and we all just gave up. Though I would not use a dog park with my dog I think they are a good and valuable thing. Also, curious about liability if a dog gets hurt. This happened about 7 or 8 years ago when a small dog was attacked by a large dog at the town center dog play group and subsequently died of it's injuries. Best of luck on this project.
- Shade
- I am NOT in favor of a fenced in dog park though.
- Limit the area and hours, and enforce it.
- Would be good to keep some water spray bottles to separate dogs in an altercation without getting bitten.
- Please try to enforce the rules against dogs on non-dog trails. Thank you.
- I have never liked seeing the dogs congregate on the playing fields used by kids, but I do think that dog owners should have somewhere to congregate and let their dogs play and socialize.
- Consider an enclosed area for smaller dogs...say 35# and less. Also have all grass, wood chips, sand for surface. I drive 20-30 minutes to drive to Palo Alto to use an excellent dog park.
- I'm hopeful that an official off-leash area would encourage good behavior among dog owners even beyond the off-leash areas. That is, if there is an off-leash area, perhaps fewer dogs will be off leash outside these areas.
- It would be nice to have more than one area so that people have an option close (walking distance) to home.

- Will you fence in the off lease area? Otherwise it will not work.
- I am interested in being involved.
- I think a dog off leash area is a wonderful idea for the dogs and the owners, I would just have to be cleaned up and of course the owners would have to accept liability for their pets.
- I would much rather see the town enforce the leash law and penalize dog owners when a dog is off leash, or "escapes", as is often posted on the PV forum. Walking or running on our trails is a hazard with off leash dogs. I've been bitten by an off leash dog where the owner claimed it was "friendly" and even suggested I provoked it. Also, there are far too many poop bags left on trails. I would like to see these owners tracked down and penalized as well. I now carry pepper spray and do not hesitate to use it if approached by an off-leash dog. I am a dog-lover but loathe irresponsible owners.
- Even if we have this space, it would be nice to still be able to meet at the town center and the schools. Those of us who do visit those locations regularly are quite respectful of others in the area and of our dogs waste. Plus the creek access at town center is fantastic on a hot day!
- I would love to have more trails where dogs are permitted on leash. There are way too many trails in our general area of San Mateo county that do not allow dogs at all.

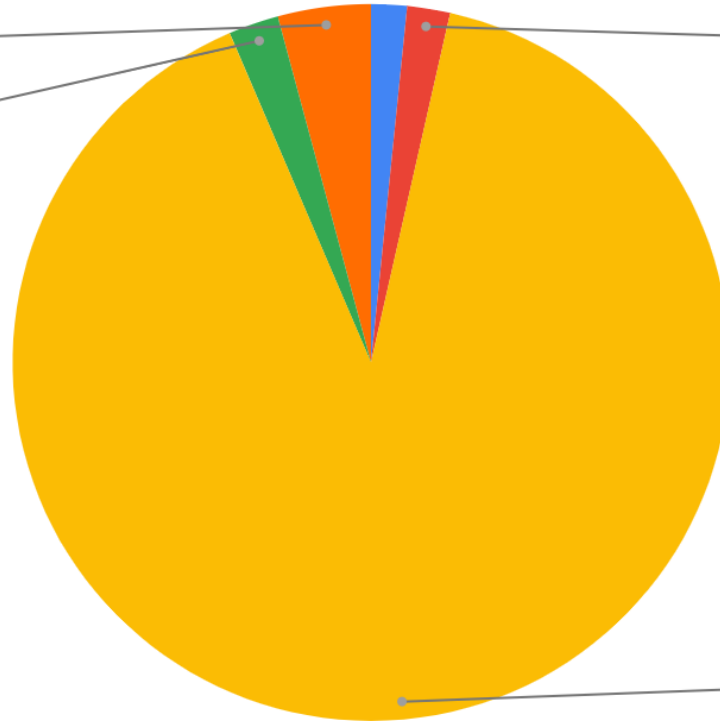
PV Off-Leash Dog Area Survey

Results as of 10/7/24

In which town do you reside?

Woodside
4.2%
San Mateo Co.
2.3%

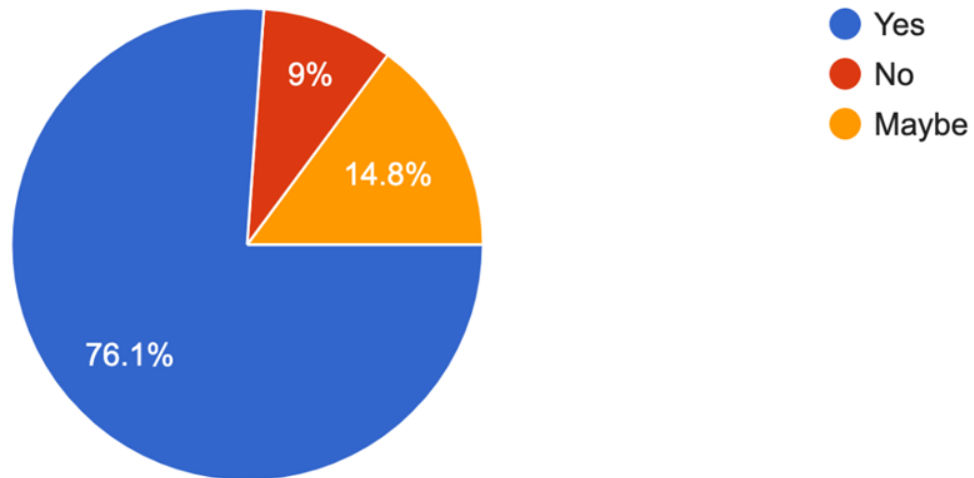
Menlo Park
1.9%



Portola Valley
90.0%

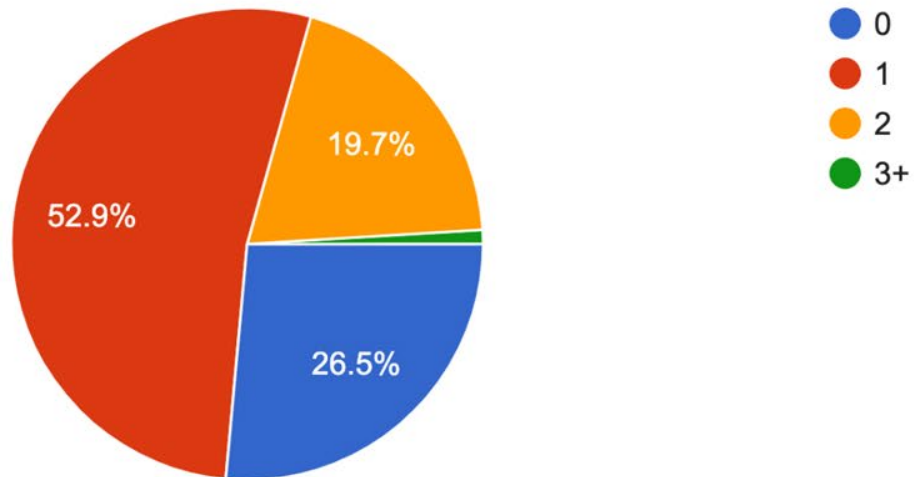
2. Are you in favor of Portola Valley offering an off-leash dog area?

310 responses



3. How many dogs do you currently own?

310 responses

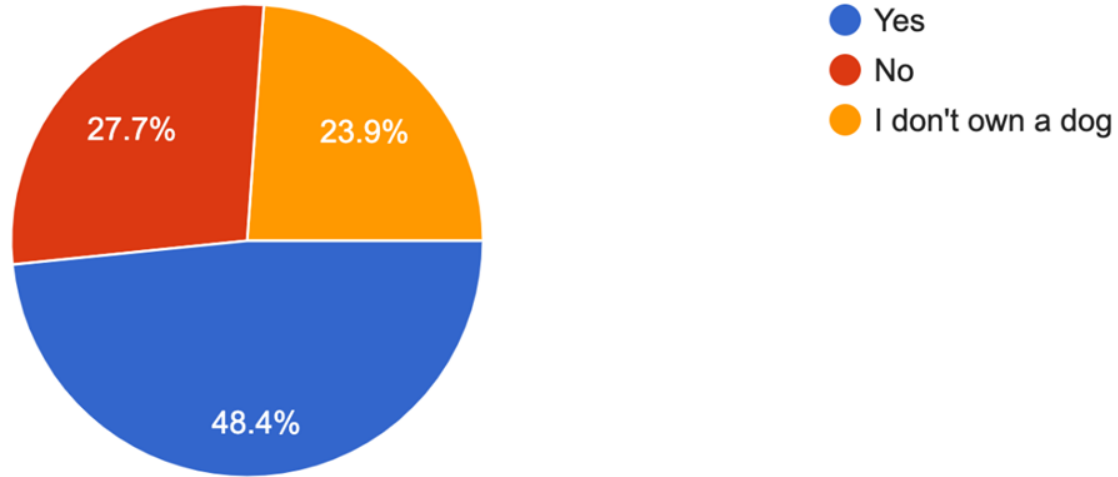


Breakdown of Dog Ownership and Desire for Off-Leash Area

# of Dogs	Yes	No	Maybe
0	49	11	22
1	134	11	18
2	49	6	6
3+	3	0	0
Total	245	28	46

4. Do you ever let your dog(s) off-leash in certain areas of Town?

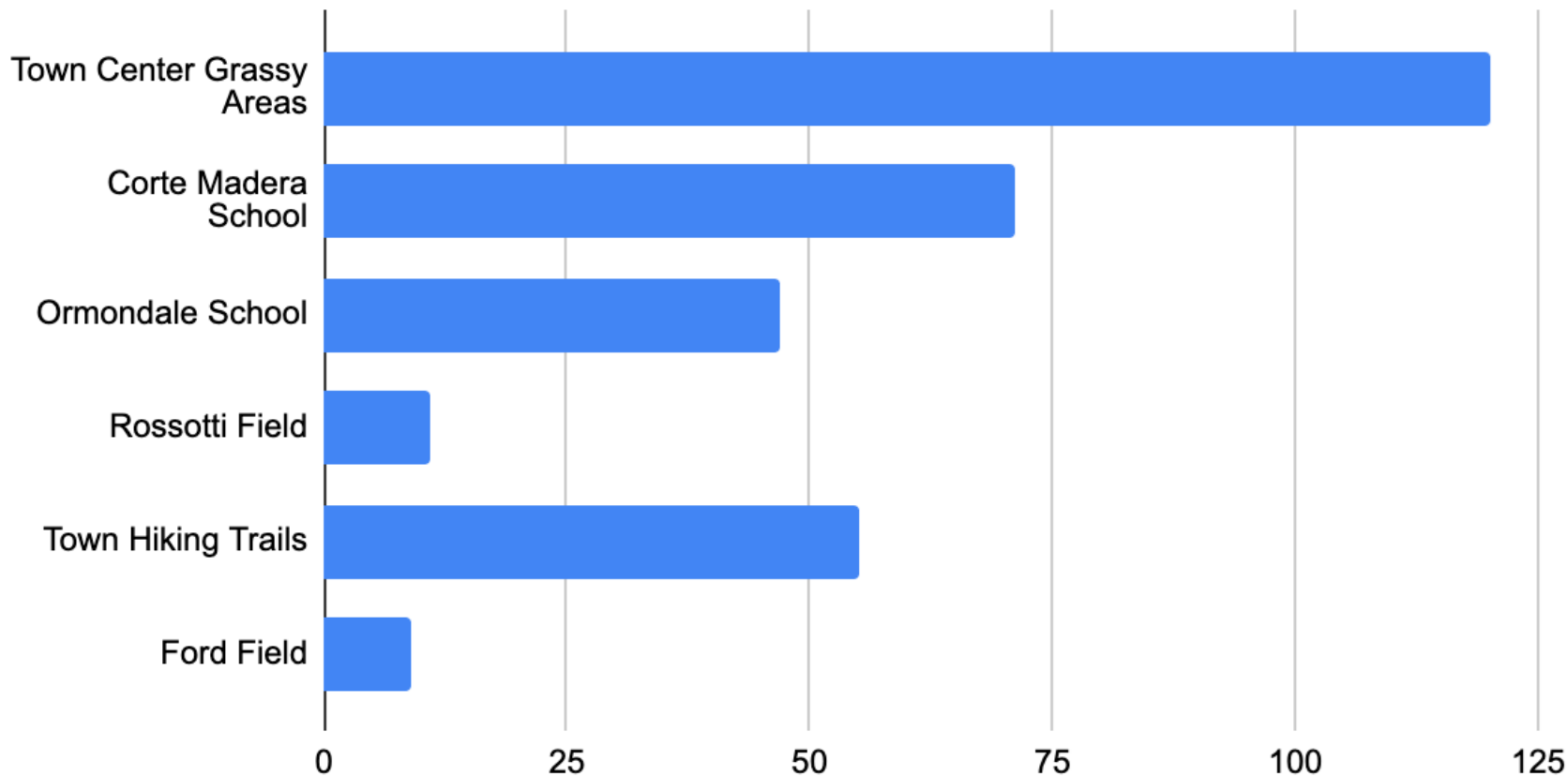
310 responses



Breakdown of Dog Owners Only and Off-Leash Use

Number of Dogs	Yes	No
1	103	61
2	40	21
3+	2	1
Total	145	83

5. If yes, where do you let your dog(s) off-leash? (Check all that apply)

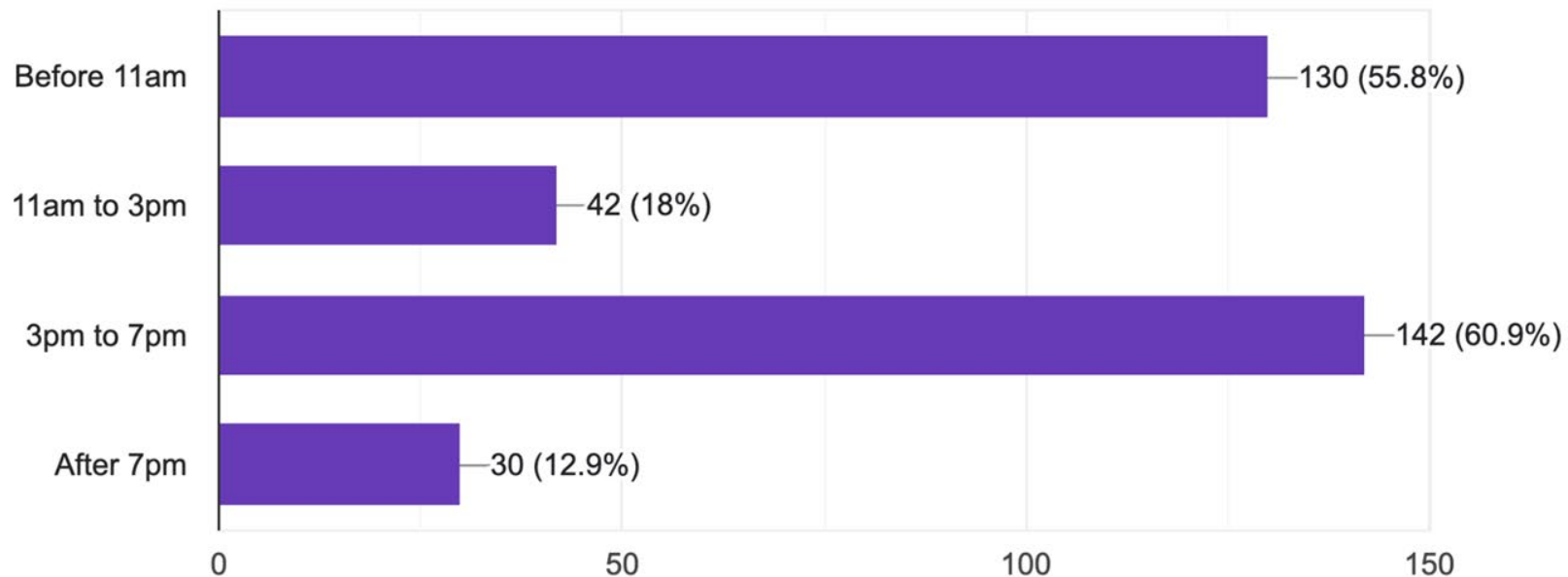


Other Responses to Question 5

- Used to use Woodside Horse Park, but not available now
- Woodside Priory (2)
- Workplace
- Private land of about 2 fenced acres
- My neighborhood
- PV Ranch Dog Park
- Dog Park in Palo Alto
- Own Yard (3)
- Near my home on Hidden Valley and Farm Roads
- Woodland School Field (Ladera)

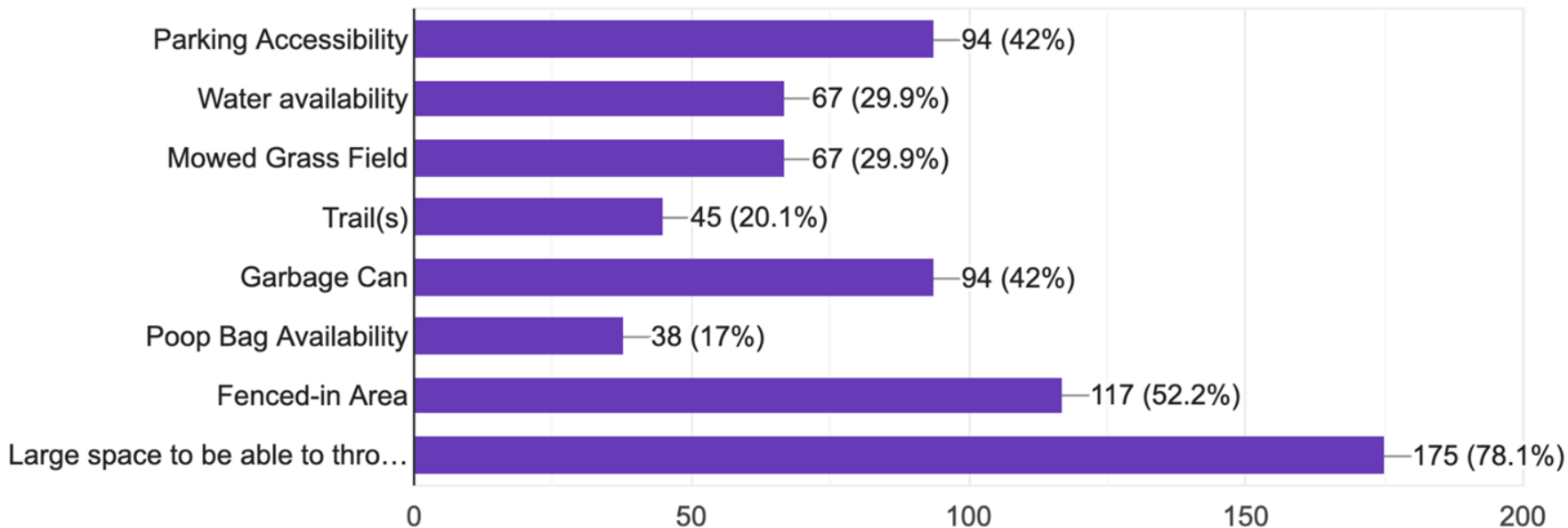
6. What time of day would you most visit a dog off-leash area?

233 responses

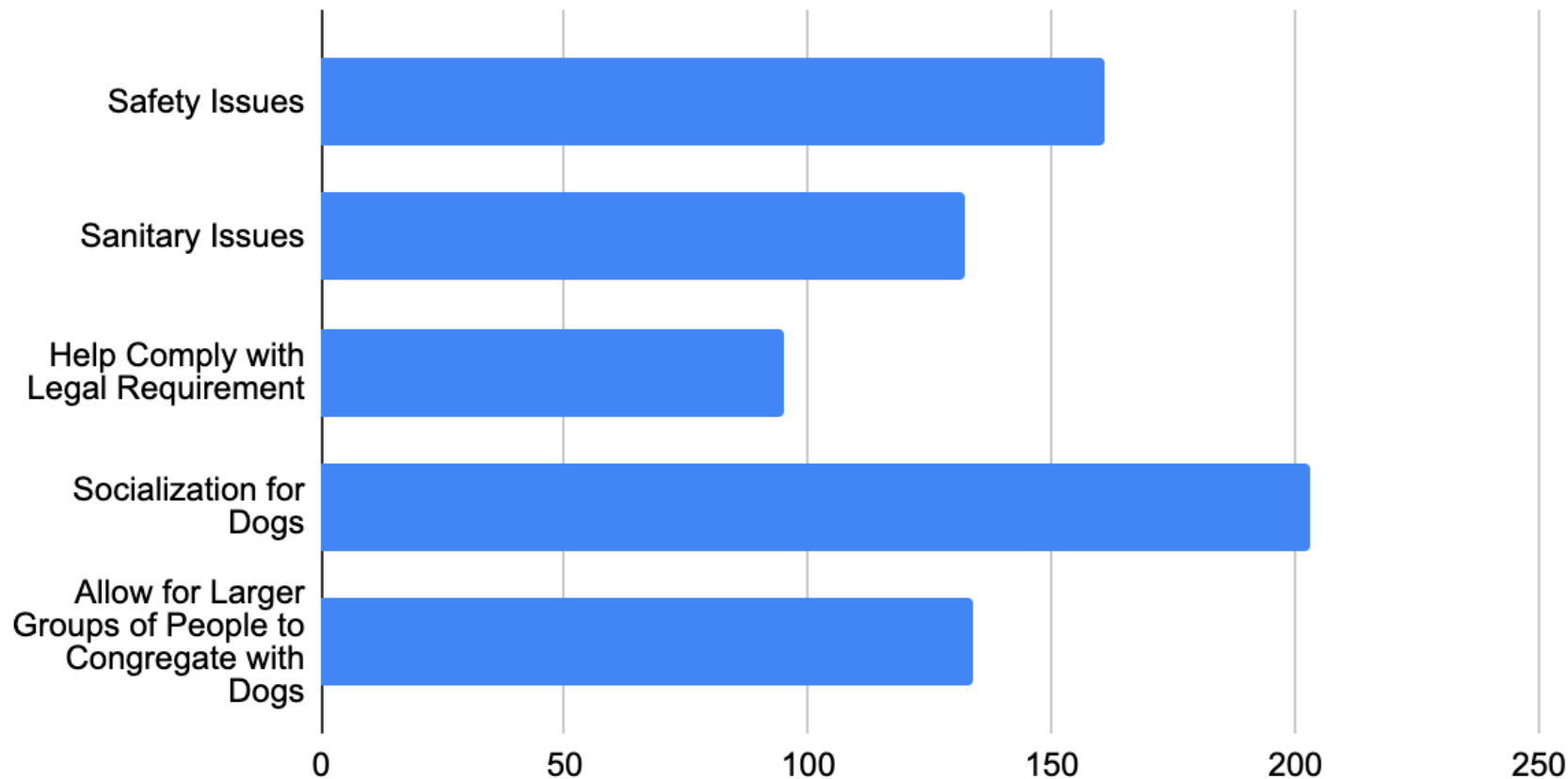


7. If you own a dog, what are the most important features of an permitted off-leash area that would compel you to utilize the off-leash area EXCLUSIVELY, and not use other un-permitted areas of Town?

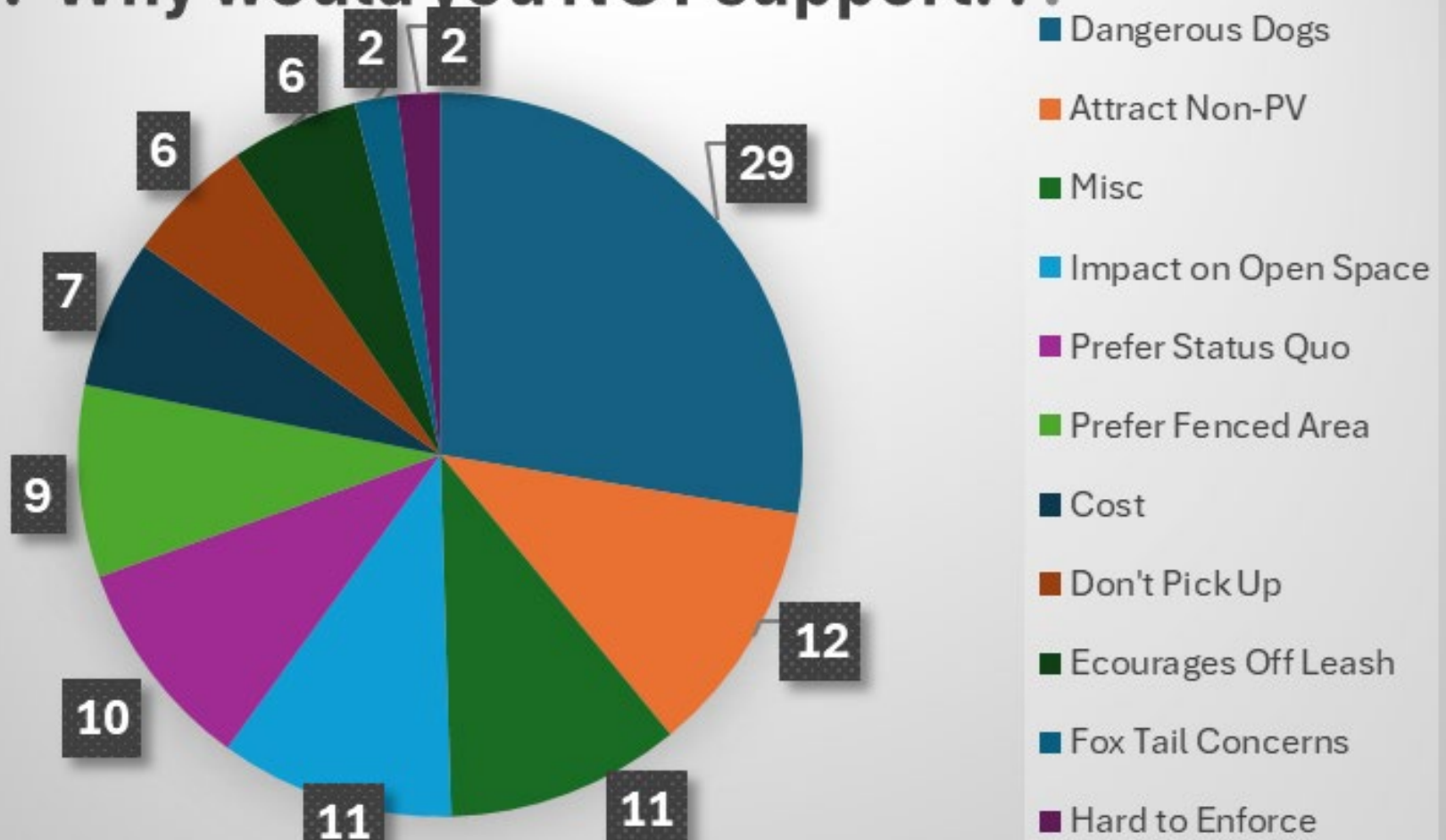
224 responses



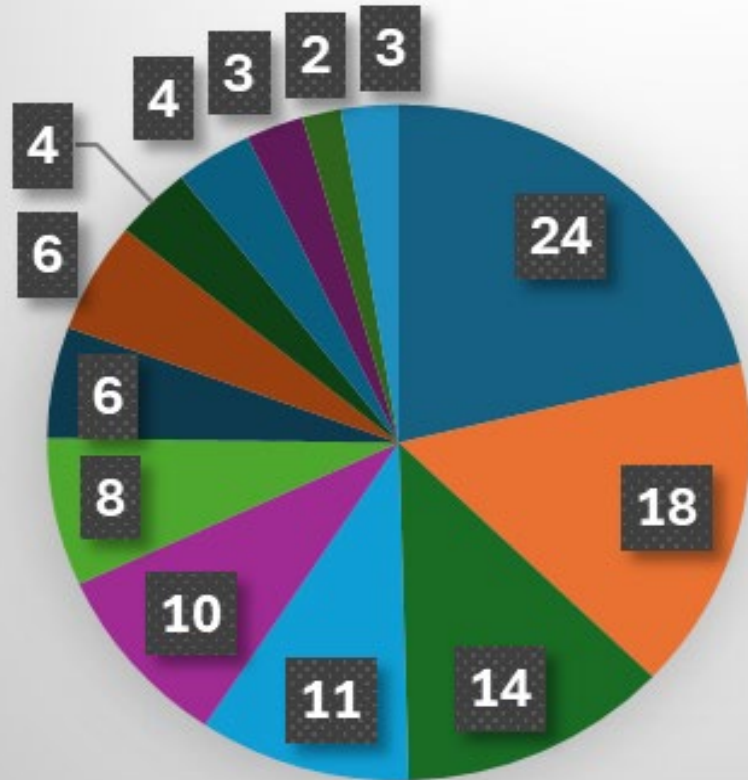
8. Whether or not you own a dog, please check the reasons why you might support an off-leash dog area?



#9: Why would you NOT support...



#10: Anything else??



- Features
- Dog Behavior
- Support
- Accommodate Small Dogs
- Prefer Status Quo
- Enforce Leash Laws
- Location Ideas
- Fenced Area
- ID Off Leash Trails
- Oppose
- Attract Non PV
- Cost to Town
- Misc

Interest Level is High! Next Steps?

- Approval to Move Forward?
- Identification of Potential Sites and Feasibility
- Future Meetings re Sites, Guidelines, Cost/Benefit Analysis, etc.
- Resident Feedback throughout the Process
- Pilot Program with Clear Guidelines and Deliverables