

Dogs and Parks: A Conversation

Public Comment Summary
September 4, 2019
City of Madison Parks Division



Process Overview

- Phase I: Data Gathering and Public Engagement
 - July and Mid-August 2019

- Phase II: Policy Development
 - Mid- August to September 2019

- Phase III: Board of Parks Commissioners Policy Review
 - October 2019

Guiding Lenses

 Equity: The inherent worth of each individual in Madison should be esteemed and fostered, enabling them to reach full potential.



 Public Health: The access and contribution to mental and physical health of a community.



 Sustainability: Management of resources to promote welfare and equity for current and future generations.



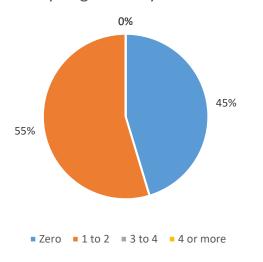
 Adaptability: Preparedness and ability to respond to and recover from hazards and threats with minimal damage to safety, health, security, and the economy.



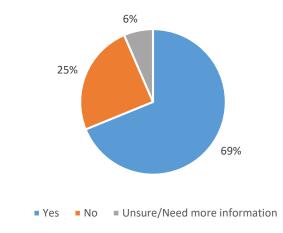
Dogs and Parks Meetings		
Location	Date	Attendees
Warner Park Community Center	July 16, 2019	21
Memorial High School	July 17, 2019	24
Villager- Atrium Community Room	July 23, 2019	14
Central Library	July 25, 2019	13
Sennett Middle School	July 30, 2019	7

iClicker Data

How many dogs live in your household?

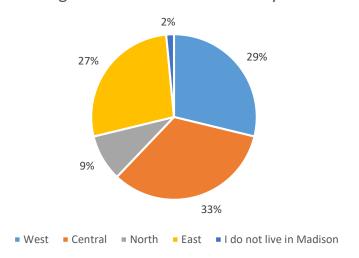


In general, do you think dogs should be allowed in City of Madison parks?

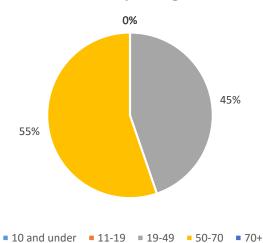


iClicker Data: Demographics

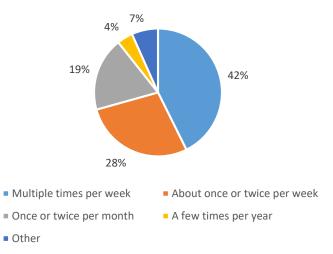




What is your age?

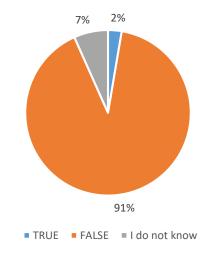


How often do you visit a City park?

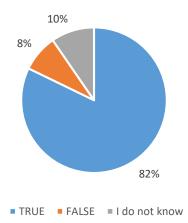


iClicker Data

It is OK for me to walk my dog off-leash in a park.

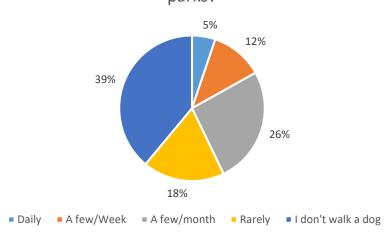


In certain parks, I am allowed to walk my dog on a leash as long as I stay on a paved path.

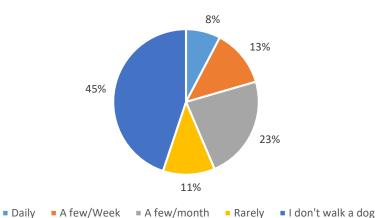


iClicker Data

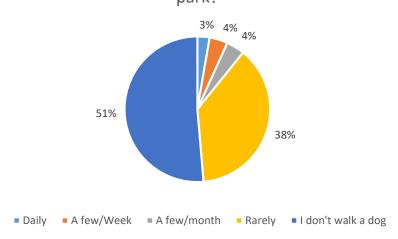
How often do you walk your dog at off-leash parks?



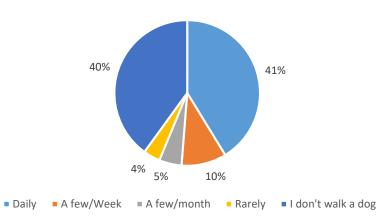
How often do you walk your dog on-leash in a park?



How often do you walk your dog off-leash at a park?

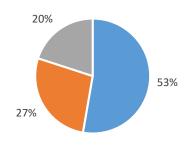


How often do you walk your dog on public sidewalks?



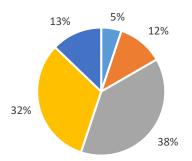
iClicker Data

If dogs are allowed in City of Madison Parks, should they be allowed:



- In all general parks
- In some or select general parks
- Dogs should not be allowed in parks

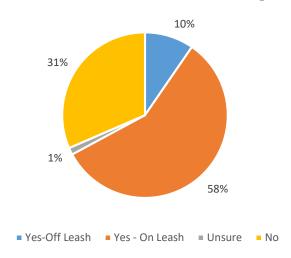
If dogs are allowed in City of Madison parks, should they be allowed:



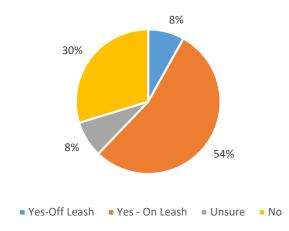
- Off-leash, throughout the park
- On-leash, throughout the park
- Dogs should not be allowed in parks
- Off-leash, only in certain areas of the park
- On-leash, only in certain areas of the park

Small Group Activity Data

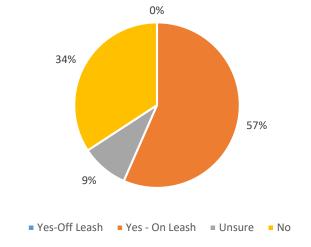




Access to Large Shelters and Dogs

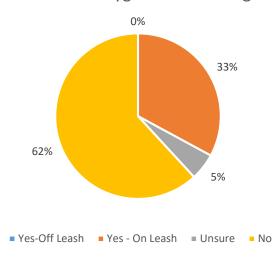


Access to Restrooms and Dogs

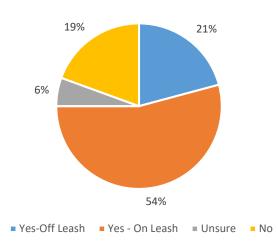


Small Group Activity Data

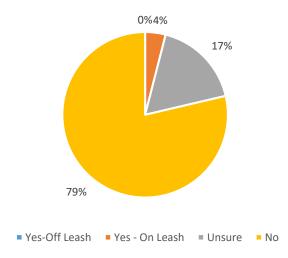
Access to Playgrounds and Dogs



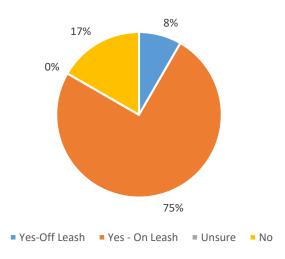
Access to Unpaved Paths and Dogs



Access to Splash Pads and Dogs

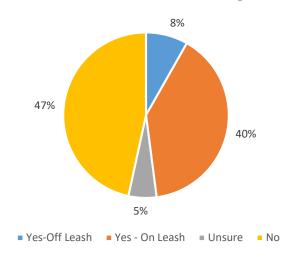


Access to Paved Paths and Dogs

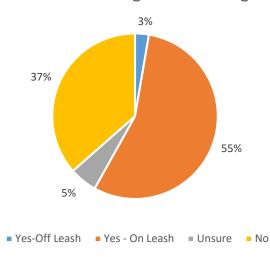


Small Group Activity Data

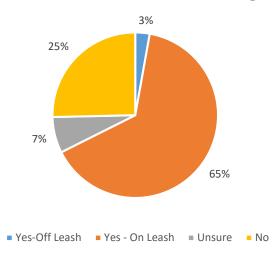
Access to Beaches and Dogs



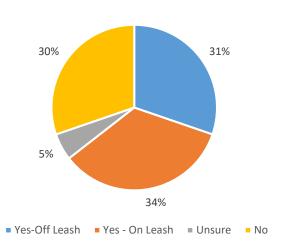
Access to Fishing Piers and Dogs



Access to Boat Launches and Dogs

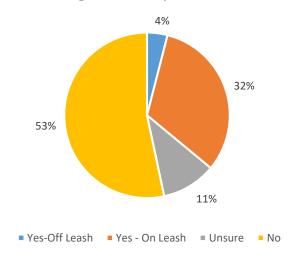


Access to Shorelines and Dogs

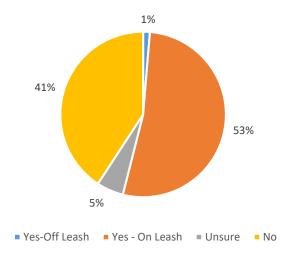


Small Group Activity Data

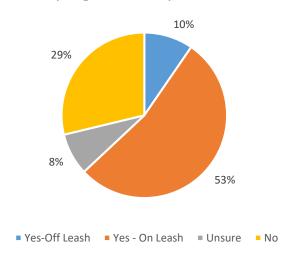
Access to Programmed Sport Fields and Dogs



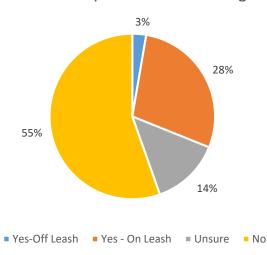
Access to Spectator Areas and Sports



Access to Unprogrammed Sports Fields and Dogs

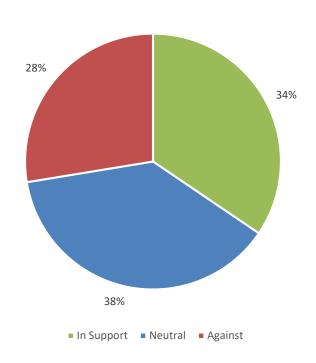


Access to Sport Courts and Dogs



Comments and Question Card Data

Dogs and Parks Public Meetings: Policy Comment Summary



Received Comments, Synopsis

Against Policy Expansion

Dogs will displace other park users

Health, Safety, and Impacts on Wildlife

Increase Enforcement Instead

Park Safety

Sanitary conditions and dogs near children/wildlife

This is a dog-owner issue and not a dog issue; increase enforcement

For Policy Expansion

Access to city parks their right as taxpayer; fine dog-owners for misbehaving dogs

More off leash parks

Need both off-leash and on-leash

Off-leash in fenced areas

On-leash everywhere

On-leash everywhere; have ~25 dog-free parks

On-leash in common areas; off-leash where low foot traffic

On-leash only

Park Walkability

Policy should reflect society

Neutral

Alternate days or set specific times for dogs

Dog waste not being cleaned more a problem at parks that ban dogs

Dogs are banned but not other pets

Get feedback from families; consider costs from ordinance change

Have a dog beach

Impacts on Wildlife

Leave this decision to the neighborhoods

Park Safety

Respect and Accommodation

Should inventory parks for animal habitants; identify parks by large apartment buildings

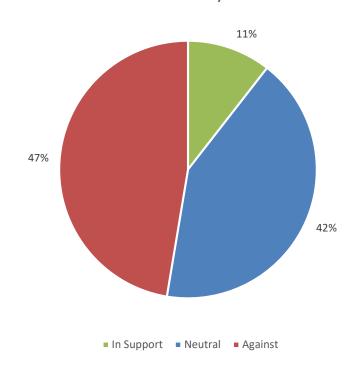
Train volunteers to monitor dogs in parks

Grand Total: 29 comments

Comments Received Outside of Public Meetings

Emails and Web Portal Submittals

Dogs and Parks Electronic Comment Submittals:
Summary



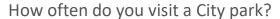
General Survey Data

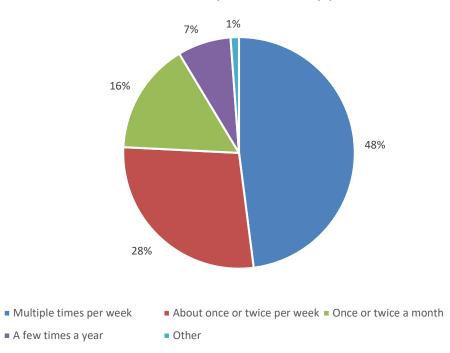
Total number of surveys received: 1971

Main survey was open from 7/15/19 around noon to 8/19/19 at noon.

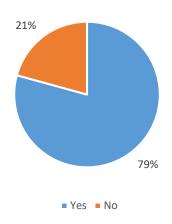
Spanish and Hmong surveys were open 7/26 to 8/19/19 at noon. (Zero surveys were received in Hmong or Spanish.)

Due to a misunderstanding, the zip code question was added on 7/23/2019 (we collected 610 surveys after that date)

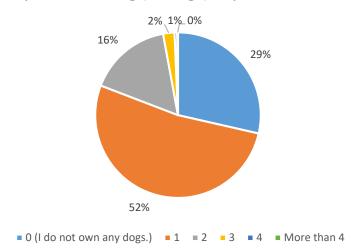




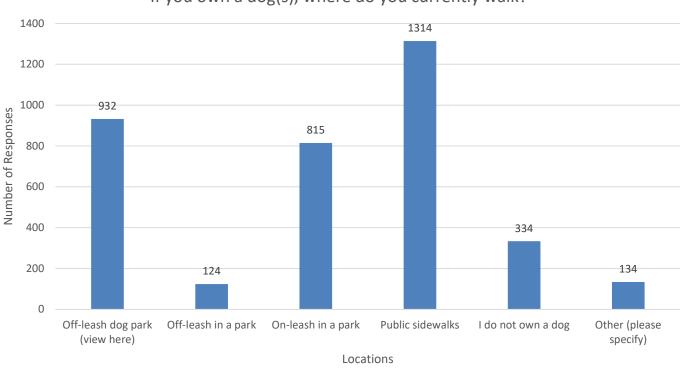
In general, do you feel dogs should be allowed in City of Madison parks?



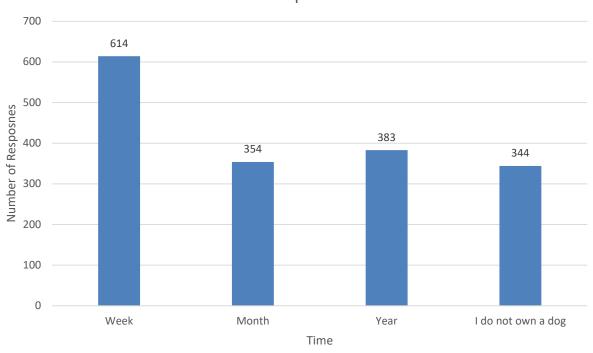
Do you have a dog (or dogs) in your household?



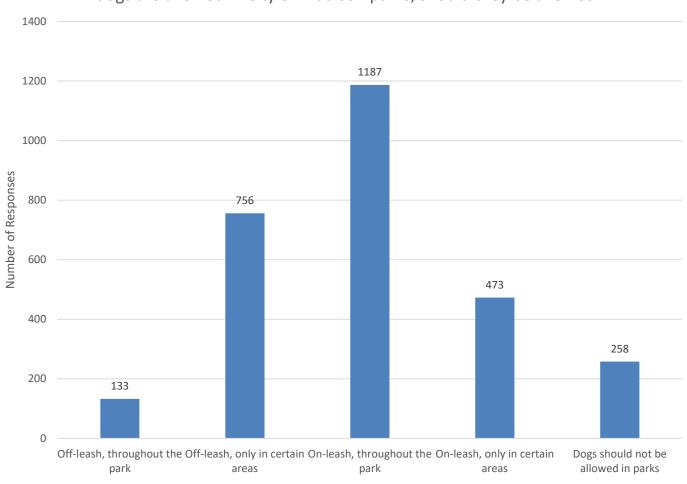
If you own a dog(s), where do you currently walk?



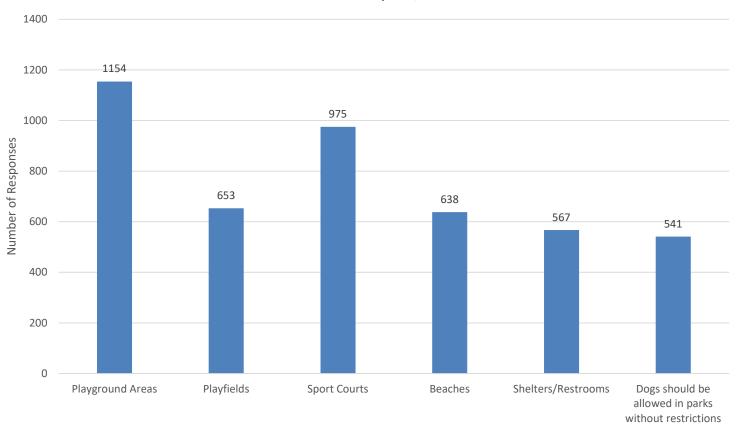
If you own a dog(s), have you visited an off-leash dog park area in the past...



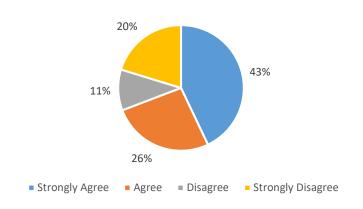
If dogs are allowed in City of Madison parks, should they be allowed:



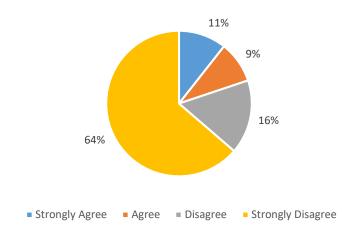
If dogs are allowed in City of Madison parks, should they be restricted from certain areas of a park, such as:

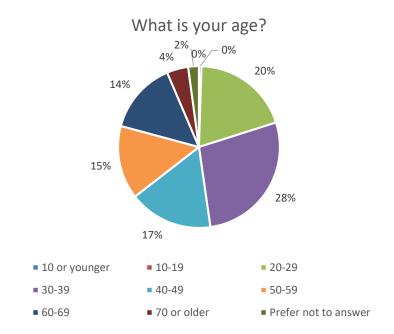


The current ordinance restricting dogs in parks prevents me from using the City parks as much as I would like.



The presence of dogs in parks prevents me from using the City parks as much as I would like.

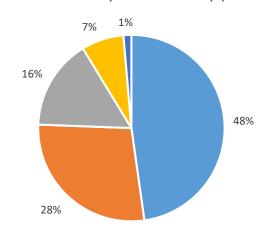






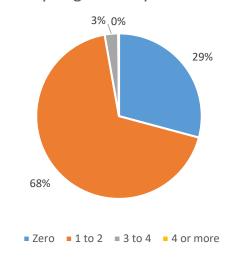
Community Survey Data/iClicker Data Combined

How often do you visit a City park?



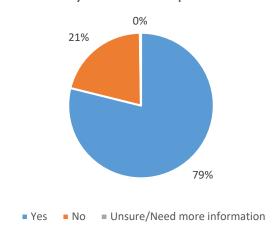
- Multiple times per week
- A few times per year
- About once or twice per week Once or twice per month
- Other

How many dogs live in your household?

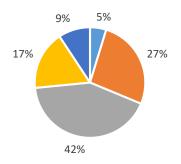


Selected Community Survey Data/iClicker Data Combined

In general, do you feel dogs should be allowed in City of Madison parks?



If dogs are allowed in City of Madison parks, should they be allowed:



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- Dogs should not be allowed in parks

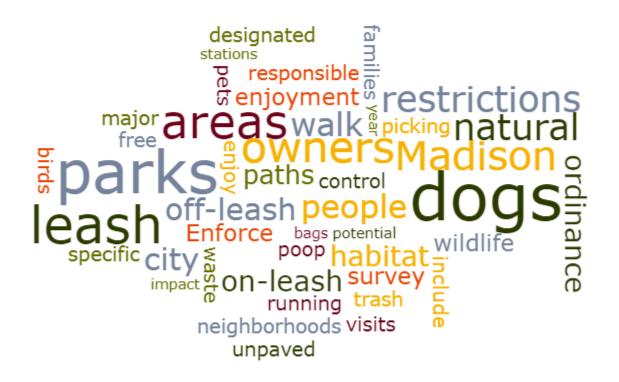
Community Survey Question 10 Summary

Q10 Please share any additional comments or concerns regarding Madison General Ordinance 8.19.

804 Survey respondents provided an answer:

- 29% expressed concerns or appeared to be against an ordinance change to allow dogs access to more parks.
- 49% of the answers appeared to be in favor of the change
- 5% expressed neutral answers
- 17% of the answers were unrelated to the question at hand or were unclear to the point that we could not classify them.

Community Survey Word Cloud (50 Word Cloud)



Community Survey Word Cloud (75 Word Cloud)



Project Website

Updates at

https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks
/projects/dogs-and-madison-parks

