

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Board of Park Commissioners and Common Council are in support of reviewing Madison General Ordinance 8.19 ([click here to read the ordinance](#)) which does not allow dogs either on or off leash in most Madison Parks. The ordinance prohibits dog owners from allowing a dog to enter any public park and any school grounds in the City of Madison or City space (City space is defined as any building or portion of a building that is occupied by the City). Exceptions to this prohibition include service dogs, law enforcement dogs, off-leash dog parks (currently located in 8 parks, [click here to read the policy](#)) and parks where dogs are allowed on-leash on paths (currently 26 parks, [click here to view](#)).

The ordinance was originally created in 1973 and has been revised several times. This review was prompted by the increase in the number of Madison residents and the increase in the number of dog owners in the city. There has also been an increase in population density in some areas of the city due to multi-family developments, particularly multi-family developments which allow dogs. The 2018-2023 Park and Open Space Plan stated that Dog Walking was one of the top 10 recreational activities ([click here to access the plan](#)).

Creating a policy which allows dogs in parks could include restrictions on dog access to only certain areas in a park. The policy will inform any changes to Madison General Ordinance 8.19.

Note that all questions with * asterisks are required responses.



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* 1. Are you a City of Madison resident?

- Yes
 No

2. OPTIONAL: What is your zip code?

Note: Zip codes will not be shared publicly nor will they be used for any other purposes than to identify regional locations of survey respondents.

3. OPTIONAL: What is your age?

- Under 18
 18-29
 30-40
 40-59
 60 or older
 Prefer not to answer

4. OPTIONAL: How often do you visit a park or outdoor recreation area?

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

* 5. How many dogs live in your household?

- 0 (I do not own any dogs.)
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- More than 4

* 6. If you own a dog(s), where do you currently walk? Please select all that apply.

- Off-leash dog park ([view here](#))
- On-leash parks where dogs are allowed ([view here](#))
- Public sidewalks
- I do not own a dog
- Other (please specify)

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

- Week
- Month
- Year
- I do not own a dog

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

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

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

- Playground Areas
- Playfields/Sport Fields
- Beaches
- Shelters/Restrooms
- Dogs should not be allowed in parks
- Other (please specify)

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

- Yes
- No

11. Please share any additional comments or concerns regarding Madison General Ordinance 8.19 (which currently does not allow dogs, either on or off leash, in most Madison parks). View the current ordinance language [here](#).

12. OPTIONAL: How would you most like to receive additional information regarding the discussion of this ordinance?

- E-mail
- Madison Parks Website
- Mail
- Social Networks (Facebook, Twitter)
- Other (Please Specify)

13. OPTIONAL: Please provide your email address if you would like to receive updates on this ordinance review process.