

Attachment "C"

Summary of Engagement Phase 1 and 2

People, Parks and Pups: *A strategy for sharing parks and open space in New Westminster*

Phase 1 | Engagement Summary Report
August 2021



1.0 Introduction

The City of New Westminster is developing a long-term strategy to guide the planning, design and management of dog off-leash areas in the city. **People, Parks and Pups: A strategy for sharing parks and open space in New Westminster** will improve the safety and comfort for park visitors with and without dogs. The goal of this strategy is to be proactive in planning and providing space for dogs, while balancing the many other (and often competing) recreational needs within our parks and opens spaces. Meeting the growing demand for dog off-leash areas in New Westminster requires conversations with a diverse community of park users to develop creative solutions.

1.1 Purpose of Engagement

The People, Parks and Pups Strategy is an opportunity to hear from the community on how to successfully include more space for dogs into the existing parks and open space system in New Westminster. Phase 1 Engagement will inform recommendations for planning, designing and managing New Westminster's dog off-leash areas. The planning team will consider feedback from this phase of engagement, along with data, analysis and best practices research, to develop recommendations for the planning, design and management of New Westminster's dog off-leash areas for Council review and approval.

1.2 Engagement Activities & Participation

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the first phase of the engagement process took place online. Community members were directed to The People, Parks and Pups Strategy project site on [Be Heard New West](#) to participate in the engagement process. Since the project launch, the site has been viewed more than 2000 times. The project site featured important background information, as well as interactive tools to collect feedback. Community members were also able to submit questions through the project site to be answered by staff. They were also able to provide feedback through a virtual open house, survey, mapping tool, and online discussion forum.

During the first phase of engagement period (from February 10 to May 3, 2021):

27 people attended the virtual open house

31 questions were asked

257 completed surveys were received

162 pins placed on maps to provide feedback

59 comments contributed to online forum discussion

15 members attended project Advisory Group Meetings

2.0 What We Heard

The following is a summary of the engagement that took place and a snapshot of what was heard. All verbatim comments were recorded and can be found in the documents library on the [People, Parks and Pups Be Heard New West website](#).

2.1 Key Themes

Phase 1 Engagement focused on learning what is important to New Westminster residents when considering people and dogs sharing parks and open space. The following list identifies key themes among input provided in this first phase of engagement.

- Dog off-leash areas are valued for providing a place for dogs to socialize and exercise.
- Dog waste management and keeping off-leash activity to designated areas are key challenges.
- Dog off-leash areas should be suitably large to avoid overcrowding, taking into account surrounding residential density.
- Separated small / shy dog areas promote safety for dogs.
- Key amenities include providing open space for ball play, a range of activities, and a mix of sun and shade.
- Lighting is a valued amenity, to promote safety and extend hours of use.

- Consider opportunities for off-leash trails and shared use of fields.
- Provide surfacing that is durable, well-draining and suitable for paws.
- Educational initiatives are suggested to promote safety for people and dogs.

2.2 Advisory Group Meetings

In March 2020, the Park Board created an Advisory Group (AG) for People, Parks & Pups to provide focused feedback into the consultation process from a range of stakeholder perspectives. AG members represent a broad range of interests, including animal health and welfare, cycling, and environment, and include people with disabilities, families with children, and people with diverse cultural backgrounds. Members provided valuable feedback on consultation topics and methods during pre-consultation.

As part of Phase 1 Engagement, 9 AG members met virtually on February 10, 2021. The meeting was well attended, however, there was not a balanced representation of dog owners (8) to non-dog owners (1). In order to be successful, a balanced representation of city-wide interests and perspectives is needed to help guide an approach for sharing parks and open spaces for wide variety of uses. Therefore, additional members that do not own dogs were invited to join the supplementary AG meeting (same agenda as the first AG meeting). On March 10th, 5 members who attended the supplementary AG meeting are 4 non-dog owners and one with a service dog. The following key themes were identified as a result of these meetings:

General

- Most participants agreed that dog off-leash areas are important to manage the use of parks for dog owners and non-dog owners as this can help with mitigating conflicts between people and dogs, and to provide dogs with adequate spaces.
- Participants observed that many existing off-leash facilities are over-used, particularly in densely populated parts of the city and that is contributing to challenges for sharing parks, including the use of non-designated areas as off-leash facilities and park maintenance problems.
- Behavioral issues between people and dogs and amongst dogs were raised by several participants. A member noted that “not all dogs get along”. Another highlighted that some people cannot be around dogs due to cultural and religious reasons and their needs need to be respected.

Designating space

- Participants noted that areas that are underserved, the future growth of the city and residential density should be considered when planning for dog off-leash spaces.
- Participants suggested shared use could work well in spaces like sports fields and trails. There are good examples in other municipalities.
- Participants noted that there should be a variety of OLA sizes: small spaces and large spaces to accommodate the needs for dogs to run around.

Attracting use

- Participants reinforced that off-leash areas need to

consider the needs of the people who use them, and identified opportunities for improved amenities (e.g. water access, lighting, and surfacing) and accessibility for persons with disabilities.

- Many participants noted that lighting is a valuable amenity, which addresses comfort and safety issues, given that it gets dark so early in the winter months.
- Given the limited land space available in New West, it was noted that the off-leash areas would likely be smaller, and all with secure boundaries.

Managing operations

- Many participants noted that managing dog waste is a key issue when it comes to dogs in the city. While some advocated for greater use of biodegradable bags.
- Having separate receptacles for dog waste was an idea that seemed generally supported, though one member noted that some receptacles are being used by residents as garbage bins.

Working together

- It was noted that education was very important, for both dog owners (e.g. to be aware of the impact of dogs on the environment, and how people may respond to dogs off-leash) and non-dog owners (e.g. to learn more about dog behavior and how to differentiate between playful and aggressive behavior).
- Participants suggested improved signage for off-leash areas to increase bylaw compliance and reduce conflict.
- Participants suggested the socialization program between dogs and people should be considered in New Westminster, such as the therapy dog reading program by the Vancouver Park Board in partnership with Vancouver Public Library.

2.3 Virtual Open House

The first virtual open house for the People, Parks and Pups Strategy launched with an online presentation and breakout group discussion on April 8th, 2021. Twenty-seven community members attended this event.

The poll results demonstrate that the majority of attendants identified as being dog owners or handlers (72%). While over 90% of participants are in agreement that off-leash areas (OLAs) are an acceptable use of public parks, only about 25% agree that there are enough of OLAs in New Westminster. Over 50% of participants responded that OLAs are not in good quality overall, and that more places for dogs to be off leash in New Westminster are needed. While only about 25% of respondents felt that the OLAs are of adequate size, over 60% agreed that these are well distributed across the city.

The following are key themes from the meeting:

Designating space

- A number of participants expressed safety concerns about off-leash dogs and their interactions with people especially young children.
- People with dogs value large areas for their dogs to run and play off-leash. Participants noted that the existing dog off-leash areas are too small to meet certain needs such as exercising for dogs, and to accommodate dogs of all sizes.
- Participants supported off-leash areas that are easily accessible on foot, also expressed support for larger, more diverse neighbourhood off-leash areas.
- Participants noted that the existing policy asking for dog relief stations for new developments is great and suggested encouragement other other creative ideas for

the existing residential buildings.

- It was noted that trails with shared off-leash use would be beneficial to allow dogs larger areas to run.
- People with dogs would like to have access to off-leash areas that provide opportunities for their dogs to swim.
- There is a demand for more separated small / shy dog areas to address owner concerns about dog safety.

Attracting use

- Participants noted that surfacing is an area of concern in many existing dog off-leash areas.
- Participants noted that better lighting is needed to allow safe use of dog off-leash areas when it gets dark especially in the winter months when the days are shorter.
- Participants stressed that off-leash areas should be accessible and accommodate wheelchair users.
- It was noted that more agility features in dog parks would enhance use.

Managing operations

- Dog waste management is the forefront of most participants' concern of areas that need improvement.
- Increasing enforcement of the Animal Care and Control Bylaw, particularly for dogs off-leash and waste management, will promote environmentally-sustainable and socially-responsible dog ownership.
- Smoking is an issue in dog off-leash areas and participants noted a lack of enforcement.

Working together

- Participants emphasized the need for dog licensing and education for dog owners and non-dog owners. The existing dog license fee seems low. Perhaps a higher cost

could help pay for some resourcing more staff/ better enforcement.

- Education of all park users is needed to increase the general population's understanding of dogs.

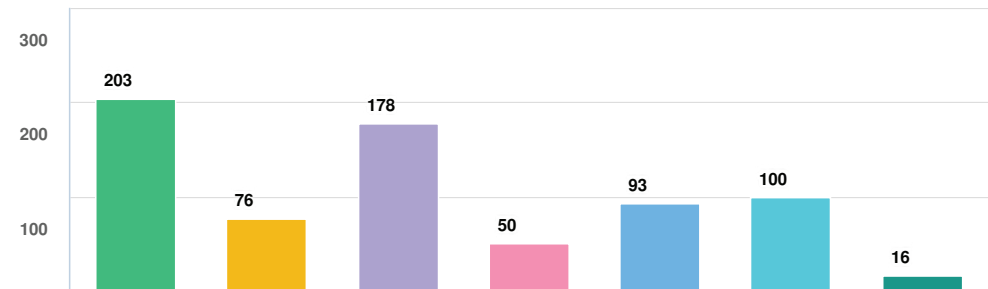
2.4 Survey

As part of Phase 1 Engagement, a community engagement survey was available from April 8, 2021 to May 6, 2021. Of the 257 completed surveys, nearly 60% of respondents identified as dog owners and 40% identified as non-dog owners.

The vast majority of survey respondents agree that off leash areas are an acceptable use of park space, and most agree these designated areas help reduce conflict between park visitors with and without dogs. However, only 1 in 5 respondents think there are enough places for dogs to be off leash in New Westminster. Providing a safe environment for dogs in these off leash areas, while having open areas for running and fetch are top priorities according to survey results. While keeping off-leash activity to designated areas and managing dog waste are key challenges, less than 1 in 4 respondents agree there is suitable enforcement of dog activity in New Westminster parks. According to survey results, most residents travel to dog off leash areas on foot, and are willing to walk at least 10 minutes to get there.

The following is a summary of results:

Q1 What are the top three benefits of designated dog off-leash areas? Please check up to three:



Question options

- Providing places for dogs to exercise and socialize
- Building community
- Encouraging owners to keep off-leash activity to off-leash areas
- Making parks and neighbourhoods safer
- Discouraging conflict in shared park space
- Promoting responsible dog ownership
- Other (please specify)

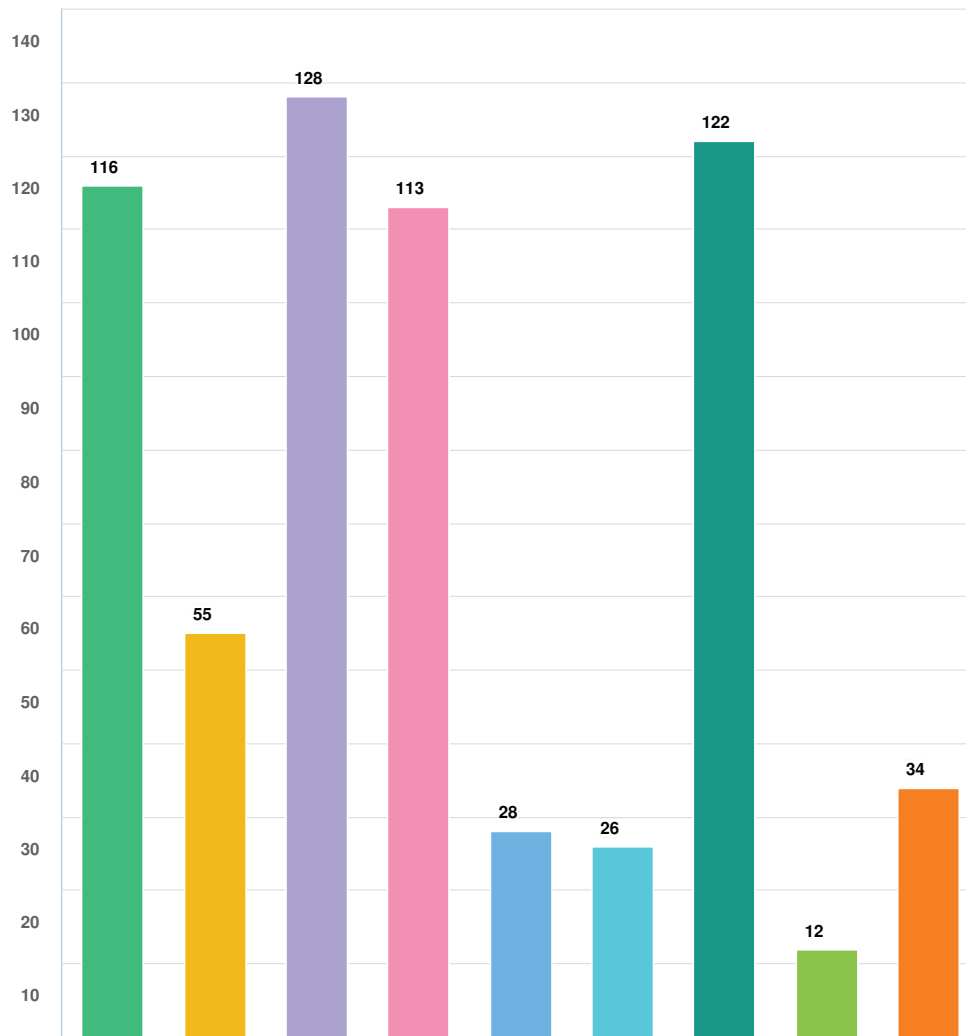
Optional question (257 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Top 3 benefits of an OLA:

- Providing places for dogs to exercise and socialize
- Encouraging owners to keep off-leash activity to off-leash areas
- Promoting responsible dog ownership

Q2 What are the top three challenges of designated dog off-leash areas? Please check up to three:



Question options

- Managing dog waste Safety concerns (people) Safety concerns (dogs) Sharing limited park space
- Managing noise Increased maintenance and enforcement costs Keeping off-leash activity to designated off-leash areas
- Potential environmental impacts Other (please specify)

Top 3 challenges of an OLA:

- Safety concerns (dogs)
- Keeping off-leash activity to designated off-leash areas
- Managing dog waste

Optional question (250 response(s), 7 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q3 To what extent do you agree with the following statements:



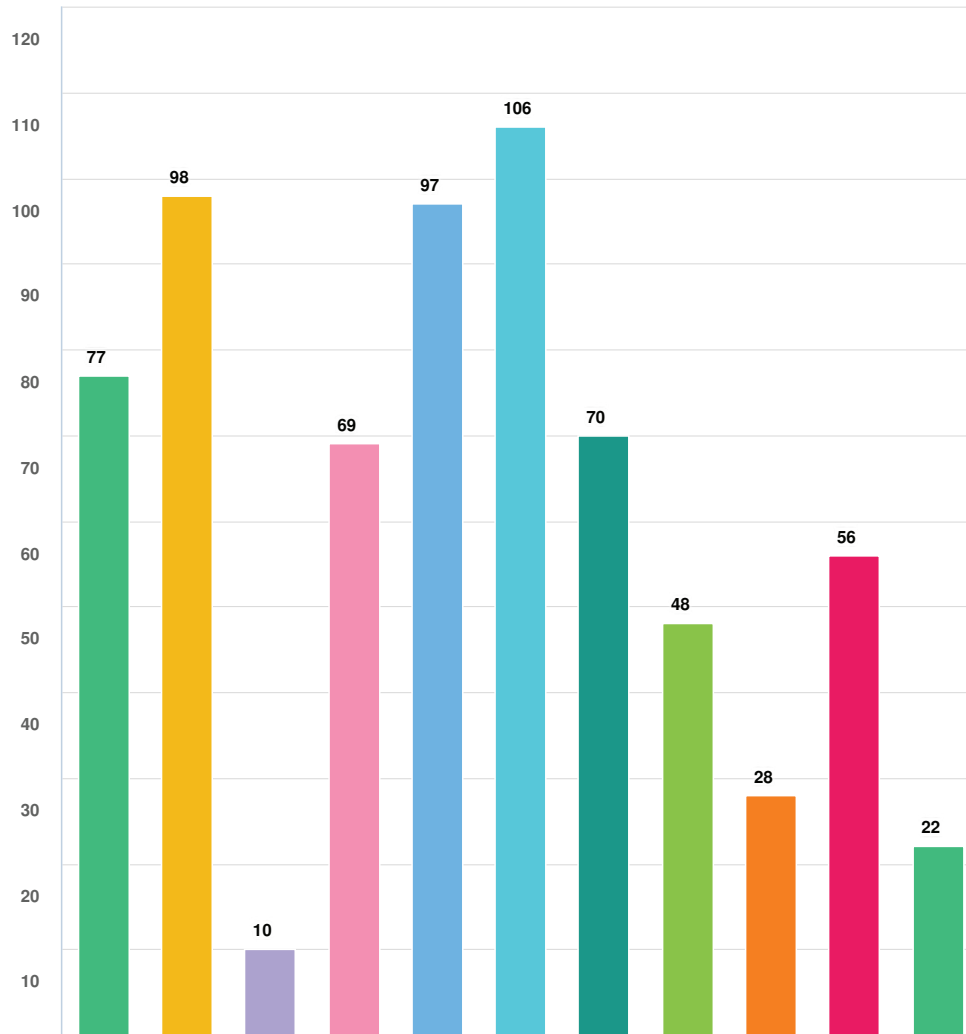
Optional question (256 response(s), 1 skipped)

Question type: Likert Question

- Over **85%** of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that **OLAs are an acceptable use of public park space.**
- 20%** of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that there are **enough places for dogs to be off leash in CNW parks.**
- 34%** of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that **OLAs in New West are of good quality overall.**
- 28%** of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that **OLAs in New West are well distributed across the city.**
- 63%** of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that **OLAs in New Westminster help reduce conflicts between park visitors with and without dogs.**
- 69%** of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that **OLAs should be separated from other park activities, with a clear boundary.**
- 65%** of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that **fencing in New Westminster's existing OLAs is effective.**
- 24%** of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that **there is suitable enforcement of dog activity in New Westminster parks.**

Q4 What amenities would you most like to see in New Westminster's dog off-leash areas?

Please check up to three:



Question options

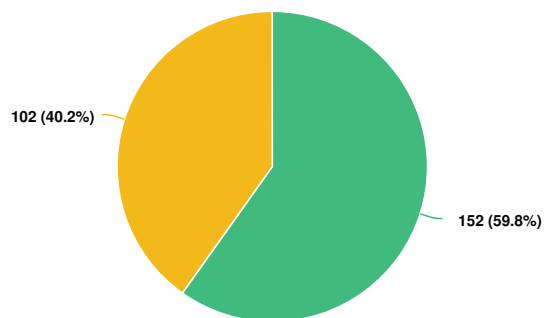
- Other (please specify) Play features for dogs Dog bag dispensers Walking paths Secure fencing
- Open areas for running and fetch Separated large and small / shy dog areas Shade Drinking water for people
- Drinking water for dogs More waste bins

Top 3 amenities survey respondents would like to see in New West's OLAs:

- Open areas for running and fetch
- Drinking water for dogs
- Separated large and small / shy dog areas

Optional question (245 response(s), 12 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q5 Are you a dog owner or handler?



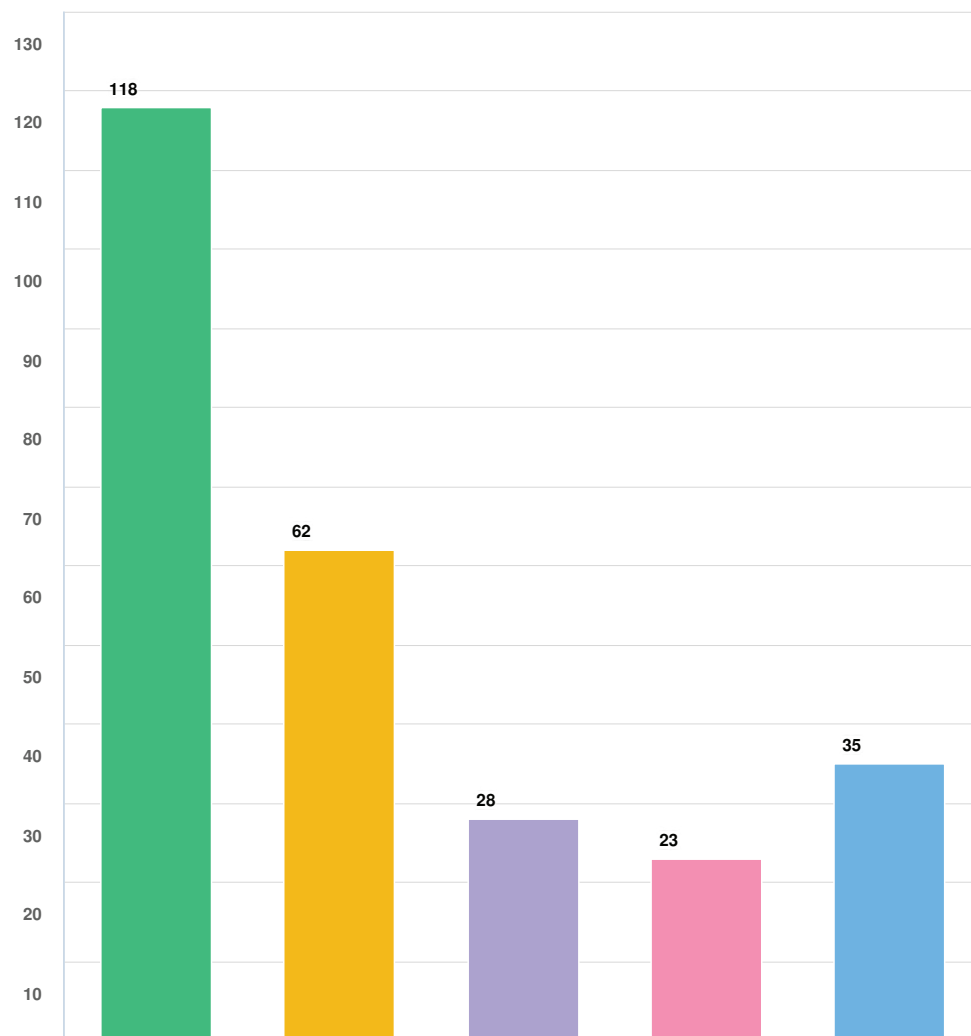
Question options

● No ● Yes

Optional question (254 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Of the 257 completed surveys,
59.8% (152) of respondents identified as dog owners
40.2% (102) respondents identified as non-dog owners

Q6 where do you currently let your dog(s) off leash?Please select all that apply:

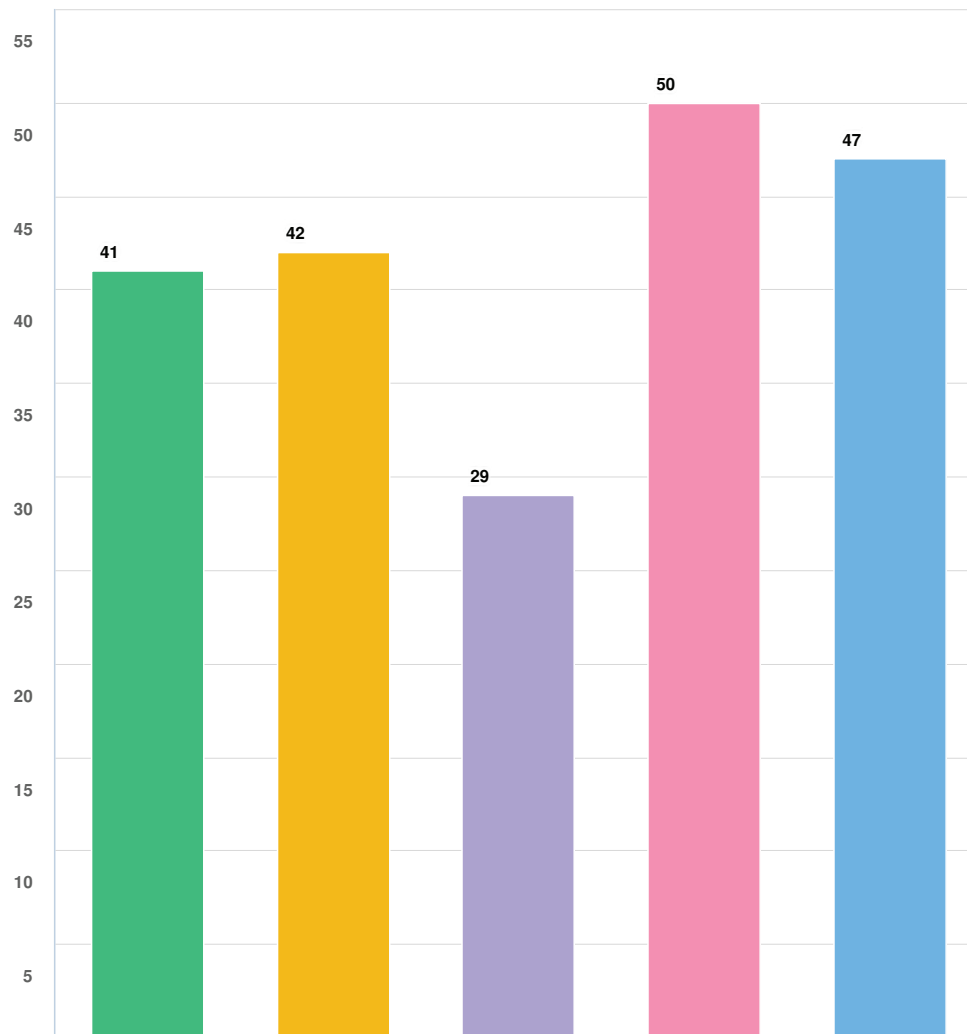


Question options

● Other (please specify) ● School grounds
● Residential landscape areas (e.g. lawn areas by multi-unit buildings) without a designated dog off-leash area ● Designated dog off-leash areas
● City parks and greenspaces without a designated dog off-leash area

Optional question (150 response(s), 107 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q7 If you let your dog off leash in non-designated areas, why? Please select all that apply:



Question options

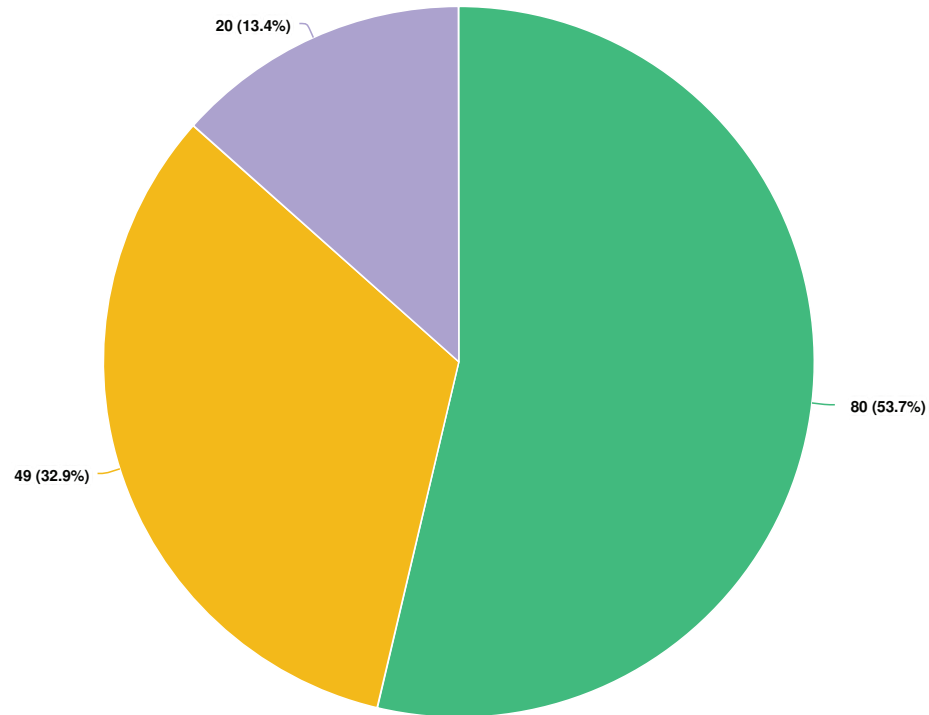
- Other (please specify)
- I have had safety concerns or anticipate safety concerns in designated off-leash areas
- Designated off-leash areas are not attractive / do not have enough amenities
- Designated off-leash areas are not large enough
- Designated off-leash areas are located too far from where I live

Optional question (108 response(s), 149 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

The top reason cited by survey respondents when asked why they let their dogs off leash in unsanctioned areas:
"I have had safety concerns or anticipate safety concerns in designated off-leash area"

Q8 Do you typically walk or drive to get to a dog off-leash area?

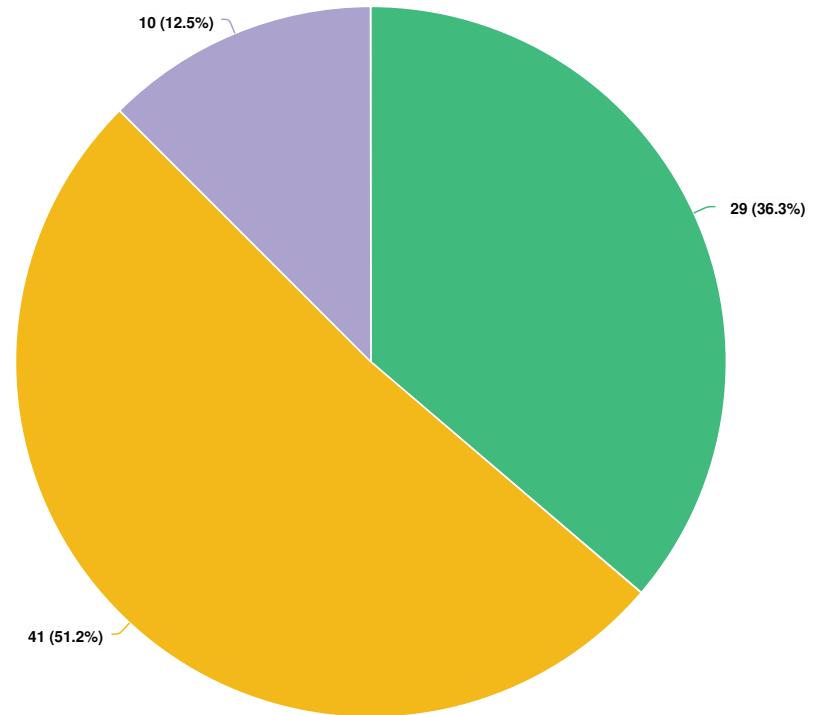


Question options

Other (please specify) Drive Walk

Optional question (149 response(s), 108 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q9 How far are you willing to walk to get to a dog off-leash area?

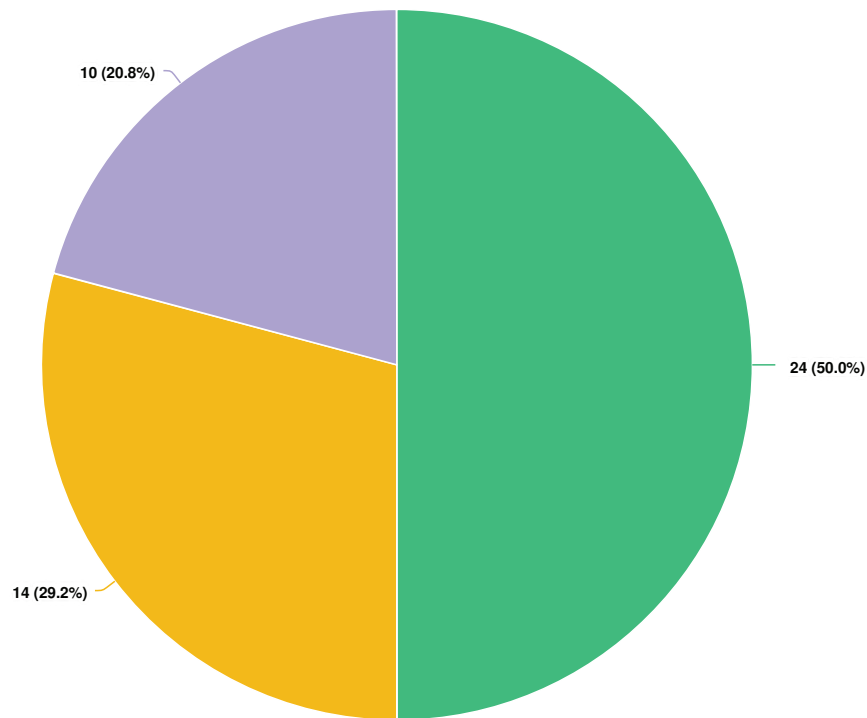


Question options

20 minutes or more 10 - 20 minutes Under 10 minutes

Optional question (80 response(s), 177 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q10 How far are you willing to drive to get to a dog off-leash area?



Question options

20 minutes or more 10 - 20 minutes Under 10 minutes

Optional question (48 response(s), 209 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Over **50%** of survey respondents typically walk to a dog OLA;

Over **60%** of survey respondents are willing to walk more than 10 minutes to get to a dog OLA;

50% of survey respondents are willing to drive more than 10 minutes to get to a dog OLA.

2.5 Mapping Tool

The engagement process included a location-based mapping tool where community members could pinpoint a comment they have about the existing dog off-leash areas and one dog relief station. They were also invited to suggest locations for new dog off-leash areas in New Westminster.

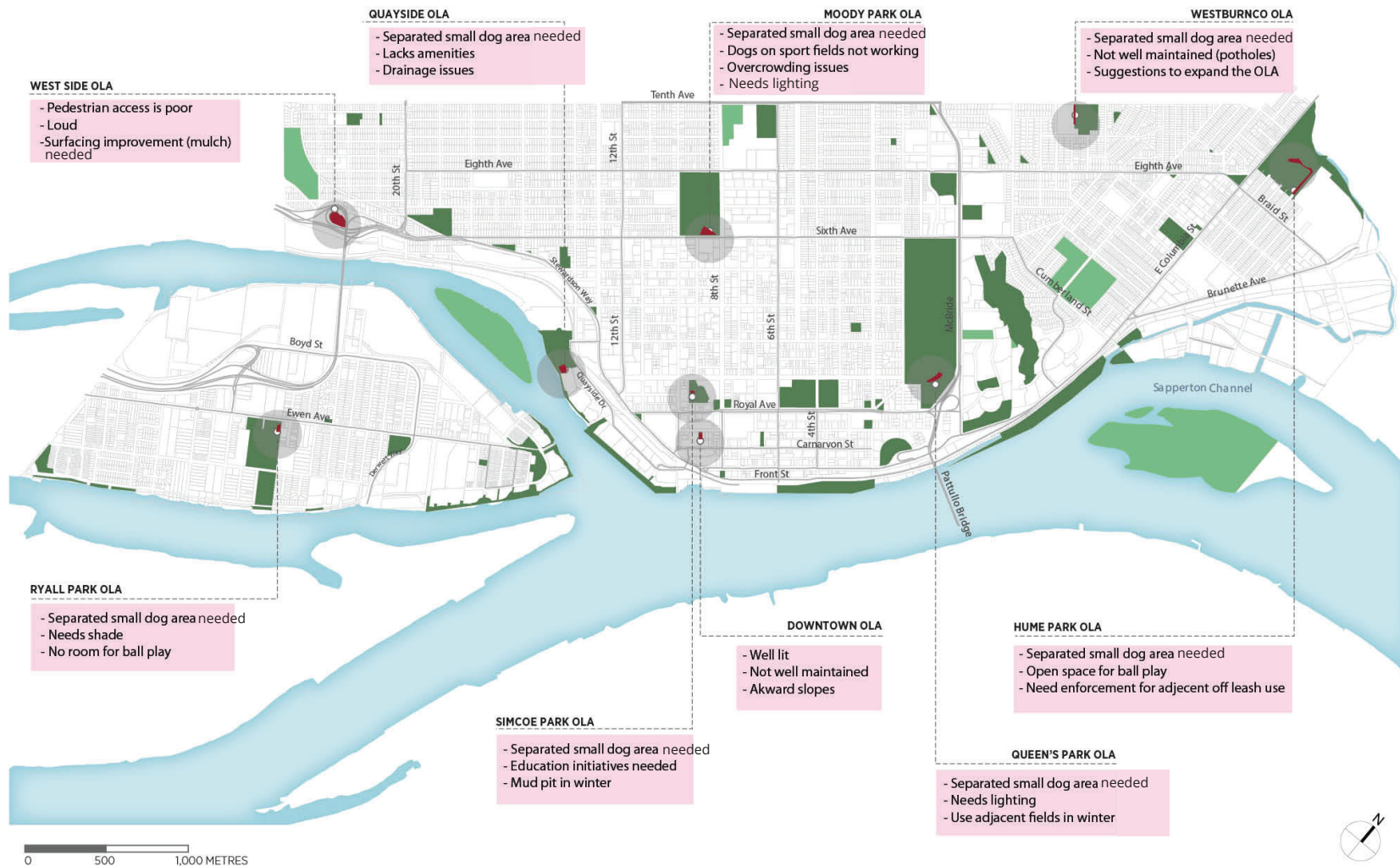
In total **162** pins were submitted during the first round of engagement:

19 pins - What is working well?

63 pins - What needs to be improved?

80 pins - Suggest a location for a dog off-leash area

Here is the map with summarized comments on what we heard about the existing off-leash areas:



Figures 1 and 2 (right) are graphic representations of the 50 words most frequently used in the comments received from the 'Forum' online discussion on Beheard project site. The size of font is correlated to how often the word was repeated in the comments received. Figure 1 is generated from all comments received in the Forum, and Figure 2 is informed by the text from comments that received five or more responses, using the thumbs up and thumbs down icon to indicate agreement or disagreement with the comment.



*comments that received 5 or more agree / disagree responses

3.0 Next Steps

The design team received clear feedback on what is working and isn't working well with existing off-leash areas in New Westminster and on some ways to make it better. This feedback will be used to create the preliminary draft recommendations for the People, Parks and Pups Strategy. The second phase of engagement will launch in fall of 2021, where the public will be invited to provide feedback on the preliminary draft recommendations. All engagement activities and events will be posted on Be Heard New West website and will be promoted through the City's social media channels and Citypage newsletter.

Thank you to all the community members who have participated and provided valuable input into the planning process so far!

People, Parks and Pups: *A strategy for sharing parks and open space in New Westminster*

Phase 2 | Engagement Summary Report
November 2021



1.0 Introduction

The City of New Westminster is developing a strategy to guide the planning and design of dog off-leash areas in the city, to improve the safety and comfort for park visitors with and without dogs.

The input provided through the first phase of public engagement was used to inform the recommendations that were presented to stakeholders and the community for feedback through the Phase 2 Engagement. The input received through this second phase of engagement will further inform the draft People Parks and Pups Strategy, which will be presented to City Council for consideration at the end of 2021.

1.1 Purpose of Engagement

Phase 1 Engagement focused on learning what is important to New Westminster residents when considering people and dogs sharing parks and open space. In Phase 2, we asked for feedback about key draft recommendations.

These recommendations were developed by the planning team after mapping and analyzing existing dog off-leash areas, considering best practices for dedicated dog areas, talking with our City staff and Advisory Group, and integrating community input from the Phase 1 Engagement.

The planning team will consider feedback from Phase 2 of engagement as it refines the draft recommendations for the planning, design and management of New Westminster's dog off-leash areas. The planning team will present these refined recommendations to Council for consideration at the end of 2021.

1.2 Engagement Activities & Participation

Since the project launch in March 2021, the [Be Heard New West](#) project page has seen more than 1,800 unique visitors. The project site featured important background information, as well as interactive tools to collect feedback. Community members were also able to submit questions through the project site to be answered by staff. The Phase 2 Engagement invited participants to provide feedback through a virtual open house and survey.

During Phase 2 Engagement (from September 21 to October 28, 2021):

18 people attended the virtual open house

14 questions were asked & answered

138 completed surveys were received

6 members attended the project Advisory Group meeting

2.0 What We Heard

The following is a summary of the Phase 2 Engagement activities, and a snapshot of what was heard. All verbatim comments were recorded and can be found in the documents library on the [People, Parks and Pups webpage](#).

2.1 Advisory Group Meeting

As part of Phase 2 Engagement, six advisory group members met virtually on September 21, 2021. A presentation was provided about the proposed draft recommendations for the planning, design and management of off-leash areas and activities in New Westminster, and members were asked polling questions during the presentation. There were also group discussions on potential locations for a pilot project for designated off-leash times in larger park areas, proposed standard amenities for off-leash areas, and separated small dog areas. Among the six group members, two are dog owners, one has a service dog, and three do not have dogs.

The following key themes were identified through the advisory group input:

SHARED-USE PARKS

The Advisory Group was engaged to discuss the potential for adding select hours for off-leash activity in designated parks and trails, as a way to expand off-leash space.

Two proposed locations to pilot this approach were discussed: Tipperary Park and Fraser Riverside Park. It's important to note that pilot locations have not yet been selected, and the City is committed to engaging local residents further before this idea would be implemented.

While all the members were in support of a one-year pilot project for shared use at Tipperary Park, a few concerns were raised about this site:

- There has never been an off-leash area in Tipperary Park, so the shared used hours would need to be strongly enforced
- Views to the waterfalls and ponds must not be interrupted
- Dogs might disrupt the ducks in the pond
- Presence of coyotes in early morning hours
- Concerns that many dog owners in Downtown New West don't drive and would not walk to Tipperary Park
- Suggestion to add fencing so off-leash dogs don't run into the streets

However, Tipperary Park was also supported for being a fun spot for dogs, having good access from the parking lot, access to washrooms, and being quiet for neighbouring houses.

In discussing the idea of a one-year pilot for shared use at Fraser Riverside Park, 60% of advisory group members were supportive, while 40% were undecided. A member inquired if this site would provide river access for dogs to swim at the Riverside trail.

STANDARD AMENITIES

Amenities are important to attract the use of off-leash areas. The People, Parks and Pups Strategy will outline recommended standard amenities for all off-leash areas in New Westminster. The list of draft standard amenities presented to the Advisory Group were:

- Separated dog waste bins
- Open space
- Drinking water for dogs
- Shade
- Seating
- Boulders and logs

Less than half (40%) of advisory group members accepted this list of standard amenities, and lighting was discussed as an important amenity to consider as a standard in off-leash areas. Concerns raised about the amenities included:

- The lack of lighting causes safety issues
- Many off-leash areas are not available for many people during daylight hours (e.g. shift workers)
- Trees planted in off-leash areas to provide shade need to be protected from dog urine
- Include amenities kids as well as dogs. Keep a family lens, offer something for everyone, and make sure it's safe
- Ensure all off-leash areas are accessible

SEPARATED SMALL-DOG AREAS

During the first round of engagement, New Westminster residents clearly communicated a desire for separated off-leash areas for small dogs. Advisory group members were asked whether these should be delivered by expanding existing off-leash areas to include a separated small-dog area, or by adding a separate parklet within the catchment area but not necessarily adjacent to the existing off-leash area. Most group members (75%) were undecided, with the remaining 25% preferring the separate parklet. A number of members asked if the separated parklets would also allow big dogs.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Dog waste management was identified during the first phase of engagement as one of the major challenges associated with off-leash areas. In the advisory group meeting, members identified their top-three most effective strategies for dog waste management: separated dog waste bins, more waste bins, and bag dispensers.

2.2 Virtual Open House

The purpose of the Phase 2 Engagement virtual event was to share the findings from the first phase of engagement, and present the draft key recommendations for the planning, design and management of off-leash areas and activities in New Westminster. A presentation was offered, followed by group discussions on proposed standard and special amenities for off-leash areas, potential dog parklets, as well as shared park use (designated off-leash hours in parks / on trails).

Participants' input was documented on virtual sticky notes, using Google Jamboards, to ensure that the record of comments and ideas was clear and accessible to all participants. After the group discussions, a summary of next steps was presented and participants were encouraged to share additional feedback by completing the Phase 2 survey and providing any additional feedback via email.

Based on poll results during the session, the majority of participants identified as being dog owners or handlers (76.9%).

The following section outlines key feedback from open house participants in the following categories. Please refer to the Verbatim Input report for all comments.

STANDARD AMENITIES

- Include a variety of surfacing materials, such as grass.
- Include lighting for safety, accessibility and allowing off-leash area use past daytime hours.
- Manage waste through more enforcement and more bins.
- Drinking water should be a standard amenity.

- Suggestions to increase enforcement to ensure off-leash activity is contained in off-leash areas for the safety and comfort of all park users

AMENITIES FOR DOG PARKLETS

- Dog parklets typology well received as a “great idea” and “great solution”.
- Proposed list of parklet amenities was well received, especially drinking water and waste bins.
- Consider the use of biodegradable surfacing material.
- Dog waste management identified as a top priority for the dog parklets.

SHARED PARK USE

- Mixed levels of support for offering designated hours for off-leash use in parks / trails. Some participants said it would provide great opportunities for off-leash activities, while others were concerned this would create more conflicts.
- Suggestions for shared park to be used only by dogs with good recall.
- Ensure hours of use are clear.
- Could lead to the need for more park maintenance - i.e. to repair damage from off-leash activity such as digging.
- Suggestion to also have shared-use trails.
- There were a number of questions on how shared park use would be enforced.

PARKOLA



DOG PARKLET



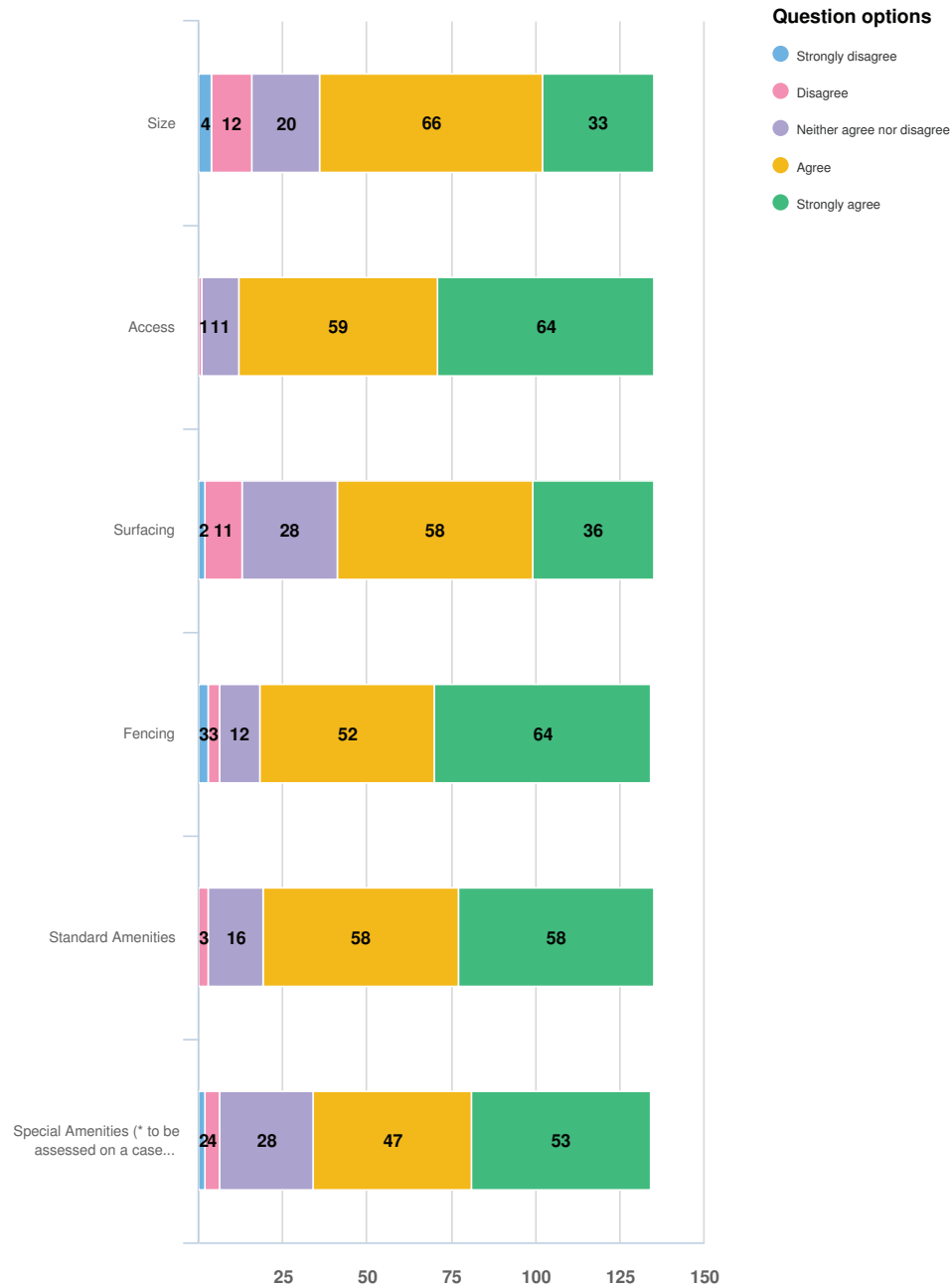
2.3 Survey

As part of Phase 2 Engagement, a community survey was available from October 7-28, 2021. A total of 138 responses were received.

The following is a summary of results:

A. TYPES OF OFF-LEASH AREAS

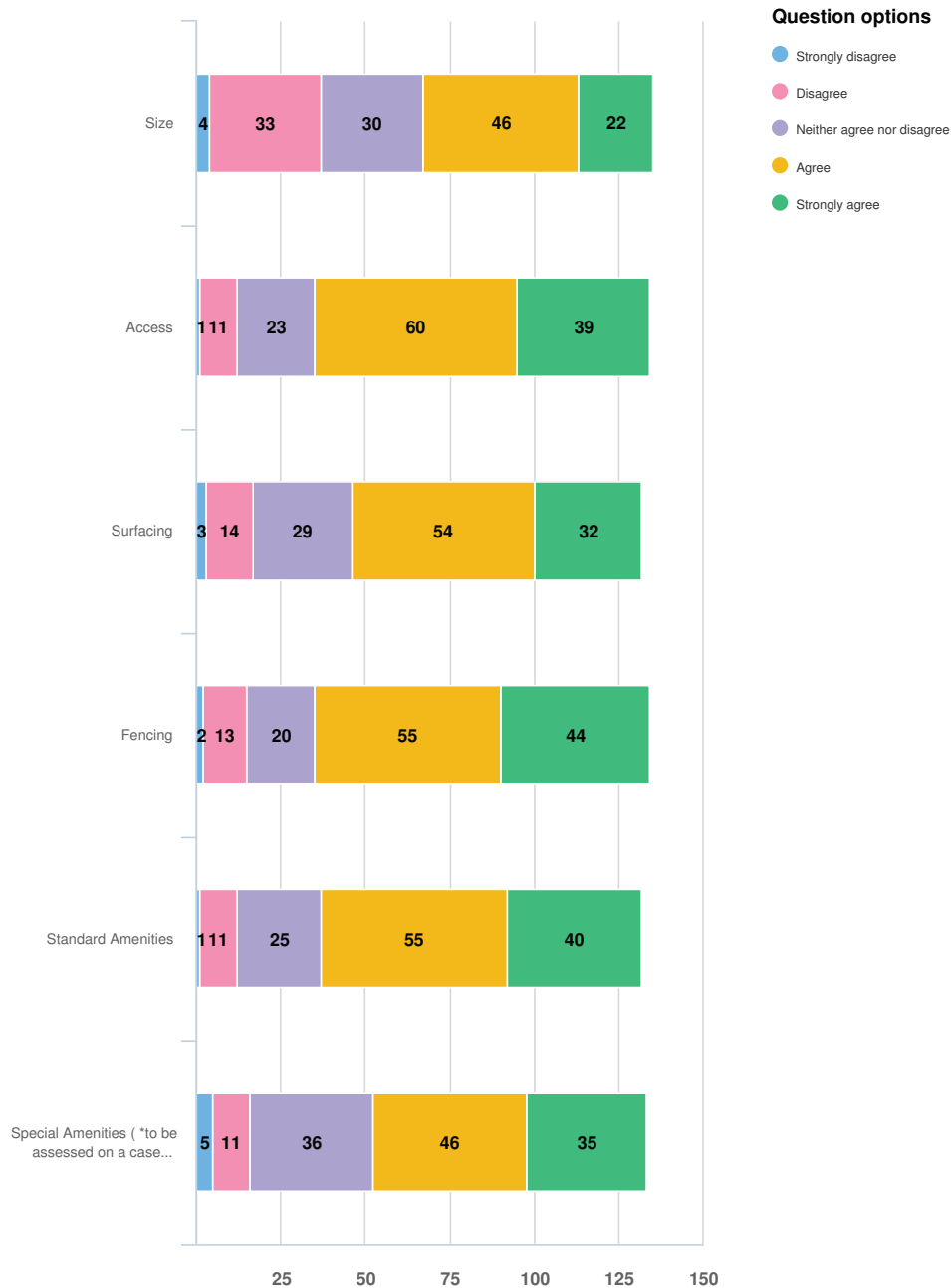
Q1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following aspects of the proposed Park Off-Leash Areas:



Key Feedback on Park Off-leash Areas:

- The provision of adequate lighting should be a standard feature, not an optional feature, for safety reasons alone.
- The use of gravel in dog parks should be reevaluated as the stones can get lodged in dogs' paw pads and worm their way into the foot if not detected.
- Grass or synthetic grass is a great substitute.

Q2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following aspects of the proposed Dog Parklets:



Key Feedback on Dog Parklets:

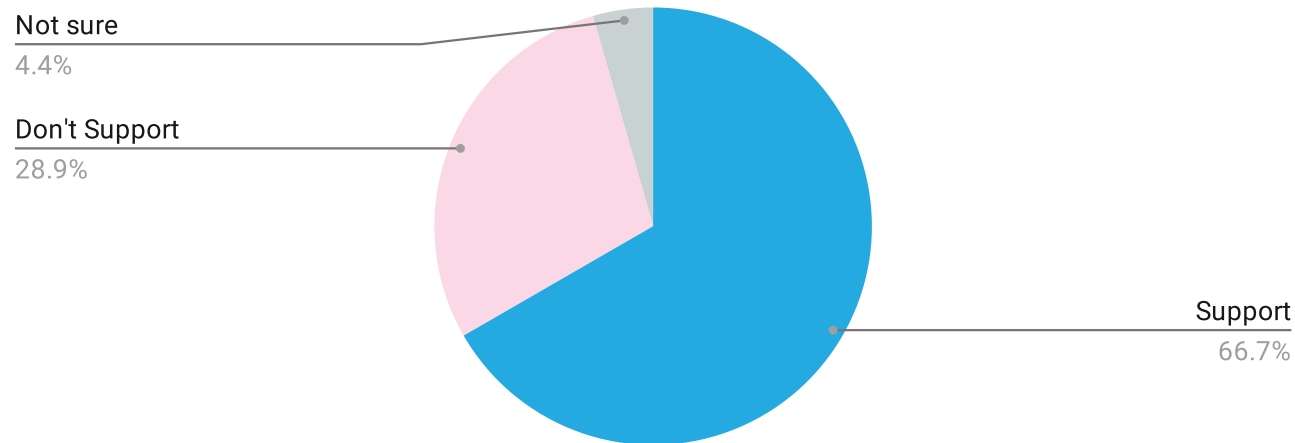
- Nice additions to areas that are a little far away from dog parks.
- Dog Parklets are an excellent way to provide amenities while impacting a minimal space.
- Dog Parklets need to be bigger, or at least allow more room to move around.
- Dog Parklets are a waste of time and money.
- Concern with the Dog Parklets is that it will probably not be properly maintained.

Key Feedback on the two types of off-leash areas:

- Park Off-Leash Areas and Dog Parklets should be an addition to available park areas, not the replacement.
- Off-leash trails are highly suggested, such as the off-leash trail in Mundy Park in Coquitlam. This would allow for more recreation/exercising together.
- Separate off-leash areas for small dogs are needed.
- Fences need to be taller as some dogs can jump over and run away.

B. SHARED USE AREAS: PARKS AND TRAILS

Q3 Do you support a one-year Pilot Project to test designated off-leash hours within parks and along trails in Downtown and Queensborough? For example, the City may designate an open lawn area for exercising dogs for limited hours (i.e. between 6:00am and 10:00am). The open lawn area would be available for other uses through the day.



Why support?

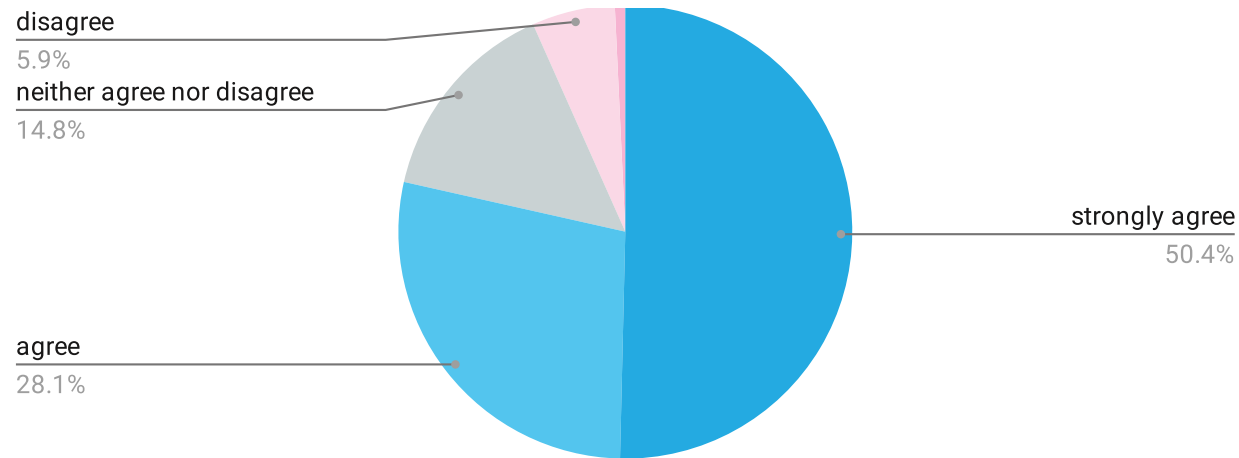
- Provides space to exercise and train dogs without the added stress of fenced off-leash areas.
- Doing this as a pilot project is a good idea to see how this may work.
- There are many fields and open spaces in New West underutilized at certain times of the day. They are great areas for playing with your dog(s) and connecting with other neighbourhood dog owners and lovers.
- Support as long as waste bags are provided to encourage pet owners to clean up.
- Support for a trial period and specified times, but worry about irresponsible owners with out of control or aggressive dogs off leash.
- Off-leash trails are important for dogs.
- Support 6-10 am, but would like another time slot later in the day as well to give more options.

Why not support?

- Not all people like to be approached by dogs. Those who do not want to interact with dogs should not have to change their schedule to avoid dogs.
- Worry about children's safety.
- Irresponsible dog owners will not follow rules and designated hours.
- Dog waste management will be an issue.
- The City does not have enough staff resources to enforce and manage the space.
- Dogs have potential to negatively impact wildlife habitat.
- The suggested time won't work.

C. SEPARATED SMALL DOG AREAS

Q4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the use of small dog areas at park off-leash areas be expanded to include small, shy, or senior dogs, as well as dogs in training ?



Key Feedback:

- Love the option of “dogs in training” being able to use the small dog space.
- Need small spaces for senior dogs, small dogs, non-social dogs and just owners who may not be in a good mood on a given day.
- Dogs in training could be anything (puppies, pit-bulls, rescued reactive dogs, etc.)
- There should be clarity on what you mean by “dogs in training”.

Q5 As an alternative to modifying existing off-leash areas to include a small dog area within existing footprint (i.e. a partition would be added to the existing off-leash area to provide separate space for small dogs - see Diagram B), to what degree would you support adding a separate dog parklet in close proximity to the existing dog off-leash area for small dogs only (see Diagram C)?



Diagram A



Diagram B



Diagram C

disagree

5.9%

neither agree nor disagree

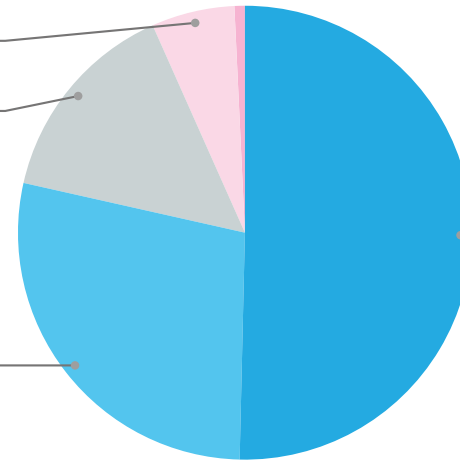
14.8%

agree

28.1%

strongly agree

50.4%

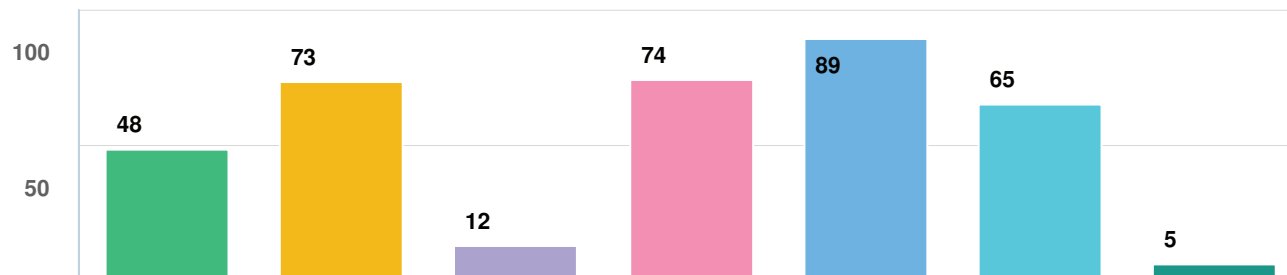


Key Feedback:

- Would rather have one big area than two smaller ones.
- A small dog area is important, but let's keep the costs to a minimum. Creating a partition would be quicker and cheaper.
- Worry that partitioning any of the smaller parks like Simcoe or Downtown would affect usability.
- Size of the proposed Dog Parklets is too small. Small dogs need an area to run around as well.
- Small dogs should be entitled to the same amenities as larger dogs in terms of real surfacing (grass, wood chips) versus synthetic turf.
- The separation of both areas may be most effective as the mere presence of larger, more active dogs in close proximity may create a stressful environment for shy or small dogs.
- Diagram C is good because there's no loss of space for the bigger dogs.

D. DOG WASTE MANAGEMENT

Q6 What do you consider to be the most effective strategies to reduce the amount of uncollected dog waste in parks and open space? Select up to three:



Question options

- Other (please specify)
- More Waste Bins: provide more waste bins, that are regularly emptied
- Dog Waste Bins: provide easily-identifiable bins that are designed for ease-of-use and regular collection
- Bag Dispensers: provide bag dispensers to be stocked by community members
- Clean-up events: host clean-up events with municipal staff and community members
- Enforcement: enhance resources for enforcement staff to issue fines for owners who don't pick up their dog's waste
- Education and Awareness: initiatives that increase understanding of dog waste, pathogens, and risks to human health and ecosystems.

Survey respondents' top-three effective strategies:

- Dog Waste Bins
- Bag Dispensers
- Enforcement

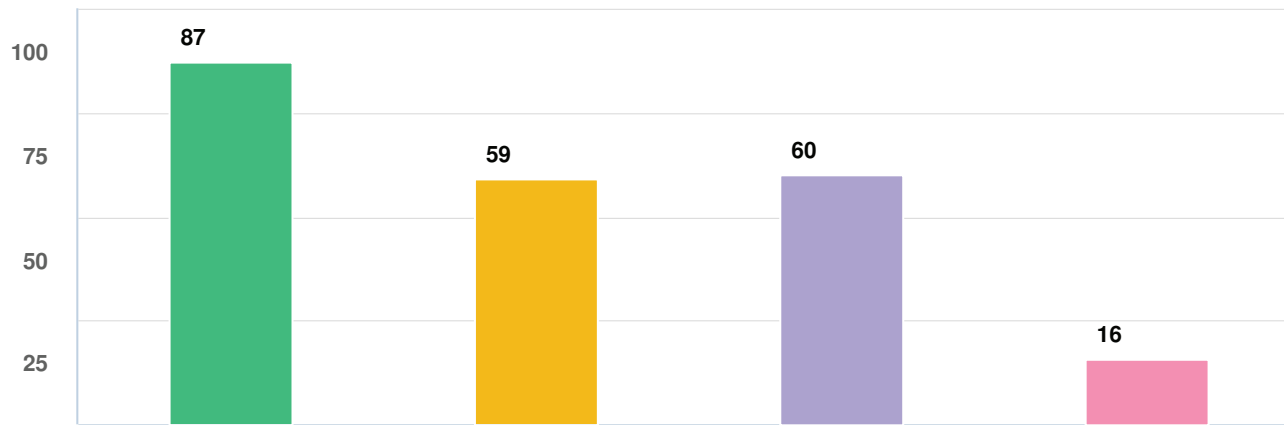
Key Feedback on Dog Waste Management:

- The more dog waste bins the better. Also the bins need to be frequently emptied.
- Place more dog waste bins along major streets, specifically in dense areas with high people and dog populations.
- Need more waste pickup, especially in the hot summer months.
- Introduce waste recycle / energy producing bins.
- More bag dispensers would help.
- Enforcement needs to be a priority.
- Use dog license fees to fund enforcement.

E. STEWARDSHIP

Q7 Local residents play a valuable role in caring for off-leash spaces in our community. Do you think dog owners in New Westminster would be interested in volunteering as a Community Steward, working with municipal staff to help plan, design and manage off-leash activity in your neighbourhood? Recommended activities include: Adopt an Off-Leash Area: Be part of a stewardship group that cares for a specific off-leash area; Community Events: Promote public awareness at community events; Educational Initiatives: Assist with community outreach programs that educate about health and safety issues relating to dogs.

Please identify which activities you think would be successful (check all that apply):



Question options

- Please provide your email address if you would like to be involved.
- Educational Initiatives
- Community Events
- Adopt an Off-Leash Area

Key findings:

- Top stewardship activity identified by survey respondents was Adopt an Off-leash Area.
- 24 suggestions were shared, including: Shared space ambassadors, Facebook dog owner group, community events featuring educational demonstrations, and training sessions from animal behaviour specialists.
- 16 respondents provided email addresses, indicating they want to be involved.

