

02/03/2020 Correspondence Packet:

All Citizen Emails Received
Post-01/08/2020 Parks and Recreation
Commission Meeting

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 9:24 AM
To: Pat Marriott; Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: RE: dog park survey

Good morning Pat. Thank you for the information. The Commission is aware of the 2018 survey as well as a number of methods for soliciting public input on the dog parks and off-leash hours concept.

We will not be initiating a survey at this time. However, the Senior Commission may consider a survey for the proposed Bocce Ball project. Either way, the option is helpful.

Thank you. Donna

Donna Legge
City of Los Altos
Recreation & Community Services Director
Office: 650.947.2889

----- Original message -----

From: Pat Marriott
Date: 1/10/20 4:02 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Cc: Donna Legge
Subject: RE: dog park survey

Related items in this agenda:

Meeting Information

Agenda:

[PARC Special Agenda 10/16/2019](#) (135 KB)

Supporting Documents

[Item 1: PARC draft minutes 9/11/2019](#) (115 KB)

[Item 2: Play Share Company presentation](#) (106 KB)

[Item 2 Attachment: Play Share Company presentation](#) (2 MB)

[Item 4: Off-Leash Dog Park pilot program report](#) (159 KB)

[Item 4 Attachment A: Summary of Dog Park Survey](#) (872 KB)

[Item 4 Attachment B: 9/5/2018 Subcommittee Report](#) (160 KB)

[Item 4 Attachment C: 2/12/2019 City Council Report & Subcommittee Report](#) (157 KB)

Item 4 Attachment D: Hillview Off-Leash Rules (101 KB)

Item 4 Attachment E: Heritage Oaks Off-Leash Rules (100 KB)

Item 4 Attachment F: City of Los Altos Municipal Code 05.08.010 (35 KB)

Item 4 Off-Leash Dog Park pilot program presentation (2 MB)

Item 6: Informational Items (132 KB)

From: Pat Marriott
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 4:01 PM
To: parcommission@losaltosca.gov
Cc: Donna Legge
Subject: dog park survey

All,

I'm not sure why the dog park discussion has been going on for about 2 years, but I'm told there was some mention of doing a survey or having charrettes (god forbid!) to get resident input.

Some of you may not be aware that the city did a survey in March 2018. Results are at

[https://www.losaltosca.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/parks and recreation commission/meeting/47985/item 4 - attachment a - 2018 03-19 dog activity survey summary.pdf](https://www.losaltosca.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/parks_and_recreation_commission/meeting/47985/item_4_-_attachment_a_-_2018_03-19_dog_activity_survey_summary.pdf)

Maybe this doesn't provide all the answers you're looking for, but it's a start. It was done using Open City Hall, so I assume a follow-up – if needed – could be done using the same method.

Pat Marriott

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Cc: Trevor Marsden
Subject: FW: WORKSHOP IDEAS
Attachments: PARC OPTIONS final.docx

Chair Yeh and Commissioners, please find email and attached ideas from Frank Martin, related to the dog park workshops.

Sincerely, Donna

From: Frank Martin
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 5:26 PM
To: Donna Legge
Subject: WORKSHIP IDEAS

Donna,

I think I am misled about ADA needs for off-leash hours so have made what I hope is the final change to the enclosed document.

Let me add that off-leash hours should be our highest priority.

Frank

Suggestions from Public Speakers and Dog Owners to PARC Commissioners

Because of your outreach, residents living near Lincoln, McKenzie, and Grant Park are uniting to develop common solutions that other dog owners and residents want or will more universally support. I hope to create a petition for these ideas with at least 100 signatures by January 24.

We feel the current workshop approach is less likely to produce a good outcome than it could because it is limited to four options – two of which will certainly be strongly opposed by residents and ultimately be rejected by Council. We dislike the Charrette process as it stands (it is too limiting and does not involve residents sufficiently) and ask you to rethink the process.

Here are our 4 new ideas we ask be added to the workshops for residents to discuss:

- (1) **Expand [add] a pilot program choice of off-leash locations from 2 parks to include most or every park [especially Grant, Marymead, Redwood Grove, and Rosita] as an option to the council mandate.** This approach could gather more information quickly and allow more people to walk to the park of their choice. It is easier to terminate a location than to add them later. Witness the Grant Park Senior Center pilot program has not expanded beyond one day a week over 4 years afterward. Why not provide this option to the council along with the mandated 4 locations if there is enough public support that we expect?
- (2) **Locate a dedicated fenced dog park at the unused land at Heritage Oaks Park instead of McKenzie and Lincoln or at places noted in option (4).** Although we do want any – we can live with them providing they do not take away universally shared play areas in existing parks. Any fenced dog park should have artificial grass [weekly power wash] or aggregate.
- (3) **Adding a 100% fenced park option with off-leash hours** could be better than a dedicated fenced dog park because it preserves play areas in existing parks and would not need artificial grass or aggregate. Why not try this at either the already fenced Little League field or add fences at other parks like Grant or Lincoln or Marymead? If the council chooses the limited mandate solution we would then wind up with Heritage, Lincoln, McKenzie, and the Little League the equivalent of having 4 off-leash and 4 non dedicated fenced dog parks instead.
- (4) **Create a new dedicated fenced dog park at the Woodland Library [it is subject to flooding] or use the corner lot at Fremont-Grant instead of McKenzie or Lincoln.** One Woodland Library neighbor I spoke with likes this idea and I will talk to others.

We need morning time for dog exercise and afternoon time for socialization. We want off-leash hours from sunrise to 9 or 10 am and from 4 pm to sunset or 4 to 6 pm.

Any dedicated dog park must meet ADA requirements that as a minimum require complete fencing with double gated entries. Not sure about off-leash parks but doubt it.

In summary, please add these ideas to the four on the table and also include the option of none of the above for off-leash ours and fenced dog parks as well.

I can meet any commissioner or staff member over coffee for a conversation. Just contact me at 650-339-1635 or at apfrank42@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Frank Martin

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 9:38 AM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Cc: Trevor Marsden
Subject: RE: WORKSHOP IDEAS
Attachments: PARC OPTIONS final.docx

All, Frank want to make sure I forwarded this email as well.

From: Frank Martin
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 2:30 PM
To: Donna Legge
Subject: NEW WORKSHOP OPTIONS

Donna,

Please forward the enclosed document that outlines options that residents from Lincoln Park, McKenzie Park, and Grant Park that have spoken at PARC meetings want to be added to the workshop. We are working towards gaining widespread support among at least 100 residents - mostly dog owners.

I offer these ideas to increase the odds for getting the widespread community support for off-leash hours and dedicated fenced dog parks and then approved by council.

I welcome comments from our commissioners and am willing to meet with anyone over coffee to have a conversation if so desired.

Thank you,
Frank Martin

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission <PARCommission@losaltosca.gov>
Cc: Trevor Marsden
Subject: FW: WORKSHOP IDEAS

Chair Yeh and Commissioners, please find email and attached ideas from Frank Martin, related to the dog park workshops.

Sincerely, Donna

From: Frank Martin
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 5:26 PM
To: Donna Legge
Subject: WORKSHIP IDEAS

Donna,

I think I am misled about ADA needs for off-leash hours so have made what I hope is the final change to the enclosed document.

Let me add that off-leash hours should be our highest priority.

Frank

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 5:58 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: LOS ALTOS OFF-LEASH ORDINANCE

Chair Yeh and Commissioners,

Frank requested I forward the email below regarding enforcement by the Palo Alto Animal Control.

Thanks, Donna

From: Frank Martin
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 3:37 PM
To: Donna Legge
Subject: Fwd: LOS ALTOS OFF-LEASH ORDINANCE

Donna,

I spoke with office Malpe and he has confirmed the fines and also noted they are getting more complaints and now have dedicated code enforcement police. This means off-leash dog owners are more likely to be ticketed than before unless we take a bold action to make most if not all of our parks dog friendly with off-leash hours.

Just FYI. Please pass along to commissioners as facts.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Animal Control <AnimalControl@cityofpaloalto.org>
Date: Mon, Jan 13, 2020 at 3:16 PM
Subject: RE: LOS ALTOS OFF-LEASH ORDINANCE
To: Frank Martin

Hi Frank,

Unfortunately I can not comment (nor have any decision making powers) in the off leash program in Los Altos, and you may need to file a formal public record request with either city to obtain a copy of the contract. I would recommend contacting the City of Los Altos Parks Dept. to express any concerns.

However, I have forwarded your email to my contacts in each Cities Parks Dept, and the fine for a muni code violation in Los Altos is \$100 for the first time violation, \$200 for the second, and \$500 for the third and every subsequent violation.

Good luck

-cody

Cody Macartney

Lead Animal Control Officer | Palo Alto Police Dept.

3281 East Bayshore Road | Palo Alto, CA 94303

Office: 650.496.5955 (no VM) | 24hr 650.329.2413

cody.macartney@cityofpaloalto.org | @paloaltoAC

From: Frank Martin

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 1:15 PM

To: Animal Control <AnimalControl@CityofPaloAlto.org>

Subject: LOS ALTOS OFF-LEASH ORDINANCE

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

To whom it may concern,

I am a Los Altos resident and activist concerned about our current policies concerning off-leash hours.

Can you provide a copy of the ordinance and/or contract you have with Los Altos?

Most importantly, what is the fine for having a dog off-leash the first time or for repeat offenders?

Frank Martin

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 5:38 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Oppose fenced-in dog park in South Lincoln Park
Attachments: Item 4 - Off leash-Fenced-in Dog Park Report.pdf

Chair Yeh and Commissioners, please find a copy of an email from Brenda Keller and my response below.

Sincerely, Donna

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 5:36 PM
To: Brenda Keller, Anita Enander
Cc: Sally Shreve; Jill Reimann; Jerry Shluker
Subject: RE: Oppose fenced-in dog park in South Lincoln Park

Brenda, thank you for your email below regarding your opposition to a fenced-in dog park in South Lincoln Park. I will forward your email to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) including the Dog Park Subcommittee.

The public process for the proposed fenced-in dog parks at Mckenzie Park and South Lincoln Park as well as a pilot off-leash programs proposed for the Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park will be promoted and noticed to neighbors with in the next couple of weeks for the following interactive drop-in scheduled workshops:

- Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at the Garden House
Workshop #1 = 7 to 8 pm – Informational Presentation will be held at 7 pm
Workshop #2 = 8 to 9 pm – Informational Presentation will be held at 8 pm
- Saturday, February 29, 2020 at the Grant Park Multi-purpose Room
Workshop #3 = 10 to 11 am – Informational Presentation will be held at 10 am
Workshop #4 = 11 am to 12 pm – Informational Presentation will be held at 11 am

The PARC and staff will be sharing the history, the process, dog park criteria, pros and cons of each location and the purpose of the workshops (provide information and solicit input to be considered when formulating a recommendation to City Council at a special PARC meeting on March 18 at 7pm). The PARC is also interested in knowing who is interested in a dog park or off-leash hours, but not at the specific proposed locations.

While staff has been preparing an updated staff report, I have attached a copy of the December 11, 2019, staff report for your reference. Please let me know if you want the attachments as well. The addition of South Lincoln Park was based on interest of a survey conducted in 2018. Please let me know if you have further questions.

Sincerely, Donna

Donna Legge | Recreation & Community Services Director
City of Los Altos Recreation & Community Services
1 North San Antonio Road | Los Altos, CA 94022
Main: (650) 947-2790 | Office: (650) 947-2889 | dlegge@losaltosca.gov

Offices are closed every other Friday: www.losaltosca.gov/adminservices/page/defined-980-friday-offices-closed



Parks
Make
Life
Better!

We Create Community Through People, Parks and Programs

From: Brenda Keller
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 4:01 PM
To: Anita Enander; Donna Legge
Cc: Sally Shreve; Jill Reimann; Jerry Shluker
Subject: Oppose fenced-in dog park in South Lincoln Park

TO: Donna Legge PARC Liaison
Anita Enander, Council member and PARC Liaison

FROM: Brenda Keller

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposal for a fenced-in dog park in South Lincoln Park. I walk on the Lincoln Park sidewalk once or twice a day and have the following concerns about a dog park:

- The noise. I listen to an audible book when I am walking in the park. I would not be able to hear my book over the sound of dogs barking. The churches and the organizations that meet at the three churches just off the park would be impacted by the noise, likely to the point that the lovely choir practices we often hear would be disrupted.
- The division of dogs/owners and other people. We currently enjoy this park as a place to meet our neighbors and stop and chat, with and without dogs. A fence would leave less room for neighbors and create an unneeded barrier.
- Cleanliness/eyesore. I am concerned that there would be a lot of dog poop that would not be picked up.
- Attracting a lot of non-neighbors to our neighborhood. A dog park would serve people outside the neighborhood, bringing more traffic and noise to the area, thus compromising the neighborhood feel of this beautiful local open space. One of the best facets of our neighborhood is that we meet our neighbors on the road to downtown Los Altos. We have been encouraged to walk to downtown rather than drive because the parking is very limited. It will be less attractive to do so if we feel the park has been invaded by people who do not live near here and do not have an investment in our neighborhood.

I would ask whose needs would be served by a fenced-in dog park? Not mine, not our local neighborhood. Whose concerns are driving this proposal and what is their motivation? Why has there been so little outreach to the surrounding community?

I strongly oppose the dog park. Please respond to my concerns.

Thank you,

Brenda Keller



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TO: Parks & Recreation Commission

FROM: Recreation & Community Services Director Donna Legge, Staff Liaison
Off-Leash Areas and Fenced-in Dog Park Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Pilot Off-Leash Hours and Fenced-in Dog Park Update

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive updated joint report from City staff and Subcommittee regarding proposed pilot program for off-leash hours and fenced-in dog park. Review workshop format and public outreach efforts.

BACKGROUND

At its regular Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) meeting of August 14, 2019, Vice Chair Stuart Eckmann and Commissioner Scott Spielman volunteered and were appointed to serve on the Off-Leash Areas and Fenced-in Dog Park Subcommittee (Subcommittee).

The Subcommittee has worked closely with staff to evaluate options and gather information for the reports that have been prepared for the October and November 2019 meetings. The following report is a joint effort.

Need for a Dog Park

According to USA Today, Los Altos and Palo Alto have many demographics in common. Each have two ZIP codes among the top 10 most expensive ZIP codes in the country. Mountain View, which is listed as the 18th most expensive ZIP in the country, also shares many things with Los Altos, including the Mountain View Los Altos School District. In addition, the communities are all “dog” cities. The City of Palo Alto has three fenced-in dog parks. The City of Mountain View has one fenced-in dog park at the entrance of Shoreline Park, at the corner of Shoreline Blvd and North Roads, as well as seven designated off-leash areas, with additional ones planned. Los Altos residents would also like a dog park.

In a recent survey conducted by the City of Los Altos in spring 2018, 78.1% of those residents participating said they would like a fenced-in dog park in Los Altos. According to the City of Palo Alto, the level of interest is backed up by hard numbers: a Palo Alto animal control officer estimates that there are 3800 active dog licenses in Los Altos - approximately 35% of all households in Los Altos have a dog. The prominence of pets is reinforced by the fact that one of the top ten businesses in Los Altos is a companion animal veterinary practice, which was revealed in the 2010 City of Los Altos Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. It is perceived that many Los Altos voters would benefit from a local dog park.

December 11, 2019
Off-Leash Areas and Fenced-in Dog Park



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Dog Park Definitions

For the purpose of this report, the Staff and the Subcommittee have established the following definitions:

A “**fenced-in dog park**” is defined as an enclosed and dedicated area, which is often divided into two separate areas, one for larger/more active dogs and the other for smaller, shyer dogs. Dogs run off-leash in these dog parks. A fenced-in dog park typically is open from sunrise to sunset.

An “**off-leash area**” is defined as unenclosed areas where dogs can run but the owner(s) must manage their dogs so that they do not go beyond the designated off-leash areas, unless they are leashed. Off-leash areas typically have specific hours in the morning and afternoon/evening.

Since July 2017, the various PARC and Dog Park Subcommittees have explored the feasibility of establishing off-leash areas as well as fenced-in dog parks in Los Altos. In recognition of work by past Subcommittee members, the current Subcommittee has built upon the work of Tanya Lindermeier, Mike Ellerin and Grace Lilygren. The PARC approved forwarding a recommendation for an off-leash area to City Council, at its regular meeting of July 11, 2018.

At its regular meeting of February 12, 2019, City Council directed staff to prepare a proposal for a City of Los Altos pilot off-leash areas program at no more than two parks, and for staff to work with PARC to recommend a fenced-in dog park.

Per the approved minutes, City Council direction was as follows:

Direction: The Council directed staff to work with the Parks and Recreation Commission to fully develop a pilot program proposal with an implementation plan to include off-leash dog hours at one or two parks, with limited hours, a public noticing plan and educational signage. Concurrently, staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission shall further explore and develop a recommendation for a designated, fenced-in dog park. The proposal for the off-leash hours shall come back to Council for final review before implementation, along with the PARC recommendation for a fenced-in dog park.

Off-leash Hours Areas

At its special meeting of October 16, 2019, the PARC discussed establishing a twelve-month pilot program for off-leash areas at the Hillview Baseball Field (Attachment 1) and Heritage Oaks Park (Attachment 2). These sites and hours were discussed by the PARC. In addition, the PARC recommended that staff expand the off-leash hours. Due to an increase in programming, the availability of afternoon and evening access is limited. Updated since the November 13, 2019 PARC meeting, the Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park programed schedules have been taken



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into consideration in the recommended Off-leash hours below.

Hillview Baseball Field Program Schedule

Program	Days	Times	Months (#)
Dog Obedience	Wednesdays	9 to 11 am	Jan to Dec (12)
Little League	Monday to Friday	4 to 7 pm	Feb to July (6)
	Saturday & Sunday	9 am to 5 pm	Feb to July (6)
Little League	Mon, Wed, Fri	5 to 7 pm	Aug to Mid-Nov (4.5)
Pony League	Tues & Thurs	4 to 7 pm	Aug to Mid-Nov (4.5)
Annual Maintenance	Monday to Sunday	sunrise to sunset	Mid-Nov to Jan (2.5)

Heritage Oaks Park Program Schedule

Program	Days	Times	Months (#)
Youth Soccer	Mon, Wed, Fri	4:15 to 5:15 pm	Sept to Mid-Nov, Feb to June (6.5)
MVLA Soccer	Thursday	4 to 5 pm	Sept to Mid-Nov, Feb to June (6.5)
Youth Soccer	Tuesday	12:30 to 1:30 pm	Sept to Mid-Nov, Feb to June (6.5)
Youth Soccer	Friday	10 to 11 am	Sept to Mid-Nov, Feb to June (6.5)
Youth Soccer	Saturday	9 to 11 am	Sept to Mid-Nov, Feb to June (6.5)
Youth Soccer	Monday to Friday	9 am to 1 pm	June to Aug (3)
Annual Maintenance	Monday to Sunday	sunrise to sunset	Mid-Nov to Jan (2.5)

At its regular meeting on November 13, 2019, the PARC received public input from 11 residents in favor of the PARC and Subcommittee efforts. Specifically, the residents were interested in afternoon and evening access to the proposed off-leash areas. While the hours are limited, staff is recommending



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the following pilot hours, keeping in mind future signage and a more consistent schedule for the public.

Staff Recommendation – Off-leash Pilot Hours

Hillview Park Baseball Field: February to Mid-November (9.5 months)		
<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Monday to Friday	6 to 9 am	7 pm to sunset
Saturday and Sunday	6 to 9 am	4 pm to sunset

Heritage Oaks Park: September to Mid-November, February to May (6.5 months)		
<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Monday to Sunday	6 to 9 am	
Saturday and Sunday		4 pm to sunset
Monday through Friday		5:30 pm to sunset

Heritage Oaks Park: June to August (3 months)		
<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Monday to Sunday	6 to 9 am	4 pm to sunset

Subcommittee Recommendation – Off-leash Pilot Hours

Given that parkland is so limited in the City, the Subcommittee recommends that the off-leash areas be considered as shared space, so that scheduled programs, unscheduled activities and dogs all can have access to these areas.

Hillview Baseball Field

If this site is to remain under consideration for off-leash purposes, then efforts need to be made by staff to make this viable. Hours and months of access need to be appreciably expanded. These efforts could include providing at least one hour of off-leash time before sunset year-round (thereby allowing off-leash hours during baseball season after the games), installing a temporary or permanent fence at the southeast end of the field to create an area for dogs, and other accommodations staff could offer to enable this site to be viable.



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Hillview Baseball Field: February to July (6 months)

<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Mon, Tue, Thurs, Friday	6 to 11 am	7 pm to sunset
Wednesday	6 to 9 am	7 pm to sunset
Saturday & Sunday		5 pm to sunset

Hillview Baseball Field: August to October (3 months)

<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Mon, Tue, Thurs, Friday	6 to 11 am	7 pm to sunset
Wednesday	6 to 9 am	7 pm to sunset
Saturday & Sunday	7 to 11 am	5 pm to sunset

Hillview Baseball Field: Mid-November to January (2.5 months)

Closed for Annual Field Maintenance from Mid-November to January:

The Subcommittee appreciates that field maintenance is necessary and recommends that the park will be planned for closure only one month per year, but longer only if necessary:

<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Monday to Friday	6 to 11 am	4 pm to sunset
Saturday & Sunday	7 to 11 am	4 pm to sunset



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Heritage Oaks Park Hours: September to October, February to May (6 months)

<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Monday to Friday	6 to 10 am	5:30 pm to sunset
Saturday	7 to 9 am	4 pm to sunset
Sunday	7 to 11 am	4 pm to sunset

Heritage Oaks Park Hours: Mid-November to January (2.5 months)

Closed for Annual Maintenance from End November to Mid-January:

The subcommittee appreciates that field maintenance is necessary and recommends that the park will be planned for closure for only one month per year, but longer only if necessary:

<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Monday to Friday	6 to 10 am	4 pm to sunset
Saturday	7 to 9 am	4 pm to sunset
Sunday	7 to 11 am	4 pm to sunset

Heritage Oaks Park Hours: June to August (3 months)

<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Monday to Friday	6 to 9 am	5:30 pm to sunset
Saturday & Sunday	7 to 11 am	5:30 pm to sunset

Final Subcommittee Comments – Off-leash Hours

The above proposed pilot hours are an effort to make the program work for all interested parties. The willingness to share space and cooperate is necessary from everyone.

Should the Hillview Baseball Field not be expanded in hours and months, it is recommended that the PARC recommend exploring a second alternative site.

The Subcommittee acknowledges that the time schedule varies and is complex but is necessary to accommodate all parties.

While the Subcommittee recognizes the need for field maintenance, it recommends that City staff explore how the time can be limited to one month per year.



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The Subcommittee recommends that promotion of the program emphasize that the Off-leash Hours is a pilot program. Therefore, dog owners are being asked to be responsible and pick up after their dogs and observe the hours of access. Otherwise, users could lose the privilege of having the Off-leash program at the end of the year's pilot program.

The Subcommittee notes that the off-leash sites identified by previous Subcommittees, offer limited and inconsistent times for dogs and views this as a start. The Subcommittee recommends that the PARC consider other park areas for future off-leash areas after the pilot program is complete.

Fenced-in Dog Park

While the PARC has determined that McKenzie Park (Attachment 3) is a feasible option to designate as a fenced-in dog park, the PARC supported the Subcommittee's recommendation to further work with staff and return at the November 13, 2019, PARC meeting with South Lincoln Park (Attachment 4) as a second alternative to be considered.

DISCUSSION

The cost to design and develop a dog park is earmarked for FY 20-21, in the amount of \$250,000. The funds will not be officially allocated until the project is approved by City Council. The source of funds is from Park in Lieu Funds. The Subcommittee is anticipating that the cost to design and develop McKenzie Park will be substantially more than South Lincoln Park.

The Subcommittee has made the following observations, related to the pros and cons of two, alternative fenced-in dog parks:

McKenzie Park

At its regular meeting of May 9, 2018, the PARC established dog park location criteria based on the 2012 Park Plan. PARC has identified a location which meets many of the criteria for a dog park. The location includes a portion of McKenzie Park that borders on Fremont Avenue and Altos Oak Drive. The site is approximately 7,700 square feet of usable space. The triangular footprint backs up to tennis courts on one side and commercial medical offices on the other side. Residential properties on one side are buffered by offices on both sides of Altos Oaks. Residential properties on the other side are buffered by Fremont and Foothill Expressway. Included in a 2015 Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration for a dog park in the City of Beverly Hills, a noise mitigation study concluded that the change in noise level would be minimal. The Subcommittee suggests that the existing traffic is likely to contribute more noise than a dog park.

Pros

- No contiguous residential properties
- Driving access without the need to go on residential streets
- Adjacent parking (pending enforcement of parking regulations). The parking lot is currently being used by City employees working at the adjacent City maintenance yard; people



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accessing the medical offices on Altos Oaks Avenues; and those using the two City tennis courts or playground at the east end of the park.

- The location is not currently being used for specific parks and recreation programs. As a result, no program would need to be terminated or relocated.
- There are restrooms serving on the other side of McKenzie Park serving both parts (east and west)
- The location is easily accessible to both north and south Los Altos residents via the City's main thoroughfares, without creating additional traffic on residential streets

Cons

- Parking regulations are currently not enforced. The Subcommittee has observed over time that this lot is usually at capacity or close to capacity. This may be a challenge but could be mitigated by changing or enforcing parking regulations. The Subcommittee will rely on City staff for a better understanding of what would be done to ensure adequate parking
- Substantial grading and drainage work are needed.
- Wide tree coverage, which may adversely impact the drying time in rainy weather, possibly creating a muddy environment
- Fencing complexity because of an irregular boundary

South Lincoln Park

The Subcommittee has identified a second location for consideration of a fenced-in dog park: the south end of Lincoln Park. This is a long, narrow area along Foothill Expressway, which is located between Foothill Expressway and Lincoln Avenue. The footprint can support two areas for large/active dogs and smaller/shy dogs, either contiguously or close to each other. The long/narrow space would allow more running opportunities than the McKenzie Park configuration. There is ample parking immediately adjacent to park. The properties closest to the park, are churches, separated by Lincoln Avenue with angled parking on both sides. This location could accommodate a two-zone fenced-in dog park of up to approximately 21,000 square feet. There are no Parks and Recreation Department activities on this site, current or planned.

Pros

South Lincoln Park has some advantages over the McKenzie Park. These include:

- Adequate drainage
- Comparatively fewer trees than the McKenzie Park
- Appears it may dry out quicker during rainy season
- Parking is more than ample during the week
- Proximity to downtown businesses and proximity to major expressway
- Public restrooms available nearby in Shoup Park



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- Less grading and land preparation would be necessary compared to McKenzie Park
- As with McKenzie Park, any noise from a dog park is not likely to be greater than that already generated by traffic on Foothill Expressway

Cons

- Potential parking issues on Sunday, which could be easily addressed by coordinating with nearby churches and closing the dog park for Sunday services
- Public restrooms – while close by – still require a walk to Shoup Park, with a steep grade.

Other scenarios: off-leash areas and no areas for dogs

Off-leash areas are typically established in an existing park space and is shared with other activities with limited hours. In addition, when dog owners do not pick up after their dogs, it impacts the experience residents have during non-scheduled times of the off-leash hours. Many dog owners run their dogs off-leash in many of the City parks and on school fields. Having off-leash areas and/or a fenced-in dog park provides choices and the intended goal to reduce non-compliance with existing ordinances around leashed dogs in parks. Alternative off-leash areas and a dog park are anticipated to support enforcement of ordinances as well as reducing recurring costs associated to turf maintenance in other parks.

Programs

A fenced-in dog park offers the Los Altos community a *de facto* dog community center. Drawing from other city dog park programs, the City of Los Altos can offer the following programs:

- Unstructured time: a chance for dogs to play, and an opportunity for owners to socialize
- Dog instruction: obedience, agility, conformation (dog showing), and puppy training classes, as well as testing for the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) designation. The Deep Peninsula Dog Training Club and the West Valley Dog Training Club have both offered well-attended classes in Mountain View
- A special needs meet-and-greet: program in Clifton neighborhood, Cincinnati, Ohio includes an all-inclusive opportunity for those with special needs to bring their dogs (emotional support and otherwise), meet with other families with similar needs, and socialize with others who want to join them. This is being done in other communities as a “pop-up park” concept that has been very well received. (Attachment 5).
- An animal shelter and rescue group meet-and-greet: where these groups would have the opportunity to introduce adoptable dogs to the community
- Provide those who do not have a dog in their family, an opportunity to visit, spend time in the dog park, and see if a dog is right for their family. If the City of Los Altos were to develop a fenced-in dog park and work out relationships with dog training clubs, as Mountain View has, it may be an opportunity to expand its programming under the aegis of such clubs, without additional programming costs

December 11, 2019

Off-Leash Areas and Fenced-in Dog Park



DATE: December 11, 2019

AGENDA ITEM # 4

Design

The McKenzie Park location has a fence on one side for the tennis courts. The South Lincoln Park location has a fence separating it from Foothill Expressway. Buildout for both dog park sites would require:

- Fencing the rest of the perimeter
- Divider to define two separate areas, for large and small dogs. This would be more difficult at McKenzie Park
- Two double-gated “airlocks,” that are self-closing for entrance and exit into each of the two areas
- Replacement of the surface with hardy grass varieties, such as Buffalo or Red Creeping grass, or a decomposed granite (DG) surface to deal with normal wear and tear
- Possible grading to ensure adequate runoff
- Benches in each section
- Plastic bag dispensers and waste containers (one dispenser already exists at the South Lincoln location)
- Additional handicapped parking spaces adjacent to the site
- A community bulletin board to post scheduled events, dog-related service
- Signage for the park’s rules
- Water

Specific to McKenzie Park

- Additional landscaping for the border it shares with the Altos Oaks properties
- Removal of playground equipment and possible replacement with dog agility equipment
- Possible removal of some small trees and fencing around other larger trees

Samples of other dog parks and fencing are attached (Attachments 6 and 7).

Dog Park Rules and Signage (Attachment 8)

Many municipal dog parks are divided into two distinct areas for large dogs and small dogs. The Subcommittee recommends a division between large dogs and smaller or gentler/passive dogs because some older dogs, while large, may be more docile. Other posted rules include adult supervision, prohibiting supervision by individuals under a specific age. In addition, signs define the number of dogs allowed, pickup requirements, vaccination compliance, and dog park etiquette. No changes in our City code or ordinances would be required for a fenced-in or off-leash dog park.

Ongoing Changes in the Community

December 11, 2019

Off-Leash Areas and Fenced-in Dog Park



DATE: December 11, 2019

AGENDA ITEM # 4

Presented by the Subcommittee: Bay Area communities are facing housing challenges. The State of California is mandating additional housing units, and the City of Los Altos is addressing this with Accessory Dwelling Units and higher-density multifamily development whereby developers seek variances in allowable square footage and setback requirements. In 2019 dogs are, and will continue to be, part of the social and emotional fabric of families. The confluence of higher-density living, an overall decrease in per capita yard size, and the desire for families to include a companion animal, all work together to put pressure on our finite park space. It is expected that this trend will put greater pressure on the parks in the City of Los Altos. The Subcommittee recommends an extremely inclusive process to encourage residents to provide input and their views regarding a dog park. The survey and previous public input indicate that there is a consensus to support a dog park in various locations (Attachment 9). PARC and Subcommittee believe that providing 3,800 households or approximately 1 dog owner for every 2 square feet of park space is a useful and reasonable metric for any cost/benefit analysis park use for a dog park.

ADA Considerations

The City of Los Altos is required to meet the standards for accessibility in public facility design in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Recommendation

At a special meeting on November 25, 2019, the PARC recommended that the “Pilot Off-Leash Hours and Fenced-in Dog Park Update” be scheduled at the next regular meeting on December 11, 2019, at 7 pm. In addition, the PARC scheduled the following two public workshops, with one to be held in the north and one in the south of Los Altos:

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 7 pm

Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 10 am

The workshops are intended to be interactive and will be promoted and designed to solicit input from neighbors, dog owners and the general public regarding the off-leash hours and dog park proposals. The PARC scheduled a special meeting on Monday, January 13, 2020, to discuss a final recommendation for City Council, related to the proposed fenced-in dog parks and pilot off-leash hours.

The recommendation for the PARC is to receive updated joint report from City staff and Subcommittee regarding proposed pilot program for off-leash hours and fenced-in dog park. Review workshop format and public outreach efforts.

Subcommittee Recommendation

The Subcommittee recommends that the PARC consider including both South Lincoln Park and McKenzie Park as alternative sites for the public to consider for the development of a dedicated fenced-in dog park at a public workshop to receive resident comments, with the intent of



DATE: December 11, 2019

AGENDA ITEM # 4

forwarding this on to City Council for their consideration and approval. The Subcommittee further recommends that the PARC approve the inclusion of this report, as documentation of a thorough process and recommendation for alternatives sites with a site of choice, to City Council for their consideration and approval. The Subcommittee supports the previous PARC recommendation for two off-leash sites with slightly differently time recommendations from staff, including the annual maintenance closure be limited to one month per year, per location.

Attachments:

1. Hillview Baseball Field – Off-leash Area
2. Heritage Oaks Park – Off-leash Area
3. McKenzie Park – Fenced-in Dog Park
4. South Lincoln Park – Fenced-in Dog Park
5. Sample Program – Clifton Cincinnati, Ohio
6. Sample Dog Park Areas
7. Sample Dog Park Fencing
8. Sample Dog Park Rules and Signs
9. City Map – Dog Park Locations

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 5:32 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Online Form: Public Records Request

Chair Yeh and Commissioners, Frank Martin requested that I forward this information to you.

Sincerely, Donna

From: Frank Martin
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 4:48 PM
To: Donna Legge
Subject: Fwd: Online Form: Public Records Request

Donna,

Please pass this information along to the parks and recreation commissioners. Note that the citations are from the police and do not include the Palo Alto Animal Control.

Thanks for your help.

Frank

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Administration
Date: Thu, Jan 16, 2020 at 2:44 PM
Subject: RE: Online Form: Public Records Request
To: Frank Martin

Hi Frank,

The number of citations are listed below, but it is unknown if any were 1st, 2nd, or 3rd offense citations.

- FY 16/17: 19 off leash complaints - no citations issued
- FY 17/18: 74 off leash complaints – 2 citations issued
- FY 18/19: 96 complaints – 2 citations issued

Aggressive animal complaints are separately categorized:

- FY 16/17: 6 complaints
- FY 17/18: 14 complaints
- FY 18/19: 6 complaints

Best,

Administration Offices
City of Los Altos
1 N. San Antonio Road

Los Altos, CA 94022
650.947.2720
administration@losaltosca.gov
www.losaltosca.gov

NOTICE

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Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed alternate Fridays)

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-----Original Message-----

From: FRANK MARTIN via City of Los Altos California
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 1:19 PM
To: Administration
Subject: Online Form: Public Records Request

Submitted on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 - 1:18pm Submitted by anonymous user: 108.65.77.50 Submitted values are:

==Contact Information==

Name: FRANK MARTIN
Company/Organization:
COURT City: LOS ALTOS
State: California
Zip Code: 94024

Document(s) Requested:

Please provide data requested below in email form for the last three fiscal years:

(1) Total Number of off-leash dog complaints? Portion of dog complaints involving aggressive dog behaviors out of this total if know?

(2) Number of fines in the first offense of what is now \$100, second offense (\$200), and third offense (\$500)?

Copies:

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 1:25 AM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Proposed Dog Park

Chair Yeh and Commissioners,

Please find email below from a Lincoln Park neighbor who has expressed her concerns.

Sincerely, Donna

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Shelia Turner
Date: Wed, Jan 22, 2020 at 1:45 PM
Subject: Proposed Dog Park
To: Donna Legge

Hi, Donna,

We would like to go on record with our opposition to the Lincoln dog park proposal. Our house is on Palm Avenue and we enjoy walking in the neighborhood with our Golden Retriever. The entire length of the park is a welcome area of green in the midst of all the concrete and asphalt plus, it provides a beautiful entrance to our town. With the churches and now the possibility of a school the area it is already congested.

When this issue surfaced a few years ago we attended a council meeting with a group from our neighborhood and made our opposition very clear. We thought it was crazy that a person who did not live here had made it her mission in life to decide that we needed a dog park. Now we hear that she has personal financial motivations.

We feel the park is lovely the way it is and that it has huge benefits for all the residents. Over the years we have noticed catered parties, picnics, sunbathers, readers sitting on blankets, fathers and sons playing catch and people just sitting on the grass doing nothing. If a dog park is built in the proposed location the ambience of Lincoln Park will totally change and only be used by dog owners (we would not use the park for our dog) and lose the attractiveness to the remainder of the residents.

Thank you,
Shelia and Gary Wimp

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 9:26 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: NO to Dog Park on South Lincoln

Chair Yeh and Commissioners, please find email below regarding opposition to a dog park in the southern portion of Lincoln Park.

Sincerely, Donna

From: Virginie Forget
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 5:34 PM
To: Donna Legge
Subject: NO to Dog Park on South Lincoln

Dear Ms. Legge,

I am writing you so you can forward my remarks to the Commissioners.

I strongly oppose the construction of a dog park on South Lincoln Park as this would unnecessarily increase an already heavily trafficked area. The junction of University and Lincoln is very confusing for many people and at often times cars can be found traveling down Lincoln the wrong way. Adding a Dog Park in this area would make matters worse. Moreover, Waze is redirecting a lot of traffic from Foothill to our neighborhood increasing traffic and reducing safety in our otherwise quiet neighborhood. Not to mention, the fact that we are also dealing with the potential implementation of a Chinese School in one of the three churches located in that same street. While increased traffic and reduced safety for us, residents of this area, are of great matter, a fenced-in dog park would also restrict half of this open space for the exclusive use of those owning a dog. Open space is already limited so why limit it even further? Finally, I oppose financial burden that this development would trigger for all of us to accommodate only a few! I am sure these funds could be put towards a much better use serving a wider portion of our population.

Thank you for your consideration.

Virginie Forget
Resident of Orange Avenue

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Lincoln park dog park

Chair Yeh and Commissioners,

See email below regarding opposition to a dog park in Lincoln Park.

Sincerely, Donna

-----Original Message-----

From: Wendy Reynolds <xskyhag@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 4:11 PM
To: Donna Legge <dlegge@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: Lincoln park dog park

I am a resident of Palm Ave and I am 100% against having a dog park in this green open space. Please pass this message on to the commissioners. Thank you Wendy Reynolds
Palm Ave

Sent from my iPad

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 9:17 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: In favor of Los Altos dog park

Chair Yeh and Commissioners,

Please see email below regarding support of a dog park in the southern portion of Lincoln Park.

Sincerely, Donna

From: Mariette Wharton
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 9:31 PM
To: Donna Legge
Subject: In favor of Los Altos dog park

Hey, Donna,

I received a notice and survey from people organized to «préserve Los Altos green space.»

A dog park is in almost every city. It's pretty basic.

This anti-dog park group is organized and is collecting names and addresses so they will know who supports it and who doesn't. Then they can send the survey to only those who don't support it, and then show the council the results.

Also, I live along University and I hardly ever see people using the proposed green space. Also, a lot of dogs are walked in the other Lincoln Park which people use for picnicking and frisbee in' addition to dog walking. I have also seen people running barefoot in the park, not realizing how much poop is left behind - even when people try to pick it all up!

It would be good to have a survey from the city if possible.

Thanks!
Mariette

Mariette Wharton

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mariettewharton>

Managing Director, Change Agent Partners
www.ChangeAgentPartners.com

Founder and CEO, NIMBLE
<https://www.nimblemindset.org/>

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 3:55 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: Town Crier Article
Attachments: Dog Park Workshop Press Release.pdf

Chair Yeh and Commissioners,

Please see article in Town Crier regarding the February Public Workshops as well as the Meet and Greet scheduled this Saturday from noon to 4 pm at Lincoln Park by Catherine Stansbury.

In the event your receive inquiries, Catherine's efforts are not sponsored by the City of Los Altos. Her event is separate from the City and Parks and Recreation Commission.

The attached Press Release was sent to the Town Crier and Daily Post this week and is expected to be in Town Crier on February 5.

Commission schedules dog-park discussions

<https://www.losaltosonline.com/news/sections/community/61747-commission-schedules-dog-park-discussions>

Sincerely, Donna

Donna Legge, Recreation & Community Services Director

City of Los Altos Recreation & Community Services

1 North San Antonio Road | Los Altos, CA 94022

Main: (650) 947-2790 | Office: (650) 947-2889 | dlegge@losaltosca.gov



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COMMUNITY

**Commission schedules dog-park discussions
 (/news/sections/community/61747-commission-schedules-dog-park-discussions)**

Published: 22 January 2020 Written by Bruce Barton

A series of upcoming meetings could determine the fate of proposed fenced-in dogs and off-leash hours at Los Altos parks.

After lengthy discussion over format and the best options for gathering input, members of the city's Parks and Recreation Commission signed off on four public workshops at their Jan. 8 meeting.

The one-hour workshops are scheduled 7-8 p.m. and 8-9 p.m. Feb. 12 in the Garden House at Shoup Park, 400 University Ave.; and 10-11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon Feb. 29 in the multipurpose room at Grant Park, 1575 Holt Ave.

Based on commissioners' input, the workshops will include a presentation on the history, process, criteria and pros and cons of each proposed dog-park location. Copies of staff reports will be available for review, along with displays of the proposed sites. Attendees will have opportunities to provide additional, anonymous comments.

Fenced-in dog parks have been discussed for McKenzie and south Lincoln parks. Off-leash hours have been considered at Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park.

Catherine Stansbury, a leading proponent of a fenced-in park at Lincoln, has scheduled a meet-and-greet event noon to 4 p.m. Saturday (Jan. 25) at the proposed site to discuss her plans and solicit support.

Reader Comments – Please log in to join the discussion

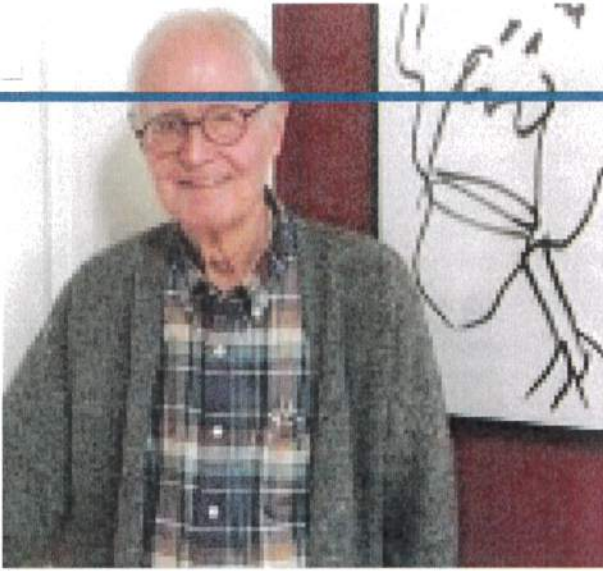
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He has a way with words: Con-verse-ing with local poet Bob Simon

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Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 4:26 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Dog park

Chair Yeh and Commissioners,

Please see email below regarding opposition to a dog park in the southern portion of Lincoln Park. As requested by Mr. Hersey, I have forwarded his email to City Council as well as the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Sincerely, Donna

-----Original Message-----

From: Mason Hersey
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Donna Legge
Subject: Dog park

Dear Ms. Legge,

I write to express my dismay at the idea of placing a dog park in South Lincoln Park. As a resident of 16+ years just south of the park, my wife and I usually elect to walk downtown to shop at Safeway or De Maritini's, among other stores, both for the exercise and to pollute less. Walking past a dedicated dog park (there are anyway dogs in Lincoln Park), would be an unfriendly, possibly dangerous and unsanitary experience, and it would effectively eliminate that stretch of sidewalk for us, as it would for families with children, and possibly even neighborhood dog owners.

Because of the park's proximity to Foothill Expressway, the park would be used to capacity by non-residents and would become congested and dirty. A serene green space would quickly become a segregated and noisy lot, and church and scouting activities, as well as weddings, etc. would be negatively impacted. The parking area and dog run would become an area that no locals would want to pass through. We already deal with beer bottles, smoking paraphernalia and trash behind our house on Palm Avenue. This would only get worse.

We all pay taxes in Los Alto to live in a neighborhood notable for good schools, safe streets, and attractive open spaces. A dog park in South Lincoln Park would truly ruin the oldest neighborhood in Los Altos (and it is worth noting that an idea like this would never be proposed, nor stand a chance, for North Lincoln Park, although it is a wider green strip and would impact far fewer residents and no local churches).

Finally, I feel that this is a hostile move against a charming old quarter of Los Altos, which would force many families to bypass the area by car, or detour around it on foot. It will negatively affect property values for blocks around, and the effects would spill into the entire community. This is an idea that does not benefit Los Altos.

Please enter my letter into the record and forward it to the Mayor, City Council, Commissioners, and anyone else who has influence on, and interest in, the character of our city.

Sincerely,

Mason Hersey
Palm Avenue,

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Lincoln Dog Park

Chair Yeh and Commissioners,

See email below regarding opposition to a dog park in Lincoln Park.

Sincerely, Donna

Donna Legge
City of Los Altos
Recreation & Community Services Director
Office: 650.947.2889

----- Original message -----

From: Hans Zeller
Date: 1/25/20 9:17 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: Donna Legge
Cc: preservelosaltosgreenspace@yahoo.com
Subject: Lincoln Dog Park

Dear Ms. Legge, dear PARC commissioners,

Please avoid a fenced-in dog park! I hope we can find a solution that lets everyone, including dogs and their owners, enjoy the park.

My main objection to the dog park at this location is that it could easily be an eyesore in a currently beautiful spot. When I moved to the Lincoln Park neighborhood over 25 years ago, the park and its sculptures were some of the key features that attracted me to this location. I have walked through this park many hundreds of times over the past quarter century. Many times there were people with their off-leash dogs enjoying it as well and I feel happy about that.

Why do we have to go from a situation where it is forbidden to take dogs off-leash to a situation where we fence off part of the park? Couldn't we all share the park in a friendly way, without so many prohibitions and fences, by officially allowing off-leash dogs in the entire Lincoln Park? That's what so many people already do, whether it's allowed or not.

I don't want to be a NIMBYist and I welcome dogs in the park, but at the same time want to preserve Los Altos' front yard as beautiful as it currently is. If you do go ahead with the dog park in this location, I urge you strongly to design an aesthetically pleasing solution.

Hans Zeller

P.S. I do not own a dog.





Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 3:51 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: Lincoln Park Neighborhood Flyer
Attachments: Lincoln Park Neighborhood Flyer.pdf

Chair Yeh and Commissioners,

One of our employees lives in the Lincoln Park neighborhood and received the attached flyer.

Sincerely, Donna

Donna Legge | Recreation & Community Services Director

City of Los Altos Recreation & Community Services

1 North San Antonio Road | Los Altos, CA 94022

Main: (650) 947-2790 | Office: (650) 947-2889 | dlegge@losaltosca.gov

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We Create Community Through People, Parks and Programs

LINCOLN PARK



Our green space now vs. proposed fenced-in dog park site at South Lincoln Park



Source: Los Altos PARC 12.11.2019

Preserve Green Space & Oppose a Fenced-In Dog Park In Our South Lincoln Park

The Los Altos Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) has proposed a fenced-in dog park for **South Lincoln Park Green Space** located from the Chamber of Commerce to Orange Avenue. That's half of the green space between Burke and Sherman.

The problems: South Lincoln Park already supports lots of dogs and dog owners without a fence and, importantly, maintains open space for everyone. A fenced-in dog park would restrict half of this open space for the exclusive use of those who own dogs. Open space in our city is so limited now so why limit it further? Plus, the burdens to the city to accommodate a few puts a burden on all residents – initial costs (estimated at \$250,000), maintenance, liability costs, plus the impact on traffic and congestion at the already over-burdened intersection of Main and Foothill with three churches.

How can you help? Support open space for all. Make your voice heard.

- Contact the PARC Commissioners and let them know about your objection. Email Donna Legge, Staff Liaison, at dlegge@losaltosca.gov or call (650) 947-2886. Request that Donna forward your remarks to the Commissioners.
- Join the discussions:
 - Monday, February 3 – PARC meeting at City Hall, 7pm. Speak for two minutes or just attend.
 - Wednesday, February 12 – PARC public presentation and input Workshop, Garden House at Shoup Park, 400 University Avenue
Workshop #1: 7pm – 8pm or Workshop #2 8pm – 9pm
 - Saturday, February 29 – PARC public presentation and input Workshop, Grant Park, Multi-Purpose Room, 1570 Holt Avenue
Workshop #3: 10am – 11am or Workshop #4 11am – 12pm

**Please take action now to preserve South Lincoln Park Green Space
Support open space for all**

Contact: preservelosaltosgreenspace@yahoo.com

City Considering South Lincoln Park for Fenced-in Dog Park

Frequently Asked Questions

What's at issue?

The Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) is preparing recommendations for City Council to implement two pilot programs for dog-owners: (1) off-leash hours at one or two parks and (2) fenced-in dog parks at one or two parks. The PARC is planning to conduct public workshops seeking input before finalizing their recommendations to City Council. At their Nov 11, 2019 meeting, PARC proposed recommending **fenced-in dog parks** at McKenzie Park and **South Lincoln Park** and off-leash pilot programs for the Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park. If approved as proposed, the South Lincoln Park enclosure would be a 21,000 square foot fenced-in dog park would be installed in the grassy area along Lincoln Ave between University Ave and past Orange Ave. A fenced-in dog park would be reserved for dogs and their owners - it ceases to be available for use by the general public.

I hear an online survey was taken and Lincoln Park was one of the desired locations?

A PARC online survey was conducted from Jan-Mar 2018. Unfortunately, there were serious flaws with the survey's reliability. For example, anyone with an email address (or multiple email addresses) could submit a survey, regardless of whether they were a Los Altos resident, and online surveys could be submitted anonymously. It is known from public testimony that non-residents did submit online surveys. No one knows how much of the data from the 2018 survey is valid. A fair and effective survey submission should have included a location of residence the submitter along with the location of the nearest park to their residence. They should have asked "Are you in favor of off-leash hours in **your** neighborhood park?" And, "Are you in favor of a fenced-in dog park in **your** Neighborhood Park?"

How would this South Lincoln Park fenced-in dog park affect Old Los Altos Alley (OLAA) area?

A growing group of OLAA residents feel strongly that this proposed fenced-in dog park would very negatively affect the appearance of the area, resulting in a large and unsightly dirt and mud-filled enclosure immediately adjacent to the Foothill Expressway, gateway to our downtown. It would take this area away from everyone's free use of this area and cede it only for use by dog owners. A fenced-in dog park will change the existing physical nature and charm of Old Los Altos. This South Lincoln Park narrow strip of land along Lincoln Ave provides for open space for all citizens. It works in harmony with all visitors and neighbors. And this green belt is part of framing the city of Los Altos. Many dog parks are placed in industrial or less desirable locations because of their very nature.

How is a dog park a safety issue?

Some people think the idea of having a dog park sounds nice and not harmful, but the reality is: Dog parks are dirty and can carry disease. All major national dog associations recommend against owners taking their dogs to fenced-in dog parks, where the health, vaccination status and the personalities of the dogs and owners is not known. Protecting both the dogs and people using a fenced-in dog park is very difficult. This location is very close to the sidewalk and Foothill Expressway.

What about citizen welfare?

Old Los Altos Alley neighbors will experience the most negative impact? What about noise? What about all of the activities held at the three churches? How will this impact the Boy Scouts, two choir schools, Monday – Friday day school and after school programs, not to mention the services, weddings, funerals, meditation and prayer sessions. Dog-barking and people's voices carry and would be heard at the church locations. Who will mediate complaints?

How would traffic be affected?

The PARC report suggests and details that this site would be the hub for many dog related programs. Many people would begin to visit this site, many from outside the city thereby increasing traffic and adding to the already very difficult traffic flow at the Main/Foothill intersection. Not to mention the potential for overcrowding, and congestion due to events in Shoup Park and Redwood Grove.

But, what if I like the idea of a fenced-in dog park?

Tell the PARC that you want them to look for a site that is not part of the park system. Perhaps there is another city property that can provide for a dog park in a way that doesn't reduce our already-small open, landscaped park area. Perhaps PARC is having problems finding a suitable location because they have been directed to identify an existing park for a fenced-in dog park. Also, there are several public dog parks in the area: Los Altos Hills, Village Green near San Antonio Rd and El Camino, and others in Mtn. View.

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 11:43 AM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: dog parks

Chair Yeh and Commissioners, the message below was faxed to our office regarding opposition to all dog parks.

Thank you, Donna

-----Original Message-----

From: Sue Urquhart
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 10:46 AM
To: Recreation
Subject: dog parks

NOT AT ALL IN FAVOR OF DOG PARKS THAT IS WHAT THERE BACKYARDS ARE FOR.

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 11:03 AM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Dog park

Chair Yeh and Commissioners,

See email below regarding opposition to a dog Park in Lincoln Park.

Sincerely, Donna

Donna Legge
City of Los Altos
Recreation & Community Services Director
Office: 650.947.2889

----- Original message -----

From: Wendy Reynolds
Date: 1/31/20 10:55 AM (GMT-08:00)
To: Donna Legge
Subject: Dog park

On the postcard Parks and Rec sent out last week for the workshops states
"Parks Make Life Better". This means for everybody, not just for dogs and dog owners.
Please pass it on that I am against fencing off a large portion of Lincoln Park south for a dog park.

Wendy Reynolds
Sent from my iPad

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 10:08 AM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Cc: Trevor Marsden
Subject: Possible Caterpillar Threat in McKenzie Park

Good morning Chair Yeh and Commissioners.

Commissioner Spielman and I have received the following information from Catherine Stansbury regarding caterpillars in McKenzie Park in the spring months of April, May and part of June. Caterpillars are potentially harmful to dogs in a number of ways, per the articles provided. Staff will seek more information as this is a known concern and has been addressed in past with signage.

Sincerely, Donna

<https://www.dogheirs.com/dog-severely-injured-from-toxic-caterpillars/>

<https://www.holidogtimes.com/the-top-8-spring-time-dangers-for-your-dog/>

<https://pethelpful.com/pet-ownership/Poisonous-Caterpillar-Sting-Dog-Cat-Pets>

<https://www.bulldogology.net/are-caterpillars-poisonous-to-dogs-best-tips-for-the-insect-loving-dogs/>

<https://www.aspcapro.org/resource/shelter-health-poison-control/fuzzy-green-poisoners-caterpillar-toxicosis-pets>

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/285583752_Pine_processionary_caterpillar_Thaumetopoea_pityocampa_Denis_and_Schiffermuller_1775_contact_as_a_health_risk_for_dogs

<https://gosbi.com/en/the-processionary-caterpillar-is-here-dangerous-for-humans-deadly-for-dogs/>

Donna Legge
City of Los Altos
Recreation & Community Services Director

Office: 650.947.2889

----- Original message -----

From: Scott Spielman
Date: 1/31/20 9:04 AM (GMT-08:00)
To: Donna Legge
Cc: Stuart Eckmann
Subject: RE: Caterpillar Issue

Donna,

As we discussed yesterday, new information has surfaced about caterpillars being in McKenzie Park in the spring months of April, May and part of June. Given that caterpillars are potentially harmful to dogs in a number of ways, I am passing on some articles for the Commission to peruse prior to our meeting on Monday.

Regards,

Scott

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 9:47 AM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Cc: Trevor Marsden
Subject: Lincoln Park Neighborhood
Attachments: 2020 Survey Summary.pdf; 2020 Survey.pdf; Dave Backs - No on a SLP Dog Park.docx

Chair Yeh and Commissioners,

Please find attached a survey, summary and neighborhood comments regarding South Lincoln Park.

Special thanks to Commissioner Spielman for his outreach.

Sincerely, Donna

Donna Legge
City of Los Altos
Recreation & Community Services Director
Office: 650.947.2889

Fenced-In Dog Park/Off-leash Survey

Lincoln Park Neighborhood

January 20-28, 2020

Date: January 30, 2020

Fenced-In Dog Park/Off-Leash Survey Methodology

- Randomly Sampled Households Neighboring Lincoln Park
 - Geographic area covering W. Edith Avenue to El Monte Avenue
 - Survey distributed in randomly (alphabetically or by street)
 - All surveys delivered between 1/20-1/23 except for a few ad hoc requests
 - Originally requested responses by 1/24 and extended deadline to 1/26
- Survey Distribution Mechanism Designed to Minimize Bias
 - Sent Google Survey to Lincoln Park neighborhood via Nextdoor on 1/20
 - 254 Households; 77% of W. Edith to El Monte Households– survey only seen if logged in to Nextdoor
 - Sent 270 additional individual Nextdoor Private Messages to ensure survey arrived in e-mail inbox
 - Identified households not on Nextdoor to make sure they received hard copies
 - > 32 Hard Copy Surveys Left at Homes Not On Nextdoor (volunteers didn't count all hard copies distributed)
- Survey Designed to Avoid Influencing Respondents
 - Messaging focused on survey conducted by community of dog owners and non-dog owners
 - Referenced PARC web site, hard copy flyers left at door, no discussion with respondents
 - Conducted January 20th – January 28th to minimize exposure to messages by supporters/opponents
 - No incentives were given other than a copy of survey findings in exchange for email address

Survey Results: Unbiased Feedback Representing Lincoln Park Neighborhood

Survey Is Statistically Representative of Neighborhood

- 330 Total Households In Neighborhood
 - 84 Households/111 Respondents Participated
 - 25% Response Rate (by household) vs. 9% @ Upper End of Direct Mail
 - 95% Confidence Interval; +/- 9% Margin of Error
 - Two respondents (1 household) outside of neighborhood (Silvia Drive)

Minimal Influence of Off-leash/Dog Park Supporters or Opponents on Respondents

- 85% of responses received before 1/25/20 event at S. Lincoln Park

Data Are Verifiable

- Only respondents who provided name & street address were included (1 provided only name/street whose street number found on Nextdoor)
- 3 submissions were withheld because respondent was not identifiable or respondent didn't respond to request for authorization to submit name/street address

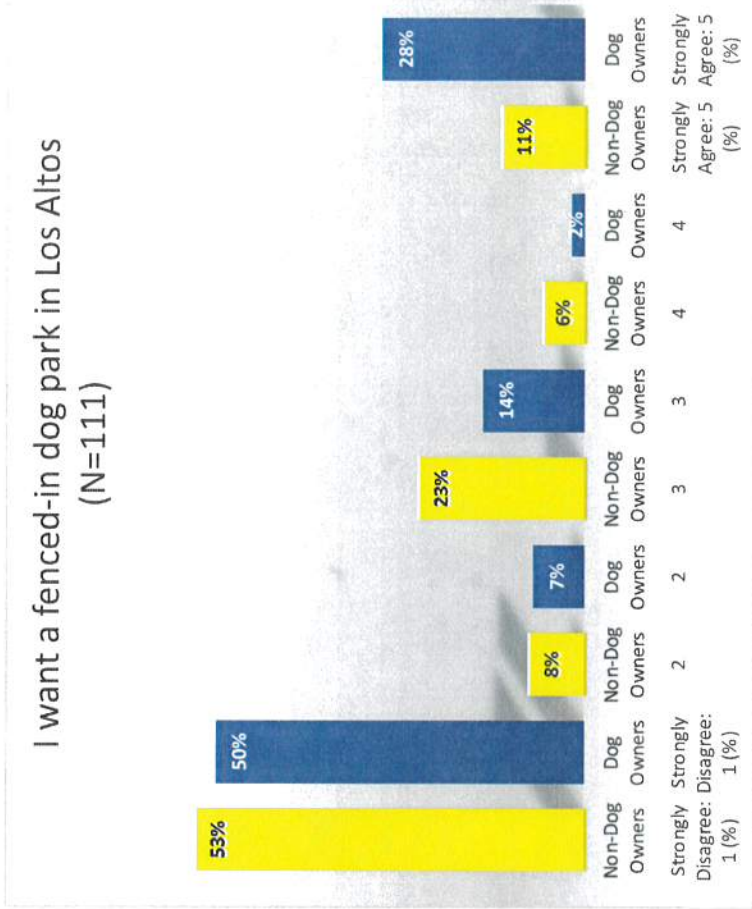
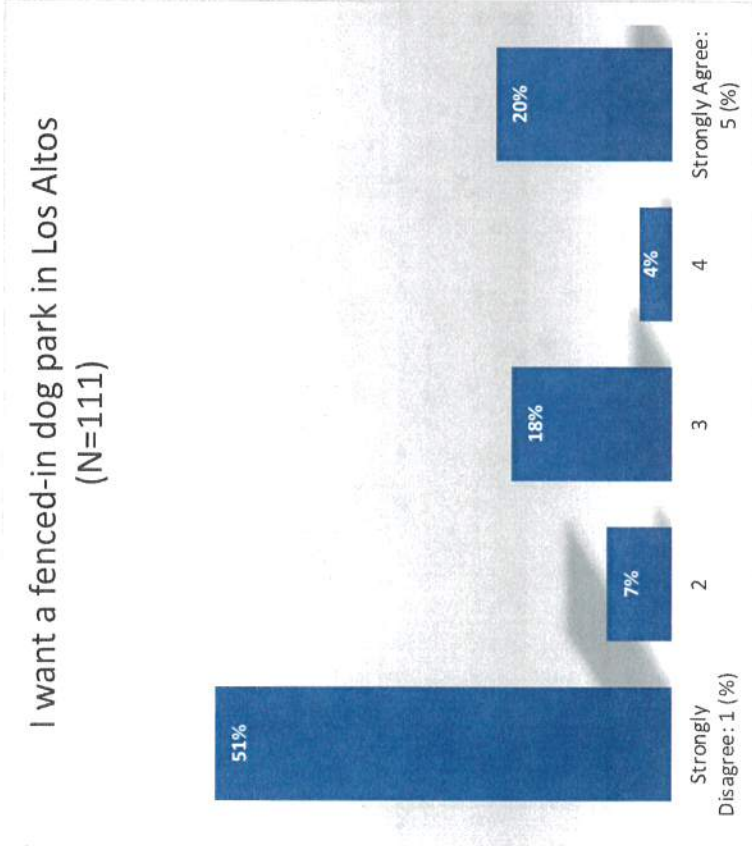
Summary Demographics: Adult Homeowners Who Overindex As Dog Owners

- 100% Adult, 95% Homeowner, 52% Dog Owner

Detailed Findings

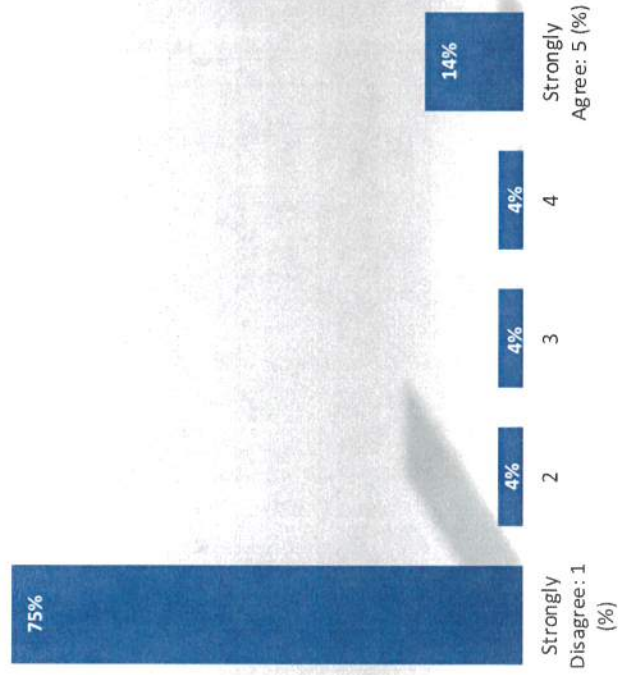
January 20 – 28, 2020

Fenced-In Dog Park in Los Altos: 24% Want; 58% Don't Want

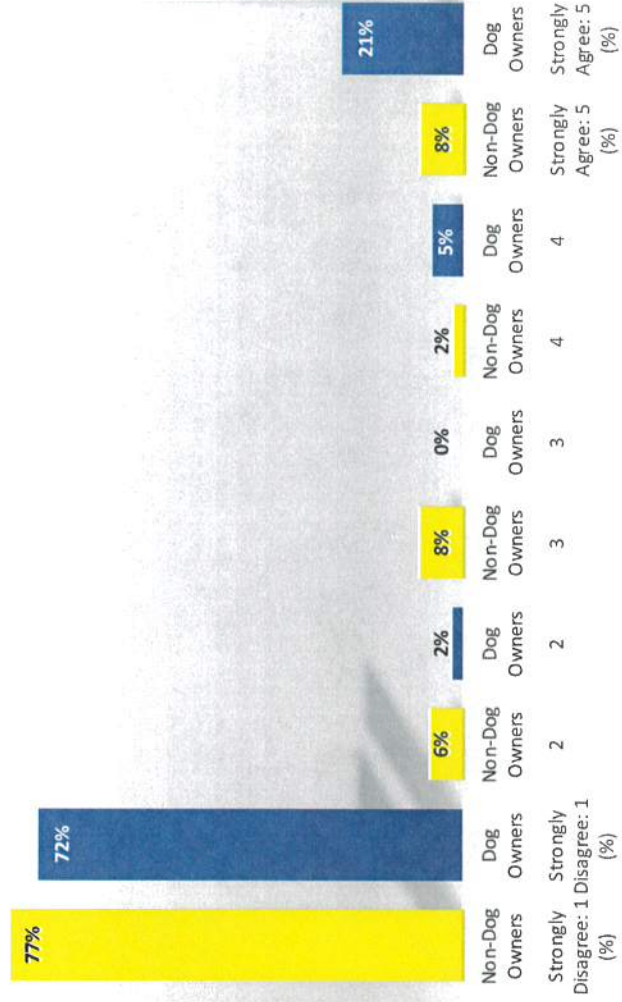


Fenced-In Dog Park in S. Lincoln: 18% Want, 79% Don't Want

I want a fenced-in dog park (up to roughly half of a football field in size) in South Lincoln Park (N =111)

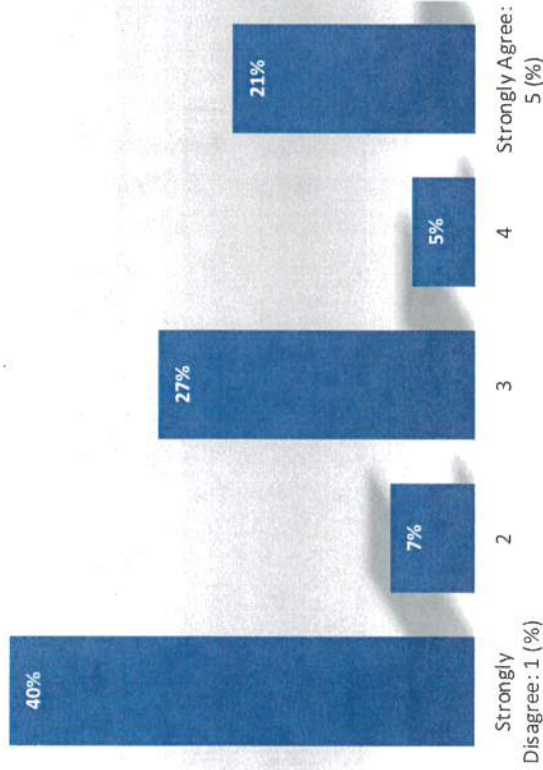


I want a fenced-in dog park (up to roughly half of a football field in size) in South Lincoln Park (N =111)

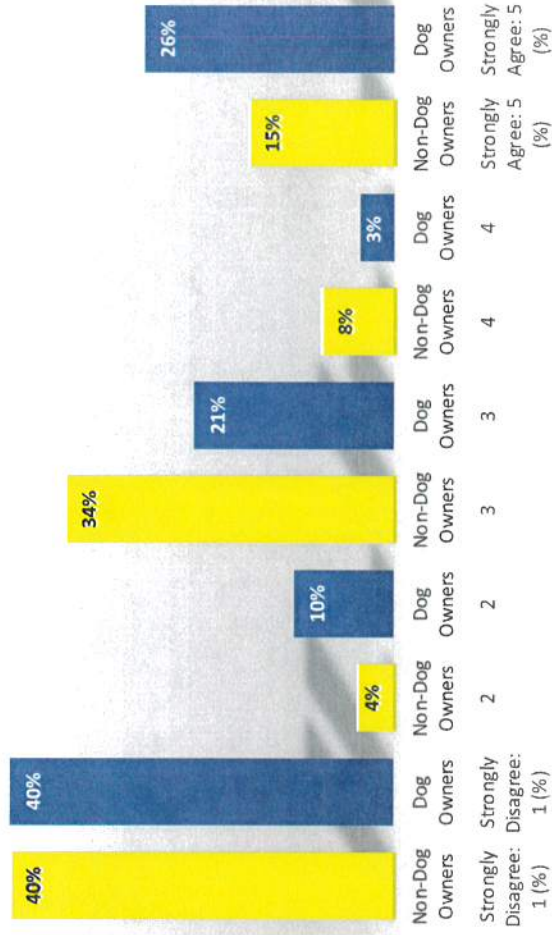


Off-leash Anywhere in Los Altos At Proposed Times: 26% Want, 47% Don't Want

I want off-leash hours for dogs in at least one Los Altos park between sunrise-9 AM and 4-6 PM (N=111)

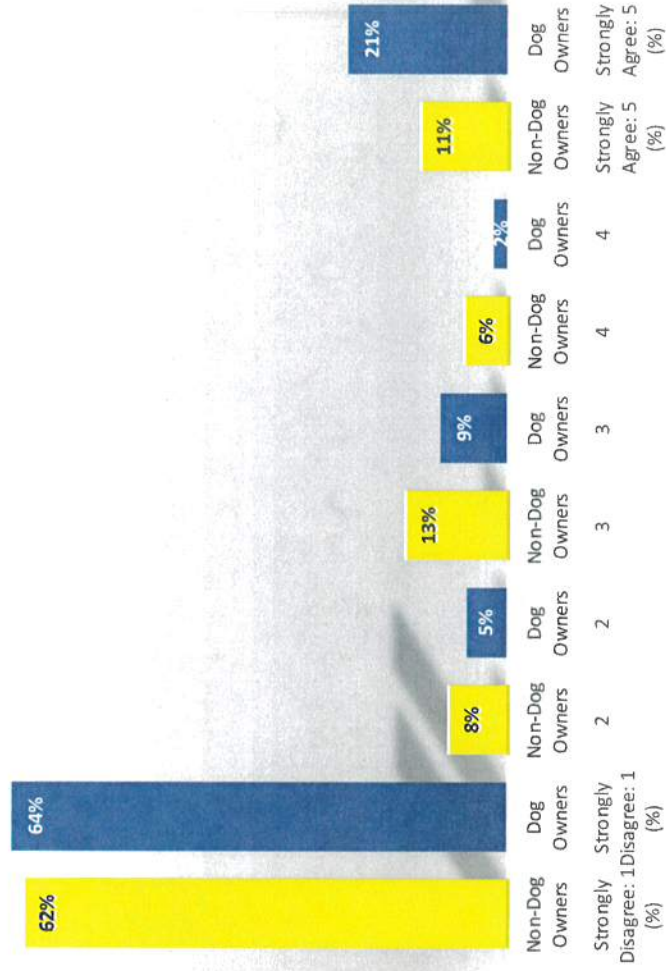


I want off-leash hours for dogs in at least one Los Altos park between sunrise-9 AM and 4-6 PM (N=111)

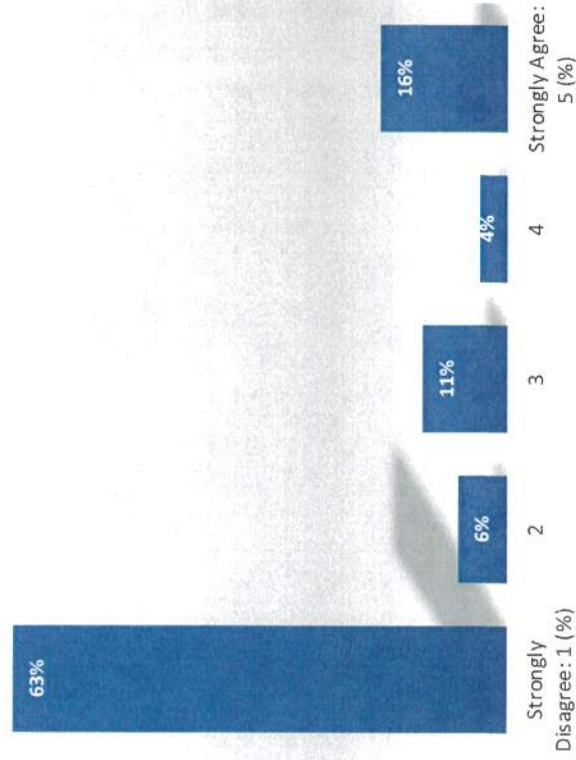


Offleash Hours At S. Lincoln At Proposed Times: 20% Want, 69% Don't Want

I want off-leash hours for dogs in South Lincoln Park between sunrise-9 AM and 4-6 PM (N=111)

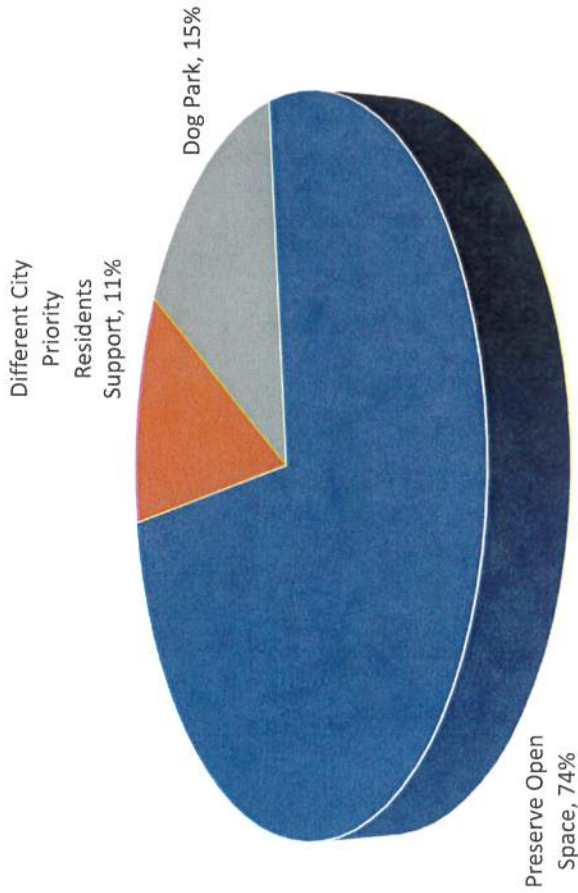


I want off-leash hours for dogs in South Lincoln Park between sunrise-9 AM and 4-6 PM (N=111)

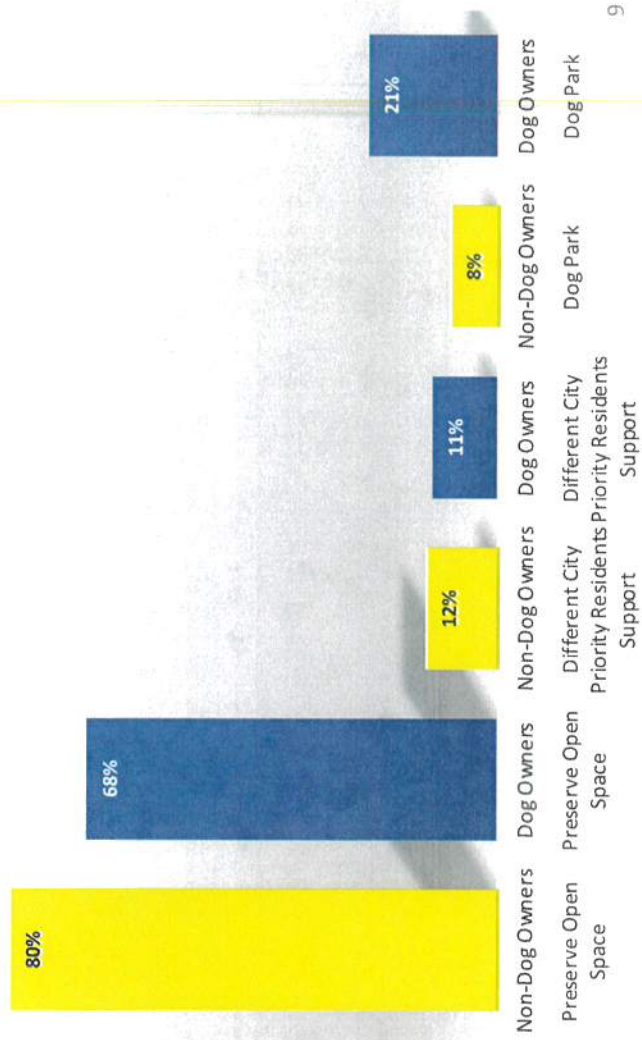


15% Want Los Altos Land Used for Dog Park; 74% Want It Preserved as Open Space

What is your top priority for Los Altos land being considered for use as a fenced-in dog park? (N = 107)

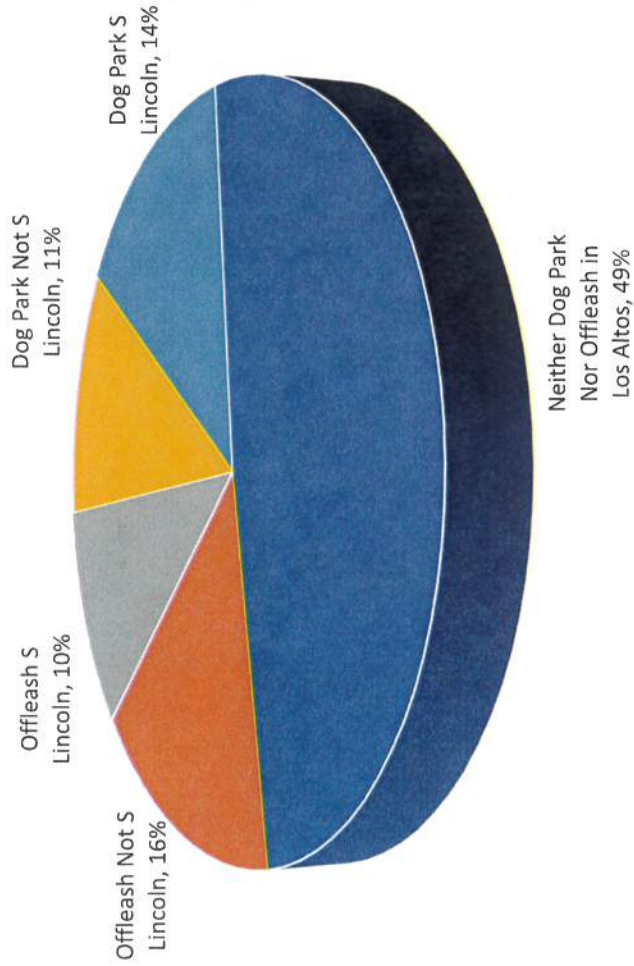


What is your top priority for Los Altos land being considered for use as a fenced-in dog park? (N = 107)

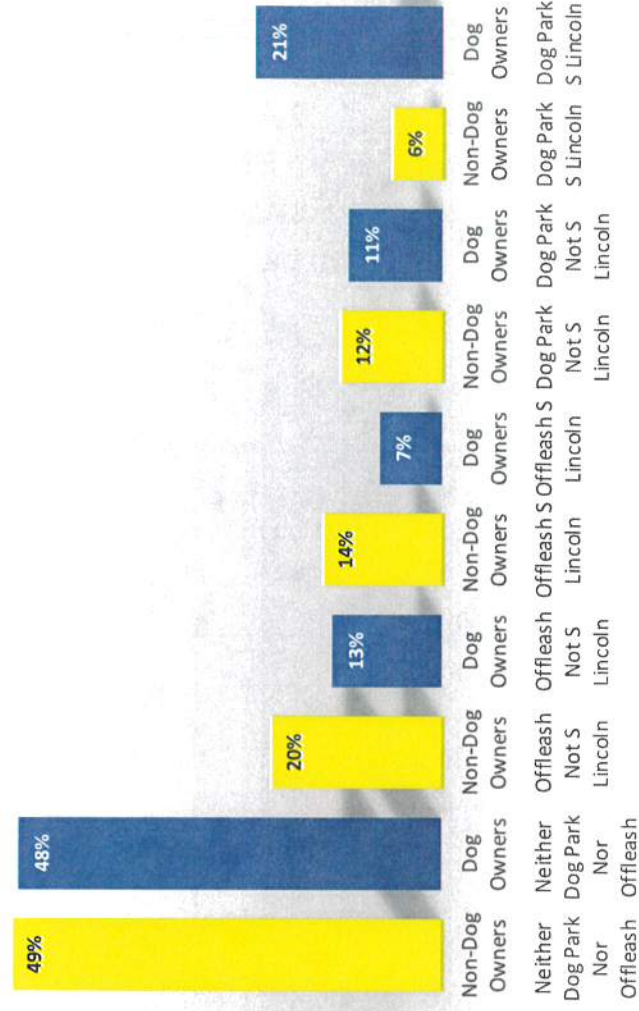


Top Priority: S. Lincoln-Based Offleash or Dog Park (24%);
 Offleash or Dog Park Elsewhere in Los Altos (27%); No Dog Park/Offleash (49%)

What is your top preference for Los Altos? (N=107)



What is your top preference for Los Altos? (N=107)



Appendix: Raw Survey Detail

Survey Recruiting Messages

NextDoor Message

Dear Neighbors,

I am one of a group of Los Altos residents living in the Palm Ave, Orange Ave, Lincoln Ave and University Ave neighborhood, and our group includes both dog owners and those who don't own dogs. We are surveying our neighborhood (Edith to El Monte area) this week to provide information to the Los Altos Parks and Recreation Commission to help it make a recommendation to the City Council of Los Altos with respect to a fenced-in dog park and off-leash hours for dogs in existing parks.

Additional details are included in the survey link <https://forms.gle/hmhiLMkQFWZQgrbu7>. We will also be distributing surveys in person to neighbors who don't have online access. Please share this survey information with other adults in your household who are not on Nextdoor.

If you provide the optional email address requested in the survey, we will send aggregated survey results to that email address.

Questions? Please email lincolnneighbors2020@yahoo.com.

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback.

Hard Copy Flyer (Return Address Provided Separately)

Dear Neighbor,

A group of Lincoln Park residents is gathering feedback from our neighborhood (Edith to El Monte area) to provide to the Los Altos Parks and Recreation Commission to help it make a recommendation to the City Council of Los Altos with respect to a fenced-in dog park and off-leash hours for dogs in existing parks.

The City is evaluating setting aside up to 21,000 feet of green space (roughly half a football field - image below) in south Lincoln Park (the portion of Lincoln Park located south of Burke Avenue) for a fenced-in dog park. It is also evaluating sites to pilot off-leash hours for dogs. Off-leash hours could be sunrise - 9 AM and 4-6 PM.

Please respond by Friday, January 24 with respect to your primary Los Altos residence, which is the residence receiving this survey. Required responses are noted with a star.

Your response will be submitted to and is only intended for use by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council of Los Altos. In order for your feedback to be counted, you need to provide your name and address. This contact information is needed by the Commission/Council for verification and validation purposes.

You may complete this survey now or online at <https://forms.gle/hmhiLMkQFWZQgrbu7>

Questions about this survey or want this survey link emailed to you? Contact Dave Backs at lincolnneighbors2020@yahoo.com.

Reference Material (Los Altos Parks and Recreation, December 11, 2019): <https://www.losaltosca.gov/parksrecreationcommission/page/parks-and-recreation-commission-74>

Survey Copy: Introduction

Dear Neighbor,

A group of Lincoln Park residents is gathering feedback from our neighborhood (Edith to El Monte area) to provide to the Los Altos Parks and Recreation Commission to help it make a recommendation to the City Council of Los Altos with respect to a fenced-in dog park and off-leash hours for dogs in existing parks.

The City is evaluating setting aside up to 21,000 feet of green space (roughly half a football field - image below) in south Lincoln Park (the portion of Lincoln Park located south of Burke Avenue) for a fenced-in dog park. It is also evaluating sites to pilot off-leash hours for dogs. Off-leash hours could be sunrise - 9 AM and 4-6 PM.

Please respond by Sunday, January 26 with respect to your primary Los Altos residence, which is the residence receiving this survey. Required responses are noted with a star.

Your response will be submitted to and is only intended for use by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council of Los Altos. In order for your feedback to be counted, you need to provide your name and address. This contact information is needed by the Commission/Council for verification and validation purposes.

You may complete this survey now or online at <https://forms.gle/hmhilMkQFWZQgrbu7>

Questions about this survey or want this survey link emailed to you? Contact Dave Backs at lincolnneighbors2020@yahoo.com.

Reference Material (Los Altos Parks and Recreation, December 11, 2019): <https://www.losaltosca.gov/parksrecreation/page/parks-and-recreation-commission-74>

South Lincoln Park – Fenced-in

Attachment 4



Area: 23,230 sq ft

Survey Copy: Questions

- Required
 - Please enter your first and last name.
 - Please enter the street address of your primary Los Altos residence.
 - Are you 18 years or older?
 - Does at least one person in your primary Los Altos residence currently own one or more dogs?
 - Strongly Disagree – Strongly Agree (1-5 Scale)
 - I want a fenced-in dog park in Los Altos.
 - I want a fenced-in dog park (up to roughly half of a football field in size) in South Lincoln Park.
 - I want off-leash hours for dogs in at least one Los Altos park between sunrise-9 AM and 4-6 PM.
 - I want off-leash hours for dogs in South Lincoln Park between sunrise-9 AM and 4-6 PM.
- Optional
 - How many people (including you) currently live in your primary Los Altos residence?
 - Which best represents your ownership status with respect to your primary Los Altos residence?
 - A family member or I own the residence
 - A family member or I rent the residence
 - What is your top priority for Los Altos land being considered for use as a fenced-in dog park? (Choose Only One)
 - Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
 - Use the land for a different City priority that residents support
 - Repurpose the land for use as a fenced-in dog park
 - What is your top preference for Los Altos? (Choose Only One)
 - Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos
 - Fenced-in dog park but not at S. Lincoln Park
 - Offleash hours but not at S. Lincoln Park
 - Fenced-in dog park in S. Lincoln Park
 - Offleash hours in S. Lincoln Park
 - Please enter your email address if you are open to being contacted on these topics until a decision is made by the City.

Aggregated Dog Park and Off-leash Responses

	Strongly Disagree: 1 (%)	2	3	4 Strongly Agree: 5 (%)
I want a fenced-in dog park in Los Altos (N=111)	51%	7%	18%	20%
I want a fenced-in dog park (up to roughly half of a football field in size) in South Lincoln Park (N=111)	75%	4%	4%	14%
I want off-leash hours for dogs in at least one Los Altos park between sunrise-9 AM and 4-6 PM (N=111)	40%	7%	27%	21%
I want off-leash hours for dogs in South Lincoln Park between sunrise-9 AM and 4-6 PM (N=111)	63%	6%	11%	16%

Dog Park/Off-leash Responses: Dog Owners Compared With Non-Dog Owners

	Strongly Disagree: 1 (%)		Disagree: 2 (%)		3		4		Strongly Agree: 5 (%)	
	Non-Dog Owners	Dog Owners	Non-Dog Owners	Dog Owners	Non-Dog Owners	Dog Owners	Non-Dog Owners	Dog Owners	Non-Dog Owners	Dog Owners
I want a fenced-in dog park in Los Altos (N=111)	53%	50%	8%	7%	23%	14%	6%	2%	11%	28%
I want a fenced-in dog park (up to roughly half of a football field in size) in South Lincoln Park (N =111)	77%	72%	6%	2%	8%	0%	2%	5%	8%	21%
I want off-leash hours for dogs in at least one Los Altos park between sunrise-9 AM and 4-6 PM (N=111)	40%	40%	4%	10%	34%	21%	8%	3%	15%	26%
I want off-leash hours for dogs in South Lincoln Park between sunrise-9 AM and 4-6 PM (N=111)	62%	64%	8%	5%	13%	9%	6%	2%	11%	21%

Timestamp	Are you 18 years or older?	Does at least one person in your primary Los Altos residence currently own one or more dogs?	I want a fenced-in dog park in Los Altos.	I want a fenced-in dog park (up to roughly half of a football field in size) in South Lincoln Park.	I want off-leash hours for dogs in at least one Los Altos park between sunrise-9 AM and 4-6 PM.
1/20/2020 6:00:19	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/20/2020 6:02:26	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/20/2020 7:19:06	Yes	No	1	1	3
1/20/2020 10:34:37	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/20/2020 11:22:17	Yes	No	5	5	1
1/20/2020 17:26:40	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/20/2020 17:43:49	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/21/2020 14:11:20	Yes	No	1	1	5
1/21/2020 14:19:09	Yes	No	4	3	3
1/21/2020 14:26:53	Yes	Yes	5	5	5
1/21/2020 14:40:15	Yes	No	2	1	3
1/21/2020 14:54:38	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/21/2020 14:56:19	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/21/2020 14:57:45	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/21/2020 15:12:48	Yes	No	1	1	5
1/21/2020 15:13:59	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/21/2020 15:15:15	Yes	Yes	1	1	5
1/21/2020 15:27:37	Yes	Yes	3	1	3
1/21/2020 15:30:52	Yes	No	3	1	3
1/21/2020 15:42:23	Yes	Yes	1	1	4

I want off-leash hours for dogs in South Lincoln Park between sunrise-9 AM and 4-6 PM.	How many people (including you) currently live in your primary Los Altos residence?	Which best represents your ownership status with respect to your primary Los Altos residence?	What is your top priority for Los Altos land being considered for use as a fenced-in dog park?
1	3	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	3	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	3	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	3	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	6	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
5	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
3	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
5	4	A family member or I own the residence	Repurpose the land for use as a fenced-in dog park
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	1	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
3	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	2	A family member or I rent the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
5	2	A family member or I rent the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	4	A family member or I own the residence	Use the land for a different City priority that residents support
3	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
3	6	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space

What is your top preference for Los Altos?

Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos

Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos

Offleash hours but not at S. Lincoln Park

Offleash hours but not at S. Lincoln Park

Offleash hours but not at S. Lincoln Park

Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos

Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos

Offleash hours in S. Lincoln Park

Fenced-in dog park in S. Lincoln Park

Offleash hours in S. Lincoln Park

Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos

Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos

Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos

Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos

Offleash hours in S. Lincoln Park

Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos

Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos

Fenced-in dog park but not at S. Lincoln Park

Offleash hours in S. Lincoln Park

Fenced-in dog park but not at S. Lincoln Park

1/21/2020 15:55:10	Yes	Yes	5	5	2
1/21/2020 16:02:44	Yes	Yes	5	1	5
1/21/2020 16:03:07	Yes	Yes	1	1	5
1/21/2020 16:56:07	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/21/2020 16:57:47	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/21/2020 17:00:12	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/21/2020 17:01:33	Yes	Yes	5	1	5
1/21/2020 17:21:04	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/21/2020 17:27:17	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/21/2020 17:33:29	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/21/2020 18:13:59	Yes	No	3	1	1
1/21/2020 18:37:20	Yes	No	1	1	3
1/21/2020 18:52:05	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/21/2020 19:23:11	Yes	No	1	1	5
1/21/2020 19:50:07	Yes	Yes	5	5	1
1/21/2020 20:46:32	Yes	Yes	4	4	4
1/21/2020 20:46:57	Yes	Yes	2	1	3
1/21/2020 21:16:21	Yes	Yes	5	5	5
1/21/2020 21:39:23	Yes	No	5	3	5
1/21/2020 22:04:51	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/21/2020 22:12:01	Yes	Yes	1	1	3
1/22/2020 6:55:54	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/22/2020 7:29:03	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/22/2020 7:45:51	Yes	Yes	5	5	2

1	3	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	4	A family member or I own the residence	Use the land for a different City priority that residents support
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
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1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	4	A family member or I own the residence	Use the land for a different City priority that residents support
2	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1			Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	4	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	7	A family member or I own the residence	Repurpose the land for use as a fenced-in dog park
5	3	A family member or I own the residence	
3	3	A family member or I rent the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
5	4	A family member or I own the residence	Repurpose the land for use as a fenced-in dog park
5	2	A family member or I own the residence	Repurpose the land for use as a fenced-in dog park
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	4	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
2	2	A family member or I rent the residence	Repurpose the land for use as a fenced-in dog park

Fenced-in dog park in S. Lincoln Park
Offleash hours but not at S. Lincoln Park
Offleash hours but not at S. Lincoln Park
Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos
Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos
Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos
Offleash hours but not at S. Lincoln Park
Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos
Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos
Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos
Offleash hours but not at S. Lincoln Park
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Offleash hours but not at S. Lincoln Park
Fenced-in dog park in S. Lincoln Park
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Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos
Fenced-in dog park in S. Lincoln Park

1/22/2020 7:56:35	Yes	No	3	3	2
1/22/2020 9:22:50	Yes	Yes	5	4	5
1/22/2020 9:35:42	Yes	No	5	5	5
1/22/2020 9:46:28	Yes	No	2	1	3
1/22/2020 10:09:55	Yes	No	1	1	4
1/22/2020 10:21:37	Yes	Yes	5	5	5
1/22/2020 11:24:19	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/22/2020 11:29:04	Yes	No	3	1	3
1/22/2020 11:48:19	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/22/2020 11:53:52	Yes	No	5	5	5
1/22/2020 13:04:22	Yes	Yes	3	2	3
1/22/2020 13:36:19	Yes	No	3	1	4
1/22/2020 13:48:55	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/22/2020 14:25:42	Yes	No	3	2	3
1/22/2020 15:36:12	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/22/2020 15:45:24	Yes	Yes	2	1	1
1/22/2020 16:53:28	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/22/2020 18:15:15	Yes	Yes	5	4	3
1/22/2020 19:04:04	Yes	No	3	1	3
1/22/2020 20:12:51	Yes	No	3	2	3
1/22/2020 20:26:06	Yes	Yes	5	5	5
1/22/2020 20:45:20	Yes	Yes	2	1	2
1/23/2020 7:15:44	Yes	Yes	5	5	5
1/23/2020 7:19:03	Yes	Yes	1	1	5

2	3	A family member or I own the residence	Use the land for a different City priority that residents support
4	2	A family member or I own the residence	Repurpose the land for use as a fenced-in dog park
5	3	A family member or I own the residence	Repurpose the land for use as a fenced-in dog park
3	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
4	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
5	4	A family member or I own the residence	Repurpose the land for use as a fenced-in dog park
1	6		Use the land for a different City priority that residents support
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	
1	5	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
5	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
2	1	A family member or I own the residence	Use the land for a different City priority that residents support
1		A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	5	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Use the land for a different City priority that residents support
1	4	A family member or I rent the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	3	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	5	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
3	2	A family member or I own the residence	Repurpose the land for use as a fenced-in dog park
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4			Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
5			
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
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3	3	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space

Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos
Fenced-in dog park in S. Lincoln Park
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Offleash hours but not at S. Lincoln Park
Fenced-in dog park in S. Lincoln Park
Offleash hours but not at S. Lincoln Park

1/23/2020 7:21:51	Yes	Yes	5	5	5
1/23/2020 7:39:45	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/23/2020 9:21:10	Yes	No	3	1	3
1/23/2020 10:52:26	Yes	No	5	2	2
1/23/2020 12:41:11	Yes	Yes	5	5	5
1/23/2020 16:35:42	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/23/2020 18:13:17	Yes	Yes	3	1	1
1/23/2020 18:15:05	Yes	Yes	3	1	3
1/23/2020 23:25:44	Yes	Yes	1	1	2
1/24/2020 10:17:07	Yes	No	4	4	5
1/24/2020 10:50:33	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/24/2020 10:54:19	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/24/2020 11:27:00	Yes	No	1	1	3
1/24/2020 12:21:21	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/24/2020 12:35:38	Yes	No	1	1	3
1/24/2020 12:55:46	Yes	Yes	3	1	3
1/24/2020 13:07:16	Yes	Yes	5	5	5
1/24/2020 17:13:05	Yes	No	3	1	3
1/24/2020 17:36:30	Yes	Yes	2	1	2
1/24/2020 19:02:18	Yes	No	2	1	3
1/24/2020 20:21:34	Yes	No	1	1	4
1/25/2020 8:16:23	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/25/2020 9:14:34	Yes	No	3	1	3
1/25/2020 9:30:09	Yes	Yes	1	1	3

5	5	A family member or I own the residence	Repurpose the land for use as a fenced-in dog park
1	1	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
3	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
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1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
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1	3	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	1	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	3	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
1	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space

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Offleash hours but not at S. Lincoln Park
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Offleash hours but not at S. Lincoln Park
Neither fenced-in dog park nor offleash hours in Los Altos

1/25/2020 10:43:07	Yes	No	1	1	3
1/25/2020 12:02:27	Yes	Yes	1	1	2
1/25/2020 17:04:27	Yes	Yes	3	1	3
1/25/2020 17:30:35	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/25/2020 17:54:46	Yes	Yes	3	1	3
1/25/2020 17:55:26	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/25/2020 17:56:38	Yes	Yes	3	1	3
1/25/2020 21:50:26	Yes	No	3	3	4
1/26/2020 11:55:52	Yes	No	4	1	3
1/26/2020 12:25:52	Yes	No	2	1	1
1/26/2020 17:25:48	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/26/2020 17:28:12	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/26/2020 17:32:09	Yes	Yes	1	1	3
1/26/2020 17:55:09	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/27/2020 6:19:50	Yes	Yes	1	1	1
1/27/2020 6:25:17	Yes	No	1	1	1
1/27/2020 7:00:35	Yes	No	5	5	5
1/27/2020 16:36:04	Yes	Yes	5	5	5
1/28/2020 18:12:48	Yes	No	1	1	1

3	2	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
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3	5	A family member or I own the residence	Preserve the land indefinitely as open space
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Neither fenced-in dog park nor
offleash hours in Los Altos

Offleash hours in S. Lincoln Park

Fenced-in dog park but not at S.
Lincoln Park

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offleash hours in Los Altos

Offleash hours in S. Lincoln Park

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offleash hours in Los Altos

Fenced-in dog park in S. Lincoln
Park

Offleash hours in S. Lincoln Park

Neither fenced-in dog park nor
offleash hours in Los Altos

Los Altos Fenced-In Dog Park

Why South Lincoln Park (SLP) is Unsuitable (From a Number of Residents)

The arguments against SLP as a dog park relate to its current appeal as an open, green space, how it would change, location concerns, potential hazards, and the loss of already meager park/green space in Los Altos.

In no particular order...

1. Loss of Park/Green space in Los Altos.

In comparison with many other communities in the Bay Area, the amount of park land and green space for use by residents in Los Altos is well below the norm. This fact was noted in the May 8, 2012, Los Altos Parks Plan. This plan compared Los Altos to 8 other similar, regional cities (San Carlos, Campbell, Burlingame, Cupertino, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Saratoga, and Menlo Park). In a Park Acreage Comparison table, Los Altos ranked the lowest of these cities (see page 4). The plan contains an assessment for why parks are important:

“Neighborhood parks serve as social and recreational focal points for neighborhoods. They provide greenspace ... and large grassy areas or fields that provide space for both active and passive recreation....” (See page 6).

The report further states that the city goals and recommendations “should be established to ensure future generations will be able to enjoy the use of the city parks for years to come. One goal should be to increase the amount of total parkland.”

Building a fenced-in dog park at SLP would remove this space from what’s available to the general public. We should not be contemplating actions that will diminish park acreage further. For this reason, removing greenspace to add a fenced-in dog park in any park in Los Altos does not make sense and is not in the best interest of Los Altos residents. Interestingly, this plan discussed what would be required for a fenced-in dog park and concluded that “None of the parks in Los Altos as presently constituted, meet all the criteria. As such, a site outside of the current park system that includes all of the above criteria should be identified before funds are allocated for a dog park.” (See page 29). The plan ended with a recommendation to allow dogs on-leash in all City parks.

2. Location Concerns.

Established guidelines for locating dog parks indicate they should be buffered from residences and other public activities. This is because of noise, smells, unwelcome

interaction between dogs and residents, and other potential hazards. In the case of SLP, a public sidewalk, used by many people, including children and the elderly, on a daily basis, is located right next to the proposed dog park. There would be NO buffer between the public walking here and activities in the dog park. Clearly, many residents would be uncomfortable and intimidated taking walks along a sidewalk immediately adjacent to a dog park.

3. South Lincoln Park, the #1 Choice??

The claim that SLP was/is the #1 choice for a fenced-in dog park has been raised by a few individuals. This claim is not supported by verifiable facts. The Los Altos survey published in March 2018, for example, listed Lincoln Park as the top choice for a fenced-in dog park. However, the survey gives its location as “W. Edith & University Ave”. This location is **North Lincoln Park**, not South Lincoln Park. North Lincoln Park is where the Los Altos Rotary Club’s “Fine Art in the Park” is held every year. South Lincoln Park is greenspace on the other side of Main Street that is across from St. Nicholas Catholic Church. Placing a fenced-in dog park in North Lincoln Park would conflict with 4 decades of use by the Los Altos Rotary Club’s “Fine Art in the Park.” In fact, we understand that this along with other issues resulted in North Lincoln Park being removed from consideration as for a fenced-in dog park.

Approximately 20 months after the March 2018 survey, in November of 2019, South Lincoln Park mysteriously was elevated to the #1 choice even though it was not cited anywhere in the prior survey and was dismissed from consideration in a number of other prior PARC documents. For example, the May 9, 2018 PARC committee report entitled, “A Dog Park Committee report” states:

South Lincoln Park “would not provide the required 10,000 square feet of land without interfering with places of worship, bathrooms would be needed at great expense, Parking would be inadequate when nearby organizations were active, and errant balls and Frisbees would require golf range netting to guard against traffic disruption on the busy Foothill Expressway.” (See Attachment A)

At the April 10, 2019 PARC meeting, in a report entitled “Dog Park Subcommittee Recommendation,” the committee recommended McKenzie Park for a fenced-in dog park:

McKenzie Park “has more than adequate parking”, has “easily-accessible rest rooms”, and “is easily accessible to both North Los Altos and South Los Altos”. (See Attachment A to Item 2)

This attachment also discusses a number of “alternative or additional locations” – neither North or South Lincoln Park is included among these. The last paragraph contains the following statement,

“The Dog Park Subcommittee is recommending the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the McKenzie Park site for forwarding on to City Council for their consideration and approval.” (See Attachment A to Item 2)

After a number of PARC meetings and reports, dating from the March 2018 survey, where South Lincoln Park was either specifically cited as **inappropriate** as a fenced-in dog park site or simply not mentioned, the following statement appeared in the November 13, 2019 “Pilot Off-Leash Areas and Fenced-in Dog Park Proposal”,

“The Subcommittee is recommending that the PARC consider including both South Lincoln Park and McKenzie Park as alternative sites for the public to consider for the development of a dedicated fenced-in dog park...”

No documentation is provided to explain how or why South Lincoln Park suddenly joined McKenzie Park to become one of the top two candidates for a fenced-in dog park despite numerous prior findings that Lincoln Park was not a suitable venue for a fenced-in dog park.

4. Potential Hazards.

The site of this proposed dog park is right next to Foothill Expressway, a busy commuter roadway where frequent gridlock occurs during commute hours every weekday of the year. A dog park bordering this busy thoroughfare would be a distraction to drivers and a clear hazard that could lead to even more accidents than what occur already.

Unless a very high (\approx 10-foot) fence is constructed along Foothill Expressway, balls and other dog toys accidentally tossed into traffic would be a certainty. And, a tall fence along this stretch of green space would be unsightly and detract from what is regarded by many as a gateway to downtown Los Altos.

5. The Ambiance of SLP.

Currently SLP is an attractive green space and gateway to Los Altos. It's seen and enjoyed by thousands of Los Altos and non-Los Altos residents every day while traveling along Foothill Expressway. Attractive, and highly-visible areas like SLP are part of what enhance the reputation of Los Altos and make it one of the most

sought-after places to live in the Bay Area. The importance of maintaining the appeal of SLP as a gateway to downtown Los Altos cannot be overstated. Indeed, the cover page of the 2012 Los Altos Parks Plan features a photo of Lincoln Park showcasing the beauty of this entryway to Los Altos.

6. How SLP will change.

Grass and fenced-in dog parks are mutually exclusive. The only way to fathom anyone promoting SLP as a dog park is to assume they simply don't believe this, yet, countless experts have confirmed it. I've spoken at a previous PARC meeting about what happened in Volunteer Park, a 48-acre, gorgeous park in Seattle, WA with which I'm very familiar. A fenced-in dog park was constructed in a grassy area of that park some years ago. After one or two seasons of use, the grass was transformed into dirt and mud and the impact of dog urine was threatening to kill a number of bordering, mature trees. The city of Seattle, after trying many measures to solve the problem, finally gave up, tore down the fencing, eliminated that dog park and returned the area to its previous condition.

"Cooperative Extension", a site offering advice from extension and university staff and other volunteers from a large number of land-grant institutions across the U.S., says this about grass at dog parks: "*...there is nothing that grows that can withstand a constant input of dog urine. Copious amounts of water (will only) mitigate the problem...*"

7. The Ambiance of SLP (continued)

If grass is not a realistic option for a dog park, then what is? Decomposed granite? Fines? Gravel? Wood chips? Each of these options have serious drawbacks, not the least of which is they're all ugly. Are any of these options what we want to present to our non-Los Altos neighbors along this gateway to Los Altos?

Some also mention the option of artificial turf. It can look good (at least initially) but it's not without drawbacks. It traps odors, fleas, etc., and needs ongoing washing and other maintenance. It's also very expensive. Installed cost is typically \$10/foot or more, so artificial turf alone would add \$¼ M to the cost.

8. Lincoln Park neighborhood residents – including many dog owners – want to preserve Lincoln Park as it is.

As I believe you are aware, approximately 30 Lincoln Park neighbors gathered at Lincoln Park on January 25 from noon to 4 pm to express their objection to a fenced-in dog park and their explicit desire to preserve the green space at Lincoln Park. As our neighborhood has become aware of the possibility that green space could be

removed and replaced with a fenced-in dog park, signs stating opposition to this have begun to appear.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully submit that Lincoln Park is not an appropriate venue for a fenced-in dog park.

Thank you for your consideration and all the time you have spent on this matter. On behalf of many Lincoln Park neighbors, we truly appreciate your willingness to listen to our concerns and opinions. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact me.

Dave Backs (with input from a number of Lincoln Park area neighbors)
Orange Ave. Resident

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:38 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Map of proposed dog parks?
Attachments: Item 4 - Attachment 3 - McKenzie - Fenced-in.pdf

Chair Yeh and Commissioners,

Please see chain of emails below regarding clarification on proposed dog park in McKenzie Park.

Sincerely, Donna

Donna Legge
City of Los Altos
Recreation & Community Services Director
Office: 650.947.2889

----- Original message -----

From: Donna Legge
Date: 2/2/20 7:28 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: Mary Leaver
Subject: RE: Map of proposed dog parks?

Mary, please see attached, which shows triangle area, west of the tennis courts.

Let me know if you have further questions.

Sincerely, Donna

Donna Legge
City of Los Altos
Recreation & Community Services Director
Office: 650.947.2889

----- Original message -----

From: Mary Leaver
Date: 2/2/20 6:29 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: Donna Legge
Subject: Re: Map of proposed dog parks?

Hi Donna,
Thank you for answering so promptly.

McKenzie....many people assumed the grassy area w playgrounds would be overtaken...but Johnathan Weinberg mentioned the planned boundaries. Honestly it seems like no one read his information. It would make a difference if it would be by the tennis courts, but I would like to see the actual proposed boundaries. Thank you.

Mary

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 2, 2020, at 4:25 PM, Donna Legge <dlegge@losaltosca.gov> wrote:

Hi Mary. Thank you for your email. Can you tell me which park you are specifically referring too?

Thanks, Donna

Donna Legge
City of Los Altos
Recreation & Community Services Director
Office: 650.947.2889

----- Original message -----

From: Mary Leaver
Date: 2/2/20 4:21 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: Donna Legge
Subject: Map of proposed dog parks?

Hi Donna

There is a confusing conversation on NextDoor re dog park proposals. I looked on the city website but don't see details. At the meetings will there be a map pointing out the boundaries? That will help everyone.

Thank you,
Mary

Sent from my iPhone

McKenzie – Fenced-in Dog Park

Attachment 3



Area: 21,056 sq ft



Looking North-west

Looking West



Looking East



Looking South





Looking North



Parking Lot



Parking Lot



McKenzie Park - 1,000-foot Noticing Map

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Dog Park at South Lincoln

Chair Yeh and Commissioners,

Please see email below regarding opposition to a dog park in Lincoln Park.

Thanks, Donna

Donna Legge
City of Los Altos
Recreation & Community Services Director
Office: 650.947.2889

----- Original message -----

From: Steve Lopez
Date: 2/2/20 1:42 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: Donna Legge
Subject: Dog Park at South Lincoln

Hello Donna,

I am Steve Lopez and my wife, Molly, live (own) at ___ University Ave here in Los Altos and wanted to voice my opposition to a dedicated dog park at South Lincoln Park. We both grew up in Los Altos, Molly went to Montclair School and I went to Grant School (prior to it being sold/converted into a park) and have lived at the current address for 19 years. We own a dog and walk her regularly along the stray of South Lincoln Park. We don't see the need for a dedicated dog park let alone one at South Lincoln Park. We feel leaving it as is allows for a more diverse use and do not think the cost to construct and maintain is warranted.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our thoughts.

All The Best,
Steve Lopez

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 5:46 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: McKenzie dog park

Chair Yeh and Commissioners,

Please see email below regarding opposition to a dog park in L
McKenzie Park.

Thanks, Donna

Donna Legge
City of Los Altos
Recreation & Community Services Director
Office: 650.947.2889

----- Original message -----

From: CarolMei
Date: 2/2/20 5:26 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: Donna Legge
Subject: McKenzie dog park

Hi,

We are residents of Los Altos Hills. This is the main park where we go for our morning jog and to play tennis. It's nice to have the playground right next to the tennis courts so kids are within eyesight. Not everyone can afford or wants a babysitter every time they go to play tennis. Dog owners use the back field to exercise their dogs. I don't think it's necessary to have a fenced in area that can't be used for other things.

Carol Mei and Joe Jiang
Magdalena Rd.
LAH

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 1:06 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Dog Park

Chair Yah and Commissioners, please see email below regarding to opposition to a dog park in the southern portion of Lincoln Park.

Sincerely, Donna

From: Geoff Andersen
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 10:07 AM
To: Donna Legge; Lynette Lee Eng
Subject: Dog Park

Date: February 3, 2020

To: Parks and Recreation Commissioners

From: Kris Andersen, 307 Silvia Drive, Los Altos 94024

CC: Donna Legge, Recreation and Community Services Director
Lynette Lee Eng, Council Member Liaison

Subject: Opposition to dog park in South Lincoln Park

It is my understanding that the dog park was defeated last year under the previous Commission. It now surfaces again. I am opposed to the redevelopment of South Lincoln Park for the purpose of a dog park for numerous reasons including the following:

1. With ongoing redevelopment in the village of Los Altos we have seen rise to multistoried condominiums and commercial properties, shaded daylight, blocked air flow, parking needs, quest for incorporating green space, pop-up parks..... We have little undeveloped land and real estate is at a premium. Identifying space for a dog park is problematic. When green space is sought after within the village, why would we eliminate established green space bordering the entrance to our village?
2. Rest rooms at Shoup Park have been suggested for use by visitors to the dog park. The distance between the two parks makes this idea unrealistic. Three churches and The Chamber of Commerce are closer. I believe these would be explored for use by the public and that the intrusion would not be welcomed. If indeed a "de facto dog community center" develops as suggested, there would be additional increased need for rest rooms. Solutions to this realistic demand would come at a price,
3. I have heard that a driving force behind the development of a dog park is an individual who does not live in Los Altos or pay local taxes. If this is the case, what is this person's interest or connection to our community? Could you please address this issue.

4. Los Altos summers are hot. One could once refresh in the city pool at Covington which succumbed to redevelopment. Now redevelopment ideas suggest replacing a green space with a fenced in dog park where urine and feces and flies are inherent and it is particularly problematic in the heat of the summer. A dog park on this narrow strip of land in direct proximity to residents, the public walkway, three churches and the entrance to the village of Los Altos does not make sense. The existing park land already provides green space that Los Altos is seeking to increase in the village as stated above.

5. How is South Lincoln Park to be impacted if the number of traffic lanes on Foothill is increased to accommodate today's traffic flow? Realizing this could have impact on redevelopment of the green space.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Andersen
Los Altos resident for over 40 years

Donna Legge, please forward to Commissioners.

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: No Dog Park

Chair Yeh and Commissioners, see email below regarding opposition to a dog park in Lincoln Park.

Sincerely, Donna

Donna Legge
City of Los Altos
Recreation & Community Services Director
Office: 650.947.2889

----- Original message -----

From: Fred Fallah
Date: 2/3/20 3:43 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: Donna Legge, Ramin Shahidi
Subject: Re: No Dog Park

We are closest to Lincoln Park.

On Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 3:35 PM Donna Legge <dlegge@losaltosca.gov> wrote:

Fred, thank you for your email. We are looking at four different parks. Can you please confirm which park you are referring to?

Sincerely, Donna

Donna Legge
City of Los Altos
Recreation & Community Services Director
Office: 650.947.2889

----- Original message -----

From: Fred Fallah
Date: 2/3/20 2:40 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: Donna Legge, Ramin Shahidi
Subject: No Dog Park

Hi Donna,

Just a short note and to get to bottom of it. We don't want or need a dog park in our neighborhood. Whoever wants to have their dogs socialize can invite all the dogs in neighborhood they want and invite them to their house.

By the way I have a husky and a dog owner myself,

*Thanks,
Fred Fallah*

Casey Richardson

From: Harry Guy
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 4:12 PM
To: Donna Legge
Cc: Lynette Lee Eng; Casey Richardson
Subject: Comments for PARC meeting of Feb 3, 2020, Agenda Item 3 re Workshop Planning

To: Parks and Recreation Commission Members

Subject: Feb 3, 2020 PARC Meeting, Agenda Item #3, Dog Workshop Planning

I have lived in the Lincoln Park neighborhood on University Avenue for 36 years. I have owned many dogs during my childhood and as an adult, including dogs while living here, although we currently do not own a dog. My intent is to provide ideas and suggestions for the structure and process for the planned workshops that will benefit everyone by obtaining resident feedback with a process that is fair, unbiased and produces useful and valid input from the residents of Los Altos. With that intent, I recommend the following:

1. The history of what led up to these workshops should be kept to a minimum and presented by one individual from PARC or staff; the emphasis should be to describe what is being considered, clarify any misunderstandings about the proposals, and then seek resident input through voting and comment cards; it is sufficient history to say that City Council, at their Feb 12, 2019 meeting following a presentation from PARC and staff about the ideas for off-leash and fenced-in pilot projects asked PARC and staff to go back and further study and develop their recommendations and come back to Council with a specific proposal for pilot programs for one or two parks; that's all that really needs to be said – 5 minutes
2. Just as we do with voter ballot measures, there should be a timed (or word-limited) opportunity to present pros and cons (for and against) off-leash hours and fenced-in dog park in Los Altos, just as we do with voter ballot measures; these written for and against statements could be prepared by PARC and staff based on the ample written record to date or written by advocates and opponents and vetted by PARC and staff – 5 minutes each
3. While the city may welcome anyone to attend these workshops, any speakers addressing the workshop attendees should be limited to city staff, PARC members and Los Altos residents; all attendees should sign in with their name, address, and a contact method (email, phone) to allow for PARC and staff followup questions to them; only Los Altos residents should be provided any voting methods; a voter ballot card would be the preferred method, not stickers, in order to avoid visual bias from stickers on maps; during sign-in, Los Altos residents should be verified by photo ID/utility bill before providing them with a numbered ballot card, corresponding to the registration list number; this would assist in a more complete, effective and fair interpretation of the results and would avoid any perceptions about voting bias
4. I believe that the intent of having a "fishbowl" for any additional input or comments from attendees is a good concept, and it should be organized to be able to obtain and use the feedback effectively and fairly; I assume that the *intent of the fishbowl is to capture valuable feedback from the community that the Commission may not have considered - in the spirit of having all voices in the community heard*; I would recommend that for this input to be fair, effective and useful for PARC following the workshops, you should consider providing a prepared form for this purpose, possibly a pre-printed postcard format that asks for name, address and contact information; you may get feedback without that information, but it would be most useful to the city and to PARC to have it in order to follow up. PARC should also consider limiting the number of cards per individual – how about two?

Sincerely, Harry Guy, 36-year Lincoln Park area resident

Casey Richardson

From: Donna Legge
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 12:58 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: FENCED-IN DOG PARK SAFETY CONCERNS

Chair Yeh and Commissioners, please see email below regarding opposition to a dog park in Lincoln Park.

Sincerely, Donna

From: jill reimann
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 9:52 AM
To: Donna Legge
Cc: Lynette Lee Eng
Subject: FENCED-IN DOG PARK SAFETY CONCERNS

February 3, 2020

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

FROM: JILL REIMANN (611 PALM AVE, LOS ALTOS)

CC: DONNA LEGGE, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR, AND LYNETTE LEE ENG, COUNCIL MEMBER LIAISON

SUBJECT: SAFETY ISSUES RELATED TO PARC REPORT RECOMMENDING DOG ACTIVITIES AT S. LINCOLN PARK

I want to highlight safety. Safety related to dogs, people and the environment. A statement in the PARC report, which suggests, *"A fenced in Dog Park offers the Los Altos community a de facto community center drawing from other city dog park programs, the City of Los Altos can offer the following programs..."* I strongly disagree with this statement as it relates to Lincoln Park. **I do not want to see a "defacto community center for dogs" at Lincoln Park.** This recommendation would encourage a large number of people to this small, limited resources area that I believe cannot accommodate this amount of activity and thereby creating safety issues.

Human Safety. If this fenced-in dog area is developed in Lincoln Park, I ask you to imagine what it would entail? Dog parks, I so understand, are enjoyed by many dogs and their people when the park is not crowded. If the number of dogs and people are not managed you might see more car accidents, dog bites, arguments among people related to parking, noise, and just general bad behavior. I have recently witnessed this in a San Carlos dog park. It was crowded with people and dogs, and one dog started a fight with a pack of dogs and the people were not happy. Most everyone left the park but not without shouting at each other. The man whose dog started it all – ran out quickly. It was a mess. Also, age requirements need to be examined, and people should know that they are personally and legally responsible for their dogs. Another avenue worthy of exploring is the opinion of the maintenance workers. What do they think about cleaning/maintaining a dog park? Do they feel their health is a risk?

Dog Safety. Much has been reported and supported by dog associations and veterinarians against taking dogs to fenced-in dog parks. How many dog owners know that vaccinations, fights, diseases are a potential threat to health of dogs? It's

recommended to clean a dog's paws when leaving the park to minimize the risk of parasites or diseases from the soil. Also, dogs should not share water resources. I suggest that people observe a crowded, limited space dog park and decide for themselves if this is a safe place for their dog. If a dog park were built within Lincoln Park, I would think that it would be crowded most of the time because of its location and the associated activities mentioned in the PARC report.

Environment Safety. How will a dog park fit in with the grass, trees and art already in this beautiful, small stretch of land? Would trees be removed? Earth rearranged? What about the wild life so close by? What about the traffic delays on Lincoln Ave. and the already congested intersections a Foothill expressway.

I'M SENDING THESE COMMENTS AHEAD OF TONIGHT'S PARC MEETING NOT WANTING TO TAKE UP TIME AS A SPEAKER.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.