



**STRATHCONA
COUNTY**



2021 Survey Research Results

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Communications

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I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

In March 2021, Strathcona County conducted an online survey to obtain perceptions from residents on the use of existing permanent and seasonal off-leash dog parks operated by Strathcona County, as well as examining the features associated with dog parks.

Obtaining primary data directly from residents provides Strathcona County departments with information and enables County officials to make decisions that accurately reflect the perspectives and attitudes of residents. This report provides a comprehensive review of all steps undertaken in the development and implementation of the survey, as well as a detailed summary of the results. The results from this study were prepared by Phil Kreisel, Ph.D. (Communications); SPSS was used for the data analysis and NVIVO was used for the analysis of the open-ended data.

A review of the methodology associated in the development and implementation of the survey can be found in the next section of this report.

II. METHODOLOGY

A. The survey

The questions used in this study were new, using questions that were submitted by department representatives from Recreation Parks and Culture. The survey was then created, reviewed, and modified where necessary by members of Survey Central for wording, question ordering and general understanding. This included a final check of the content by FOIP¹ prior to the release of the survey to the public.

B. Sampling design and data collection procedure

The survey was made available online on two platforms. The first was though the Strathcona County Online Opinion Panel (SCOOP). The other was

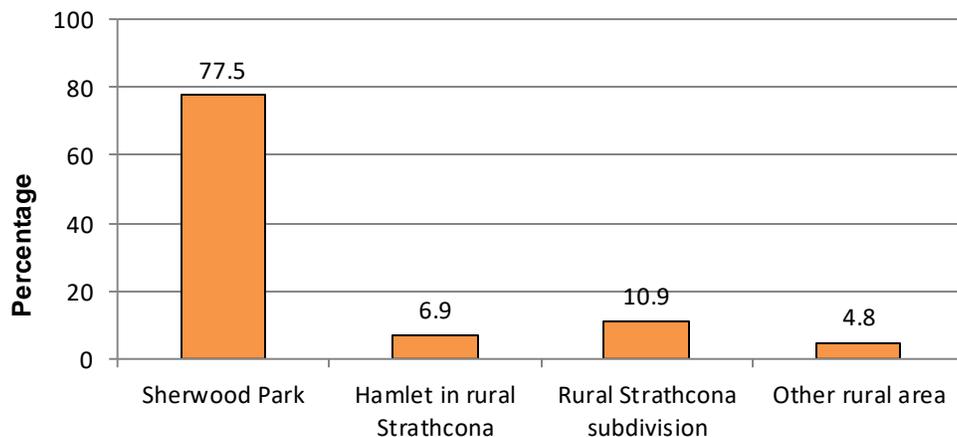
¹ FOIP stands for Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy and was reviewed by selected members from Strathcona County's Legislation and Legal Department (LLS).

an open online survey where information was gathered with Survey Gizmo. This was open to residents who were not members of SCOOP. The survey ran between March 19 and March 28, 2021, during which 1,372 people took part in the survey. For research purposes, this survey was limited to those who lived in Strathcona County. Any respondents who resided outside the County were eliminated from further analysis.

Although poll-based data is derived from people who were not randomly selected, have access to the online poll and decide to participate, the margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of the same size is $\pm 2.6\%$, 19 times out of 20.² The data was analyzed by Strathcona County's Communications using SPSS for Windows.

As seen in Figure 1, the majority of respondents lived in Sherwood Park, while the remaining respondents lived in various parts of rural Strathcona County. The distribution of urban/rural respondents was similar to the population distribution noted in the 2018 municipal census.

FIGURE 1
Location of respondents



² The $\pm 2.6\%$ is the *margin of error* associated with this study and refers to the potential percentage spread that exists within answers to questions. This means that an answer could be up to 2.6% higher or lower than what is reported. Please note, however, that the data was gathered through an online survey and no controls were undertaken to make this a random sample.

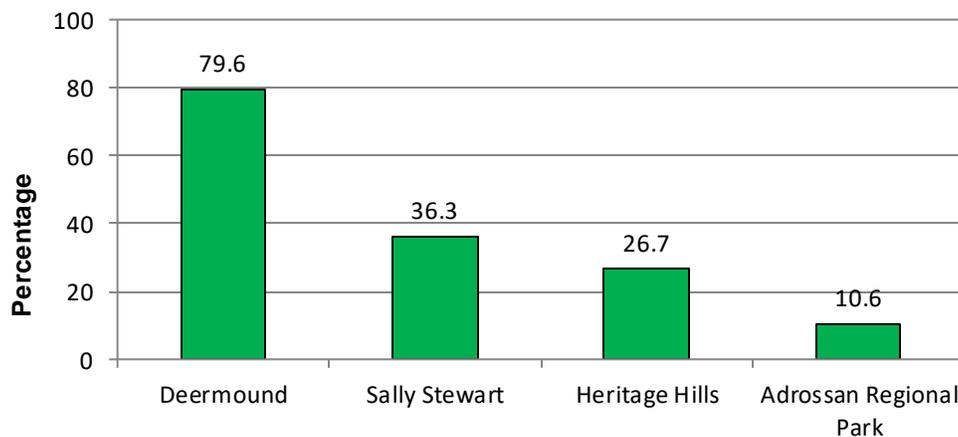
III. SURVEY RESULTS

A. Dog ownership and use of the permanent off-leash dog parks

Overall, 64.9% of respondents currently owned at least one dog, while the remaining 35.1% did not. Of the people who owned dogs, 68.4% visited at least one of the permanent off-leash dog parks, while the remaining 31.6% did not.

A breakdown of the permanent off-leash dog parks used by respondents who owned dogs and used a dog park is shown in Figure 2. Deermound was the most popular off-leash park, followed by Sally Stewart and Heritage Hills.

FIGURE 2
Permanent dog parks used by respondents who owned dogs



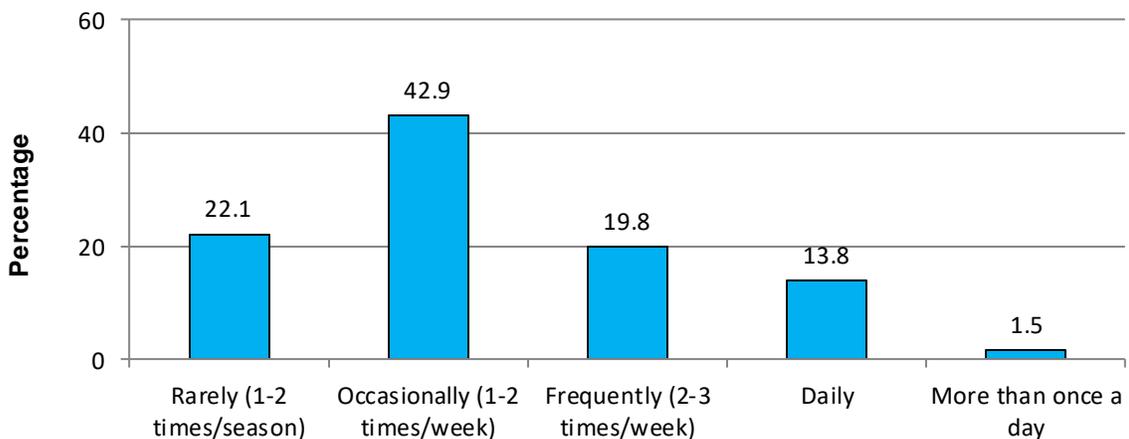
The use of multiple off-leash dog parks is shown in Table 1. For example, when looking at this table, it can be seen in column 1 that of the Deermound users, 31.2% of them also made use of the Sally Stewart park and 20.2% also made use of Heritage Hills. Only 7.5% of Deermound users also used Ardrossan Regional Park. Table 1 also shows that Deermound was the favored secondary destination of users of the other three permanent off-leash dog parks.

Table 1
Use of multiple off-leash dog parks

	Deermound	Sally Stewart	Heritage Hills	Ardrossan Regional Park
	%	%	%	%
Deermound	---	68.5%	60.2%	56.3%
Sally Stewart	31.2%	---	42.2%	39.1%
Heritage Hills	20.2%	31.1%	---	39.1%
Ardrossan Regional Park	7.5%	11.4%	15.5%	---

Overall use of the permanent off-leash dog parks varied somewhat by dog owners. An overall breakdown of the frequency of use (regardless of the dog park) is depicted in Figure 3. Occasional use, classified as once or twice a week, was the most common usage pattern. It was found that 22.1% classified their use as rare (which was once or twice a season), while the remaining respondents with dogs who used a permanent off-leash park used these more frequently (two to three times a week) or daily. A small percentage of people used permanent dog parks more than once a day.

FIGURE 3
Frequency of use of permanent dog parks



A more detailed comparison of use for each permanent dog park is shown in Table 2. Patterns of use were very similar across all of the permanent off-leash dog parks, though the Sally Stewart park had a slightly

higher percentage of daily use compared to the other three parks. Ardrossan Regional Park had the lowest daily use of the three dog parks, and no one who used this park indicated that they went to it more than once a day.

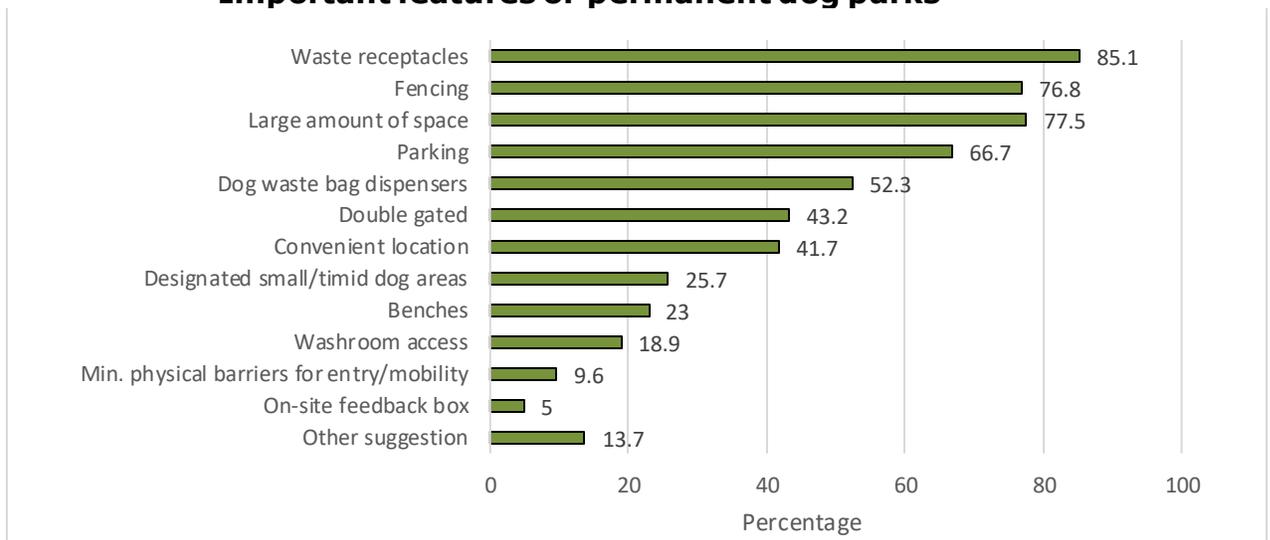
Table 2
Frequency of use of dog off-leash parks
Comparisons between parks*

	Deermound	Sally Stewart	Heritage Hills	Ardrossan Regional Park
	%	%	%	%
Rarely (Once or twice a season)	20.2%	16.0%	19.3%	15.6%
Occasionally (Once or twice a week)	42.7%	44.3%	44.7%	43.8%
Frequently (Two to three times a week)	20.2%	20.1%	19.3%	29.7%
Daily	15.4%	18.3%	14.9%	10.9%
More than once a day	1.5%	1.4%	1.9%	0.0%

* Percentages add up to 100% by column.

Users of one or more of the permanent dog off-leash parks were then asked to indicate which features are important to them. As seen in Figure 4, regardless of the dog park, it was found that waste receptacles were the most important feature, followed by fencing, having large amount of space in the dog park and available parking.

FIGURE 4
Important features of permanent dog parks



Respondents were also given the opportunity to identify (in their own words) any other features that they felt were important for a permanent off-leash dog park. Using the software NVIVO, 7 different themes were identified based on 81 individual comments:

- Identification of park users: A means to identify who is in the park so that if there are problems, it is easy for bylaw to follow up.
- Area: This refers to the various ways an off-leash park can be segmented, including *grassy areas*, *fenced areas*, the portions for *timid dogs/small dogs*, *treed areas*, and a *mixed area*, which would be a combination of forested area with trails.
- Dog: This theme encompasses the variety of different type(s) of dogs one might see in a dog off-leash park including *aggressive dog restrictions* (and how to deal with them), *water availability* (for drinking, washing muddy dog paws or ponds for dogs to play in) and ways to deal/control dog poop in the parks.
- Park: This includes the need to enforce regulations in the parks, as some respondents felt that people were in the parks unmasked (contrary to COVID guidelines), not monitoring their dogs' behavior, especially if the dog is aggressive.
- Paths/Trails/Walking: Three themes which are defined together due to the number of items that cross over into both. These themes include establishing and maintaining trails in the parks for walking, both in open and forested areas.

A more detailed breakdown of desirable features based on the use of permanent dog parks is shown in Table 3. The *fencing* feature was higher in importance to users of Sally Stewart and Heritage Hills sites than it was for Deermound and Ardrossan Regional Park users.

Table 3
Desired features of permanent dog off-leash parks
Comparisons between parks

	Deermound	Sally Stewart	Heritage Hills	Ardrossan Regional Park
	%	%	%	%
Waste receptacles	86.5%	83.6%	87.0%	87.5%
Large amount of space	81.3%	72.1%	71.4%	71.9%
Fencing	73.6%	83.6%	85.7%	78.1%
Parking	70.5%	64.4%	57.1%	67.2%
Dog waste bag dispensers	53.0%	51.6%	52.8%	64.1%
Convenient location	41.0%	47.0%	46.6%	42.2%
Double gated entrance/exit	36.0%	53.4%	60.2%	57.8%
Designated small/timid dog area	24.1%	26.0%	27.3%	20.3%
Benches	22.0%	23.3%	24.8%	28.1%
Washroom access	20.0%	15.5%	12.4%	21.9%
Minimal physical barriers for entry and mobility within the site	9.8%	9.1%	9.3%	15.6%
On-site feedback box	5.7%	4.6%	6.8%	7.8%
Other suggestions	10.6%	12.8%	13.0%	17.2%

Deermound users appreciated the *large amount of space* and *parking* features more than users from other parks. The *double gated entrance and exit* feature was considerably lower in importance to Deermound users compared to users of other dog parks.

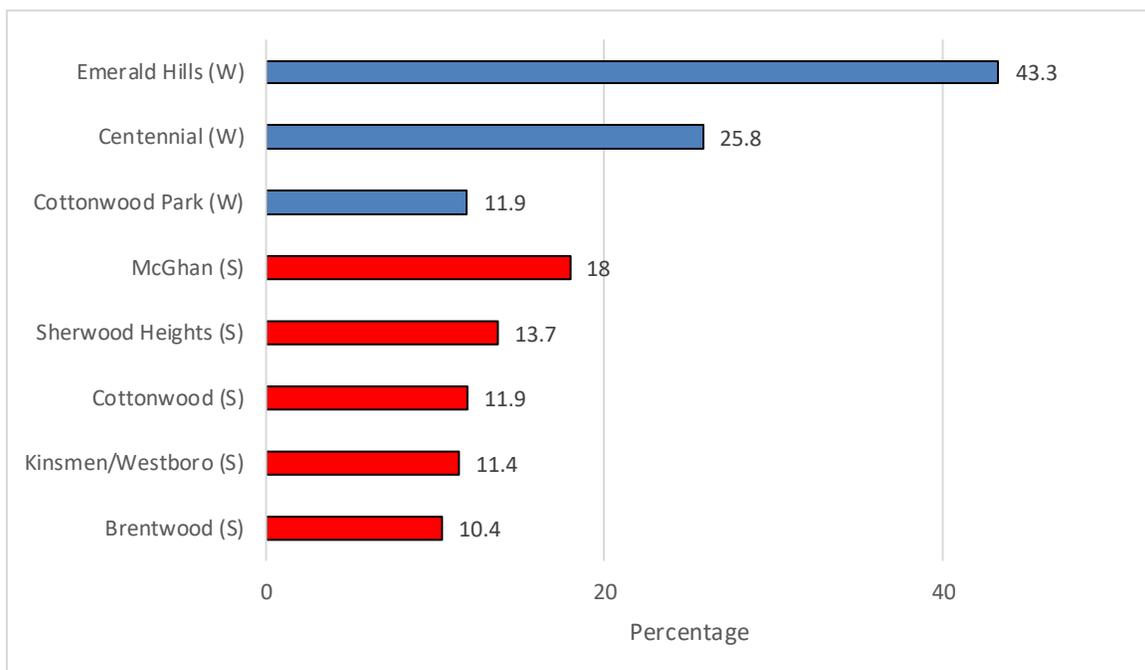
Dog waste bag dispensers was more important to Ardrossan Park users than other dog park users.

B. Use of seasonal off-leash dog parks

Of the people who owned dogs, 38.1% visited at least one of the current seven seasonal off-leash dog parks; an additional 6.3% were not sure if they had, while the remaining 55.6% did not.

A breakdown of the three winter and five summer seasonal off-leash dog parks used by respondents is shown in Figure 5. Emerald Hills was the most popular of any of the seasonal parks and was the most popular winter park. McGhan was the most popular of the summer seasonal parks.

**FIGURE 5
Seasonal off leash dog parks used**



The use of multiple off-leash seasonal dog parks is shown in Table 4 (winter) and Table 5 (summer). Looking at the winter seasonal usage (Table 4) 31.6% of Emerald Hill users also made use of Centennial, and only 8.8% of these users also went to Cottonwood Park. With respect to Centennial users, 52.9% of them also made use of Emerald Hills and 12.7% also went to Cottonwood Park. Among the Cottonwood Park winter users, 31.9% also went to Emerald Hills and 27.7% also used Centennial.

Table 4
Use of multiple winter seasonal off-leash dog parks

	Emerald Hills	Centennial	Cottonwood Park
	%	%	%
Emerald Hills	---	52.9%	31.9%
Centennial	31.6%	---	27.7%
Cottonwood Park	8.8%	12.7%	---

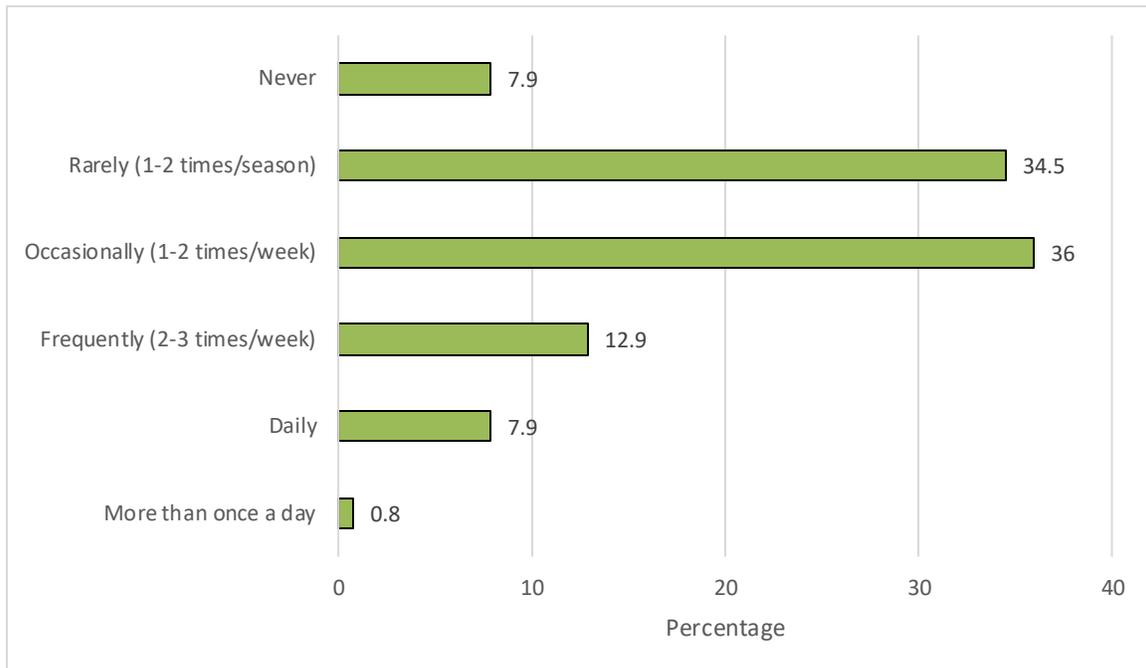
Looking at the summer seasonal usage (Table 5), Sherwood Heights users favored Cottonwood Park as a second alternative more than the other summer seasonal parks. Kinsmen/Westboro and McGhan users did not really have a distinctive second choice, though all other summer seasonal parks were used somewhat sporadically. Brentwood and Cottonwood Park summer seasonal users picked Sherwood Heights as a second alternative.

Table 5
Use of multiple summer seasonal off-leash dog parks

	Sherwood Heights	Kinsmen / Westboro	McGhan	Brentwood	Cottonwood Park
	%	%	%	%	%
Sherwood Heights	---	28.9%	21.1%	41.5%	53.2%
Kinsmen/Westboro	24.1%	---	11.3%	24.4%	23.4%
McGhan	27.8%	17.8%	---	19.5%	19.1%
Brentwood	31.5%	22.2%	11.3%	---	29.8%
Cottonwood Park	46.3%	24.4%	12.7%	34.1%	---

Overall use of the seasonal off-leash dog parks varied somewhat by dog owners. An overall breakdown of the frequency of use (regardless of the seasonal dog park) is depicted in Figure 6. Occasional use, classified as once or twice a week, was the most common usage pattern. It was found that 34.5% classified their use as rare (which was once or twice a season), while a combined 20.8% went to a seasonal off-leash park either frequently (two to three times a week) or daily. A small percentage of people used seasonal dog parks more than once a day.

FIGURE 6
Frequency of use of seasonal off-leash dog parks



A more detailed comparison of use for each seasonal winter off-leash dog park is shown in Table 6. Patterns of use were very similar across all of the winter seasonal off-leash dog parks.

Table 6
Frequency of use of winter seasonal dog off-leash parks*

	Emerald Hills	Centennial	Cottonwood Park
	%	%	%
Rarely (Once or twice a season)	28.7%	35.3%	27.7%
Occasionally (Once or twice a week)	39.8%	38.2%	40.4%
Frequently (Two to three times a week)	18.1%	15.7%	19.1%
Daily	12.9%	9.8%	10.6%
More than once a day	0.6%	1.0%	2.1%

* Percentages add up to 100% by column.

A more detailed comparison of use for each seasonal summer off-leash dog park is shown in Table 7. Patterns of use were very similar across most of these summer off-leash dog parks, though it can be seen that *daily use* was considerably higher in Sherwood Heights and Cottonwood Park compared to the other summer seasonal parks.

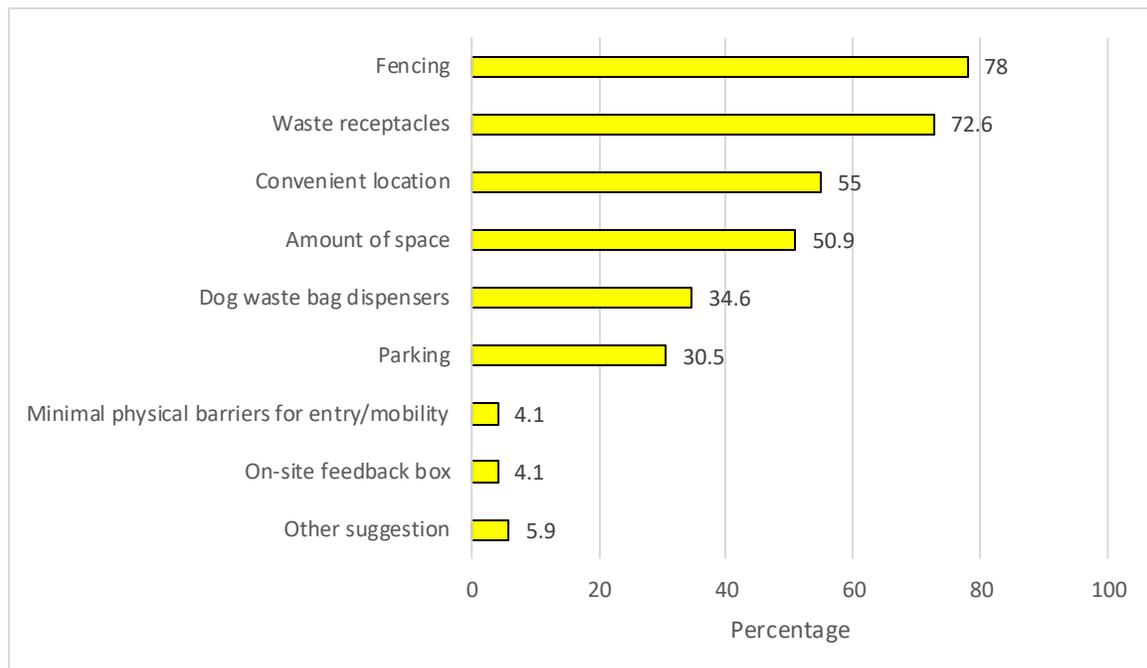
Table 7
Frequency of use of summer seasonal dog off-leash parks*

	Sherwood Heights	Kinsmen / Westboro	McGhan	Brentwood	Cottonwood Park
	%	%	%	%	%
Rarely (Once or twice a season)	24.1%	24.4%	31.0%	26.8%	25.5%
Occasionally (Once or twice a week)	46.3%	44.4%	47.9%	39.0%	36.2%
Frequently (Two to three times a week)	11.0%	20.0%	16.9%	22.0%	19.1%
Daily	16.7%	8.9%	2.8%	9.8%	17.0%
More than once a day	1.9%	2.2%	1.4%	2.4%	2.1%

* Percentages add up to 100% by column.

Users of one or more of the seasonal off-leash dog parks were then asked to indicate which features are important to them. As seen in Figure 7, regardless of the dog park, it was found that *fencing* was the most important feature, followed closely by *waste receptacles*. Having the seasonal off-leash park in a *convenient location* was also somewhat important, as was the *amount of space* in the designated area.

FIGURE 7
Important features of seasonal dog parks



Respondents were also given the opportunity to identify (in their own words) any other features that they felt were important for a seasonal off-leash dog park. Using the software NVIVO, 4 different themes were identified based on 20 individual comments:

- **Accessibility to walking paths from neighbourhoods.**
- **Time:** This theme refers options for booking private time slots for the dogs to have the space for themselves. Another person suggested that these areas have nighttime lighting, since the spaces were generally smaller.
- **Dog(s):** This theme focused on the needs associated with the size of dogs. There were a few people who thought that seasonal dog parks would be best suited for small dogs only.
- **Areas:** This focused on having seasonal areas divided into separate areas for large dogs and small dogs.

A more detailed breakdown of desirable features based on the seasonal winter off-leash dog parks used is shown in Table 8. The *fencing* feature was the highest importance to users for all three parks, followed by the presence of *waste receptacles*.

Table 8
Desired features of seasonal winter dog off-leash parks
Comparisons between parks

	Emerald Hills	Centennial	Cottonwood Park
	%	%	%
Fencing	82.5%	83.3%	85.1%
Waste receptacles	76.6%	73.5%	85.1%
Convenient location	60.8%	53.9%	72.3%
Amount of space	53.2%	51.0%	63.8%
Dog waste bag dispensers	37.4%	42.2%	48.9%
Parking	25.7%	39.2%	36.2%
On-site feedback box	4.1%	6.9%	2.1%
Minimal physical barrier for entry/mobility within the site	2.3%	3.9%	4.3%
Other suggestions	5.3%	6.9%	2.1%

Being in a *convenient location*, the *amount of space* in the park and the presence of *dog waste bag dispensers* were stronger for users of Cottonwood Park compared to the other two winter seasonal parks.

A look at the desirable features of the seasonal summer off-leash dog parks used is shown in Table 9. As with the winter seasonal parks, the *fencing* feature was the highest importance to users for four of the five summer seasonal parks. The presence of *waste receptacles*, while second in importance for four of the five parks, had less “buy-in” from users of McGhan Park compared to the other four summer locations. Being in a *convenient location* had more “buy-in” from users of Cottonwood Park compared to the other four summer seasonal parks.

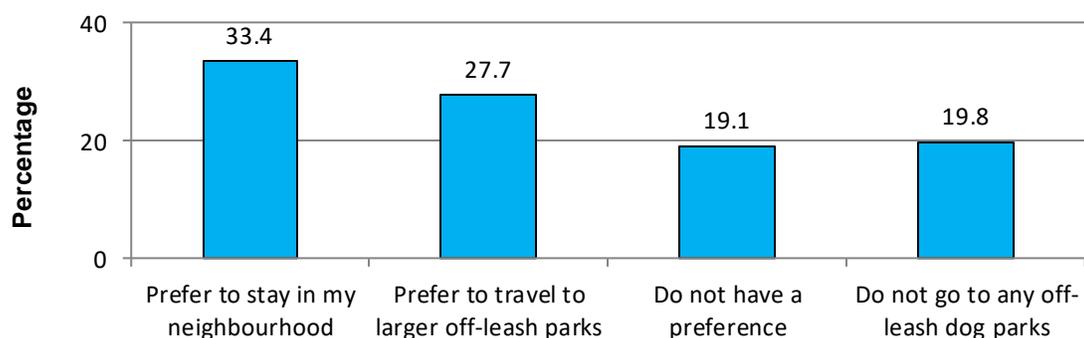
Table 9
Desired features of seasonal summer dog off-leash parks
Comparisons between parks

	Sherwood Heights	Kinsmen / Westboro	McGhan	Brentwood	Cottonwood Park
	%	%	%	%	%
Fencing	83.3%	82.2%	77.5%	70.7%	85.1%
Waste receptacles	79.6%	84.4%	69.0%	87.8%	83.0%
Convenient location	59.3%	53.3%	47.9%	61.0%	72.3%
Amount of space	48.1%	55.6%	45.1%	48.8%	59.6%
Dog waste bag dispensers	35.2%	37.8%	31.0%	43.9%	44.7%
Parking	31.5%	33.3%	23.9%	36.6%	27.7%
Minimal physical barrier for entry/mobility within the site	7.4%	2.2%	4.2%	4.9%	6.4%
On-site feedback box	5.6%	2.2%	1.4%	7.3%	4.3%
Other suggestions	11.1%	2.2%	7.0%	7.3%	8.5%

C. Off-leash dog park preferences

All people who owned dogs were asked to indicate what type of off-leash dog park was their preference to visit, if given a choice. The overall results are shown in Figure 8. It can be seen that there was no clear preference, as 33.4% would prefer to use a seasonal off-leash parks located in their own neighbourhoods, while 27.7% would prefer to travel to the larger (permanent year-round) off-leash parks. Another 19.1% did not have a preference, while close to 20% did not use any form of off-leash park.

FIGURE 8
Frequency of use of permanent dog parks



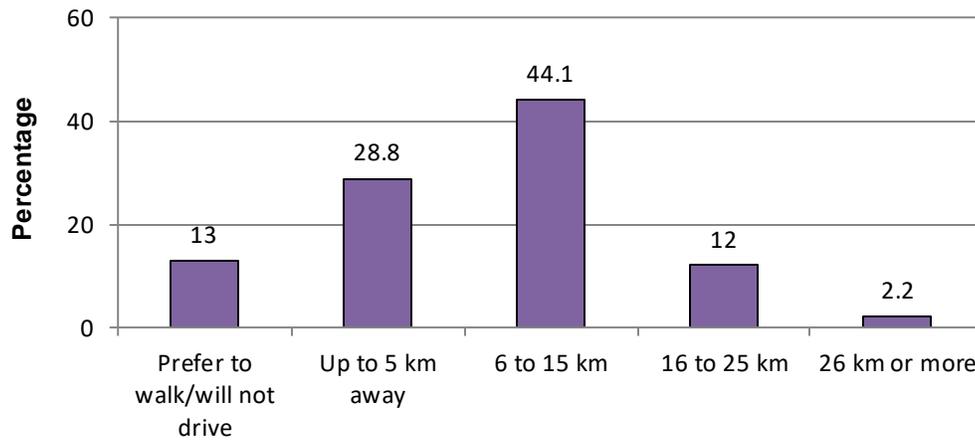
The next question in the survey asked those who visited any form of off-leash dog park to indicate what the three most important features were to them when they used a dog park. Respondents were provided with a list of 13 different options to choose from, as well as an additional listing of an option that was not on the list (if they so chose to use it). The overall results were as follows:

- Amount of space 61.7%
- Waste receptacles 50.4%
- Trails 38.0%
- Convenient location 21.8%
- Double gated entrance/exit 20.9%
- Close proximity to my home 20.8%
- Fenced timid/smaller dog area 16.1%
- Lighting at night 15.8%
- Dog waste bag dispensers 12.7%
- Shaded areas 8.1%
- Access to washroom facilities 6.7%
- Benches 5.0%
- Minimal physical barriers for entry and mobility within the site 1.8%
- Other suggestions 8.3%

Based on the data, the top three features that were most important to people using a dog park was the *amount of space*, having *waste receptacles* on the site and *trails*.

All people who owned dogs and used an off-leash dog park (either seasonal, permanent or both) were asked to indicate how far from their home would they be willing to drive (one way) to get to an off-leash area. The overall results are shown in Figure 9. The maximum distance that the majority of people would be willing to drive would be up to 15 kilometers away. Only a small percentage of off-leash dog park users would be willing to travel further than this.

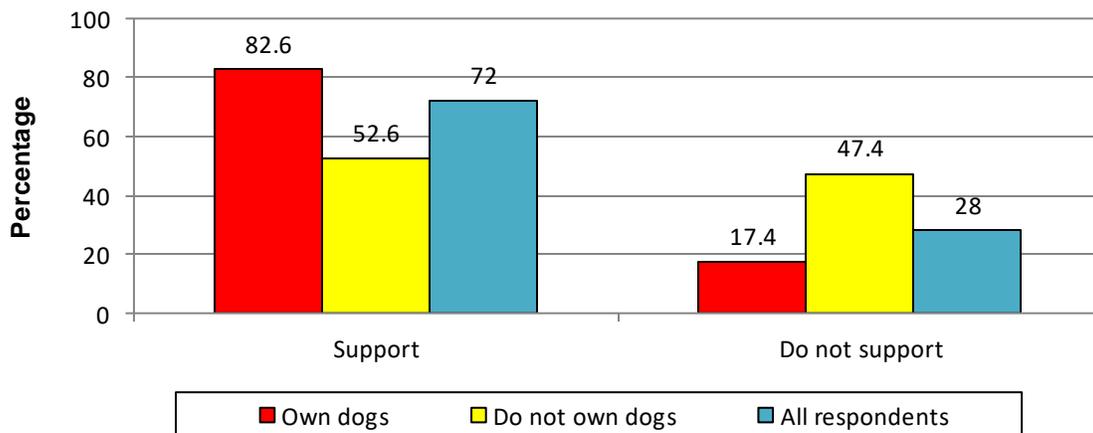
FIGURE 9
Driving to an off-leash dog park



D. Next steps pertaining to off-leash dog parks

All respondents, regardless of dog ownership, were asked to indicate whether they were in favor of adding off-leash areas in their neighbourhood greenspace.³ The overall results, along with preferences based on dog ownership, are shown in Figure 10. It can be seen that support for this was considerably higher among those who own dogs compared to those who do not.

FIGURE 10
Level of support for adding off-leash areas in a neighbourhood



³ Greenspace includes grassy areas in parks other than boarded rinks or sports fields.

Based on support for new neighbourhood off-leash greenspaces, all respondents were asked to indicate why they took a particular position. With respect to those who said *yes* (regardless of dog ownership), the overall reasons were as follows:

- Exercise for my dog(s) 77.6%
- Safety contain off-leash dog(s) 68.5%
- Socialization for my dog(s) 66.1%
- Personal exercise 53.1%
- Proximity to my home 49.6%
- Personal socialization 35.5%
- Other reason(s) 10.1%

It can be seen that the primary reasons for supporting new greenspaces for off-leash opportunities revolved around the needs of the dogs, whether it be for exercise, socialization, or safety considerations. Personal non-dog needs or desires were secondary for these people.

Of the 10.1% who had other reasons for supporting new neighbourhood off-leash green spaces, the software NVIVO identified two main themes based on 89 individual comments. These were:

- Areas/more dog parks: Many respondents who did not own dogs thought that the off-leash greenspaces were a good idea as these gave dogs and opportunity to run around unencumbered by leashes. As a destination, these types of parks give people an opportunity to socialize with one another, especially the smaller seasonal parks that are neighbourhood based. Other residents liked the concept of an off-leash area, but do not use them for a variety of reasons, such as with other off-leash dogs (whether they were too aggressive, are they all vaccinated, etc.) or the cleanliness of the areas. Another benefit of these areas is that these keep dogs out of parks that have different uses (such as sports fields or playgrounds). Having more dog parks would also mean less congestion.
- Dog(s): As noted with other open-ended questions in this survey, this theme focused on the needs associated with the size of dogs. There were a few people who thought that considerations be made to have areas for small/timid dogs only, as many voiced concerns

about the aggressiveness of larger dogs (even if these dogs don't consciously mean to do this).

With respect to those who said no (regardless of dog ownership), the overall reasons were as follows:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| • Waste concerns (pet waste/littering) | 78.6% |
| • Prefer greenspace as it is | 62.1% |
| • Don't want taxes to pay for additional off-leash areas | 47.0% |
| • No need, there are enough off-leash spaces | 43.6% |
| • Proximity to neighbouring homes | 29.5% |
| • Noise concerns | 23.2% |
| • Other reason(s) | 27.9% |

There were a variety of reasons for not supporting new greenspaces for off-leash opportunities. The two main concerns were potential waste problems on the site and that people preferred their greenspaces as they were. A strong percentage of people did not want any of their taxes going to pay for additional off-leash spaces, while others felt that there were enough off-leash spaces in the County.

Of the 27.9% who had other reasons for not supporting new neighbourhood off-leash green spaces, the software NVIVO identified three main themes based on 106 individual comments. These were:

- Dog owners: Many respondents who did not want any more off-leash areas felt that there were too many owners who were not controlling their dogs in these greenspace areas. Even in off-leash areas, owners have to take responsibility for their dogs' behavior.
- Parking issues/Increased traffic: These two issues were of concern to some residents.
- Impact on the neighbourhood: Some residents worried about the impacts a designated off-leash dog park might have on their neighbourhood, such as the effects of more dogs interacting with other animals (such as cats and wildlife). There were also residents who made use of existing greenspaces as a way to interact with their families and walk pets that are on leashes and worry about losing that space to something dedicated to off-leash dogs.

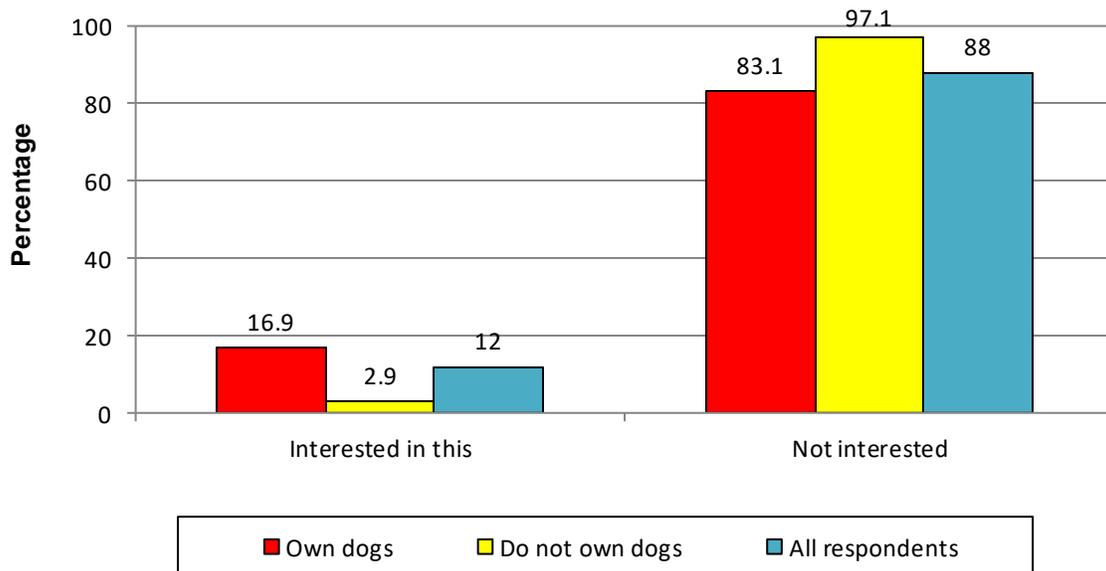
In closing the survey, respondents were given the opportunity to add any additional comments that they had about dog off-leash parks. The software NVIVO identified four main themes (parks, areas, dogs, owners) based on 548 individual comments, though all these themes had been previously mentioned earlier. A closer look at the individual comments identified these additional trends:

- **Dog owners:** While many of the respondents indicated that there are responsible dog owners, there are also many who are not taking responsibility for their dog in the off-leash areas. This can range from not cleaning up after their dog to not controlling their dog when it is off the leash.
- **Small dog only parks:** There were many residents (including owners of large dogs) who supported the idea of a designated off-leash park that was tailored to small dogs only. There was a feeling that this would be safer for everyone, and that owners of large dogs would feel better if their animal was not having to be cautious with a small dog.
- **Dog poop/waste:** This is seen as something that is of great concern to respondents of this survey. It has been noted elsewhere that this is a problem, and even among owners that try to be responsible, dog waste sometimes inadvertently gets missed. There are also those who felt that there were not enough garbage cans on the site for people to properly dispose of the collected waste. Some people suggested that regular education on the ways to be responsible for picking up dog poop is necessary, and on the extreme end, fine dog owners who are not following the rules.
- **Fenced areas:** Nothing new here, though many people took the opportunity to indicate how pleased they were that fenced areas exist for the dogs to run off-leash and still be safe.
- **Leashing regulations:** While much of the survey focused on the off-leash areas, people took the opportunity here to reiterate the need for people to be aware of the need to have their animals on leashes outside of these parks. Some people felt that more areas throughout the County are needed to walk dogs, not just off leash. Leashed dog trails need to be enforced. Unleashed dogs do not belong in areas where people walk and play. Even if the unleashed area is fenced, there are already a lot of dog owners who don't have their dog on a leash in areas where they should be and this is a problem.

- **Parking issues:** Many respondents felt that it would be nice if this was addressed, particularly at Deermound Park, where the parking area is often full. In other areas, parking spills out into neighbourhoods causing other problems.
- **Agility equipment:** Several respondents thought this might be a great feature to have in at least one of the permanent dog parks.
- **Patrols:** Many people thought this would be a good idea if this was done regularly. If people knew that regular patrols were occurring, this might be an additional incentive for people to follow the rules of the parks.

The last question asked in the survey was to determine who among the respondents would be interested in becoming a volunteer to keep the various off-leash parks clean. As seen in Figure 11, the interest in doing this was considerably higher among those who currently owned a dog compared to those who did not.

FIGURE 11
Interest in volunteering to clean off-leash dog parks



APPENDIX A: SURVEY QUESTIONS

Dogs in Strathcona County Parks

- Live dates: Mar 19- 28 (midnight)

Strathcona County is looking into future off-leash neighbourhood dog park options. We are looking to consider the needs and responsibilities of dog owners, while also considering input from non-dog owners. Your feedback will be included in a report that will be reviewed by Council this spring. It should take approximately 3-4 minutes to complete. Thank you for participating.

Strathcona County prides itself on being a dog-friendly community. All dogs in Strathcona County are required to be licensed on an annual basis and owners are responsible for adhering to the Strathcona County Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw. In addition to walking paths for leashed dogs to explore, Strathcona County has 11 dog off-leash areas, which include four year-round off-leash areas (Deermound, Sally Stewart, Heritage Hills and Ardrossan Regional Park), and seven seasonal (located in either boarded rinks, parks or ball diamond in the off seasons) off-leash areas (Emerald Hills ball diamond, Centennial Park ball diamond, Cottonwood Park in Sherwood Heights, Sherwood Heights boarded rink, Kinsmen/Westboro boarded rink, McGhan boarded rink in Clarkdale Meadows, and Brentwood boarded rink).

Demographic questions:

- Do you live in Strathcona County (if not, terminate!)
- Do you live in a:
 - Hamlet in rural Strathcona County
 - Neighbourhood in Sherwood Park
 - Subdivision in rural Strathcona County
 - Rural area in Strathcona County that is not within a subdivision

Q1. Do you own one or more dogs?

- Yes
- No (skip logic to question #13)

Q2. Strathcona County has invested in four **year-round** off-leash areas. Do you visit any year-round dog off-leash parks in Strathcona County?

- Yes – proceed
- No – skip logic to question #6

Q3. Please check off the year-round off-leash dog parks you typically visit:

- Deermound
- Sally Stewart
- Heritage Hills
- Ardrossan Regional Park

- Q4. How often do you visit year-round off-leash dog parks in Strathcona County?
- Never
 - Rarely (once or twice a season)
 - Occasionally (once or twice a week)
 - Frequently (two – three times per week)
 - Daily
 - More than once per day
- Q5. What features are most important to you in year-round off-leash dog parks? (check all that apply)
- Fencing
 - Large amount of space
 - Parking
 - Washroom access
 - Convenient location
 - Double gated (a set of two gates, with space between the gates for dog safety when entering or leaving the site)
 - Minimal physical barriers for entry and mobility within the site (for strollers and people with mobility challenges)
 - Benches
 - Waste receptacles
 - Dog waste bag dispensers
 - Designated small/timid dog areas
 - On-site feedback box
 - Other: please specify (please do not include any personally identifying information in your comments)
- Q6. The following questions are related to seasonal off-leash areas located in Strathcona County neighbourhoods. To date, Strathcona County has invested in seven seasonal off-leash areas that are located in either boarded rinks, parks or ball diamonds.
- Do you visit any seasonal dog off-leash parks in Strathcona County?
- Yes - proceed
 - Not sure - proceed
 - No – skip logic to question #10
- Q7. How often do you visit seasonal off-leash dog parks in Strathcona County?
- Never
 - Rarely (once or twice a season)
 - Occasionally (once or twice a week)
 - Frequently (two – three times per week)
 - Daily
 - More than once a day

Q8. Please check off the off-leash dog parks that you visit. (Select all that apply).

Summer sites (May 1 – October 1):

Winter sites (November 1 – April 1):

- Winter - Emerald Hills ball diamond
- Winter - Centennial Park ball diamond (new this year)
- Winter - Cottonwood Park (in Sherwood Heights)
- Summer - Sherwood Heights boarded rink
- Summer - Kinsmen/Westboro boarded rink
- Summer - McGhan boarded rink (in Clarkdale Meadows)
- Summer - Brentwood boarded rink (new temporary site this year)
- Summer - Cottonwood Park (in Sherwood Heights)

Q9. What features are most important to you in seasonal off-leash dog parks (check all that apply)

- Fencing
- Amount of space
- Parking
- Convenient location
- Minimal physical barriers for entry and mobility within the site (for strollers and people with mobility challenges)
- Waste receptacles
- Dog waste bag dispensers
- On site feedback box
- Other - please specify (Please do not include any personally identifying information in your response)

Q10. Do you prefer to go to a seasonal off-leash area in your neighborhood or a specific (larger) off-leash area such as Deermound or Sally Stewart?

- I prefer to stay in my own neighbourhood
- I prefer to travel to larger off-leash areas outside of my own neighbourhood
- I do not have a preference
- I do not visit dog off-leash areas (skip to Q13)

- Q11. What are the three most important features to you when using an off-leash area (choose up to three options)
- Amount of space
 - Shaded areas
 - Dog waste bag dispensers
 - Waste receptacles
 - Fenced timid/smaller dog area
 - Benches
 - Double gated (a set of two gates, with space between the gates for dog safety when entering or leaving the site)
 - Trails
 - Lighting at night
 - Access to washroom facilities
 - Convenient location
 - Close proximity to my home
 - Minimal physical barriers for entry and mobility within the site (for strollers and people with mobility challenges)
 - Other - Please specify (Please do not include any personally identifying information in your response)
- q12. How far from your home would you be willing to drive to an off-leash area (one way)?
- I would not drive. I prefer to walk.
 - Up to 5 km
 - 6 km to 15 km
 - 16 km to 25 km
 - 26 km or more
- Q13. Do you support adding off-leash areas in your neighbourhood greenspace? Greenspace includes grassy areas in parks other than boarded rinks or sports fields.
- Yes:
 - (skip logic for Yes) Why? (select all that apply)
 - Exercise (personal)
 - Exercise (for my dog(s))
 - Socialization (personal)
 - Socialization (for my dog (s))
 - Safely contain off-leash dog (s)
 - Proximity to my home
 - Other - please specify (Please do not include any personally identifying information in your response)

- No:
 - (skip logic for No) Why? (select all that apply)
 - Prefer greenspace as it is
 - Noise concerns
 - Waste concerns (pet waste/littering)
 - Proximity to neighbouring homes
 - No need, there are enough off-leash spaces
 - I do not wish my taxes to pay for additional off-leash areas
 - Other, please specify (Please do not include any personally identifying information in your responses)

Q14. Do you have any additional comments regarding dog off-leash areas in Strathcona County? (*please do not include any personally identifying information in your comments)

- Q15. Strathcona County partners with volunteers to help clean up the off-leash areas. Are you interested in becoming a volunteer to help keep our off-leash areas clean?
- Yes (collect from SCOOP) (Gizmo, go to an additional survey to sign up)
 - No

Thank you for completing this survey. Your input is appreciated! This feedback will help inform a report that will be reviewed by Council this spring. Check here (insert link) for completed survey reports (URL LINK) <https://www.strathcona.ca/council-county/public-engagement/completed-consultations/> we will provide a summary of responses as soon as possible.

 Join SCOOP, an online community where you can share your thoughts on a wide range of topics, including County initiatives, neighbourhood development, social programs, the environment and much more! Plus, your demographic information will apply to all surveys, so you won't have to answer the same questions over and over. For more information, or to join SCOOP, go to [strathcona.ca/SCOOP](https://www.strathcona.ca/SCOOP).