

Background

We are planning a new off-leash dog area in Bridgwater Trails. We chose a one-hectare area at the north end of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park. We will install a fence to separate the dog area from the rest of the park. The off-leash area will be about the size of two Canadian football fields. This will be a community off-leash area. We design this type of off-leash area for residents and their dogs who live within a 10-minute drive.

Engagement

We received a petition in 2024 in support of the project. A petition is part of the process to request a new off-leash dog area. Residents submit a request which includes signatures from adjacent land owners and users to demonstrate the need and support.

Following the request submission, City staff work on screening and review of the request. After that, we worked with the ward Councillor to find funding sources and collecting public feedback. We collected feedback through a survey from April 1 to 22, 2026. The survey helped us ensure the off-leash area will meet the needs of the community.

Promotion

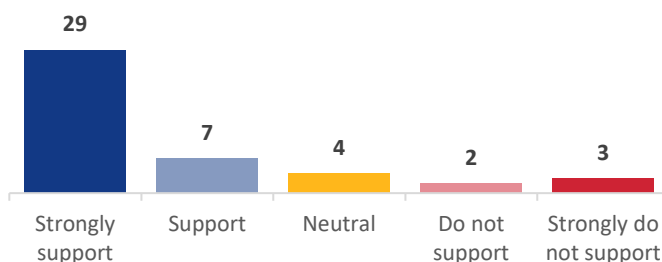
Public engagement opportunities were promoted through:

- A project webpage – launched April 1, 2026 and received 198 unique visitors from April 1 - 22.
- Postcards - 325 hand-delivered to residents within 100m meter radius of the proposed design area on April 1, 2026 (See Appendix B)
- On-site signage posted on April 1, 2026 (See Appendix C)

Key findings

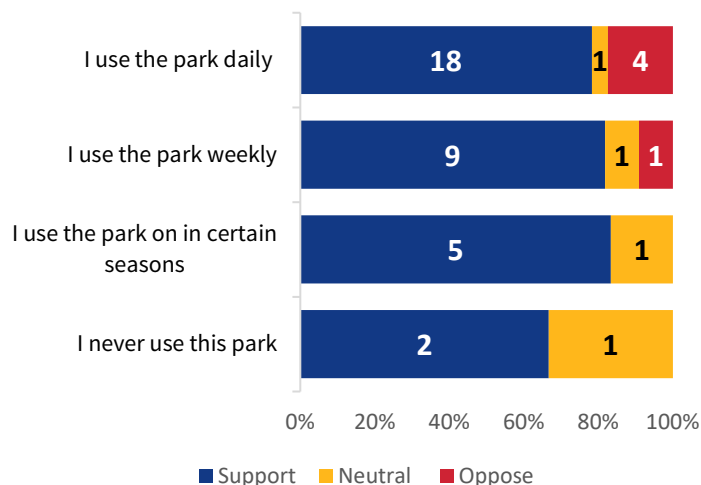
The survey showed support for an off-leash dog area in this community. Of the 45 survey respondents, 36 of 45 strongly supported or supported the off-leash area, 4 of 45 were neutral, and 5 of 45 did not support or strongly did not support the off-leash area. See Figure 1.

Figure 1: How much do you support or oppose the design?
45 responses



Participants supported the new design at similar levels regardless of how often they use the park. See Figure 2.

Figure 2: Support by frequency of park use
46 responses



Bridgwater Trails: Off-Leash Dog Area

Public Engagement Summary



Only 8 respondents who don't own a dog completed the survey. Four of the eight did not support the design.

Table 1: Views of respondents who do not have dogs.

	# of responses	Percentage
Support	2	25%
Neutral	2	25%
Oppose	4	50%

What we heard

It's important to understand why some respondents indicated the off-leash area would negatively impact how they use the site. Their concerns included noise (2 comments) and more dogs running off-leash outside the off-leash area (2 comments).

What's missing from the design?

We asked respondents if anything was missing from the proposed design. A drinking water source and garbage can were the top responses with five comments each.

Positive impacts

34 of 45 respondents anticipate the park will create a positive impact on the area. Reasons include more structure to dog walking activities already taking place (11 comments), improvements to the neighbourhood (8 comments) and less driving to other regional OLAs (5 comments).



The park is already informally used by dog owners and would benefit from clearer, safer management
(11 comments)



The addition will add options for activity and connecting with neighbours
(8 comments)



A fenced dog park will help keep dogs in one part of the park
(6 comments)



Local off-leash area will have nearby access, easier daily use
(5 comments)



Add drinking water source for dogs
(5 comments)



Add and empty more garbage cans
(5 comments)

After summarizing what we heard, the project team worked to address the comments and response or adjust the design or plan to ensure feedback is incorporated. Table 2 goes over what we heard and how it was considered.

Table 1: What we heard and how it was considered

What we heard	How it was considered
Add a water source A drinking water source would be a useful addition to the proposed off-leash area so dogs can cool off in the summer months. Survey quote: “<i>water fill locations are important for hot summer months.</i>”	The design will include a gravel area for users to place their own water dishes. This gives dogs a clean spot to drink without creating muddy or wet conditions. Within the available budget for this project, a water fountain was not included in the current design. We are studying the cost and work needed to add drinking water and a bottle filling station. If additional funding is identified, we could add a water source in the future.
Enforcing the rules is important While there is general optimism for the park, there are some who fear rules will not be enforced and an increase in off-leash dogs outside the designated area. Survey quote: “<i>...if implemented ensure there is strong enforcement to monitor the area. Dogs all too often end up running rampant with no regards for people in the vicinity, this is incredibly dangerous.</i>”	We will post signs that clearly show the rules for the off-leash area. Animal Services bylaw officers visit off-leash areas to monitor and enforce rules. This off-leash area is designed to give dogs a safe and proper space to run and play, which should help reduce the number of dogs off-leash in other parts of the park. If anyone sees unsafe or inappropriate behavior, they can call 311 to report it.
Waste management concerns Some questioned how often the park would be cleaned. Suggestions include more garbage cans because existing bins often fill up quickly. Additionally, the introduction of waste bag dispensers was recommended to help keep the area cleaner, which would also reduce the labor costs associated with cleaning. Survey quote: “<i>Make sure there are MANY trash receptacles, emptied frequently, for dog waste.</i>”	The design includes multiple garbage bins at the main entrance of the off-leash area. The City will also monitor the bins to make sure they are emptied often enough. In other off-leash area in Winnipeg, residents have organized to fund and provide waste bag dispensers.

Bridgwater Trails: Off-Leash Dog Area

Public Engagement Summary



What we heard	How it was considered
Noise concerns Some are worried the park could be loud for nearby homes and condos. They suggest setting hours to limit noise. Survey quote: “Potentially(sic) noise for nearby condos and houses.”	The off-leash area is subject to the same rules as other City parks. City park rules (Park By-Law, noise restricted 21(1)) limit noise between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Residents can contact 311 to report noise concerns.
Getting to the off-leash area will help neighbours who can walk and may also cause traffic and parking issues A few respondents were concerned about traffic and parking on Appleford Gate. Other respondents noted they were looking forward to accessing an off-leash area closer to home. Survey quotes: “Parking may become an issue on the street” “As a dog owner, this means I can walk there and have something close by for my dog, rather than driving across the city to take him somewhere to run safely.”	The Bridgwater Trails off-leash area is a community sized off-leash area. The purpose of a community sized off-leash area is to provide an option for dog owners within a ten-minute drive. We expect many nearby neighbours to walk to the park.

Next steps

The findings from the survey helped the project team update and confirm the design to fit with community wants and needs.

Off-leash area construction will start in the spring of 2026.

City staff will monitor the new off-leash area to make sure it is working well for the neighbourhood.

Appendices

Appendix A – Neighbourhood petition

Appendix B – Postcard notification

Appendix C – On-site signage

Appendix D – Survey results

Appendix A – Neighbourhood petition

	Appleford		Yes	
	Appleford			No
	Appleford	No answer- mailed		
	Appleford		yes	
	Appleford	No answer - mailed		
	Appleford		Yes	
	Appleford		Yes	
	Appleford		Yes	
	Appleford		Yes	
	Appleford	No answer - mailed		
	Appleford		Yes	
	Appleford		Yes	
	Appleford		Yes	
	Appleford		Yes	
	Appleford		Yes	
	Appleford			No
	Appleford	Rental - mailed		
	Appleford		Yes	
	Glen Ivy Court		Yes	
	Glen Ivy Court		Yes	
	Hemmingwood		Yes	
	Hemmingwood		Yes	
	Hemmingwood		Yes	
	Hemmingwood		Yes	

Appendix B - Postcard notification

Have your say: Bridgewater Trails Off-Leash Dog Area

We are planning a new off-leash dog area at the north end of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park.

We want to make sure the offleash area works for the community. Share your feedback to help improve the proposed design.



View the proposed design and take the online survey **until April 22** at winnipeg.ca/bridgewatertrailsOLA

Please contact 311 with questions or to arrange an alternate format of participation.





Appendix C – On-site signage

Bridgwater Trails Off-Leash Dog Area

We are planning a new off-leash dog area at the north end of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park.

We want to hear from you

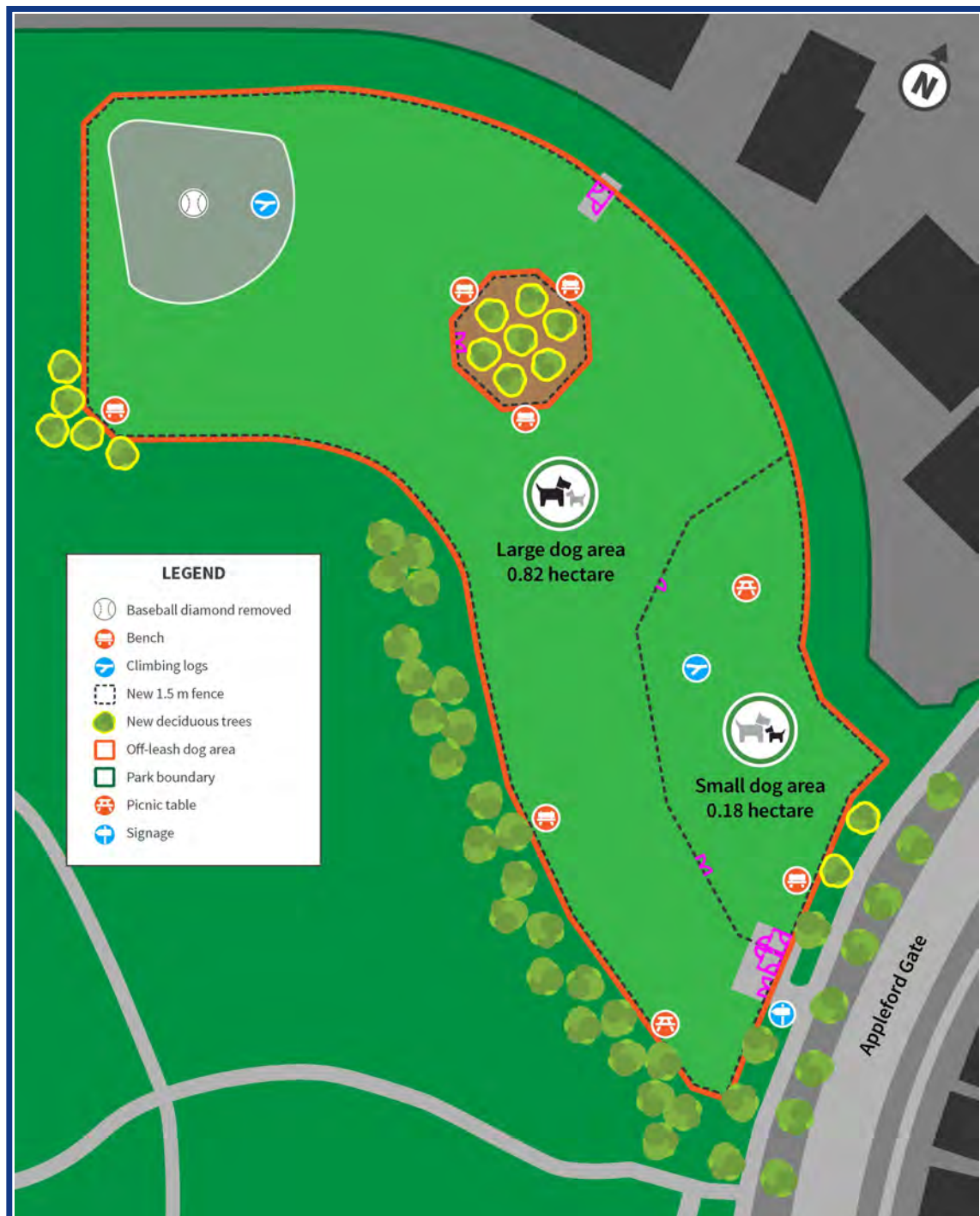
We want to make sure the off-leash area works for the community. Share your feedback to help improve the proposed design.



Scan this QR code to visit:

**winnipeg.ca/
bridgwatertrailsOLA**
to:

- Review the proposed design
- Take the survey by April 22, 2026



Please contact 311 with questions or to arrange an alternate format of participation.

Learn more at: **winnipeg.ca/bridgwatertrailsOLA**

Appendix E – Survey results

For surveys, add this note:

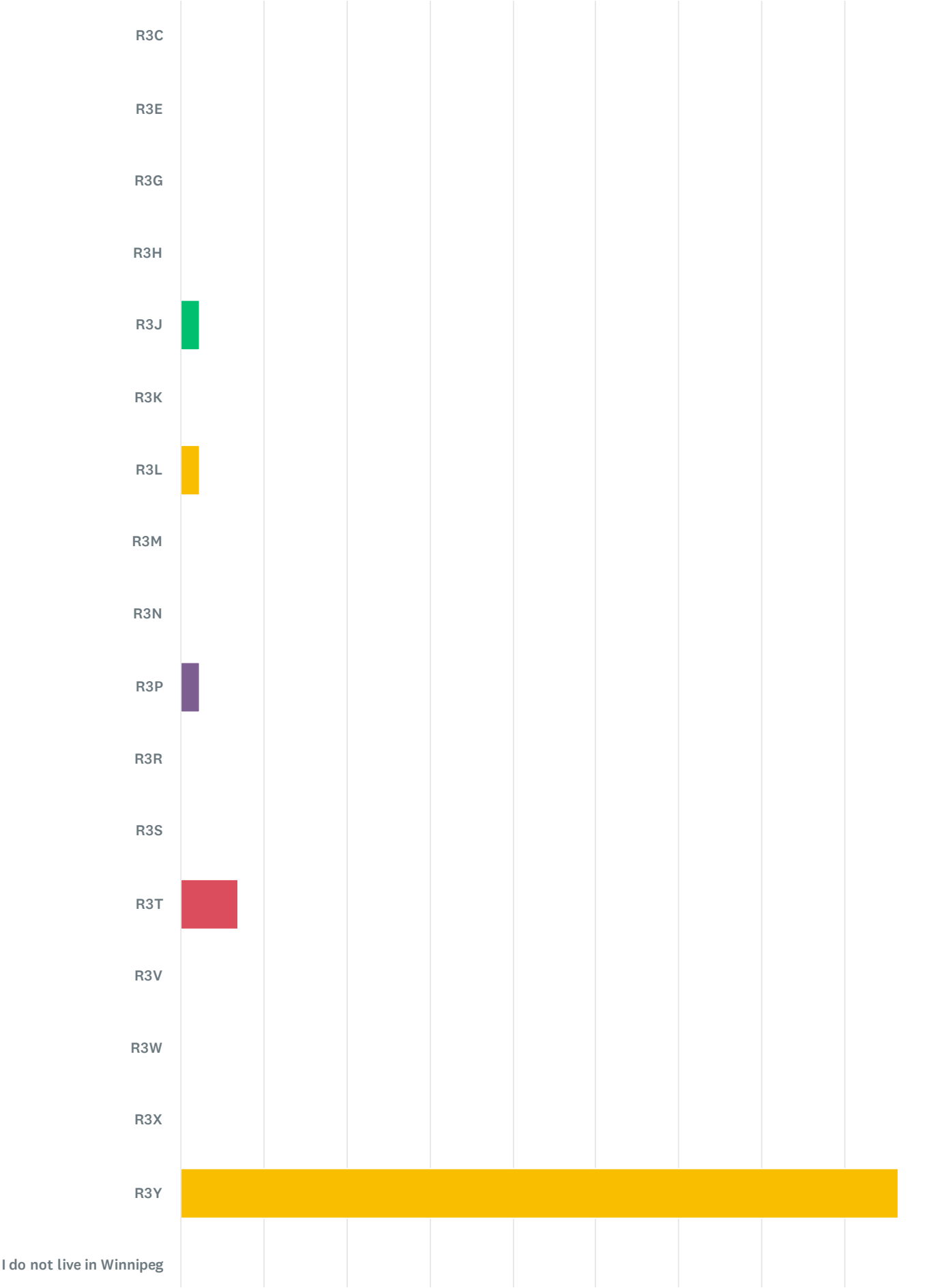
Please note: the views expressed in the verbatim survey comments are those of residents and are not those of the City of Winnipeg. The City of Winnipeg reviews comments to analyze feedback and remove comments that are inconsistent with our [moderation policy](#).

Q1 44 responses

Please provide the first three characters of your postal code.

R2C										
R2G										
R2H										
R2J										
R2K										
R2L										
R2M										
R2N										
R2P										
R2R										
R2V										
R2W										
R2X										
R2Y										
R3A										
R3B										

Bridgwater Trails: Off-Leash dog area survey



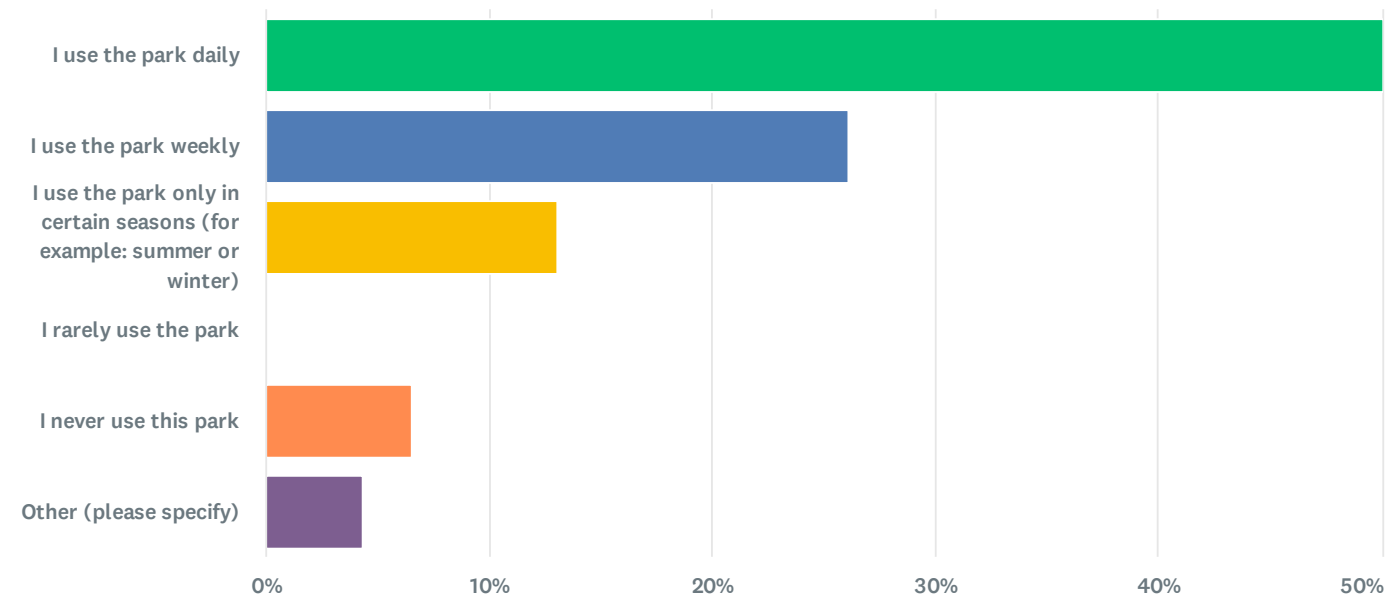
Bridgwater Trails: Off-Leash dog area survey



#	I DO NOT LIVE IN WINNIPEG	DATE
There are no responses.		

Q2 46 responses

Select the statement that best describes how often you use the park (Select one)

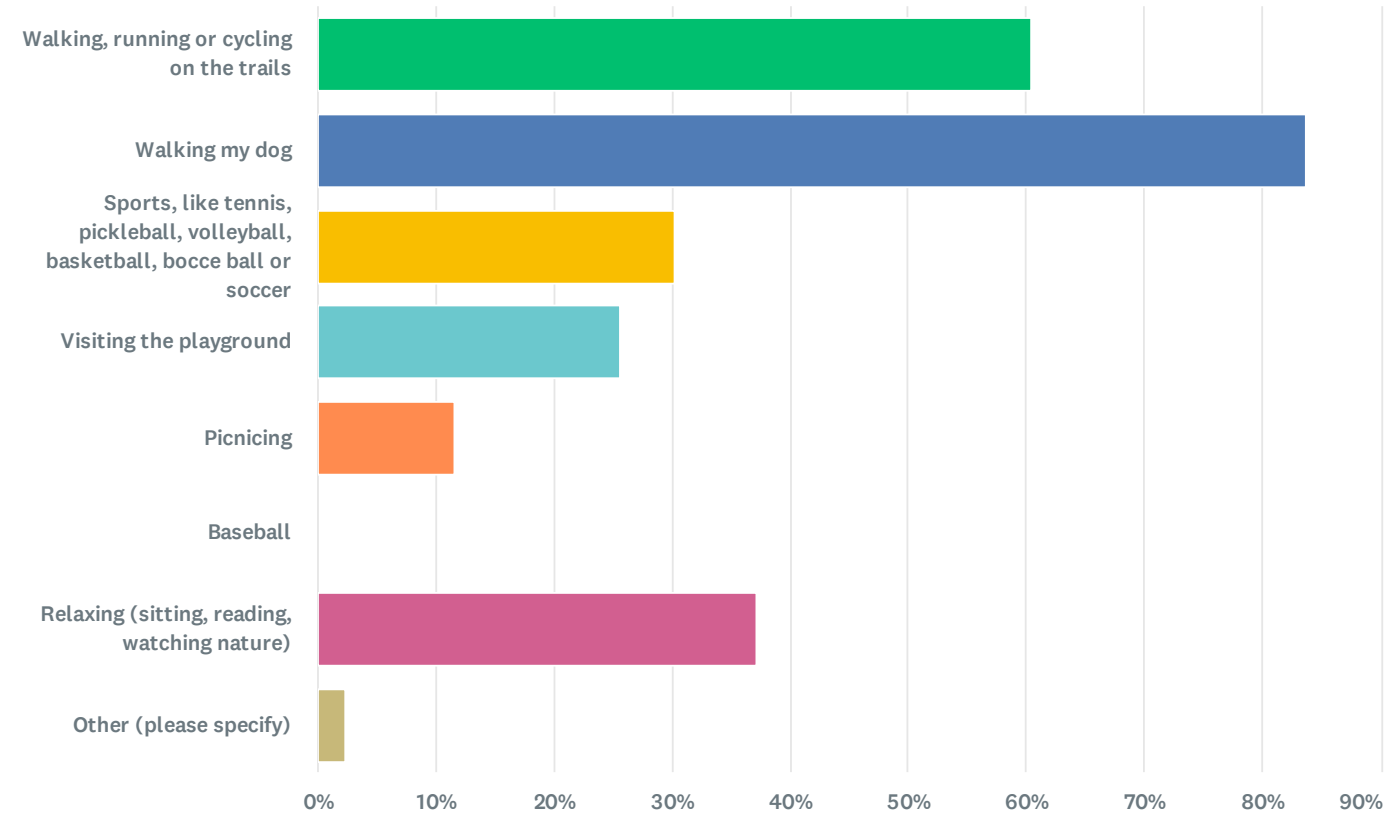


#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I use the park daily before Winter	4/19/2026 9:19 AM
2	Summer	4/3/2026 8:33 PM

Q3

43 responses

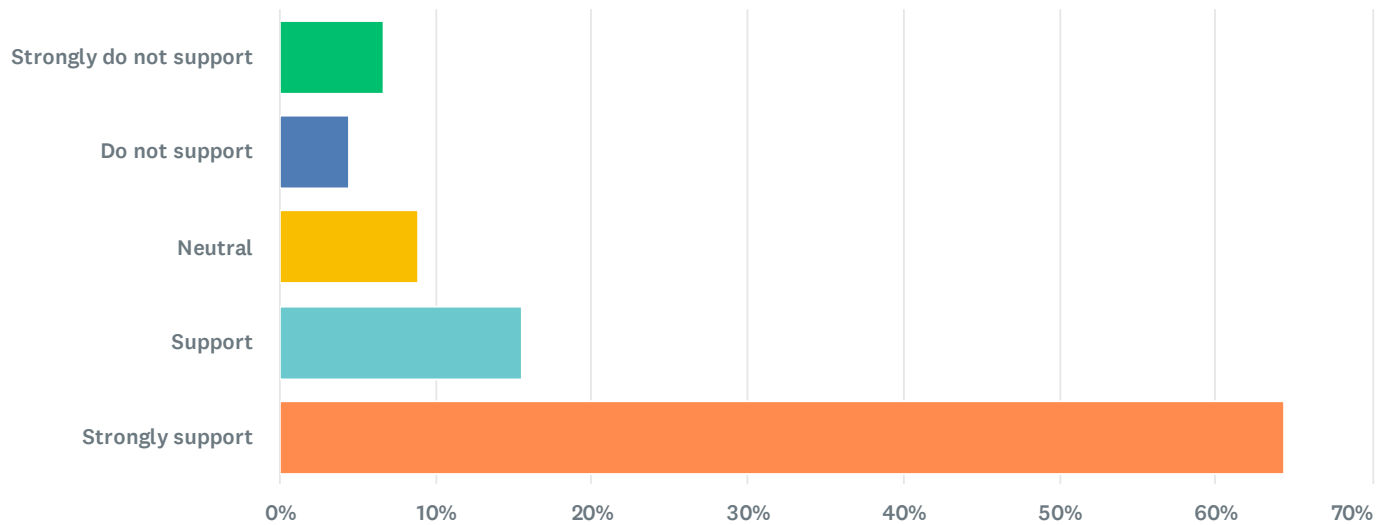
What activities do you do in the park? (Select all that apply)



#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Dog waste bag and drink water area	4/19/2026 9:21 AM

Q4 45 responses

Do you support the design?



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Strongly do not support	6.67%	3
● Do not support	4.44%	2
● Neutral	8.89%	4
● Support	15.56%	7
● Strongly support	64.44%	29
Total		45

Q5 Is there anything missing from the design? This could be related to user enjoyment, safety, or accessibility.

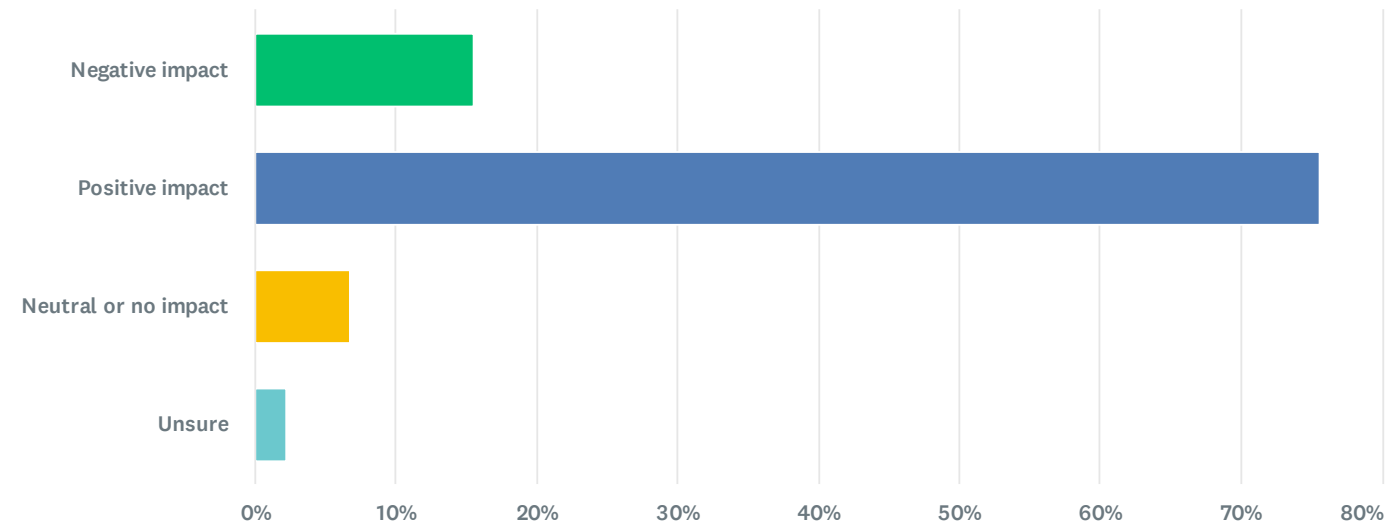
Answered: 17 Skipped: 29

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Water fill station	4/19/2026 5:26 PM
2	You should have waste bag dispenser. Because there are a lot of people who doesn't pick up dogs waste	4/16/2026 10:34 PM
3	I suggest adding a public restroom to the dog park.	4/16/2026 12:55 PM
4	water station or water jar for owners volunteering to place the water container	4/16/2026 11:40 AM
5	Ensure there is enough garbage cans.	4/14/2026 7:30 PM
6	Ensure enough garbage cans and double gate entry	4/14/2026 7:30 PM
7	I think this should be essential to the park: Water fill station. I highly doubt if everyone will be picking up the dog waste so need to have better enforcement	4/14/2026 2:32 PM
8	water fill locations are important for hot summer months. strongly urge reconsidering over climbing logs.	4/13/2026 11:43 AM
9	Water station for dog	4/9/2026 8:50 PM
10	Make sure there are MANY trash receptacles, emptied frequently, for dog waste. Dog owners in this area are extremely neglectful with regards to their animal's waste.	4/9/2026 11:28 AM
11	I feel the small dog park should be a bit bigger. There are lots of small dogs in area	4/8/2026 2:15 PM
12	With increasing population in south region, there were no grocery store in Entire stretch of kenaston Blvd from bridge water to prairie pointe. Its becoming so challenging to get grocery items on weekly basis. Our communities are facing huge challenge. Hoping City uses the commercial spots located in prairie pointe and bring our community some big grocery store setup.	4/8/2026 10:25 AM
13	Signs regarding keeping dogs on leash outside the area	4/7/2026 11:39 PM
14	The baseball diamond inside the area is not a good idea. I'm also concerned about the idea of putting an off-leash dog park here because this space is already used a lot by families and kids, especially with the baseball diamond and other activities so close by. Having dogs off leash in the same area just doesn't feel safe or practical.	4/7/2026 9:27 PM
15	Ensure adequate waste bins and regular pick up	4/7/2026 2:05 PM
16	Although I think this space is currently underutilized, I don't think an off leash dog park is a good use of the area.	4/5/2026 6:52 PM
17	I walk my dog daily in the area and we specifically avoid this area due to the large amount of dog poop that has accumulated there. My concern is that with an official dog park the poop problem will only get worse. I think a dog bag dispenser should be a higher priority with well planned out waste basket placement	4/1/2026 8:24 PM

Q6

45 responses

What impact would the proposed off-leash area have on you?



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Negative impact	15.56%	7
Positive impact	75.56%	34
Neutral or no impact	6.67%	3
Unsure	2.22%	1
Total		45

Q7 Please tell us about the positive impacts

Answered: 26 Skipped: 20

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	My pup loves walking in the park. An enclosure would be great for us.	4/20/2026 1:55 PM
2	I can take my Dog twice to the park since it's closed A happy Dog A happy life A happy wife	4/19/2026 7:07 PM
3	Soccer fields are currently used by dog walkers with some choosing to unleash their dogs. A designated off leash dog park will be a great addition to the community!	4/19/2026 5:28 PM
4	Dogs would not be loose running in the soccer field. They could use this fenced in area instead.	4/19/2026 3:29 PM
5	I can walking my dog everyday without driving	4/19/2026 10:57 AM
6	good good Bridgwater area needs a off leash dog park ASAP	4/19/2026 10:03 AM
7	Small dog area and large dog area are so helpful, my dog can looking for more friends~	4/19/2026 9:23 AM
8	My dog could run freely and I don't have to drive as far	4/19/2026 8:50 AM
9	I use this park daily to walk my dog and the only other people I've seen using the space are also dog owners. This is a great idea and I fully support this endeavour.	4/18/2026 6:08 PM
10	It's healthy for our dogs to have a large space to run around without the fear of them escaping.	4/16/2026 10:36 PM
11	Stronger connections with neighborhood, more entertainment, friendly neighborhood	4/16/2026 11:41 AM
12	I have a large dog and would use this daily.	4/14/2026 7:30 PM
13	People already use this area as an off leash dog park, and this would ensure safety for our neighbourhood for people and dogs. As a dog owner, this means I can walk there and have something close by for my dog, rather than driving across the city to take him somewhere to run safely	4/14/2026 7:30 PM
14	My dog will finally get to socialize with her neighbors who leaves peemails behind	4/14/2026 2:33 PM
15	i will enjoy not having to drive to bonnycastle! I live in the halo and am looking to buy a townhouse or condo in bridgwater in the next 4 months.	4/13/2026 11:44 AM
16	We have a dog who would use the park. But more importantly, for many years we have had concerns with off leash dogs in the fields and paths. Hopefully a dedicated dog park would reduce off leash dogs in these areas.	4/11/2026 3:20 PM
17	Area close to home will be able to frequent more often	4/11/2026 9:49 AM
18	I'm hoping this will encourage dog owners to only off-leash their dog in this area alone - our neighbourhood is notorious for owners letter their dogs off-leash around the trails, lakes, and sometimes regular sidewalks.	4/10/2026 8:14 PM
19	Don't have to drive to off Leash park	4/10/2026 5:25 PM
20	No one uses this space except for ppl with dogs! This dog park would be awesome	4/10/2026 11:50 AM
21	It will create place for dogs to play, physical activity. Due to park availability, dog owners tend to bring the animals more often here . This will improve mental health of dogs. It will also give opportunity for neighborhood residents to meet each other and make more friends. This will in general have positive impact on social health.	4/9/2026 8:55 PM
22	I have a dog who would love to be off lrash	4/8/2026 2:15 PM
23	Keeps off leash dogs separate from other park users. Safe area for dogs.	4/7/2026 2:05 PM
24	Looking for a place for dogs who live in the apartments and townhomes who have lots of energy and want to play and run	4/6/2026 8:13 AM

Bridgwater Trails: Off-Leash dog area survey

25	My dog does better in dog park areas off leash he will benefit alot and so will i	4/4/2026 2:02 PM
26	Designated spot for my dog and I to go to	4/3/2026 8:04 PM

Q8 Please tell us about the negative impacts

Answered: 28 Skipped: 18

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No negative impact	4/19/2026 7:07 PM
2	Parking may become an issue on the street	4/19/2026 5:29 PM
3	None	4/19/2026 3:29 PM
4	No	4/19/2026 10:57 AM
5	No	4/19/2026 10:03 AM
6	None whatsoever, the only people that use this park (I live beside it and use it everyday) are already dog owners.	4/18/2026 6:08 PM
7	I don't see anything wrong	4/16/2026 10:36 PM
8	small dog area too small?	4/16/2026 8:36 PM
9	no	4/16/2026 12:55 PM
10	Nope	4/16/2026 11:41 AM
11	There are no negative impacts. The baseball diamond is never used. We currently drive to use the Charleswood dog park.	4/14/2026 7:31 PM
12	None	4/14/2026 7:31 PM
13	Could get loud for the residents nearby but that should come in as limited hours at the park	4/14/2026 2:33 PM
14	no water refill station stresses me out a little bit	4/13/2026 11:44 AM
15	A dog off-leash area can have a positive impact for both animals and their owners. For dogs, it provides a safe space to run freely, play, socialize, and get more exercise, which supports their physical health and overall well-being. For owners, it creates opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities with their dogs, strengthen the human-animal bond, and spend more time outside. Walking to and using the area can also increase physical activity for people, while time outdoors and interaction with animals may support mental well-being, reduce stress, and encourage social connection within the community.	4/12/2026 8:56 AM
16	More traffic in the area.	4/11/2026 3:21 PM
17	None	4/11/2026 9:49 AM
18	Noise pollution. It will make the baseball off limits for kids	4/10/2026 8:16 PM
19	None	4/10/2026 5:25 PM
20	None	4/10/2026 11:50 AM
21	None	4/9/2026 8:55 PM
22	Right behind where I live	4/8/2026 2:16 PM
23	With increasing population in south region, there were no grocery store in Entire stretch of kenaston Blvd from bridge water to prairie pointe. Its becoming so challenging to get grocery items on weekly basis. Our communities are facing huge challenge. Hoping City uses the commercial spots located in prairie pointe and bring our community some big grocery store setup.	4/8/2026 10:25 AM
24	Noise pollution	4/7/2026 11:40 PM
25	People are already not following the current bylaws regarding dogs on leash in public area. It seems like the bigger issue is that the current bylaws aren't being enforced. Adding an off-	4/7/2026 9:31 PM

Bridgwater Trails: Off-Leash dog area survey

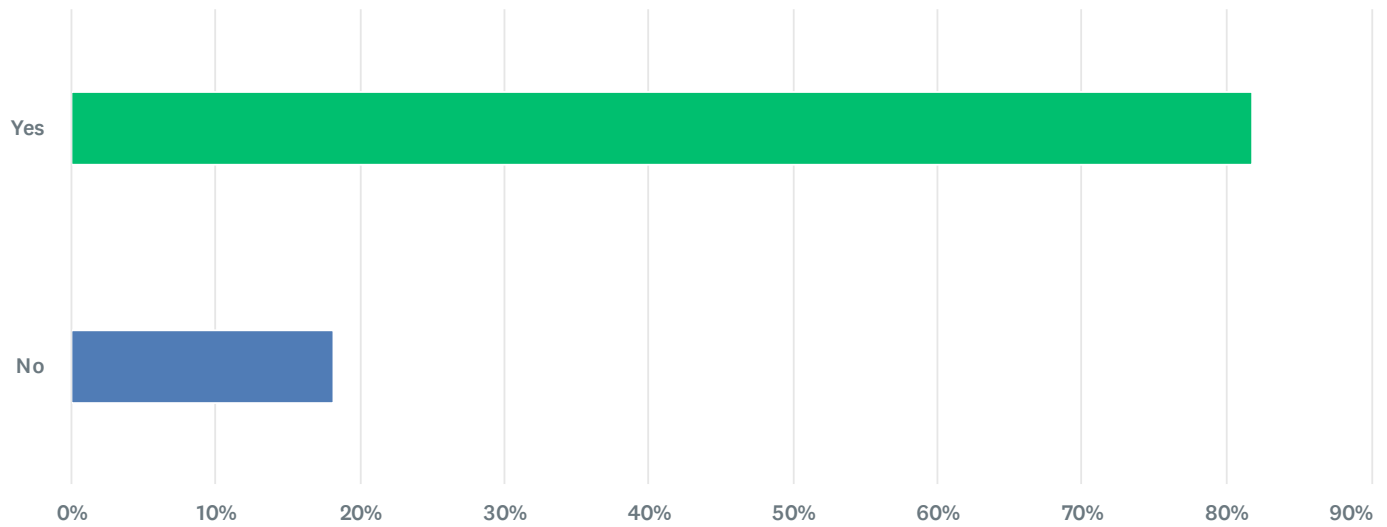
leash area here could make things worse instead of better. They will likely enter or exit with dogs off leash. It would make more sense to enforce the rules we already have and look at other locations that are a better fit for an off-leash park.

26	Many dog owners treat the Bridgwater area as a neighborhood-wide off-leash dog park. At the relatively nearby Kings park, I regularly observe people walking with off-leash dogs outside the designated area. I think a designated off leash area in Bridgwater Trails will only increase the already problematic number of people walking with their dogs unleashed. I have reported animals at large through 311 and have never seen any enforcement or education outreach on the topic. The penalties for an animal at large are also relatively lax compared to the severity of injury or death and should be increased (but a moot point considering the complete absence of enforcement activities).	4/5/2026 6:59 PM
27	None	4/4/2026 2:03 PM
28	Potentially noise for nearby condos and houses	4/3/2026 8:04 PM

Q9

44 responses

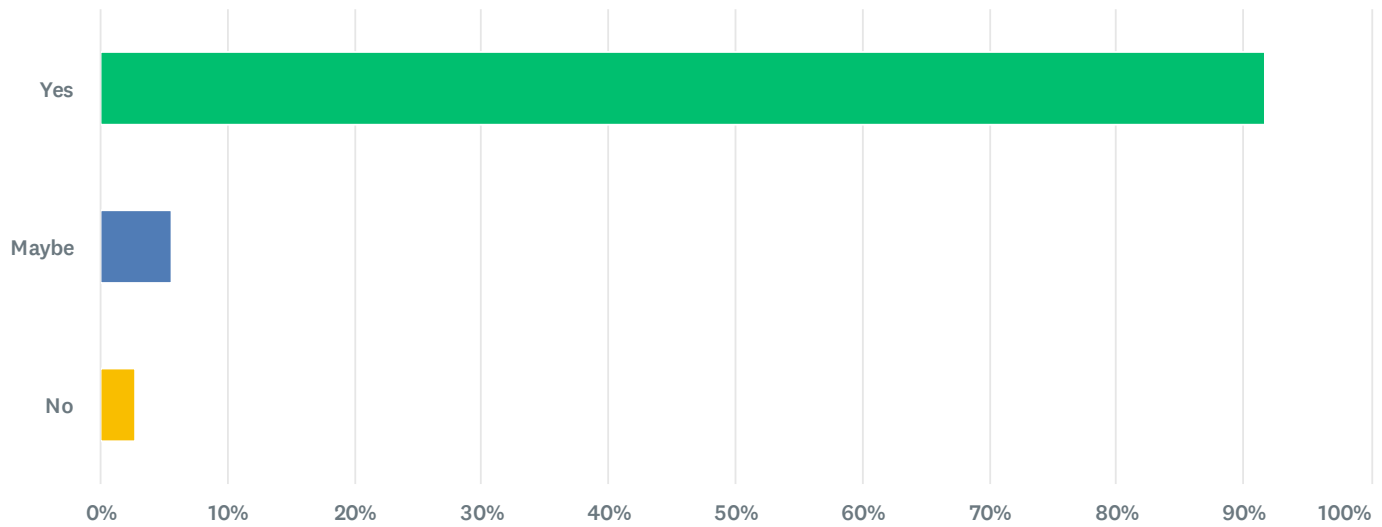
Do you own or regularly care for a dog?



Q10

36 responses

Would you use this proposed off-leash dog area?

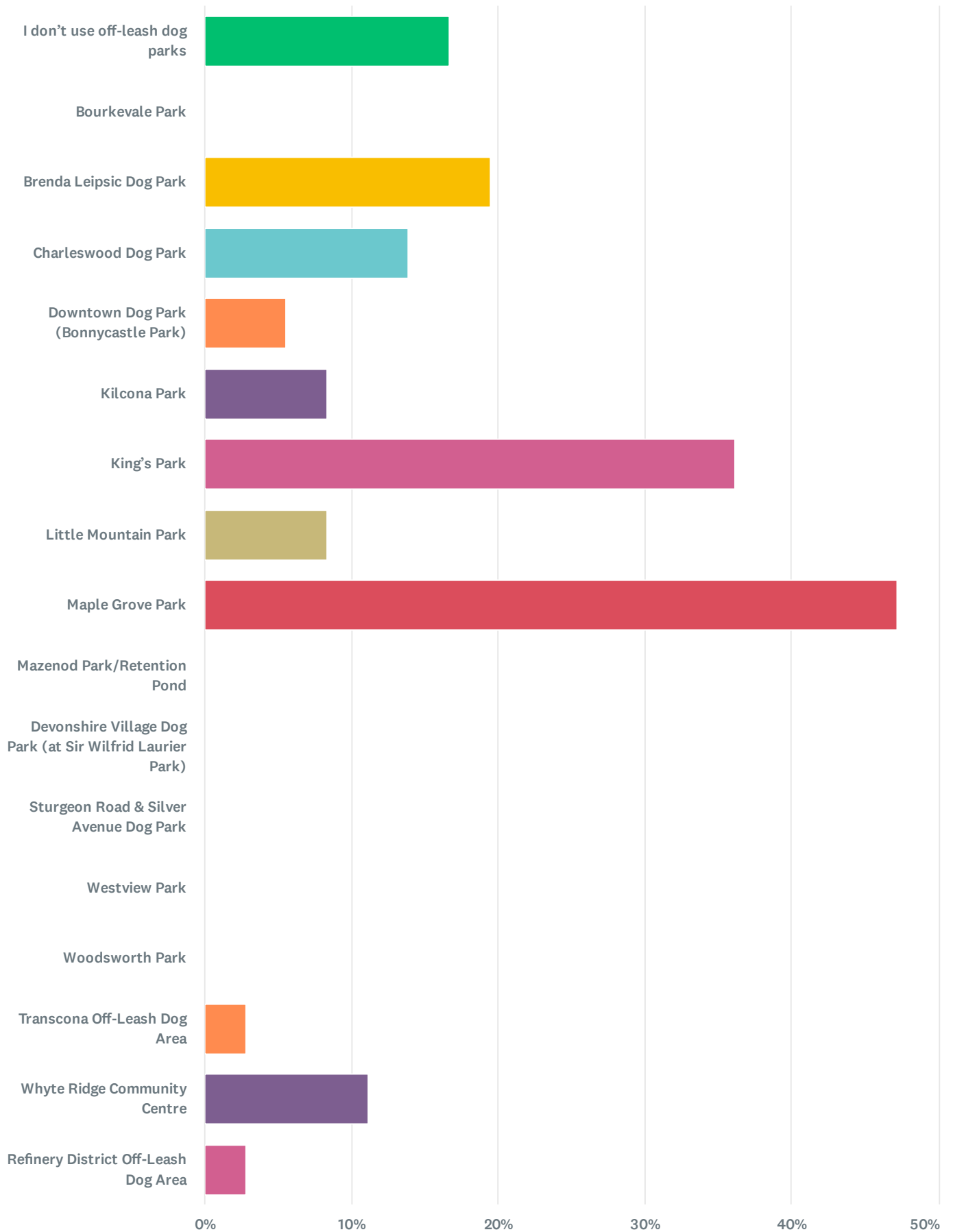


Q11

36 responses

Which off-leash dog park(s) do you currently use? Select all that apply.

Bridgwater Trails: Off-Leash dog area survey



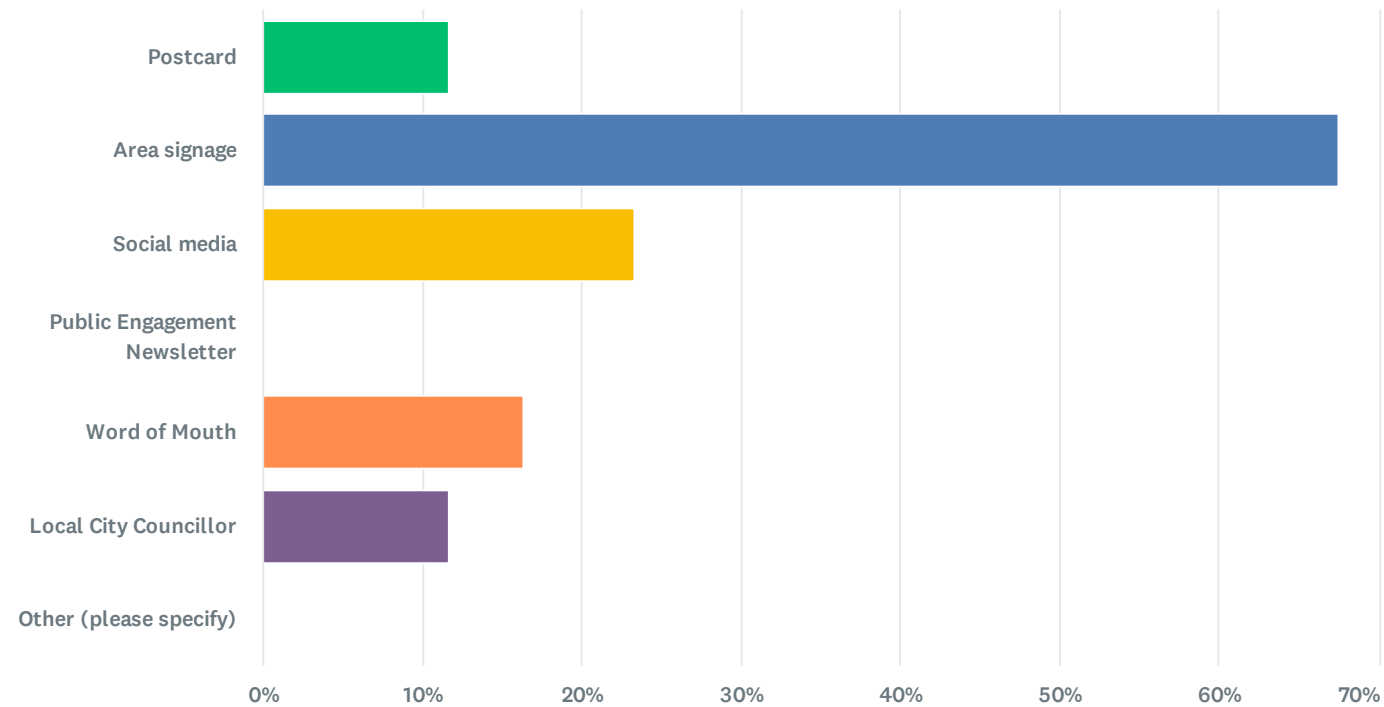
Q12 Is there anything else you would like to add?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 32

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Very excited to have a park close to home.	4/19/2026 3:30 PM
2	could a fence be built between small dog and large dog?	4/19/2026 9:26 AM
3	I very much hope that this park will be put in.	4/18/2026 6:09 PM
4	I enjoy walking dogs and walk neighbours dogs often, and it would be a great to have an outdoor space where the dogs can play!	4/16/2026 10:10 AM
5	I am very excited to see this go through	4/14/2026 7:32 PM
6	No	4/14/2026 7:31 PM
7	No	4/12/2026 8:57 AM
8	Thank you for this park. Much appreciated.	4/11/2026 3:21 PM
9	A smaller off-leash dog area that excludes baseball pitches will be a better option	4/10/2026 8:17 PM
10	This will be great amenity to the community	4/9/2026 8:58 PM
11	Make sure there are MANY trash receptacles, emptied frequently, for dog waste. Dog owners in this area are extremely neglectful with regards to their animal's waste.	4/9/2026 11:29 AM
12	I don't take my dog to off leash parks as they are all fit big dogs.	4/8/2026 2:16 PM
13	With increasing population in south region, there were no grocery store in Entire stretch of kenaston Blvd from bridge water to prairie pointe. Its becoming so challenging to get grocery items on weekly basis. Our communities are facing huge challenge. Hoping City uses the commercial spots located in prairie pointe and bring our community some big grocery store setup.	4/8/2026 10:25 AM
14	Please don't build this off leash area. It will take away from enjoyment if the nearby area. I feel like it's already a big safety issues for families when community ignore current bylaws regarding dogs on leash in public area. The American Veterinary Medical Association has noted that most dog bite incidents happen in familiar public or residential settings, often involving children, which makes mixing off-leash dogs and active play areas very risky.	4/7/2026 9:35 PM

Q13 43 responses

How did you hear about this project? Please check all that apply.



#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q14 26 responses

If you have time, please tell us what you thought of this survey. How would you rate your experience (1 star is a poor experience and five stars is an excellent experience)

★ 4.77/5
Average Rating

