

# NORTHEAST PARK OFF-LEASH DOG AREA SURVEY RESULTS

991053

The Parks Division of the Recreation & Parks Department conducted a survey regarding the Off-Leash Dog Area installed at Northeast Park in February 2001. The survey was distributed by mail out to the property owners that lived within 400 feet of the park, posted on the City's Web Page and an intern with the Department conducted individual surveys on-site. In addition, surveys were placed at the Off-Leash Dog Area Information Kiosk along with information on how to receive a survey. The Parks Division received 85 surveys from both users and non-users of the Off-Leash Dog Area. Some of the returned surveys had multiple responses while others only answered a few questions or made brief statements. Below is a collated summary of the responses.

**NOTE: Not every survey returned had every question answered.**

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**1) How often do you bring a dog(s) to the Northeast Park Off-Leash Dog Area?**

Daily: (29%) 25 Weekly: (22%) 19 Monthly: (5%) 4 Less than Monthly: (4%) 3  
Never: (36%) 31 No Answer: (4%) 3

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**2) Do you believe the Off-Leash Dog Area is appropriate in Northeast Park?**

Not Sure:	16%	Users 3	Non Users 11
Yes:	68%	Users 47	Non Users 11
No:	13%	Users 1	Non Users 9
No Answer:	3%	Users 0	Non Users 3

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**3) Do you believe that the Off-Leash Dog Area is appropriate in it's current location?**

Not Sure:	20%	Users 5	Non Users 12
Yes:	58%	Users 43	Non Users 6
No:	21%	Users 5	Non Users 13
No Answer:	1%	Users 0	Non Users 1

***If you answered No to the above question, where would you like for it to be located?***

To close to the path, move to the open field just west of the racquetball courts. Breaks up picnic/play area. Move it to the edge of the park.

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**4) Do you believe the Off-Leash Dog Area is useful and appreciated by the dog owners?**

Not Sure:	21%	Users 6	Non Users 12
Yes:	61%	Users 46	Non Users 6
No:	17%	Users 1	Non Users 13
No Answer:	1%	Users 0	Non Users 1

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**5) What is your opinion of the appearance of the Off-Leash Dog Area?**

Very Good:	41%	Users 31	Non Users 4
Okay:	34%	Users 16	Non Users 13
Unattractive:	24%	Users 6	Non Users 14
No Answer:	1%	Users 0	Non Users 1

6) *Do you have any suggestions for improving the appearance of the Off-Leash Dog Area?*

Replace chain link (ugly) fence to some other type. Re-sod grass that's been trampled on. Plant trees and some shrubs outside along fence border. Add more benches. Keep cleaner. Don't plant any shrubs around the area.

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7) *Do you feel that the Off-Leash Dog Area accomplishes its goal of increasing the comfort of visitors to the park who don't like to be around dogs?*

Not Sure:	25%	Users	11	Non Users	10
Yes:	53%	Users	39	Non Users	6
No:	22%	Users	4	Non Users	15

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8) *Should the City remove the Off-Leash Dog Area?*

Not Sure:	8%	Users	2	Non Users	5
Yes:	17%	Users	2	Non Users	12
No:	75%	Users	50	Non Users	14

*If you answered Yes, please explain why.*

*Dogs run loose in great numbers. Breaks up main area of park. Messy, smelly, can't use path.*

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9) *If you answered Yes to #8, do you own a dog (s)?* Yes: 79% 11 No: 14%, 2 No Answer: 7% 1

*If you answered No to #8, do you own a dog?* Yes: 75% 48 No: 17%, 11 No Answer: 8% 5

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10) *Do you believe the Off-Leash Dog Area has reduced the number of dogs that run off leash in the park?*

No Difference:	24%	Users	8	Non Users	12
Yes:	50%	Users	36	Non Users	7
No:	20%	Users	5	Non Users	12
No Answer:	6%	Users	0	Non Users	5

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11) *Have you found that dog owners and users of the Off-Leash Dog Area are courteous and respectful?*

Sometimes:	8%	Users	6	Non Users	1
Yes:	57%	Users	43	Non Users	6
No:	6%	Users	2	Non Users	3
Not Sure:	18%	Users	3	Non Users	12
No Answer:	11%	Users	0	Non Users	9

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13) *If you are a user of the Off-Leash Dog Area what is your age?*

18 & under: (2) 2%    19 – 30: (17) 20%    31 – 49: (22) 26%    50 & Over: (11) 13%  
No Answer: (33) 39%

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14) *What is your sex?* Female: (33) 39% Male: (19) 22% No Answer: (33) 39%

***MISCELLANEOUS RESPONSES:***

- Gate is hard to open.
- Off-leash area needs to be bigger.
- Prohibit dogs from being in any other place in the park but the Off-Leash Area.

***CONCLUSIONS:***

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It's apparent that the Off-Leash Dog Area at Northeast Park is acceptable and appreciated by the majority. However, there appears to be a feeling from some responses that it would be better located on the west side of the racquetball courts on the open area that is used for football practice, frisbee tossing and activities conducted by St. Patrick Physical Education classes.