

# DOG PARK FEASIBILITY STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT

PUBLIC HEARING  
NOVEMBER 13, 2018



# DOG PARK FEASIBILITY STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT

SUBMITTED TO THE CONCORD SELECT BOARD  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

## **I. Executive Summary**

The Town of Concord established a Dog Park Feasibility Study Committee in December 2017, to consider the following:

- Community interest in a dog park(s)
- Key elements of these dog parks
- A review of possible sites for these dog parks

This report contains the process used by the Committee as well as its findings.

The Committee's work began with outreach to a variety of Town personnel to best understand the regulatory landscape of dog parks and general recreational land use, Town-owned land usage designations, and Town personnel experience with dog parks. Combining that input with personal experience and further investigations into a variety of existing dog parks, the Committee then created a set of ideal criteria and preferable criteria for dog parks. Using these criteria, the Committee then surveyed all Town-owned open-space parcels of at least five acres in size. The Committee also discussed historical data and cost models for implementing and maintaining a dog park.

The Committee took steps to understand community interest in a dog park by evaluating survey results and conducting a public hearing. The tenor of the community feedback from the hearing and other public input made it clear to the Committee that there is a good deal of fear that a dog park would be used to exclude dogs and dog walkers from other Town land and open spaces.

The lack of community interest and support for a dog park, coupled with the considerable cost to taxpayers to provide and maintain such a facility, as well as the lack of an appropriate site, resulted in the Committee concluding that, at this time, a dog park is not feasible for Concord.

The Committee ends this report with a recommendation to create a standing Committee to serve as a forum for addressing and resolving dog-related issues in Town.

## **II. Dog Park Feasibility Study Charge**

Established in December 2017, the Dog Park Feasibility Study Committee was charged to consider whether there is community interest in, and a need for,

a dog park in Concord, a place designated and reserved for use specifically by dogs and dog owners. And, if a need was deemed to exist, to consider whether there is need for more than one dog park for the convenient access and use by all interested residents of the Town.

The Committee was also charged to determine key elements that would be desirable in a dog park and to consider whether the need exists for a larger parcel of land designated for dog use that may not be fenced, allowing for long, off-leash walks in a wooded or natural area that won't conflict with other users.

Further, the Committee was asked to review Town-owned land for the purposes of creating a dog park and to consider whether privately held land might exist where landowners might welcome dog walkers. (Appendix I)

The Committee's charge expires at the end of December 2018.

### **III. Background**

The Town of Concord's "2015 Open Space & Recreation Plan" states in a 2014 citizen survey, that "the need for a formal dog park was raised as a community desire and requires further evaluation" (p. 91). In that survey, 63 of 416 respondents selected a dog park as one of their top three recreational facility needs.

### **IV. Research**

#### **A. Town Resources**

The Committee began its study of the feasibility of a dog park in Concord by interviewing several Town employees whose positions would help provide a window into various aspects of our inquiry. We sought simple definitions of regulatory considerations as well as how to use the GIS system to identify Town-owned parcels of land. We received the following assistance:

1. Marcia Rasmussen, Director of Planning and Land Management, who tutored the Committee in the effective use of the Concord Geographic Information System (GIS). She explained the system of 'layers' that allows one to isolate government owned lands, open spaces land and wetlands.

Further, she also identified for us the seven Town departments with oversight of parcels of Town land:

- Concord Housing Authority
- Concord Municipal Light and Power
- Concord Public Schools
- Concord Public Works
- Finance Committee

- Natural Resources Commission
- Recreation

*[NOTE: A few parcels are not assigned to any specific town department]*

Ms. Rasmussen provided the Committee with a list of twelve Concord sites she recommended we evaluate for use as a dog park.

2. Jill Moonheron, Concord's GIS Analyst. Based on information gathered by the Committee from Town records and provided to her, she created a GIS 'layer' showing the location of dog owners throughout Concord. This layer shows concentration of dogs in a band on either side of Lexington Road, Main Street, Elm Street and along Route 62.
3. Kate Hodges, Assistant Town Manager, explained the vocabulary associated with recreation and recreation facilities, specifically 'open space,' 'recreation' and 'mixed use.' She also provided us with articles about dog parks in Ann Arbor, MI, and Montgomery County, MD.
4. Ryan Kane, Recreation Director, shared his experiences with dog parks in South Windsor, East Windsor and Glastonbury, all in Connecticut, prior to taking the Recreation position in Concord. Mr. Kane provided the Committee with details of the East Windsor, CT dog park (voted best in CT), including size, cost, ground material, community involvement.  
Discussion focused on existing multi-use, Recreation Department facilities open to dog walkers, namely Emerson Field and Rideout Park. The Committee learned of the complex nature of Emerson Field's make-up, given that the land was acquired piecemeal and different parcels within Emerson Field have different restrictions. The Recreation Department is also responsible for South Meadow, aka Southfield Meadow, playing fields.
5. Alan Cathcart (via Kate Hodges), Water Superintendent, advised the Committee that Massachusetts General Law Regulations regarding drinking water [Section 310 CMR22.21 (1)(b)5] forbid a dog park in or around Town wells or water sources that might impact the water supply itself. "Active park lands which invite a concentration of nutrients/contaminants (i.e., dog waste) into the recharge area of a public water supply are not in keeping with the State regulation." Cathcart stated that he and other members of the water division would not be supportive of a dog park near a Zone 1 Ground Water (well) areas.

## V. Definition of a Dog Park

Concurrent with these interviews/information gathering sessions with Town officials, the Committee discussed the definition of a dog park at length, both generally as outlined by the American Kennel Club, the Veterinary School at the University of California Davis and numerous other dog park guidelines from across the country, in Canada and England (See Appendix II); and specifically as one might apply to Concord.

1. National — Existing dog parks from around the country were evaluated to the best of the Committee's ability, using articles, websites, field visits and word-of-mouth. Issues of size, location, cost, parking, accessibility by dog owners, hard vs. soft boundaries, lighting, water availability and other amenities were noted. The Committee looked at dog parks in the following places: Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; the Royal Parks in London; San Francisco, CA; El Paso, TX; Brunswick and Kennebunk, ME; Ann Arbor, MI; and Naples, FL. The parks ranged in size from 1 acre to over 40 acres outside San Francisco.
2. Regional — Closer to home, in Massachusetts, the Committee looked at dog parks or dog friendly recreational facilities in Boxborough, Perkins School for the Blind, Billerica, Newton, Chelmsford, Cambridge, Hyannis and Nantucket.
3. Local — Dog data for Concord and West Concord was gathered from the Concord Police Department (Appendix III, reported incidents of bad behavior by dogs); from a survey completed by 650 local dog owners (identified through Town dog licensing) conducted by Concord Unleashed to assess interest in a Concord dog park by Concord dog owners; and from a Public Hearing held by the Committee on May 27, 2018.
4. Community Support — First and foremost, the Committee identified three components essential for a Concord dog park. These are: size, location and community involvement. This last point cannot be overstated. Community interest can guarantee the success of a dog park, while the lack of community support can be its undoing. For instance, the Windsor, CT, dog park (1.04 acres) cost only \$17,000 because of donated services and materials. Community involvement can substantively reduce the cost to build a dog park. It is also necessary for the on-going success of such a facility, from self-policing to identifying deteriorating infrastructure (e.g., the need for fence or gate repair; dead or dying shade trees; broken water source, etc.).

5. Size — Although fenced-in dog parks of one acre or less are common throughout our area, the Committee determined that such a small site would not meet the needs of Concord’s dog owners or its dogs, because:
- a. There are 1,943 licensed dogs in 1,565 Concord households as of August 2018. Unlicensed dogs must also be factored into any consideration of a dog park. Thus, in a one-acre or smaller dog park, overcrowding becomes a serious concern. Overuse can lead to the degradation of the site, especially the surface material (i.e, grass cannot recover fast enough, chips would require regular replacement, etc.; and the consequent cost) and poses the potential risk of conflict between dogs for want of enough space;
  - b. Community desire for human as well as dog exercise. This is another underrated consideration for a dog park. Most dog owners in Concord enjoy exercising *with* their dog. For example, many dog walkers will walk around the outside of the Emerson Field track; many also walk *to* Emerson Field or to Rideout in order to maximize the human benefit;
  - c. Because socializing dogs is integral to their training, sufficient space for this purpose is important both for the success of a dog park and for the training of ‘good citizen’ dogs;
  - d. Community desire for off-leash exercising, including the space to run a dog, play games (fetch) or practice agility exercises, demands a dog park site of 2-3 usable acres at a minimum;
  - e. This last point means that parking, where not available on-street, must be factored into any dog park siting without diminishing the acreage set aside for the park itself.
6. Therefore, the Committee determined that the ideal parameters for a dog park in Concord are:
- 5 or more acres (with a minimum of 2-3 acres set aside for the park itself)
  - Adequate parking
  - Grass surfacing
  - Access to water
  - Access to shade
  - Drainage
  - Variable topography (i.e., access to woodland trails as well as open space)
  - Waste bag dispensers; waste removal
  - Maintenance/cleanliness
  - Educational signage (e.g., park rules; rules of dog etiquette, etc.)
  - Accessibility to Concord dog owners (i.e., be located in reasonable proximity to those areas listed above as representing the majority of local dog owners)

Other desirable features, depending on the site location, may include:

- Fencing
- Hard/soft boundaries
- Handicapped accessibility
- A small parcel within the dog park set aside for small dogs
- Access to trails for human as well as dog exercise
- Access to pond/stream/river
- Pavilion or similar rain/lightning cover
- Lighting
- Residential buffers (to minimize impact on abutting neighborhoods)
- Restrooms

## **VI. Location — Possible Dog Park Sites in Concord/West Concord**

A. The Committee made a spreadsheet of all open-space parcels of land in Concord over five acres. These 106 parcels were then color-coded to identify potential dog park sites as well as potential conflicting uses that might preclude use as a dog park (see Appendix IV). Conflicting uses were identified as any of the following:

- Wetlands
- Town wells (see IV.A.5)
- Current agricultural use/farmland
- Conservation land with high value or restrictions
- Maxed out with municipal uses (e.g, sports fields, DPW, future use by schools, etc.)
- Hostile topography (precipitously steep, too densely wooded, etc.)

B. By a process of elimination, the Committee deemed 79 of the 106 parcels inappropriate for use as a dog park:

- 28 parcels were eliminated because they are either federally protected wetlands (e.g, Jenny Dugan Swamp; 28A & 27 B Cambridge Turnpike) or so significantly wet that, at the least, a superstructure (i.e., a bridge) would have to be built across an existing flood zone, as in the case of 6Y Quail Run Drive, or the parcel is predominantly wet, as in the case of 10A Sandy Pond Road, where half of this eight acre parcel is Crosby's Pond;
- 19 parcels of conservation land or land bearing restrictions, including Punkatasset, Monument Farm, October Farm, the Hapgood Wright Town Forest (aka Fairyland), Mattison Field and Old Rifle Range;
- 18 parcels currently being actively farmed. Given the historic importance of farming in Concord and the value placed on small

farmers by this community, the Committee opted not to consider these parcels. Examples include 15B, 33A, 52A, 52X, 41A & 42A Barretts Mill Road; 38A Virginia Road (Gaining Ground), Arena Farm and 38A Fairhaven Road;

- 4 Town well sites: Williams Well, 97A Old Marlboro Road; Thoreau Hills Well, 20A Border Road; Hugh Cargill Well on the back side of the Alcott School & abutting the Community Gardens; and Deaconess Well (next to Deaconess Rehab), 363 ORNAC;

- Hostile terrain sites include:

- 28A Laws Brook Road - Extremely steep
- 205 Hemlock Street (White Pond neighborhood) – steep drop-off
- 22X Laws Brook Road (behind Warner’s Pond) – very steep
- 3A Hillcrest Road (abuts Kennedy’s Pond) – extremely steep;

- Sites already maxed out for use include parcels abutting most schools, which may also be earmarked for future expansion

*[Note: For details beyond these examples, refer to Appendix IV]*

C. Other sites were weaned from the list because the Committee deemed them unsuitable for use as a dog park. Reasons for this determination include:

- Inappropriate land configuration [e.g., Reformatory Branch Trail; 10A Border Road (long and thin); 15B Virginia Road, across from Gaining Ground (thin and L-shaped)]

- Lack of accessibility [e.g, 8X Thornton Lane (behind Thornton Lane condos); 48B Fitchburg Turnpike (backside of White’s Pond from Sudbury)]

- Sleepy Hollow cemetery

- Wastewater treatment

- Community gardens

D. No private parcels of land that might be made available for use as a dog park have come to the Committee’s attention.

## **VII. Parcels Evaluated As Possible Dog Park Sites**

From the remaining sites, the Committee selected the most promising six. Four were selected from Marcia Rasmussen’s suggested twelve; two others were added by the Committee after close scrutiny of site options. These six are:

- The former landfill
- The bus depot
- Burke-Meriam Farm
- Southfield Meadow



- Willow Guzzle
- Concord Municipal Light Plant property

1. **755 Walden Street at Route 2** (site of the former landfill)

- Pros:
  - Town owned
  - 36 acres (total)
  - Parking
  - Fenced
- Cons:
  - Solar array covering all or most of the parcel
  - Composting facility
  - Snow removal deposit site
  - Unfavorable terrain – steeply sloped in a bowl shape, the base of which is a catch basin for rain (therefore a potential breeding ground for mosquitos) and in winter is used for snow removal deposits; terrain would restrict use to the able-bodied
  - Walkers must cross Route 2, potentially increasing pedestrian flow at a very busy intersection

2. **Knox Trail Bus Depot** — 214Y Main Street

- Pros:
  - Town-owned
  - 73 acres (total)
  - Fenced
  - Parking
  - Existing lighting
- Cons:
  - Land split between bus depot and depot building/parking lot
  - What land remains is heavily sloped and/or wetlands
  - Locked at night
  - Large solar array covers most of the parcel

3. **Burke-Meriam Farm** — 11A Old Bedford Road, abutting Ripley School, Burke Landing housing and the Heritage Club; essentially, two plots separated by an irrigation pond

- Pros:
  - Town owned
  - 11+ acres

- Good natural surroundings
- Not too far from Concord Center
- Parking at Ripley School a possibility (new parking lot could be created off Bedford Road)

- Cons:

- Currently being farmed
- Was purchased with the idea that it might be used for future school purposes
- No variety in the natural surroundings (no shade trees, shrubs, etc. Existing trees are outside the boundary of a prospective dog park)
- Parking lot on the field end by Ripley is already maxed out on soccer or baseball game days and practice days
- Pond is too small for use as swim exercise for dogs

#### 4. Southfield Meadow — 10A Riverdale Circle

- Pros:

- Town owned
- 22 acres
- Close to Concord Center
- Natural surroundings are flat but not featureless
- On non-game days, dogs could be run in South Meadow

- Cons:

- Active use by the Recreation Department for playing fields
- Only two acres available when playing fields and wetlands are taken into account
- No parking; neighborhood already stressed on game days
- May be too close to playing fields; on game days, dog walkers would have to make their way down a narrow strip of land at one end of the fields to access dog park
- Neighborhood pushback occurred when a playground was suggested at this location; therefore, pushback is expected if a dog park is suggested.

#### 5. Willow Guzzle — 139A Sudbury Road, at Powder Mill Road

- Pros:

- Town owned
- 27 acres (total)
- Limited intrusion into residential areas

- Cons:
  - Only four dry acres
  - Some acreage under wetlands protection
  - Would require taking some farmland
  - Limited existing parking
  - Two houses in the middle of the site

7. **Concord Municipal Light Plant** — 1175 Elm Street, between Route 2A and Route 2, behind the gas station at the Rotary

- Pros:
  - Town owned
  - 24 acres
  - Parking available at light plant or easily installed in field
  - Utility hook-up possible
- Cons:
  - Stressful location — Rotary traffic
  - Access by car only, potentially compounding already congested entry to the Rotary
  - On Acton border, not easily accessible to Concord dog populations
  - Would require full fencing

## VIII. Cost Assessment

Initially, the Committee did a cost assessment for a one-acre dog park to get a baseline figure. That figure came in as \$234,050. The projected cost to build a ±5-acre dog park in Concord would then necessarily be considerably more than \$234,050, with another estimated \$17,500 per annum for maintenance (see Appendix V). This projected cost *does not include land acquisition*. All estimates are based on the use of Town land. Given that the Committee concluded that only a dog park of five+ acres would meet Concord's needs, all cost estimates herewith should be considered minimums.

### A. Research

1. The Committee solicited cost profiles from the following regional Towns with dog parks.

- Medford — .25 acre — \$250,000
- Billerica — .50 acre — \$200,000
- Bedford — 1 acre — \$200,000
- Westford — 2 acres — \$250,000

*[NOTE: Cost profiles were not available for dog parks of two-to-three designated dog park acres, so the above figures must be viewed as baseline]*

2. The Stanton Foundation has funded or helped fund 34 dog parks in Massachusetts. Their maximum grant is \$250,000, which may have influenced the size of dog parks in these communities.
3. Our determination of +\$250,000 to establish a dog park was based on the above as a baseline figure and took into consideration cost for the following:
  - Design
  - Site preparation (tree removal, grading, subsurface and surface)
  - Fencing — 5' vinyl
  - Gates
  - Hardscape (entry and walkway)
  - Infrastructure (irrigation, engineering, water service)
  - Parking
  - Amenities (bag dispensers, trash receptacles, benches, water fountain, lighting, landscaping, shade trees)
  - Legal costs
4. Our determination of approximately \$17,500 per annum for maintenance of a dog park (see Appendix V) took into consideration the cost of the following:
  - Trails
  - Mowing
  - Waste disposal
  - Snow removal
  - Periodic resurfacing
  - Cash reserve fund for infrastructure repair and/or replacement over time
  - Insurance

## **IX. Community Interest**

While there have been a vocal few who have voiced strong opposition to dogs off leash on Town and conservation land, the Committee determined that the community at large has very little interest in a dog park in Concord. This determination was made by evaluating community participation in a public hearing, public attendance at the Committee's open meetings, and responses to a large survey sent out to all Concord households that licensed their dogs.

A. Concord Unleashed survey

Concord Unleashed, a special interest group, sent out an in-depth survey in 2017 to the owners of all Town-registered dogs (1818, that year). It received 650 thoughtful responses.

1. One question on the survey asked the following question: How likely would you be to use the following sized dog park? The following answers reflect the largest percentages in each category:

- |                        |                    |        |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| • .5-1 acre —          | not at all —       | 55.32% |
| • 2-3 acres —          | not at all —       | 26.84% |
|                        | extremely likely — | 2.62%  |
| • 5 acres/open field — | not at all —       | 18.31% |
|                        | somewhat likely —  | 29.93% |
| • 5 acres/wooded       | not at all —       | 23.49% |
|                        | somewhat likely —  | 24.56% |

Another question on the survey asked: Would you prefer to use a dog park instead of conservation land? (Appendix VI) Answers:

- Not at all — 49.83%
- Not really — 26.90%
- Not sure — 10.17 %
- Possibly — 6.38%
- Definitely — 6.72%

(See Appendix VI)

B. Public Hearing and Other Community Input

1. On May 22, The Dog Park Feasibility Study held a public hearing to invite comment and input from interested and concerned Concord residents (for minutes see Appendix VII). The hearing was advertised by the Committee on the Town website and through flyers around Town, including at Emerson Field and at trail heads; a letter to the editor of the Concord Journal; and, notices on several Concord online NextDoor forums. At the hearing, we provided, a survey of our own design to augment that done by Concord Unleashed. Thirty-five members of the public attended, of which 19 offered comments.
  - a. Dog Park Feasibility Study Committee chair, Anne Umphrey, opened the hearing with an overview of the Committee's work to date, including: a brief explanation of the Committee's charge (see Appendix 1); that the Committee had looked into more than 30

successful dog parks across the nation to help develop a profile of what makes a good dog park and that the Committee had met with several Town officials Town as part of its information gathering process. The Chair then opened the floor to public comment;

- b. Most of those who attended voiced their disapproval of the idea of a dog park and were distressed at the actions of the Natural Resource Commission to exclude off-leash dog walking on conservation lands, such as Punkatasset. Many naysayers were driven by fear that a dog park would serve as license for further exclusion from conservation/Town open spaces, and they were adamant they did not want to trade their right to walk their pets off-leash in conservation lands for a dog park;
  - c. Some interest was shown for a small, fenced dog park established for smaller dogs and for handicapped dog owners who would welcome a way to exercise their pets in a confined environment;
  - d. One professional dog trainer in attendance said only a park of 15 or more acres would meet the exercise needs of the Town's dog population;
  - e. One citizen at the hearing was adamant that a dog park was essential for the safety of walkers without dogs. He made a suggestion for a possible site. (The Committee took that under advisement, researched it immediately and found that the parcel he suggested is the site of a town well);
  - f. Hearing attendees gave 'wish list' suggestions of amenities they would wish to see in any Concord dog park (see section V.6);
  - g. A survey was compiled by the Committee and made available at the public hearing. Questions included: Are you interested in seeing a dog park built in Concord? If not interested in a dog park, why not? What does 'dog park' mean to you? Three people completed the survey.
2. The Committee has met twelve times since it was established, with each meeting duly and appropriately announced on the Town website. Over the course of that time, only seven members of the public have attended meetings of the Dog Park Feasibility Study.

## **X. Conclusion**

At this time, the Dog Park Feasibility Study Committee has concluded that a dog park is not feasible for Concord. The reasons are fivefold:

- Considerable cost to the Town (and by extension, to Concord taxpayers, whether or not they are dog owners)
- No standout location for a dog park at this time, one without conflicting use or purpose. In the future, should the issue of whether or not to build a dog park be revisited, others sites be considered that are not available now. Some that may be worthy of future consideration include: the Gerow property, the Middle School properties and 2229 Main Street.
- No volunteer organization in place to work with the Town to address dog issues generally or to oversee the success of a dog park specifically, from the initial stages through on-going use of such a facility
- Lack of community support for a dog park at this time. While there has been a highly public and highly polarized debate in Concord recently on the subject of the 'rights' of dogs to run off-leash on public/conservation land, the Committee, despite concerted effort, did not find that the community at large had interest in a Town-financed dog park. Because community support and involvement is critical to the success of a dog park, the lack thereof precludes, in the determination of this Committee, the feasibility of a dog park at this time.
- Significant fear on the part of dog owners that their rights as citizens of Concord to avail themselves with their dogs of public/conservation land, as has been traditionally allowed for all previous generations of Concord residents, will be compromised if a dog park is built

## **X. Recommendations**

The Committee has determined that a dog park is not feasible at the present time. Future interest and/or new location options may arise, at which time the idea of a dog park could be revisited. In the meantime, this Committee recommends the following:

- A. The formation of a freestanding Committee to serve as a liaison between Town interests and dog-related concerns in Concord. Other communities such as Carlisle, have such a group. The mandate of this group would be to:
  1. Advance public education in dog etiquette at multi-use sites such as Emerson Field and Rideout as well as at trail heads

2. Develop a “Dog Owners’ Rule Book” to be given to all dog owners when licensing their pets
3. Work with the Recreation Department to improve such things as pet/playground buffers and general respect and cooperation
4. Provide a forum for addressing and resolving pet behavior issues
5. Encourage *responsible* shared use of all Concord open spaces
6. To work with similar committees in surrounding communities

B. That existing multi-use public parks in Concord be considered for responsible use by dog-owners. Where such use is already informally in place, that use could be formalized and overseen by a working relationship between the aforementioned freestanding dog committee and the Recreation Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Dog Park Feasibility Study Committee

Anne Umphrey, chair  
Susanne Jarnryd  
Deborah Richardson  
Bob Schulman  
Don Shobrys  
Kate Stout  
Jeff Young



# APPENDIX I

Adopted: October 2, 2017

Town Of Concord  
Dog Park Feasibility Study Committee  
Committee Charge

## A. Purpose

The purpose of the Dog Park *Feasibility* Study Committee is to explore the opportunity to create one or more dog parks in Concord where residents may exercise their dogs in a secure and friendly environment.

## B. Background

*The Town's "2015 Open Space & Recreation Plan" states in a 2014 citizen survey, "the need for a formal dog park was raised as a community desire and requires further evaluation" (p.91). Part of evaluating the feasibility of creating a dog park is to identify one or more sites where a dog park could be located. The evaluation of public land for a possible future dog park is not intended to influence the discussion of whether it would be appropriate to require dogs to be on-leash in certain Town-owned conservation parcels. That determination will be made by the Natural Resources Commission.*

A dog park is a fenced-in area with multiple gated points of entry that allows dogs to roam and play off-leash in a safe manner. Dog owners also are free to socialize while their dogs are playing. This helps new residents establish community connections and is an opportunity for neighbors to stay connected. An area designated for dogs to run off-leash avoids conflicts with other users of public lands such as at playgrounds or public parks.

## C. Membership and Term

The Committee will be comprised of the following members appointed by the Select Board:

Seven (7) citizens at-large from various sections of Concord with diverse backgrounds and at least 2 of which shall be dog owners.

Members shall serve until May 30, 2018 unless the term is amended or extended by the Select Board.

## D. Duties and Responsibilities

1. To consider whether there is interest in and a need for a dog park in Concord as a place designated and reserved for use specifically by dogs and dog owners. And if a need exists, to consider whether there is need for more than one dog park for the convenient access and use by all interested residents of the town.
2. To determine key elements that would be desirable in a dog park, including parking, fencing waste removal, a water supply, and other amenities.
3. To consider whether the need exists for a larger area of land designated for use by dogs and dog-owners that may not be fenced in, which would allow for long, off-leash walks in a wooded or natural area that won't conflict with other users.

4. To review the list of town-owned land for possible use as a dog park and to consider whether there are privately owned parcels which the owners may be interested in allowing to be used for a dog park.
5. To hold a public hearing at the outset of the study process to solicit comments from the community on the need for a dog park, as well as the desired elements and locations.
6. To develop a draft report, including the Committee's preliminary findings and recommendations to the Select Board concerning dog parks, and to hold a second public hearing at which the draft report is publicly discussed and public comments are solicited.
7. To prepare a final report to the Select Board on or about March 1, 2018 on the Committee's findings and recommendations upon reflecting on comments received at the public hearing or otherwise concerning the draft report.
8. The Committee may request that this committee charge be amended to add additional duties, and the Select Board will give the request due consideration.

**E. Other Considerations**

The Committee will conduct business in compliance with all relevant State and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to, the Open Meeting Law, Public Records Law and Conflict of Interest Law. The Committee shall consult with the Town Manager concerning the allocation of town staff or financial resources toward this project.

# APPENDIX II

## Links to DOG PARK GUIDELINES Reviewed by the Dog Park Feasibility Study Committee

1. Ann Arbor, MI Dog Park Guide

<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/Parks-Recreation/play/Documents/Recommendations%20and%20Guidelines%20for%20Dog%20Park%20Site%20Selection%20updated%204-10-15.pdf>

2. El Paso County, TX Dog Park Guide

[https://communityservices.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/Parks\\_Planning/BearCreekDogParkMasterPlan.pdf](https://communityservices.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/Parks_Planning/BearCreekDogParkMasterPlan.pdf)

3. University of California, Davis, Dog Park Study

<http://thestantonfoundation.org/assets/canine/Dog-Park-Resources/UC-Davis-Study-Dog-Park-Maintenance.pdf>

4. London Royal Parks Dog Regulations

<https://www.royalparks.org.uk/managing-the-parks/park-regulations-legislation-and-policies/dogs-in-the-royal-parks>

5. Vancouver, B.C., CA Dog Park Guidelines

<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/people-parks-dogs-strategy-implementation-guide.pdf>

6. Edmonton, Alberta, CA Dogs In Open Spaces Strategy

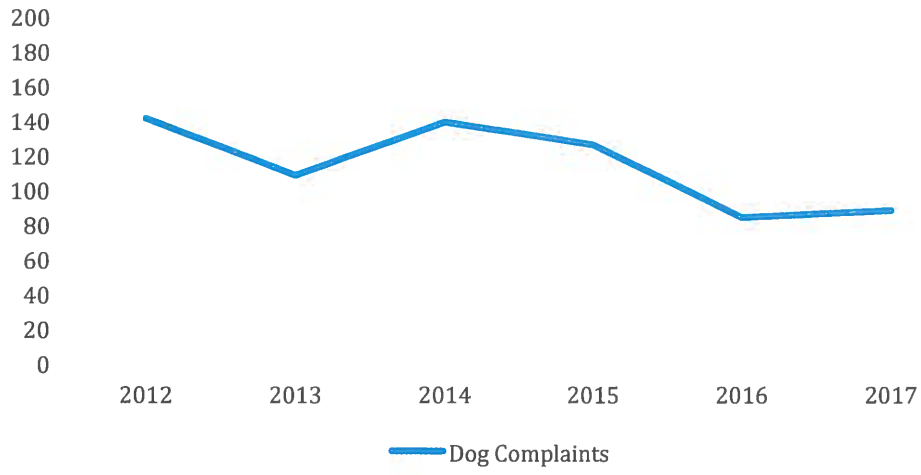
<https://www.edmonton.ca/documents/2016DogsInOpenSpacesStrategy.pdf>

7. American Kennel Club Dog Park Guidelines

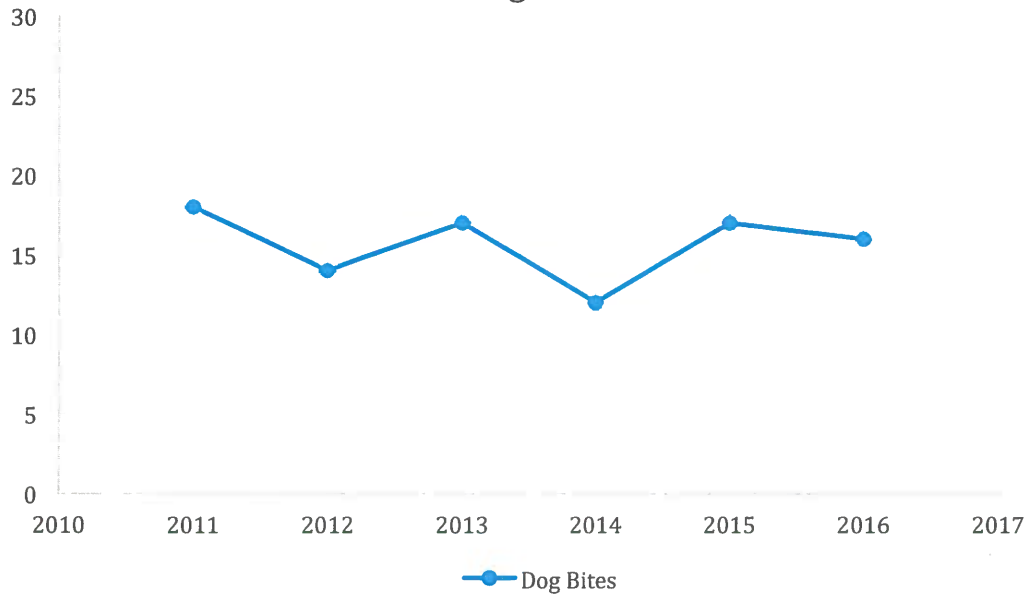
<https://images.akc.org/pdf/GLEG01.pdf>

# APPENDIX III

## Dog Complaints



## Dog Bites



Concord Police Department

## Dog Park Feasibility Study-Potential Sites

Acres	Parcel ID	ADDRESS	OWNER	CO_OWNER	Commonly known as	Features	Current Use
5.01	4067	64A CAMBRIDGE TPK	TOC	DNR	Crosby's Corner (across from gas station)	All wet-no land	Current Use Empty wetlands
5.05	3101-2	14Y JENNIE DUGAN RD	TOC		Jennie Dugan Swamp	All wet-no land	
5.18	1195	40S BEDFORD ST	TOC	HUGH CARGILL	Comeau/Wastewater treatment	Flat	Agricultural
5.28	0374-2	24A SADBURY RD	TOC	DNR	Next to Crosby's Plaza	All wet-no land	Empty wetlands
5.33	1986-7	42A BARRETT'S MILL RD	TOC	DNR	Barrett's Mill Farm		Agricultural
5.42	2475-1	11A PINE ST	TOC	DNR	Next to Assabet River	All wet-no land	
5.61	2971-3	150 FOREST RIDGE RD	TOC	CMLP	Forest Ridge Substation		
5.84	2022-1	49B LAWS BROOK RD	TOC	W&S	long skinny piece of land abutting Acton		
5.92	1320	15Y LOWELL RD	TOC	DNR	Bet Lowell & Monument	All wet-no land, landlocked	
5.94	2891-82	3A HILLCREST RD	TOC	DNR	Thoreau Hills/Kennedy's Pond	Extremely steep, no parking	
6.00	1249-2	18A MONUMENT ST	TOC		Reformatory Branch Trail	Long, skinny, trail	
6.11	0252	25X WALDEN ST	TOC	DNR	Thoreau Amble		Conservation/ passive rec
6.31	4062-1	15B CONCORD TPK	TOC	DNR	Between Rte 2 & Crosby's Pond	Wet, hilly	Empty
6.41	2891-81	10A BORDER RD	TOC	DNR	Approx. 91 Border Rd.	Skinny parcel in a dense neighborhood	Empty
6.45	2019	160Y WRIGHT RD	TOC	DNR	Behind Wright Road	Wet, landlocked	
6.46	2498-2	9 FOREST RIDGE RD	TOC	DNR	Back end of Cousins Park		Community gardens
6.47	2970-1-9	8X THORNTON LN	TOC	DNR	Behind 210-300 Border Rd.	Long, skinny parcel parallel to Border Rd.	
6.90	3083-8	50X BEDFORD ST	TOC	HUGH CARGILL	Behind Thornton Ln. Condos	Landlocked, behind neighborhood	
7.18	1196	15B BARRETT'S MILL RD	TOC	DNR	Wastewater treatment plant leaching fields	Flat	Wastewater treatment
7.18	1950	52X BARRETT'S MILL RD	TOC	DNR	Barrett's Mill Farm	Flat	Agricultural
7.20	1986-10	41A BARRETT'S MILL RD	TOC	DNR	Barrett's Mill Farm	Wet	Agricultural
7.46	1986-5	282 THOREAU ST	CHA		Corner of SHR & Barrett's Mill	Flat	Agricultural-res'd CMS?
7.63	0319-1	25B OLD MILL RD	TOC	DNR	Housing in front-wet beyond Old Rifle Range	All wet-no land	
7.84	3049-2	1231 OLD MARLBORO RD	CPS		Peabody School		Conservation/ passive rec
7.87	2999	25Y LOWELL RD	TOTD	DNR	Egg Rock		
7.91	1735	76B STRAWBERRY HILL RD	TOC	DNR	SHR conservation land		
8.05	1965-1-6	12B BARRETT'S MILL RD	TOC	DNR	Approx 130 Barrett's Mill Rd.	All wet-no land	
8.08	1649-1	10A SANDY POND RD	TOC	DNR	Along Sandy Pond Rd. + Part of Sandy Pond	Wet (1/2 of parcel is Crosby's Pond)	
8.10	4063	28A CAMBRIDGE TPK	TOC	DNR	Wetlands on Cambridge Tpk	All wet-no land	
8.20	4114	416 WALDEN ST	TOC		Back side of Alcott School		Community Gardens & Hugh Cargill Well
8.22	0220	40W BEDFORD ST	TOC	HUGH CARGILL	Wastewater treatment	Flat	Agricultural
8.25	1436-1-5	97A MONUMENT ST	TOC	DNR	Punkatasset	Wooded	
8.25	3412-1	116 SHORE DR	TOC	DNR	White Pond conservation land		
8.62	1205	43A BEDFORD ST	TOC	DNR	Wastewater treatment field	2/3 wetlands, 1/3 field	

8.75	3432	185X SUDBURY RD	TOC	DNR	Between Nashawtic CC and Sudbury River	All wet, landlocked	
8.76	1198	509 BEDFORD ST	TOC	HUGH CARGILL	Wastewater treatment plant	No free land	
8.78	0259-1A	27B CAMBRIDGE TPKE	TOC	DNR	Wetlands on Cambridge Tpk	All wet-no land	
8.88	0272-2	53 WALDEN ST	TOC	DNR	Pedestrian way by 51 Walden	No open space	
9.02	2256-2	22X LAWS BROOK RD	TOC	DNR	Behind Warner's Woods	Steep, wet in middle, no parking	
9.14	0269-2	31Y CONCORD TPKE	TOC	DNR	Back end of Fairyland		
9.14	1948-22	74A BARRETT'S MILL RD	TOC	DNR	Wetlands off Barrett's Mill Rd.	All wet	
9.75	1682	133 KEYES RD	TOC	DPW	DPW		DPW storage
9.79	3000	7B OLD PICKARD RD	CPS		Peabody School		
10.05	2717	39A HARRINGTON AVE	TOC	DNR	Approx. 351 Harrington Ave.	Wet	
10.31	1986-6	14A STRAWBERRY HILL RD	TOC	DNR	Strawberry Hill Rd. Conservation	Wooded, wet	
10.39	4118-2	25A CAMBRIDGE TPKE	TOC	DNR	Across from Fairyland-wet	All wet	
10.73	2278	28A LAWS BROOK RD	TOC	DNR	Next to Domino Dr.	Extremely steep	
10.94	2244	61 LAWS BROOK RD	TOC	Recreation	Rideout field		
11.04	1249	40X BEDFORD ST	TOC		Reformatory Branch Trail	Long thin trail, not suitable for a park	
11.35	3007-1	1045 OLD MARLBORO RD	TOC	DNR	Off Rail Trail, behind Capt Miles I	No access	
11.51	1376-1-?	TBD BALLS HILL RD	TOC	W&S	October Farm		
11.69	4209	33X OLD BEDFORD RD	TOC		By Meriam School	Middle of a neighborhood	Agricultural
12.15	1986-9	52A BARRETT'S MILL RD	TOC	DNR	Barrett's Mill Farm		Agricultural
12.51	2970-1-1	8X FOREST RIDGE RD	TOC	DNR	Paralleling Border Rd.	Thin, L shaped parcel	
12.64	4185-2	11A OLD BEDFORD RD	TOC		Burke-Meriam Farm-	Flat	Agricultural
					Approx 95 Old Bedford Rd.		
12.78	1201	40R BEDFORD ST	TOC	HUGH CARGILL	Peter Spring Farm		Agricultural
13.31	3008-1	97A OLD MARLBORO RD	TOC	W&S	Williams Well	Partially Wet	Well, no public access
13.52	2891-830	20A BORDER RD	TOC	DNR	Thoreau Hills Well area		Well, conservation
13.90	1950-2	33A BARRETT'S MILL RD	TOC	DNR	Barrett's Mill Farm		Agricultural
14.05	1397-19	6A MONUMENT FARM RD	TOC	DNR	Monument Farm	Private road-no parking	Conservation
14.10	4222	18Y OLD BEDFORD RD	TOC	DNR	Behind 138 Old Bedford Rd.	Flat	Conservation
14.34	3080	42B ORNAC	TOC	W&S	Across From Deaconess Well	Very wet-swamp	Agricultural
14.48	0478	47B CONCORD TPKE	TOC	DNR	Back side of South Meadow	Wet	
14.86	0186	26A STOW ST	TOC	Recreation	Field-borders Rte. 2		Recreation
15.62	2712	249 HARRINGTON AVE	TOC	DNR	Emerson Park		Recreation
16.50	4262-12	6Y QUAIL RUN DR	TOC		Harrington Park		Historical/farming
					Hebb Land/Quail Ridge,	Inaccessible from Quail Run bc of water	
					End of Elm Brook Ln.		
16.66	0256-3	20Y CAMBRIDGE TPKE	TOC	DNR	Fairyland/Hapgood-Wright		
17.00	1374-1	26A BALLS HILL RD	TOC		October Farm		
17.46	4187	120 MERIAM RD	CPS		Merriam School		
17.90	4286-1	38A VIRGINIA RD	TOC	DNR	Gaining Ground		
18.53	2476	29 PRAIRIE ST	CPS		Thoreau School		



18.80	1675-1	35A LOWELL RD	TOC	DNR		Davis Land (across the river from Old Calf Pasture)	Wet	Conservation / passive rec
18.81	3417-2	205 HEMLOCK ST	TOC	W&S		White Pond neighborhood	Steep drop off, very tight neighborhood	
19.31	3476	185 POWDER MILL RD	CPS			Willard School		
19.46	1376-1-?	TBD BALLS HILL RD	TOC	DNR		October Farm		
19.95	4262-13	5Y QUAIL RUN DR	TOC	DNR		Hebb Land/Quail Ridge, End of Elm Brook Ln	Inaccessible from Quail Run bc of water	
20.00	4221	13B OLD BEDFORD RD	TOC	DNR		Farmland across fr. Merriam Rd.	Flat	Agricultural
20.38	4268-42	15B VIRGINIA RD	TOC	DNR		Across from Gaining Ground	Wet, Skinny, L shaped	
20.47	1677-1	20A LOWELL RD	TOC	DNR		Old Calf Pasture	Mostly wet-fully floods in spring	
21.96	0477	10A RIVERDALE CIR	TOC			South Meadow	Potential to split off 2 1/2 acre section	Active rec (sports fields)
22.48	0387	38A FAIRHAVEN RD	TOC	DNR		Arena Farm	Half wet, Flat, currently farmed	Agricultural
23.61	3101-1	4Y WILLIAMS RD	TOC	DNR		Jennie Dugan Swamp	Swamp	Town Forest
23.75	0270-1	35Y CONCORD TPK	TOC	DNR		Back side of Town Forest		
24.02	1999-1	1175 ELM ST	TOC	CMLP		Light Plant-between 2A & 2	Rotary	
24.63	3159-1-4	79B ORNAC	TOC	DNR		Across fr. South side of Mattson Field	Almost completely wet, flat	Agricultural
26.26	4093-2	47A CAMBRIDGE TPK	TOC	DNR		Kennedy Farm-no access (across water)	Partially wet/inaccessible	
26.97	0221	91 LAUREL ST	CPS			Alcott School		
27.20	3479-1	139A SUDBURY RD	TOC			Willow Guzzle (Combine with 3479-2)	Partially wet, 4 dry acres, close neighbors	Agricultural/passive rec
27.77	3646	363 ORNAC	TOC	W&S		Deaconess Well	Partially wet-next to Sudbury river	about 5 usable acres
31.59	3010-2-1	835 OLD MARLBORO RD	CPS			Sanborn School		
34.56	4260	26A SHADYSIDE AVE	TOC	DNR		Shadyside Ave	1/2 dry & v. flat, 1/2 wet	Agricultural
35.74	4039	755 WALDEN ST	TOC			Landfill/solar array	Very sloped into a bowl-center has standing water	
37.64	3991	647 SUDBURY RD	TOC	W&S		Abutting Sudbury River	Mostly wet-dry part inaccessible	Empty
39.87	3416-1	48B FITCHBURG TPK	TOC			Back of Wt. Pond from Sudbury	Landlocked	
40.27	4092	56Y LEXINGTON RD	TOC	DNR		Kennedy Farm/Mill Brook-Bet Lex, Hawthorn & Conc. Tpk	Flat	Agricultural
42.62	3634-1	63A ORNAC	TOC	DNR		Mattson Field		
52.00	4012	67X FAIRHAVEN RD	TOC	DNR		Between Fairhaven Bay & Walden Pond-inaccessible		
71.03	0271	55A WALDEN ST	TOC	DNR		Fairyland/Hapgood-Wright		
72.92	2322	214Y MAIN ST	TOC	FINANCE DIR		41 Knox Trail-Bus Depot	Buses, solar array, locked after working hours	
76.29	2017	2X WARNER ST	TOC	DNR		Warner's Pond (the pond itself + small portion wetlands)		
91.51	1436-1-1	86A MONUMENT ST	TOC	DNR		Punkatasset		
94.83	0298	500 WALDEN ST	CCHS			CCHS		High School

96.39	1213	361 BEDFORD ST	TOC	HUGH CARGILL	Sleepy Hollow	
108.05	3055	66B OLD MARLBORO RD	TOC	DNR	Old Rifle Range	
118.53	1981-2	57A STRAWBERRY HILL RC	TOC	DNR	Annursnac Conservation	Heavily wooded

Cemetery

- TOC=Town of Concord
- CPS= Concord Public Schools
- CHA= Concord Housing Authority
- TOTD= Trustees of Town Donations
- DNR=Department of Natural Resources
- FD= Finance Director
- W&S= Water & Sewer Dept
- HC=Hugh Cargill
- DPW=Public Works

Parcel too wet, oddly shaped or inaccessible to contain a 1-2 acre dog park  
 Well (health laws disallow use as dog park)  
 Conservation land with high value or restrictions  
 Maxed out with municipal uses (school, sports field, DPW, etc)  
 Active farmland



# APPENDIX V

## COST ESTIMATE FOR A ONE ACRE DOG PARK\*

\* Mostly from Bedford's cost estimate:

<b>Design:</b>	\$45,000.00
<b>Site Preparation:</b>	
Tree clearing	\$15,000.00
Grading	\$18,000.00
Subsurface	\$10,000.00
Surface	\$11,000.00
<b>Fencing</b>	
5' vinyl (950 lineal ft)	\$40,000.00
Gates	\$2,800.00
Drive gate	\$1,000.00
<b>Hardscape</b>	
entry	\$1,500.00
walkway	\$20,000.00
<b>Infrastructure</b>	
Irrigation	\$3,250.00
Engineering	\$1,500.00
Water service	\$12,000.00
<b>Parking</b>	\$12,000.00
<b>Amenities</b>	
Benches/signage	\$9,000.00
Water fountain	\$4,000.00
Lighting	\$10,000.00
Landscaping	\$5,000.00

Shade trees \$3,000.00

Legal costs \$10,000.00  
**\$234,050.00**

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$234,050.00**

(Does not include land acquisition or upkeep)

**Estimated Annual Maintenance**

trails \$1,000.00  
mowing \$2,000.00  
waste disposal \$2,000.00  
snow removal \$2,000.00  
Insurance \$3,000.00  
Reserves for replacements \$2,500.00  
resurfacing \$5,000.00  
**\$17,500.00**

(fencing, water line repairs, etc.)

**Comparable nearby towns dog park costs:**

town	size	cost	annual costs
Medford	12,000 ft2	\$250,000.00	\$10,000.00
BillERICA	1/2 acre	\$200,000.00	\$10,000.00
Bedford	1 acre	\$200,000.00	\$10,000.00
Westford	2 acres	\$250,000.00	\$10,000.00
Auburn		\$200,000.00	

# APPENDIX VI

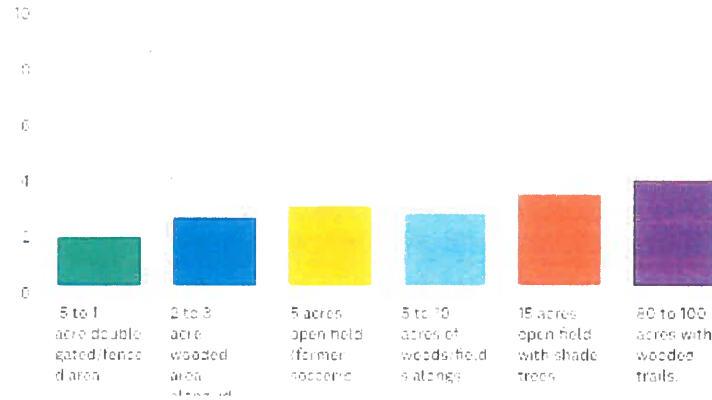
## Concord Dog Owner Survey: In Depth Question Analysis

Q8

Customize Export

How likely would you be to use the following hypothetical size/type dog park?

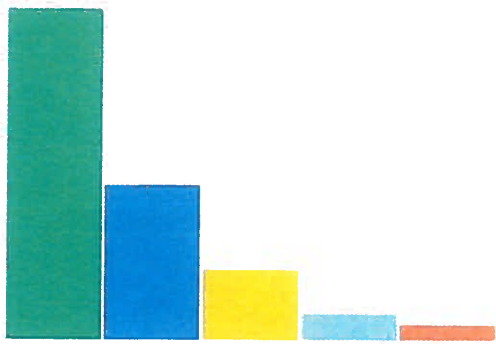
Percentage of respondents



	NOT AT ALL	NOT VERY LIKELY	SOMEWHAT LIKELY	VERY LIKELY	EXTREMELY LIKELY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
5 to 1 acre double gated/fenced area, covered in wood chips (similar to Maynard dog park)	55.32% (17)	25.65% (8)	11.87% (4)	4.54% (1)	2.62% (1)	100%	2.62%
2 to 3 acre wooded area alongside river on former industrial site	26.84% (8)	26.32% (8)	29.12% (9)	12.46% (4)	5.26% (2)	100%	24.4%
5 acres open field (former soccer/baseball field next to woods)	18.51% (6)	20.60% (7)	29.95% (10)	19.54% (7)	11.62% (4)	100%	28.8%
5 to 10 acres of woods/fields alongside fenced highway	23.40% (7)	23.49% (7)	24.50% (8)	21.00% (7)	7.47% (2)	100%	21.7%
15 acres open field with shade trees, water spigot and mostly fenced in town center	12.76% (4)	16.78% (5)	22.55% (7)	23.78% (8)	24.13% (8)	100%	33.0%
80 to 100 acres with wooded trails, fields, hills and pond away from traffic, but somewhat out of town	9.25% (3)	9.42% (3)	16.75% (5)	22.69% (7)	41.88% (14)	100%	45.6%

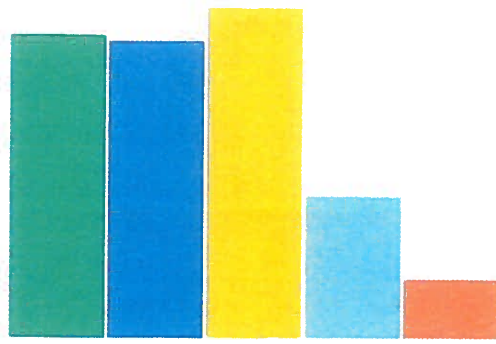
# Concord Dog Owner Survey: In Depth Question Analysis

## Question 8: Breakdown of each type parks' desirability



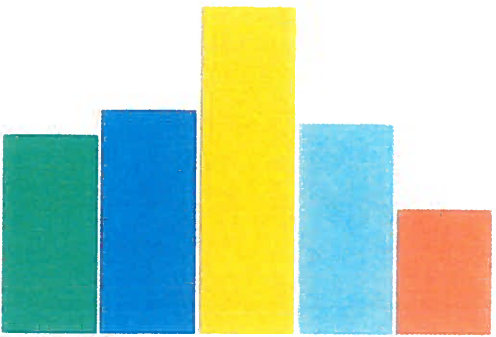
5 to 1 acre double gated/fenced area, cover...

NOT AT ALL	NOT VERY LIKELY	SOMEWHAT LIKELY	VERY LIKELY	EXTREMELY LIKELY
85.23%	25.78%	11.85%	4.53%	2.61%



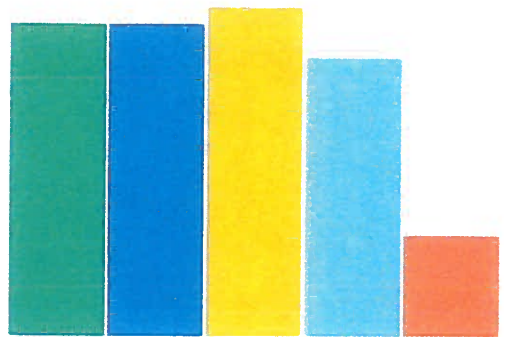
2 to 3 acre wooded area alongside river on f...

NOT AT ALL	NOT VERY LIKELY	SOMEWHAT LIKELY	VERY LIKELY	EXTREMELY LIKELY
6.72%	4.31%	7.76%	16.20%	64.83%



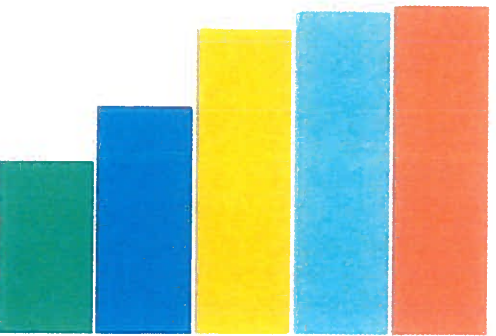
5 acres open field (former soccer/baseball fi...

NOT AT ALL	NOT VERY LIKELY	SOMEWHAT LIKELY	VERY LIKELY	EXTREMELY LIKELY
18.25%	26.53%	30.18%	16.47%	11.58%



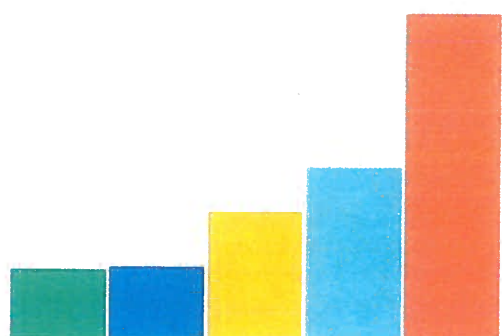
5 to 10 acres of woods/fields alongside fenc...

NOT AT ALL	NOT VERY LIKELY	SOMEWHAT LIKELY	VERY LIKELY	EXTREMELY LIKELY
25.40%	23.40%	24.65%	20.92%	7.62%



15 acres open field with shade trees, water s...

NOT AT ALL	NOT VERY LIKELY	SOMEWHAT LIKELY	VERY LIKELY	EXTREMELY LIKELY
12.72%	16.72%	22.47%	23.87%	24.22%



80 to 100 acres with wooded trails, fields, hil...

NOT AT ALL	NOT VERY LIKELY	SOMEWHAT LIKELY	VERY LIKELY	EXTREMELY LIKELY
9.42%	9.57%	15.70%	22.43%	42.09%

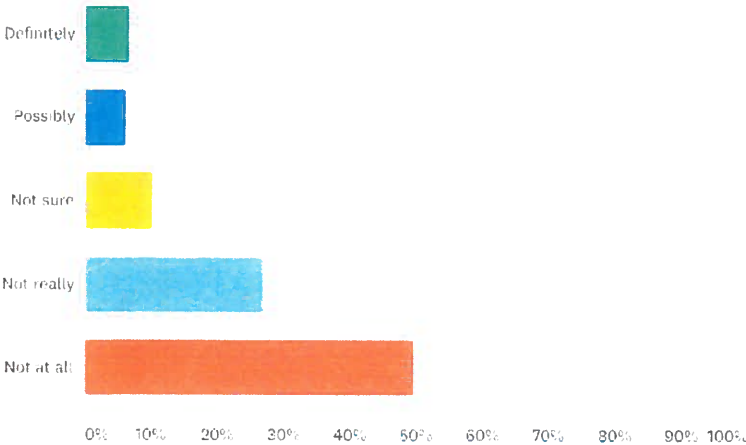
# Concord Dog Owner Survey: In Depth Question Analysis

Q9

Show Benchmark    Customize    Export

## Would you prefer to use a dog park instead of conservation land?

Answered: 580 (100%)



**ANSWER CHOICES**

- ▼ Definitely
- ▼ Possibly
- ▼ Not sure
- ▼ Not really
- ▼ Not at all

**RESPONSES**

6.72%	39
6.38%	37
10.17%	59
26.90%	156
49.83%	289

**TOTAL**

**580**

# APPENDIX VII

## Dog Park Feasibility Study Committee Public Hearing May 22, 2018

Committee members present:

Susanne Jarnryd  
Deborah Richardson  
Bob Schulman  
Don Shobry  
Kate Stout  
Ann Umphrey  
Jeff Young

The meeting was called to order at 7:05. The committee, Select Board Chair Tom McKean, and 25 members of the public were present. Ten more members of the public came during the course of the hearing.

The Committee members and Tom McKean were introduced. Anne reviewed the path forward and gave a recap of the committee's activities, and then asked for comments from the public. Her comments are included at the end of this document.

Martha Gilpatrick, 140 Revolution Road: Is this to supplant existing locations or in addition to existing locations? How big would this be?

Committee Chair Anne Umphrey replied that, as far as we know, this is in addition to existing facilities and we are assessing interest. The size is to be determined.

Michael Dettlebach, 89 Assabet Avenue: It would be helpful to know what other kinds of dog facilities are out there? Are there url's you can steer us to?

Committee Clerk Don Shobry replied that the committee's minutes are online and refer to specific examples, and also contain some urls.

Marlene Boyaner, 1540 Monument Street: What process does this have to go through to get approval?

Tom McKean replied that the committee's charter goes through the end of the year, and it would be up to the Select Board to determine what to do next. If there is any significant cost involved with the next steps, it would likely go before the Town Meeting. This is not intended in lieu of existing facilities, and will most likely be a multi-year process.

Penny Rodday, 6 South Mountain Ridge: What have you done up to date? (She came in after Anne gave her recap) Have you done any surveys? I would not favor a dog park when we have such beautiful areas to walk through.

Committee member Jeff Young briefly described his own survey, which had 650 responses.

Judy Bernard, 107 Deer Grass Lane: I do not agree with the AKC guideline, (which suggest a minimum of 1 acre and recommend as much space as possible). The minimum should be between 10 and 15 acres with three separate fenced areas for small, large and senior dogs, respectfully. It should include paths that dogs can run on, safe access to water, with things for dogs to do. I worry that we could end up with an acre or two of mud that would sit idle most of the time.

Carol Aronson, 7 Wright Farm: I would not use a dog park. I have an active dog and I want to be able to play catch. There would not be enough space to do that in a 1 to 2 acre park.

Donna Peterson, 355 Lexington Road: I would like a contained area. There is a fabulous area in Kennebunk, Maine of 2 to 3 acres covered with mulch, which never has more than 8 dogs at a time. It has dog runs, loose tennis balls, a kiddie pool and dog bag dispenser. People take responsibility for cleaning up.

Marianne Zasa, 73 Hugh Cargill Road: This is my second dog. The dog park design does not address dogs being aggressive and owners that don't pay attention to dogs.

Ronnie Olitsky, 264 Bedford Street: Is the dog park in Maine only open to local dogs?

Donna responded that it is open to local communities but she did not know if they had a system to control access.

Marlene Boyaner, 1540 Monument Street: I go to Maynard because I had a young dog that would go out of Emerson park. Some people that go there are incapacitated. I would love to see a park in Concord.

Marcia Schloss, 86 Hillside Avenue: I have two dogs that get pummeled by other dogs. I am still not convinced that a dog park will not be used to impose other restrictions on dogs. Also, will the town incur any liability?

Lisa Resnick, 45 Laurel Street: Have people asked if the dog park will lead to other restrictions? If you want a true sense of whether they want a dog park, they need to know if there would be any more restrictions.

Tom McKean noted that the Select Board does not control the Natural Resources Commission (NRC), which gets its authority from the state and controls conservation lands. There is also land owned by conservation trusts. The Select Board only controls the lands owned by the Town of Concord that are not designated as conservation lands. The Select Board does not control what the

NRC or land trusts do. Land availability keeps changing and additional properties may come under the control of the Select Board.

Lisa: Does any one know the size of Emerson?

Committee members replied that Emerson is about 14 acres.

Dinny McIntyre, 26 Simon Willard Road: I would not use a dog park. I would see it as a solution to an urban problem that we don't have. Dogs need to be able to run. We have met people who are afraid to let dogs off leash because they would run. Instead of investing in a park, can we invest in training or use the money in other ways?

Rob Morrison, 63 Monument Street: I have no desire for a dog park and support Dinny's points. We should be using open space to exercise dogs.

Cheryl Baggen, 3 Bolton Street: There are advantages to having a dog park. The larger the better, you don't need to have the young and old dogs separated. It would be nice to walk dogs early or late.

Judy Bernard, 107 Deer Grass Lane: A dog park might not be a bad idea because there are dogs that need to be in fenced areas, if it is done right. Dogs need amenities like agility style obstacles. The problem at Emerson is that people don't pay attention to their dogs. There should be space for people to train their dogs.

Committee member Kate Stout – Do we need to educate people on dogs?

Judy – Yes

Committee Chair Anne Umphrey – Would people like to see training sessions? Also, there is the Yuppy Hour they have at a dog park in the south, where a beer truck pulls up in the late afternoon and serves adult beverages.

Comment from audience: In Toronto, on the beaches, there is a fenced section off the boardwalk where dogs can run.

Amy Hanselmann, 37 Nimrod Drive: I have a good dog but I have seen dogs run out of Emerson. Can we put gates in? It makes it more accessible for less money than creating a dog park. What has happened in other places? Have there been donations?

Ned Perry, 362 Bedford Street: This dialog is going on too long in this town. Look at the Brunswick, Maine Dog Park. It is totally fenced, with small dog and large dog areas, and is 1 to 2 acres in size. Relative to fencing Emerson Field, where dog walkers don't always pay attention to when their dogs eliminate, dogs should be someplace else. The perfect place is between the garden plots, town wells, Alcott School, and the Courthouse. There is a path from Alcott to Walden Streets. The committee should talk to the 12,000 people who can't go out because of dogs(?). My wife was attacked 3



times by the same dog, and there should be an easier way to submit dog complaints. This is a rural problem as well as an urban one.

Committee member Jeff Young commented that dog problems should be reported to the Police. Committee member Kate Stout stressed the need for public education.

Martha Gilpatrick, 140 Revolution Road: Don't paint all dog owners with the same brush. Look at the denominator. There is a way to educate people.

Carol Aronson, 7 Wright Farm: The survey in 2014 that indicated interest in a dog park did not ask respondents if they had a dog, and if they wanted a dog park. The motivation for building a dog park should come from dog owners.

Ronnie Olitsky, 264 Bedford Street: Not everyone has children but we still build schools.

Marcia Schloss, 86 Hillside Avenue: There are two dog parks in Gloucester worth looking at.

Michael Dettlebach, 89 Asabett Avenue: I like seeing the dogs in Madison Square Park in Manhattan. I go to Emerson to find dogs for my dog to play with

Bonnie Polakoff, 68 Whits End Road: I do not want a dog park if it becomes political and the NRC votes to keep dogs off of trails. Otherwise I have no objection.

We then had a general discussion of desirable attributes for a dog park. People wanted enough space and access to trails so that they can walk around with their dogs. They would like to see agility equipment and classes, and a water source like a pond. They also mentioned parking, fenced in areas for the dogs that need it, benches, good drainage, accessibility, double gates at entrances/exits, poop bag dispensers, lighting, tennis balls and chukkers, frisbees, and plowing of snow. One person commented that she would prefer to see amenities be put in place over time rather than waiting for the perfect facility to be built.

Anne thanked the public for attending and the hearing was adjourned at 8:20.

### **Opening Statement by Committee Chair Anne Umphrey**

Welcome

We are here as part of the charge that the Select Board gave to the Dog Park Feasibility Committee.

This included:

1. Consider whether there is an interest in and a need for one or more dog parks in Concord.
2. Determine the key elements that would be desirable in a dog park, and the amenities desired.
3. Consider the size and type of dog park, fenced (?) and/or paths for long off-leash walks.
4. Review a list of town owned land for possible use as a dog park and whether there are privately owned parcels that might be available.

At the end of this process the Committee is to develop a draft report including the Committee's preliminary findings and recommendations to the Select Board concerning dog parks and to hold a second hearing to present the draft report and solicit public comments before making a final report to the Select Board.

What we have done so far:

The Committee has looked at types of dog recreation facilities in use in the US and Canada, reviewing more than 30 different ones, collecting and reviewing descriptions and guidelines including cost estimates for development and use of these facilities.

The Committee has met with Marcia Rasmussen, Director of planning and Town Management who introduced the Committee to the Concord Geographic Information System, or GIS. She has provided an overview of the town lands and what bodies have the responsibility for managing them. The public can access these maps by going to <https://www.concordma.gov/461/Geographic-Information-System-Program>

Jill Moonheron, Concord's GIS analyst has kindly provided overlays to the website showing how dogs are distributed across Concord by size.

Kate Hodges, Assistant Town Manager has provided an overview of recreation terminology and practices.

Ryan Kane, Director of Recreation, has discussed the properties under the purview of the Recreation Department and dog-related issues associated with recreation facilities and programs.

As part of the charge to the Committee the Select Board requested it to hold a public hearing to solicit comments from the community on the need for a dog park, the desired elements and possible locations. So here we are this evening.

We wish to solicit from you your thoughts on a dog park for Concord.

The floor is open for comments and questions. We will try to answer from what we have gleaned already but mostly this is for you to speak to us.

Please state your name and address. And please make your comments and questions somewhat brief, and to the point. We are not here to hear complaints on what has been, but to look forward to what could be.