



Dogs and Parks: A Conversation

Public Comment Summary

September 4, 2019

City of Madison Parks Division



Process Overview

- Phase I: Data Gathering and Public Engagement
 - July and Mid-August 2019
- Phase II: Policy Development
 - Mid- August to September 2019
- Phase III: Board of Parks Commissioners Policy Review
 - October 2019

Guiding Lenses

- **Equity:** The inherent worth of each individual in Madison should be esteemed and fostered, enabling them to reach full potential.
- **Public Health:** The access and contribution to mental and physical health of a community.
- **Sustainability:** Management of resources to promote welfare and equity for current and future generations.
- **Adaptability:** Preparedness and ability to respond to and recover from hazards and threats with minimal damage to safety, health, security, and the economy.



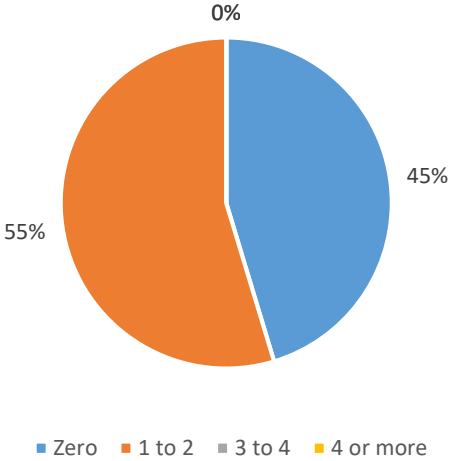
Public Meetings

<u>Dogs and Parks Meetings</u>		
Location	Date	Attendees
Warner Park Community Center	July 16, 2019	21
Memorial High School	July 17, 2019	24
Villager- Atrium Community Room	July 23, 2019	14
Central Library	July 25, 2019	13
Sennett Middle School	July 30, 2019	7

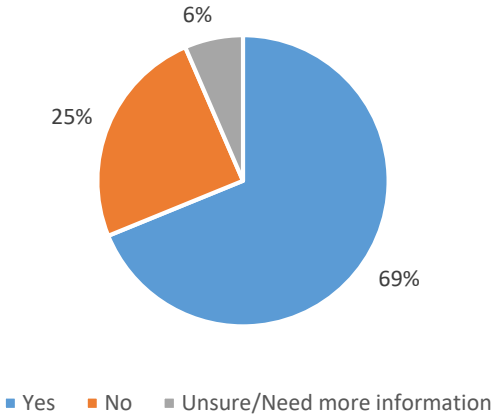
Public Meetings

iClicker Data

How many dogs live in your household?



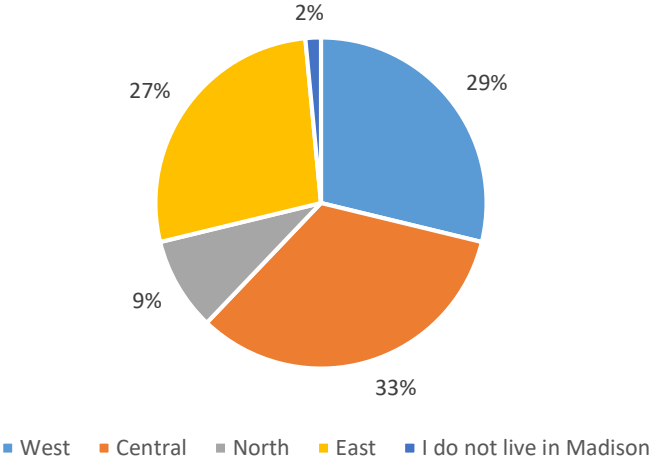
In general, do you think dogs should be allowed in City of Madison parks?



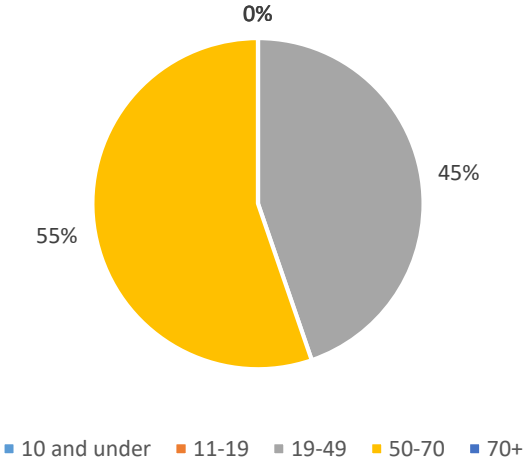
Public Meetings

iClicker Data: Demographics

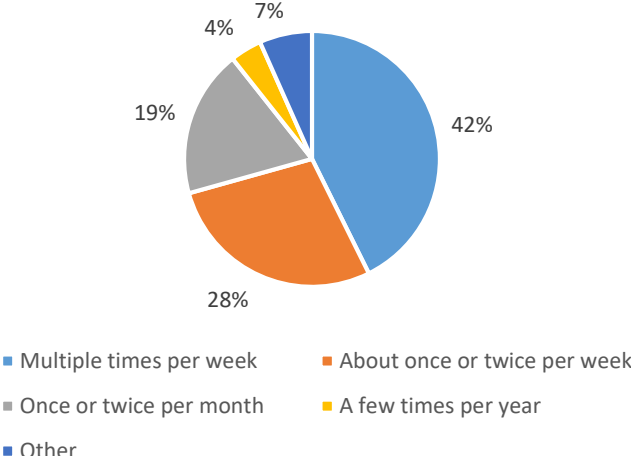
In which general area of Madison do you reside?



What is your age?



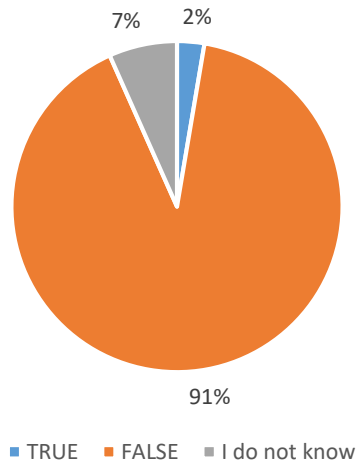
How often do you visit a City park?



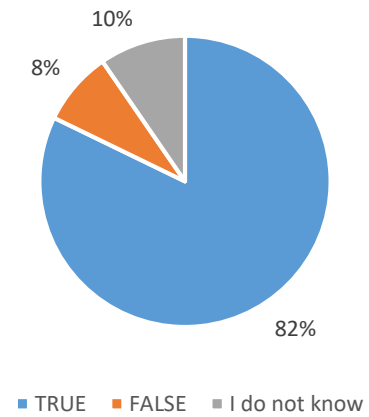
Public Meetings

iClicker Data

It is OK for me to walk my dog off-leash in a park.



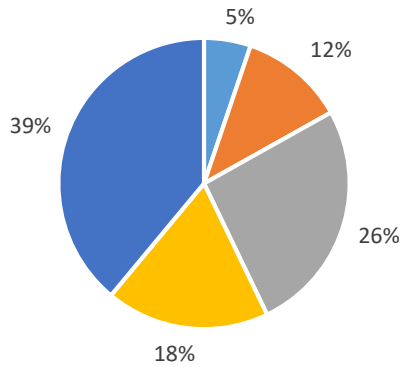
In certain parks, I am allowed to walk my dog on a leash as long as I stay on a paved path.



Public Meetings

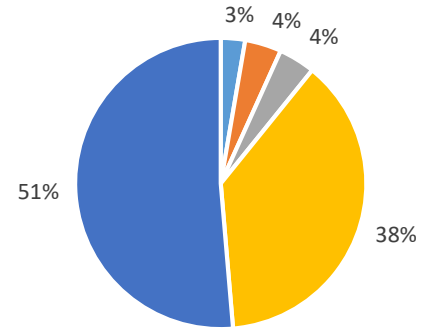
iClicker Data

How often do you walk your dog at off-leash parks?



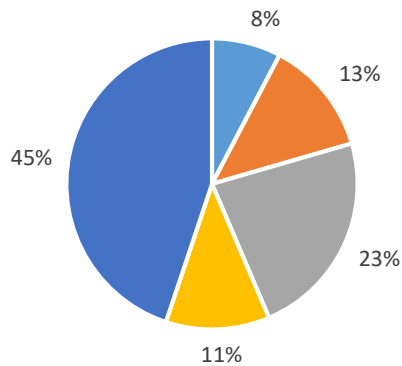
■ Daily ■ A few/Week ■ A few/month ■ Rarely ■ I don't walk a dog

How often do you walk your dog off-leash at a park?



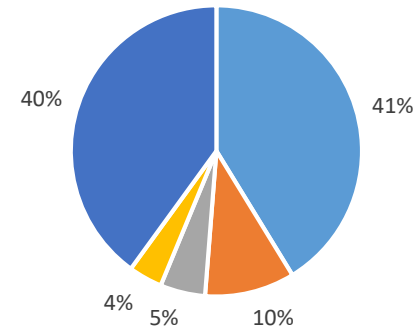
■ Daily ■ A few/Week ■ A few/month ■ Rarely ■ I don't walk a dog

How often do you walk your dog on-leash in a park?



■ Daily ■ A few/Week ■ A few/month ■ Rarely ■ I don't walk a dog

How often do you walk your dog on public sidewalks?

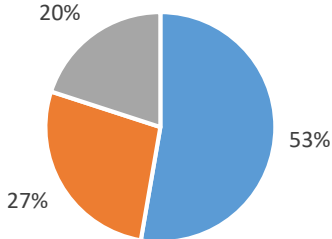


■ Daily ■ A few/Week ■ A few/month ■ Rarely ■ I don't walk a dog

Public Meetings

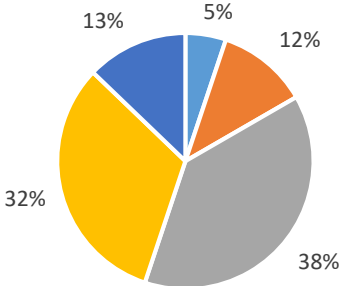
iClicker Data

If dogs are allowed in City of Madison Parks, should they be allowed:



- In all general parks
- In some or select general parks
- Dogs should not be allowed in parks

If dogs are allowed in City of Madison parks, should they be allowed:

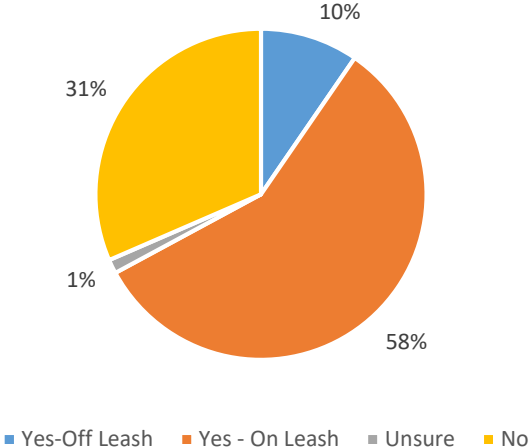


- Off-leash, throughout the park
- Off-leash, only in certain areas of the park
- On-leash, throughout the park
- On-leash, only in certain areas of the park
- Dogs should not be allowed in parks

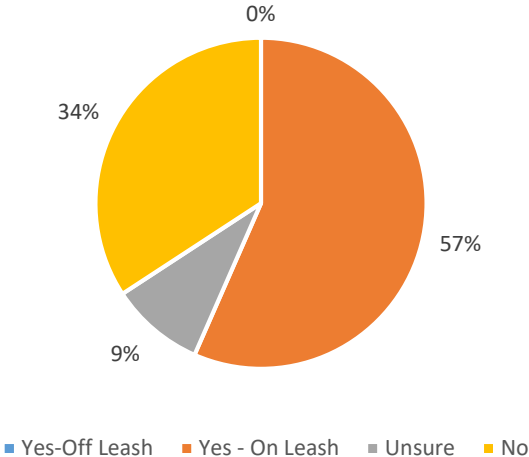
Public Meetings

Small Group Activity Data

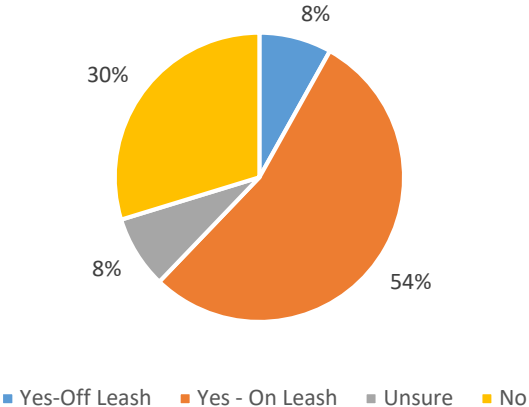
Access to Picnic Shelters and Dogs



Access to Restrooms and Dogs



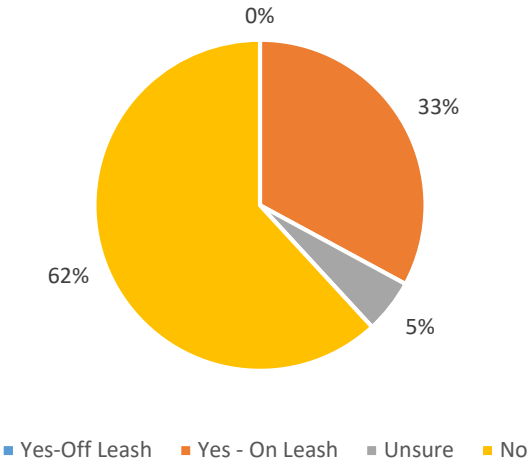
Access to Large Shelters and Dogs



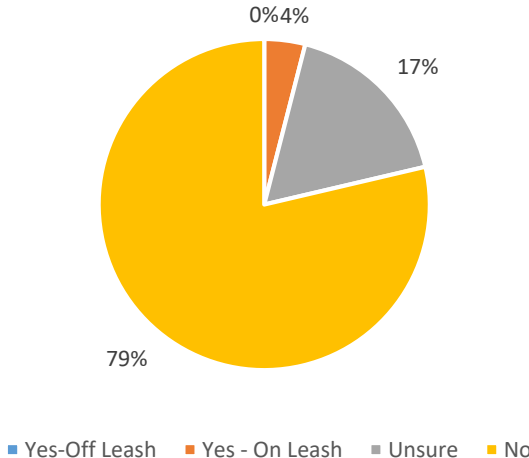
Public Meetings

Small Group Activity Data

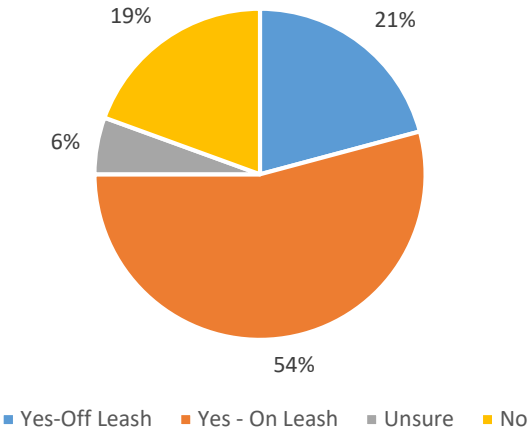
Access to Playgrounds and Dogs



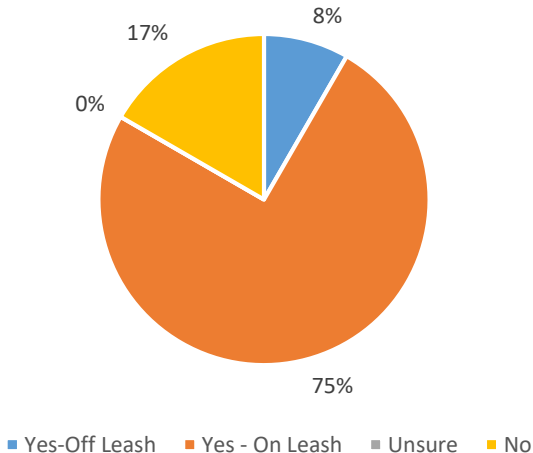
Access to Splash Pads and Dogs



Access to Unpaved Paths and Dogs



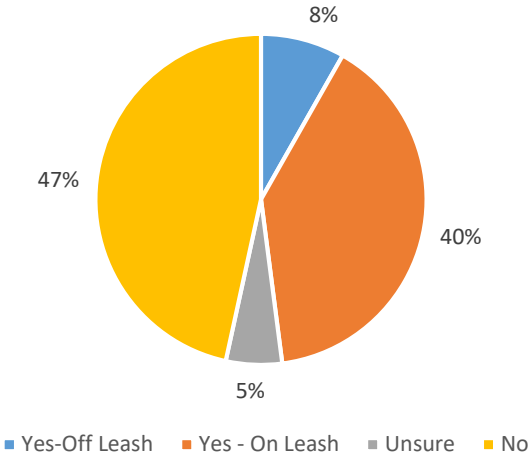
Access to Paved Paths and Dogs



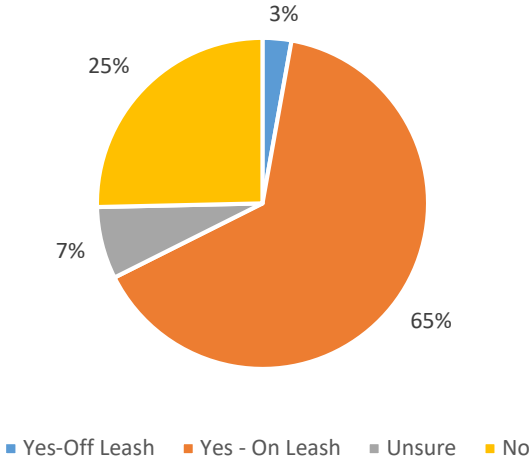
Public Meetings

Small Group Activity Data

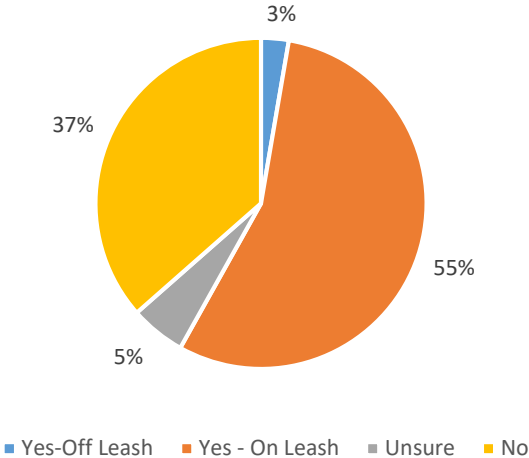
Access to Beaches and Dogs



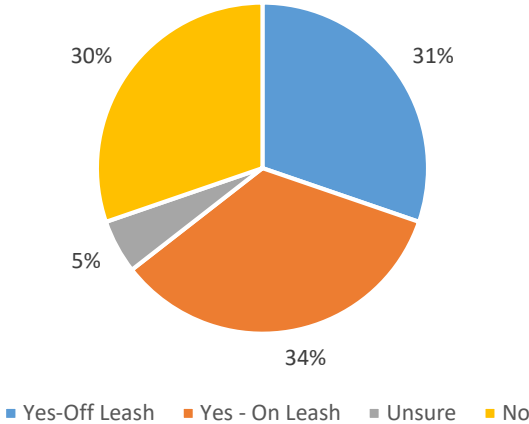
Access to Boat Launches and Dogs



Access to Fishing Piers and Dogs



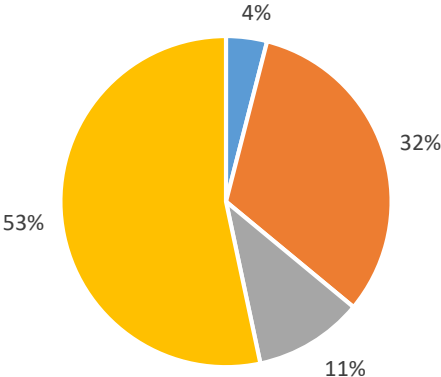
Access to Shorelines and Dogs



Public Meetings

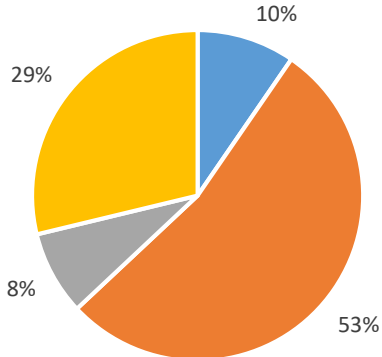
Small Group Activity Data

Access to Programmed Sport Fields and Dogs



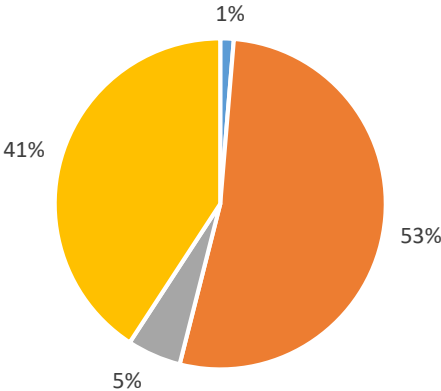
■ Yes-Off Leash ■ Yes - On Leash ■ Unsure ■ No

Access to Unprogrammed Sports Fields and Dogs



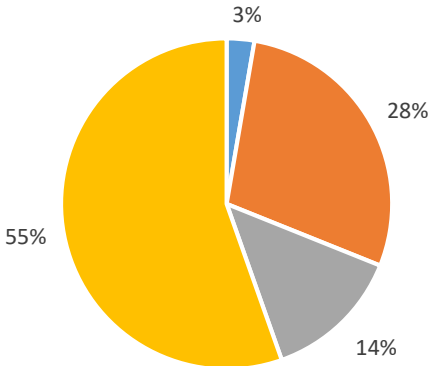
■ Yes-Off Leash ■ Yes - On Leash ■ Unsure ■ No

Access to Spectator Areas and Sports



■ Yes-Off Leash ■ Yes - On Leash ■ Unsure ■ No

Access to Sport Courts and Dogs

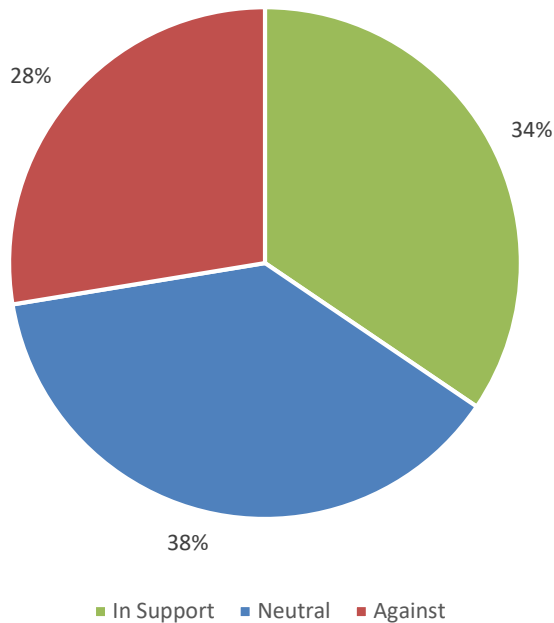


■ Yes-Off Leash ■ Yes - On Leash ■ Unsure ■ No

Public Meetings

Comments and Question Card Data

Dogs and Parks Public Meetings: Policy Comment Summary



Received Comments, Synopsis

Against Policy Expansion

- Dogs will displace other park users
- Health, Safety, and Impacts on Wildlife
- Increase Enforcement Instead
- Park Safety
- Sanitary conditions and dogs near children/wildlife
- This is a dog-owner issue and not a dog issue; increase enforcement

For Policy Expansion

- Access to city parks their right as taxpayer; fine dog-owners for misbehaving dogs
- More off-leash parks
- Need both off-leash and on-leash
- Off-leash in fenced areas
- On-leash everywhere
- On-leash everywhere; have ~25 dog-free parks
- On-leash in common areas; off-leash where low foot traffic
- On-leash only
- Park Walkability
- Policy should reflect society

Neutral

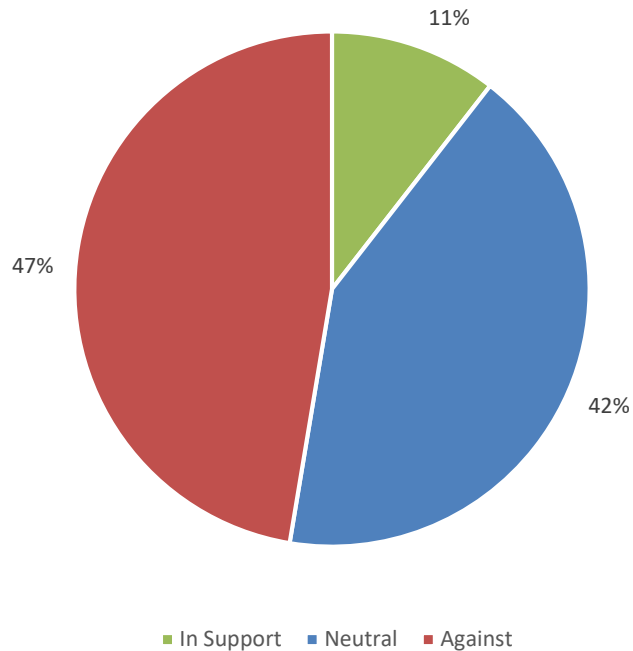
- Alternate days or set specific times for dogs
- Dog waste not being cleaned more a problem at parks that ban dogs
- Dogs are banned but not other pets
- Get feedback from families; consider costs from ordinance change
- Have a dog beach
- Impacts on Wildlife
- Leave this decision to the neighborhoods
- Park Safety
- Respect and Accommodation
- Should inventory parks for animal habitants; identify parks by large apartment buildings
- Train volunteers to monitor dogs in parks

Grand Total: 29 comments

Comments Received Outside of Public Meetings

Emails and Web Portal Submittals

Dogs and Parks Electronic Comment Submittals:
Summary



Community Survey Data

General Survey Data

Total number of surveys received: 1971

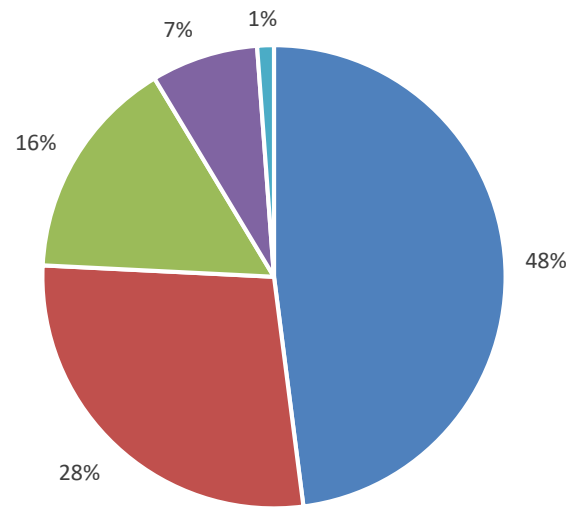
Main survey was open from 7/15/19 around noon to 8/19/19 at noon.

Spanish and Hmong surveys were open 7/26 to 8/19/19 at noon. (Zero surveys were received in Hmong or Spanish.)

Due to a misunderstanding, the zip code question was added on 7/23/2019 (we collected 610 surveys after that date)

Community Survey Data

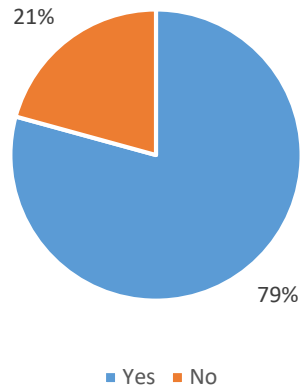
How often do you visit a City park?



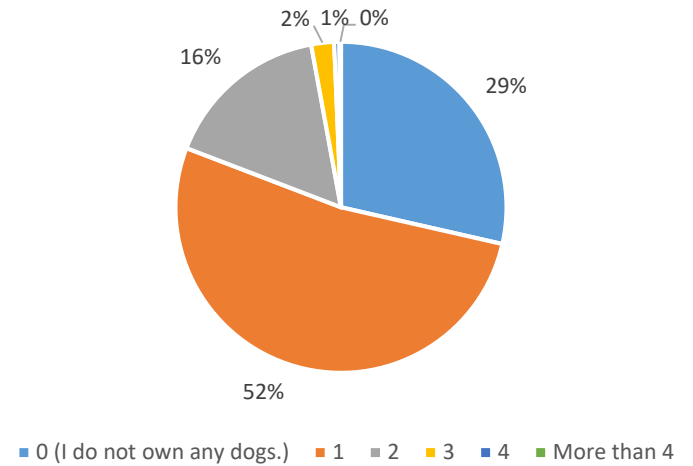
- Multiple times per week
- About once or twice per week
- Once or twice a month
- A few times a year
- Other

Community Survey Data

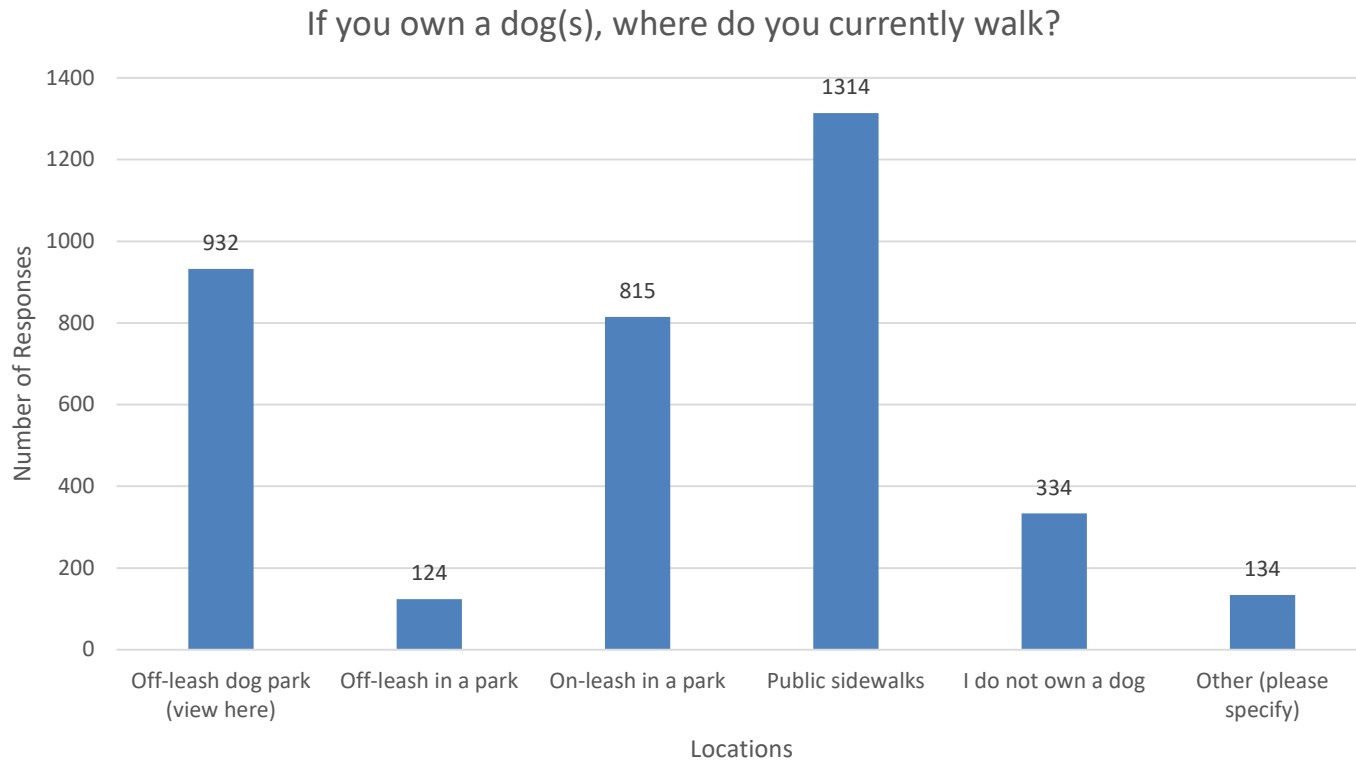
In general, do you feel dogs should be allowed in City of Madison parks?



Do you have a dog (or dogs) in your household?

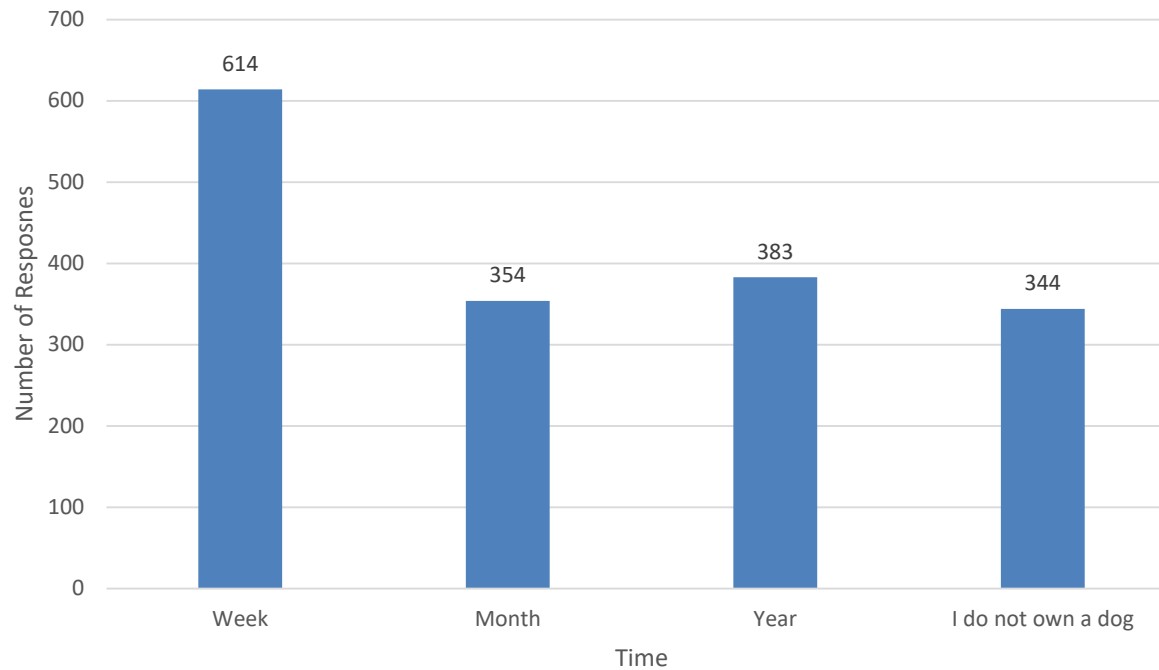


Community Survey Data

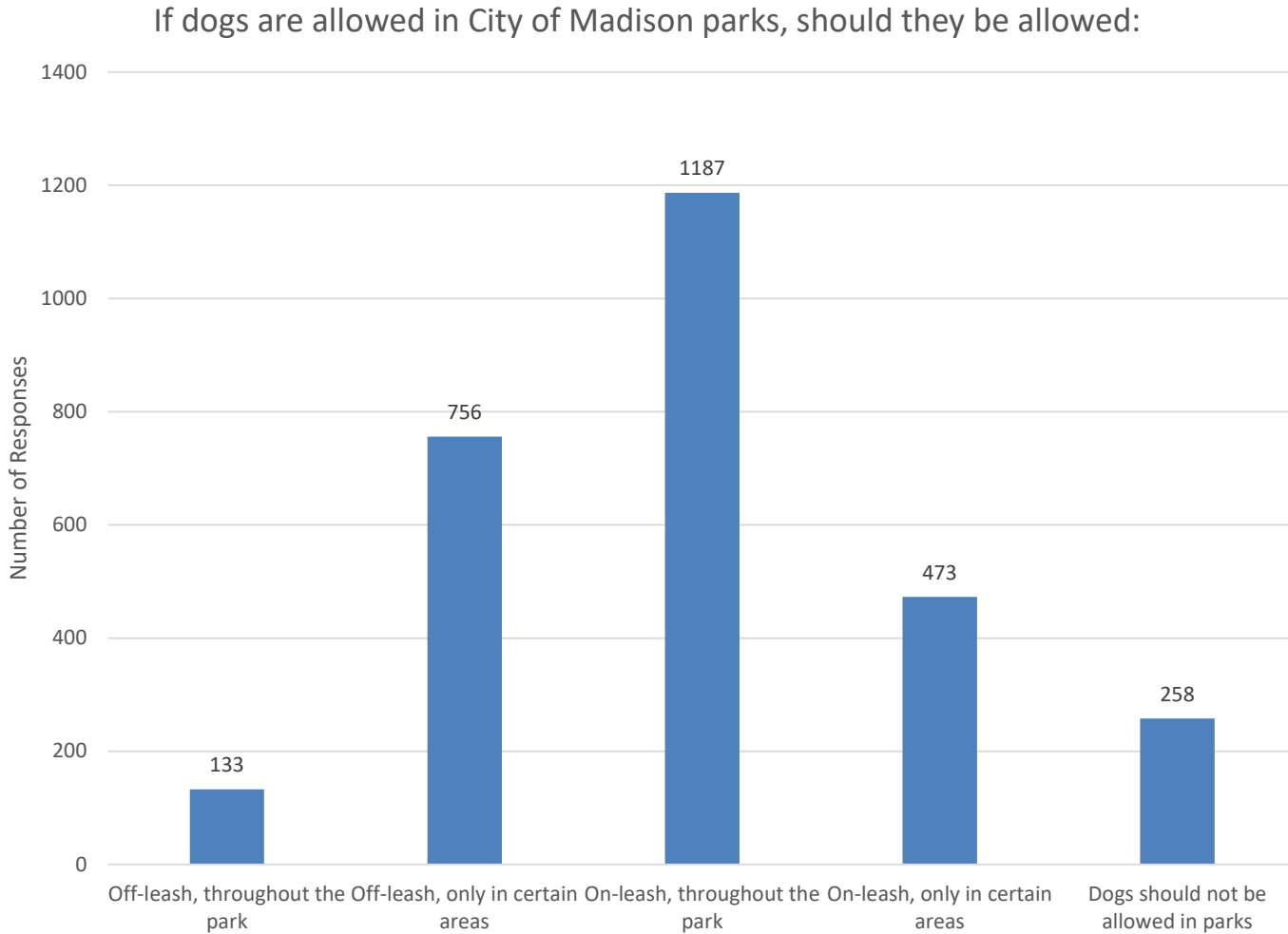


Community Survey Data

If you own a dog(s), have you visited an off-leash dog park area in the past...

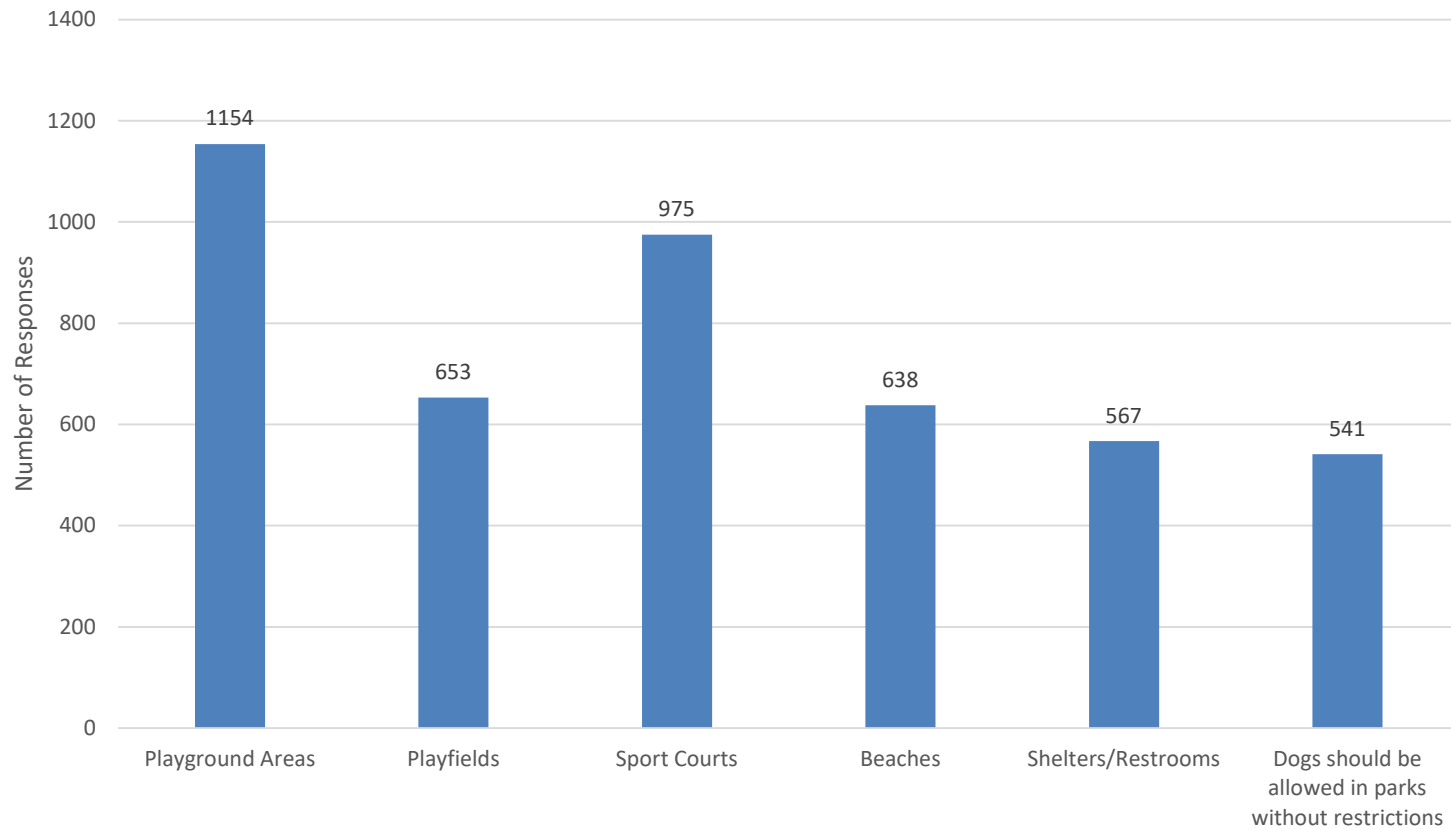


Community Survey Data



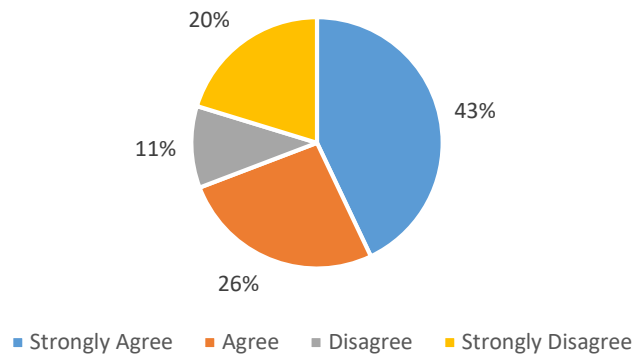
Community Survey Data

If dogs are allowed in City of Madison parks, should they be restricted from certain areas of a park, such as:

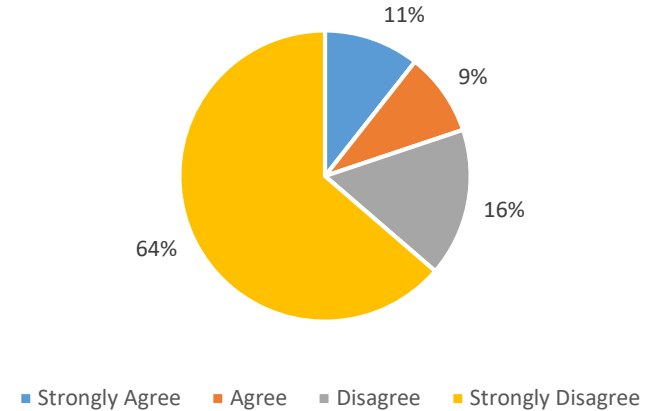


Community Survey Data

The current ordinance restricting dogs in parks prevents me from using the City parks as much as I would like.

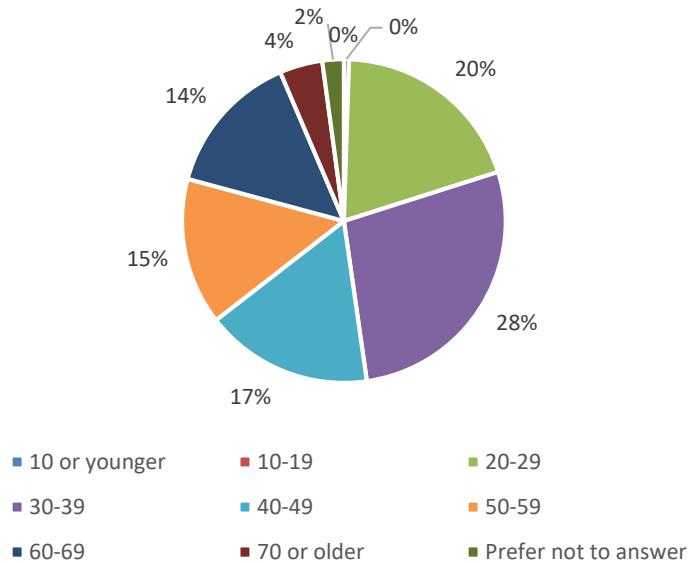


The presence of dogs in parks prevents me from using the City parks as much as I would like.

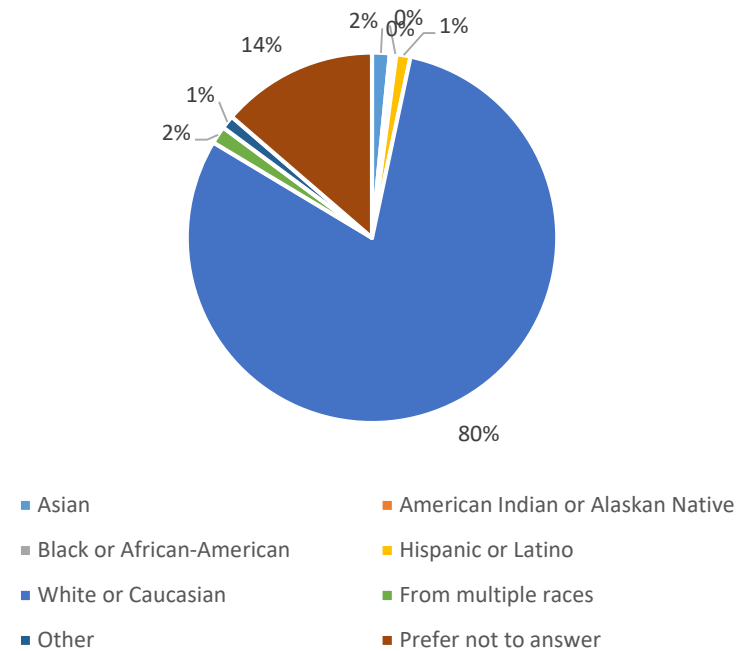


Community Survey Data

What is your age?

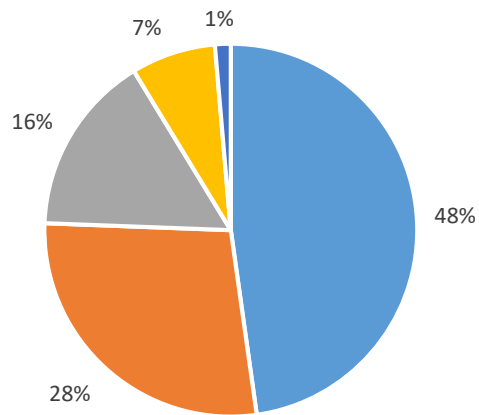


How do you identify your race?



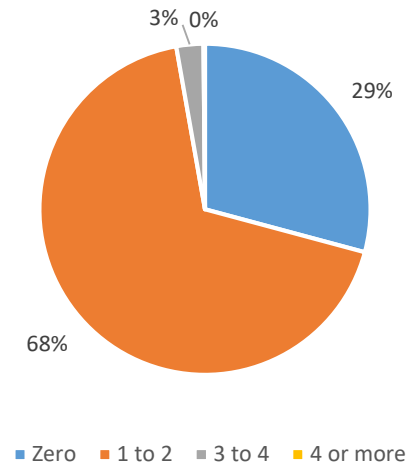
Community Survey Data/iClicker Data Combined

How often do you visit a City park?



- Multiple times per week
- About once or twice per week
- Once or twice per month
- A few times per year
- Other

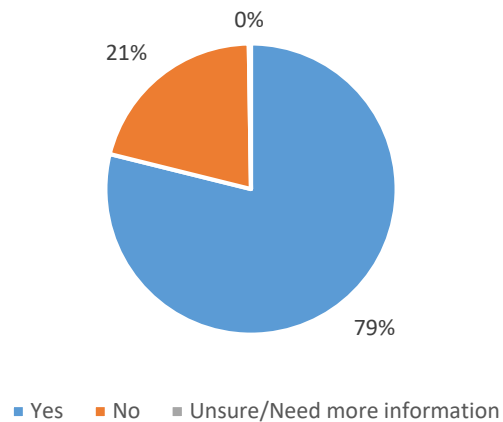
How many dogs live in your household?



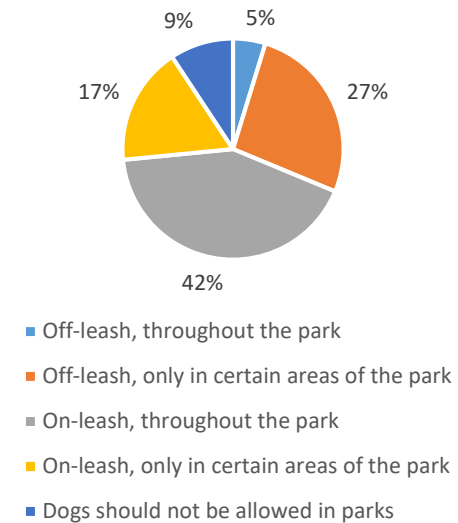
- Zero
- 1 to 2
- 3 to 4
- 4 or more

Selected Community Survey Data/iClicker Data Combined

In general, do you feel dogs should be allowed in City of Madison parks?



If dogs are allowed in City of Madison parks, should they be allowed:



Community Survey Question 10 Summary

Q10 Please share any additional comments or concerns regarding Madison General Ordinance 8.19.

804 Survey respondents provided an answer:

- 29% expressed concerns or appeared to be against an ordinance change to allow dogs access to more parks.
- 49% of the answers appeared to be in favor of the change
- 5% expressed neutral answers
- 17% of the answers were unrelated to the question at hand or were unclear to the point that we could not classify them.

Project Website

Updates at

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/dogs-and-madison-parks>

