

# 2020 Dog Park Survey

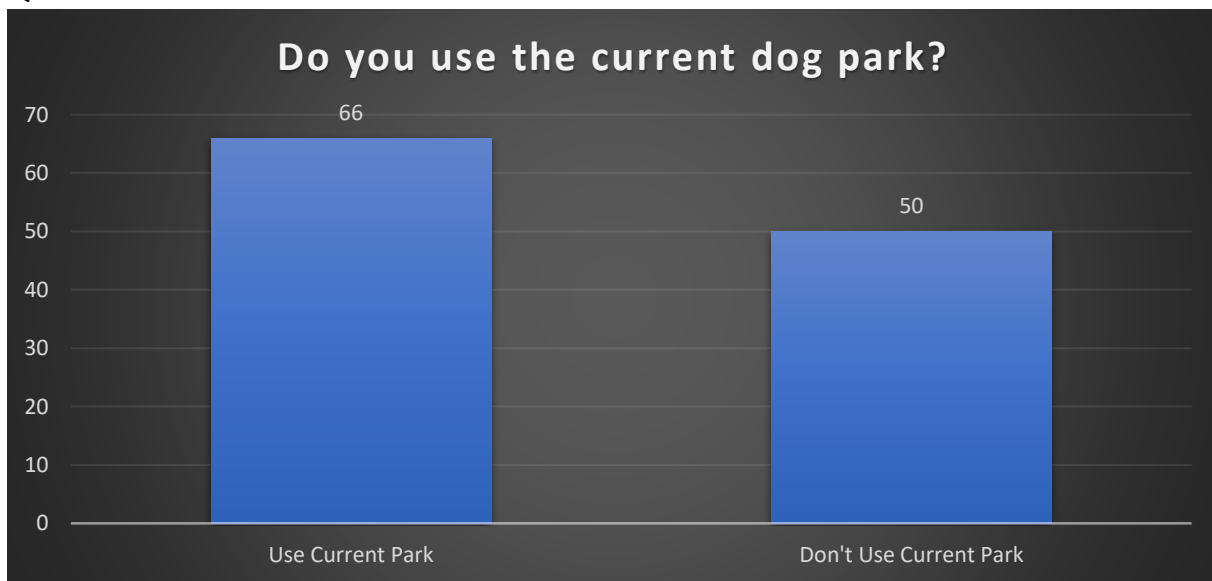
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Go Dog North Shore (GDNS) launched an online dog park survey on February 10, 2020. The survey was advertised through a variety of outlets including the GDNS Facebook page, Cook County News Herald, WTIP radio, Boreal Community Media, a public outreach event at Voyageur Brewing Company and by word of mouth. Given the dates that the majority of survey responses were submitted it appears that most respondents found out about the survey through Boreal Community Media. As of March 3, 2020, 121 people had responded to the survey. The primary objectives of the survey were:

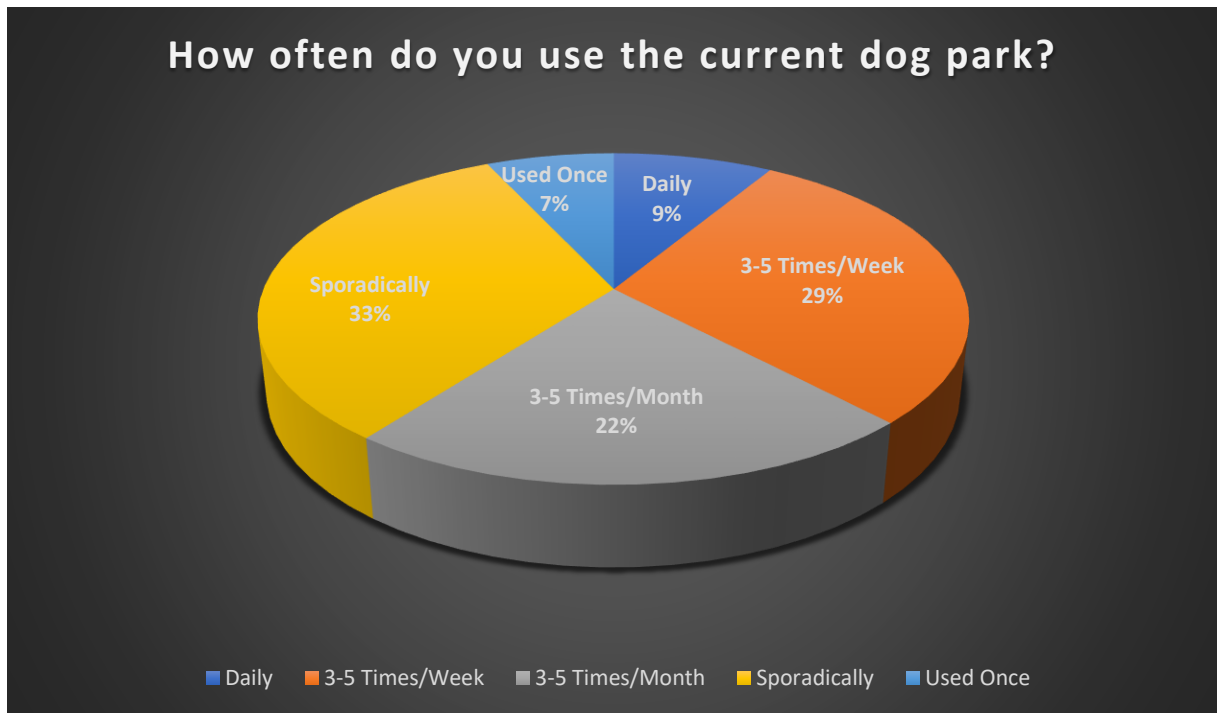
- ✓ Determine how many people use the current dog park & frequency of use
- ✓ Determine why people don't use the dog park
- ✓ Identify individuals that would be willing to maintain the current and/or future dog park
- ✓ Gather feedback on what a future dog park should consist of

The survey consisted of 10 questions, many of which were open-ended and allowed the respondent to provide a lot of feedback. One statistic that particularly stands out is that while only 56% of those that responded to the survey use the current park, 94% of the respondents provided feedback on what they would like a future dog park to consist of. In a nutshell, 94% of the survey respondents (109 people) would like to have a dedicated off-leash dog park available to them. The tables below summarize the results for each question.

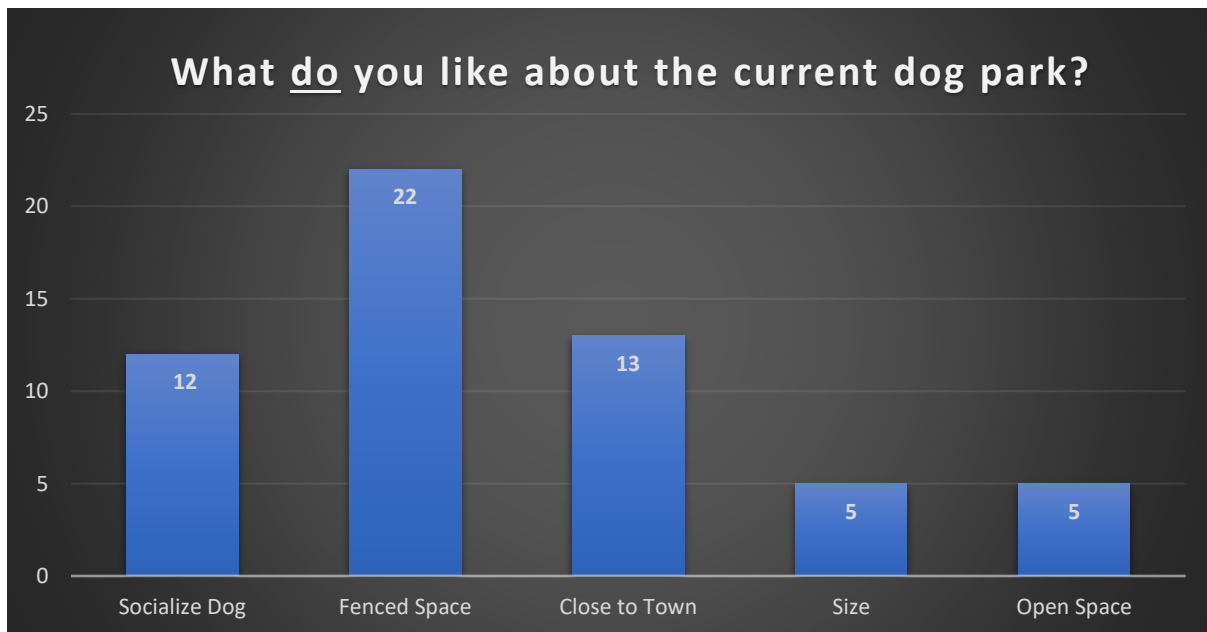
## Question #1



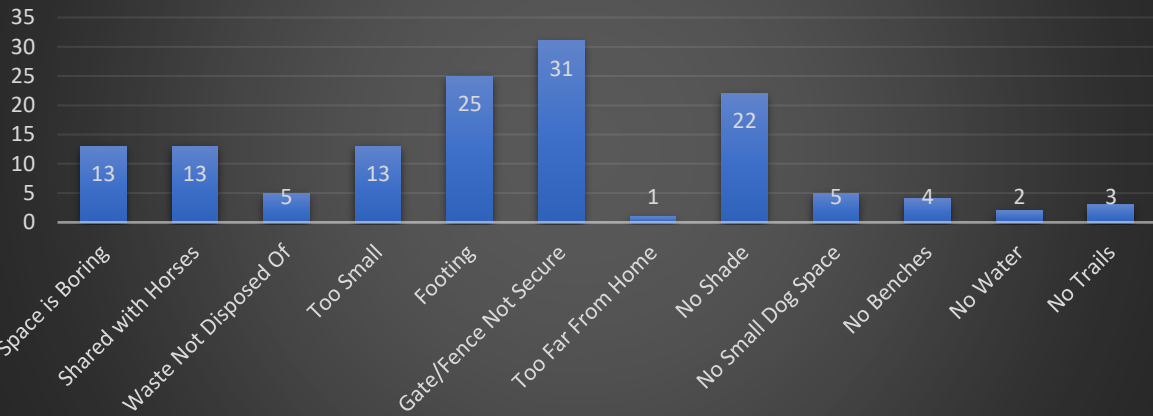
Question #1, Part 2



Question #2



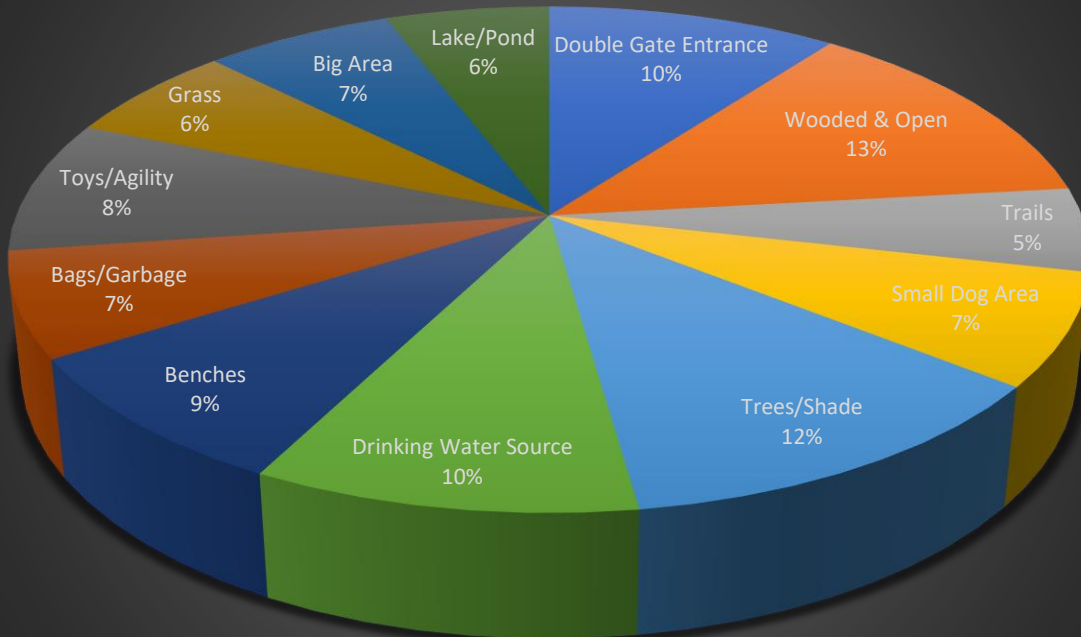
## What don't you like about the current dog park?



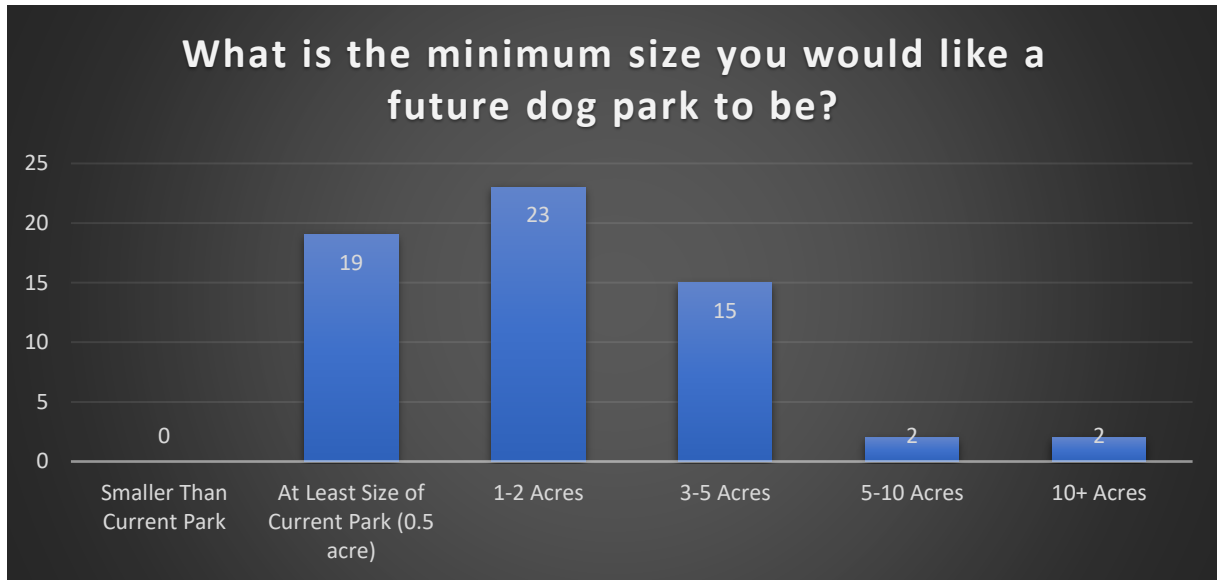
### Question #3

A total of 116 people responded to this question. Of those 116 responses, 109 of them provided details on what their ideal park would consist of. The other 7 respondents provided unrelated or negative feedback concerning dogs or dog parks.

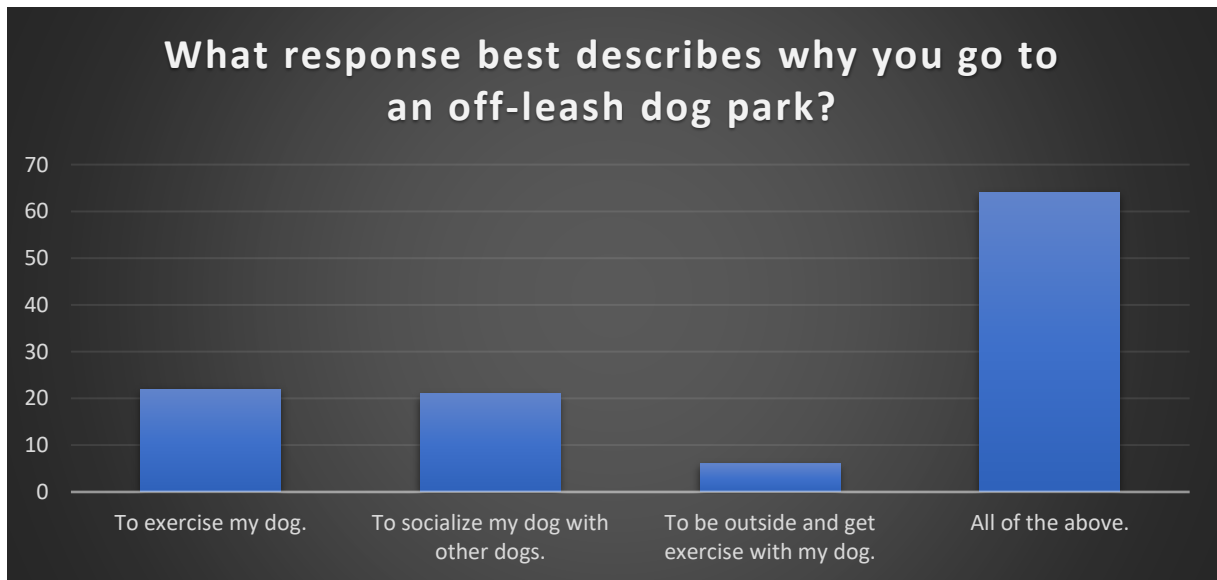
## What would your ideal dog park consist of?



**Question #4**



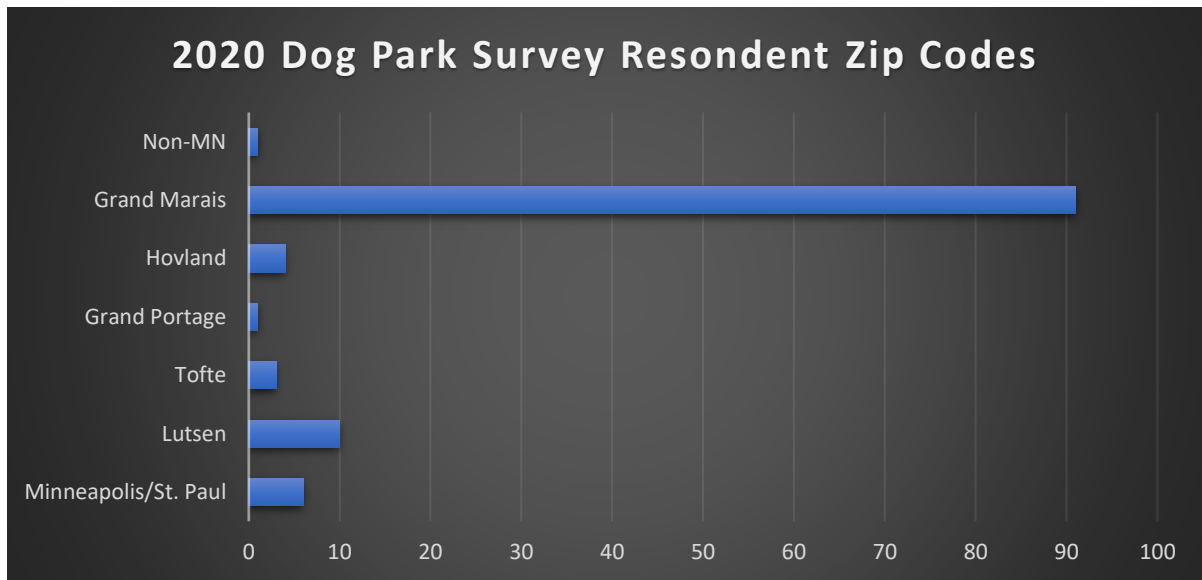
**Question #5**



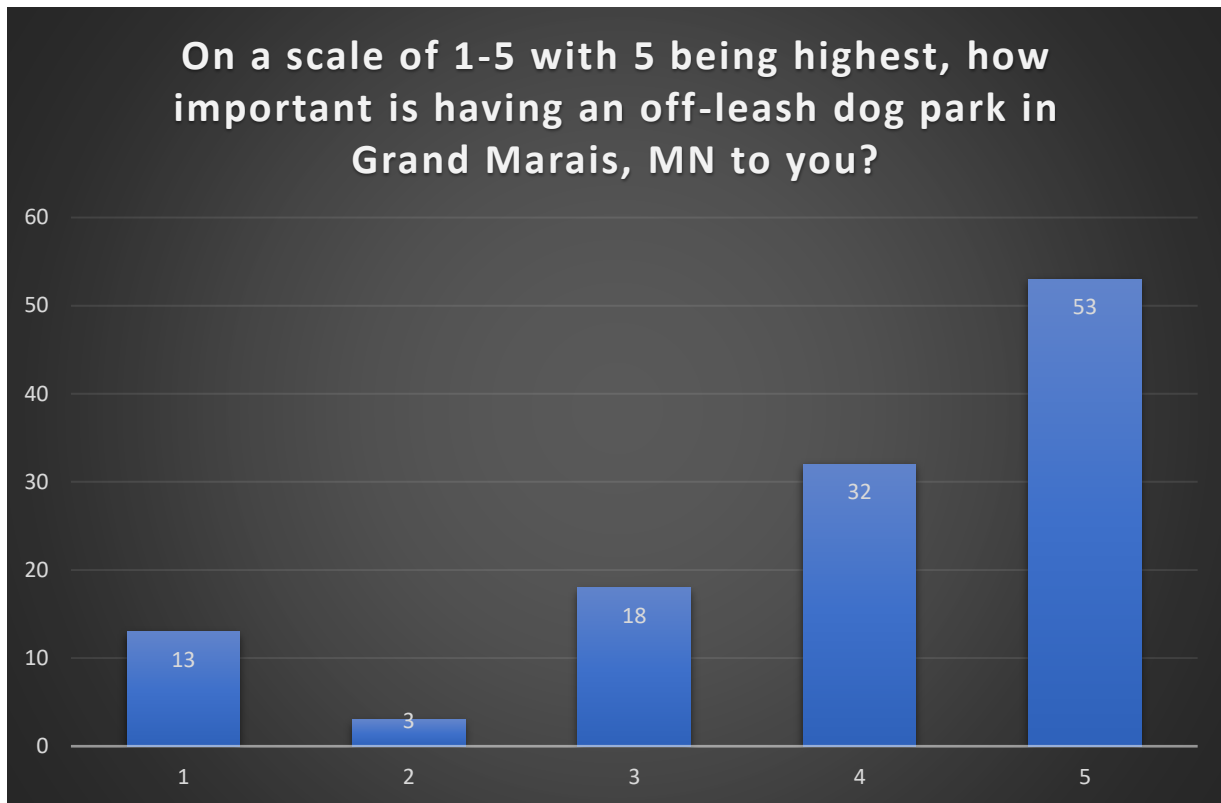
**Question #6**



**Question #7**

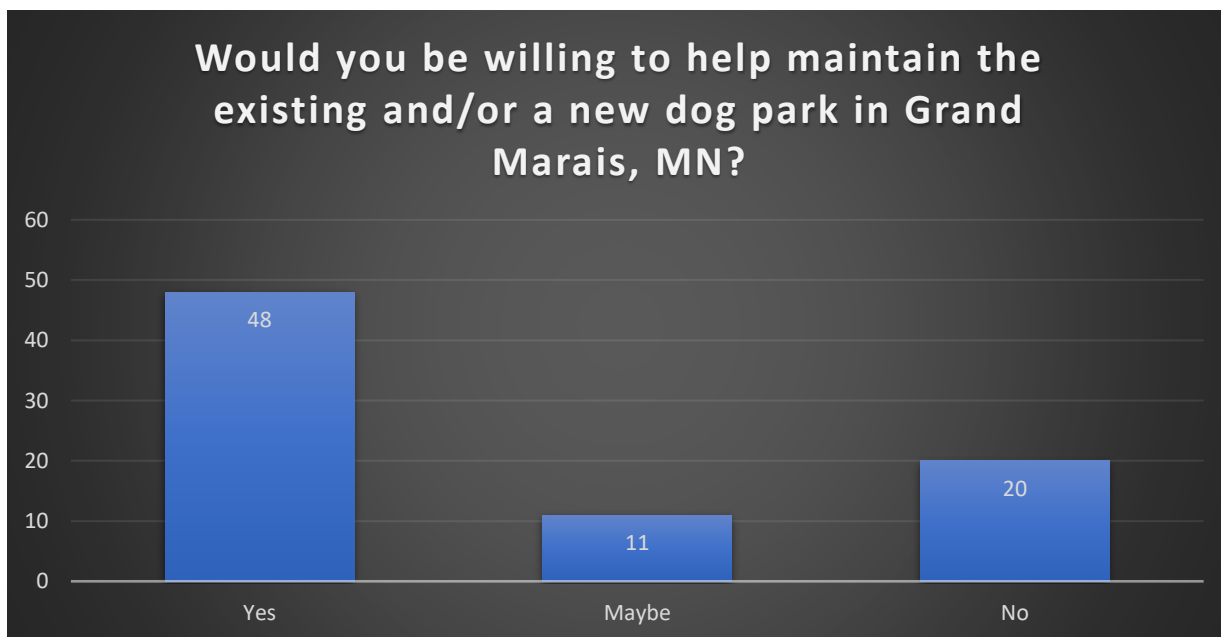


**Question #8**



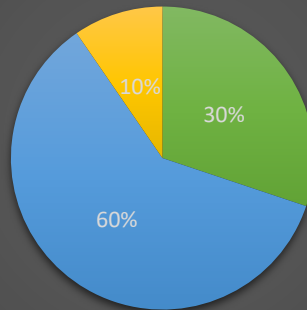
The overall response to this question yielded an average rating of 4.

**Question #9**



## Question #10

Please share any additional comments or insights you would like to share with GDNS regarding the existing or a new dog park.



- Thank you GDNS for your efforts to maintain a dog park/providing a chance to give feedback
- Additional ideas on what a future park could look like
- Negative comments about dogs and/or dog parks

A total of 73 people responded to this question. Below is a sample of some of the comments received in Question #10.

We've been experiencing many different dog parks in the metro area. They are fun areas to meet other dogs and other people. As always, it's important people pick up the poop!

Could charge small fee to pay for upkeep of park.

In addition to Grand Marais being a dog-friendly home, it's also billed as a dog-friendly destination. That means people - visitors and locals alike - need a safe and secure place to walk, run, and play with their dogs within the city limits. The current infrastructure (horse arena, rec park in the off-season, safe streets) is inadequate to meet the needs of dogs.

Thanks for all your work and efforts

A big concern is ongoing maintenance, including poop disposal. Even if there is only a small percentage of users who don't clean up after their dog, it won't take long for poop to build to the point that it becomes unpleasant to use. How will this be addressed? Who will be responsible for maintenance, the city, county, GoDogNorthShore, or some kind of cooperative arrangement of the above? This would be a large area that would need to be fenced (secured). Where does the money come from to get that done, and who installs it? Can volunteers help? It needs to be done well. Professionals may need to do some parts (installing gates and secure corners). The fence may need to be 6 feet high in order to provide security in winter when there is packed snow inside the fence. (I had a 4 foot fence that was almost completely covered in places during the winter. Shared space does not work well for either party.

Appreciate the efforts in providing the current dog park area. Looking forward to having a dedicated dog park. Locals and visitors would all benefit and would be a plus for our town. In the fund raising, don't limit it to just the cost of the installation but start something for the up-keep/maintenance because something will happen and then at least there would be a bit to get it fixed. Could a secure donation box be placed at a dedicated dog park (thinking something like a car meter). Thanks again for organizing and getting people involved!

I've NEVER seen any horses at the dog park, do they even use it any more??

the option of a dog park encourages responsible pet parenting

It would make sense to have a new park near wherever the new dog pound is located.

For a town with SO MANY dogs, a dog park is as needed as a child's playground. Compliance for keeping dogs leashed elsewhere in town will remain high if there's a designated area for dogs to run.

we need to communicate with frequent users as well as tourists that an off lease dog park is a shared responsibility of users which is not the same as taxpayers or other groups that people who do not want responsibilities can complain to

It is an important community amenity for tourism and visitors.

Thanks for asking. Public input is so important.

On one of the questions I responded with I like the arena area if that's all we could have, but I like the idea of a fenced walking area for toileting reasons , their needed sniffing , walking, running for activity too w/ out cars And I like to have our dog meet, greet other dogs as well. But, lashing them first and see how they get along.

I'm very disappointed that we won't be able to use the current arena, because the horses rarely use the facilities.

Thanks for your efforts on this. An improved dog park would be a great asset for locals and visitors to the area.

Would love a better dog park for Grand Marais. There are so many dogs and owners, locals and visitors that would benefit. They are a real positive when traveling with dogs. We are a very dog friendly town and a beautiful dog park fits with our area.

Would be willing to pay a yearly fee for the park--would that be feasible for others?

Good job on what you've done. I know a lot of people enjoy it!

I would love to have a dog park this is used more often by other people and their dogs. We often go and have the place to ourselves. I'd like my Golden to have more opportunities to play with other dogs.

I am excited to see a community that supports families and pet owners. I love when we visit in the summer and there are pet friendly patios (Wunderbar) to dine and water bowls offered as we stroll the street (Dockside!!)



This is a quality-of-life issue for the humans and the dogs. Well exercise dogs and humans make for a healthier place to live. we have met so many people and been invited to their homes all across the country because we have a dog and we take care of it. It builds instant trust. This is a community building activities similar to a playground for children. There has been a significant rise in the percentage of people and travelers who own dogs. At least 50% of our customers bring dogs. This would be a great asset to our tourism community not unlike bicycle trails and craft beer breweries. This is just what people are doing now. this is what people seek. we have been choosing our destinations based on dog park availability and their reviews. They are all reviewed online at Yelp.

With all of the wildlife here, it is critical that we have a secure fence where dogs can play off leash safely.

I'm concerned the horse riders will kick us out

Close it don't waste money on a new one

Dog parks are fine as long as rules are clear and followed, they are maintained and clean.

Thanks for maintaining the dog park!

I believe that the current space could be managed in a better manner. However it is not an ideal dog park and I would hope that eventually this dog park can evolve into a better developed park for dogs and their humans.