



## County of San Mateo Parks Department

**Dog Management  
Committee Presentation  
Mid-Coast Community  
Council Dec. 14, 2017**

# Committee & Its Purpose

- Appointed by San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission
- Purpose: Provide recommendations to the Commission that help update and clarify dog management policies in San Mateo County Parks. Commission recommends to Board of Supervisors.

# Dog Management Committee Members

- Chair: Neil Merrilees, Parks Commissioner
- Co-chair: Mike Cooney, Parks Commissioner
- Members:
  - Darrick Emil, Park Ranger
  - Nic Erridge, Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council
  - Chris Johnson, Mid-coast Community Council

Continued ...

# Dog Management Committee Members, Cont.

- Rafael Avendano, North Fair Oaks Community Council; Alternate: Aaron Gonzales, youth representative
- Jim Sullivan, Pacifica Open Space Council & Mountain Biker
- Faye Brophy, Equestrian Trails and Recreation Advisory Council; Alternate: Lyndal Erb
- Jerry Hearn, Conservation community; Alternate: Cindy Abbot
- Christine Corwin, Coastside Dog Committee

# Committee's Mission Statement

*“to provide healthy spaces for humans and canines, to assure positive interactions between dogs and other park users, and protect natural resources in San Mateo County Parks.”*

# PROCESS MAP



**AUGUST 2016**

Dog Management Committee appointed by Parks and Recreation Commission



**SEPTEMBER 2016**

Dog Management Committee Convened



**SEPT. - DEC. 2016**

Gather Information  
 Identify Factors to be Considered  
 Frame Focus Areas  
 Develop Approaches to Gathering Community Input



**JAN. - MARCH 2017**

Discuss Issues and Interests of SMC Residents  
 Learn about Best Practices for each Focus Area  
 Deliberate on Key Issues



**APRIL - JUNE 2017**

Begin Draft Recommendations in Focus Areas  
 Build Consensus on Key Issues



**JULY - AUG. 2017**

Finalize Recommendation  
 Prepare Presentation to Commission



**SEPTEMBER 2017**

Present Committee Recommendation To Parks Commission



Note: All Committee meetings are open to the public, with opportunities to address topics being discussed. Dates and times of meetings are posted on the Park Department website:

[parks.smcgov.org/dogs-at-SMC-parks](http://parks.smcgov.org/dogs-at-SMC-parks)

# Criteria

- Provide a **variety** of visitor experiences and locations
- Protect **natural and cultural resources** and natural process --avoid impacts on sensitive habitat
- Avoid visitor (use) **conflicts** and conflicts with adjacent land uses (agriculture)
- Clear (ex: signage), well designed (ex: Parking) and **enforceable**
- **History** of dog use prior to park acquisition

# Applying Criteria

The diagram illustrates the process of applying criteria to determine dog access in various outdoor settings. It features six circular images representing different locations, arranged from left to right. The leftmost image is labeled 'Dog Access' and the rightmost is labeled 'No dog access'. A central table, titled 'Considerations for Dog Access Areas', provides a structured way to evaluate each location based on three criteria: 'No Access Allowed', 'Some Access -- with restrictions', and 'Unrestricted Access'. Arrows point from the table towards the 'Dog Access' and 'No dog access' labels, indicating the flow of the decision process.

Considerations for Dog Access Areas	
Location	Criteria/Considerations
No Access Allowed	
Some Access -- with restrictions	
Unrestricted Access	



# Committee Deliverables

- Recommendations that:
  - Lead to more flexible ordinance language
  - Propose pilot areas for evaluation
  - Evaluate pilot sites through CEQA process

# Following Committee's Work

- Committee



- San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission



- San Mateo County Board of Supervisors



- Park/Trail Specific Decisions

# December 19 Committee Agenda Topics

- Presentations/Committee Discussion
  - Developing policy recommendations
  - Educational efforts in other jurisdictions – best practices
  - Protecting sensitive natural resources

# Getting Involved

- Follow committee activity at:  
**SMCoParks.org/dogs-at-SMC-parks**
- Request committee meeting notifications & share ideas : **DogManagementCommittee@smcgov.org**
- Attend committee meetings:
  - December 19, 2016
  - 2017: January 23, February 27, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21
  - Watch for committee events coming to communities in 2017

**The  
Committee  
wants to hear  
from you!**



Attend meetings — see meeting dates &  
more committee information at:  
[SMCoParks.org/dogs-at-SMC-parks](https://SMCoParks.org/dogs-at-SMC-parks)

Email your ideas to:  
[DogManagementCommittee@smcgov.org](mailto:DogManagementCommittee@smcgov.org)