

WHAT WE HEARD

Community feedback on the temporary off-leash dog area proposed for North Maple Regional Park (NMRP)

WHO WE ENGAGED

From March 13 to April 6, 2026, we engaged:



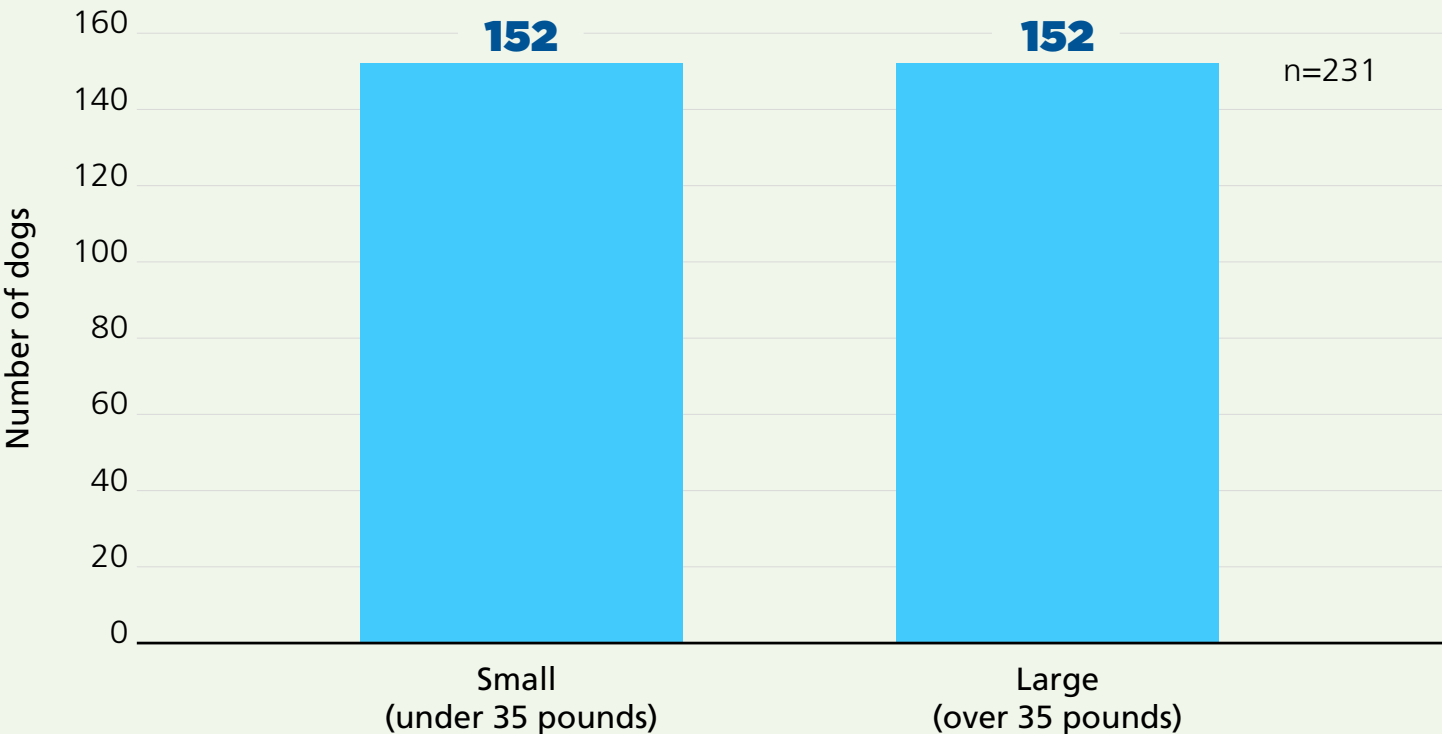
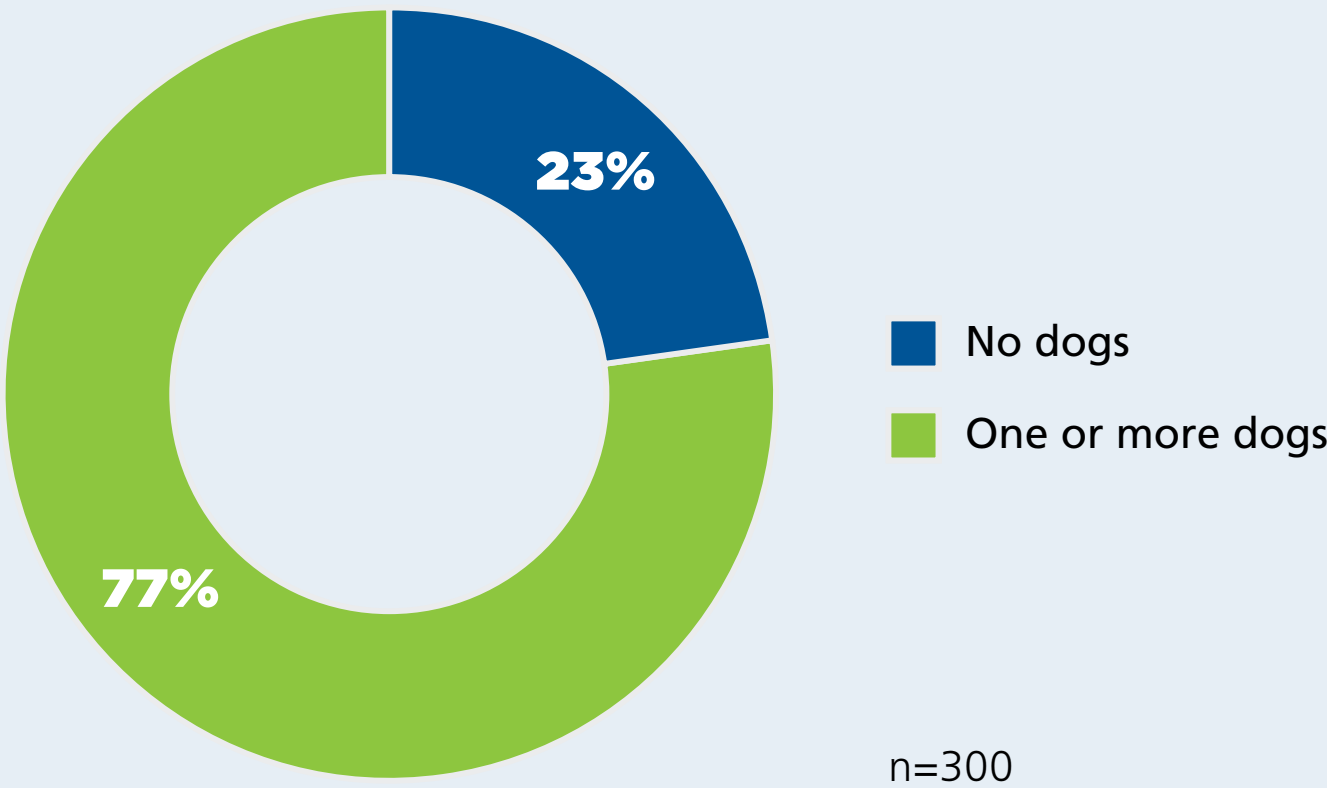
335 survey respondents



33 pop-up participants

...through a project webpage, road signs in the community, digital signs at NMRP and community centres, a public service announcement, social media and eNewsletters.

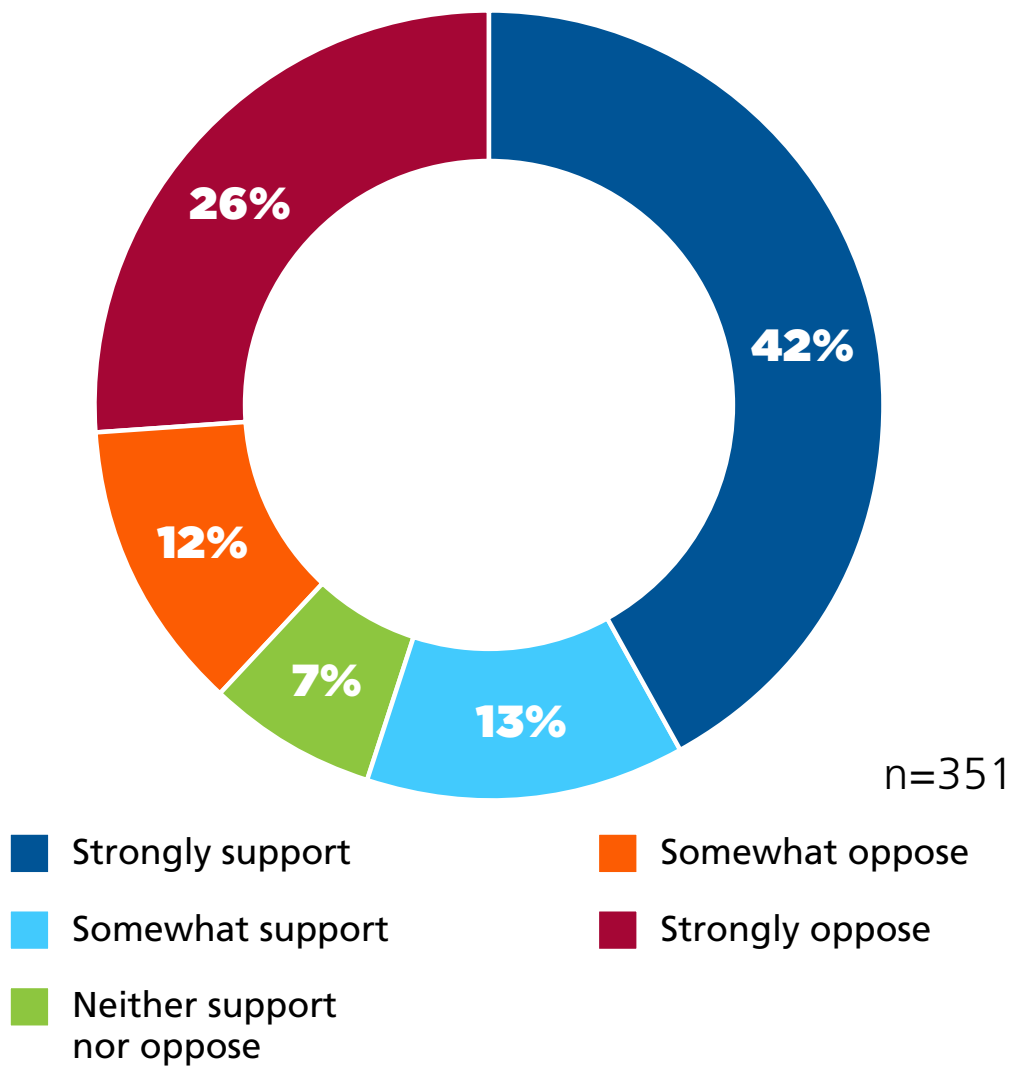
PARTICIPANTS' DOG OWNERSHIP



LOCATION A: NORTH OF THE EXISTING SOCCER DOME

Level of support for Location A

[Location A](#) (PDF) was situated north of the existing soccer dome and parking lot and west of the soccer fields. This concept included separate small- and large- dog areas, with the large-dog area featuring a gathering space and a shade structure.



When asked what they like about Location A:

- **Convenience:** Many participants identified Location A as more convenient due to its proximity to homes, the park entrance, parking lot, soccer fields, trails, washrooms and other amenities.
- **Further from roads:** Some participants felt it was a safer location for dogs, noting that the off-leash area is situated further from vehicular traffic.
- **Larger footprint:** Some participants highlighted the proposed off-leash area has a larger footprint in this concept.
- **Safer:** A few participants noted the location offers better visibility because it is in a high-traffic area, making it safer for all users.

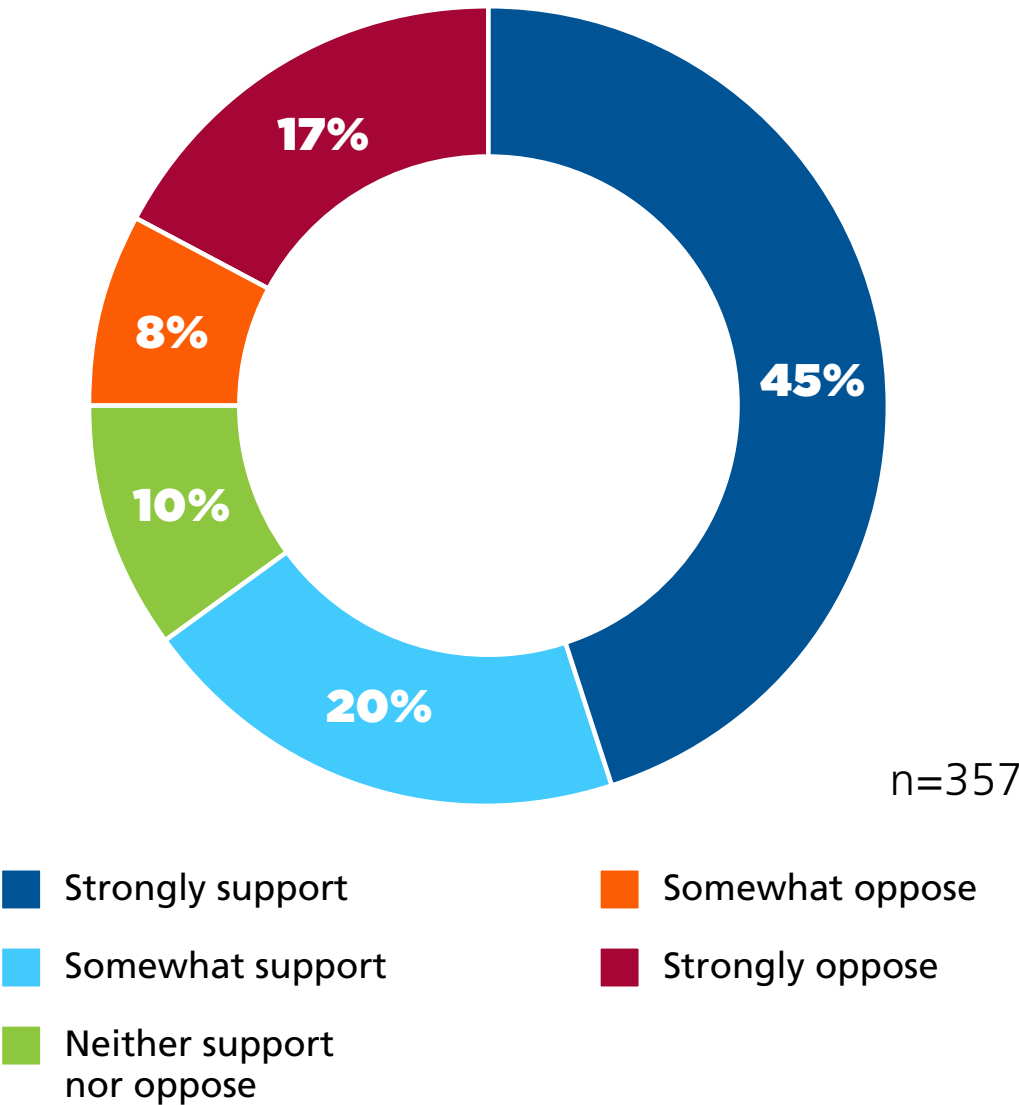
When asked what they dislike about Location A:

- **Too close to homes:** Many participants raised concerns about the off-leash area’s proximity to homes, with some emphasizing potential nuisance impacts like increased noise levels.
- **Limited parking and space:** An equal number of participants expressed concerns about potential crowding and limited parking availability. A few others also noted this could result in off-leash area users parking on nearby residential streets.
- **Conflicting uses:** Many others were concerned about the off-leash area being located in a high-activity zone, close to people and children using the soccer fields and other amenities.
- **Busy, overstimulating area:** Others raised concerns about dog safety and comfort, suggesting that this location is too close to vehicular traffic and that the busy surroundings could be overstimulating.

LOCATION B: WEST OF THE FUTURE SOUTH PARKING LOT

Level of support for Location B

[Location B](#) (PDF) was situated west of the future south parking lot and southwest of the Family Recreation Area, which is currently under construction and expected to open in 2026. This concept included separate small- and large- dog areas, with gathering spaces in both areas and a shade structure in the large-dog area.



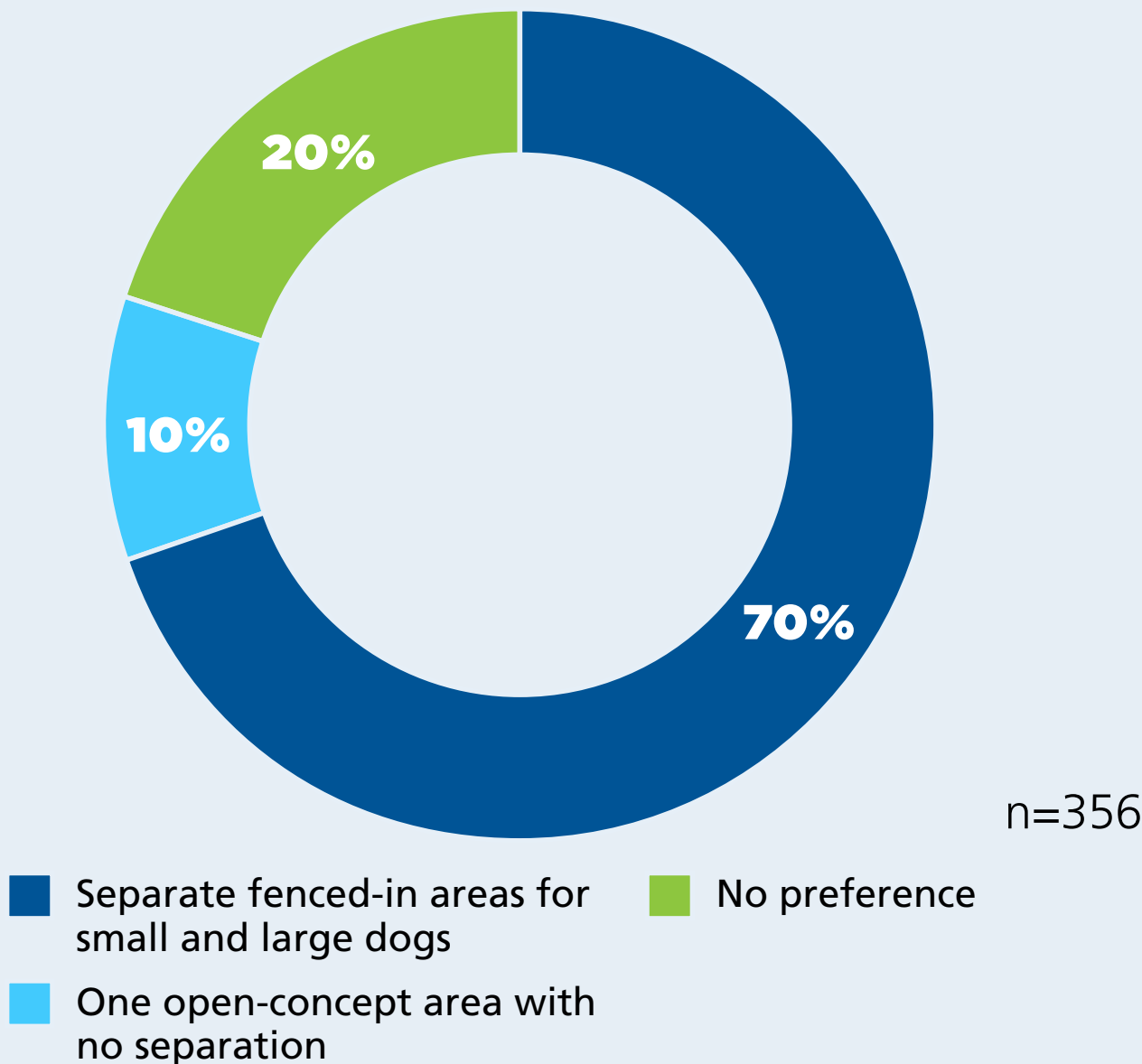
When asked what they like about Location B:

- **Further away from other activities:** Many participants identified Location B as more suitable for an off-leash area due to its separation from other park amenities and users.
- **Quieter area:** Many participants noted it is a quieter setting, which could benefit both dogs and people, with some suggesting dogs may be less reactive in this environment.
- **Further away from homes:** Many others highlighted its distance from nearby homes located north of the park, which may mitigate noise and other impacts.
- **Less competition for parking:** Some participants noted the future parking lot near this location may be less busy, reducing parking concerns.
- **Close to pathways:** A few participants mentioned the location is accessible via trails and pathways.
- **Preferred layout:** A few others expressed a preference for the proposed layout in this design concept, which features a gathering space in both the small and large dog areas.

When asked what they dislike about Location B:

- **Less convenient:** Many participants indicated this location would be less convenient, as it is farther from homes, the park entrance, other amenities and the existing parking lot.
- **Potential lack of supporting amenities:** A few participants also expressed concerns about the lack of parking and washroom availability in the short-term, if the off-leash area opens before these amenities are in place.

SEPARATION OF SMALL AND LARGE DOGS



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- **Add a water source:** Many participants requested the City consider providing a water source within the off-leash area for drinking, playing and/or cleaning dogs' paws.
- **Enforcement:** Many participants emphasized the importance of enforcement, including leash compliance outside the off-leash area, proper waste disposal and adherence to on-site rules. A few suggested fines, surveillance or user registration/licensing to support compliance.
- **Shade:** Many participants highlighted the importance of providing adequate shade, including natural tree cover. Some suggested both small and large dog areas should have dedicated shade structures.
- **Litter disposal:** Many participants raised concerns about litter and stressed the need for sufficient garbage bins, regular disposal and dog waste bag dispensers.
- **Seating:** Some participants noted the importance of seating, with a preference for a mix of benches and picnic tables.
- **Signage:** Some participants highlighted the need for clear signage outlining rules and etiquette, including picking up after dogs, leash requirements outside the area and restrictions on aggressive dogs.
- **Preference for an off-leash trail:** Some participants expressed interest in a fenced-in off-leash trail instead, allowing dogs more space to move beyond a confined area.
- **Surfacing:** Some participants shared preferences for surface materials, including wood chips, grass, artificial turf or a combination of surfaces.
- **Safety:** A few participants raised general safety concerns, in relation to irresponsible owners, children or aggressive dogs.