

# WHAT WE HEARD

## Community feedback on the off-leash dog area proposed for **Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park**

### WHO WE ENGAGED



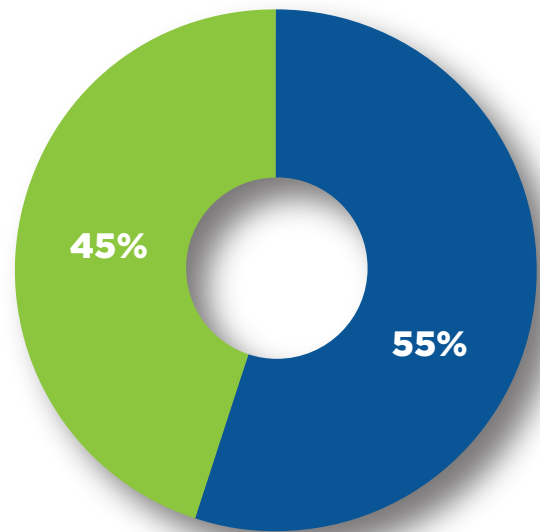
**182**  
survey  
respondents

Survey was live from March 19 to April 19, 2025

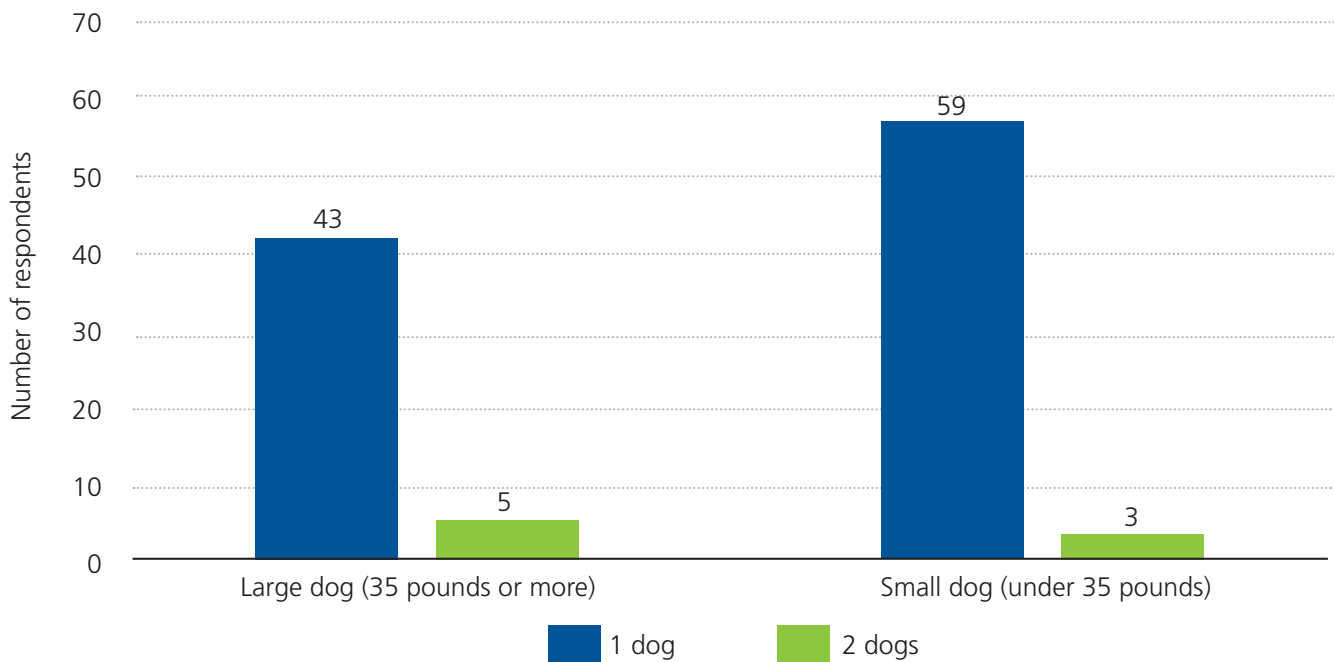
Participants were reached through a project notice to **1,998** community members, project webpage, roadside signs, community centre TVs, a public service announcement, eNewsletters and social media.

### WHAT WE HEARD

Participants' dog ownership



Own a dog  
Do not own a dog



Participants were asked to provide their thoughts on a proposed fenced-in, off-leash dog park located at Pierre Elliott Trudeau (PET) Park. **Responses were mixed, with slightly more opposed to the off-leash area than supportive.** Much of the opposition came from those located closest to PET Park, while support came from the broader Thornhill community.

Common themes from the comments received included:

- **SUPPORT FOR THE OFF-LEASH DOG AREA** – many participants expressed their support for the proposed off-leash area and their excitement for a new place to take their pets. These participants were supportive of the location and noted the need for more off-leash dog areas in the neighbourhood.
- **COMMUNITY SAFETY CONCERNS** – many participants were concerned about community safety, noting the potential for negative interactions between dogs, older adults, youth and young children due to the nearby high school and library.
- **COYOTE CONCERNS** – many noted there have been coyotes sighted in the area and had concerns about the safety of their pets using this park.
- **STUDENT SAFETY CONCERNS** – many participants, including school staff and parents/guardians, expressed concerns about student safety and the potential for negative interactions with dogs, noting that students from the local high school frequently walk through this park to reach the mall.
- **NOISE CONCERNS** – some had concerns about noise from the dog park, particularly for residents who live nearby.
- **DESIRE FOR MORE SHADE** – of those who were supportive, some suggested adding shade for dog owners supervising their dog(s).
- **REQUEST FOR A WATER FOUNTAIN FOR DOGS** – some participants also suggested including a water fountain for dogs in the off-leash area design.

