

# Dog Park Community Interest Survey

Report compiled: September 2015



Questions regarding this survey or the results may be directed to Joshua Medeiros, Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Canton. He can be reached at [jmedeiros@townofcantonct.org](mailto:jmedeiros@townofcantonct.org) or over the phone at 860-693-5808.

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## Overview of the Dog Park Community Interest Survey

**Why was the survey created?** This survey was created in response to a group of residents that approached the Parks and Recreation Department inquiring about the possibility of creating a community dog park in the Town of Canton. The survey was designed to gauge community support and interest in this project.

**This survey was created by:** Joshua T. Medeiros, Director of Parks and Recreation in conjunction with the Friends of the Dog Park Group; a sub-committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The survey was created using Survey Monkey.

**Survey was sent on:** Tuesday September 8, 2015 via Q-Notify, the town's premier e-mail system. The e-mail was sent to a specific group: *Dog Licensing Reminders and Info* comprised of 635 e-mails.

**Response rate:** Of the 635 individuals on the e-mail listing, 263 individuals responded. This is a 41% response rate. The average response rate to online surveys is 25% (Source: <http://fluidsurveys.com/university/response-rate-statistics-online-surveys-aiming/>)

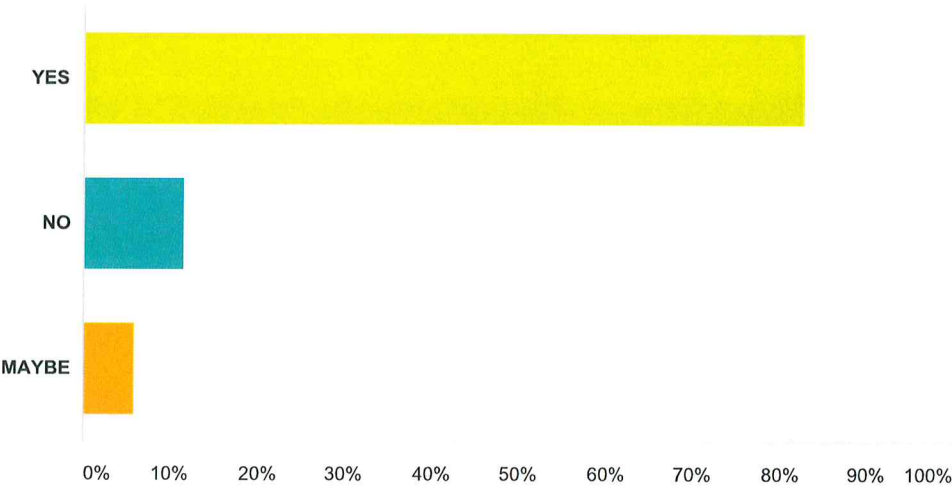
**This report was compiled on September 22, 2015.** Data was exported directly from Survey Monkey. All of the comments were included; however some spelling and grammatical issues were addressed for polishing purposes. Responses from Question 9 were omitted from this report in order to protect confidentiality as it contained personal contact information from participants.

### **Abstract of the Findings:**

- 83% of the respondents support the creation of an off-leash fenced in Dog Park in town. 11% are against the creation of the park and 6% indicated they may be in favor.
  - 43% of respondents indicated they would use the park multiple times per week, 42% indicated they would use the park once a week and 15% indicated they would use the park once a month.
  - 93% of respondents indicated they would be willing to show proof of proper vaccination and obtain a dog license so their dog could use the park. 7% reported they would be unwilling.
  - 97% of respondents indicated they would be willing to clean up after their own dogs in the park if waste stations were provided. 3% reported they would be unwilling.
  - The top four **most important** features for the dog park reported by respondents in order are: (1) pet waste station (2) Drinking water (3) Shade (4) Double gated entry.
  - 65% of respondents indicated they would be willing to contribute \$25.00-\$100.00 in startup donations to support building this park. 12% reported they would be willing to donate \$100.00-\$400.00, 1% reported they would be willing to donate \$400.00-\$700.00 and 22% would not be willing to donate.
  - 59% of respondents indicated they would be willing to donate an annual fee of \$25.00-\$50.00 to support annual operating costs of the park. 13% reported they would be willing to annually donate \$75.00-\$100.00, 3% reported they would be willing to annually donate \$100.00-\$200.00 and 26% would not be willing to donate on an annual basis.
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Q1 Would you be in favor of supporting an off-leash fenced in dog park in town?

Answered: 260 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses	
YES	82.69%	215
NO	11.54%	30
MAYBE	5.77%	15
Total		260



### Question 1: Would you be in favor of supporting an off-leash fenced in Dog Park in town?

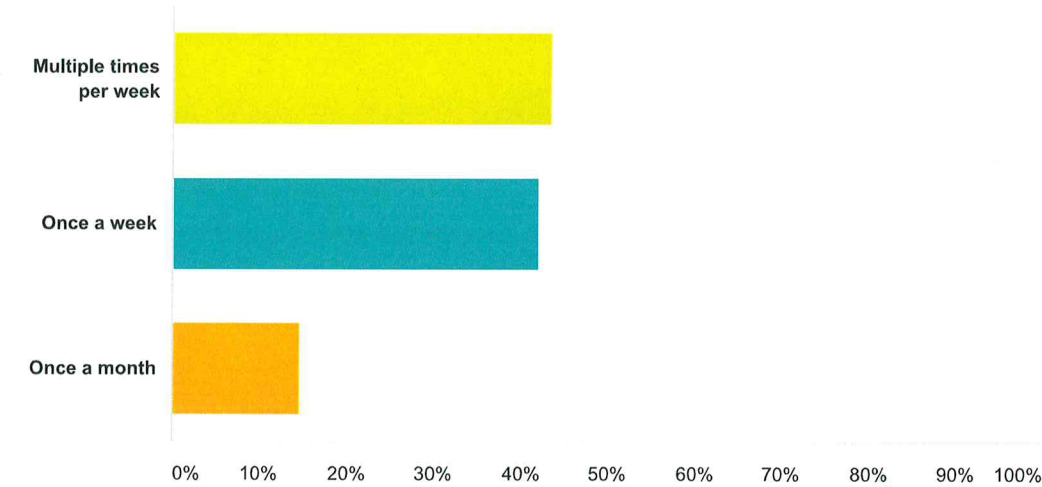
- Don't need one big pain in neck. Liability to town
  - Dogs are restricted in town and I don't see the need to pay to maintain the area.
  - Depends on tax implications. No increase in taxes! I don't have a dog!
  - The dog park would be space filler in the already limited green areas in canton and attract larger crowds than already present. There are places to bring dogs to go off leash and the beauty of these places is that they are well kept secrets.
  - No details about location of proposed park, nor expenditure in relation to other town projects
  - Location, cost, maintenance?
  - Fine if it doesn't come out of property taxes.
  - no
  - Would prefer Canton's road maintenance get funded.
  - Depends upon its location and who will maintain it.
  - It would bring in too many out of town people
  - Don't own a dog & don't want the town paying for one
  - There are ample space/trails for people to walk/run their dogs. We do NOT need to waste valuable open space for such a project
  - Costs
  - Should not require any town funds. Have 2 dogs and will not use park
  - Unless you are going to require membership and key access, then it is just a big open liability to the town. I doubt anyone wants to keep it as a membership only because that would require more work on the park of the dog park members
  - I think the priority in Canton currently is road repair. All funding should go towards those improvements.
  - Liability issues for our town. Dog fights and bites
  - It's a liability for the town
  - I would never use it.
  - Cost concerns
  - I have brought my dog to a dog park in the past and observed people socializing instead of watching their dog. The dogs then start to run in "packs" and it becomes a dangerous situation for both dogs and their owners. Also, unless there is a monitor to check each dog as it enters, there may be unhealthy dogs and diseases are spread. Both veterinarians and dog trainers do not support dog parks.
  - I think there are plenty of places for people to take their dogs.
  - Because dog parks often attract irresponsible owners with poorly trained, aggressive (or volatile) dogs. Don't want fleas, heart perm, parvo, and piles of dog feces hanging around in canton.
  - Depends on location and if supervised. It may be a bit over crowded if open to non-Canton residents.
  - Liability to town
  - Where will it be located?
  - Dog parks are useful in urban and suburban areas where few people have yards in which to exercise their dogs. In a semi-rural to rural environment like Canton it makes little sense to create one. Further, there are a host of issues revolving around infectious disease transmission, poor socialization (to dogs, to people, to children) leading to human or canine injury, poorly or
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not obedience trained dogs with minimally responsible owners leading to human injury, buildup of parasite larvae in soil in a concentrated area and inability to fully control or regain control over one's dog to be concerned about.

- Depends on where it will be located, compared to proximity of existing dog parks
  - I would be interested to know the proposed location and what the cost to the town is for increased liability insurance limits for dog bites, etc.
  - Liability for town insurance premiums
  - Liability issues.
  - In my experience they are generally unsafe
  - An off leash dog park is just asking for trouble. Not all dogs get along with other dogs. Have you ever tried pulling apart two fighting dogs? It's very dangerous.
  - Depends on where it is located and if there is shade
  - Don't need it, wouldn't use it.
  - Won't be able to use because my dogs might be aggressive. But I think it's a nice idea.
  - Unfortunately not every dog owner is responsible. Allowing them to have their dogs off leash even in an approved enclosed environment leaves lots of room for issues
  - We live in what is considered a rural area with plenty of open space available. If we were in a more urbanized or suburban area I would support such a thing.
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Q2 How often would you use the dog park?

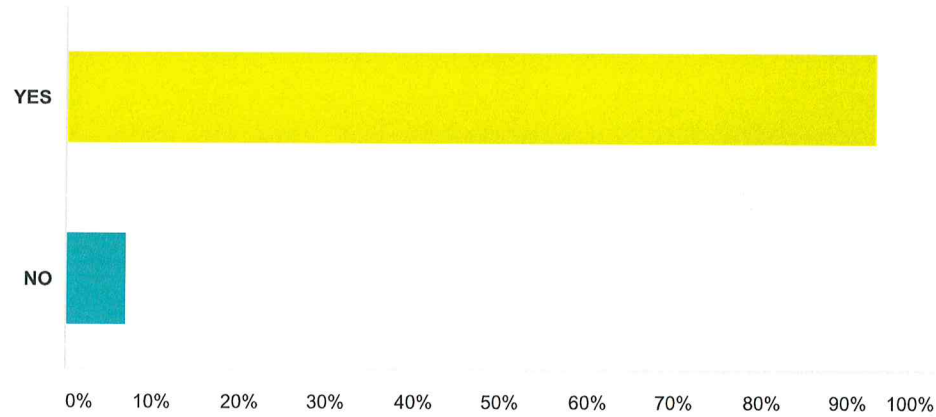
Answered: 233 Skipped: 30



Answer Choices	Responses	
Multiple times per week	43.35%	101
Once a week	42.06%	98
Once a month	14.59%	34
Total		233

**Q3 For health and safety reasons, dogs using the dog park must be licensed and be current on all vaccinations. Would you be willing to show proof of proper vaccination and obtain a dog license so that your dog(s) may use the dog park?**

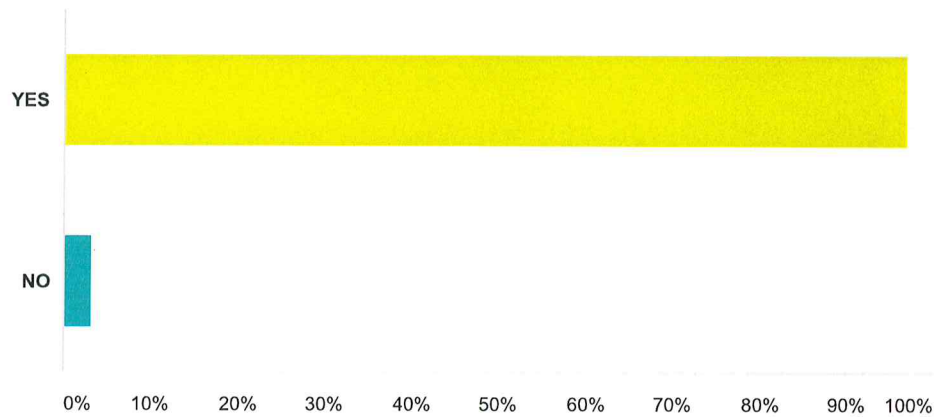
Answered: 249 Skipped: 14



Answer Choices	Responses	
YES	93.17%	232
NO	6.83%	17
Total		249

**Q4 In order to have a successful dog park, owners must be responsible for cleaning up after their dogs. Would you pick up after your pet if pet waste stations were provided?**

Answered: 248 Skipped: 15

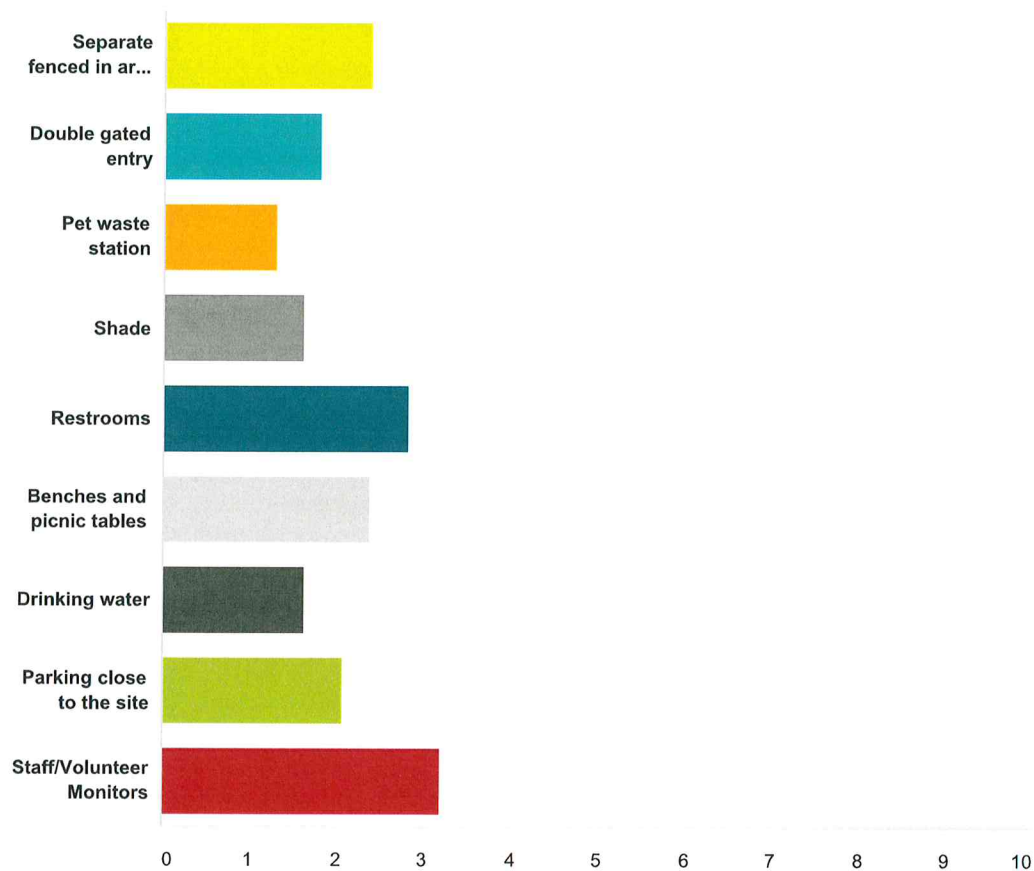


Answer Choices	Responses	
YES	96.77%	240
NO	3.23%	8
Total		248



### Q5 Please rank the following features in terms of importance for a dog park

Answered: 249 Skipped: 14



	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Not Important	Total	Weighted Average
Separate fenced in area for smaller dogs	25.51% 62	27.57% 67	29.63% 72	17.28% 42	243	2.39
Double gated entry	52.61% 131	22.89% 57	16.47% 41	8.03% 20	249	1.80
Pet waste station	78.46% 193	15.45% 38	3.25% 8	2.85% 7	246	1.30
Shade	56.22% 140	30.12% 75	10.84% 27	2.81% 7	249	1.60
Restrooms	15.57% 38	19.26% 47	34.02% 83	31.15% 76	244	2.81
Benches and picnic tables	21.37% 53	30.65% 76	36.29% 90	11.69% 29	248	2.38
Drinking water	58.54% 144	24.80% 61	11.38% 28	5.28% 13	246	1.63
Parking close to the site	25.40% 63	47.18% 117	22.58% 56	4.84% 12	248	2.07
Staff/Volunteer Monitors	7.69% 19	10.53% 26	36.44% 90	45.34% 112	247	3.19

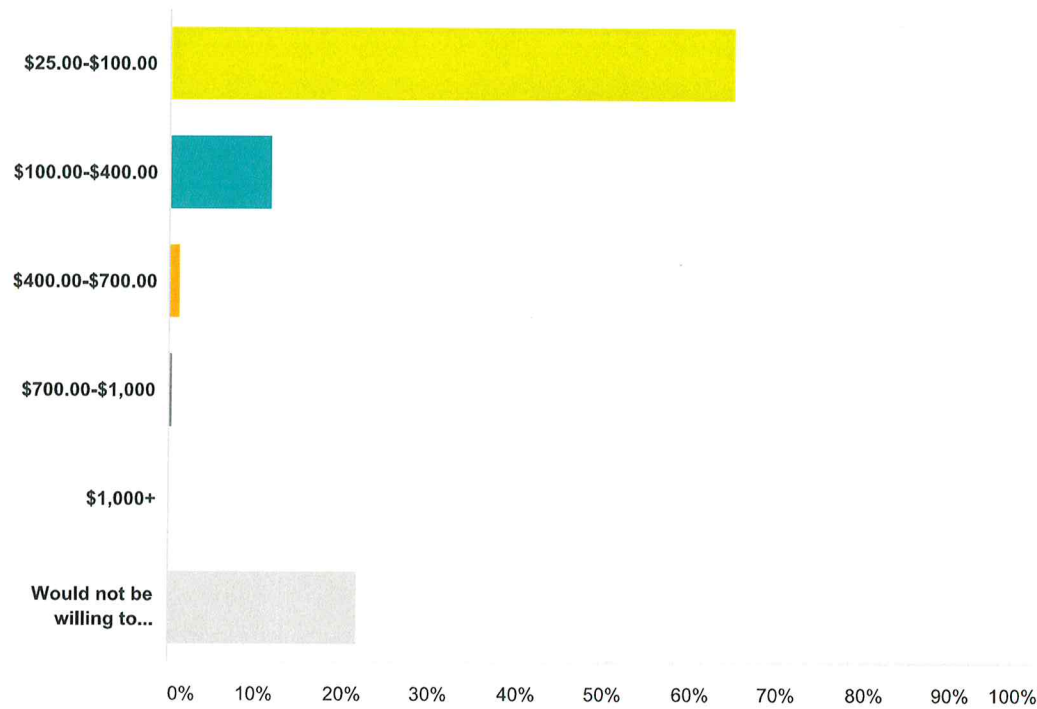
**Question 5: Please rank the following features in terms of importance for a dog park. Please list any additional recommendations**

- Camera surveillance for safety, outdoor shower or hose to rinse dogs
  - No unspayed or neutered dogs
  - Staff/monitors not needed. See Simsbury or Granby!
  - Communal toys/balls
  - The town does not need a dog park.
  - No aggressive dogs allowed. Males must be neutered. Have been very pleased with rules at Simsbury Dog Park.
  - Would prefer a fenced in area that included trees instead of just an open lot.
  - Toys and playscape for the dogs (I can donate some items for this purpose). Posted rules and regulations board. A dog-park id once your dog has been approved (proof of license and vaccination record) to visit the dog park which can be requested to be shown during your visit to the park
  - Larger sized park & enclosed area. The dog park in Granby, for example, is too small.
  - Double gated entry does seem like a good idea to prevent escapees. Also should have posted rules.
  - The ground cover should be comfortable for the dogs' paws. Avoid large, chunked mulch or stones, for example.
  - Rake or shovel to fill in holes, Grass or good Mulch in the area.
  - Shovels to be provided to fill in any holes the dogs dig. Should be part of the posted rules to fill in all holes your dog digs. It can be hazardous when they run.
  - I assume 'drinking water' means for the dogs. It's important, since not everyone remembers to bring water for their dogs. Volunteers might be good at first, to help educate people who maybe have never been to a dog park, to familiarize them with rules and acceptable conduct.
  - Card Swipe entry. Get tags at town hall with proof of vaccinated.
  - Water feature
  - Not sure of any of the potential locations would lend themselves to this, but a place near a stream or waterway that the dogs could play in (like Granby) would be a nice amenity.
  - No little kids. People accept responsibility for any injuries any dog(s) cause to them of a non-vicious nature.
  - Trees
  - Swimming area if site near pond or river available
  - Dogs must be spayed or neutered by 6 months
  - No pit bulls
  - Salmon Brook in Granby is nice because of the stream where the dogs can cool off is a really nice feature.
  - Drinking station for the dogs
  - Plenty of mulch for the area that supports the pups.
  - mulch
  - SPRINKLER SYSTEM
  - Garbage cans for bagged pet waste. Other dog parks I've been to also have wood chips or mulch as a base layer to keep the ground from forming into a mud pit.
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- The best dog parks, in my opinion, are near bodies of water (reachable on foot) where it is permissible for the dogs to swim. Would love to see the eventual site located near the river and Collinsville Center.
  - It should be large enough to accommodate dogs that like to run.
  - No dog should be off leash in a public space. Thus the point of a "dog park" is unwise.
  - Trash cans
  - Maybe a few trees and pretend hydrants!
  - Bulletin board
  - Looks like you covered all bases. Great job!
  - A very clear and detailed sign stating the rules at entrance
  - I don't think that you thought this through carefully enough. You are asking for trouble, as well as litigation.
  - water feature
  - Close to river or pond for dogs to be able to go swimming. near a hiking trail
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Q6 The dog park will require financial start-up funds. How much would you be willing to donate towards startup costs of building this park?

Answered: 257 Skipped: 6

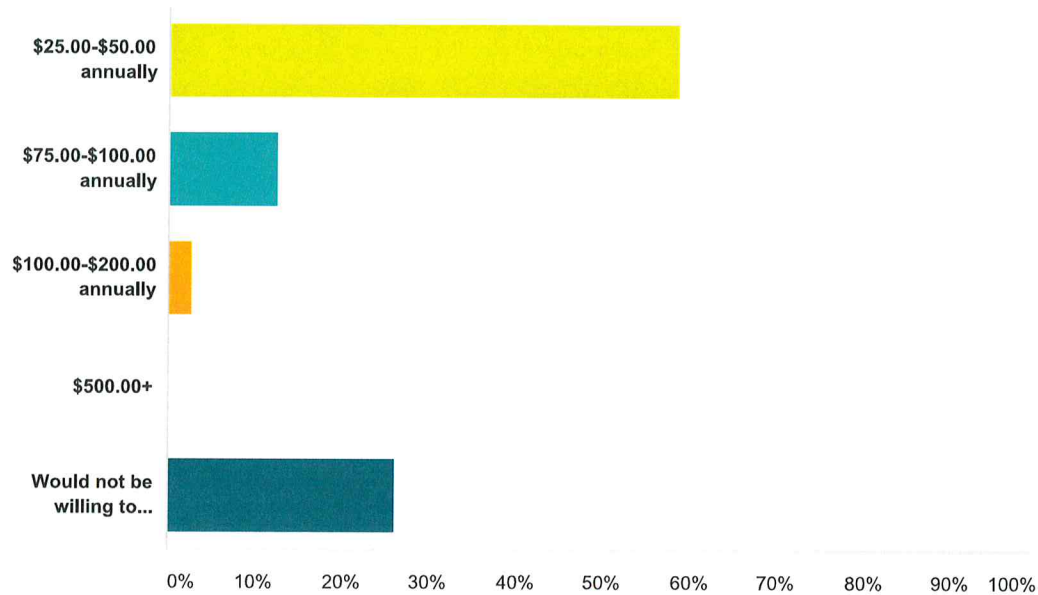


Answer Choices	Responses
\$25.00-\$100.00	64.98%167
\$100.00-\$400.00	11.67%30
\$400.00-\$700.00	1.17%3
\$700.00-\$1,000	0.39%1
\$1,000+	0.00%0
Would not be willing to donate	21.79%56
Total	257



**Q7 The dog park will require working capital to cover annual expenses of the park (clean up bags, mulch replacement, garbage removal, etc.). Please check one of the following that you would feel comfortable donating on an annual basis.**

Answered: 256 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses	
\$25.00-\$50.00 annually	58.59%	150
\$75.00-\$100.00 annually	12.50%	32
\$100.00-\$200.00 annually	2.73%	7
\$500.00+	0.00%	0
Would not be willing to donate	26.17%	67
<b>Total</b>		<b>256</b>

**Question 8: Can you recommend any individuals, business and/or corporations who we may contact that would be willing to sponsor, donate or support in the fundraising efforts for the dog park?**

- Petals and Paws, Cherry Brook Kennels, Roaring Brook Kennels, any veterinarian, all residents
  - Petals and Paws, Dogology
  - No
  - Petco, Dogology, Pet Valu, Petals & Paws
  - Dogology, Petals and Paws, Brownstone Bakery, Petco, PetValu, all local veterinarians, Shoppes' at Farmington Valley, etc. I would be willing to help discussing this with potential businesses and could meet with my friends from Simsbury's dog park to help out with the cause. I go to Simsbury daily with my dog.
  - I'd be happy to try to get sponsors. Should put signs on fence as thank you. Also signs could be sold for people to honor their pets
  - N/A
  - The Spirited Hand Gift Shop and other Retailers at the Canton Shoppes
  - Ms. Moberly, Canton High School
  - Cape cod fence company
  - Dogology
  - Roaring Brook Veterinary Hospital
  - Cherry Brooke Kennels
  - Costs should be paid by the Town of Canton out of tax monies.
  - Petals & Paws, Dogology
  - There are so many pet stores and kennels in the Canton CT area that would likely be interested in assisting.
  - Dogology
  - Petco, Dr. Arnold Goldman, Emergency Veterinary Services on Dowd Ave., Avon Canton Dog Warden I would be willing to be on the fundraising committee as well as volunteer maintenance and supervision visits to the dog park. I am excited about the possibility of a Canton Dog Park..
  - Petals and Paws Dogology Canton Animal Hospital
  - NA
  - Dogology in Canton
  - Dogstar, Roaring Brook Vet Hosp., Petco
  - I might be able to help - Marty & Becky Kidder 860352 2224
  - Petals and Paws Dogology Petco Roaring Brook Veterinary Hospital Canton Veterinary Hospital
  - Roaring Brook Vet/Kennel
  - Ask all the Landscaping companies if they will donate mulch. Maybe Cape Cod fence can donate a fence. With each donation there can be a plaque made and displayed at the park showing their generosity.
  - Norcom Mortgage
  - None
  - I will think about it. Would someone please call me at 860 306 3140.
  - I own On the Road Bookshop, the used bookstore in Canton. I would be willing to donate a gift certificate if you had a raffle or similar fundraiser. Reach me at (860) 693-6029 Susan Grzyb
  - Dogology, Petals and Paws Petco There are numerous trainers in our community to consider
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- Petals & Paws Dogology Petco Pet Value Roaring Brook Vet Pet stop dog training/fencing Twin brother's landscape
- Allstate - Winsted
- Petals & Paws Roaring Brook Vet. Hosp. Canton Animal Hospital Petco
- CLCT
- Dogology, Petco,
- I would suggest contacting Petco and other places like that to help sponsor the park.
- No
- Pedals and paws should pay for this entire venture
- Dogology in Canton
- Petals and Paws, PAW (Progressive Animal Wellness, Avon), Dogology, Petco, PetValu
- Dogology. Petco. Petals and paws.
- Twin Landscaping
- Petals and Paws, Canton Dogology, Canton Canton Vet Clinic Roaring Brook Clinic Emergency Vet Hospital, Canton
- Not at this time
- Local vets, Petco, pet value, Walmart, dogology, vet hospital on rte44, Larsen ace hardware, dunking donuts, tree companies, Lasalle market, riverside nursery, large dental firm in town, crown and hammer, real estate agencies in town, insurance firms in town , Tyler English fitness, Bremar rental, liquor stores, orthodontists, automotive places, collinsville canoe and kayak, builders in town, miner lumber, petals and paws, the Home Depot,
- I own my own construction company and would be willing to make a picnic table.
- Fildeco, Petals and Paws, Roaring Brook Vet. Suggestions only...
- My business would be willing. You can contact Chelsea Gomez at The Gomez Agency, Winsted, CT 860-379-2791
- Not at this time, but will give it some thought.
- Supreme industries or agway for mulch... MINERS OR cape cod fence for gates or fences??
- Any pet related business in town: rescues, kennels, boarders, pet supplies, veterinarians, etc.
- Petals & Paws; Dogology; Petco
- Brad DuBow Interior Painting of Canton 860-605-7740 ( me )
- Dr. Arnold Goldberg, Canton Animal Hospital Canton Emergency Veterinary Hospital Cherry Brook Kennels Shop Rite Grocery Store, Canton Petco, Avon Petals and Paws Canton Canoe and Kayak Company
- Petals and Paws ShopRite
- Dogology, petals n paws
- Canton veterinary hospital, petals and paws
- Although most businesses in town are tapped out when it comes to charitable/corporate sponsorship giving, it couldn't hurt to ask every business in town. Perhaps any of the vets could be the lead sponsors, although I am certain they will insist that their financial participation will exclude them from any potential liability.
- My Dogs Daycare - Avon Doggie Do's of Avon
- Ronny Kaye, 12 Center Street, 703-2383
- Dogology
- Rotary Club of Avon-Canton
- Fast Lane Quick Lube, LLC.
- No

- Petals and Paws, dogology
  - Anna Smyth, Jeepers Leapers. Support however I can but I'm poor so can't give a lot of money.
  - Veterinary Emergency Care Petals and PAws
  - Dogology
  - Myself, maybe Dogology, Petals & Paws
-



**Question 10: Do you have other recommendations, concerns or comments regarding the dog park project?**

- Thank you!!!
- I do not agree with on-site Gestapo monitoring the dog park while in operation. We are adults who should be able to work things out on our own. We should accept the fact that life throws curve balls at us and we should be able to deal with them civilly without dealings with law enforcement or Dog Park monitors. I could however volunteer time to make the park operational. I do not agree with monitors however. I have never had an incident at a dog park that required police enforcement. I want my freedom and will not use the park if there are yuppies networking in dog park police outfits.
- You may want to consider FAVARH to help in maintaining the dog park. Their special needs clients could benefit from volunteering in the community they are in. Contact Steve Morris the director of FAVARH.
- Not at this time....
- Don't build one.
- Location???
- It would be a wonderful bonus for the residents, nearby residents and for the town if this
- I think the cost of the dog license could be raised by a couple dollars & that money could be used for the dog park.
- See above
- Not interested in having a dog park. How much will the insurance cost? You're not thinking of tax payers to support this unwanted venture.
- I would prefer efforts go toward an indoor pool for a high school and/or town swim team.
- Would much rather be taking my dog to a Canton park than the Simsbury park, as nice as it is.
- Noisy
- I think it is a wonderful idea for Canton. I have had to use the dog parks in Simsbury and Granby and I currently live in Collinsville. Having something closer would be wonderful!
- There are numerous other issues the Town should be taking care of.
- Who would be responsible for making sure people follow the rules and clean up after their dogs? Who would be allowed to use the dog park? Whose money is going to pay for the park and employees of the park?
- The town already has plenty of trails and walking areas that are dog friendly and most people have adequate yards and neighborhoods for dogs. The town needs more playing fields and rec areas for our kids sporting events and family activities.
- Would be nice if walking distance to Main Street.
- For years I have mentioned to family and friends how I wish Canton would open a dog park. This is wonderful that planning has been initiated. I often thought the grass area next to the walking path and gazebo would be a great location for it. I'd love to be part of the designing committee and would be willing to volunteer maintenance time (trash removal, clean-up, etc.).
- It should be very close to Collinsville.
- I think this is a great idea! Thank you so much for exploring this concept.
- Consider bricks w/ paw prints & name of dog for those donating over a certain level, or something along those lines
- Locating a dog park in close proximity to a playground would make it desirable for dog owners who are parents of young children.
- If you have a dog the responsibility should be yours and not the Towns

- We think it is a great idea!
- We use the Simsbury Park often. We've been to parks in Granby, South Windsor, Colchester and Cheshire. Would love to have one closer to home! Yea!!!
- These parks are a big liability to the town. I don't think Canton should take on this liability at all. Other towns have parks that residents can use
- I have a dog and love to take him places but my vet and many other sources that I have encountered discourage going to dog parks. As much as I love my dog and like to take him places, I would rather see the town spend money on parks for kids.
- Make sure there is a set of rules for people to follow. Look at paw meadows rules in Simsbury! All dogs should be spayed and neutered, children under 8 need to be with a parent, people must pick up poop. No food/treats in the park it can cause problems. There are other rules too but they can be looked up to make the park safe for people and dogs
- None
- I'm so happy to see this moving forward!
- Owners need to be responsible for their dogs while in the park. Do not leave them unattended, and monitor behavior
- Dog parks become nuisances and are not needed in Canton
- I think it is a terrific idea that I would be willing to help with financially and annually. A monitor would be terrific for safety. I would be happy to be part of a volunteer group
- Rules clearly marked Occasional police presence
- Can't wait!
- Would not support Dog Park if it took space from current or potential playing fields.
- I don't own a dog but would like to see unleashed dogs and their owners not in my neighborhood as they are now.
- I think this would be a great addition to the town!
- Perhaps a third fenced in area for training Purposes or a time out area for naughty pups. I'd Also be open to a dog fighting Pen where we could make wagers on 2 dogs going at it, of course you could tax these earnings.
- Please do not bring this to our community. It will bring dogs from other towns in and is unsafe and unhealthy.
- Hopefully we can develop one a.s.a.p. so we no longer will have to drive to Granby or Simsbury!
- The sooner the better!!
- The Town of Granby incorporated their dog park in their park area several years ago. It has most things that make a real good park for dogs & their people. My dogs & I happily used it for many years. Both Granby & Simsbury have super parks for dogs...perhaps you could get some insight into our developing one from their committees.
- I have heard that some parks have membership fees, wonder if that would work out here.
- None
- Water element for the pups to jump in and cool off.
- Limit the # of people and must be 16 or older to use the facility with your dog. No other animals (cats) allowed to use the facility. NO smoking, NO loitering. Open year-round as long as weather permits. Have an annual adopt a pet fair. Have a weekend or weekday to update dog registration with the town. Good Idea as long as it is well maintained and closely monitored.
- Not the place to socialize a dog. Dog parks rife with problems, never any supervision or way to force rule adherence. I do not support
- This is a great idea! Very happy about this initiative!
- Not at this time.

- How fast could we build it? What locations are you looking at? ;)
  - Super excited about this possibility!
  - I recommend dog park hours be sun-up to sun-down (basic daylight hours), every day (no "holidays"). It should be a place to go with your dog any time. Wood chips work well for ground. Coated metal-mesh picnic table is sturdy, low-maintenance, long lasting.
  - Not yet
  - This is not a wise or viable idea for Canton. Off lease dog running must occur on one's own property, if at all.
  - The Granby dog park is a great dog park to consider during the planning phase. It's has seating for adults and small tables for pets to stand on, as well as a water faucet.
  - no
  - My main concerns are ones that I am sure are shared by others - liability and cost. Perhaps meet with the coordinators of the dog parks in Granby and Simsbury and see if they have things they wish they did or didn't do, etc., or if they have contractors that they trust to bid and eventually work on the park - if it comes to that.
  - Would love to have a dog park, but not for a fee- we pay insanely high taxes and as a town are ridiculously good at wasting money- there should be some to build a dog park
  - When would Park be available? Months, days, hours?
  - Fantastic idea!!!
  - Male dogs should be neutered.
  - If this was a more congested town and have a "city" atmosphere, I would be 100% for it.
  - I can't believe you're wasting your time with this extremely stupid and potentially dangerous idea. You must be a Democrat.
  - Not a place to put time or money.
  - If there was a place for the dogs to swim that would be great. Also, maybe hours for big dogs or dogs that need more help properly socializing so small dogs could play without concern.
-