

# West Somerville DOG PARK Feasibility Study

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*Community Preservation Committee  
City of Somerville*

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Collaborative



# West Somerville Dog Park Feasibility Study

## Contents

- Introduction ..... 1
- Background ..... 1
- Case Studies ..... 3
  - DeFilippo Park (Boston, MA)..... 4
  - Ronan Park (Boston, MA)..... 5
  - Medford Dog Park (Medford, MA) ..... 6
  - Thorndike Field (Arlington, MA) ..... 7
  - Maxwell’s Green (Somerville, MA) ..... 8
  - Nunziato Field Dog Park (Somerville, MA)..... 9
- GIS Analysis + Developing Preliminary Parcel List ..... 10
  - Alewife Brook Reservation North (Mystic Valley Parkway and Boston Avenue) ..... 11
  - Dilboy South (Mystic Valley Parkway and Broadway) ..... 12
  - Community Path (Davis Square to Willow Street)..... 12
  - Community Path (Willow Street to Cedar Street) ..... 12
  - Verizon Site (110 Willow Avenue) ..... 13
  - Bailey Park (Belmont Street and Lowell Street near Summer Street)..... 14
  - Fire Station (Somerville Avenue and Lowell Street) ..... 14
  - Dickerman Playground (Craigie Street and Kimball Street) ..... 14
- Community Survey ..... 15
  - Survey Responses..... 16
  - Preferred Features of Dog Parks..... 20
- Recommendations ..... 21
  - Community Response ..... 21
  - Site Analysis..... 22
  - Design and Policy Recommendations..... 25
  - Funding Opportunities ..... 28
- Appendix A | Public Meeting Materials..... 29
- Appendix B | Online Community Survey Questions and Answers ..... 55



# West Somerville Dog Park Feasibility Study

## Introduction

This report was funded by Somerville’s Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to assess the feasibility of developing a dog park in West Somerville. For the purposes of this study, West Somerville is defined as the neighborhoods west of Central Street. This study is the result of the CPC’s new feasibility study program. This program allows the CPC to study projects proposed by individual residents directly to CPC for consideration.

Instead of recommending an individual parcel for a potential dog park, this study identifies eight parcels for further consideration and provides background on dog park design and policies to aid in the future development of new dog parks in Somerville.

Though West Somerville is densely-developed and recreational opportunities are limited, the initial analysis finds that it would be feasible to develop at least one dog park in West Somerville. Current trends in dog ownership and urban recreation indicate that dog parks are still increasing in popularity and demand. As the number of urban dogs continues to increase, Somerville will likely continue to have residents and community groups clamoring for additional dog parks.

As a densely-developed community, open spaces are at a high premium. This report provides a preliminary review of parcels in West Somerville and should provide a starting point for future conversations. Beyond the discussion of a potential dog park in West Somerville, the City and others should engage residents in an ongoing, city-wide discussion about the various needs for open spaces within the City.

## Background

Dog parks are the fastest-growing type of urban open space in the United States<sup>1</sup>. In the decade between 2007 and 2017, dog ownership increased by nearly 30% among American households; young professionals are particularly likely to have a dog<sup>2</sup>. Over the same decade, the number of dog parks in the United States grew by 90%<sup>3</sup>. Nearly half of dog owners live in the United States’ twenty-five largest metro areas. The growth in dog ownership is being driven by high-income households, unmarried individuals, and childless families<sup>4</sup>. The country’s two largest generations, Millennials and Baby Boomers, have especially high rates of dog ownership; these two generations are also the most likely to choose to live in walkable, mixed-use, urban centers. An increase in minority-household dog ownership is also contributing

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.citylab.com/life/2017/04/how-to-design-the-best-dog-park/522870/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.citylab.com/environment/2017/08/the-politics-of-the-dog-park/536463/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.citylab.com/life/2017/04/how-to-design-the-best-dog-park/522870/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2017/07/17/1047437/0/en/United-States-Pet-Population-and-Ownership-Trends-Report-2017-Focus-on-Dogs-Cats-and-Other-Pets.html>

to the growth in households with dogs<sup>5</sup>. All of these trends point to a surge in the number of dogs residing in Somerville.

As dog ownership rates continue to increase and dog owners, especially urban dog owners, desire additional recreational opportunities for their dogs, the need for dog parks throughout the United States and especially in urban areas will only continue to grow. It will be increasingly important for all levels of government to proactively consider the needs of dogs and dog owners in their recreation planning efforts.

As of August 2018, there were 4,461 dogs licensed in Somerville. However, there are likely significantly more dogs living in Somerville since many dog owners do not license their dogs. Using conventional estimates, developed by the American Veterinary Medicine Foundation (AVMF), it is possible there may be as many as 18,500 or 19,000 dogs that live in Somerville<sup>6</sup>. This formula is not specific to urban areas, but the estimate it generates is consistent with the general consensus that there is roughly one dog per every four people in the United States<sup>7</sup>.

Though there is not a general consensus on calculating the number of dogs in urban areas, a very rough estimate can be extrapolated from estimates provided for individual cities. In 2016, San Francisco's Department of Animal Care and Control (SFACC) estimated that there are 120,000 to 150,000 dogs living in the city; though the number of dog licenses in 2016 was not disclosed, the SFACC notes that they issued far fewer than 120,000 dog licenses. In 2016, San Francisco's population was 876,103 people; taking the low estimate of 120,000 dogs, it would mean that approximately 13.6% of San Francisco residents had a dog. In 2012, the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) estimates that there were 600,000 dogs in New York City, approximately one dog per every three households<sup>8</sup>. Using these numbers, Somerville likely has approximately 11,000 dogs. Applying San Francisco's 13.6 rate, Somerville's 81,360 residents would have 11,065 dogs; and applying New York City's one in three households having a dog, Somerville's 33,453 households would have 10,818 dogs.

West Somerville is a densely-developed, primarily residential area. For the purposes of this study, Central Street was used as the demarcation between East and West Somerville. This area is much larger than what most people consider to be West Somerville; when talking about "West Somerville" most people are focused on the areas of Davis Square, Teele Square, Tufts University, and Powder House Square.

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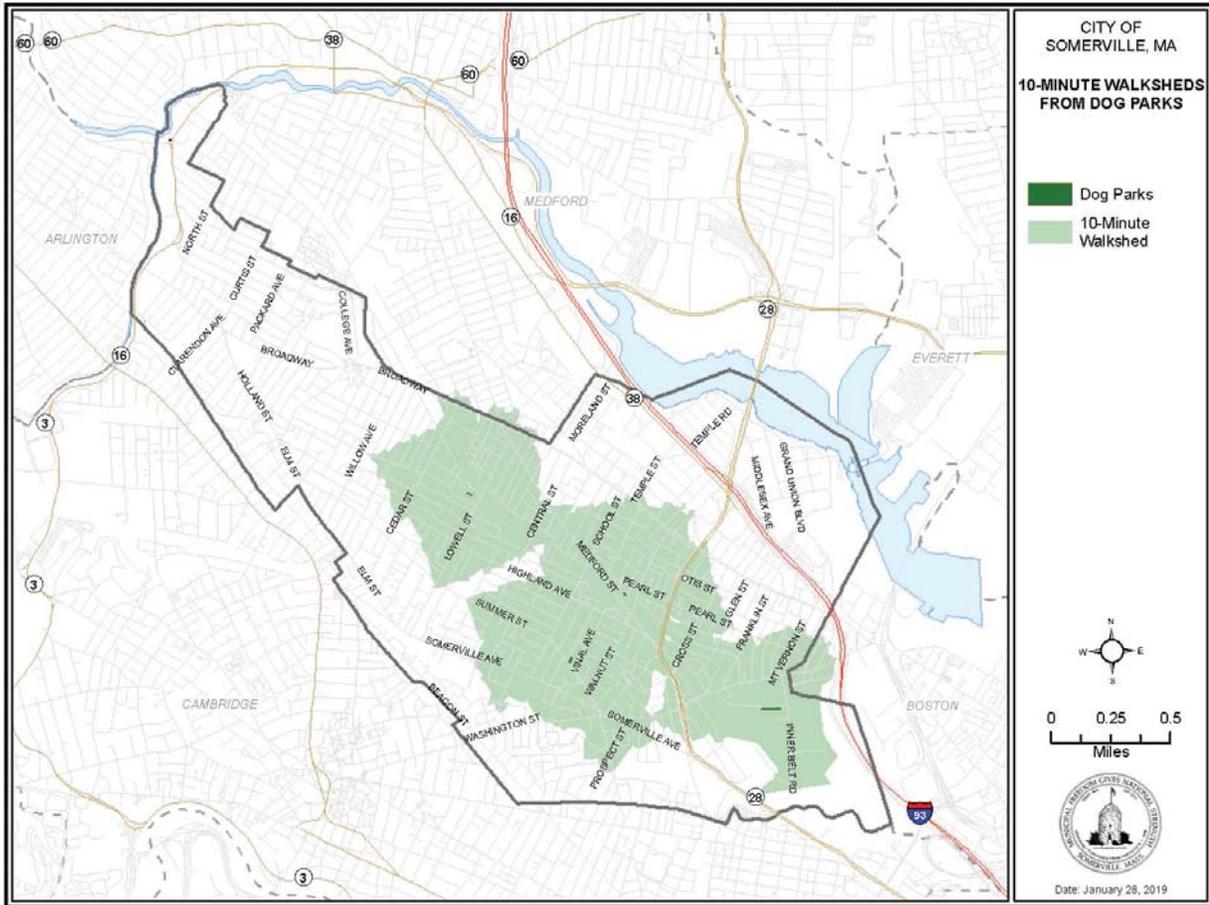
<sup>5</sup> <https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2017/07/17/1047437/0/en/United-States-Pet-Population-and-Ownership-Trends-Report-2017-Focus-on-Dogs-Cats-and-Other-Pets.html>

<sup>6</sup> This is based on a formula developed by the American Veterinary Medicine Foundation (AVMF). This formula is based on nation-wide statistics for dog ownership based on the number of households and residents of a given community. Based on their research, the number of dog-owning households is estimated by multiplying the total number of households by 0.365. Based on the 2010 US Census, the City of Somerville had 32,105 households, so the AVMF estimation is that approximately 11,720 households in Somerville have at least one dog. The 2012 US Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook finds that the average number of dogs in a dog-owning household is 1.6, so there could be as many as 18,750 dogs living in Somerville (<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Statistics/Pages/Market-research-statistics-US-pet-ownership.aspx>).

<sup>7</sup> <https://slate.com/technology/2014/10/smart-cities-will-change-life-for-urban-dogs.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.nycedc.com/blog-entry/new-york-city-s-pet-population>

The City of Somerville has developed several off-leash dog parks within the City, but these parks are primarily located outside of the West Somerville neighborhoods. The ten-minute walksheds for Somerville’s existing dog parks are shown in the map below. Residents of West Somerville find that they have to travel outside of their neighborhood or to another city all together to access off-leash recreation for their dogs.



## Case Studies

In determining whether or not the creation of a public dog park would be feasible in West Somerville and to help build public understanding and awareness of urban dog parks, a number of dog parks in urban areas were reviewed. The following is a summary of this research.

## DeFilippo Park (Boston, MA) – 2,500 square feet<sup>9</sup>



The dog park in DeFilippo Park, located in the North End, first opened on a trial basis in 2015. The final design was developed by a partnership of the City’s Department of Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and advocacy organization, RUFF (Responsible Urbanites For Fido) North End. The park opened officially in late 2017. It is part of a larger recreational complex. The City’s Department of Parks and Recreation manages the park with help from RUFF North End.

Though small, at only 2,500 square feet, the dog park in DeFilippo Park includes a separate space for small dogs, has agility equipment for the dogs to play on, and water features to make the park interesting and help keep the space cool during the summer. The permanent design was developed during a successful trial run to test whether a dog park in the area would be used and identify challenges. The trial period also allowed park advocates and the City to identify amenities and address neighborhood concerns. The initial, temporary design did not include water features or irrigation. Automatic irrigation and a hydrant-shaped water feature were added when the final park design was constructed. There are also water fountains for people and dogs. This park is well-used and well-liked by dogs and dog-owners alike. The original, trial opening, allowed the City and partners to identify whether or not the park would be used and to work with the community to develop a park that would best suit their needs.

In addition to the agility equipment and water features, the park includes benches and shade trees. Dog waste bags are also provided. The surface material is a mix of hardscaping and artificial turf. The dog park is surrounded by six-foot fencing with gates that automatically lock when the park closes for the night.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://northendwaterfront.com/2017/12/north-end-dog-park-opens-defilippo-gassy-park-flights-photos/>, <http://thestantonfoundation.org/canine/dog-parks/guide/parks/defilippo-park-boston>

Similar to most other parks in Boston, the DeFilippo Dog Park is open during the day and closed at night. Construction costs were estimated at \$200,000, with 90% funded by a grant from the Stanton Foundation. The City of Boston paid for the remaining 10% of construction. Since the City's Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for maintenance, the city is funding ongoing maintenance needs.

### Ronan Park (Boston, MA) – 3,183 square feet<sup>10</sup>



Ronan Park, in Dorchester, is a 3,183 square foot dog park within a larger park that includes basketball courts, a baseball diamond, children's playground and splashpad, and walking paths in addition to the dog park. It was opened in 2010 and is managed by the Boston Department of Parks and Recreation with support from the Friends of Ronan Park organization.

The park does not include a separate space for small dogs but does have some rock/boulder features for dogs to climb and play on and has a dogs-only water fountain. There are benches for people to use, but reviewers note that these benches are not shaded. The area does not include irrigation, because the park's surface is pea stone. The subsurface is crushed stone to help with infiltration. There is a cement walkway in the dog park. The park has trash barrels and ample dog waste bags for people to pick up after their dogs. There are not trees or other landscaping within the dog park, but a number of trees are planted just outside the park's fencing. There is a storage facility for maintenance equipment. The park is fully-fenced with a five-foot fence. Ronan Park Dog Park was constructed with a grant from the Stanton Foundation. Construction costs were \$207,500.

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<sup>10</sup> <http://thestantonfoundation.org/canine/dog-parks/guide/parks/ronan-park-boston>

## Medford Dog Park (Medford, MA) – 12,000 square feet<sup>11</sup>



The City of Medford worked with The Stanton Foundation to construct its first dog park in 2017. This dog park is part of a larger park and is almost entirely a pea stone surface that decreases maintenance requirements. There is a separate space for small dogs and several benches for people to use while their dogs play. There is a dogs-only water fountain and storage shed for maintenance and other equipment.

Similar to many other dog parks, this park was the result of a local advocacy effort. The group Paws 4 Medford was formed more than four years before the park officially opened. During their effort to construct a dog park in the city, there were several public meetings as well as a general call for public comment on the proposed park location. Some Medford residents had been advocating for a dog park in the city since 2010. Paws 4 Medford worked with the city to apply for the Stanton Foundation Grant, which provided the lion's share of design and construction funding. The \$250,000 grant was augmented by municipal funds that came from several fundraisers supported by Paws 4 Medford. Construction costs totaled \$279,300.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://thestantonfoundation.org/canine/dog-parks/guide/parks/medford-dog-park>

## Thorndike Field (Arlington, MA) – 17,500 square feet<sup>12</sup>



Thorndike Field is one of the largest and most popular dog parks included in these case studies; even though it is likely much larger than would be possible in West Somerville, it has been included since it is such a popular place for people (including many Somerville residents) to take their dogs. Thorndike Dog Park is part of a larger park that includes three multi-purpose athletic fields. There is a parking lot and it's easily accessible from the Alewife Linear Park that connects to Somerville's Community Path and Minuteman Bikeway. Anecdotal evidence indicates that many Somerville residents use Thorndike field to run their dogs since it is larger, better-maintained than other dog parks in the area, and easily-accessible. The fully-fenced dog park includes agility structures and stones/boulders for the dogs to play on. There are benches, lighting, and trash receptacles. The surface is rice stone and there is a sprinkler irrigation system. There is a dogs-only water fountain and hose connection. Much of the area is sunny, but there are a number of large trees in the fenced area.

The fences are five feet tall and, like all the dog parks profiled in this study, there is a dual-gate "air lock" secure entry. This park was funded with support from the Stanton Foundation. Construction costs were \$199,400. Arlington's Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for maintenance and are supported by the Friends of Thorndike Park.

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<sup>12</sup> <http://thestantonfoundation.org/canine/dog-parks/guide/parks/thorndike-field-arlington>

Maxwell's Green (Somerville, MA) – 4,792 square feet



Windsor at Maxwell's Green is a luxury apartment community that is pet-friendly and includes a fully-fenced dog park. The surface is artificial turf and there is landscaping just outside the fenced-area. A trash barrel is provided for dog waste removal. The management company for Windsor is responsible for all maintenance. Technically, this dog park is open to the public but is situated on the parcel such that it feels like a privately-owned amenity as opposed to a public dog park.

Nunziato Field Dog Park (Somerville, MA) – 9,392 square feet<sup>13</sup>



This dog park is owned and maintained by the City of Somerville and part of a larger recreational facility that includes a multi-use recreational field and community garden. The surface is crushed gravel and stone dust, so dogs get very dusty when they play but the surface is durable and low-maintenance. The park has trees within the dog park and along its edges so there is some shade for dogs and people though the middle is unshaded. There is a picnic bench for people to sit on, but it is a “no-frills” dog park that is just a place for dogs to run off leash. People and dogs appreciate the space to run, but it is definitely not a destination dog park and many people prefer other area parks over Nunziato dog park.

The City is in the process of renovating and updating Nunziato Dog Park. The new design includes an activity center including agility equipment and stone structures for dogs to play on as well as a shade structure and benches for their human companions. Additional trees will also be added to provide more shade.

Nunziato is located within a residential neighborhood, which has caused some friction but makes it easy for local dog owners so they do not have to travel far with their dogs. The community has stocked the dog park with shared toys and bowls. There is a dog waste barrel with bags to encourage people to clean up after their dogs. The community generally does a good job of cleaning up after their dogs.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.yelp.com/biz/nunziato-field-dog-park-somerville-2>,  
<https://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/Nunziato%20Meeting%204%20Presenation%202017Apr25.pdf>,  
<https://hugoswalk.wordpress.com/tag/nunziato-field/>

## GIS Analysis + Developing Preliminary Parcel List

A simple GIS analysis was completed to identify whether or not there were parcels in West Somerville that could support an off-leash dog park. Based on the guidance provided in the RFP and meetings with Somerville’s Community Preservation Act Manager and community member sponsoring the West Somerville Dog Park proposal, a number of criteria were identified to guide the GIS analysis.

The criteria used were:

- Located west of Central Street
- At least 4,700 square feet
- Adjacent to non-residential uses
- Not currently in recreational use
- Not located in a Local Historic District

The initial GIS analysis identified approximately 15 parcels that necessitated further consideration. Some of the areas identified did not meet all five criteria but warranted discussion given their current land uses and the density of development within West Somerville. This initial list of parcels was discussed with the City’s Community Preservation Act Manager and citizen-proponent to develop a refined list of parcels that could potentially support a dog park. The final parcels identified for further consideration are presented in the following table and map. Prior to the public meeting, these locations were discussed in detail with the City’s Community Preservation Act Manager and the citizen-proponent and were then reviewed at the public meeting and included in the online survey distributed following the public meeting.

Potential West Somerville Dog Park Locations					
Map-Block-Lot	Name	Address	Owner	Approximate Size (square feet)	Assessed Value (total parcel, if available)
5-A-1A	Alewife Brook Reservation North	Alewife Brook Parkway	DCR	217,080	\$1,419,400
1-A-1	Dilboy South	0 Boston Ave	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	43,800	\$11,117,900
No MBL	Community Path (Davis Square to Willow Ave)		MBTA	80,355	
No MBL	Community Path (Willow Ave to Cedar Street)		MBTA	114,390	
24-D-2	Verizon Site	110 Willow Ave	Boston Edison Company	43,525	\$2,096,400
43-A-19	Bailey Park	Belmont Street	City of Somerville	16,830	\$703,900
38-E-1	Fire Station at Lowell Street and Somerville Ave	651 Somerville Ave	City of Somerville	18,395	\$2,196,700
38-C-1	Dickerman Playground	0 Craigie Street	City of Somerville	17,490	\$574,700

# West Somerville DOG PARK Feasibility Study

## Possible Locations



### Alewife Brook Reservation North (Mystic Valley Parkway and Boston Avenue)

The Alewife Brook Reservation North is a linear park with a multi-use path and green space. It is adjacent to the Mystic River. The site can be assessed from the intersection of Boston Ave and Route 16 where there is a traffic signal and crosswalk. This location is in the northernmost area of Somerville. Meeting participants and survey respondents felt that this site was too remote, though most respondents said they thought the site was suitable for a dog park. Other concerns about this site include challenges associated with DCR’s ownership, the impact of dog waste on water quality, and the safety of pedestrian and vehicular access to the park. On the other hand, the area is secluded from the playground and is a relatively large space that could support a dog park much larger than parcels that are more centrally-located. Discussion with DCR about the addition of a dog park would be needed.



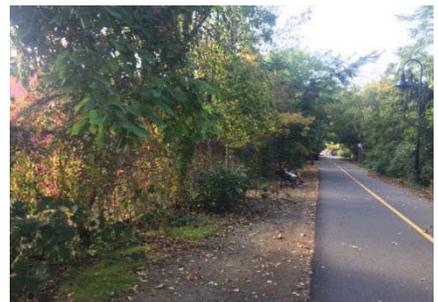
### Dilboy South (Mystic Valley Parkway and Broadway)

Dilboy South is a State-owned park that also has multi-use path and green space. This location is adjacent to Alewife Brook. Similar to the Alewife Brook Reservation site, this location is on the outskirts of Somerville and may be difficult for residents to access since Rt 16 could be a barrier for people walking their dog to the site. The site is very large, secluded, and separate but would require coordination with the State since it is not locally-owned. Survey respondents were slightly more supportive of this location than the Alewife Brook Reservation site, but many public meeting participants and survey respondents indicated that it was further away than they would like.



### Community Path (Davis Square to Willow Street)

The Somerville Community Path is a linear park that starts in Davis Square and ends at Lowell Street; it is proposed to be extended as part of the MBTA's ongoing Green Line Extension project. The westernmost section, from Davis Square to Willow Street, has a vegetated strip on either side of the path, a community garden, and art installation. The Community Path locations were very well received by public meeting participants and survey respondents. Though many people were supportive of considering a dog park along the Community Path, there were concerns about overuse and crowding along the Path. The linear nature of the Community Path presents some challenges in creating a fenced-in area large enough for dogs to play, but a linear dog park would be feasible. While community members were concerned about overcrowding, public meeting participants mentioned that there are already a lot of dogs on the Community Path and it is readily accessible for many West Somerville residents.



### Community Path (Willow Street to Cedar Street)

The Willow to Cedar section of the Community Path has a wider vegetated buffer than the previous section and is well-shaded. As mentioned above, members of the public were intrigued by the thought of including off-leash recreation along the Community Path. Though both sections were well-received, survey respondents indicated that the green space adjacent to the Path was wider in this stretch so they felt that this location was more suitable than the stretch of the Community Path between Davis Square

and Willow Street. A concern about this location is the fact that there is already overcrowding on the Community Path. Similar to the previous section, public meeting participants indicated that Some concerns about this location include the fact that there is already crowding on the Community Path. Similar to the first segment, there are already a lot of dogs using this section of the path.



### Verizon Site (110 Willow Avenue)

The Verizon site is currently fenced off from public access, and has a building on site, vehicle access/parking lot, and some vegetation. This location was the community's first choice. Public meeting participants were excited about the idea and identified this site as a long-standing neighborhood eyesore. Attendees and survey respondents alike said that the location was very convenient for West Somerville residents and liked that the site was adjacent to, but not immediately on, the Community Path, where many people walk their dogs. This underutilized parcel could be improved by a dog park, but the City and others would need to decide if converting the space to a dog park would be the highest and best use of the site. This parcel is owned by a utility company, which could make repurposing or adding an additional use challenging. There may be opportunities to provide multiple public benefits on this parcel. There are residential neighbors across the street on two sides of the site, so the a dog park at this location would not be fully removed from a residential neighborhood.



### Bailey Park (Belmont Street and Lowell Street near Summer Street)

Bailey Park is a passive park with a couple of paths, benches, and a lawn. This park, though not designated as a dog park, is popular with dog walkers and dog owners. It is relatively flat and open. Additionally, the site is owned by the City of Somerville so there would not be acquisition costs. However, there are some residential neighbors and the community indicated that the site's location was not particularly convenient for they consider to be West Somerville residents. Even though this location was not among the community's top choices, a majority of survey respondents indicated that the site was feasible for a dog park.



### Fire Station (Somerville Avenue and Lowell Street)

The Somerville Avenue Fire Station has lawn along Lowell Street and wooded area to behind the station. Both of the green spaces are sloped. Similar to Dickerman Playground and Bailey Park, public meeting participants and survey respondents felt that this site was suitable for a dog park but it was not among their top choices. This location would be easily accessible from the surrounding neighborhood, but survey responses indicated that the community does not consider it to be in West Somerville so a park in this location may not provide the access West Somerville residents desire. The portion of the lot that could support a dog park would likely require significant site work, since there is a relatively steep slope. The City already owns the site, so it would not require acquisition costs. However, the parcel is controlled by the Fire Department so converting the back area to a recreational use would likely require interdepartmental coordination and use agreements.



### Dickerman Playground (Craigie Street and Kimball Street)

Dickman Playground is split into two spaces at different heights with a wall between the two distinct sections. There is an existing children's playground on the lower half and there is a small, flat, grassy area that could be used for off-leash recreation on the upper section. Since dog parks are fenced off there are

ways to help keep the park activities separate and the park is on two levels, so there are design solutions that could work for the site. As mentioned previously, this location was not among the community's top choices since it is located further from the neighborhoods people consider to be West Somerville than desired. It is City-owned and is already in park use, so there would not be acquisition costs or interdepartmental coordination. There are many dog owners and dog walkers in the neighborhood, but there are residential neighbors located across the street on Craigie, Kimball, and Ibbetson Streets.



## Community Survey

To supplement input received at the public meeting, an online community survey was conducted to ask residents whether they thought a dog park could be located on the sites that were identified by the GIS analysis. The survey also asked residents whether or not they felt there was a need for a dog park in West Somerville and provided the option for respondents to say that they did not feel that any of the identified sites would be suitable for a dog park. The following is a summary of the results from this survey.

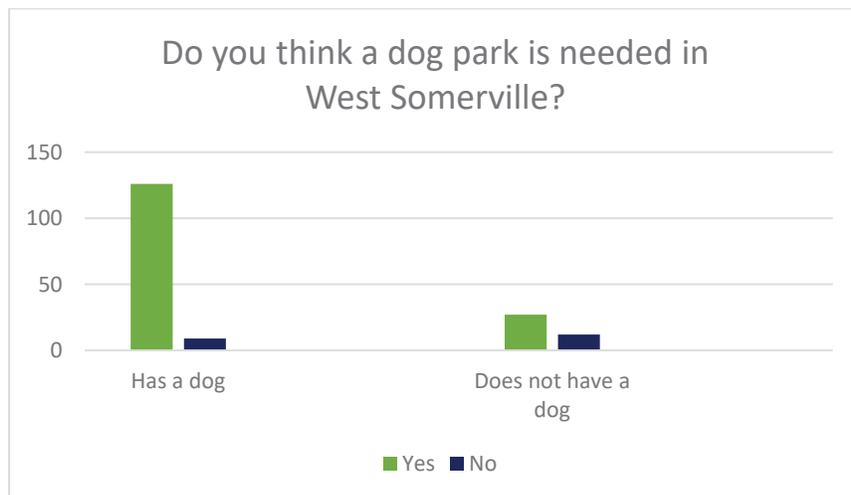
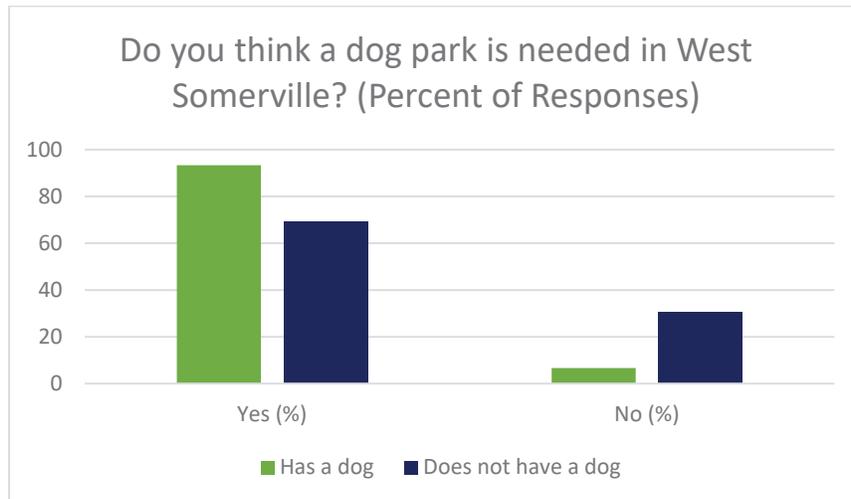
Appendix A includes the presentation given at the public meeting and a copy of each survey received at the public meeting. Appendix B includes all the questions and responses to the online survey.

The online survey received a total of 189 responses. An additional 13 hard copy surveys were collected at the Community Preservation Committee meeting that was open to the public, approximately 25 people participated in this meeting.

## Survey Responses

### Question 1: Do you think a dog park is needed in the area?

More than 80% of respondents (153 unique responses) to the online survey said that they thought a dog park was needed in West Somerville; twenty-one respondents (11%) thought a dog park was not needed. Nearly 70% of non-dog owners indicated that a dog park was necessary in West Somerville.



### Question 2: Please briefly tell us why you feel a dog park is or isn't needed in West Somerville

#### Summary of No Responses (17 responses)

- “West Somerville is home to the largest open parcel of land in the entire city. The Dilboy Field/Alewife Brook Path are already more than suitable as areas where dog owners can take their pets. Both the Dilboy tennis courts and the football field parking lots are routinely empty and completely underutilized. It is my observation as a resident of the immediate vicinity that the green space in the area is also completely underutilized, along with the pathways and other

surrounding infrastructure. It would be a complete waste of money and resources to take away a section of this park land and designate it as exclusive use for dog owners.”

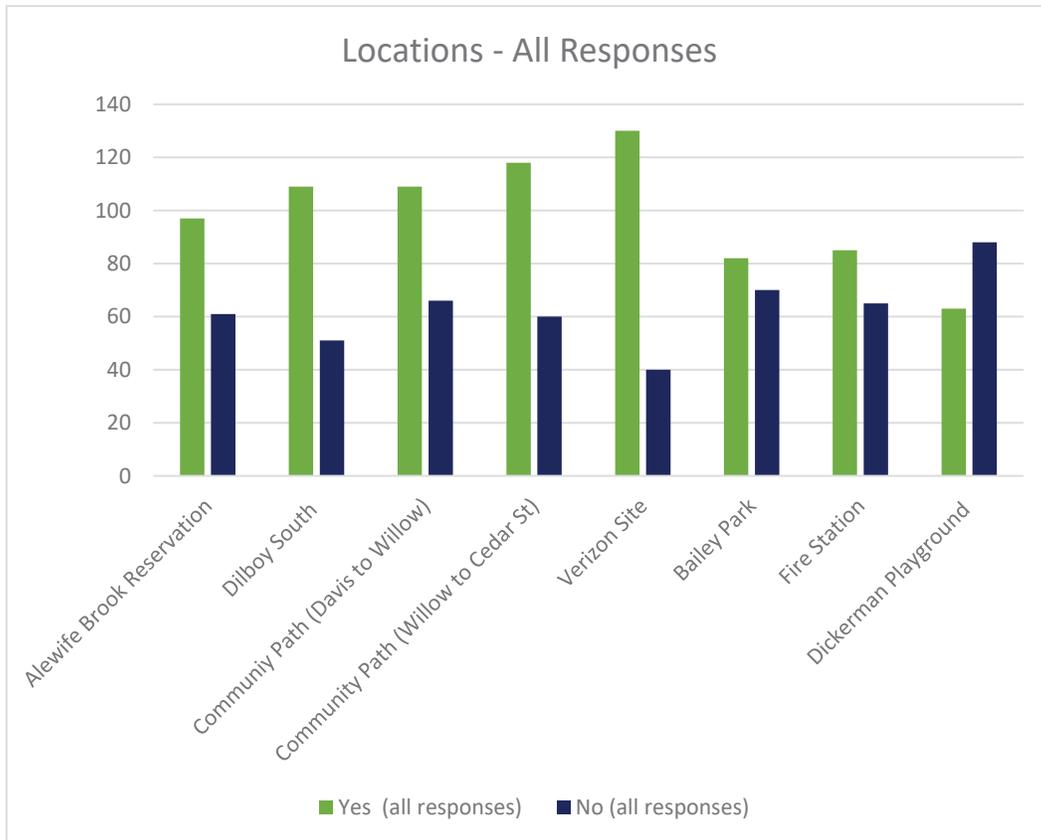
- “There are plenty of areas for dogs and dog parks are smelly and ruin the grass.”
- “Not enough open space available for a decent size park, unless you use part of Dilboy Field. Tufts University is not amenable to sharing any of their green space.”
- “I have a dog, but all the other dog parks in Somerville seem to have been taken over by dog walkers who let many dogs run at one time. And they are very smelly. I might be more amenable to the idea of people could bring in one only one or two dogs at a time.”
- “We need more general open space that is not dedicated to one use. If it was in an underutilized space in the far western edge of town, that is fine, but closer to pedestrian areas, we need more general open space and less conflicts between bikes and dog leashes.”
- “There’s plenty of existing walking areas and paths for WS residents to walk their dogs. Cordoning off a portion of the already-scarce public greenspace in the City for a fenced in dog are is a waste of space that would put the residents of the Clarendon Hill area at yet another disadvantage for green space.”

#### *Summary of Yes Responses (133 responses)*

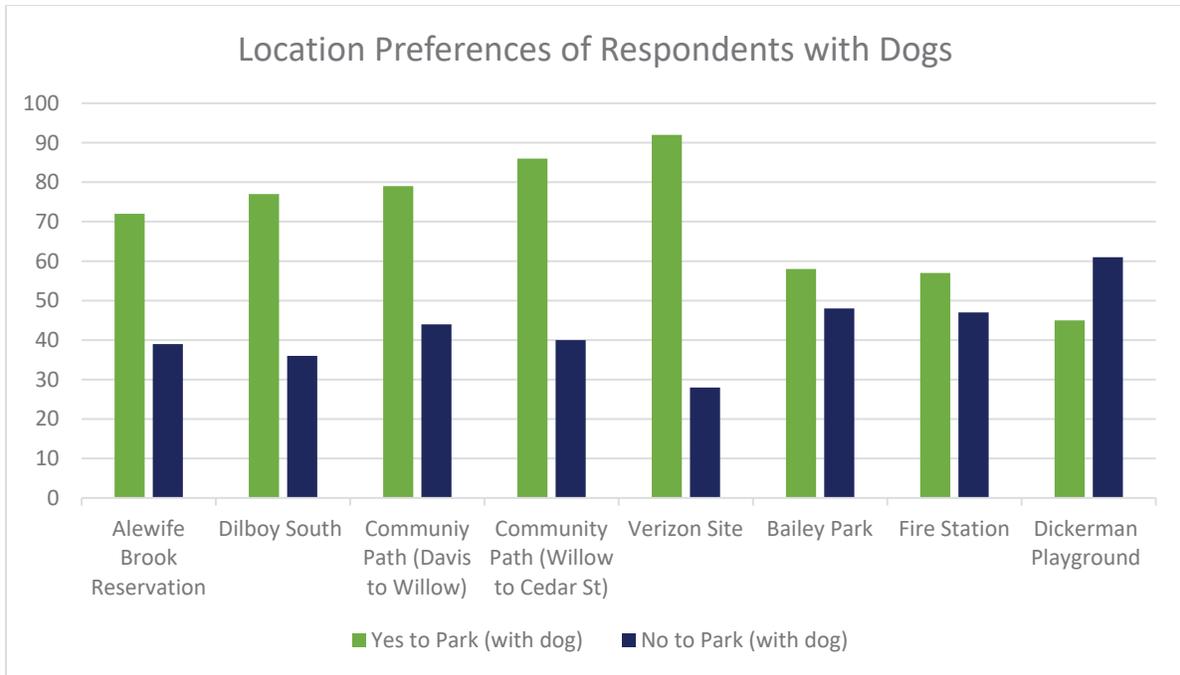
- “Closest dog park is a 40-minute walk or 15-minute drive away. It would give the dogs a place to socialize, and if equipped with bags and barrels, would keep poop off the sidewalk!”
- “West Somerville has so much possible green space. Danehy and Thorndike are both in other towns and are gravel covered which is not a pleasant experience for everyone.”
- “We drive to Arlington all the time to use theirs. We live right by the one off Albion, but with no fence (and now no trees) it is not useful.”
- “A park on the path would be super convenient because we are already walking our dog but gives us a convenient and safe place to stop and spend some additional time outdoors.”
- “We currently have to drive to get to the nearest dog park, which I don't like because it's a waste of gas and it doesn't support the building of neighborhood connections.”
- “I have to drive all the way to Union Square for the nearest dog park for my dog. It would be nice to be able to walk to a neighborhood dog park and meet and make friends with the people who live around me.”
- “I see lots of dogs on the Tufts field, even though I don't think they're allowed there. A dog park would be a good and safe place for people to take their dogs.”
- “I am not a dog owner, but have young children, and am frustrated with the conflicts that arise when dog owners take their dogs into parks where they are not allowed. People routinely allow their dogs in Hodgkins Curtin park where leave poop and jump on kids. I’ve seen people drive to Hodgkins Park and let their dogs out of the car and into the field, so it has somehow become a destination so I think maybe they would drive to a nearby dog park if one was available. Another problem is Triangle Field (though owned by Tufts, but where Somerville Youth Soccer pays to pay and the City maintains a portapotty) where there are always dogs and dog poop left behind.”
- “West Somerville is underserved by dog parks right now compared to East Somerville and Central Hill, making it harder to enjoy the health benefits of dog ownership if you live in the West Somerville area.”

### Questions 3 to 10: Site Preferences

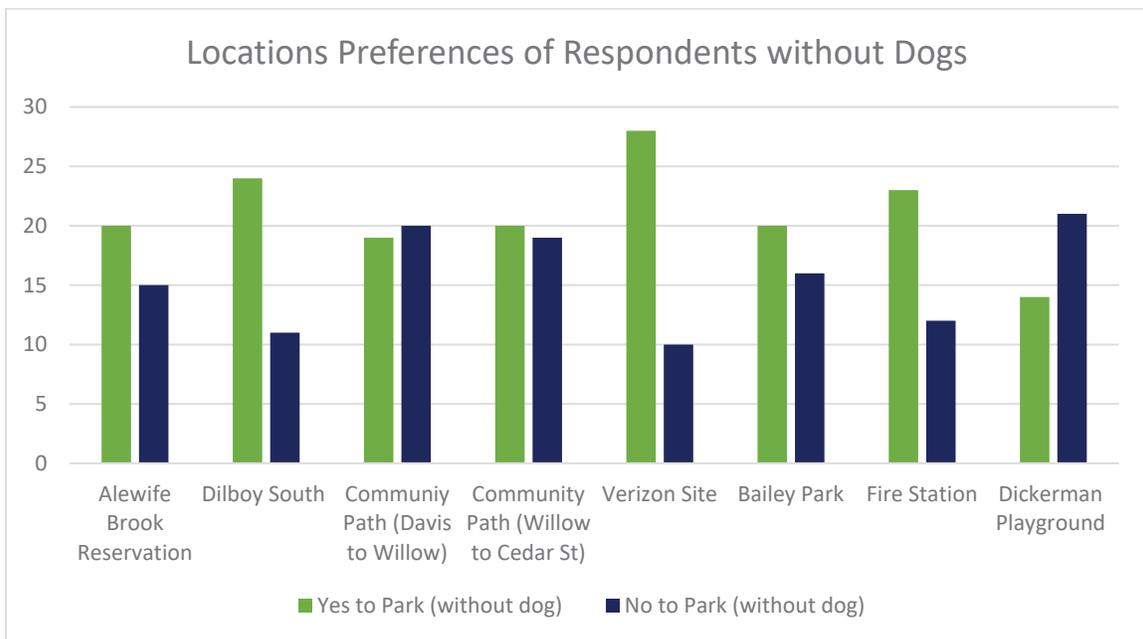
As discussed in this report, this feasibility study used Central Street as the easternmost boundary of “West Somerville.” However, most people do not consider this area West Somerville. This is likely why the potential sites closer to Central Street were not viewed as favorably as the sites that are within the areas most people to consider to be “West Somerville” neighborhoods. Multiple survey respondents indicated that these locations (Bailey Park, the Fire Station, and Dickerman Playground) were not desirable because they are not truly in West Somerville, would still require a drive to the park, and were too close to the existing Nunziato Field Dog Park.



### Respondents with Dogs and without Dogs



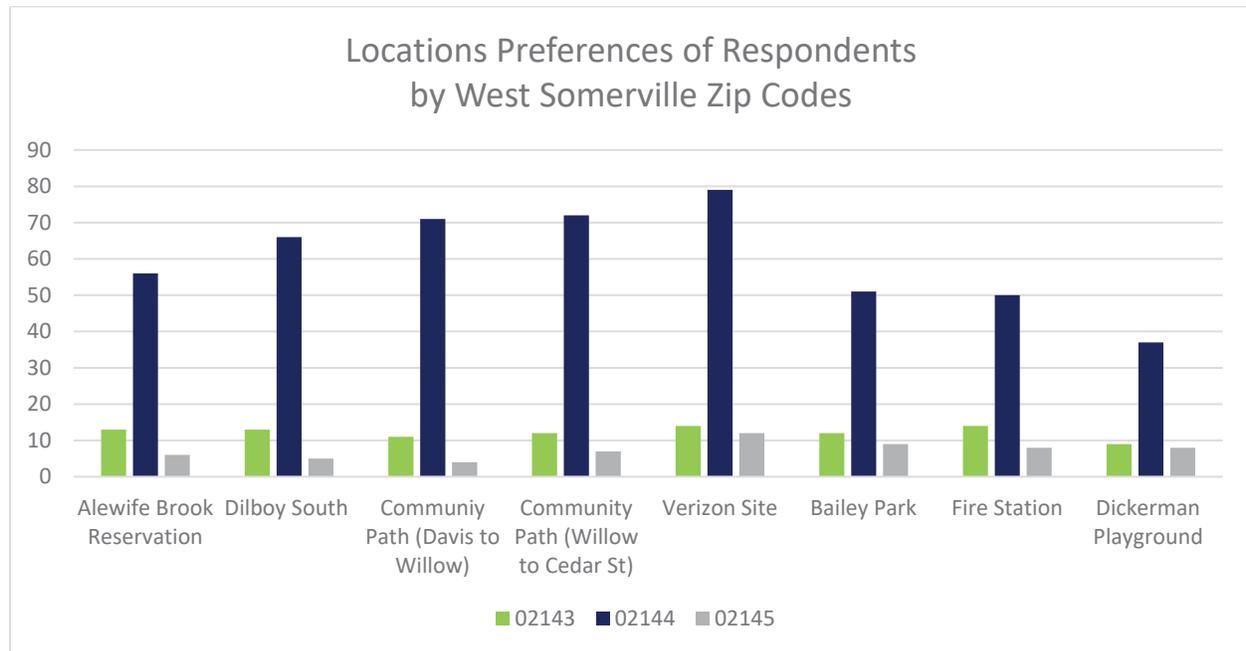
The online survey asked respondents to indicate whether or not they had a dog. The study team was curious to see if preferences would vary between dog owners and non-dog owners. The Verizon Site was the first choice for respondents whether or not they owned a dog; 92% of respondents said this site was feasible. Non-dog owners were less supportive of adding a dog park to the Community Path; the Community Path between Davis Square and Willow Ave was the only site that non-dog owners felt was not suitable for a dog park. For each of the other locations, more of the non-dog owners said the sites were suitable for a dog park than not. Dickerman Playground was least preferred amongst dog-owners and people without dogs.



## Responses by Zip Code

Since an online survey can be accessed worldwide, the online survey asked respondents for their home zip code to make sure that responses were coming from Somerville residents. Of the 172 respondents who provided their zip code, the vast majority lived in West Somerville:

- 116 respondents lived in 02144
- 21 respondents lived in 02143
- 16 respondents lived in 02145



## Preferred Features of Dog Parks

The online survey asked respondents what they like or do not like about the dog parks they currently visit. Below is a summary of preferred features respondents identified:

- Water sources
- Shade and trees
- Seating for both dog owners and non-dog owners to enjoy
- Walkable
- Parking nearby
- Dog waste bags and trash receptacles
- Fences – specifically double gate/dual entry
- Obstacle course or climbing structure features
- Large areas of open space for off leash running

Respondents were split on preferring gravel, grass, or dirt depending on the preferences of their dog. Many responses note the difficulty of dirt as it turns to mud when it rains, while others noted that the gravel holds the smell of urine more than grass or dirt.

Many respondents appreciated the size of Nunziato Park but preferred the features of other parks more. Respondents indicated that some of their favorite dog parks are:

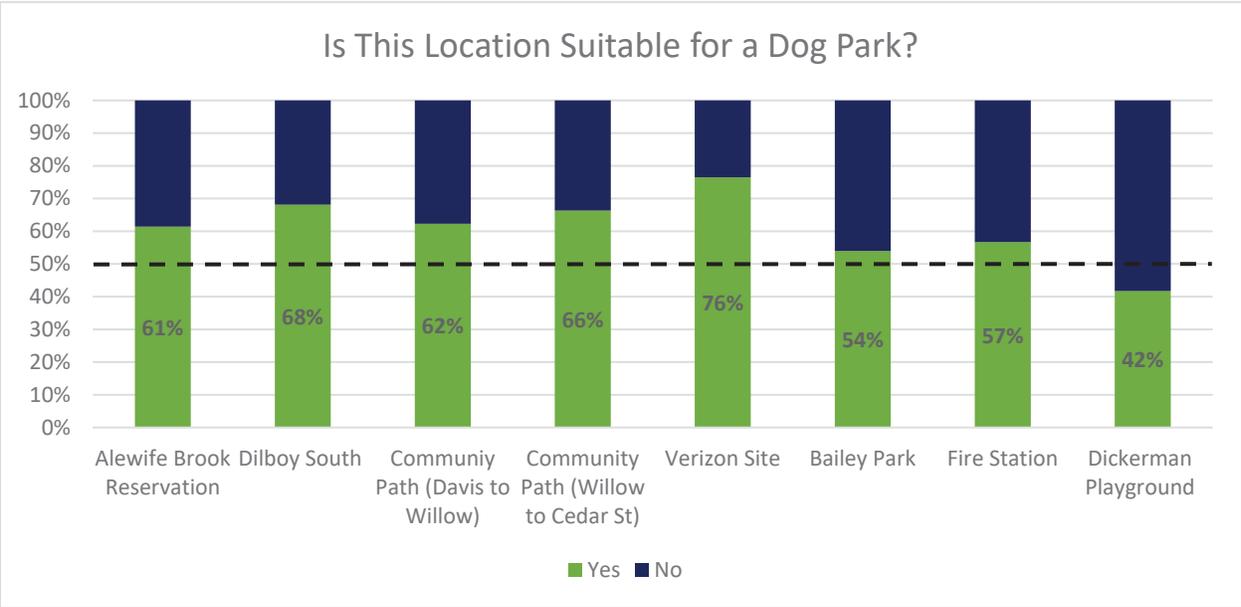
- Denehy Park (Cambridge)
- Medford Dog Park (Medford)
- Thorndike Field (Arlington)
- Zero New Washington (Somerville)
- Corcoran (Raymond Park) (Cambridge)

## Recommendations

### Community Response

This project originated with a resident request to the CPC. The Dog Parks Map and outreach conducted as part of this study confirmed that West Somerville is not currently served by a dog park. Survey participants and CPC meeting attendees alike overwhelmingly felt that there was a need for a dog park in West Somerville. More than 85% of the respondents to the online survey said that they thought a dog park was needed.

Of the eight locations identified through the GIS analysis, community meeting participants and online survey respondents said that seven were suitable for a dog park. The three most highly-rated locations were: the Verizon Site (111 Willow Avenue), Dilboy South (Mystic Valley Parkway and Broadway), and the Community Path from Willow Street to Cedar Street). The Community Path from Davis Square to Willow Street and Alewife Brook Reservation North (Mystic Valley Parkway and Boston Avenue) were also ranked highly – more than 60% of respondents (both at the meeting and online survey) said that each of these five locations were suitable for a dog park.



## Site Analysis

In addition to the upcoming community discussion about dog parks in West Somerville, the City and others should engage residents in an ongoing discussion about the various needs for open spaces within the city. Somerville is very densely-developed and populated, putting open spaces at a high premium. In multiple planning studies, the City has identified the need for additional and improved public spaces throughout the City but especially in West Somerville. The demand for the limited space available is innumerable and city planners must work with the community to identify opportunities to maximize public spaces. Similar to the Maxwell's Green project, the City could enter into public-private partnerships to provide additional public spaces for its residents. Privately-owned public spaces, or POPS, are increasingly common in urban and suburban areas. Somerville can continue to pursue this tool to ensure that community members, human and canine alike, have adequate access to public spaces.

Though the preliminary parcel list for further consideration was developed using a specific set of criteria, the City may want to explore some of the parcels that were ruled out based on the criteria set for this study. There are some parcels that did not meet the 4,700 square foot threshold that could potentially be combined to create a larger space or, as other cities have done, could support a smaller dog park. Many existing dog parks, including those that already exist in Somerville, would not meet these criteria but function well as dog parks.

For the purposes of this study, a 4,700 square foot threshold was used to include parcels on the preliminary list. In completing the case study research, it was found that there are well-liked dog parks that are much smaller than 4,700 square feet. To maximize opportunities to provide a dog park, or parks, in West Somerville, the City will likely need to reconsider this size requirement. For many dog owners, having a small dog park where their dog can run off-leash is often preferable to having nowhere for off-leash play. However, smaller parks can require additional maintenance due to the impact dogs can have on grass. Alternatively, the City could decide to focus on providing a smaller number of larger spaces for off-leash recreation.

The other two criteria that were used to develop the preliminary parcel list that the City may want to reconsider is whether or not a new dog park could be co-located within or adjacent to an existing recreational area and the proximity of a new dog park to residential areas. Much of West Somerville is dense, residential neighborhoods, making it difficult to find a parcel that is not adjacent to residential uses. Beyond limiting the number of options, dog owners prefer dog parks in their neighborhood to traveling longer distances to access space where their dogs can run. When dog parks are not convenient to the neighborhoods in which dogs live, people are more likely to break city regulations and let dogs run off-leash in areas where they should be leashed. This increases conflicts between dogs and people trying to use the same space, contributing to opposition to the development of new dog parks. Providing easily-accessible areas for off-leash recreation throughout the City can reduce the number of people walking dogs illegally off-leash and decrease conflict between people with dogs and others.

Additionally, many successful dog parks are co-located with other recreational amenities within existing parks. Though this may not be feasible in West Somerville, it is a factor the City could consider when determining appropriate site(s) for new dog parks. The Stanton Foundation, a Massachusetts-based

private foundation that supports “dog recreation spaces,” has found that nearly sixty percent of the parks it supports are located within existing recreational facilities<sup>14</sup>.

The City of Cambridge has been working with residents to identify areas of the City for off-leash dog recreation. Not all of the spaces in Cambridge where dogs are allowed off-leash are fully-fenced, dedicated dog parks; instead the city has identified three types of off-leash areas (dedicated off-leash areas, shared use off-leash areas, and shared use hours). Dedicated off-leash areas are fully-fenced and intended to be used exclusively by dogs and their people. In shared use off-leash areas, dogs are allowed to be off-leash but the spaces are not fully-fenced nor are they separate from other uses and activities. Shared use hours allow dogs to be off-leash in certain places during designated hours only. To help identify which areas would be used in which manner, the City of Cambridge reviewed public spaces using certain criteria. To help people understand the various regulations, Cambridge has developed a brochure that highlights the different types of off-leash areas, lists the regulations for off-leash dogs, and provides a map. This may be a good model for Somerville to explore.

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<sup>14</sup> <http://thestantonfoundation.org/canine/dog-parks/guide/space/>

## ABOUT OFF LEASH DOGS IN CAMBRIDGE PARKS

Over the past several years, the City of Cambridge has been continually working with residents to explore strategies for dogs to be off leash in city parks and open spaces.

There are three types of off leash spaces in Cambridge:

- Dedicated Off Leash Areas
- Shared Use Off Leash Areas
- Shared Use Hours

Dog owners and keepers may have up to three off leash dogs per person in designated areas or times.

Only dogs with current Cambridge licenses are allowed to be off leash in parks. Contact the Animal Commission about licensing at 617-349-4376, or visit [www.cambridgema.gov/animal](http://www.cambridgema.gov/animal).

Leashed dogs are allowed in most Cambridge parks.



For more information, visit [www.cambridgema.gov/offleash](http://www.cambridgema.gov/offleash)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

To report an issue regarding dogs in Cambridge parks or to apply for a dog license, please contact the City of Cambridge Animal Commission at 617-349-4376, or visit the Animal Commission website: [www.cambridgema.gov/animal](http://www.cambridgema.gov/animal)

For additional information regarding Cambridge off leash opportunities, please contact the Community Development Department at 617-349-4600, or visit: [www.cambridgema.gov/offleash](http://www.cambridgema.gov/offleash)

For additional information or concerns regarding specific off leash locations:

**Fresh Pond Reservation**, please call Fresh Pond Reservation Management at 617-349-4762.

**Danehy Park**, please call Danehy Park maintenance office at 617-349-4895 or the Recreation Department at 617-349-6200.

For all other off leash and shared use locations, please contact the Department of Public Works at 617-349-4880, or visit the Department of Public Works website for more information: [www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/parks/dogslegaloffleashandshareuseparks](http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/parks/dogslegaloffleashandshareuseparks)



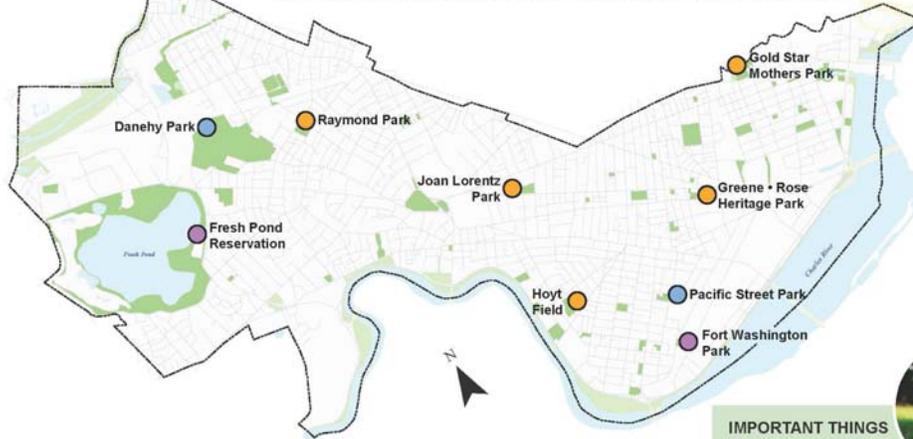
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

# Off Leash Dog Guide



AUGUST 2015

## OFF LEASH DOG AREAS FOR CAMBRIDGE-LICENSED DOGS



### DEDICATED OFF LEASH AREAS

These areas are fenced in and intended exclusively for use by off leash dogs and their owners

Pacific Street Park (Pacific Street)  
Danehy Park (New Street)

### SHARED USE OFF LEASH AREAS

These are areas where dogs are allowed off leash, but that are not fully fenced in or separated from other uses and activities

Fresh Pond Reservation (Fresh Pond Parkway)  
Fort Washington Park (Waverly Street)

### SHARED USE HOURS

These are areas where dogs are allowed to be off leash during designated hours. These areas are not fenced in, and outside of shared use hours, dogs must be on leash in these locations

Raymond Park (Raymond Street)	6 AM to 9AM
Hoyt Field (Western Avenue)	6 AM to 9AM
Greene • Rose Heritage (Harvard Street)	6 AM to 9AM
Gold Star Mothers Park (Gore Street)	6 AM to 9AM
Joan Lorentz Park (Broadway)	8 AM to 10AM

### IMPORTANT THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND



- Dogs must be under the control of owner/keeper and must have a current Cambridge license
- Off leash hours are suspended when there are permitted or school-based activities in the park
- There are no off leash hours when parks or fields are saturated with rain
- Dogs must be leashed when Parks Division crews are working in the park
- The owner/keeper of any dog(s) must appropriately remove and properly dispose of any and all feces left by the dogs
- Dogs are not allowed in playground areas, sandboxes, and tennis or basketball courts

For a complete list of rules, please see signs at parks/off leash areas.

## Design and Policy Recommendations

Though many community members, especially dog owners, are supportive of dog parks, there are often neighborhood concerns and projects can face significant opposition. Some of the opposition to dog parks stems from the sound and smell that dog parks can create. When dog parks are properly designed, constructed, and maintained these issues can be minimized and mitigated. Proper infiltration and irrigation systems are key to combating the issue of smells. Regular maintenance and the community taking responsibility to pick up after their dogs will also contribute to limiting the smell. Other concerns include sound, increased traffic, and parking constraints. As with other development projects, it is helpful to include the community throughout the process- from the earliest stages through the design and permitting process, and then engage in ongoing conversations once the park is operational.

Once a specific site is chosen, the proper surface material can be chosen based on the site’s drainage, soil condition, and current conditions. The surface material used is very important and range from engineered wood fiber to gravel and artificial turf. Each surface material has pros and cons and should be chosen specific to the site. Subsurface material and infrastructure are dictated by the type of surface material chosen. Though not perfect, many cities have elected to use quarter-inch decomposed granite in their dog parks.

Dog Park Surface Materials			
	Pros	Cons	Potential for Use in Somerville
<b>Natural Turf</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soft</li> <li>• Dog-Friendly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires significant maintenance (including out-of-service times for regrowth)</li> <li>• Often not durable enough for high-traffic areas</li> </ul>	
<b>Artificial Turf</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Durable</li> <li>• Proper maintenance significantly reduces smell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires regular cleaning (can be handled by built in irrigation and sanitation system)</li> <li>• Expensive</li> </ul>	X
<b>Gravel, Rock Dust, Pebble Stone, Deconstructed Granite, etc.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Durable</li> <li>• Inexpensive</li> <li>• DPW already has on-hand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can get stuck in dogs’ paws</li> <li>• Gets very dusty in drier weather</li> <li>• Can be difficult to reduce smells</li> </ul>	X
<b>Mulch or Engineered Wood</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Durable</li> <li>• Inexpensive</li> <li>• DPW already has on-hand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some dogs will eat</li> <li>• Needs to be replaced regularly</li> </ul>	X

In addition to the surface material, other important decisions are the amenities and features that will be included in the dog park. These amenities are highly-dependent on the dog park budget. If nothing else, a dedicated dog park needs signage, at least one trash receptacle, and sturdy fencing with a dual gate, or “airlock,” entrance. This allows dogs to be leashed and unleashed in an area separate from other dogs

who are off-leash and makes it nearly impossible for a dog to slip through the gates and out of the park. Fencing should be at least five (5) feet tall to prevent dogs from going over the fence. Not all dog parks bury fencing panels, but many parks trench the bottom of the fencing material to keep dogs from digging holes under the fence.

Shade is important for dogs and humans and can be provided by trees or shade structures. Dogs should have access to water, either from a dog water fountain or a hose. Many dog parks provide dog waste bags to help encourage people to pick up after their dogs. Special trash receptacles can be used to reduce the odor.

Somewhere for people to sit and for the dogs to play should also be included in park design – activities for dogs include agility equipment, boulders and rocks for climbing, and spray features. Not every dog park must have all, or any, of these facilities but they help to make the park more interesting for dogs. It is best practice to have a separate space for small dogs, puppies, or other dogs that may need a calmer environment but not all dog parks have separate areas.

Outside of the dog park, it is important to create a visual barrier that makes the park attractive from the street. Flower plantings, landscape buffers, attractive fencing, and artwork all contribute to making dog parks more plateable to the community. Local friends' groups or other community organizations can help support activities not only within the park, but can help to maintain this visual buffer.

Some dog parks have automatic locks that lock and unlock at predetermined times to limit park use to its hours of operation. These locks can also be programmed to remain locked at times when the park is closed for maintenance or other activities. Automatic irrigation reduces maintenance costs, but is expensive to install. If automatic locks and/or irrigation systems are in use, this should be noted on the signage. Maintenance schedules vary by community and park. Some parks close for a few hours each week while others close for weeks or months once a year. The maintenance requirement will vary based on the size and materials chosen.

Signage is another necessity. The rules should be clearly posted at every entrance. It helps if these signs also include information about park maintenance or volunteering. The common types of rules and regulations that should be created for a dog park are discussed later in the section.

Another common neighbor concern is that of noise, though this concern is relative to the neighborhood's current level and type of noise pollution. The two best ways to combat noise concerns are increased landscaping and use limitations. Landscape buffers can help keep the noise further from neighboring buildings and dampen the sounds. It may be necessary for dog parks to have shorter operating hours than other parks to keep noise to a minimum during hours that people may be sleeping. The hours of operation should be clearly indicated on the sign explaining the rules.

In addition to hours of operations, the sign should include any other regulations the City and/or friends' organization deem appropriate. Every dog park requires that owners clean up after their pets and prohibits unattended dogs. Female dogs in heat are almost always disallowed. Most parks explicitly require that all dogs using the park be healthy and up-to-date on their vaccines. This mean that very young puppies are typically not allowed to use dog parks since they are not fully vaccinated yet. Some parks limit the number of dogs each individual person can bring to the park at a time and/or limit park use

to dogs licensed in the city or to dogs that are with a city resident. It should be noted that it can be difficult to enforce these regulations, but a strong local presence and the community of park users that often develop at specific parks can informally help enforce regulations. Some parks disallow professional dog walkers and/or children of certain ages. Other standard regulations exclude dogs behaving aggressively towards people or animals or dogs with a history of aggression, require dogs to wear collars and IDs at all times, and be in good health. Most dog parks prohibit food, drink, sharp objects, and weapons. Some dog parks encourage community toys, water bowls, and pooper scoopers to be left at the park for all to use while other parks prohibit toys. As Somerville considers developing additional dog parks, it will need to decide if the regulations at the existing dog parks work and should be the same at any new parks, if there is a different set of standard regulations that should be implemented, or if different parks will have different regulations.

Many cities partner with friends' or other community organizations to assist with park maintenance. Not only can these organizations reduce the burden on municipal DPWs, they foster a sense of community and group responsibility for the space.

Some cities have developed detailed design guidelines and processes for developing new dog parks. Washington D.C.'s department of Parks and Recreation ([https://dpr.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dpr/publication/attachments/dpr\\_DogParkDesignStandards.pdf](https://dpr.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dpr/publication/attachments/dpr_DogParkDesignStandards.pdf)) has published their design guidelines and approval process. The city's policy is to provide standard features in every dog park and it requires that any additional amenities, features, or activities be owned and maintained by a sponsoring organization. The standard features of DC's dog parks include:

- decomposed granite surface at least six (6) inches deep with drainage systems beneath,
- a five (5) foot fence with footings at least one (1) foot deep and fence panels buried six (6) inches below grade,
- two (2) access points, one with a double-gate or "air-lock" for public access and one for maintenance use,
- a standard hose-bib,
- planting beds along the outside of the fence, and
- permanent signage stating the hours of operation, rules and regulations, and contact information for the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Cities of Norfolk, VA and Ann Arbor, MI have also established guidelines for dog parks. These extensive regulations cover identifying parcels for use as a dog park on either public or private property, establish timelines for the application process, identify dog park criteria for space, amenities, fencing, maintenance and repairs, establish the rules for all dog parks, and include necessary scopes of work and specifications used to find qualified contractors (<https://www.norfolk.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1531> and <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/Parks-Recreation/play/Documents/Recommendations%20and%20Guidelines%20for%20Dog%20Park%20Site%20Selection%20updated%204-10-15.pdf>).

Though Somerville has not yet developed shared use dog parks, participants at the public meeting were very interested in exploring that option in Somerville. Participants were split on whether or not they would be supportive of a shared use policy, but the consensus was that it warranted further conversation.

In addition to Cambridge's shared use policies, public meeting participants indicated that New York City and Brookline have both successfully implemented policies that allow dogs off-leash at specific times or in specific locations.

Public meeting participants were also supportive of working with neighborhood or other volunteer organizations to help police dog parks and provide maintenance support. Though Tufts University's policy towards dogs and public uses of their campus is unknown, several public meeting participants suggested reaching out to the university to see if there might be any opportunity for partnerships.

### Funding Opportunities

The acquisition of land and capital improvements to develop a dog park can be funded through the City's Community Preservation Act Committee. Somerville is also eligible for Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grants. These grants are designed to help cities and towns to acquire and develop land for parks and outdoor recreation and can be used to acquire parkland, construct a new park, or renovate an existing park.

The Stanton Foundation provides grants each year to help Massachusetts cities and towns design and construct dog parks. A total of ten (10) grants are provided each year, these awards are granted on a rolling basis. In addition to providing funding, the Stanton Foundation can connect interested individuals (through a designated, municipal contact) with resources including professional services and lessons-learned from other communities.

While the Stanton Foundation seems to be the leader in supporting dog parks in Massachusetts, a myriad of other organizations offer grants to design and develop dog parks. Some of these organizations and programs are Nutro Room to Run Program, the Doris Day Animal Foundation, PetSafe Bark for Your Park, and Beneful Dream Dog Park Project.

# Appendix

## Appendix A | Public Meeting Materials

CPC Meeting, January 23, 2019

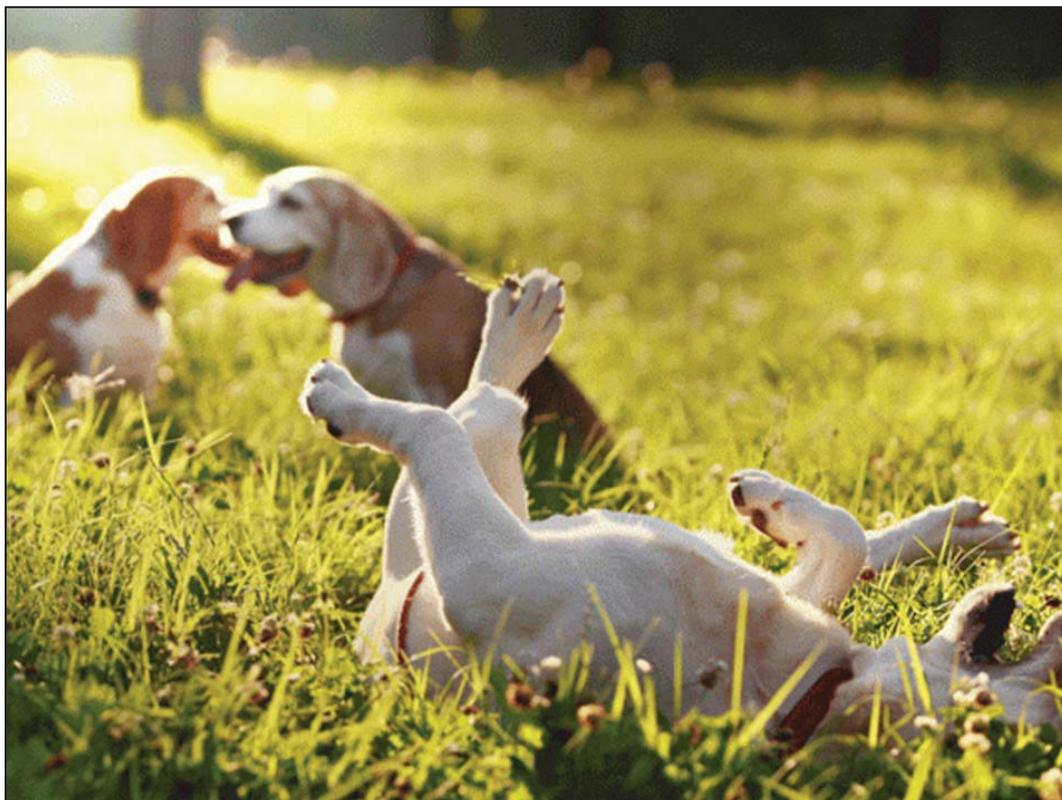
- Presentation to CPC Meeting, January 23, 2019
- Hard Copy Surveys Received

# West Somerville DOG PARK Feasibility Study



January 23, 2019

Civic  
Space  
COLLABORATIVE





Alison  
LeFlore, AICP



Michelle  
Moon



## Purpose of Meeting

What do we need to consider?

What are our options for a dog park in Western Somerville?

What steps would be needed to move this idea forward?

## Purpose of Meeting

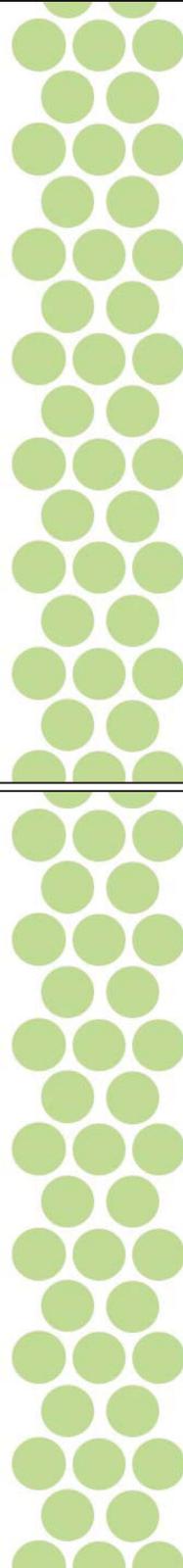
Is a dog park feasible for western Somerville (West of Central St)?

- Yes
- No
- TBD

## Our Finding

Is a dog park feasible for western Somerville (West of Central St)?

- Yes
- No
- TBD



## Background

- Feasibility Study = New CPC Process
- Citizen-Driven Petitions

### *Yes... we know!*

- Shortage of Open Spaces – For All!
- Use Conflicts
- People Not Following Rules

## Stats + Examples

Dog ownership  
**increased by  
nearly 30%**  
among  
American  
households  
between 2007  
and 2017



**4,461**  
dogs licensed  
in Somerville  
(August 2018)



**Maxwell's Green (Somerville, MA)**



**Nunziato Field Dog Park (Somerville, MA)**



**Lincoln Park Dog Park (Somerville, MA)**



**Zero New Washington Dog Park (Somerville, MA)**

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## Off Leash Dog Guide



AUGUST 2015

### OFF LEASH DOG AREAS FOR CAMBRIDGE-LICENSED DOGS



**DEDICATED OFF LEASH AREAS**  
These areas are fenced in and intended exclusively for use by off-leash dogs and their owners.

**SHARED USE OFF LEASH AREAS**  
These are areas where dogs are allowed off-leash, but that are not fully fenced in or separated from other uses and activities.

**SHARED USE HOURS**  
These are areas where dogs are allowed to be off-leash during designated hours. These areas are not fenced in, and outside of shared use hours, dogs must be on-leash in these locations.

Pacific Street Park (Pacific Street)	
Danehy Park (New Street)	
Fresh Pond Reservation (Fresh Pond Parkway)	
Fort Washington Park (Waverly Street)	
Raymond Park (Raymond Street)	6 AM to 9AM
Hoyt Field (Western Avenue)	6 AM to 9AM
Greene • Rose Heritage (Harvard Street)	6 AM to 9AM
Gold Star Mothers Park (Core Street)	6 AM to 9AM
Joan Lorentz Park (Broadway)	8 AM to 10AM

**IMPORTANT THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND**

- Dogs must be under the control of owner/keeper and must have a current Cambridge license
- Off-leash hours are suspended when there are permitted or school-based activities in the park
- There are no off-leash hours when parks or fields are saturated with rain
- Dogs must be leashed when Parks Division crews are working in the park
- The owner/keeper of any dog(s) must appropriately remove and properly dispose of any and all feces left by the dogs
- Dogs are not allowed in playground areas, sandboxes, and tennis or basketball courts

For a complete list of rules, please see signs at parks/off-leash areas.

**Cambridge Dog Parks**



**DeFilippo Park (Boston, MA)**  
2,500 square feet



**Ronan Park (Boston, MA)**  
3,183 square feet

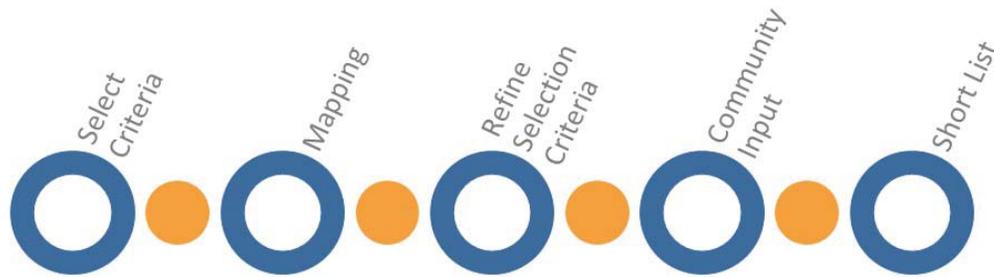


**Thorndike Field (Arlington, MA)**  
17,500 square feet

Process

A decorative graphic on the right side of the blue block. It consists of a grid of dark blue circles. One circle in the lower-middle part of the grid is highlighted in orange. The circles are arranged in a pattern that tapers towards the top.

## Process



## GIS Analysis

Criteria used were:

- Located west of Central Street
- At least 4,700 square feet
- Adjacent to non-residential uses
- Not currently in recreational use
- Not located in a Local Historic District

# GIS Analysis



## Dog Park Design Considerations



## Design + Management Considerations

- Hours of use (typically dawn to dusk)
- Limiting access outside hours of use
- Dog park rules and regulations
- Materials
- Cost for maintenance

Possible Locations





**Alewife Brook Reservation North**  
 ~217,080 square feet



**Dilboy South**  
~43,800 square feet



**Community Path: Davis Square to Willow Ave**  
~80,355 square feet



**Community Path: Willow Ave to Cedar St**  
~114,390 square feet



**Verizon Site**  
~43,525 square feet



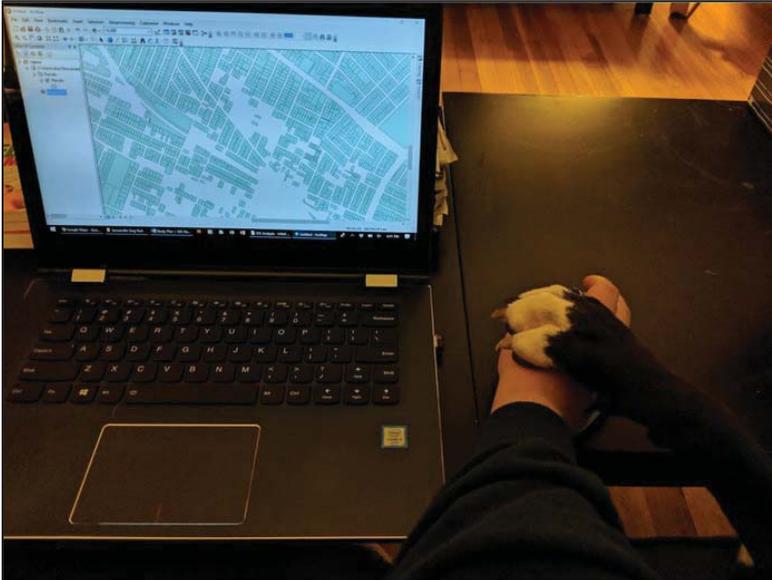
**Bailey Park**  
~16,830 square feet



**Fire Station at Somerville Ave and Lowell St**  
~18,395 square feet



**Dickerman Playground**  
~17,490 square feet



dogs  
helping  
dogs!

Q+A / Discussion

## **NEXT STEPS**

Visit CPC's website for online survey  
([www.somervillema.gov/cpa](http://www.somervillema.gov/cpa))

Revise report based on tonight's  
comments and discussion

**Thank you for coming!**

Which of the following locations do you think would be suited for a dog park? Why did you choose this option (or these options)? If you'd like, tell us your top 2 or 3 choices. Please refer to the map on the other side for the locations identified using the pre-determined criteria (lot size, location, current use, and zoning).



**Alewife Brook Reservation North**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Boston Av)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no  
*a little far for most people*



**Dilboy South**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Broadway)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no  
*same as above*



**Community Path**  
(Davis Sq to Willow St) **(2)**

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no  
*good central location*



**Community Path**  
(Willow St to Cedar St) **(3)**

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no  
*1)*



**Verizon Site (110 Willow Ave)**

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no  
*1)*



**Bailey Park**  
(Belmont St and Lowell St near Summer St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no



**Fire Station**  
(Somerville Ave and Lowell St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no



**Dickerman Playground**  
(Craigie St and Kimball St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no

I do not think any of these locations are suitable for a dog park

Is there anywhere we've missed? Where (in West Somerville) do you think would be a good place for a dog park? Any other comments?

Which of the following locations do you think would be suited for a dog park? Why did you choose this option (or these options)? If you'd like, tell us your top 2 or 3 choices. Please refer to the map on the other side for the locations identified using the pre-determined criteria (lot size, location, current use, and zoning).



**Alewife Brook Reservation North**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Boston Av)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or  no



**Dilboy South**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Broadway)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or  no



**Community Path**  
(Davis Sq to Willow St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or  no



**Community Path**  
(Willow St to Cedar St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or  no



**Verizon Site (110 Willow Ave)**

Suitable for a dog park? yes or  no



**Bailey Park**  
(Belmont St and Lowell St near Summer St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no  
*owned by the city*



**Fire Station**  
(Somerville Ave and Lowell St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no  
*1)*



**Dickerman Playground**  
(Craigie St and Kimball St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no

I do not think any of these locations are suitable for a dog park

Is there anywhere we've missed? Where (in West Somerville) do you think would be a good place for a dog park? Any other comments?

*shared use park areas. may be feasible.*

Which of the following locations do you think would be suited for a dog park? Why did you choose this option (or these options)? If you'd like, tell us your top 2 or 3 choices. Please refer to the map on the other side for the locations identified using the pre-determined criteria (lot size, location, current use, and zoning).



**Alewife Brook Reservation North**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Boston Av)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Dilboy South**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Broadway)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Community Path**  
(Davis Sq to Willow St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Community Path**  
(Willow St to Cedar St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Verizon Site (110 Willow Ave)**

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Bailey Park**  
(Belmont St and Lowell St near Summer St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Fire Station**  
(Somerville Ave and Lowell St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Dickerman Playground**  
(Craigie St and Kimball St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no

I do not think any of these locations are suitable for a dog park

Is there anywhere we've missed? Where (in West Somerville) do you think would be a good place for a dog park? Any other comments?

Which of the following locations do you think would be suited for a dog park? Why did you choose this option (or these options)? If you'd like, tell us your top 2 or 3 choices. Please refer to the map on the other side for the locations identified using the pre-determined criteria (lot size, location, current use, and zoning).



**Alewife Brook Reservation North**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Boston Av)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
*Pair of Jokes but hard to access*



**Dilboy South**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Broadway)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
*same as above*



**Community Path**  
(Davis Sq to Willow St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
*too narrow and too many competing uses*



**Community Path**  
(Willow St to Cedar St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
*for a small lot*



**Verizon Site (110 Willow Ave)**

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
*But would want other use too given size and location.*



**Bailey Park**  
(Belmont St and Lowell St near Summer St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
*maybe hit border residents on 3 sides*



**Fire Station**  
(Somerville Ave and Lowell St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Dickerman Playground**  
(Craigie St and Kimball St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
*too small and competing uses*

I do not think any of these locations are suitable for a dog park

Is there anywhere we've missed? Where (in West Somerville) do you think would be a good place for a dog park? Any other comments?

Which of the following locations do you think would be suited for a dog park? Why did you choose this option (or these options)? If you'd like, tell us your top 2 or 3 choices. Please refer to the map on the other side for the locations identified using the pre-determined criteria (lot size, location, current use, and zoning).



**Alewife Brook Reservation North**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Boston Av)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  yes  
Too remote, H<sub>2</sub>O quality



**Dilboy South**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Broadway)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  no  
too remote, H<sub>2</sub>O quality



**Community Path**  
(Davis Sq to Willow St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no  
Close to many residents, active dog community



**Community Path**  
(Willow St to Cedar St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no  
close to many residents, active dog community



**Verizon Site (110 Willow Ave)**

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no  
under used site



**Bailey Park**  
(Belmont St and Lowell St near Summer St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Fire Station**  
(Somerville Ave and Lowell St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Dickerman Playground**  
(Craigie St and Kimball St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no

I do not think any of these locations are suitable for a dog park

Is there anywhere we've missed? Where (in West Somerville) do you think would be a good place for a dog park? Any other comments?

Which of the following locations do you think would be suited for a dog park? Why did you choose this option (or these options)? If you'd like, tell us your top 2 or 3 choices. Please refer to the map on the other side for the locations identified using the pre-determined criteria (lot size, location, current use, and zoning).



**Alewife Brook Reservation North**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Boston Av)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  no  
Not central  
Parking concerns because driving necessary for most residents



**Dilboy South**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Broadway)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  no  
ditto above



**Community Path**  
(Davis Sq to Willow St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no



**Community Path**  
(Willow St to Cedar St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no



**Verizon Site (110 Willow Ave)**

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no



**Bailey Park**  
(Belmont St and Lowell St near Summer St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no



**Fire Station**  
(Somerville Ave and Lowell St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no



**Dickerman Playground**  
(Craigie St and Kimball St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or  no

I do not think any of these locations are suitable for a dog park

Is there anywhere we've missed? Where (in West Somerville) do you think would be a good place for a dog park? Any other comments?

like tufts pilot idea and shared use idea.

Which of the following locations do you think would be suited for a dog park? Why did you choose this option (or these options)? If you'd like, tell us your top 2 or 3 choices. Please refer to the map on the other side for the locations identified using the pre-determined criteria (lot size, location, current use, and zoning).



**Alewife Brook Reservation North**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Boston Av)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
Too far North



**Dilboy South**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Broadway)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
Location, True West Somerville



**Community Path**  
(Davis Sq to Willow St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
Location, Central



**Community Path**  
(Willow St to Cedar St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
Location, Central



**Verizon Site (110 Willow Ave)**

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
Location, Central



**Bailey Park**  
(Belmont St and Lowell St near Summer St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
Too far East / Close to Nunnato



**Fire Station**  
(Somerville Ave and Lowell St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
Too far East / Close to Nunnato



**Dickerman Playground**  
(Craigie St and Kimball St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
Too far East / Close to Nunnato

I do not think any of these locations are suitable for a dog park

Is there anywhere we've missed? Where (in West Somerville) do you think would be a good place for a dog park? Any other comments?

Which of the following locations do you think would be suited for a dog park? Why did you choose this option (or these options)? If you'd like, tell us your top 2 or 3 choices. Please refer to the map on the other side for the locations identified using the pre-determined criteria (lot size, location, current use, and zoning).



**Alewife Brook Reservation North**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Boston Av)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
No



**Dilboy South**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Broadway)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Community Path** 84,355  
(Davis Sq to Willow St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Community Path** 114,390  
(Willow St to Cedar St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
#1 OPTION FOR ME



**Verizon Site (110 Willow Ave)** 43,525

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
TOO CLOSE TO CENTRAL



**Bailey Park** 16,830  
(Belmont St and Lowell St near Summer St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
TOO SMALL  
TOO CLOSE TO CENTRAL



**Fire Station** 18,395  
(Somerville Ave and Lowell St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
SLOPED?  
TOO CLOSE TO CENTRAL



**Dickerman Playground** 17,496  
(Craigie St and Kimball St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
TOO SMALL  
TOO CLOSE TO CENTRAL

I do not think any of these locations are suitable for a dog park

Is there anywhere we've missed? Where (in West Somerville) do you think would be a good place for a dog park? Any other comments?

-> CROSS USE  
-> TRUST PARTNERSHIP

Which of the following locations do you think would be suited for a dog park? Why did you choose this option (or these options)? If you'd like, tell us your top 2 or 3 choices. Please refer to the map on the other side for the locations identified using the pre-determined criteria (lot size, location, current use, and zoning).



**Alewife Brook Reservation North**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Boston Av)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or no  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Dilboy South**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Broadway)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or no  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Community Path**  
(Davis Sq to Willow St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or no  
*incredible opportunity to make use of wasted open space*



**Community Path**  
(Willow St to Cedar St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or no  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Verizon Site (110 Willow Ave)**

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or no  
*perfect fit for LARGE space and to get rid of an eye sore!*



**Bailey Park**  
(Belmont St and Lowell St near Summer St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or no  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Fire Station**  
(Somerville Ave and Lowell St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Dickerman Playground** 17,490  
(Craigie St and Kimball St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or no  
\_\_\_\_\_

I do not think any of these locations are suitable for a dog park

Is there anywhere we've missed? Where (in West Somerville) do you think would be a good place for a dog park? Any other comments?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following locations do you think would be suited for a dog park? Why did you choose this option (or these options)? If you'd like, tell us your top 2 or 3 choices. Please refer to the map on the other side for the locations identified using the pre-determined criteria (lot size, location, current use, and zoning).



**Alewife Brook Reservation North**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Boston Av)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or no  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Dilboy South**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Broadway)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or no  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Community Path**  
(Davis Sq to Willow St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or no  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Community Path**  
(Willow St to Cedar St)

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or no  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Verizon Site (110 Willow Ave)**

Suitable for a dog park?  yes or no  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Bailey Park**  
(Belmont St and Lowell St near Summer St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Fire Station**  
(Somerville Ave and Lowell St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
*Too close to a big street*



**Dickerman Playground**  
(Craigie St and Kimball St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
\_\_\_\_\_

I do not think any of these locations are suitable for a dog park

Is there anywhere we've missed? Where (in West Somerville) do you think would be a good place for a dog park? Any other comments?  
*I would rule out Dickerman, the Fire Station, & Bailey Park, as they're all close to non-zoned field*

Which of the following locations do you think would be suited for a dog park? Why did you choose this option (or these options)? If you'd like, tell us your top 2 or 3 choices. Please refer to the map on the other side for the locations identified using the pre-determined criteria (lot size, location, current use, and zoning).



**Alewife Brook Reservation North**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Boston Av)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Dilboyl South**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Broadway)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Community Path**  
(Davis Sq to Willow St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Community Path**  
(Willow St to Cedar St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Verizon Site (110 Willow Ave)**

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Bailey Park**  
(Belmont St and Lowell St near Summer St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Fire Station**  
(Somerville Ave and Lowell St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Dickerman Playground**  
(Craigie St and Kimball St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no

I do not think any of these locations are suitable for a dog park

Is there anywhere we've missed? Where (in West Somerville) do you think would be a good place for a dog park? Any other comments?

Which of the following locations do you think would be suited for a dog park? Why did you choose this option (or these options)? If you'd like, tell us your top 2 or 3 choices. Please refer to the map on the other side for the locations identified using the pre-determined criteria (lot size, location, current use, and zoning).



**Alewife Brook Reservation North**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Boston Av)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Dilboyl South**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Broadway)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Community Path**  
(Davis Sq to Willow St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Community Path**  
(Willow St to Cedar St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Verizon Site (110 Willow Ave)**

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Bailey Park**  
(Belmont St and Lowell St near Summer St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Fire Station**  
(Somerville Ave and Lowell St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Dickerman Playground**  
(Craigie St and Kimball St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no

I do not think any of these locations are suitable for a dog park

Is there anywhere we've missed? Where (in West Somerville) do you think would be a good place for a dog park? Any other comments?

Which of the following locations do you think would be suited for a dog park? Why did you choose this option (or these options)? If you'd like, tell us your top 2 or 3 choices. Please refer to the map on the other side for the locations identified using the pre-determined criteria (lot size, location, current use, and zoning).



**Alewife Brook Reservation North**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Boston Av)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
No



**Dilboy South**  
(Mystic Valley Pkwy and Broadway)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
Yes



**Community Path**  
(Davis Sq to Willow St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
Yes Top choice.



**Community Path**  
(Willow St to Cedar St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
Yes



**Verizon Site (110 Willow Ave)**

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no  
Yes Top choice.



**Bailey Park**  
(Belmont St and Lowell St near Summer St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Fire Station**  
(Somerville Ave and Lowell St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no



**Dickerman Playground**  
(Craigie St and Kimball St)

Suitable for a dog park? yes or no

I do not think any of these locations are suitable for a dog park

Is there anywhere we've missed? Where (in West Somerville) do you think would be a good place for a dog park? Any other comments?

I think it could be worthwhile to look at sports fields on time share basis, eg Hodgkins Curtin Field.

## Appendix B | Online Community Survey Questions and Answers

1. Do you think a dog park is needed in West Somerville?
  - a. Yes – 160
  - b. No – 23
  - c. Blank – 5
2. Please briefly tell us why you feel a dog park is or isn't needed in West Somerville?
  - Aside from a postage stamp sized parcel at Maxwell's Green, there is no legal place for dogs to be off leash within a 30-minute walk of my house near Lexington Park. This seems too far to go.
  - Because dog parks are wonderful and amazing!!! Current park Nunziato is muddy and gross.
  - "Right now residents don't have a dog park within walking distance. This has created a lot of issues for neighborhoods:
  - People are more likely to use spaces not intended for dogs, like basketball courts, play fields, and sidewalk as off-leash areas. This isn't safe, and unfair to others who want to use these spaces for their intended use.
  - If someone wants to go to a dogpark, and has the means to drive, then they have the option. However, many residents don't have access to a car. Either way, surrounding dog parks become over-used (talking about the Union Sq dog park here!)"
  - Lots of dogs in the area, especially with a high-density population comprised mostly of renters, and not much space for dogs to run around in, especially with Tufts owning most of the greenery in the area.
  - Who doesn't love a place where there dog can run free and have fun with all is other doggie friends
  - "I like the idea of having a dog park, but I live right across from Tufts so I would probably continue to take my dog there, even if a dog park does open up.
  - That said, I'm not sure if Tuft's has ever really agreed to allow dogs on their field, so to the extent they take this perk away, a dog park would be greatly appreciated.
  - I am a dog owner living in Hillside neighborhood of West Somerville, and it would be great to have a dog park within walking distance! We often use the park in East Arlington, but with busy lives we rarely have time to walk that far and need to drive. Having a neighborhood dog park we could take pride in would be wonderful!
  - Because there is none
  - Closest dog park is a 40 minute walk, or 15 minute drive away. It would give the dogs a place to socialize, and if equipped with bags and barrels, would keep poop off the sidewalk!
  - West Somerville has so much possible green space. Danehy and Thorndike are both in other towns and are gravel covered which is not a pleasant experience for everyone
  - We end up going into Arlington. The one at Summer Street is far from us and parking is tight... Also there's no shade there. I hear people complaining about dogs in various locations oaths and I think if others had better options, they'd use non-dog parks less.
  - "We drive to Arlington all the time to use theirs. We live right by the one off Albion, but with no fence (and now no trees) it is not useful.

- We also have a child and it's too bad none of the kid parks around us allow dogs."
- With the construction in Union Square, access is limited to the nearest dog park. But even when access is not limited, that dog park needs improvement and parking is often problematic (and you have to transport your dirty dog). A park on the path would be super convenient because we are already walking our dog but gives us a convenient and safe place to stop and spend some additional time outdoors.
- Enclosed area for dogs to run and play.
- We currently have to drive to get to the nearest dog park, which I don't like because it's a waste of gas and it doesn't support the building of neighborly connections.
- It's good to have separate spaces for dogs.
- It's difficult walking in Somerville to find anywhere a dog can be off-leash - something that helps a dog exert energy and thus avoid behavioral problems.
- I have a dog and there's no place for him to run around and get exercise!
- Because Union Square is dirty and new Washington's to far. Need to keep our dog poop locally grown.
- Tired dogs are happy well-behaved dogs and the best way to tire out a dog is by having it play and socialize with other dogs.
- I have a dog, but all the other dog parks in Somerville seem to have been taken over by dog walkers who let many dogs run at one time. And they are very smelly. I might be more amenable to the idea if people could bring in only one or two dogs at a time.
- I would like for my walkers to be able to take my dog to a park without having to drive there. Having one in West Somerville will fill that need and make for happy, healthy canines AND humans!
- I have a dog, but all the other dog parks in Somerville seem to have been taken over by dog walkers who let many dogs run at one time. And they are very smelly. I might be more amenable to the idea if people could bring in only one or two dogs at a time.
- So many people have dogs but no yards or yards that can't contain a dog. I would love to have a park that's walking distance for my little Shih Tzu. She doesn't get to be outside without a leash. We have taken her to the one in Union but she gets so dirty and then we have to get into the car with muddy paws.
- So many dog owners in Davis Sq area with no dog park in the immediate area.
- Dogs should have space to be able to run off leash without bothering other park users--dog parks perfectly meet this need!
- So dogs have place to play
- There are a lot of dogs in Somerville and only a few places to let dogs run free. Also, dog parks foster community interactions!
- I have a dog!
- lots of dogs are in the west part of the city, but no parks! this leads to owners letting there dogs onto fields where dogs are prohibited, leading to tension with others. plus a dog park would reduce dogs peeing and pooping on peoples yards. Dogs are great to have in the city, encouraging folks to get out and meet each other, and dog walkers keep an eye on the neighborhood, sort of like a canine neighborhood watch. A park would encourage this.

- There are more dogs than ever in Somerville and many use "private" facilities at apartment complexes, more public options are better.
- Dogs and people like dog parks. Everyone gets to meet new friends. Helps keep dog owners from letting their dogs run in inappropriate places. I use to live in the South End and dog parks were often go-to destinations for kids who like dogs and can't have one in an apartment.
- Dogs and people like dog parks. Everyone gets to meet new friends. Helps keep dog owners from letting their dogs run in inappropriate places. I use to live in the South End and dog parks were often go-to destinations for kids who like dogs and can't have one in an apartment.
- lots of families with dogs in this neighborhood.
- "Right now I believe there is only one park in Union Square area (could be wrong). I feel having a second park in the city will take some of the congestion out Union Square. Also I used to live on Powder House Blvd, there were many dog owner in the park area at Tufts so it certainly looks like the area could use a designated dog park.
- There aren't enough dog parks in the area. Ideally, it would be great to have one that has grass or not rocks and a bit more space.
- "There are no legal open spaces for dogs to run in Somerville. My dog loves to fun and catch balls
- We always need more places to take our dogs!
- The only dedicated dog space in Somerville in near union and nearly 2 miles away with very limited street parking. Dog owners end up trying to share fields and Parks with students and others and it's not always easy . A dedicated dog park would be a huge help. Perhaps on Tufts campus on Powderhouse rd
- West Somerville is home to the largest open parcel of land in the entire city. The Dilboy Field/Alewife Brook Path are already more than suitable as areas where dog owners can take their pets. Both the Dilboy tennis courts and the football field parking lots are routinely empty and completely underutilized. It is my observation as a resident of the immediate vicinity that the green space in the area is also completely underutilized, along with the pathways and other surrounding infrastructure. It would be a complete waste of money and resources to take away a section of this park land and designate it as exclusive use for dog owners.
- I have to drive all the way to Union Square for the nearest dog park for my dog. It would be nice to be able to walk to a neighborhood dog park and meet and make friends with the people who live around me.
- Place for dogs to socialize and get exercise with other dogs.
- "It brings the community together.
- More and more people are deciding to adopt pets.
- Pets are your family and you want them to be in a safe, secure space to socialize with other dogs. "
- People get angry when they see dogs off leash in Hodgkins park but there is no easily walkable alternative.
- It's important to have a place working waking distance where I can legally let melt dog off-leashe. Nunziato is the closest option for me, and it's a 25 min. walk.

- There are no dog parks close by. There are lots of dogs in the area as well.
- So many people have dogs in Cambridge, and it seems to be increasing. Done correctly (with dog parks) this can be a wonderful thing: fun, entertainment and relaxation for owners and passer-byers!
- I strongly support this as a dog owner. There are very few options in the area and I think this would be a great addition to the community!
- Currently there are no dog-specific options in the area for dogs and dog-owners to gather. Many parks prohibit dogs, while others are shared spaces with families and children, which can cause issues.
- I have to walk my dog all the way to Alewife which I do not feel safe going to since the murder and would like a convenient place to let my dog run around.
- Dog parks are a space where dogs learn socialization and can burn off energy off leash. Both make for happier and better behaved dogs.
- There are no easily walkable dog parks nearby. While we are fortunate enough to have access to a car and can drive our dog to Medford to a dog park, if we didn't have one it would be very difficult to get her to a park.
- We could use another dog park in West Somerville because most of the existing dog parks are in East Somerville and can be hard to get to or park at. Also, it would be nice to have a park closer to Davis or Porter Square, which are hubs of local activity.
- We live in Davis Square, and the closest dog park is in Arlington. No great place within walking distance for our pup to run and play with other dogs.
- Daney Park excludes Somerville residents, so even though it is close to West Somerville, we are not legally able to use it. Nunziato is far, and people living in West Somerville often don't have access to a car, so walking distance is crucial for dog park access.
- At a dog park, dogs are able to socialize with other dogs somewhat freely. Every species needs this. Despite their devotion, dog owners cannot by themselves fill dogs' needs. Happier dogs = happier owners = happier people. Please make some space available for this activity.
- People let their dogs go everywhere. I would be supportive of a park if it reduced the poop and the number of dogs that are let off leash.
- There are plenty of areas for dogs and dog parks are smelly and ruin the grass.
- It would be great to have a safe area for dogs to be off leash to run.
- There are many dogs in our community that need a safe place where they can be off leash and get the exercise they need. There are few if any options that don't require a car so this is very much needed.
- "A dog park is needed so dog can stop using the church (on Mystic Valley Parkway) grassy area. Church families use that grass, plus they have fairs on their OWN property. Additionally, I am not sure if Somerville dogs do or not, stop pooping on the sidewalks on the highway"
- It will increase the quality of life for all residents
- We would love to have a dog park in our neck of the woods!
- I see lots of dogs on the Tufts field, even though I don't think they're allowed there. A dog park would be a good and safe place for people to take their dogs.

- The closest dog park is in Alewife or in Union Square. A lot of people and dogs would benefit from having a dog park close to Davis.
- There aren't as many good locations to go with a dog as I would like.
- Simply, there are no designated areas where we can have our canine family members to meet and run around.
- There aren't ANY dedicated places in the West Somerville area for dogs to play.
- A dog park would be great! There isn't a really nice option near me now (Powderhouse square) and my pup loves to play with other dogs.
- We live near Tufts University, and the nearest dog parks are either near Union Square, in Cambridge, or in Medford. It requires a drive to get to any of them, which is unfortunate. It would be great to have a safe, fenced in space for neighborhood dogs to play in within walking distance of home
- I am adopting a dog and have no yard available for him. I will walk him on a leash on the bike path, but there is absolutely nowhere close by to take him to run free. This would be a wonderful opportunity for all the dog owners in the area, and I'm sure the people who use it would be happy to take care of it on an ongoing basis.
- West Somerville has a large volume of dogs, who's nearby off leash exercise options are currently very limited. Sending them to current parks all located in East Somerville is inconvenient for certain residents and puts undo volume on existing parks in the morning and evening.
- There's no place for the abundance of dogs in our neighborhood to play and frolic. Without a park, the dogs resort to neighbor's yards and lawns which is not always welcome.
- As a dog owner in Davis Square, there isn't anywhere less than 2 miles away we can take our dog to be off leash. There are a LOT of dogs in the area and they deserve a place to run around. As an urban dog community, the dogs really need a place to be dogs and a dog park is a necessary part of that.
- There are very few spaces in the city for dogs to run and they need it.
- As more and more dogs and dog owners have moved into the city, the current parks have become more and more crowded. They're still useful for a lot of well socialized, playful pups, but having more dog park options will help to spread things out a bit. Dog parks are much more fun and workable when you and your dog actually have a little room to move. Also, with the traffic delays and road closures in the Ball Sq. area, Union Sq., and near the New Washington St. dog park, another dog park on the other side of Somerville would be incredibly helpful.
- We have to drive pretty far to get to the nearest dog park. They are packed with no parking most of the time therefore we rarely take our pup to the dog park and it's a bummer
- I Would love to see a dog park I. Walking distance from Davis Sq. The current park that we go to near Union is small, getting old and also not easily accessible from West Somerville. I see many dogs in Porter, Davis, and Teele Sq. However there really is not a place for them to run freely. There is a lot of changes happening for bikers, let's not forget our 4 legged friends. Thank you!
- The off-leash dog park choices for West Somerville owners are Thorndike (Arlington) or Nunziato (Union). Some use Tufts Field J, which is not intended for off-leash use. A more convenient, sanctioned option would be a great thing.

- Because there is no dog park!!!
- I would prefer to not drive to the dog park
- None of the city dog parks are in west Somerville. I live on Packard & Broadway and the open space available is at TUFTS. No city dog space.
- Because they currently use Hodgkin's park to walk their dog (even though there are signs against this). Dog poop everywhere in the fields!
- There isn't one. So many people need a safe, enclosed place to let their dogs run.
- It would be nice. Nutziano is pretty nasty so we end up walking our dog on a leash or taking her to the Fells (which isn't as often as we'd like).
- Only off leash, fenced area is in union sq
- Not enough open space available for a decent size park, unless you use part of Dilboy Field. Tufts University is not amenable to sharing any of their green space.
- People in west Somerville have dogs.
- Around porter and davis square, the closest dog park is by union square. it's sometimes too far to walk on hot or cold days, so folks drive and create congestion around union square dog park. plus, union square dog park might close soon for the union square construction project
- Because a majority of people that live in the area have pets without a place for them to play and stretch in a safe space without fears of being hit by a car or their feet being burnt in the summertime. Pets bring happiness, peace and people together.
- There are no dog parks in west somerville, there's a couple in east somerville. People keep bringing their dogs to regular parks because there isn't one.
- There are no dog parks in that area and tons of dogs and owners who would benefit of having a closer dog park, it would also lessen the amount of dogs at Nunziato and New Zero Washington which would help the overall harmony of each park.
- It sounds like a good idea but there is no need. Dog owners I have spoken with would not want it.
- The nearest dog park is outside Union Sq. I've lived in Davis for 20 years and know how many of us here have dogs but no official space to let them run off leash.
- there is not currently a dog park within walking distance for those of us who own dogs in west somerville. It is quite inconvenient to have to drive to have your dog get some exercise!
- There's not enough dog parks in Somerville. It would be lovely to have more off leash areas for my dog. The closest dog park to me (ed Leathers) is small, poorly lit, and smelly due to lack of maintenance. A bigger off leash area would be welcome anywhere in town!
- A dog park is definitely needed in West Somerville! In our neighborhood there is not a designated place to take our dogs to run around. We have some groups that get together at Tufts, but none of those are enclosed. And while we have many lovely playgrounds, dogs aren't allowed.
- there aren't any dog parks in west somerville and there are many dog owners.
- Overall there are a ton of dogs in Somerville and with inadequate dog parks, they are more likely to be leash aggressive with other dogs. This is pronounced where I live - tons of dogs that only get leash exercise which try to attack one another who would be more relaxed if they could socialize more with other dogs. PLEASE put in a dog park!

- Yes please! We have to go to nunziato (1.4 miles or a 28 minute walk) or to Arlington (1.6 miles or a 33 minute walk) to get to a dog park which is just not feasible most of the time. We would love to have a space for our dog to run free near us and to be able to get to know our neighbors better. Thank you for considering this! We would be overjoyed!
- We need open space for people
- The Alewife Greenway and Mystic lakes provides a lot of open area for dogs. Tufts campus also is an option for dogs. Other than that, there is no place for a park large enough that it would not be a concentrated mess of dog waste. The dog park on Sumner street smells to high heaven on damp days and I feel very sorry for the people who live next to it. If you own a dog in the city, it should be taken for walks and you should pick up its poop. If it needs to run, go to the Mystic Riverway or Dilboy. Or move to the suburbs and have your own yard for your dog to run in and poop in.
- The closest place for dogs run off leash is too far for my dog (and me!) to walk regularly.
- It is another way to connect neighbors, both those with and without dogs. I'm a proponent of spaces where dogs can be off-leash. Many of the current dog parks seem overcrowded, and I see some dog owners just using open space instead, which is ok, but not ideal in a large city like Somerville.
- I'm actually not sure if a park is needed. There is a large park in Arlington on the bike path just behind the T station.
- I'm open to it. I think more open green spaces are needed in general.
- I have a dog that likes parks.
- Somerville has way too few dog parks and dogs are banned in most parks. It's needed.
- There are large gaps in dog parks
- Somerville is the most densely populated city in the US and logically there are many, many dogs among the population, however there is a serious dearth of dog parks. Dog parks play an important role in quality of life for humans and their dogs, helping folks adhere to leash laws (i.e. if there is an accessible dog park then owners are less likely to unleash their dogs in other public parks) and perhaps even mitigating noise as properly exercised and socialized dogs are less likely to bark and disturb neighbors while at home.
- No areas seem to exist. Closest seems to be Nunziato or another town/ Alewife.
- "Somerville lacks open spaces where dogs can be off leash, exercise and socialize. So far, the closest dog parks to west somerville residents are 2-3 miles away, which is not convenient. Also, the local parks do not allow dogs or are not fenced.
- I reviewed the proposed locations and none are in West Somerville. No convenient if you don't live in those areas"
- High density of dogs, with no parks or open space for dogs to play.
- Large areas of Somerville are not walkable to dog parks
- Anywhere in W. Somerville is 'walkable' for me and my dog.
- Alewife Brook is a good spot; Parking will be the biggest issue to deal with.."
- Absolutely needed! There are so many dogs in West Somerville and the Union Square dog park, which is the closest walking distance park, gets dangerously crowded. The community path is a great place to walk the dog but there is no play area. A dog park would be a wonderful addition to the community here.

- There are very few places in West Somerville for dogs to enjoy the outdoors off-leash.
- Nunziato dog park is far to walk from most of West Somerville, and parking nearby is very tight. It also tends to be too full of dogs at certain times. A West Somerville dog park would ease the busy situation at Nunziato, and it would be well used by the many dog owners in West Somerville.
- There are many dogs in our neighborhood. Without a proper dog park, dogs are playing on fields and open spaces that are not enclosed and secure like a dog park. This means dogs can either escape or happen upon individuals who would prefer to not encounter dogs. If there was a designated park, at least these citizens would know to avoid that area and that the dogs would be secure.
- West Somerville is underserved by dog parks right now compared to East Somerville and Central Hill, making it harder to enjoy the health benefits of dog ownership if you live in the West Somerville area.
- There is no place where dogs can go legally off-leash except in people's yards. This is a burden for dog owners because it is hard to burn their pup's excess energy.
- Because the only other one is a mile or so outside of Davis on Summer Street. It would be great to have one more central to Davis Square.
- Dog parks are great places for people and dogs to be free, meet each other, and run around safely. I live right by one on Summer St. and it is an awesome asset to the neighborhood's dogs and owners, and any dog visitors.
- There is an increasing number of dogs, and not enough safe enclosed green space for them to play in. Dog parks build community! People talk to each other!
- We need more general open space that is not dedicated to one use. If it was in an underutilized space in the far western edge of town, that is fine, but closer to pedestrian areas, we need more general open space and less conflicts between bikes and dog leashes.
- More dogs. More people.
- My dog loves to romp off-leash. But all off-leash locations are about 45" on foot or require a car. Let's have a place for my dog and others to romp off-leash that is within 15" - 20" walking distance!
- Not many dog owners have yards, so having a place for them to run off-leash would be great.
- I am opposed to dog parks in general. Open space is at a premium in Somerville and should be for the use of humans. Dog parks are smelly and noisy and generally unpleasant even to walk by.
- "I know many dog owners who want to be able to give their dogs a better quality of life while still living in a densely populated area, and being able to let the dog run off-leash is a big part of that. A dog park will also allow people to meet their neighbors, which we could always use more of."
- The closest Somerville dog park to West Somerville is the Nunziato park close to Union Sq, a long walk for some dog owners. There are a lot of dogs in West Somerville that don't have easy access to an official Somerville dog park.
- There is currently no place close in Somerville to bring dogs and allow them to be off-leash. Other cities/towns require residency.

- A dog park might or might not be needed. But we do have at least three. What we don't have is a recreation building that young teens have any access to. They need to be taken care of first!
- There are already enough dog parks in Somerville and wherever one is located will lead to a serious degradation in the quality of life for the neighbors near and far.
- There are virtually no spaces in Somerville where a dog can safely and legally run around and get the exercise they need that for many dogs only works off leash (I.e. fetch, etc)
- "There is no
- Dog Park in the Davis Sq.
- neighborhood."
- Our dogs need to have fun!
- The nearest dog park accessible to west somerville residents walking with their dogs is too far away to get to without a vehicle most of the time.
- I live in West Somerville and the closest park in Somerville is in either Union Sq or on New St. Cambridge's Danehy park is close by but they are always keeping non-Cambridge residents and their dogs out.
- Dog owners often complain about the lack of open space where their dogs can exercise.
- There currently isn't a legitimate place to bring your dog in West Somerville.
- The closest dog park is at Nunziato, which is a long walk for dog and human and is really part of a different neighborhood. Dog parks are community-builders because they bring together like-minded people and support lasting friendships among dogs and humans. As Somerville gentrifies, it attracts ambitious people who are only planning to stay for a few years before moving on to even bigger things. If West Somerville becomes known as a dog-friendly community it will attract people who have already demonstrated an interest in forming lasting and caring relationships (by getting a dog) and can bring more of the same to West Somerville.
- Separate dog parks smell and are unnecessary. Dog walks take valuable open space in Somerville, which is in very short supply, away from the whole public in favor of merely dog owners.
- Open space is extremely limited in Somerville, and it should not be wasted on dog parks.
- There are really no dog park options in West Somerville, if you don't have a car the ones that exist are generally pretty inaccessible.
- I am not a dog owner, but have young children, and am frustrated with the conflicts that arise when dog owners take their dogs into parks where they are not allowed. People routinely allow their dogs in Hodgkins Curtin Park where leave poop and jump on kids. I've seen people drive to Hodgkins Park and let their dogs out of the car and into the field, so it has somehow become a destination so I think maybe they would drive to a nearby dog park if one was available. Another problem area is Triangle Field (though owned by Tufts, but where Somerville Youth Soccer pays to play and the City maintains a portapotty) where there are always dogs and dog poop left behind.
- There is not a dog park in west somerville. The closes is at Alewife. Instead of always going there we all let the dogs run in the Tufts field. I'm sure Tufts would rather us go to a dog park than always use their field.
- Please define "west Somerville" before asking the question.

- More dog parks are always good! There is an unofficial dog park that neighbors have created at Tufts, which is really great to have because otherwise the nearest dog park is too far for a casual doggie play date. Would be good to have a formal dog park that wasn't mooching off tufts space.
- There's plenty of existing walking areas and paths, for WS residents to walk their dogs. Cordoning off a portion of the already-scarce public greenspace in the City for a fenced in dog area is a waste of space that would put the residents of the Clarendon Hill area at yet another disadvantage for green space.
- "In my opinion, a dog park is needed in West Somerville because we don't have one in the area currently. As a resident at Clarendon, we do have residents here with dogs who let their dogs roam freely on the property. Although this is not a City issue, I believe that if people had a place they could take their pets to roam freely that it may deter people from letting their dogs loose out here.
- I have also noticed quite a few people walking their dogs along the sidewalks of PowderHouse. Walking an animal is essential to the health of a pet, especially a dog, but there is a lot of traffic and I believe that having an open space area specifically designated for dogs could be beneficial to the animal but also may encourage people to be more active with their dogs. I love the idea of having a dog park."
- It would be helpful, especially since I think technically my pup isn't supposed to be running around on the Tufts fields. :)

3. Is Alewife Brook Reservation North suitable for a dog park?

- a. Yes – 95
- b. No – 58
- c. Blank – 35

Comments:

- A big concern I have is for the crosswalk to get over to this area. People breeze past it A LOT and so my concern is accidents if more people are trying to cross over to there. Not that it's an insurmountable problem...just a concern.
- Nice, away from public so stench wouldn't bother people.
- To close to the road
- I like this space because it's in close walking distance of my house. However, it makes me slightly anxious to put it here since it's next to a parkway where cars can go up to 40 mph. The potential for an accident seems really high.
- It's a great spot!! Spatially, it's big enough and flat, yet centrally located, which together help it stand out from the other options. Right by the playground, playing fields, basketball courts, pool, and so on. Can take the whole family for an outing, or anyone who already plays sports there could bring the pup along for extra fun! I've taken my dog up to Dilboy many times, but because there are no fenced in areas she can't run and play. I think this would be a convenient place for helping the whole family get outside together.

- Close to a park for children. Children stick their fingers through the fence at Thorndike, which can be dangerous.
- It's too far from the most popular areas of West Somerville. If I'm going there I may as well keep going to Arlington.
- I don't know, but we wouldn't use it (see above)
- It's too far from us. Our little dog cannot walk all the way there, then play and then walk back.
- Personally, this is too far away for me.
- This area would be great, it allows enough space for dogs to be on their own if they prefer or to socialize, and it would be appropriate for many sizes. It also has a bit more separation from homes (less disturbance for residents) and potential triggers for dogs (bikes, runners, etc)
- This area is too narrow. MaNy bicyclists and pedestrians use this area too, and some places are already very narrow
- May be suitable but will not be walking distance for all W Somerville residents.
- This area is too narrow. MaNy bicyclists and pedestrians use this area too, and some places are already very narrow
- a bit far from the Davis Sq population center. also crossing route 16 is dicey.
- Too much car traffic -- how would people get there?
- This would be a great location for me and my pup!
- Same as above.
- This area is presently well suited for recreational use by all residents of the city, including dog owners.
- Too far for most somerville residents.
- Too close to a major road.
- There aren't any dog parks in that area.
- I'm not really familiar with this location.
- It's kind of far away from transit.
- Again, too far and the Arlington dog park is nearby.
- Pretty accessible to a large number of people.
- See comments above regarding access, size and parking.
- Parking and crossing near Dilboy is challenging as well as traffic in that area.
- This location is reasonably close to the Thorndike dog park in Arlington.
- Too close to the Mystic River
- There would need to be observation of the terrain and bird life to see whether a dog park would be compatible.
- There already is one a little bit to the north. Still too far away from Davis square. Owners won't walk this distance.
- 16 is too busy with traffic
- easily accessible
- This isn't very centrally located. If we were going to come out this far we'd go to the one that's just over the line in Cambridge.
- Only if parking was added

- The area is not used as often as it had been in the past. The rebuilding of the North Street projects will result in heavy construction in the immediate timeframes, however there is better traffic control in this area.
- This would be a good location but there is no parking.
- street
- If there is parking available
- centrally located and close to Teele and Davis squares
- Off the side of a busy congested road with tons of traffic and exhaust? No this is a terrible spot. No one would use this!
- This would be suitable for some west Somerville residents and the people of Medford.
- Again, no parking
- Yes, this actually would be a good space for a dog park. Those who drive can park in the pool lot.
- Location isn't very convenient to Somerville residents.
- Same as above
- Too close to playing fields. Those fields are already used as unofficial dog runs, I worry that a dog park would encourage more dogs on the playing fields. Also, during times when the fields are being used by kids, more dogs in the area is not a good idea.
- Not sure
- Okay on conservation land/ next to waterway? Conservation commission may disagree with use.
- Not central or walkable from much of West Somerville
- Not sure, if pedestrians and their dogs would be crossing route 16, that's difficult. On the other hand, if this option allowed for a large space, it would be worth the tradeoff.
- This is too far west and would only serve a small fraction of Somerville.
- Difficult to park nearby?
- Shouldn't bother anyone
- Busy road isolates it from neighborhood
- "Unsure actually
- How close is this to Mystic Ave?"
- That location seems wider and doesn't straddle the foot path.
- A little far for me personally, but seems like an okay place.
- Closer, but still not a very central location for most residents.
- Good central location.
- Good spot, lots of land, good walking path access, little residential.
- pedestrian access across route 16 to get to the dog park needs to be clear and safe... Maybe too far west to serve anything west of Teele sq.
- Given that this area is not near many homes, potential noise is less of an issue. Easily accessible by multiple routes on the bike path.

- It's on the very edge of Somerville and therefore, not convenient to most residents of Somerville. Arlington's Thorndike dog park is within walking distance of this space.
- It's not ideal (still on the bleeding edge of Somerville) but at least it's at the end of a major Somerville thoroughfare (Broadway) and just across the street from a lot of housing. The location would make better sense if Clarendon Towers and Clarendon Hill residents are allowed to have dogs. A dog park could help bring together people of different socio-economic backgrounds.
- Dog parks should not be sited near wetland areas.
- This is relatively close to the large parking lot which would make it an attractive destination. The nearby playground is underutilized and hypodermic needles have been found there so more activity in the area would help reduce these activities I would think.
- too far from me
- Same as above.
- Looks awfully near a big road, which could be dangerous for a dog that ran off. Or is this to be a fenced dog park?
- Too close to RTE 16 Traffic. Not safe.
- This is one of the last remaining green spaces in the City; there is no need for a fenced-in dog area here, it would adversely detract from the natural aspect of the surroundings as well as further develop an already-existing green space.
- "I think this could be an ideal location. There is a park located there but it is not well-kept and is a bit outdated and not used often. The baseball field is utilized but the park in general is not from what I have personally noticed.
- Being across the street from Clarendon and with the redevelopment of Clarendon in mind, having a dog park across the street might be appealing to future residents who would have dogs and also give them their own space where currently it is limited. I like this place the best. "

4. Is Dilboy South suitable for a dog park?

- a. Yes – 104
- b. No – 50
- c. Blank – 34

Comments:

- A big concern I have is for the crosswalk to get over to this area. People breeze past it A LOT and so my concern is accidents if more people are trying to cross over to there. Not that it's an insurmountable problem...just a concern.
- Nice, away from public so stench wouldn't bother people.
- Too close to the road
- I like this space because it's in close walking distance of my house. However, it makes me slightly anxious to put it here since it's next to a parkway where cars can go up to 40 mph. The potential for an accident seems really high.

- It's a great spot!! Spatially, it's big enough and flat, yet centrally located, which together help it stand out from the other options. Right by the playground, playing fields, basketball courts, pool, and so on. Can take the whole family for an outing, or anyone who already plays sports there could bring the pup along for extra fun! I've taken my dog up to Dilboy many times, but because there are no fenced in areas she can't run and play. I think this would be a convenient place for helping the whole family get outside together.
- Close to a park for children. Children stick their fingers through the fence at Thorndike, which can be dangerous.
- It's too far from the most popular areas of West Somerville. If I'm going there I may as well keep going to Arlington.
- I don't know, but we wouldn't use it (see above)
- It's too far from us. Our little dog cannot walk all the way there, then play and then walk back.
- Personally, this is too far away for me.
- This area would be great, it allows enough space for dogs to be on their own if they prefer or to socialize, and it would be appropriate for many sizes. It also has a bit more separation from homes (less disturbance for residents) and potential triggers for dogs (bikes, runners, etc)
- This area is too narrow. MaNy bicyclists and pedestrians use this area too, and some places are already very narrow
- May be suitable but will not be walking distance for all W Somerville residents.
- This area is too narrow. MaNy bicyclists and pedestrians use this area too, and some places are already very narrow
- a bit far from the Davis Sq population center. also crossing route 16 is dicey.
- Too much car traffic -- how would people get there?
- This would be a great location for me and my pup!
- Same as above.
- This area is presently well suited for recreational use by all residents of the city, including dog owners.
- Too far for most somerville residents.
- Too close to a major road.
- There aren't any dog parks in that area.
- I'm not really familiar with this location.
- It's kind of far away from transit.
- Again, too far and the Arlington dog park is nearby.
- Pretty accessible to a large number of people.
- See comments above regarding access, size and parking.
- Parking and crossing near Dilboy is challenging as well as traffic in that area.
- This location is reasonably close to the Thorndike dog park in Arlington.
- Too close to the Mystic River
- There would need to be observation of the terrain and bird life to see whether a dog park would be compatible.

- There already is one a little bit to the north. Still too far away from Davis square. Owners won't walk this distance.
- 16 is too busy with traffic
- easily accessible
- This isn't very centrally located. If we were going to come out this far we'd go to the one that's just over the line in Cambridge.
- Only if parking was added
- The area is not used as often as it had been in the past. The rebuilding of the North Street projects will result in heavy construction in the immediate timeframes, however there is better traffic control in this area.
- This would be a good location but there is no parking.
- street
- If there is parking available
- centrally located and close to Teele and Davis squares
- Off the side of a busy congested road with tons of traffic and exhaust? No this is a terrible spot. No one would use this!
- This would be suitable for some West Somerville residents and the people of Medford.
- Again, no parking
- Yes, this actually would be a good space for a dog park. Those who drive can park in the pool lot.
- Location isn't very convenient to Somerville residents.
- Same as above
- Too close to playing fields. Those fields are already used as unofficial dog runs, I worry that a dog park would encourage more dogs on the playing fields. Also, during times when the fields are being used by kids, more dogs in the area is not a good idea.
- Not sure
- Okay on conservation land/ next to waterway? Conservation commission may disagree with use.
- Not central or walkable from much of West Somerville
- Not sure, if pedestrians and their dogs would be crossing route 16, that's difficult. On the other hand, if this option allowed for a large space, it would be worth the tradeoff.
- This is too far west and would only serve a small fraction of Somerville.
- Difficult to park nearby?
- Shouldn't bother anyone
- Busy road isolates it from neighborhood
- "Unsure actually"
- How close is this to Mystic Ave?"
- That location seems wider and doesn't straddle the foot path.
- A little far for me personally, but seems like an okay place.
- Closer, but still not a very central location for most residents.

- Good central location.
- Good spot, lots of land, good walking path access, little residential.
- pedestrian access across route 16 to get to the dog park needs to be clear and safe... Maybe too far west to serve anything west of Teele sq.
- Given that this area is not near many homes, potential noise is less of an issue. Easily accessible by multiple routes on the bike path.
- It's on the very edge of Somerville and therefore, not convenient to most residents of Somerville. Arlington's Thorndike dog park is within walking distance of this space.
- It's not ideal (still on the bleeding edge of Somerville) but at least it's at the end of a major Somerville thoroughfare (Broadway) and just across the street from a lot of housing. The location would make better sense if Clarendon Towers and Clarendon Hill residents are allowed to have dogs. A dog park could help bring together people of different socio-economic backgrounds.
- Dog parks should not be sited near wetland areas.
- This is relatively close to the large parking lot which would make it an attractive destination. The nearby playground is underutilized and hypodermic needles have been found there so more activity in the area would help reduce these activities I would think.
- too far from me
- Same as above.
- Looks awfully near a big road, which could be dangerous for a dog that ran off. Or is this to be a fenced dog park?
- Too close to RTE 16 Traffic. Not safe.
- This is one of the last remaining green spaces in the City; there is no need for a fenced-in dog area here, it would adversely detract from the natural aspect of the surroundings as well as further develop an already-existing green space.
- "I think this could be an ideal location. There is a park located there but it is not well-kept and is a bit outdated and not used often. The baseball field is utilized but the park in general is not from what I have personally noticed.
- Being across the street from Clarendon and with the redevelopment of Clarendon in mind, having a dog park across the street might be appealing to future residents who would have dogs and also give them their own space where currently it is limited. I like this place the best. "

5. Is the Community Path (Davis Square to Willow Street) suitable for a dog park?

- Yes – 103
- No – 67
- Blank – 18

Comments:

- Seems too small and on a hill.
- This would be an awesome location for a dog park!! But is there enough space?

- Too hilly.
- I like that this area is accessible and not too close to busy streets.
- No way! Far too small and steep. Not conducive for safe playing.
- This is not ideal. It is a 30 minute walk from Ward 7.
- Should be further west
- We would use this space
- Yes!! Super conveniently located for us. It may need to be long though to have enough space.
- There is not enough room here. Commuter traffic is too high.
- People treat the whole bike path like an off leash dog park already. Having one will only encourage it with the idea that it's allowed some places.
- Because we need a park to get the dogs off of the bike path so they don't get hit by the bikers
- Only for smaller dogs.
- Much too congested
- This seems more accessible without the need to drive and has access by the T. Would recommend this location to increase access for all.
- Much too congested
- There are so many dogs on the path so this would be an ideal spot. Plus it would be great to be off the path because of the bikers!
- Much needed in this area.
- This is a great spot because there are lots of dogs on the bike path and the maxwell green private park is too small.
- much better location near Davis sq and more dog owners.
- Many dogs walk the path, a park on the path gives them a safe public place to play.
- Anywhere along the path would be convenient for lots of people and provide safety for people using the path by having people around.
- Anywhere along the path would be convenient for lots of people and provide safety for people using the path by having people around.
- Easily accessible by pedestrians and won't be disruptive to another park. Parking available in Davis Square if needed.
- It would be great to have a park here, but I suspect it's not enough room?
- Centrally located and linear nature works well as in Zero Washington.
- This is not West Somerville
- too busy with kids and bikes
- This would be the best place to put a dog park, because I see a lot of people with dogs in Davis. It's also easily accessible by public transportation and could bring more business to Davis Square businesses.
- Not enough room for a dog park, and too much pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
- Sounds good
- This would certainly be the most convenient for dog owners, as it is where many already walk their dogs. I imagine neighbors wouldn't welcome it, though. It's a shame because it's really the ideal spot.

- I would love a park on the community path, as long as it is adequately sized! Lots of people already walk their dogs along the community path, so it would be a highly accessible spot. I don't think the space pictured would be large enough.
- This would be a fabulous location; lots of dogs travel this route now.
- Yes please! There are so many dogs walking this path already that it would be the perfect stop along the route, and it's accessible by T!
- Given the pedestrian traffic, including parents with children, I don't think it makes good sense to intersperse that with dogs who want to chase each other and have fun.
- I think the community path is a bad choice for a dog park. It is a very busy area with lots of walkers and cyclists. We don't need any more off-leash dogs in this area.
- It's a great location but is there really enough space? I'd need to know more
- No parking
- too small
- Convenient location a lot of pet owners can walk safely to.
- This would be a great, central location between Alewife and Union
- This place would be perfect! It's close to transit, and dog walkers could bike down the path!
- This would be a great location.
- This would be the best option!
- This would be ideal as it is convenient for dog owners in the Davis and Porter Square area to walk to. It is long enough and wide enough for a good size park.
- Various spots on the Community Path were previously considered and ruled out because of limited available space, dense foot traffic and parking/accessibility issues.
- Too small and congested
- Way too much foot traffic, which can cause a lot of anxiety for dogs in the park. Also, it would limit access to this part of the bike path for dogs who can't comfortably pass other groups of dogs. I work with several pups who are fine walking by one dog at a time, but who will become extremely agitated when walking by a full dog park. A park on this part of the bike path would definitely limit my ability to use the bike path to walk into Davis with my own dogs, and I know that would be the case for several of my dog walking clients as well.
- If you could get a big enough space this location would be ideal. So many dog owners walk their dogs on the bike path. I believe a place just for dogs would also improve the environment for walkers and bikers.
- On the Path is nice, but the space seems pretty narrow. Other areas on the path are larger.
- Just fence the entire area rather than fencing off a part of the land.
- This is the best place for a dog park
- It appears to be a very busy place and there would only be room for a small enclosed area. It is not in West Somerville.
- Love it.
- no parking options, not easy to access

- Unlike the Verizon site this area is too residential to have a dog park.
- The Community Path would provide better access to a larger part of Somerville.
- Too congested with human traffic and residents. Would probably be disruptive for local residents. Parking would also be an issue.
- it's already very crowded there and the bike path is already in high use by dogs.
- "The community path is actively used by walkers (of dogs too) and cyclists. Why carve out a piece of this.
- easily accessible
- The land is too steep
- This would be a fantastic place for a dog park, as there already are many dogs that take walks on this path and it is not a pleasant area visually so it would not detract from the path experience. With the extension of the path with the green line changes this is the best decision for a long term plan.
- Too close to non dogs(people) who dont want to smell dog poop and too congested to handle even more activity
- This would be good but the space isn't as big as the Verizon site.
- Where will people park??
- Dog parks stink! Please don't do that to the people who use that path and live there.
- With some fencing so dogs don't get in the way of bikes, this is a good location that is available to a lot of people.
- Again, narrow but long could work, would need to be graded. Very convenient for many west Somerville residents to get to.
- Way too small and heavy foot traffic. I regularly walk my dog on the path between Lowell and Davis and this particular stretch is super busy before and after work (prime dog walking time too). Drawing more dogs to this area is a bad idea. Also, way too many residences, the dog parks can be loud with barking.
- They'll end up loose on the path
- Too sloped.
- Very narrow and close to a lot of traffic
- "Too narrow... smell from path will be tough on very nearby residents; I AM ON IT EVERY DAY
- By the way.. Correction needed it is Willow AVENUE not St.!"
- This would be great! So many dogs here anyways
- This would be an ideal place for a dog park, primarily because so many dog owners make use of the community path for walking their dogs.
- Excellent option—many people already access the community path for dog walking, so it's a no-brainer choice.
- The community path is heavily used by bicycle riders and many dogs have difficulty interacting with people on bicycles - there's a risk of collisions.
- This area is too small for a dog park and is located on a hill that gets muddy.
- Would LOVE to have one here. It is easy to get to for so many people
- Is there nearby parking?

- That stretch of path is already a bit congested and suffers from poor drainage. Unless these issues are solved for, I don't see it being a good location.
- This area is already too congested. If anything, we need a wider path here for the volume of people walking, jogging, biking and skating this route. This is also quite close to apartments which could create noise conflicts.
- I don't want more dogs on the community path
- embedded in residential neighborhood
- This is an area already used by dogs on leash and would enhance this space.
- Not sure the hill is suitable. Could it be leveled?
- I don't think having a dog park on the Community Path at any point is a good idea. Though it would be convenient for dog owners, I can see the space easily becoming too congested.
- Absolutely not!! People already let their dogs run without leashes on the path creating hazards for bicyclists and also for those like me who do not want people's unleashed dogs approaching me. This path is for humans!!
- Good central location with easy accessibility from the path.
- "But would probably need to be small, and may be difficult to get to for those truly in the West part of the city.
- Far too much foot and bike traffic-dogs would cause considerable danger to themselves and to the thousands of regular users.
- The foot and dog traffic is too high.it would be overwhelming.
- Too near lots of houses ... the barking will bother people. Also too small.
- This option is far more pedestrian friendly than the ones across Alewife brook pkway, and more centrally located!
- The area is pretty small.
- The area is already busy with pedestrians and cyclists.
- This is more central to people who live in West Somerville. However, it is a bit small.
- I like the placement on the Community Path because the Path is a somewhat isolated thru-area and could benefit from having a section that's a destination. In addition, families with young children could go there to see the dogs while also being surrounded by greenery and removed from traffic danger. The location is also very much in West Somerville.
- Far too small for a dog park.
- Great spot, lots of dogs walk on this path and would be good to have an off-leash dog park for them to run around instead of being off-leash and getting in the way of runners/cyclists.
- This is a good central location and would hopefully keep people from bringing dogs to Hodgkins Park.
- This is a good location for me
- "Somerville central. Already used as a de facto dog park.
- Must be fully enclosed."
- yes this would be great! And would allow for a nice walk along the path to get there.
- Good idea due to the fact that patrons and dogs can have safe access.

- The Community Path is already over-developed as it is; there is no need for a fenced in dog-area which would mean development and further removing trees and lessening green space.
- Although this would be very convenient, there are a lot of off-leash dogs in this area despite the rules and I suspect it might cause some issues.

6. Is the Community Path (Willow Street to Cedar Street) suitable for a dog park?

- a. Yes – 112
- b. No – 62
- c. Blank – 14

Comments:

- This area is already well utilized and turning it into a dog park would probably raise a lot of concerns amongst the non-dog people in the area (NOTE: I live a block from here and have a dog).
- Nice, easily accessible. Not sure if the stench would bother neighbors though.
- I like that this area is accessible and not too close to busy streets.
- I could imagine this being an “off-leash zone” someday, but not as THE west Somerville dog park. It’s looks very small. Also, geographically, I think it’s a stretch to call this West Somerville. I think of Wards 7 and 6 as being West, and this seems like it might be Ward 5 or very close to it. Again, every small space the city can provide for our dogs to play is welcomed, but this one would not be high priority.
- This is not ideal. It is a 30 minute walk from Ward 7.
- Yes!! Super conveniently located for us.
- This space is already heavily used by pedestrians and bikers and kids. Not enough space.
- Anything on the path works
- Only for smaller dogs.
- Much too congested already
- This seems more accessible without the need to drive and has access by the T. Would recommend this location to increase access for all.
- Much too congested already
- There are so many dogs on the path so this would be an ideal spot. Plus it would be great to be off the path because of the bikers!
- this is a good location too!
- Many dogs walk the path, a park on the path gives them a safe public place to play.
- Easily accessible by pedestrians, parking available on street
- There's more space here and perhaps far enough away from the houses that people won't complain?
- Same as above.
- This is not West Somerville
- Why not?

- I would love a park on the community path, as long as it is adequately sized! Lots of people already walk their dogs along the community path, so it would be a highly accessible spot. This spot seems to have a little more room than the other proposed location, but still seems too small.
- This would be a fabulous location; lots of dogs travel this route now.
- Yes yes yes! There are so many dogs walking this path already that it would be the perfect stop along the route, and it's accessible by T! This is also in a more central Somerville location which is great.
- Same reason as for last example.
- I think the community path is a bad choice for a dog park. It is a very busy area with lots of walkers and cyclists. We don't need any more off-leash dogs in this area.
- Same as before. Space issue
- too small and too many bikes and kids
- Convenient location a lot of pet owners can walk safely to.
- Again - a bit too far, but better than Alewife.
- Accessible to walkers rather than requiring everyone to drive there.
- See response re Community Path locations. In addition, there's a children's playground nearby and residents have previously objected to a dog park being too close to that. There are also flooding issues in several locations along this portion of the Community Path, and the soil has tested positive for arsenic, which would provide a potential health hazard to the dogs. Lastly, this section of the Community Path cuts through a densely populated area and noise levels might be objectionable to nearby residents.
- Too small and congested
- limit access to this part of the bike path for dogs who can't comfortably pass other groups of dogs. I work with several pups who are fine walking by one dog at a time, but who will become extremely agitated when walking by a full dog park. A park on this part of the bike path would definitely limit my ability to use the bike path to walk into Davis with my own dogs, and I know that would be the case for several of my dog walking clients as well.
- Same reasons as listed for previous park. Very family community area. Would be great to have a park for dogs.
- I'm not sure where exactly this is. Abutting Lexington Park might work well.
- very busy location with children, bikes, and many leashed dogs
- no parking, not easy to access unless walking
- Unlike the Verizon site this area is too residential to have a dog park.
- Same response as above - better access for a broader section of Somerville.
- To gongested with human traffic, would be disruptive to home owners and there is no parking.
- This would also a fantastic place for a dog park, as there already are many dogs that take walks on this path. With the extension of the path with the green line changes this is the best decision for a long term plan.
- This would be good but the space is not as big as the Verizon site.

- See above. That area is too dense.
- With some fencing so dogs don't get in the way of bikes, this is a good location that is available to a lot of people.
- Good use for that space. Marley be a little small.
- Same reason as above. Please, no dog parks along the path!
- Same comments as Davis to Willow AVENUE
- This would be great! So many dogs here anyways
- This would be an ideal place for a dog park, primarily because so many dog owners make use of the community path for walking their dogs.
- Excellent option—many people already access the community path for dog walking, so it's a no-brainer choice.
- This is a central and flat location within west Somerville that is easily accessible via the bike path and Cedar St. However, I think this area of the bike path is pretty with grass and would not want that green-space to be removed. So much of the bike path does not have grass due to shade and foot traffic that the places that do should be preserved.
- also Would LOVE to have one here. It is easy to get to for so many people
- Is there nearby parking?
- This area is already too congested for the volume of people walking, jogging, biking and skating this route. If anything, we need a wider trail here.
- I don't want more dogs clogging up the community path
- embedded in neighborhood
- This is also an area already used by dogs on leash and would enhance this space.
- Seems more level.
- I don't think having a dog park on the Community Path at any point is a good idea. Though it would be convenient for dog owners, I can see the space easily becoming too congested.
- Good central location with easy accessibility from the path.
- Same as above.
- Seems more manageable than the closer-to-Davis stretch.
- Too near lots of houses ... the barking will bother people. Also too small.
- This option is far more pedestrian friendly than the ones across Alewife brook pkway, and more centrally located!
- Same as above--too much else going on in a small space.
- This area would be better suited to a dog park, it could be a long run and is currently used by dog owners now anyway.
- Same reasons as for between Davis and Willow, although it's getting a bit East for West Somerville residents.
- The bike path should be turned into a fully functioning park for the people of Somerville.
- Similar comment to above regarding a dog park on/near the community path- lots of dogs walk on this path and would be good to have an off-leash dog park for them to run around instead of being off-leash and getting in the way of runners/cyclists.

- this is a good location for me
- Not West Somerville.
- yes this would be great! And would allow for a nice walk along the path to get there.
- The Community Path is already over-developed as it is; there is no need for a fenced in dog-area which would mean development and further removing trees and lessening green space.

7. Is the Verizon Site (110 Willow Avenue) suitable for a dog park?

- Yes – 125
- No – 41
- Blank – 22

Comments:

- This space seems underutilized and a dog park would be a great addition here.
- Best choice: abandoned factory means no complaints from neighbors, lots of unused room, easy access.
- I like that this area is accessible and not too close to busy streets.
- At least not as currently constituted. It's certainly big and flat and centrally located, but would need major renovation to become a safe, attractive park space. Another consideration is i imagine this land could someday go toward many other purposes, being adjacent to a large lot in a very valuable part of Somerville, whereas most of the others are already green spaces or next to parks. Also, geographically, I think it's a stretch to call this West Somerville. I think of Wards 7 and 6 as being West, and this seems like it might be Ward 5 or very close to it.
- This is not ideal. It is a 30 minute walk from Ward 7.
- Yes!! Super conveniently located for us, and has a lot of space, but is it contaminated?
- This would be my preferred location. It's not being utilized in any other way at this time.
- As long as there are no contaminants
- This area would be great, it allows enough space for dogs to be on their own if they prefer or to socialize, and it would be appropriate for many sizes. It also has a bit more separation from homes (less disturbance for residents) and potential triggers for dogs (bikes, runners, etc)
- Sidewalks by this site are already overgrown. If sidewalks were maintained, this could be a good site
- This seems more accessible without the need to drive and has access by the T. Would recommend this location to increase access for all.
- Sidewalks by this site are already overgrown. If sidewalks were maintained, this could be a good site
- There are so many dogs on the path so this would be an ideal spot. Plus it would be great to be off the path because of the bikers!

- This would be the best spot! Big space, close to the bike path but not so close that it would disrupt the regular commuters on bikes and walking.
- Yes! considering this area is an eyesore as is, this seems like a good place!
- Many dogs walk the path, a park on the path gives them a safe public place to play.
- Only if the cement was covered with a more suitable ground cover for dogs and the area was cleaned up.
- This would be great as it's a quiet area and not currently being used for much.
- Added feature to above two is the isolation from neighboring residents and runners on the bike path.
- This is not West Somerville
- Ugly and small
- this area is poorly utilized and would be a great and easy place to install a small park
- It's close to the community path. Lots of people already walk their dogs along the community path, so it would be a highly accessible spot. This site seems like it could hold a much larger dog park than directly along the community path.
- This would be a fabulous location; lots of dogs travel this route now.
- Yes! This is right off of the community path but seems to have much more space for a dog park that's bigger than just a small rectangle, which is sorely needed in Somerville.
- Very little grass and lots of stones.
- This is a large site in a prime location. I think a much more ambitious use should be found for this site.
- I don't know this space
- too dark and scary
- Not in its current, creepy, unsafe-looking condition.
- This would be a great option.
- not familiar with that location
- This could be an ideal location for a dog park, as it provides the opportunity for parking, is located behind a block of businesses and has proximity to the Community Path, making it a convenient location for owners on foot to use it.
- This seems like a wasteland so it would be great to convert to something useful!!
- This is a nice spot because it's easy to get to, but still somewhat secluded.
- Absolutely! I often take my dog there and let him run around. Seems such a shame to not utilize this space. Could also possibly increase attention to the litter that goes unattended right in front of the building. Seems this area is neglected.
- This would be a great spot, it's large enough and right on the Path.
- There's so much dead space there
- If enough space is used and well designed it would be excellent though probably not exactly in West Som
- parking/easy access
- Of all the sites I feel like this is the most centrally located and many people already use the bike path to walk dogs-- having an extra off leash area seems great. Every time we go by this site I'm shocked that there is unused land in such a desirable area.

I also love how shaded it is in this photo. That is ideal for a dog park (and completely unlike Nutziano and the long narrow park in East Somerville which have no shade).

- What type of clean up would be necessary at this site? Could be cost prohibitive.
- This would be a fantastic location providing the parking lot would be open to park users.
- If there is off street parking made.
- This would be a good spot since it is secluded and would not bother home owners nearby. Overall this would be a good spot - on the path would be better but this is a close second.
- This would be ideal as it is conveniently located on the bike path, is already enclosed, and is a great size. It is directly between other dog parks that are each about 1.5 miles from here and would be easy to find and use without inconveniencing anyone.
- See above. Too dense.
- Barren land already, just add a fence. But I wouldn't call this West Somerville.
- Yes! What is this space used for otherwise currently, other than to be creepy.
- Same as above. If the city has the opportunity to use this Verizon space, there are better community uses
- If it's safe for the dogs. Looks a little questionable but not bad
- Seems great reuse.
- under utilized, unsightly space that is centrally located.
- Parking for site will be a problem; Charge for any non-Somerville folks
- This is the best location! Centrally located, big enough to hold a lot of dogs
- This would be an ideal place for a dog park, primarily because so many dog owners make use of the community path for walking their dogs. This location, especially, would be a great re-use of a currently inactive eyesore.
- The proximity to the community path makes this a good site. If I am remembering correctly, it's a big site, which would be great for our dogs living in small apartments.
- I used to take my dog here and have always thought it should be a dog park. It is under-utilized land right next to the bike path and has been an eyesore for a long time. It is far from houses in most directions so noise would be less of an issue than the other proposed sites. Finally, it is large, and could accommodate both large and small dogs. I whole-heartedly support making this land a dog park.
- also - Would LOVE to have one here. It is easy to get to for so many people
- Great site.
- Would really rather see a general open space here by this beautiful old building. This a prime large park potential location. Having a dog park adjacent to the bike path could also generate higher volumes of dogs on an already narrow bike path.
- Anything is better than the eyesore of this site today
- don't know this site
- This area needs help already!!!
- This seems the most suitable as it is not against a pedestrian path.
- I think this would be a great space! It's easily accessible from the community path but still a bit more private than right on the path.

- Good central location with easy accessibility from the path.
- As you can see, I'm in favor of ANY site!
- This seems perfect! Close to the bike path but big enough not to overwhelm the bike path!
- Not good access from any walking paths
- Concerns about whether there is environmental mitigation this site might need?
- Unfamiliar with site.
- This would be ideal! Large, central within West Somerville and large.
- Great big area, just off the Community Path. Can still be a destination for dog owners and visiting families using the streets or Path.
- It is currently privately held.
- This would be the best spot- easy access from the path from everyone who walks their dog on the path, while also not taking away any of the area from the path.
- this is a good location for me
- Same as above.
- Well it certainly looks like this is a waste of space otherwise, so seems like a great candidate.
- Sure; this area is already developed and is currently a paved-over eyesore so it wouldn't be intrusive nor ruin the already-existing scarce City green space.nts:

8. Is Bailey Park (Belmont Street and Lowell Street near Summer Street) suitable for a dog park?
- a. Yes – 80
  - b. No – 68
  - c. Blank – 40

Comments:

- Seems too small.
- I think this would be an AWESOME spot for a dog park!! Beautiful and not too pedestrian heavy.
- Seems to be too hilly, too close to houses.
- Looks like a very suitable location, but again, is this really West Somerville? It's squarely in Spring Hill, and isn't far from Somerville Ave/Cambridge.
- This is not ideal. It is a 35+ minute walk from Ward 7.
- further west!
- Too far.
- Personally, this is too far away for me.
- "52 Porter Street
- Unit #1"
- No because that's where I hung around when I was a kid
- This area would be great, it allows enough space for dogs to be on their own if they prefer or to socialize, and it would be appropriate for many sizes.

- No. One of the few nice, grassy sites in Somerville. Don't turn it into a stinky dog park.
- Potentially - still a bit too far from public transport.
- No. One of the few nice, grassy sites in Somerville. Don't turn it into a stinky dog park.
- "98 Highland Road
- Unit 1"
- not central enough
- yes, but it does not answer the need for a park in WEST somerville.
- This area is close, but not necessarily close enough to the park in union square, so it'd be nice to have one that didn't involve driving to the dog park.
- The neighbors would complain.
- I wouldn't recommend having a dog park that close to a residence.
- It's nice to have the green space there.
- Too small. Dog park would take up too much space.
- This is not West Somerville.
- small
- i think there are too many abutters close by
- Yes, if a large portion of the park were to be fenced in. Many people already bring their dogs to this park (leashed).
- I'm not really familiar with this location.
- I think this would be great for space purposes, but it might be too close to Nunziato for the people living way out in west Somerville. But I live near Porter so I definitely would love this!
- 11 CRESCENT ST
- I think once you get into residential areas you take the risk of making it accessible to just the people in the neighborhood as there are few parking options
- This is too close to the dog park on Summer St.
- 128 Cedar Street
- Too far away for many people to get to easily. People in that location aren't that far from the Union Sq. Dog Park
- My only concerns here are that its in a primarily residential area. And I wonder if it makes sense, given its size, to chop it up for human/dog use.
- 54 Meacham Road
- A nice place to go and sit now but not fenced in.
- This is getting pretty close to the Nunziato dog park.
- nice shade.... is it large enough for enclosed space?
- Too far from Davis.
- parking?
- I know it's silly but it's a pain to walk up and down the hill of Lowell Street. Park is also extremely limited and it's too residential.
- Is this site considered West Somerville, quite the imagination.
- Would be disruptive to local home owners and would cause a parking issue.

- "26 Simpson Avenue
- apt 1"
- "There is already a dog park right near by - that far south is not helpful for a dog park location. Nunziato Field and Dog Park is the name.
- This is relatively close to nunziato do not as convenient to those without easy access to a dog park.
- No. Too dense
- This is not West Somerville if that who were trying to add access for.
- Looks pretty open. Like it
- Too close to residences.
- Too sloped, not really west Somerville.
- 12 Summit St
- "too small an area, and too close to nearby homes..
- An attractive nuisance."
- OK, but that's getting closer to Nunziato.
- This park is under-utilized and not well maintained. It is essentially a dog park already, just without a fence. I support having all or part of this park be a dog park for the Spring Hill community. Ideally this would supplement a dog park at the Verizon location near Davis Square.
- This park seems starved for programming.
- 5 Windsor Rd
- don't know this site
- I'd be pretty ticked if my house was right there. Dog parks are loud and can be pretty stinky in summer.
- I would prefer for unused spaces to be transformed into dog parks rather than "taking" spaces that are currently designated for people.
- Only 0.7 miles from Nunziato dog park.
- "I LOVE this idea, as this park gets very little use besides dog walking already. Although this is technically central Somerville, it's my top pick.
- This is a terrific green space where my dogs always want to run around!
- Too near lots of houses ... the barking will bother people. Also too small.
- Too far east to serve folks west of Davis. Folks in this watershed can already walk to Nunziato.
- "This park is getting close to Union Sq so isn't much help to residents Davis Sq and westward.
- This park is small and abuts numerous residential buildings. Note that the abutting high-rise former nursing school is being developed into about 25 condos, which would raise to at least 75 the number of neighbors affected by the amount of noise, chaos, and parking a dog park would bring.
- Looks like it would be a nice dog park, but geographically it feels like it's not central within West Somerville and closer to other existing dog parks.

- Bailey is a pretty little park near two crazy-active playgrounds. It would be a shame to cut it up or eliminate it for a dog park when there are better options on the Community Path.
- I have a feeling neighbors would object to the use though due to noise.
- no idea where this is
- Not West Somerville.
- Is this otherwise just an empty bit of grass? Then yes, looks like wasted space otherwise, time for dog park.
- Nice space however, neighbors may not approve of increase noise and parking. Enforcement of dog rules for parks in Somerville lack consistency.
- This area is already over-developed as it is; there is no need for a fenced in dog-area which would mean development and further removing trees and lessening green space of this small plot of natural land.

9. Is the Fire Station (Somerville Avenue and Lowell Street) suitable for a dog park?

- a. Yes – 84
- b. No – 61
- c. Blank – 43

Comments:

- YES!!! A dog park here would be amazing!!
- Too hilly.
- Don't like the steep slope, proximity to Somerville Ave, or distance from West Somerville.
- This is not ideal. It is a 40 minute walk from Ward 7.
- West....
- Too far.
- This looks like a good location too - relatively clear of a lot of homes.
- Very busy area and also the fire station is a lovely area. Plus the dogs and owners coming in and out would create a hazard in front of the fire station blocking access in emergencies at some point.
- Too close to the former 655 Lounge
- Not much parking nearby if it is the location I am thinking of
- Too far from public transport.
- Not much parking nearby if it is the location I am thinking of
- not WEST somerville.
- This area is close, but not necessarily close enough to the park in union square, so it'd be nice to have one that didn't involve driving to the dog park.
- Not in West Somerville!
- Slope of hill too steep.
- This is not West Somerville.

- I mean, you may as well be in Union Square at this point.
- Too far
- It doesn't seem flat enough for safe running around.
- I'm not really familiar with this location.
- I think this would be great for space purposes, but it might be too close to Nunziato for the people living way out in west Somerville. But I live near Porter so I definitely would love this!
- I don't know this space
- This is too close to the dog park on Summer St.
- Suitable place, but close enough to Union, where there are 2 dog parks. It would be great to have a park somewhere closer to the west end of the city
- Too far for many
- If the fire station remains in that location, the loud noises from the station alarms and firetrucks would be scary for many dogs. Adequate parking would have to be available, as well
- Don't know
- A lot of street noise and traffic, which can be hard for a lot of dogs.
- I do not think the area is big enough. Busy on the Ave. Best to keep a park tucked away on a side st I think.
- Interaction with the fire station might be a nice feature of this location, but it's also pretty close to Nunziato.
- I am not familiar with this location
- Space is better suited for open space or park. Not for dogs.
- access
- This is also centrally located and seems to have more space between where the park would be and the surrounding houses. It is also a busy area so the added popularity would be easier to absorb.
- Since when is this considered West Somerville
- To residential. Would be disruptive. Also close to nunziato. Would like to see the parks spread out a little more.
- dogs may be scared of traffic/train and siren noise
- Too steep
- This is not really west in somerville - this community already has access to dog parks nearby in Cambridge. Won't help the issue.
- What is definition if west somerville?
- This space is not very big and is relatively close to nunziato.
- No!
- Again, not West Somerville, though.
- If graded, could be okay
- Maybe. Not yes or no, but better than Bailey.
- This space is back there??? Open this up!
- Too sloped, not really west Somerville
- Too small an area

- This location appears to offer challenges with landscaping for an outdoor space suitable for dogs to enjoy.
- Good as long as the permitted street parking is decent.
- I would support a dog park here as long as there is not a clear cut of the trees. The small urban forest at this location is rare in the city. I live close by and have observed that the trees are popular with birds. I would not support any proposal that would remove the trees.
- Dogs and fire stations seem to like each other
- I don't know this area well, but it looks great!
- Again great because it is not near pedestrian path and no against resident housing. The hill could be challenging though.
- A little far for me personally, but seems like an okay place.
- Absolutely not!! this should be turned into open space for humans not dogs!!!
- Only 0.8 miles from Nunziato park.
- Easy parking access.
- Too busy/noisy/car fumes
- Too near lots of houses ... the barking will bother people. Also too small.
- Too far east to serve folks west of Davis. Folks in this walkshed can already walk to Nunziato.
- It's a bit further East than might be helpful, but the fire fighters are often dog folks themselves, so I'm sure would welcome the park.
- Drawback is that it is steep. This parcel is also close to residences but it's large enough so that the dog area might be able to be situated far enough away from them.
- Looks like it, but again, not central within West Somerville.
- It's fine as a location in general (if the fire station is removed?), but it's way too far from West Somerville. It's closer to Nunziato Field than it is to Davis Square.
- If this site is to be developed as open space, park land, it is simply too good of a site to lock up as a dog park.
- This isn't West Somerville. Unless parking can be provided I don't think people would journey this far to bring their dogs.
- its ok but far from me. You don't make it easy to see where these would be- you should put a map in this survey
- Not West Somerville.
- I have no idea where this is.
- Great space due to the fact little else around it.

10. Is Dickerman Playground (Craigie Street and Kimball Street) suitable for a dog park?

- a. Yes – 62
- b. No – 85
- c. Blank – 41

Comments:

- Seems too small and would be taking part of a playground.
- This would be GREAT!!
- Doesn't seem to have enough space.
- Yes, but not a high preference. Very small, and in Spring Hill, which I don't really think of as West Somerville.
- This is not ideal. It is a 40 minute walk from Ward 7.
- Too far.
- Personally, this is too far away for me.
- Already heavy use by kids.
- This park might work but it's not centrally located
- Too nice to turn into a dog park
- Too far from public transport.
- Too nice to turn into a dog park
- not west somerville, and it is nice as it is.
- Not in West Somerville. Neighbors would complain.
- I wouldn't recommend having a dog park that close to a residence.
- Park too small.
- This is not West Somerville
- do not remove a playground
- There's already a playground for kids there. I don't think we should take it away.
- too far
- a lot of children are afraid of dogs and people may abuse the area and let dog off leash is non designated area
- Doesn't seem to be enough space.
- I'm not really familiar with this location.
- I love it because I live by porter and it's perfect distance-wise!
- Again, in a neighborhood it tends to become for just the neighborhood
- This is too close to the dog park on Summer St.
- Suitable place, but close enough to Union, where there are 2 dog parks. It would be great to have a park somewhere closer to the west end of the city
- Might bother neighboring homes??
- if the goal is to make that a space shared by kids and dogs (with some division), many parents will object to the proximity of kids to the dogs. That situation exists to some degree at Nunziato, by the fence line dividing the Athletic Field from the dog park and owners/walkers as well as those supervising kids on the other side must be keenly aware at all times of the behavior of both.
- Again, I won't say no to any possible dog park, but converting a playground into a space for dogs does not seem right and might cause tension with the neighborhood.
- Too close to playground, not safe.
- Seems like the playground is a place where children like to go. I have seen lots of families use the park. May not be fair to take that space away.

- Also close to Nunziato.
- looks lovely.... large enough? fenced area?
- Too far from Davis but one is needed in this area too.
- access
- This is a nice field area for kids that is never taken up by sport practices.
- Too close to the playground
- Certainly not West Somerville.
- This park looks newly renovated for young kids. 1) it would take away from those kids and 2) not all dogs are good with kids which will present a problem.
- this area is great for dogs and might be mixed use. dogs from 6am-9pm and 6pm-9pm, similar to cambridge rules.
- This is not really west in somerville - this community already has access to dog parks. Won't help.
- This is relatively close to nunziato.
- No! Leave it for the kids
- I think some kids are afraid of dogs, or don't know how to interact with them. Is there experience of dog parks coupled with kids areas? Does it work out ok? I just have an image of a little kid opening the gate and letting all the dogs out. Sensing opportune time for song reference... Hmm..
- Please do NOT turn playground/kid park space into dog park space! If that space needs to be better designed for kid use, let's do that. But we have such limited space for kids now, and giving up any of it is too much! Especially since so much of the existing space is not accessible (Conway, Trum).
- Already has a use
- Like having grass and no dogs here. Not really West Somerville.
- another attractive nuisance
- This space is too small for a dog park. It is also enjoyed by many people and children for picnics and playing. I do not support making this into a dog park.
- Already a playground, do not want to create dog owners vs. parents rift or value judgment by proposing replacement of existing community resource
- Too close to where little kids play
- Not good near playground; and again noise/smell factor for residents abutting the park
- As a dog owner, I don't go to dog parks where children may also be present just because my dog isn't always kid friendly and I don't want to take any risks.
- I didn't know about this playground, but would only be for the dog park if this playground is not in heavy use by children. Bad optics to take something from kids.
- Not sure where this is, but sure!
- I'm not familiar with this space, but many Somerville dog owners also have small kids, so if my husband and I went together we could get exercise for the kid and the dog!
- 
- Too near lots of houses ... the barking will bother people. Also too small.

- Too far east to serve folks west of Davis. Folks in this watershed can already walk to Nunziato.
- High density residential area and small.
- My real opinion is maybe--again, too close to several residences. But I live nearby and know the playground is badly underutilized.
- Looks like it might be okay. I like the community path and the RCN building on Willow the best.
- Too far from West Somerville, and why compromise a playground aimed at very small children? It's one thing for parents to bring their small children to the outside of the fence at a dog park to see the dogs, it's another thing to always share space with them at the playground. At least at Lincoln Park the playground and dog park are separated.
- This is already a multiple use park with a play ground and community gardens.
- This location is not even close to West Somerville or convenient enough to dog owners to entice them to stop using parks in West Somerville.
- this is ok but far from me
- Not West Somerville.
- Sure!
- Only a small dog park could fit here.
- Children play here from all over the city; cordoning off and parsing up this playground and green space for a fenced-in dog area would lessen the curb appeal and cause public nuisance with dog noise. Let the playground remain the valuable scarce green space it currently is.

11. If you don't think that any of these locations would be suitable for a dog park, please tell us why in the space below.

- You need to pick one or two as a dog park because Somerville is a dog friendly city and they need to have a room to run around with their friends
- I think the Verizon site and Alewife north site are the best choices
- I think the Verizon site and Alewife north site are the best choices
- I entered comments on two sites as no just because they are very close to homes. I would suggest a location where there is some amount of street parking. Many dog walkers use the dog parks and they bring their clients over by car.
- The DCR property and surrounding area is presently well suited for recreational use by all residents of the city, including dog owners. There is no reason to restrict already limited green space to exclusive use by dog owners.
- I answered this question at each site
- "No need for a dog park.
- The only one that will work is dilboy. It is far enough from houses that the stench should not impact people living and walking nearby, unlike all the other sites
- Comments with each park above.
- Most of these locations are not in west Somerville. Is there anything near Davis?

- I think I have articulated my opposition to dog parks in general. I know this is not the prevailing sentiment in this dog crazy culture. But if there had to be one it should not be near the Mystic River (or any waterway or wetland) and it should not be on the Community Path.
- See first comment
- "Too many of the sites are near wetlands, and it is not appropriate to put dog parks near wetlands. The other sites are either too small, need to be fully developed as parks for people, or are privately held.
- location is my most important point
- West Somerville should be clearly defined. From my vantage point, west of Willow Ave.
- The Verizon locale would be the only site that wouldn't cordon off and destroy an already-existing piece of scarce green space in the city and insert a fenced-in dog area. The other locations listed would do just that; the City cannot afford to lose another foot of natural space.

12. What is your zip code?

- 02138 – 2
- 02139 – 1
- 02140 – 6
- 02143 – 21
- 02144 – 116
- 02145 – 16
- 02155 – 9
- 02474 – 1
- Blank – 16

13. Do you have a dog?

- No – 41
- Yes – 138
- Blank – 9

14. Do you visit any of the area's dog parks or parks that include dog parks?

- No – 49
- Yes – 128
- Blank – 11

15. What do you like/not like about the parks you visit? Please make sure to tell us which park(s) you are talking about.

- We occasionally visit the one on Vinal Ave, but it is too far away. I like the size of that park.
- We mostly frequent Nunziato, love the community there -everyone is welcoming and kind. However the park itself is gross, often disgustingly muddy or dry and dusty. It often floods. A water tap would be nice, like the one in Arlington's Thorndike.
- I love the dog park near Alewife, but it's really far.

- "like: the size of nunziato
- dislike: the size of the maxwell's green park, dirt only parks, lack of water sources "
- I visit a lot of parks and I live them but my dog needs more space to be free and not on a leash
- We often visit the dog park adjacent to Thorndike Field and Alewife Station in East Arlington. We like that it's spacious, has natural shade/cover from a large old tree, plenty of benches for humans to sit and relax, has water spickets and bowls provided.
- "Nunziato gets really muddy in wet weather. There is no cover in inclement weather. Nunziato has no water supply, which is problematic in the summer. Parking can be a challenge, and it is too far to walk for residents of West Somerville.
- Thorndike has a tree for shade in the summer, but no cover, but parking can be a challenge when the field is used for soccer tournaments.
- Danehy is fantastic.
- The Medford dog park is fantastic."
- They need shade and places for owners to sit. Thorndike Park in Arlington is ideal.
- Needs fence, running water, poop bags, trash cans, and gravel is better than plastic grass. We go to the small one in Maxwell Glen and in Arlington near Alewife
- "Union is dusty
- Alewife is nice because it has shade, benches and water.
- We also like double-gate/dual entry
- We like the obstacle course stuff too at Alewife!"
- The ground covering material at Nunziato makes a big mess, although I find that the size and layout of the park allows for the dogs to run together which is a nice feature. At Danehy, the rocks covering the ground are too large to be comfortable for my medium sized (30 lbs) dog to run on. Having the tree in the middle of Thorndike park is a really nice feature.
- "I'm responding here because the no didn't offer a way to provide a comment.
- The reason my dog and I do not visit any of the dog parks now is that they aren't conveniently located for us."
- They are stinky! And they are overrun by people walking large groups of dogs. My dog likes to run, but she is small and doesn't like being surrounded by a dozen strange dogs at one time.
- I go to the one in Fresh Pond. I like that it has a closed area but also open space where my dog can walk off leash. Would love for there to be a watering hole and some green off leash space. Don't like that I have to drive there.
- They are stinky! And they are overrun by people walking large groups of dogs. My dog likes to run, but she is small and doesn't like being surrounded by a dozen strange dogs at one time.
- Union is too dirty, New Washington is hard to get to and all bigger dogs. Alewife is the nicest but far away.
- Sometimes I take care of my friend's dog and I might get one of my own!
- the existing dog parks in Somerville are too far from West Somerville, so we really do not use them regularly.
- Somerville Junction park is nice, but there is no enclosed area for dogs to play. I really like the size and openness of Nunziato park, but the dirt is not the best and it frequently turns to mud.

- I don't like the gravel
- My favorite dog parks are grassy areas with structures for the dogs to play on :)
- I can't have dogs in my building so it's nice to have them around but the park in Union Square is very old and needs to be updated (there is a plan for it). Once the update happens, hopefully there will be enough seating for even non-dog owners to sit and enjoy.
- I like the Arlington dog park the best (off of the path). It has enough space, some obstacles for the dog. However, it would be great if there was a dog park that wasn't with those tiny stones as it bothers my dog's paws.
- Zero has too many puddles and not central to city or W. Somerville. Union square is too much like a vacant lot and no ground cover. Like Arlington dog park the most. Well used and well landscaped with dog amenities and parking.
- My property borders the DCR land in West Somerville. People already take their dogs to this area without making certain areas off limits to other uses.
- The Pemberton St. (N Cambridge) dog run is nice, but it gets puddles after it rains that sometimes take days to disappear - not good for guardians of dogs who like to get into every puddle they see. The field across the street is nice and big but (a) technically dogs can't be off leash there, and (b) it isn't completely fenced in, so dogs can and do run out. The next nearest fenced in dog park from there is Danehy, which takes a while to get to by foot.
- I like Union Square, but it's far. I don't like the one on New Washington St. It's too long and skinny, and I can't walk from one end to the other without my dog freaking out that I'm leaving her behind.
- Like dog parks although sometimes people bring dogs that are not friendly or well-behaved.
- "Corcoran/Raymond park: excellent excellent!!! Only downside is that it's not enclosed (some dogs need this). Grass is awesome for owners and dogs (while the park itself st danehey is well designed the sand/gravel is disgusting! Urine bakes in the sun and stays above ground level and offends both paws and noses.
- Raymond is just lovely with many kinds of things: garden, playground, basketball courts, baseball diamond and soccer fields. Awesome all around."
- Too far away (nunziato field)
- We sometimes drive to Nunziato Field (Somerville); it's a great size and our dog like the dirt (as opposed to deep gravel at other parks). We also go to Pemberton in Cambridge, but the shape/size is less ideal. My dog likes when there's space to explore and run around.
- "We visit the Arlington park nearish to Spy Pond off the bike path. It's fine; decent size, and I like having a separate enclosure for smaller dogs.
- We visit the Fresh Pond dog park, and it's lovely to have that amount of open space for pups to play. Love it."
- Nunziato gets muddy very easily and doesn't have seating or an overhang like Danehy. Danehy is only supposed to be used by Cambridge residents so animal control comes by to kick people out frequently. The new Washington Park is far, but the different climbing areas are fun for dogs (especially the bridge thing), and it also doesn't get muddy as often with the paved ground. I like danehy's separate small areas for small dogs and time outs.
- The one at nunziato seems to work well
- I visit Nunziato and it has ruined the grass area. Dogs are aggressive and need to be kept away from each other.

- We need an off leash area to take our dogs. It must be big enough for a number of dogs to feel comfortable. Otherwise they fight.
- I like that the dog park across from Meadow Glen Mall in Medford has 2 parks: 1 for large dogs and 1 for small. I love the dog parks, but I have to drive to it. With a dog park at Community Path, I could easily walk there with my dog.
- They are fenced-in
- The Arlington park is great. The one on Summer street doesn't have much shade.
- Nunziato isn't very clean and kept up. 00 Washington street is okay, but a park that has working fountains and spaces for big dogs and small dogs would be best
- "Nunziato: terrible drainage, needs pea stone or fake grass, no water on site, too close to nearby residents, dead trees, not maintained well.
- Leathers: not maintained well, no replenishment of pea stones, very little nearby parking.
- Zero Washington St: needs pea stone or fake grass; gazebo is badly located and has caused injury to dogs; needs divided areas for puppies/small dogs as well as a time out area. Park is generally too long to be able to adequately manage dogs (you can't get to a dog quickly if something happens). Parking is fantastic at this location. Noise isn't an issue because of location.
- Arlington (Thorndike): well laid out and maintained; multiple fenced in play areas; adequate parking and port-a-potty nearby
- Medford: well laid out; beautiful location; multiple play areas; need more water locations; "
- I walk dogs and usually go to arlington bike path park, or union square, somerville, both are very far away.
- Living in Davis Square, the closest parks are the Nunziato dog park in Union Square, which is over 2 miles away or the Thorndike dog park in Arlington, which is also almost 2 miles away. I prefer the small pebble ground cover of the Thorndike dog park as the dirt at Nunziato gets dusty in the summer and very very muddy whenever it rains. I also greatly appreciate the water spigot at the Thorndike park.
- At alewife. We like the giant tree, benches, and features like cement pipes. We don't like the pea gravel, would prefer grass but realize that's difficult.
- The gravel used at Zero New Washington is incredibly dusty, and creates a lot of mess even on dry days. It also doesn't stay in place well, so the park is often full of holes and spots where the landscaping carpeting underneath is exposed. The pea stones at Danehy dog park are difficult to navigate for humans in particularly--creating dangerous situations when folks need to get to their dogs quickly. Nunziato and New Washington St. both have very limited 'natural' features--it would be amazing to have a park option with more grass, trees, etc.
- Too far (sheepfold) or too small
- The park in East Somerville behind the High School is too small and too secluded. The park on Summer St. Is old, dirty and extremely smelly. The park behind Washington st. Is ok but a challenge to drive to through union.
- The Thorndike park's central tree provides a great seating area with shade on hot days. Being on the Minuteman is also helpful.
- There are none!! Only a small useless in on the community path
- Somerville avenue, crowded, no grass, little shade, no comfort for dog owners

- "I am a Dogwalker. The bigger the space, the better. And the dogs really love the agility stuff at Zero New Washington.
- There needs to be better access and parking options. Everything is in residential parking or busy streets
- Like that a lot of dogs show up to play, Like they are fenced in, dislike the lack of water feature for dogs to get water, dislike the "mud" ground cover/dirt
- Zero new washington st. Is to long. It would be better to divide it into two separate areas. If dogs have disputes it take some time for the owners to get to the and brake it up. Nunziato, can get to busy. Ed leathers is nice but a little to small. Also there is an issue with dog walkers braking park rules.
- water in dog park is always nice in the summer!
- I do not like how crowded it gets at each park at certain times of the day. It sometimes turns dangerous because some owners do not realize when their dog is overwhelmed by the amount. In a perfect world the owners would know when to pull their dog out but having more dog parks may help this as well. (Nunziato and New Zero Washington) they are also quite large, if a fight breaks out and your dog is at the other end of the park it's harder to stop. While having room to run is amazing perhaps two sections would be a consideration for a new one if it is as large as either of those!
- "like:
- water supply
- available parking
- shade is nice but not crucial
- I actually go to Arlington dog park. It is fenced in has a climbing structure and is large and mostly wide open
- Ed Leathers, Zero New Washington. There are also many dog owners who use Foss park for off leash time for their pups. I would love it if there was a sizable dog park added there along with the other planned construction.
- "Nunziato is the closest that we visit. It's a good size (we have a bulldog who doesn't run far) and it's near to a park. We also have a baby, so bringing the dog and the baby is important.
- There is a dog park in Arlington that has a water feature in the summer for dogs to run through, that would be a nice addition considering how hot the city gets in the summer"
- the dog park on the old southern jr high site is rather far from my house.
- Please move forward with this, especially on the path which will be accessible by so many without driving!
- Nunziato: we like that there is a large and a small space so dogs can be separated if needed (small dog space and large dog space). Don't like that there is no water available and that it is a big dirt pit. We like Thorndike in Arlington a lot as an example (big tree for shade, different features for dogs to play on and in (tunnels, bridges, etc) water available, two separate spaces, two air locks for entry/exit. But honestly, we would love a big dirt pit near Davis/Porter over anything far away or close to another dog park.
- I love dogs and will get one as soon as our old cat goes. But I have walked and driven past the one on Summer Street and it is appalling, like an open sewer dome days. The one st Cobble Hill is better because it's removed from houses and pedestrian paths. The only suitable proposal is Dilboy, where is should not bother anyone.

- I enjoy parks that have smaller dog parks, like Denahey park. Having sufficient space to allow the dogs to run around and interact seems important.
- I don't spend much time in dog parks, my dog doesn't really like them. I do like the social aspect of dog parks, how they bring people together. The Summer St park smells bad. The teeny park at Maxwells Green has artificial turf, which seems so weird. I've only been to the New Washington Park once but did like that it has some of the same features as the Arlington park.
- "I don't like Nunziato. There is not a great separated space for puppies and small dogs. Too many large dogs there with unattentive owners.
- Like the concrete tubes at Zero New Washington. Dog bowls clogg at Zero New Wash.
- Perry is great if everyone follows leash rules. It's nice to run on the grass with my dog instead of stone dust. My dog loves their drinking fountain. It stays clean. "
- Not walking distance, need a car and time to go there
- large running space
- Union Square
- The Nunziato dog park is especially great: soft earth for dogs to run safely, and a large area of open space.
- Nunziato gets really filthy with mud and doog poop and pee. The good thing about Nunziato, though, is the (mostly) very high fence...many dogs need at least a 6 foot fence.
- They are far away.
- I visit the dog park in Edward Leathers Community Park in East Somerville. It is a safe enclosed space and there's a dog-height water fountain elsewhere in the park. I wish everyone would pick up after their dogs!
- I walk by the dog park on Summer St in Somerville and along the Minuteman Bike Trail in east Arlington. The dog park on the Minuteman Bike Trail is fantastic and should serve as a model for its space, layout, and features (agility equipment!). The dog park on Summer St. has a weird gravel on it that I do not like. My dog in the past did not like it either. But he loved the park in Arlington.
- I would love for somerville to become a more dog friendly city (already is but more so) more parks, more resources and more landlords to allow dogs :)
- We have a dog one week a month. Summer Street Dog Park is awesome!! Great to have bags, shade, bowls. If on a hill, somewhere that smelly runoff won't enter sidewalk during or after rainstorm would be ideal.
- I like dog parks with separate small dog areas. Water (for dogs to drink) is always nice in the summer. Good substrate (not gravel) is a plus. I think the main thing is maintenance.
- Have visited the one near Alewife (in Arlington), on Summer Street near Union (Somerville), and near Maxwell's Green. Like that they are all fenced in and like when they have some landscape screening around the edges. From a sustainability and space efficiency perspective, don't like that the area becomes single use for one purpose.
- They are smelly and noisy and they take up space that should be available to people
- Nunziato dog park and the Arlington dog park are popular, but are a long walk. Both have crushed rock/gravel so it doesn't turn into a mud pit and obstacles (trees/benches/tables) for dogs to climb on and run around.

- They built a "dog park" with the redo of Lincoln Park. The purpose of a dog park is to allow city dogs some exercise. Most dogs will cover the longest dimension of this area in about 7 steps. It is just silly.
- The closest park for dogs is on Summer St. very close to my home. Its surface has almost NO DRAINAGE at all and its surface is stone dust. As a result only dogs w/ a flat coat can play there without getting stone dust embedded in their fur or hair. This is very difficult to get out.
- Too dusty ... but dogs have a blast. The park in Arlington near Alewife is the best, large and shady.
- Nunziato smells much worse than Inner Belt, and Ed Leathers park is underutilized. I would love to see a park with an enclosed off leash area that are not just little patches of gravel. I do not like that it is a 40 minute walk from my home to the closest of these parks and that whenever I frequent these dog parks I am taking a trip in a private vehicle to do so.
- We most often go to the park in Arlington. It is well tended, has double gating, an area for small/more fearful dogs and water available for the dogs plus shade for dogs and humans. It also has some agility equipment for dogs to play on. My dog doesn't really like running on the small gravel surface, however, so if it was more conveniently located we'd go to the New St park more as the crushed stone surface is much easier on her feet.
- Community growing center abuts Vinal Street dog park. I like that the park is clearly separated and not near too many residences; don't like that it's close to any and that it reduces parking in the area.
- There are no dog parks easily walkable from my house. I only go to Arlington's Thorndike field occasionally by walking down the bike path. It has stones, shade and enough room to throw a ball. I'm not fond of the parks in Somerville, they are too small or not kept up. If I have to get in a car to go somewhere with dogs, we normally go to the Fells.
- I walk past Nunziato a lot. I like watching the humans and dogs greet each other, and then separate to talk/play. It's the same quality you see at playgrounds--you can see that there are established friendships. I like that Nunziato is clean, trash/recycling cans are emptied regularly, signage is good, and it's big enough for even a big dog to stretch and run. If I were visiting Nunziato with a dog I would want more shade. Since dog pee can kill trees maybe a pergola or awning of some kind? It looks like an oven in there on a hot, sunny day.
- I use the bike path, so I have to be in proximity to the dog park at Maxwells Green. However, I believe that the proximity of this dog park to a high use area such as the bike path is not safe.
- Danehy Park- good location and accessibility/parking.
- "Alewife
- Tufts"
- Filthy. Summer and Vinal.
- Most frequently go to the one on the community path at Maxwells Green, which is small and sad and feels like a big cage, or the lovely big one on the minuteman at Alewife.
- The New Washington Street dog area in East Somerville is perfect: constructed on an already-developed parcel of land, and did not use up any natural greenspace to build a (non-green, dirt ground-cover) fenced in dog area.

16. Any other thoughts or comments to share?

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- I ran out of time to look at all the spaces.
- Having lived 5 years in Somerville without a dog and 2 with one, I can testify that dogs simply bring people closer together. It's amazing! When we get out with our dogs, we mix and mingle WAY more than we ever do otherwise. It's a wonderful investment that adds value by enhancing community engagement, bringing together people who normally would not mix, and building social capital. Please give West Somerville that opportunity as the neighborhood continues to grow!
- "Water, trash barrels for dog waste and a separate area for small dogs, or dogs that are learning to socialize are critical.
- Please keep me updated, and let me know if I can help: kcedrone@mit.edu"
- grass and tree park please. don't cover it in gravel.
- This survey has too many questions. Sorry :-)
- A small dog separation would be fantastic!
- Some of the dog parks now have large dogs that are too rough playing with smaller dogs.
- Thanks for asking for input!
- Even if a park doesn't happen, improving the number of dog poop waste pickup bags and trash cans would be great.
- Owning a dog improves the health of the owner. Happy owners = happy residents.
- Verizon site is only one I see working as it's not taking anything else away from the community to add it and has space.
- I think this is a great idea. I helped open a dog park in my former neighborhood in Jamaica Plain 14 years ago and it was a great place for neighbors. We had a couple of complaints but they were mostly from two people who complained about everything and everyone.
- Dog parks seem mostly for larger dogs. I hardly ever see small dogs, even though small dogs often have more energy and could benefit from such a park
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- Please section off a little bit for smaller dogs or so people can train privately!
- nothing near me
- "Dogs and dog owners need to be accommodated. You can't pretend that dogs do not exist in the city, and then get upset when folks let their dogs run in areas where they are prohibited.
- Also we need more dog bag dispensers around the city. maybe an advertising opportunity."
- They are too far from where I live. Having lived in a neighborhood with several dog parks I can say they improve a neighborhood by bringing people together and they do make areas safer. However it is a good idea to have a local committee to oversee light maintenance. Like getting rid of disgusting tennis balls. It is also really good to have a water source if possible.
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- Restricting an already limited resource like open space in the City of Somerville is counterproductive. If dog owners wish to have an exclusive piece of land to allow their dogs to wander around, they should either travel to an area with more open space or privately fund a place to do so. Limiting an already scarce resource in a city environment is a poor use of resources. It would be like moving in next to an airport and complaining about airplane noise.
- Dog parks help develop community
- The more (parks) the merrier
- Thank you for doing this!
- I don't have a dog, but I do dog sit often!
- The gravel surface is hard on their paws. You find most dogs at dog parks sidelined on the pavement around them.
- Would be great if there was an option near Teele/Power House Square.
- It's important for the dog park to be sufficiently large so that bigger dogs can actually run and it doesn't cause crowding issues (which can lead to fighting). I love the idea of it being along the community path since so many dogs already walk by there every day.
- Thank you!
- Please bring another dog park to Somerville!
- If an option could be found that is somewhat centrally located and does have parking that would, to me, be the best. I also think having it outside of a neighborhood is better. Not all people like dogs around their children and it could create problems
- I love that you are considering putting in a dog park!
- I said I had a dog because I am in the process of adopting one. I had a dog eight years ago and we frequently walked on the community paths. They would definitely be my top choices.
- I would definitely recommend that the city reach out to local dog trainers and dog walkers to gather opinions about how best to structure the dog parks, and how to accommodate for safety.
- It would be a wonderful addition to add a new, dog park to our city.
- A location on the Path between Davis and Cedar (like 3, 4, or 5) would be great.
- It would help to identify features of a dog park so that everyone completing survey has the same definition of dog park. The biggest issue is if dog park means fenced in area
- Get the dogs out of Hodgkin's park.
- Whatever is done it needs to have a place for the dogs to get water and some kind of running surface that doesn't turn to mud. There is a dog park in the south end at Peters Park that is great in size and amenities please just copy that!!!!!!
- I would love to see new Washington St park divided into two sections. This would be very beneficial. If two dogs aren't getting along it would allow for the owners to separate them with out one having to leave. There is plenty of space for two good size areas at that location.
- I feel really lucky that we have those dog parks even though I have mentioned things I do not like about them and that Somerville is considering another space. Thank you for what you do!
- Does the city staff have anything useful to do apart from develop such questions about things that are not needed?

- "please put water spigot in Nunziato Field dog park
- Bigger parks where dogs have a chance to run work better for most dog owners. Please consider a location where a bigger space could be made available.
- Please please please !! This would be huge - it's a big issue for us today
- Thank you for considering a new dog park in Somerville!
- Thanks for asking
- I don't visit softparka because there are not any easily accessible for me in West Somerville.
- Thank you for considering this! I'm not a dog owner (though I am aspiring to be one someday in Somerville), but have dog-owning friends.
- Good luck. Dog owners can be insufferable, like a horde of toddler parents, except the toddlers never grow older. Thanks for the efforts on this.
- Dogs should have a park where they can play. The fire station backyard should be opened!
- Great idea thank you
- We could also use a dog park in East Somerville.
- I don't visit local dog parks because there are virtually none. I absolutely would if there were.
- It's nice to have a larger park for dogs to run. Places like the new one at Lincoln or Ed Leathers really only function as a pet relief area. Our yards are not large enough for running, or we have no yard.
- Do a lot of walking with the dog around the City
- please do this!!
- Thanks for considering adding a dog park in West Somerville! It'd be a great addition.
- "My fence comment above is really important. I'd be happy to help with this if it goes forward.
- alice.hecht@gmail.com"
- Dog ownership has a lot of documented health benefits and it's good that Somerville is providing more facilities for dogs, but this is of no help if the city continues to allow landlords to discriminate against dogs or specific dog breeds/sizes (which is NOT allowed under state law). What are you doing to make local landlords more accommodating toward dogs?
- I care deeply about this issue because I am a home-owner in Somerville with no plans to leave and plan on getting a dog in the near future. I have been a dog owner in Somerville in the past for a total of 12 years.
- Would really like to see the Verizon site location developed for some other open space purpose not including a dog park - such a beautiful underutilized site that could serve a high density of people near Davis Square. Would not like to see dog park development along the bike path in that general area either given I would prefer other uses for open spaces in such a high density area and because of the volume of conflict already present between bikes and other path users. Space should be allocated to widening and improving the path first.
- As a former dog owner, I think this should happen but we should be very mindful of its location vis a vis residents, places where children play (dogs get out!), and pedestrian pathways.
- "I think that it's really important to have safe, properly enclosed spaces for dogs only. I walk one of my client's dogs down in Cambridge and we went to Sacramento Park, an integrated space for people and dogs, on the owner's recommendation.

- The dog and I were playing in the park (he's 6 months, his leash was on but I wasn't holding him, no one else in the park, barely anyone else around in the neighborhood, he had my full attention) when a neighbor came out and told me that dogs must stay on leash.
- I picked up the leash and we immediately left. I talked to the owner about it later and she apologized -- she thought it would be perfectly alright to play there because she had seen groups of dogs playing there before and after work. There is a sign (in a really weird spot, which is why I missed it) but the whole experience left a bad taste in my mouth.
- In short, I'm a big advocate for dog-only spaces where dogs can be dogs."
- Any dog park is better than none, but it would be nice if it was closer to an area that doesn't currently have a dog park.
- I avoid them-they stink.
- Why not do what many surrounding towns do, which is to allow dogs off leash in many parks during off hours, say 9PM to 7AM? Also, it seems to me that the first thing that should be done in a survey such as this is to define terms. What, exactly, is a "dog park"? Is it an entire open area or just a portion? Is it where dogs can be off leash always or just part of the day?
- Thank you for doing this
- The surface is important. Many dogs don't really like walking or running on small gravel surfaces which reduces the usefulness of taking them to the dog park if, like my dog, they can't go off leash to get their running out of their system. Can't wait for the new park!
- I like dogs but am unlikely to own one myself. I'm mostly interested in a dog park for the community aspect of it so placement is really key. It should be a place that owners and visiting families can use as a destination but also stop off at on the way to other places. It should be designed and placed so smells and noise don't defeat the purpose of bringing people together.
- Community Preservation Act funds should not be used to develop dog parks. The funds reserved for open space should be reserved for the purchase of land that can be developed as parks for the people of Somerville.
- If we can't properly maintain them, don't build any more till you can.
- YAY DOGS
- I used to have a dog. Will be getting another soon.
- The Dilboy area across from Clarendon I believe is State property however they do not exactly keep up with it. This is a common area that people bring their dogs anyway whether walking them or letting them run without a leash.