

# Brentwood Neighborhood Park

## - Proposed Off-Leash Area

Report date: March 7, 2015

Survey conducted 1/15 – 2/28/2015

# 2014 Related Events

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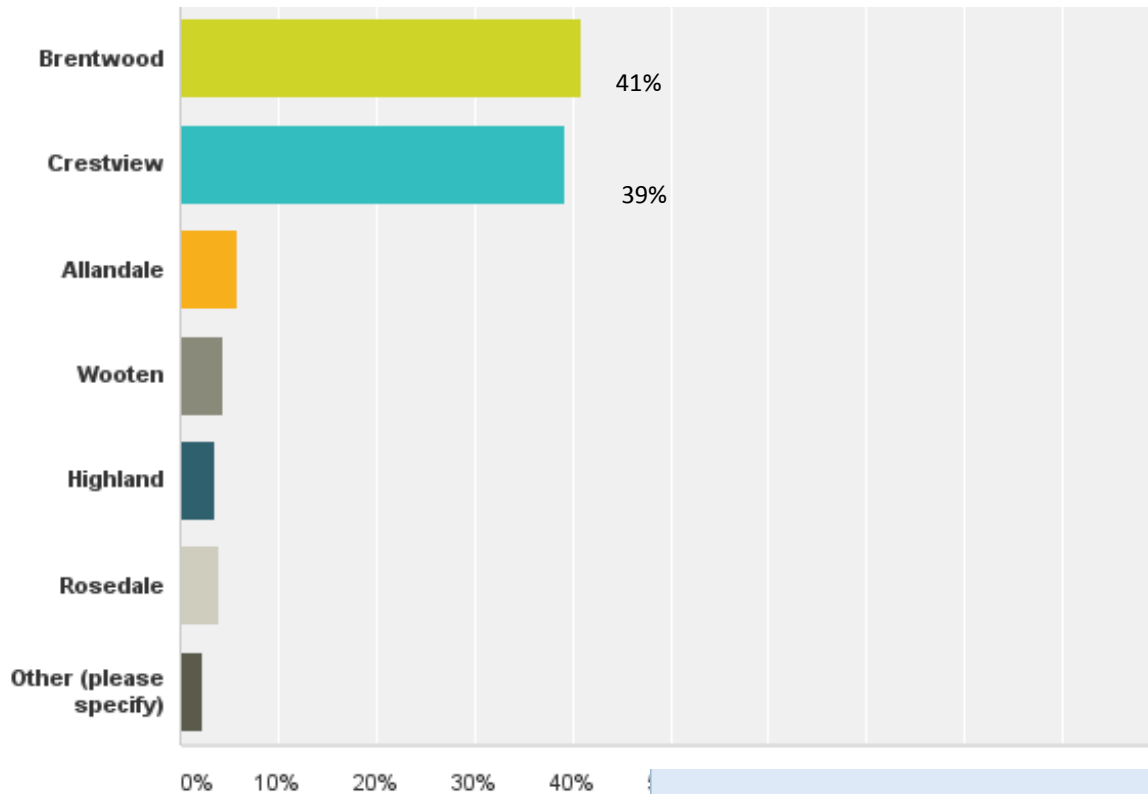
- Owners bringing dogs to play off-leash at park
- Police patrol and are summoned by calls
- Off-leash small dog nipped teenager entering the park
- Dog owners began concept discussions and researching the goal to create a fenced dog area

# Brentwood Dog Park Survey

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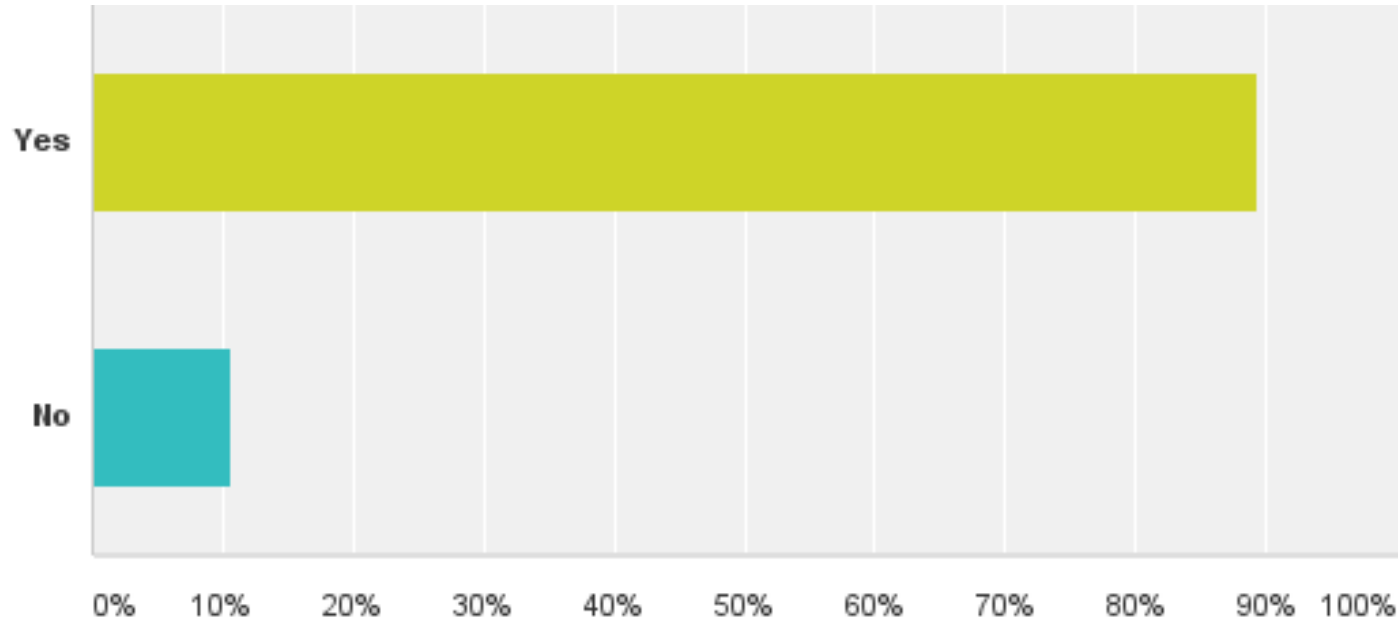
- A core group researched regulations, created survey to assess neighborhood sentiment
- Survey was announced in the Brentwood and Crestview newsletters and email groups, and in the Yahoo dog park email group
- Proxy contact information was provided for anyone unable to access the online survey
- Survey was open for entries for approximately 6 weeks

# Q1: In what neighborhood do you live?



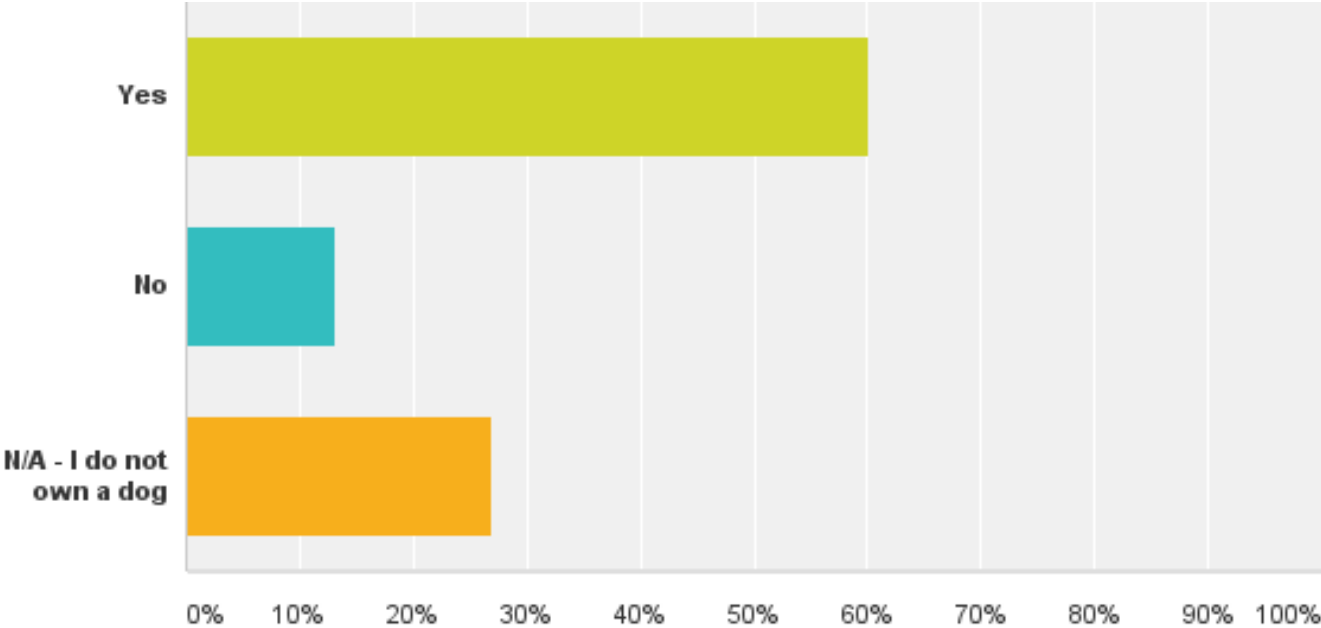
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Brentwood	40.9%	314
Crestview	39.2%	301
Allandale	5.9%	45
Wooten	4.3%	33
Highland	3.5%	27
Rosedale	3.9%	30
Other (please specify)	2.2%	17
<i>answered question</i>		<b>767</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		0

# Q3: Do you use Brentwood Park?



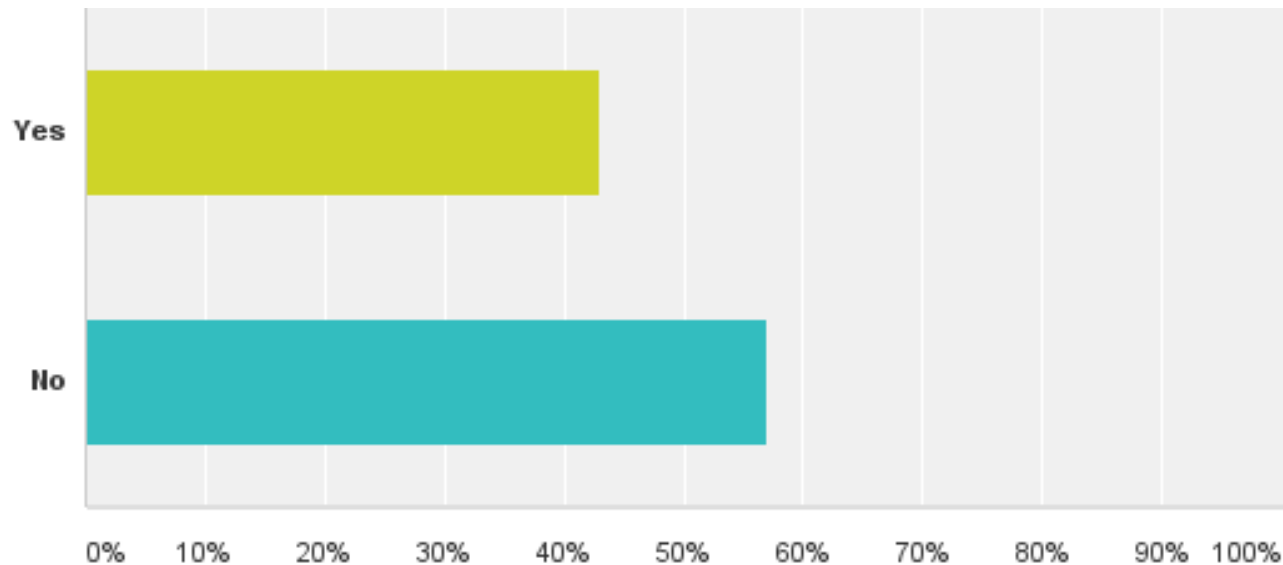
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	89.4%	638
No	10.6%	76
<i>answered question</i>		714
<i>skipped question</i>		53
		767

# Q6: Do you have a desire to visit Brentwood Park with your dog?



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	60.1%	423
No	13.1%	92
N/A - I do not own a dog	26.8%	189
<i>answered question</i>		<b>704</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>63</b>

# Q7: Does the presence of off-leash dogs prevent you from visiting the park?



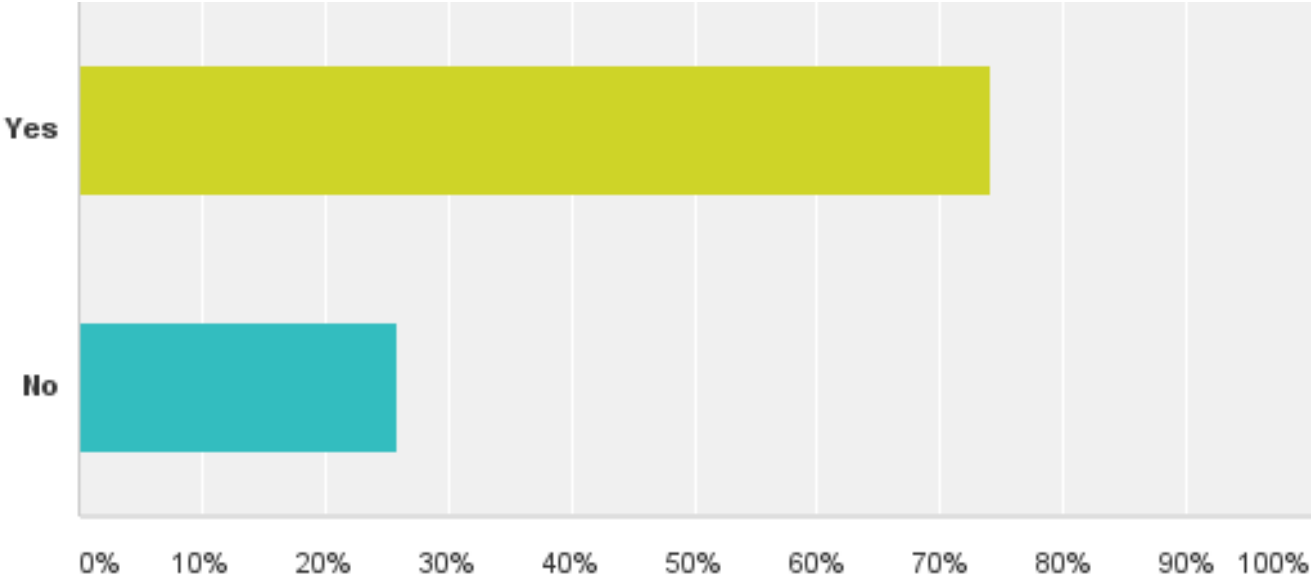
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	43.0%	299
No	57.0%	397
Comments		323
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>696</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>71</b>

# Q7: Does the presence of off-leash dogs prevent you from visiting the park?

← Yes	Representative Comments	No →
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Off-leash dogs pose a hazard</li><li>• It's a safety issue</li><li>• I visit times of day when they're not there</li><li>• Can't take my dog near off-leash dogs</li><li>• Afraid of my children being bitten</li><li>• Unleashed dogs are unpredictable and potentially dangerous</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No, love to see dogs playing</li><li>• No, but the dogs should be kept out of the playground area</li><li>• Need a place for my dog to get some off-leash exercise</li><li>• It helps to meet [dog-owner] neighbors and build a community</li><li>• Doesn't prevent me but makes me really nervous</li></ul>	



# Q8: Would you support an initiative to develop a fenced-in off-leash dog area?



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	74.0%	513
No	26.0%	180
Comments		221
<i>answered question</i>		693
<i>skipped question</i>		74

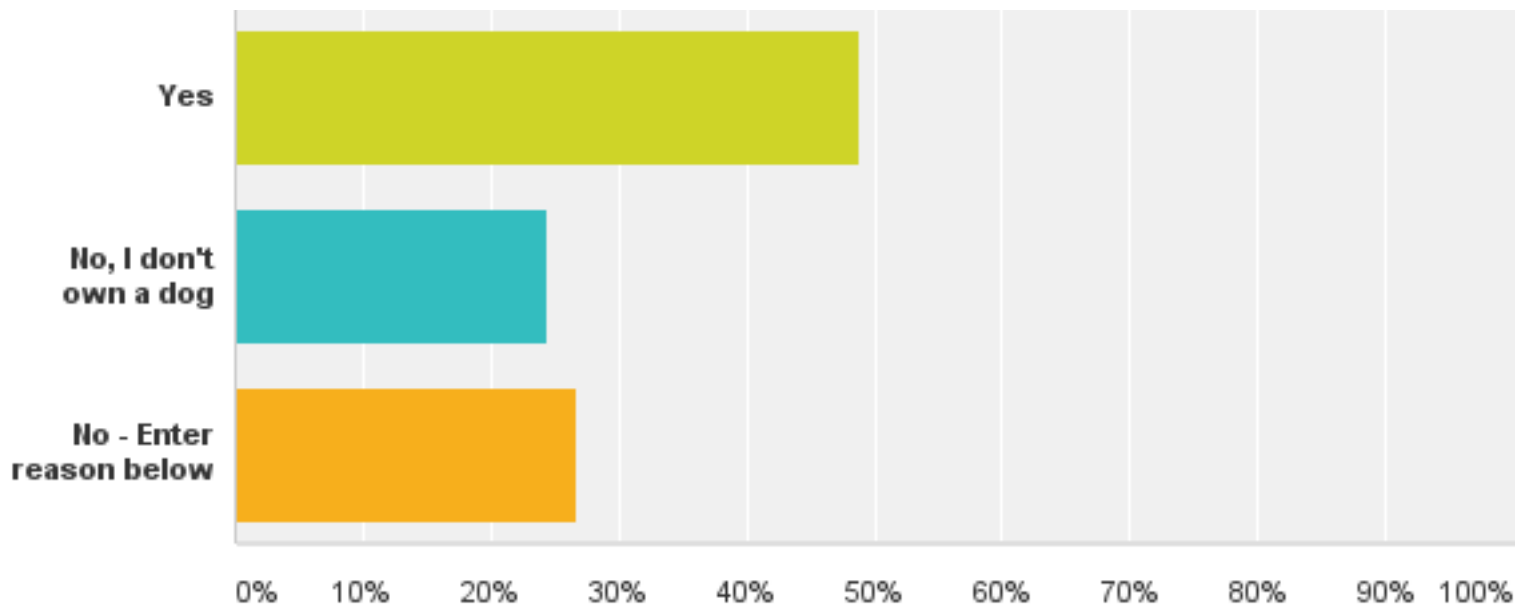
Annotations:

- 99 dog-owners, 81 non-owners (pointing to the 'Yes' response count)
- 398 dog-owners, 115 non-owners (pointing to the 'No' response count)

# Q8: Would you support an initiative to develop a fenced off-leash dog area?

← Yes	Representative Comments	No →
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can let dogs run/socialize without having to travel too far</li><li>• Social for neighbors as well as dogs</li><li>• Need a safe place for exercising dog after work</li><li>• Fenced area to keep dogs safe inside and segregate them from children/others on the outside</li><li>• Wouldn't have to worry about him taking off into the street</li><li>• Space designated needs to be strategic</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It would probably stink and be ugly and noisy</li><li>• There's not enough room for it; would take away available space for park users</li><li>• Rather it be off-leash for certain hours or located elsewhere (Crestview, Ryan)</li><li>• Too close to the school or playgrounds</li><li>• An unnecessary expense</li><li>• Other off leash areas available in Austin</li></ul>	

# Q10: Would you use a fenced off-leash area if it were available? Why or why not?

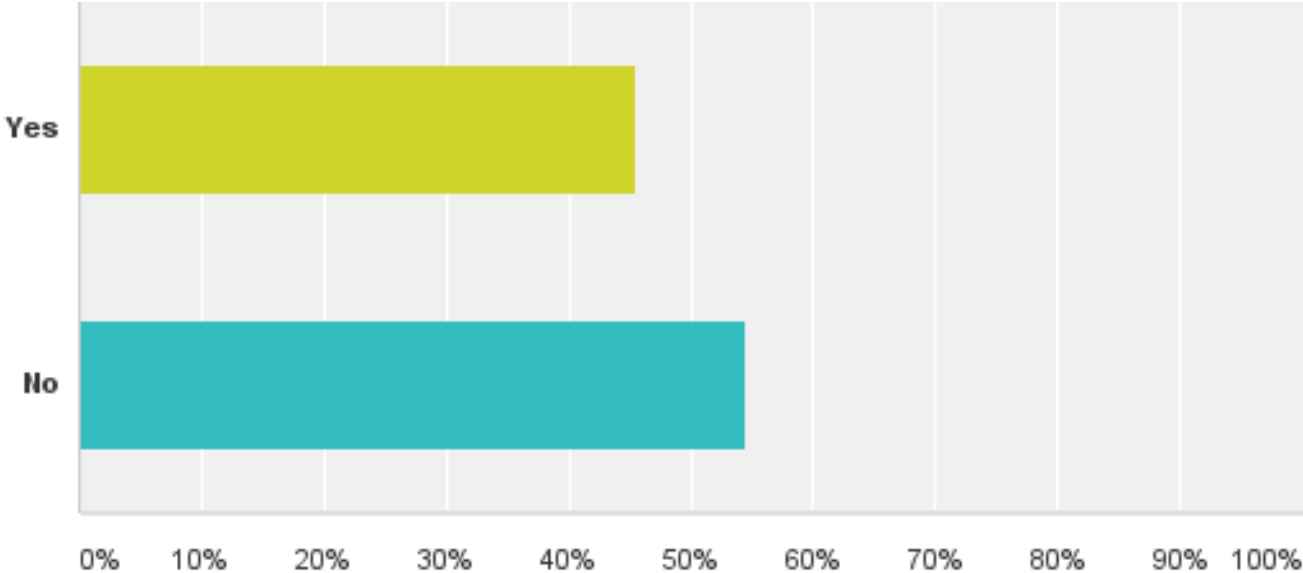


Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	48.8%	334
No, I don't own a dog	24.4%	167
No - Enter reason below	26.8%	183
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>684</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>83</b>

# Q10: Would you use a fenced off-leash area if it were available?

← Yes	Representative Comments	No →
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beneficial for those who exercise their dogs off-leash</li><li>• Would love to meet folks in the neighborhood</li><li>• Support it to eliminate off-leash dogs at park today</li><li>• Seems to be a rationale solution for dog owners</li><li>• I would visit a dog park that adheres to city rules</li><li>• Safety of dogs and people</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No, but would support it for dog owners</li><li>• Brentwood Park is too small and dog area would be small</li><li>• Like others, they're filthy, dirt ridden eye sores</li><li>• Don't want to loose the big field at the park</li><li>• My dog doesn't get along with others</li><li>• Owners don't pay attention to their dogs in a dog park</li><li>• Don't trust my dog</li><li>• My dog isn't quite social</li></ul>	

# Q14: If there was an off-leash area at Brentwood, would you be willing to assist with its upkeep?



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	45.5%	309
No	54.5%	370
<i>answered question</i>		<b>679</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>88</b>

# Q15: Other comments, questions or concerns (187 comments)

## Representative Comments

- Thank you for doing this
- I will definitely help with upkeep and maintenance
- All neighbors should be able to use the park, including dog owners
- Most dogs I see are well behaved
- Austin's existing dog parks are small and overused
- Dog park at Far West and Great northern does not include basic amenities
- A fence is vital for safety
- Irresponsible dog owners are breaking the law
- Brentwood Park is not an appropriate place for a dog park
- Better suited for the Ryan property
- Mixed opinions on nearest dog park
- Too close to children, school and families using the park
- Dog park would draw people [from] outside the neighborhood

# Neighborhood Consensus

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- 74% of all respondents support development of a fenced-in off-leash area
- 66% of dog owners would use a fenced-in off-leash area if it were available in Brentwood Park
- 309 survey respondents willing to assist with a fenced area's upkeep, others with donations

# Common Concerns

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- Upkeep and Maintenance – many volunteers via survey comments, PARD provides some assistance with ground cover
- Location – Respondents worried about losing open space. Other areas proposed.
- Safety of children – proposing a fenced in area
- Proximity to school – proposed area on north side of park and within OFLAC guidelines



# Is Now the Time?

Previously said:	Consider:
<p>The dog park idea has been approached before for Brentwood Park.</p>	<p>Demographics change and our consideration for our pets is more prevalent than ever. And this new initiative promotes a fenced area to segregate off-leash dogs from on-leash dogs and other neighbors enjoying the park.</p>
<p>There's already a dog park nearby, up at Far West at Great Northern.</p>	<p>This is a steeply banked flood zone that allows off-leash use but is not an actual <b><i>park</i></b>. When there is water in the retention pond, dogs are not allowed to enter the water. It is <u>not</u> a fenced area nor is it easily/safely traversable by owners.</p>
<p>There are other fenced parks in Austin where owners can take their dogs after work.</p>	<p>While there is a fenced dog area at West Austin Neighborhood Park, the others are on Riverside Drive, or in Pflugerville, Cedar Park, Leander or Georgetown. (In fact, a small Brentwood group visited the West Austin Park to learn how it could be a model for other neighborhood parks.)</p>

# Proposed Area

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# 2013 Off Leash Area (OLA) Policy\*

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- Support from Stakeholder Groups
  - Brentwood Elementary
  - Brentwood Neighborhood Association
  - Crestview Neighborhood Association
  - Friends of Brentwood Park
- Be located 50 feet from residences where possible
- Provide a barrier to separate OLA from schools, playgrounds
- Be located 50-300 feet from springs, creeks where possible
- Boundaries clearly marked
- Onsite parking
- Mutt Mitt Stations
- Double entry
- Signage requirements
- Fence must be at least 4 feet high

\* Key requirements

# Next Steps

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- Gain support of Friends of Brentwood Park, BNA, CNA and Brentwood Elementary
- Continue to seek neighborhood input and feedback
- Identify desired features and seek input
- Contact Austin Parks Foundation; setup account to receive donations
- Submit application for Neighborhood Partnering Program grant

# Appendix – All Survey Questions

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- Q1: In what neighborhood do you live? Slide 4
- Q2: How many people in your household are in the following age groups? \*\*Please note: Please be sure to make a choice on each line, for each age group. So you need to click Zero on the lines that don't apply to you. Matrix available upon request
- Q3: Do you use Brentwood Park? Slide 5
- Q4: How many times do you visit the park in a typical month? 47% use 1-5 times, 21% use 6-10 times, 22% use >11 times
- Q5: Do you own a dog? If so, how many? 29% (203 responses) No dog, 44% 1 dog; 28% > 1 dog
- Q6: Do you have a desire to visit Brentwood Park with your dog? Slide 6
- Q7: Does the presence of off-leash dogs in Brentwood Park prevent you from visiting the park? Slide 7
- Q8: Would you support an initiative to develop a fenced-in off-leash dog area within Brentwood Park? Slide 8
- Q9: Are you aware that there are requirements for developing an off-leash park in the city of Austin? For example: distance from residences, schools, and playgrounds; erosion control and runoff considerations; double entry gates; etc. 60% Yes, 40% No
- Q10: Would you use a fenced-in off-leash area if it were available in Brentwood Park? If not, why not? Slide 12
- Q11: Do you have a preference for the design and construction of the fenced-in area? For example, chain link fence, coated chain link fence, removable/temporary, etc. 73% No, 27% Yes
- Q12: Are you aware that the closest off-leash park with the basic required amenities (drinkable water, safe environment, sufficient parking, etc.) is at Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park? 53% Yes, 47% No
- Q13: Do you participate in the upkeep of Brentwood Park? For example, "It's My Park" day, regular work days, etc. 31% Yes, 69% No
- Q14: If there was an off-leash area at Brentwood Park, would you be willing to assist with its upkeep? 46% Yes, 54% No

# Appendix – All Survey Questions, cont.

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- Q15 Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns related to this initiative (Optional)
- Q16 At what email address would you like to be contacted? (Optional)