

FINAL Results of the Dog Park Survey

March 7, 2019

The following pages include screen shots and extracts taken directly from the Hardy Park Dog Park survey, which was implemented as a Google Form and augmented with hand-written postcards for those who preferred that medium.

The results are both summarized and anonymized. We are not sharing a complete export of the survey results since that would reveal personally identifying information that we collected for the express purpose of verifying and validating those who completed the survey.

The survey was opened on November 11, 2018, included both online invitations as well as distributed door hanger postcards that were delivered to close to 1,000 homes within the Foxhall Community Citizens Association (FCCA) boundaries. Online notices were put on next-door.com for the Foxhall neighborhood as well as its surrounding neighborhoods. Online notes were also placed on the FCCA Listserve as well as included in the FCCA Newsletter.

You can click on the entries in the Table of Contents to jump to sections of interest.

Visit www.hardyparkdogs.org for more.

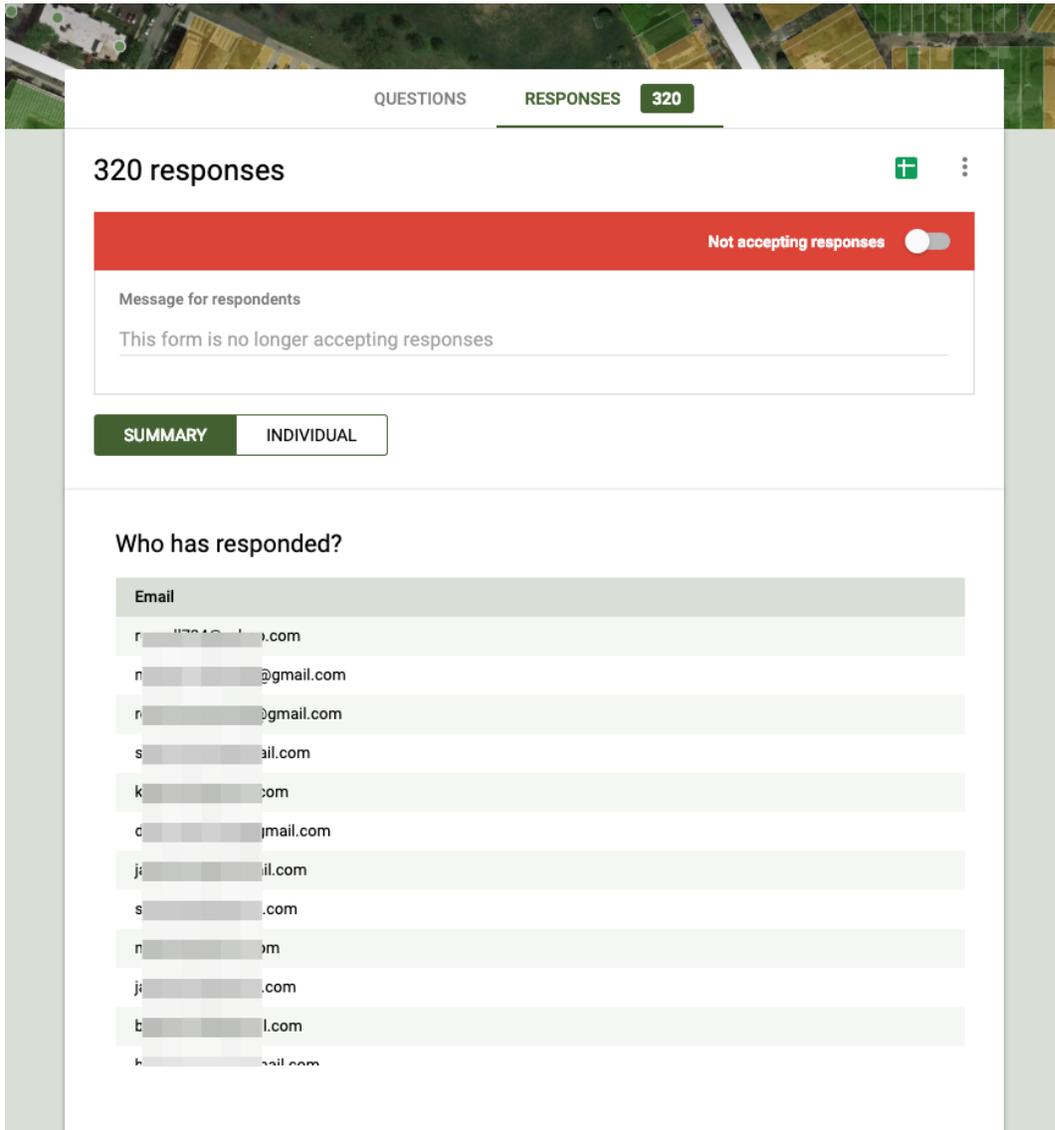
Table of Contents

Anonymized Identity Information That Has Been Collected	3
Voting Results	7
Maps of Responses	8
Clarifications	21
Willingness to Consult Further	44
What's Next?	45

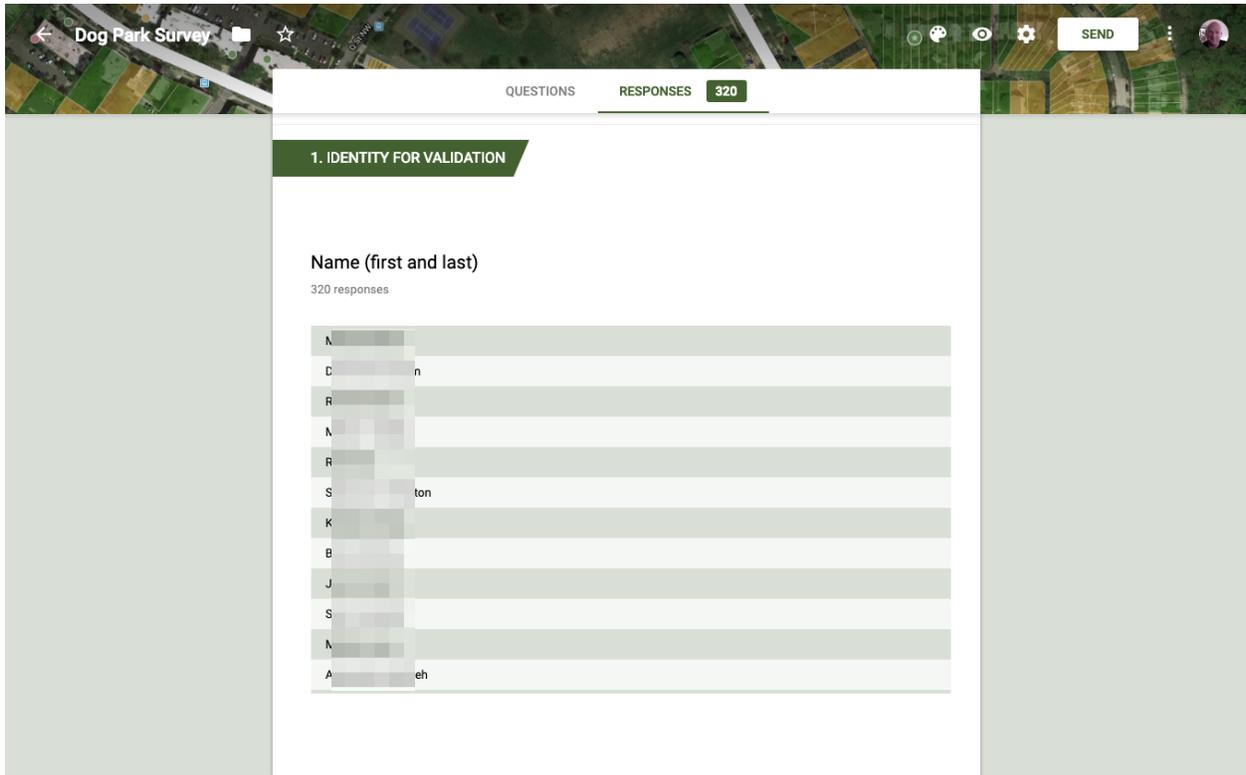
Anonymized Identity Information That Has Been Collected

The following screen shots (blurred for anonymity) just show that the survey collected names, street addresses, emails, and phone numbers of each of the respondents. We can filter as needed to suit DPR (e.g, VA resident voices may not have their votes counted, or perhaps the closer one is to the park the more their vote should count, especially if they are opposed to a park).

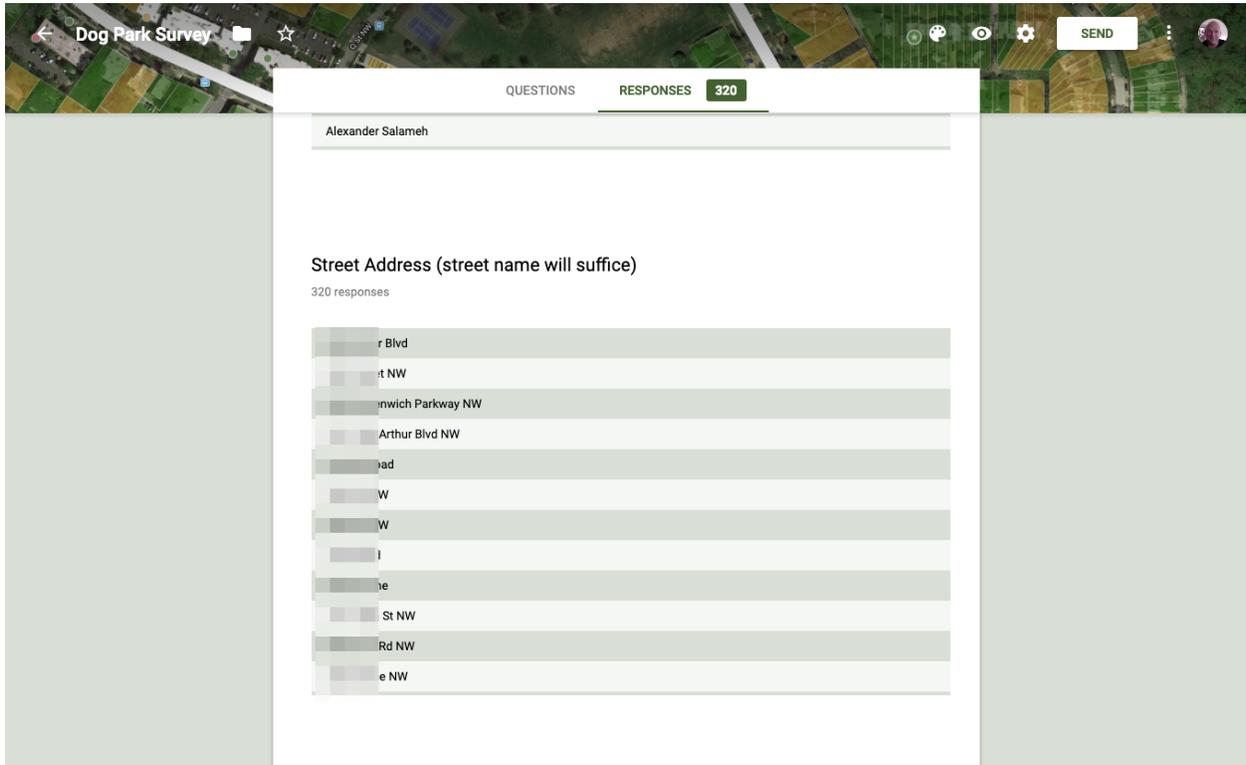
Anonymized Emails Snippet



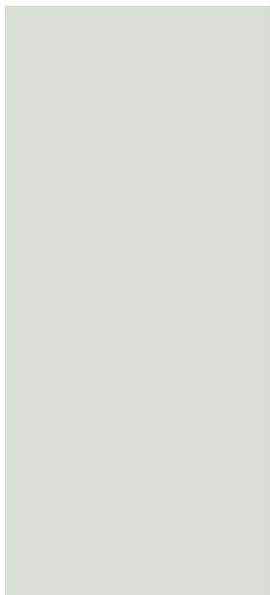
Anonymized Identity (Names) Snippet



Anonymized Street Addresses Snippet

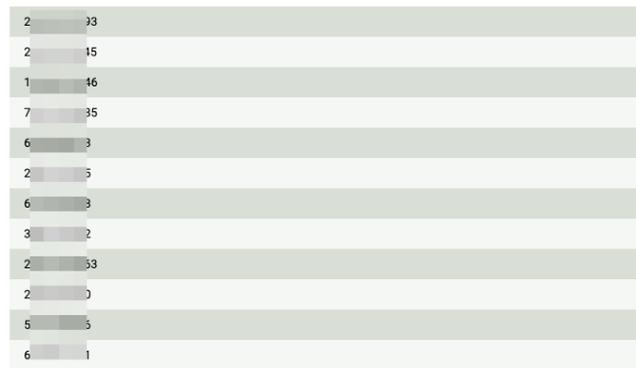


Anonymized Phones Snippet



Phone

237 responses



Voting Results

Voted	Count	Percentage
Strong No	26	8.1%
No	18	5.6%
Neutral	16	5%
Yes	132	41.3%
Strong Yes	128	40%
Totals	320	100%

Put another way:

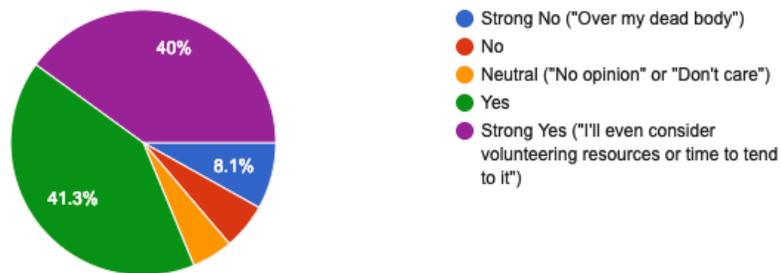
81.3% Yes or Strong Yes.

13.7% No or Strong No.

2. YOUR POSITION ON THIS TOPIC

Which of the following best describes your feelings regarding a DPR-Approved Dog Park being included in the future Hardy Park:

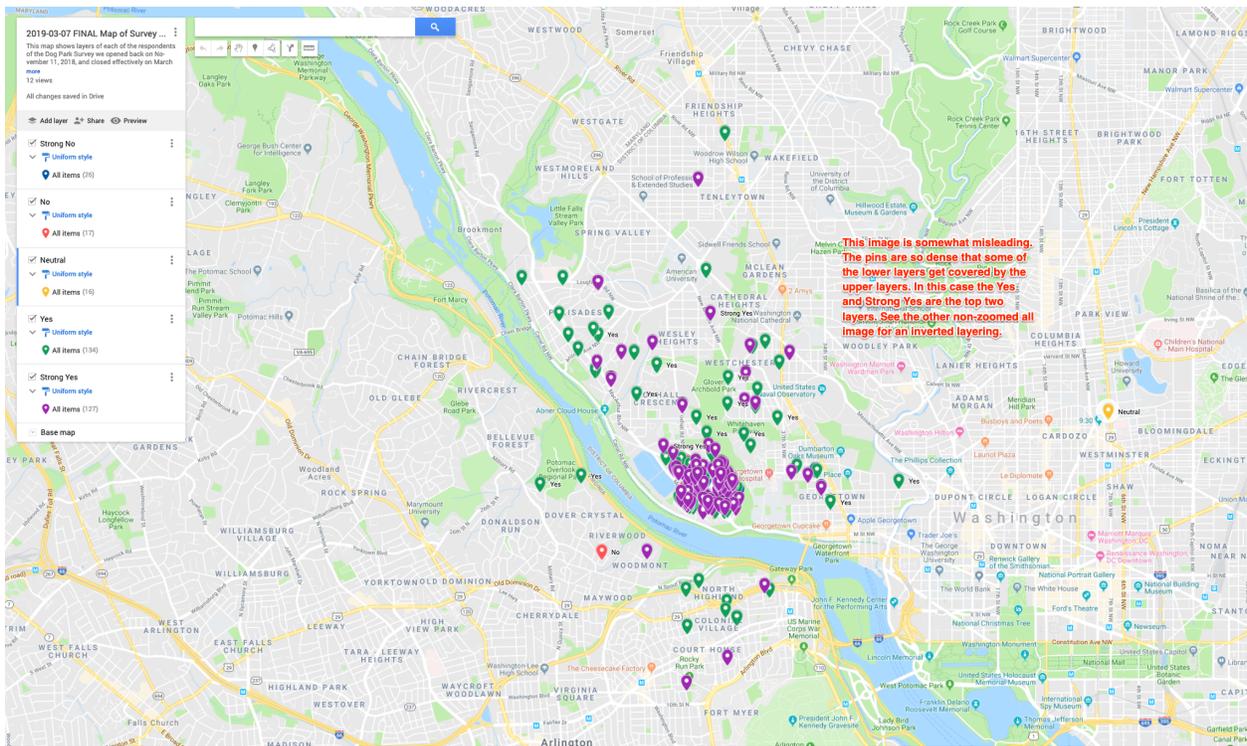
320 responses



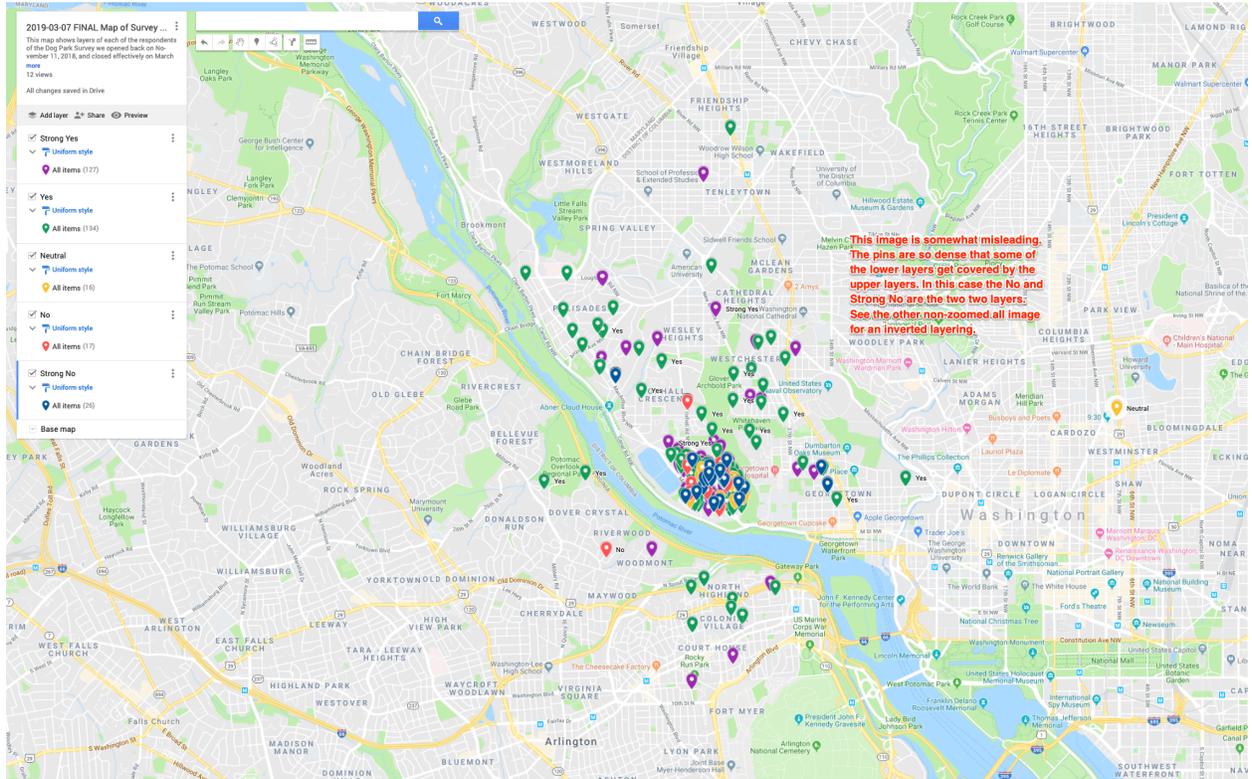
Maps of Responses

The following images illustrate the essence of from where the votes came. Again, trying not to reveal too specifically where each vote emanated, we have dumbed down the maps so that they are no longer live Google Maps and therefore not zoomable and none of them have any identifiable information on them.

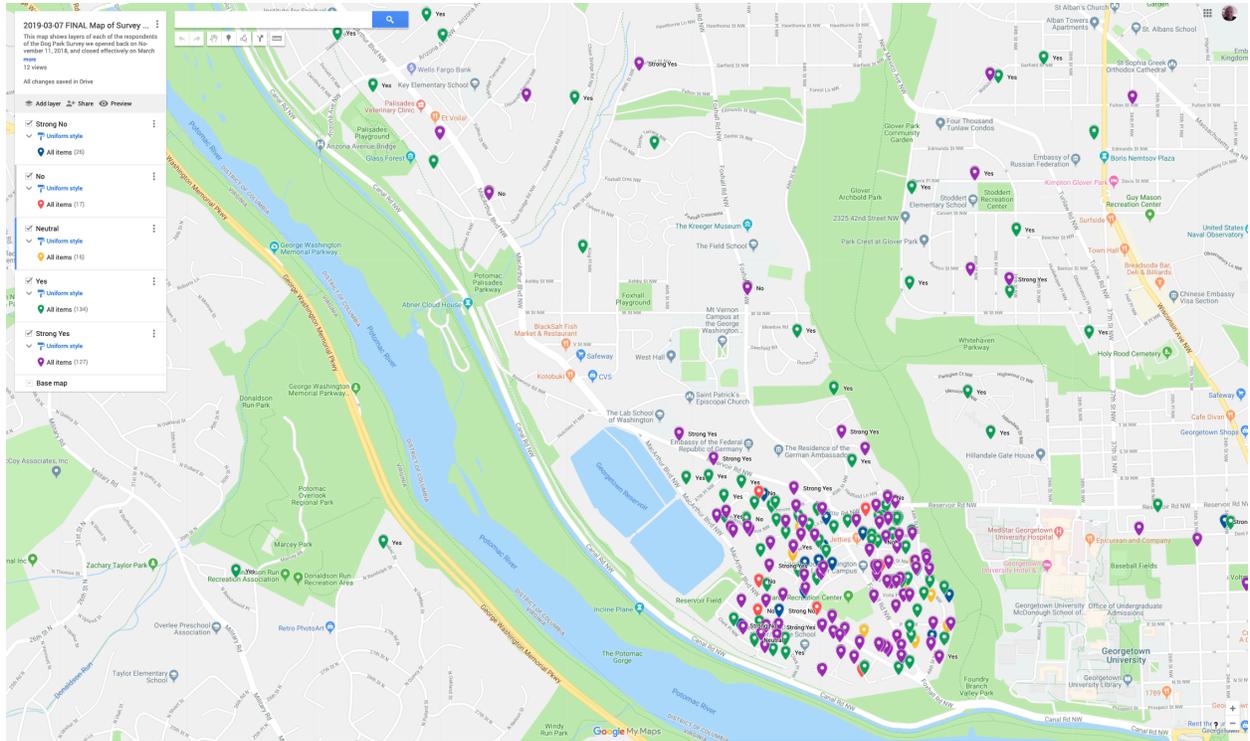
All Results



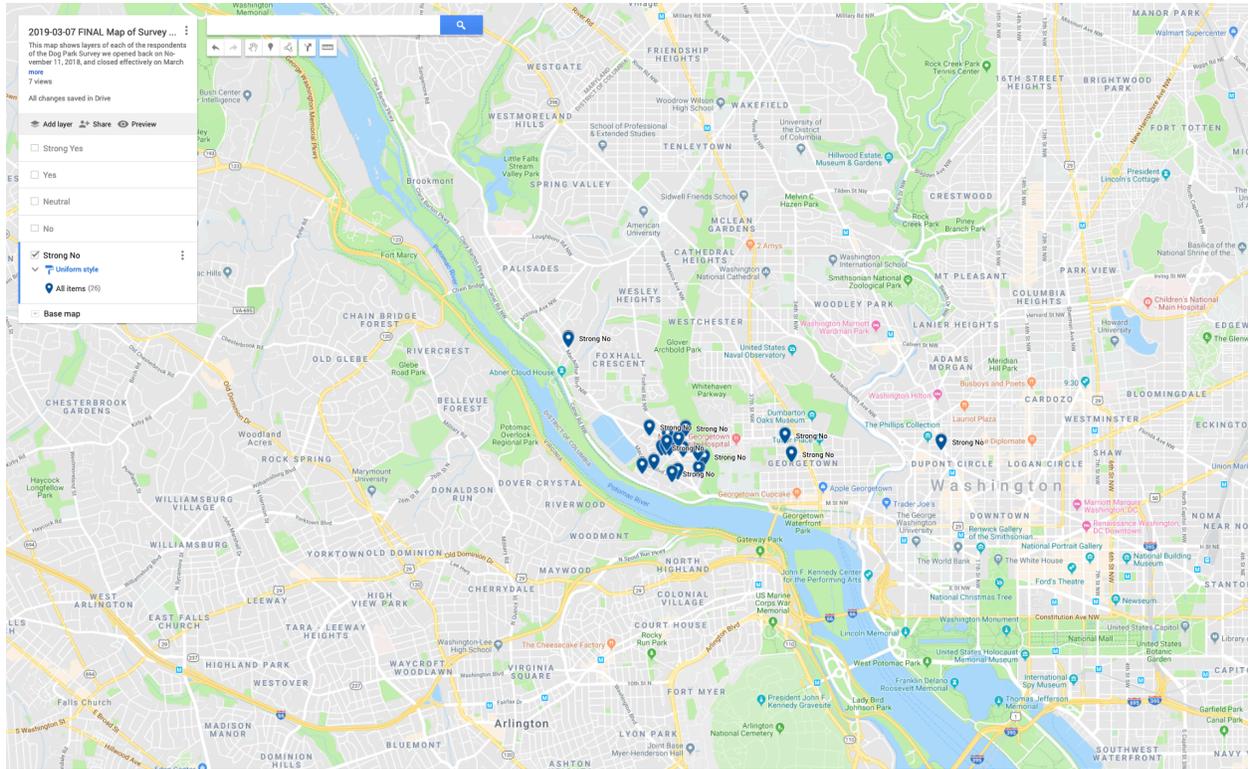
All Results (Inverted Layers)



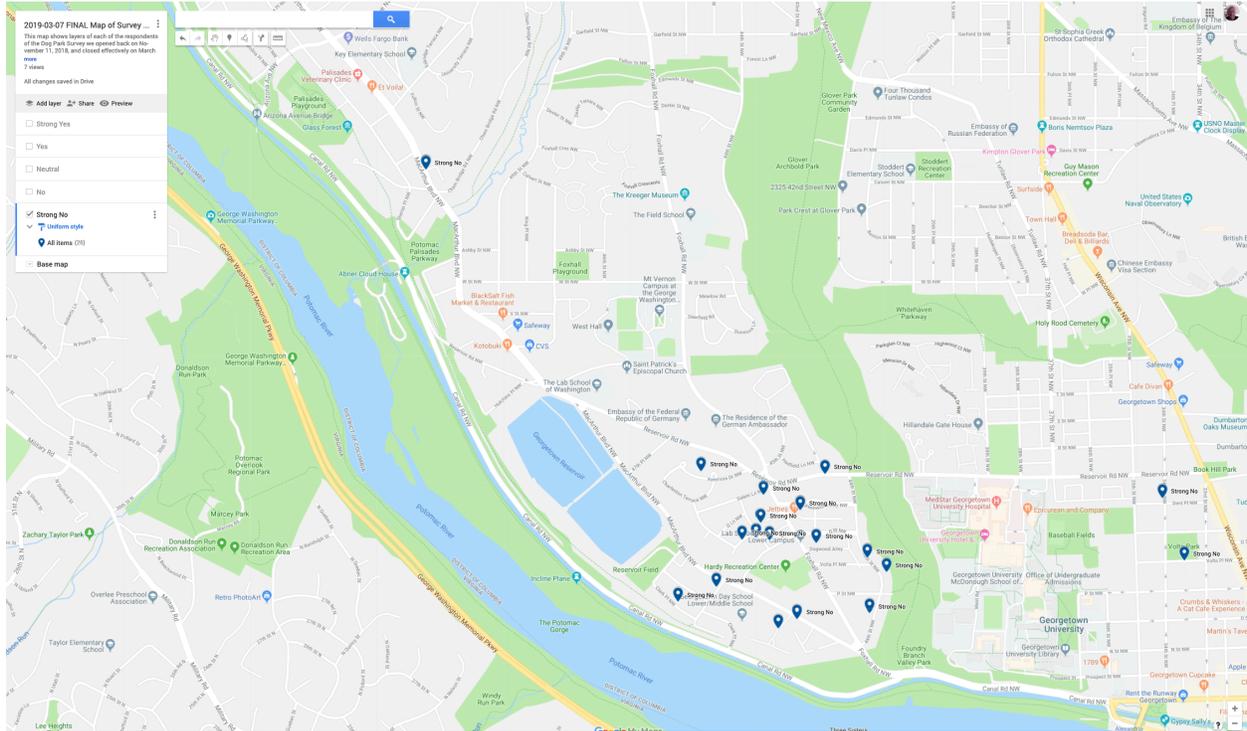
All Results Zoomed



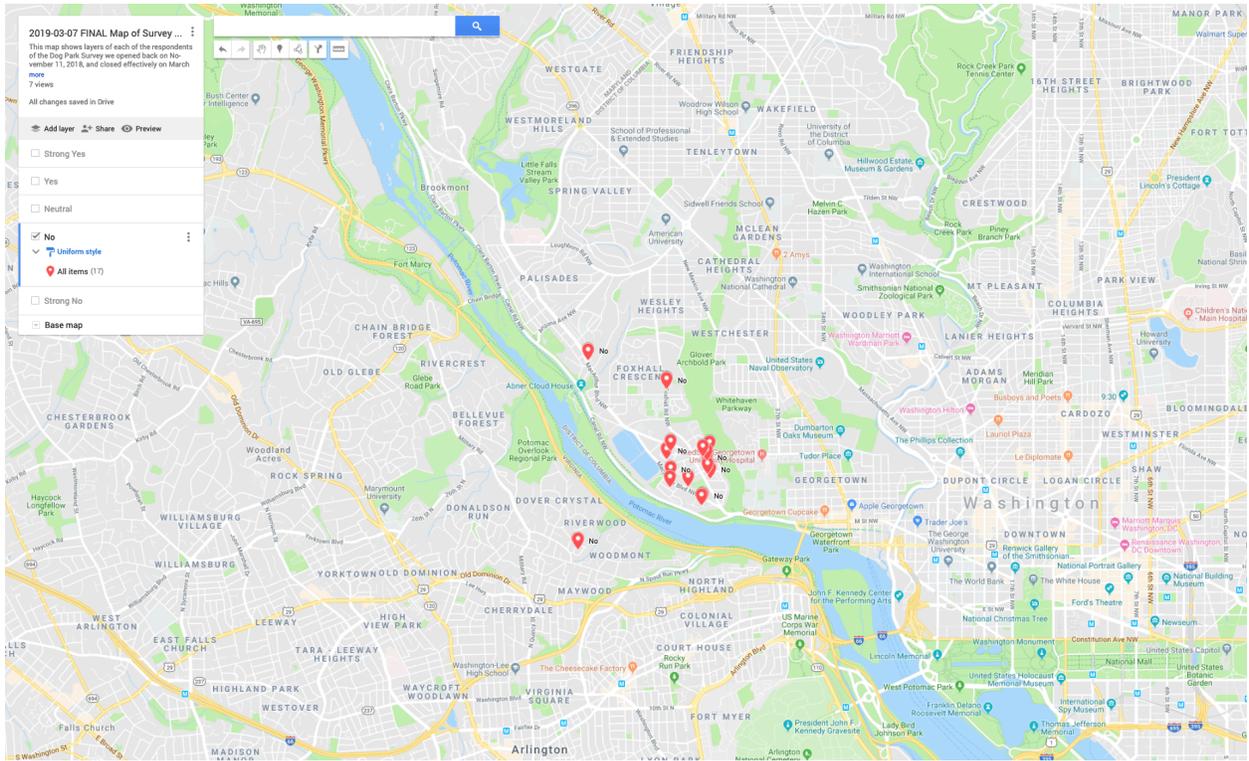
Strong No



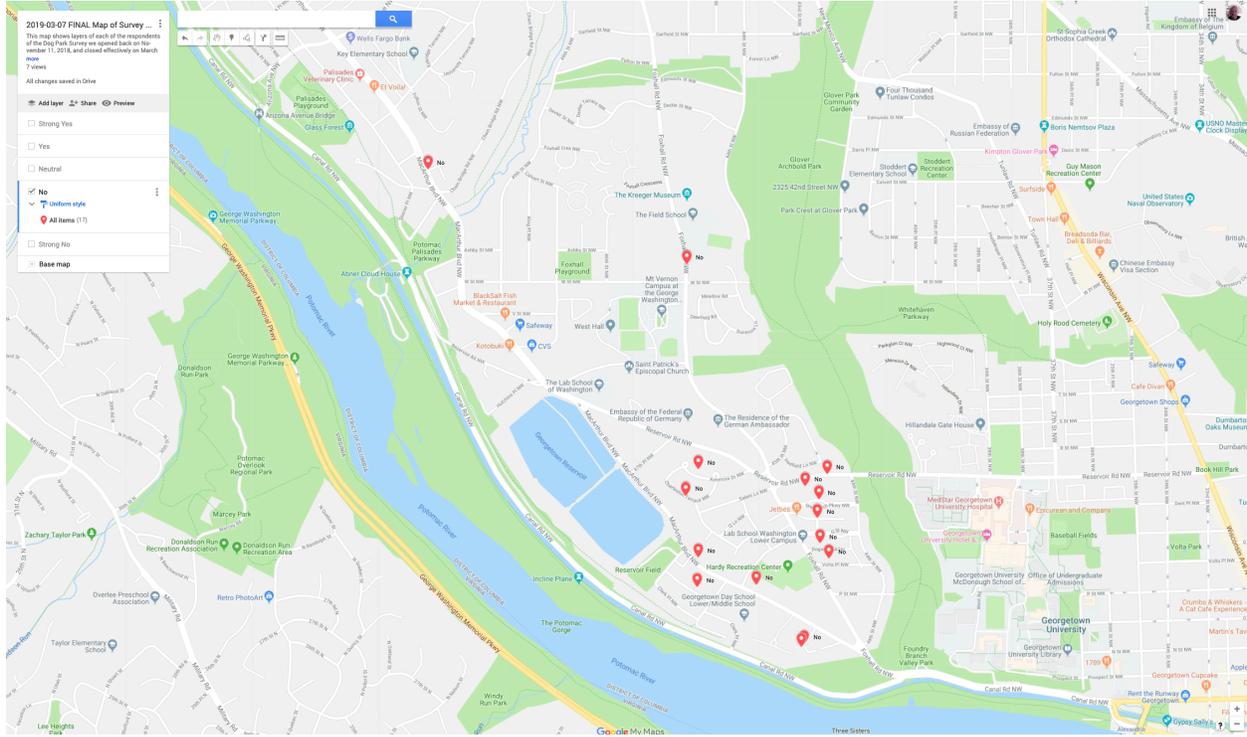
Strong No Zoomed



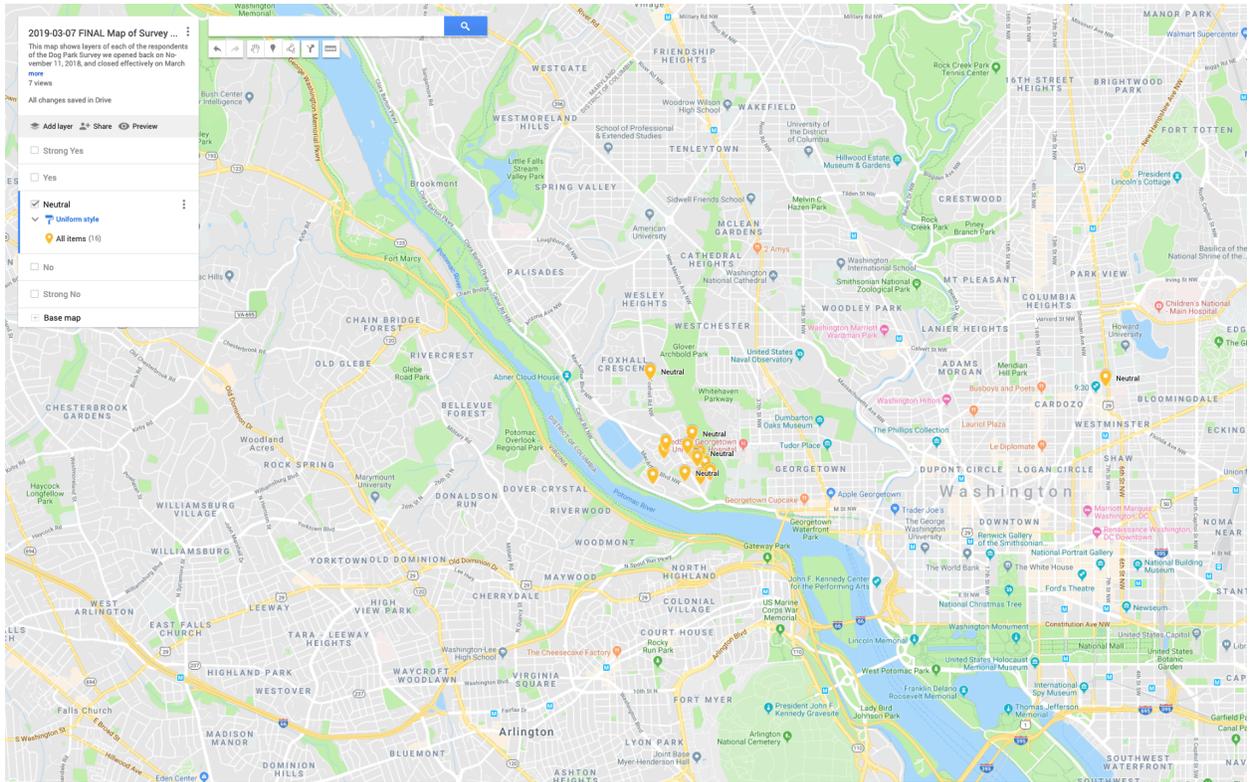
No



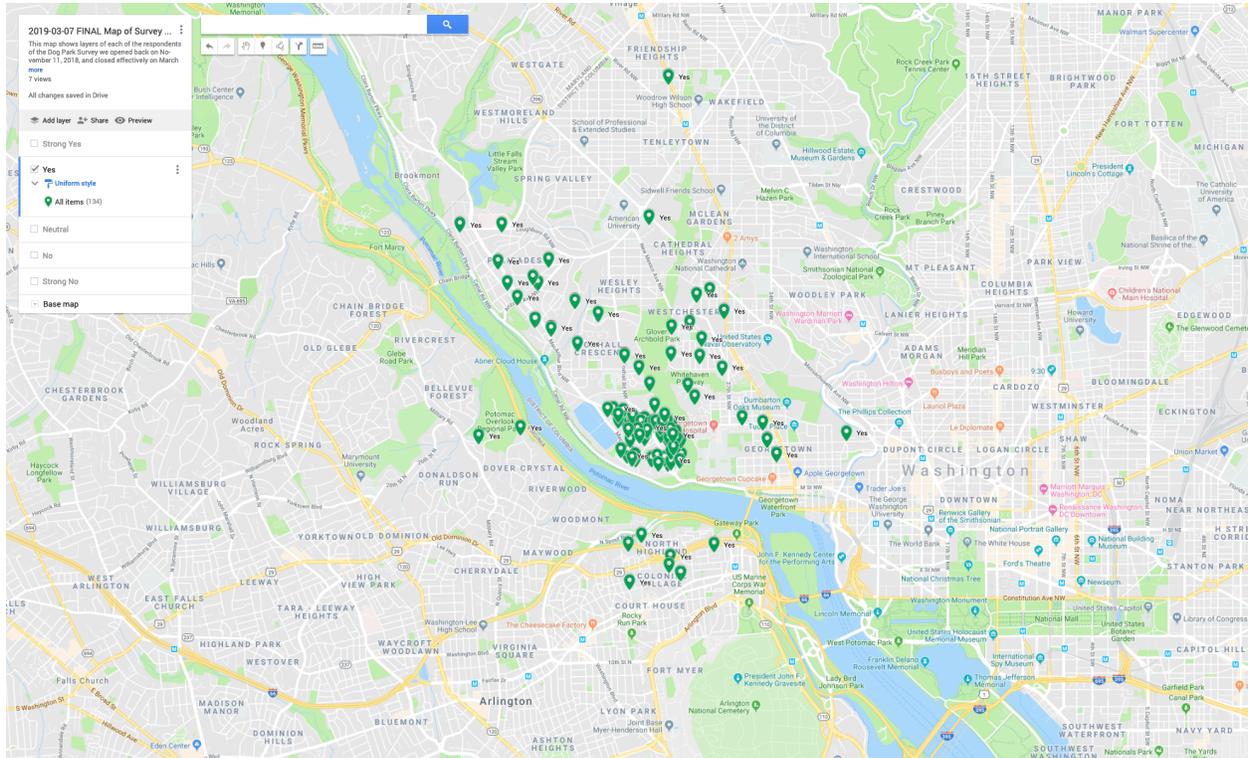
No Zoomed



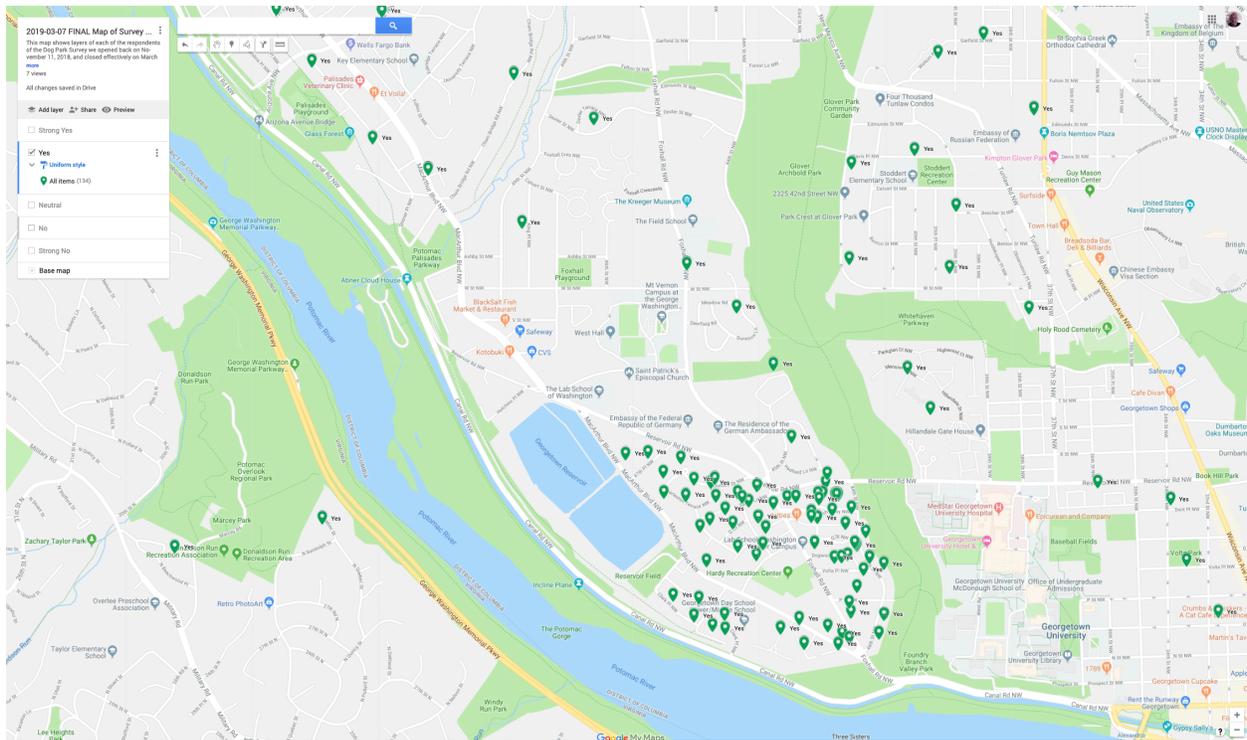
Neutral



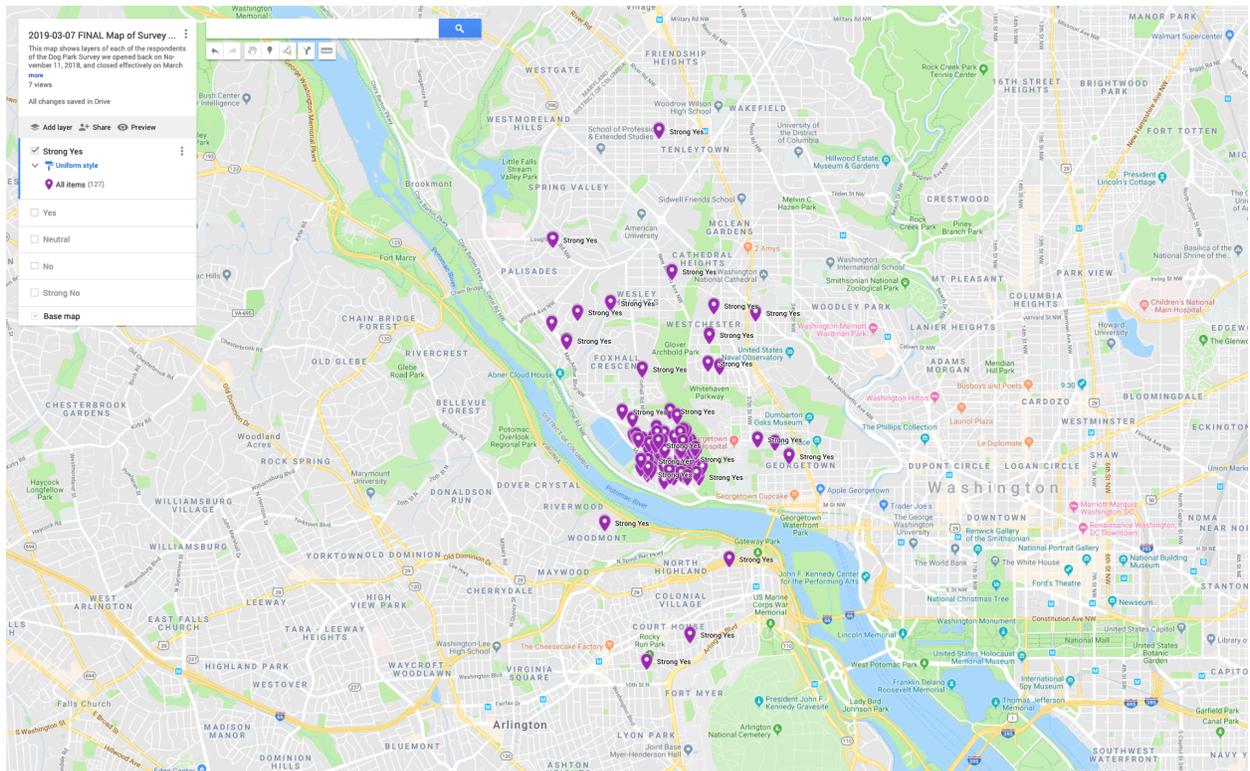
Yes



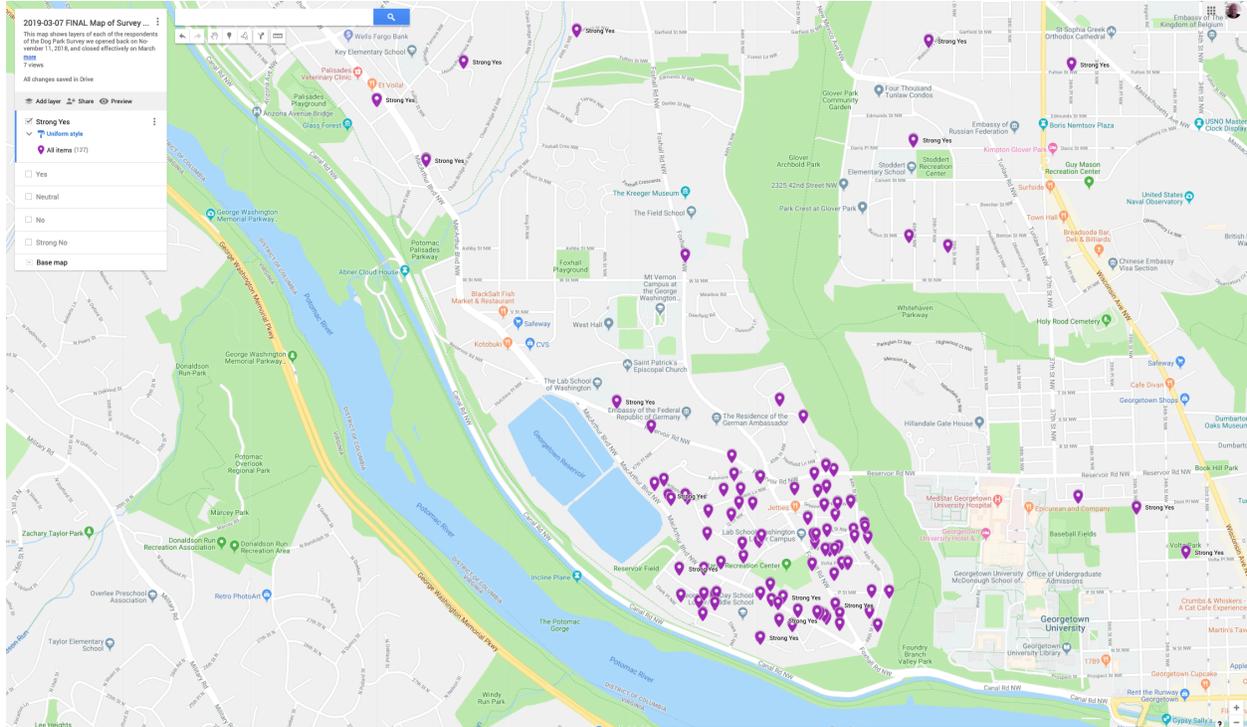
Yes Zoomed



Strong Yes



Strong Yes Zoomed



Clarifications

The following sections group all the clarifications provided. This was not a required field, but well more than half the respondents chose to provide additional clarification and/or notes to accompany their votes.

“Strong No” Clarifications

Dog owners and their dogs make the parks unusable for people with children and should be banned from all parks- they do not clean up after their dogs and the concept of a dog park will only make things worse by attracting more dogs to public spaces. For most people In the area we do not have back yards so parks should be for people not dogs. The only reason to approve a dog park would be if dogs were banned from all other parks in the area.

1. Believe that young children and dogs off-leash are not a safe mix.
a) Hardy Park is a well used oasis for outdoor play for young children:
b) Hardy Park is contiguous to a school for K-g4 age children. c) The park is very popular for families with small children and both playground areas, tot lot and playground for older children, have lots of use. d) Playing fields are popular for both soccer leagues and families in the neighborhood to use for games, kite flying, frisbee, etc. e) grassy areas that aren't playing fields are popular picnicking spots. 2. Not interested in subdividing park with a large fenced off area. a) Large open playing fields are rare in the city. Would hate to have Hardy Park become framed up by more fence layers. b) Large open green spaces are rare in the city and Hardy Park is a true treasure because of this quality of open green space. c) concern that location for a dog park would eliminate picnic areas, or smaller fields for play. 3. Not convinced that dog owners will abide by dog park rules or that an official dog park at Hardy Park will end use of fields as off leash areas. a) No evidence that dog owners who currently let their dogs off leash at Hardy abide by city law- they don't because they let their dogs off leash in the park. b) Concerned about maintenance, cost, aesthetics, health, use, monitoring of a dog park. c) concern that a Hardy dog park would attract dog walker businesses. d) concern that dog park would drive dog owners to Glover Archibald Park to let their dogs off-leash

Things are fine as they currently stand

I am re-submitting my answers, as I noticed a comment on NextDoor that answers to this survey may be anonymously shared. This is nowhere disclosed on the survey itself. As a result, I am deleting my written response because I do not want it to be shared with the NextDoor community.

61 year homeowner and 61 year dog owner is against Hardy Park becoming an attractive nuisance. We neighbors worked years to build our park and field house.

Homeowner on 45th Street since 1967. Many pets including dogs. Home is one house from the Hardy Playground, so there is a history of increasing dog traffic with many dogs using my yard to go to do their business. Some picked up, some left and some bagged and put in my trash can. Did I mention all the shoes that have been cleaned for my children, grandchildren and the school and playground children ? Why Hardy? Palisades is much larger, then there is Glover Archibald, Battery Kimble, the Canal etc. Also, the odor in the DC "tropical" summer will not be pleasant and would definitely attract flies, etc. Not pleasant for picnicking, etc. Human beings need open space. Hardy Playground has always been a "refuge." A meandering walking path around the perimeter with native plants, benches, more picnic tables would better serve the community.

There are plenty of places for people to walk their dogs in this neighborhood without dog owners taking up part of what little space there is in a public park to use all for themselves. A dog park would serve only *one* interest group in the community (dog owners) and come at the cost of park space that could serve families with kids, sports teams, community gardens, etc.

Plus, dogs parks smell effing *awful.* No one will want to picnic on the grass there - as I do often - next to the stink of dog waste. I live not far from this park and would not want the scent of this wafting near my home on a hot summer day.

And this project is completely unnecessary. There is no shortage of places to walk a dog and there are even other dog parks in the surrounding area. Why would you want to ruin a perfectly good park when you can simply go somewhere that already has a place designated for dogs?

If this issue comes before a parks dept. board or the city council, I'd say the same in a public meeting. Please do not pursue this effort.

The "over my dead body" characterization is not something I'd choose, but I consider myself a strong "no." I live across the Street from Hardy.

I am concerned that Hardy would become a magnet for dog-walkers in areas not well served by the Guy Mason Dog Park and the Newark Street Dog Park--and in "unserved" neighborhoods--of which there are many, according to the DCPR map. These patrons would include professional dog-walkers such as the one to whom I spoke probably a year ago at Guy Mason. A Palisades resident, she said that she would love it if Hardy got a dog park and would use it for the pets for which she cared. (n.b., at the time, the Guy Mason dog park was muddy and overcrowded, according to the limit mentioned on the sign.)

The practical considerations are sanitation, noise, and parking. The philosophical consideration is losing valuable green space to one narrow purpose. Tennis courts and basketball courts can be walked on (and are so enjoyed now) by people--even without tennis racquets or basketballs.

Here's another concern. As one neighbor asked at the DPR/DGS presentation last spring, "Would all pet owners confine their dogs to the specific area if Hardy should have a dog park?"

Another practical consideration is that a person need not be a resident of the District of Columbia to patronize public facilities such as dog parks. One neighbor told me some time ago that she takes her dog to Virginia, where the parks are nicer. The opposite syndrome could take place here.

I would hope that some area larger than Hardy could be home to a dog park--to serve several nearby neighborhoods.

Who pays for it?

It would attract all sorts of dogs from outside the neighborhood and would ruin the natural beauty of the park!

dangerous for kids

I'd prefer to see Battery Kemble turned into a formal dog park.

I have small children who love to play at hardy park and enjoy the open spaces. People let their dogs off leashes at dog parks and I don't think that's best for small children who may be nearby. I also don't want more dog excretions around the area where kids play.

Humans are never very responsible for cleaning up after their dogs-- it would turn the park into a pool of doggie fecal matter. Kids run around there-- that's gross.

I strongly say that a dog park will definitely get infested with dog dung which I have already stepped on at least 4 times this month.

Would attract out of neighborhood dogs.

Most dog owners do not clean well behind their dogs. In July and August some areas of the field smell bad.

Would bring a lot of outside dogs to the neighborhood. I like the open space of the park.

with so many small children, I think it is unsafe and unsanitary

Kids playing, disturbing people in park, noise, traffic, dog owners not responsible allow dogs off-leash.

(Presuming a Strong No based on postcard received, and a No for willingness to consult further since the card was sent from an anonymous neighbor with no return info other than 44th St.)

I am writing in response to your survey. I am a long time resident. I am against making a separate enclosure for dogs and Hardy Park. People are going to walk their dogs there anyways. Why not enforce the existing leash laws and clean up after your pet? I am a dog lover, but I am against this enclosed dog park. Seems like whenever -- this a beautiful open space -- people have to fill it in with crap. How about just leaving it alone? Anyways, that's my opinion, and I hope the people that are driving this read it. Sincerely, A neighbor - Anon - 44th St NW

(Additional text surrounding image of Glacier National Park on front of postcard)

Hi Gloria - Wouldn't a fenced in area be dandy? Sure let's do it for the dogs! Ugh! George. OK, how about a nice hurricane fence then? Yeah, let's fill in the open waste space. Great Cynthia -- Cheers -- make a great dog park!

Poop everywhere, people do not pick up after their dogs, don't want to walk in it, the park is for kids not dogs

“No” Clarifications

It isn't needed. A couple of non-dog owners who over exaggerate the situation with dogs in the park are ruining the joy that dog owners get by letting their pets run and play with their owners and other dogs in the park that belongs to everyone.

Would rather have more space be used for kids playground, dogs have plenty of space in soccer field to play

A formal dog park will bring unwanted crowds and mess to Hardy park. Hardy park is great because it is quiet and has few visitors. If we incorporate a dog park, I believe that will change quickly.

One of the biggest problems at dog parks is the lack of trained dogs. While many owners think their dogs are well trained, they soon find out that their dog doesn't come when called. This can pose a variety of problems, an uncontrolled dog is at risk for starting or getting into fights. Owners are irresponsible or oblivious when it comes to their dogs behavior. Many owners don't understand how to read basic dog behaviors and don't think their dogs are displaying any signs of aggression. We can never be sure that the dogs visiting the dog park are healthy. Sharing water, exposure to other dogs fecal matter. Just a few of my concerns with a dog park at Hardy

Too much money has been spent on dog parks in Arlington, and almost nothing on low cost parking for senior citizens in the business areas. Parking is way too difficult and too restricted, and there are very few disabled parking places.

Hardy Park isn't very big and I can't imagine that the community could come up with a big enough park to satisfy the community. Community can unofficially use grounds of Urban Ecology Center as a dog park. It is permitted there but not fenced in.

Restricts use of open space. Will attract out of neighborhood dogs and dog walkers.

I believe the space and funds should be reserved, used for kids playgrounds and outdoor activities

How much of the park would this take up? Hardy is already one of the few areas for use as a soccer field for kids. Are you consulting the soccer leagues for their input. I've watched dogs running in the park for years what would be the difference? Also do we want DPR involved in anything if we can avoid it.

What part of the field would be used and how big would it be? Location, size, and fencing design might change my opinion to either "strong no" or "neutral"

A dog park could bring a lot of people to walk their dogs; more people will include people who drive there. Since there is already very little parking available nearby, more cars parking will create even worse problems for nearby residents trying to park. Plus, as a result of limited parking, I fear that some will park along our Q Street alley where it is illegal to park. Cars parking there now have dug deep ruts along the Park as well as killing the grass there. More cars can only make that worse. In addition, there is the issue of noise of dogs parking. Adjacent neighbors such as myself, do want to hear all that barking noise !!!!

(NB: I have not seen a copy of this come back to me by email, so I am submitting it again protectively. Please use this version if you have both.)

We are against the segregation of dogs and wasting money on what is already a perfectly adequate park. It is ludicrous to be planning to spend \$5.25 million on dubious and unnecessary "improvements" to Hardy Park, a dog park included, when there are so many genuinely pressing needs in the neighborhood. It is also difficult to understand how it would be possible for Hardy Park to absorb that amount of money, even with all the projects proposed. What funds that are available should be used to create a safe walking (and possibly cycling) route to Georgetown and to campaign against excessive use of Foxhall Road by heavy vehicles (WMATA, GU, GWU, Lab School, et al); speeding by motorists in general, and to demand a complete repair and resurfacing of the roadway before we suffer a fatality and houses start to collapse. Georgetown University should be engaged with the aim of creating a safe route parallel to Canal Road (it is in the interests of the safety of its students too after all) and another very wealthy institution, the Lab School, for any improvements it sees as necessary to Hardy Park, which, certainly during the week in the daytime, exists very much for the benefit of its pupils. I have seen no evidence during my fairly frequent visits to Hardy Park of owners failing to pick up after their pets. The occasional unleashed dog can be a nuisance, it is true, though not to the extent of threatening life and limb as was suggested by a report in the local newsletter last year of a single alleged Incident dating back to 2016 that was used in an attempt to justify a blanket ban on dogs.

We have no pets. Waste of \$

Turf facilities for kids to play year round are much more needed and my priority

“Neutral” Clarifications

No one enforces dogs on the field anyway! I hate taking field or play space but I do realize there is a need for off leach running around. my house backs up to whitehaven and people don't respect the area

My dog is very small and would not be safe there, but I appreciate other people wanting it

My small dog loves people but tends to bark at most dogs.

I don't have a dog but when I did I'm not sure I would use it.

I really don't care. I'd be for a dog park if it could be situated in a corner that wouldn't take up prime real estate. But if it would cause the loss of field space, that doesn't sound like a good trade off.

Our family doesn't own dogs, and our children are a bit scared (from loose dogs at Hardy jumping on them). But rather than a “no”, I recognize the value of a dog park in the community for my neighbors with dogs (I used to live next to the Swan st. Dog park near DuPont Circle). So for the combination of these reasons, I am neutral.

I do not have a dog and do not live near the dog park.

I don't feel like I have enough information to know how I feel about it.

I don't have a dog and don't spend time at the playground

I am a dog owner, but I am neutral. I am offended by the scofflaw behavior of those who run their dogs on the field now. IF a dog park is OK with the park's immediate neighbors it would be an improvement over the current situation.

Is there room? Where would it be? still need space for soccer, play fountain for kids?

I was originally very much in favor, however, I realized that people from other neighborhoods would most likely visit with their dogs often and take over our parking spaces.

“Yes” Clarifications

Regarding your choice above, please supply as much or as little clarification below to help us understand concerns and issues:

The amount of illegally off-leash dogs in Glover Archbold Park tells me there's an unmet need for more off-leash spaces

Would like to have more options to take my dog to exercise and socialize

It would be a great idea. There are so many dogs in the area and as an owner I would appreciate it.

The proper location for a dog park is along the alley on lower Hardy Park where parking can be added and it can be ADA compliant.

There's plenty of room.

But not if this will take away the kids' playing field.

I'm not familiar with Hardy Park and I'm already active in oversight of a wonderful dog park in nearby Arlington, VA. Happy to share my experience though and it would be nice to have another canine community provided it is fenced in.

ENCOURAGED FOR DOGS TO HAVE PARK OF THEIR OWN AND LESS DOGS AT OTHER PARKS FOR MORE HUMAN RECREATION

The park should have special hours or special space for small dogs.

There are so many dog owners in our neighborhood, it would be awesome to allocate some additional space to let the pups run and play!

I have a dog who loves to run and I understand the need to keep people and animals safe from overly enthusiastic dogs. A dog park is a good solution.

Excercise imperative for health and well being for dogs. Additionally socializing very important. Dogs never the problem irresponsible owners are usually at fault for any problems. Tired happy dogs are good dogs. Much need facilities for dogs always appreciated.

We shouldn't have to drive all around the city to let our dogs enjoy some freedom, exercise and socializing

Most likely we would make only occasional use of it.

I would love that the dogs have a place to run but my concerns are how much space it would actually be (have you seen the S Street dog park? It's ridiculous, it's a mound and in that case not worth the effort I feel for Hardy) and that people from all over would come like walkers during the day. It's great for the dogs but parking is questionable. My place rears the park and we have private parking. We already have people illegally parking in our spaces or on the grass when they bring their two legged children for practices and games.

There is a lack of official dog parks in this area, and I think it would be a great addition to the dog community here.

There isn't a dog park nearby and we would definitely visit often

There are a very large number of dogs in the neighborhood and they need a place where they can run/play off leash. It would help if the dog park were divided into two areas; one for large dogs and one for small dogs.

It would be nice to have an alternative to the Guy Mason dog park for when it is muddy there

Yes, provided it is a small portion of the large field and well fenced for any dogs off leash.

I have a dog, and there are many people with dogs in this area. And, there are limited public dog parks. This would be a great addition to the community. Not only would it lead to more activity for our pooches, it would increase engagement among neighbors.

Nice to have a place to have your dog off leash

The park is a valuable community resource and should be designed to serve our community. There are clearly many in our community who value having a place for dogs to play and to interact with each other.

I have a dog who would benefit from a dog park.

A dog park would allow our pets to have a place to run and interact safely as well as build a community with other neighbors.

The neighborhood has a very large dog population. Having a dog park would provide a safe, fenced in area for them to get exercise and socialize. The parks around the neighborhood are great, but the risk of dogs running after a deer, rabbit, etc is very high.

I feel strongly that the city should maintain a dog park as they do for any other park. The owners are conscientious about "policing" the area. What do other cities require? Also, even though this will be a city park, I don't think that people who live outside the FCCA should have a "say" as to what or where it will be built.

Please don't make it a sandbox like the Clarendon dog park. There was a flea outbreak linked to the sandbox last year. Would also be nice to have an area where one dog at a time can run around for dogs that are dog aggressive. This is an area with a lot of dogs. It would be nice to have a place for all dogs to run around! :)

There's a heavy need for a dog park in this area, I see a lot of residents with dogs, and with the limited backyard space in the neighborhood, we could all benefit from a neutral lot dedicated to allowing our animals to get their much needed exercise, which might reduce barking at night due to hyper dogs who don't have the space to run.

We have young kids and would rather keep dogs in a separate area to avoid poop on common areas and to make playing safer for the kids

Better for kids' safety and hygiene

I'd be happy for a small dog run/park that would allow dog owners to let their dogs off-leash, but it should be situated in a way that it doesn't utilize the usable field space of the park (e.g., the big field or the small field next to the tennis courts). We are dog owners and if off-leash dogs and people could co-exist happily, we'd be happy, yet we realize that's basically impossible. We've been out with our young daughters and had an unleashed German shepherd become menacing to our daughters. I read its behavior as "herding" behavior, but my husband was furious, and the situation could have escalated (fortunately, it did not). We've also had other dogs run at/snarl/bark/etc., at our girls and other kids, frightening them. People tend to have too much faith in their dogs and in their own ability to control their dogs, but aren't willing to admit it. The crux of the issue is that most people aren't as vigilant and aware of their dogs' issues as they need to be to let them off-leash, and dogs, as well-trained as they may be, can be unpredictable and most do not have the best recall. So I think a small dog park will alleviate most of the potential run-ins that happen in the park.

There are so many dogs in the neighborhood I am sure it would be very popular and well-used.

I have a dog who might enjoy the dog park.

We won't be using the dog park because our fur-boy is older and is likely to get injured, even by normal play, but we understand how healthy dog parks can be for dogs' well-being as well as their humans'. That said, we also know that a safe, well-managed dog park requires the involvement of a dedicated Sponsor Group to act as liaison with the city and to provide on-going education to and communication with users. It take a strong commitment from the community to monitor and maintain a great dog park. My hope is that the FCCA would require and support such a Sponsor Group if the dog park is to be added to Hardy Park.

There are many many families with dogs in our community, it would be silly to ignore their voices especially in any discussion about outdoor spaces. I think designated hours on the field for dog users would be the best solution but if the only option is a formal fenced dog park or nothing at all then a dog park is the fairest solution. Without any facilities for dog owners many people in our community would be excluded from enjoying this public park. Personally, our dog does not care for Hardy Park so we don't use it but we are always thinking about adding a second dog to our home so it remains important to us that we live near a social dog gathering spot.

Having dogs contained and not running into other parts of the park would help to mitigate frightening children and others. Additionally will hopefully further help to encourage individuals to leash their dogs.

I own a dog and support an enclosed, safe place for the dogs to play and where owners won't be subject to ticketing while they are following the rules INSIDE the dog park. Our home abuts the park and we have dogs running onto our property all the time. I would prefer that the dog park not be situated near the bamboo patch as this is close to our home and other private homes and is also a flat area needed for soccer practices.

Although not currently a dog owner, we did have pups for thirty years and are very fond of them. Basic dog lover.

I think it would be best if all users paid a fee to upkeep the area

Being able to have our dogs walk/play at Hardy has been a really wonderful community asset - a place for neighbors to meet as well as their pups. We are aware that there have been a couple unfortunate incidents where dogs were not in control - but that risk can be managed, and meanwhile there is space at Hardy that is largely unused except for people transiting it to get somewhere else. Having a dog park would a great boon for the neighborhood.

The current situation is unworkable, with dogs frequently offleash often intimidating both children & elderly. This must be addressed in order for any of the renovations to be worthwhile. In

Particular I am concerned that the proposed walking & exercise path around the whole park, is only going to exacerbate this problem. The path is the centerpiece of expanding the usefulness and activity potential of the park.

I think this will solve a lot of the elderly resident's complaints that seem to be voiced frequently at meetings. A dedicated space for dogs in a city where very few of us have real lawns or space for them to run would be huge, and would help keep the number of people who feel the need to bend the rules (letting their dogs off leash in a space that isn't designated for that) to a minimum.

Dog parks are good for dogs and owners. I say this not currently owing a dog

I used to be against a dog park and loved to think that Hardy field was one place where the dogs could be free to run free. But hearing of recent injuries and attacks caused by dogs has really changed my mind. I'm sorry for the dogs (and their owners) but there just has to be regulation for safety reasons, and I think a dog park is preferable to the alternative: really ramped-up enforcement with fines, etc., which would create great ill-will and be divisive in our community.

I think a dog park would be great. It already functions as a de facto dog park. I would put a strong yes but don't currently have free time to commit to care.

I don't own or keep a pet. But I imagine a dog park would be a nice amenity for residents who do.

I dont have a dog but I respect the dog owner wishes

Do not interfere with kids use of fields

Our students regularly use the field and the playground. If dogs are not leashed, which occurs regularly, we must keep the students inside. We are in favor of a dog park if it will ensure that dogs are either leashed or behind a fence. Thanks.

We have dogs but they are too old to take advantage of a dog park

I think it would be great to have a dog park and would be safer for the many dogs that are frequently let off leash there. In my opinion, an important point to consider is that, regardless of whether the park is formally a "dog park" or not, dogs will be off-leash and can be harmed or harm others. A dog park would provide peace of mind and safety for park-goers inside and outside of the boundaries of the dog park. That being said, I unfortunately do not have the time or resources to donate to park upkeep.

I love dogs and think a dog park would be a great addition to the neighborhood.

I believe someplace of the new park should be allocated for dogs. There are many dogs in the area, it's only fair to include space for them as well.

I am not a dog owner but I do see a need for a place to go for the many dogs in the area.

Hopefully the current design is factoring in separate areas for large and small dogs

Many dog owners consider the Hardy Park Field and tennis courts as a place to free run their dogs, even though the rules prohibit such. Free running dogs will pee and defecate and owners do not always clean up after their pets. I have a garden plot, and I have seen dogs lifting their legs and aiming inside the garden fences. It would be my hope that a fenced dog park would remedy this problem.

When my dog was alive, I enjoyed walking him through and around Hardy School. If he were still alive, I would have check "strong yes" above. All the same, having a dog park in the neighborhood is a plus for canines and their owners, for it gives dogs a place to cavort and owners the opportunity to interact with others who appreciate these wonderful creatures.

2 key concerns with a dog park: FIRST, that dog owners pick up after their pets so that it doesn't attract rats. SECOND, its use by untrained/dangerous dogs. In Hardy Park there have already been incidents of dogs off-leash that have attacked other dogs. AND, if there incidents, owners be held accountable.

I am a dog owner and think it's very valuable to have a place where dogs can exercise and play. My choice is 'yes' instead of 'strong yes' only because I haven't seen a proposed design. I hope it could be large enough for the dogs to get sufficient exercise. A poop bag station would be great for encouraging responsible owners.

I have a dog, so would love a dog park

This might reduce tendency of dog exercisers to allow dogs to run free in Hardy Park off the leash

Provided dogs are not permitted access to other areas of the park.

have 2 dogs and some freedom for them would be nice, not essential

It is important for dogs to socialize and the dog park will allow for this. Socialized dogs are better neighbors.

Must have grass -- we do not want a park full of mud.

Yes -- with leashes.

Maintenance of the dog park. Size of the dog park. Capacity Size. Time of opening and closing.

This dog park would be a great place for dogs to socialize off-leash. Also great for obedience training outside the house.

As a long time dog owner who has used other dog parts in the city i believe they are very valuable to a neighborhood. They are good for dog owners and non-dog owners.

I want the park to be dog friendly - it is a valuable asset and greats a wonderful sense of community to be able to bring our dogs there in the mornings and evenings and has allowed us to meet so many of our neighbors. I am ambivalent whether there is a formal dog park or not, but feel very strongly that the park remain a place where dogs can come and run.

great idea for dogs

WHen my kids were small I lived within walking distance of Hardy Park and visited 4 - 5 times per week. I always brought my dog who stayed on leash but it was a God Send to have park space where I could let my kids run free and keep the dog close by and engaged with my family, engaged in his senses as he sniffed and explored and everyone socialized. I also was very impressed with the responsible dog owners who came to the park. Many had dogs but no children and were very conscious of controlling their pet and keeping them away from play spaces and kids. Parks are social spaces, especially ones in a city and that serve a specific neighborhood. By eliminating a dog space of Hardy Park you will take away one of the most joyful elements of this park.

As a parent of older kids I spent 3 days a week practicing soccer at those fields and feel I understand the culture of several of the groups that frequent the park and it is imperative it services both human and canine communities.

If this is built, please create a separate area for small dogs.

Dogs need space to run and play. Many people take their dogs to "Battery Kemble Dog Park" which is a disaster. Does not get cleaned up some pups and younger dogs are exposed to anything and everything. It would be wonderful to have a real dog park for our "best friends".

We need a good, clear and well-maintained Dog Park in NW.

Having designated off leash areas for dogs to play is always a good thing. My dog is too old to enjoy, but would be great resource for neighborhood dogs.

I have 2 dogs and would love a park.

Would like to have more dog parks available in the area to use.

A space where kids can't mix with poop is a good thing.

With the neglect shown towards Guy Mason Dog Park, more options in our area are necessary

“Strong Yes” Clarifications

As long as a majority of our neighbors would like to see a dog park, I would be glad to help corral a volunteer team to provide the special "sponsor group" members.

There are as many dogs in the neighborhood as children. Its time we gave them a park too.

I don't own a dog but I love them. My property borders the field and I enjoy watching the dogs play. I want them to continue to have a place to run and play in the neighborhood.

I have a dog, and a nearby dog park would be very welcome. Happy to donate funds if needed.

The area needs more formal areas fall the dogs in the neighborhoods. A designated area is a great idea.

We provide space for kids, families, soccer kids who don't even live in our neighborhood, we ought to provide space for our neighbors who have dogs

The field is underutilized and when it is used, It often used by sports teams not residing in the District There are many dog owners in the area, however owners they are now discouraged to do so because of the lease law enforcement. Having a dog park would increase utilization

There are many families with dogs in the area. It is absurd that there is such animosity towards dog owners. There needs to be a place for the dogs to exercise and enjoy their life as well. A small portion of the park designated as a dog park would be perfect to fill those needs.

A dog park would be wonderful. It would improve both dog and human safety. I strongly support this idea. The park should definitely have a fenced-in dog park.

You need to have a small dog area and a big dog area.

There is hardly any open space nearby for our four legged friends to play! Clarendon gets incredibly crowded and is a non-ideal dog park as it is entirely sand and is inoperable during rainy days.

My dog and I enjoy the dog parks. He needs place to run free off the lead.

I am happy to do what is necessary to work with other dog owners to participate in maintaining the dog park

Dogs are family members. There health needs and well-being should be considered in any community planning.

Almost every other neighborhood has a dog park, we have lots of families with dogs. We should not have to go to other neighborhoods to give our dogs a place to have healthy play

More dog parks the better

I think a community should aim to provide for all interests within that community. Communities should support community interests.

I think an official dog park is an essential element of Hardy Park so dog owners don't have to feel like fugitives when gathering to let their dogs socialize. Having a fenced area would be even better and safer for everyone and there is plenty of space to add one. I would be happy to volunteer my time to make that a reality.

A dog park should help alleviate safety concerns resulting from offleash animals.

We have a dog and there seem to be a large number of dogs in the area...so, I believe it would be a nice addition.

It's ridiculous that the neighborhood dogs don't have a fenced in place to run and play. There is so much unused space at Hardy Park this seems like a no-brainer.

My experience with "approved dog parks" has been very positive and in contrast to the ad hoc/unapproved (technically illegal) dog park @Battery Kemble Park where birders and families wanting to play with just children in the Park are run into and run over by near constant off leash dogs and their otherwise law-abiding owners. The Approved dog parks at Guy Mason, Alexandria and Arlington are well cared for and a positive place for the community of dog owners.

I really want a safe place for my dogs .

The deciding factor in buying our house in this neighborhood 15 years ago was the Hardy field which even then was a Wonderful dog haven.

I am an owner of two dogs. I believe "no dog park is worse than a dog park," as the DPR rep said in the most recent meeting. Dogs need a place to run and play safely that is separate and apart from other uses, which benefits the other users of playgrounds, fields, etc on-site. Hardy Park is an excellent location for a new dog park that would serve the local community well.

There are as many dogs in the neighborhood as kids. Having a dedicated dog park is a necessity.

Great for the neighborhood!

For safe communities, dogs need off leash exercise to run and play. It is dangerous to have dogs and strollers pile up on narrow sidewalks. A dog that gets exercise is a well-behaved, happy dog.

A safe place for dogs to play and socialize would enhance the neighborhood

This is a standard urban park amenity. The yeahs far out weight the noisy nays.

No dog park within walking distance

Don't own a dog but think they and their owners should have a dedicated space. Palisade should create their own.

My pup loves Hardy Park and the community we have there. We would love to make the rest of the community feel comfortable with a designated dog park!

There are a lot of people with dogs in this area, and there are no dog parks nearby. Their interests are not being represented. People bring dogs to Hardy anyway (since there is nowhere else to go), so why not make a nice and safe area for all? The parks should be for all people; dog owners are people too and they pay taxes just like everyone else. Our dogs for us are basically kids, and we need to have a place to bring them. We've been living in the area for over 15 years and never went to this park until after we adopted our dog because there was not much for us to do there. The field is big though: there is enough space for soccer games, dog park, and people walking around.

There are so many dogs who live in the neighborhood- they deserve a space to run free without complaints from non-dog owners

For many dog and owner interactions are part of a social community just as children playing together. A dog park would offer this forthe community.

For this neighborhood to be so dog friendly the fact that there's no centralized dog park astonishes me. For the safety of neighbors and dogs we should definitely have a dog park.

Although we don't have a dog ourselves at the moment, there are many dogs in our neighborhood and I think most dog owners would like to have a dedicated place for their dogs to play. And for those people who don't have dogs, I think they may prefer to have the dogs in a dedicated place as well, instead of having them run around on public property in general

The neighborhood needs a dog park!

The dogs need off leash exercise somewhere! If free in the park even at limited times poses a problem, then a dog park is the obvious solution. This is an urban setting and sidewalks can be crowded.

I play tennis on the courts at the hardy center and dog owners, despite signage and patrons telling them otherwise, keep bringing their dogs in the enclosed space of the tennis courts. There is dog feces and urine as well as damage to the courts. Having a dedicated dog park would be a welcome blessing and not a moment too soon!

I would love to have a dog park in the neighborhood for my pets

I love dogs, but would also love to not have them roaming freely on the park. Despite the best efforts of their owners, dog poop gets left behind and it is disgusting for the kids who come and play soccer or those of use who want to use the park for fun. A separate area is the best way to meet the needs of everyone!

We have a dog and it would be great to have a fenced in area, where the dog could run. It would also be good to divide into areas for large dogs and small ones.

There are a number of green spaces for humans to enjoy -- but dogs should have a space to run and exercise. I don't own a dog but I love seeing them run + play. I vote yes!

Many of us have dogs + should have access to a dog park at Hardy.

We see no reason to oppose -- "If dogs run free, why not we?" - Bob Dylan

This is a much needed addition to the community

The dog owners are very respectful of the park. The dogs are great, and people are very good about picking up after their dogs. It is a great way to meet neighbors.

Given the amount of dogs in the neighborhood, I strongly support having a dedicated dog park. Right now, residents run their dogs on Hardy Field and at times off leash. While I understand the desire to let one's pet run free, I think we would all be safer and happier as a community if dogs were confined to a fenced space dedicated to their exercising off leash.

I live on 45th Street, so the park is at the end of my street. This is my community and I consider Hardy an integral part of my life here. People live in this neighborhood because there is an outdoor element for themselves, their kids and their pets. I bought my particular house because I have a dog. I bought in this particular neighborhood because I have a dog.

A park without animals is unnatural and nonsensical. It's what makes a park a park. I don't think the issue is a dog-free environment, but a dog-attentive environment. We all want responsible dog owners and properly trained dogs on the grounds. In the eight years I have lived here, I have personally never seen a dog-based incident at Hardy. The owners are conscientious and thoughtful people who love their dogs like family. And let me make this important point - a neighborhood where dogs can play and run is a safer neighborhood. Just like kids, dogs need to exercise, socialize and burn energy. It makes them calmer, happier creatures. Dogs are a huge part of our modern society, so the smart thing to do is embrace that fact. Allowing dogs in the park is the responsible course of action.

I love dogs and there should be a safe place for them to meet and play in our neighborhood.

Need a place for our dog to exercise. Have concern regarding dog owners whose dogs exhibit vicious behavior.

Lots of dogs in neighborhood increases sense of community + introduces neighbors. Needs fence for dog + people safety.

Dogs are important and should be given a space for socialization. We shouldn't have to drive all around the city to let our dogs enjoy some freedom, exercise and socializing.

I have a dog that needs to socialize.

I adopted a greyhound-mix from Puerto Rico. We have a small yard so she can't run. She would love to be able to run around. Also, it would be fun for my kids to play with her there, too.

The neighborhood around Hardy Park is filled with dogs and children. The neighborhood attracts those who want to live in an active community where people know each other, and so do their pets, There is no where for miles to let your dog off leash: On ANY day, take a walk in the Rock Creek Park or go to the field near Glover Park and you will see dozens of dogs OFF LEASH even though it's against the law because their owners have no alternative. This is dangerous for children and dogs: The dogs can get lost or hurt, and children, or adult, can be accidentally hurt or even attacked - I and my dog have personally been attacked by agressiv dogs off leash in our neighborhood. I dog part - of the kind you now find on Capitol Hill which is designed to maximize safety and enjoyment by owners, dogs, children and families (state-of-the-art near the new REI, for example) would provide a safe place that meets accepted standard for dogs to be off leash, and offers a CHOICE for those who want their dogs to be off leash and play with other dogs. It would make both Hardy Park and the nearby trails and neighborhood MUCH safer for everyone. In addition, it would likely also improve the behavior of the dogs who would have an opportunity to play together in a neutral space and get more exercise more conveniently.

It is my understanding that the only opposition to a Dog Park that meets DPR standards comes from a few self-interested individuals who are open about their personal interests driving their opposition, rather than the welfare of the community as a whole and that of their neighbors. This is a critical issues for all those who live here.

Currently as a resident of Georgetown my options for walking my dog and having her run off her energy revolve around walking her in the area which often results in her marking/or using the bathroom around the edges of homes which I know can be very upsetting to home owners. I feel having a dog park can help limit the damage done to the neighborhoods and will allow for residents to use an authorized play place versus the "unauthorized" ones that are being used now. If we could make this a nice dog park for owners, I would happily pay a fee to use this.

Dog park ares are extremely important. When dog parks are not existing in communities, some will take their dogs off leash, and they could harm others or themselves.

We have two dogs so I'm strongly in favor of a safe area for dogs and people.

Increase a sense of community

There are no fenced parks in the area. I would prefer a surface other than the rocky surface at other area dog parks.

As a board member of Friends of Guy Mason, a volunteer for the dog run at the recreation center, and Canine Recreational Sociologist, here are some thoughts:

In addition to a fine way to keep the bulk of the dog poop [mostly] confined to a restricted area, an enclosed dog park provides a safe space for canine enrichment experiences that, since the most emotional maturity you'll get from a pup is roughly equivalent of a 6 year old human child, I call it Canine Kindergarten.

And like people most pups will thrive with regular exercise and social interaction through every life stage, adding years to their life and life to their years.

And, as you are no doubt also aware, dog parks also come with a variety of risks. (Some avoidable. Others not.)

Because dogs communicate uniquely with and about each other in age appropriate ways, interpreting the social body language of dogs' socialization in real time is a mystery to most people, including many dog owners. This phenomenon can hijack a playful atmosphere in a heartbeat, and create difficulties ranging all the way from misunderstandings to bloodshed.

The dog park is where we get a clear take on a dog's current collection of social skills. Canine social behavior is both primitive and sophisticated. There are skills that puppies learn from litter mates under Mom's watchful, loving eye. And there are higher level skills learned from peers and developed during play-fighting bouts.

I've been facilitating dog socialization for going on 18 years. During that time observing the canine social behavior in my private play groups, as well as behavior that takes place in public community dog parks, I've had the pleasure to know a few canine social "prodigies." They are rare and so beautiful to behold.

However at some point, at every dog park, almost every conscientious dog owner/handler becomes mystified and/or mortified by their dog's behavior towards another dog(s).

The people that don't have those moments are either lucky enough to have a dog who is a social prodigy, or they lack the curiosity regarding their dogs' behavior.

I think the dog park would be a fantastic idea and I know the dog owners would help maintain it

dog excrement along with playful dogs interacting with each other should not be interactive with non-dog owners especially with children

Needed for rise in dog ownership.

Safe, attractive areas for dogs to run and play without owners fearing retribution from non dog people are essential in all communities.

I feel dogs should have a place to run. With leash laws in park it does not give dogs a chance to exercise.

I have a dog who loves to play at Hardy Park with other dogs. I love seeing how much fun he has, and I love getting to meet my wonderful neighbors!

Need a safe enclosed area for our pets!

Dog owners need a responsible clean safe location to exercise our dogs. The park would be a major benefit to our community and allow dogs/owners to have a dedicated space to play.

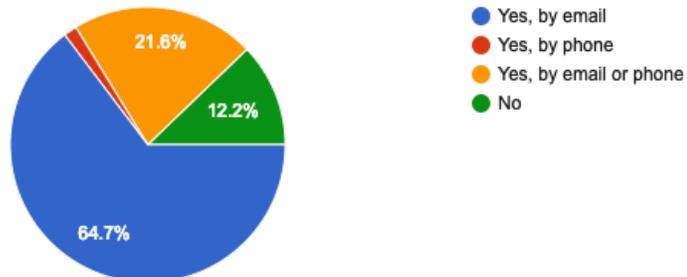
Willingness to Consult Further

Less than 10% of the respondents selected to not be contacted for further consultation. We really appreciate the time and seriousness which each respondent took to provide their thoughts on the dog park, and are especially grateful that so many people are willing to participate further should we need to gather more information.

3. YOUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT FURTHER

May we reach out to you if we have further questions we'd like to explore?

320 responses



What's Next?

The results of the survey suggest that an overwhelming number of our neighborhood community members would like a dog park to be incorporated in the renovation of Hardy Park and Recreation Center. We will continue to participate with DPR to ensure representation to that aim.

We will also return to the intersection of those respondents who voted “Strong Yes” and were willing to be consulted further. We will be asking that subset (128 people) if they would be willing to join a formal “Dog Park Group” which DPR will require before they can approve plans for a park. From there we will be ready to advance to formation of a recognized entity, drafting of by-laws and envisioned rules, and whatever else we will need to forward this idea.

In the very near term, here are some of the specific steps planned:

- a. Respond to feedback on the published results. This document can be found at <http://www/hardyparkdogs.org>.
- b. Consult with Peter Nohrden and his team at DPR on their recommended next steps, including:
 - i. Seek guidance on the differences between Dog Parks and the still vaguely defined Dog Runs.
 - ii. Determine/Elicit the points of contact known by DPR for each of the approved dog parks in DC. (They do not appear to be published on any DC.gov website resource.)
- c. Elicit **Do's and Don't's** as well as **What We Would Do Differently** for each of the current approved dog parks' representative groups. Hopefully they will provide a balanced view of what has worked for them and what has led to frustration by their respective neighborhoods.
- d. Seek volunteers to comprise a Hardy Park Dogs group/org to formally represent for and maintain any dog park that might emerge.
- e. Begin to elicit recommended self-regulated rules for any park that might emerge (e.g., restricted hours, sophisticated means to ensure adherence to rules, additional services to ensure waste or odor does not ill-affect nearby residents).