

Peninsula Dog PAC Questionnaire

1. Do you have a dog? If so, where are your favorite places to walk your dog on-leash and off-leash?

I love dogs and had a dog in my youth. I have many dog friends ! Currently I have two indoor cats

2. Palo Alto allows dogs on all trails in open space preserves except weekends and holidays at Foothill Park. Do you believe:

- (a) There should be some off-leash trails? Yes
- (b) Foothill Park should allow dog access on weekends and holidays?
- (b) The amount of off-leash trails (none) and on-leash is just right?
- (c) There should be no off-leash trails and fewer on-leash trails?

Please discuss your position.

Foothills Park's official name is now "Foothills Nature Preserve" (FNP) in recognition of its primary role as a Nature Reserve with the role of a more traditional park – lawn, picnic tables, and campsites – being secondary. The trails often provide views of wildlife, including deer within 20-30 yards from the trail. For me, the issue is not the number of trails for on-leash dogs, but what trails can accommodate on-leash dogs without interfering with FNP role as a nature preserve.

I am open to increasing off-leash trails where appropriate

3. Palo Alto has small fenced in off-leash dog areas in Greer Park, Hoover Park, and Mitchell Park, with one larger one at Peers Park: Do you believe:

- (a) Additional parks (or more area in these parks) should allow dogs off-leash?
- (b) This is the right amount of off-leash dog parks for Palo Alto?
- (c) One or more of these parks should no longer allow dogs off-leash?

Please explain your choice.

I think we need more dog parks, the question is where? Currently we don't have enough parkland for the residents. I understand the value of dog parks. Dogs need places they can play and socialize with other dogs. Dog parks are also valuable as a place for community members to meet. Unfortunately, I have heard from residents that they stopped going to dog parks because of aggressive large dogs who were not controlled by their owners.

I understand the frustration of dog owners who have large dogs that need to run. Some residents want more places for safe enclosed runs; some want less. The question for me is how to enforce that off-leash dog parks prohibit aggressive dogs

4. As I'm sure you know, all parks that allow off-leash dog areas are in Midtown or on the border of Midtown (Peers Park). How do you plan to provide areas for dog owners in all other parts of the City?

There have been many attempts to respond to the needs of dog owners and their furry family members. I believe we should continue to find solutions to the needs of this part of our community. I think that the problem of dogs that are not sufficiently trained and are aggressive to other dogs needs to be considered. As a person who has rescued many wounded or lost animals, dogs, cats and wild; I am concerned about the animals' welfare.

5. In the last few years there have been proposals to pilot test off-leash hours at several Palo Alto parks (other than the fenced in dog run areas at Mitchell, Greer, Peers, and Hoover parks).

- (a) Do you support these types of proposals?
- (b) Do you support the overall concept of limited off-leash hours at some Palo Alto parks?
- (c) Do you have reservations regarding pilot programs for off-leash hours at Palo Alto parks?

Please elaborate.

My concern is to balance the needs of all dog owners in the community; those who do and those who do not want more off-leash options.

6. Do you believe there are Palo Alto parks, trails and open space that should no long permit dogs on-leash? Please elaborate.

No. Reducing these opportunities would be a step in the wrong direction.

7. Is there anything else you would like voters to know about your position on recreational dog walking access?

__Doria Summa_____

Printed Name

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Signature

__9-8-2022_____

Date

Thank you for answering these questions. If you have any questions, contact Matthew Greenberg, PeninsulaDogPAC@gmail.com, (650) 400-1280.