

Peninsula Dog PAC Questionnaire

Sarah Fields | San Mateo City Council, District 3

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

I do not have a dog. I do have a few friends with dogs, who I enjoy going on walks with in San Mateo and elsewhere. Generally, those are walks in my neighborhood of 19th Avenue Park or surrounding neighborhoods like Central or Bay Meadows.

2. Recognizing that over 40% of households in San Mateo have dogs, what schools, open spaces and trails in San Mateo do you think people should be allowed to walk dogs on-leash and/or off-leash?

San Mateo has wonderful parks across the city and especially in District 3. From small neighborhood parks, like Sunnybrae and Concur down the street from my apartment, to Bay Meadows Park or Central Park, we have several spaces for local enjoyment. In our neighborhoods, I believe dogs should be walked on-leash. Trails that allow for off-leash dogs are within county parks and not under the city's jurisdiction.

3. San Mateo allows dogs off-leash in fenced in areas at Seal Point Park, Laurie Meadows Park, Los Prados Park, and Bayside-Joinville Park. Between 6-8 am ONLY, dogs are allowed at Fitzgerald Field in Central Park and Chanteloup Field in Beresford Park (weekdays only).

Do you believe:

- (a) The amount of off-leash is right.
- ✓ (b) There should be more off-leash.
- (c) There should be less off-leash.

Please explain your choice.

I am open to a pilot program to have some weekday afternoon off-leash time, as long as it does not interfere with planned, organized recreation activities. Should such a pilot be successful, opting to make it permanent would be reasonable. As not such a morning person myself and being aware that some dogs really require significant outdoor, exercise time, I would like to accommodate afternoon times as well.

4. The only non-fenced in off-leash areas for dogs to play in San Mateo are Fitzgerald field and Chanteloup field (M-F only) in the early morning hours of 6-8 am. Should there be additional times (after most people are awake) at these parks for off-leash dog recreation? Are there additional areas and times where you believe dog owners should be allowed off-leash dog recreation? Please discuss.

As stated in the previous question, I am open to a pilot program to explore additional times, perhaps the afternoon or early evening for more off-leash time. I often see my neighbors walking their dogs after work between 5-7pm. I would be interested in connecting with the community and better understanding the needs here.

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

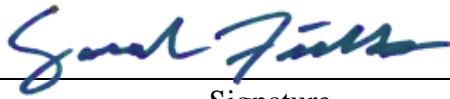
As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, I believe San Mateo is generally on the right track when it comes to recreation areas for dogs and their people. Read more:

<https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/2332/Dog-Parks-Off-Leash-Areas>

It should be noted that about 48% of San Mateans are renters and having a pet while renting can be challenging. I hope that this and other groups can encourage new and existing developments to be pet friendly.

Sarah Fields

Printed Name



Signature

9/13/2022

Date

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