

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 am a proud dog mom to a 7 year old Havanese, Gus. He accompanies me on my daily walks and with me on most of my errands in Menlo Park. My son is 2 and loves the duck pond at Burgess Park and riding his scooter around Holbrook-Palmer Park, so we can be found at those parks most mornings. For off-leash adventures, we frequent Stulsaft Park in Redwood City. My sister's dog (who I watch most weekdays) loves to play in the creek - to my son's extreme delight!

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

My first priority would be making our streets safer for pedestrians. I used to walk my dog through the neighborhoods of Atherton every day, but I stopped when my son was too big to be strapped to my chest. Navigating a stroller + a dog through the busier streets of Atherton did not feel safe; now we drive to various local parks for our daily walks. Given the large number of people walking their dogs at Holbrook-Palmer Park, I believe many Atherton residents have made the same assessment. We need bike lanes, crosswalks and ADA-compliant pedestrian walkways across the busier streets in Atherton. I have been [endorsed by all of our state and federal elected representatives](#), all of whom I've spoken to about receiving support in securing funds to support these capital improvement projects.

3. What are your thoughts about the City Council's decision to remove the off-leash dog area from the Holbrook-Palmer Master Plan? What are your thoughts about allowing people and their dogs on-leash access (currently allowed) and/or off-leash access (currently prohibited) to Holbrook-Palmer Park?

The construction of the new Town Center and Library was a massive undertaking that monopolized the bandwidth of City Council and Town staff. I understand why the Council was unable to consider the proposed dog park project in 2019, but it's not clear to me why removing the dog park from the master plan was necessary.

Before I moved to Atherton, I lived in San Francisco where I frequently took my dog to off-leash dog parks. Beyond the great exercise and fun playtime for my dog, I had a great time socializing with the other dog owners. When I first moved here, I took my dog to Holbrook-Palmer Park expecting to meet other dog owners, but that was not the case. Dog parks can be a great source of community building.

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

I have a suggestion for Atherton dog owners re: an off-leash dog park at Holbrook-Palmer Park. One of the Council's concerns for the dog park was not being sure if there was support for it within the community. A Change.org petition would be an easy and simple way to show community support. An Atherton resident started a petition [to add pickleball to the park](#), and now Parks & Rec and the Council are considering converting one of the tennis courts to pickleball (using private donations).

STACY MILES HOLLAND

Printed Name


Signature

SEPT 19, 2022

Date

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