

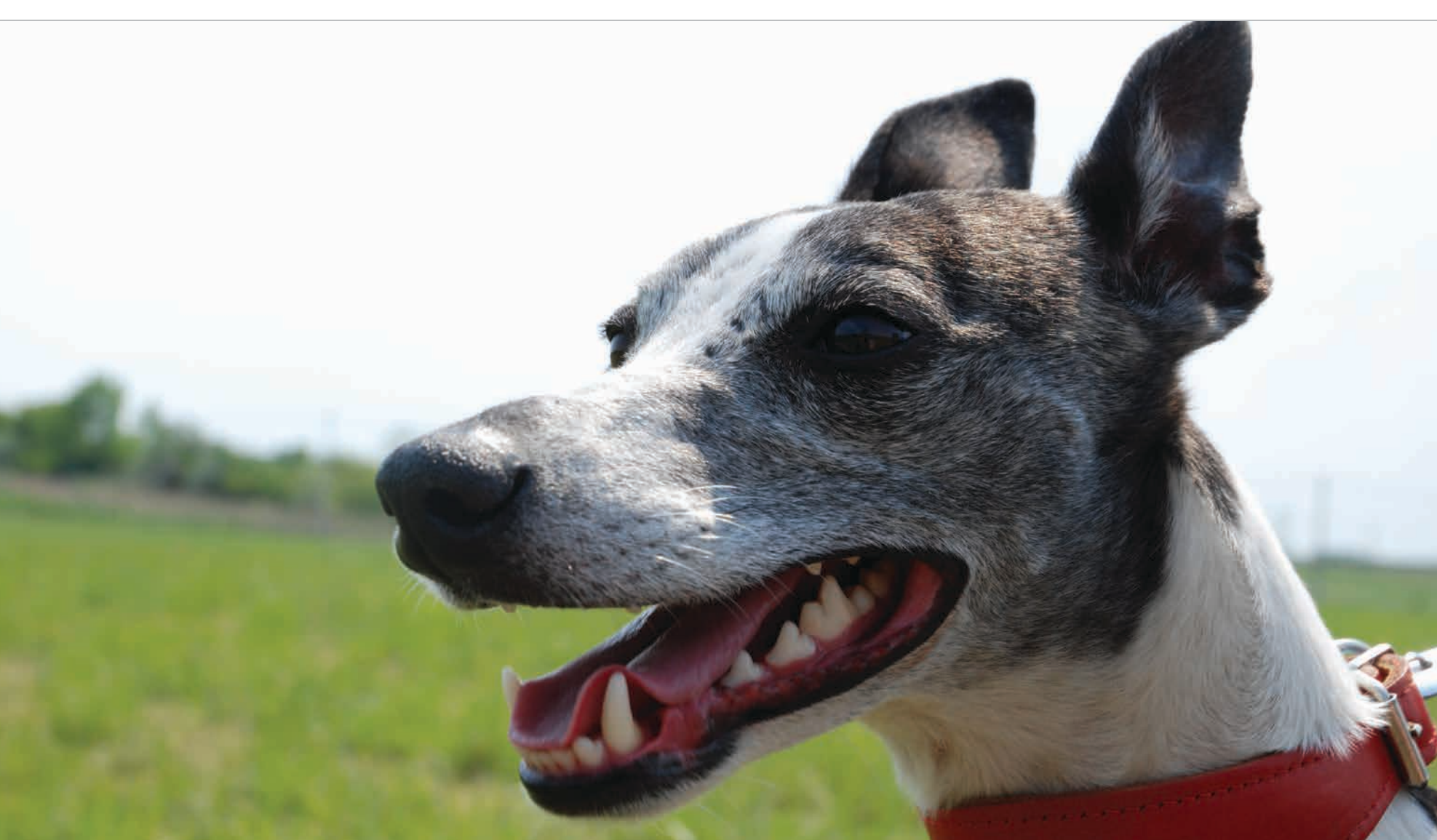
Strathcona County Dog Off Leash Strategy

The Strategy will provide overall direction for the delivery of off leash areas in Sherwood Park.

Please review the information on the display boards and provide your comments .

Benefits of Providing Dog Off Leash Areas

- Responds to a need identified by the community.
- Off leash activities are focused in designated sites.
- Enhances the safety of dogs and people.
- Helps protect the environment.
- Provides venues for dog owners to get exercise.
- Enhances community building.
- Recognition of off leash activities as “legitimate” recreation activities.
- Helps socialize dogs.



Current Situation

- The only off leash park in Strathcona County is the Deermound Dog Off Leash Park. It is a 160 acre park at the junction of Highways 21 and 628.
- Except in the Deermound Dog Off Leash Park, all dogs are to be on leash on public land.
- All dogs in Strathcona County are to be licensed.
 - » There are 12,995 licensed dogs (2014).



Research Findings: General Trends in Other Municipalities

- There is increased demand for dog off leash areas.
- **Dogs are permitted off leash in community parks & open spaces.**
- Outdoor sport facilities are being utilized for dog off leash activity.
- Designated dog off leash areas are being developed to include specialized amenities.
- There is increased demand to provide designated small dog areas.

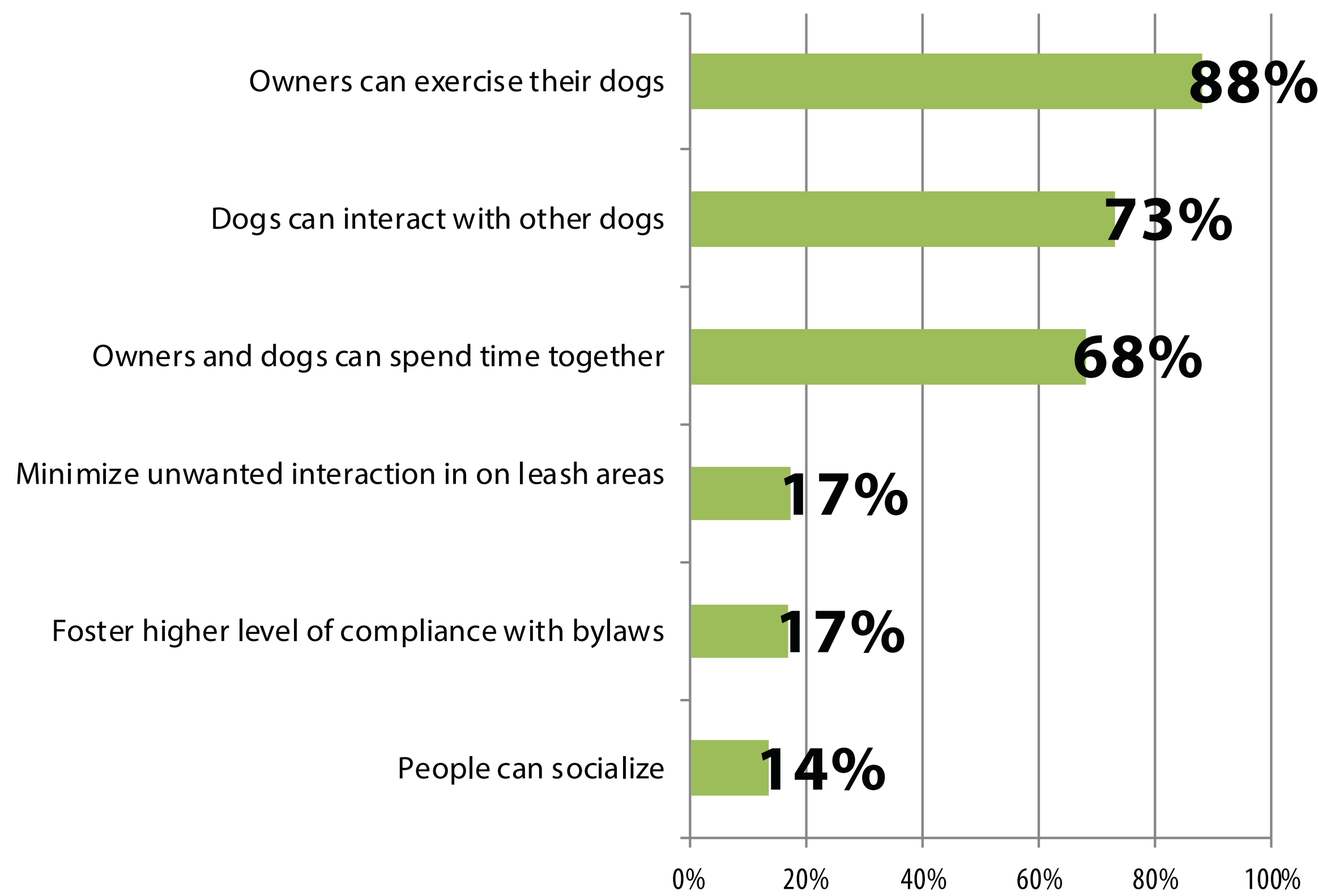
Survey Results

Consultation:

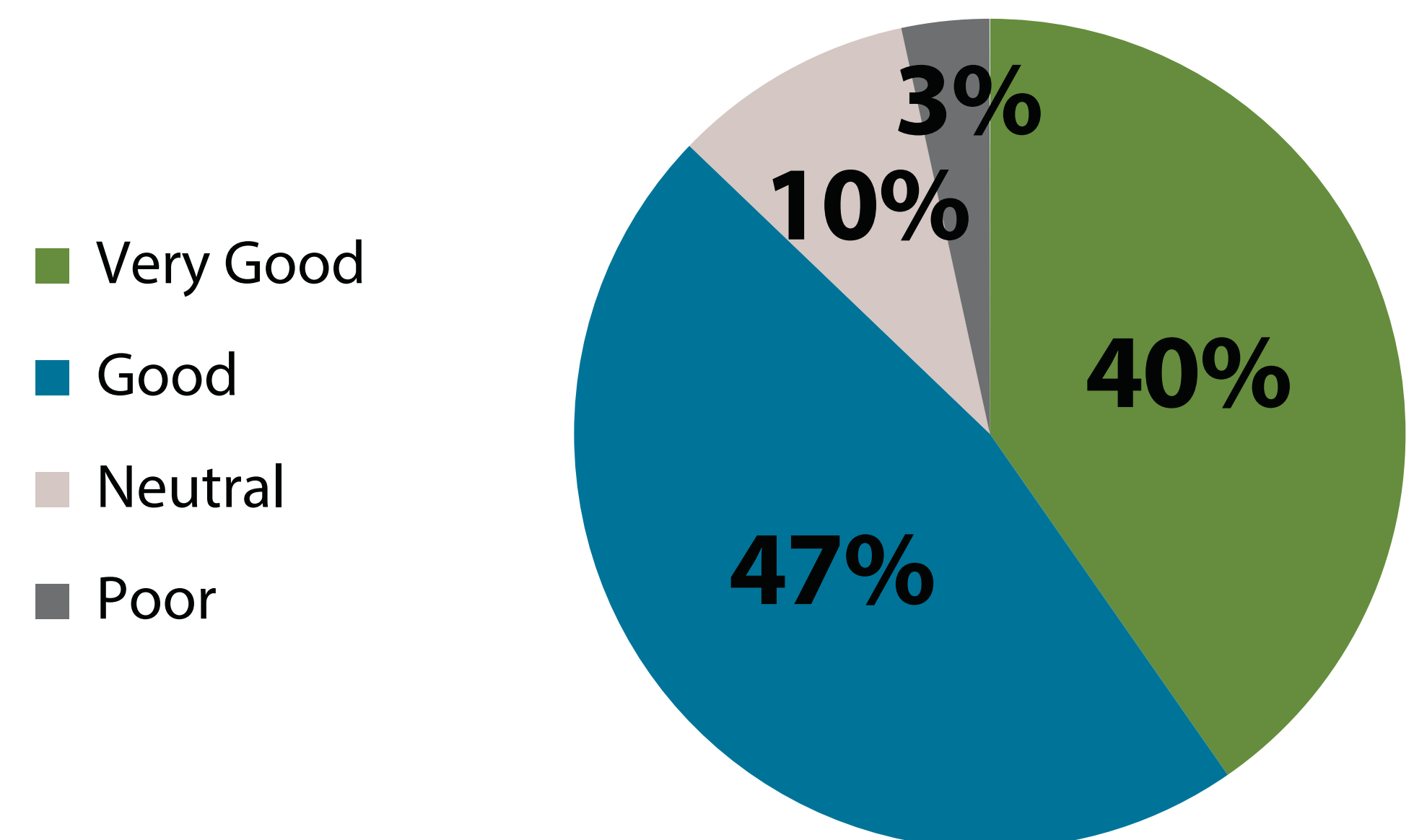
Public Web Survey Results (n = 692)

88% of respondents own at least one dog (30% of dog owners own more than one dog).

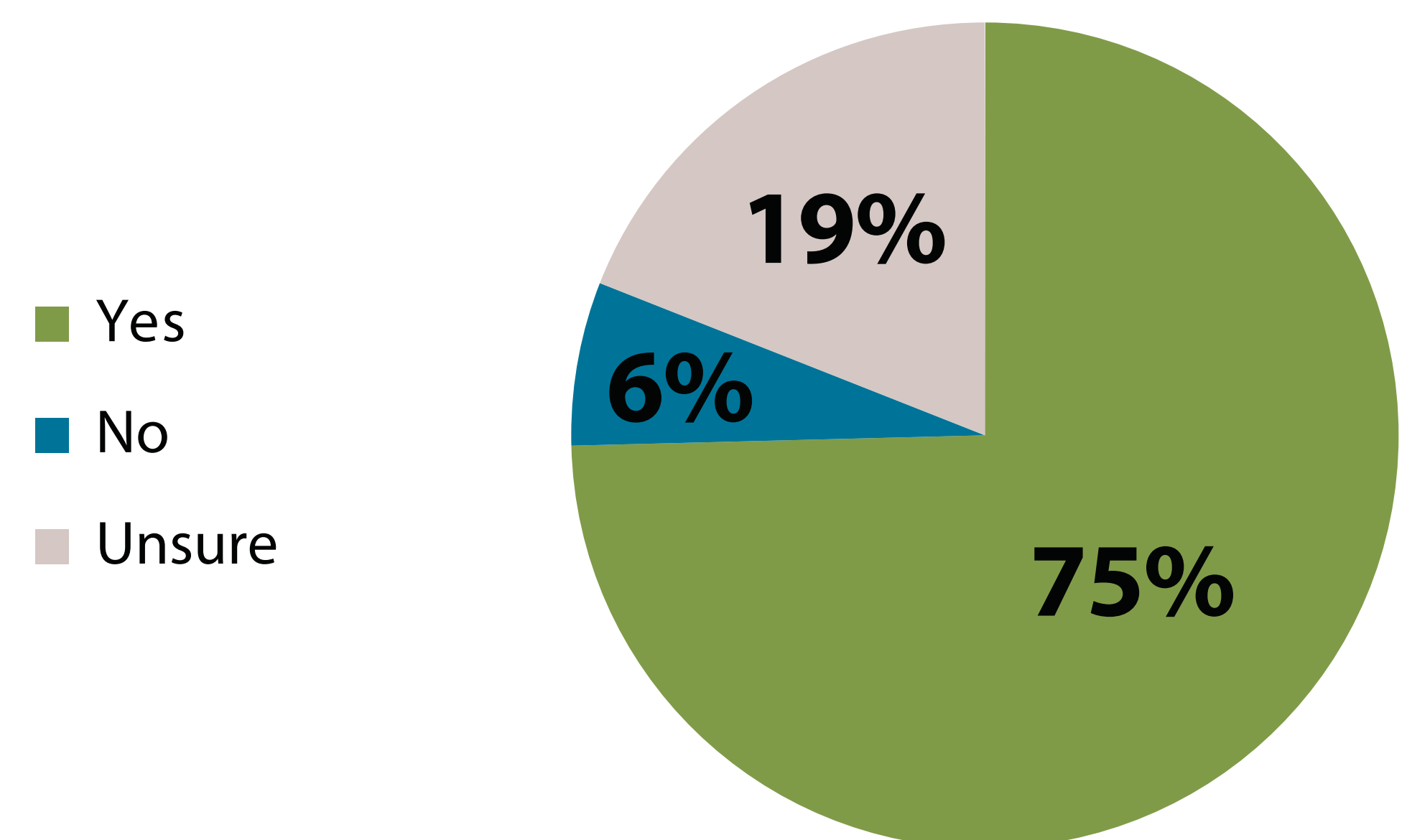
Primary Benefits of the County Providing Dog Off Leash Areas.



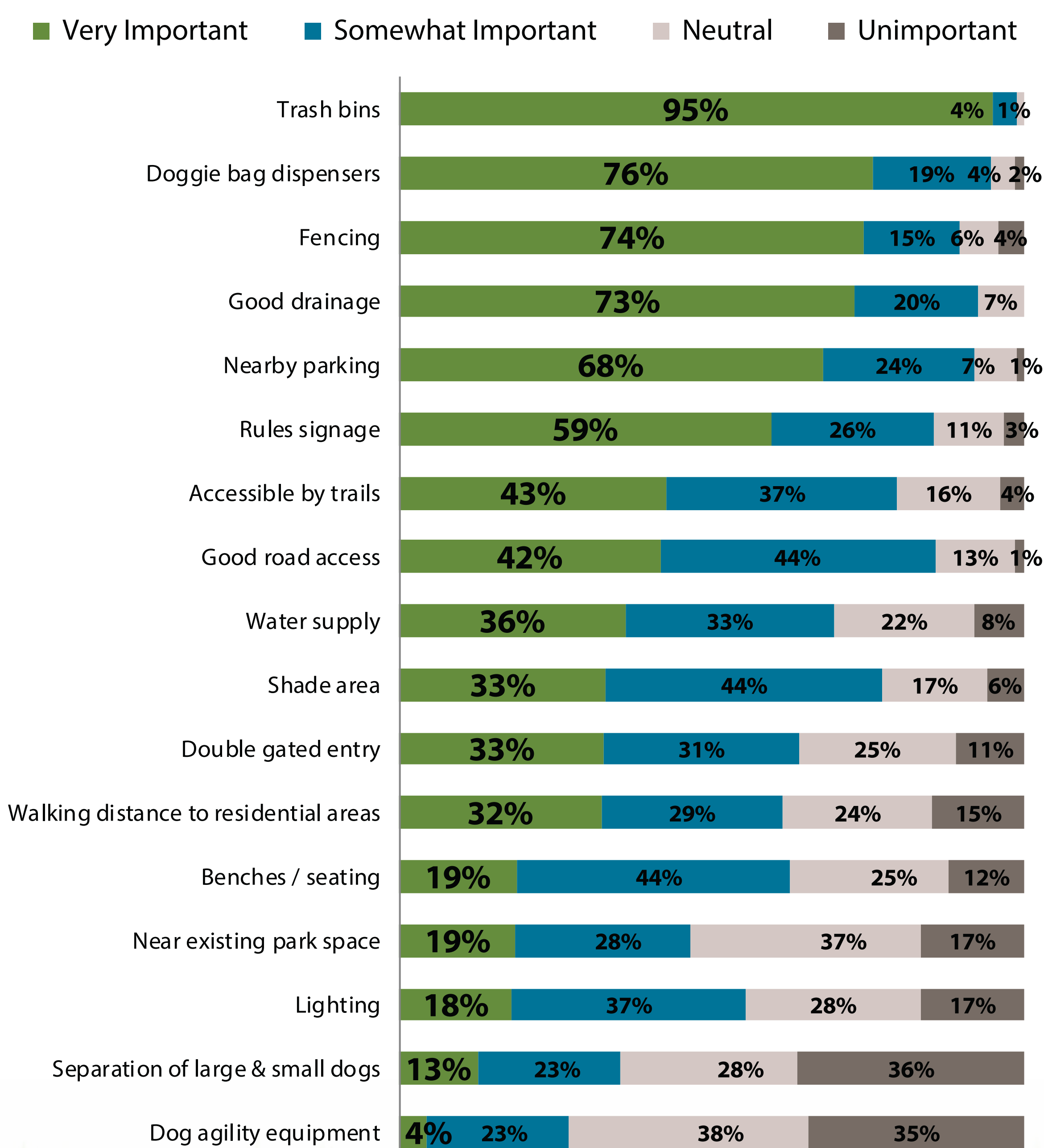
Overall, how would you rate Deermound Dog Off Leash Park?



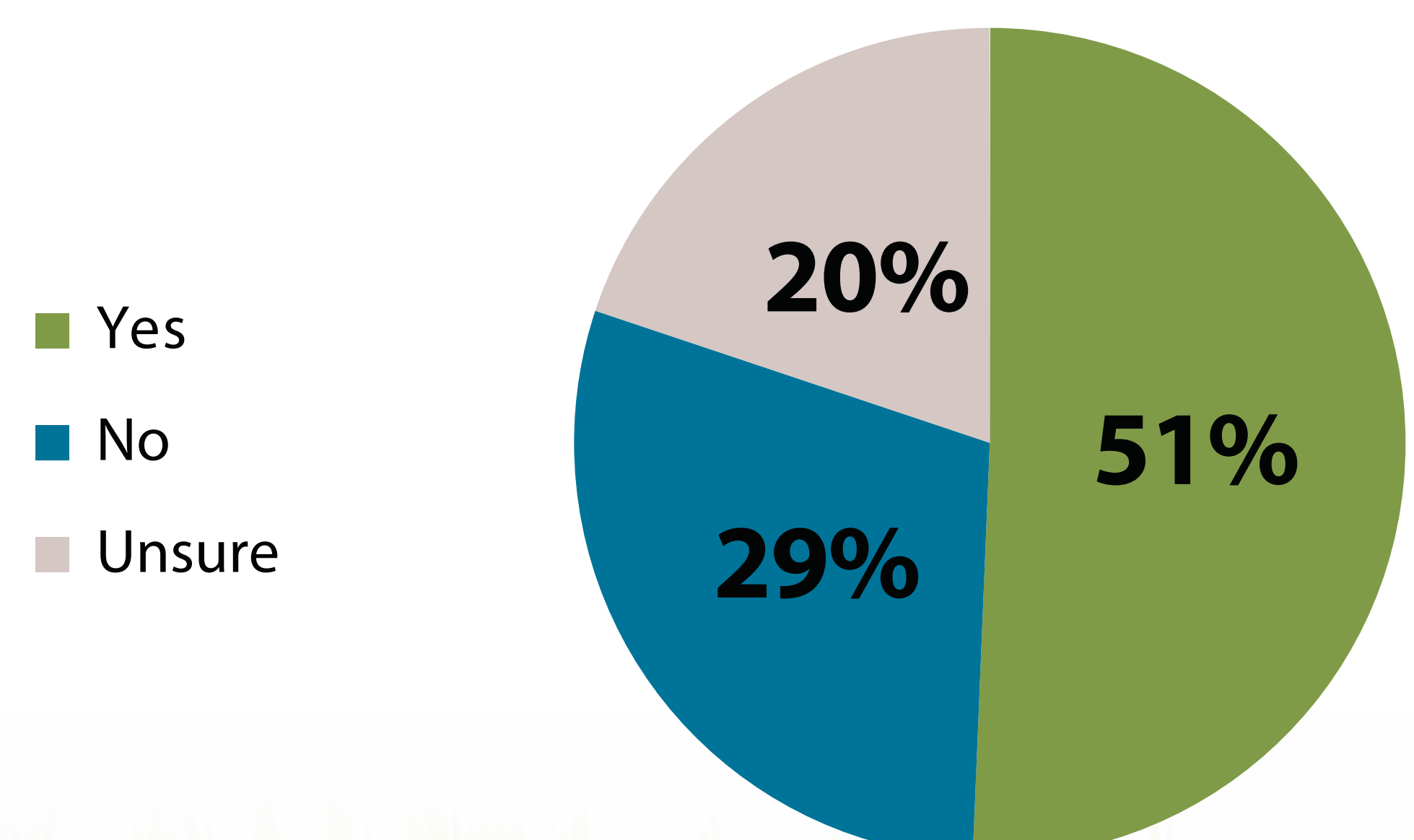
Is there a need for more off-leash parks in Strathcona County?



Importance of Amenities in an Off Leash Park



Should the County consider the use of areas like boarded rinks for off-leash areas?

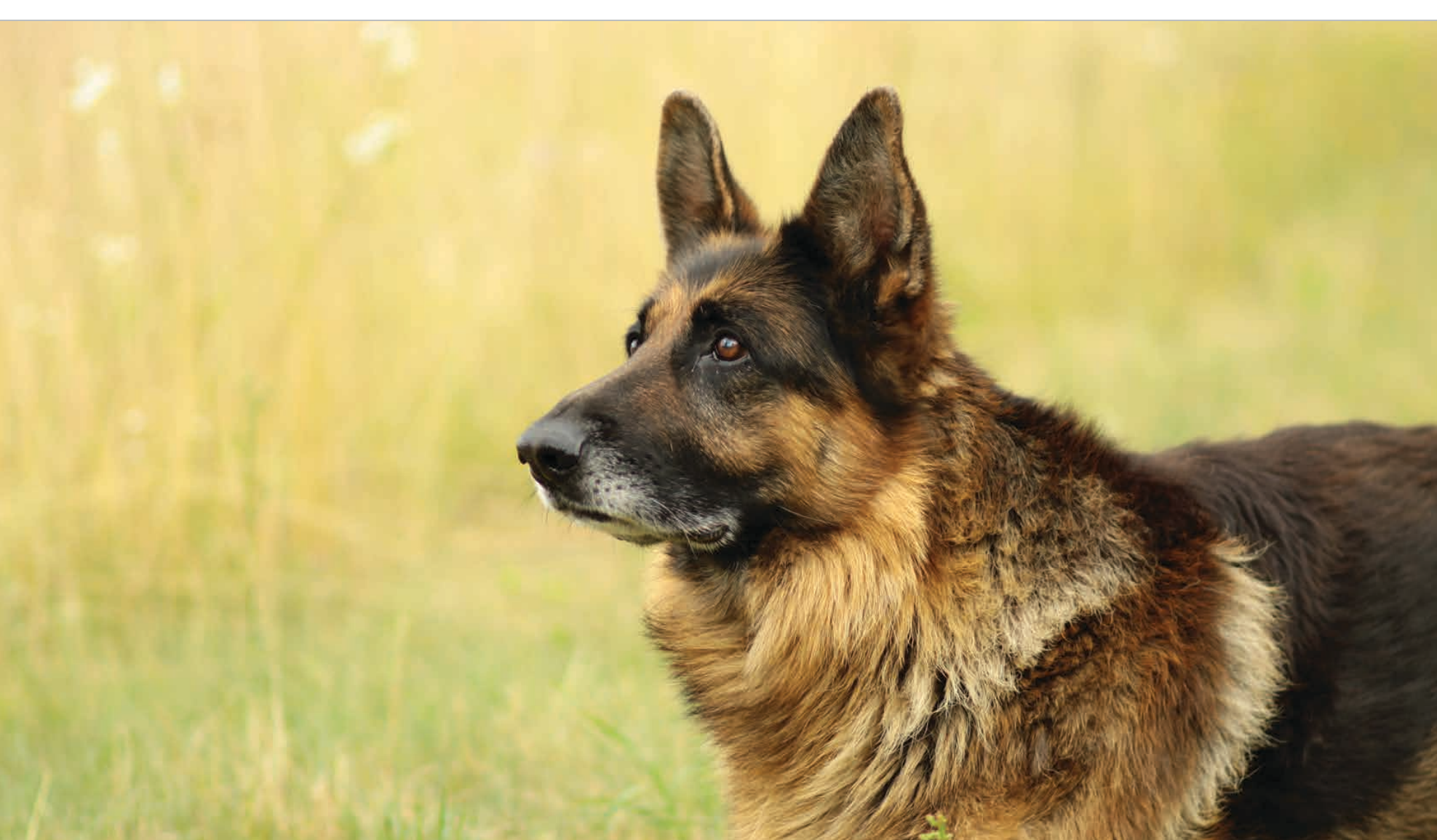


Strategy Vision

Strathcona County provides **appropriate opportunities** for resident dog owners and their pets to recreate in safe and positive environments. These opportunities will provide health and recreational **benefits for people and their dogs** in such a manner that **does not negatively impact** other County residents.

Philosophy of Provision

- **Geographic distribution.** It is important that off leash opportunities be geographically dispersed.
- **Opportunities for small and large dogs.** Opportunities that enable small dogs to interact, socialize, and play away from large dogs should be provided.
- **Maximize existing recreation amenities for multipurpose use.** There is some outdoor recreation infrastructure that is not formally utilized year round that could be used for off leash purposes.
- **Maximize use of existing sites before building new.** Existing off leash sites may be “refurbished” or enhanced to maximize their use.
- **Stakeholder and public involvement.** The development and/or designation of sites as off leash areas needs to involve stakeholders and the public.



Categories of Off Leash Park Provision

A) Dedicated Off Leash Sites

Examples include: the Deermound Dog Off Leash Park.

Amenities at these types of sites include:

- Fencing
- Signage
- Doggie bag dispensers
- Shaded areas
- Seating
- Waste receptacles
- Parking
- Good drainage
- Double entry gate
- Grassed

B) Multi-use Off Leash Sites

Examples include: parks & open spaces, storm water management facilities, boarded rinks, and ball diamonds.

Amenities at these types of sites include:

- Fencing
- Doggie bag dispensers
- Signage
- Waste receptacles

Performance Measures

It is important to measure the performance of dog off leash areas annually. The following items should be measured:

- Number of different sites
- User counts
- Safety (number of incidents)
- Satisfaction of users
- Public feedback
- Physical state (maintenance & cleanliness)

Site Evaluation

Multi-use sites must be evaluated to ensure they are functioning as desired. A process will be used to bring them online and take them off line. The process would include the following steps:

1

Initiate the Review

Pilot sites are reviewed annually.
Formal complaints can warrant a review.
Formal request from Strathcona County Council and administration.

2

Internal Assessment

Review performance measures for the site.
Solicit input from County Departments.

3

Stakeholder Engagement & Site Review

Stakeholder engagement
will be initiated.
Onsite assessments
will be conducted.

4

Decision & Implementation

Off Leash Association

A volunteer Dog Off Leash Association can serve as a liaison between Strathcona County and the public. Duties could include:

- Assist with **communication** of messages regarding off leash provision to the public and dog community.
- Assist with the **monitoring** of off leash sites.
- Assist with the **maintenance** of off leash sites.
- Provide **input** to the County **regarding the development** of any new sites and the operation of existing sites.
- **Transmit messages** from the public and off leash site users to Strathcona County.
- **Provide advice** regarding issues or initiative brought forward by Strathcona County regarding off leash provision and other related issues.

Next Steps

- Compile feedback from the public.
- Present Dog Off Leash Strategy to County Council.

Please complete the feedback form.

The presentation material will be available on the County's website along with the feedback form. (www.strathcona.ca/offleash)