

COOPERS' PARK DOG OFF-LEASH AREA RENEWAL



*Draft concept shown for public
feedback March 19 – April 6, 2021*

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUMMARY
JUNE 2021

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1 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



465
surveys
completed

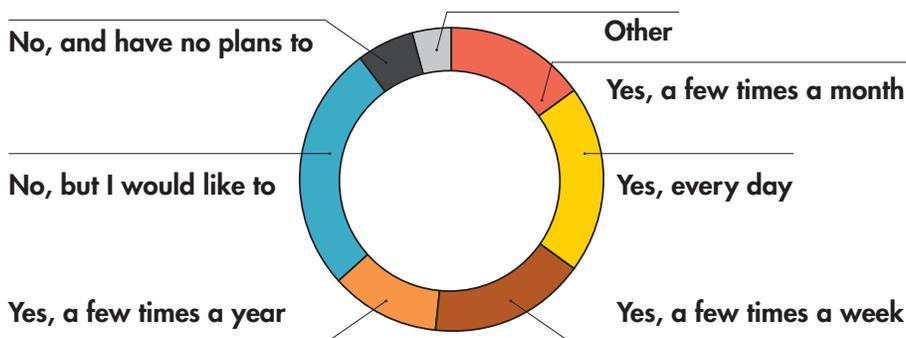
74%
I LIKE IT A LOT
or I LIKE IT

Between March 16 and April 6, 2021, we held an online public engagement to learn about respondents current relationship to the existing dog off-leash area in Coopers' Park and to seek feedback on what features were most preferred for the renewal. The design options proposed are based on guidelines from the *People, Parks and Dogs Strategy (Vancouver Park Board, 2017)*, and feasible options due to existing site conditions. Feedback on the initial concept was collected and compiled fully online due to COVID-19 restrictions. The following report highlights the main findings of this engagement process.

The majority of respondents are already using Coopers' Park Dog Off-Leash Area (OLA) on a regular basis, with **36%** reporting using the park multiple times per week. Another **27%** answered that they do not use the park but would like to, which suggests that **63%** of respondents would use the park post-renewal.

84%
of respondents
are dog owners with
highly active dogs

DO YOU CURRENTLY USE COOPERS' PARK OLA?



63%
currently
walk or roll
to the park

Figure 1 — Existing dog park usage

2 CURRENT CONDITIONS

The Dog Off-Leash Area (OLA) in Coopers' Park is located on the False Creek Seawall in Yaletown and serves one of the most densely populated parts of the City for both people and dogs. The OLA is already heavily used and we wanted to learn what qualities respondents currently enjoyed so that they can be included in the upcoming renewal:

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE EXISTING DOG OFF-LEASH AREA?

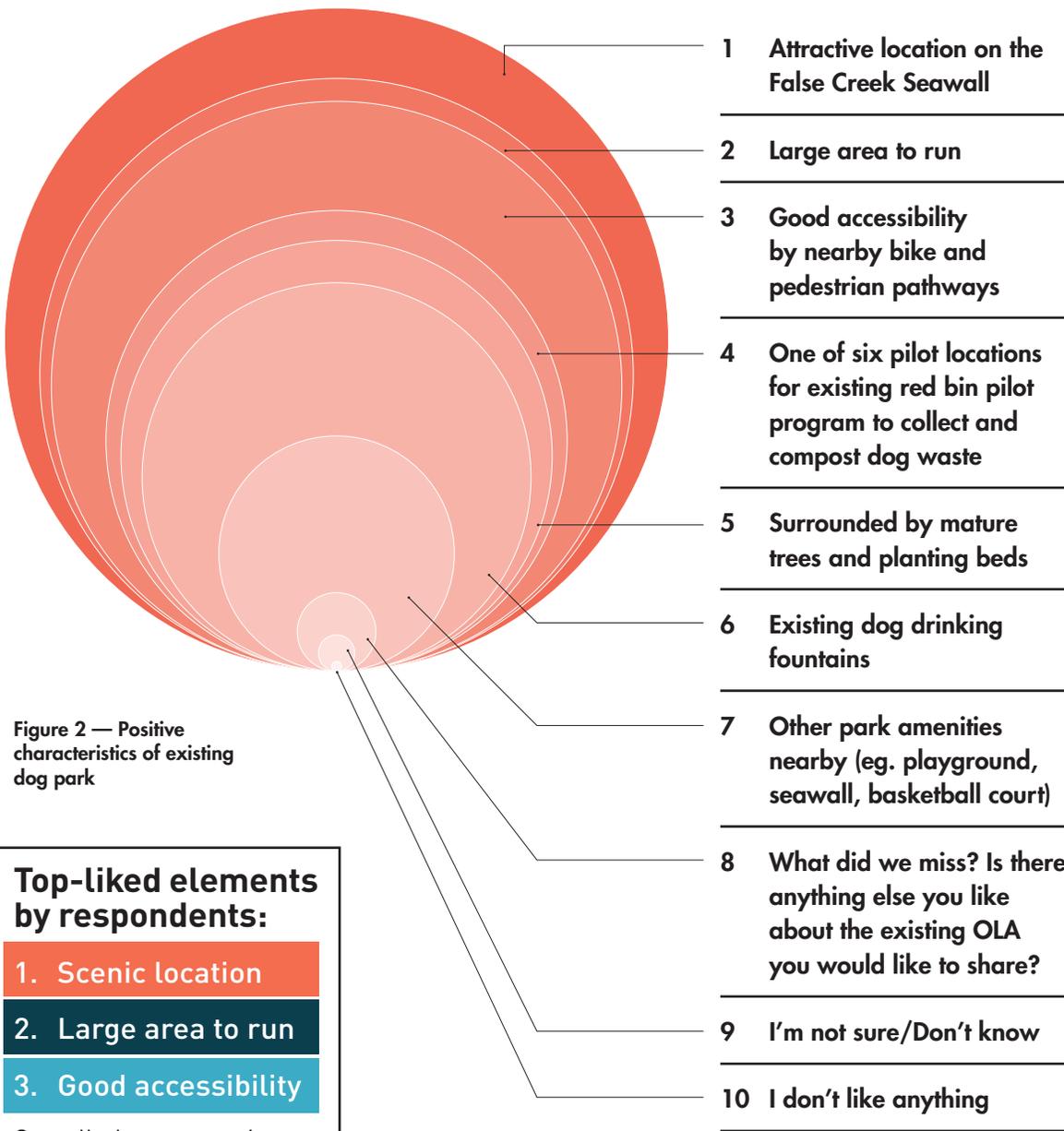


Figure 2 — Positive characteristics of existing dog park

Top-liked elements by respondents:

1. Scenic location
2. Large area to run
3. Good accessibility

Overall, the proposed design was well received by the public.



There are a lot of dogs that use the park. Try to make the area as large as possible.



It's a special place. Everyone and their dogs get along very harmoniously. Our dogs can be free so it's not suffocating.



The open running areas currently present are the greatest feature for dogs who are ball oriented.



2 CURRENT CONDITIONS

The Dog Off-Leash Area (OLA) is under renewal so that it can better serve the growing demand, and help create a safer and more engaging park space for people with and without dogs. The survey provided opportunity for respondents to identify what they do not like about the current OLA, so that we can address these issues in the renewal:

WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT THE EXISTING DOG OLA?

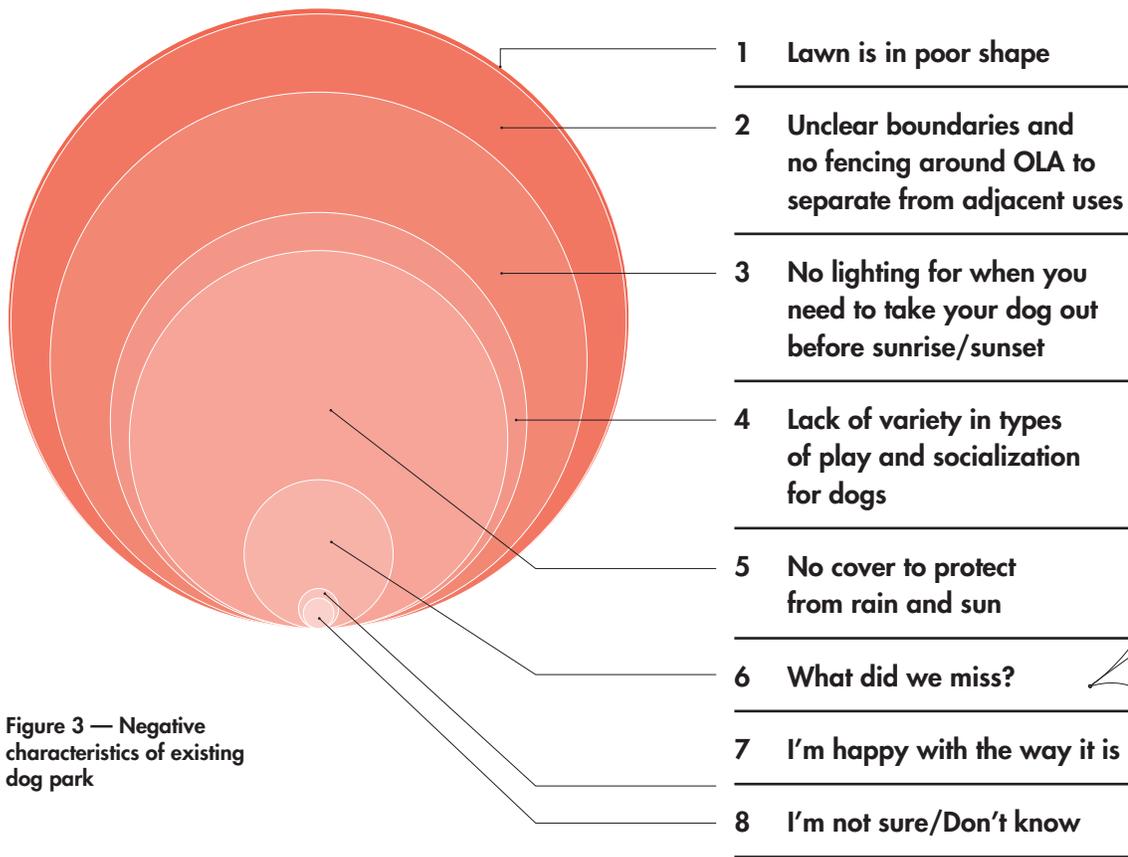


Figure 3 — Negative characteristics of existing dog park

Top two concerns of respondents:

1. Poor shape of lawn
2. Unclear boundaries

Many were also concerned about how dark it is at night when they have to take their dogs out.



COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

New grass/turf, added lighting for evenings, fencing and year-round water would be great.



Lack of a washing station to wash paws when muddy, lack of spare soil to patch holes when dug.



Poor drainage results in massive mud puddles. More water access as dogs will often drink the mud puddles.



3 AMENITIES AND FEATURES

Through the public engagement we also asked respondents to indicate their preferred types of features for the OLA renewal. The following two pages summarize what we heard about the features shared for feedback.



Figure 4 — Amenities and features preferences

- 1 Open areas for fetch, running
- 2 Water play features
- 3 Agility features
- 4 Separate area for shy dogs
- 5 Shelter for shade or rain
- 6 Designated digging area
- 7 I have an amenity suggestion!
- 8 Custom seating
- 9 None in particular

Survey respondents were able to choose more than one feature that they liked; open areas for fetch and running was the most popular item, while custom seating was not particularly popular.



I HAVE AN AMENITY SUGGESTION!

We like to walk too so usually walk around perimeter too with dog to get a WALK ourselves



It would be great to have play features in the "small" dog area as well. Frequently just an enclosure. Small and shy dogs like to play too! Great to see a renewal of this busy spot.

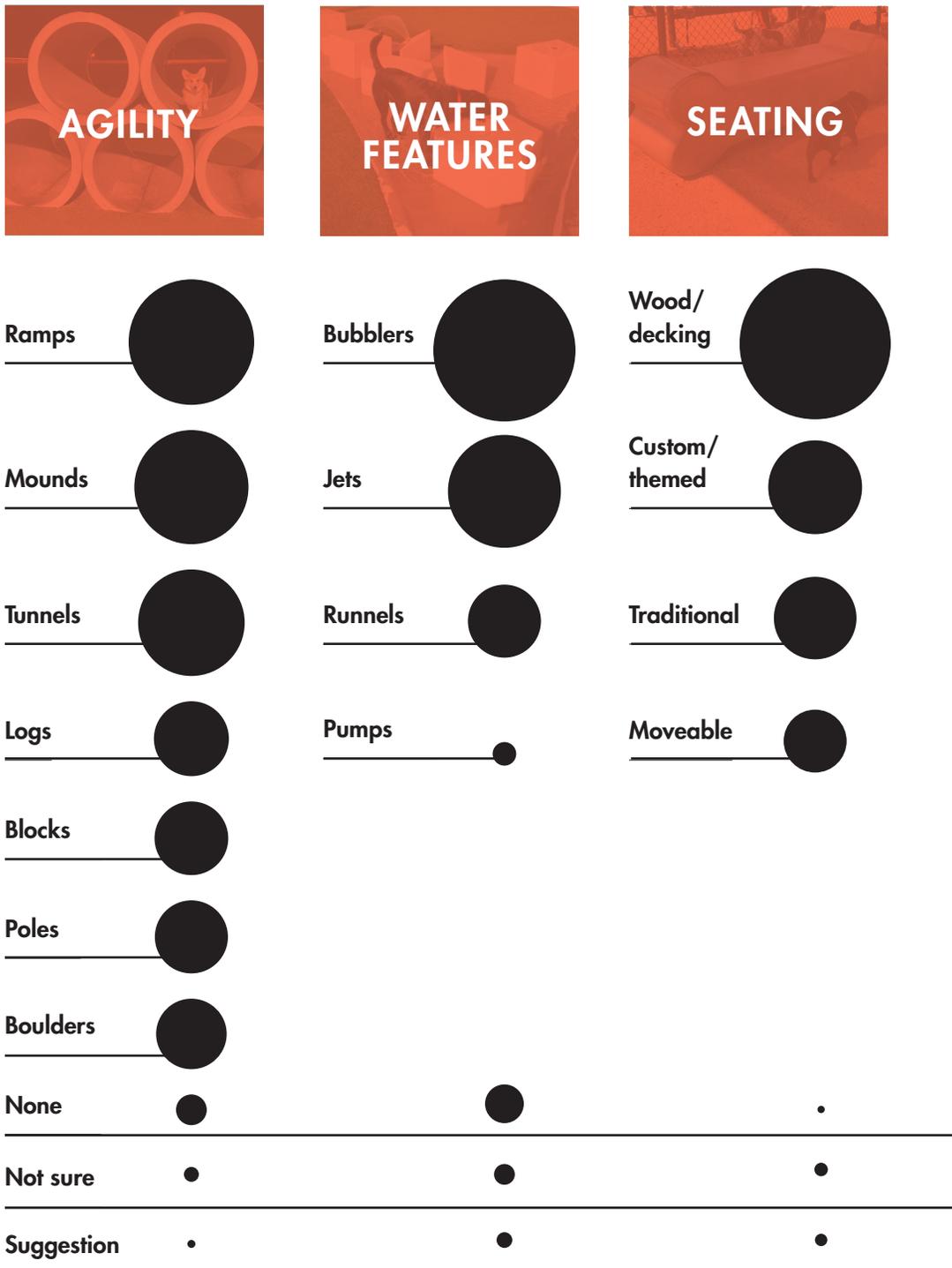


Love the dog wash area (necessary after sand play, or getting covered in dog drool!!). Love the varied areas, especially the agility area, which I e been looking for in the city.



3 AMENITIES AND FEATURES

We asked respondents to rate their preferences for the types of agility features, water-play and seating options shared. We heard the strongest preference for ramps, water bubblers and wood-deck seating.



SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS:

I love the idea of agility features- I would just want to see them off to the side enough so there are no collisions when dogs are chasing each other! They've got tunnel vision sometimes.

AGILITY



If there can be a constant source of fresh water, that would be fantastic!

Combine the water features to green infrastructure and stormwater management would be great.

WATER PLAY



The customized dog-bone benches are so cute! It would be so nice to have a themed dog park!

SEATING



Figure 5 — Agility, water and seating preferences

4 GROUND SURFACING

Respondents rated their preference for the surfacing types proposed. The following breakdown outlines the preference ratings of the proposed features.

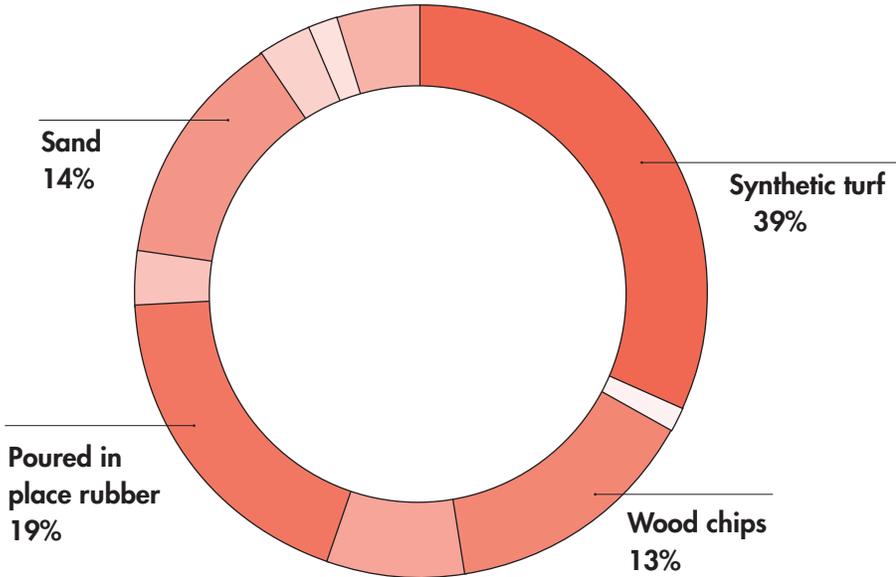


Figure 6 — Surfacing preferences

Out of 831 selections, **32%** chose synthetic turf and **19%** poured in place rubber, with **14%** for sand and **13%** for wood chips. Other materials listed above received a much lesser response.

Natural grass turf was not presented as an option, but was brought up multiple times in the written comments and in response we will aim to include this option in lower traffic areas.

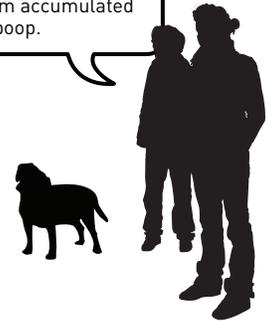
FROM MOST PREFERRED TO LEAST:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Synthetic turf | 6 I have a suggestion |
| 2 Poured in place rubber | 7 I don't like any of these |
| 3 Sand | 8 Concrete |
| 4 Wood chips | 9 Don't know/ not sure |
| 5 Gravel | 10 Asphalt |



SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS:

Sand and good drainage would be the best for this space. Cleaner, easier on the dogs joints, reduces smell from accumulated pee and poop.



PLEASE keep it grass. Wood chips, gravel, and asphalt all are very harmful to dogs' paw pads



I prefer real grass than synthetic if possible.





Figure 7 — Revised concept proposal

Features and amenities

- 1 Double-gated accessible entry
- 2 Trash receptacles
- 3 Accessible walking path
- 4 Runnels
- 5 Mounds
- 6 Secure fence

Other improvements

- 7 Playground safety improvements