
In-Person Outreach Event and Survey Overview

On June 4, 2025, an in-person outreach event was held from 4pm to 7pm at the project site. The intent of this event was to bring more community awareness and engagement to the project by asking for community feedback on the preferred schematic concept for the off-leash area. One presentation board depicted the approximate location for the off-leash area, and the other showed the final schematic design concept for the proposed off leash area. Attendees were encouraged to place heart stickers or sticky notes on the boards for elements they loved, or to provide feedback to the project team members present.

Additionally, an online survey was implemented to increase accessibility for feedback. Like the outreach event, the survey showed the preferred schematic design concept and also asked the public for their feedback on surfacing material. The survey was open from June 4 to June 29, 2025. In total, 29 people completed the survey. It is important to note that this is not a statistically valid survey. The survey was presented as a series of questions with supportive graphics using the SurveyMonkey platform and was designed to take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

Outreach Event – 6/4/2025

During the in-person outreach event, participants were shown boards with basic project information and the preferred schematic concept. They were encouraged to place heart stickers on elements they loved, sticky notes on elements they had feedback on, and to write comments and place them into the comment box. Over the course of the event, 16 community members came through and gave their feedback. A sample of the comments heard are as follows:

- “Increase the setback for the planting buffer to be greater than 5 feet”
- “Add a buffer to the NE side of the design.”
- “More tree and vegetation islands within the OLA”
- “Round the corners on concrete slabs”
- “More tables and chairs”
- “Is there any follow-up on the efficacy of the bioretention areas?”
- “Parking may be an issue if no new spots are added.”
- “Higher fences, dogs get out”

SurveyMonkey Survey

1. What do you like about the above proposed schematic design?

- Answered: 25 / Skipped: 4
- The most resounding positive feedback was the separation between big and small/shy dog area. 9 of 25 responses were in support of this design aspect.
- People were supportive of the trees in between the two areas. 4 people mentioned this in their comments.
- The installation of shade / shelter structure also received positive reviews. 4 people liked this.

Sample open-ended responses:

- *"I love that there are two separate areas for dogs."*
- *"Tree barrier between small and large dog area."*
- *"It look like it tried to address what people said they wanted."*
- *"There are MANY dogs in the neighborhood and this is such a needed project! I love that it is so close to the green street - it is easily walkable."*
- *"I like the gravel perimeter path and landscape buffer. Mostly, I'm excited this is being planned for Othello park."*

2. Do you have any concerns about the above proposed schematic design?

- Answered: 24 / Skipped: 5
- There was a greater diversity of feedback on this question compared to the prior question.
- People are worried about erosion and water pooling after negative experiences in other dog parks around the city, particularly around the doggy water fountain.
- There were some opinions voiced on surfacing treatments for the park. Gravel is a difficult surface for dogs to run around on.
- People want shade and seating so they can be at the park for extended periods of time. There should be ample seating throughout the park and not too close to the entrances.

Sample open-ended responses:

- *"Drainage around the water source is almost always a problem area in dog parks. Additionally there seems to be a lack of natural shade sources"*
- *"Are there any mitigation plans to prevent water pooling in the low area?"*
- *"From my 30 years of attending off-leash dog parks, I've noticed that having benches where people are stagnate and congregating isn't best when they're close to where dogs enter and leave"*
- *"Is there any seating in the shelters?"*
- *"please make 6ft+ tall fences around the entire park. too many off leash areas with small fences!"*

3. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the design?

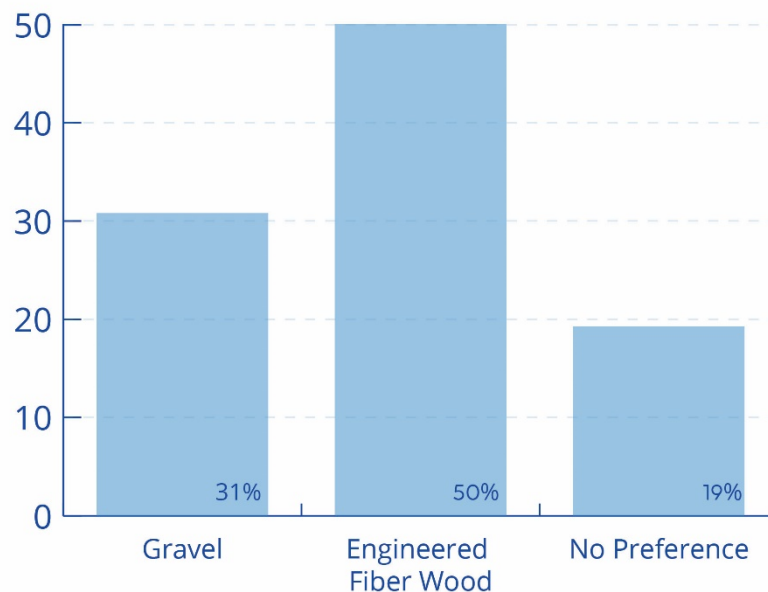
- Answered: 17 / Skipped: 12
- Overall, people responded positively to the design and did not mention anything that has not been advocated for by the community in the past.
- There was concern over foxtail grass and suggestions for fruiting trees.
- Three folks mentioned to not use gravel.

Sample open-ended responses:

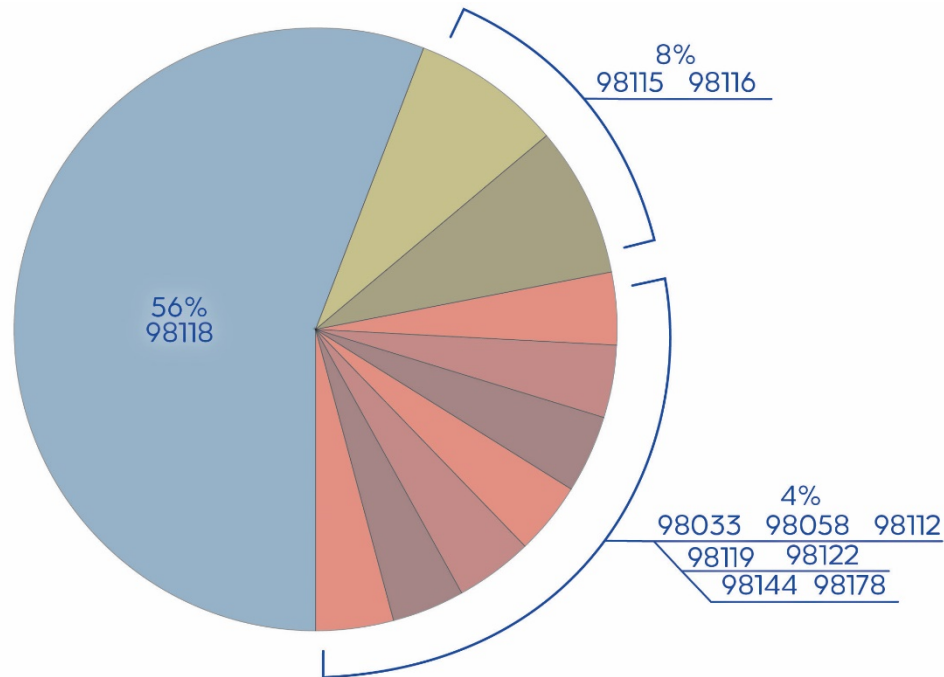
- *"We're so excited to have another off-leash dog park in south seattle. We frequently travel to Genesee dog park, but having one closer to home is so welcome!"*
- *"Always maintain the plants to kill foxtails and do not let them get established."*
- *"This is a fabulous start. Looking forward to it. Hoping you choose not to go with the gravel – it gets hot in the sun and can be sharp on paws."*

4. What surface material would you prefer between the following options?

- Answered: 26 / Skipped: 3
- 30.77% of respondents selected gravel.
- 50.00% of respondents selected engineered wood fiber (EWF) / playground wood chips.
- 19.23% of respondents selected no preference.



5. What is your zip-code?



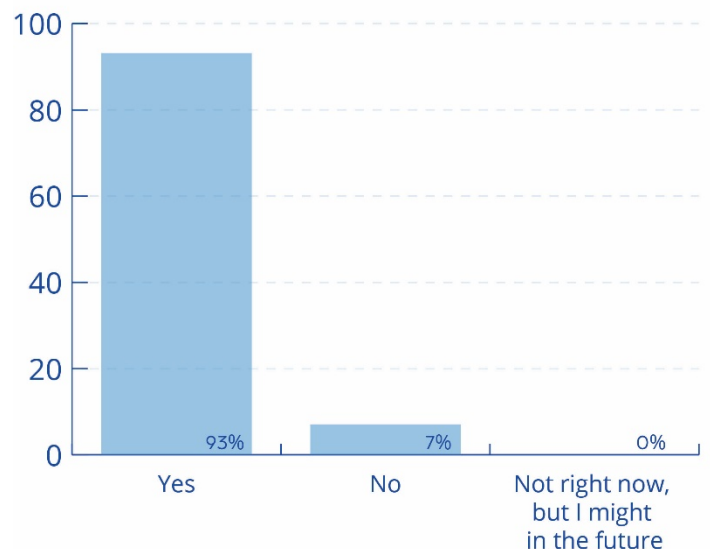
- Answered: 48 / Skipped: 1
- 56.00% of respondents live in the zip-code 98118. This is the zip-code Othello Playground is in.

6. How would you like to receive updates about the project?

- Answered: 26 / Skipped: 3
- 34.62% of respondents prefer no updates.
- 0.00% of respondents prefer getting updates from a project sign at the park.
- 30.77% of respondents prefer getting updates from the project website.
- 34.62% of respondents prefer getting updates from emails.

7. Are you a dog owner?

- Answered: 49 / Skipped: 0
- 93.88% of respondents are dog owners.
- 2.04% of respondents are not dog owners.
- 4.08% of respondents are not dog owners right now, but might be in the future.



Conclusions

Overall, the community responded positively to the design proposed. Any concerns mentioned in the survey were concerns that have been advocated for throughout the outreach process. These concerns include: surfacing materials, fence height, and water access. The most prominent piece of feedback received was excitement for the new dog park and the positive change it will bring to the neighborhood. As the project advances, smaller detail items that do not impact layout will be more finely considered with the feedback received. These include: agility equipment location, benches and shade structure selection, surfacing materials, and a smart and effective organization of the entry area with benches, wash stations, and waste bins.