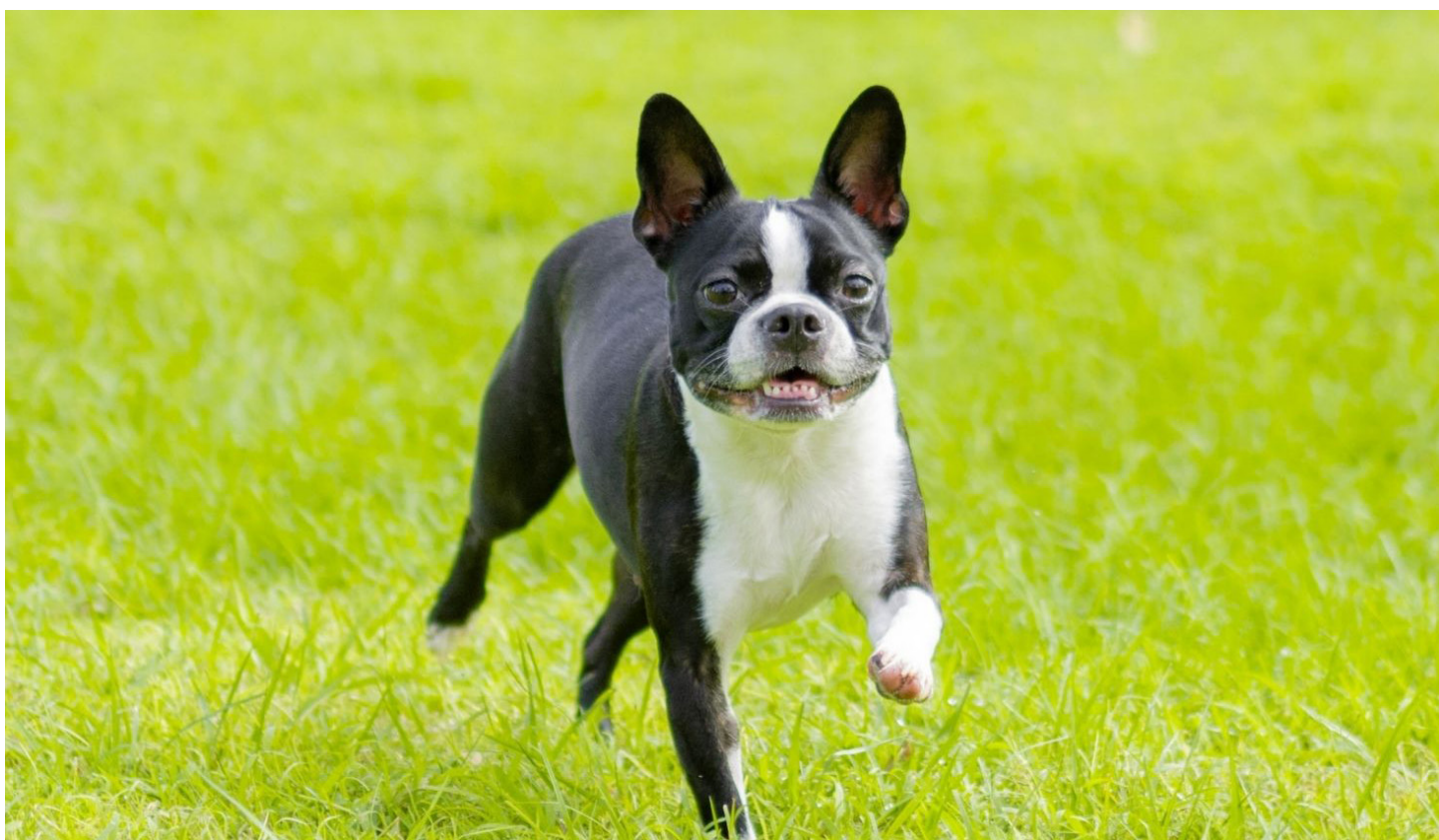


Off-Leash Dog Areas in Eastern Passage

What We Heard Report



April 2021

HALIFAX

OVERVIEW

The community engagement exploring potential dog off-leash areas (OLA's) in Eastern Passage ran from December 3, 2020 to January 18, 2021. Information, a survey, and a Q&A platform were hosted on the Shape Your City portal.

Engagement opportunities were advertised via:

- A public service announcement
- Mailouts to adjacent residents
- Alerting key stakeholders via e-mail
- Digital promotion

Digital promotion included digital screens and paid Facebook and Instagram posts. Facebook reach was over 19,000, and over 600 people engaged. Instagram reach was over 7,000 with over 100 engaging, and Twitter reached over 18, 000 people with more than 200 engaging.

The Q&A platform was not utilized.

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

There were 278 survey respondents, 72% of who live in Eastern Passage (postal code begins with B3G). The majority of respondents, 87%, are dog owners and almost the same percentage feel there is a need for a dog OLA in Eastern Passage. Some currently walk their dog off-leash in areas where off-leash activity is not permitted.

Of the four options presented the preferred location is Shearwater Flyer Park. The rank order was:

1. Shearwater Flyer Park (see below)
2. Smelt Brook Park
3. Eastern Passage Common Seaside Soccer Field*
4. Eastern Passage Common ROST Ballfield*

**winter off-leash with summer mornings only pilot*

The most frequently written comments (question 8) were related to:

1. General positivity about the project
2. Opposition to using sports fields for OLA's
3. Preference for fenced-in OLA's
4. Preference for facilities with trails
5. Need for better by-law enforcement

Shearwater Flyer Park

Opportunities

- Large area of undeveloped parkland (8 hectares) could accommodate an OLA with open space and trails
- Adjacent to Shearwater Flyer trail and parking lot
- Well removed from residential uses (over 500m)

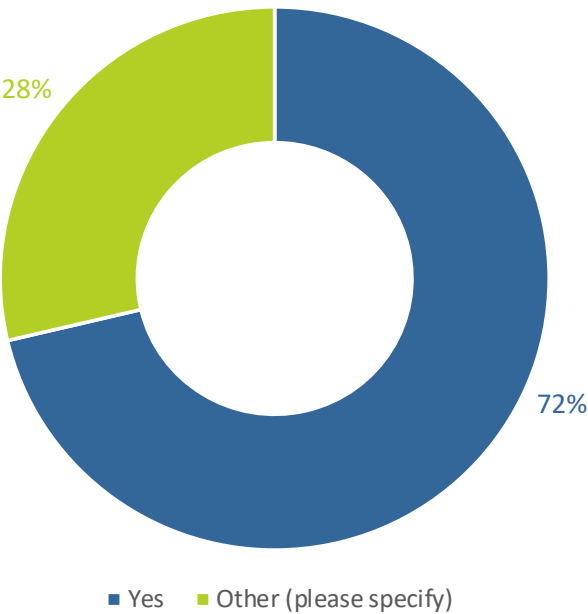
Constraints

- Wetland areas on site
- Considerable capital investment would be required to create a quality OLA, which would be tied to capital budget and take considerable time (several years) if approved by council
- Not centrally located within community

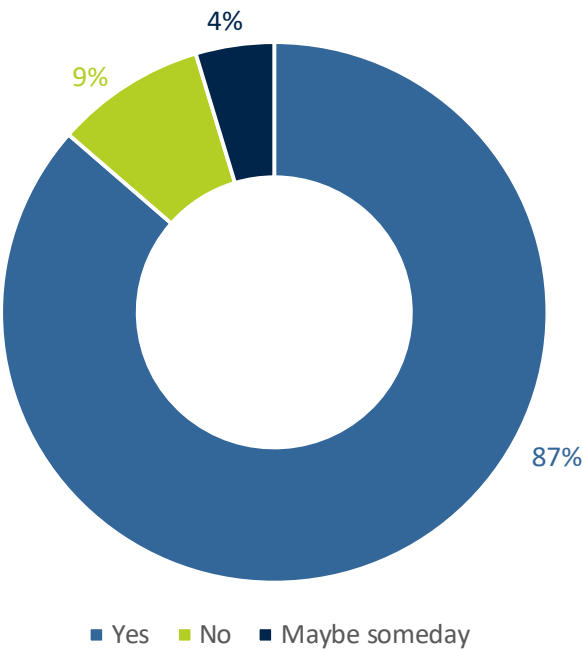


SURVEY RESULTS

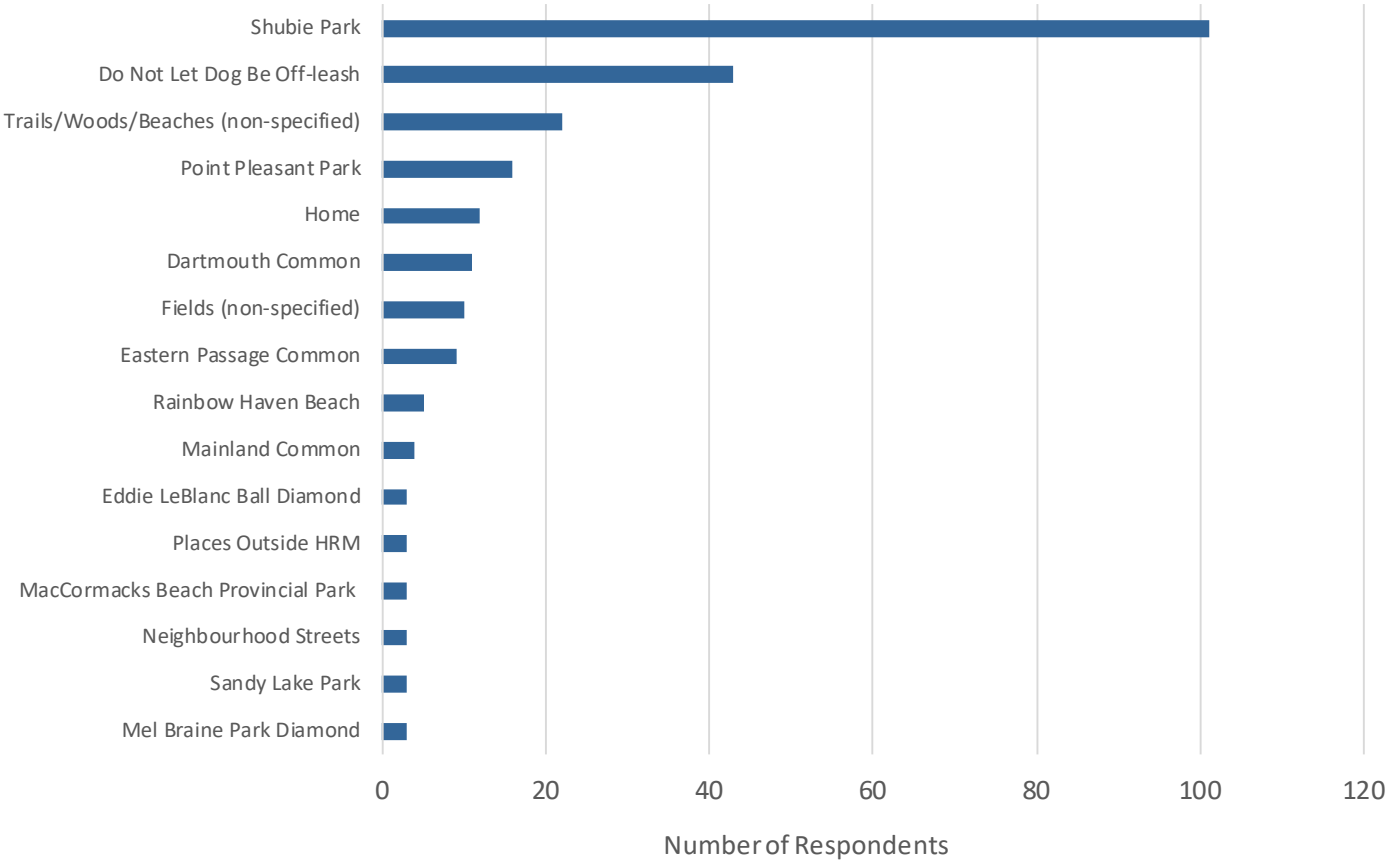
Q1. Do you live in Eastern Passage (ex. postal code begins with B3G)?



Q2. Are you a dog owner?

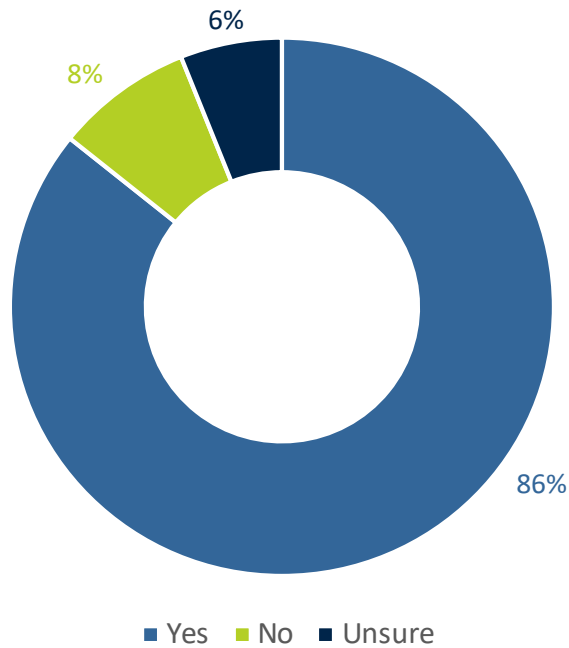


Q3. If you are a dog owner, where do you currently take your dog for off-leash walks? *

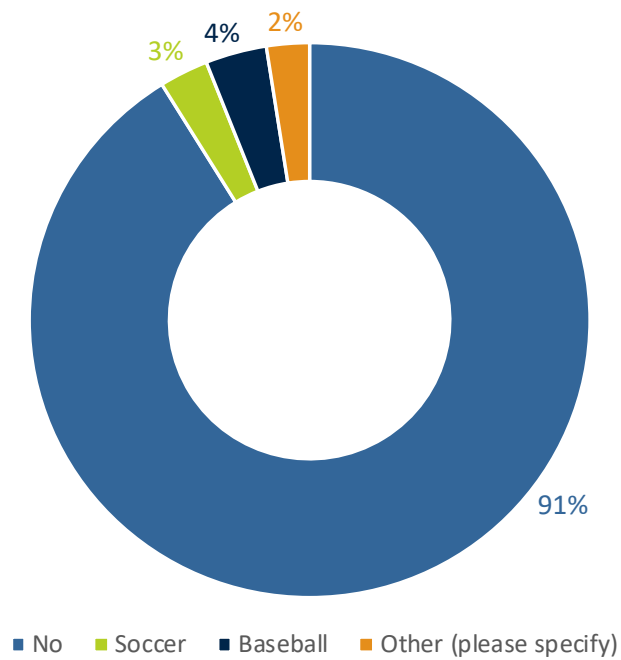


*24 other locations with one or two respondents are not shown. Respondents often cited more than one location.

Q4. Do you feel there is a need for a dog off-leash area in the Eastern Passage community?

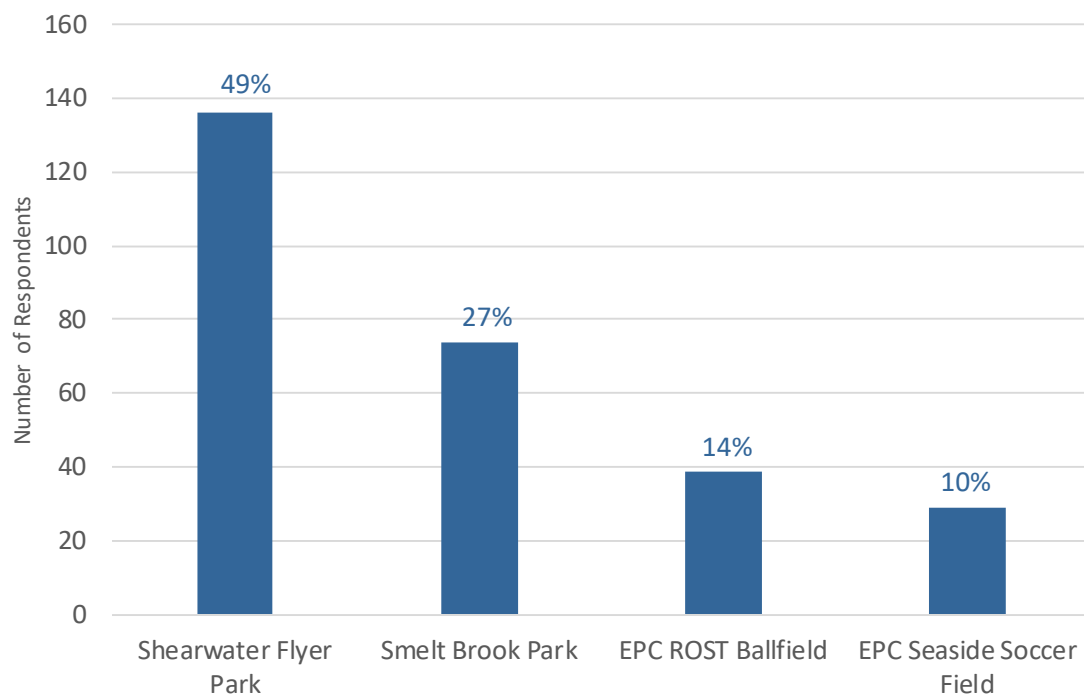


Q5. Are you affiliated with any association that might be relevant to this project?



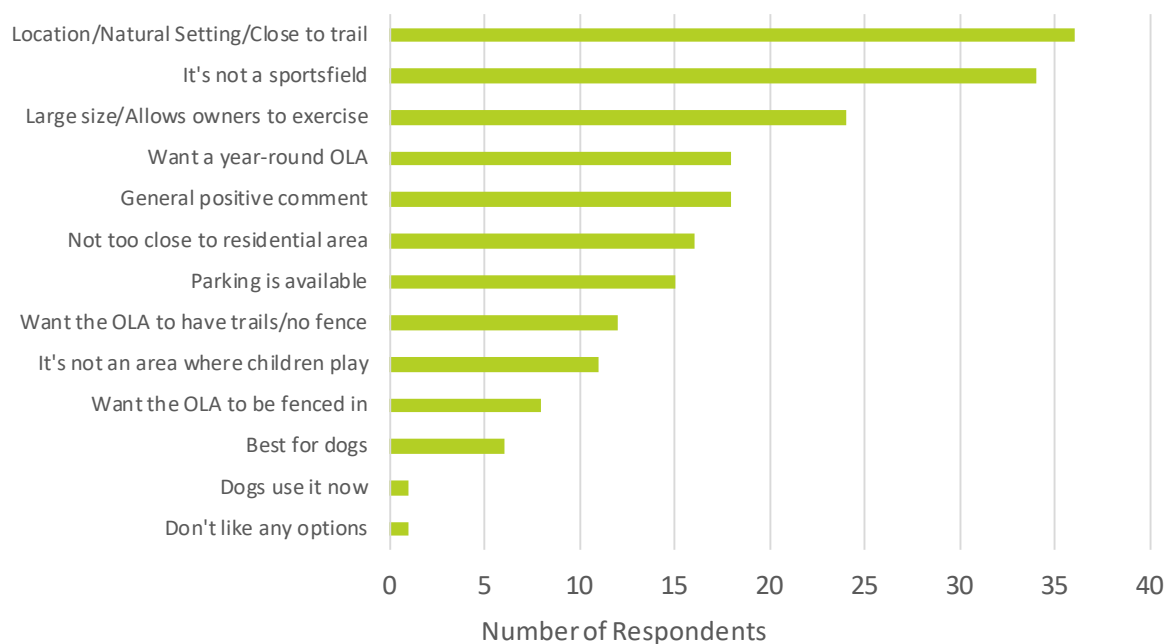
Q6. Of the four options presented, what is your preferred location for a dog off-leash area in Eastern Passage?
(Rank Options)

First Choice Selections



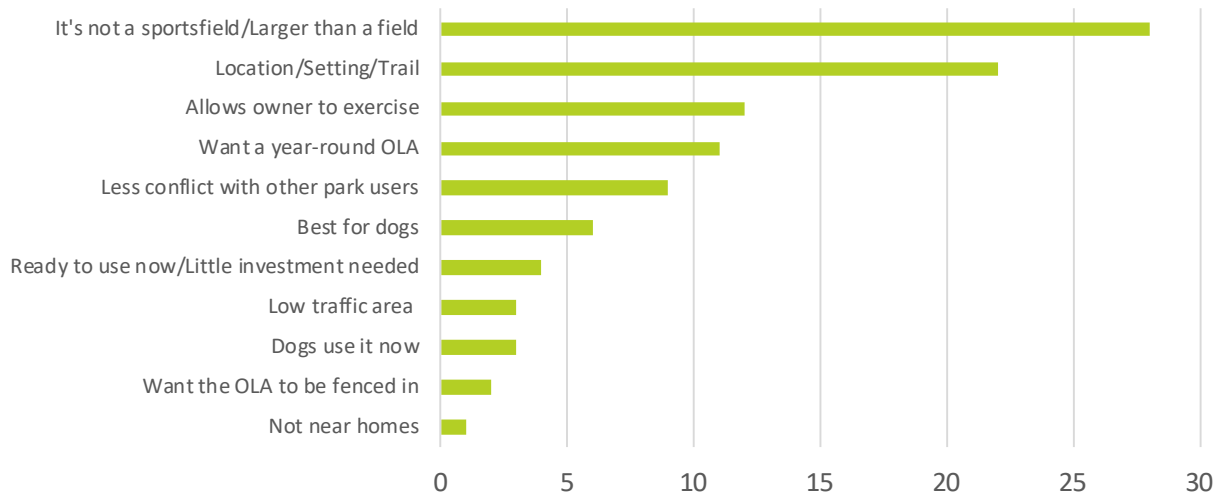
Q7. Why did you choose this preferred location? What is the major factor in your decision?

Shearwater Flyer Park

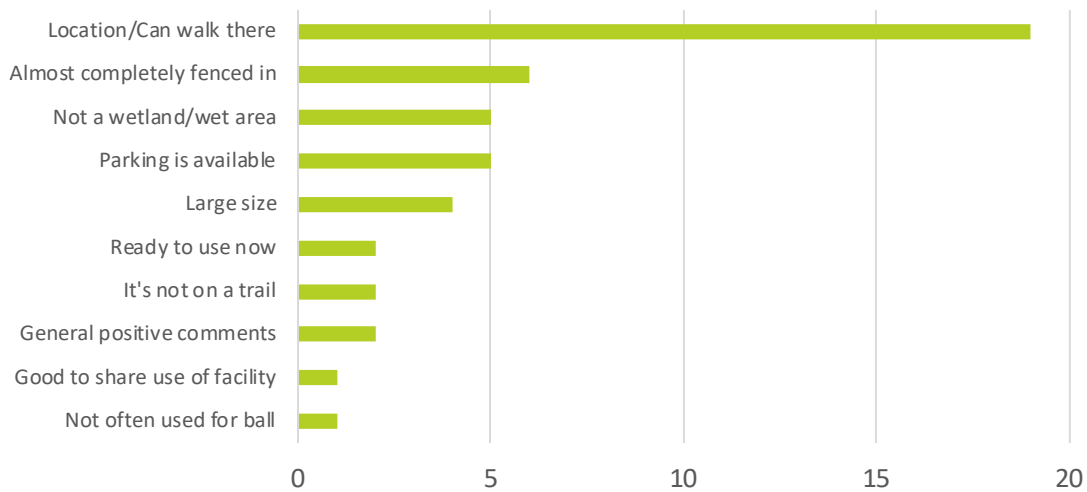


Q7. Continued

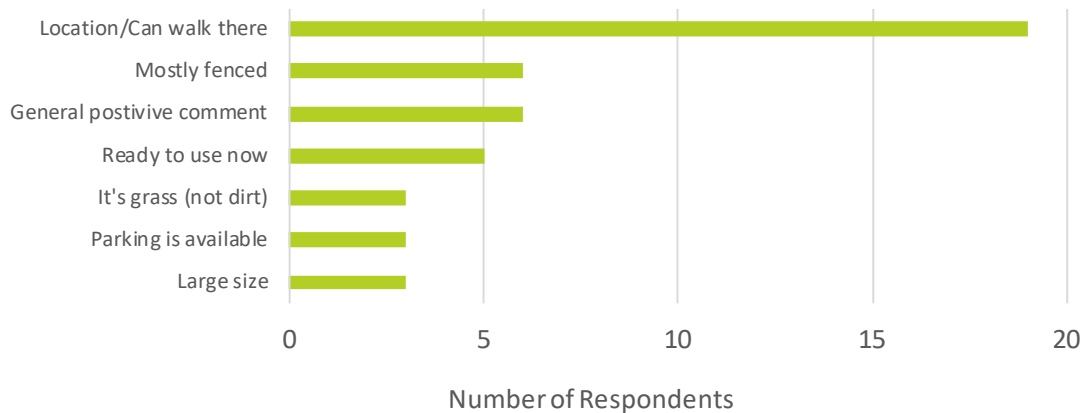
Smelt Brook Park



Eastern Passage Common ROST Ballfield



Eastern Passage Common Seaview Soccer Field



Q8. Please add any other comments directly related to this project.

