

## The Dog Project Survey Results Summary Conducted July 2012

### What do you see as the benefits of allowing leashed dogs in Cain Park?

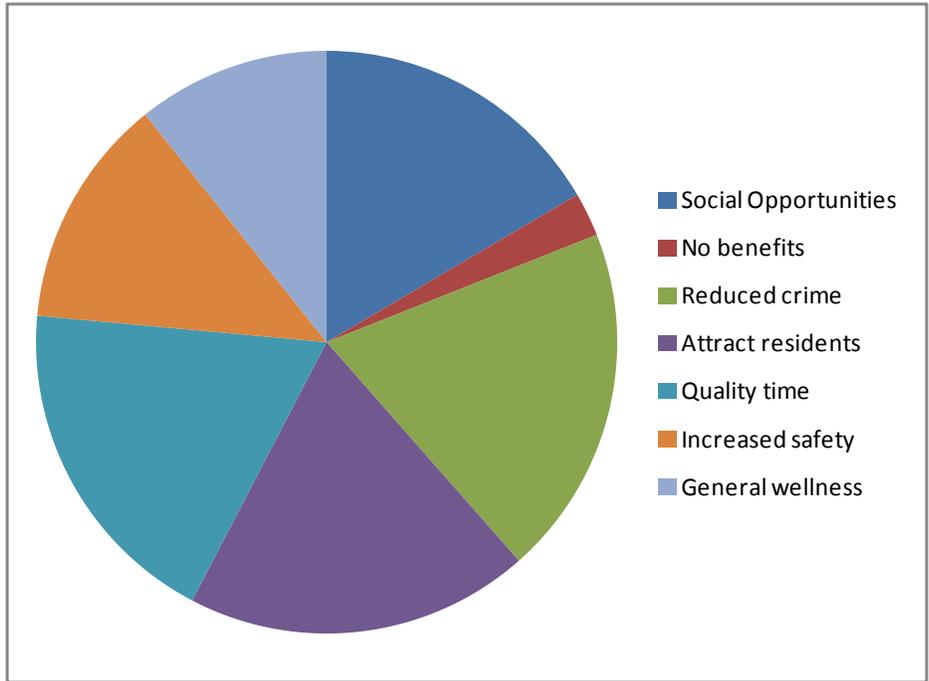
357 people answered this question

Social Opportunities	224
No benefits	33
Reduced crime	265
Attract residents	259
Quality time	255
Increased safety	174
General wellness	145

121 of the people that answered  
do not own a dog      34%

227 of the people that answered  
do own a dog      64%

7 of the people that answered  
did not say.      2%



### What are your concerns (if any) about allowing leashed dogs in Cain Park?

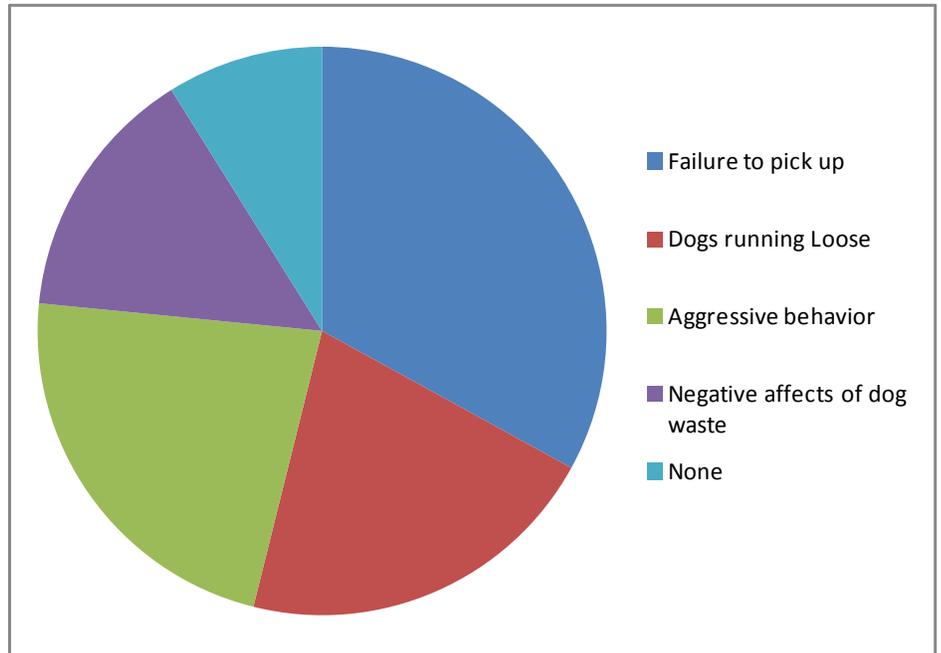
411 people answered this question

Failure to pick up	297
Dogs running Loose	188
Aggressive behavior	204
Negative affects of dog waste	131
None	80

176 of the people that answered  
do not own a dog      43%

226 of the people that answered  
do own a dog      55%

8 of the people that answered  
did not say      2%

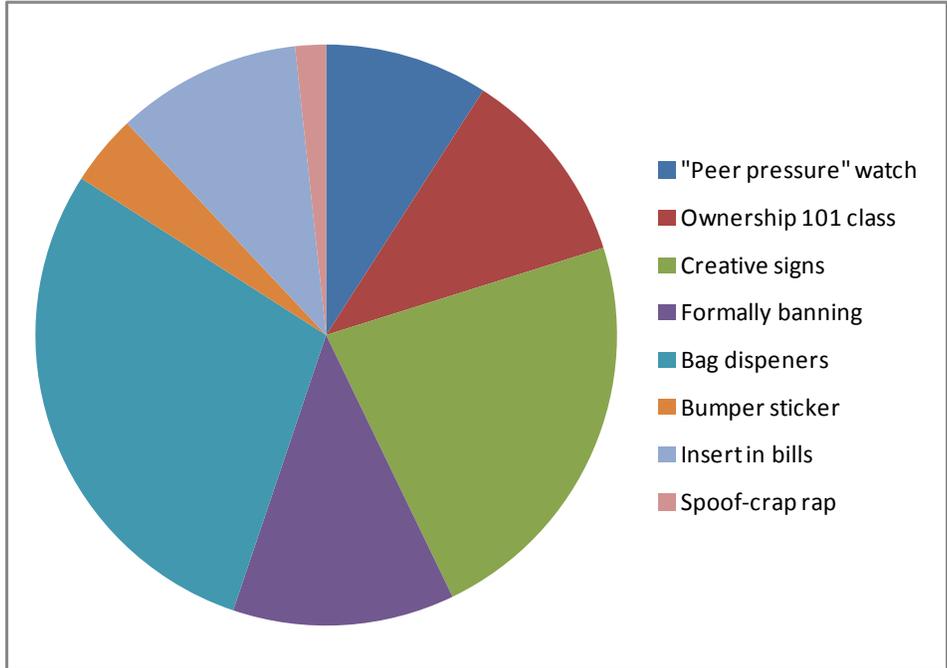


**What would be effective methods of promoting and creating awareness of responsible dog ownership?**

389 people answered this question

"Peer pressure" watch	106
Ownership 101 class	129
Creative signs	265
Formally banning	144
Bag dispensers	337
Bumper sticker	46
Insert in bills	120
Spoof-crap rap	20

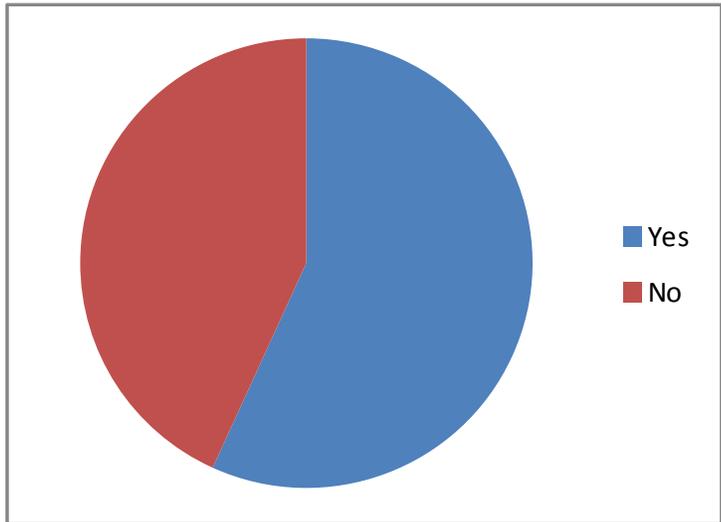
152 of the people that answered do not own a dog 39%  
 225 of the people that answered do own a dog 58%  
 7 of the people that answered did not say 2%



**Do you own a dog?**

418 people took this survey

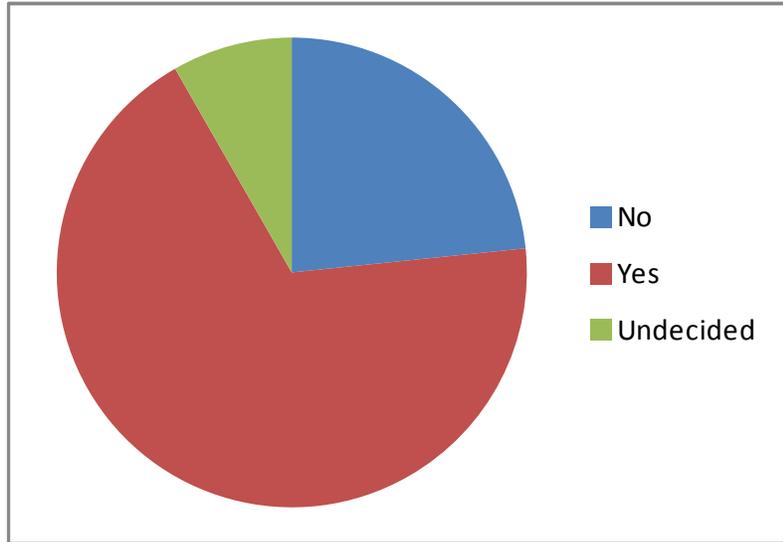
Yes	233	58%
No	177	42%



**Are you in favor of allowing leashed dogs in Cain Park?**

No	96	23%
Yes	281	68%
Undecided	34	8%

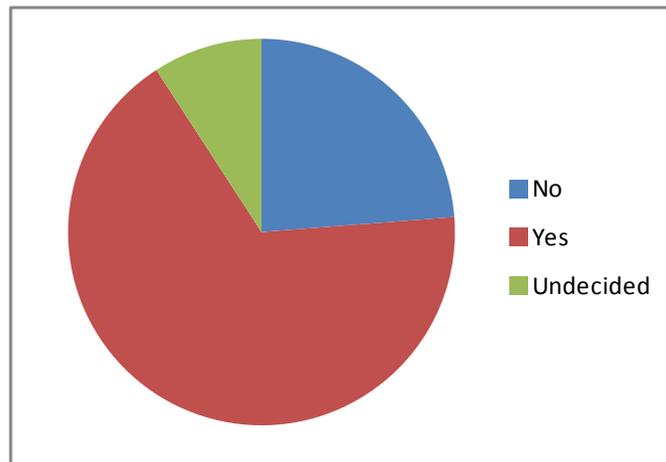
418 people took this survey



**Would you sign a petition to allow in Cain Park leashed dogs that are not vicious as defined by City Ordinance 505.91?**

No	96	23.70%
Yes	271	66.90%
Undecided	37	9.70%

418 people took this survey



## Survey Highlights, Recurring Themes, Etc.

### Other Comments Section

#### Recurring Themes

- 10 people said Cain Park is not appropriate for a dog-friendly space, mainly due to its multi-faceted nature (i.e. concert venue, sports facilities, playground, etc.)
- 8 people said Forest Hills or Cumberland Parks are better suited for going dog-friendly.
- 6 people said dogs should be allowed in all CH parks.
- Secure, off leash area wanted: 14 people were in favor of a dog park in another location (i.e. field next to historic schoolhouse between Lee and Euclid Hts. Blvd.) 11 people were in favor of a fenced-in dog-only area within Cain Park or another park.
- 2 people were in favor of allowing dogs off-leash (vs. leashed) throughout the park. One person suggested a multi-community effort to de-criminalize off-leash dogs in city parks.
- 23 people expressed concern about how to realistically and effectively enforce the rules of a dog-friendly policy without overburdening the police. Note: this point was raised by people for, against and undecided on the issue.

#### Ideas Suggested

- Designate dog-free zones in Cain Park, such as the playground, tennis and basketball courts, skateboarding area, new splash park and sledding hill in the winter. Keep dogs on or a reasonable distance from the path.
- Designate dog-free times (i.e. arts festival weekend, during and for a certain amount of time before and after concerts).
- Institute a fee-based membership program for dog owners requiring proof of: ownership, up-to-date vaccinations and registration (county tags). One person suggested a microchipped tag or collar.
- Create a map and mobile phone app of dog-friendly paths, allowing users to "check in" and link to other NEO paths.
- City to compost dog waste collected in biobags available in dispensers throughout park.
- Offer a variety of pet-oriented classes (i.e. dog/owner fitness boot camp).
- Dog adoption events in conjunction with area animal shelters and rescue groups. Identify a way to feature dogs that have been abandoned or surrendered by people unable to keep their homes for economic reasons.
- Community service of picking up dog waste in the park as punishment for failure to clean up after one's dog.
- Graduated fines for repeat offenders who fail to clean up dog waste.

#### Other Points Raised

- The State of Ohio and City of Cleveland have abolished breed-specific language in their definition of vicious dogs; in particular, pit bulls are no longer defined as vicious. Some people felt the City of CH should revisit the definition of vicious dogs and others felt the breed-specific ban should remain in place, especially in regard to any dog-friendly policy in the park.
- CH taxpayers who own dogs must go to other cities with dog-friendly parks. Some people stated that they chose not to buy a home in CH when they learned dogs are banned in city parks. A few others said they would not have purchased a home in CH if they had known about this policy.
- In general, there needs to be more focus on neglected, abused and abandoned dogs, as well as those that are allowed to run loose on city streets.

#### **Benefits of Going Dog-Friendly (in addition to options listed in question #1)**

- Would mean more people in the park but less litter. Dog owners are likely to pick up trash so their dogs don't eat it, and some dog owners routinely pick up trash while walking their dogs on city streets.
- Responsible dog owners would likely supplant those currently using the park who routinely leave substance abuse-related litter (i.e. broken bottles), which is dangerous for everyone, including children.
- More opportunity to enjoy the park with family and kids.
- Promote park use.

### Concerns About Going Dog-Friendly (in addition to options listed in question #3)

- Noise from barking dogs would create a disturbance during concerts.
- Some people are severely allergic to dogs.
- Children walking dogs that they can't control.
- Leash lengths not being obeyed, thereby creating a tripping hazard.
- Influx of users from other cities would create parking issues.
- Many people own aggressive dogs (i.e. pit bulls and rottweilers) that they've trained to be mean.
- Even friendly dogs are unpredictable in a park environment.
- Too many people will be tempted to let their dogs off leash because they feel the rules don't apply to their friendly, trained or typically well-behaved dogs.
- Irresponsible dog owners are the root problem, and they'll ruin it for the responsible ones. There are too many issues with people walking dogs on city streets and these will continue in the park.
- A few people said no public funds should be used for any costs related to instituting a dog-friendly policy.
- Liability for the City of CH.

### Other Comments (Actual Responses)

This question is another example of responsible people suffering for the actions of the irresponsible. It seems the overwhelming majority of dog owners both leash and clean up after their pets and do not leave bags of dog mess around for others to take care of.

I have seen dog waste stations in parks in other cities (Pacific Northwest) and the walks were very clean and safe.

Will the results of this survey be shared online anywhere? I think it would be responsible of this committee, which is obviously biased in favor of dogs in our city's parks, to give full disclosure of the results. I imagine I'm not the only person who has concerns and is opposed to dogs in our parks, and I would appreciate a chance to see all opinions and comments which have been expressed. Thank you!

Dogs are animals, and as such are inherently unpredictable. Even the gentlest dog will react if provoked, for example if poked by a small child.  
They also don't always react well to each other, sometimes lunging or snapping at other dogs. If a person happens to be in between, the situation can become dangerous.  
Most dog owners are blissfully unaware that some people don't like dogs, and think nothing of letting them jump and slobber on others.  
Look around on your typical treelawn, and you will see how "responsible" many dog owners are for cleaning up poop. Overall, I think dogs in parks are a bad idea. Possible exception might be a specially designated area, one that can be avoided by those not desiring dog interactions.

I happen to not be particularly fond of dogs. Since this survey is being conducted by the "Bring Dogs Into the Park" committee, I'm a bit skeptical about participating, but I'll share my thoughts anyway.  
I have two different friends who have been bitten when their "sweet" pooches "got into it" with another canine (both leashed), and the ensuing chaos which resulted. Dogs don't always get along! Dog bites are a serious business, and this scenario in a public park with other people and small children around is worrisome.  
Also, a lot of owners don't seem to realize that some people dislike or are afraid of dogs, and don't think anything of letting them jump or drool on people they encounter.  
Frail elderly people are vulnerable to large jumping dogs.  
Though certainly a minority, I feel that those of us who are reluctant to engage with dogs should be considered as well. Owners have plenty of other opportunities to spend time with their pets.  
Not to mention the poop problem, and many people are not good citizens in this regard.  
Perhaps a special area in the park where dogs are allowed would be the solution. Then those of us who prefer not to keep their company could enjoy the park as well.  
I understand your goals, but I feel that you should look at all perspectives. Thanks for the chance to express my opinion.

\*we don't want - kids walking dogs they can't control

\*we don't want - people who don't feel their dog needs to be on a leash because "he is friendly" other dogs may not be friendly and their dog will get bitten.

\*there needs to be a way of reporting offenders who allow their dogs to run at large.

A fenced "unleashed" area would also be welcome.

A full-time dog does not fit into my life right now. However, that gives me the opportunity to be a frequent but part-time dog sitter for friends, neighbors and family. Living on a corner, and walking the dogs of others has taught me many things, three of which are: dog interactions are often unpredictable; people don't see their pet's actions in the same light that other people and dogs do; if given the opportunity to not pick up after their dog, dog owners will often seize it. I love dogs. I love walking dogs. However, I'm not sure that dog walking throughout Cain Park is going to make all of Cain Park a better place.

Absolutely must keep viscous dogs out of the park. In fact, dogs defined as viscous should be totally BANNED in Cleveland Heights. We're an inner ring suburb with houses very, very close to each other. Owners of pitbulls and other viscous dogs don't own them because they are cute. They are rough and viscous and dangerous to have, especially in neighborhoods where there are a lot of children. Don't just ban them in the parks: ban them entirely!

Allowing dogs in the parks is long over due.

Allowing dogs into Cain Park would be a huge asset to the community. To me there really is no point in haing a park if you can't walk your dog in it.

Although dogs would be great in Cain Park - Forest Hill Park is where dogs NEED to be allowed since it is the largest park and the best park for dog walks. Of course, many people bring their dogs there already and I have NEVER seen any problems.

Although I am fine with making Cain Park open to dogs, I am more concerned with making it legal for dogs to run off-leash in parks such as Forest Hills, especially the E. Cleveland side, Horse Shoe Lake, and the Lower Shaker Lake. Although these parks are outside of CH, many CH residents - and their dogs - use them. If there is any interest in organizing a multi-community effort to de-criminalize off-leash dogs in those parks (as was attempted several years ago with Horse Shoe Lake), I am happy to help.

As a dog owner who cleans up after my dog, I have seen that I am becoming a minority in my neighborhood. Also, many men try to walk their dogs without leashes and cause problems for me in then controlling my dog. In my opinion, this negative behavior is unstoppable and will transfer to the parks despite laws (which we already have) and the inability to adequately police those who transgress.

As a female, I don't currently feel safe in Cain Park alone or with my child (with the exception of event days like concerts or art show). I am not sure that having a friendly dog like a Golden Retriever with me will ameliorate those concerns. I doubt that I would use the park for dog walking.

As I'm sure someone else has already pointed out, online surveys on community issues are inherently biased. I truly hope that citizens' opinions were solicited in other, unbiased ways that form a representative sample of those who use the parks. For example, a random sampling could be done in the park at different times of the day to ensure all opinions are heard. As a high school math teacher, when we teach data analysis and statistics, we discuss bias in data collection and online surveys about community issues are one example we use to demonstrate how data can easily be collected in a way that is NOT a representative sample. My 10th graders are able to determine why this is biased (access, self-selection, etc.) and brainstorm more appropriate methods of collecting accurate data. I hope city council can do the same.

As someone who is very allergic to dogs, it is extremely important to me that dogs not be running loose and thus up to people who may not welcome the dog's overtures of friendliness. Dog owners need to remember that not everyone is a dog lover.

Barring doggie DNA coupled with fines, there is no effective way to make BAD dog owners clean up after their dogs. None of the options listed in the "effective methods" section will work. They presume that the owners are already responsible (e.g., dog waste dispensers or classes) or that you have some effective method of identifying problem owners (formally ban offenders, fining owners).

If you allow dogs in the park, then your organization (not the taxpayers) needs to hire a private company (preferrably CH based) to patrol the park daily and collect the inevitable dog waste and hopefully photograph the violators who don't collect the waste.

Because of its theater, arts, music, and other city events, I think Cain Park is the least appropriate city park for allowing dogs. I would rather see the effort focused on parks like Cumberland and Forest Hills.
Being able to utilize an out door space to walk dogs should be allowed. What is the point of having a park if it limits safe, outdoor activities.
Cain Park is for people, not dogs. Barking dogs would interfere with performances, add to waste cleanup in the park and add to City expenses to enforce the rules. Horseshoe Lake was a mess before the dog laws took affect. The City has enough to do without policing people with dogs. Who would do that? The police? City workers? At night, weekends and holidays? I have had dogs jump on me ( not on a leash) that the owner says "won't hurt me" as I walk around Shaker Lakes.
Cain Park offers unique entertainment opportunities which will become unavailable to those with severe allergies should dogs be allowed. Please, confine dogs to some OTHER venue!
Cain Park should remain a PEOPLE PARK!!!! No dogs permitted.
cain park would also seem to be an ideal place to have a fenced in dog play area. The city of south euclid has the nearest dog park and it is very small. The dog parks can be an area for owners to enjoy their dogs off-leash. These fenced in areas will encourage owners to bring their dogs on a leash in the park and until they reach the nice fenced play area. We so need an area like this for our cleveland hts dogs!!
Cleveland Heights also need s a dog park. We have lots of places that would naturally accommodate a simple fenced area . There are also MANY people who wouldn't mind paying a small membership fee for access to a place they could safely exercise dogs off leash. Dogs were banned from Cain Park at a time when people did not pick up after their dogs whether they were leashed or not.. The park was a mine field of dog poop. This is no longer the case. At that time banning dogs from the park was the only way to make it usable for people. That is no longer the case.
Cleveland Heights is the LEAST pet/ dog friendly place I have ever lived. Not allowing dogs in the parks, plus a limit of only 2 pets per household is ridiculous. If we had known about these, and the many other strange rules here we would not have moved to Cleveland Heights.
Cleveland Heights is very oppressive. Relaxing some of the excessive rules in a civil manner would help the community in general.
Cleveland Heights should also strongly consider a fenced dog park. If effectively managed and maintained with the help of volunteer citizens, this can be a great asset to the city and encourage people to get out and meet one another. I have lived in various cities that have started dog parks, and they all turned out to be great.
Come on c.hts get with it already. We want this city to be welcoming to all, right? We are losing residents fast, try something to energy and excite the community!
Consider that children will be in these parks and will come in contact with dog feces even if owners pick up waste. Parks are for people. Create a small dogs only park.
Could this be expanded to include Forest Hills park as well?
dog concerns are the last thing we need to be entertaining. fix our streets make sure vacant properties are maintained, etc.
Dog owners already have free access to walking their dogs on city sidewalks for exercise and we regularly see persons not picking up waste, not leashing their dogs. Our backyard as a result has had dog waste appearing from these loose dogs. I have also seen this going on at the Roxboro school fields where "no dog" signs are posted - dogs are exercising freely. I have made comments to some owners and I get dirty looks. But where can kids play without fear of dog excrement? Dog excrement is a health hazard. IF Cleveland Heights were to allow access to canines to the parks, then there MUST be a functional enforcement mechanism and it should be severely limited to certain parts of the park. We should be able to send photos of violators to a hotline from our smartphones and assure that the fine for violation is high enough that it is a deterrent. Perhaps even post the pictures online to shame the owners into compliance. But even if the fine is high enough, if nobody is able to enforce it, then the fine is meaningless. I have serious doubts that the enforcement mechanism can be made credible enough, but maybe through technology applications it might work. The police would also have to consider enforcement a regular duty on top of everything else they do. Is that realistic? Personally, I wish not to have dogs in our parks. There will be excrement on the ground and it will take away from our

<p>enjoyment of the parks no matter what you do to get owners to comply. No more laying down on the grass or allowing my children to run barefoot on the grass. It would be a sad day for suburban living.</p> <p>And I feel bad for the dog owners that really do hard to follow the laws and ordinances, we have several friends who are. But even they agree that dogs should be limited, mostly because others don't follow the rules and cause the waste problems.</p>
<p>dog owners are rude, selfish, irresponsible, and lazy; on daily basis you see them using sidewalks, streets, and lawns as toilets, so there's no evidence they're going to be more conscientious in park. Dogs do NOT belong in park with people, unless it's a segregated, fenced in area. Even if the few responsible dog-owners try to clean up after pet, they can never remove all evidence, which means kids and adults will get feces on clothes, blankets, etc. Remember that dog urine kills grass and trees, not to mention smell. taxpayers did spend all this money for a doggy latrine!! Why are you catering to self-centered people who don't care about welfare of citizens? If owners do not have their own space for a dog, they shouldn't have one!</p>
<p>Dog-friendly or bust!</p>
<p>Dogs 101 taught by a reputable trainer is an EXCELLENT idea! Not just for the park, but in general --- many, many CH residents with pooches don't know basic stuff. Dogs make the city safer but they must also be managed responsibly. This is important enough that I think it should be free -- I for one would be willing to donate to make it happen; I bet other dog owners would too.</p>
<p>Dogs have no need to be in parks. They have their owners property to play in and if their owner do not have enough space for a dog to play, they should not own a dog.</p> <p>And as a person allergic to dogs, the parks will no longer be available to me, a human.</p>
<p>Dogs in parks make for nicer, more populated and family friendly parks.</p>
<p>Dogs owners can walk their dogs on any street in the city. I've had too many experiences with dog owners leaving their dogs unleashed, or leaving the leash so loose that the dogs can run at people, scaring them, while the owners smile indulgently and say, "Oh he'd never hurt anyone." Meanwhile both children and adults are terrified. Please save the parks for children and other people. Keep them dog-free.</p>
<p>Dogs previously considered as vicious are no longer ruled that way. I feel any attempt to limit vicious dogs is futile for this reason.</p>
<p>Dogs routinely run off leash in city parks, including Cain Park. It seems that strict enforcement is wishful thinking. We understand that dogs need exercise, but dog ownership also requires responsible choices of breed (large dogs that are locked up for extended periods will of course be difficult to control in a park environment, and generally high strung), all around canine health, and consideration of neighbors. Noisy dogs, owners who do not clean up, and owners who cannot control their pets in public parks are the norm in Cleveland Heights</p>
<p>Dogs should be allowed in all city parks</p>
<p>Few if any of the benefits you cite would transpire as a function of walking with a dog. Safety might arguably be improved with dogs present, but then nullified by the altercations between dogs.</p> <p>Enforcement would be a nightmare.</p> <p>In the end, the presence of dogs would create more friction among visitors to the park that it would encourage new and/or lasting relationships.</p> <p>Bad idea.</p>
<p>Good job for getting this idea off the ground!</p>
<p>Great idea!</p>
<p>Great idea!</p>
<p>Having owned several dogs over a period of years, I am aware that complete clean up of dog droppings is not always possible. I am also aware that even the tamest dog, when confronted with what it considers as an unfriendly human or other dog, can become noisy and aggressive. I do not think that the limited confines of Cain Park, especially during the summer arts and recreation season, are suitable for dog walking.</p>
<p>Heck, I'd be thrilled if we could fence off an area for an unleashed dog park too! But either way, we would DEFINITELY use Cain Park more if we could walk our dogs there.</p>

<p>I already don't think the city keeps track of any of the dog laws they have now. Meaning having proper fences etc for vicious breeds. How is anyone going to trust that they will actually take this seriously? I think that problem really needs to be addressed because those are the same dogs that I see not being leashed properly and their owners not picking up their waste.</p>
<p>I also think that the city ought to consider revisiting its definition of vicious dogs -- the state of Ohio has changed its rules so as to no longer discriminate against dogs who have never shown themselves to be vicious only on the basis of breeds, and I think an extremely progressive step for the city would be to modify its regulations to be more in line with the state law.</p>
<p>I always felt bad that I could not walk my dog in the park being a responsible owner who carried poop bags, used a leash, and kept my dog under control. On the other hand, I see some CH residents who still do not have the common sense and courtesy to pick up after their dogs, so I would encourage giving it a one year try for the park with clear signage and other communication. If too many people abuse the privilege, then disallow dogs again. Forget the cutesy jingles. These will not influence any one who is not already responsible. I would NEVER favor unleashed dogs by the way. The park is too big and owners could not keep up with dog waste. Plus, it would be intimidating to non-dog owners who have a right to use the park without worrying if a particular dog had been properly socialized by its owner. Lastly, I see very responsible dog walkers (generally) on the Shaker-Beachwood path and they have dispensers for dog waste and containers.</p>
<p>I am a responsible dog owner and would love to walk my dog in the city parks. We already walk extensively in the neighborhood and pick up trash as we go if there are near by trash cans.</p>
<p>I am all in favor of having leashed dogs in most CH parks, but NOT CAIN PARK. CP is not a typical "park" but an arts venue with some recreational components. It is not designed and used in the same way other parks are. Cumberland and Forest Hill are more appropriate areas for dog/people/dog socializing. Why is the Dog Pilot Project Committee focusing only on changing the ordinance for Cain Park and not for the more appropriate parks in the city?</p>
<p>I am very skeptical but want to be inclusive. You have identified the issues, but they have not been addressed in the community in general well, so I worry about the ability to address them in this new endeavor. I have neighbors (unknown identities) who consistently leave dog poop on the sidewalk and on my treelawn and the edge of my lawn. I have seen people walking their dogs and letting them poop on school grounds - which are posted as NO DOGS (period). All of these transgressions have issues about sanitation and respect, which are clearly being ignored by these dog owners. I am also worried about children who can be easily intimidated by dogs - I feel strongly that the parks should be for people first and pets second. I don't want children to feel that they cannot go to the park because they don't know if there will be scary dogs there. I really want more people to use the parks, but the actions of a minority of people make me skeptical about how well this will work.</p>
<p>I believe a leashed dog should be allowed at any outside park I believe a dog park for unleashed dogs should be made</p>
<p>I do not think this idea has any affect on the quality of life in CH. We heard that about the addition of the second ice rink and what did that get us. Plus we are hearing it about bicycle lanes on our main roads that are not kept up for cars let alone having dedicated bike lanes. I believe there are more important issues regarding the quality of life in Cleveland Hts. This issue is far, far down the list. This issue affects very few people. Let well enough alone. Put your dog in the car and head to metro parks. Better yet start a campaign to get Forest Hill Park a part of Metro Parks. That would be a positive effect of the quality of life in CH.</p>
<p>I fully support this, however, have friends in Lakewood who don't take their dog 2 the park as owners regard it as an opp 2 let dogs (aggressive) run loose. Not sure how u "police" this--many aggressive dog owners out there.</p>
<p>I have no issue with dogs in any city park as long as the owners are responsible for picking up after them and keep their dogs on leash to prevent unwarranted attacks, etc.</p>
<p>I have to drive to other cities to enjoy being with my dog in the park and pay large taxes here.</p>

<p>I have to emphasize that there are too many potential problems with this concept of allowing dogs in a public park. As with everything, most people are responsible and obey the rules. Many people have beautifully trained dogs. However, it only takes one to be out of control and/or off the leash to have a serious problem. Dogs can be dangerous and can bite or even maul a person or another dog. I have had problems with dogs in my neighborhood, fortunately without serious consequences, although one incident did involve a dog biting the person with whom I was walking. (His jeans prevented the dog's bite from breaking his skin.). Just last week, when I was trying to take my niece's dog for a walk, a dog belonging to someone else started to charge and broke away from its owner. Fortunately the dog was still across the street when this happened and I was able to grab my dog and return to my house before there was contact. Another problem is noise. Once one dog starts barking, others follow. Allowing dogs into Cain Park or any other city park will be problematic for many reasons.</p>
<p>I have used forest hills/east cleveland side for over 12 years and have met many responsible dog owners. Dog walkers and joggers/ walkers comingle well. The park has had a coyote problem, but people-wise, the park feels safe. (East clv allows dogs unleashed on the meadow side and leashed on the goose pond side.)</p>
<p>I know that Cain Park area residents are the friendly, well-organized folks promoting the idea of a dog-friendly park and city and so would prefer their closest park, Cain Park - but, especially with so many other activities going on in Cain Park, I wonder if Forest Hill Park wouldn't be a better place to start. (I would like to bring my dog when watching ball games in Forest Hill Park.)</p>
<p>I like dogs (although I don't own any pets), and we have several dogs on our street with usually responsible owners, but that's our street. When you talk about a place such as a park, then you are inviting people from all over the city or region, some of whom might not be responsible. Also, what about parking? It's very limited, so if people wanted to bring their dogs there, then that impacts the surrounding streets with more cars, noise, etc. Personally, I don't use Cain Park except for the occasional show or two, so it probably wouldn't impact me, but I imagine that there would be more issues around removal of dog excrement, particularly for people who have to walk on the grass to watch their dogs. Enforcement regarding that issue would be difficult, and this city already has enough problems with garbage on its streets. Why add to the problem?</p>
<p>I like dogs, and have owned dogs in the past. But I think there should be one space dog free for people with allergies, children who are afraid of dogs, and a place where dogs are not constantly barking, and there is grass to run in free of dog waste.</p>
<p>I play tennis at Cain Park with my friends from Cleve Hts, and attend concerts there</p>
<p>I really miss the dog-friendly parks I've enjoyed in cities including Columbus and New York. They add vibrancy and vitality to otherwise under-utilized parks by people who tend to be physically active and environmentally-aware. I wouldn't want Cain Park to be perceived as a 'dog park' -- just think it is way overdue that the ban be lifted.</p>
<p>I think dogs provide a way to get to know our neighbors by providing conversation starters. I walk my dog around our neighborhood and experience many of my neighbors out with their dogs. I think this is one of the best benefits of living in a walkable neighborhood!</p>
<p>I think it is great idea to allow leashed animals in the park. Just make sure to provide plenty of poop bag stations because people forget.</p>
<p>I think that dogs in the park would mean more people, and actually less trash. Dog owners are usually clean and are less likely to litter. There is a significant amount of trash in the park already and I think dog owners would actually help clean up the park to prevent their dogs from eating the trash that others leave out.</p>
<p>I think that if dog owners want a park to take their dogs to it should be a separate park. I see way too many owners not picking after their dog and no one is there to police it. In addition, more and more dog owners are bringing their dogs to inappropriate situations, ie, Coventry street fair where there are large crowds. Even the best behaved dogs can get spooked by something and react in a way that owners claim they "never have before", ie biting someone. People parks should remain people parks.</p>
<p>I think that you should set designated areas to walk your dog. Ceratin times. Not near the basketball court. No frisbee/ ball chasing activities. If you are allowed to walk your dog if asked by police provide proof of residency and a visible license for your dog.</p>
<p>I think there are many responsible dog owners in Cleveland Heights and the benefits to allowing dogs in the park are numerous.</p>

<p>I work in Cleveland Heights and would like to see more dog friendly rules, and the area become safer. I have been going there for 18 years and the decline is evident and unnerving.</p> <p>Anything that brings people with pets on leashes to a park promotes a more positive environment, and anything that promotes responsible pet ownership is a good thing.</p>
<p>I would advocate that we petition for dogs to be allowed in ALL Cleveland Hts parks, for all of the benefits listed above.</p>
<p>I would be concerned about pitbulls, Rottweilers, and other aggressive breeds. I don't think the avg. dog owner can train &amp; control those breeds, especially around other dogs.</p>
<p>I would favor a dog park in the city. I think a dog park in Cain park or another park would be a greater sign of a truly dog friendly city</p>
<p>I would like to be able to bring my well behaved, leashed pet to Cleveland Hts Parks. Not being able to do so now limits my ability to utilize these parks with my kids.</p>
<p>I would like to be able to walk through the park and enjoy it without the fear of running into a vicious unleashed dog or stepping dog waste. There are dog parks! Thats where dogs should be taken!</p>
<p>I would love a dog friendly park in the Heights.</p>
<p>I would prefer another park that is dedicated to dogs. For an excellently designed and maintained park, I recommend reading about the New Orleans City Bark. <a href="http://www.nolacitybark.org/cb_about.html">http://www.nolacitybark.org/cb_about.html</a>. Permits are required (\$43 per year for up to three dogs, \$38 for park members), and to obtain a permit the owner must show proof that the dog is at least 6 months old, has all shots and is neutered. There is a separate area for small dogs. No children under 8, children under 16 must be with an adult, no children's toys. These rules may seem elitist, but they are similar to rules for using CH recreational facilities. To me, being "dog friendly" means having a dog park that is appropriately regulated, operated and maintained.</p>
<p>I would really like to see other parks allow dogs as well, such as Cumberland Park and Forrest Hills Park. I did not grow up in Cleveland, but it was absolutely foreign to me that dogs are not allowed in parks.</p> <p>I also would like to suggest that the unused water fountain area in Cain Park be transformed into a dog off leash area. The old fountain now is an eye sore and it would not take much work to make the area dog friendly. Please consider this as well.</p> <p>Finally, I would be willing to help the cause further. Please email me if you need help collecting petitions or anything else.</p>
<p>I would SO love to be allowed to walk my dog through the park. I understand people's concerns, and would highly recommend a large amount of signage AND baggie dispensers/disposal stations to encourage and make easier to pick up waste. I would be very interested to see what has happened in Lakewood since they made their parks dog-friendly.</p>
<p>I'd like dogs to be allowed in all city parks, not just Cain Park.</p> <p>I'd like the city to compost the dog waste collected in biobags provided in parks.</p>
<p>I'd like to see ALL parks in Cleveland Hts become more dog friendly. Its a great way to meet other heights residents AND it makes our parks safer. We could follow the rule set by Shaker Hts at Horseshoe Lake that asks dog owners not to bring dogs onto playgrounds, but I have to say that this makes it difficult to have a dog and a kid in the park at the same time. I'd prefer stricter leash laws in our parks (although a dog park would be great too).</p>
<p>If dogs are allowed at Cain park I would no longer to able to take my daughter to the playground there.</p>
<p>If permitted, I would walk my dogs through Cain Park. I don't go up that way very often now, but if I was able to go through Cain Park, I would do it more frequently.</p> <p>I don't think that prohibiting dogs is a factor in Cleveland Heights residents using the park. I frequently go to Horseshoe Lake Park with and without my dog and before and after Shaker started officially allowing leashed dogs in the park. Since they starting allowing leashed dogs, I haven't seen any problems of people not cleaning up after their dogs. Occasionally, I have seen an owner let a dog off leash, but it's infrequent and they have almost always put their dogs back on leash when they see me (with or without a dog). Dogs have been allowed around Lower Shaker Lake for as long as I can remember. I walk there frequently as well and haven't seen any problems with dog waste or dogs off leash. I don't think that either will be a problem at Cain Park.</p>
<p>if they have concerns, just look at lower Shaker lake. Every day folks are walking their dogs all day long. Doesn't bother the joggers, or stollers, or anyone.</p>

If you really want to be seen as dog-friendly, here are a couple of more ideas:

--MORE garbage cans in the community for those of us walking our dogs

--dog walk maps citing garbage locations, good quiet streets, dog-friendly parks and such--this could be printed and be an app and would be very cool as an app because people could "check in" or add their comments about great dog-walk routes

--a dog park--seriously. dogs need space to run and the only dog park we have is pretty far away. if you have a designated area for dogs it usually prevents them from being all over the park. Think NYC where many public parks have a designated dog area where they can play loose--think of it like doggie playgrounds instead of dog runs. Plus in NYC, kids love to stand outside the fence and watch the dogs and such.

I'm sorry, but I'm not a dog lover, and I'm certainly not interested in having them in public parks. Dog owners are often oblivious that not everyone dotes on their Fido, and think nothing of letting them jump on people and spread their saliva. Then there are those who think, "MY dog is well behaved, so it will be okay if I let him off the leash, even though that's against the rules." These people have no consideration for others, and spoil it for those owners who do follow the rules and keep their animals in check. And don't even get me started on dog feces everywhere, and everyone knows that many people are irresponsible about that! Older people and young children are liable to be endangered by unruly pets' antics. Dogs who aren't sociable among their own kind often wind up in snarling matches which can lead to violent encounters. In other words, none of this makes for a pleasant atmosphere in parks for those who don't necessarily like dogs. The only possible exception that I see would be to set up a dog-friendly area where people can bring their dogs who want to do that, and leave the rest of the park for everyone else. Thank you.

in general, 99.9% of dog owners are responsible and clean up after their droppings. It would also be nice to have a space for dogs to run leash free. That was the beauty of the Horseshoe Lake peninsula. Dogs could really only "escape" by going on way and there were rarely any negative incidents related to dogs--it was mainly their humans that were the problem!! It was a nice way to socialize from both the canine and human perspectives. I still greatly miss the ability to go there with no leash!

In NYC, You see people with their dogs in Barnes and Noble...

Let's make the Heights and Shaker Square as dog-friendly as NYC!!

In the four years that I have lived in Cleveland Heights I have seen numerous dogs in Cain Park. One time our family was in the park, and an officer drove by in the park. We naturally assumed he was going to say something to the woman walking her two dogs NOT on leashes, and instead waved to her and kept driving. Another time there was a very small 'purse' dog with a group of children running around again NOT on a leash by the swings. Our son was just an infant at the time, but the dog was barking in an aggressive manner, which resulted in us leaving. The dog was not being supervised by what I felt was a responsible dog owner. The biggest concern that I have is that it takes one or a few irresponsible dog owners: not having pets on leashes, not cleaning up waste, allowing dogs to get too close to others who may have a real fear of dogs etc. to mess it up for one person. Furthermore, I'd like to know who is going to be enforcing a 'fine' for not picking up waste, not on a leash, etc. Also, how many extra bins will be put into place for pet waste? Pet waste can get really stinky; especially in the summertime. Don't get me wrong--there are times that I would love to take our 95 pound lab into the park and have a walk as an entire family. At the same time, I understand the merit in not allowing dogs into the park.

I agree that 'dogs are part of the 21st Century'. I would like to add that- dogs are part of 'some' 21st century families. The city has a "vicious breed" ordinance, and yet to this day I am still battling having the dog caught that lives three doors down from me that IS considered a vicious breed to even have it labeled as such by the city. My concern is that if that dog runs free in his own yard/neighborhood, what is going to stop the owner from having it on a leash in Cain Park if there are only people acting as 'watchdogs' to enforce an ordinance. My biggest concern is the safety of others, and while increasing foot traffic into the park makes sense to me to allow for better safety, I also wonder if by allowing dogs into the park if it would make a difference in the safety of others, especially if a vicious dog is in the park, or if a dog with a known temper etc. goes after someone.

I'm very undecided on this issue, although it may sound that I'm against having the ban lifted. I hope that this survey is taken by many to help gather insight into this issue, and to answer some of the questions that others may have like mine!

It is a persons choice to have a dog or not, but people who don't have dogs, who are allergic to them or who are afraid of them will have no choice but to avoid the parks that we pay for.

It is imperative that the dogs in the park have rabies tags and county tags. not having a county tag is against an

ordinance.
<p>It is not often that any initiative is undertaken regarding the park's policies and rules. I believe it would be narrow sighted to initiate a new policy change at this time focused exclusively on allowing dogs in the park without at least at the same time addressing the problem that persists today without being addressed that of the steady stream of litter in the park from one end to the other and at points of congregating; the 2 flights of wooden steps going up to Superior Ave, the basketball court and the playground picnic tables.</p> <p>I am honestly a bit skeptical that we can allow dogs in the park for 6 months to a year and then expect it to mean anything if at the end of that pilot period say "sorry this has not worked out we are back to dogs not allowed."</p> <p>The rule is generally ignored now and it will certainly be ignored in such a scenario.</p> <p>If this is to be a pilot program for dogs in the park then I would suggest that the first step of it before we do away with the no dogs rule is to place more litter receptacles and litter awareness signs in the park. The signs should send the message of civic and environmental responsibility and to advise all about the penalties of failing to be so responsible. If the signs are effective against the major littering problem that the park is facing then we may rely on them to be effective with dog walkers as well.</p> <p>When we see that more park users respect the park's cleanliness and enjoyment by all then we may be assured that there is a greater chance that dog owners will respect the park's environment and its other users as well.</p>
<p>It might be a good idea to permit only spayed/neutered dogs and/or to require proof of up-to-date vaccinations. Perhaps the City would verify using vet records and issue an annual (renewable) permit for taking the dog into a public park within the City.</p>
<p>It would be great to allow dogs if people would really be responsible for their dogs while in the park. However, I don't see that on my street, with dogs or behavior in general so doubt if any signs, monitors, rap videos, etc. would make much difference since they don't for litter, noise, etc. I don't think it should cost the city (and ultimately the residents) to allow dogs, e.g. cost of litter bags &amp; extra garbage collection to pick up these doggy bags, extra patrols. signs, mail inserts, etc.</p> <p>Perhaps residents could get a permit to use the park for their dog. They would pay a small fee, which would make them more likely to be responsible if they use the park and it would cover any additional cost for signs, etc. Then a hefty fine if they are found in the park without a permit.</p> <p>Don't get me wrong, I love dogs &amp; have had them in the past. I'm just tired of going places, e.g. the Shaker Sq. Market on Sat. that gets even more crowded with having to maneuver around dogs on leashes when a sign at the entrance says no dogs, even on leashes.</p>
<p>It's about time leashed dogs were allowed in our parks. Long overdue.</p> <p>Thank you for your efforts!</p> <p>Sarah Wean</p>
<p>It's important that people this is a privillage that should not be abused.</p>
<p>Leashed dogs in the park are fine. Why not focus on dealing with owners who tie their dogs up in the back yard, owners who don't walk their dogs at all, and owners who let dogs bark all of the time. Why not focus on how home owners should care for animals. I see plenty of questionable dog ownership in this city.</p>
<p>Like it or not, Cleveland Heights has many residents who have moved here from inner city environments, where having a dog means having a mean dog. I worked for 30 years in East Cleveland, where that sort of demeanor is exactly what owners want in their animals. Cleaning up after your pet? PLEASE! There's no way. Please do not bury your collective heads in the sand and act like Cleveland Heights is some enlightened enclave of gentle souls listening to NPR while they enjoy quality time with their tame and passive animals. Cain Park is OK the way it is. Please do not create more layers of nonsense for our overworked police to handle. The inevitable piles of unsanitary, smelly excrement will discourage walkers, bicyclists, and families who are trying to enjoy our town's green space from using the parks.</p>
<p>Live close to Cain Park but in Uninversity Heights. Visit parks regularly and love to see dogs out with their owners. So does my daughter (age 7) and is a great way to socialize dogs and teach kids how to approach strange dogs.</p>
<p>Live in University Heights, but near the park. Worried about the folks who'd bring their pitbulls there. Worried about the little kids + dogs. Worried about non-Heights residents using the park in increased numbers, just because they can bring a dog. I feel that the park should remain dog-free. Maybe a dog park just across Superior/Lee, grassy area?</p>
<p>many people who walk their dogs on my street do not pick up. (Note this has improved over the years, all the people</p>

<p>who live on the street seem to pick up) A few allow off leash, and too long leads, do not control their dogs well. This is my concern about dogs in park</p>
<p>Max fine/penalty for unleashed dogs.</p>
<p>Maybe there could be dog adoption events in Cain Park. It would be great if there could be a fenced in area (somewhere - Forest Hills Park?) where the dogs could run off leash or if there were a dog park. The South Euclid dog park is okay, but it's small and far away.</p>
<p>My companion has lived in CH for thirty years or more. I have a dog, and we can not walk her in the park right behind his house. I think it is called Cumberland Park. It is insane that there are these bans. Dog walkers make the park safer!! We don't use the park because of the ban.</p>
<p>My dog passed away about a year and will be adopting a new one hopefully soon. I think it would be great to have Cain Park also be able to be a dog park. Pets are a huge part of many people's family and it is hard to be a truly family friendly town without having pet friendly parks.</p>
<p>My experience with the dog owners in my neighborhood is they are irresponsible. They don't clean up after their dogs. They walk their dogs without a leash and let them do their business in people's yards. The few times I've said something (nicely: " you need to pick that up or you're supposed to pick that up")to them when they left it in my yard I was treated with abusive language and even told threateningly " what you gonna do about it". Then they made a point of coming back each day and letting their dogs wander around my yard and defecate. I don't say anything any more, I can't be at home all day to protect my property. I just pick it up.</p>
<p>My largest concern is the liability of the city for allowing dogs in parks, and the worry of dog owners that do not properly control their pets. It seems we all think we are great observant pet owners, but it only takes a second for something bad to happen. I have seen throughout the city a number of pets running loose or off leash. If there were truly a way to influence good owner behavior then I would be for allowing pets in parks, maybe not all but at least one or few that would allow dogs, then residents could choose not to go to a dog-friendly park if they are concerned.</p>
<p>my only concern is that the vicious dog ordinance is truly enforced. I see pit bulls being walked in my neighborhood that are not muzzled!</p>
<p>My partner moved here from NYC where dogs are permitted to be OFF LEASH before 9 am in a number of city parks. Our dog loved it. Plenty of trash cans and peer pressure kept the park clean and most people there before 9 am were "dog people" so there wasn't a problem. While that is not what is being discussed here, it suggests to me that there is no down side to allowing leashed dogs in ALL Cleve Hts Parks. Why just Cain Pk? Thanks for taking this on.</p>
<p>No dogs. I can see it now. Thugs with pit bulls robbing people. Park is so unsafe as it is. Who would walk in there any how.</p>
<p>On evening walks around my neighborhood in warm weather, I encounter plenty of dog walkers. My neighbors who stop to chat think nothing of allowing their dogs to jump on me with dirty paws, stick their noses in my crotch, shed against my clothing, and spray me with saliva. While I love my neighbors, I'm not so much in love with their dogs! On these same walks, I see many evidences of dog leavings on lawns and treelawns, and I find the same thing on my own lawn when mowing. It seems like pooper-scooper rules aren't always followed! A few days ago, a child who lives next door to a friend in a neighboring suburb was injured when the small dog he was walking on leash was attacked by a much larger dog, also leashed. Of course this is much more serious than occasional unwanted canine sniffs and feces. For these and many other reasons, I object to allowing dogs in our city parks. I understand those who want to have their canine companions accompany them. But perhaps a better solution would be opening a restricted area to dog walkers, and leaving the rest of the park to those of us who prefer the company of birds and squirrels! Thanks for doing the survey, and I hope you will in good faith consider all points of view.</p>
<p>One of my kids is fearful of dogs, so I guess that makes me somewhat biased. (He's never had a negative incident; he just is. My other two kids love dogs. Go figure.) Because these facilities are primarily for people, I am against bringing dogs into the park and making "people users" who do not like dogs feel intimidated in what is supposed to be a recreational facility for their enjoyment. I am concerned that there will be too many incidents of owners with dogs off leash, not cleaning up, etc. Does our police department have the capacity to respond to "dog off leash" calls? (Are they a part of this discussion?) I would, on the other hand, be highly in favor of establishing a dog park in forest hills. Fenced in. If there is the space for it. It appears that the quarry park dog park has been highly successful. I work for the City of Lakewood, and that park (located in the Rocky River MetroPark Reservation), which was a grass-roots effort, established by and</p>

funded in part by residents, has also been successful (aside from an issue of the noise of dogs barking disturbing adjacent residents, which is unique to THAT PARTICULAR location).
Ordinance 505.91 is Breed-specific legislation - and has no place in our diverse community.
Our parks are where our children play. Thought there are many responsible dog owners there are also a lot who aren't. Since there is no way to effectively enforce waste cleanup the ban should remain in effect. I don't want mine or any other children coming into contact with animal waste. It is very unhealthy and spreads diseases. There are plenty of other areas for people to enjoy and walk their dogs.
People are not going to clean up after their dogs, there is no way to assure that they do. Residents need to be able to jog or walk through the park/grass area without looking out for animal waste. There are joggers, bikers and children in the park who should not have to worry about a dog owner having control of their animal as they pass by. Keep something for the humans who do necessary dislike dogs but would like to just enjoy the park.
People will be more responsible when it is convenient to do so - bags and cans being easily accessible. Positive, fun encouragement and knowledge would be the first step for me. Having to "watchdog" people is a problem, however there will always be a handfull of folks who will not clean up or will let their aggressive dog off the leash.They may need to be banned. One big problem on the street is young children walking dogs who either have very little control over them or never pick up poop. Maybe an age requirement is necessary for someone to walk a dog without an older teen or adult unless they first attend the 101 dog/owner behavior class . Again. all of this requires a lot of effort on someone's part and may not be worth it.
Personally I feel that allowing dogs in the park is a great idea. I take my dog on a 3.5 mile walk every day, and she is STILL full of energy. I'd love to be able to put her on a long lead and let her run around in the park. While dog feces is a mess if left, it is actually organic. UNLIKE the pounds and pounds of other items left along roads and sidewalks in the city. My dog is routinely finding food, tissue, paper waste, bags, BONES, and other misc. trash all over the city streets. Personally I feel like there isn't a strong enough policy on littering in the city - as these items are routinely found on the street, and are potentially a hazard to people and animals.
Please allow dogs
Please do not allow dogs in Cain Park. Children (and adults) ought to be able to freely walk or run about without concern for a possible dog attack. I was attacked by a German Shepherd that was being walked by a young girl who was unable to hold on to the leash - I was in my own front yard at the time. We have nothing against dogs - have had them in the past. Our children grew up with dogs and cats in our home. There are too many irresponsible dog owners - look at the dogs that have been injured in the dog parks.
Properly managed, dog friendly parks can create substantial informal social interaction. This leads to better relationships among neighbors, more people knowing who is a resident (or not), and more people willing to take action regarding public safety initiatives. Because 70% of households no longer have children under 18, dogs are a great way to build new social capital.
Really? With all of the uncaring residents you're going to flirt with this?
Research how other cities similar to CH manage dogs in parks, e.g., Oak Park, IL
Responsible pet owners do not need a class (see comments at end). Those who need it probably would not attend unless mandated. They will also be the ones who will not pick up after dogs, allow dogs to use the sidewalks or already have unleashed dogs. Having bags for pick up available is important as I have had occasion to leave without mine and had to scramble to find something to use. Leash lengths should be required to be short and not long for better control of the dog. My question is how do you catch people being irresponsible and to fine them? I would favor graduated fine--\$25 does not get attention as a first level fine, I'm not sure that \$50 would. Add a community service component of trash and garbage pick-up which would include any dog waste. Have bullet type signs in the park each one with info regarding dogs and responsible ownership including dog waste, short leashes, vaccinations for healthy dogs, reminders about general dog health and behaviors. Could be on those 2 prong signs (recycle all those political signs!!) preprinted and could be routinely rotated or have seasonal info: heartworm check in spring, tick info in summer and fall, etc. How about classes in the park that cover a variety of pet info and not just 101--include responsible ownership but also common dog diseases/illnesses, pet first aid, dealing with emotional /behavioral disorders, chewing, soiling inside the

home, effective use of crate, traveling with a pet by car, air, etc.

See too many unleashed dogs, droppings, and rude owners. City doesn't seem to have resources for monitoring, cleaning up, and fining.

Sevearnce Neighborhood Organization has tried to increase awareness of the animal abuse in the city and the city's lack of animal control services. The city says they have these services, but in reality do not. They say they have one officer, but animal control should be 24X7 and no one else is assigned when Sean Hinkle is off duty. You should talk to Sean about his perception of his job. There are 2 ugly stories I know of personally involving dogs being left in houses--one was a "keep house" and the city dragged their feet on this for days. I have documentation of this. In another story 2 dogs were left in a foreclosed and abandoned house for 2 weeks while the city did nothing. When they finally got in the house, one of the dogs had to be destroyed. Cleveland Heights has to improve its animal control and this issue is a good step in that direction and in raising consciousness. Permitting people to maltreat animals is not good for people or animals. Jeb Mignona from APL has been contacted about our concerns.

Shaker Heights parks post signs at playgrounds and picnic areas that ban dogs from those areas of the park; they are welcome elsewhere in the park.

Some people get their water and sewer bills electronically, so there would need to be a method to 'leaflet' those. Formally banning offenders-- not worth the effort to enforce.

Most poor dog behavior is really poor behavior on the part of the owner(s).

Thank you!

Thanks for addressing this issue! Cain Park is a great asset to the city, but it is just not safe. Increased foot traffic could turn this park into something is enjoyed by all residents.

Many Cleveland Heights residents own dogs, and I cannot believe dogs are not allowed in parks. We live near Forest Hills and were shocked we could not use that park to exercise our dog. We are very responsible dog owners and ALWAYS pick up after our dog. The best way to get people to do this also is to provide poop bags and trash cans that are easily accessible. More trash cans around the city, in general, would be appreciated.

Thanks on behalf of me and my dog, Otis. :-)

The city might consider having a fenced area for dogs (like South Euclid has).

The city needs to revisit more progressive ideas about "vicious" dogs. Pit bull dogs are not vicious by nature. Owners train their dogs to be vicious and the breed has a bad reputation. The City of Cleveland has removed them from the vicious list and perhaps Cleveland Heights should also.

The city should consider a dog park; or a section of a park designated for dogs; not free reign of the entire park. Not everyone likes dogs. My son is terrified of dogs (for no apparent reason he just is) I'd hate to have to be on the look out at Cain if I was there with my son. And as with anything most dog owners would be responsible but some won't. Its not possible to be on the look out all the time; and invariably someone would ruin it.

The dogs usually aren't the problem--the people are the problem. Dogs are going to poop and do dog things. I stopped taking my dog to the S. Euclid dog park because the people did not watch their dogs and fights broke out. You wouldn't take your kid to the playground and watch them beat up another kid--you would step in and be the adult. I don't know what happens when it's dogs that people stop paying attention. That's my main concern, that the people are held accountable. The dogs will be just fine!

The entire metro area of Cleveland needs to be more dog friendly. We moved here from Nashville, TN which was way more dog friendly. It needs to be promoted as such, because that is a draw for people to move to an area. You can't let a few bad apples (bad dog owners) ruin it for the majority, which are responsible dog owners. The city needs to be vigilant in making sure people follow the rules and if not, levy the fines immediately and hold an owner responsible. Plus, my dogs behave better than most children.

<p>The only reason I would consider approving of dogs in Cain Park is to increase foot traffic and as a result, safety. I have come across too many dog owners who simply do not follow the rules of proper dog ownership. They leave poop ('it is a park after all') and their dogs are unleashed because they are "friendly". If there can be an effective way to alleviate these issues, then improved safety because of more people in the park would be a huge benefit.</p> <p>When we were recently hiking in CO, there were signs posted that gave a phone number to call if people were seen not having their dog leashed. This would be a great idea, but only if someone was actually manning the phone. With all the cell phones, this could be a deterrent as well as instant consequences if the rules are being broken, particularly if the complaint is an unleashed dog.</p>
<p>The people walking their dogs on my street do not always pick up after their dogs. They also do not always have them on a leash. One woman only picks it up if she sees you outside in your yard.</p>
<p>The wording of this survey suggests that this issue is a "done deal" and the survey is a cover for those who promote the policy.</p>
<p>There are better locations and environments for a dog friendly park. Cain Park is not a huge park and it is multifunctional already serving different people centered activities... tennis, children's playground, theater venue, music concert hall, art gallery, etc. I do not feel it is appropriate for a dog area as well.</p>
<p>There are no "vicious dogs" Cleveland Heights, there are only bad people, and shame on the city for not doing enough to stop bad people</p>
<p>There are people who have an allergy to dogs -- even just being close to them.</p> <p>Some young children are afraid of dogs that they don't know. Even if on a leash, unknown dogs do terrify some children. I want to protect our children -- our park -- make a separate dog park for dogs and leave Cain Park for people.</p>
<p>There are several individuals in my neighborhood who have "vicious dogs" (ie., pitbulls) who have bitten neighbors and continue to run free, unleashed and unmuzzled in the neighborhood. If these animals are allowed to enter parks they would pose a significant safety risk and make our city less desirable to visit or live in.</p> <p>Also - we frequently find dog waste on our tree lawn. If we are currently not seeing responsible dog ownership in our neighborhoods I am not optimistic that dog owners would be more responsible in our parks.</p> <p>One option would be to ask dog owners to improve current dog owner behaviors in our neighborhood - if that proves effective over a period of time (6 months to a year), then may consider allowing dogs in parks.</p>
<p>there should also be an effort to fine people who walk with their dog off leash in the park- a BIG fine. Signs posted in the park is a good way to let people know.</p>
<p>This is a wonderful idea. I would love if it could extend to Forest Hills Park.</p>
<p>This is long overdue. Every other city I have lived in welcomes pets in their parks. It promotes investment in the community and stewardship of our streets. It will take time to assimilate the change, but it is well worth the initial difficulties to promote a future that welcomes those who take pride and responsibility in the environs.</p>
<p>this must be a safe and secured environment to succeed</p>
<p>This seems overly complicated as though we were the first city to allow dogs in a park. I think if you consider all the dogs I see being walked in the street if the majority of the people were not picking up waste we would really notice it. While I can appreciate the creative talents of the person who created the rap song I found it to be very negative and that never changes anyone's behavior. Thank you for doing this. I had a dog for 13 years and I never went to the parks because I couldn't take my dog. It always struck me that the dog ban was unlike Cleveland heights.</p>
<p>This sounds like something Jason Stein cooked up. Do I regret voting for this guy. Bill Pierce</p>
<p>This was accomplished a couple years ago in Lakewood by a citizens committee. Would be worthwhile looking into positive/negative results from their experiences.  <a href="http://www.leasheddogsinalakewoodparks.com">http://www.leasheddogsinalakewoodparks.com</a></p>
<p>Until CH addresses how poorly people clean up after their dogs, this issue should be put on a shelf. Every week I walk in and/or have to clean dog crap in my front and backyard. It's ridiculous. The animal control officer said that I have get video of the person with dog doing it. Seriously?</p>
<p>Walking my dog in the neighborhood, I find other dog owners to be generally friendly and responsible.</p>
<p>We have a current problem with owners not being responsible. Why consider adding more space to foul.</p>

<p>We have some empty lots on our street and I see some dog owners take their dogs on these lots to relieve themselves. I think we need to have signs on these lots to tell them to use a pooper scooper and bags Ok</p>
<p>We originally wanted to buy a house near Cain Park but decided against it when we found out that we couldn't take our dogs there; that was the deciding factor. We live near enough to Horseshoe Lake that we can take our dogs there instead.</p>
<p>We seldom use CH parks due to the unfriendly dog laws, and frequently drive to other cities where dogs are permitted on trails in parks. We feel it might easily add \$10,000 to the value of a house, in a dog-owning potential buyer's eye, if the parks right here in Cleveland Heights were dog friendly.</p>
<p>Well thought-out questionnaire, but I have two concerns:  1) park usage after all it is for people not dogs  Do you use Cain Park? If so, would you consider not going to the park given that leashed dogs may be there?  or Would the adoption of this dog policy increase, decrease or not change your attendance at the park?  2) Dog should not be allowed during high-attendance events. The extreme is the Arts festival but Evans amphitheater should be off-limits all the time.  Finally, you associated dog feces and litter  The last time I attended an event, I noticed the park had quite a bit of litter. I pick up litter (and its poop of course) when I walk my dog. It gives me something to do. Reduced litter may actually result for the law.</p>
<p>While I am in favor of dogs in Cain Park, I am not in favor of dogs in the Forest Hills baseball complex. There are too many unsupervised children in that area running etc. who may agitate an otherwise docile dog. Even on leashes, I think it would be unwise.</p>
<p>Would like to see leashed dogs allowed at all Cleveland Heights Parks</p>