



# WRITTEN COMMENT TO THE DOG PILOT WORKGROUP

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND HAND IT TO STAFF

DATE: 4/1/19

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS:

I'm so thankful the committee is allowing off leash at Quarry Park. I live 2 blocks away from Pillar Point Bluff top park and would like to see the Bluffs also considered for off-leash. I've lived in our home for 28 years and have had dogs almost the whole time I've lived there. I walk my dog there daily and sometimes twice daily there. The bluff tops have always been used as a off-leash area for many, many years (long before it became a park) please consider the bluffs as off-leash too.

Thank you,  
Betsy Caffell



## WRITTEN COMMENT TO THE DOG PILOT WORKGROUP

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND HAND IT TO STAFF

DATE:

4/16/19

IF WRITING ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION, PLEASE IDENTIFY:

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS:

First of all,

Thank you to this dog committee. I heard that you have decided to make Quarry Park an off-leash site.

I am here to also ask that you expand off-leash dog walking to Pillar Point Bluff because lots of my older friends and friends w/ knees and hip problems can't walk in the quarry - too hilly - but having been enjoying walks w/ their dogs on the bluff for decades...

Your comments will be distributed to the Work Group.

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, April 08, 2019 11:06 PM

**To:** PARKS\_ParksAndRecreation <ParksAndRecreation@smcgov.org>

**Subject:** Dog's in SM County Park

Greetings,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the dialog regarding dogs in the San Mateo County Park. My thoughts come from my experience as an avid hiker from HMB to Pacifica for more than 30 years. I am also a donor/ contributor to the San Mateo County Parks. So I really do love the parks!

In the past I spent many hours hiking the park trails with my dogs and I loved to have them join me for when I was outdoors. I also appreciate parks like the San Pedro County Park, where I can hike without dogs so I can readily see wildlife where they can be safe and not harassed by off-leash dogs.

I have seen the good, bad and ugly when it comes to dogs in the parks. My experience on the Pillar Point Bluffs is one would think it is an off-leash dog park because the vast majority of people walking their dog(s) have them off leash. Many of the dogs are no where near their owners and I have seen dogs running, digging and chasing the wildlife with no recall. Quarry Park is a better, but again the majority of dogs are not on leash.

All of these off leash open spaces has meant that I cannot take my well-behaved, on-leash dog in the parks or on the bluffs. My dog (and I) are now fearful of off-leash dogs because on numerous occasions my dog has been attacked by off leash dogs with owners who told me "they are friendly". Those folks had no control of their dogs because they were off leash. So now, I can no longer take my dog on a relaxing walk in the park on leash, because I never know when a dog, disconnected from its owner, will come charging up on us.

My recommendations for the SMCO dog policy are:

1) On-leash dog policy – I strongly recommend an on-leash dog policy. I do not believe that the majority of dog owners, who say they have "voice control", really have voice control. I also think it is a very bad idea to have dogs off leash anywhere in the park particularly dogs being dogs, will chase and harass wildlife. Our open space is shared with hikers, birders, children, bikers, seniors, and wildlife. Everyone can enjoy this amazing environment if dogs are on leash. If they are not, there is a constant risk of kooks with no control of their canine friends.

2) A strong enforcement policy – I have walked many times on the Devils Slide Trail and have found that dogs, people, bikers and seniors can appreciate the area and enjoy a relaxing day at the park. Part of the reason for that is the strong enforcement of the on-leash policy. People know that Rangers patrol the area (particularly on weekends) and therefore comply with the policy.

So again, I strongly encourage an on leash policy with strong enforcement for those who cannot comply with the regulation. With that, we can all enjoy this amazing and spectacular area together.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2019 5:35 PM

**To:** PARKS\_ParksAndRecreation <[ParksAndRecreation@smcgov.org](mailto:ParksAndRecreation@smcgov.org)>

**Subject:** Dog access

After looking at the latest article in the San Mateo Daily Journal, I have to comment on the unfair and discriminatory fines and regulations targeting dog owners in our county. It's time the county took our needs into consideration and allow more pets to accompany us to the parks that we are paying taxes to support. I appreciate the present pilot program that may help somewhat, but that's just a drop in the bucket compared to what's needed. We need access to more parks in the central Peninsula, not just Coastside or up near San Bruno. The central area is the most populated and many of the younger, Silicon Valley residents have dogs and need access to our parks. We have no on-leash access at all to many of the parks, let alone the needed off-leash areas. It's time to keep up with our neighboring communities and allow us access with our pets without these ridiculous fines and penalties.

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED], Redwood City