

San Mateo County Parks Department

Off-Leash Dog Recreation
Pilot Program

November 9, 2021



Board Directive

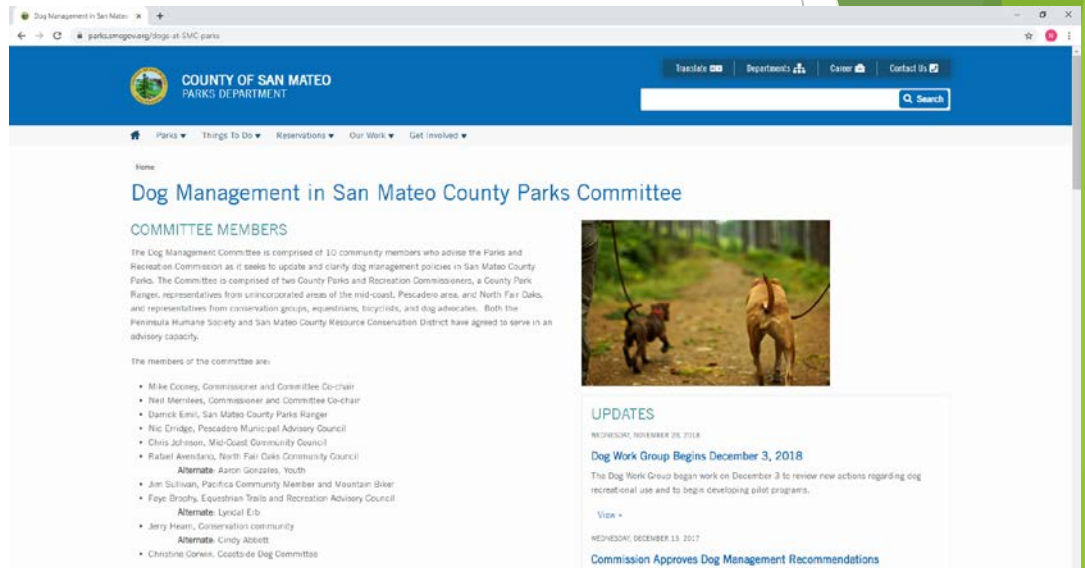
- *Develop a recommendation for a pilot program that would expand on-leash dog access opportunities*
- *Develop a recommendation for an off-leash dog recreation pilot program*

Parks Dog Pilot Project Work Group

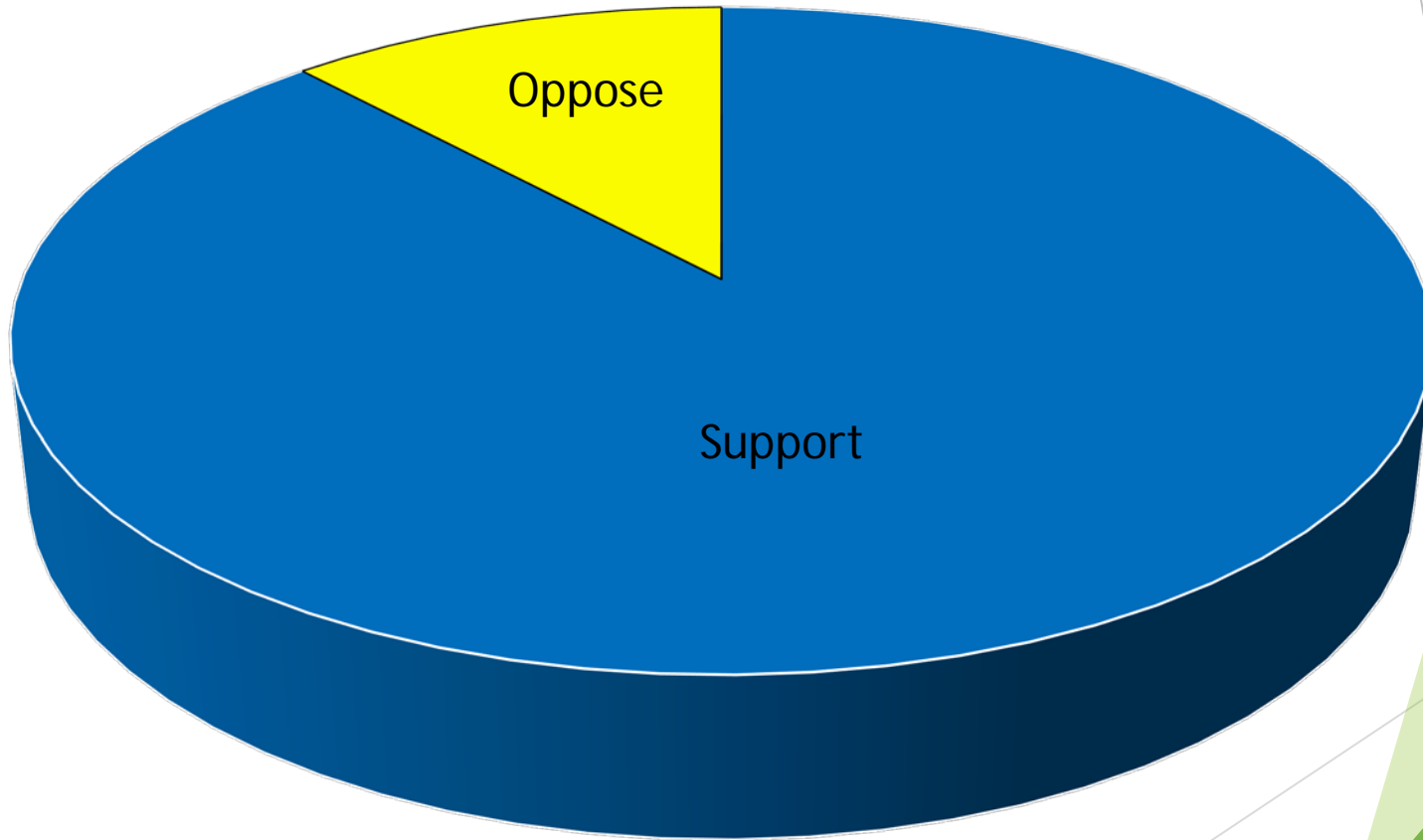
- Barbara Bonilla, Parks Commissioner
- Faye Brophy, Equestrian Trails and Recreation Advisory Council
- Joel Cervantes, Ranger III, District 2
- Christine Corwin, Coastside Dog Owners Group
- Matthew Del Carlo, Ranger IV, District 4
- Nic Erridge, Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council
- Jerry Hearn, Conservation Community
- Chris Johnson, Coastside resident
- Neil Merriless, Parks Commissioner
- Kevin O'Brien, Ranger III, District 1
- Jim Sullivan, Pacifica Open Space Council and Bike Community

Work Group Process

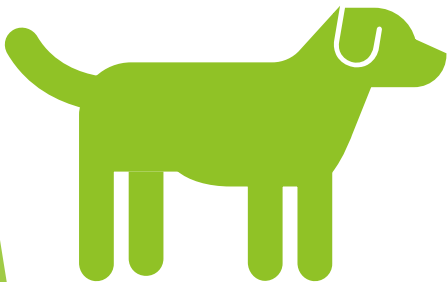
- Monthly Work Group meetings
- All meetings were open to the public
- Public comments were accepted
- Notes and agendas are posted to the Department's website



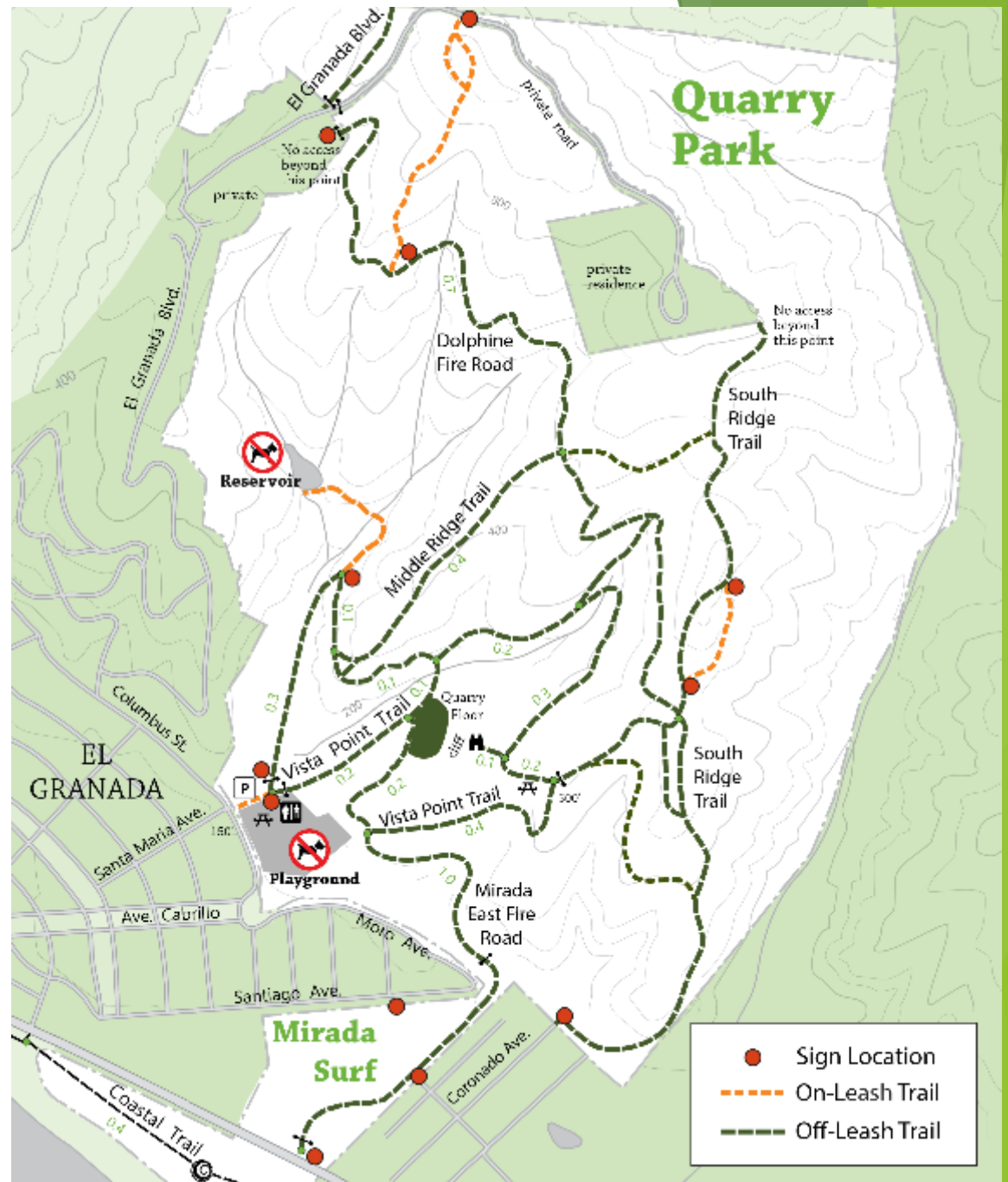
Work Group Public Feedback



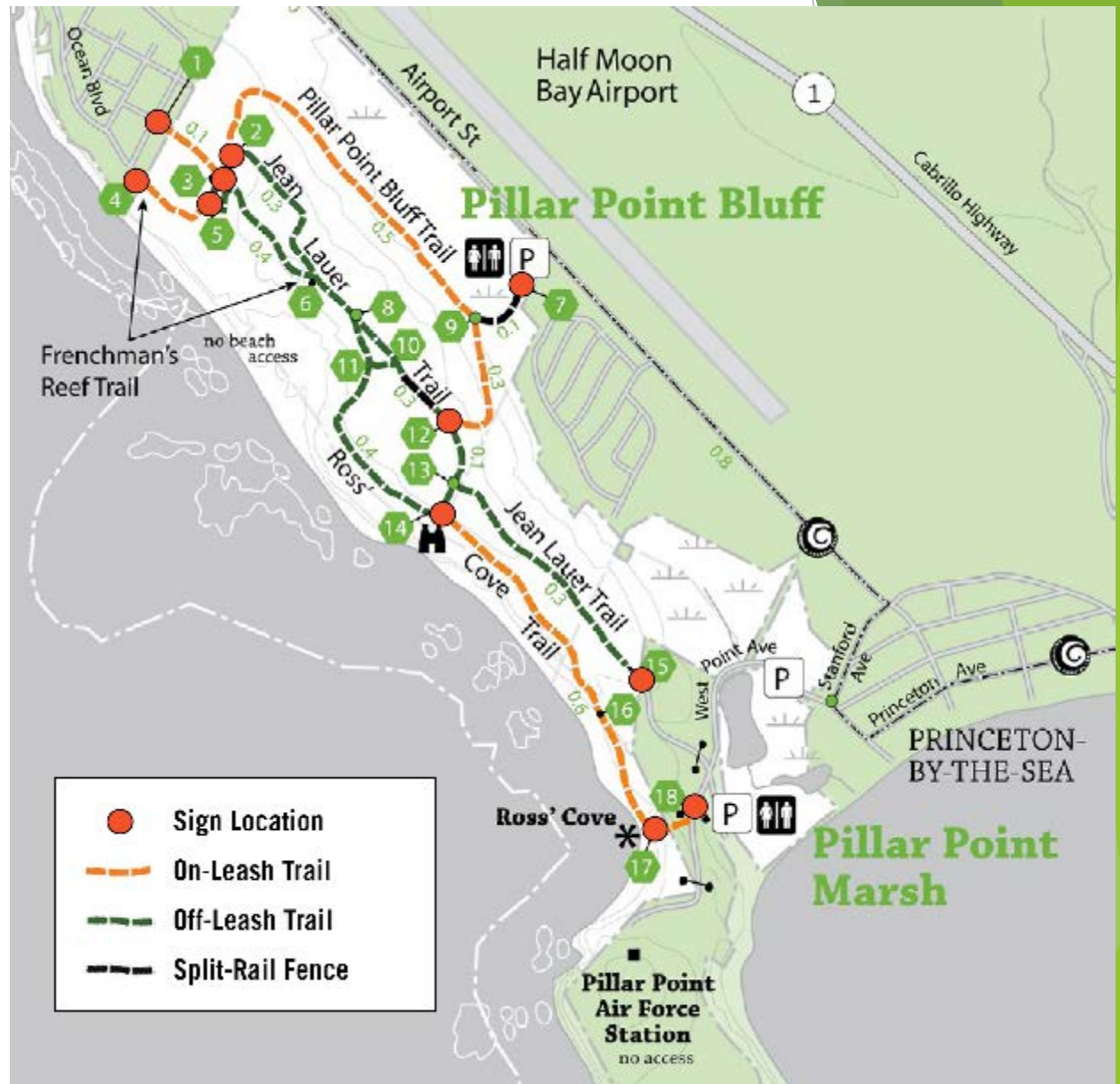
Off-Leash Dog Recreation Pilot Program



Quarry Park



Pillar Point Bluff



Off-Leash Dog Recreation Policies

- 1) Off-leash dogs must be under voice and sight control:
 - a) Voice and sight control means the owner/handler must be in control of dog(s) at all times and must be able to recall and leash dog(s) at any time.
 - b) Owner/handler must have a leash for each dog under owner/handler control.
 - c) Dog must return immediately when called (maximum of 10-second return time).
- 2) Dogs must remain on designated and signed trails, within view and earshot, and no more than 25 feet away from owner/handler.
- 3) Dogs must be on-leash in developed areas (i.e. near traffic, parking lot, lawn or play field deck, picnic areas, etc.).
- 4) No more than two dogs off-leash per owner/handler.

Off-Leash Dog Recreation Policies Cont.

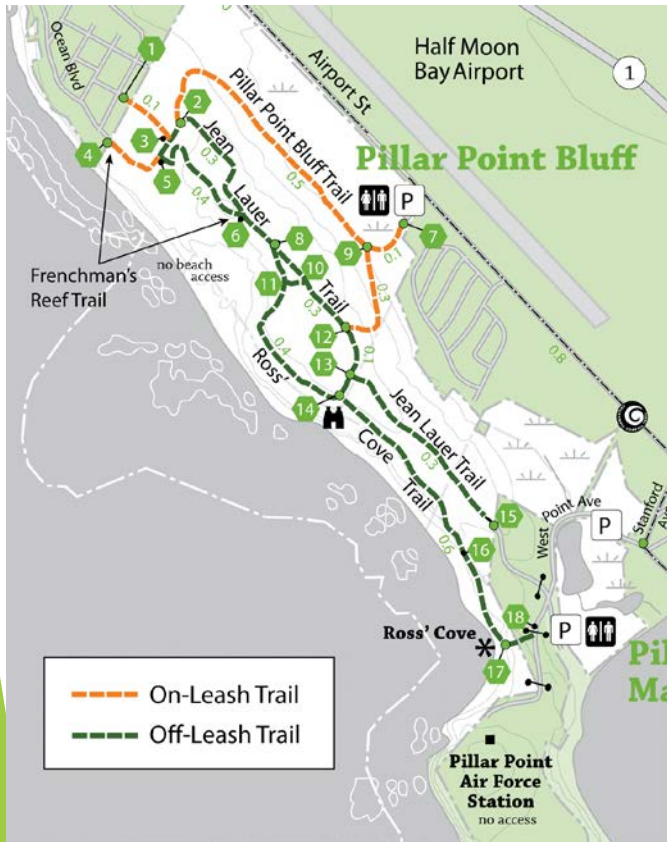
- 5) Dogs are presumed to NOT be under control when they:
 - a) Threaten, harass, chase or otherwise display aggression towards any person, animal or wildlife.
 - b) Display threatening behavior.
 - c) Physically harm people directly or indirectly by their actions.
 - d) Touch or jump on other park users who have not invited or engaged in interaction with the dog.
 - e) Do not return when called (maximum of 10-second return time).
- 6) Owner/handler must have physical control of dog(s) when approaching or being approached by park users not also engaged in off-leash dog recreation.

Amendment to Section 3.68

- Any person found to be in violation of Section 3.68 or any of its subsections shall be subject to removal from the County Park and/or Recreation Area upon the directive of Department personnel or law enforcement.

Differences

Work Group



Parks Department



Differences

Work Group

- ▶ 6) Dogs must be under control at all times and leashed up whenever necessary for the safety and/or comfort of other park users, or protection of sensitive species.

Parks Department

- ▶ 6) Owner/handler must have physical control of dog(s) when approaching or being approached by park users not also engaged in off-leash dog recreation.

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

- ▶ The purpose of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Pilot Program and Adaptive Management Plan
- ▶ Most impacts were determined to be Less than Significant
- ▶ Nine (9) impacts will be Less than Significant after mitigation measures are implemented
- ▶ No impacts were identified as Potentially Significant

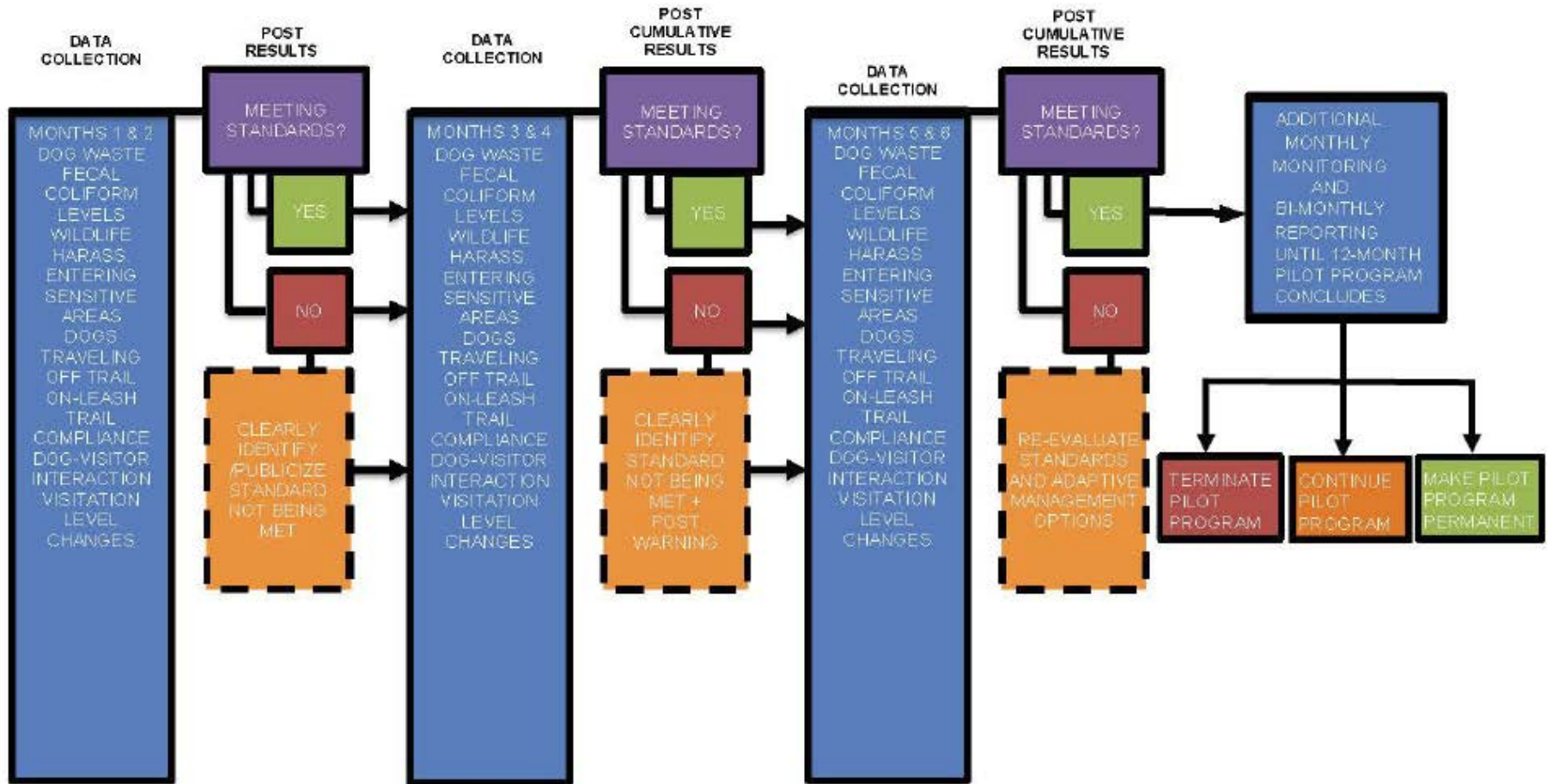
Dog Recreation Whitepaper

- ▶ Biologist conducted site visits, used a Biological Resource Assessment, and completed desktop analysis to identify plant and wildlife species present at Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park
- ▶ Published research literature was reviewed, analyzed, and summarized
- ▶ Findings:
 - ▶ Both human and dog recreation have an impact on wildlife
 - ▶ Dogs off-leash can disturb various bird species, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, deer, and elk; less evidence was found that dogs kill wildlife
 - ▶ Dog waste can contribute to water quality impairment
- ▶ The lack of comprehensive and conclusive scientific evidence regarding the impacts of dogs off-leash supports the premise of managing dogs off-leash with an Adaptive Management Plan

Adaptive Management Plan

- ▶ The Adaptive Management Plan will ensure any environmental impacts that may be created by off-leash dog recreation are minimized to the greatest extent possible
- ▶ Eight (8) indicators will be monitored to measure compliance and any environmental impacts that may occur
- ▶ All data will be posted to the Department's website
 - ▶ <https://parks.smcgov.org/baseline-data-smc-parks-leash-dog-pilot-program>

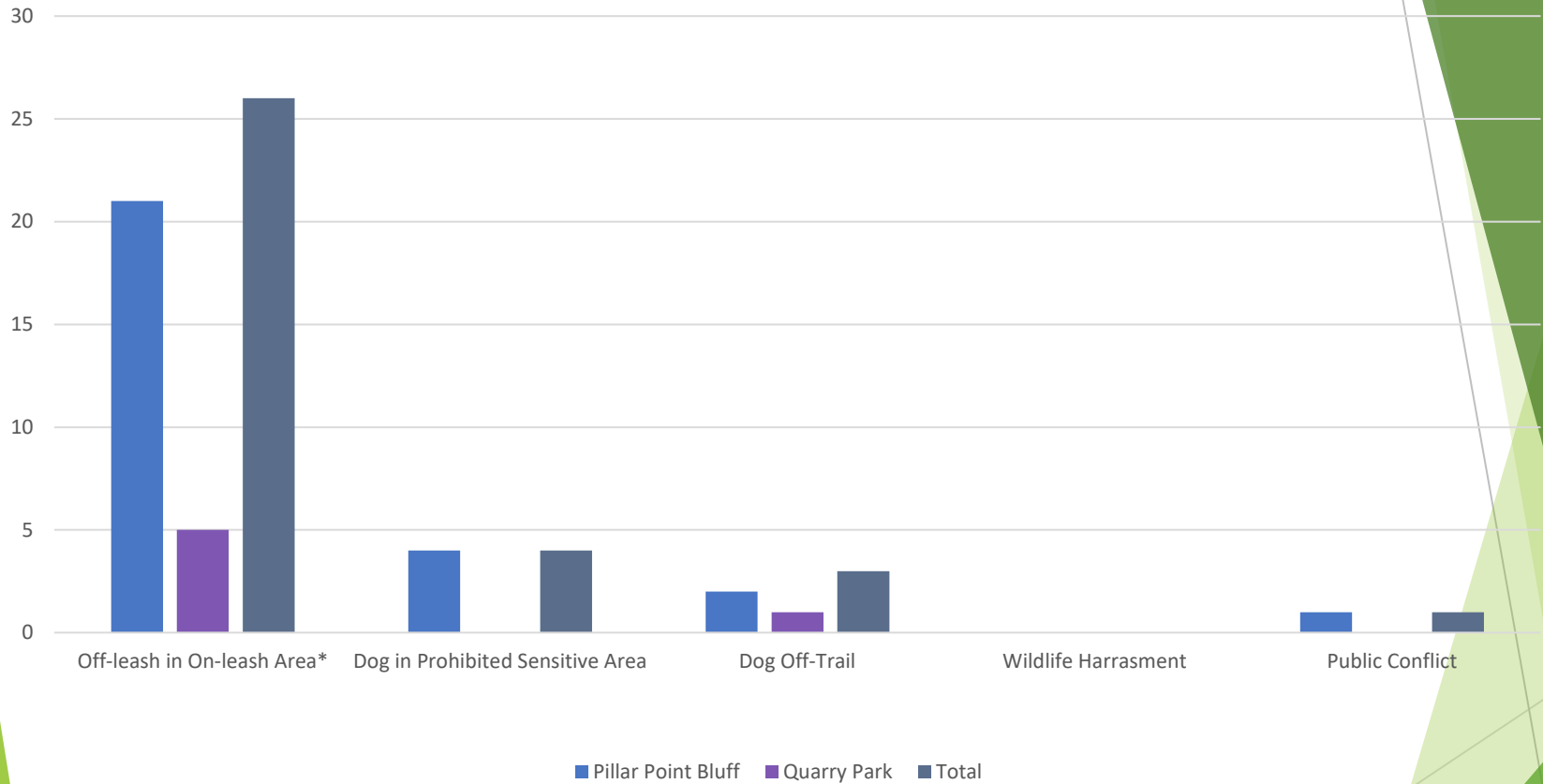
Indicators	Standards
Presence of dog waste	20 pieces of dog waste per month/per park
Fecal coliform levels	Regional Water Quality Control Board standards
Harassment of wildlife	2 instances per 60 days
Dog entry into sensitive areas	No dogs allowed in sensitive areas
Dogs traveling off trail	Number of dogs traveling more than 10 feet off trail
Leash compliance for on-leash trails	Percentage of dogs off-leash on on-leash trails
Interactions between dogs and visitors	No more than 10 instances of dogs interacting with unwelcoming visitors
Changes in park visitor demographics	No standard; for monitoring purposes only



Baseline Data

		July	August	September	October	Total
Pillar Point Bluff	Presence of Dog Waste	65 instances	24 instances	29 instances	19 instances	137 instances
	Interactions with Dogs and Visitors	0 instances	0 instances	0 instances	1 instance	1 instance
		July	August	September	October	Total
Quarry Park	Presence of Dog Waste	97 instances	27 instances	33 instances	10 instances	167 instances
	Interactions with Dogs and Visitors	0 instances	0 instances	0 instances	0 instances	0 instances

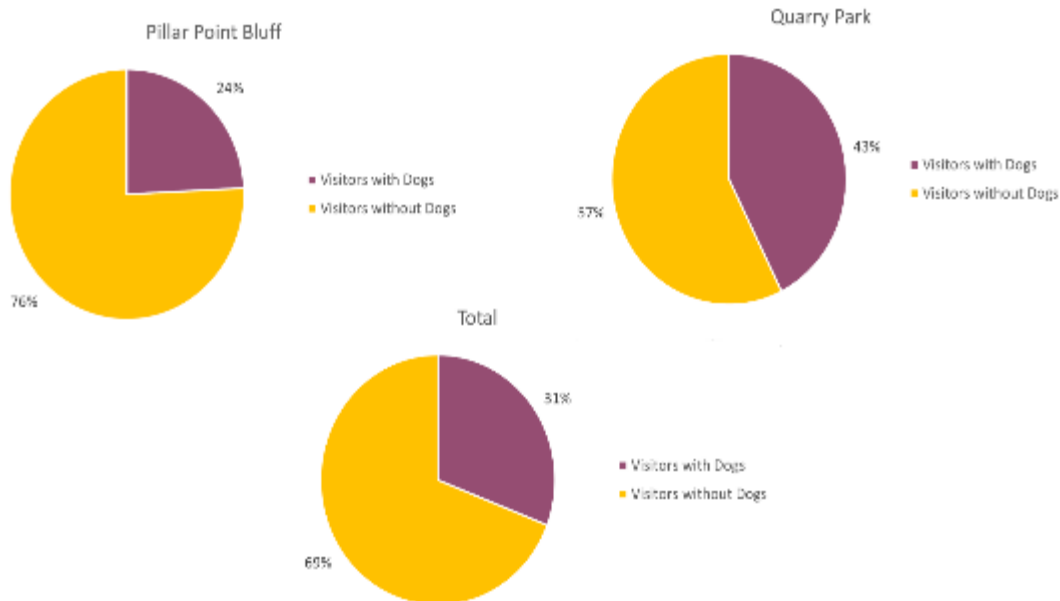
Baseline Data



* The standard for this criterion for all future monitoring will be “70% of parties with dogs will have their dogs on a leash on any given day”, on trails that are specified as on-leash trails. For this period, data collected reflects total number of observations during the 3-month period

Baseline Data

	Pillar Point Bluff		Quarry Park		Total	
Total visitors overall	1,037		589		1,626	
	Count	% of visitors overall	Count	% of visitors overall	Count	% of visitors overall
Visitors without dogs	786	75.8%	338	57.4%	1,124	69.1%
Visitors with dogs	251	24.2%	251	42.6%	502	30.9%



Pilot Program Timeline

August 2021

- IS/MND Public Review/Comment Period Closes

November 2021

- Parks Department to present the Pilot Program, Ordinance Amendment, and IS/MND to the Board of Supervisors for consideration

Dec. 2021/Jan. 2022

- Planning Commission hearing for issuance of a Coastal Development Permit

Jan./Feb. 2022

- Commencement of Pilot Program*

* The Coastal Development Permit can be appealed to the Board of Supervisors and Coastal Commission. Should the CDP be denied, the Pilot Program would need to be re-scoped or abandoned.

QUESTIONS?