

Comments Included on the Dog Survey 2012

1. Resident of Essex

- Leash dogs around high traffic areas.
- Don't walk around the inner curve of the roads. Use the trails more.

2. Resident of Montpelier

- My dog has been threatened by other dogs in Hubbard Park. There should be a "complaint" box or a phone number to call to report dogs that have been aggressive either to humans or other dogs. Someone should follow up on the complaint and if the owner is contacted and receives 3 "strikes" they (and the dogs) should be restricted from park use for a determined amount of time.

3. Resident of Montpelier

- Dog poop in Hubbard Park negatively affects my experience especially in winter.

Thank you for addressing this. I have a timid 11-year-old dog who does not like to be barked at by other dogs, or a single dog. You can imagine his anxiety when several labs or goldens or other energetic dogs bound up to him. It is especially annoying to me. Their owners proclaim that "they just want to play" completely oblivious to my dogs and my own dismay.

I'm not sure how the park can best deal with this. It seems there is a need for more manner training for dog owners as well as their pets. Thanks for your concern

4. Resident of Montpelier

- This is an extremely biased survey. It's pretty obvious that whoever created this is anti-dog. Please redo this questionnaire in a more non-biased format. Grow up – you can't get your way by being tricky. It's bad politics. Very disappointed.

5. Resident of Barre

- As someone who has worked in the park, I see some of the people are unhappy with dogs around that are not leashed. I believe that a certain park should be for dogs not on a leash.

6. Resident from Montpelier

- Please keep the park leash free. All the problems (and they are few) I have had in the park have been with leashed dogs. My dog becomes much more aggressive on a leash. Off leash, he is friendly. Maybe making poop scoop signs clearer (like saying people need to take their poop with them?), putting out a place for people to recycle bags that can be used for poop, installing a couple of doggies doilies might help.

Dog walkers, please keep moving. Idle dogs are more apt to get into trouble. Please keep groups small, maybe 3-5 dogs. Poop should be off trails and common areas. No trash, coffee cups, poop bags, etc, left behind. Be aware of your dog and people. Keep the cell phones off.

8. Resident of Montpelier

- Please continue to allow dogs off leashes to walk in Hubbard Park. They make walking in Hubbard Park more enjoyable and encourage dog walkers and those without dogs to socialize with each other. There is a real community of dog walkers in Hubbard Park, which would be destroyed if you restricted dog's use of the park.

9. Resident from East Montpelier

- Thank you very much for doing this. Some dog owners are NOT aware that more than one dog makes them act into a "pack mentality" I showed my dog bite mark to an owner and her companion who had 2 – 3 (?) dogs – who charged me – broke my skin – to educate her. She risks personal liability and her dog's life if s/he bites people.

10. Resident from Montpelier

- If dogs are not allowed to be off- leash at Hubbard Park I will never go again. All of us dog owners go to let their dogs run free, its wonderful. They are very few good places to go for dogs. Maybe have one designated trail area for leashed dogs only and save the rest for free dogs.

11. Resident from Montpelier

- Most dog-owners are extremely responsible. But tend to walk on weekdays and at the same time every day, so we know "our regulars." I will say this – there are the occasional folk who do NOT have their dogs under control but it feels awkward to say anything, but it shouldn't. I think we could do a better job, as a dog-owner/walking community, of self-policing

12. Resident from Montpelier

- Have a fenced in area as a dog play area

13. Resident from Montpelier

- Although I can appreciate someone else's fear of a dog it would truly sadden me and my dog to lose his one form of freedom and romping time. Can a compromise be made that certain spots of locations be for dogs off leash? There are some parts that leashed dogs can be more aggressive because they are tethered to their owner and therefore unable to retreat from people they see as

threatening. Other than Hubbard Park is there any public spaces that allow dogs to be off leash? I don't know of any- and yet pedestrians can go to many places if they don't want to encounter off leash dogs. Thank You.

14. Resident of Montpelier

- A receptacle for disposing of bagged dog poop.

15. Resident of _____:

- From my experience, the code of conduct is followed most of the time. The only problem that I have had is the one man who has his dog on a leash still lets the dog jump on people. Spaced out? No common sense??

16. Resident of ____:

- The problem that exists in Hubbard is that some owners don't keep their aggressive dogs out of the park. Aggressive dogs should not be allowed in the park at all. Once a dog has bitten another dog it should be banned from the park. (Name removed) is a vicious dog that comes to the park off leash ever day.

17. Resident of Montpelier:

- Please don't let a few ruin it for the large, law abiding respectful majority.

18. Resident of Montpelier:

- My experience is that most dog owners in Hubbard Park are not on a leash but usually, fairly well behaved. That said, I'm not crazy about having unleashed dogs coming up to "check me out", as they invariably do, while their masters are shouting at me, from a distance, "Don't worry; he's (she's) a good dog; she's (he's) just friendly" etc. I have friends that have been bitten by dogs (as I have, too) in the past and I know of some who are absolutely terrified when approached by an unleashed dog, "friendly" or not. I guess the question boils down to; who is the park for, dog owners and their unleashed dogs, or just everyone. (My preference = dogs on leashes. Bob Dylan said, "If dogs run free, why can't we?" Well we can't and neither should (I think) dogs. At least not in a public park.

19. Resident of Montpelier.

- Don't blame all of us for the carelessness of a few. Almost all dog owners comply with the rules. I have been walking up here for 8 years and only once had a problem with an owner that others had problems with also (2 somewhat aggressive dogs). But I don't see her anymore. I believe enough people talked to her to make her reconsider walking them there. I've never had a dog frighten me – this incident involved her dogs intimidating mine.

20. Resident of Montpelier.

- "Problem" to me is unwanted attention from unleashed dogs. \

21. Resident of Montpelier:

- My dog was attacked three times by aggressive dogs while owner was busy chatting. On 3 separate occasions requiring vet appointments. Told by vet dogs are territorial that why they were aggressive. I wish the dog walkers in Hubbard Park controlled their dogs. I walk elsewhere due to lack of co-operation by those dog owners. My second dog has never been in Hubbard Park due to the first one attacked on three separate times.

22. Resident of Montpelier

- I think dogs should be leashed in the park. Some dogs are well behaved and under control, but many are not. As a hiker, you never know how the particular dog charging at you will act when it reaches you and not all hikers (including me) welcome dealing with dogs when experiencing the natural world. Maybe Montpelier needs another, separate dog walking park for off leash dog walking.

23. Resident of Montpelier:

- Better signs that explain that dogs are allowed to be unleashed (visuals would help). Signs in high poop areas to remind people to pick up. Thanks!

24. Resident of Montpelier:

- I don't see a major problem but dog owners just need to use common sense and courtesy. If their dog isn't disciplined and can't stop from jumping on other people, then it needs to be leashed. I see this problem everywhere, not just in Hubbard Park (i.e. bike path)

25. Resident of _____:

- I walk my dogs 2-3 times a day at the park and I have never witnessed a dog attacking or menacing a person. The vast majority of dog owners are very responsible folks. If there are isolated incidences where people feel threatened by dogs, that instance should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. It would be unfair to penalize the vast majority of responsible owners and well-behaved dogs for the actions of a few irresponsible individuals. Please contact me if you have further questions. (name removed)

26. Resident of Montpelier:

- Dogs mostly seem under control, but not always in close (enough) proximity to their humans.

27. Resident of Montpelier:

- Specific fenced in area for off-leashed dogs.

28. Resident of Montpelier:

- I have not been threatened of bitten by a dog, but during almost every visit I used to make at the park they would invade my space to the point where I felt uneasy of they actually jumped on me. I got to the point where I have given up on visiting the park and would visit again if I felt more comfortable with the dog situation at Hubbard Park.

I now visit North Branch Park and am concerned that almost every dog I see there are not on a leash even though the park policy is that they are supposed to be. I am tempted to speak to owners, but I am there to relax and unwind and resent being put in the situation where I end up being the "bad guy", so I keep quiet, but have wanted to say something to Geoff Beyer or the Park Commission for a long time now.

Please consider putting together a concerted effort and put big signs and "educations" (park commissioners, volunteers, etc.) at the entrances to inform people in person that all dogs must be on a leash at all times in the parks. Or off leash in only designated areas (perhaps fenced in areas like in Burlington).

29. Resident of Montpelier:

- Only one re-occurring dog recently. A German Sheppard, all others good.

30. Resident of Roxbury:

- I'd like to see a designated fenced in dog park area. So dogs can play without running away and disturbing others. Otherwise dogs should be leashed on trails or under solid voice command.

31. Resident of Montpelier:

- Survey seems as if it is designed to elicit negative response! It is also hidden in a location where I just happened to see it. I would hope that this survey would not be used to change park policy without a true dialog.

32. Resident of Montpelier:

- Enforcement is necessary.

33. Resident of Montpelier

- (In response to question ten: @* && THIS: It has not good answer. That is a leading question. It should be thrown out.) Your survey is biased towards your goal of dogs on a leash. If that is your goal take a fair and balanced approach. Also this should have been advertised at the new board at the main park entrances, park attendance will drop dramatically if dog rules are changed.

34. Resident of Montpelier

- We appreciate how well the trails are maintained. We would like a few more signs (trail names) so we don't get lost (names like "acorn" and "squirrel") We appreciate the park immensely! Thank you!

35. Resident of Montpelier

- Ask people with sleds not to go into the ski tracks.

36. Resident of Central Vermont:

- It, like anything, is the 2% of dog owners that spoil it for the rest. Please do NOT use these few to use as an example to limit a great place for dog people. We pay taxes also... Thanks

37. Resident of Montpelier

- If you must restrict access, at least leave a section in the park where dogs can run off-leash. Where else in Montpelier can we go safely? School playgrounds? Downtown? Route 2? Route 302? North Branch Park? Calais? East Montpelier? Barre? Where else can dog owners let their dogs run and play off-leash in a safe environment? Or doesn't that matter?

38. Resident of Montpelier

- I only use the park from 6:30 AM – 8:00 AM. I do not know what afternoons are like. At my time (6-8AM) 9 of 10 people have dogs.

40. Resident of Montpelier:

- I will say that some dogs do not get along just like people. How we choice to work out sharing the space is the key. We choose to put our dog on a leash when there are dogs she does not get along with or we move on. As with people, we have good days and bad days were we are off balance. How we proceed after is the key.

41. Resident of Montpelier:

- The dog owners are the one who take care of the park-pick up trash. Also if we were not up here all the time, more of the people with illegal and damaging behavior would congregate more often.

42. Resident of Montpelier

- I have been using Hubbard Park for 20+ years and have never been threatened by a dog. I am not afraid of dogs and dogs know/sense that. Also,

one definition of "threaten" varies tremendously by each individual. A "non-dog lover" may consider a dog running by to be threatening.

In my opinion 80% or more of people I see while in the park are there with their dogs. Please do NOT take this away from all these people.

43. Resident of Montpelier

- 98% of the time it seems to me dogs and people get along fine. 2% make a lot of trouble for everyone else. Everyone with or without dogs needs to take responsibility for their action/reaction/no action. We all need to pay attention to the park, respect your communal space, pickup trash, coffee cups, lunches, and poop. Learn how to deal with situations that involve difficult people with or without a dog. Be responsible.

44. Resident of Montpelier

-This is one of the most biased surveys I have ever seen. I have lived on Hubbard park drive since 1978 and have always owned a dog. I have met mainly dog owners in the park and they have become close friends. The vast majority of dog walkers in the park are responsible, respectful and courteous. If someone had a bad or negative experience with a dog they need to get over it and move on!!

(name and address removed)

45. Resident of Montpelier

- I very rarely have negative interactions with other dogs and their owners. There is the occasional owner who does not recognize the difference between bullying/aggressive behavior and reciprocal play when their dog is interacting with mine. I am impressed in general with the positive interactions and with the policing of dog poop – although I think it is worse in the winter when owners are less inclined to pick up piles that are (temporarily) masked by the snow. It would be nice to have a fenced dog play area for those dogs that are still leaning how to "come" on command.

46. Resident of Montpelier

- I have not had issues with other dogs, but MY dog has. Aggressive dogs should be leashed at all times. Or, dogs with no social skills should be leashed at all times.

47. Resident of Barre

- There is not a "dog problem". There are a few (very few) bad dog owners that ruin it for e everyone. Dogs are a delight of the park. Prior to owning a dog, I delighted in my interactions with dogs are the park. Give tools to owners to address "bad" owners. A real danger is speeding cars for people, kids and dogs.

48. Resident of Montpelier:

- Wish I could bird watch – very few birds! I owned a dog for 27 years – on leash in public spaces...always! Dog feces abounds. Also dogs off leash approaching my 3-year-old granddaughter – usually heading straight for her mouth. (In response to dogs been kept under control) Some yes, some no. Every walk (almost) is faced with off-leashed dogs. (In response to being threatened by a dog at Hubbard Park) Often “friendly” charging but one never knows if it will be friendly or not.

1. Dogs on lease at all times. This is promoting safety and poop pick-ups.
 2. Perhaps designated a fenced in area in which dogs can play with other dogs. Pick up after dog’s mandatory- a disposal barrel at site.
 3. Poop disposal cans with lids placed appropriately around the park.
- SIGNAGE! Emptied regularly to reduce odor.

4. Direction signage (posted maps and discreet signs for trails. Blend with nature.) New comers are frequently asking for directions.

5. Clear rules (Signage again!) promote public safety, responsible environmental concerns, public hygiene (no poop on shoes, skis, clothing) and public enjoyment of the beautiful natural parks, as intended by John Hubbard. Control and consideration by make dog owners would certainly increase more animal and bird species- a good thing for both children and adults. Thanks you

49. Resident of Worcester

- Because of the self-centeredness of dog owners, walking in Hubbard Park is no longer a pleasure. Make Hubbard Park dog free. Thanks.

50. Resident of Montpelier

- 1. Dog owners should be required to leash dogs unless their dog will stay (within arms reach) right by them while around children and while in the road.

- 2. Dog owners should be required to leash all dogs if they are walking more than one ant a time

- 3, I think it might be helpful for there to be two hearings: one for (prior to a discussion) non-dog owners and another for dog owners to voice their experiences, opinions, vision of how the dog and non dog owners might share the park appropriately with the parks mission clearly writing ad visible in front of the gathering.

- Non-dog owners would be welcome but only to listen at the dog owners meeting

- Dog owners would be welcome but only to listen at the non-dog owners hearing

- This would be in preparation for a discussion where all were invited to create a vision together of shared use.

51. Resident of Berlin

- I am not a dog owner now, although I have in the past. I think it is great that there is a big, local park where dogs are allowed to run free. I believe most owners keep their dogs under control and respect the freedom they are given. I very STRONGLY believe this should be able to continue.

52. Resident of Montpelier

- Clearly state park rules at the entrances. Being able to let my dog off leash is one of the best things about Montpelier!

53. Resident of Montpelier

- Usually correct handling in response to conversation with dog owners.

54. Resident of Montpelier

- We've never had a problem with other dogs in the park. The vast majority of mutts and their owners are conscientious and well behaved. Our dog has been beaten up twice while walking on the sidewalk (not near the park!) but hey; dogs will be dogs, no big deal. No persnickety rules, please!

55. Resident of Montpelier

- Designate a location for "off leash" and make dog owners respect a leash requirement on all walking trails. Think of the park as a "town" It has to support all users; a designated "off leash" area is a reasonable feature of a "town" but having dogs off leash everywhere is not appropriate.

56. Resident of Montpelier

- A fenced in dog area would be great. Montpelier does not have a "dog park" where dogs can be safely off leash.

57. Resident of Montpelier

- (In response to question concerning walks being free of problems with dogs) Depends on how you define "problem". I have never felt threatened in Hubbard Park. That being said, many dog owners let dogs off leash. I am probably jumped on or chased 90% of my visits. Dog owners usually say "he never does that." I would prefer that owners controlled their dogs on trails. I don't mind them being off leash in the "dog meadow."

58. Resident of Montpelier

-Many people have told me that they don't go to Hubbard Park because of the dogs. I have been startled by dogs running up to me, jumped on, drooled on, and growled at. I think of Hubbard Park as one big dog bathroom. I want to walk

there without being afraid. I would go more often if dogs were leashed whenever they are in the park.

59. Resident of ____:

- (In response to question regarding dogs being truly under control) Bad question!

60. Resident of Montpelier

- I hope a resolution can be made that continues to allow dogs in the park. Perhaps some of the dog owners who walk their dogs the most could rotate volunteering as mediators for the park (?). It's an awkward thing to deal with others who think they are disciplining their dogs well.

61. Resident of Montpelier

- Have a dog walking training course on controlling dogs while the park.

62. Resident of Montpelier

- I wish I could say there is an easy answer. Dogs are domestic and humans need to care for them by training them and exercising them. Is it possible to make some trails animal-free? Would a volunteer moderation at the dog park be helpful? Even if nothing changes in the law, letting people have their say via these questionnaires seems to be a good idea. Thanks (name removed)

63. Resident of East Montpelier

- Please reinstall the poignant tripod dog memorial inside the base of the tower- with leashes- to save more dogs/owners the grief of having "fido" jump on the wall and losing his/her footing. Thank you! (a non-dog owner.)

64. Resident of Montpelier

- The biggest danger in Hubbard Park is the drivers – most of whom do NOT have dogs with them. They speed and I have seen them nearly miss an adult, a child, a dog more than once. I loudly tell them to slow down. Incidents of unpleasantness have been initiated by joggers who simply do not seem to like dogs in Hubbard Park, have not been accosted by a dog who see fit to be rude to dog owners. Over the past 15+ years, I have seen a large increase in park users. Generally, the level of civility has decreased, the traffic has increased, the potential for difficulties has increased. I don't think it's fair to single out dog walkers for difficulties.

65. Resident of Montpelier

- (In response to question regarding being bitten by a dog in Hubbard Park) have due to off leash. My husband was bitten by a corgie on a leash. (In response to question regarding reporting this to authorities) Unfortunately not. Thanks for this opportunity. I do not like it when dogs are off leash in the park

but I do not know the rules. I don't like when dogs come up to me or the owners say "he is very friendly". However I generally have not had an overly negative experience. The poop bags can be gross when people dump bags by poles.

66. Resident of Montpelier

- (In response to question regarding owning a dog) No, but have for 27 years of 30 that I have lived in Montpelier. (In response to question regarding dog poop negatively affecting experiences) This is a problem when it is bagged and left behind. I love dogs (not currently a dog owner) but see the biggest problem as one of the poop disposal. Some people 1. Scoop 2. Bag it and 3. Leave it?! What is that about?

67. Resident of Montpelier

- Having been in many dog friendly spaces, I think dogs at Hubbard are generally cleaned up after and handled responsibly. Dog sitters who do not always have the best control seem to make Hubbard Park more of a destination than in the past.

68. Resident of Montpelier

- (In response in regards to question about having being threatened by dogs.) Although I haven't been "threatened" by a dog at Hubbard Park, I have been jumped on, slobbered upon, and barked at countless times. (In response to question concerning owners taking appropriate action for their dogs) Verbal commands don't always work. Many dog owners in Montpelier don't seem to recognize that other park users may not welcome their dog's saliva, muddy paws, hair, etc all over their clothes. It should not be MY responsibility to keep dogs away from me when I'm walking in the park. Thanks for doing what you can to modify the behavior of the dog owners.

69. Resident of Montpelier

- (In response to question regarding dog poop in Hubbard Park) This has improved which usually is only a problem in winter when dog's don't/can't leave the trails. Have the incidences and dog related problems been a written complaint indicating a specific problem? I have not noticed a decrease in families walking or using the park. If anything, I feel there are more.

70. Resident of Montpelier:

- I live in the meadows and take my dog to the park almost every day and have NEVER observed a negative dog-human interaction. I strongly support the currently posted regulations and encourage enforcement of EXISTING municipal laws towards irresponsible dog owners.

71. Resident of Montpelier:

- (In response to question regarding dog walkers keeping their dogs under control) During the past year I have run into 3 dogs who were aggressive and not under control. So if they were an option between all and most, I would pick it. Dog poop does not negatively affect park experience, except in winter. Packing dog poop out of the park is unpleasant, but I do it. I would be happy to contribute an eco-friendly poop disposal system for the park (e.g. a community pet fee) if this seems like a good idea.

72. Resident of Worcester but owns property in Montpelier:

- I think there should be specific, fenced in area for dogs.

73. Resident of Montpelier

-Hubbard Park is wonderful. Our family uses it every single day. We have not had any problems as most dog owners are very aware of what is happening and their dogs are all considerate. With regards to dog poop, offering trash cans at the main entrances to the park and at the "dog-park" would help. Or better yet, green cones for dog poop composting.

74. Resident of Barre

- I Love dogs in Hubbard Park

75. Resident of Montpelier

- Enforcement. Significant per dog fine.

76. Resident of Montpelier

- (In response to question regarding dog poop negatively affecting park experience) It's a mess. We tried to use the picnic area. It was full of poop! Have the park monitored by animal control on regular days. This way owners would be more inclined to pick up poop. Or give out tickets!

77. Resident of Montpelier:

- I have lived adjacent to the park since 1991 and have noticed a big change over the years. I have noticed more dogs, more groups with dogs, a lot less leashing, and the incredible widening/degrading of trails.

78. Resident of Montpelier:

- As a dog owner who walks here almost daily with my dog, I love having an off-leash park, but not at the expense of safety. I would gladly leash my dog if that is the future to make the park safer. Enforcement will be difficult. I would love a large, fenced in dog park area where the baseball field is and dog on leash elsewhere.

79. Resident of Montpelier:

- (In response to question to regarding owning dogs) No, but walk friends dog occasionally. (In response to question regarding walks in park being free of dog problems) I did not walk my previous dog in the park, dog leash, because many dogs were not in control and she wasn't always dog friendly. It was very frustrating for us so we stopped going up there. Not fair for her or me. (In response to question regarding dog poop negatively affecting park experience) People drive up to walk their dogs. XX dogs in park every day X that of # of poops- ugh and not nice. (In response to question regarding dog owners not allowing their dogs to charge) What is charging? Coming up and sniffing crotch, etc isn't my idea of control but most dogs are fine. I think it will be hard pulling back as dogs owners have had such freedom with their dogs.

1. One idea is a fenced in dog park in the park.

2. I don't know how dog free trails will go over, but I'd love to ski on trails without pee and poop.

3. Just like there is a "share the road" mentality, and PR with bikes and cars, how about a "share the park" mentality?

- Not everyone likes dogs

-Not everyone wants to interact with dogs or have their young children walk on or pick up dog poop.

- Be considerate and keep eye on your dog, keep the park for everyone's enjoyments.

Thanks for doing this. Please publish results.

80. Resident of Montpelier:

- I don't own a dog, but I strongly believe dogs are not a problem in the park. Please keep the policy at "under control" NOT "leash required"

80. Resident of Montpelier

- I don't have a dog but have walked with my friend and her dog in Hubbard Park. There are pooper-scooper, but not bags and the place to put the poop is not obvious. How come there are not trashcans to put poop that was already bagged into a poop bag?

81. Resident of Montpelier

1. I have walked our dog in the park nearly every day for more than 2 years, since our dog was a puppy. When our dog was a puppy, there were several times when she ran up to people in the park and jumped on them. We considered this unacceptable behavior and purchased an electric collar (with a sound and mild shock system) to trail our dog not to jump on people and to come when we called her. This has been 99% successful.

2, Overall, I would say that at least 95% of dogs in the park are well-behaved and 95% if the owners are conscientious.

3. Very Occasionally – perhaps 3 or 4 times – I am at the main dog field when a “mean” or “aggressive” dog and an irresponsible dog owner are present. When this occurs, I take my dog and leave the field for safety purposes.

4. Almost all dog owners pick up their dog’s poop, and a number of use pick up poop left by other dogs to keep the park looking beautiful.

5. We appreciate the privilege of having such a lovely place to walk our dogs and are committed to working to make sure the park is enjoyable for all who use it.

82. Resident of Montpelier:

- (In response to question regarding owning a dog) Not now, have had many in the past. (In response to question regarding walks in Hubbard Park being dog problem free) Most dogs off leash, very rarely in control, on paths trails or roads. (In response to question regarding dog owners keeping their dogs under control) Rarely. (In response to the question regarding the amount of poop negatively affecting experience) As does the widening of all trails due to the dogs and their walkers walking 2 a breast. Dog owners often leave bagged poop on the posts for guardrails on Parkway, Course Street, and on the side of the trails. The park is over run with dogs and dog owners who do not follow the Montpelier Parks Dog Owner Code of Conduct. It is a real problem and detracts greatly from the park.

83. Resident of Montpelier:

- This survey seems very biased! Walking my dog in Hubbard Park is one of the best parts of living in Montpelier. Often dog behavior is escalated when a dog is leashed and does not feel able to move away from other dogs. I would not use a dog park area or always walk my dog on a leash. We both go to the park of exercise.

84. Resident of Montpelier:

-(In response to question regarding dog owners scooping poop) Doggie doodle composters are an excellent way to deal with this. Baggie/trash post. Would a group of volunteers weekly carry out? Also a great option other parks do that. I am responding to this survey because I am in the park every day regardless of weather at least once a day – but this survey is poorly written and biased! Shame on you! There is room to improve things including with my own dogs but this survey is not the way to start. I have had people scream at my dogs even when they have been under full control and on the flip side be very tolerant when they didn’t respond immediately. It’s about getting along with some realization that not everyone is correct 100% of the time at 100% of their behavior. One option: Field fence in the “old ball field” area as a designated play

area for dogs. The fence can run through the tree line with gates at the point of trail down to frog pond entrance; one at later side up the hill. A great use for this underutilized area of the park.

85. Resident of Montpelier:

- (In response to question regarding coming to Hubbard Park if dogs were truly "under control") Most dogs are truly controlled!

1. Put more scoops for poop around the park (not just 3)
2. Require skiers and bikers to wear headlamp at night
3. Put up a speed limit sign on the road to the shelters
4. Put up a slow sign for children and dogs on the corner before the field with parking before you get to the new shelter. People drive way to fast around that corner.

*Comment: I have found that since this survey started a lot of people without dogs have become very rude! Others I feel are making false statements or try to cause issues by being aggressive. I also feel this survey could have been done at a different time. Not the holidays.

86. Resident of Montpelier:

- (In response to question regarding coming to Hubbard Park if dogs were truly under control) Poor wording! I do come to Hubbard Park frequently; almost every day and part of the reason is that most owners keep their dogs under control. Some people fear dogs; I do not. Dogs may be a problem for some people, including those who developed this somewhat biased survey.

87. Resident of Montpelier:

- I pretty much have stopped using Hubbard Park due to the out of control dogs and rude owners. It's sad when a small group have taken over a public park for their own use with a total disregard of anyone else.

88. Resident of Montpelier:

- (In response to question regarding use of Hubbard Park) Never since dog owners have unleashed dogs. (In response to question regarding what the person uses park for) Afraid to do these things now – attacked by dogs. (In response to question regarding children being frightened by dogs at Hubbard Park) and grandchildren. (In response to question regarding dog poop negatively affecting experience) Children from Union School used to use Hubbard Park for environmental studies- the last time couple of years ago a number of the children returned to the bus with dog poop on their shoes or clothes. This has been kept quiet, as most of the attacks have been. No one will respond if the police are called if a dog growls at you. Dog owners usually are 10-20 feet away when this happens. "Comment from owners" or "the dog won't bite you." Please give dog owners a place in Montpelier to run their dogs "a dog park" maybe all banned from Hubbard Park – Perhaps in areas only. The dog owners should all

pay a fee and dogs should have a bright tag or collar on when they are using it. All users of the dog park (Not Hubbard Park) should pay the fee regardless of where they live. Dog owners should pay additional fee for more than one dog. Dog owners had to be banned from the cemeteries, Restore Hubbard Park as an environmental icon. Actually have been threatened in my own yard by a dog owner. When I asked them to leash the dog or leave my yard.

89 Resident of _____:

1. (In response to question regarding being threatened by a dog at Hubbard Park) But my dog was. Owners who scoop poop but leave the bag need to pick up their bags –better procedure: Don't leave the bags on the trails to pick up. Take it with you. I stay away from the group of gatherings eg. Doggie "field days" (after work group). To me, that may create problems folks are upset about.

90. Resident of Montpelier:

- I think that part B of the code of conducts needs to be reiterated with dog owners. I think they DO assume that people want to interact with their dogs and many of us do not want to.

91. Resident of Montpelier:

- I use the park much more during mud season when there are far fewer dogs. I wish there were a designated off-leash are or trail and that the rest of the park was leash only.

92. Emailed comment:

I am a long-time resident of Montpelier. I have frequented Hubbard Park many, many times. While I have never owned my own dog, I have had many experiences with dogs in the park, and I have never had a situation that was less than ideal. Dogs and their owners are very respectful of other people in the park, and the town's local dogs bring a sense of warmth and excitement to the experience of everyone utilizing the park.

I am writing to ask that you rephrase, or REMOVE question 12. from your survey, as there is no way for me to answer this question unless everything that I wrote above is a blatant lie (which it is certainly not). The question is phrased: "If dogs weren't so out of control, I would use the park more often." This question REQUIRES a yes or no answer, and it also sets the precedent that dogs ARE "out of control."

This is not only inappropriate, but it is making the assumption that everyone taking the survey feels that dogs are "out of control" in the park. I answered "no" because there has not been a single time that I have witnessed an "out of control" dog in the park in the 20 years that I have lived here.

Thank you for the survey.

Best regard,
(name removed)

93. Emailed Comment

Bob and I have gone from walking our dog (name removed) in the park for many wonderful years to taking walks with our young grandson. First of all, I wish the survey had had a 90 - 95% choice on some of the questions, because I would have chosen that for those "dog control" questions.

The only dog problem we have had is when we were with our grandson when he was a toddler (Now he is 5 AND lives in Burlington so the problems are fewer). There were too many occasions when an unleashed dog would come barreling towards him and sometimes either knock him over or be so over-friendly as to scare him. Sometimes, the owner would be calling from afar, "He loves kids" or something to that effect as the dog would be terrifying the child. It got to where (name removed)

became traumatized by dogs in general, which of course as a dog-lover (without a dog) was a sad development. Walking in the park with our family did often become a tense affair, with our always having to be on the look-out for wacky dogs.

I think dog owners need to be on the alert for small children; to assure the caregivers that the dog is not a threat and to understand that sometimes a dog who loves kids can be just as scary to a little kid as one who hates them. Maybe some signs or some other sort of education could work.

Good luck - I would hate to see dogs banished from the park. When we go walking now by ourselves these days, we often have great interactions with dogs.

Warmly and thank you for all your wonderful work with the park.
(name removed)

94. Emailed Comment

A number of people have spoken to me about the survey about dogs in Hubbard Park. I finally looked at it today and though I don't think it is as anti-dog as some people have suggested, it clearly was written with a bias that there is a serious dog problem in the park. Unfortunately I lost my dog some time ago so I am currently dogless for some period of time but I'm still interested in this issue. While it is impossible to say that there aren't some real issues with dog owners who don't appropriately control and clean up after their dogs, I am concerned

that this survey could be symptomatic of a process in which some have a pre-determined outcome in mind – hopefully I’m wrong.

95. Emailed comment

Thanks to you and the Parks Commission for this survey.

Hubbard Park is a tremendous resource for the city, and I'm glad to see this topic raised.

I have been running and doing pre ski season workouts in Hubbard Park this fall, and probably 70% of the time an unleashed dog has forced me to slow down, stop, or take evasive steps. ≈

On other occasions, walking, I've had the same experience.

The North Branch, where I often run or bike two or three times a week, is much less dog free, maybe because I generally use the higher trails where dog walkers don't venture so often.

I generally like dogs, but when I'm in the park I'm there for a reason - ranging from simply contemplation to a focused workout. I don't interact with other people unless they are friends, and I'm not there to be interacted with. A dog running up interrupts the flow of the workout or intrudes on a quiet time.

Many dog owners have their dogs under control, usually by leash, but owners of dogs running free seem clueless that their dogs can be an annoyance. Dog owners often say "oh, he's friendly," and he probably is, but I'm not in the park to make friends with a dog, much less to have their owners apologizing to me.

I'm also concerned about the effect of free running dogs on wildlife in Hubbard Park. I don't see many animals there other than dogs. Some parts of the park are mapped deer yard, but I'm concerned that the dogs may be displacing the deer.

Skiing in the park is really problematic. The walkers who obliterate the tracks are bad enough, but the "brown klister" and dogs that actively chase a skier are beyond annoying and can even be dangerous. A collision with a dog on a downhill could be harmful to both parties!

I would like to see leash laws in both Hubbard Park and North Branch, and a way to report incidents that does not involve calling the police. I feel the cops have

better things to do than respond to annoying dogs, but I do think its a good idea to track incidents. I also think that it should be ok to speak to a dog owner about their dog's behavior.

I think a public discussion about these issues is a good idea. I hope the meeting will not focus on the survey, but get to the reasons for the survey - that dogs can make the park unpleasant and uninviting to people there for other reasons. It may be time to look at the values the park offers all citizens, and seek a balance that makes everyone feel welcome in the park.

96. Emailed Comment

Thank you very much for conducting this survey. We live on Hubbard Park Drive and have two children (ages removed) Despite being right next to the park, we rarely go in the park because our daughter is afraid of the dogs. There are plenty of good dog owners but there are also a lot of people who let their dogs off their leashes. Then when they run up to my daughter the owners just say, "Oh, it's OK. She's a good dog." Then when my daughter starts to cry, the owners try to get her to understand that their dog is a "nice" dog which just frightens her even more. I'm sure their dog is wonderful but they are missing the point. Having a large unfamiliar dog run up to you is terrifying for a kid and ruins the whole experience of going in the park. My daughter is now petrified of going in the park. She views in like some haunted place out of a Grimms fairy tale due to the dogs.

Her opinion of the park is probably sealed forever but changing and enforcing the rules may make a difference for other small kids in the future.

Thanks again for putting together this survey.

(name and address removed)

97. Emailed Comment

My husband and I recently submitted the survey and want to pass on a few thoughts. All of our children grew up in Montpelier using the park frequently for many activities. As parents we were comfortable letting them hike, ski and sled there without parental supervision. Our grandchildren are not afforded such freedom by their parents and much of that is due to the dogs that run in the park and are not under their owners' control.

We have a newly rescued young dog, but she has only been to the park once. She loves other dogs and is fine with them; plays off-leash in the field near our house with a few and in our fenced yard with dogs in the family. She is always on a leash wherever we walk her because our belief is that a good dog owner

should have complete control of their pet and should never assume that others like her as much as we do. The manners of most dogs will reflect the manners of their owners, good and bad.

It seems that Hubbard Park should be available to all residents of Montpelier for a wide variety of activities and meeting all needs shouldn't be that difficult.

Some suggestions:

- Specific times of the day when dog owners can use the park with their dogs off leash. That way we all would know when we can go there and know what to expect in terms of free running dogs.

- Fencing in an area that can be used as a dog park where dogs can run freely and no one would have to worry about being surprised by a loose dog.

- There should be the same expectations for owner control of dogs in the park as in any other public area of town.

We look forward to a time when we can feel comfortable using Hubbard Park again as a place to walk alone or with our dog and not have to worry that we will be surprised by dogs running freely, not under their owners control.

(names removed)

98. Emailed comment

The article in the paper struck a nerve with me. I have two black labs that are very loveable to people and other dogs. I take them on a leash with me every day since I have retired for walks around town. I used to take them up to Hubbard Park but stopped doing it, because of the loose dogs coming after my own dogs. Very few owners have complete control over their dogs when they are loose. This includes my own dogs. They now have a "rap sheet" with the City POLICE because of running up to an older women just outside of a neighborhood dog park one evening here in Montpelier. She reported them for not being on a leash.

I suggest creating a "dog park" within Hubbard Park with a snowfence for people who want to let their dogs go free and meet other dogs. The rest of Hubbard Park could be limited to dogs on leashes. Hubbard Park is currently used by a wide variety of activities such as running, skiing, snowshoeing; picnicking, etc. which are not compatible with loose dogs. If dog owners want their dogs off leashes then go to the "dog park", or take them on a hiking trail like those supported by the Green Mountain Club (GMC). The GMC has a "dog policy" which is on their website.

(name removed)

99. Emailed comment:

I just completed and submitted the dog survey. My family's experience with dog owners at Hubbard Park has not been very positive over the years. When my kids were small that was a particular problem. I can recall my frustration over large dogs running unleashed and knocking the little ones over. My kids were terrified! Not all dog owners are irresponsible but enough are that it makes no sense to leave the current laissez faire policy in effect. I've had a number of dogs, as well as cats, hamsters, and birds over the years and I can assure you that animals are happier too if clear boundaries are set and adhered to. I'm not sure if that really applied to the cats!

We have a choice. We can either allow irresponsible owners to continue to dominate and accept a de facto Hubbard "Dog" Park. This is just unfair though to the rest of us who would like to enjoy Montpelier's urban jewel. Alternatively, dogs should be kept on leash like just about every other park in Vermont mandates. I recommend a designated dog run area that is fenced and secure.

We shouldn't have to be apologetic to irresponsible dog owners. They are the offenders of common decency and unfairly paint the responsible owners with the same brush.

(name removed)

100. Emailed Comment:

I think our park is a great place to recreate in spite of the fact that few dog owners exercise proper control over their animals. It is common to see many dogs inappropriately approach people in the park. Most dog owners (and I am a dog lover and a dog walker) do not understand that many people do not want to be approached by their pet. My heart goes out to the dog owners who *do* properly and effectively control their dogs but they seem to be in the minority.

Has there been any proposal to provide a fenced in area where the dogs can run freely (as they are in many other cities) and socialize with other dogs? Seems to me to be the best solution. And perhaps dog owners might contribute the funds to do this if the alternative is to require them to leash their pet while recreating in the park or pay fines. I hope we don't need doggie police in the park.

(name removed)

101. Emailed comment

Though I live in Moretown, I am an almost-daily visitor, along with my two dogs, to Hubbard Park. I feel extremely fortunate that my dogs and I can enjoy all that the park offers, even though we are not Montpelier taxpayers. I hope Montpelier residents, dog owners or not, feel the same way.

I took your survey, and though I would have worded a few questions differently and added a few more, it is a start. The discussion is needed and maybe with a few policy modifications the Hubbard Park experience can be improved for all. Here are a few of my own experiences and a suggestion or two:

To begin, I think dog owners are by and large pretty responsible. If any codes have been broken while I have been walking my dogs, it was me, not the dog, who was the vagrant. My white beagle has been the worst offender; If I turn my head, she's gone!...over to your backdoor or one of the shops, looking for a handout. You must know her by now. I'm now attempting to keep her leashed when in the vicinity of your homestead.

On two occasions that I can remember, parents walking with their children were concerned when my unleashed dogs approached. I took measures to reign the dogs in, yet I can understand their concerns, having parented young children of our own.

Most conflicts that I have witnessed have been between dogs. Dogs being dogs.

Here are a few suggestions that I feel might help all park lovers continue to enjoy Hubbard Park:

- 1) Require dog owners to carry a leash for each dog they are walking .
- 2) Install large, unavoidable signs, stating specific dog policies. As difficult as it may be, hold violators responsible. One or two "examples" might encourage compliance.
- 3) Issue "voluntary" Hubbard Park licenses, with an accompanying tag, as in: "Fido Supports Hubbard Park." Proceeds from the sale of these licenses could be put toward new signs, poop bag dispensers and receptacles and related park expenses. Now that you've gotten the attention of dog owners and our privileges seem threatened many of us would be happy to pay a fair share.
- 3) Designate "leash-only" trails,, perhaps the tower loop and all vehicle traveled roads. And others?
- 4) Designate an official dog park; I'm thinking of the meadow at the top of the hill. It's unofficially one already.
- 5) I think this is important: now that you have lines of communication open, encourage dog-owners to police each other. None of wish to loose this privilege.

6) Along the same lines, dog owners need to understand that not all people are comfortable around dogs, nor should we expect them to be. It is very important that we respect the feelings of all park visitors and use the park with the understanding that while we can come here anytime, our dogs come along as our guests.

Thanks for listening,
(name removed)

102. Emailed comment (Calais resident):

I just completed the dog survey. I come to the park with my dogs a couple of times a week. I think that 90% to 95% of dog owners are conscientious and responsible. As far as cleaning up after dogs, small dog owners are less likely to in my observations. I've noticed this trend elsewhere also.

I have had people with kids yell angrily at me and my dogs even though they did not go anywhere near the children. I have also experienced kids just running up to my dogs (who don't react). Kids need to be taught to never do that especially when a dog is leashed and feels trapped.

The problem is really one of education for both dog and non dog folks.

(name removed)

103. Emailed comment:

Unfortunately my work schedule will prevent me from having the opportunity to address my concerns regarding the dog survey or making recommendations for a better process in person at tonight's meeting.

There isn't one person that I've spoken with that isn't interested in resolving the concerns raised by other Montpelier residents or park users from outside the city. However, there are very few dog owners that I've spoken with that think the current survey is fair or the best way to initiate the process of addressing those concerns. A vast majority of people that have reviewed the survey think it is biased and leading towards a specific conclusion. Whether this was the intent of the commission or not is not the point. It has forced many residents of Montpelier to become concerned about the current process.

People want to have a productive, collaborative dialogue about Hubbard park but as long as the survey is the foundation and the starting point for that conversation it will cause there to be some level of distrust to permeate any

future communication. The survey seeks to find how many won't or don't use the park because of the current concerns but it never seeks to see how many dog users would stop going if there were significant changes to the current rules. Its these type of one sided perspectives that have created concerns for me.

I ask that the commission retract the survey and start a new conversation based on a collaborative approach. One that focuses on all aspects of potential uses in Hubbard park and not just a single source for potential conflict. Many people have had bad experiences with bikes and/or skiers as well. There are plenty of people in this community on multiple sides of the issues that are willing to meet and make recommendations on how the largest majority possible can be satisfied with how the park is being used.

Also in the near future we could work together to:

1. Post more and larger signs at the entrances of the park about the code of conduct
2. Start tracking all experiences in the park. Negative and positive. With out knowing more detailed information we can't put the current incidents into the appropriate context.
3. Fill the soon to be vacated seat on the commission with someone that has expressed concern about the survey and is more interested in improving the current situation opposed to implementing new leash rules. Having a member on the commission that is opposed to this survey on the commission will help build trust between the whole commission and the community.

If perfection is the goal, only failure will be achieved. Its realistic to improve the current situation but it is not possible to please everyone. While I have expressed many concerns with this process and the survey specifically, I still think good things can be accomplished. But, they will certainly be easier to accomplish with this flawed survey retracted and forgotten.

104. Emailed comment

I have just completed the dog survey for Hubbard Park, and feel that the survey is written to be biased against dogs, and it generalized the behavior of dog owners, rather than giving respondents a chance to explain how they personally control their dog's interactions. It is upsetting to me that a responsible dog owner such as myself, who picks up after my dog, keeps my dog from children, keeps my dog with me when approaching others, and keeps my dog away from picnics, will be punished by the poor behavior of other dog owners. I hope to see some corrective action - ticketing? patrolling? more signage explaining that dogs

off-leash in the park is a privilege? or designating certain "off leash" areas? or some sort of formal complaint system? -- before we jump to the extreme conclusion of limiting or banning all dogs. There are many really good owners out there, and others who just need a gentle reminder of good etiquette. I agree there needs to be some sort of corrective action for the dog owners who are behaving badly, but don't punish the whole bunch - those people are few and far between. As a young professional, Montpelier is an attractive place to live, work, and play for me because it is a dog-friendly community with ample open space for me to explore with my pup. Lunchtime runs and skis through the park, when I don't have to hold onto a leash, are the highlight of my day. I hope the park can continue to be a place where all families can go - including our four-legged family members.

One idea, that I think is a good one, is to designate certain "off leash" areas, such as certain trails, loops, and adjoining green spaces. Dogs need space to run, and there aren't big enough yards in Montpelier for them. When designating these areas, make it clear with effective communication that this is a privilege, not a right, and hopefully people will be more respectful.

(name removed)

105. Emailed comment

I just submitted the survey re: dogs in Hubbard park. I use Hubbard park regularly with my (unleashed) dog who requires and enjoys space to run and frolick. We also enjoy encountering other unleashed dogs. They and their owners are uniformly responsible and respectful. I am casually looking to buy a home in the next few years and if Hubbard park became leash-only I would decide definitively not to buy in Montpelier but instead in a surrounding town such as Middlesex or E. Montpelier or Calais. Having a place to walk a dog unleashed near my home is essential to my daily life.

(name removed)

106. Emailed comment (Montpelier resident)

Yesterday when I left my home there was a fresh dog feces in my driveway, one on the walking path adjacent to the Vermont State Employees Credit Union, and another on Stone Cutters Way directly in front of the "Please Pickup After Your Dog" sign and the parking permit dispenser. That gave me the incentive to write you.

I have only used Hubbard Park three times in years mainly because of the dogs and their owners. In three trips to the park from Christmas to last Sunday (Jan. 13, 2012) nothing has changed. Dog feces along the road and

trails and several unleashed dogs, two of which were not particularly friendly. I feel the park is off limits to me and my grandchildren. It is not fair to allow a small number of people to just take over the park. There are a few pet owners that are polite and clean up after their dogs but the vast majority are rude and obnoxious individuals.

Hubbard Park is the most obvious problematic area due to the concentration of dogs but the problem is city wide. Any walk down town you can see dog feces on the church, library, and school lawns, in front of downtown businesses, along the walking bike and walking paths, recreation field, parking lots, etc.

Suggestions.

1. Charge non-residents a fee to use the park. They are some of the worse offenders.
2. Stiff fines for violaters. Expensive enough so they will not offend a second time.
3. Increase dog licenses to discourage individuals from having three and four dogs in the city.
4. Enforcement even for the "above the law" dog owners.

Last: that was a good survey and it easy to see why a few dog owners did not like it. (name removed)

107. Resident of Montpelier

- I would be very displeased if people were prevented from running their dogs in Hubbard Park. Please keep this wonderful resource open to loose dogs!

108. Resident of Barre City

- If we bring a picnic, we can always count on a dog showing up to beg! Once one jumped into our laps to get at food.

109. Resident of Montpelier

- (In response to question regarding being threatened by a dog at Hubbard Park) Sort of. (In response to question regarding having a negative experience due to dog poop) Sort of. How about a dog owner committee that agrees to clean up park poop in the spring after snow melts? Also, the committee would take over dealing with other dog owners.

110. Resident of Montpelier

- (In response to questions regarding coming to Hubbard Park more often if dogs were truly under control and if the amount of dog poop in Hubbard Park Negatively affects experience) These are absurdly leading questions. This questionnaire is clearly biased and will have biased results. If I could not walk my dogs in Hubbard Park I would move out of Montpelier. This questionnaire is offensive to me. Why not put out a similar survey regarding children. You could

ask: Has a child ever lost control of their sled? Has a child ever been out of control? Etc.

111. Resident of Montpelier

- I live adjacent to the park and have noticed a shift in dog etiquette over the last 4-5 years. I have been charged at regularly, often by multiple dogs, sometimes with no owner in sight. I have been muddied by animals whose owners do not say a word or look at me. Sometimes owners assure me "It's friendly!" as I'm being charged at. Other times owners call their dogs back, with varying degrees of success. Passing through my yard unleashed, dogs have "treed" my cat many times and run around my garden. I have adjusted the timing and routes of my daily walks to avoid dogs as much as I can. I love the park – I even bought my house because it's by the park – but I just don't feel safe enough to enjoy myself there anymore.

112. Resident of Montpelier

- I find the dog poop issue the worst of all aspects of more and more angers in the park. It is especially bad when the snow melts. Dog owners, if they want the tolerance of others, like me, should clean up the trails every spring – Maybe in an arranged group effort.

113. Resident of _____:

- It surprises me on a daily basis how dog owners fail to take responsibility for owning an animal and walking them in a PUBLIC environment. As a non dog owner, I would like to be able to use the park without fear that the dogs in the park are going to attack me or just plain ruin my experience. I would like to see more dogs on leashes and less jumping on me. Also maybe a designated dog area? I like this survey and am surprised no one has taken action before.

114. Resident of Montpelier:

- (In response to question regarding being threatened by a dog in Hubbard Park) No, but my dog has by a German Shepard. (In response to question regarding the amount of dog poop in Hubbard Park) Pretty good, actually.

115. Resident of Montpelier:

- (In response to question regarding being bitten by a dog in Hubbard Park) My dogs were.

116. Resident of _____:

- (In response to question regarding on how often they come to Hubbard Park) Depending on season. I do not have problems with other dogs when walking in the park. The only time I have trouble is with aggressive dogs in the

dog "play" areas when a lot of dogs are present so I mostly avoid that area. The dogs I encounter while walking are usually friendly.

117. Resident of Montpelier: name removed

I understand there will be a meeting to discuss rules for dogs in Hubbard Park. I think it's great to have areas where dogs can run and play, but I also think that some areas should be reserved for just people and nature. The habit of letting dogs run free throughout the park can be intimidating to people, especially children. I've heard of two reports in the paper in the past year of runners in the park getting attacked by dogs.

Free-running dogs also have an impact on the ecology of the park, since dogs are predators and they are inclined to wander off the trail. They frighten wildlife from the park, they trample undergrowth, and they spread weed seeds.

I love dogs, and I understand the value of giving them a place to run. However, I think the park is large enough to have "dog run" areas as well as "dog free" areas. At the very least, dogs should be kept on their leash when they are out of the "dog run" areas.

118. Thanks for the info. I cannot attend, but would like to register my dismay about the dog situation at the park. There is so much dog waste at the park right now that I drove out of town several times this weekend to run my dogs. I have two dogs- we pick up after them at the park. I also have three kids who use the park regularly when they are with us and when they are at school. The amount of feces in the park is unhealthy for them, for the dogs, and for our watershed. Other towns have enacted dog ordinances, and made designated dog parks. I think Montpelier needs to consider this as an option.

An other consideration is to put out trash receptacles at the park entrances and a central spot along with some sort of means to police and fine dog owners who do not clean up.

It is sad that we might have to limit park access to dogs but the negligence of owners is really dreadful at this point.

119. Montpelier Resident: Name removed

I am not able to attend Tuesday -

Another voice for some level of control or structure for dogs and people in the park - I have been nipped once and bitten once - the nip was an unleashed dog and the bite was a dog on a leash in North Branch. Not traumatic events, but more evidence that we need a way to co-exist.

119. I will be unable to attend the dog meeting this evening as there is a DRB meeting at the same time. I would like to comment though, that after sifting through the obvious emotional factors on all sides of the issue we should not be

making up facts. A common standard in most municipalities in Vermont and other states is that dogs should be leashed when on public lands be that downtown or on open spaces. Waste should be picked up and properly disposed of. Dog owners, and I have been one of them, have absolutely no right to impose their animals on the rest of the public. As for dogs "running free", that should be on private land or public spaces that have been properly fenced and dedicated to this use. It really is time to stand firm and insist that Montpelier adopt contemporary animal control regulation.

120. I have been walking my dogs in Hubbard Park for over 43 year and find that most people and dogs have always been friendly and considerate of others. It would be very sad to require dogs to be leashed in this beautiful place. Please don't do that!

121. It was interesting to hear what folks had to say (at the commission dog meeting). My general impression was that most people, many avid dog-enthusiasts included, believe there needs to be some better dog-management and behavior in the park. I have to confess, I didn't even know there is a current code of conduct as it relates to dogs in the park. Perhaps that is telling, and some increased education, information, and signage would be good. I didn't want to sensationalize each and every negative dog experience I've had in the park, but the two incidents in particular that come to mind that I'll share with you that were particularly upsetting when we were living on Corse Street.

Once I had _____ in the jogger and was walking up the main road by the old shelter. A dog owner allowed her dog run toward me, and circle and bark at the jogger. She couldn't get control of her dog, despite her yelling its name repeatedly. It was truly an awful situation for my horrified 1 year old to have a medium size sheppard-like mix barking at full volume in his face. I eventually had to intervene and make the owner to get control of the dog. This is wildly unacceptable, even if it happens once in a while. The other incident was when a dog came over the top of the tower hill and attacked Kris and Nancy Chickering's chickens in their yard. I tried to chase the dog off but at least a couple of chickens were killed before the dog ran off. When the dog owner eventually made it around to the gate entrance to find her dog, it was clear she had no idea where the dog had run and had no control over the animal. This incident illustrates the unpredictable nature of dogs, even when we think of them as our well-behaved pets. As much as folks like to anthropomorphize their pets,

they are still animals and can randomly be aggressive under strange situations. The jogger and chicken experiences are examples of that. As for the debate over designated dog or dog-free zones, it would still seem like a good idea to try to herd the majority of off-leash activity to some designated wide-open play areas for dogs. Having been a dog owner, it just doesn't seem unreasonable to me to have designated areas to let them run wild, but then have to leash them on the paths where other people are walking or in other multiuse areas. For instance, in my opinion, dogs do not need to run wild around the tower. This site is a huge attraction for families, children, and tourists. Having dogs off leash there is truly a detractor to that site for so many reasons. Again, as a former dog owner and user of the park, it just doesn't seem unreasonable to me, as long as there are places to let them run free, to ask that they be on leash much of the time. The park was not created by dogs, for dogs, and when dogs start impacting the human use and enjoyment of the park, even if it is an infrequent occurrence, it is unacceptable. Clearly it isn't realistic to think that all users will have a zen-like peaceful experience every time they use the park, but everyone should be able to use it without fear of incidents like I describe above. The last point I will make, and that was rightly made a couple of times last night, is that even if a dog owner believes their dog "is friendly" or "doesn't bite", it doesn't relieve the anxiety of people that are afraid of dogs to be told this. This is a frequent scene in the park when a dog approaches. Frankly, it is selfish of the owner.