



# VILLAGE H SOUTH

## PUBLIC INPUT REPORT



# Village H South Public Input Report

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# Introduction

The City of Carlsbad is taking a new approach to community engagement based on several key principles:

- Members of the public have a right to be involved in decisions affecting their lives.
- Adequate time and resources are provided to allow for meaningful public involvement.
- The public involvement planning process is begun at the earliest stages of decision-making.
- Opportunities for public involvement are clearly defined, including the decision or decisions to be made, the decision-making process and how the public has influenced the decision.
- It is the city's responsibility to seek out and facilitate the involvement of those interested in or affected by a decision. The city errs on the side of reaching out to people who might not be interested, rather than potentially missing people who are.
- Diverse participation helps ensure a broad range of perspectives is considered.
- Public involvement processes are designed to enable members of the public to participate in ways comfortable and convenient for them.
- City staff provide balanced and factual information to the public and do not engage in advocacy.
- Public dialogue strives for a focus on values over interests and positions.
- Members of the public do not need to have technical expertise to provide valuable input. Their everyday experiences as members of the community have intrinsic value to even the most complex and technical decisions.
- Public involvement planning is coordinated across all city departments to ensure consistency and avoid process fatigue.



## Village H South Process

The City of Carlsbad recently took ownership of a 61-acre piece of property, known as Village H South, bisected at the corner of Carlsbad Village Drive and Victoria Lane, as part of a lawsuit settlement involving the Quarry Creek housing project. A half-mile trail runs through the southern section of the property that is now part of the citywide trails system. When the property was privately owned, some community members used the southern section as a place to walk with their dogs off leash. A previous owner of the property put up a fence, locked gate and no trespassing signs along Carlsbad Village Drive and Victoria Avenue, but the public continued to use this southern section of the property.

Under city and county laws, dogs on city trails must be on a maximum 6 foot leash, and dogs are not allowed in city parks, except for designated off-leash dog parks. On April 23, 2019, the Carlsbad City Council directed city staff to initiate public outreach to engage residents in the development of a plan to integrate an off-leash dog run as part of the Village H property.

The public input process consisted of two main opportunities:

### Public Workshop

Community members were invited to participate in an initial workshop to brainstorm ideas, identify potential constraints and mock up possible design concepts. City staff provided a brief history on the site, along with an overview of the current opportunities and constraints at the site. Following the introduction, questions were posed for small group discussions designed to identify a long term plan for potential off-leash dog run options at the southern section of the Village H property.

Saturday, June 29  
Calaveras Hills Community Center  
10 a.m. to noon  
Attendance: 100

### Online Survey

The Village H online survey provided an opportunity for members of the public to provide input at a time convenient to them. Topic areas identified at the public workshop helped inform the questions on the online survey.

July 5 - July 28, 2019  
518 respondents  
4,863 individual responses  
275 comments

## About the Findings

By providing multiple ways for the public to provide input, decision makers can hear from a larger and more diverse group of community members. Respondents were asked to disclose where they live, and the system prevented more than two responses per computer IP address

(a computer's unique address). However, unlike a scientific survey, the findings of this process cannot be generalized to the entire Carlsbad population within a defined level of confidence.

That's why the input in this report should be considered with a similar weight as other qualitative forms of feedback that have always been part of the city's decision-making process, such as comments made at City Council meeting or emails sent to the city expressing an opinion.

### Overall Themes

Comments have been categorized for the purpose of identifying key themes. Readers are strongly encouraged to read the verbatim comments in the appendices to get a better understanding of specific ideas, priorities and concerns expressed. Following are some of the key themes from the online comments:

- Off-leash dogs
- On-leash dogs
- Off-leash enclosure
- Habitat preservation
- Wildlife protection
- Walking/hiking
- Safety
- Parking and traffic considerations
- Community/connectedness
- Quiet
- Experiencing nature
- Peace/tranquility
- Places to gather



Topic 2: Please work with your group to create some options for making space for an off leash dog area at the site, while protecting sensitive habitat and preserving wildlife corridors. You have three maps you can mark up with your ideas.

Workshop attendees worked together in small groups to mark up maps of the Village H South site with their ideas on how and where an off leash dog area could be added, while protecting and preserving wildlife corridors. Images of all options created by workshop attendees are included starting on page 11 of the appendices.

Topic 3: If you were the ones deciding on the future plan, what criteria would you use to choose the best option?



Amenities: enclosed off-leash dog area, trails, dog waste stations

Local impacts: noise, parking, safety, legal concerns, timeline of the project

Budget: cost to build and ongoing cost to maintain

Habitat: preserve habitat areas and protect wildlife

Community: preferences of the nearby community and homeowners

## Online Input

Input from the public workshop was used to refine questions for the online survey.

Total participants: 518

Total responses: 4,863

Comments: 275

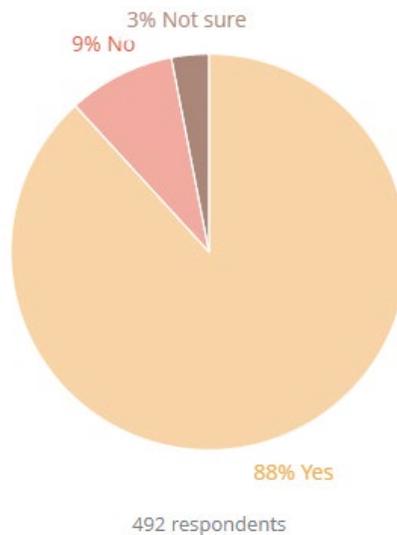
Detailed information about the responses for all questions is available in the appendices.

**Question 1: Are you familiar with Village H, a piece of open land on the corner of Carlsbad Village Drive and Victoria Lane in northwest Carlsbad?**

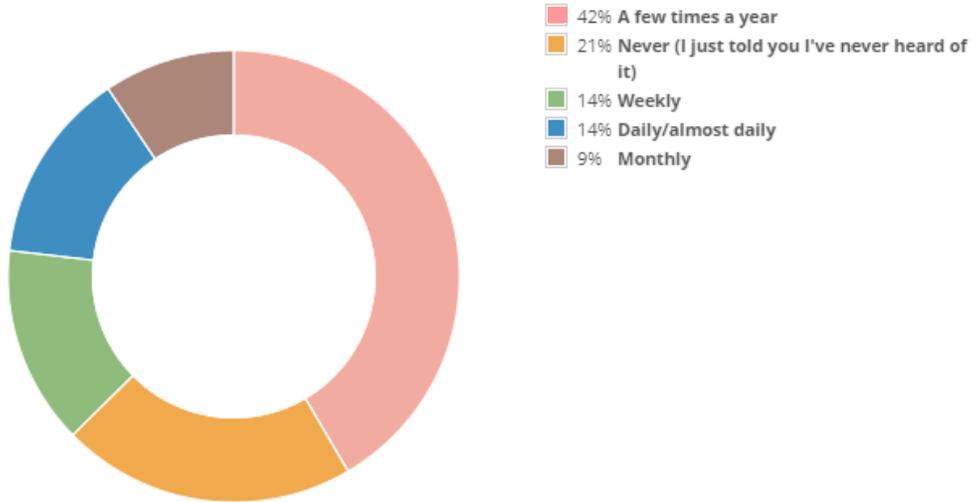
**Yes: 88%**

**No: 9%**

**Not sure: 3%**



Question 2: Before it was closed for maintenance, about how often would you visit Village H?



479 respondents

Question 3: Following are some of the things people have shared about why Village H is important. Please drag and drop these statements in the order of importance to you personally, with the most important statements on the top.

Experience and enjoy nature

Protection of wildlife

Socialize/meet neighbors

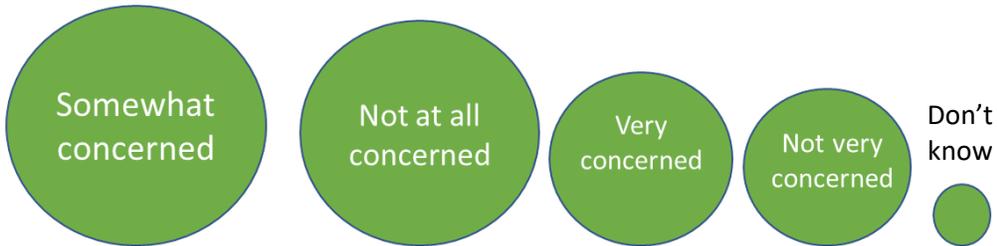
Exercise my dog on a leash

Exercise/socialize dog off leash

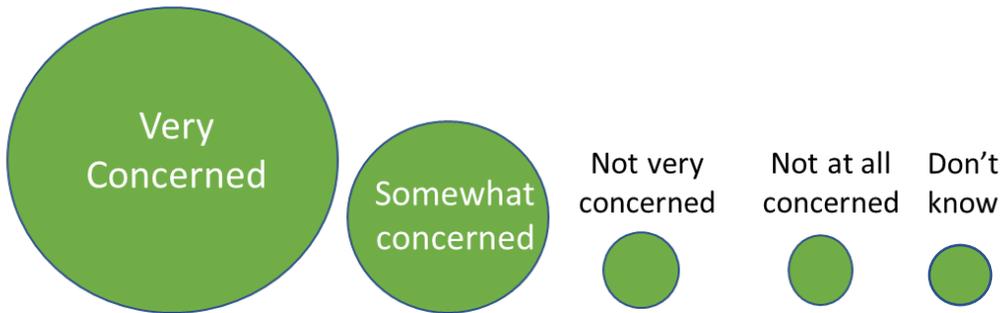
Exercise my dog off leash

Question 4: If you were in charge of deciding the future use of Village H South, how important would each of the following criteria be in making your decision?

How much time it would take to implement the plan



How well the plan protects the wildlife and habitat at Village H

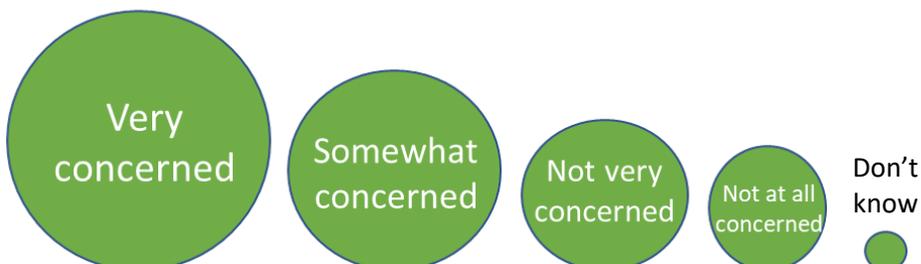


Exercise my dog on a leash

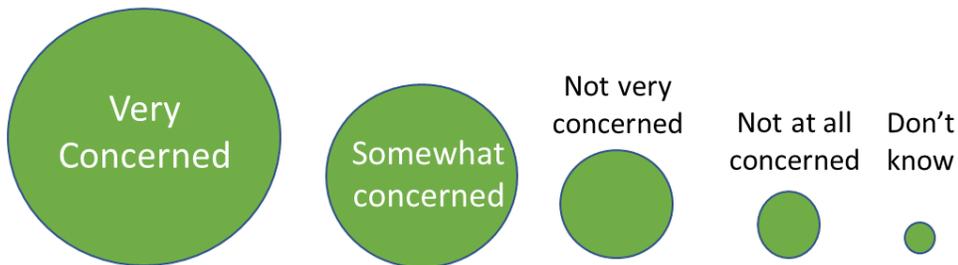
How much it would cost to implement the plan



Impacts to the neighborhood like noise and parking

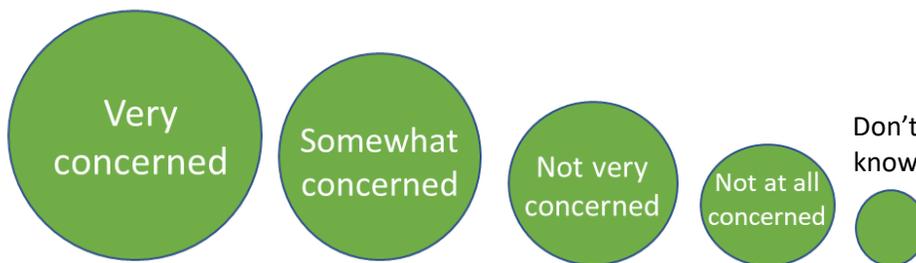


Safety



Exercise my dog on a leash

Potential that the plan would result in legal challenges



Question 5: What else would you like the city to consider? (open ended)

Key Themes From 275 Comments (some comments referenced multiple themes)



Habitat/wildlife protection: preserve habitat and wildlife corridors

Preserve: keep site and protect as is, with minor modifications

Experiencing nature: create spaces to watch wildlife and enjoy the outdoors

Peace/tranquility: create a peaceful and serene space

Safety: people feel safe using this space

Walking/hiking: create dedicated trails for people to walk and hike

Places to gather: create an environment where people can enjoy time with friends and family

Accessibility: modify access to allow people with mobility challenges to access the site safely

Off-leash dogs: allow dogs to run and socialize without a leash

On-leash dogs: only allow dogs to walk and socialize on a leash

Off-leash enclosure: create a fenced area where dogs can socialize and exercise off-leash

Parking/traffic: minimize the effects of traffic and plan for increased parking demand

Clean: install trash cans so people can dispose of their trash in an appropriate receptacle and ensure pet owners clean up after their pets

Community/connectedness: create spaces where people can meet and greet

## Next Steps

City staff used the input and ideas provided by the community to prepare four conceptual plan options for Village H South. Ideas that came up more frequently were noted in the supporting appendices, with the understanding that the ideas represented those who decided to provide input, not necessarily the entire Carlsbad community or those near the Village H South property.

The four conceptual plan options for Village H South that were derived from the public input received will be posted on the city's website. An additional conceptual plan, prepared by staff and titled 'Staff Option' will also be posted on the city's website. Each of the conceptual plans will include an overview of the corresponding opportunities and constraints.

The next step will be for staff to present these conceptual plans for the City Council's consideration. That is currently scheduled for the City Council Meeting on Dec. 10, 2019, at 6 p.m., in the Council Chambers.