

Q1 Please provide your feedback, questions, and comments below.

Answered: 883 Skipped: 58

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The off leash space is used and enjoyed by many members of the community and needs to stay open	2/12/2024 12:47 PM
2	This open space is one of the few off leash areas for dogs for all of Colorado. I drive 45+ min every weekend to give my dog the mental break and stretch her legs. It's such a gift. People come to Colorado because it's so dog friendly. It's a running joke "you move to Colorado and you get three things, a Subaru, skis, and a dog". Don't take that away	2/12/2024 12:25 PM
3	Dear Westminster City Council, I have been living in the area adjacent to the WHOS since 2003. I came to this area to enjoy the relatively rural lifestyle the open spaces provided at the time. Over the years, I have watched my neighbors, Arvada Westminster and Broomfield, develop and grow. I understand that growth in this area is inevitable, and with it comes increases in open space usage. I get that, we all need activity in the outdoors to keep our minds and bodies healthy and balanced. However, it seems to be that the usage at WHOS has become rather unbalanced with regard to managing the needs of people and wildlife. I used to ride my horses in the open space, but quit doing so as an increase of unleashed dogs made it unsafe; I used to try and jog the trails, but the increase in dog waste, disturbed vegetation, and mud holes has made it unpleasant and unhealthy not to mention the increased difficulty to observe the wildlife there. Walking along Alkire and 100th was never pleasurable due to the small shoulder areas, but it is I thinkable now with the increased traffic going to/from the parking areas. My birdwatching jaunts in the area have been very different with the increase in people/dog disturbance and I pray that the eagles, hawks, owls and kestrels and all manner of supporting wildlife in the ecosystem can continue to make a living here. So, although I was saddened by the report of the conditions present at the open space given at the open house at Westview Rec Center last year (noxious weeds, dog feces, E. Colo levels, wildlife impact), I was encouraged that the longer term goals are to mitigate the damage from overuse and bring balance back to WHOS, for the wildlife, nature observers, trail users as well as the dog lovers. The area is large enough for us to share by keeping activities segregated according to the proposed plans. Please help keep the area open space for all!	2/12/2024 12:03 PM
4	I would like to see the current dog off leash area remain, or at least a substantial portion of it. This has been a wonderful resource for dog owners in the area not wishing to venture to Chatfield or Cherry Creek State Parks. Thank you for providing this to our community. I would participate in volunteer activities to help maintain the open space. (I have been a USFS Volunteer in multiple capacities as well as a veteran volunteer ski patroller.)	2/12/2024 11:54 AM
5	The off leash open space is an asset to the community; it's a place where people of all ages on all walks of life can gather and interact without regard to social or financial status. The park as it is is a necessity to emergency first responders, care workers, trauma councilors, public school employees - our essential workers without whom we as a society would not be able to function. Mental illness can be deadly and leaving the 420 acres of open space off leash works directly in conservation for human life as a suicide preventative. The overwhelming majority of the community is opposed to reducing the off leash area and open to putting in hours of volunteer work keep the trails beautiful. 20 years ago, the area was a dust bowl, noxious weeds are present in the least busy parts of the open space where dogs are rarely found off trail to begin with. Regarding the water contamination, the readings of e-coli were taken upstream from where the dogs run around and remained unchanged on the next reading location down stream, indicating that the presence of dogs had no impact on the levels of disease in the water as it was already contaminated coming out of Standley Lake (a body of water that doesn't allow dogs inside but does host hundreds if not thousands of migratory waterfowl every year). Moreover, the instance of dog fights that have Joe Reale concerned happen primarily in congested areas of the park, the most congested happens to be within the bounds of miniscule space Joe wants to remain off leash - reducing the off leash area will directly lead to more dog fights and loss of human life due to mental health crisis. If the city of Westminster cares about the lives and well-being of its citizens at all, the amount of off leash open space should remain unchanged.	2/12/2024 11:54 AM

6

2/12/2024 11:50 AM

I'm originally from Boulder. I've lived in Broomfield for 18 years. I've been walking with my dog on these trails for almost 15 years. I am a daily visitor. Every. Single. Morning. And I agree that the park has become "over-loved" especially in the last 3 years. I agree that there are areas of the park where poop is a problem. I agree that some people are disregarding the "Dogs on leash only past this point" signs posted on the trail accessing the 600 acres to the West, where you are trying to protect sensitive species. The Parks Department states that WHO is being negatively impacted by the following: Problem: Overuse Not usually a problem on the weekdays. Most certainly the weekends can sometimes suck depending on the weather. • Solution: Charge an annual use fee. It wouldn't have to be as complicated as the Boulder Voice & Sight Tag Program where taking a class is mandatory. The fee to register is higher than the annual Renewal Fee. Non-Boulder County residents pay more than Boulder County residents. And Boulder County residents pay more than City of Boulder residents. • Solution: Institute a program similar to Boulder's Voice & Sight Tag Program. • I pay for Boulder Voice and Sight Tags even though I come to Westminster Hills every day. Problem: Parking Also, not usually a problem during the week. Again, weekends when the weather is nice are the worst. Possibly the ticketing solution would only have to be implemented on the weekends. • Solution: Charge a fee for parking • Ticket vehicles that park on the road – you make money on that right? • Ticket vehicles that park in the neighborhoods. Other cities deal with parking in neighborhoods by having Permit Parking only in neighborhoods adjacent to shopping areas etc. You have to live there to park there. Permit parking takes care of that. Residents also have hanging tags available for guest parking. • I pay \$25.00/year to park at Boulder OSMP parking lots. Problem: Poop • Solution: What happened to the Volunteer Poop Pick-up Events? In my experience, those were a huge solution. Yes, there are always going to be people who just don't get it regarding how important it is to PICK IT UP. I used to participate in those events. I have picked up hundreds of pounds of poop over the years. And not just at Westminster Hills...JUST BECAUSE. • Solution: What happened to at least two poop bag dispensers that were removed from the park in the last two years? • Solution: What happened to keeping the poop bag dispensers filled? • Solution: What happened to the trash cans by the 100th St. parking lot? There were City signs posted on the fence saying "Removed due to overfilling" with a photograph of an over-flowing trash can. People were trying to do the right thing by putting their trash in the trash can. The appropriate response from the City would be to go "HMMMMM.....maybe we need to remove the trash more frequently." Or replace the small trash cans with bigger trash cans. Or the type of vault trash cans that are used for the poop. Or more trash cans. • So the City has reinforced and exacerbated the problem and it feels like sabotage. Problem: Sensitive habitat and off-leash dog use • Solution: Completely close to dogs the 600 acres to the west of the off-leash area. Problem: SO why was the Rocky Mountain Greenway Trail constructed to pass through this area? The City had the opportunity in 2020 to involve the public regarding their attempts to restore this area BEFORE 6' fence posts started sprouting out of the ground. Where there had been for decades the "suggestion of a long-ago falling down barbed wire ghost fence". There was absolutely no communication. Everyone I saw out there was asking "what's going on out here?" I found out by asking the crew putting the fence up. From then on all the changes, from pink flags appearing overnight all over the place, to the barricades blocking trails that have been there forever, to the most hypocritical move ever – a CONCRETE PAVED BIKE ROAD! How did THAT not cause a disruption to the wildlife? I could barely hear myself think during the months of that construction. Again, people were asking every day "What's going on?" A few of my friends tried getting answers from the City and on August 28th someone finally responded & said, "We don't know yet, we're waiting on survey results." That very morning I walked out to the west and back where a road had clearly been graded to Alkire. The hill had been flattened, the surrounding area destroyed. A prairie dog removal team was working, (also a bit hypocritical don't you think? Given that one of your stated Keystone Species is the Black Tailed Prairie Dog), and I asked them what was going on. And that's how I found out about the most destructive project since the Rocky Mountain Greenway Trail was constructed. And on that very day, August 28th, City of Westminster Parks Dept. Facebook posted: "CONSTRUCTION NOTICE: Please be aware that construction is starting today on a new bike trail at Westminster Hills Open Space (WHOS). This trail will be 12ft wide and is 98% funded by a public safety grant! We were awarded funding for this project as part of an effort to prioritize cyclist safety. This project is expected to be completed by the end of October, and will provide safe bike passage for cyclists looking to enjoy our Open Space. Please see the map below for a diagram of the planned trail. Please email westminsterhillsosareamanagementplan@cityofwestminster.us with any questions or comments" And I do have a screenshot of this post. Pretending that this construction was JUST BEGINNING TODAY. There has been an appalling lack of transparency and communication with the public regarding proposed changes that would severely impact those

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of us who depend on this incredible off-leash area. This isn't even taking into consideration the human benefit of hiking with your dog off-leash. Or the benefit to seniors, as a 67 year old I am now a part of that demographic. My 75 year old friend walks faster and farther than I do. She routinely walks 3 miles or more. High energy dogs need to run. When I walk 2-3 miles my husky runs double that by running back and forth to me. Leashed high energy dogs do not get the exercise or the mental stimulation that they need to be happy, well-adjusted members of the community. And make no mistake about it, dogs ARE members of the community. Statistics show that Denver and surrounding areas have more households with dogs than children. Yet there are no opportunities for those of us with dogs to be actively engaged on a more natural level with them other than Westminster Hills. I have suggested City of Westminster communicate with other cities regarding the creation of more of this type of off-leash Open Space. This area has been an off-leash dog open area for at least 20 years. It's our community. It's my favorite part of the day. I love seeing my best friend so happy and joyful. I love seeing all the other dogs so happy and joyful. Dogs are amazing; they are examples of what it means to be living in the moment. Every day for them is the BEST DAY EVER! Happy, Happy, Joy, Joy!!! And this park, that means so much to so many, is an opportunity to be touched by that joy. We want to work with the City to improve problems.

7	Westminster Hills can be both land management and off leash dog park. We are concerned about keeping the land, ecologically safe, and also very concerned that the dogs are being seen as an issue. The true issue are the humans who do not properly train their dogs in Boulder County there is a site and sound program that residents must complete before their dogs can be off leash. Such A program open Spaceland can both be managed well, a sanctuary, for critters, and a place where citizens can enjoy the out of doors. Please keep Westminster Hills off leash, perhaps regulated through some type of off leash licensure program.	2/12/2024 11:48 AM
8	The Westminster Hills Open Space is great the way it is. It shouldn't be downsized. It's the best off leash dog park and trail in the western Denver metro area. All it really needs is a few more trash cans.	2/12/2024 11:39 AM
9	We love the park as it is. We walk our dog there. A little more frequent clean up would be welcome	2/12/2024 11:34 AM
10	We love the park and use it weekly. It is a great area resource.	2/12/2024 11:33 AM
11	Closing the off leash open space is a travesty. It is the only place we as dog owners can let our dogs run and be dogs. I stopped taking my dog to traditional dog parks because not all dogs get along and penning them up together is not always a good option. I've seen to many injuries from dog fights in traditional dog parks and that is never a worry at the open space. The fact that the city has done nothing in over 20 years to conserve the open space is on the city. The people that use the space almost daily should not be punished because the city has not done their job.	2/12/2024 11:22 AM
12	Dogs should continue to be allowed in this open space. The dog owners frequently here are responsible.	2/12/2024 11:19 AM
13	The dog park is great the way it is. Please don't take away the space for our dogs to run and play.	2/12/2024 11:14 AM
14	Please keep the off leash dog park off leash.	2/12/2024 11:05 AM
15	PLEASE do not eliminate the off leash open space - your community implores you to hear that it is a community need and the gem of Westminster!	2/12/2024 10:51 AM
16	There is more than one solution to this problem and you're picking the easy and most detrimental one. This is a very popular park for good reason. Rather than trying to eliminate use of most of the park you could set up a system. Dividing it into sections allowing each area to get a rest and recover. Or limiting the times or days the park is open. This is a public park paid for by our taxes and we should have the right to use it. It's your job to figure out how to give the community access while protecting the land. Plenty of other parks and trails have figured this out by doing some variation of what I describe above. Stop being lazy and start being creative.	2/12/2024 10:41 AM
17	Please do not disturb this open space area!	2/12/2024 10:36 AM
18	The dog park is an amazing asset, and is the only park of its size in the north metro area. I would be willing to pay a fee/license my dog in Westminster in order to assist with upkeep for	2/12/2024 10:28 AM

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the park to remain open in its current condition.

19	I love this area so much. It's one of the few free and open areas left accessible to the public and reducing it would be such a travesty. Please leave it as is.	2/12/2024 10:27 AM
20	Taking the dog park to leashed only is absurd. There are very few places to walk dogs unleashed. This has not been problematic for many years. There are far more spaces for those without dogs or fearful of dogs to roam. Stop the over reach and maintain the off leash option for responsible pet owners.	2/12/2024 10:12 AM
21	Please keep the open space as an off leash dog park. It provides a healthy and happy community for dog owners and their pets.	2/12/2024 10:07 AM
22	I love the dog park and want to keep it open!	2/12/2024 10:03 AM
23	As a Westy resident since 1998 (on both sides of the border), I ask: What makes Westminster unique from all other municipalities in the area? Simple--Westminster Hills dog park. Where else can you say 'hi' and meet such a diverse population every day? It is a community gathering spot that means so much to us residents. The problems addressed can be solved if we work together. Please understand that this is truly a crown jewel of our city. Thank you and I look forward to working with you to find a solution that works for everyone.	2/12/2024 9:49 AM
24	I am mainly confused. How could data support making modifications to the this park... other than adding parking? This park is extremely popular and utilized by so many families and their pets. I can't see any reason why this change would be beneficial. The change does not add anything and only takes away a group's ability to use the park. The park being off leash does not mean humans without dogs can not use the area as well. This park adds to my quality of life, as well as my dogs. I have actively been looking at buying a property in walking distance to the park so we can enjoy it even more. There are no other off leash dog parks like this unique and amazing park. Please do not take this joy away from your citizens, both 2 and four legged.	2/12/2024 9:32 AM
25	I agree with reducing the size of the ofleash area.	2/12/2024 9:31 AM
26	PLEASE get rid of the dogs and thier dog s everywhere. Protect the native birds. No one likes the disgusting dogs running everywhere except thier owners.	2/12/2024 9:07 AM
27	The dog park is a haven for us dog lovers. This is a much needed retreat within the city. Please don't shrink it in this already over crowded area. You can find other areas for redevelopment without taking from the huge population of dog owners in the area.	2/12/2024 8:41 AM
28	This is one of the few areas in a large city where you can freely roam with your dog. I drive over 30 minutes to get to the open space because there are so few options. If this is removed/reduced, where will it go? For a supposed outdoors town, I can't seem to take my dog anywhere.	2/12/2024 8:39 AM
29	Stop shrinking the areas we have left. There's no need to shrink this area down.	2/12/2024 8:38 AM
30	Hello, my wife and I recently bought a house close to the Westminster hills open space. We frequently visit with our dog and value this open space immensely. In fact, it was a significant factor in pulling us to Westminster. It is clear to me that it is well loved and well used by the community. Every time we go it is an overwhelmingly positive experience with other dogs and other people. It is no surprise to me that there are negative impacts due to its popularity. Rather than further restrict the off leash area, is it possible to charge a small fee for use? Say, \$2 each visit per dog? Those funds could then be used to clean and maintain the area. I do not think that further restricting the resource will solve the overuse problem. It would merely constrain damage to the area of use. Thank you for considering alternative means of managing the space.	2/12/2024 8:24 AM
31	We absolutely love walking the open space with our dogs, leash free. The space is big enough that dogs don't feel crowded and can steer clear of each other for space. The trails are nicely kept and it really is a treasure, as is.. please don't change it	2/12/2024 8:14 AM
32	The Westminster off leash dog park means so much to me and my family. I take my dog there 4 days a week. His bread needs to have the freedom to run and sniff. Having a limited space for off leash leads to territorial aggression and stress. That is why this off leash space is so important. Please keep the park off leash.	2/12/2024 8:11 AM
33	This park and open space are part of what makes living here so alluring. Colorado is the	2/12/2024 8:11 AM

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number one state for dog ownership and minimizing this area will cause overcrowding. I live across the street from the park and for residents, it is a joy to be a part of and see on a daily basis. Do not minimize our space. We pay to live here to have access to all of it.

34	<p>This comment is in response to the off-leash/on-leash potential modification within WHOS by Westminster City, Parks, Recreation, and Libraries (City) . I am very dismayed that the public has not been provided accurate information in the determination. When I filled out the survey in May 2023, the questions were implying that the City was going to close the off leash area when reading between the lines of questions. Thus, it was not a surprise that the City has 'already' [based on interactions with Joe Reale at WHOS open house] decided to restrict the off-leash area. Clearly, there has been user abuse of the area. However, this abuse could have been reduced by the City had they over the years been more proactive in several areas: - enforcement of waste pickup by users - clear identification of designated trails - number of users reduction (instituting a 'dog owner education tag' and/or parking permit program). To the reasons for closure as understood from discussions at the open house: - environmental damage to the off-leash area -- observing satellite images in Google Earth over time, the area currently appears to be in better shape than in 2002-September when the off-leash area was barren due to prairie dogs. -- clearly the current images show an extensive trail network, however as mentioned above, the City when closing trails, the vegetation has returned in one summer (2023). So, trail designation and education is a priority. -- dog waste is a very big issue, especially within 150 yards of the parking area. However, there has been very little user education and almost no City enforcement of regulations. To summarize my opinion on the WHOS proposed off-leash re-designation: The City has been deficient in their WHOS public education and management, which has led to several key problem areas. Now, as these problems have expanded, the City with the 'authority control' they possess has already determined a course of action by betraying the public by underhandedly using the WHOS Area Management Plan in justifying the off-leash designation. With over a million visits that show the area is cherished by a large segment of the area population, I hope that the City reconsiders its options for changing the off-leash designated area. Additionally, I hope that the City takes a more holistic approach (wildlife habitat in the area to include Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge and Colorado Front Range National Wildlife Refuge Complex) and realizes that the current acreage for off-leash use is a very small percentage of the wildlife natural environment in the area.</p>	2/12/2024 8:02 AM
35	Do not make this a leashed area! We already have so few places to take them to run around	2/12/2024 7:51 AM
36	Please keep this park off leash and 400 acres as is!	2/12/2024 7:47 AM
37	<p>Please keep the dog park the size it is now. It should be obvious that arguing for the protection of species habitats for species that haven't been found in this area is a disingenuous use of an environmental survey. Further, the argument that the area "has been loved to death" should indicate that the area is beloved to North metro residents, and may require stronger management, not closure. Perhaps an entry fee to pay for more workers and ecological protection outside the dog park? Better fencing and signage? Limit parking and post tow warnings so the area isn't overused?</p>	2/12/2024 7:46 AM
38	Please do not reduce the size of the off leash dog section. We are already so limited on off leash areas for dogs.	2/12/2024 7:31 AM
39	The off leash dog park is a gem and used often by our family-we go at least 2x/week. More during the warmer months. Reducing size would only cause crowding and lead us to no longer using the space	2/12/2024 7:22 AM
40	Please keep dog park as is.	2/12/2024 7:19 AM
41	DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES REDUCE THE SIZE OF THIS PARK FOR THE LOVE OF GOD.	2/12/2024 6:42 AM
42	Dogs should be leashed at all times. Irresponsible pet ownership has lead to the deterioration of flora and fauna of the space.	2/12/2024 6:18 AM
43	Please make this change. The environment is so much more important than a handful of negligent dog parents.	2/12/2024 6:14 AM
44	Please keep the open space. It's my favorite place in Westminster.	2/12/2024 4:58 AM
45	dogs should always be leashed in public for a multitude of reasons.	2/12/2024 3:52 AM

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46	Keep the 420 acres as an off leash area.	2/12/2024 1:45 AM
47	Ban all dogs.	2/12/2024 1:37 AM
48	Please don't reduce park size. I like the park! An alternative would be to encourage mixed use. Anyone is allowed to use the park with or without a dog	2/11/2024 11:40 PM
49	Westminster Hills Off-Leash Dog Park is our favorite one to date. Especially with the virus going around, it's been so helpful to go to a dog park this big. It's certainly avoidable to be near other dogs when at a park this size and when timed correctly.	2/11/2024 11:38 PM
50	yes, I am in agreement of reducing the open leash area to 40 acres	2/11/2024 10:41 PM
51	The current off-leash area is an asset to the whole metro area. It is way more valuable than a few birds. Reducing the offleash area here and not giving pet owners new options at other locations is a bad idea. Don't change anything.	2/11/2024 10:40 PM
52	Westminster Hills is a rare resource for dog owners in the front range. The ample space allows you to comfortably have your dog off leash and expend their energy. Especially if you have a passive dog that doesn't like playing with other dogs or playing fetch. My dog hates the normal fenced in dog parks because she's picked on. It's also one of the few places good for training recall and to try things like biking with your dog. It would be a real travesty to lose this valuable community resource.	2/11/2024 10:14 PM
53	You need to prioritize protection of native species and migratory birds	2/11/2024 10:04 PM
54	Off the leash can lead to dangerous results so reducing the size of the area would be in the best interests of people and nature.	2/11/2024 9:59 PM
55	This place is amazing for dogs. I would hate to see it decrease in space. It would be a travesty	2/11/2024 9:57 PM
56	We utilize the open space for our dog. As responsible dog owners who do not let their dog off leash in public places, Westminster dog park is vital to give our dog the exercise that he needs. As places like this shrink and/or disappear it makes dog ownership more difficult on the owner and the dog, and it makes things like off-leash dogs in public places more likely.	2/11/2024 9:48 PM
57	Absolutely do not shrink the size of the existing off leash dog park. It's a splendid place for dog owners and the community. It would be a travesty for the existing park to be reduced in any way whatsoever. If anything, expand and make it bigger!	2/11/2024 9:46 PM
58	Reducing the Westminster offleash dog park by 90% would takeaway the best dog park in Denver Metro. There is no other place to walk your dog offleash for miles. My dog has high energy and this is the best place to take her for her mental health and my own. As a new mom, I would come to the off leash dog park post partum with my baby in the baby carrier to improve my mental health. There are many parks closer to my residence that I could visit to walk my dog onleash, but my dog is much happier after visiting the offleash dog park. Reducing it to 40 acres takes away the socialization that both dogs and people are able to achieve with the 400 acres currently available. I've been coming for 4 years and I have had no issues with aggressive dogs. I think this is due in part to the many acres available. Dogs don't feel penned in and instead of fighting they are able to take flight/run if needed. As far as restoration, there is currently an additional 600 acres of onleash land where birds and rodents can live without the presence of dogs. This is plenty of habitat for them. Please do not take this away from the dog community.	2/11/2024 9:45 PM
59	Please don't change this Dog Park. Changing it to on leash effectively makes it useless. The purpose is so that the dogs and the people can safely walk around and exercise and enjoy the scenery. If I wanted to take my dogs on a leash walk, I would just do it around my neighborhood and I wouldn't drive 15 minutes to this park. I would happily pay an annual Membership To go there to go there, but That would actually be a Regressive, tax as people who are less financially stable, would have another barrier to entry. I really hope this isn't happening because the city wants to develop this land and it's a bait and switch.	2/11/2024 9:41 PM
60	Y'all should be looking for ways to improve the experience for the dogs and the people, not mice and frogs that you know aren't going to come back because the dogs go on leash. An additional parking lot, better facilities, safer entrances... this whole thing is just plain silly.	2/11/2024 9:37 PM
61	Unbelievable. F████ you for even considering this.	2/11/2024 9:36 PM
62	Keep the dog park open!	2/11/2024 9:33 PM

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63	Dogs should always be leashed when off private property.	2/11/2024 9:08 PM
64	This is one of the only good places for dogs to be off leash in a state that has one of the most dogs per household. It isn't representing your people to fraction the size	2/11/2024 8:37 PM
65	This is a unique, highly used dog park. Do not reduce it. It's a treasure.	2/11/2024 8:34 PM
66	Do not change or allow them to develop the Westminster hills open space!	2/11/2024 8:32 PM
67	Please do not decrease the off leash dog park area. It is the only space I feel comfortable taking my dog too.	2/11/2024 8:30 PM
68	I absolutely hate the idea of reducing the off leash area. This place is such a gem. Having one large park where humans can walk or jog with their dogs off leash is rare. Most off leash dog parks are small and over crowded. There are so many dogs who really benefit from being able to play and run and exercise in such a large park as evidenced by the visitor numbers. This large space is big enough that interaction is not forced except on the busiest of days. I would prefer that this land be set aside for dog/human joint recreation and we focus environmental preservation efforts on other open space lands.	2/11/2024 8:24 PM
69	My wife and I absolutely love the dog park, we love the open and unleashed aspect of it. We live in Denver, on the edge of Westminster, and drive 20 min each way everyday just for this park. Our dog is trained and behaved, she loves playing other dogs at the park. I just also say that we do a lot of shopping near the dog park due to the fact that we are always in the area.	2/11/2024 8:14 PM
70	The dog part is an essential part of the area. It is a unique spot with beautiful rolling hills, a creek, and multiple areas to park. There are more paths than the other regional dog parks (cherry creek and Chatfield) which makes this place a haven for those training their pups or people dealing with dogs with mild reactivity. The only issue with the park is that they've taken away many of the trash cans.	2/11/2024 8:10 PM
71	Do not reduce to overall size of Westminster off leash dog park. This park is unique to the metro, to the state and to the country. It is cherished by residents and visitors alike and hold more long-term, enduring social and ecological value than any other development can.	2/11/2024 8:08 PM
72	Please maintain the dog park as it is, if possible without causing severe ecological harm.	2/11/2024 7:57 PM
73	Please keep the 400 acres of trails and space for dogs and humans to hike and enjoy nature! There is nothing like it in all of Denver!	2/11/2024 7:52 PM
74	Keep it open and at the current size.	2/11/2024 7:47 PM
75	This dog park means a lot to local residents and our furry friends—this space is particularly special to doggos who are reactive on leash and need an open space to feel safe. This space is so precious for so many pups to have the freedom and autonomy to run like they deserve.	2/11/2024 7:46 PM
76	I am in favor of leaving the unleashed area of Westminster Hills Open Space/Dog Park. There are compromises to be made. The main part used for off-leash walking is from Alkire east to Simms and from 100th north to the parking lot on Simms. For over 10 years I have been walking there with my dog and meeting up with a community of like-minded people who share the chance to exercise and develop friendships. There are issues with a park that has been in existence for 24 years such as overuse, feces, parking and ecological preservation, but most importantly there has been a lack of direct communication and education and sharing results of studies from the Open Space representatives with the users of the park. First, the park has become popular. During the week days, 15 to 20 cars at a time are in the lots off and on during the day. Many local residents do not go on Saturdays and/or Sundays because many people from other parts of the metro area come. This has caused parking problems. Suggestions have been made to have locals buy annual parking passes to place on our cars for a reasonable sum. Non residents would be able to buy passes but at a higher rate. There are parking patrols already working on Saturdays and Sundays who could check the passes to help enforce legal use. Additionally at a meeting 2 years ago, neighbors ask for gates to be placed at the entrances and closed at night to prevent unwanted activities. The gates could be like the ones in the parking lot along 100th east of the main entrance to Stanley Lake. Another issue is that dog feces have not always been picked up as they should be. In years past there were clean ups where volunteers worked with the City to clean this up as well as to collect any trash. Why hasn't the City continued these clean ups on a regular basis. We could organize regular times to do this. People I have talked with are willing to help. Other projects can be filled with volunteers even if it is just to assist with hauling and clean up. Third, people want to	2/11/2024 7:40 PM

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compromise and are willing to close off the area west of Alkire to Indiana and north of 100th to preserve the sensitive areas of animal and bird habitat with adequate fencing but again need to be educated about the need for the closure. 4th The biggest issue to deal with is the lack of direct communication from the City to the users of the park. The Park has been in existence since 2000. In the last 6 months or so an ecological study has been done, surveys taken, trails closed and no one from the City has taken the time to do like many other cities in the region and set up a simple table at the entrances with a City representative and some volunteers explaining what the study, surveys have concluded. Then suddenly an Open House is announced with major changes to to the park. Many people who attended the Open House left disheartened because when they asked questions or offered suggestions or compromises felt they were met with the response of no, no compromises. People are frustrated, angry and actually stunned because there was no information shared along the way. They felt it was a done deal. In these days of instant messaging , simple emails from the City could have been sent. Please allow discussions and compromises. I have lived in Westminster off and on for 40 years, in my present location for over 25. I have always felt proud of our City for preserving our open spaces and parks. We have baseball diamonds, soccer fields, play grounds, football fields, bike paths, hiking paths and our dog walking community would like to work with the City to have this area as a place we can exercise and meet with our friends. I am saddened by how this whole thing has been handled. Thank you for the space to comment.

77	The dog park is special in the entire Denver area and the idea of removing a large part of the off leash portion is a terrible idea. I used to drive 30 minutes when I lived in Denver to go but the changes make no sense.	2/11/2024 7:36 PM
78	I support reducing the off leash area	2/11/2024 7:36 PM
79	I bought a house in the neighborhood near the dog park. I bought property there due to the proximity to the park. This change is going to really damage my home value as well as my level of satisfaction with where I am living. To me there is no difference with having an on leash dog park vs a normal park where dogs have to be on leash. I don't understand this change. The park is routinely busy and so many people will be affected by this change.	2/11/2024 7:33 PM
80	This off leash park was affected by the Evergreen off leash being shut down, and there will be negative affects if Westminster Hills Open Space Off Leash is changed to on leash. This area is a one of a kind place that brings people from all over together. It develops a sense of physical and mental well being and community while sharing the joy of our dogs running and frolicking off leash. Please don't shut down our off leash freedoms, and work with the off leash community to help solve concerns for this unique space.	2/11/2024 7:21 PM
81	The dog park is amazing! Please don't reduce the size. People come from all over to go to that dog park as it's the best around! We always have lunch and go to h mart when there but it's the dog park that takes us to Westminster.	2/11/2024 7:19 PM
82	The WHOS area provides a critical recreation space for dog owners in the Westminster and Greater Denver area. This space is unique to the area, likely contributing to the "overuse" of the space. I regularly drive 30+ minutes to access the area because it is so unique to greater Denver. Reducing the off leash access or dog accessibility due to overuse is incredibly counterintuitive. I empathize with the situation the management team is in, and care deeply about protecting wildlife and local ecology. However, reducing off leash access only punishes responsible dog owners. Irresponsible owners will continue to be bad actors, and perpetuate harm. Additionally, changes will likely create overcrowding issues in the other rare off leash recreation areas outside Denver. There are far more constructive approaches to reducing environmental impact, but the proposed changes will dramatically reduce any recreation in the space as most are dog owners, as well as other potential economic and social impacts. When I make the trek currently to the WHOS Area, I typically stop in to shop at other businesses in the area. Additionally, the community building and social gathering in the space is refreshing in a world facing increasing social and physical isolation. Respectfully, the WHOS area is the only reason I frequent Westminster. I understand wanting to reduce overuse and protect natural resources, but maintaining the balance of function and benefit must also be considered. Despite being a Colorado native, during a period living in San Diego due to my partners military service, a previously defunct local park was transitioned to a dog park with neighborhood support. The change dramatically improved use of the green space, community building, and recreation. I can see the opposite occur with WHOS if access is reduced. As a dog owner, I would gladly purchase a pass to access the area fully, and contribute to maintaining the area similar to how Cherry Creek off leash area operates. I strongly encourage the team to	2/11/2024 7:18 PM

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reconsider, and prioritize on-going widespread access to the off leash park as a critical service to residents and those in the surrounding area.

83	We need Westminster dog Park. There's not a lot of safe off leash places for dogs, and it deters people from going to the mountains and going off leash with their dogs	2/11/2024 7:10 PM
84	Dogs off leash are a nuisance and ecological disaster. They're an invasive species, cause noise pollution, destroy soil quality, and cause way more problems than we need. Dog owners are irresponsible entitled narcissists who already bring their dogs [REDACTED] everywhere bc the world revolves around them, [REDACTED] anyone else, including the environment and other native animals in it. They're irresponsible, ignorant, and hypocritical people who should not have any off leash areas to begin with, let alone as much as this area provides. Please get rid of this off leash abomination.	2/11/2024 6:58 PM
85	This park is my favorite place and my dogs agree. The views are unmatched and it is such a good place just to go on a nice walk with friends. It is great because you can walk for miles and are less than 30 minutes for Downtown. Making the off-leash area smaller will only impact those of us who already follow the rules (like staying on path and picking up poop).	2/11/2024 6:43 PM
86	While the needs of the ecosystem certainly need to be addressed considering the negative effects overuse of this area has caused, decreasing the acreage does not mean there will be a correlation in decreased use. There will now be the circumstance present where the same usage is compacted into those decreased 40 acres. A more legitimate solution could be to expand other areas for similar use and therefore try to mitigate certain areas being overused and adversely affected. There also could be a system similar to other dog parks where the area in its entirety is fenced and subsequently divided in 2 equal portions. This allows for the rotation of usage by partitioning the two sides and allowing public entrance into one side at a time. The unused side is therefore undisturbed to be cleaned and regenerate its ecological diversity.	2/11/2024 6:30 PM
87	The off leash open space should not be reduced in size. It is an incredible amenity to Westminster and a reduction would make it like any other dog park. As a Westminster resident I cannot support any reductions in the off leash space.	2/11/2024 6:23 PM
88	I do not agree with the proposed significant reduction in size of the off leash area. This park is an amazing and unique place for people to recreate with their dogs. The size of this park allows dogs to exercise in a manner that is not available at on leash areas. I agree that the issue of excess dog feces needs to be enforced. I believe this area should be managed like Cherry creek state park dog park, with a fee for entry, and rotating revegetation areas. Also implementing erosion control methods along the stream bank similar to Cherry Creek. It is reasonable to create a no dog area to protect the wildlife around Woman Creek. An on leash recreation area is useless - I can recreate with my dog on leash in ANY park. Please maintain the proposed on leash area as off-leash.	2/11/2024 6:23 PM
89	The right of dogs to run off leash does not exceed the right of wild animals to live in an undisturbed habitat. I support the plan.	2/11/2024 6:16 PM
90	I bought my home partially because it was close to this dog park. It's the best dog park in the state by a good margin. It would be a huge bummer to see it disappear. I understand that it is for the bird population, but if we make changes now, it will be just another apartment building in 5 years.	2/11/2024 6:03 PM
91	For once, don't let money win. This is the crown jewel of all Colorado Dog Parks. This should remain the pride of the city.	2/11/2024 6:02 PM
92	Please do not reduce the off leash dog area.	2/11/2024 5:54 PM
93	The Westminster off leash dog park provides an invaluable experience for dogs. My dogs are much happier and calmer with the ability to run and explore off leash. I understand the desire to protect nature but the fact is everything is nature. Dogs are as natural as the other beings that live in the open space. The difference is that dogs are more confined than those beings. Limiting off leash space would be a disservice to the dogs that need and deserve a few moments of freedom throughout the week.	2/11/2024 5:51 PM
94	The Westminster Open Space dog park is such a gem in our area. I am very disappointed to learn that the city of Westminster is moving to limit the amount of the off-leash portion of the dog park substantially. Is this huge reduction necessary? The open space allows so many people and pets an opportunity to move around in such a beautiful place, connecting	2/11/2024 5:50 PM

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communities, and providing an outlet to exercise and socialize. We can do this in an environment that allows dogs to run and socialize without feeling threatened. This open-space dog park increases the value of homes in the area and attracts people to the area. Colorado is a dog-loving state and people value a large off-leash park like the Westy Dog Park. It would be a shame to see such a decrease in the amount of area that is off-leash. Please reconsider.

95	My family and I love the off leash dog park. Please leave it as-is!	2/11/2024 5:46 PM
96	Do not reduce the area for off leash dogs. Too many people in Westminster and surrounding towns already don't leash their dog in public places. This off leash dog park provides a good space.	2/11/2024 5:38 PM
97	Please keep the unleashed area the same as it currently is.	2/11/2024 5:36 PM
98	Please do not reduce the acreage for the unleashed dog area.	2/11/2024 5:34 PM
99	I have a dog that needs a bit of distance to other dogs to feel comfortable. The large area here meant we had many options. It would be more difficult if the size was reduced so much. A large area like that will only be more enticing for years to come. Protect it.	2/11/2024 5:32 PM
100	While ultimately I recognize the reduction in size of the WHOS is ecologically necessary, I disagree with the lack of communication from the city around this initiative. I live in Countryside, RIGHT NEXT to the WHOS, and found out about it from Nextdoor of all places. Unacceptable.	2/11/2024 5:28 PM
101	The off leash dog part is one of my favorite places in Colorado. We go several times a month. The size makes it much more peaceful and enjoyable than smaller parks. It would be a shame if the size was reduced.	2/11/2024 5:28 PM
102	Please do not take away the area we have to legally have our dogs off leash! We are following the law and deserve to have our space respected. Unfortunately the continued removal of areas to legally be off leash will not stop a large portion of owners from letting dogs off leash. Don't punish the good ones that follow the laws by shrinking our areas further!	2/11/2024 5:27 PM
103	Please do not get rid of this amazing open space. There aren't too many places like this!	2/11/2024 5:21 PM
104	My husband and I visit this amazing park with our dog on a regular basis. I very much understand the concern for the park now. We see a lot of dog owners not picking up after their dogs. Children as well as adults leaving food, bottles, etc. along the way as well as dog toys which I'm sure does not help the situation. Would it help placing additional trash cans throughout the park and prohibit people from bringing dog toys to the park?	2/11/2024 5:20 PM
105	Very supportive of the proposal to reduce the off leash dog area. I would actually like to see leashes required in the entire Open Space	2/11/2024 5:17 PM
106	I absolutely love this open space. The amount of acres available for free range make it a top choice to take my dog out too. It would be so sad to see that reduced.	2/11/2024 5:12 PM
107	The park is great the way it is. There's nothing else like it in the area. It's a beautiful space please do not reduce the size. It feels silly to reduce the size with the population growth we've seen over the last few years.	2/11/2024 5:04 PM
108	Don't reduce the dog park space. There's already very few park on the area that allow off leash dogs. Don't further reduce the area we can use.	2/11/2024 5:03 PM
109	Please keep the park the way it is- my dog and I get so much joy from coming there, and it is nice to have her off leash without being squished in with a lot of other dogs. We go on walks and can absorb nature while not worrying about too many dogs in too small of a space.	2/11/2024 5:03 PM
110	Please don't make the off lease area smaller. The size is what makes it good. It will become a terrible dog park if you lessen the size.	2/11/2024 5:02 PM
111	This seems well researched and thought out, I support it	2/11/2024 5:02 PM
112	We love this park and frequent it fairly often. It's a nice wonderful space to let our pup run around, see other pups and we get a nice walk out of it.	2/11/2024 4:45 PM
113	Please keep the whole Open Space an off leash dog park! It essential for responsible dog owners who keep their dog leashed everywhere else. I'd support more leash law enforcement, but please maintain designated safe, large off leash areas!	2/11/2024 4:40 PM

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114	Please leave the dog park at maximum capacity. As a lifelong resident, this is space is use over 100 days a year.	2/11/2024 4:23 PM
115	I live in Central Denver and use this park often! It is my favorite place to take my dog especially when we're both cooped up in the apartment. The dog parks in Denver are nice but small and overcrowded so it's great to have an "escape" like this.	2/11/2024 4:22 PM
116	We should preserve our open spaces and even consider expanding our open spaces in Westminster as these open spaces are part of what make this municipality great. Stripping outdoor areas away from residents in favor of development does not help us, the citizens of this municipality. Open spaces are a fundamental part of what makes this area a wonderful place to live.	2/11/2024 4:21 PM
117	My house strongly opposes any reduction to the open space off area. We love to enjoy it all year—the meadowlarks, eagles, prairie dogs, and our community members. As JeffCo taxpayers, we cherish this area and hope it remains the same.	2/11/2024 4:19 PM
118	Reducing the size of the off leash area of the dog park, but not completely eliminating it sounds like a great way to protect native species and also allow residents to run their dogs off leash.	2/11/2024 4:14 PM
119	I would be severely disappointed if any of the open space area was cut. This is a truly one of a kind type of park that is always packed. It is really concerning that the city would even consider cutting the park and it shows that they must be disconnected from the average citizen. If a member of the local government drove by this park on a weekend, they would always see the parking lot be packed full and people parking on the street. Really disappointing this is even a conversation.	2/11/2024 4:07 PM
120	I've just heard the proposal to reduce the WHOS off-leash dog area from 400 acres to 40 acres and feel like this is a massive swing of the pendulum. This space is a boon for dog owners and is one-of-a-kind in its benefit for the local community. In reducing the off-leash area you increase the potential density of off-leash dogs by a factor of 10. Given the results of the survey data that reported frequent dog-on-dog/dog-on-person conflicts, this has the potential impact to increase these conflicts greatly. I ask that this current proposal please be reconsidered - that the area for off-leash dogs be kept as-is, or at least not scaled down as considerably as the recent proposal.	2/11/2024 4:03 PM
121	I am unable to attend the 2/12/2024 meeting due to my work schedule as a registered nurse but I would like to make my voice known. I have been taking my dogs to the WHOS for four years every single day (since the day we brought our first Border Collie home) and sometimes twice a day. If I am unable to take them, my husband, who works from home, takes them. We are responsible dog owners who have taken our dogs for extensive training through the Colorado Dog Academy, and who still regularly take our dogs for training through Team Spirit Agility in Arvada. We are members of the Voice and Sight program through Boulder County so that we can take our dogs off leash hiking on designated trails throughout Boulder County. I am not opposed to being part of a volunteer clean up crew to keep the WHOS area clean, beautiful, and in good condition. I am an animal and nature lover, and I agree that the forms of habitat that live in the open space should be able to continue to thrive and grow. My husband and I never take our dogs to the leashed area of the open space, and if we were to go into that area, we would leash our dogs to protect the habitat. While I have heard that the V&S program that BC has in place is getting a thumbs down from Jeffco, I don't understand why the Parks and Rec department are not trying to come up with negotiable terms so that everyone can enjoy the open space, dogs included. One thing to note is that with the current obesity epidemic among American citizens, it does not just include humans, but their canine companions. At the WHOS dog park, you will find very few obese dogs because their owners regularly take them to walk the trails. While I can take my dogs walking on leash, they do not get the same amount of activity as they get running and chasing after balls and frisbees. You also find very few overweight individuals who are regularly walking their dogs because activity is a part of their everyday life. Would they be getting the same amount of activity if they had to walk their dog on leash? I know for a fact my husband would not. He sits on his behind for over 8 hours a day working and his only aerobic activity is regularly getting the dogs out for an afternoon walk. If the habitat is so important, why did Jeffco lay down all that concrete for a bike path that goes to nowhere? Why is Jeffco wanting to create a multi-use space when bikes have plenty of trails they can ride where dogs are not welcome? And how does allowing mountain bikes the use of that space protect habitat? My dogs, LiLou and Jett, are two Border Collies obtained from C2C Border Collies in Elizabeth, Colorado. They are like our children, and the highlight of their day is going to that park. When I throw the ball to LiLou, she takes off like	2/11/2024 3:51 PM

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a race horse to get the ball. Jett crouches down on the path, and waits. Once she has the ball, he races to her, where she drops the ball, he picks it up, and races it back to me or my husband so we can throw it again. I have never seen such pure joy as when my dogs can run and play on those trails. Jett and LiLou have made many friends, as have I, with the community of dogs and people I regularly see at the park. I have lived in Maryland, near Washington DC, Franklin, TN (outside Nashville), and Fairhope, AL (near the gulf coast). Our pets never had the life that our current pets have because they were either confined to fenced in yards, getting walks on the leash, or they "got" to go to fenced in dog parks, which I refuse to go to, due to bad-mannered dogs. You have no idea what a treasure the WHOS is to those who regularly use it. I have felt so incredibly blessed to be a part of this community and the WHOS is a big reason for that blessing. Our dogs are so important to me and my husband, that we literally do nothing without their welfare coming to mind. Making sure they have plenty of activity is part of ensuring their welfare. If you take the WHOS away from our beloved dogs, you are taking so much more than you can even imagine. It will be devastating to lose the WHOS for all the humans and dogs that have community there. There must be a solution that will help preserve the habitat, yet allow our beloved dogs their space to run in a safe space.

122	Hi there, I love dogs. I love this dog park and I've taken dogs to this dog park. I also love keeping Colorado beautiful. I saw a thoughtful PowerPoint that explained why dogs are detrimental to this area that looks like there are several protected species and many of them burrow in the ground and we're losing them. I don't think that reducing the off leash part of the park from 70 acres to 40 acres is a big deal. 40 acres is still a lot. Thanks for going with the science here and protecting our lands. I live in Arvada in Adams County, So I'm not a resident of even Westminster or Jeffco.	2/11/2024 3:48 PM
123	Don't reduce the Westminster Hills Open Space for off leash dogs. People from all over the metro visit this area. It is unique and singular for dog parks.	2/11/2024 3:33 PM
124	Westminster Dog Park should keep all 400 acres off leash for our dogs. We need free, safe, large off leash areas to work with our dogs and train them and exercise them.	2/11/2024 3:19 PM
125	More commie bulls to deprive our citizens of goods, services, and benefits. F you guys	2/11/2024 3:18 PM
126	The size of the Westminster Open Soace dog park has allowed not only myself with my dogs, but many clients and friends of mine to work with their dogs in a space that is perfectly designed for optimal training. This involves space to yourselves to focus on training objectives as well as a place for your dog(s) to practice socialization with other dogs. Westminster Dog Park, as it is, is integral to creating canines that are safe and well integrated into the community.	2/11/2024 3:15 PM
127	Please maintain the off leash dog park.	2/11/2024 3:14 PM
128	KEEP THE PARK AS IT IS. This 400 acre off-leash park is a dog utopia (a dogtopia, if you will), and is utterly unique in my experience. This park (AS IT IS) is worth a long drive to visit. When we lived far from it, we would routinely drive 45 minutes to visit it. Luckily, we are much closer today and can more easily visit. If you alter the park, you will be defacing a gem. Please do not change anything about it.	2/11/2024 2:57 PM
129	I do not want to see the current 400 acres reduced or developed in anyway. I use this area for recreation on a weekly basis and believe it is central to living in westminster	2/11/2024 2:54 PM
130	I take my dog to the off leash open space at least once a week. There is nowhere like it. I totally understand the need to preserve the area, and would do anything to be able to keep the same amount of space available for off leash activities. I would happily pay an annual fee to help cover the resources needed to maintain and preserve areas as needed, regular staff presence, bring more regulation (like actually policing picking up poop, etc), if that could mean the pups could still run free.	2/11/2024 2:49 PM
131	I go to Westminster hills off leash dog park with my dogs all the time. It is their favorite place in the world and mine as well. PLEASE do not reduce the off leash open space!!!!	2/11/2024 2:48 PM
132	Keep the dog park as it is today. It's a great asset to the community.	2/11/2024 2:44 PM
133	I really enjoy this off leash open space. It's my dog's favorite place to go. We keep to the trails and area where off leash is allowed. Please keep the current off leash space.	2/11/2024 2:38 PM
134	Leave it alone. You already added an unnecessary bike path. Too much overreach leave it alone!	2/11/2024 2:32 PM

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135	This is the only place near Denver my dog can freely run off leash and we can go on longs walks with her.	2/11/2024 2:32 PM
136	We need more dog FREE areas! Can't go anywhere any longer without worrying about stepping in dog poop, and they pee everywhere	2/11/2024 2:28 PM
137	I bought my house to be next to the dog park. Start ticketing people who are parking on the street. That will help with crowd control.	2/11/2024 2:28 PM
138	Bad plan to reduce the off leash area. It should be retained in its existing form.	2/11/2024 2:23 PM
139	Close it off. I am sick of off-leash dogs	2/11/2024 2:20 PM
140	This is such an amazing area not just for the dogs but people getting out in nature and walking around. This is as close as you can get to hiking with your dog off leash (legally) vs smaller dog parks where everyone is cooped up together and people able to walk with their dogs. 40 acres is not that big. There is even a need for green spaces for natural wildlife to share. It'd be a shame to get rid of this area.	2/11/2024 1:51 PM
141	My family and I use this open space with our dog weekly, if not more. We drive 15 minutes even though there are smaller and closer dog parks, we simply enjoy this space the most and it allows us to get a good walk in while our dog can run around getting his own energy out. We have had bad encounters at smaller dog parks but never here with how spacious it is. Owners here are responsible, friendly and most importantly practice recall. Out of all the places we go, this is the best solution to get our dog properly exercised. It would be a devastating blow to our community for this space to be restricted. I also would like to add that the proposed off leash area in the cities plan is by far the worst part of the park. Restricting off leash access to a handful of acres will only put compound pressure on the selected area.	2/11/2024 1:20 PM
142	Please do not reduce or close the Westminster open area off-leash area. I take my Bernese Mountain dog there almost every week. There's nothing that makes me happier than seeing my dog and the others get to run free and hike without a leash. Whenever I feel lonely or sad, I go there. The value it provides to the residents and their dogs way out weighs the ecological impact. If anything, please extend the off leash area.	2/11/2024 1:06 PM
143	Why are the Karen's taking over the world? There are 10,000 places to walk your dog on a leash. There are a few where they can play freely without leashes.	2/11/2024 12:58 PM
144	I live in the neighborhood adjacent to the park, and have been coming to the park since it became an off leash park. I attended the Community Open House at the City Park Recreation Center on 27.Jan held to reveal the results of research performed on the Westminster Hills Open Space. I had the opportunity to view the placards and discuss the observations with the city personnel hosting the open house. Some of the personnel were very accommodating and open to discussion, sadly others were extremely unapproachable and discounted any ideas or suggestions. I don't think that there is any dispute that the condition of the park has changed in the ~20 years since the public use of the land commenced. I also learned from discussions with many staff members on 27.Jan that access was always a temporary status and that there would be environmental impact evaluation performed at some point. This was something of which I was not aware. What is particularly concerning is that this research was performed after the area had 15-20 years of access without mitigation, correction, education, direction or enforcement. The proposal based on evaluation is to recommend drastic reduction in access without offering options. I believe that alternatives should be evaluated and attempted before drastic changes are enacted. Some suggestions are: - parking permit and/or charge - something similar to the Voice and Sight program implemented in Boulder - instructional signs or placards indicating the conservation in progress - "" about restoring trails - "" indicating the dangers of e coli to the park and surrounding areas, and the requirement to pick it up - occasional ranger presence in the park for education purposes - monthly/or bi-monthly organized community cleanup of the park The bulk of the visitors that I encounter at the park are responsible humans and good stewards of the park. Possibly some education could help those less than good stewards.	2/11/2024 12:54 PM
145	Please allow dogs to keep playing off leash	2/11/2024 12:41 PM
146	Keep the dog park off-leash! This is the best dog park around!	2/11/2024 12:05 PM
147	We need to keep the dog park as an off-leash area! There are no other large open spaces nearby for our dogs.	2/11/2024 12:05 PM

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148	Keep the dog park off leash!	2/11/2024 12:04 PM
149	The dog park should stay an off-leash area.	2/11/2024 12:04 PM
150	Please keep the dog park off leash!	2/11/2024 12:03 PM
151	Please keep dog park an off-leash area	2/11/2024 11:59 AM
152	Westminster Hills Open Space is a staple in our community and it would be a shame to lose access for off leash walks. We have never had a negative interaction with other off leash dogs like we frequently have at other, fenced-in dog parks. Visitors to the park like us have good recall with their dogs and are good at keeping them within distance. There are plenty of places to hike and ride your bike nearby but there is only one dog park like Westminster Hills.	2/11/2024 11:58 AM
153	PLEASE do not take away our beloved Westminster off-leash dog park.... There are so few safe spaces where dogs are welcome to run free in Colorado. This park is beloved by so many. Please don't take this space away from our furry friends.	2/11/2024 11:47 AM
154	Please continue to keep this area as on off leash dog park. The space is invaluable and it's loss would be tragic	2/11/2024 11:36 AM
155	This dog park is why we moved here. You threaten significant value to our home with this proposed changed.	2/11/2024 11:34 AM
156	Please keep this entire area off leash! We love walking or biking with our dog throughout these areas. Rather than get rid of the of leash area all together, could there be segmented, temporarily fenced off areas to promote restoration (similar to the cherry creek off leash area)? PLEASE KEEP THIS AREA OFF LEASH!!	2/11/2024 11:26 AM
157	Safe space to let your pets run off leash is an important part of owning a happy and healthy pet. If WH becomes on leash only I will either have to pay for DOLA or drive an hour to the next open space location.	2/11/2024 11:24 AM
158	Due to the low average of the neighborhood local to this park, this is the only place we can let our dog run free. We love it here and visit 3-5 times a week. I am not in favor of making the park on leash.	2/11/2024 11:21 AM
159	I don't doubt that the park has environmental impacts but reducing the use and requiring leashes is not a reasonable solution. If people aren't picking up dog waste now why would requiring leashes make them change that behavior. Please consider a day fee or subscription license in order for use (like Cherry Creek dog park and Boulder off leash trails respectively). Currently there is no enforcement of good dog owner behavior. Force participants to have an interest in keeping it clean. The current proposal does nothing to address the issues	2/11/2024 11:20 AM
160	The Westminster hills open space is the only park of it's kind in the area. An open space that provides a large off leash area for dogs where they can hike and run without being stuck in a small, dirty enclosed area with no trails. This area gives dogs and owners the option to socialize or not. It allows for miles of hiking which is far better exercise for dogs than running in circles in a pen. This is an absolutely invaluable community resource, especially for folks with high energy or antisocial dogs who don't do well in a normal dog Park environment. It also allows dog owners access to open space and great mountain views within minutes of the suburbs instead of having to drive 45 minutes or more. There are MANY parks in the area for humans to enjoy, but there is only one park that offers what this park does. That's why we visit 3-6 times per week on average. This is probably the most frequently accessed public park space by our household, even with all the other outdoor activities we engage in. Please keep the park as it is and allow local dog owners to keep this precious resource as a refuge from the other sub-par dog parks in the area. Changing the rules if the park would drastically affect our quality of life and I know that's true for many other regular park users. Thanks.	2/11/2024 11:06 AM
161	Please do not change this space. The other 2 larger dog parks are actually quite small. This is literally the only space where you can truly have enough room to get away from other people and dogs. I only go to this place due to the size.	2/11/2024 11:05 AM
162	Please maintain as much off leash space for dogs as possible. Charging a use fee (like the space at Chatfield or Cherry Creek off leash dog areas) could help fund a maintenance staff.	2/11/2024 11:05 AM
163	There are so few places that allow dogs off leash that aren't disgusting and dangerous like dog parks. It would be criminal to take this away.	2/11/2024 10:51 AM

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164	I do not have much to offer for solutions but I would really hate to see the off leash dog park reduced in size. It is one of the only dog parks we take our post to because we can socialize a bit, but then hike/walk out to get away. Our dog likes other pups but he's older and doesn't know how to play, so if a dog is too persistent we can move to another area of the park without having to leave. This makes this place so ideal for us to come and use. Maybe rotating closed sections or trails might help, I'm not sure what's been tried. I just know it would be a shame to lose this area that my dog has grown to love.	2/11/2024 10:41 AM
165	Most of the trail widening was due to cutting next to the paths with very short blade settings and pickup trucks, social trails were created by mountain bike riders. After they were established, the dogs followed the new paths. Granted after the trails were blocked by signs and fence the dog owners went around them, but what does the city do? Put in a bike path and propose limiting the off-leash area. This will not improve any of the environmental impacts except the fecal matter. A few more waist stations (trash cans and bag dispensers) could help as much as limiting access for dogs. Why not commit to the amount of maintenance that is required for a park with over a million visitors a year?	2/11/2024 10:36 AM
166	The off leash open space dog park at west minster is legitimately the best thing to happen to Denver. It's both mine and my dogs happy place where they can have space to run off leash, socialize, all while having enough space to socialize with other dogs appropriately without feeling trapped and cornered which is inevitable at small dog parks. Please keep the dog park!!	2/11/2024 10:33 AM
167	Please do not get rid of the dog park! It's a beloved park for the neighborhood pups.	2/11/2024 10:28 AM
168	This park has been incredible for my fiancé, my dog, and I. We use the park everyday, which provides both us and the dog some great exercise outdoors. We are actively considering buying a house in Westminster almost exclusively because of proximity to this park. To get rid of this park would be doing Westminster and the surrounding areas a great disservice.	2/11/2024 10:21 AM
169	I have been taking my dogs to a Westminster Hills dog park since 2002. I have a very high energy breed (Vizslas) who need to RUN! Leash walks don't cut it. It is one of the very few places in the denver metro area that you can take your dog and actually walk/hike a longer distance without a leash. Aside from Cherry Creek dog park and Chatfield dog park, there are no other places like Westminster hills to take our dogs and let them be dogs!!! Denver trails are all on leash and impossible to even think about letting your dogs off leash even with sight and voice control without being yelled at. There are thousands of acres and miles of trails for people to hike, walk and bike but there are only 3 larger off leash dog parks for dog owners to take their dogs. So many people from all over the Denver Metro Area utilize this park year round. This proposal will cut access to this open space down to 1/8 of what we have access to now. This will be detrimental to dogs, humans and the area as you will be cramming so many more people and dogs into a tiny little area. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS!! Coloradans love their dogs and being able to have a beautiful place to legally and safely let our dogs roam free. They are not meant to be cooped up in small dog parks or on leash all the time! They deserve a place to roam free. Please leave this last off leash area alone! Thank you.	2/11/2024 10:19 AM
170	This park is extremely important to the community. I understand there is issues with dogs and wildlife including but I feel there are ways to make it better for all parties. More trash cans so people pick up feces is a start. Then an annual charge of \$25 so that the funds can go to habitations restoration. This would be a huge loss for the community if taken away	2/11/2024 10:17 AM
171	Please don't take our off lease park away. The best part of my day is going to the park with my dog for a walk. If you feel you just reduce the size for wildlife I understand but I've heard you are thinking of reducing it to 40 acres which would not allow for a nice walk. I'm old and retired. The off lease park is what I have to look forward to. It gives me an opportunity to be out of doors and exercise. My dog needs a lot of running around. On lease walking does not exercise her.	2/11/2024 10:16 AM
172	Please do not close the open space dog park. Keep it open for our furry friends to continue running and playing.	2/11/2024 9:49 AM
173	Keep the park as is!!!! If you are complaining about dog waste, that's on whoever is supposed to be maintaining the trash cans. First of all, for the amount of Sq footage and visitor usage, the NUMBER of trash cans is entirely too low! Secondly, I have pictures of trash cans OVERFLOWING WITH THE SAME CONTENTS FOR DAYS! Why weren't they being emptied? The super funny picture was when the trash can for non-animal waste was removed and	2/11/2024 9:38 AM

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replaced with a sign that it was being mis-used... because it was over flowing???? Do your job and we will do ours!

174	We go every day and our dog loves it. We always pick up our poop. Please don't make it smaller. We do the outside loop which is about 4 miles	2/11/2024 9:35 AM
175	We live in a townhouse without a backyard, as such, we bring our dog to WHOS almost every day. This particular open space is very important to the community. Please consider options such as volunteer clean up days, donations, business sponsorships, etc. to maintain the space as it is. Thank you.	2/11/2024 9:35 AM
176	Hello, it is very sad to hear that closing access to off leash pets is even being considered here. What is there to gain? It isn't a playground and if people are uncomfortable with pets off leash they can simply not go and walk their dogs on leash anywhere else. There will be an uproar if you shut it down to off leash.	2/11/2024 9:34 AM
177	This park is truly such a haven for dog owners, as it is the only open dog space in the metro area that is actually big enough to be a dog park! By making the off leash area smaller, it will just result in the area becoming a hostile environment for dogs (as most dog parks actually are). It would truly be a massive loss for dog owners to lose!	2/11/2024 9:34 AM
178	Keep the dog park off leash	2/11/2024 9:30 AM
179	Leave the space open for off-leash, or better yet, expand it back to the full space that it once was. This area has become a focal point for the community to recreate, have group meetups, and enjoy the beautiful outdoors while promoting healthy walking and recreating. It would be devastating to the community if its usage would be limited.	2/11/2024 9:27 AM
180	The space is mostly used by off leash dog owners. Restricting the land will make it less useful to the community. The land is meant for community use. Other preservation methods should be considered.	2/11/2024 9:26 AM
181	The off leash dog park is so valuable to Westminster. We meet many friends there and then frequent the local restaurants and breweries with friends after a great dog walk. This would be a huge loss to Westminster and the dog community. This also feels like a step towards designating a not so pretty area to only on leash & hikers to propose housing development the future when the space is "not often used" - what protections are in place to ensure this space does not get developed into housing in the future? I see a lot of people (including a petition) who are in support of this staying as is. Who is actually supportive of changing this to an on-leash area? Who is driving this change?	2/11/2024 9:17 AM
182	PLEASE do not limit the off leash!!!! The open space is one of the only places to be able to enjoy off leash with your dogs and is truly the gem of the community!!!	2/11/2024 9:16 AM
183	Please do not reduce the off leash area of the dog park. This park provides the community with not only a way to keep our dogs happy and healthy, but also an opportunity to meet people in our community. The park's popularity is obvious, and if the off leash area is reduced, that popularity would not diminish. As a result, we would be left with a small plot of land with many, many dogs on it. We would see an uptick in negative interactions, more fights between dogs, and the spread of disease. With the current respiratory virus spreading, I cannot overstate the importance of having space at our parks. This park is an invaluable part of our community and reducing it in any way would be a dramatic hit to our community.	2/11/2024 9:11 AM
184	The city complains about the dog waste found there but you don't install any trash cans on the trails other than near the parking lot, so how does that help ppl recreating with their dogs??	2/10/2024 10:11 PM
185	Westminster City Council, Thank you for holding the Westminster Hills Restoration Plan Open House in January and for the communication on the project. I did attend the open house and have reviewed the current conditions report. There is no denying the detrimental effects on the natural qualities of the open space. It is unfortunate that many of us who are responsible dog owners are being impacted by those who are not. My husband, doggies (Sketch and Skye), and I live at [REDACTED] Broomfield. Our home backs up to Westminster Hills Open Space. The trails and off-leash open space was the reason we moved there. We enjoy the open space most days and are very concerned about the drastic reduction in off-leash area. The report is heavily biased to the natural qualities of the open space by design. I don't believe the assessment gives a balanced perspective regarding the positive impacts to humans and dogs and having the ability to get exercise, be with loved ones, and have the dogs off-leash. Research shows how pets help bring people and communities together, acting as natural	2/10/2024 8:33 PM

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facilitators for social interactions. The proposed designated off-leash area with many visitors, will not have the same positive impacts. In fact, small off-leash parks can be a dangerous place with a higher incidence of fights, injuries, and pack mentality. Illness can also be passed between dogs. We would not take our well-trained doggies to a relatively small, enclosed dog park for those reasons. The open space program is to promote quality of life and I do not see much of an emphasis on what humans need. In 2023, 45% of adults reported mental health issues. The highest behavioral health issues are stress, anxiety, burnout, and depression. Having Westminster Hills Open Space available and easily accessible for off-leash activities makes a significant difference in the mental and physical health of residents. In addition, off-leash freedom allows dogs to explore and engage in activities that stimulate their senses and fulfill their natural instincts. Running off-leash can be incredibly beneficial for dogs and humans, contributing to physical health, mental stimulation, and overall happiness. It is my hope that there can be a compromise before the final decisions are made. There are several ideas that could support bringing back the natural qualities while considering what is good for residents.

- Much larger off-leash area with trails
- Volunteers as open space Ambassadors for oversight
- Westminster open space annual fee/parking passes for non-residents
- Voice tag program for dogs, especially good for educating dog owners on the impacts of dogs to the environment
- Rotate the off-leash areas for revegetation

We currently purchase the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Pass (Keep Colorado Wild), the Boulder County OSMP pass, and Boulder County Voice & Sight Tags. It would be reasonable to have fees for non-Westminster residents to maintain the open space. Thank you for your consideration. [REDACTED]

186	Please do not change WHOS. It is a great area for citizens to carry their dogs to and not have to be on a leash. My dogs love the creek and the large open area. It is what makes Westminster a great place to live.	2/10/2024 6:37 PM
187	Keep the park as an off leash park! The public loves that it is fully off leash!	2/10/2024 3:30 PM
188	The Westminster Hills dog park is a treasure not just of Westminster but of the whole Front Range. The proposed plan by city officials to decrease the off-leash area by 90% is a heavy-handed, bureaucratic decision made against the interest of the local constituency. Dog owners are willing and able to find other ways to protect local ecology. More dialogue is needed before the proposed plan is put in place.	2/10/2024 3:24 PM
189	We want the Off-Leash park!! I go every weekend and it is the best place on the front range to take dogs. Please don't take it away from us	2/10/2024 2:06 PM
190	This park is why we moved to the area. It is not acceptable to close or reduce the size when this is an amenity thousands of people rely on who don't have yards to walk their dogs.	2/10/2024 1:44 PM
191	Please do not make the proposed changes to the Westminster Hills Open Space. This park is a cherished amenity for residents of Westminster and surrounding areas, and it is a huge reason why people love living in this area. It is essential to the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the residents and the dogs they so dearly love. We are a family who strive to do our best for the environment. We own an electric vehicle in the hopes of reducing emissions. We are avid recyclers and composters. And we are in the middle of a large home project to change our grass lawn to native Colorado plants and flowers (especially pollinator plants). We are extremely concerned about the environment and the wildlife in our area, and we hear the concerns raised about the damage the dogs have done to the Westminster Hills Open Space area on native, threatened species. We suggest re-expanding the off leash park to include the large area west of the current site. This would disperse the traffic from the current off-leash area and therefore reduce the damage to the small areas of delicate ecology. Instead, the traffic would be spread out over a wider expanse, and the damage to any one area would be lessened. We read about the history of how the park was previously expanded to 1,000 acres, but then reduced to 400 acres after numerous encounters with coyotes and the Bubonic Plague in the prairie dog community. While these are unfortunate events, residents of Westminster and surrounding areas can make decisions for themselves to determine if the larger area is appropriate for their needs. Another suggestion, if appropriate, is to charge people who use the park an annual fee which would support hiring a full-time park ranger who could ensure that patrons pick up their dog poop and dispose of it properly. Another suggestion is to fence off specific habitat areas to protect the threatened species. This would allow dogs to continue to run and play off-leash, and protect the specific areas they are most negatively affecting. This park provides recreation and enrichment to so many people and their dogs, and every effort should be made to keep it an off-leash park with walking/hiking trails. All other off-leash parks (in the State of Colorado) are a fraction of the size, and do not allow dog owners to	2/10/2024 1:03 PM

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hike and walk and enjoy nature in the same way. Most trails and outdoor spaces have on-leash requirements and for good reason. But this park is so special- if changes are made, please consider expanding it, not reducing the size of the off-leash area.

192	I would not wish to see the total area available for off leash dog walking reduced - this is a unique park that offers an ability to walk my dog in a way she can't elsewhere. I would rather see other options implemented if overuse is such an issue - reduce parking lot sizes, add additional secure trash cans if people leaving waste around the trail if the main problem, or at the very least make it so the off leash area is still more of a trail than a tiny sectioned off park. My main issue with the proposed plan is the tiny section for off leash proposed makes it just another dog park, of which there are several. I can't emphasize enough that this is the only place in Westminster that i take my dog to walk, because of its unique qualities as an off leash trail.	2/10/2024 1:03 PM
193	I am writing this to vote against restricting the off leash Westminster dog park. This park has been an important part of both the Westminster and Arvada community for many years. I have been taking my dog here and it has been a safe place for us to exercise and meet other people and dogs. This dog park is unique in the fact that it offers so much open space for us to enjoy and dogs to safely exercise. By decreasing the size of the off limits dog park, you are confining dogs to a very small area. Dog parks that are more confined can often increase aggression and anxiety in dogs. This park is a pillar part of our community in which thousands of people visit and enjoy.	2/10/2024 12:58 PM
194	Reducing the off leash area by 90% is a heavy-handed approach to reducing user impact at this park. I believe less drastic measures could be implemented to effectively preserve the space, such as: 1) hosting monthly volunteer efforts with the community to cleanup waste. 2) imposing a pay to use system, like state parks Cherry Hills and Chatfield dogs parks do. This could be enforced via parking, with annual parking passes available for purchase. Proceeds from parking passes and parking tickets could be used to keep the park clean and create walking paths more suitable for heavy use. Implementing a pay to use system would also reduce visitor numbers. There are plenty of people in the community that cherish this unique space and would be willing to pay to enjoy it. My wife and I recently bought a house in a nearby community and proximity to this dog park greatly influenced our decision. There are not other off leash parks in the north Denver area for us to visit. Eliminating this unique asset would be a huge loss for the local community.	2/10/2024 12:53 PM
195	One of the great reasons of moving to Colorado is for the open spaces that I can use with my dog. Westminster dog park has been invaluable for both of us. There is no other place in the area like it. Please don't take it away.	2/10/2024 12:44 PM
196	We wish to keep Westminster Hills Off Leash Dog Park an Off Leash Park. There are many on leash places for people to walk. This is one of the few places in this area that allows dogs to be off leash. Dogs need space to run and play. Some people walk here with their dogs on leash. Which is their choice. Please keep this area an Off Leash park. We are unable to make the Feb. or March meeting dates. We use the off leash park twice daily. Our dogs love it and have many dog and people friends that they see on a daily basis.	2/10/2024 12:31 PM
197	This should not happen without a community meeting for resolution that works for both parties. This is a knee jerk reaction on the City side and is far too aggressive. There are controllable measures that can be put in place for this to work for the benefit of everyone.	2/10/2024 11:51 AM
198	Hello! I'd like to reach out about keeping the Westminster Hills Open Space fully off leash. One of my pups has anxiety that makes it hard for her to go to smaller dog parks; at WHOS she's able to romp and run without being crowded and getting upset. Meeting friends for a long walk is our dogs' favorite part of the week. We'd love to not lose this unique space - please consider allowing dogs to roam freely through the park!	2/10/2024 11:17 AM
199	This park is essential to the community and is a huge selling point for the surrounding neighborhoods. We are here with our dog at least 1-2x/week. This seems unnecessary and would be completely tragic.	2/10/2024 11:15 AM
200	Leave the park open to unleash dogs, please	2/10/2024 10:44 AM
201	Please keep at least 50% of the park for off leash. With the urban sprawl demanding more space. We are running out of safe options to exercise and socialize our dogs.	2/10/2024 10:40 AM
202	We love this space. Consider open space tag sales or something for out of city/county users, keep free to Westminster residents.	2/10/2024 10:33 AM

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203	We love the open space as it is! Don't restrict the off leash area!	2/10/2024 9:52 AM
204	We would like to propose a park pass, and you maybe pay \$25 a year to be a member, and then that would keep down some of the numbers. This park has been an enjoyment and need for living in the city with dogs and others. Please consider the community impact for mental health and keep this park as-is.	2/10/2024 8:40 AM
205	As a tax payer I am upset the council is ignoring the people on the last survey put out. This dog park is an incredible place to be able to go and get good off leash time with our dogs. My girlfriend can't walk the dog on leash due to injury but she can get exercise with the tip here. We go 4-5 times a week if our schedule allows, it would be a shame if this park was taken away from us. I don't think that area would make for a good regular park that people would seek out.	2/10/2024 8:27 AM
206	We love this park!! I have a very high energy pup (husky) and it's our outlet. Legit are here every day. It's a big reason why I moved to Westminster. It's safe compared to other dog parks (so much room, responsible owners, happy dogs free of diseases). I also love that I can walk and get some exercise too. It's the BEST. I'd be incredibly bummed if it changed...	2/9/2024 10:13 PM
207	As one of the only true off leash dog parks in the area, it would be absolutely devastating to cut off access to something already enjoyed both by those with and without dogs. Please do not restrict the off leash portion of the Westminster park.	2/9/2024 4:27 PM
208	Please keep our dog park the size it is and off leash!	2/9/2024 4:00 PM
209	Please don't close the Open space to off leash dogs. Let the community know the challenges and give them a chance to rise to the challenge. I'd be happy to pay for parking, a license for use or even to participate in community days to help clean up the park. There are not enough of these spaces available in the front range metro area. Small off leash dog parks only create larger issues with dog behavior. Let the humans try to fix this.	2/9/2024 3:24 PM
210	Keep park off-leash	2/9/2024 2:54 PM
211	I have been going to this dog park for over 20 years. It brings so much joy to so many people and dogs. There isn't another place like it and it would be a shame to take away the enjoyment from so many because Westminster can't figure out a way to manage it. Making most of it on leash will completely ruin why people come here. People can walk their dogs on leash anywhere. The reason it is so popular is because it is so rare! There isn't another park with so much space in the area. It is the reason so many visit the area and even move here. I bought my first house across the street from this dog park so that we could enjoy it more. I wish Westminster would look for ways to work with the dog owners (and build adequate parking) rather than punishing them by taking away the off leash part that attracts people in the first place.	2/9/2024 2:22 PM
212	1. Wonder how you got over a million visitor count? The counter more than likely counted the tall dogs, multiple return trips back to the car for whatever you forgot., and the average visitor brings 2-3 dogs. 2. Regarding habitat concern, the MAJORITY of dogs stay within 15-20 ft. of their handlers. A very few have hunting dogs that run long distances, and their handlers have retriever collars on. HAS ANYONE THOUGHT OF FLYING A DRONE A COUPLE TIMES A WEEK DURING THE KNOWN BUSY TIMES. This would give you more accurate feedback to prove the MAJORITY of visitors are NOT endangering the wild life. 3. I heard your reasoning why not to issue passes, but seems you're overlooking the revenue, based on your million visitors, charging \$25. a year sounds to me it would fund alot, maybe you should consider increasing the parking area with it. This would be a win win. I've been coming for 4 yrs. almost everyday, and have talked to countless folks that travel over 15 miles ea. way. They're probably even fraternizing our amenities while here. Lastly, there are very few off leash throughout not only this city but all of Denver Metro. Let the folks that have to walk their dogs on leash go somewhere else. You want to really know what your residents want put it on a ballot, its apparent your not wanting much publicity on this.	2/9/2024 12:50 PM
213	Study is flawed. If protecting land and native animals and grass, EHY did they just DESTROY a huge area for bike path? And that area was rarely used by people. Why build neighborhood on same land? Why spray pesticides? 1. Are bikes going to be banned? (They can due SIGNIFICANT harm to land and animals) 2. Are you going to take down barb wire fences by Indiana? 3. Clean up the garbage that has been on Indiana side for YEARS? 4. Provide safe crossing for wildlife over Indiana? 5. Actually have rangers that enforce and educate people?(I have run into so many rangers and not one has said anything about any issues) 6. I would be	2/9/2024 9:24 AM

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willing to pay \$\$ that can go towards upgrades, education for the DOG PARK, but not to shut down 90% of it 7. Why not like Boulder use a dog tag system. It educates, can Provide money to dog park, and a very easy visual system for rangers to see Obviously we ALL need to do better about cleaning up the area. Give us a chance, and also it should of been better communicating to us!! I have seen animals that are not even on the "study", I have been going for many many yrs, and the area is actually doing GREAT, the study makes it sound like it's about to implode. If they are upset about people not picking up after themselves say it, dont cherry pick what you want to make it sound like everything has been destroyed out there. Dont let this massively flaws study screw over many people.

214	Please do not take away our best and only open space for our loved pets. The others in area are too small and confined and promote aggression within the animals as the spaces are too small. The others are also nothing but a fenced in coral, and that is simply no place for a dog to run. Please keep this open space for our pets to romp, play, and meet each other in a beautiful big area. It would be a tragedy to lose our favorite memory maker and the spot we enjoy most year round. Please keep the open dog space for dogs.	2/9/2024 7:30 AM
215	Like many others I am heartbroken to hear of the changes planned for our beloved community dog park. This dog park and its beautiful trails are the best thing about living in Westminster. I've been coming here for close to 20 years and still enjoy this park several days each and every week. Even in the bitter cold. It adds so much to our community's quality of life. Im willing to volunteer to help educate/ticket/inform others of the need to pick up their dog's waste. I'd be willing to hand out flyers/ tickets for violations and join community clean up days. I've spoken with other residents who have suggested additional bad dispensers and garbage cans further inside the park. Many community members are willing to help out and have lots of ideas.	2/9/2024 5:12 AM
216	I use ths park almost daily to exercise my very active dog. Please keep it completely off leash or have a tag or fee system like boulder to allow well behaved dogs (and owners) to be off leash. Also add more bag and poop receptacles, paid by the fee for off leash dogs. In summary, I would pay a use fee to keep the full area off leash.	2/8/2024 8:08 PM
217	My family and I visit WHOS about once a week, driving 20+ minutes each way. We really appreciate the amenity, but we agree that it is being intensively used. I wonder if one solution might be to put new parking off of Indiana. Thank you for taking the time to study the situation carefully.	2/8/2024 7:25 PM
218	Keep it off leash.	2/8/2024 5:23 PM
219	I am a Westminster resident and frequent visitor to the dog park. I visit the park on average three times per week when I bring dogs over to walk them as a side job. As a woman there are very few places we can go alone in nature to walk or hike and feel safe. It can be very dangerous for a woman to hike alone on a trail, even with a furry friend. The open space is one of the only places that I feel safe walking the dogs alone. There is always a community of people and dogs enjoying the views and the exercise and I am able to just enjoy myself. We don't have many places where we can take our animals and enjoy the off- leash experience without driving out to Cherry Creek or Chatfield. It's so wonderful to have a space close to home. The park is one of my favorite places in the world, please don't change it. I'm sure all of the regular visitors like myself would be happy to help with clean up to keep it the way it is. I also fulfill my exercise goals there, usually walking three miles on average. There are so many of us that enjoy and respect the park and would help however we can to keep it.	2/8/2024 5:18 PM
220	My husband and I live in Westminster and love taking our dog to this space BECAUSE of the off leash feature and the ability to also exercise by hiking around the large loop. There are so many small dog parks, and there are so many on-leash trails, that we would be devastated to lose this space in our community. We have met neighbors here and love seeing all of the pups that make up the families in our area. Our dog is well behaved, we always clean up after her, and this area is such an important space to have. We would happily contribute to an annual membership (perhaps rated differently for city residents vs out of state residents) if this helped with current traffic, but taking away the off leash aspect of this large space would be heart breaking for us.	2/8/2024 3:46 PM
221	This park is great and I have never encountered a problematic dog here. It is imperative that community dogs have a space to play and roam off leash. I'll truly never spend any time or money in Westminster (as a Denverite) if this park is closed or made an on-leash park.	2/8/2024 12:07 PM
222	I'd like to start off by saying I really value the opportunity the open space provides for my dog	2/8/2024 12:04 PM

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to run around off-leash in a relatively quiet (away from construction noises, loud vehicles, etc.) part of the neighborhood. However, I also understand the city's obligation to protect the land and the other inhabitants of the area (plant and animal life). After reading through the Conditions Report shared to the public, I believe some of the recommendations shared would be great assets to maintaining both the open space for dogs as well as the environment. First, I believe the recommendations to increase signage throughout the park is a strong one. Alerting guests to the possible presence of e. coli in the Church Ditch (or other areas) would not only serve to inform the public of potential health hazards, it may also have a positive impact on a guest's sense of civic duty to pick up after their pet. Additionally, as someone who frequents the park, I don't think I've ever noticed signs communicating off-leash vs. on-leash areas. Increasing signage and improving their posting may serve to better inform individuals of their dog's impact on different parts of the reserve. Second, I believe the best practices cited offer some interesting policy insights for addressing concerns. For example, Boulder's Voice and Sight Control program offers a unique opportunity for guests and their dogs to enjoy hiking trails off-leash. With that comes the understanding, however, that some areas may experience seasonal closures to account for local wildlife. As someone who loves the opportunity to hike with my dog off leash, I feel compelled to protect and honor these closures so that I may maintain these privileges during the remainder of the year. Explaining these closures, whether it be seasonal or trail closures for regrowth purposes, may go far in convincing park guests to follow and acknowledge certain rules. You may even go so far, if coupled with accurate signage, to fine people for violating these rules/closures. I have noticed that signs and fences are currently not clear for when a trail is closed. Some wooden fences have closure signs on them for trails but have been moved aside, either by park guests or staff, which further confuses guests. Without that consistency, it becomes difficult to determine or follow the closure rules. Finally, the best practice cited by the Cherry Creek park, which involves guests paying a small fee to enter the park has obvious pros and cons. For the pros, ideally these fees would help the city pay for park maintenance, such as adequate signage, an increased presence of facility staff, and more trash receptacles for dog waste or other trash. On the other end (cons), Cherry Creek Park typically has a long line of cars waiting to access the parking lot and park because each individual must pay before entering. Wait times can be anywhere from 15-30 minutes, depending on what time of day you arrive. Additionally, I believe it important to consider that any fee does serve as a deterrent or barrier to park attendees who may not have the extra money on hand to pay the price to enter. The benefit of parks, as I am sure the city is aware, is that they serve as a free gathering place for the community, where people can exist without having to pay or spend money. These spaces are far and few in between and serve as a valuable draw to members of the communities that frequent the park. Thank you for reading and I look forward to further discussions regarding the park's future!

223	It would be a tragedy to scale back beautiful wide open space that many use.	2/8/2024 11:27 AM
224	I think the open dog park should be kept as it has been. This is the only open dog park like its kind anywhere near Denver. The apparent animal concerns were not an issue while this was an open dog park in the past. And bikers using the lane to the mountains can share the path. I have not witnessed any issues at the open dog park, owners and their dogs are always on their best behavior.	2/8/2024 11:22 AM
225	This off leash dog park is very much needed and without it as is many people will have no other place to allow their dogs to be dogs. Expecting over. Million visitors per year to crowd into the small proposed space is untenable. Crowding that many dogs into such a small space is a recipe for disaster. Dog fights, spread of disease, and negative impact of neighboring neighborhood	2/8/2024 11:09 AM
226	Most people that have off leash dogs do not actually have their dogs under voice command. People saying there is increased likelihood of dog fights if the off leash dog area is limited just prove that they know these dogs are not actually under control. 40 acres is still a huge amount of space.	2/8/2024 10:22 AM
227	Keep the open space as is!! Let us pay for parking to help manage the area. The dogs need this space to keep healthy and happy along with the owners. I go to the off leash park 3-5x a week and it's my dogs and I favorite part of our day.	2/8/2024 10:16 AM
228	I live less than a mile from the open space and enjoy it weekly with my dog and family. This is such a unique space for our animals and community; please leave it and continue to allow the many visitors to enjoy it as it is.	2/8/2024 9:04 AM
229	I am commenting regarding the reduction of off-leash dog space to the WHOS area. We were incredibly disheartened to hear about the planned reduction from 400 to 40 acres of off-leash	2/8/2024 8:36 AM

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dog space. The ability to take our dogs to an off-leash area in Westminster has been a crucial part of our dogs and our own well-being. Off leash areas allow dogs to express their natural instincts and to exercise and interact with other dogs that allows them to decompress and therefore become healthier dogs for our community.

230	For years, Westminster hills open space has been overrun by dogs. As a multi-use open space, land managers and the city of Westminster should be doing more to allow multiple users to enjoy this public space.	2/8/2024 7:35 AM
231	The open off leash area needs to remain as is. It's the only place like it. There needs to be more than "2 trash cans" along the pathways and by doing so, this will make an impact. If the city is so concerned about the eco system, why did they allow a subdivision to boarder the park?	2/8/2024 6:28 AM
232	Maintain the current policy and size of the off leash dog park. If changes are proposed by WHOS management, then put it to a public vote during the next election cycle.	2/7/2024 11:27 PM
233	Please keep off leash! I have a tiny 10lb shih tzu and she loves it here. You know people are coming with responsible dogs. It's nice for me to be able to get a walk in with her, both of us feeling free. Maybe start ticketing people who are going off trail or not picking up for a window of time and see if that helps? Heck, I'd even pay up to \$5 to use each time I go or pay an annual permit fee or something. (PS sorry I already submitted with this top part blank, thought there may be a description of the issue after I clicked through with my info)	2/7/2024 10:35 PM
234	Keep open space open. It feels like you guys just keep shrinking the city. Why are dog lovers always second class citizens over dog haters. Just tax us more or charge a usage fee. The first answer is always restrain dogs into tiny sand boxes.	2/7/2024 10:10 PM
235	Please keep the Westminster Hills dog park as it is, we love it and bring our dog their frequently. If there was an annual or daily fee implemented to support park maintenance, I'd gladly pay it!	2/7/2024 9:36 PM
236	Please do not remove off leash abilities. This park is very well loved by 100s of dog owners. Everyone loves having the large open space to explore with their furry friends	2/7/2024 9:11 PM
237	Please keep all of Westminster Hills as it is now so that dogs can run freely as they were created to do so. Dogs have precious few areas to run freely and not be stuck on a leash or a small confined area. Thank you, [REDACTED] Westminster resident	2/7/2024 9:08 PM
238	Please keep WHOS an off leash dog park! There is such a huge dog community and it means so much to us!! If feces is a problem I'm sure people would pay a yearly fee to have feces removed regularly/more signs to pick up after your dog.	2/7/2024 8:36 PM
239	While I understand the impacts for the environment the dogs have had on this area, it is one of the very few Open Spaces that is available in the greater Denver metro area. And the closest one to my own neighborhood. While there are a few off leash dog parks nearby none of them quite have the vast expanse of this area. My dog well friendly with others, feels more comfortable when we are at this open space versus an enclosed off leash dog park. I believe this is due to the fact that we are able to have a two mile hike in which we can meet and greet other dogs but also be on our way if there seems to be any tension. Personally this is an activity I strongly look forward to in the summertime after work at sunset. And it gives my dog the ability to have the freedom of what they find exciting which is sniffing plants on the side of the path and frolicking in the tall grass. Perhaps there would be a way that we could meet halfway that it could be an open off leash dog park but perhaps a better fenced off area for the sensitive environment.	2/7/2024 8:07 PM
240	I agree with the findings of the survey and the pursuit of protecting wildness and wildlife, especially in the on-leash area. Without increasing undue burden on the parks and wildlife branch, I believe stricter penalties to curb habitat degradation may help to curb problematic behavior in offenders. I also agree with the need to have a well maintained off leash area for our canine friends, and avoid unauthorized trails through good signage and community guidelines.	2/7/2024 7:56 PM
241	I do not want to see any changes to the park. It is an amazing and safe off leash dog space. One of the few dog parks that are not overcrowded.	2/7/2024 7:48 PM
242	I am a resident of Westminster and live about 10 minutes from this park. My family and my dog LOVE coming here and we frequent this park, often multiple times a week in the warm	2/7/2024 7:31 PM

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months. It is truly a one of a kind park because it allows us to exercise ourselves and our dog. There is no other place that we can safely let our dog off leash and there is nothing like seeing her run around and socializing with other people and dogs. We look forward to the evening and weekend walks at this park so much. I can't say enough good things about having access to this open space so close to our home. We currently live in a house with a very tiny yard and no grass for our dog to run around. This provides so much joy and happiness for our entire family and other families as well. I understand the implications in terms of wildlife conservation. I wonder if there are other solutions to help with this instead of closing off most of the park to off leash access.

243	Keep it off leash! This is my favorite space for my pups and i to get energy out. We need this space	2/7/2024 7:13 PM
244	Providing local vegetation and native flowers seems like the local sense. We have so many folks that are experiencing some type of food insecurity. Development of a community garden or farm would be so amazing. Hosting a wide range of workshops for all ages. Bringing back community, Bringing back native flowers for our bees. Even bee keeping would be great!!!	2/7/2024 6:56 PM
245	Even as a huge dog lover, I wholeheartedly support your efforts to better protect the habitat and wildlife on WHOS. It saddens me that the area is being degraded and I'm extremely disappointed to read that half of users blatantly walk past the leash only signs and continue on into the western portion of the property while letting their dog roam freely. As you mentioned in the presentation slides, we are rapidly losing our shortgrass prairies across the state and the species that inhabit it. With the massive development project happening off of Simms right now, I feel that it's more important than ever to protect what little we have left. And on a more personal note... A couple of years ago I had to undergo a minor surgery so I couldn't do any running, which is normally my outlet for mental health. With a heavy heart as I was healing from surgery, I slowly walked along the western portion of the property. My spirits were immediately lifted when I heard Grasshopper Sparrows buzzing in the grass, along with the many other songbirds in the area (I'm particularly fond of Great-Tailed Grackles and Yellow-headed Blackbirds too!). I was immensely grateful that day to have had that experience. I used to be a Wildlife Technician for Boulder OSMP and am well aware of the threats to grasslands and many of our ground nesting birds. I'm also a trail user and a dog guardian (although I do not take my dog to WHOS). I strongly believe that we can find a balance without completely sacrificing one thing or the other. I know it's impossible to make everyone happy, but I hope you are able to figure something out that will make dog owners in the area be more respectful of the land and the creatures that inhabit it. Thanks for all that you do!	2/7/2024 6:55 PM
246	I feel very comfortable with the proposal to make the offleash portion of WHOS smaller. I already largely walk my dog on leash because as good as he is 97% of the time, he's a husky and he likes to run. I would LOVE if the new offleash section was fully fenced as I think it would increase everyone's safety. I would also appreciate if the city would consider smaller dog parks distributed across the city. There are so many great trails (like the Farmer's High Line canal) and it would be great if dog walkers were able to walk to local parks in their neighborhood instead of trekking to WHOS. Especially if the offleash area is more limited at WHOS, you may need to provide new, regional parks.	2/7/2024 6:48 PM
247	I would like to see more open space in Westminster and also once land is designated open space for it to stay that way and not be sold for development. I also live very close to the dog park and hope something can be done to heal that land.	2/7/2024 6:47 PM
248	Why can't the city charge for the use of the dog parks by non residents. Boulder does this and probably uses the money to make their open space better. When I hike in Boulder I have to pay a fee to park in the trailhead parking lots because I am not a resident. This way you can lighten the burden on the taxpayers. Why am I funding Recreation for non residents? Seems like common sense.	2/7/2024 6:28 PM
249	I suggest you partner with local businesses to help keep the park clean. Have more community clean up events with thing like "pound of poo for a pint." Participants get a ticket for a free beer at one of the local breweries. Things like that because that dog park brings in people from all over the Denver metro area and they visit the businesses. You can also partner with local high schools career and tech ed plant and animal science programs to help create more interactive programs	2/7/2024 6:27 PM
250	The trail that crosses the park is a multi-use trail. It is a section of a much longer trail. Even though it dead ends at Indiana St. it's still a good turnaround for a bike ride. There are too many loose dogs that will not recall to their owners when chasing a bike is more appealing.	2/7/2024 6:27 PM

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There are dog owners who feel like they have exclusive rights to the park and tough luck if you get chased. Someone or some dog will get hurt if it hasn't already happened. You need to either fence the trail or require leashes.

251	I think this large off leash space is quite amazing. It really is a gem in the world of suburbia. There are so many limited off leash places to go and as long as users are respectful and responsible this is a great asset. I have used the space and am not an off leash user but have admired it and love the wide open place to go so close to home. I would love to be able to take advantage of the off leash part if I had the right dog for it. Hopefully there can be a solution to protect the vegetation while still allowing this space to be what it is to its users.	2/7/2024 5:30 PM
252	I come in from Denver to this special dog park, and often get lunch in the area afterwards. It's a special place for me to walk outside with friends and our dogs!	2/7/2024 5:30 PM
253	This off leash park is a staple of Westminster and the surrounding area of Denver. Reducing a majority of the 420 acres is a slap in the face to residents and visitors. Ecological impact is an issue, but there are other options that can help mitigate this issue. Open up a volunteer page - ask for volunteers to come and pick up excess waste. Funding - ask for donations to build fences to block off restoration areas. Reducing the off leash park to 40 acres defeats the purpose of the OPEN SPACE park and will negatively impact residents, visitors and their furry friends. There will 100% be more negative interactions and accidents between dogs in such an enclosed space because of the sheer amount of individuals visiting each day. You all must reconsider this proposal.	2/7/2024 4:53 PM
254	I am very upset at the possible loss of the vital offleash area. My dogs and I have been coming here for years. I would just like to ask that the creek area remain off leash. Please. Thank you	2/7/2024 4:36 PM
255	Absolutely against reducing off leash area size as a 30 year resident of countryside.	2/7/2024 3:38 PM
256	I am only an occasional user of the open space. But I am angered by the amount of dog feces next to the trail as well as the bagged dog feces dog owners leave. The dog situation is out of control. I think it would be a wake up call for the users of the park to have their privileges revoked for a period of time to let them know they are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs. I say shut the park down. After a month, schedule a weekend where dog owners, less dogs, can come out to an organized dog feces pickup day. I would be surprised if more than a dozen people show up. After all the dog feces is removed, reopen the park. If the feces problem returns, shut it down permanently. It's very apparent that dog owners do not feel responsible for impact mitigation required for having a dog in the open space. They should suffer the consequences for their actions, or lack of. I for one would not miss the dogs.	2/7/2024 2:48 PM
257	My family would be devastated by the loss of the off-leash privileges at Westminster Hills. We are frequent users - at least 1-2 times per week. Not only does it provide a beautiful space for exercise and community building for humans, but it's truly the only place that our dog can get the exercise she needs, with much needed open space to run and sniff. Smaller, enclosed dog parks like the area proposed in the draft plan do not feel like an adequate alternative. I have regularly witnessed more problematic conflicts between dogs in these more confined areas, and would not feel safe bringing my dog to the space in the proposed plan. I foresee more people breaking leash rules on trails and in other parks and open spaces if this rare off-leash access is lost at Westminster Hills. There is just no other place that resembles it. It is also clear by looking at the number of visitors that our community needs more access to these types of spaces, not less. Our family would happily participate in volunteer work (cleanups, trail maintenance, habitat protection measures, etc) to maintain access to the current off-leash area. Surely the species native to the area deserve to thrive, but humans and dogs also need access to beautiful, wide open spaces. We are confident that the leaders of this project can find better solutions to the issues faced without revoking such a vital community resource.	2/7/2024 2:43 PM
258	We live at [REDACTED] directly behind the Westminster Dog Park. We have lived in this house for 17 yrs in May. We are sad to hear of Westminster's plan to restrict the dog park and have signed the petition. We do have a couple of suggestions: #1. issue tickets for people not picking up dog feces and issue tickets for not staying on the path as well as no parking zones.	2/7/2024 1:53 PM
259	I am a Colorado native and Westminster resident. This dog park has served as a refuge for so many dog lovers, walkers, bicyclists and families. I walk there weekly with my golden and it is often one of the highlights of my day. My dog is happy and I am happy and we both are outside getting exercise and socializing with others. How about we hold those dog owners that don't pick up their dog's poop accountable for their actions and leave this park available to the	2/7/2024 1:39 PM

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vast majority of responsible citizens who do. You can't tell me dogs are doing more damage to this area than decades of plutonium contamination from Rocky Flats that is adjacent to this open space.

260	This off leash park is one of the things I love most about living in this community. It will impact my family greatly if it goes away because we don't have a yard and this off leash area is the main place my dog can run free and get out energy. It is a place to commune with neighbors, and a family activity we enjoy several times a week. If there were other clean up or volunteer efforts as an alternative, I'd be happy to get involved.	2/7/2024 11:59 AM
261	This is an amazing place to take my dog. Please don't make leashes required inside the park. Dogs need to be able to run around. They need the exercise. There are already so few safe, allowed spaces to do this. Please don't take this away from our canine friends	2/7/2024 11:31 AM
262	I don't care what else you do on site. PLEASE continue to allow dogs off lead. There are very few, extremely limited areas that responsible owners, who have trained their dogs in reliable recall and proper trail manners, can walk their dogs off lead in this state. We often find ourselves fighting to enrich our dogs in other ways which is not right. This is the only area in the North Denver Metro that has such an access. When I train new dogs I take them here because it is so spread out and allows me to teach indifference and proper control to the puppy. Small and fenced dog parks are hot beds for conflict, irresponsible owners, and disease. I moved to this location specifically for access to this area to exercise my high energy breed dogs. We also bird watch in the on leash section quite frequently. Please, do whatever else you like. Have Rangers patrol and enforce every time someone doesn't pick up after their dog. I wouldn't mind because I ALWAYS clean up. I would be okay with paying for an annual pass like how the Chatfield and Cherry Creek DOLA's operate. The bottom line is the more irresponsible people will still let their dogs off lead no matter what. Why is it always the squeaky wheel gets the grease?	2/7/2024 11:19 AM
263	Let the dogs roam free!	2/7/2024 11:00 AM
264	As a Certified Professional Dog Trainer and Behavior Consultant, I would highly advise not creating space for dogs to be mandatory on-leash while together. First off, due to it being a new rule I guarantee you will have some people not following the rules. Unless there are multiple rangers on site from open-to-close, it is not going to prevent those who want to have their dog off leash (the proof? Go to any other park any other time). Which leads me to my second and more important point: Reactivity. A lot of dogs already have severe barrier frustration, meaning they are easy going off-leash and a Cujo on. Why does this happen? Because humans are on the other end of that leash and typically hold the leash upwards and tightly upon greeting another "stranger" dog. This creates a situation where if a dog gets scared, they realize they can not go into flight mode...but instead go straight into fight. MANY more fights occur in these small barriers. MANY more dogs will become reactive here. It's unnatural for dogs to see so many other dogs with a barrier (ever walked past a fence with a dog reacting at you? It's because of that barrier.) and this is extremely frustrating, especially for certain breeds (like the popular Aussie, who was bred to react and run after things that are moving). I come from the past decade training in NYC, the most densely populated and closely packed city in the country, where 95% of my cases were reactivity because of this issue. It's not a human's fault, definitely not the dog's fault, but a fault on education. However, until there is widespread education - which could come from regulation in the dog training industry (example: choking a dog out will NOT resolve this reactivity, it will only suppress the emotion, but plenty of people still charge to "train" dogs this way), - creating an on-leash area from a currently off-leash area is going to result in MANY more dogs injured, attacked, and reactive for life...especially once they turn to one of these first-google-search, fake, Cesar-Milan-like (please feel free to Google his lawsuits) trainers out there. Personally, I would prefer confident dogs, as a confident dog is a safe dog, and I think we all should, too. My alternative suggestion? Rangers to ticket for not picking up poop. Have them be undercover if possible and the city will make a LOT more money in revenue. Even if the rangers are just there for a few hours every week for a few months, exactly like I would recommend training time for a dog (and behavior training through operant conditioning is the same across all species) it will train the humans there to be more aware. People will talk and warn others and it will create the good habits (picking up poop) while making money for the city and most importantly, avoiding a major consequence of forcing dogs on-leash (reactivity, aggression, bite incidents).	2/7/2024 10:54 AM
265	Please please do not limit off-leash dog access! This is one of the few places where I can run with my dog off-leash and it is a huge asset to our area. We have been going to Westminster Open Space since our dog Happy was just a puppy and he loves it. I bring him and our baby	2/7/2024 10:10 AM

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multiple times a week, and as a stay at home mom, it's such a valuable part of our routine. We would be happy to participate in community efforts to restore and clean up the area if it helps us keep off-leash access. Thank you for hearing us out!

266	Off leash dog park is the only reason my Pups made it through my maternity leave. Regular dog day parks have too much contact with the other dogs and mine don't do well with that. Please don't reduce or make on leash!	2/7/2024 10:02 AM
267	I am in favor of the proposed changes to WHOS. As a property owner that is adjacent to WHOS since May 2012, I have observed the gradual decline of WHOS and have endured multiple canine and human conflicts at my fence/property line.	2/7/2024 9:43 AM
268	Please keep our off leash dog park off leash	2/7/2024 9:42 AM
269	Please keep this entire area as an off leash site. Our dogs love it here. We love getting to be outdoors with our pets and the freedom it allows. I am willing to participate in community clean up. Perhaps a pay per use to fund garbage recepticals. Chatfield state park is a great example of this. There are always bags available and the many bins are emptied regularly.	2/7/2024 9:34 AM
270	Our family has been coming to Westminster Hills off leash dog park for years. It's a beautiful place to be in nature with your dog and to be able to meet other like-Minded citizens. During the pandemic, we did see much greater use of the area which was detrimental. The paths becoming much wider and just exponential increased use definitely had an impact on the park. We have seen Improvements and the efforts to decrease use of unauthorized trails and we stay On the designated trails. I think the community that goes out there is greatly appreciative of the resource,generally does a good job of cleaning up after their dogs and has dogs that are appropriate to be off leash in the park. Last week as I was leaving the park, I offered to take someone's bag to the trash bin since I was heading that way, and she was not. This is the type of interactions I have often at the park. My husband and I would be willing to help with restoration physically, and or pay an annual fee to come out. We would be very sad to no longer have this as an option for us and our two dogs- we all love it!!	2/7/2024 9:16 AM
271	I think it should remain an off leash park, however, I think a good alternative is to charge a yearly (~\$25) or daily (\$5) fee to access the park. These funds could be used to help manage the park and open space.	2/7/2024 9:02 AM
272	I am truly heartbroken at the plans to reduce the size of the off-leash dog park by 90%. Westminster & Denver neighborhoods are struggling all across the city to keep dogs on leash, this will only contribute to more issues with local parks. The dogs need somewhere in the city they can go and run freely. First Evergreen took away Elk Meadows Dog Park, and now this. I truly cannot believe it. Also if you want to know what a smaller area with do to dog incidents, just look at Berkley Dog Park, a park so small dog incidents happen regularly. We no longer go here because of this and have always loved getting to go to Westminster for their dog park. Lastly, every time we go to this dog park we stop for coffee, grab lunch afterwards, or hit up a few shops in the area (Target, Sephora, etc). The local economy will take a big hit.	2/7/2024 8:46 AM
273	Please do not restrict the off leash dog park to only 40 acres. The community needs the whole space, both mentally and physically. Please consider expanding both parking lots. I live next to the dog park and it is packed on the weekends. I see many people getting tickets for parking along the street when the lots are full. Please consider hosting semi-annual cleanups. The community would come.	2/7/2024 8:21 AM
274	Please find another way to solve the ecological concerns. Turning a majority of this space into an on leash park is a lazy solution. Furthermore, only allocating 40 acres for off leash is incredibly unsafe for the amount of dogs that frequent this park on any given day. I'm fine with paying an annual fee to keep this park as is.	2/7/2024 8:01 AM
275	I have lived in the area over 10 years and frequently visit this park over the years, this is the only off leash dog park in the area and it is typically very clean. I don't feel it would be a wise decision to make it a leash only dog park as I believe fellow residents will still use this space as an off leash area because the city doesn't offer one in this area	2/7/2024 7:52 AM
276	Charge for entry or require a parking pass like Boulder Open Space parks do and we do at Standley Lake. Offer a discount for Westminster residents. add gates to the parking lots Add a border fence along home on North side of Willow loop. Maintain current off leash area	2/7/2024 7:43 AM
277	Many people who care for dogs, I hesitate to use the word 'owner' should not be responsible for the care of dogs. For whatever reason, laziness, lack of commitment to training, politics	2/7/2024 7:34 AM

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(yes, really! As in, run free or die) inability to bend over and pick up their poop... creates a vector for disease (see the demise of the Evergreen off leash dog area) and a climate of fear for those with their dogs on leash. End the madness and the biohazard! Limit the off leash area and hire some more Animal Control officers!

278	Let's add firewood and close the trails. Fire Westminster Joe. Everyone else quit after he was hired. That should speak loudly. Fire Joe!	2/7/2024 5:41 AM
279	I am opposed to any plan in regards to the Westminster Open Space that would restrict or reduce the off leash dog area.	2/7/2024 2:22 AM
280	No changes should be made to the current policies. It's extremely disappointing this was even considered and will effect my voting choices in the next city council elections.	2/7/2024 12:20 AM
281	mike	2/6/2024 11:07 PM
282	I have been using the off leash dog park since June of 2002. This was back when most of it still had cows grazing, prairie dogs everywhere and almost no vegetation. There. Is more vegetation and bird life there now than there was 20 years ago. If the town was so concerned about the wildlife why did it approve another larger subdivision to the north of the dog park that resulted in the loss of 100's of acres of unoccupied lamds and wildlife habitat. Now the city is worried about the dog park? I am a professional biologist with the US Forest Service and have 32 years experience. I don't believe this is fare the the thousands of people using this park for their dogs exercise as well as their own. If you are truly concerned about Ecoli and pet waste why not add more garbage cans for waste disposal. Your city workers drive there vehicles in to check on folks and can easily get to the waste. Making people carry bags of poop for miles is not helping getting it in the cans where it belongs. In fact, the city removed garbage cans a few years ago and never replaced them exasperating the problem even worse. Add pet waste cans. Increase patrols to keep folks on designated trails. Simple solutions. You don't need to close or shrink this incredible city of Westminster resource we all enjoy!	2/6/2024 10:54 PM
283	As a City resident I hope a thoughtful solution can be reached that will avoid losing the current amount of open space offered for off leash dog activities at the Westminster Hills Open Space site. What makes this park unique is the size and ability to allow our dogs to run and play in the vast open space. People come from all around the metro area to experience this park and it would be ashamed to loss this valuable resource. Otherwise, if the park were to be downsizes, it would just be another dog park and lose it's character and uniqueness. This would most likely result in lost visitors and possibly even revenue from those tens of thousands of visitors a year.	2/6/2024 10:53 PM
284	Do not make the space smaller. It's great for a gentle mountain bike ride and also for dogs who are skittish of other dogs. Making it smaller will increase the muddy portions and decrease the value in the space for Westminster residents.	2/6/2024 8:41 PM
285	I think it's horrible to take away the ability for dog owners to enjoy the open space and recreate with their dogs. This dog park is used by hundreds of thousands of people per year, especially those who live in westminster. Stop this horrible plan!	2/6/2024 6:08 PM
286	Please keep the Westminster Hills dog park as is. It is one of the very few open area dog parks available, and one of the benefits of this dog park over other, smaller ones is the ease with which you can find a more quiet area for your dog to be off leash, especially if they are anxious around other dogs and can't do the smaller dog parks. The off leash area has already been significantly limited over the last several years, and it would be a shame to condense the growing population into an even smaller area. I have had only positive experiences there with other dogs and dog owners, and even have noticed how respectful people have been of the paths closed off for revegetation. Please do not further limit our access to open, off leash spaces.	2/6/2024 5:52 PM
287	Keep the dog park open and if leash.	2/6/2024 5:15 PM
288	Having the only off leash area by the neighborhood north of the park will be a huge disadvantage to me and everyone that lives there. The traffic to that parking lot as well as people parking within the neighborhood will be astronomical. The noise will increase greatly, and homes will depreciate in value. I beg of you to make this space and on leash part so that it is not overrun as the only off leash option	2/6/2024 4:50 PM
289	I think the off-leash area should absolutely not be shrunk. It is a gem of Westminster and provides residents the ability to recreate WITH their dog, not stand around in a tiny enclosed	2/6/2024 4:44 PM

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area as proposed. DON'T TAKE OUR BELOVED OFF LEASH PARK AWAY

290	I think it is a absolutely horrible idea to shrink the off-leash area. Dogs when confined into tiny little "backyard" dog parks get in exponentially more fights, completely removes the opportunity for actual exercise for the dog and the owner.	2/6/2024 4:43 PM
291	The proposed concentration of off leash dogs over the fence from our house will result in a significant decrease in our property value. Who would buy a house with hundreds of dogs and owners daily and nightly at their creating noise, stink and activity on their property line? if this moves forward we will be forced to move . It is especially troubling for me because we have spent a great deal of money adapting our house to my needs as a paraplegic, wheelchair bound person. The proposed action will cause with loss of value of our home and the need to find another house, move and do the expensive and stressful process of hiring contractors to adapt another home. Your proposed will cost us financially and put my health at risk. Finally for what it worth I have Bachelors and Masters degrees in ecology. It does not take a scientist to see that the off leash park has created an ecological disaster area in the service of pressure from people demanding an off leash park. The health of the land you are administering is ignored. There are almost no healthy populations of native species of plants or animals left in the area proposed but instead of working to reclaim and restore it to health you are doubling down on its disintegration. Is that stewardship of the property you administer?	2/6/2024 4:07 PM
292	The solution to what the city claims as an open space being "loved to death" should not be to eliminate one of the only true areas in the metro area that has space for community members to bring their dog and enjoy the open space off leash. If the cities estimates are true, where now would those 1 mil visits disburse too? There are limited options, how is the purposed solution to eliminate another open space area? With a growing metropolis preserving open space is vital, however it cannot come at the cost of eliminating access open area to its constituents. Westminster does not need another Target, Walmart, etc - if there are true open space concerns current open land within the cities boundaries needs to be purchased instead. I do not support any plan that eliminates an open off leash space for community members.	2/6/2024 3:54 PM
293	The current size of the dog park is an amazing value add for the area, and reducing this to the proposed size will increase the degradation of the area, increased conflicts with dogs to close together. Moving to undesignated space will benefit the few at the cost to those who use the space regularly.	2/6/2024 3:14 PM
294	Add better signage, including an explanation of WHY keeping on trails and picking up dog waste is important (see Leave No Trace guides). Also include updated maps with marked trails (name them!) and preservation areas. Add more dog waste receptacles and bag dispensers. Encourage visitors to clean up ANY waste they see, regardless of the source. Add physical barriers (some already in work) to trails if possible. At a minimum, add barriers to intersections and trail heads to create a "visual funnel" and prevent shortcuts.	2/6/2024 3:13 PM
295	The conversation about dogs ruining the space is really about a few people who choose not to pick up after their dog and dog irresponsible dog owners in general. Your goal to close the area doesn't really solve any problems. You'll just push people out into different areas where dogs are more likely to have problems. The opportunity you have right now is to change dog culture for the better. Consider a license to use the space off leash like boulder does. This way you would be educating dog owners, making money, protecting the space. Don't just take away an amazing space and opportunity. Don't just act like a parent taking something away from their child because they couldn't handle the responsibility. Act like a real government an enact thoughtful policies which engage, educate and, enable. I would be more than happy to pay for the privilege to use this space. Thank you for you consideration. Fe	2/6/2024 1:32 PM
296	I live on the border of the dog park in Meadow view subdivision. I strongly oppose the possibility of the area suggested becoming the only off-leash area. Not only would it be sacrificing that little piece of land to become even more over used and over-run, it would completely ruin my little backyard. Already the part of the dog park bordering my yard has almost been consumed by weeds, (no natural vegetation remaining) it is dusty and full of the smell of unpicked up dog poop. It is very unpleasant to have many many people trudging along our fence line, peering into our small back yard, dogs barking, threatening our dog through the fences. It is even hard for us to to be outside on our deck. Before the upper part of the dog park was opened there were many people parking in our neighborhood in order to get to there, that would start happening again undoubtedly. The whole situation will reduce the property value of my home, for who wants to live like they are in a fishbowl to millions? It would be my hope that the whole area (not just the upper part) would become and ON-leash dog park. That	2/6/2024 1:26 PM

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would drastically reduce many of the problems, save the environmental problems and not cause Jefferson County residents like me to have their home values reduced.

297	This off-leash dog park is a gem, and it would be a shame if it was made on-leash only. I understand the need to conserve, but this area is treasured by many dog-owning residents of Westminster. Has registering dogs annually for a fee (i.e. \$25) for off-leash access been considered?	2/6/2024 12:43 PM
298	I love being able to take my dog off leash and hope that remains an option moving forward.	2/6/2024 12:38 PM
299	This area needs more shady spots whether that is tree cover or gazebo structures. Also would be nice to have water fill stations	2/6/2024 10:14 AM
300	Just hopeful that we can continue to preserve and enjoy this beautiful and serene place in our community and our hearts for generations to come! A little worried that taking this area away would affect both my dog and myself not to mention the many other people who care for and love the area	2/6/2024 9:58 AM
301	My top priority is creating healthy Ecosystems where wildlife can thrive. Secondary is my enjoyment of those open spaces.	2/6/2024 8:52 AM
302	I highly value the off leash do park. It is very important to me that it be maintained as close to current configuration as possible	2/6/2024 8:49 AM
303	The public use and popularity of this park's off leash dog area only shines a spotlight on and magnifies the public's NEED for this type of facility. Reducing the usable acreage isn't a viable solution to address any relative issues. Better educating those that use the area, along with new tools to enforce needed behaviors, can achieve a reasonable goal of both sustainability and high public access. One effective tool, perhaps, could be as simple as requiring an annual parking permit which should require: watching a video that highlights the park's purpose and stated mission/goals, amenities, rules, expected behaviors, potential dangers, nearest emergency veterinary services, etc.; successfully passing a short test to verify an applicant has viewed, understands, and agrees to abide by and help enforce all of the park rules; a reasonable annual fee. Educating the public is essential to achieving everyone's ultimate goal.	2/6/2024 7:01 AM
304	Please do not reduce the amount of off leash area	2/6/2024 5:40 AM
305	I have been to several meetings re: the open space and our property backs up to the space. I have been verbally assaulted by a woman and aggressively approached by a man when I asked them nicely to call their dogs away from our fence. I don't feel that I should have to defend my family or back yard from open space visitors. My husband and I are not sure where the responsibility or maybe liability lies, if one of my dogs, my husband or I or perhaps a neighbor's small child gets injured by an unleashed, uncontrolled dog. When we moved in 12 years ago, the open space wasn't used nearly as much and people seemed to be less aggressive or there were just fewer, so therefore more dilute. I have fearfilled ideas that because I have asked someone to please call their dog away, they may do something in retaliation. Although I feel that Westy Police has been helpful in general, I don't feel like there is much presence in the open space by them or a park ranger/official/helping hand/paid employee. It was explained at the previous meeting held by Westy Open Space Management team that they had grossly mismanaged the land and in order to mitigate the damage or control further damage, that reducing the off leash area was necessary. I am 100% in agreement with their decision to mitigate the damage to the open space and reduce the offleash area to a smaller area, where it is expected that there will be no recovery from the traffic.	2/5/2024 9:34 PM
306	Can you count votes? I sure hope so. When your elected representatives see how much damage you are doing to their votes, you will need to do a lot of explaining. Take a minute to reconsider and find a win-win solution for our dog lovers, your one million visitors to this park, and for the city.	2/5/2024 9:25 PM
307	Please do not get rid of 90% of the off leash park for Westminster hills. This is the best park we've ever been to. Reducing the size will just make it another dog park where dog fights ensue and chaos happens.	2/5/2024 8:29 PM
308	The reduction in acreage of off-leash land is extreme. There are many other options and creative solutions should be considered instead of an antiquated approach of just "fence out". Programs should be considered that require purchasing a license to use off leash areas. This would provide revenue to manage the areas effectively and protect wildlife.	2/5/2024 7:36 PM

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309	I am very much not in favor of the plan to move the dog park mainly to on leash park. Other major trails in the Denver Area have large area for off leash dogs. I think the neighbors are complaining and Westminster is bowing to their request. Get a Back bone and leave it the way it is.	2/5/2024 7:32 PM
310	City of Westminster, PLEASE limit the off leash area to no more than 40 acres. PLEASE. The off leash dogs are literally DESTROYING the natural environment in the Westminster Hills Open Space,	2/5/2024 7:29 PM
311	I am 100% AGAINST the proposed changes to the off-leash/on-leash policy at Westminster Hills Open Space and the dog park. As a family who uses the park every day with our dogs, removing access to the currently off-leash section would ruin the quality of life for our dogs and greatly diminish the park's usefulness to us as a family. Please leave the upper section of the park off-leash.	2/5/2024 6:50 PM
312	The Westminster Dog park is a treasure! Pure, vast, happiness for both dogs and owners.	2/5/2024 6:04 PM
313	We love this open space dog park so much. It almost brings me to tears seeing my dog enjoy being off leash, exploring, and running free. He always stays close to me and it warms my heart to see him loving life to the fullest there. I always describe this park as "doggie heaven" and it is one of the main reasons why we moved to CO. Although we live 30 mins away, we try to make trips out to this park often and frequently end up visiting local business afterwards. We would be devastated if the off-leash area was reduced and my family wouldn't be able to enjoy it as it is now.	2/5/2024 5:42 PM
314	I'm relatively new to the world of pet ownership, and my loyal companion is a majestic Rhodesian Ridgeback named Rhodie. With his impressive size and boundless energy, he requires a substantial amount of exercise to stay content and healthy. Four wonderful years have passed since Rhodie became a cherished part of my life, and our routine of multiple weekly visits to the local Westminster Hills Open Space (WHOS) park has become an integral part of our lives. What makes these outings truly exceptional is the awe-inspiring natural setting of the nearby mountain range. While Rhodie revels in the freedom off leash to explore and roam, I find solace and profound beauty in the rugged landscape. It's a harmonious blend of physical activity, companionship, and an appreciation for the serenity of our surroundings that makes our time together truly enriching. The current conditions at WHOS hold tremendous significance for both Rhodie and me. Here's a summary of the key points from your report and suggestions I'd like to emphasize: 1. Feces Location: According to the map, feces appear to be concentrated at the entrance, limiting damage to the overall Open Space. To the best of my understanding, the report indicates that the level of feces in the park does not pose any significant problems. 2. Feces Removal: I have reservations about the scientific basis for the claim that leashed dog owners are more diligent in cleaning up after their pets compared to unleashed dogs. My personal observations suggest responsible behavior among pet owners. Increasing the number of trash cans throughout WHOS could help minimize waste left behind. 3. Water Source: The water source, as mentioned in the report, begins at a hedgegate in Clear Creek and ends at 100th and Simms, which is west of the area where dogs are permitted in the Open Space. It's not entirely clear that the presence of feces is solely attributed to dogs, considering the existence of multiple cattle farms west of the dog park. 4. Habitat Preservation: Based on the map, most habitat sites are situated outside the dog park area. 5. Off-Leash Behavior: I've observed that dogs generally stay close to their owners and refrain from wandering off the trail. 6. Bridge Congestion: The majority of dog owners exhibit consideration for congestion on the bridge and make efforts to avoid potential conflicts during busy times. Implementing signage encouraging people not to linger on the bridge might help alleviate congestion. 7. Possible Complaints: I wonder whether the decision to change the leash policy might have been influenced by complaints from other park users, such as walkers, runners, neighbors, and/or cyclists, without taking into account the many people who rely on this space to exercise their pets. 8. Emotional Impact: The transition to a leashed park is profoundly disheartening for me, as it limits my options for providing my dog with the exercise he requires. 9. Bare Ground: The most significant areas of bare ground are located at the entrances of the open space park. For instance, at the Simms Street entrance, the signage placed just inside the entrance affects the width of the bare ground. The animals are forced around the signage, resulting in a widening of the entrance. Enlarging the entrances that lead to narrower paths could potentially reduce unwanted bare ground. Additionally, improving the current walking paths with proper drainage and crushed stone enhancements might prevent people from widening the paths during muddy seasons. 10. Improvement Ideas: As I walk around the open space park, I frequently contemplate initiating a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing WHOS. I have several ideas to improve the park, including increasing	2/5/2024 5:31 PM

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the number of trash cans to reduce the amount of feces in the area, planting trees to attract wildlife, installing benches for relaxation and to admire the views, and providing watering stations for dogs. In conclusion, I implore the decision-makers to explore ways to enhance the park rather than eliminating the one place where my dog can run freely. I am deeply passionate about WHOS and its environmental well-being, and I urge you to seek a solution that fosters harmony within the community and serves the needs of all Westminster Hills Open Space users.

315	I moved to Westminster specifically for the off leash space here. Taking this away from residents will result in decreased trust with local government & result in less obedience in on-leash designated areas and parks. Why take away a place where dog owning residents can come together with dogs and enjoy the nature and what the city can provide? Also think about the economic hit the city will take by taking away the 1 million visitors and growing from the city? I have friends who come up to take their dog on a walk then go to local breweries. Family owned businesses will take a hit from this. Many people will not visit Westminster without the large off leash space.	2/5/2024 5:01 PM
316	KEEP WESMINSTER HILLS DOG PARK OFF LEASH	2/5/2024 4:57 PM
317	Please keep it off-leash!	2/5/2024 2:18 PM
318	I found the information at the open house very useful. I did not realize that Westminster Hills went back that far or the habitats that are trying to thrive. People have always been the problem and if we can not use our resources respectfully than we are bound to lose them or reduce the size of the dog park in this case. I am so glad that I live in a city that wishes to preserve it's natural habitat.	2/5/2024 1:45 PM
319	I frequent Westminster dog park often and think it is the best part of living in Westminster. So much space we are not able to have our dogs off leash, but this is such a special place where we don't have to hold them back, they can actually play! Please let me know if there is a clean up scheduled and I would be happy to be a problem solver!	2/5/2024 1:25 PM
320	With strong conviction, I urge the city of Westminster to rethink this plan to impact the dog park. For the past 7 years, I have been coming here to disconnect from the realities of daily life and enjoy nature with my dog and his friends. I understand the city's desire to conserve the park's space, but the impact of making the part on-leash will be a far greater blow to the community. Westminster Hills Off-Leash Park is a sanctuary for dogs and responsible dog owners. The only wildlife you would be helping to repopulate is rattlesnakes - which I've encountered at the park several times. I strongly believe that there exists a conservation paradox. You can protect nature from being impacted by people, or you can open up wide spaces to the people, allowing them to foster a powerful connection with nature, and empowering them to become good stewards of this great green earth. Please keep the park alive and off-leash so we can continue to enjoy the wide open space it provides.	2/5/2024 1:07 PM
321	There are so few places where we can let our dog roam off leash. It would be devastating to require dogs to be leashed at WHOS. As a Westminster resident, I oppose requiring dogs to be leashed at WHOS.	2/5/2024 1:02 PM
322	Please don't make this an on-leash space. I take my dog heat regularly, and it's the closest open space like this that my dog can truly be free to roam around. It's such a wonderful place as-is.	2/5/2024 12:59 PM
323	Please keep our large dog park area. It keeps people from letting dogs off leash on trails and parks where it is prohibited. It protects our pets so they have adequate space to run. Especially when housing is so expensive in Denver where many people do not have large yards.	2/5/2024 12:16 PM
324	I do not mind closing certain areas for restoration and certain areas for leashed/ unleashed dogs. I would like to advocate that this area remain open for cycling as this trail network connects to many other neighborhoods and I use it often to ride.	2/5/2024 11:25 AM
325	There are several ways to limit the amount of people that utilize the open space. You can model what Boulder did and charge those that do not live in the city of Westminster. I own 2 homes here in Westminster for over 25 years and I love seeing my tax dollars at work. I utilize this beautiful place several times a week. I have contacted the gentleman in charge of all this with NO RESPOSE back. This is unacceptable to me.	2/5/2024 9:53 AM
326	Please do not take away our large open space for us to walk and connect with our beloved	2/5/2024 9:36 AM

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	dogs. This is our favorite place to bring our dogs and to limit it would be so sad for them!	
327	The area has become overburdened with traffic and excessive illegal parking. Have stopped using the dog park as several off-leash dogs have aggressed - I am a local resident . I am ashamed Westminster has allowed such destruction of the land -- that will not be able to be reclaimed.	2/5/2024 9:32 AM
328	We love this park for the off leash dog options! I understand some conservation but do not restrict the off leash. So many enjoy the park for that reason. Will be at every meeting to fight for this.	2/5/2024 8:45 AM
329	This proposal to effectively make this like every other canine-friendly area is devastating. Dog waste is being used as the scapegoat and an issue that can be overcome by : -making access to the park an additional daily and /or annual pass that's tax deductible -having an organized community clean up days -increase city taxes to cover the costs of providing MORE trashcans and more city personnel to care for the space -partnering with non profits to raise money that care for the park like Bark in the Park does for the West Arvada Dog park This amputation of space that hundreds if not thousands of dogs and dog owners have loved is not the solution you think it will be. It's a cop out. And a brilliant display of laziness without considering the massive negative impact on dog life in the front range.	2/5/2024 8:07 AM
330	I have reviewed the findings and recommendations in the latest presentation and generally agree with them. The open space should never have had so much of its area designated as off-leash. Wildlife habitat and vegetation cannot be preserved or restored with the current usage and visitation rate. 1,000,000 visits per year brings too much traffic to our area. While I agree with decreasing the off-leash area, I am concerned that the proposed placement will shift more traffic back to 105th and Simms. The traffic and noise from park visitors is disruptive to those of us living nearby. Also, I recall some residents from the subdivision on the north were not happy about having trails and dog poop up against their fences. Consider creating more of a buffer zone for them and securely fence in the off-leash area. If possible, use fencing that can be moved relatively easily to occasionally shift the off-leash area and allow vegetation to recover. Is there any chance a second off-leash area could be created near the lot on 100th Avenue to spread out traffic? Are there other areas in the city that could be designated off-leash to give visitors other options? Also consider a reservation system and admission fees for peak usage times. Somehow the visitation rate needs to be at a more manageable level. A reservation system could also balance the number of visitors with available parking lot capacity. We don't like the illegal parking on Simms or 100th but also don't want visitors parking in our neighborhood. How would any of these proposed changes be enforced? People don't always comply with leash laws in other areas, let alone an area where they are accustomed to letting their dogs run. I do see where parking enforcement has been increased, but with some continuing to disregard the no parking signs, I am also concerned about potential fire risk when vehicles pull into grassy areas. Is there a quicker or easier means of enforcement, i.e., driving by with a license plate scanner and mailing the parking infraction to the registered vehicle owners? Can city council create a higher parking ticket penalty for parking illegally in fire prone/sensitive areas? This could be applied as needed throughout the city's open spaces.	2/4/2024 10:47 PM
331	This off- leash open space has been a needed place of reprieve for me and my doggies - it would be a tragedy to lose this beautiful space!	2/4/2024 9:55 PM
332	Keep Westminster Open Soace Dog Area the way it is, off leash and 400+ acres... this is such an essential outlet for dogs to exercise and socialize! We love it here and visit every week with several other friends and dog owners!	2/4/2024 8:15 PM
333	As a denver resident who loves the dog park and travels to Westminster weekly, please do not reduce it! It's incredibly unique and no other space exists like it for our dogs.	2/4/2024 7:51 PM
334	Please keep the Westminster space as is.	2/4/2024 7:37 PM
335	Keep the space for dogs 🐾	2/4/2024 7:05 PM
336	Please do not reduce the number of off leash acres to 70. This park is the only of its kind in the city and so many people and pets benefit from the off leash exercise that this park grants them.	2/4/2024 6:07 PM
337	Please Keep this wonderful open space and Off Leash Dog park open and do not reduce the footprint of this Park!!!!	2/4/2024 3:59 PM

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338	The fact that westminster is trying to take the dog park and reduce the space is a lack of initiative to listen to the people. The false accusations on the animal feases and the preserving the space is inaccurate if you read the information. The real plan is to build houses and bring in money to the city. You need to listen to the people and stop pushing your agenda because of your position of power. Listen to the people and actually stop abusing your power.	2/4/2024 2:21 PM
339	We love the Westminster ripen hills off leash area. It's the only place where I can hike and get my own exerise and let my dog run off leash. It's also a large reason why we decided to stay living close. If we make a smaller portion of it only off leash, we take away what makes this place amazing and turn it into a spot that's just like any other dog park. I understand that there's an environmental aspect, but what about when large and loud trucks came by to make the bike path? All the animals that were disturbed and potentially had their homes destroyed to create a concrete path that the park was honestly fine without. If you are looking to use the space but need some other option, I think a fee system would be a great alternative because I would gladly pay a fee to use the park then see it changed any more	2/4/2024 2:11 PM
340	Please keep the open space dog park!!	2/4/2024 2:03 PM
341	Please please please leave this space open for dogs!!! The city is getting more and more crowded and open space for them to run is proving harder and harder to find!!	2/4/2024 1:43 PM
342	Please keep this space as a paradise for dog lovers, friends, and family. Such an amazing resource and an amazing place for my dogs day to day life.	2/4/2024 12:36 PM
343	The current DOLA is heaven on earth and the amount of space is the primary factor. Dogs need space to roam off leash, especially dogs who are anxious while on leash due to their natural instincts and character. There is no greater joy for their humans than watching them run free and play and socialize safely and comfortably. Cramming off leash dogs into a small space with higher density of dogs is dangerous and the reason many dog owners do not frequent so-called dog parks, i.e., small off leash areas that contribute to anxiety and dangerous behaviors incited by lack of space for dogs to make choices about how to socialize. Please do not take away the current space! It would be a complete loss for dogs and the humans who love them and derive happiness from their joy. The retention of a tiny dog park is a complete loss, it would not offer the safe environment and opportunity it is supposedly replacing. Instead, EDUCATE about and ENFORCE the existing rules for the current DOLA boundary and removal of fecal waste. Rotate fenced areas within the space as needed to protect and restore vegetation and wildlife. Take care of the space, don't take it away! There are costs, but there are also benefits, and those benefits need to be highlighted too! For the love of dogs and the humans who love them.	2/4/2024 11:40 AM
344	I have been bringing my dogs here for 14 years and this is preposterous. Please do not take this away from our dogs as this is the most Used Dogpark in Northern Denver metro area.	2/4/2024 11:10 AM
345	I applaud the efforts to preserve our open space and ensure the vitality of the native animals. I would be in favor of half of the area (Alkire to Indiana) being restricted to build the population of the burrowing owl. The restriction proposed, however, seems too extreme and would diminish the real joy of the open space, put best by Dennis and Shirley Branch "This is perhaps the only area in or near Westminster, where enough Open Space can be assembled to make visitors feel small, or humble, and to view and understand how much of Colorado appeared to early visitors and residents." I understand and echo the concern about dog fecal matter. Additional placement of trash bins would greatly encourage proper dog owner behavior.	2/4/2024 10:38 AM
346	This park is awesome! Don't you dare change!	2/4/2024 9:26 AM
347	Please do not take away or reduce the current 400 acres of off leash dog park. This dog park is such a vital and important part of the Westminster and neighboring areas community. Taking away the off leash aspect, or reducing it, will completely change the way people are able to come together with their dogs and enjoy the outdoors and their fellow neighbors. We spend every weekend here, if not multiple days a week, and it has allowed us to have a community at the dark park with people we otherwise never would have met.	2/4/2024 9:10 AM
348	Shrinking the off-leash portion of the open space down to a postage stamp-sized portion is unnecessary. The impact of dogs that rarely stray very far off the trails to begin with is minimal. I do agree that the lack of vehicle parking has created impacts with people parking in areas not designed for it, and this should be the city's first priority.	2/4/2024 8:05 AM
349	Please keep this park off leash! It is a beautiful environment and there are no dog parks like this one. There are plenty of places to walk a dog on leash. Not enough to walk a dog off leash	2/4/2024 8:00 AM

Westminster Hills Open Space (WHOS) Area Management Plan - Community Feedback

350	I am hereby signing against having any type of housing development in the Westminster Off Leash Dog Open Space	2/4/2024 1:27 AM
351	Hi, My dog and I make regular use of the open space and would be extremely disappointed to see it removed. We recently bought a house within walking distance under the impression that the open space was being managed for the long term and I was disappointed to hear that the proposed solution to this issue was to convert it to a slightly larger traditional dog park with no effort made to add signage, enforce any existing rules or otherwise modify behavior. I have several suggestions, but I honestly didn't feel like the superintendent was open to hearing anything I or anyone else had to say and saw the open house as a "I tell the public what's going to happen and they'd better get used to it" rather than being legitimately open to discussion of any kind. That said, I'll make my suggestions anyway. 1. Add any signage at all to the trails. It is impossible to tell the difference between social trails and official ones, and often the trails that are "closed" are only closed on one end with no actual signs confirming that it is intended as a trail closure. 2. Add a fencing in around the main park entrances where the most damage has been done to confine the damage to that area. While I do not bring my dog to traditional dog parks due to several bad experiences, a number of people bring their dogs to use that very small area around the entrance as a traditional dog park and do not hike or walk in the rest of the park. Those dogs will inevitably slowly expand that space as they range further and further from their sedentary guardians, but fencing in that area would prevent them from leaving that area while wandering. 3. Set guidelines on off-leash dog behavior and spend some time enforcing them. In my albeit limited experience in Boulder, the rangers do not spend all day patrolling trails examining people's recall, but they do enforce voice and sight tags at trailheads, and people hike with the expectation that those rules will be followed. 4. One issue I heard was that the park is operating far over capacity. If you want to reduce usage, parking fees are one option, another is to restrict the off leash privileges to residents of Westminster. As an added bonus, this would likely increase license compliance as the two would be linked.	2/4/2024 12:20 AM
352	I was surprised to learn that this space was not primarily designated as an off leash dog area and instead part of the city's open space program. I believe that the off leash access is valuable recreational opportunity for the city and I would like to city encourage better behavior from dog owners before removing off-leash access. Signage, blocking social trails, and a fenced in area near the parking lot would help to reduce the impact on land. In the areas current state, it is almost impossible to know which trails are designed and which trails are social trails. I think that most visitors to the park are completely unaware of the city's concerns and would be willing to take more responsibility to continue to allow off leash access. Setting higher expectations for dog owners should be a first option to reduce impact.	2/3/2024 11:45 PM
353	I have been going to the space for more than 10 years. It is a great place for dogs and people, and it is hard to understand what you are trying to protect. Who has an economic interest in this? It smells. For once, leave well enough alone and stop punishing the masses for the biased assessment of a few disgruntled (or compromised) individuals.	2/3/2024 7:21 PM
354	Leave the dog park as is!! This benefits SO many dogs. Many do not do well with small dog parks (mine included) and this would ruin it for so many dogs and owners. Look how many doggy memorials there are there!!!	2/3/2024 6:28 PM
355	This space is so important to keep open for the northern metro area. If you eliminate the majority of the off leash space, patrons may try and go elsewhere to other surrounding parks and go off leash where there are actually leash laws in place. Having 400 acres allows patrons to spread out for safety and less stressful exercise. Some dogs cannot tolerate being crammed in small fenced areas overpopulated with dogs. Some dogs need a place to freely roam but being in a stressful traditional dog park is not the right environment. Please FIND A WAY to keep this space as intended.	2/3/2024 5:10 PM
356	Do not close the off leash portion. No one wanted this when the public was initially surveyed per the results that were posted.	2/3/2024 3:42 PM
357	Wanted to add my voice to what I suspect is a loud chorus of dog owners who value the Westminster Open Space Dog Park. It really is a tremendous asset to the community and it would be very disappointing if it stopped offering off leash space. Would there be the option to rotate closure areas to allow some portions to be restored while still giving adequate space for off leash recreation? Urge you to think creatively to serve the community while protecting the land!	2/3/2024 3:23 PM

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358	Dog Park needs to stay as all acreage accessible and off leash	2/3/2024 1:54 PM
359	I am very upset to learn that the city is considering severely reducing the off-leash portion of the park located at 100th & Simms. I drive 5 miles from Hyland Village, to utilize this park several times a week. It offers the opportunity for my 3-year old Lab mix to run off energy. He especially enjoys playing and running with other dogs. I too am able to take a walk and enjoy the views. The park is especially beautiful in spring and summer. There isn't another park in the area that offers the space for running comparable to this park. PLEASE DO NOT ELIMINATE THIS BENEFIT! Thank you for your consideration.	2/3/2024 1:13 PM
360	It would be a tragedy if the proposed changes are implemented at the Westminster hills dog park. Limiting the off-leash portion to such a small area will create unhealthy and unsafe conditions. It will increase the potential for transmission of communicable diseases as well as increase in violent incidents between dogs and people. Having a large area to walk the dogs is more healthy for the pets and their owners. Dogs need to run, play and chase balls. They do not get the exercise that they need on a leash. We walk several miles nearly every day at the park. The vast majority of people there follow the rules, pick up after their pets and stay on the designated trails. There are only a few breeds that run through the fields and scare up the birds. Perhaps there should be rules like OSMP Boulder has for their trails. Dogs can't harass wildlife, they need to be controlled (voice and sight), owners need to pick up their waste, etc. if Westminster would adopt the voice and sight tag system and charge an annual parking fee. the revenue collected from fees and citations could be used for park maintenance, full time rules enforcement officers, maybe a few more waste receptacles (which would greatly reduce the amount of improperly disposed of waste), and possibly some security cameras for the parking lots. Also, if people were required to pay for the privilege of using the park, it would reduce the number of visitors and increase the quality of them. Paying patrons would be better stewards of the land. I would gladly pay all of these fees to keep the park off-leash, even though I'm a Westminster resident. Perhaps the city could also utilize a volunteer crew to help with the park and rules enforcement. Violators of the rules could receive a warning, then increasing fines, then suspensions and for serious repeat offenders, banishment from the park. And fencing off the creek is cruel. Dogs need to cool off in the heat of the summer. I've never observed a dog defecating in the water. Keep the park as it is. Charge fees and get rules enforcement officers for the park. The park is the jewel of our community and is loved and appreciated by so many.	2/3/2024 12:55 PM
361	My dog izzy loves this off leash park!	2/3/2024 12:11 PM
362	I am emphatically opposed to closing the off leash area of the Westminster Hills Dog Park. I have lived here for 8 years and it is an essential part of our daily lives. Please look into other management practices to reduce impact, such as narrowing trails with fencing. For the most part, I've observed people tend to stay on the trails. This is such an incredible resource for the community that shutting it down would be devastating. There is nothing like the freedom to walk peacefully with your dogs trotting along off leash and free. Don't take that away. The vast majority of trails in the front range require leashes, Westminster Hills is truly unique and the loss will hurt the million+ people and dogs who love spending time there.	2/3/2024 11:01 AM
363	This is a very popular dog park because it is so big and off leash. I want the city to explore in good faith other ways to protect the park other than dramatically reducing the off leash area. Finally, the over use of the park is a strong indicator that Westminster needs to create more dogs parks (of any size or leash rules) to provide for their citizens.	2/3/2024 10:27 AM
364	We use this off leash dog park frequently. Please don't develop it!	2/3/2024 10:06 AM
365	Unfortunately, unleashed dog parks are a hazard and probably a risk to the city of Westminster. There are many irresponsible dog owners at all dog parks, and dog fights ensue, resulting in dogs with injuries or deaths, as in this article https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/dog-park-fatal-attack/ I would support reducing the off-leash area significantly to reduce damage to our beautiful open space. This would also allow those of us who did not let our dogs off leash to walk our dogs in that open space. I'm concerned about the concentration of dogs in a 40 acre unleashed area, as tensions will rise and more dogs may get injured or killed. It would make sense to implement a program similar to boulders for the site and sound program. People would be required to go through training and get a license for their dog, pay a fee, and then hopefully they would be more responsible. In order to reduce the heavy use, and to be able to manage the park in a more financially responsible manner, it would make sense to have pet owners by an annual permit for their dogs, and for those that drive there, a permit for parking. The citizens of Westminster should not bear the cost of cleaning up the park, reducing damage, and implementing programs if we	2/3/2024 9:36 AM

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are not using the park. Those who are using it should be bearing those costs. Thank you so much for your consideration in preserving this beautiful open space.

366	We love this dog park and this is the only one with such a large space for dogs to run and do what dogs do. Please don't restrict it so much that it loses its charm.	2/3/2024 9:16 AM
367	I am a resident of Westminster that purchased my home largely because it was next to the WHOS. I bring my dog to this park multiple times a week so that he can run freely, exercise and socialize with other dogs. The ability to let my dog be a dog with out being bound to a leash is such a pleasure and something that I absolutely treasure. My dog and I would be so devastated to lose access to this swath of land for off-leash recreation.	2/3/2024 9:06 AM
368	Keep Westminster Hills Open Space available for walkers, runners, and off-leash dogs.	2/3/2024 5:45 AM
369	This open space should remain open as defined and never be developed. As the front range development closes in , places like this will benefit people and dogs (off leash) as this time out in the open is precious for our soul. There exists no other areas this large and open to take a long walk or bike ride with/without a dog. Since the seventies the front range has grown exponentially with development and people. Soon we can call the front range " fort springs " as developers have almost filled in the whole stretch along I25 with a mass of people. I vote to keep the open space open. And keep dogs off leash only if dog is dog friendly	2/2/2024 11:04 PM
370	We need open space for dogs and little humans and big humans to run around!! Please consider an off leash dog park because a lot of people do not leash their dogs and it is insane.	2/2/2024 8:50 PM
371	I've lived across from the Westminster Hills open space dog park for nearly a decade and have taken my dog there for those many years. We along with so many have enjoyed the offleash park. We understand that there are issues (dog waste, erosion of plant life), but we as a community can help address those issues by organizing clean up days, and plant a tree/vegetation days. I would be happy to volunteer my time to help organize those efforts. There are so few large spaces in Colorado for dogs to be able to run and play off-leash. It would be a shame if we lost it. Let's figure out a way to address the issues and keep the park off-leash as it had been for so many years.	2/2/2024 6:48 PM
372	- Please keep the existing ~400 acres of off-leash area as off-leash area. - Dogs tend to stay close to their humans, and humans tend to stay on trails. - Not many dogs will wander 50' off trail. - Improve designated trails by paving/gravel and close off undesignated trails with signage and education signs to restore native vegetation. - Thick riparian brush will discourage dogs from leaving feces near the canal, although the spot by the big tree is an amazing watering hole during the summer. - North Simms/ Meadowlark trail can be narrowed up by fencing and signage - "Keep off, this area is being restored" and education signage will deter the average educated responsible park user. - I enjoy trail running with my dog off-leash at the open space and my dog gets the exercise he needs and is happier and healthier. - hire a landscape architect and environmental consultant team that will come up with a off-leash functional restoration plan. - excluding off-leash dogs in >90% of the area is not a good solution.	2/2/2024 6:44 PM
373	This is my dogs favorite place. We go as often as we can. Having such a space for off leash recreation is so important for the community. The size of the space is as important as the open space nature of it.	2/2/2024 5:44 PM
374	Please keep it off leash!!!! Please!	2/2/2024 5:25 PM
375	Making the park on-leash is a huge mistake. Keep it off leash. Half of Colorado households have a dog. There are plenty of parks for on leash dogs and non-dogs	2/2/2024 4:46 PM
376	Make it a paid off leash tag like Boulder does. Do not close this down. If you do it might just turn into a barren prairie dog colony.	2/2/2024 4:35 PM
377	I think closing off more area is a poor choice. I would suggest putting more waste barrels along the trails for poop disposal. I personally pick up a dozen bags along my way back to my vehicle.	2/2/2024 4:24 PM
378	This is why people hate the government. This park is already packed anytime you go. This is the only dog park like this in the area. This needs to stay open and it's a positive part of living in the area. Taking it away only negatively impacts the area.	2/2/2024 4:22 PM
379	Please do not make this park any smaller. This is the only Dog Park like it in the area, and is already crowded as is. We don't need any more development houses over here! Keep this park open and preserve the beautiful part of this county.	2/2/2024 4:21 PM

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380	Please do not take away this park from the Community. It is already busy on the weekends as it is, making it any smaller, would be dangerous to the dogs, children and pedestrians. Keep this beautiful area as is.	2/2/2024 4:18 PM
381	It's heartening to see that the city is weighing the impact of pet activity on this land. Like many others, I absolutely understand the need to preserve open spaces not just for humans but also wild animals and birds. As a nature lover, I understand the need for a balance. While this dog park is a high point for my dog and me, I of course would like several other species to also enjoy and live on this land. It'd be great to know what are some things that dog guardians can do to ensure we can all continue to enjoy this area. For instance, there is a mention of disease outbreaks and coyote-dog encounters. Knowing exactly how we are impacting the land negatively and understanding what actions we can take to continue enjoying this space will be very helpful. Thank you!	2/2/2024 3:52 PM
382	I am deeply opposed to the elimination of Off Lease access at the Westminster "off leash" Dog Park!!!	2/2/2024 3:19 PM
383	We love the open space and love the fact that our dogs can be off leash. I haven't had one bad encounter with another dog or owner. It provides a great space for dogs to play and walk and would hate to see the off leash privilege taken away.	2/2/2024 3:09 PM
384	I am a runner and would like more unpaved trails, like those in the open space. You ruined BDC trail by installing concrete, a runners nemesis. While trained dogs will ignore me, many will rush me. I'll be told they're friendly but I never know Less off leash space. More recreation space	2/2/2024 3:00 PM
385	My husband & I are previous Westminster residents who moved to Skyestone, adjacent to the WHOS, and have used the area for years. We have read the Nov. presentation & survey results. We support the closure of the west properties for grassland and wildlife preservation. In terms of the eastern areas, we offer these suggestions. Please consider: 1. As a transitional move, keeping the eastern half an 'off leash' property & making the public aware that this area will be drastically reduced in Phase 2 if users do not exercise greater care of the property. Our concern is that there will be substantial congestion problems on Simms & in the adjacent neighborhood to initiate the proposal as it currently stands. 2. Proceeding with increased signage, inappropriate trail closures, & opportunities for volunteers to help clean up areas. [There used to be designated 'Pick up Poop' days that we participated in.] 3. Exploring the process used by Boulder County. To use their open spaces as 'off leash', owners must view an online video that explains the proper use of the land & how to control the dogs. Owners must sign off & understand there may be a fine if any violations occur. Then the owner must purchase a tag online for the dog to wear through DocuPet. Verification of Rabies Vac. is required. There is a different fee for residents vs. non-residents. The owner must register each year & pay a fee to receive a new tag. The color of the tag changes each year. This kind of process causes people to be more aware of the expectations & responsibilities placed on them to take advantage of an open space. It is an impressive process. 3.	2/2/2024 2:50 PM
386	WHOS is a unique DOLA for the Denver metro area that provides the only large open space of its size for people and dogs to walk and exercise in such a beautiful setting. It would be a shame to lose this off leash space. If too many users are allowing dogs to run off leash in the western section, more gates, stern signage, and enforcement could lessen this behavior.	2/2/2024 12:42 PM
387	This is the best dog park by far because of the off leash space. My dog gets the exercise he needs and myself and my family get out and enjoy the outdoors there very frequently. There has got to be a better way to manage things rather than making it on leash. Establish a parks pass fee, community clean up for poop, etc...	2/2/2024 12:38 PM
388	My dog and i love this park please dont remove the off leash option. My dog stays on the path so do all the dogs we see.	2/2/2024 11:52 AM
389	Thank you so much for your work in preserving our open spaces! This will be a wonderful change to keep our land, and dogs safe.	2/2/2024 11:47 AM
390	The Westminster open space deserves to be protected for the community. It provides an oasis outside the city to enjoy the outdoors with your dog off leash. These areas are few and far between nowadays and allow dog owners to let their dogs run free without concern. With Colorado becoming more and more crowded with tourists, the mountains are no longer an escape, with more and more restrictions for animals. Please leave this area as is for the enjoyment of so many.	2/2/2024 11:13 AM

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391	Can we please look into making the parking lots bigger. Anytime it is nice out there is no parking. And you get a ticket if you park on the street. There is so much space to make more parking and needs to be done.	2/2/2024 11:01 AM
392	We use the off leash park all the time and would be devastated if it went to an on leash site.	2/2/2024 10:38 AM
393	Don't make it smaller. Best dog park around that's actually used.	2/2/2024 10:25 AM
394	As our population continues to grow, we are going to need more open area, off-leash space for our beloved pets, not less space. The city needs to go ALL IN to support the off-leash space by providing more trash receptacles around the area and more signage to encourage people to take care of our valuable space. Just take a look at what a great job the city of Arvada has done with the West Arvada Dog park and follow their lead by providing more amenities for dogs and their owners.	2/2/2024 10:09 AM
395	Don't close the off leash open space!! It's a true gem to have that in our community.	2/2/2024 10:01 AM
396	Before even moving here, I had heard from friends who have visited the area about Westminster dog Park. Is a unique and beautiful feature of Westminster that provides a space for dog owners unlike any other that I'm aware of in the area. Reducing it to the proposed area would change it from a network of off-leash hiking trails to one more disease and conflict prone dog park. Collecting funds from a paid parking registration, as many open spaces in this area do, and using that money to better manage this area is a much more equitable solution. This in pairing with temporary trail closures to repair habitats reasonably limit the space without losing access to it and its current form.	2/2/2024 9:57 AM
397	Mor living should not be created. Colorado should thrive off a sustainable real-estate market. Which could be obtained by advocating new residents and homebuyer/renters to fueling our rich history by investing in architectural revival over new construction. Please consider keeping Colorado OPEN and beautiful with the open fields of nature!	2/2/2024 9:57 AM
398	Leave the dog park. Our pets are family and need space to exercise. Would you tear down a gym for apartments?	2/2/2024 9:34 AM
399	Leave the open space dog park alone. Stop catering to Karens complaining about dogs in a dog park. Good owners keep their dogs on a leash 99% of the time, don't ruin the one place we can let our dogs enjoy a little freedom.	2/2/2024 7:57 AM
400	I hope that moving forward, the plan will try to balance maintaining off leash access to areas of the open space with conservation goals. Having a safe off leash area for dogs is so important to me and many other dog owners in the area, and decreasing the off leash area would be a huge loss.	2/1/2024 10:17 PM
401	How is this? How can the idea of closing have been considered? This space has become invaluable to my family and so many others. Being able to take our whole family, our beloved dogs, to meet other families and their dog families, in a space where they can run free, has been a part of our family routine for years. There are so many places for other gatherings but so few for the running space and freedom that this open area provides. The socialization of our dogs with others creates a community that supports healthy lifestyles. It would truly be devastating to lose one of our only places to let our dogs just be happy and free. Please don't take this from us and so many others that depend on this area. What can we do to preserve what has truly become a staple in our lives? Please reconsider.	2/1/2024 9:37 PM
402	My name is [REDACTED] I'm a local home owner as well as local business owner. I'm concerned about the plans to reduce the off leash area near Stanley Lake. We have ample areas for cyclists, children and hikers all around the metro but this is the only area like this that we dog owners have. The park is heavily used every day and such a unique asset to our community. As a tax payer without children, I gladly pay for other peoples children to have parks and safe places. I have no problem with my tax dollars going to build bike paths that I'll never use. What I do ask is that the space that is so heavily used by our community is left open. Westminster already took Stanley lake from the community. Please do not take another amazing part of our community away from the people that live here. Sincerely, [REDACTED]	2/1/2024 9:22 PM
403	We frequent this dog park weekly. It is my dog's favorite. There aren't any others this large nearby.	2/1/2024 9:18 PM
404	I believe the Westminster Hills Open Space should remain fully open for off leash dogs.	2/1/2024 8:31 PM

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405	Please keep as is.	2/1/2024 8:16 PM
406	Keep the off leash area as is.	2/1/2024 7:46 PM
407	I think more apartments are needed.	2/1/2024 7:38 PM
408	I didn't think that a city could change open space as it was bought with the peoples funds. Doesn't it need to go to a vote amongst the people?	2/1/2024 7:13 PM
409	This should remain on off leash dog park. If you want to regulate it model after chatfield and charge for day passes or annual passes	2/1/2024 6:55 PM
410	This is the most beautiful and awesome dog park I have ever been to! Please leave it as is. I am a retired handicapped dog lover. My dogs smile after we visit the park gives me so much happiness.	2/1/2024 6:52 PM
411	Please keep this off leash dog park as is. We walk this park 7 days a week and there is no alternative park like it. I am strongly opposed to making it smaller!!!	2/1/2024 6:52 PM
412	I believe the Westminster Hills Open Space should remain fully open for off leash dogs	2/1/2024 6:26 PM
413	the Westminster Off Leash Dog Park should remain full size for off leash dogs!!!!	2/1/2024 6:23 PM
414	The Westminster Off Leash Dog Park should remain full size for off leash dogs.	2/1/2024 6:20 PM
415	I believe the Westminster Hills Open Space should remain fully open for off leash dogs	2/1/2024 6:13 PM
416	The Westminster off leash dog park should remain full size for off leash dogs	2/1/2024 6:11 PM
417	This is my favorite park !!	2/1/2024 6:11 PM
418	The westminster dog park should remain completely open for off leash dogs. It is a vital space to the community	2/1/2024 6:10 PM
419	Please do not close the dog park.	2/1/2024 6:10 PM
420	the Westminster Off Leash Dog Park should remain full size for off leash dogs.	2/1/2024 6:09 PM
421	I believe the Westminster Hills Open Space should remain fully open for off leash dogs. It will be a devastating impact for the community if it does not.	2/1/2024 6:05 PM
422	I strongly oppose the new dog park boundary setup. Westminster hills is a great place to take your dogs to get exercise and socialize. I don't believe making the off leash area smaller won't reduce the amount of people going there. Colorado is suppose to be a dog friendly state and people need options for their dogs to get out and be active. Lots of people live in condos, apts and now houses are being built with smaller yards. Where will these people go? Please reconsider this proposal and leave Westminster Hills alone.	2/1/2024 6:05 PM
423	DONT CLOSE THE PARK	2/1/2024 6:01 PM
424	Westminster Off Leash dog park should stay full size for off leash dogs	2/1/2024 6:00 PM
425	Westminster Off Leash Dog Park should remain full size for off leash dogs.	2/1/2024 5:58 PM
426	Westminster Off Leash Dog Park should remain full size for off leash dogs!	2/1/2024 5:58 PM
427	Please do not eliminate parts of the park, it is mine and my dogs favorite place to go and such a good place to socialize both for me and my dog.	2/1/2024 5:58 PM
428	The Westminster dog park should remain full size for off leash dogs.	2/1/2024 5:57 PM
429	Don't take away down the off leash area come here everyday	2/1/2024 5:55 PM
430	Park should remain full size for off leash dogs	2/1/2024 5:53 PM
431	This should remain a full open space for off leash dogs. This is my favorite spot east of the mountains.	2/1/2024 5:46 PM
432	I think this is going to cause more backlash than expected and will be a bigger headache. It is a beautiful place for all of us to walk and you'd really be ruining a good thing with not a good idea	2/1/2024 5:33 PM
433	Please keep it an off leash park!	2/1/2024 5:03 PM

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434	The off leash dog park size should not be reduced in any way. The addition of an on leash park is a great idea for smaller or timid dogs.	2/1/2024 4:56 PM
435	There is absolutely ZERO reason for the city of Westminster to decrease the off-leash area at Westminster hills. This is a vital area for the community and allows not only recreation for us, but also for our animals.	2/1/2024 4:52 PM
436	This dog park is a valuable asset to Westminster's recreation program. It brings us so much joy - we're here 5 times per week and it's the reason we have a happy dog. Please keep it the way it is.	2/1/2024 4:52 PM
437	I am a resident of Countryside within walking distance of WHOS. I love this park and am not in favor of minimizing the off-leash area. The acreage is plentiful enough to allow of optimum space for all dog lovers who use this park. I have never seen any negative issues with the wildlife. All coexist in harmony. Everyone that uses the park with their dogs are very friendly and respectful of each other. This is a great feature of our city, why would you mess it up? If it ain't broke, don't fix it!	2/1/2024 4:52 PM
438	Please don't close Westminster hills to off leash dogs. My dog and come here regularly, and is one of our favorite places.	2/1/2024 4:51 PM
439	I would be extremely disappointed if the city took away the off leash portion of the dog park. It was the main reason I moved to this area and I would look to move to other parts of Denver if the park was eliminated	2/1/2024 4:47 PM
440	The open space is amazing and the largest we have seen. It would be detrimental to the community to reduce size. The habitat is preserved by keeping this open! This is a park where it is large enough to bike and hike without the stress of leashed dogs. We have been coming here for years with kids and visitors and dogs. Other smaller dog parks are filled with aggressive dogs or for small dogs who don't need exercise.	2/1/2024 4:07 PM
441	I strongly disagree with taking away off leash areas.	2/1/2024 1:53 PM
442	We love going to westminister hills with our dog off-leash! Small dog parks where all the dogs are contained in one space are kind of terrible for dogs. It's overstimulating and more likely to cause fights. It would be really disappointing to see this park create a smaller area for the dogs to be off-leash. It's just really one of my favorite places to take my dog on off-leash walks because it feels very safe thanks to the fencing and the crowd, and it's so large that I can do a really long walk or just a little short one. It wouldn't be the same if she needed to be on leash, and I don't see why I wouldn't just drive into the mountains instead and do a hike (where I always have her on leash). It's annoying having to deal with leashes, especially if your dog is well-behaved off-leash and comes on cue, and it gives the dogs more freedom to do dog things (like sniffing everything, a favorite for my dog). I think the park would lose value if this proposal went through. I wouldn't be opposed to more rules around having dogs off-leash, though, similar to what Boulder does with their voice & sight program (i.e., must come when called, don't harass wildlife, etc) but I recognize that can be difficult to enforce.	2/1/2024 1:40 PM
443	As a dog owner, this is EXTREMELY upsetting to see the change of plans. I live in Denver and regulations have become tight there, so having a place I can bring my dog to run freely and openly is crucial. Times are tough and most of us are not blessed with yards, and having a free offleash area for our dogs is absolutely necessary. I beg of you to please let us keep this open space for our dogs, the small dog parks offered are just not enough.	2/1/2024 1:29 PM
444	Hi there. My name is [REDACTED] and I live very close to the Westminster hills dog park. I have been frequenting this park, probably 3-5 times per week for the last 15 years. I am beyond sad to hear about the proposed plans. I, for one, am very environmentally conscious and understand the importance of preserving space and wildlife. That being said, I think there could be other ways to cut down on traffic/use of the park while still protecting the environment. This park is such an important place for the community. It is a source of exercise for people and their beloved pets. It is unique in that it is a large open space-allowing for a hike, while enjoying time with others. I think the plans for a very small off leash dog park will negatively effect the community who love this space. It is well known that these small dog parks lead to aggression among dogs, illnesses among dogs, and the crowded space does not bode well for any visitors. In addition, I suspect the neighbors right next to this proposed area, would be hugely effected in a negative way. There are a few thoughts I have been pondering the last few days and would like to share with you. I do not feel that the excrement picture/study in your powerpoint adequately describes or shows the issue at hand. Yes, people	2/1/2024 1:08 PM

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need to be more responsible. However, that picture, was taken in an area near the parking/entrance. If you took other samples further out, I doubt you would find nearly the amount of excrement samples you did in the location that was shown. In addition, I feel that perhaps placing a set of trash cans near the west side of the park would be very helpful. Having only trash cans at the entrance of the park is not acceptable for a park this big. I feel that people often don't pick up the stool due to this issue. It is also much less common you see dogs off the paths that have been created in the park. Most dogs, stay on the paths. The cacti and other plants keep dogs from wanting to wander. If you visit on a weekend, most pups are playing on the path or walking w/their owner. Of course, you get the occasional straggler, but it is not the majority. Have you all thought of charging a yearly fee for parking there? I would be happy to buy a yearly parking pass if it meant I could utilize the space as is. This could cut down on traffic and perhaps cut down the number of individuals visiting the park each day. Have you thought of doing a "voice and sound" certificate program like Boulder does? It requires individuals to sign up, take a class/test to allow their dog off leash. The license/tag is sent to the owner to allow individuals to keep their dog off leash on certain trails. This would also probably cut down on numbers and hopefully educate people on the importance of cleaning up their dogs stools. If individuals chose not to take the class-they could still use the small off leash dog park. Dogs that were voice and sound certified, could utilize the other sections of the park. Please take care in making the decisions at hand. Again, this is such an amazing area that people truly love. It seems like there could be ways to allow the space to remain but to cut down on the traffic and high numbers. What is more disruptive to the environment is the sprawling houses southwest of the dog park, the additional gas stations being built, the new car washes going up. We love this space and would be beyond sad to see it go.

445	I heard that the off leash section of the park will be reduced? PLEASE DON'T! This is the best off leash park I've been to in the country. Everyone LOVES it and so do our dogs!	2/1/2024 12:44 PM
446	We love Westminster hills. It's a great opportunity for dogs to run and play together in a safe environment. There are not many places where dogs can be off leash and run as dogs should, it enriches the dogs lives as well as the owners.	2/1/2024 12:38 PM
447	Making the off leash portions smaller will cause more traffic in a small space. The park currently is so open and allows for dogs to spread out and enjoy the space.	2/1/2024 12:36 PM
448	The off leash dog park as it is is a best in class. Reducing it will make it no better than a trailer park dog area.	2/1/2024 12:01 PM
449	I love and use WHOS daily. As a dog owner I would be very disappointed to lose the off leash part area that we have now. We often hike up in the on-leash western area as well and would hate to lose access to that area. I think you are solving a problem that does not exist with restrictions. The few who use the western side are very respectful with their dogs. Most people and their pets are well behaved especially once you get away from the parking lots. The trails away from the parking areas seem to be recovering well. I also use the Boulder parks and their methods seem to work well. Annual parking permits, they almost never patrol, but everyone I know buys the permits anyway. Also the dog tag program is totally online now, and I suspect requires very little maintenance and I suspect is cash positive. Plus it communicates the rules and expected behavior in a positive and clear way. I live next door to the park and I believe there are many people like me who would be happy to donate a day for improvement projects. Love the park, Tony Bundschu	2/1/2024 11:46 AM
450	The current off leash dog area is one of the hidden gems of the Westminster area. Much like Standley lake is a motor boat free paradise of clear undercrowded paddleboarding joy, the Westminster hills area is its equivalent for off-leash dog play. I would have to drive 40 minutes to Cherry Creek to find the next biggest off leash area at 1/4 the size. This is one of the best things about living in the area that my dog can go for a unrepitive 5 mile walk making friends off leash along the way every morning. I am against shrinking the size of the off leash area. However if it must be shrunk, rather than just reserving the one corner for dogs I believe it would be beneficial to maintain a large loop of trail along at least 2 sides of the perimeter of the current 400 acer's to allow for longer less repetitive off leash walks, rather than concentrating any walking to a ~0.6mi perimeter walk of the smaller area by the river.	2/1/2024 11:41 AM
451	This is a great dog park that brings a lot of value to the dog owning community. We have so few places that they can run off leash. Please don't remove or diminish this one	2/1/2024 9:33 AM
452	Please don't shrink the dog park area. It's such a wonderful and unique community space.	2/1/2024 9:00 AM

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453	WHOS Dog Park is the best in the country. It embodies what Coloradans. Maybe more areas in between trails can be blocked off, but reducing size or changing to on-leash is not the answer anyone wants. Or how about we put all this energy into climate saving initiatives that Coloradoans would willingly support	2/1/2024 8:49 AM
454	I would be sad if the dog park was reduced to a smaller size but understand if the environmental impact needs to be addressed. I'd like to be kept in the loop on decisions.	1/31/2024 10:16 PM
455	Any smaller place would be more risk of transferring diseases and aggressive dog encounters. We've been taking multiple family dogs here going back to 2010 and are so disappointed to see making the off leash area smaller an option.	1/31/2024 9:41 PM
456	My family and I use the dog park on a weekly basis, often multiple times a week. It is the reason we found this area to purchase our first home. The Westminster Hills dog park is the only place nearby where our high energy shepherd can run off steam. Having a place close by is crucial for us, as we have a baby now. We love that we can walk our baby in the stroller while our pup gets the exercise she needs. Please keep our beloved dog park!	1/31/2024 7:55 PM
457	As a neighbor whose house literally backs to the open space - and who mows a COW easement 7 months per year - no one wants to see this area more properly preserved than me. I have had some iteration of two dogs ever since we moved in 13 years ago. WHOS was the reason we bought our home. It's proximity, including the off leash dog area, remains a key component of home values in the immediate area. I am a daily user of the park (yes, that brown gate is the one my neighbors and I maintain, including the poop bag dispenser we installed and maintain at our expense). EVERY day, I am frustrated by extra poop to pick up that isn't my mine and recreators who widen existing paths and create new ones. I saw all of this increase exponentially during COVID and it has unfortunately not let up, even without the excuse of social distancing to push folks away from each other. So yes, I see the serious eco issues and I agree it needs to be managed. However, I have been frustrated by the City's lack of response in the form of education and signage as well as the recent decision to significantly reduce the number of poop bag stations at both parking lots. I think that steps for signage, education and seasonal and/or temporary closures for nesting or regeneration MUST be our first line of defense. Paid parking also another idea to help pay for maintenance and upkeep! To take away ALL off leash access would be detrimental to those of us who recreate there for the sole purpose of being able to let our dogs run free in designated areas. To reduce off leash to the lower area by Simms would bring its own set of issues, in the form of canine confrontations. It's already so busy there, that I avoid that area completely most weekends, especially the bridge. Without the ability to spread out, a smaller off-leash area will only become more problematic for dogs, people and the environment. Please consider both our home values and quality of life, both of which are enhanced by this rare gem of open space. It truly is a crown jewel, but it deserves proper management as an off leash area, not full transition to on-leash only. Starting a "Friends of WHOS" committee would go a long way towards aiding in cleanup, as well as education and enforcement. Make us official ambassadors with a vest and empower us to talk to users as we walk around the space, reminding them of proper etiquette, etc. I already live so close to Standley Lake, where I would love to recreate more, but unfortunately the COW has made it clear they don't want us there. Now it seems you are doing the same to push us out of WHOS. Please don't. Find a way to work with us on a compromise so that we can both protect it AND utilize it for the gem of an off-leash dog area it is.	1/31/2024 7:01 PM
458	The city of Westminster just wants to build more housing so all this fancy verbiage about protecting the flora & fauna at this park is bogus. You want to reduce the dog park size to build more housing & everyone knows it	1/31/2024 6:41 PM
459	We moved to Westbrook 9 years ago for the close convenience to the Westminster hills dog park. My two labs absolutely love to be off leash and chase the ball while my husband and I enjoy the scenery and the beautiful wildflowers in the spring. I'm confused why you want to conserve nature by limiting the off leash area. How is putting a giant cement path through the park conserving nature? Please leave the park the way it is. Thank you!	1/31/2024 6:13 PM
460	Hi there, my wife and I along with our two dogs come to this open space everyday after work. Not only is it out dogs favorite but it has become our favorite. The access of space and trails allows us to enjoy the peace of this park and the beautiful views. It would be crushing if this park was reduced in size.	1/31/2024 5:11 PM
461	Hello, From what I have learned, the Open Space area which has been an off-leash dog park for the last 20+ years, may become an "on leash only" area. Please add my name to the list of	1/31/2024 4:47 PM

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people who would like to see it remain an off leash area. While I do understand an ecological assessment was done, it seems like there is more than one way to address the concerns. For example, there could be periodic volunteer clean ups and more signage to better educate visitors. In addition, there are other natural areas adjacent to this particular Open Space that serve the needs of those who do not walk dogs off leash. This is a hugely popular area and a wonderful resource of the community. The popularity should create more support for the users, rather than take away something enjoyed by so many. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

462	It is absolutely the wrong decision to reduce the off leash dog area. It is a huge way for pet owners to exercise not only their pets but also their dogs. DONT SHRINK THE OFF LEASH AREA	1/31/2024 4:39 PM
463	Please don't reduce the space of the off leash dog park. I take my dogs here every week and have never had a single issue. The dogs love it and are able to get loads of exercise. This is one of the last places that is truly off leash friendly and for Colorado claiming to be such a dog friendly state it doesn't seem like it if you take away their places to roam.	1/31/2024 4:32 PM
464	Please do not eliminate off-leash access to the park. Dog owner.	1/31/2024 4:24 PM
465	The open space is an extremely unique dog park and a huge part of why I live in Westminster. I think other changes could be made prior to these drastic changes. Increase the amount of trash cans and poop bag stations, have monthly clean up days where we can go and help clean up. I would even consider paying a fee to use the area yearly. There is no other place that I know of in Colorado as unique as this dog park and taking that away with these changes, takes away from so many people and pets that love this place.	1/31/2024 3:58 PM
466	Please leave Westminster dog park off leash. It is such a special place for the dogs to get exercise while the humans walk around.	1/31/2024 3:19 PM
467	This is a bad idea. Please dont reduce the size of this park.	1/31/2024 3:12 PM
468	Off leash area shouldn't be limited past what it is currently. It is open space and large enough to accommodate dogs runners and support the community. What is the reason or need to reduce off leash area? Plenty of trails and parks for those desiring on leash.	1/31/2024 2:30 PM
469	I use the park daily to exercise my border collie. WHOS is the only off leash spot in my area and is essential to my dog's health and wellbeing. Although we could adapt to the space east of the creek. It would cause more crowding in the dog area...leading to more dig conflict, disease and costs to the taxpayer (new signage, fencing and staff to enforce changes) Furthermore, that water is a big part of our summer exercise. Would it be accessible to dogs under the proposed changes?	1/31/2024 2:30 PM
470	I am a frequent user of this open space for the express reason that the dogs can be off leash in the larger portion of the park. I would not use the park if the off leash area was reduced as proposed. I think this change would materially and adversely impact what I consider to be the best place in Colorado for people and dogs. (This is not hyperbole- this park is literally the BEST place in Colorado because of the existing off leash areas.)	1/31/2024 1:40 PM
471	I live by and use the Westminster Hills park nearly every day. My dogs love to be able to run and explore, mostly on the trail. But I have also seen the horrible wear and tear that has happened when people/dogs decide to trail blaze instead of staying on designated trails. Very frustrating. I do feel the habitat out there has been very damaged. I would be ok with a compromise of the furthest west area that was most recently opened (closest to Indiana) to off-leash, going back to in leash only or no dogs. The lower section loop that has "always" been the off-leash area, should stay off leash. That area is so damaged, I think that is the land that is sacrificed in this process. That creek contamination has got to be address though. The middle section should probably be off leash as well. Can you find habitat equal to that middle section and dog park area in another area of the city to "compensate" for the sacrifice of this land to off-leash activity?	1/31/2024 1:25 PM
472	Parking on the street rather than the parking lot is getting dangerous for people. The park is becoming over used. Is there an opportunity to create an additional option for dogs?	1/31/2024 1:09 PM
473	The reason I live here is for the incredible trails and off leash opportunities for my dog. Please keep the entire space open to off leash use. The off leash opportunities is already shrinking. It's necessary to let our pets run off leash freely and under voice control. It's best for the dog and the humans taking care of the dogs. Please Do Not limit the off leash area further. This is a gem of a place to take our furry friends.	1/31/2024 1:08 PM

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474	Save our Dog Park. The open space at Westminster Hills is an incredible resource for residents and visitors alike. The off leash ability is the reason for its success. I hope the city is aware that reducing the off leash component will cause congestion and problems. Wildlife in and alternate uses like joggers and cyclists in the area are minimal. There are so many places for alternate use options without disrupting the off leash park. If anything we should expand the parking areas. There is not adequate parking on weekends and it would be nice to make parking improvements. I believe users of the park would be happy to help with funding if that is a concern. I certainly hope the city is responsive to its citizens and not the citizens conforming to the city. Intrusive and overreaching government is never the answer. I would love to work with the city to make necessary improvements to the open space. [REDACTED]	1/31/2024 1:00 PM
475	I would like to submit my feedback for the open hills land management plan. I love bringing my dog here to walk off leash and play with other dogs. It is also a great opportunity to work on training such as recall. Coming to this space is one of my dog's favorite activities, as well as mine. We make sure to always be respectful of the space (cleaning up dog waste and following rules), and we would be extremely disappointed to see this space as a leash-only dog park.	1/31/2024 12:38 PM
476	I was just informed of the potential for this space to be leash-only and wanted to submit my feedback in opposition. I drive 25 minutes to this space specifically so I can let my puppy get practice off-leash. We work on recall, he socializes, and we enjoy bonding time in nature. This has been an invaluable resource for us, and I have been so grateful to have it. I make sure to always pick up his poo, keep him out of revegetation areas, and follow other posted rules. I would be happy to pay an annual fee to continue having access to this off-leash resource and pay for some of the maintenance costs.	1/31/2024 12:18 PM
477	I am a resident of Westminster and WHOS is our go-to park. There are no other large off-leash dog parks in the vicinity of northern Denver, and no other decent dog parks within a 20 minute drive of me. I believe the off leash space should remain as is. It provides a great place for the community to bring their dogs to run around. Perhaps a licensing fee to use the park could help pay for wildlife management.	1/31/2024 11:27 AM
478	Reducing the size of the off-leash area is a terrible idea. Allocating funds for wildlife restoration and creating an immersive experience might be better. Dogs aren't the problem in this case, but expanding the amount of trash bins, protected areas, parking, and smart native landscaping techniques could be a longterm alternative.	1/31/2024 11:19 AM
479	I'm curious how making this an on-leash park will be better for the ecology of the area? When I'm there (which is often) most, if not all of the dogs are on the dirt road and not roaming off into the tall grass. People who go there know that rattlesnakes live in that grass, and don't let their dogs off the dirt roads. Can you direct me to the study that has been done that describes the damage to the ecology from dogs being off leash in this area? Do the prairie dogs and rattlesnakes have more rights than the canines and humans that use the area? I believe this entire area should remain off leash. Please explain to me how it will be ecologically devastated if it is not made on leash. I need to see the study! Thank you, [REDACTED]	1/31/2024 10:30 AM
480	Please don't reduce/eliminate this dog park! We take our dog at least once a week. We have a neighbor that calls the cops on us if we run our dog at our local park, so this is one of only options. Please don't change this dog park!	1/31/2024 10:28 AM
481	I am extremely concerned about the current plan to drastically reduce the off leash access at the Westminster Dog Park. The one million people who use this park annually deserve a better plan to preserve their access to the park! My dog and I visit several days a week and both enjoy the outdoor space and the opportunity it provides my dog to exercise and socialize with other dogs in the park. Please reconsider the current plan and consider revisions that are more appropriate.	1/31/2024 10:21 AM
482	We no longer go to the dog park in WHOS because of the large number of irresponsible dog owners; not cleaning up after their dogs waste, not watching their dogs effectively, and people not having respect for the animals that live in that open space(chasing prairie dogs, etc.) I think preserving the natural aspects of WHOS is so much more important than allowing dogs and their owners to continue to love this area to death.	1/31/2024 10:21 AM
483	I am for both protecting habitat and having a beautiful space for dogs to be off leash in a safe, expansive environment. It seems like there must be other alternatives than just making most of the park an on-leash area. Such as fencing off some of the vulnerable habitats within the open space. I hope you will listen to residents and do your best to serve all interests in this matter.	1/31/2024 10:19 AM

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484	Do not turn the best off leash dog area into a Leash only park. This is ridiculous. There are plenty of places for people to walk or ride bikes in Colorado. This is a unique area for dog owners that creates community.	1/31/2024 9:57 AM
485	Please keep the dog park an off leash park.	1/31/2024 9:57 AM
486	We have used the dog park dozens of times in the past; however, I no longer go there, due to the degradation of the entire park - massive trail widening and social trail expansion + so MANY people do NOT pick up their dog poop - and MOST people believe if it is in the 'field', then they can just leave it. It is too over-crowded, disgusting, and run down due to overusage	1/31/2024 9:44 AM
487	This off leash dog park is an important piece of community. Not just Westminster but surrounding cities as well. I would be willing to pay a park fee for the continued use of this space as it is. Protecting animals includes dogs too Thank you	1/31/2024 9:39 AM
488	This park is always busy and people are out there daily with their dogs getting exercise and playing - dogs running freely are best friends with other dogs -if leash only, you will have nothing but leashed dogs growling at other leashed dogs - my little schnauzer loves running free in this park meeting new friends	1/31/2024 9:36 AM
489	I am strongly opposed to the proposed changes to the Westminster Hills off leash dog park. I am a frequent visitor of the park for three years now and it has become one of my favorite places in the entire Denver metro. The park as it is now is an amazing place and one of the main and most beloved attractions in Westminster. This park must be one of the best dog parks in the country and it would be a travesty to see it ruined. There is also an economic incentive to the area. I live in South Westminster near Federal so it is a far enough drive that I am always running errands before or after visiting the park. I often visit King Soopers, Target, PetSmart, Front Range Gardens, and various gas stations on other stores in the area. Without the draw of this park I would no longer be visiting the area and would no longer go to these places. I must believe that other people are the same way. I have also taken out of town visitors to this park and they have liked it enough to specifically stay in Westminster (The Westin) so they could visit the park. For these reasons and many other I believe it would be a terrible mistake and a loss for the community if the proposed changes were implemented. Thanks.	1/31/2024 9:15 AM
490	What new off leash dog park will this lead to? You can't take away a huge asset to dog owners and then replace it with no alternative.	1/31/2024 8:16 AM
491	I am fully supportive of reducing the off leash space at WHOS for the preservation of natural habitats. I would like to suggest that when the smaller space is created that it be fully fenced; one of the prevalent problems I've heard is dogs running off and running into the road which is a safety issue for the dogs and drivers. I'd also like to see the city expand its off leash dog strategy to include more neighborhood parks. I feel like the city's attitude has always been "well we have the big one, go there" but that honestly isn't the right environment for all dogs and isn't convenient for all Westminster residents. I'd love to see an addition of a dog park in parks like Kings Mill or Oakhurst. If the city needs more space it could consider acquiring land from JeffCo schools that are closing like Moore or the building Doral Academy was in.	1/31/2024 8:08 AM
492	Thank you to the staff for having the courage to do the right thing in the face of unreasonable pressure. The westminster Hills open space is an amazing place that has been loved to death and become the exclusive playground of one user group. Requiring dogs to be leashed is the minimal reasonable request to protect this space and provide a safe place for e everyone to enjoy.	1/31/2024 8:07 AM
493	The westminster Hills open Space should be an amazing natural resource, instead it has been over run with dogs. It is not possible to enjoy this space as it was intended without being assaulted with dog waste, unwanted encounters and rude behavior. It is an entirely reasonable expectation for visitors to leash and clean up after their pets. It is time the city looked out for all its residents not just one group. Restore westminster hills to it's intended use, protect the grasslands, make it inviting for neighbors, children and wildlife to use this space too. Please do not allow one user group to dominate the area. Open space is meant for all. A leash requirement is not a huge ask.	1/31/2024 8:04 AM
494	Please do not make any changes to Westminster hills off leash area! We can tear down forests to build cities and neighborhoods but we can't let dogs roam around in one contained area of open space. We employ them to work on k-9 police teams, in military capacities, in search and rescue teams, as therapy animals, medical dogs, service animals, etc- and they	1/31/2024 8:02 AM

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can't keep the only space in JeffCo where they can be free to enjoy an off leash stroll???? Not cool.

495	Keep off leash area in dog park!	1/31/2024 7:19 AM
496	Please keep the Westminster Dog Park open. So many people in the community enjoy this space daily. With all the buildings going up everywhere the open space is a reminder of the beauty of Colorado.	1/31/2024 7:03 AM
497	Please keep the size of the park open. It's one of the few were you can actually walk around and enjoy the natural area with your dog off leash	1/31/2024 6:50 AM
498	This proposal to reduce the dog park from approx 400 acres to 40 brings up a lot of questions. What is the real reason behind this reduction? It feels like there is an unspoken agenda here. Saying we must protect our land yet building 2 bike paths one being cement. Those both created some issues to the natural area. Also, when you talk about the diversity of the wildlife that live there, the prairie dogs died from the plague, and I am sure some of them were exterminated, when they are present it is "impossible to maintain or restore native grasslands" per Joe R., There are only 2 big trees that the eagles would even be able to use, and since the Pebles Jumping Mouse and the Northern Leopard Fog haven't been seen in the area I am not sure how that is something we need to worry about when considering this issue. Dogs need a place to run and exercise with their owners... running next to them as they exercise or bike. This has been not been straight forward to the patrons and it is strange how the dogs do the damage not the big machinery or the cement path that was created... and appears to have been put directly in front of where the dogs enter... guess someone already felt this was a done deal	1/30/2024 11:33 PM
499	Do not change anything	1/30/2024 11:10 PM
500	Please keep this an open off leash dog park	1/30/2024 10:29 PM
501	Our furry friends need space to run freely. Changing Westminster Hills open space to make it on-leash only will only force pet owners, even responsible ones who want to follow the rules, to break leash rules here and at other local spaces because our pets need a place to run. The fact that we're being told the space is being loved to death should be a clear indicator to all that there is greater demand than supply for spaces like this. Instead of changing it to be on-leash, please look for other ways to resolve the issue. Work with neighboring communities to find more open space for these dogs to run so fewer people need to come to this open space. If the space needs time to recover, then find other spaces and set up rotations so that each space can serve the community for a time and then recover for a time. Only resolving the overuse issue is short sighted and overlooks and moves the other issues (need for more spaces like this one) to other nearby areas.	1/30/2024 10:13 PM
502	Please do not close the WH dog park for a few rule breakers. Instead institute voice and sight program. Heavily fine those that break the law. Institute parking permits. Fine those that disobey. Hire a ranger who can police the park with money obtained through parking passes and voice and sight programs. Also, the WHDP is the only place citizens can take there dogs to be able to run and chase balls, frisbees, etc. Consider the amount of exercise the citizens of this county gets because of that open space and who would otherwise not be getting that activity adding to the dis-ease of the people of this county when compared to Boulder county. Just go to Walmart or Costco and compare JEFKO's citizens to those who live in Boulder... why? Because Boulder has plenty of outdoor activity for its citizens to partake in. Also, making WHDP a mixed use space is not considering that it is the one safe place to take a dog to run and play, whereas there are miles of bike paths for road bikes and mountain bikes all over the place. Please consider the health of your county's citizens and the health of their dogs. You are so concerned about the habitat for wildlife, but what about the health of peoples domestic pets? Don't they matter as well? And how can you say that you are concerned about the habitat when you spend who knows how much money to lay a concrete path for bikes, that IMHO WAS NOT NEEDED! How does that impact the environment?	1/30/2024 9:10 PM
503	I'm extremely concerned about the current plan to drastically reduce off-leash access. The one million people who use this park annually deserve a better plan to preserve their access to the park! I've been coming to this park for years with my family and friends, as it's the best place for off-leash exercise for dogs and humans. It also provides an excellent sense of community and is something I cherish having so close to my home. With limited off-leash trail access nearby the city, it's important to preserve off-leash spaces like this to protect dogs and humans in all of CO's great outdoors.	1/30/2024 8:48 PM

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504	<p>This 420 acre off leash dog park draws so many diverse people to the area. I have seen people on walkers, and wheelchairs and pets, Dogs and wagons, and in dog wheelchairs and other such as cats and lizards and backpacks. All enjoying a day at the dog park. Some of these activities would not be possible, if dogs had to be on leash. There is a man who I've seen, pulling a dog in his wagon as his other dog saunters next to him. This would not be possible if he had to have these dogs on leashes. It provides exercise for dogs and people and is a good outlet for people who are struggling with the mental health issues that have been going on. I have heard from people that bringing their dog to the dog park has brighten their days when nothing else could. This is an invaluable resource that our community has Which brings joy and diversity to our area, enhances the lives of people who get to use it, and that brings lots of revenue to local businesses.</p>	1/30/2024 8:46 PM
505	<p>Please don't take away the off leash park. There are very few places where the pups can run. It's so wonderful for them to get exercise without being leashed. Maybe you can rotate out different sections to limit the effects. Colorado dogs deserve a place to run and socialize.</p>	1/30/2024 8:38 PM
506	<p>Please don't make it so dogs have to be on leashes!</p>	1/30/2024 8:32 PM
507	<p>While I recognize there is an environmental impact by having the off leash area, there are mitigation measures that could be taken to help that impact. By using Cherry Creek as an example, there is the opportunity to keep most of the off leash area as it stands. I would fully support a reduction in the off leash area or even making a rotational area to give grasslands and native species time to recover, but the proposed reduction to one small corner of the property would only cause more issues as you would increase the dogs per square foot on such a confined space. This too would have its own negative impact.</p>	1/30/2024 8:30 PM
508	<p>Regarding the potential changes at Westminster Hills Open Area Dog Park at 100th and Simms. I am firmly opposed to any plans that would make the area smaller/less accessible to off leash dogs. What the city needs to do is install more garbage cans around the main path so that poops bags can be disposed of properly. Right now there are only trash cans at the entrance to the park. There are enough bike lanes and trails all over the City to keep bicyclist and hikers happy but this is the only dog park where dogs can mostly roam free.</p>	1/30/2024 8:15 PM
509	<p>Please do not reduce the size of the dog park or prevent dogs from being off leash. While I certainly appreciate the environmental work you have done to date, the dog park is used by thousands of people per year. There are other open spaces, but the dog park is unique, providing a safe place for both dogs and owners. People come from outside Broomfield, Arvada, & Westminster to experience the park and while there shop and add to the local economy. To lose this gem would hurt not only dogs and their owners, but the local economy as well. If the dog park is taken away people will find other places to exercise their dogs that many, including governmental officials will find far less acceptable.</p>	1/30/2024 8:11 PM
510	<p>Please do not shrink the Westminster offleash dog park. This is a staple in our community and an area that hundreds of people enjoy and utilize daily. Doing so will take away the beauty of the park, community, and only lead to overcrowding on trails congestion of the parking lots and side roads. Please reconsider and allow this park to remain "as-is".</p>	1/30/2024 7:54 PM
511	<p>Do not agree with closing off leash opportunities.</p>	1/30/2024 7:02 PM
512	<p>Westminster Hills is one of the few places you can enjoy the foothills with your dog while off leash. It is a special part of why Colorado is so unique. We frequent this dog park (weekly) and would be deeply saddened if the off leash area was diminished.</p>	1/30/2024 6:52 PM
513	<p>WHOS is a horrible park for anything other than use as an off leash dog park. Things that make it a crappy park include: The constant drone of airplanes, the pop pop pop from the shooting range, the lack of shade, the always dusty trails, ugly energy infrastructure, trails used by trucks to go to the natural gas infrastructure and old irrigation ditches filled with mud most of the year. Nothing except for the fact that it is an off leash dog park makes it appealing. If the plan is to make a small section an off leash area and the rest of it on leash, expect that the off leash area will become a vegetation free, concentrated s█████ like every other small dog park (Arvada, Golden, Broomfield) and the rest of the area will be unused except by a few dozen mountain bikers. If the goal is to allow land use by the people who are willing to go there, the off leash area needs to stay as it is. If the goal is to make it prairie dog and energy infrastructure habitat, then shut down the off leash usage.</p>	1/30/2024 6:35 PM
514	<p>Shrinking the lease off space will turn the Westminster Dog Park into literally a 's█████ show'. Just look at any other small lease off dog parks. Westminster dog park is hands down the best</p>	1/30/2024 6:11 PM

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place ANYWHERE to take dogs, off leash for exercise and socializing. Figure out ways to hold dog owners accountable for not picking up after their dogs excrement, as well as prairie dog issues. Make the parking lots smaller (even paid) and keep the acreage and off leash the same.

515	I am writing to express my strong support for keeping the Westminster hills open space area as an off-leash dog park. As a resident and dog owner, I have personally experienced the joy and benefits of being able to let my furry friend run and play freely in this beautiful natural setting. The Westminster hills open space provides a unique opportunity for dogs to exercise, socialize, and enjoy the great outdoors. It is a valuable resource for our community and an important part of our quality of life. Keeping this area off-leash not only benefits dog owners, but also promotes a sense of community and wellness for all residents. I understand the importance of responsible pet ownership and agree that rules and regulations should be in place to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all park users. By maintaining the Westminster hills open space as an off-leash area, we can continue to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for dogs and their owners while also preserving the natural beauty of the space. I urge you to consider the positive impact that keeping the Westminster hills open space off-leash has on our community and to support this important resource for dog owners. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued efforts to maintain and improve our local parks and open spaces.	1/30/2024 6:04 PM
516	Do not make 90% of the park require leashes.	1/30/2024 5:57 PM
517	We should keep the dog park as it is or make the off leash section way larger than what is currently being planned. This is one of the best dog parks in Colorado and people drive from all over to come to it.	1/30/2024 5:53 PM
518	I really hope the city can come to an agreed plan that doesn't compromise our ability to let our dogs run off leash. there is no other safe open area for my dogs to run	1/30/2024 5:36 PM
519	I volunteer with both Foothills Animal Shelter and various rescues. When I come out to the open space it gives me a big smile. You have to be aware that there are many dog breeds that need to run. Their owners are not runners and walking just doesn't get their energy out. I bring my dog, who is a ball fanatic. I can't take her to the park due to dogs needing to be on leash and my yard only allows me to throw it for her a short distance. If you walk this expansive property you will appreciate all these dog owners who are out there to get the energy out of their dog, exercise their dog and exercise themselves. The Westminster Hills Open Space, in my opinion, is not a place one takes their dog to "play" with other dogs. If you visit, you will notice dogs aren't playing. It's a place to exercise. We need this property for both the dogs and humans.	1/30/2024 5:31 PM
520	PLEASE keep this dog park open as is! This was a huge reason I moved out of Denver county. I love this park and go almost daily. Please don't take away space from the community and our fur neighbors!!	1/30/2024 5:20 PM
521	I beg you to please live this off leash dog park as is. So many dog owners including myself find escape in the vast acres of land. People are very protective over it and do take pride in keeping it clean and cared for. This would be absolutely devastating for the Denver Metro area and people who travel far to use the space.	1/30/2024 5:19 PM
522	Westminster Hills open space dog park. It is the greatest dog park around as it is expansive, you can walk for miles with dog, canal water provides safe fun area for dogs to play in the summer. Absolutely ridiculous that a community I have been a resident for over 40 years is considering any changes. Wrong, wrong and wrong. It is a beautiful asset to our community and dogs. Do not make any changes! Please I beg you to focus on more important matters.	1/30/2024 4:57 PM
523	please keep the area as an off leash dog park!	1/30/2024 4:41 PM
524	I value the off-leash element but completely support protecting the environment. My request is to keep the off-leash section large enough. I would suggest the area east of the bridge/irrigation ditch be off leash for people parking off Simms. I don't have a suggestion for the area off 100th. Thank you.	1/30/2024 4:34 PM
525	I saw a sign today at the Westminster open space (dog park) that said there was a proposal to deastically reduce the size of the off leash area. The off leash area was one of my (and multiple nerighbors) reason for moving to Westminster. Im not sure of the data, but it feels like its the most used open space in all of westminster. And if you go on a busy day to the west boarder where is becomes a leashed area its empty. Leaving the off leash area or GROWING	1/30/2024 4:15 PM

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the area seems like what should be on the table, not shrinking it. As a user of the off leash area multiple times a week, id love to give a users perspective for any discussions. Thanks

526	<p>First, thanks for being diligent about managing the WHOS. I live in Broomfield, so you may not care what I think. But I'm sure many Westminster residents would agree that the WHOS, as an off-leash dog park, is a very valuable resource for dogs and their owners. I love to visit, and it is truly my dog's happy place. The trick is to avoid degradation of the WHOS as an example of shortgrass prairie. I agree that that's valuable too. Please consider the conservation equivalent of crop rotation: Every X years, or whenever your wildlife biologists say it's time, the Woman Creek Conservation Area and the WHOS swap roles, with one becoming the off-leash dog park and the other becoming the on-leash area, allowing the newly on-leash area to recover. (I know 2023 was a wet year, but I was still surprised by the quick recovery of the unofficial WHOS herd paths targeted for restoration last year.) I think the cost would be little more than the construction of a new parking lot at the Woman Creek area, perhaps along Indiana Street. You might approach Broomfield and other nearby municipalities about sharing those construction costs. You might even consider a partnership with Broomfield to add a third parcel to the "crop rotation": the Broomfield-owned space around the Great Western Reservoir. I'd be happy to advocate this proposal to Broomfield's mayor, Guyleen Castriotta, and my city councilor, Deven Schaff, who's also mayor pro tem.</p>	1/30/2024 4:15 PM
527	<p>Please keep the Westminster Hills open space as an off-leash area. I chose to stay living in this area largely because of how great it is to be able to exercise my dog while simultaneously getting exercise myself. We love the off leash dog park!</p>	1/30/2024 3:54 PM
528	<p>I am not in favor of closing off 90% of the park and making it a leashed only dog play ground. What about charging a fee for a yearly pass to assist with land up keep and preservation? What about charging a yearly fee or</p>	1/30/2024 3:48 PM
529	<p>Expand the off leash area</p>	1/30/2024 3:46 PM
530	<p>Westminster Hills Open Space, has been valued and used by my family for walks, runs and even biking. Both of our dogs have also come to love this space for play and socializing with other dogs. We would hate to see the off-leash portion eliminated altogether. We also understand that this space is for wildlife to grow and flourish and myself and our dogs do not take precedence over that. I would like to see a portion of the park still dedicated to off-leash use while still providing paths to walk with or without the dog on leash if that is the best compromise for all.</p>	1/30/2024 3:43 PM
531	<p>Please, Keep the park open!! We need sizable places to exercise large breeds. Thank you!</p>	1/30/2024 3:40 PM
532	<p>I sent an email, but I think it would be a good idea to have a leash rule during the spring and summer months. The wildlife is nesting and having offspring during those months resulting in more interactions with the dogs that are off leash. The rattle snakes have their offspring in August and the babies are very confused. I have come across numerous baby rattlesnakes in my back yard (backs up to the park). I don't feel that people are as aware of the wildlife as they should be. More signage may also be helpful.</p>	1/30/2024 3:35 PM
533	<p>Please do not decrease or eliminate the off leash dog area. These trails have been used multiple times a week with my wife and our dogs and is one of our favorite places to take visiting family and friends. The views are unbelievable and it has become somewhat of a happy place and respite for our family during the day to day busy stress of life and work. My favorite part of Westminster.</p>	1/30/2024 3:17 PM
534	<p>Please keep this invaluable off leash dog park open! Charge a fee, fine the people who don't pick up after their dog, ask for volunteers to help educate (I'd be happy to!!) but please please please keep it open!</p>	1/30/2024 3:16 PM
535	<p>Our family utilizes the off-leash dog pack area of this open space between 3-5 times a week. We have two very high energy dogs and being able to allow them time to run and play off leash is a big deal for us. When we were looking for places to live. We specifically chose someplace near this park for our dogs. To not be able to utilize the off leash option any further would be devastating to our family.</p>	1/30/2024 3:16 PM
536	<p>Seems silly to have such a nice park for the dogs to run around and then go back and make them be on a leash. I think it's not a good consideration and we should keep the park as is.</p>	1/30/2024 3:12 PM
537	<p>Very concerned about taking away Open Space at the Off Leash Dog Park. This park is a haven for dogs all across the metro area. People travel distances to enjoy this beautiful space</p>	1/30/2024 3:10 PM

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for their dogs to socialize & enjoy. What can I do to help preserve this off leash dog park?

538	Please keep off leash dog park access everywhere it is now at a minimum. Preferably add more off leash space and more parking options. This seems like a clear need based on how much this is used but residents in the area. It always has people in it even on weekdays and is overflowing on weekends. More doggy bags and trash bins throughout the park would also be great.	1/30/2024 3:03 PM
539	Please don't take away this wonderful space for our dogs to be dogs . I'd be happy to pay a pass fee to help maintain this space for our animals .	1/30/2024 3:03 PM
540	Please keep off-leash dog park access as is, if not expanded! So many dog owners and dogs currently enjoy the space!! Would appreciate more parking spaces so sunny weekends are accessible to more people and they won't have to park illegally on the street. Would also like more doggy bags and trash cans in different areas of the park, if possible.	1/30/2024 3:02 PM
541	I dog sit on a regular basis for a friend that lives in Arvada. He and I take the dogs to Westminster Dog Park on a regular basis of at least 3 times a week. It's the only park in the entire area that has such a large and ungated area for dogs to run. All others are fenced and a lot smaller. A suggestion might be , if necessary, to close off the upper areas along the power polls from the east side entrance and eliminate the south entrance by the lake. That whole area is full of snakes, foxes and other critters. They need to be protected too.	1/30/2024 3:02 PM
542	I am an Arvada resident but have been coming here for since 2006 when I adopted a rescue lab. I realize that I have been taking a good thing for granted. I recall several years ago when there were volunteer clean up days. I haven't seen them recently but would be very willing to take part in the next one. This is a unique space and I would like to see it continue.	1/30/2024 2:58 PM
543	Keep if off leash	1/30/2024 2:57 PM
544	I live up the mountain, in Black Hawk, and drive to the dog park 2-3 times a week. The view while I'm walking my pups is incredible. The coyote awareness keeps me on my toes. It is a beautiful park. Both my pups and I truly enjoy the time spent at the park. Please please please keep the park open. I would happily volunteer a day or two a month to help with any type of work.	1/30/2024 2:41 PM
545	Do not remove the off leash space here!!	1/30/2024 2:31 PM
546	This park is essential and should remain Off-Leash.	1/30/2024 2:15 PM
547	The westminster open space is the only area for all the dogs to run and be free. At the same time it is a great place for the owners to walk around and get some exercise. Beautiful views and tranquility make this place special. Don't steal it from us and our four-legged friends.	1/30/2024 2:06 PM
548	I take our dog to Westminster Hills Open Space almost every weekend. I love and respect open space and nature. I even work for a land management agency myself and understand the struggle between preservation and visitor access. I feel there is enough preserved space in the Front Range that only allows hiking/biking/leashed dogs on designated trails. Our dogs need someplace to run around in nature! This park is beloved and I hope the City will consider keeping it as-is. Colorado is a state that loves its dogs. This is proven by the popularity of this park. Please keep the off-leash and on-leash sections as they exist today. I beg you!!! Sincerely, [REDACTED]	1/30/2024 2:03 PM
549	They should NOT close the off leash dog park or make it smaller. This is an amazing place to let dogs run around , explore, and have fun.	1/30/2024 2:00 PM
550	I visit WHOS usually 3 times weekly and my favorite part about it is the amount of off leash space. My dog being off leash allows me to run unencumbered and when I have my son in the stroller, it's a lot easier to manage baby & dog when I don't have to have the dog on a leash.	1/30/2024 1:45 PM
551	I live in Westminster close to the open space dog park. I go to the park about 5 times a week and have for the last 10 years. It is a crucial part of my lifestyle and mental health. My dog goes with me and runs freely which benefits his mental health. Please do not require leashes at this park. It is a wonderful part of our beautiful city and community that makes us unique.	1/30/2024 1:36 PM
552	We have lived in Countryside for 7 years, and love the WHOS Dog park...even though 75% of our usage is running without dogs, we love having this resource so close. We have found that it is a jewel that friends as far away as Longmont regularly come to visit with their dogs, and most importantly we want to make sure it is available and sustainable for the future. If this	1/30/2024 1:36 PM

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means limiting the area that can be off-leash we understand. However, the current plans seems overly simple, without considering other options that also prioritize the environment of the area. Problems: - Concentrating the off-leash area to the small ~40 acres will make it fantastically crowded (from both a parking and dog perspective), leading to more significant ecological impact in this small area. - Parking will become a significant issue along Sims and the bordering neighborhoods. Alternative Options: - Expand the parking on Sims and 100th and make it paid parking (similar to most boulder parking areas) to raise funds for the expanded parking and broader ecological needs - Make a smaller off-leash area that includes the previously discussed 40 acres, but connect it to the 100th Ave parking area so the cars/off-leash dogs aren't concentrated in one locations. - Erect more permanent/immoveable "stay on trail" signs to prohibit social trail usage (they seem to be moved regularly, or are on the side of the social trail leading to confusion). - Low fences along the primary off leash trails would discourage dogs and their owners from going off trail (obviously it wouldn't stop entirely, but would make a notable difference) - Add poop trash cans further out on the trail, to nudge owners to use poop bags and collect them when further out in the open space Additionally, I know many people would would love to see the new paved trail along 100th to connect to a sidewalk/trail along Alkire (that would connect to 88th or 86th), which would provide both a continuous loop around Standley lake (which would be a significant draw!), as well as additional inputs for people with leashed dogs to go in/out of the dog park rather than clustering around the 2 current parking areas.

553	The big reason we live in westminster is to be close to the off leash dog park. This is a place I can take my whole family. There is no other place like this where I don't have to hold a leash and my pup can have a blast. The environmental impact of a huge sidewalk that goes forever is fine though?? What's the point of living in a state that you can't be outdoors to enjoy.	1/30/2024 1:00 PM
554	This is the best off leash park this side of Denver	1/30/2024 12:51 PM
555	This area is a wonderful place to come and enjoy Colorado scenery. It should remain as an off leash area for dogs. Having an area where dogs can freely stop to sniff and explore nature is invaluable for them. I have been coming for a few years and have not witnessed anyone abusing the privilege this park offers. Owners stay on paths and dogs mostly do, as well. I do not see any wearing away of off path areas and the majority of people pick up properly after their animals. Those who do not will still not even if their dogs were leashed. Don't take away the joy and freedom this park offers for pets and owners alike.	1/30/2024 12:35 PM
556	Please keep this dog park. I go here several times a week and it's an amazing location to safely have my dog off leash without breaking laws. My dog named Buddy loves this open space and I enjoy getting a long walk every time I visit. You should just ask for a yearly membership! I would pay!! I have no problem paying for the other large dog parks (Chatfield/cherry creek). Denver needs this park to stay open!	1/30/2024 12:32 PM
557	You tried to do this before! There was a policeman on a bicycle riding around the park threatening to give you a ticket when your dog was not on a leash. I told that policeman that he was only doing what he was told to do, but that's my money paying for the bike and you to ride around a dog park. I certainly hope you can find a better way to spend my money other than patrolling a dog park. Come on now. The city didn't realize this park would be used as much as it is? Not good planning on the cities part. It's like taking a favorite toy away from a child. Please, rethink what you purposed to do.	1/30/2024 12:29 PM
558	What is the plan and what is the reason	1/30/2024 12:27 PM
559	I have relied on the Westminster open space to train my dog, as it is the only open space for off leash near me. I know several family and friends who are dependent on this area as well, because Cherry Creek dog park is too far away. Reducing the off leash area will only make thinks more constrained and change the dynamic of dog interactions due to a confined space.	1/30/2024 12:24 PM
560	Please please please do not downsize the off-leash section!!! This is such a value to Westminster and the surrounding communities - I drive 20 minutes to get to this park multiple times per week because we love it so much and our dogs love it too! This will be such a loss for the community if it is downsized.	1/30/2024 12:21 PM
561	Love the off leash open park	1/30/2024 12:06 PM
562	I want to oppose decreasing off-leash space vigorously. Signage that suggests all dog owners are responsible for all dog poop would cause more people to pick up more. All dogs need off-leash time, anyone who thinks otherwise is either not a dog owner or shouldn't be.	1/30/2024 12:03 PM

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563	The off-leash dog park provides a critically important space to train my dogs off leash. To remove the this area would be a detriment to those in the area. Something tells me you are going to disregard what everyone is saying and break you oath of office to faithfully Serve.	1/30/2024 12:01 PM
564	Plan for Off Leash Dog Park 1 Keep the off leash area as of leash 2 Post No Dogs beyond the Western Fence as recommended 3 Close off entrances on Indiana 4 Have a "Citizens Group" working with the city for better communication 5 Initiate permit program. Westminster Residents \$25- 50.00/yr Nonresidents 75.00/yr 6 Use the City Parking Surveillance Car (which is already available) on weekends to ticket cars without a permit and cars parked on the road 7 Citizens Group to compromise with the City to re-evaluate trail closures. The city never communicated this last year and it caused a lot of hostility. 8 Citizens Group to work with the city to organize "Community Clean Up Days" Not just once a year	1/30/2024 11:48 AM
565	Why do they want to close the park and what scientific evidrnse do they have for the closure?	1/30/2024 11:45 AM
566	I am under the impression that the majority of this open space dog park will bee changed to on leash. This area is the only space close to me that I can actually get exercise as well. It is a very popular place for dogs and dog lovers. Can you please explain why it's necessary to make it on leash?	1/30/2024 11:35 AM
567	Leave area off leash!	1/30/2024 11:34 AM
568	Keep it off leash	1/30/2024 11:31 AM
569	Please do not require leashes. This is the only large open space nearby for dogs to roam and learn. Similar to cherry creek state park, it is very important to have this option for tax-paying locals.	1/30/2024 11:28 AM
570	I think it would be a shame to continue with the current plans for this park. This is an opportunity to for the City of Westminster to shine. The Denver Metro area is very dog friendly. Implement parking permits. Reduced rate for Westminster citizens. Enforce parking on weekends. This is the only time it is a problem. Establish a north -south trail to eliminate people making their own path. Get rid of the fencing on the south entrance. It is not people or dog friendly. Install more trash receptacles throughout the park. Support a creating a volunteer group to clean up the park once a month. Leave the off-leash park as it is. I would love to see the on leash remain the same as well.	1/30/2024 11:24 AM
571	Please do not make this a leash only place. It's so lovely for the dogs to get to run around. It's always so heartwarming to see the dogs off leash and making new friends. I've never had issues and I drive up there multiple times a week. It would truly change my life not being able to let the dogs have that freedom (supervised, of course) in that particular space.	1/30/2024 11:24 AM
572	We love this off leash space for our health, mental and physical, for my dog and myself!	1/30/2024 11:21 AM
573	Leaving a very small off leash dog area will just push people to walk off leash in neighborhoods and other parks. Initiate a volunteer program to have people hold others accountable for picking up after their dogs. Many breeds need the extra space to run & exercise and taking this away will lead to behavioral issues, health issues, and more. Have people buy a permit to use it similar to a state park pass if need to manage volume. There are so many ways to better manage the environmental impact rather than take away the space.	1/30/2024 11:20 AM
574	Keep the entire park leash free!!!!!!	1/30/2024 11:16 AM
575	I just found this off leash open space about a month ago. It's changed me and my 1 year old dogs lives in the best way. We've found so much joy and community here. It's truly the highlight of both of our days (we walk this park 5x a week at least). We've never seen a single conflict with dogs or people. It's quite the opposite actually, I'll talk to neighbors I just met and my dog will play and remember dogs he's met here previously. This off leash space is something ive been able to expose my friends and family to and they've loved it just as much. We would be deviated to loose this healthy Colorado outlet. Please reconsider!!!	1/30/2024 11:14 AM
576	It's a perfect place to walk your dogs , Wide open and truly not that scenic . It's rare that you run across anyone that is just walking , jogging or biking . It is well used by us dog lovers it would truly be missed . It is only place like this for miles and mulrs	1/30/2024 10:30 AM
577	Please do not get rid of or make smaller the off leash, dog park area. My dog loves to run around here with his best friends and they are so cute and enjoy the space more than most any other space if you get rid of this, there will be far less people coming to the area and while	1/30/2024 9:46 AM

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I understand you're protecting the wildlife, it doesn't make sense to get rid of some thing that people & pups enjoy so much.

578	Please do not turn the dog park into a parking lot! This is space that everyone uses and it would be ridiculous to turn it into a parking lot. Nature first! Stop destroying it!	1/30/2024 9:42 AM
579	Protecting the prairie dogs in the blue zone seems trivial. Keep it open for off leash please	1/30/2024 9:28 AM
580	Hello, please reconsider the recommendation to drastically reduce the off least dog area. This area is a local treasure to dogs and humans alike. My husband and I would reconsider buying a home in this area if the change is made. I am supportive of fines for humans not cleaning up after their dogs, and am supportive of other measures to preserve the area. So many dogs (and humans) are healthier and happier for having access to this space.	1/30/2024 9:09 AM
581	The proposed plan is a very dramatic decrease in the offleash area for dogs. The opportunity to let the dogs really run and have a great time will be lost if the offleash area is reduced as proposed. Please expand the offleash area in a next iteration of the plan that will be presented to city council. Westminster Hills dog park is virtually a one of a kind resource in the Denver metro area for dog lovers. Please don't change that described in the prosed plan.	1/30/2024 9:08 AM
582	Why have you renamed Westminster Hills Dog Park to Westminster Hills Open Space? This is a dog park and has been one for many years. Noxious weeds are growing in all our parks so that is no excuse to change this park. Natural animal habitat is not an excuse. Prairie dogs have been killed to build thousands of apartments and water treatment plants. Keep this dog park the way it is now. That is what your residents and the surrounding community wants.	1/30/2024 9:00 AM
583	As a resident who has used the park both as a dog owner and not, I've enjoyed the open space. In reading through the report I am grasping some understanding of what the concerns are, though I make no claim in being an expert. One item that jumped out at me is the impact on the current established on leash area, and the 50% number of ignoring the signage. While I do not contend that number itself, it seems to lack a data point relative to the general usage of the park's off leash area. My personal usage is generally in the mornings during the week, so not during typical peak usage hours, so understand my experience may be atypical. This park has been an enhancement to my time in the area, and as a user with a dog and not (as a cyclist) I would encourage other solutions rather than severely restricting the dog usage areas. In also believing a large majority of users are willing to partner with efforts to address some of the concerns listed, I strongly hope this is also an avenue to be explored.	1/30/2024 8:59 AM
584	I've brought my dog to Westminster off leash dog park for years and I always avoid the area that you now want to assign as the only dog leash area of the park. My dog and I will be very sad to no longer have our beloved walking route.	1/30/2024 8:40 AM
585	WHOS is a treasured public resource for my family. We have 2 large dogs who need space to run, and we love this space. It is the single most important public land resource for our family. Shutting it down or converting to an on leash area would be a huge loss for us. We visit this site about once a week on average throughout the year. I would be open to clean up volunteer events or other ideas where I could contribute time or money to help preserve this resource for off leash use. Thank you, [REDACTED]	1/30/2024 8:36 AM
586	Please don't make this leash only. It's such a great community and a great place for dogs to socialize and get the exercise they need. There are plenty of areas already leash only	1/30/2024 8:19 AM
587	Leave our open spaces alone! Soon Westminster will be wall-to-wall apartment buildings. What you've allowed at The Farm plus surrounding parcels is awful.	1/30/2024 8:17 AM
588	Do not close the dog park! So many of us have dogs who socialize in a very friendly manner and get their exercise. Not only this but others mountain bike and hike in the area We need to have spaces to go where civilization has not taken over and built more houses and apartments etc Our areas are becoming so populous it's not Colorado any more! We need to take control and say no more building in certain areas.	1/30/2024 6:17 AM
589	The off leash park is for dogs should be preserved as much as possible. The proposed area for the off leash park is way too small to provide proper access to Westminster residents and their pets. I would encourage you to consider a much larger area for off leash access. Westminster Hills is one of the highlights of the City and should be preserved in its current use and access as much as possible.	1/29/2024 11:15 PM
590	Having visited this area many times over the years I find it incredibly sad that a place which	1/29/2024 9:34 PM

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provides such joy to my family is being threatened due to preservation of species that by in large do not reside in the area. Westminster has put so much of its open space into this one area. Sliming down the area to make yet another congested pea gravel dog "park" is truly a shame. Keep it off leash. Hire more parks and recreation officers to monitor the area and educate visitors. Additionally, open up MORE free space at other locations to divert traffic from this one location. What point is having an area to preserve if it can only be enjoyed in a limited fashion.

591	Sounds like some Karen's are mad dogs have an amazing space. Putting in paved walkways for bikers and old people is ridiculous and a useless waste of money. What's wrong with how it's operated and been for years?	1/29/2024 9:31 PM
592	Leave the dog park alone and add more parking	1/29/2024 9:24 PM
593	The off leash dog park is an extremely valuable asset for our community and would be a tremendous loss if it were to be taken away	1/29/2024 9:10 PM
594	I'm devastated to hear the plans for making this park have leash requirements. When the original survey came out last year keeping the park unleashed was very popular. Is the city of Westminster not caring about their citizens opinions?!! There have been very minimal efforts to help the space. There could be more trash cans added along the trail to help owners dispense of poop bags and fencing to protect areas.	1/29/2024 8:59 PM
595	I use the dog park almost daily as I live close by. I love that my dogs can meet others but in open spaces (reducing dog fights). We stick to the trails and heed the guidance on staying off informal trails. I meet neighbors and find zen. I walk 2-3 more miles than I would without all of the space. I fear that a leased option will only be followed by some (those that are rule followers like me) and my dog will be attacked on the leash unable to escape. I can imagine paying a small \$80-\$100 registration per dog, to support the city in maintaining the space. I would pay for a car tag, or whatever other system meant we can retain the open space for open off leash roaming. I often describe "I live right by the giant off leash dog park" a piece of pride in my city.	1/29/2024 8:38 PM
596	Keep the Westminster dog park off leash. It is a much loved part of the community	1/29/2024 7:38 PM
597	I implore WHOS to keep the 400 plus acres open to dogs off leash . It is an amazing space for both humans and dogs to enjoy the open space	1/29/2024 7:35 PM
598	Please keep park off leash access	1/29/2024 7:32 PM
599	We love the WHOS and so does our dog. Taking her there is one of our favorite traditions year round.	1/29/2024 7:14 PM
600	I moved to Westminster just for the offleash dog park. As a resident i demand that the rules be unchanged and the entire offleash dog park remain the same.	1/29/2024 7:10 PM
601	Keep the open space off leash	1/29/2024 7:08 PM
602	Cutting down the off leash space so drastically would be such a disappointment. Leash laws are already so strict and off leash opportunities are so few and far between. Conventional size dog parks force dog-dog interactions that most responsible dog owners would not condone whereas the current space allows you to have relative solitude and get your dog way better exercise than is possible on-leash. If anything we need to be opening up MORE off leash space to dilute the impact on any one area and allow our dogs to get proper exercise rather than being confined to a 6 foot radius. I understand that a lot of dog owners are not responsible about keeping their dogs on trail and picking up poop, and this change will probably go into effect regardless of any feedback, but it's so frustrating when you feel unable to meet your dog's needs or offer them any freedom without breaking the incredibly restrictive leash laws. It's not a WHOS specific issue, more so a state or even nation-wide one where I feel owners and their dogs should have to pass some sort of certification of training/personal accountability to be granted greater public/off leash access. But WHOS has been an oasis that we hate to lose.	1/29/2024 6:30 PM
603	I would like to share that the proposal to eliminate off-leash access to parks will affect my Gucci who is part of our family. Gucci is a half blind brindle rescue pug. He enjoys his walks to the park every day. When he is off leash he is so free, loves being able to run freely and has made friends from the neighbors who also go to this park. My backyard goes to the park which is the best part of having a dog. I am a very responsible dog mom and he is only off leash	1/29/2024 6:25 PM

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when there are no other dogs near by. Please allow Gucci to continue to enjoy this park freely, he doesn't get to live as long as we.

604	Keep our dog park open and off leash.	1/29/2024 6:15 PM
605	Please don't close or limit this space! It is well loved by the local dog owner community, including myself!	1/29/2024 5:39 PM
606	We have been using the open space weekly for over a year. Frankly it's half the reason we purchased a house this year in Arvada and looked in the area of Arvada and Westminster. It's such unique and beautiful spot for us to enjoy as a family with our dog and we would love to be able to continue to have that space as we know most of our neighbors would too.	1/29/2024 5:37 PM
607	I would like to see the off leash dog space be preserved at its current acreage. There are no other off leash parks like this in the area. I drive from Denver at least once a week to come here. Dog parks within the city are all too small and overcrowded. Dogs thrive in this type of environment and it's so needed in our large metropolitan area. Please consider preserving this gift for all of us dog owners.	1/29/2024 5:21 PM
608	I am new resident of Westminster within the past year. I am also the responsible owner of two well-behaved dogs. I visit the Westminster Hills Open Space often, always picking up after my dogs and keeping them on designated trails. This park being in close proximity was a huge factor in my husband and I buying where we did - our boys LOVE their visits to WHOS and getting to run freely and explore. The proposed management designations would be a HUGE disappointment for our family. We no longer take our boys to enclosed dog parks because of the increased risk of contracting illnesses and being in close proximity of ill-mannered dogs. That is exactly what this dog park space would become if the city chooses to so significantly cut down the off-leash area. The current designation allows us to spread out and distance ourselves. Our visits to the park truly are such a highlight for our family and so we are very much against this new plan.	1/29/2024 5:19 PM
609	Hello! The Westminster hills dog park is my dog and I's most happy place. We live 1.5 miles away (I have lived here since 2005) and visit almost daily- we usually skip weekends due to crowding and always go during off hours. I understand the importance of balancing conservation with recreation, but this place is the only place my dog can happily run off leash safely. He doesn't care about other dogs and only wants to run. He's a high energy breed and even though I run with him leashed 4 times a week for an hour at a minimum, he still needs and thrives on long off leash walks. Smaller enclosed dog parks don't work for us- it's too much stimulation. I urge the council to keep the larger parts of the park open! I'd happily sacrifice more of the smaller trails people have made if we can still have the spread out space to run. There's nowhere else like this in the state. I'd also sign up for a permit or timed entry- anything to keep the option open for us. Thank you! Please sign my email up for any updates.	1/29/2024 5:16 PM
610	Please continue to allow dogs off leash! Responsible pet owners deserve to have this space to exercise their dogs.	1/29/2024 5:09 PM
611	We would love Westminster Dog park to remain off leash. This dog park is how we trained our dog to be off leash safe over time. If the goal for cutting down on off-leash areas is due to dogs going missing, then maybe a gate that closes at the entrance would suffice. We enjoy going to the dog park multiple times a week and we'd love if you considered expanding parking. On nice days we end up going back home because both lots get full. We really do enjoy this dog park so we'd honestly rather pay for parking than not be able to enjoy the park off leash. Please leave leashes up to the owners to decide what their dog can handle.	1/29/2024 5:03 PM
612	Please don't limit off- leash access! My dogs and I go there multiple times a week and they love being able to run fast and far. It's also a great way to socialize dogs in a more spread out, natural area. There aren't many off- leash areas that also have good walking paths, so this is such a great resource to the City of Westminster.	1/29/2024 4:55 PM
613	I've lived in this area for over 30 years and the reason for love this area was for the open spaces to walk your dogs and around my neighborhood. This park as been here for years. It's not fair to change the laws of somewhere that we can walk our dogs and open space.	1/29/2024 4:52 PM
614	The off leash dog park with the full area as it is now is probably the best amenity in Westminster. Please do not reduce the size.	1/29/2024 4:49 PM
615	Regarding the proposal to limit the off-leash area of WHOS, I understand the need to preserve the indigenous wildlife and support those efforts to that end, however the current proposal	1/29/2024 4:42 PM

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severely limits the area for off-leash dogs that I believe will cause more problems than what is anticipated. The proposed area is unreasonably small in relation to the number of individuals using the park for off leash dog activity and in my view would cause more areas of concern. For example, the number of people who rely upon the park for off-leash dogs is too numerous for the reduced area proposed. Imagine all these people (on average thousands daily) with perhaps multiple dogs in an area this small. It will create a more aggressive environment among both the dogs and the owners. I imagine cramming thousands of daily visitors with their dogs will ultimately cause aggressive behavior none of us wish for. If canine feces not picked up is among the top concerns for limiting off leash activity, perhaps posting signs throughout the open space, reminding people to pick up the poop and providing more waste disposal containers along with poop bags for people as well. This would encourage people to respect the WHOS environment in a responsible atmosphere. I realize this costs money and with limited municipal funds, this might be challenging. As a resident of Broomfield, I would gladly pay for the privilege to use the park responsibly. This would help mitigate the waste left behind. Moreover, if the city intends to enforce the on-leash area proposed, this will require additional funds to police that area. Also, couldn't the city mark off smaller plots of the land for restoration and rotate each area over time? This would be less drastic than the current proposal. I hope the city understands that there are very few types of dog parks WHOS provides in the Denver metro area. As you are no doubt aware, this park used for off leash activity is extremely popular among dog owners and hope that you will consider managing the WHOS strategy in a more gradual, modest approach than what is currently on the table. Thank you for considering my comments.

616	The proposed changes to WHOS are too drastic. It is unlike any other park in the state. WHOS is beloved by all who use it to give their dog some off leash time and to view the breathtaking scenery. Shrinking the area of the off leash area is potentially dangerous to dogs and owners. Dogs do better with room to roam off leash. Please, please make the proposed off leash area much bigger. Conservation is important but please increase the size of the new off leash area. Could the new off leash area be on the 100th street side of the park? Thank you for your time and all of the hard work you do.	1/29/2024 4:41 PM
617	Keep the off leash dog area open, alive and what it is. It is widely used and so so popular!	1/29/2024 4:40 PM
618	Please don't make this off leash park limited to a small section where dogs can be unleashed. We have had so many pleasant interactions with responsible dog owners here, and it's one of the few places dogs can roam and be free.	1/29/2024 4:27 PM
619	It would be very disappointing to see the off leash area reduced in size. This is the only offleash area of this size and it is clearly heavily used. There is a very large area just to the west where we all of nature's snakes and prairie dogs are being preserves.	1/29/2024 4:27 PM
620	Within the Denver Boulder area there is not many spaces that are as large for dogs to roam. It is really lovely to be able to take my large energetic pup on a hike and not limit her wander radius so she can run freely and not be bothered by a lead. She is able to socialize and hike at this open space. Please do not take the most important part of my dogs daily joy by limiting her ability to roam. It is also one of the few places like this that are completely fenced in which brings me a great comfort. I rave about the access to land to roam with my Lila when talking about Westminster hills. It is my favorite feature of living in Westminster.	1/29/2024 4:11 PM
621	Do not get rid of the dog park.	1/29/2024 4:07 PM
622	I support the changes to preserve wildlife (I have noticed changes myself, like reduction in bird species at the little pond in the SW). I know dog people will be loud and vocal, so just wanted to send my support. I hope the whole area will still support biking on designated trails, but understand that it might also be non-conductive to a wildlife management area.	1/29/2024 4:06 PM
623	This open space represents a very unique benefit to local dog owners that isn't really available anywhere else. It would be a detriment to the community if it were decreased in size or closed altogether.	1/29/2024 3:55 PM
624	Westminster hills should stay full off leash dog park.	1/29/2024 3:46 PM
625	The reduction of open space for off leash dogs is extremely disheartening and does no good for the community. Crowding a bunch of dogs to one area instead of letting us all disperse out into the land is more dangerous and will lead to more dog fights.	1/29/2024 3:39 PM
626	Please keep the off leash dog park area available. It is such a joyful part of our community!	1/29/2024 3:37 PM

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627	I would really hate to see the off leash areas reduced. We love to take our dog and go hiking through the whole space with her off leash. She doesn't really enjoy the water so limiting the area to mainly that space would mean we wouldn't go to the park anymore :(1/29/2024 3:31 PM
628	Been coming here for quite sometime and would love to keep it just as is. I enjoy my dog having a large open space to run around without restriction of being leashed.	1/29/2024 3:31 PM
629	No leash!! That's why it is a dog park. The dogs love it and it's why we come here	1/29/2024 3:30 PM
630	Westminster Hills is very popular for a reason. Coloradans see the value of recreating outside with our family. Our family can be animals. There are very few places where a dog can run free off leash while still getting some fresh air. I understand that dogs affect the native flora and fauna. So does a housing development or another strip mall. What's worse for the coyotes: bulldozing their habitat for another condo or having dogs nearby off leash? People love this off leash dog park for a reason. Honestly, it was one of the reasons I moved into the neighborhood across the street. It is one great things about Westminster that our other suburbs can't say.	1/29/2024 3:26 PM
631	This is the best dog park in Colorado, hands down! don't do this!	1/29/2024 3:16 PM
632	Hello! I go to the off leash Westminster dog park almost every day. It's the only place where I can go and hike around that allows my dog to be off leash. I think the off leash area should stay the same. There's not a lot of off leash trails in Boulder county or anywhere at all. Changing the off leash dog area would be detrimental to all the dog owners in the area.	1/29/2024 3:09 PM
633	Please do not change this off leash area. It is very valuable to residence and their pets!	1/29/2024 2:47 PM
634	This open space is one of the few places dogs can freely and safely socialize and get a good amount of exercise. Please keep it open and off-leash.	1/29/2024 2:32 PM
635	Please do not reduce or eliminate the open space area on Simms, it is a vibrant part of the community that is incredibly popular and raises property value of the surrounding neighborhoods including my own!	1/29/2024 2:04 PM
636	We've been taking our dogs to this park since it opened. I generally go 2-3 times per week and what makes it great is how big it is which allows our dogs to chase for hundreds of yards. Decreasing the size would be terrible for us. Also, the dogs get to play the creek in the summer - there's like hundreds of people there everyday. If its an environmental problem, how about posting some signs/rules of the park? Everyone just assumes it's a big open space and there are no rules.	1/29/2024 1:59 PM
637	STOP TRYING TO Change IT!!!! Leave the park alone!!! Let it a leash-free park!!	1/29/2024 1:54 PM
638	KEEP IT AN OFF LEASH PARK!!!	1/29/2024 1:53 PM
639	Eliminating the great majority or the off leash area is a great disservice to our community. Smaller dog parks are a hot bed of disease and dog fights. Many people benefit from the large area to get their exercise in while their dogs exercise. I have used this area for over twenty years and don't want to see it go away. Please consider another option!!!! Why not institute a fee for use for non residents? Or allow a certain number of users per week? I have heard that the reason for closing the dog park off leash area is to allow the grass to grow. This seems insane.	1/29/2024 1:47 PM
640	Please do not decrease the off leash dog area	1/29/2024 1:41 PM
641	I think it's a good plan. The open space can't support the level of traffic it is receiving.	1/29/2024 1:30 PM
642	PLEASE do not make the off leash area smaller! The number of off leash options for dogs, especially so close to the city are basically non existent outside of dog parks. Dog parks do not allow dogs to interact normally. It is cramped, forced and too overstimulating for a lot of dogs. The dogs cannot handle dog parks deserve to have an off leash area with enough room to interact and not feel pressured or cornered in a small fenced area. The wide open space gives dogs so much room to feel comfortable and that they have a place to get away from an interaction making them uncomfortable. It would be extremely upsetting to see the size of it reduced so much!! This place is a special trip for my dogs and I.	1/29/2024 1:16 PM
643	Decreasing the size of off-leash area would be really sad. WHOS is one of very few areas where dogs can be dogs. We love the open space and come here often. If the off-leash area is	1/29/2024 1:13 PM

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decreased, we would not be visiting. Smaller areas for dogs cause overcrowding and issues among dogs.

644	Please keep the off leash dog open space!!!! It's super important for the community.	1/29/2024 1:10 PM
645	I have previously responded. I have sent your suggested text / email to city council people & and parks mgt. I would like you to contact to see what your next steps are? [REDACTED] I further think you need more signs at more enterances.	1/29/2024 1:09 PM
646	Please keep off leash dog open space!	1/29/2024 1:05 PM
647	Please don't make 90% of the park on leash for dogs.	1/29/2024 12:52 PM
648	Please don't reduce the off leash dog area. It's one of the best parts of this park and neighborhood.	1/29/2024 12:46 PM
649	We want to keep our dog park. Many of us come out here every day and walk all the trails with our dog. I bought a house in Westminster 6 years ago. Got a dog 3 years ago and have made more friends at the dog park than any other place in Westminster. It is a great freedom to be able to legally walk your dog without a leash and explore the land. At any given weekend, or even early in the morning or later in the day, you see people and their dogs enjoying the land.	1/29/2024 12:23 PM
650	It seems like this is the beginning (or continuation) of a long-term plan to completely choke off the off-leash park area and access in order to eventually sell the area to developers. Opening then almost immediately closing an additional 600 acres is a clear cause of the numerous off-leash issues cited, baiting in a large portion of the community only to restrict it to less than 1/2 was guaranteed to lead to density issues. The new proposal is clearly a continuation of the same trend, what do you think is going to happen when you take the existing off leash community using 400 acres and cram them into significantly less? Clearly the bullet point "Would provide local dog off-leash opportunities consistent with the original intent." is either completely delusional or intentionally misleading. Nowhere in the proposal was there any indication that this gross misallocation of funds is even driven by taxpayer request or complaint, simply " In 2017, the City of Westminster requested a natural resource assessment to be done on the Westminster Hills Open Space from ERO Resource Corporation." It seems like the intent here is to execute the 'switch' after baiting all the nearby residents with this public good so that the city can pursue further development elsewhere. "The natural resource assessment performed by ERO Resource Corporation identified several important prairie species that currently reside at Westminster Hills Open Space or may in the future because of suitable habitat conditions." Or in the future? This to me reads as a clear intent to use those other areas for development, using this open space as the replacement habitat.	1/29/2024 12:07 PM
651	The off leash dog park is great in size and access. It offers an alternative for a long hike without having to venture off to thw mountains. I've been visiting this park for years when dog sitting, taking my own dogs etc, and I recommend it to every one with a dog	1/29/2024 12:06 PM
652	Please keep the off-leash park open	1/29/2024 11:46 AM
653	First, I want to say thank you for taking public comments on this and, I hope, reconsidering the management plan to include more off-leash space. And thank you for providing such robust information on the process and plan on the updated website and in public open houses. It's clear that community feedback is important and I'm grateful that this transparency is available. I've written to the city council prior to this form being available but I will add my previous email here as well so it's on record here. I would like to urge you to reconsider the idea of making the off-leash area smaller. Instead, I propose that we explore alternative solutions that can help us protect the environment while continuing to provide a space that our community has grown to rely on and adore. The Conditions Report for Westminster Hills Open Space highlights the need for environmental conservation and protection. I wholeheartedly agree that safeguarding our natural resources is of utmost importance. However, I firmly believe that a smaller off-leash dog park is not the ideal solution. Overcrowding can cause dogs to be aggressive and irritable which can, and likely will, lead to more frequent confrontations between dogs and, subsequently, their owners. The Visitor Survey Results clearly demonstrate the overwhelming support for the off-leash dog park and distaste for making it any smaller. It is evident from the responses that our community values this space tremendously, and it significantly contributes to the well-being of both residents and their furry companions. It seems like, based on the current map available online (1/29/24) you do plan to keep the off-leash area available and just changing the trails available. This seems like a reasonable solution and I hope this is a good	1/29/2024 11:45 AM

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compromise for all. Let us work together to protect our environment while maintaining the vibrant community spirit that our off-leash dog park has fostered for years. Thanks again

654	Please consider not changing the current use rules of the off-leash dog park. This was a staple and reason why we decided to move to Westminster and live in close proximity to this park.	1/29/2024 11:40 AM
655	Please keep it as it is. So many people and their dogs value that park. There is so much other area that is on leash only. 40 acres would get very crowded considering all of the usage.	1/29/2024 11:27 AM
656	This is a wonderful and unique area for resident dog owners to go and exercise with their dogs. Please do not turn it into yet another dangerous dog park! We have too many of those already.	1/29/2024 11:22 AM
657	<p>I am writing to provide my position of opposition on the proposed change to drastically reduce the off-leash dog park at WHOS. I am in favor of retaining the off-leash dog park as it currently is so we can continue to provide miles of off-leash hiking, walking, running for our dogs & humans. I believe the environmental & wildlife impact on WHOS is not just a result of the increase of dogs running free but also due to the growth of the area around it bringing an increase in human population, new residential homes & an increase of visitors to WHOS. The area around it is being developed displacing wildlife habitat & this is observed by those of us that live in the community with an increase of wildlife in subdivisions because they are being encroached upon. Much of the wildlife is migrating from surrounding development. There is prairie land all along the front range & animals will migrate to these areas rather than remain in the middle of human population. We will continue to see changes as we encroach more & more on wildlife. I believe this is where part of the problem is stemming from & it will continue as new homes are built & population increases. It is a shame to not recognize this & use the cause of this problem as a reason to confine dogs into a typical small dog park where dogs are kept in proximity of each other giving them nothing else to do but play with each other as if in a large yard rather than walking for miles. I propose no change but if change is decided then I would suggest the area designated for off-leash be the existing trails that go from Simms to Indiana rather than squaring off a corner of the park. A several mile length trail would allow us to continue to walk our dogs. The section designated for a dog park is unhealthy & confining not just for the dogs but for humans as well. Dogs are diverse & many dogs enjoy a moment of socialize, play & getting out their energy that most dog parks provide but they also need quite time outside free from the leash & being with their human without being confined in an area with many other dogs. WHOS provides that for dogs & humans which makes it the best place to enjoy yourself & your dog. Dogs are always cooped up & require a leash everywhere they go & in my opinion for some dog breeds that is inhumane. They need time off leash in open space. Again, I am proposing the off-leash area remain as it is but if you must change the off-leash area then do so by erecting a off leash dog area that is several miles long & with adequate width instead of the proposed corner lot. I would also suggest more educational signage informing the public although I think WHOS has done an excellent job. The changes to WHOS will continue with the increased development & population in the area even if we confine the dogs to a smaller space. Wildlife is going to choose to settle in open space away from people whenever they can. I live within 5 miles of WHOS. I have used this park frequently for approximately 12 years. I have a dog that is 3 years old & we walk WHOS 4 times a week minimum to 7 days every week weather permitting. We enjoy WHOS for every season. We love it & greatly appreciate the opportunity to walk without a leash. My experience there & with other people & dogs has all been good. I enjoy seeing my dog & all the other dogs being so happy to be free of a leash. I enjoy walking & the beautiful outdoors & our scenic mountain range as much as my dog does. WHOS keeps us outdoors all year long enjoying nature, keeping healthy & feeling free. We get to walk about an hour or more & cover 2-3 miles on most visits. We can walk so much more if we choose to & I love that about WHOS. I am so grateful for this opportunity & I do not want to see this go away. I understand the need to preserve wildlife & habitat. I value its existence but I also value the quality of life & health of our domesticated dogs. We need to establish areas like WHOS for dogs to experience roaming free under the commands of their loving human. They deserve to have an area wide open & not confined to a fenced in dog park area. My dog listens to my commands & he is a good friendly dog. I have always cleaned up after my dog & clean up after others too. I really appreciate all that WHOS does to help by posting signs, providing bags & trash receptacle making it easy for us to keep it clean. It is a shame people do not always clean up. I will carry a filled bag for miles until I reach a trash can. You have my continued commitment to respect the park & remain grateful for all that we have at WHOS. Please consider being the community that sets the example of how a off-leash dog area should be with its miles of open space. Thank you for providing the best off-leash dog area in Colorado & for taking the time to read this & for your consideration. [REDACTED]</p>	1/29/2024 11:17 AM

Westminster Hills Open Space (WHOS) Area Management Plan - Community Feedback

658	Please do not take this off leash dog park away from us	1/29/2024 10:43 AM
659	The Westminster Hills ofleash dog area is the best dog park in Colorado. I feel so lucky to live so close by. My family takes the dog there about once a week and it improves all our quality of life. If the ofleash area was reduced as planned, I don't think we would come at all anymore. We like going because of the size, we can hike or bike as much as we want and let the dog run around and have fun too. If the dog had to be leashed, we might as well go to any other open space	1/29/2024 10:33 AM
660	There will be so many more trespassers violating running around on private properties and ruining them instead if this happens. This is a dog designated area large enough that dogs don't get into near as many fights as the park on 64th which truly should be bigger as well. But the amount of land in that area and surrounding areas that will be violated by people breaking rules will be a lot worse than if you would just leave the area alone as it is.	1/29/2024 10:27 AM
661	This is a wonderful space for dogs and their owners to get much needed exercise and fresh air and (if wanted, socialization). Every time my dogs go, they are so happy to meet other dogs, run freely and safely (which they do not get to do normally as they are usually on a leash or in a small area in the back of the house that is not fenced in). Please to not get rid of the open space area, so many people come and love it.	1/29/2024 10:25 AM
662	We need more open space for off leash dogs not less. There is already plenty of open space right next to WH that does not allow dogs. Please keep the whole park open.	1/29/2024 10:13 AM
663	the Westminster Hills Open Space is a special place. There is community that is built around meeting at the same time each week at the large shallow bend in the ditch where all of the dogs get to play in the water. This has been a weekly ritual for my partner and I for the past 2 years. We've met many wonderful people out there, and so have our dogs. There aren't many places in Denver where you can go on a decent walk with your dog off leash. Closing this will likely encourage more owners to hike more local trails with their dogs off-leash, which we all know can lead to problems with unfriendly dogs. This is the first I've heard of any issues for this open space, and I think it is a bit extreme to go from 0 warning to full closure. If the issue is dog waste, install a colorful "pick up your waste or lose the park" sign. If the issue is the amount of area that is being eroded, then maybe just close 1/2 the park's trails. There would still be enough space for a multi-mile loop. If there is a labor shortage for something, I'm sure the community would be happy to volunteer. This doesn't have to be all or nothing. Thank you,	1/29/2024 10:01 AM
664	Part of our decision to move to this community was based on proximity to this park. We use it several times a week with our dog. Please don't take it away!	1/29/2024 9:55 AM
665	Do not shrink the off leash space. We utilize this space frequently and would be very disappointed to see that change	1/29/2024 9:33 AM
666	The presentation was very informative. I'm very sad to learn about the recommendation to severely reduce the off leash area. I recommend that volunteers assist the Park Managment team to pick up dog poo and advise people to stay on approved / open trails. These volunteers could reward people that pick up their poop with local coupons occasionally distributed. I'd be happy to be a volunteer. I also recommend that more waste stations are deployed to remind people to pick up the poop. The signage about closed trails is a little confusing. I recommend 'louder' signage.	1/29/2024 9:33 AM
667	All efforts should be made to keep the dog park, as development continues these parks will be harder and harder to create.	1/29/2024 9:31 AM
668	Don't downsize the park! There's so few areas where dogs can be off leash in colorado anymore. This area is centrally located to a lot of communities and its always busy. Its a great park and we want to keep it as it is	1/29/2024 9:27 AM
669	This park provides an extremely valuable and nearby resource for me to take both of my dogs to, to release energy and is a major part of why I love living where I do	1/29/2024 9:25 AM
670	The off leash dog park in Westminster Hills Open Space is the only reason I moved to Westminster. Do not get rid of it under any circumstance.	1/29/2024 9:23 AM
671	One of the reasons I chose to move to Westminster was the city's commitment to providing recreational spaces that cater to the needs of pet owners. The large dog access region at Westminster Hills has been a significant factor in my decision to reside in this community. It serves as a vital space where my canine companion and I can enjoy the natural beauty of	1/29/2024 9:19 AM

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Westminster while fostering a sense of community among fellow dog owners. I understand the importance of preserving sensitive wildlife habitats and recognize the need for responsible pet ownership. However, I believe there are alternative measures that can be implemented without diminishing the off-leash access that many residents, including myself, greatly value.

Enhanced Signage: Investing in enhanced signage that communicates the reasons behind leash regulations can be a powerful tool for educating visitors. Clear and informative signs can promote responsible pet ownership, ensuring that dog owners understand and respect the guidelines in place.

Stricter Enforcement and Citations: Rather than immediately resorting to citations, a more proactive approach to enforcement could involve increased patrols and monitoring of the off-leash areas. This can serve as a deterrent and encourage dog owners to comply with leash regulations voluntarily.

Community Engagement: Engaging with the community is essential in understanding the diverse perspectives and needs of residents. Initiating a dialogue with local dog owners, hosting community meetings, or conducting surveys can provide valuable insights into developing solutions that balance the preservation of wildlife habitats with the desire for off-leash access. I urge you to consider prioritizing these alternative measures over reducing the off-leash access at Westminster Hills. The large dog access region not only contributes to the overall well-being of residents but also fosters a sense of community that aligns with Westminster's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for its citizens.

672	We very much value the open space especially when it comes to the off-leash dog area. We've been going to this area with our dog for years to burn off his excess energy and would hate to see it go.	1/29/2024 9:19 AM
673	Stop stepping all over the little people just for more money. Quit selling us down the road!	1/29/2024 9:15 AM
674	Absolutely, under no circumstance, get rid of the off leash dog park at the Westminster Hills Open Space.	1/29/2024 9:13 AM
675	Off leash parks are important to so many people and their pups. I love having a place that I can take my dog to that I can let him roam off leash. He is a super smart dog, has great recall, and frankly acts better off leash than on one. Please keep this park open as an off leash park	1/29/2024 9:12 AM
676	Please leave the off-leash park at the Westminster Hills Open Space. Thanks.	1/29/2024 9:11 AM
677	Please don't get rid of the open space. My dog and I love the park.	1/29/2024 9:09 AM
678	Westminster Hills Open Space is the largest off leash dog park in the metro area. There are comparable dog parks inside state parks but Westminster Hills has no admissions fee. This public attraction brings local tourists into Westminster. These tourists then go on to spend money within Westminster. Please keep Westminster Hills Open Space completely off leash. It helps the local economy.	1/29/2024 9:08 AM
679	My dog loves this park, and it was instrumental in training him for off leash situations in state and local hiking trails. It was also great for his initial socialization with other dogs when he was very young.	1/29/2024 9:07 AM
680	I think the off-leash dog park should stay! Our backyards in Westminster aren't always big enough for dogs to stretch their legs!!	1/29/2024 9:03 AM
681	Do not reduce the size of the off-leash dog park! Thousands of people a day enjoy the space, with their pooches off-leash - its one of the primary amenities that makes living in the Westminster area so desirable for families with dogs. The westminster government is aware of that! We spend 2 to 3 mornings a week at the park, with friends and their dogs, and have been doing so for over 3 years - a very short duration compared to many who love this park. Reducing the size of the park to the planned size would remove the reason for us to come to this space, and I suspect the same would be true for many other people who come to let their dogs run off energy and get exercise. It would also lead to us spending a lot less money at the businesses near the park (coffee, breakfast, gas stations, car washes) since we would go do errands elsewhere. The park is 24 years old. Putting dogs on leash is not a reaction to a change that has "suddenly" impacted the park - the park has existed in this way for a long time. Management of trails (better signage, better blockage of areas that are intended to be under-restoration) seems to be a better path to sustaining the park, than implementing a leash-required rule. The city has already committed itself to identifying the space as recreation, with what seems to be moderate to minimal concern for the environment. Note the installation/building of a few miles of paved sidewalk and new fence lines, which involved heavy equipment tearing up grass/rutting out the dirt for several miles on the perimeter of the	1/29/2024 8:50 AM

Westminster Hills Open Space (WHOS) Area Management Plan - Community Feedback

park. I'll finish by commenting on the process by which this development has been pursued. The lack of public awareness of the intended changes is concerning and extremely underhanded. The Q4 2023 public comment meeting was attended by less than 40 people - when you are trying to remove the reason 1000+ people a day visit the park, I would expect that many more would be present had the proposed changes been properly broadcast to the citizens that it would impact. Because of the "shady" way things have proceeded, from discussions with others at the park, the perception is that the city is caving to developers, with a long term plan to make the park less popular (which is what will happen if you take away the northern metro areas premier off-leash park). Once the park is less popular, the city will sell off the land in an effort to make money and put up more single-family housing. True or not, that is what the perception is because of the way the city's government has gone about the solicitation of feedback. Please don't ruin a favorite location for (quite literally!) thousands of people and their dogs. There are ways to effectively manage the space and preserve the environment that don't involve completely altering/destroying what the park is currently. We will make sure that this feedback comes from the dozens of people we spoke with on the weekend who feel similarly.

682	Do not reduce the space for off leash dog area. This is one of only few in driving area where it's legal to have dogs off leash and provides a safe experience for dogs and people alike.	1/29/2024 8:48 AM
683	Thank you for your ongoing care for the land. It's beautiful and we love it. We bring our dog(s) all the time for its beauty and mostly for the exercise they can get in the open space. We also routinely visit local restaurants / breweries when we come. We understand and appreciate the goal of the proposed off-leash limitations, however, the size of the proposed off leash dog area will negate the entire reason why we visit. We'll likely go to other parks where exercise and non-confined dog areas can be enjoyed. This is especially important for foster dogs we sometimes bring where they can learn to be around dogs in an unconfined and safe space.. We know preserving natural land is increasingly important. Perhaps alternative sizes (much bigger than proposed) or alternate approaches could still be considered? For instance perhaps the existing off leash trail system could be better contained to on trail only (added fence systems) to maintain natural areas plus allow for the same dog/human exercise that exists currently. If there were a fundraiser we'd gladly support. Anyways thank you and we highly encourage / support a modification to the proposed off leash area to be far less contained (small) while still having a mind set focused on preservation. Best, [REDACTED]	1/29/2024 8:38 AM
684	Please keep this open space dog park off leash. It is well utilized and appreciated by all. This park prevents off leash in neighborhood areas and I believe prevents problems much bigger issues.	1/29/2024 8:35 AM
685	Dogs need a place to RUN. And the two legged's get an opportunity to walk a few miles. I'm a senior who needs my own exercise and for that of my therapy dog. There are no other off lease parks (that are clean) in town. With over 100 miles of trails that require on leash, you now want to take away what we all want for our four legged family members? This is being sprung on us, almost deviously. Seems like the decision is already made!!! I'll be at the city council meetings and encouraging everyone to join. There is short grass prairie all over. In fact, the city is allowing apartment complexes to be built put on spaces that should be preserved. You'll be taking away one of Westminster's jewels and making aLOT of people unhappy in the process. To say I'm opposed would be an understatement.	1/29/2024 8:14 AM
686	There isn't a lot of areas in the 30 mile radius that provides the open area OFF leash for dogs. Colorado is one of the top dog friendly states and there needs to be more open space available - not reducing it. Statistics say there's 1-2 dogs per household. Reducing this while not only infuriate those, but also increase parking issues along with increase issues with reducing the area for dogs to thoroughly enjoy.	1/29/2024 8:03 AM
687	Please do not reduce the dog park! We chose Westminster because of this park, and cannot see ourselves staying in the long term with out it. It would be devastating to our family if this park is taken away	1/29/2024 7:57 AM
688	Keep all the land off leash for the dog park. Don't reduce it	1/29/2024 7:19 AM
689	Looks like a great plan that will allow ALL residents of Westminster to use the space, eliminate invasive plant species and protect endangered species. Currently, that entire space is unusable to anyone that doesn't want deal with off leash dogs attacking you or horrible owners who refuse to train or control their dogs. Also impressive that we have the state bird living on the property and hopefully restricting off leash dogs will encourage them to thrive.	1/29/2024 7:07 AM

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690	Limiting the off leash space at WHOS would only encourage owners to let their dogs off leash in other on-leash areas. Dogs now a days have so few large areas they can be off leash, please do not take away what limit options we already have. It will only encourage off leash activities in other areas.	1/29/2024 7:02 AM
691	Opposed to changing the off leash policy	1/29/2024 6:56 AM
692	I believe this area of Westminster needs regulation and policing. Parking is out of control, damage to road, side road and no parking areas are evident , signs are disregarded in adjacent neighborhoods, along 100th & simms. It's near impossible to navigate 100th west of Simms with the vehicles hanging over the road, stupid dog owners who let dogs jump out-all blocking road cyclists—another subject, but it's lucky no one has been killed. And the dummies who have a cross light on 100th that don't use flasher and let dog lead on long leash or no leash!! The open space has turned into wasteland. Lots of dog owners are not well behave; a reflection in their poor pups. It's become a social club where dogs run uncontrolled and the most aggressive rule the park. We stopped going there during COVID because these issues got out of hand then. It used to be you walk you dog in your own neighborhood . I get the idea of a dog park but as new developments pop up it seems a level of responsibility for creating neighborhood dog parks should be a responsibility of the builder. Folks from candelas, flatirons, the "builders square " apartments and more commute to this dog park. This is being done in some new communities already and should be mandatory. Maybe dog owners need to pay a use fee and parking fee?? I live in Westminster and I can't even utilize the dog park my taxes help pay for.	1/29/2024 6:18 AM
693	I am a dog owner and I use the open space. I like being able to let my dog off leash and take very long hikes. Just leave this open space the way it is!!!! I know there is probably pressure from "developers" to make this area "more attractive" for there business interests. Listen to the people who vote for once instead!!!	1/29/2024 5:44 AM
694	We need to keep the Westminster off leash open space as is	1/29/2024 5:25 AM
695	This dog park is one of the BEST resources for dog owners in the metro area. Any proposed reduction in size is a travesty and obviously based solely in greed. We need MORE open spaces like this around the state.	1/28/2024 11:37 PM
696	Please keep the dog park as is. It makes Westminster truly unique.	1/28/2024 10:58 PM
697	I am against limiting the amount of off leash space at the Westminster Hills Open Space. I live less than a mile away and it's the best place for my dog and me to get exercise at the same time. Since I moved here in 2021, the problems as I see it are more related to not enough bag stations, a lack of garbage cans, and the fact they aren't emptied often enough. Why not have an extra garbage can or two at the spots further from the parking lots? I see the city vehicles driving through there so there's no excuse not to. What is open space for if not to be enjoyed? I heard one of the proponents of this new plan suggest that a fenced in small area dog park is just fine. No. No, it is not. That's how dogs become aggressive and stressed out, it doesn't allow for exercise for the humans or even good exercise for the dogs, and the smell of those dog parks is awful. It ends up smelling like a giant litter box. Look for the New York Times article about dog parks (the small fenced in variety) and how detrimental they are.	1/28/2024 10:23 PM
698	The open space must stay open space. People will not follow rules of keeping dogs on leash and I can't imagine how Westminster can enforce this. I's rather see parking fees how they do in Boulder and ongoing ticketing for cars parking on the streets. Maybe offering reservations for parking or park passes to help fund the monitoring of the open space.	1/28/2024 9:55 PM
699	We have been coming to the Westminster Hills Open Space Dog Park since getting our first dog 4yrs ago. It's an important part of our life & we frequent it 3-4x a week, more in the summer when the days are longer. It's the the best off leash dog park in the front range area. Allowing enough space for dogs and their owners to walk without being cramped into a small enclosure (like Lakeside, West Arvada etc). We would be devastated if the off leash portion reduced or changed.	1/28/2024 9:50 PM
700	Eliminating this perfect open space and restricting all the people with dogs feels like a crime. Please keep the (no) leash freedom	1/28/2024 9:19 PM
701	Please keep the Westminster Open Space off leash for dogs. There are no other dog parks near us and the space is so beautiful. We enjoy with our dogs, family, and friends! We need this space and for the off leash area to stay the same.	1/28/2024 9:14 PM

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702	We have lived in the Broomfield/Westminster area with our dog for a while now. What drew us here was the fact that it offered a 400 acre offleash dog park. Reducing this to a smaller area would be devastating, and upset thousands of people, myself included who use this on a daily basis for their pups.	1/28/2024 9:09 PM
703	You clearly have no understanding of how current populations of Westminster and surrounding communities associate and recreate with their dogs. More than double the households in Westminster have dogs than have kids. Yes, the ground mice are important, but no more important than our human and canine inhabitants. It just so happens that our humans pay the taxes that fund you, so we (and our dogs) step forward in the hierarchy of land use. Thank you	1/28/2024 9:01 PM
704	This park is a treasure for dog owners. The ability to take out dogs hiking off leash and socialize them has been great, meeting with friends as we walk and talk and enjoying the scenery, we've been using this park since we moved her in 2001. It's really been fantastic and we also visit the local businesses after for lunch, coffee, or shopping. Can you rotate open spaces?	1/28/2024 8:57 PM
705	Do not reduce it	1/28/2024 8:51 PM
706	Leave the dog park as is, maybe limit it to registered Westminster residents. One of the reason that I purchased a home in this city was the parks. I've been a homeowner here about 15 years and have seen a large enough decline that I'm seriously considering selling my properties and moving elsewhere. The property taxes for a ~500k house in Westminster are now triple what a ~1.5m property in Breckenridge costs all while you close schools, and parks. schools and parks are why I chose Westminster when I purchased our first home. Now you have closed all the decent schools so I now have to commute to boulder. Now you do this. First you open up the park to outside neighborhoods, then the place gets trashed and you close all the trails for reclamation. Then once everything has been restored from "reclamation" you obliterate the entire south side of the park with construction vehicles for a bike path the dumps off into the middle of nowhere. Maybe just stop destroying things that work and actually solve some actual problems. If anything make people register to use the park for a yearly fee and cap it to Westminster residents	1/28/2024 8:46 PM
707	The off leash dog park is a unique and wonderful part of our community. It allows dogs and their owners to get more exercise than walking on leash.	1/28/2024 8:46 PM
708	I absolutely love the open space off leash dog park. We go there about 2 times per week. We have so many happy memories there	1/28/2024 8:43 PM
709	Reducing the off-leash dog area is a horrible idea for the community. At a time when Denver metro area is showing need for MORE dog-friendly open spaces, reducing one of the only spacious off-leash areas would severely hurt the community. Find a more creative way to fix the perceived issue!! Or turn the other cheek like you do for land developers	1/28/2024 8:42 PM
710	Leave the area alone. Stop ruining the open areas for profit; it's not worth it to anyone but the greedy investors.	1/28/2024 8:21 PM
711	As a resident and homeowner in Westminster, I would like to see the WHOS remain a dog friendly park without restrictions.	1/28/2024 8:17 PM
712	I don't want to see the Westminster Hills open area dog park go away. This is the only large area to bring your dog to get both of us good exercise while off leash. We need dog parks	1/28/2024 8:15 PM
713	I love driving by and seeing all the dogs and owners having fun and wish I could bring my pups.	1/28/2024 8:01 PM
714	I and my Goldendoodle enjoy the availability to be able to walk freely. Our experience at the contained dog parks has sent us both to medical care. We quit visiting them four years ago. People with aggressive dogs don't bring them to the open spaces. We have had only positive experiences and find people are very mindful. I hope there can be a way for the land to be managed and taken care of as a community with the interest of responsible dog owners. I hope we can do this together.	1/28/2024 7:20 PM
715	Keep the off leash area!!!	1/28/2024 7:13 PM
716	Just stop. Leave it alone. Don't shrink it. Don't mess with it. It's the best space around and the most natural spot Westminster has. We don't need more recreation area. Use some abandoned buildings and parking lots. Leave the small amount of prairie we have left alone.	1/28/2024 7:10 PM

Westminster Hills Open Space (WHOS) Area Management Plan - Community Feedback

717	I support the recommended changes to the westminster dog park. Requiring dogs to be on leash is a reasonable expectation and is the best option for protecting the area.	1/28/2024 7:10 PM
718	I started using this dog park in 2016. Just since then I have seen a huge change in the conditions of the plant life and trails out here. It feels neglected and the degradation continues as dogs and their owners wander off trail and trample any plants brave enough to grow out there. Seeing the images and graphics describing this trail widening tells an even scarier story. I am disappointed to know that open space tax dollars are not going to caring for the land. I support the plan to prioritize conservation and wildlife preservation.	1/28/2024 6:52 PM
719	This information has been very poorly provided, even to members who live in the community, additionally it appears that no real evaluation or study has been done on the recreation impact to the area. If over 1,000,000 people visit this park per year, that is 1,000,000 people bringing additional revenue to the community ie stopping for gas, food, etc. has the impact of this been evaluated? also increasing the value of the homes in the area. Standley lake was already shut down as a recreation opportunity, removing this option basically removes all recreation from the area and is very disappointing and saddening. As a resident of the area my only thought has always been why do you not expand the parking as this is an extraordinarily popular park.	1/28/2024 6:33 PM
720	We are very hopeful that the off-leash access at the open space area can continue. We have followed the new and recent protocols regarding some trails being closed for revegetation, we always pick up our dogs' piles, and we are grateful to have that space with our pups. We find it extremely frustrating when others at the park don't follow the 'rules', leave poop from their dogs as if someone else will pick it up, create shortcuts and continue to use trails which are marked closed. If the City begins enforcing the new rules = owners picking up their dogs poop, respecting the trails, etc., we are hopeful the City would see positive change, users of the park would recognize the importance of adhering to the rules, and also recognize those of us who are good and respectful patrons of the park. Are solutions being considered which would be acceptable to the City and also keep the park or parts of it off leash? Thank you!	1/28/2024 6:29 PM
721	Leave it the way it is!!!!!!! This is my favorite spot to take my pups, it makes them so happy. It's relaxing for all of us and one of the few places we can take a nice long walk without my dogs getting stressed out by passing cars/trucks/etc. It's a place I can run with my dog and I don't have to worry about stopping if he wants to take a detour and sniff. And we love swimming in the summer!	1/28/2024 6:20 PM
722	I am completely opposed to this restriction! There are very little places you can have your dog off leash, please don't restrict one of the few! It's already crowded all weekend long, no parking available mostly.	1/28/2024 6:18 PM
723	The City of Westminster dog park is an attractive commodity that brings people to the area from all over. It is an appealing trademark of Westminster and it would be a shame to take that away. (Not to mention, it draws attention to Standley Lake and the beautiful eagles nests nearby)	1/28/2024 6:18 PM
724	This is a great place for dogs to run and people to get exercise with their furry friend!	1/28/2024 6:18 PM
725	We love this open space and would hate to see it reduced	1/28/2024 6:17 PM
726	We love and use the Westminster off leash dog park 3-4 times per week. Please don't change it to leash only.	1/28/2024 5:53 PM
727	Please do not take away our off leash privileges. This would be a huge loss for us and our dogs. They need the space for socializing and exercise.	1/28/2024 5:48 PM
728	I am highly opposed to the city to reduce the size of the dog park/open space on Simms St. So many people enjoy this park, so much so it had to be enlarged. There is plenty of other land to build 500 apartments in Westminster or whatever you have planned. Please do NOT reduce the size of the dog park/open space on Simms.	1/28/2024 5:46 PM
729	Waste your time on something else; do not mess with the dog park! An unintended consequence of doing so will be people bringing their dogs to other parks and letting them off-leash! Do not just shift a perceived problem to other parks and create a real problem.	1/28/2024 5:45 PM
730	I'm extremely concerned about the current plan to drastically reduce off-leash access. The one million people who use this park annually deserve a better plan to preserve their access to the park! There are multiple solutions and policies to put in place before removing off leash access. Out of city or out of county, people have to pay for parking or for an entrance fee,	1/28/2024 5:36 PM

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buying a yearly pass to access, more waste stations for people to throw away their dog poop, limiting access to the western side of the park, but leaving the main area for off leash. This is a special place, don't take it away from us. People enjoy the outdoors. Enjoy their dogs. Enjoy other people. That's what the dog park does. Don't take that away.

731	We love the off leash dog area! Please consider adding a park pass to increase the management of the area before taking away this absolute treasure!	1/28/2024 5:33 PM
732	The data about the e.coli in the water is very alarming. I don't think I'll be bringing my dog back to this location anymore. He has gotten sick after visiting and this confirms the source for me. I think limiting or closing all off leash dog options at this park seems wise for the safety of everyone.	1/28/2024 5:29 PM
733	I support reducing the off leash area and restoring the native grasslands. As a neighbor I have witnessed the area being loved to death. Our streets have become over run with out of town vehicles, the dogs are out of control. Every winter our yard is filled with sand and tumbleweeds from the open space. Westminster needs to live up to the expectations of the open space program and protect this area.	1/28/2024 5:26 PM
734	Would love to keep the Westminster Hills off leash to dogs. Unless there is factual evidence to suggest dogs are making an impact on the area, it's hard to know whether it should be changed to leash only.	1/28/2024 5:24 PM
735	I believe that this ecosystem is being severely degraded by the off leash dog activity that goes largely unchecked on the property. Although I have used this space many times for recreation and had my dogs off leash often at this location, it does not feel like the current use is in line with the spirit of open space. There are plenty of other off leash dog parks in the area and I have started using those after seeing the impacts at Westminster Hills.	1/28/2024 5:19 PM
736	I am writing to express my concern about the potential changes to Westminster Hills Open Space. As a frequent visitor and supporter of the current off-leash policy, I urge the city to reconsider any plans that may restrict this cherished aspect of the area. Westminster Hills has become a vital community space, fostering a sense of well-being for both residents and their pets. While I acknowledge the importance of preserving natural resources, I kindly request the city to explore alternative conservation options that maintain the off-leash experience at Westminster Hills. A collaborative effort between the city and concerned citizens can help identify solutions that balance environmental preservation with the community's enjoyment of this valuable open space.	1/28/2024 5:18 PM
737	Hello, as a resident born and raised in Westminster (Go Gators! Class '05). This park has been an integral part of this City and personally my life. Eight years ago I have been coming to this park with my dog nearly every day, it allows him some freedom and me as well to clear my head and focus on my well being. As I see it does for others on a daily basis (the regulars). I believe limiting access to the open area and requiring leashes would make it no better than a fenced dog park in the middle of Denver where the dogs basically run in a circle and have no personal space. It would take away the uniqueness that is the location of Westminster. I've seen frontage roads turned into apartment complexes, an RTD bus stop on a hill that was the perfect spot to watch the Westminster fireworks now turned into a WeatherTek facility. I get it. Colorado is growing. Infrastructure needs established. But taking away this dog park would take away what makes this area so desirable. I hope it never changes. Thank you, the City, for all you have done to my hometown.	1/28/2024 5:17 PM
738	I'm extremely concerned about the current plan to drastically reduce off-leash access. The one million people who use this park annually deserve a better plan to preserve their access to the park! People who utilize this one of a kind open space area derive exercise for themselves and their beloved canine family members. This open space also serves as a place to meet with and make friends. Small off leash dog areas do not afford dog owners the potential to exercise with their dogs. Walking with dogs on leashes does not offer the same exercise and sensory potential. Further, dogs confined on leashes often are more aggressive toward other dogs on leashes that they encounter. Many retired and older adults utilize this open space with their dogs. The dogs are these people's motivation to get outside and move. This action improves overall health, increases longevity, and reduces healthcare costs for these people and their dogs. Government healthcare spending is significantly reduced when people remain active. The success of WHOS is fully evidenced by the numbers of visitors. Today, I sampled multiple walkers, and everyone expressed similar sentiments as outlined above. Therefore, I truly believe it would be a tragedy to implement the plans proposed at Saturday's community open	1/28/2024 4:47 PM

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house. Thank you for considering my and so many others' concerns, and please do whatever it takes to come up with alternatives.

739	Dogs need this park!!	1/28/2024 4:40 PM
740	I live very close to the 105th Dr entrance to WHOS. The off leash park is a major amenity for us. I think more enforcement is needed to keep people and dogs in bounds and to cause people to pick up after their dogs. This could be funded by a small fee permitting system. In any case, it is important to me that a pretty large portion of WHOS remain as an off leash dog park.	1/28/2024 4:37 PM
741	I do not support reducing the off leash areas of the Westminster hills dog park. There are not many places like this. I have felt so blessed to have this as an option for my dogs and would be extremely saddened if the off leash portion does not stay as large as it currently is. I love doing a 3 mile loop with my dogs there! I go multiple times a week.	1/28/2024 4:24 PM
742	Do not remove the off leash park. Do not reduce the size of the park in any capacity.	1/28/2024 4:19 PM
743	As a regular of this park with my dog, I am sad to see the proposed changes but I understand. I have watched as the crowds have grown out of control over the 10 years I've been here. The wildlife has been driven out, the trails ruined and the dog behavior has gotten out of control. I appreciate the city making the hard choices to protect this area as the open space it was intended to be. I will continue to enjoy the area, but leash my dog for the benefit of all. Thank you.	1/28/2024 4:14 PM
744	We love the Westminster Hills open space/ dog park. It's like no other place in Colorado. Please save the acreage for off leash recreation. My dogs and I have been using the park for 8 years and we always clean up and respect the park. Please keep it off-leash.	1/28/2024 4:11 PM
745	I would be very upset to see the off-leash dog area reduced at all. I moved to a neighborhood 5 minutes from the open space specifically to be near the vast off-leash area. Coloradans consider our dogs to be family members & they deserve a large open space to have freedom to roam. I foresee a lot of people walking their dog off-leash in non sanctioned spaces if this plan to reduce moves forward.	1/28/2024 4:10 PM
746	My husband and I use the park daily. The Westminster hills open space is mostly used by dog owners. As stated in the report, it is a regional destination for off leash walking. Limiting the off leash area to a small corner of the park will significantly reduce the utility of the park making it less useful to the community. This would be an unacceptable change to the space for the community.	1/28/2024 4:07 PM
747	The dog park is great for the dogs as well as the people. Great exercise for all. If you look at the park, the vast majority of the people are there with their dogs. Cannot think of any reason why this should be changed to an on lease experience. The vast majority of the dogs are better behaved than some of the people.	1/28/2024 4:06 PM
748	Please keep our dog park open and off leash. Listen to the community. We go here several times a week and our dogs really need this space. We went today and the parking lot was full. Please expand parking and keep it open. We vote and remember the people who robbed their community.	1/28/2024 4:05 PM
749	I wasn't able to go the open house yesterday, but as a responsible neighbor of the dog park, who always leashes all the way in, keeps my eyes on my dog(not my phone) and cleans up after my pet (and an "bonus poops" obvious from where I stop to pick up hers, I hope you don't penalize good dog owners because there are bad/selfish owners and no enforcement. If you charged \$5/day or \$25 per year, you would raise enough to hire people to watch over and care for the park. Pups do not need as much off leash space as they have now, but some space is important for the dogs. I don't have a yard that is adequate for my dog's exercise needs because I spent extra money to be steps from the park. But I (and all my neighbors) have dogs that depend on that space.	1/28/2024 4:01 PM
750	Do not decrease the off leash dog park!!	1/28/2024 3:59 PM
751	Please keep the dog park off leash and the current size. We live in the neighborhood and use it often and have rarely seen dogs off trail more than maybe 10-15ft. They tend to stick close to their humans. You, as council have done more to damage our open space by selling to developers than these dogs have done to the park. The airport is a perfect example. What a disaster. I suggest you point the finger in the right direction. The airplane exhaust (lead based	1/28/2024 3:48 PM

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fuel) is more damaging to the environment along with the excessive constant airplane noise. We would really appreciate you targeting that problem.

752	Keep it off leash!	1/28/2024 3:44 PM
753	I'm asking you to please reconsider eliminating the large off-leash area for Westminster hills dog park. This is a truly one of a kind, special place for both people and animals, and it's removal would have such a detrimental impact to the quality of life of so many. Walking on leash is simply not the same, and given the large growth in population in the metro area, open spaces are becoming increasingly limited. I understand there is concern with over use. But would it be possible to implement other steps/programs first? I believe many people would be open to paying fees for park entry helping to alleviate any resulting maintenance cost associated with enforcement. Alternately, perhaps a reservation system, or pass could also be required? Would it be possible to share the alternatives that have been considered, and why they were found to be unacceptable?	1/28/2024 3:43 PM
754	As a resident that lives in an apartment with 2 dogs, access to off lease parks is essential to my dogs health.	1/28/2024 3:41 PM
755	I have been taking my dogs to this park for nearly 15 years. The only wildlife I have seen are birds. I have heard of a large population of rattlesnakes, but I avoid the elevated portion of the park in the summer and have never seen one. I haven't noticed a significant deterioration of anything in the park. There are very few trees. The rest is primarily grass, dirt, and weeds. What is it that the City is trying to protect out there? It's like high plains desert for the most part. If this passes, you are having more of a detrimental impact on your community than whatever is happening to the trails that is of concern. This is by far the most disappointing thing proposal I have ever heard from the City. If you pass this you will never hear the end of it from this community.	1/28/2024 3:32 PM
756	Please keep this area an off-leash area. This is a valuable community space and is particularly popular because it is so unique. I live in this adjacent neighborhood and frequent this area. It is a special,place and we enjoy being there with our dog off leash.	1/28/2024 3:06 PM
757	My husband and I live adjacent to the dog park and we bring our Australian Shepherd there 7 days a week. Many of our neighbors do the same. This unique park is a staple in our community and a big part of the overall lifestyle of living in this area. In fact, the off leash park is one of the primary reasons we bought our house four years ago. To lose off leash access would be devastating to us and to so many families in the community. Please reconsider.	1/28/2024 3:06 PM
758	I moved here 20years ago to enjoy all the open space and nature the area had to offer. Ever since it's been slowly built up taking away the beauty of the area. The open space and dog park need to be left alone. We don't need more growth in our area.	1/28/2024 2:59 PM
759	Please leave the dog park as is. There aren't many places to allow dogs to run free nearby.	1/28/2024 2:56 PM
760	Leave park for unleashed dogs Makes for happier dogs	1/28/2024 2:47 PM
761	This is one of the only places we allow our dogs to go, as it is much safer than normal enclosed dog parks! Please do not take away their only space to coexist with other dogs in a safe way!!!!	1/28/2024 2:43 PM
762	I recently moved to Westminster and I picked my house based on the off-leash dog park. Please, please, please do not take this off-leash park away!! This park is a boon to this town and to take the off-leash away would be detrimental to the neighborhood. It is oft used and much enjoyed by dogs and their owners alike. I understand the desire and need to manage the open space, but there are several options than to completely take the off-leash away. 1. Increase (significantly) the new proposed off-leash area. That is WAY too small for the amount of dog owners that use this park. Maybe make the current off-leash area 1/2 leashed and 1/2 off-leash and then alternate them. 2. Fence the areas that are being restored. Money can be obtained to do this by charging an annual fee or parking fee. Both Chatfield Dog Park in Littleton and Cherry Creek Dog Park in Aurora do this. I'm sure there are other ways/ideas to not so drastically reduce the off-leash section. Our dogs need somewhere they can RUN! Thank you for considering this protest of the new management plan to take away the off-leash park.	1/28/2024 2:41 PM
763	Please do not eliminate the off leash area.	1/28/2024 2:34 PM
764	I like the fat that I can take my dogs and leave them running free but I am in favor of making	1/28/2024 2:13 PM

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the needed changes to the dog park usage to benefit vegetation and different animal species. After reviewing all the information, my only concern is with parking. The proposed area for off-leash dog is by Simms St. and the parking there is very limited already with cars parking along the street on the weekends and even on the adjacent neighborhood. Even though with the other parking area off 100 St, by limiting the off-leash area according to the proposal by Simms St., it will make the parking at Simms even worse. I would like the council to consider the following: 1- Have a secondary off-leash area by the parking lot at 100 St. Also, it would be unlikely that people would park at 100 St. to walk all the way to the proposed off-leash area with their dogs on the leash until they get there. 2- Have an off-leash area connecting both parking lots, so that the parking can still be shared in both locations. This option would be more costly in my opinion. 3- Expand the parking area by Simms to accommodate the new flow. Also, I agree with blocking the water way (stream/irrigation canal/ditch) due to the high levels of E.coli bacteria, and I was wondering if it would be done by a fence.

765	Please don't take this space from our pets. It is an awesome place for them.	1/28/2024 2:09 PM
766	I think all the dog park restrictions are a brilliant idea. Aggressive dogs and need for animal control there regularly wastes resources. Cleaning up waste after others who ought to clean after themselves wastes resources. The tumbleweeds and eroding landscape is an actual issue that most of these dog people can't be bothered to be personally inconvenienced by. I live in the neighborhood and have seen this first hand. People's disregard for parking restrictions creates tons of traffic, congestion, and dangerous conditions on Simms and W 100th. Leashes are always a good idea, people who can't be bothered to care for any of this by preventing it to getting to this point will undoubtedly be the loudest voices.	1/28/2024 1:49 PM
767	We visit Westminster hills weekly specifically so that are dogs can be off leash and run. It is a rare opportunity and would greatly miss the off leash.	1/28/2024 1:32 PM
768	I sincerely hope you do not change the Westminster off-leash dog park. This is such an incredible place to walk dogs. There is very little aggression in dogs while off leash, it will stress out many pups if they have to walk on a leash near so many others, then less people/dogs will have the opportunity to use it. If you need to close off some of the back trails for the environment and rotate as needed every year. It would make more sense than to close down this unique space. Furthermore, I believe our tax dollars are funding part of the area, so the citizens should have a chance to vote on this issue.	1/28/2024 1:32 PM
769	The Westminster Dog Park is a one-of-a-kind off-leash dog park that I frequently visit with my dog as it is right out my back door (I live in Skystone). I do not take my dog to other, smaller off-leash dog parks because I find them to be too crowded and lead to too many aggressive incidents. Owners seem to stop paying attention to their dogs. I like that in the Westminster dog park, many owners are getting some exercise themselves and are generally controlling their dogs. This park is an invaluable resource to the City of Westminster and many surrounding communities and removing it would be detrimental to the character of this area.	1/28/2024 1:20 PM
770	We cannot lose the off leash dog park in this community!	1/28/2024 1:01 PM
771	I have a home in countryside and think the erosion of the 'no parking' area causes dust and mud increase in the area; and i think environmental concerns need to be addressed; and i think that there should still be 'some' off leash areas; but limiting it could be a good solution-especially since dog's continue to have altercations with rattlesnakes.	1/28/2024 12:47 PM
772	Please do not take away the only area we have to let our dogs be dogs. My dog listen's extremely well and I find it frustrating when I go to a park and have to put her on a leash. I love giving her her freedom and I can tell she loves it too. The moment I let her off the leash she lights up and gets so happy. Coming here has been a huge blessing in my life and would be absolutely heartbroken if that got taken away.	1/28/2024 12:46 PM
773	I live on Walnut Creek near the off Westminster hills off leash dog park and I heard they're co suffering reducing the size of the open space. That is very unfortunate and I hope the city will advocate for its residents and step in to preserve this space.	1/28/2024 12:43 PM
774	The open space is the one place both me and my pup can get outside for some good exercise. Dog parks are overcrowded and dirty and not suited for most pups. This place is critical to both of us.	1/28/2024 12:24 PM
775	If they reduce the off leash area as proposed it will no longer meet my needs. I will just walk my dogs off leash in the open space by Rommsberger fields and Ketner lake. This is what many people do now. The proposed off leash area is way to small. Most people like to exercise	1/28/2024 12:20 PM

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when they exercise there dogs. It's hard to do with the dogs on a leash. I guess people will have to exercise separately from there dogs. This small amount of land conserved will not address any of the wildlife management issues brought up but it's a good excuse that some people will buy. It will take millions of acres of preserved land away from cities to help the species listed. The polluted land of the old Rocky Falls site is much larger and right next door. This small tract of land will not help anything. What is the real agenda of city here. Do we have to remove the whole city council again.

776	We've lived within walking distance of WHOS for over 45 years. Back then all the streets were either gravel or dirt. There were no trees except for ancient cottonwoods. Since then the ongoing growth and population density has had a severe negative impact on this community and especially the wildlife. When we first moved here from North Denver we had pheasants in our yard and otters living in the tributaries leading to Ketner lake. These are many species we no longer see. Saturday, January 27th we attended the community meeting and learned the current WHOS plan is comprehensive and ambitious. We hope it all comes to fruition and there is no more residential or commercial development. Unfortunately the bottom line has been government revenue instead of quality of life for both humans and wildlife.	1/28/2024 12:18 PM
777	I make the 1.5hr drive to this open space so my controlled off leash dog and myself can enjoy the park that my tax dollars pay for	1/28/2024 12:14 PM
778	I think the City of Westminster should charge for using the dog park. I pay to go to the other off-leash dog parks and have no problem doing so. I pay \$25/year for both state dog parks and Boulder open space trailhead use.	1/28/2024 12:08 PM
779	Start charging for parking.	1/28/2024 12:02 PM
780	I do not agree with this plan.	1/28/2024 11:57 AM
781	Not a fan of reducing the off leash access to the Westminster Hills Open Space. We come to this park almost daily and is so wonderful for our dogs to get out and exercise as well as socialize with other animals. We have always appreciated the uniqueness of being able to get out on a hike with our dogs and being able to have them roam around without worry.	1/28/2024 11:55 AM
782	Please keep the WHOS open the way it is. We need places for dogs to run. There is plenty of open grassland in Colorado but limited pet recreation. Please do not change the park any more.	1/28/2024 11:51 AM
783	Please don't take the off leash dog park away. Its the only place left that's fun for dogs. We use it all the time and have been going since cherry creek dog park was ruined. Don't ruin this park too.	1/28/2024 11:51 AM
784	What is the data making this change needed. Will it remain open space? Please do not bring development into this space if we are to conserve.	1/28/2024 11:51 AM
785	My dog and I love this off leash park. It allows her a safe space to explore and run with other dogs. The upkeep of the place could be a little better but otherwise it is part of our daily routine. She gets so excited when we pull into the lot and we are easily there for 2-3 hours. I hope to keep the park an off leash park so they way I am able to let her be a dog and run around.	1/28/2024 11:50 AM
786	Please don't make this park on leash!! We love coming here for the off leash dog park and doing long loops of the park with our dog. We aren't likely to come back if most of it becomes on leash.	1/28/2024 11:45 AM
787	The Open Space should be immediately closed to all human and dog use, including the parking area. The area should be restored to its natural habitat. All toxins should be remediated. After the natural habitat has returned, no matter how long this takes to occur, the area can be opened in stages and monitored at each stage to insure that the returning habitat has not been compromised. First stage is to allow humans only on walking trails. Second stage is humans and dogs on leashes. No off-leash should ever be allowed. How to pay for monitoring: increase the dog license fees, increase penalty ticket fees, parking fees at lots. Monitoring can be done with a random patrol on foot and drive by, camera video, and public input. If monitoring costs increase then increase the fees and penalty amounts. We must insure that the dog owners are RESPONSIBLE for their pets. Poop stations will need to be installed and maintained. This area is NOT a public toilet for pets. Health and safety MUST come first above all. Our natural habitat and environment deserves priority! It MUST be	1/28/2024 11:30 AM

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restored and maintained. Yes, that costs money and everyone will have to pay the price.
Thank you for doing what is right and for your efforts to inform the public regarding this issue.

788	Absolutely do not change this dog park. In a state so focused on dogs, and having this park be so special, it's necessary for us to have a place for dogs just to be dogs. Leverage and conserve additional space, don't make the dogs pay for it	1/28/2024 11:23 AM
789	I'm extremely devastated hearing the news that off-leash privileges could potentially be revoked here. My fiancé and I come to this park every single day with our two dogs & it's their favorite part of the day getting to run around and be a dog like they deserve to be. I've never seen anyone take advantage of or negatively impact this space so I'm truly confused on the reasoning behind this.	1/28/2024 11:17 AM
790	The off leash park is a great representation of why people love living here in Colorado and Westminster. Any reduction or elimination of the off-leash park would be a very disappointing decision for the community.	1/28/2024 11:16 AM
791	I have 3 pointers. We need a place close to where we live where they can be off leash and "get their pointer" on. WHOS provides a legal area without having to drive a crazy distance. My dogs are well trained, don't harass wildlife, and I clean up after them. The current size allows them a 40 minute run in a decent sized area. If the leash free area is reduced there will be more conflicts, and more dogs off leash illegally, in my opinion.	1/28/2024 11:09 AM
792	When I had a dog I would always take her to the Westminster Dog Park. Maybe not so much during rattlesnake season. It's a great outlet for them to burn off some energy and to socialize with other dogs...please don't reduce the size of the very popular park	1/28/2024 11:09 AM
793	Please do not shut down the off leash dog park. I live in Westminster and pay property taxes here. Please address a better management plan that will allow recreational use for our dogs similar to what we have today. The reason why I bought my home in countryside is directly correlated to the Westminster hills open space and off leash dog park.	1/28/2024 10:47 AM
794	I am NOT in favor of this City Council idea! I don't know what their future plans may include, but the open space area should be considered an asset to the city and to it's residents. Adding any future development may be a financial gain for the city, as far as livability to the neighbors AND the city it will become a liability in the long run.	1/28/2024 10:47 AM
795	Do not reduce the size of the off leash dog park. I've been to Colorado resident in my entire life and I've been going for this place since it opened as a dog park. Please, please do not close and develop this area, it is one of the last great open spaces in the West Metro. I would be very upset if it gets closed down.	1/28/2024 10:32 AM
796	Leave this one of a kind dog park alone.	1/28/2024 10:31 AM
797	I have lived in Colorado since 2018 and the WHOS has been my driving decision on where to live in the area. I can live anywhere as I work remotely out of Seattle. Over the past 5 years I have purchased 2 homes within a 5 mile commute of this beautiful park that I can take both of my dogs to. If they don't get enough off leash exploration time, my dogs start to get aggressive... even if I'm walking them 5 miles per day on leash. The off leash makes a HUGE difference for me and my pups and taking this away from the community is going to likely force me to find another area to move to. This dog park is incredibly popular... the people that go there regularly love it. Sometimes you run into issues with people but BECAUSE the park is so vast, you can spread out and that decreases problems between dogs. Please PLEASE do not reduce the off leash area. This will impact my daily life and my dogs lives. There are so many other beautiful places that CO offers on leash walking at. Don't take away one of the few places we don't have to leash our dogs. I would be in favor of daily/annual park passes over getting rid of the off leash option. It's so unique and so important to my life.	1/28/2024 10:26 AM
798	You should keep the off dog leash, park open and keep it as is. This is more about the dogs have a place to run in, and especially for their owners.. yes, there will be a little bit of damage to the ecosystem, but it's taxpaying citizens it needs to be for their gain not for the land. I ride a mountain bike out there and my only gripe is I could possibly be chased or bit by a dog off leash and not contain by responsible dog owner. I've been lucky so far not yet bit, but I have been chased by some aggressive dogs however, I see a great need for toddlers to walk their dogs and enjoy this beautiful view and area my stance is to leave it as it is, do not reduce the size of the park.	1/28/2024 10:25 AM
799	I live in Countryside and significantly oppose the proposed management areas. If there is	1/28/2024 10:22 AM

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concern about needing money to revegetate the area, start charging \$5 a pop for parking like Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks do. You should not close the area east of Alkire to off-leash except for the small area by Simms. Squashing all the dogs in that area will be even more unsanitary and causing potential conflict that is unnecessary. Also, the area west of Alkire extended should continue to allow dogs on the trails and off-leash and least sight/sound control should be considered. As for wildlife impacts, even with the dogs we have plenty of birds that are around. There are plenty of areas nearby that are not allowed to be touched (Standley Lake open space south of 100th between the Greenway Trail and Alkire being one) where wildlife can be entirely unbothered by humans and their dogs (though the wild coyotes certainly cause their own level of menace). Leave the Westminster Hills Open Space alone for our dogs and our residents! Thank you!

800	Please don't change the off-leash rules for the Open Space. It is the only place near home that we can take the dogs with freedom and flexibility - and where they only meet other well behaved dogs! It is such a treasure for the community.	1/28/2024 10:08 AM
801	Please keep the Westminster Hills Dog Park Off Leash as is! It is a wonderful dog park that SO many local tax payers enjoy on a regular basis. Our dogs deserve a place to run free and this is one of the ONLY places in the Denver area they can do so.	1/28/2024 10:07 AM
802	It would be a travesty to modify the Westminster hill off leash dog park. Please look into other ways to mitigate the issues.	1/28/2024 9:55 AM
803	Please leave the park as a majority non-leash!! Many of the dogs are aggressive on leash and those who enjoy the park would lose the enjoyment of being able to roam "freely" within distance of their owners. Shoving a majority of the dogs into a tiny corner of the park will negatively impact their lives.	1/28/2024 9:55 AM
804	I have been going to WHOS dog off-leash area for 10+ yrs. This off-leash area is an example of what makes this community so special and welcoming. We are weekly users, we love and respect it! Being able to have this environment where our dogs and freely run and play and socialize make them and us all better!	1/28/2024 9:51 AM
805	Leave the park alone	1/28/2024 9:48 AM
806	The people wanting this shut down should be ashamed of themselves and recognize that the world doesn't revolve around just them. I think the ones pestering others with their pathetic flyers should be the ones on leashes. Karens at it again 😞😞	1/28/2024 9:46 AM
807	I am opposed to limiting space to the off leash park in Westminster. For the last 20 years this park has been a happy place for dogs, community, and natural prairie residents and predators along the front range. The proposal to reduce the size of the off leash area has implications of developers gaining opportunity to line their pockets at the expense of what makes Westminster beautiful. Save our prairies and natural resources from developments, concrete, pollution, and denser traffic. Keep the off leash park as it is. It brings peace to those that use it making all off us prosperous.	1/28/2024 9:44 AM
808	My family and I have been using this off leash open space for training, socializing, exercise, photography, ETC for YEARS. Please re think taking one of the best open space off leash parks around. We need to keep safe places like this open to other dogs and trainers as this seems to be the best spot for best results for us. Everyone keeps the dog culture alive and responsible/ respectful here and there are MINIMAL bad interactions between dogs and humans which is amazing. Please re think once again removing a vital part of our community and one that is used and loved e wry day by MANY MANY RESIDENTS	1/28/2024 9:43 AM
809	The reduction and change to the dog park would be devastating to the community and the larger region. This area brings in many people from surrounding cities to ours to enjoy the open space with their dog in a large off-leash setting, something not possible on this scale anywhere else in the close area. Making the proposed changes will most definitely reduce the amount of people to the area and ruin a gem our city has in this great amenity. I implore you to not make any major adjustments per the proposition and instead adjust the current maintenance plan to better upkeep the area.	1/28/2024 9:42 AM
810	Please keep it off leash. That is the only reason I take my dogs there and they love it. It is there happy place and that makes me happy to see them running free and playing.	1/28/2024 9:41 AM
811	This off leash area is essential for the community and the well-being and socialization of dogs and their owners	1/28/2024 9:32 AM

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812	<p>You successfully expanded use of an off leash dog area, adding more space over time, that folks now travel from around the metro area to use it. Now that it's been too successful, you suddenly want to change your mind in the use of the area, using protection of the species in the area as a reason, you're going to cut it off from use? What did you really believe would happen in a dog loving state with such a wide open area for owners to bring their companions? I would gladly pay an annual membership fee, to pay someone to monitor the area, regulating folks to the designated trails and picking up after their pets to maintain having this resource for days i cannot make a trip to the mountains but still want to give my dog a chance to stretch his legs more than a leash walk can do. Honestly, reducing the area for off leash and turning it into another gravel pit, fenced, cesspool of dogs passing around disease is just as irresponsible as expanding the park multiple times to then cut it back drastically. Modify some of the regulations & trails and charge a fee but keep it as it is.</p>	1/28/2024 9:27 AM
813	<p>This is such a special place for the local neighborhood. I agree that restoration of some unmarked trails is necessary but shrinking the dog available area to a minimum will completely destroy that area and will be a safety concern for off leash dogs. The people who come on weekends pose the biggest threat to this area because they do not respect the land. I live on Routt lane and walk my dogs here every single day and is one of the main reasons I moved to this area. I do not see the disrespectful behavior on M-F when it is primarily people from local neighborhoods using the space. Find a better solution for restoration without ruining the entire space for the locals. This space means so much to the dogs and their owners in the area.</p>	1/28/2024 9:04 AM
814	<p>Please leave the off leash dog park alone. The community need an area for their dogs to roam free. Dog owners are very good at keeping dogs in control from all my observations while walking my dog. I do think there needs to be stricter rules on picking up after your dogs but that's it. Remember this community is full of lawyers, voter's etc. Clever language wont go unnoticed. Keep it 420 acres. There are always people without dogs always complaining about the people with dogs. But indoor dogs especially the larger ones need a place to roam and feel free for a while.</p>	1/28/2024 8:58 AM
815	<p>Unfortunately, with overuse and irresponsible dog owners, the Westminster Hills Open Space is getting destroyed. Native species, plants and wildlife are threatened, and water quality is degraded due to the buildup of dog waste. Many dog owners do not pick up after the dog, and there are eventually thousands of piles of dog poop in the park. I support decreasing the area for off leash dogs. Clearly, when dogs are off leash, people are not picking up after them. I also support charging a parking fee, since there is a supply and demand issue. Revenue from parking could potentially pay an employee to pick up dog poop in the off leash and leash area, which would help with the water runoff contamination issues. Unfortunately, dog owners will not take responsibility for behaving properly, and if they are destroying the open space, harassing wildlife, trampling plants, the best thing to do would be to curtail the off-leash dog area. I would also suggest having a dog park voluntary cleanup three to four times per year, to pick up the waste. We had this type of event in the city I used to live in, and people showed up and did the work! My only concern with reducing the off-leash area at the park is that people will leave their dog off leash in other areas instead. Please charge a significant parking fee at Westminster Hills open space, enough to reduced demand, and then limit the off-leash area to the smaller section, which will make it more manageable.</p>	1/28/2024 8:54 AM
816	<p>I was pleased to have received a postcard about the open house. I believe The city if Westminster is good at informing its citizens as well as responding to their concerns. The issue of the Westmister Hill open space turning into a over populated dog park has always been a concern for us. We live in the Meadow View at Walnut Creek neighborhood and for years have enjoyed walking and biking and birding in WHOS. We have witnessed first hand,the environmental impact that the dog use has had on a gem of an open space. I support theefforts being proposed,especially offerering education to the ooen space users. I would be happy to volunteer with that effort. I am grateful for the parking mitigation that was done in 2023. That portion of Simms St. is now more safe for bike riders. I look forward to staying informed.</p>	1/28/2024 8:40 AM
817	<p>To the Westminster City Council, We live at [REDACTED] Westminster, 80021 and our back yard opens up into the Westminster Hills open space. We have lived here since 2011. Part of the reason we bought our home here was because of the off leash dog park that gave us the ability to recreate together with our dogs. We often run and bike with them around the park allowing both them and us to get some great exercise and enjoy the views of the front range and Flatirons. We also walk them off leash in the park a couple of times a day. Each of the dogs we've had over the years have learned to socialize and act respectfully because of their ability to be off leash. We already carry poop bags and make sure to clean up after them,</p>	1/28/2024 8:35 AM

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respecting the gem that is Westminster Hills open space and dog park. We completely understood the need to recently fence off the area on the north side of the space toward Mower Reservoir to give the area the rest it deserves and for the wildlife not to be disturbed there. We also respect the closed trails that were once part of our normal 13 mile loop around the open space and Standley Lake park to help regenerate the area. These all made sense to us. What doesn't make sense is the recent meeting and news that ALL areas of Westminster Hills May become on leash. This seems to be an overreach by the city when there could be other ways of lessening the impact on the area, many of which have already been put in place. Why not charge for parking to lessen the impact of those costing from outside the city? How about more education at the parking lots on cleaning up after your dog and the importance of keeping on trail? As a resident whose extended back yard is the dog park and open space we ask to not make the area an on leash only area. We, and many of our other neighbors live here because of it. Thank you for reading through this and taking my views into consideration when you are making your decision about the gem in our backyard.

818	Please leave the dog park as it is now. Changing it to an on-leash dog park makes it no different than any other park.	1/28/2024 8:25 AM
819	This space is a gem. We bring our two dogs all the time. Please do not put any developments on it. It is the only large open space for family and dogs in the area.	1/28/2024 8:21 AM
820	I wasn't able to attend your meeting but hope you were able to hear the push back on the proposed change. Ive been driving to this park for many years. it is the most wonderful park in the area by far. I oppose the B dogs on leash proposal. I understand and support the environmental concerns. I am a contentious dog owner and I hope you came up with another solution. I think the education of these concerns is important, and I'm sure there are cost effective ways to do that... wildlife signs, on line certification etc but I also can understand we have some ignorant and uninvested dog owners that are gonna require enforcement. let me know how I can help keep this open.	1/28/2024 8:20 AM
821	Please don't reduce the off leash area. This was a main proponent on moving to the location I am now - for the amazing benefit that Westminster had of an open space that allowed my dogs to run off leash. It would be devastating to see that reduced to a tiny area, that would now become so congested with off leash dogs that it would be harmful. Please listen to the people.	1/28/2024 8:18 AM
822	Please keep this dog park off leash	1/28/2024 8:11 AM
823	Please don't change the area. There's many mitigation steps we can take before closing 90% of the off leash area. This would have a negative effect on the local economy.	1/28/2024 8:06 AM
824	Keep the dog park completely off leash	1/28/2024 8:01 AM
825	Please maintain the off-leash open space policy. It is a unique opportunity for pets and owners. I support preservation of natural resources and the environment— maybe sensitive areas could be fenced off or traffic otherwise contained on the main trails.	1/28/2024 8:00 AM
826	I love going to this park, the only thing I would change is adding a gate at the entrance. Please don't chance anything else I have never had a bad experience here and I know everyone who goes here loves it.	1/28/2024 7:56 AM
827	I live within walking distance of Westminster hills and will no longer go there. The park has become over run with out of control dogs, feces and is not safe for me to walk in. The constant overflow of cars into the neighborhood is out of control and changes need to take place to better manage the problems. I fully support the proposal presented.	1/28/2024 7:31 AM
828	I fully support the proposed changes to the Westminster Hills Open Space. The overuse of the area is obvious and the impact to quality of life for us neighbors is enormous. The number of visitors to this park must be reduced.	1/28/2024 7:29 AM
829	It is very clear that everyone wants to leave things as they are. If anything make the paths wider. For those with smaller dogs that prefer to be separated create a fenced in area for them. Please do something about the rattle snakes.	1/28/2024 7:20 AM
830	I would like to have more public visibility into the plans for the leash and off leash areas of the dog park	1/28/2024 7:20 AM
831	Please keep the off leash area open and not reduce the average or change the rules around it. It is used and appreciated by the community especially as housing expands all around us.	1/28/2024 7:19 AM

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832	<p>This dog park must remain open space/off leash! As a resident of Westminster, I deeply value access to undeveloped open space. This land provides a unique opportunity to be in outdoor Colorado without having to travel. This is a feature in our community which is even better than anything Boulder has!! Westminster Hills is a reason my family and I stay in this area rather than moving to Boulder County. Please preserve this land for the use of your residents as as a destination for people from all pver who value access to undeveloped land.</p>	1/28/2024 6:44 AM
833	<p>Do not reduce our open space. This open space is of great value to our community, not just the Westminster residents but to all of the Denver metro area. As more and more housing and retail development continues to grow, filling in the open spaces between cities, the wildlife, and the people are feeling the squeeze. The Westminster open space is essential to us who live in the northern part of the metro area. It provides homes for the wildlife still thriving in our area and offers physical and mental well-being to people who visit it daily. We need to be able to continue to have access to this vast and beautiful open space. As housing, industrial, and retail development continues to grow in the Jefferson and Broomfield Counties, people need to be able to have this space as their oasis of peace and beauty. Do not reduce our access to the Westminster open space.</p>	1/28/2024 6:43 AM
834	<p>We have been taking our dogs to Westminster dog park off leash for years. It is such a great place to let our dogs run and at the same time big enough space for our dogs to play with each other Please do not change this beautiful space for dogs and their owners</p>	1/28/2024 6:42 AM
835	<p>Having a very large off leash area is so important for dogs to be able to safely enjoy the outdoors, especially for those without yards. Smaller dog parks are dangerous and lead to dog bite incidents. Large open areas, like Westminster Hills Open Space are becoming less and less available, which is especially a shame as Colorado is considered such a dog friendly place. I brag about this park to friends and family and my dogs have absolutely loved being able to "hike" with me off leash in a safe place. I appreciate wanting to make sure birds and wildlife are safe as well but there are plenty of spaces where hiking is already limited for dogs during nesting season. Please don't change the rules!</p>	1/28/2024 6:36 AM
836	<p>This park is always full of people and dogs. They are all enjoying the space and having a wonderful time. We bought our home next to it because of this wonderful space. Our taxes and fees are what allow these spaces. Respect us and quit shoving your decisions down our throats.</p>	1/28/2024 6:31 AM
837	<p>Please, please, please do not take away our off leash dog park. My dogs LOVE it.</p>	1/28/2024 3:21 AM
838	<p>Please keep the dog park off leash. It's such a great place to walk and most dogs stay on trail and do not impact the conservation efforts.</p>	1/28/2024 1:22 AM
839	<p>My pup-daughter and my whole family love the open space!! It's a wonderful area where we all go to get energy out and let our pup male new friends outside of her puppy daycare. There is nothing like have multiple trails and space to go have fun!!</p>	1/28/2024 12:45 AM
840	<p>The way this has been presented (ie title) seems very deceptive as to not alert dog owners who value the off-leash dog park to know that their is the intention to reduce the amount of acreage available for dogs to exercise with their owners. play fetch and socialize with other dogs. This is a one of a kind area which brings a lot of people not only to the park but to area businesses and has also been a motivating factor for many people to move to Westminster so they can use the dog park. Not everyone has human children. Some of us shop for dog parks and not school districts. We are taxpayers too. In addition, this rushed plan does not appear to have looked at how the park is a lot nicer than it was 20 years ago when I moved to live next to it. It was a dust bowl. There was no real vegetation due to the prairie dogs. Yes the trails are wider but some of that has to do with the City coming in to grate those trails an then the "you cant be within 6 ft of each other rule" That is when the trails widened. Many of the trails have been here since I bought my house here in 2002... with the purpose of being next to the off leash dog park. Many of us still go out an can be seen helping clean and maintain the dog park but where are the volunteer clean up days that we had in the past. I am thinking the last one was in 2018. I know the people who value this park are willing to do what it takes to keep it off leash and will pitch in to keep it beautiful. If people do not want to bring there dog to an off leash dog park there are many other places they can go... like right across the street by Standley Lake. Last point... While I am happy to see bikers no longer have to bike on 100th, I believe all the machinery that was brought in to create and the actual cement bike path may have caused some damage to the natural environment... as well as the gravel bike path that was put in to eventually connect with other trails. There appears to be some definite hypocrisy going on here. If preserving the natural environment this cement bike path project would not</p>	1/27/2024 11:49 PM

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have been allowed especially since it was installed simultaneously to this area management plan taking place

841	Will this area management plan be effecting the dog park? Will the WHOS be sold to build a neighborhood?	1/27/2024 10:51 PM
842	Disgraceful that the City wants to keep taking away from the people. I used to take my younger dog everyday and it was nice to have the space to roam around to clear one's thoughts and look at the beautiful scenery and be able to walk a few blocks home. Now that the path has been installed, it gives more people and especially older people a great place to walk. I also think that no bikes should be allowed in the park to disturb people walking. For the love of nature, please don't take this away from people. If it is reduced, then shame on you and you wonder why Colorado is getting to be a crappy place to live and I have been here since 1988.	1/27/2024 10:46 PM
843	We (my dogs and I) are strongly against the new plans to limit the size of the off-leash portion at WHOS. This has been our dream location that we have frequented almost daily for years. Even though, we have moved all over the Front Range, WHOS has always been our home, sanctuary and church. It is our paradise that doesn't seem to exist anywhere else in the front range. We pick up after ourselves and have had zero problems with any dogs or owners. It is delightful, healthy and a necessity to our lives and happiness. I have suffered from severe depression and addiction, and WHOS has been absolutely crucial to my sobriety and mental health. Same goes for my dogs. We all grew up and lived here, and we pay a lot in rent and taxes. This public land is loved by hundreds of dogs. They are just as important as the other animals that live in WHOS. I have never, ever seen any destruction or disruption to the wildlife, while being at the park. Also, almost always stop in Westminster for groceries, gas, food, etc., so we try to give back to the community of Westminster. PLEASE, please! Pawlease!!! DO NOT take this life-changing experience away from us! We are begging you!!!	1/27/2024 10:01 PM
844	I am writing in oppossion to reduction in off leash area of westminster open space. I have been coming here with my dogs for over 7 years. Both of my dogs have learned how to be dogs at this dog park by playing with other dogs. Taking this away will only hurt the community.	1/27/2024 9:53 PM
845	I appreciate the well reasoned approach to protect the Open Space. Requiring visitors to leash their dogs is a reasonable request that allows us to continue hiking with our dogs while still protecting the natural area.	1/27/2024 9:26 PM
846	Please leave our dog parks off leash. It is so important for dogs to run, just like kids (and adults), what will we do if you take this away? There are no places left we can go with our dogs and some people don't have a big yard that they can run free in. People need their animals to be happy and healthy.	1/27/2024 8:42 PM
847	I hope we can continue to have Westminster Hills open space serve also as an off-leash dog park. It gives much mental and emotional support for me to be able to commune with nature with my dogs. It seems the balance between the Broomfield owned portion that requires on leash and Westminster day time use allows the open space to be accessible to wildlife during the night. Even if dogs are required to be on leash, large wildlife (deer, coyotes, fox) would still not frequent the Westminster Hills open space park during the day due to human activity.	1/27/2024 7:36 PM
848	Please keep this land to be for off leash dogs! This is an amazing place for well behaved dogs to bond with other dogs and people without the confines of a leash. Additionally, it's a unique space that people love as it is. Please do not change it!	1/27/2024 6:37 PM
849	The parking and off leash dogs at westminster hills are out of control. I stopped visiting after my dog was attacked. This area is not safe	1/27/2024 5:43 PM
850	Thank you for looking out for our Open Space. I have watched the westminster Hills area slowly degrade for 10 years now.	1/27/2024 5:38 PM
851	I visit my friend in Westminster and love to bring my dog to visit the open space, and be able to run and play.	1/27/2024 5:35 PM
852	Please keep this as a dog park. It is the only area where the dogs are not on top of each other and the have the space as well as people to move around. Or change a good thing.	1/27/2024 5:15 PM
853	I am very happy with the reclamation efforts and the proposed plan. Thank you for all the efforts at community engagement. I hope that we can come up with a solution that keeps the current leash-free areas leash-free. I would also like to see the current social trail that leads	1/27/2024 5:11 PM

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from the 103rd ave. entrance made a part of the final approved trail. This is the entrance that we and our neighbors use when crossing from the Country side neighborhood. There should be one additional official North-South trail. I think the social trail that currently leads from the bridge at Meadowlark Way and bisects all the other trails on the way to the 100th ave parking lot makes the most sense, as it is the heaviest trafficked. I support more aggressive fencing, barricades and brush cover to recalim the other social trails in the open space. Especially to reduce the widening of the primary trails leading from the parking lot. I support turning the current On-leash area on the west side of the park into no dogs allowed. After seeing the contamination reports, I also support blocking access to the waterway. My dog however, is going to be very sad when she cannot play in the water.

854	This park is the only open space to let our dogs run and enjoy the outdoors. I do not support making this another on-leash dog park and forcing so many dog owners to look some where else to take their pets.	1/27/2024 4:56 PM
855	I attended the Open House today to get some questions answered, and I'm glad I did. I am definitely in favor of the plan as proposed. I think you need to emphasize that the proposed new area for off leash dogs is actually around 30 acres. It looks so small compared with the whole area on the maps/aerial photos. A young couple by me were saying how it wouldn't be any better than any other city dog parks, until I pointed out that it was obviously several acres, comparing it with the houses along Simms, but I hadn't realized it was as big as it actually is. Hopefully, as people are made aware how much damage is currently being done to an already diminishing area of short grass prairie, they will put the restoration of the natural habitat ahead of their love of having such a huge, wonderful place to let their dogs run free. As an Open Space volunteer, I am looking forward to being able to have some small part in the restoration.	1/27/2024 4:48 PM
856	The research presented certainly painted a picture that dogs and, particularly, dogs off-leash affect trail management, native plants and disturb nature which in turn creates issues for the city in resources and management. What hasn't been presented are any of the positive effects WHOS has had on the community. It would be more balanced for fair discussion and proposal to understand the benefits. Things like community space, economic impact of small business, home values. I don't agree with the proposal. The draw is off leash. Don't take that away. I'd agree to supporting the wildlife protection area but not going to support a passive recreation area. Let's better understand how Westminster can benefit from the interest. Charge a dollar. Put the money into management.	1/27/2024 4:15 PM
857	Please don't over manage our open space. No one thinks we need the city to help manage this space.	1/27/2024 4:05 PM
858	Please do not convert the off-leash open space. It is my favorite part about Westminster. My dog's well being is crucial to my mental health and this park is the only off-leash park within a practical driving distance. Thank you!	1/27/2024 3:52 PM
859	What are the plans for the Off leash Dog park areas? It looks like you will be making the off leash area smaller. Is that correct?	1/27/2024 3:31 PM
860	Are there any plans to create an entrance for pedestrians entering from the east parking lot that come from Simms? The crosswalk currently goes into a grass patch and then have to walk into the parking lot with cars leaving and entering. It would be nice to have a separate pedestrian entrance. Thank you Westminster for these efforts - I am excited to see the progress. I love visiting WHOS!	1/27/2024 3:28 PM
861	Your plan will create chaos,. People won't leash their dogs and no one out there to enforce it. Only way to change is to change use of area to off leash dog park and sell sticker for amount needed to fund enforcement. Give Westminster residents first choice with lesser fee and limit number of people and dogs. If this would have been done years ago wouldn't have this problem. Please don't take away from people and dogs,. Love area dogs can run free. Focus energy and resources on area you can control. Lots of open spaces to focus on. Please don't ask to leash dogs. Creates aggressive when one dog leashed and others aren't. Can't enforce any more than poop situation. Focus on people paying fee and having pride in area that supports what they want. Right now free for all because no enforcement.. trying to leash dogs will be worse. We need area for dogs and their owners in Westminster. Want all these people to start coming into Stanley Lake? Please don't take away joy of running for dogs and their people. Actually small area. Focus on different area I've lived in Westminster since 1997 and this dog park is why!! I go there with my dogs everyday! Joy of my life!	1/27/2024 3:00 PM
862	Hello! I believe that we humans have plenty of open areas to roam around, but for dogs there	1/27/2024 2:32 PM

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is almost none. That's why I believe that this area is so important for dogs to be able to run off leash. Please let the large area stay an off leash dog area.

863	Thanks for sharing info with the public. The off-leash dog area needs to be maintained and/or expanded. The number of visitors indicates a great demand for off-leash dog park areas in Westminster and surrounding areas.	1/27/2024 2:20 PM
864	We love the Westminster hills dog park. We go almost everyday during the colder months. Our dogs love being off leash and exploring the area. We hope they can continue to use it as a off leash dog park.	1/27/2024 2:15 PM
865	While we understand the need to preserve land and open spaces, I would urge council to change the current statute to allow for the continuation of the off leash dog park. It's the reason we moved to this community and would be a huge loss to our family. We would be happy to pay an annual fee to help support preservation efforts.	1/27/2024 1:58 PM
866	This was eye opening. Open space original use, issues with native birds and other animals, plant life, problems with dog refuse, problems with trail degradation.	1/27/2024 1:42 PM
867	1) is it possible to fence the walkway 2) charge for dog admission (per dog) 3) patrol an inforce dog limits, permits, and establish a volunteer owner patrol reporters with cameras n drones? The size of this off leash area is unlike any other dog park— Few people pick up poop Few people have recall of their dogs More patrolling and citations are required People are the problem	1/27/2024 1:41 PM
868	I'm very disappointed and upset city is choosing to take away great source of exercise and joy for dogs and their owners. City has choose to do nothing to slow growth of amount of people coming to park and then when too many want to close off leash area. How will city enforce leash law? Dogs on leash with other dogs off leash poses aggression in dogs and their owners. I really don't see how this plan is meant to help anything or anyone. Why not propose license sticker and real management with funds. I have been resident of Westminster and going to this park daily since 1997. Reason I moved to Westminster. Plenty of other open space in need of attention. Please don't take away source of great joy and exercise for soo many dogs and their owners who live here and pay your salaries and taxes. PLEASE!!!	1/27/2024 12:50 PM
869	Trekking off-leash at the open space is a tradition for us and a lifesaver for our pups. The dogs here are well-behaved, in part because they can get so much exercise from roaming here. Please keep the area off-leash!	1/27/2024 11:59 AM
870	Please don't make this area an on leash area for dogs	1/27/2024 11:55 AM
871	Please please please don't make Westminster an on leash dog park. We use the space weekly because it is one of the only areas we can allow our dogs off leash.	1/27/2024 11:24 AM
872	I live in an apartment in Denver and this is the only place that I can take my dog to run free safely outside. Please don't shrink the off-leash portion of the dog park. We love it here and we come here every single day in the summer, and 3 times a week in the winter. We also spend money at businesses in Westminster ONLY because we here often for the off-leash dog park. This place is so important to us.	1/27/2024 11:16 AM
873	We have visited the Westminster Off Leash Dog Park for years and would be devastated to see it become only and on leash area, and the offleash area be reduced significantly. As the owner of a dog who lives in a small apartment and doesn't thrive in small dog parks, Westminster has been a treat to be off leash and run for miles. Please reconsider these plans. Thank you.	1/27/2024 11:05 AM
874	This off leash dog park is already extremely busy and used. Why drastically cut down something so popular for residents of the county and people that visit Colorado with their dogs. Wasn't this space sold to the city under the condition that it would be for a dog park?	1/27/2024 10:53 AM
875	As an avid user of this dog park and a resident of the county I'm really disappointed to see such a small area for an off leash dog park. More and more homes are being built with little to no yard space for dogs as it is. Colorado is one of the largest dog-owning population so we should do something to accommodate these residents and their furry family members. I understand conserving open space but I think there needs to be substantial explanations of how this proposed management plan is going to benefit our ecology. Dog friendly trails in the Rocky Mountain regions are already limited and over populated. What is this plan going to do to ecology in other areas because residents are going to need to find another space for their	1/27/2024 10:49 AM

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dogs to exercise? The parking lots at this dog park are already crowded and heavily populated. Where does the city expect all these people to go with their dogs once the park area is cut in half and the off leash area is drastically dwindled. I am vehemently against these proposed plans.

876	The off leash dog park should not be restricted. The dog park needs more poop bins and more parking. To restrict the off leash dog park more would create a dangerous situation as the dogs, parking, and animal waste would be even more concentrated and therefore more dangerous. The parking lot should be expanded and more poop bins should be implemented. The off leash dog park should not be restricted. The family who owned the land designated it as an off leash dog park and it should remain that way.	1/27/2024 10:46 AM
877	This is one of the only areas in the Denver metro with vast space for off-leash dog play. It's been so valuable not only for my dog, but also for my family, and the small businesses of Westminster that we frequent after visits. I know that so many of us would be deeply disappointed in the loss of this type of space for off-leash play. PLEASE reconsider.	1/27/2024 9:21 AM
878	Do not close or restrict this off leash dog park. Close off the on leash dog park and leave the off leash alone	1/27/2024 9:13 AM
879	Please do not reduce the size of the off leash dog area. It is a wonderful benefit to our community. Reducing the size would not increase visits per year or value. We drive from Arvada to this park bc it is the best and largest off leash park in the Denver area.	1/27/2024 9:11 AM
880	Leave the park like it is for off-leash dog walking. It's one of the few dog parks around where dogs and people aren't crowded in on top of each other. Only place I've ever allowed my small dog off leash because she isn't getting trampled or harassed by other dogs.	1/27/2024 9:07 AM
881	This is my favorite dog park please don't shut down the off leash area	1/26/2024 9:19 PM
882	Please do not make the off leash area so small as in the proposal on slide 41. At least give us off leash up to the telephone poles that run across the top of the ridge and back down from there on designated trails. Jogging with a dog on leash is way harder than with one off leash, the proposed area for off leash is way to small for dogs and people.	1/26/2024 11:25 AM
883	My German shorthairs and I love this park. It is one of the few places I can take them to keep them in shape and they love to run off leash here. We also love the fauna during the spring. Please keep it this way. I would not attend this park if leash laws are enforced.	1/26/2024 9:17 AM

Additional feedback on following pages.

PLEASE NOTE:

Pages 80-153 of this export were redacted because they consisted of names and personal email addresses.

All comments submitted through SurveyMonkey as of 2/12/24 are included in this document.

WHOS COMMENTS SENT TO PRL DEPT. EMAILS (AS OF 2/15/24)

1. My husband and I bought our home in Countryside near the NE open space entrance in March 2016. We loved the idea of raising a family in a neighborhood with lots of long term residents, tucked away by the open space on the edge of the city. The first several weeks we lived here, we wandered the Open Space and enjoyed the view, so excited to have snuck into such a great neighborhood. The moment the weather warmed, we were met with an entirely different reality. Hundreds and hundreds of people on a given weekend flooded into our area. Weekdays the open space parking lot was sometimes full; on weekends it overflowed 1/2 mile down the shoulder of Simms and blocks into the neighborhood. Installing a second south side parking lot offered very short term relief to the parking issues as several off-leash dog parks in Denver metro closed, driving more people our way. I first sought out the support of Joe Reale in 2019, shortly after myself and a neighbor held an off-leash dog as it died after being hit by a car while attempting to run across Simms. Ever heard the squeal of brakes as they hit an animal? I have.

A different neighbor and her two young sons were VERY nearly hit in the middle of the blinking Simms crosswalk while returning from the open space just days prior.

It was about that time that neighbors began to question the blue vehicle parked alongside our fence. Has anyone seen it move? We are a vigilant, highly communicative neighborhood. We called it in to be safe. Turns out it had been stolen from Aurora, more than 2 months prior, which no one had realized because of the sheer volume of cars cycling through our neighborhood any given week. A few signs were installed at the entrance to the neighborhood—it took us months and months to get it done. Many residents would gently ask dog park patrons to heed the signs requesting they not use our streets for parking, only to be met with vitriol, cursing, even followup knocks at our doors upon returning to their cars replete with screams of “I can park wherever the F**K I want! Street parking is public parking!” Not an exaggeration. Once upon a time, my husband’s and my work schedule, road time, etc, was such that we craved the respite of home on the weekends. Those days are long gone. Being home on weekends is actually quite stressful now. To begin, our neighborhood is no longer quiet and 9 mos of the year, we must close our windows on account of the constant sounds of barking, dog park patrons navigating parking, car doors closing, beeping car locks, etc. The current highlights of weekend-living on the west end of Countryside now include:

Property damage

Dog waste & litter

Endless streams of new people

Random off leash dogs

People traipsing across our yards

Vehicles swinging into the neighborhood only to flip u-turns & speed away

No street parking for residents

Constant noise

This doesn’t even begin to touch the way the open space has been diminished over the last 8 years. What used to be narrow, defined trails within abundant beautiful wild grass and clean open views has been reduced to horrific stench, massively wide “trails,” out of control dogs, and dog waste dotting the landscape—some bagged, some not. It’s distressing to see that so much of its beauty has been

worn down to dirt. The current situation is not sustainable. We've traded in our native plant growth for invasive weeds and the smells of fresh grass have been replaced by that of urine. And what about the impact of concentrated dog feces on the soil itself. How is this ok? The City has done the research. It's been confirmed: traffic is horrendous, the open space is being depleted & the vast majority of patrons are from outside Westminster. The Parks, Trails & Open Space Dept made its recommendation—a simple, practical, informed recommendation to limit usage. Many, many of us are in strong favor of the proposed recommendation (or something even more limiting, to be frank). Yet, you seem more concerned with the interests of people outside our neighborhood and city than the cries of your own constituents. We have dealt with the fallout of your lack of action on this matter for years with little to no support. The vigilance required to live in the neighborhood is exhausting. Many of us are talking about moving away—largely on account of this issue. We love our dogs. We love our open space. We are tired of our concerns being dismissed. Truly. It's been YEARS of no one taking this seriously. Until apparently now, when a practical, reasonable recommendation has upset (mostly) those outside our area—people unaffected by the in and out daily impacts of the current open space usage. I do not care how the people outside our city feel about the choices we make as a city. They are not owed off-leash access to our open space or entitled to an opinion about how we allocate our resources. If people want a voice in the discussion about our open space, by all means, they are welcome to move here. Until then, their opinions, frankly, are irrelevant. I do, however, care that we restore and protect the safety and comfort of our residents. I care that we protect our finite natural resources. I would love to casually walk the open space with my husband again without stepping in dog waste. And I'd love to comfortably take my daughter to enjoy it. I would love to let her play in her own front yard on a Saturday. I would love to enjoy what my neighborhood has to offer rather than leave in search of less congested, quiet living on the weekends. This is a safety and quality of life issue for many, MANY of us. Please take this seriously.

2. I am writing in regards to multiple issues of the abusive use of the Westminster Hills Dog Park located west of 105th and Simms. As a long time resident and tax payer of the City of Westminster, I have number of complaints about what is happening to this land and our community. I have been a homeowner in the neighborhood directly east of the dog park since May of 2000 prior to the institution of the dog park when the area was a beautiful Open Space area available to anyone that wanted to enjoy the trails with appreciation for the beauty of the natural vegetation, wildlife, and the view of the mountains. These were once my favorite running trails and hiking with my kids. Since then the area has invaded by all kinds of people and dogs from all over that more than likely are not residents of Westminster, so they don't care about damaging the park, since they don't live here and don't pay taxes in this city. What were once 3 to 4 wide trails that allowed paths for hikers or runners to commute through the space without encroaching on the natural vegetation. This has turned into wide flattened fields of dirt with no possibility of regrowth. The requirement for dogs to be on-leash is completely ignored, so the dogs just run wild all over the area thus trampling the vegetation and it is uncomfortable when taking kids for a hike and dogs are not controlled by their owners. This is unsafe for us and our kids. The parking lots for the dog park are also overcrowded with cars for dog owners and probably people that carpool, so on the weekends the cars are parked along Simms Street and then into our neighborhood east of Simms. This creates additional unnecessary traffic on our streets where our kids like to ride their bikes and skateboard without the danger of constant traffic where sometimes the cars are driving above the speed limit. Although the city

provides plastic bags for the dog owners to pick up their dog's crap, most dog owners do not pick up after their dogs. And those that use the bags just leave them on the ground with the belief that someone is actually going to come by and pick up their crap. This is literally becoming a wasteland where at every turd step there is a landmine of dog crap and litter. There is trash consisting of food and dog treat wrappers, empty cans, cardboard, and other litter throughout the area. In addition, there is a terrible odor of dog crap coming from the direction of the dog park to our neighborhood. It's disgusting and it makes it difficult to enjoy the outdoors especially when we would like to barbecue and eat outside on our patios. Also, the noise from barking dogs, their owners, and the multitude of cars is very annoying especially on the weekends and in the evenings. It is total disregard for the privilege of use of this area. It is a disgrace and is disrespect for the residents of our community. As local residents and city taxpayers we resent these problems that are destroying our quality of life by the invasion of our neighborhoods by outsiders that are abusing this once beautiful land. I trust that you will consider these issues and can determine some measures to resolve these problems.

3. I am a former resident of the Westminster Hills area; I used to live across from the entrance to the off-leash dog park. I am writing to you in support of my old neighbors and current residents in the neighborhood next to the dog park, since they are dealing with insurmountable frustration regarding the off-leash dog park. One of the main reasons for moving away was because of the dog park, which is ironic because I had moved there 5 years prior specifically to be close to it. I cannot put a number to the number of times I had to help wrangle other people's dogs who escaped from the dog park and ended up in the neighborhood. While living there, I witnessed one person get hit by a car while chasing their dog, and on another occasion, I had someone's dog die in my arms who had been hit by a car in front of the entrance, and right in front of me. These dogs often end up in the neighborhood scared, in danger, and unwilling to come when called, and their owners left looking high and low for their dog(s). This is not a safe situation for residents nor for the dog owners/dogs visiting the park. Additionally, I have a background in ecology and conservation (I also work under a county Open Space department) and the impact I noticed of all this foot and dog traffic on the habitat has clearly been devastating. After recently visiting the park, I could not believe how the trails have widened so much that they almost don't exist; the park is mostly eroded dirt. Any of the native vegetation that was once there creating habitat for local birds and wildlife has now been replaced by invasive species or is just desolate. The smell of the dog urine and feces is also incredibly overwhelming. I believe this Open Space could really benefit from permanent or temporary closure to allow the habitat to recover and restore at least to some degree. I would highly suggest moving away from the off-leash format. This would help dissipate the amount of people visiting since the off-leash component is the allure for this site. Thank you very much for hearing my suggestions and comments. I think the Standley Lake area is such an ecological treasure in suburbia, and I hope the Westminster Hills dog park can heal at some point, thus relieving the neighboring residents of a lot of unnecessary life stressors and potentially providing much-needed habitat. Thank you again, have a great rest of your week.
4. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supports the City of Westminster in proposed adjustments to the management of the Westminster Hills Open Space. This vast open space is a unique resource and resides immediately east of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

Westminster Hills Open Space is a part of a large landscape of over 100,000 acres of contiguous protected lands. The open space provides habitat and supports a wide variety of sensitive wildlife species. Pets are not allowed on national wildlife refuge lands for several reasons. Beyond accidental mortality by pets, wild animals evolved to avoid predators. Continued disruption by perceived predators of critical life activities cause harm and eventually cause animals to abandon areas. Further, the potential of disease (particularly canine distemper) is a major issue to wild animals. Enforcement of regulations is challenging. Consistent regulations throughout the area benefit both visitors and the resources we conserve. Currently pets are not allowed on USFWS lands, but are allowed on adjacent lands. This can be confusing. Clear and consistent regulations across the landscape designed to conserve wildlife while also supporting human recreation is what we all desire. The City of Westminster has put a lot of work into this plan. There is a robust public participation process. Good luck in finishing this process and feel free to contact us with any questions.

5. I'm extremely concerned about the current plan to drastically reduce off-leash access. The one million people who use this park annually deserve a better plan to preserve their access to the park!
6. This is the only space my dogs have to be able to safely run without fenced enclosure or risk of harm.
7. I'm a local home owner as well as local business owner. I'm concerned about the plans to reduce the off leash area near Stanley Lake. I don't understand how or why anyone would come to that idea. The park is heavily used by the public. Go by any given day and both lots have cars. We have so many parks that are friendly to children, cyclists and hikers but we only have one area that is this friendly to dogs. Please reconsider any plans to change. The lake was already taken away from local residents. Please don't take any more public space away from local communities.
8. I just read about a proposal to reduce the off-leash dog space at Westminster Hills open space. While I do not claim to know all the details, it is my opinion that the large off leash dog area is good, and that it should stay. It is a unique attraction of the area and one of the reasons I moved to west Denver (I am in Golden now). I understand that wildlife may be negatively impacted especially by owners who do not pick up poop. But I would suggest finding other ways to mitigate this impact instead of letting a few bad apples ruin it for the bunch. For example, increase enforcement and fines for people caught not picking up. Or host volunteers clean up crews from the community. I'd be happy to help. Dogs are very popular here in Colorado, and the park serves a real purpose in the community for the people who live here. It's sad to see all the unique things about this place going away.
9. I strongly oppose the current plan to drastically reduce off-leash access. Forcing more dogs into a drastically smaller off-leash area would create more problems than it would solve! The park is an invaluable asset to all dog owners who use it, and to the community at large. LET IT BE!
10. I'm extremely concerned about the current plan to drastically reduce off-leash access. The one million people who use this park annually deserve a better plan to preserve their access to the park! It just seems you want to close it down because people are using it too much. Doesn't that sound a bit off to you. If things need to be done to meet the county standards just let us know, we have the manpower to make it happen. Please reconsider and be open to ideas. Thank you

11. I'm unable to attend the March 6 public meeting and wanted to offer feedback via email. I have visited Westminster Hills dog park nearly every day for the past six years. In that time I have not witnessed a single serious dog fight, a single dog attack on a human or a single encounter between a dog and wildlife. The great majority of visitors are responsible and conscientious dog owners. The park is an absolute gem of a resource for dog owners in our community. Its popularity is testament to that. Eliminating the off-leash area, or significantly reducing its size, would greatly diminish its value as a community resource. There are thousands of acres of open space wildlife and native plant habitat to the west and north of the park. Continuing to dedicate one square mile to off-leash dog use does not seem excessive.
12. The facts you've presented showing there are one million people who use this park annually shows how hungry and vital this type of access is needed for us. My dogs and I need the free and liberating connection with nature! See your data. What does it mean? Create more dog parks rather than reducing them.
13. I'm extremely concerned about the current plan to drastically reduce off-leash access. The one million people who use this park annually deserve a better plan to preserve their access to the park! I'm a fairly new resident of Colorado and also a new dog owner. I adopted a dog from the Golden Retriever Rescue. My sweet Golden is now 60 lbs., loves to run and loves all dogs and people. She is in her glory when visiting the off-leash open space and I would really hate to see that space diminished.
14. I'm extremely concerned about the current plan to drastically reduce off-leash access. I personally have a strong connection to the park as that is where I proposed to my wife. The one million people who use this park annually deserve a better plan to preserve their access to the park!
15. Please consider my opinion on reducing the size of the dog park. The park is massive. I don't have a dog, nor do I like paying to maintain for the entire front range to use COW dog park. It would be nice to walk in openspace without the concern of dogs jumping on me, or running towards me. Please consider folks like me that would like an open space to explore. Dog folks need to share.
16. Please don't take away the only decent dog park in the area. The small fenced in parks are terrible, too small for a medium-large dog, and the confined space promotes aggression amongst the animals. Please leave this space for our dogs to love and roam free as they should. It is my dogs favorite spot year round to romp and meet friends. Please, don't take away our only space and our best memories to come.
17. I heard this plan is due to the environmental impact we are having. I don't think that's a fair assessment as this trail is no more used than many in Colorado (chautauqua is much busier to name one). This park provides mental health for all its users. Why take that away from people for it to sit unused?
18. This park is unlike any other dog park and brings joy to so many people and dogs. It is extremely upsetting that Westminster can't figure out a way to manage it and their plan is just to take away the reason that it's popular in the first place. Shame on you Westminster!!! The large number of people and dogs that frequent this park are clearly showing that there is a demand for this large off leash area. Why not try an approach that doesn't punish the people who love it? This park is the best thing about Westminster in my opinion.

19. To those of you that represent and govern on behalf of the constituents of Westminster, I implore you to listen to the needs and concerns of the people of Westminster. The offleash open space is truly the gem of Westminster. It is the only place like it, locally and beyond. There are so few parks, trails or areas that allow offleash freedom for you and your dog to enjoy nature together. The open space has been critical for our family to be able to manage the energy and absolutely necessary exercise needs for our high energy, young puppies. It's also an incredible community of dog owners. In a state with a vast expanse of prairies and low grass fields, we need to consider conservation in balance with the needs of the community. Please do not steal and restrict this valuable resource and beloved park.
20. My family would be devastated by the loss of the off-leash privileges at Westminster Hills. Not only does it provide a beautiful space for exercise and community building for humans, but it's truly the only place that our dog can get the exercise she needs, with much needed open space to run and sniff. Smaller, enclosed dog parks like the area proposed in the draft plan do not feel like an adequate alternative. I have regularly witnessed more problematic conflicts between dogs in these more confined areas, and would not feel safe bringing my dog to the space in the proposed plan. I foresee more people breaking leash rules on trails and in other parks and open spaces if this rare off-leash access is lost at Westminster Hills. There is just no other place that resembles it. It is also clear by looking at the number of visitors that our community needs more access to these types of spaces, not less. Our family would happily participate in volunteer work (cleanups, trail maintenance, habitat protection measures, etc) to maintain access to the current off-leash area. Surely the species native to the area deserve to thrive, but humans and dogs also need access to beautiful, wide open spaces. We are confident that the leaders of this project can find better solutions to the issues faced without revoking such a vital community resource.
21. I'm writing because I'm extremely concerned about the current plan to drastically reduce off-leash access. This park is one of the main reason we live in and enjoy this area.
22. Reducing the acreage of the off-leash dog park by 90% will take away the only place I am able to exercise my dog. I have visited other smaller dog parks, but these make my dog anxious and we both leave stressed. The 400 acre off-leash dog park is good for my mental health and my dog's mental health. I don't understand why the 400 acre dog park is under attack by the Westminster Parks Department. I wanted to leave you with the following points. 1) I've been coming to the Westminster dog park regularly for 4 years and have never encountered an aggressive dog. I think the 400 acres eliminates dogs feeling that they are penned in and need to fight. Instead, they have space to run around each other and are not aggressive. If this is a concern then I would be willing to sign a usage agreement in order to continue using the park as is. 2) I understand that maintenance can be costly for any park. If the dog park is causing more maintenance dollars than other parks then I would be willing to make a donation towards the park maintenance as well as learn how to better maintain the area. 3) I've heard that maintaining the natural habitat is also a concern, but there are still 600 acres of open space not disturbed by off-leash dogs. This is plenty of area to focus on restoration and rehabilitation of the natural habitat.
23. Please stand up for the community that you work for. This is a wonderful resource for this neighborhood and one of the reasons we live where we do.
24. This is a fantastic park that promotes healthy dogs and dog owners

25. I moved to this area only because of the parks and will likely move out if there is going to be a reduction to the scope of the off-leash access to the park.
26. All this will do is encourage owners to take their dogs off leash in other on leash areas. Our dogs deserve to have one large area they can be off leash as everywhere else in on leash or so small it is a breeding ground of infection, dog fights and more. Please, for once listen to what the people of this community are saying.
27. Don't take away the dogs best park in Denver area!!
28. On the Westminster Open Space Dog Park management plan. This park is very loved!!!
29. As someone who bought a house in Walnut Creek to live next to this amazing dog park I was quite surprised to find out that this meeting had occurred. I walk my dogs here multiple times a day and never heard of this survey or the meeting. I feel that people who use the dog park need to have an option to attend these meetings and have a say in what is going on.... And advance notice is nice to have for planning purposes.
- This is a very popular place for dogs to get to be dogs. To my knowledge there is not another off leash dog park where you can walk for miles with your dog off leash. Please let it remain this way!
- There are numerous areas for hikers, bikers and on-leash dog walkers to go. To me making my dog be on a leash while on a walk is like making a kid be on a leash at a playground. It defeats the purpose. It was sad enough when you took the lake away from the dogs and now I'm hearing a rumor you are thinking about reducing the off leash portion of this park. I'm hoping this is just a bad rumor.
30. There is over 3700 acres of open space in Westminster alone, not including Broomfield, Boulder, Arvada and Rocky Flats. If you have ever visited the other open spaces you can see that many of them are populated by prairie dogs.
- Reducing or removing the off lease dog ability at Westminster hills will allow for yet another 400 acres of prairie dog infestation and remove one of the great things this area has to offer.
- Considering this 400 acres only represents 10% of the open space in Westminster, it is a mistake to hand that back to the prairie dogs. The choice is simple, dogs, or prairie dogs. The PD's already have 90%.
- take a bike ride down the Dry Creek path and you will understand.
- An option would be to charge admission for parking in the Lots at Westminster Hills. We have that at Standley Lake and Boulder Open Space Parks do as well.
- DO NOT hand this land back to the PD's, they have enough.
31. I have concerns about this space being developed in a way that is harmful to the dog population. For example, the use of pesticides and fencing unfriendly to dogs. I have used this park for 15 years and worry that it will be closed as an off leash park.
32. There is plenty of open space for wildlife without closing off leash dog area. This is great source of joy and exercise for dogs and their owners. I would like city to focus on how to manage amount of people. More and more people and city does not enforce any rules. How about city sticker you buy or get ticket with charge for management. Please do not take away such wonderful area for dogs and their owners!!

33. I am writing in opposition of decreasing the off leash space at the Westminster hills open space. This space is a wonderful opportunity for dogs to truly be dogs and exercise. My family has been using this space for 7 years and I cannot see any reason for needing to decrease the off leash space. I think there will be a large community of upset dog owners if this moves forward.
34. Please don't change the off-leash park. It is such a treasure to the community and improves quality of life for humans and dogs so substantially.
35. We're hoping the current comprehensive and ambitious WHOS plan becomes reality.
36. I understand your desire to maintain short grass prairie and all the wildlife, but reducing the off-leash dog area from 400 to 40 acres makes me very sad. Would you at least consider leaving 200 acres for off leash area? The Rocky Flats open space area is right across Indian and supports a vast area of short grass prairie and wildlife. The people who live in this area desperately need a place to let our animals run as more and more growth is occurring in our area. And if the concern is folks not picking up dog poo in the grass, those folks are the same ones who don't pick up dog poo period. Don't punish all of us for a few.
37. Leave the dog park alone. Keep it open and free and off leash. It is a wonderful place for humans and dogs to exercise. Please don't take it away from the community. Ps - We vote and we remember.
38. 1) It appears only 600-ish people were surveyed. I had no idea there was a survey and every person I know in Westminster was unaware of the survey. For such a large space, with so many visitors, and such a drastic proposal by Joe Reale, I think 600 odd residents is too small a sample. A mailer to EVERY ADDRESS would not cost a huge amount of budget and would ensure engagement.
 2) On that point, there were several slides that showed a huge online response for only a couple specific topics. I would like to see the data and verify the responses are UNIQUE responses and not simply a few people responding multiple times. I have worked in technology and am schooled in statistics and sharing the data would be helpful to ensure the veracity of the results.
 3) Also, in regards to the 1 million visits each year, it would be a better if we discussed how many are unique people. If the vast majority are local, then the park is being used by locals far more than people outside Westminster. Again, I would like to see the numbers and the rationale. Simply stating 1 million implies people outside of Westminster. For example only: If we say it is 800,000 Westy citizen visits and 200,000 from Boulder, Arvada, Broomfield, and other residents, that shows it is NOT an issue of "outsiders" but an issue of simple overuse by citizens. That would mean we need to engage ALL of Westminster, in a more formal and controlled manner, to ascertain what is really happening and what option we can consider versus such a draconian response to remove a massively popular city feature (off leash access).
 3a) As a corollary, in the online survey results, 140+ people claim they walk to the park. The fact that almost none of these people (walkers) were surveyed AT THE PARK (maybe 5 according to the chart, or 3%) means there is a problem with the data. Unique responses would help. 30% of online responses (140 of 500) said they were walkers and on ly 3% were surveyed at the park shows some issue with the data.
 3b) Another corollary is that the survey numbers seems to misrepresent the citizenry of Westminster and implies that 25% of ALL visitors are within walking distance. If that were true, we would need to see that data as it is at odds with our population.

4) Lastly, I have filled in the contact forms (<https://www.westminsterco.gov/Forms/PRL/WestminsterHillsOpenSpace>), sent email (Hayden Parrish, Lance Johnson), and tried to engage and have yet to be contacted about this topic. Yesterday was a community event about WHOS and I was never contacted about it. As someone who wants to be engaged, has requested to be engaged and sought engagement, to still not have any communication about this, shows we have a opportunity to do better with communication. I have many other questions about the survey, the results, the publication of those results and the proposition of Mr. Reale based on these results. I am very interested in engaging on this topic so please provide me an opportunity by sharing the next meeting where this topic will be addressed as I do not believe I have access to te scheduling nor the agendas of the meetings. FYI - I have been involved in local and State politics in Wisconsin and Missouri before moving the COlorado. (I got here as fast as I could, lol!) I have experience on P&Z at the local level and have worked in the Wisconsin legislature in my younger years. I believe I can bring salient, relevant and balanced conversation to the table.

39. Please keep the Westminster open space off leash for dogs! Do not reduce the area. This is a beautiful place for our family, friends, and pups to gather. Keep this space for us to enjoy with off leash dogs.
40. Just writing to sign up and stay informed about the latest on the WHOS developments. It seems as tho the city has proceeded with significant amounts of work without properly broadcasting the potential changes to the public, so I would like to receive notifications about upcoming opportunities to protest against the plans made by the city.
41. I've been going to this dog park since 2013 and it would be a tragedy to eliminate most of the space. I'm a member of a Colorado Bernese Mountain Dog group and we have meetups here that bring people from all over the state. Can't imagine a park a fraction of the size will have the impact to draw people outside of the immediate area. I live up near Loveland now, and it's not worth traveling down there for a small dog park.
42. There is TONS of protected land in Colorado. There are very few spaces like Westminster Hills available for dogs to enjoy off-leash. PLEASE find other ways to improve the landscape (if necessary) without reducing the off-leash space. According to the survey in the presentation, it is clear that people love this space and do not want it to change.
43. Hello, I am writing to voice my strong hope that the Westminster Hills off leash dog park area will remain in tact. It is such a wonderful gathering place and brings so much joy to our community. It is a true differentiator in what makes our city great.
44. Hoo boy are you going to get flack from the dog people on this one! But I get it, I have noticed a reduction in wildlife in the area, it's kind of alarming. I used to see loons and yellow-headed blackbirds at the little pond in the SW, but now nothing much unusual there, the people-shy birds have relocated. I admit to biking on the social trails in the area without thinking there was much harm in that, so mea culpa. I do wonder how / if the management plan will address biking. We looked forward to someday biking through the WHOS and into Rocky Flats and then on to Boulder, and I hope that will still happen. Anyway, flora and fauna very important and I support the changes.
45. We enjoyed the open house on Saturday, and applaud your efforts to preserve this space.
46. I'm Concerned about Westminster Hill open space's proposed off-leash cut. Limiting responsible dog owners hurts everyone: less exercise, frustration for pups, less park joy for all.

47. WHOS Dog Park is the best I've ever been to. Period. It embodies what Colorado culture is all about - Nature and our furry friends. Here's an idea - Spread out the foot traffic with more parking areas! It would benefit the weekend overflow of cars AND spread people out to nearby areas of the park
48. I have 2 large well behaved dogs and visit the dog park regularly. I live about 2 miles from the park. At times it's been a refuge for me to clear my head. I would pay a registration fee per dog per year to continue to access it and have it maintained and protected. The expansive space is so wonderful and limiting space would impact my ability to get exercise in a low risk environment (lots of space to avoid crowds). I went every day during COVID. I pick up my dogs poo (and sometimes other green bags I find on the trail), and keep on designated paths. As a rule follower I fear my dogs would be at risk, plus I can't walk them both together.
49. Please let me know when public meetings concerning this Open Space are conducted so I may attend and provide input!
50. Thank you for taking the time to figure out how to protect what few open spaces we have in Westminster. I agree the open space is being loved to death. I think pay to park would help decrease the traffic even but law enforcement resources would be needed to enforce. And the surrounding neighborhoods could be impacted by those refusing to pay and accept they need to move along if no spots are available. But something needs to change.
51. I walk my two dogs here daily and I am diligent about picking up their poop. I am totally against reducing the space available for off leash dog walking. The off leash area currently available is perhaps the most attractive asset/opportunity in the community for people and their canines.
52. Please listen to your residents and do not change our dog park. Your reasons are not valid. You had plenty of opportunities for wildlife but overbuilt your city and now are using the city designated off leash dog park as your option to saving wildlife. This is a beautiful park and people drive for miles to come to this park. Please do not change the DOG PARK!
53. There are rumors floating around stating the Off-Leash Open Space will soon be changed to an On-Leash park. I am a huge advocate for the space remaining Off-Leash.
54. With over 1 million annual visits the current space and off leash open space is serving all elements of the surrounding communities. Elderly socialize, families are out walking and dogs are socialized, a million people are experiencing the benefits of the outdoors in an area that is large enough to accommodate. There are better ways to achieve crowd control maybe pay to park on weekends or even throughout the week. A weekend reservation system? The gradual closing of trails and removal of bags is a clear indicator of a long term plan that is now coming to fruition at the expense of the 1million constituents. This is not acceptable.
55. I would like to be informed of upcoming meetings, notices, updates, etc. associated with Westminster Hills Open Space. As your website mentions, "Simply put, Westminster Hills is being loved to death,". It is being loved to death because it is the only place of its sort and there is a desperate need for open space for dogs to move freely. There are many open spaces where wildlife abounds such as Stanley Lake which is so very close by. There are no other open spaces that allow dogs this type of activity. I want to ensure my voice is heard in the discussion.

56. I am a daily user of the Westminster Hills Off Leash Dog Park. I am curious to know who, & why, any group would want to limit this space to the tax payers who use, & enjoy, this park ?
57. As this is the only off leash dog park (in the area) that is bigger than a parking lot filled with gravel/ sand it would be a shame to lose this area. I am fully aware that the land needs to heal but in order for the community to allow the closure of this area, the community will need a different area to take their dogs to. I would suggest opening another off leash dog park (of similar size) if the Westminster hills needs to be closed.
58. So many of the dogs who come to the park are lg and need space to run and burn off energy which can't happen when on leash. This park has been a delight to both dogs and hikers (owners). The water feature in the summer is a delight but I wonder if that will continue due wildlife you are trying to provide for in the park.
59. hi! one of my favorite experiences in this world is taking my dog on a long off leash walk at westminster. it is equally enjoyable for the both of us. she learned how to be a dog at "westi", she gets to unleash her inner desert dog and is so joyful, and she has the opportunity to play with other dogs (compared to many of the smaller dog parks around denver, which become aggressive very easily). for me, there's nothing better than having a place to walk for miles enjoying the open space, the sun, the sunrise and sunset, and the nature. westminster hills dog park is one of my favorite things about living in the denver area. i do believe the community will accept a compromise, such as a fee, to balance the need for conservation with the ability to keep this park off leash.
60. I cannot stress enough how strongly I oppose shrinking the space of the off leash dog park. It is where I spend at least an hour per day getting exercise for myself and my dog. There is more than enough on leash and open recreation area for other purposes without taking away the freedom to allow dogs to run freely and truly get the exercise they need.
61. Concerned about reducing the space at the off-leash dog park.
62. Hi there. My name is [REDACTED] and I live very close to the Westminster hills dog park. I have been frequenting this park, probably 3-5 times per week for the last 15 years. I am beyond sad to hear about the proposed plans. I, for one, am very environmentally conscious and understand the importance of preserving space and wildlife. That being said, I think there could be other ways to cut down on traffic/use of the park while still protecting the environment. This park is such an important place for the community. It is a source of exercise for people and their beloved pets. It is unique in that it is a large open space-allowing for a hike, while enjoying time with others. I think the plans for a very small off leash dog park will negatively effect the community who love this space. It is well known that these small dog parks lead to aggression among dogs, illnesses among dogs, and the crowded space does not bode well for any visitors. In addition, I suspect the neighbors right next to this proposed area, would be hugely effected in a negative way. There are a few thoughts I have been pondering the last few days and would like to share with you. I do not feel that the excrement picture/study in your powerpoint adequately describes or shows the issue at hand. Yes, people need to be more responsible. However, that picture, was taken in an area near the parking/entrance. If you took other samples further out, I doubt you would find nearly the amount of excrement samples you did in the location that was shown. In addition, I feel that perhaps placing a set of trash cans near the west side of the park would be very helpful. Having only trash cans at the entrance of the park is not acceptable for a park this big. I feel that people often don't pick up the stool due to this issue.

It is also much less common you see dogs off the paths that have been created in the park. Most dogs, stay on the paths. The cacti and other plants keep dogs from wanting to wander. If you visit on a weekend, most pups are playing on the path or walking w/their owner. Of course, you get the occasional straggler, but it is not the majority.

Have you all thought of charging a yearly fee for parking there? I would be happy to buy a yearly parking pass if it meant I could utilize the space as is. This could cut down on traffic and perhaps cut down the number of individuals visiting the park each day.

Have you thought of doing a "voice and sound" certificate program like Boulder does? It requires individuals to sign up, take a class/test to allow their dog off leash. The license/tag is sent to the owner to allow individuals to keep their dog off leash on certain trails. This would also probably cut down on numbers and hopefully educate people on the importance of cleaning up their dogs stools. If individuals chose not to take the class-they could still use the small off leash dog park. Dogs that were voice and sound certified, could utilize the other sections of the park.

Please take care in making the decisions at hand. Again, this is such an amazing area that people truly love. It seems like there could be ways to allow the space to remain but to cut down on the traffic and high numbers. What is more disruptive to the environment is the sprawling houses southwest of the dog park, the additional gas stations being built, the new car washes going up etc. We love this space and would be beyond sad to see it go.

63. Please keep this space open for off leash dog use. I live nearby and I use this park 3-4 times a week to exercise and socialize my high - energy labs. It is also a great way to teach dogs as there are plenty of places to do off leash training and exposing them to bicycles and runners as well. I think it's an important part of our community and is a place that I can go to be with my dogs, interact with other people and look at the beautiful surroundings.
64. I would like to stay informed about the Open Space Management Plan, especially what is to happen to the off leash dog park. While I understand the need and desire to protect open space, I am hoping for a greater space for off leash dog walking than the tiny corner that is currently proposed.
65. I live nearby the WHOS & use it occasionally. Please keep me on the mailing list for information about how this study & planning process proceeds. Thank you.
66. We use the Westminster Hills Off Leash Dog Park twice daily. It is the only park close enough to our house for our dogs to run free. There are several on leash areas around Standley Lake. I don't see why you need to make the 1 off leash dog park in the area, an on leash dog park. Many people already keep their dogs on leash at the park while others let their dogs run and play. We are unable to attend the meeting on March 6th as we will be out of town. I urge you to keep the dog park as an off leash dog park so we can continue to let our dogs run and play.
67. The city is not being transparent about the proposal to reduce the off leash area at the Westminster Hills park. Communication with visitors has been vague and misleading. As a resident who views this park as an incredible asset in our community, I want to join the mailing list to stay informed.

68. Please reconsider the plan to reduce the off-leash portion of the dog park at 100th & Simms. I travel from Hyland Village to the dog park (about 10 miles roundtrip to visit with my 3-year old Lab mix, several times a week throughout the year. This location is really the only park in the NW area to have a large off-leash park where both my dog can run and I can get plenty of exercise. And the views are beautiful! This is a huge benefit to me and the community. I WOULD NO LONGER VISIT THIS PARK IF THE OFF-LEASH AREA WERE REDUCED. I believe that we NEED this park for our residents and their dogs. I would do almost anything to save this park! As a footnote, a pickup waste left behind on my walks to do my part to keep the park in good condition. Please keep the off-leash portion as it is. Thank you
69. Please add me to your mailing list. We have lived directly across from the Simms parking lot for 15 years, walking our dogs and me mountain biking the established trails. We've seen the explosion in popularity thru these years and unfortunately the excessive environmental damage and dog/human conflict that has resulted. We want to be involved in the public input process so we can help make good WHOS development decisions. Thanks
70. Please retain the 400 acres now designated for humans and their dogs to enjoy the Westminster Hills Open Space.
71. I am very disappointed to learn the at the VERY poorly shared open house meeting Joe Reale shot down the idea to have the park be pay to use, citing basically "it would be too complicated." Absolute lazy hogwash.
 For someone who claims to excel at : " community outreach, stakeholder engagement, cross-function collaboration"
 He only seems to be motivated by getting the only solution HE deems suitable moved through as as fast and non-collaborative as possible. No one wants to remake the wheel. But it would behoove him - and the city and the residents of Westminster and visitors to the open space off leash park- to take part in more productive solution -based conversations that have compromises where more people win than lose.
72. Please do not develop this land. Obviously, front range residents desire more open space. Example, the "old" open land near Sheridan, Lowell, 84th should have been purchased for the enjoyment and well being of the citizens.
73. Hello, I recently heard the confusing news that you may reduce available open space for dogs off leash in Westminster Hills. I come here regularly with my dog and love this park, it is one of the few places he can run free. He's a border collie mix with a ton of energy and isn't interested in playing with other dogs in a cooped up area, but he loves sprinting down the trail.
 Cherry Creek's off leash area south of the Metro has invested in fencing and signage to help restore habitat and ecosystems. Dog owners will gladly cooperate if you implement rotating closures, and closing/barricading trails last year appears to have been effective.
 Please continue to invest in the maintenance of this land, but narrowing the available area for off leash activity won't solve the problem and will only frustrate visitors. Dogs need a place to run.
74. First, I would like to thank you all for taking the time to perform this survey and for keeping an open dialog with the community! I, along with many of my fellow WHOS visitors love using this area and care deeply about the natural resource it represents; I for one am more than willing to do my part to actively help preserve the WHOS both as a natural resource and community space.
 I have read the environmental survey conducted by ERO (10 Jan, 2024) as well as the presentation and survey and generally agree with the recommendations provided therein. I have some additional recommendations:

1. lean into the community culture of compassion and conservation; get people to lend a hand. If you ask for help, people will come! Encourage and facilitate guests to pick up any waste, regardless of its source. Most visitors are locals who are likely be willing to volunteer to help do their part if they are given the resources to do so (i.e. bags, trash cans, scoops, etc). Currently, there are only 2 trash can locations and this tends to decrease the likelihood that a visitor will clean up after their pet because of the inconvenience of carrying a full bag of poo for an extended period. Additionally, if a visitor does not have a bag (e.g. I ran out of bags after walking more than a mile into the space), they will not return to retrieve waste if it is far enough away from a receptacle.
2. focus on education (not just fines, shaming, etc). The goal is to get people to WANT to do the right thing, and to encourage others to do the right thing too. Make doing the right thing as convenient as possible while making the wrong thing a conscious and intentional action. People want to do the right thing, but people also tend to take the path of least resistance.
3. add physical barriers to paths to help discourage off-trail violations. also use physical barriers and signage to help create a "visual funnel" and discourage short-cuts (i.e. at intersections and entrances). Cherry Creek is an excellent example.

75. Hi, My wife and I have attended the meetings held at the recreation center on 108th. Our home backs up to the open space, and we are very appreciative of the City's attempt to more carefully manage the asset. Because of multiple negative dog-dog and human-human interactions at our fence, I would like to see a physical barrier erected to keep dogs away from our fence along with some of the rude, aggressive dog handlers.

I find it interesting that the homeowners are responsible for providing a fence to protect their families from the uncontrolled dogs on City property, which is a situation that the City created.

Thank you for your efforts and all the data you have available.

76. I would like to stay informed on the Westminster Open Space Area Management Plan. The off-leash area is an invaluable resource to my family.

77. I'd like to stay informed if and be involved in the plans for the Westminster Hills Open Space Dog Park. I am a resident of Westminster and a long time visitor, and lover, of our beautiful dog park.

78. We live at [REDACTED] and have since 2007. We very much enjoy the open space and dog park. We would like it to remain as an open leash dog park. I am filling this form out to be on your email list.

79. Have you considered requiring paid parking or a parking pass for non-Westminster residents to use the park? This would be similar to what the City of Boulder does for their open space parks. This might discourage some people from using the off-leash park and the additional revenue it would generate might pay for fencing and signage to keep people and dogs on established trails. The City of Boulder also requires that off-leash dogs to wear a tag, paid for and renewed annually, that is distributed to dog owners once they have completed on "off leash training" about trail courtesy and how to be a good steward of the park (like picking up their dog's poop!)

80. I would like to write and express my frustration and disagreement with the City Council's current proposal to manage the Westminster Hills Open Space Park. I am a frequent (3-4 times per week) visitor of the dog park and would be greatly disappointed to see its size and use so significantly reduced. The proposal appears to have been planned and initiated with minimal concern for the opinion of the majority of visitors of the park. The management plan makes specific note of how many people per year visit the park but fails to mention what percentage of those visitors are there for the sole purpose of off-leash use. I believe it to be a safe assumption that, under the current proposal, the number of yearly visitors will drop dramatically, effectively reducing the positive impact on the community this open space park is meant to serve. As elected officials, it is your duty to represent the opinions of your constituents, not the opinion of the open space superintendent. I implore you to make a choice that aligns with the voices of the people who use the park, that is, after all, why you are in office.
81. A number of years I participated in monitoring for western burrowing owls. This is a large enough continuous undeveloped area to be a special place for wildlife, especially compared to other Westminster Open Spaces. The land was in pretty poor shape - degraded by unauthorized trails, of trail hiking and biking and especially by dogs off leash in the western 600 acres which are not part of the off-leash dog park. Access to the western part is not ideal unless one parks at the dog park and walks through it to get to the west. Mower reservoir/pond has varied wildlife that can be seen from fairly close distance, but I have also noticed people with dogs off leash there. There needs to be better signage designating the off leash dog park from the rest of the property, and better yet fenced barrier. I haven't been to the park in 2023-2024, so some of my remarks maybe out-of-date.
82. Can we work together with the City to start a nonprofit organization (NPO) that can support WHOS with cleanup days, fundraising, etc.? This would allow those of us who want to be part of the solution to take constructive action.
83. We go to the Westminster Hills Open Space Dog Park about 100 times a year for the past 6 years. It is the only place I can walk or run with my dogs 3 to 4 miles off leash. It is our happy place. We are very good about picking up after our dogs. We would be devastated if the park was shrunk down and dogs were no longer allowed off leash. What is the real issue and reason and motivation behind it he proposal to shrink the park and not let dogs off leash? Let's work together to brainstorm ways to fix the city's concerns. Isn't there already plenty of open space for wild animals around Standley Lake and Rocky Flats? I would be willing to pay the City of Westminster an annual fee to keep the Westminster Hills Open Space off leash for dogs...we would be willing to pay a fee to off set the cost of trash collection, etc. Perhaps organize more volunteers for more park clean up days? Also, did you know that the City of Boulder brings in revenue by selling special dog tags for dogs to be off leash on some trails? Perhaps do that. Please don't change/shrink the amount of acreage we can walk/run our dogs off leash at Westminster Hills Open Space. Thank you for your consideration.
84. I am here to comment on the possibility of restricting the use of the Westminster Open Space Dog Park on 104th and Simms to only pets on leash with only a very small portion allotted to off leash. The congestion in this small corner will be overwhelming and likely to lead to some negative canine encounters. I attended an open house at the Recreation center to obtain a bit more information and was sad to see the posters and information being handed out was very very biased to the restriction of the park to dogs on leash. There was no information provided regarding the benefit to the community that the park provides. It saddens me to see the City not provide equal sides to the situation.

With that said, I frequent the dog park on weekends. I love that park. Not only does it benefit my dog, I enjoy the scenery of the mountains and fresh air unencumbered without the constant tugging of the leash. I understand one of the concerns is ecology. I disagree with this. I am an environmental engineer with a second degree in biology and have a pretty good understanding of biodiversity and ecosystems. I have encountered rattlesnakes on two occasions there, so they are around. I am an avid birder and often join the Standley Lake bird watching walks on Saturdays. During this walk we have witnessed repeatedly the presence of eagles, variety of hawk species and other birds just across the street at the nature center. I disagree with the statements that they are in need of more habitat. They are thriving in the area. However, I understand there are some burrowing owls nearby that could potentially benefit from additional habitat. A compromise may be to limit the immediate area around the owls instead of the entire park. If anyone from the City were to frequent the park, they would see that the vast majority of use along the trails as you proceed away from the parking lot does not extend much beyond 10 feet on either side of the trail. The dogs usually run ahead or run behind mostly along the trail. Of course there are a few that take off beyond these bounds but that is not the norm. I will admit that there are some owners that are not good about picking up after their dogs have defecated and have the attitude that it is okay – after all it is an off leash park. I disagree with that kind of behavior and a possible solution would be to provide additional trash cans and doggie bags on the west side of the park for better access. Many people do not carry bags or do not want to tote around a bag full of poo. I agree that is an irresponsible pet owner; which, you will find everywhere and not just in this location. Parking – I know at peak times this is an issue. I have noticed people's total disregard to the parking rules along the street. Parking tickets and better signage may aid in this regard. A bigger parking lot will only increase the congestion and not solve the problem. Too many people enjoy this area. What benefits do off leash dog parks provide? Both for humans and canines, it is an opportunity to get out and socialize in the fresh air. Dogs benefit from the sense of freedom and eventually become better canine citizens because of it. At the same time, the human is also free of the leash. People share pet stories, lessons learned, and canine etiquette tricks and tips. The sheer volume of visitors to the area shows the need and want of this type of park. Perhaps the City should consider an additional park of this nature in another area to relieve the congestion at this park instead of taking it away. I challenge the City to try to reach some type of compromise other than designation of a very small corner of the property as the off leash section. There are other ways to achieve some type of coexistence with the abundance of people that use this area that align with the core values of the City's Park system other than a complete restriction to leashes and a small corner.

85. I'm very concerned about the loss of any space for the off-leash dog park. It is the only space like this in Denver Metro area and I take them there weekly to give them the freedom to run.

WHOS COMMENTS SENT TO CITY COUNCIL (AS OF 2/14/24)

1. I come here nearly daily and everyone picks up their dog waste as far as I can tell!
2. I oppose resizing the dog park to be restricted within the boundary defined by the canal. The size/openness of westminster hills is what sets this dog park apart. Reducing the boundary for off leash dogs would create congestion and less desirable conditions for visitors. I have a shy dog and we love how open the dog park is. We can explore without being crowded by other dogs. Please keep westminster hills dog park off leash.
3. I am writing to express my support for the current off-leash policy at our local dog park and to urge the city council to maintain this policy. As a resident and frequent visitor to the park, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that off-leash exercise and socialization opportunities have on our canine companions.

The dog park serves as a vital space for dogs to run, play, and interact freely in a controlled environment. It not only promotes physical health but also contributes to their mental well-being and socialization skills. For many dog owners, including myself, the ability to allow our pets off-leash in a safe and designated area is essential for their overall happiness and quality of life.

I understand the importance of ensuring safety and responsible pet ownership within our community. However, the current off-leash policy has proven to be effective in fostering a sense of community among dog owners while also maintaining a respectful and enjoyable environment for all park users. Moreover, it allows for better enforcement of rules and regulations regarding vaccinations, waste disposal, and dog behavior.

I kindly urge the city council to consider the significant benefits of maintaining the off-leash policy at the dog park and to continue supporting the needs of our canine companions and their owners. I believe that by preserving this policy, we can continue to enhance the overall well-being of our community and strengthen the bond between residents and their beloved pets.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your favorable consideration of my request.

4. Please do not reduce the off leash dog park! It's such a key part of our weekly routine. We come out here 2 to 3 times a week with our friends and dogs to let them run free. It's such a unique place and our friends come from Erie, Denver, Boulder, and even Firestone just for this place.
5. I've recently become aware that you plan to make the Westminster dog park area an on leash only park. This is a valued part of our community that many wish not to lose. This safe place for dogs not only provides a unique area for socialization and exercise for dogs but people as well. This restriction would not only hurt dogs but their owners as well. Please reconsider this bill.
6. I am writing to express my support for the current off-leash policy at our local dog park and to urge the city council to maintain this policy. As a resident and frequent visitor to the park, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that off-leash exercise and socialization opportunities have on our canine companions.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your favorable consideration of my request.

7. Hello! I am writing to impress upon the counsel what a valuable part the dog park at Simms and ~105th is to my enjoyment of Westminster. I always see many people frequenting the park. It is a beautiful open space that gets a lot of use. Please keep it open and available to the public.
8. I have been going to Westminster dog park for years and it is the only large, free dog park in the county. It's been a godsend for me because I live in an apartment in Denver and need a place to exercise my high energy dog. Please don't take the area away from us, we depend on it!
9. Hello, I saw a proposition at the Westminster hills dog park to reduce the size of the dog park, specifically the off-leash part. I am writing to request that this does not happen. And to express my desire to keep the park how it is and to not reduce the size of the off-leash area. I am a Westminster resident and purchased a home specifically for the dog park and would appreciate that it stays the way it is. Thank you very much
10. A news article says you're considering mandatory leashes. I'm a senior citizen who uses the bike trail that crosses the dog park. I guarantee you that dogs off leash are not under voice recall command. I've been aggressively chased by them while owners yelled helplessly. The reality is that most dogs won't break chase of a bike. Many dog owners think they are exclusively entitled to the trail. This is a multi-use trail and sooner or later someone will get bitten. The wise choice is to require leashes and *enforce it*. Thank you.
11. I wanted to reach out after hearing about the proposed plan to significantly downsize this park. I have been coming here for years and its one of the only parks in CO that my dogs can actually run freely and exercise. In the summer, they love to play and splash

around in the water. We have never encountered anyone with misbehaved dogs or dogs not under control. We absolutely love the freedom of being able to hike around these beautiful hills, while also being able to have our best friends (the dogs) running beside us. This is the best place for dog parents to be able to come and I would be devastated if it were downsized. It would just be like any other dog park in the state. After meeting fellow dog parents here and talking to members of the community, this is truly a treasured place. As I was arriving this evening I actually said to myself "wow, it is so great that they dedicated all this space so that dogs can be dogs". Truly there is no place like this park, I hope the members of city council can understand that and protect it. Thank you for reading. If the 4 legged members of the house could write, they would. This is their favorite place and we can spend hours on these trails. I can go on and on about how wonderful it is.

12. I live in the Legacy Villas condos at 113th and Sheridan. I use the Westminster Hills park to exercise with my 2 dogs nearly every morning that is not too muddy or too windy.

I just learned on 9News.com that the City of Westminster is considering taking away the right of dog owners to enjoy the Westminster Hills off-leash dog park by greatly reducing the off-leash space. PLEASE don't do that.

I did not know about the survey, although I do get the Westy in my email. I must have missed that. The survey results clearly demonstrate that dog lovers enjoy the park regularly, and do not want the city to reduce the space and kill our rights to enjoy this one park. The data also shows instances of conflicts of any kind are rare. I have never had, nor witnessed, any conflicts. I've encountered happy people and happy dogs only. I pick up after my dogs and I have never witnessed any dog owner fail to pick up after their dogs.

Regarding care for wildlife, I support this. But what wildlife are you trying to protect by limiting off-leash dogs in this spot of high prairie? Canada Geese are flourishing and defecating all over my condo grounds. At Westminster Hills, I do not have to worry about my dogs trying to eat goose poop. Coyotes are flourishing. There is at least one pack in the Front Range Open Space, where I walk with my dogs on-leash a few blocks from my home, and I have seen them in my neighborhood, as well as one that ran through my condo complex one morning. Birds, including Bald Eagles, Blue Jays, Northern Flickers, Red-Winged Blackbirds, Crows, and House Sparrows, can be seen regularly in the few majestic Cottonwood Trees in the park. A juvenile Bald Eagle sat atop a Cottonwood tree for at least 15 minutes, observing dogs and their owners below, just this last week. And we don't seem to lack Prairie Dogs in Westminster. The wild grasses seem to be doing just fine in this prairie field.

I have never seen an employee of the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Department during my early morning visits to Westminster Hills. I simply cannot imagine what problem this recommendation to greatly limit off-leash space is trying to solve. An on-leash opportunity is not an opportunity at all. My dogs would never be able to enjoy this park again if it were to be transformed into an on-leash park. They would not be able to grasp being on-leash, like they are in every other spot in the city of Westminster. They identify this land with joyous running.

You have heard, via the survey, from many of the users of Westminster Hills dog park.

Enjoyment levels are high and instances of conflict are low. This land is an open field, with native grasses and sparse trees. Please listen to your tax-paying users of Westminster Hills and leave it alone.

Dogs are my well-being medication and part of our very best times together are spent at Westminster Hills as the sun rises. You will completely devastate hundreds of your dog-owning citizens and their well-being if you change this park. Just don't do it. Please.

- 13.** Please, we beg of you to halt plans to modify the off-leash open space dog park! This is the only place to let our dogs run free and just be dogs. We people enjoy it as much as our pups....the trails, the beautiful views...the socialization etc. Please! Please! PLEASE!
- 14.** Please keep the dog park off leash. It's nice to have space for both the dogs and people to get good exercise. Dogs should have access to a space where they can run free and explore. Please don't take this way.
- 15.** I am writing to ask you to not put any restrictions on the dog park. This dog park is a must for dogs and dog owners. Putting leash restrictions on would be a detriment to all. It is a great way for dogs to run and have fun with other dogs and for owners to get exercise. I love going on long walks while my dog runs free. Please do not take that away!
- 16.** My dog and I have been going to this beautiful OFF leash dog park for years and it's amazing to see him so happy and being free interacting with other dogs and running around. Do NOT change this dog park.
- 17.** Hi - please do not limit the area for off leash at the Westminster hills off leash dog park. This is one of the reasons I moved to Westminster. For non home owners, there are few places where large dogs can run, play, fetch, etc while I also get exercise. Limiting the off leash area significantly (as proposed) means more humans and dogs packed into a smaller area which could cause congestion and possibly more issues between dogs. It's such a a selling point to many people that limiting it can reduce the incentive to move or even stay in Westminster. It's always busy when I go which means it's a very popular area for dogs and humans. Thank you.
- 18.** I think the patron should stay off leash I have a husky who loves to come to this park he gets to run free and gets all his energy out . I would hate to put him back on a leash

- 19.** I have lived in Westminster, Legacy Ridge, for over 20 years. Over that time period I have enjoyed taking my dogs (3 over the past 20 years) to Westminster Hills several times each month. It is one of the few places in the area with beautiful scenery, plenty of trails and friendly dogs and people. The park is well maintained by the people that use it. I don't think I have ever seen dog poop left on any of the trails. It's the perfect place to spend an hour improving both my dogs and my mental health. During the recent mystery dog illness scare it was the perfect place to get exercise. Unlike the local dog parks, Westminster Hills offered abundant areas to roam without coming in close contact with other dogs. I was unaware of the recent survey, though I subscribe to Westy emails and often complete their surveys. Looking at the results of the survey, it doesn't support the need to make Westminster Hills a on-leash dog park. There was no evidence of waste or conflicts between dogs and people. Please listen to a tax-paying citizen who uses Westminster Hills. Don't change it! Both my dog and I will be devastated!
- 20.** I've just heard about the proposal to close 90% of the park to off leash use. I was under the impression that part of tax dollars go to fund parks. This is a unique area, and believe it will be a mistake to go forward on the proposal. There are other alternatives to help the environment. Since it is a large area, I believe the users would understand if trails were closed for a year or two, then rotated as necessary to ensure the park's success. At a minimum, this should be an issue that is put to a vote by the Westminster Citizens, not a few on Council.
- 21.** The Westminster Hills Dog Park has been my dog and my favorite weekend outing as it is close to our home and offers miles of off-leash trail access for my dog to stretch his legs, explore, and play with other dogs. Limiting the space where we could walk would make me and him, very sad. I understand that there have been too many people walking on the trails and causing degradation of the natural landscape, but maybe there should be more restrictions on who can use the park (residents who have been in Colorado for more than 10+ years for instance). An inexpensive fence could also be used to delineate where people should be walking as they make the largest impact. Colorado tax revenue has been so high in the last couple years due to MMJ sales, that this small amount going to the over all happiness of the residents of the front range seems minimal in my opinion! Please consider the happiness of the long-term residents and why we are still here in this state. Willing to advocate to protect our wild spaces as they are very important to our quality of life and that of other species.
- 22.** Access to this open space is extremely valuable to dogs in the area, please do not restrict access as it. This park is the reason we moved both to Westminster and the neighborhood we are currently in.
- 23.** I currently live right up the street from westminster hills open space dog park and I have been bringing my dogs to this park for the last 10 years. It is a joy to bring them

because I don't have to worry about them being on a leash and letting them run to get their energy out. If this new law is passed it would not be fair to the owners or the dogs because neither would be able to fully enjoy the open space as intended. Making it safer for cyclist to ride near the open space would be to restrict those areas for dogs to be leashed because of the riders along the path. As far as preserving the wildlife inside the park, it would be more beneficial to separate those areas. Which is more effective than restricting the dogs to a leash.

I hope this can come to an agreement to benefit both parties on the matter instead of being one sided and restrictive to the dogs.

- 24.** Please keep the Westminster hills dog park open and free for all. We love the off leash area and are here enjoying the trails a few times a week.

Please listen to your community.

- 25.** The Westminster Hills Offleash Dog Park is one of a kind and is thriving! I live in the neighborhood right next to it and there is never NOT cars there during sunrise-sunset (even on those -0 degree days). It needs to remain the off leash, very busily utilized space that it has always been (and continues to be). The need is there!!

- 26.** I'm extremely concerned about the current plan to drastically reduce off-leash access at Westminster Hills Open Space. The one million people who use this park annually deserve a better plan to preserve their access to the park!

People who utilize this one of a kind open space area derive exercise for themselves and their beloved canine family members. This open space also serves as a place to meet with and make friends.

Small off leash dog areas do not afford dog owners the potential to exercise with their dogs. Walking with dogs on leashes does not offer the same exercise and sensory potential. Further, dogs confined on leashes often are more aggressive toward other dogs on leashes they encounter.

Many retired and older adults utilize this open space with their dogs. The dogs can be these peoples' motivation to get outside and move. This improves overall health, increases longevity, and reduces health costs for these people and their dogs. Government healthcare expenses are significantly reduced when people remain active.

The success of Westminster Hills Open Space is fully evidenced by the numbers of visitors. Today, I sampled multiple walkers, and everyone expressed similar sentiments as outlined above.

Therefore, I truly believe it would be a tragedy to implement the plans proposed at Saturday's community open house.

Thank you for considering my and so many others' concerns, and please do whatever it takes to come up with alternatives.

- 27.** As a four year resident of superior , Westminster it is devastating to hear about the plans for the open space

The open space in Westminster hills is such a gem
And because of its huge expanse - creates a serene and accessible experience of nature

The current plan reduces it to yet another dog park that encloses too much and increases chances of dog outbursts

Please please do not move forward with this plan

I would literally move out of Westminster and know many people who have moved here FOR this open space

- 28.** I just saw the survey results and have several questions.

<https://www.westminsterco.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Parks%20and%20Recreation%20-%20Documents/Visitor%20Survey%20Results.pdf>

1) It appears only 600-ish people were surveyed. I had no idea there was a survey and every person I know in Westminster was unaware of the survey. For such a large space, with so many visitors, and such a drastic proposal by Joe Reale, I think 600 odd residents is too small a sample. A mailer to EVERY ADDRESS would not cost a huge amount of budget and would ensure engagement.

2) On that point, there were several slides that showed a huge online response for only a couple specific topics. I would like to see the data and verify the responses are UNIQUE responses and not simply a few people responding multiple times. I have worked in technology and am schooled in statistics and sharing the data would be helpful to ensure the veracity of the results.

3) Also, in regards to the 1 million visits each year, it would be a better if we discussed how many are unique people. If the vast majority are local, then the park is being used by locals far more than people outside Westminster. Again, I would like to see the numbers and the rationale. Simply stating 1 million implies people outside of Westminster. For example only: If we say it is 800,000 Westy citizen visits and 200,000 from Boulder, Arvada, Broomfield, and other residents, that shows it is NOT an issue of "outsiders" but an issue of simple overuse by citizens. That would mean we need to engage ALL of Westminster, in a more formal and controlled manner, to ascertain what is really happening and what opotion we can consider versus such a draconian response to remove a massively popular city feature (off leash access).

3a) As a corollary, in the online survey results, 140+ people claim they walk to the park. The fact that almost none of these people (walkers) were surveyed AT THE PARK (maybe 5 according to the chart, or 3%) means there is a problem with the data.

Unique responses would help. 30% of online responses (140 of 500) said they were walkers and only 3% were surveyed at the park shows some issue with the data.

3b) Another corollary is that the survey numbers seem to misrepresent the citizenry of Westminster and implies that 25% of ALL visitors are within walking distance. If that were true, we would need to see that data as it is at odds with our population.

4) Lastly, I have filled in the contact forms (<https://www.westminsterco.gov/Forms/PRL/WestminsterHillsOpenSpace>), sent email (Hayden Parrish, Lance Johnson), and tried to engage and have yet to be contacted about this topic. Yesterday was a community event about WHOS and I was never contacted about it. As someone who wants to be engaged, has requested to be engaged and sought engagement, to still not have any communication about this, shows we have an opportunity to do better with communication.

I have many other questions about the survey, the results, the publication of those results and the proposition of Mr. Reale based on these results. I am very interested in engaging on this topic so please provide me an opportunity by sharing the next meeting where this topic will be addressed as I do not believe I have access to scheduling nor the agendas of the meetings.

FYI - I have been involved in local and State politics in Wisconsin and Missouri before moving to Colorado. (I got here as fast as I could, lol!) I have experience on P&Z at the local level and have worked in the Wisconsin legislature in my younger years. I believe I can bring salient, relevant and balanced conversation to the table.

I look forward to your response.

- 29.** Hi, I'm writing in regards to the Westminster Hills open space area management plan. I'm extremely concerned about the current plan to drastically reduce off-leash access. The one million people who use this park annually deserve a better plan to preserve their access to the park! There are several solutions and management operations to put in place before completely removing our off-leash privileges. Please take the time to sincerely listen to all that are outreaching. Thank you.
- 30.** I am emailing to voice my displeasure and disagreement with the proposed reductions of the off-leash area at Westminster dog park. This is one of the few areas in the greater Denver metro where dogs can be dogs and frolic and play. It is also a popular area for runners and cyclists to exercise alongside their dogs. Reduction of this space will negatively impact the well-being and health of dogs and people in the area. In accordance with the general populace (<https://www.westminsterco.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Parks%20and%20Recreation%20-%20Documents/Visitor%20Survey%20Results.pdf>), the space should be kept the way it is.

31. I'm concerned about the current plan to significantly reduce off-leash access at the Westminster Hills Open Space. Maintaining off-leash areas in cities for behaved dogs are important given the sparsity of current options. Most dog parks are too small for the communities they service, which leads to poorly behaved dogs as they are overly concentrated, overstimulated, and anxious in crowds.

The parks department should instead look to increase parking areas and gate options to access the space.

32. Removing this open space would be devastating for us. We just moved to Westminster because of the access to this wonderful place, and we can't see ourselves staying here long term without it. Please do not reduce the off-leash area!

33. The Westminster open space for dogs is one of the best parts of our county. Please do not take away this part of the space.

34. I write regarding the discussion about closing 90% of the off-leash area at the Westminster dog park. I support keeping the park as-is. The off-leash park is an enormous draw to the community. It makes the area attractive to homeowners (current and potential) as well as visitors from neighboring areas. It allows all people with and without dogs to enjoy the open space, and draws people to spend time at neighboring businesses. If the area were to be restricted, not only would there be a significant capital expense to rebuild a fenced area, but also expense to police the remaining 90% where people expect to be able to walk their dogs off-leash.

35. The Westminster Open Space is a critical community space for our dogs to be off-leash and for us to enjoy with family and friends. Please do NOT reduce the off-leash area. And please consider adding more parking.

36. We love the Westminster open space, so does our dog especially. He's a different dog getting to be free and off-leash. We are responsible dog owners, clean up after him and are mindful of others always to ensure safety. Please keep leash laws "as is", police the area in other ways as needed, and keep the freedom the park has instead of creating restrictions for all.

37. I am probably one of the few people who agrees with the changes suggested by Westminster for this dog park. There are way too many dogs running around with owners who do not have good vocal control of their dog. And because this region just

seems overrun with dogs I don't feel safe for myself or my dog. For these reasons I do not use this dog park.

- 38.** The off leash option is the best and used frequently by so many dog owners. It should definitely be kept and is essential to bringing people into the area!

- 39.** Having a place where our dogs can run off leash is super important to their health and well being. Please don't reduce those areas.

- 40.** I have lived in Westminster, Legacy Ridge, for over 20 years. Over that time period I have enjoyed taking my dogs (3 over the past 20 years) to Westminster Hills several times each month. It is one of the few places in the area with beautiful scenery, plenty of trails and friendly dogs and people. The park is well maintained by the people that use it. I don't think I have ever seen dog poop left on any of the trails. It's the perfect place to spend an hour improving both my dogs and my mental health. During the recent mystery dog illness scare it was the perfect place to get exercise. Unlike the local dog parks, Westminster Hills offered abundant areas to roam without coming in close contact with other dogs. I was unaware of the recent survey, though I subscribe to Westy emails and often complete their surveys. Looking at the results of the survey, it doesn't support the need to make Westminster Hills a on-leash dog park. There was no evidence of waste or conflicts between dogs and people. Please listen to a tax-paying citizen who uses Westminster Hills. Don't change it! Both my dog and I will be devastated!

- 41.** We travel up to the park a few times a week because it is worth the drive for the exercise and amazing views we get as a dog-juman team. Please don't take this away from the community!

- 42.** I am writing again to express my sincere concerns regarding the proposal to reduce the size of our cherished off-leash dog park in Westminster Hills Open Space. The off-leash dog park holds a special place in the hearts of our community members and plays a vital role in promoting a sense of well-being, unity, and connection with nature. I moved to this area specifically because of this unique off-leash space, and several other community members have bought or rented here to be closer to it.

After reviewing the reports and survey results you have provided; I would like to urge you to reconsider the idea of making the off-leash area smaller. Instead, I propose that we explore alternative solutions that can help us protect the environment while continuing to provide a space that our community has grown to rely on and adore.

The Conditions Report for Westminster Hills Open Space highlights the need for

environmental conservation and protection. I wholeheartedly agree that safeguarding our natural resources is of utmost importance. However, I firmly believe that a smaller off-leash dog park is not the ideal solution. Overcrowding can cause dogs to be aggressive and irritable which can, and likely will, lead to more frequent confrontations between dogs and, subsequently, their owners.

Let me draw your attention to the [Visitor Survey Results](#), which clearly demonstrate the overwhelming support for the off-leash dog park and distaste for making it any smaller. It is evident from the responses that our community values this space tremendously, and it significantly contributes to the well-being of both residents and their furry companions.

One idea worth considering is the implementation of a [Voice and Sight Program](#), similar to what Boulder OSMP has successfully introduced. This program allows dog owners to enjoy nature with their pets while maintaining a level of control and respect for the environment. By adopting a Voice and Sight Program, we can strike a balance between environmental preservation and providing space for off-leash recreation. Creating a program like this could also provide funding for waste clean-up and protection of native vegetation and wildlife.

Alternatively, we could consider alternating days of the week or hours of the day for off-leash vs. on-leash regulations. I understand that we must protect our natural resources and respect the concerns of all park users, including those who may not be dog owners. I believe that with careful planning and community engagement, we can find a middle ground that satisfies all parties involved.

I really hope you all will take the time to reconsider the decision to reduce the size of our beloved off-leash space, and instead explore alternatives like the Voice and Sight Program; or other alternatives still left on the table. Let us work together to protect our environment while maintaining the vibrant community spirit that our off-leash dog park has fostered for years.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope we are able to find a solution that benefits everyone in our community.

- 43.** Leave the park alone. It brings a lot of people to spend time with their dogs. This park is one of a kind. No need to downsize it
- 44.** I am deeply concerned about possible upcoming changes to the open space in Westminster for dogs to be off leash. Please do not change this! There are not many places to go and take your dogs like this! Smaller dog parks are not healthy for most dogs!
- 45.** Please do not make this into a leashed park. This is the best park for dogs to be off leash & run like dogs like to run. The very small portion that you are proposing to be off leash, should be the leashed area. The large, open space is perfect for off leash. In addition, the dog park on 100th facing Stanley Lake has been ruined in my opinion. A dog park is really not compatible with a bike park. Many dogs will chase bike riders and nip at their

ankles. It is normal herding dog behavior. This was not a good move to encourage this mix.

46. The Westminster Off Leash Dog Park is the best thing to ever happen to my dog. We come into town from Boulder (and support local Westminster businesses while here) several times a week. That would cease entirely if this park were no longer the best area option. I am also planning to buy a house in the town of Westminster when I graduate with my MA this spring, but if this park's size is cut then I will move to Longmont instead.

47. Please don't reduce the off leash space for the dog park! There are very few open areas that sanction dogs off leash in the metro area. This is a go to spot for myself and dog and we would be devastated if this were to be reduced.

48. I am a resident and moved to Westminster specifically for the huge off-leash dog park. As a resident I demand that you keep the off leash dog park exactly like it is, and do not change any of the rules.

I'm extremely concerned about the current plan to drastically reduce off-leash access. The one million people who use this park annually deserve a better plan to preserve their access to the park!

49. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent proposal to eliminate off-leash access to 90% of Westminster Open Space. This proposal would have a devastating impact on numerous park users, including myself, and significantly limit the park's potential as a vibrant community space.

Here are some of my key concerns:

Reduced Access and Enjoyment for Dog Owners: Eliminating off-leash areas effectively restricts responsible dog owners from accessing and fully enjoying the park with their canine companions. For many, Westminster Open Doace is the only green space available where their dogs can exercise freely and socialize with other dogs. This ban would significantly diminish the park's value for these individuals.

Impact on Public Health and Safety: Properly exercised and socialized dogs are generally healthier and pose less risk to the public. Reducing off-leash opportunities could lead to pent-up energy and frustration among dogs, potentially increasing unwanted behaviors. Additionally, it could push dog owners to less suitable, uncontrolled areas, potentially impacting public safety.

Negative Effect on Community Cohesion: Dog parks and designated off-leash areas serve as vital community hubs where dog owners can connect, build relationships, and

foster a sense of belonging. This proposal would effectively dismantle these valuable social spaces, weakening the park's contribution to community building.

Lack of Alternative Solutions: The proposal does not seem to offer any alternative solutions for dog owners seeking off-leash opportunities. This raises concerns about a lack of comprehensive consideration for the needs of this significant user group.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and explore alternative solutions.

50. Please keep Westminster dog parks off leash

51. Please do not build here!! It is the only safe, large open space I can take dogs that I'm watching, train my own puppy, and go on nature walks instead of neighborhood walks. It is a staple for the entire Denver West Community. Please, please rethink this. There is so much space elsewhere.

52. Very disappointed with possible decision to make open space on leash only! My dog and I get our exercise at the park. Enjoy the community associations and my dog gets her exercise chasing a ball and swimming in the ravine in the summer. There HAS to be a much better solution!

53. Please think of more creative ways to keep this in the community as a leash free location for the community. Think of membership fees that include parking tags, access to the park with a requirement of volunteer hours annually to assist in taking care of the park. Taking it away is not the answer.

54. After attending the WHOS open house at City Park Rec Center this past Saturday, I more clearly understand the conservation issues needing addressed at the Westminster Hill Off-Leash Dog Park. However, the nearly 90% reduction of off-leash space at one time seems to only consider the conservation needs, and not the interest of the community in also using some (more than 10%) of the space as it has already been designated. I understand the comment "we've loved it to death," but eliminating access to the majority of the open space at one time, does not necessarily mean the intended effects will be achieved and certainly not immediately. Instead of the massive reduction at one time, it would seem establishing smaller areas for conservation measures where monitoring the success of the proposed plans would be more ideal and more of a balance of needs. Also, why not charge a fee, or design a pass program for residents of the county/city to help pay for conservation measures. Or charge people who are not from the county or city for their use. Engaging with the community for group clean is also an option. Just seems like there are other less drastic options available for balancing conservation measure and community use as an off-leash dog park.

55. Keep the entire dog park leash free! It's one of the only open spaces where dogs are allowed to be off leash. I love taking my dog there and walking around the entire park, not just the tiny section you've proposed to keep leash free.

56. My name is Dina Baker and I am a former resident of the Westminster Hills area; I used to live across from the entrance to the off-leash dog park. I am writing to you in support of my old neighbors and current residents in the neighborhood next to the dog park, since they are dealing with insurmountable frustration regarding the off-leash dog park.

One of the main reasons for moving away was because of the dog park, which is ironic because I had moved there 5 years prior specifically to be close to it. I cannot put a number to the number of times I had to help wrangle other people's dogs who escaped from the dog park and ended up in the neighborhood. While living there, I witnessed one person get hit by a car while chasing their dog, and on another occasion, I had someone's dog die in my arms who had been hit by a car in front of the entrance, and right in front of me. These dogs often end up in the neighborhood scared, in danger, and unwilling to come when called, and their owners left looking high and low for their dog(s). This is not a safe situation for residents nor for the dog owners/dogs visiting the park.

Additionally, I have a background in ecology and conservation (I also work under a county Open Space department) and the impact I noticed of all this foot and dog traffic on the habitat has clearly been devastating. After recently visiting the park, I could not believe how the trails have widened so much that they almost don't exist; the park is mostly eroded dirt. Any of the native vegetation that was once there creating habitat for local birds and wildlife has now been replaced by invasive species or is just desolate. The smell of the dog urine and feces is also incredibly overwhelming. I believe this Open Space could really benefit from permanent or temporary closure to allow the habitat to recover and restore at least to some degree. I would highly suggest moving away from the off-leash format. This would help dissipate the amount of people visiting since the off-leash component is the allure for this site.

Thank you very much for hearing my suggestions and comments. I think the Standley Lake area is such an ecological treasure in suburbia, and I hope the Westminster Hills dog park can heal at some point, thus relieving the neighboring residents of a lot of unnecessary life stressors and potentially providing much-needed habitat. Thank you again, have a great rest of your week

57. I've been a Westminster resident for 14 years, and for 14 years have brought my dogs to this dog park, which is arguably the best dog park in the Denver Metro area. It's their favorite place on the planet, and the fact it's turning into primarily on leash is unacceptable. What's the point of a dog park then? The point is for well trained and well behaved dogs to explore and exercise. Please don't do this!

58. I understand you are looking into shutting down the best reason to live in Westminster Colorado. People come from all over the state to come to this dog park. It is a very special place and I don't know of another place like it where I can take my whole family to have fun. We can enjoy the outdoors and get exercise ourselves instead of standing

still in a small fenced in area and watching dogs fight because they are contained. Please don't take this from us! My daughter who is 3 learned her colors from the dogs playing together. We can see wild flowers and be with dog lovers from our neighborhood.

59. I wish to inform you of my tremendous support for maintaining the 400 acres of off leash use at the Westminster Hills Open Space. While I have followed the progress of the management plan, I am concerned about the transparency with the community and users of WHOS. I urge you to involve the full community in an open manner during this process of review. I suggest that some focus groups be organized to allow users to be a formal part of the process. There is extreme concern that the public is not being considered or informed of the current plan and City intentions. I recognize we need an updated management plan for the land that is being loved to the extreme.

60. I believe there are solutions to the Westminster hills dog park other than completely taking it away for the few who disobey the rules. While I agree that the protected habitat needs to be protected, those who usurp the rules should be levied a hefty fine. The majority of people who take their dogs to the dog park DO follow the rules. So why are you punishing the majority for the few who refuse to comply? Why not institute the Voice and sight program as boulder county does? Why not use the money gained from such a program to employ rangers who can police the park to enforce rules? Why not require a yearly parking pass and then ticket those who don't comply? Where is the research that taking away the dog park would benefit the habitat? What about the health and wellbeing of our four legged friends and their owners who walk an average of two to six miles a day because of that park? If you are so concerned with the habitat of wildlife, then why did you spend the money to pay down that concrete space for bikers, who, I'm sorry, have miles and miles of trails to bike on? I am a biker and I don't understand the reasoning behind that bike path that leads to nowhere yet the decision to take away the dog park. My family walks our dogs there every day, sometimes twice a day. Our border collies can run and play fetch and frisbee in a safe protected area. They do not engage other dogs or other humans. We are part of the Boulder voice and sight program and we ensure our dogs are well trained. Please do not penalize the majority for the faults of the few.

61. Please do not close the off leash dog park. We use that area multiple times a week to exercise our dogs and ourselves. We, along with our community, depend on that access. There are always many other people there with their pets while we visit regardless of the day or time. And on the weekends it sees very heavy use. The proposed reduction will not accommodate the amount of use the area currently sees. The adjoining park space to the west that requires leashed pets doesn't get anywhere near the same amount of traffic. Why expand that area?

Part of our decision to move in to this area was based on proximity to off leash park space. Please Do NOT take this area away from us!

62. I understand you are looking into shutting down the best reason to live in westminster Colorado. People come from all over the state to come to this dog park. It is a very special place and I don't know of another place like it where I can take my whole family to have fun. We can enjoy the outdoors and get excersize ourselves instead of standing still in a small fenced in area and watching dogs fight because they are contained. Please don't take this from us! My daughter who is 3 learned her colors from the dogs playing together. We can see wild flowers and be with dog lovers from our neighborhood.

63. I live in Westminster and have for the last 5 years. One the primary reasons we continue to live here is specifically for the open space dog park. I go to the park literally 5 times a week if not more. It is a crucial part of my day to take my active and energetic dog to the park and allow him to run freely. In all the years I have been going and as often as I go, I have had only one negative encounter. The habitat has remained exactly the same, minus the trails that have been put in. People are generally very courteous and conscientious of others, and most importantly pick up their dogs poop. I ask as a member of this community that uses this space almost daily to refrain making leashes a requirement, even for a little bit of it. It is a staple of our community, and one the reasons our city is so great.
Thank you for you consideration

64. I am writing to add my vote to keep part of the Westminster Hills Open Space Area as an off leash dog park. We love coming to this park with our dogs and letting them run. Please maintain part of this park as an off-leash area!

65. Keeping it an off leash Dog Park. Add water park.

66. I saw a sign today at the Westminster open space (dog park) that said there was a proposal to deastically reduce the size of the off leash area. The off leash area was one of my (and multiple nerlighbors) reason for moving to Westminster. Im not sure of the data, but it feels like its the most used open space in all of westminster. And if you go on a busy day to the west boarder where is becomes a leashed area its empty. Leaving the off leash area or GROWING the area seems like what should be on the table, not shrinking it. As a user of the off leash area multiple times a week, id love to give a users perspective for any discussions. Thanks

67. Please keep the off leash portion of Westminster dog park as is. It has provided countless hours of joy to us, our adult daughter and our three dogs.

A smaller off leash park wouldn't provide nearly the same experience.

68. I saw a sign today at the Westminster open space (dog park) that said there was a proposal to drastically reduce the size of the off leash area. The off leash area was one of my (and multiple neighbors) reason for moving to Westminster. I'm not sure of the data, but it feels like it's the most used open space in all of Westminster. And if you go on a busy day to the west boarder where it becomes a leashed area it's empty. Leaving the off leash area or GROWING the area seems like what should be on the table, not shrinking it. As a user of the off leash area multiple times a week, I'd love to give a user's perspective for any discussions. Thanks

69. We just moved here in August, and the off leash dog area at Westminster Hills is our favorite spot whether we're bringing our dogs or not. The dogs do not have anywhere else to run free and safely for miles. I hope the council can come to some sort of conservation plan that doesn't compromise our ability to let our furry friends enjoy the beautiful place we live leash-free.

70. I am taking time out of my evening to personally write and express significant concern in the shrinking of the Westminster Dog Park.

This park has become a staple in the community - not just for our four legged friends but also for individuals who live nearby with dogs.

The immense and beautiful trails allow me the opportunity to mountain bike each night with my dog and enjoy the gorgeous views and friendly vibes.

I am asking that you all choose to keep the Westminster Dog Park "as-is". Shrinking the park size will only take away from this gem and result in an over-crowded park for everyone.

In its current condition, the open space feels like exactly that, open. A space to get away from the stresses of work, while enjoying a quiet, yet, friendly atmosphere.

71. Please keep this dog park open and available to the community. Many people use this space and enjoy the beauty of the area. I'm sure many businesses in Westminster get additional revenue from gas, groceries, coffee, restaurants, etc from people coming out this way to enjoy the dog park and open space.

72. PLEASE keep Westminster Dog Park "off leash"! I will gladly pay a fee to use the park. I think that's the best way to curb overcrowding. And perhaps have an attendant? I know that would be a salary but perhaps it would help with control. At any rate WE NEED OFF LEASH park!!

73. I am extremely concerned about the current plan to drastically reduce the off lease access at the Westminster Dog Park.
The one million people who use this park annually deserve a better plan to preserve their access to the park!
My dog and I visit several days a week and both enjoy the outdoor space and the opportunity it provides my dog to exercise and socialize with other dogs in the park. Please reconsider the current plan and consider revisions that are more appropriate.

74. I'm sure you're aware of the public outcry regarding the Westminster Hills Dog Park.

I have a specific question regarding the project process as presented by Joe Reale from the Open Space department.

This project started in April of 2023 and other than one public survey done early on I see no opportunity for citizens to be a part of the decision process. The survey results were quite conclusive that citizens were against limiting the area available for off-leash dogs yet that seems to be the only conclusion on which city staff is focused.

The second public survey, which is a one-question online form with no background information, ends February 12. It is so vague the obvious conclusion is the city is not interested in any further opinions the public might have.

Both "surveys" are strangely lacking specific information that would be considered transparent by the citizens of Westminster. Surveys asking about "feelings", followed by ignoring results and continuing along the path to Staff's desired outcome, plans to present to City Council and 30 days later, implement the plan. Subversion is not what we expect from our City Government, yet that's exactly what it looks like.

Finally, the project is not even expected to be before City Council until April 2024, one month before implementation.

A Parks Department media post Tuesday 1/30/24 seeks to assure the public that "we are at the very beginning of this conversation" which is disingenuous at best, if not an outright lie. The City's website shows a clearly defined timeline that is 75% complete. It's fairly obvious the final decision is a foregone conclusion.

Now for the question: Can this timeline please be extended to include true citizen involvement, conversation and compromise? Westminster is quickly losing the trust of a loyal group of citizens in the way this project has been handled.

I look forward to having a conversation.

75. I'm 77 years old. Weather permitting, I walk 2 miles with my dogs at Westminster Hills Off-Leash Dog Park 4 times a week. The flat trail that we access from 100th Avenue is an essential part of my/our fitness routine.

Forcing more dogs into a smaller off-leash area will create more problems than it will solve. Instead of reducing the off-leash space, I propose expanding it. Spread the dogs out over a larger area to reduce impact. Or just leave it alone!

- 76.** We moved to the area this past summer. One of the biggest appeals to the area was all of the open space. We love the off-leash open space area and frequent it at least twice a month. In twenty years, I moved nine times with the military, Jefferson County is now our retirement location and we plan to stay forever. We have utilized many dog parks during our military career, and the Westminster Hills Open Space is by far the best one we have ever encountered.

I understand and sympathize with the need to preserve our open spaces, wildlife, and nature. It was one of the draws for us to retire to Colorado. The current proposal only utilizing a small portion of the existing open space is too drastic. I think a better solution and compromise can be reached, one that preserves the appeal and usage of the open space, but at the same time providing space for nature and wildlife.

I hope that you take the time to reconsider the proposed balance between nature, humans, and our pets.

I look forward to continued discussion and dialogue on how to work towards a solution that preserves the appeal and draw to the open spaces in Westminster.

- 77.** I implore you not to diminish the off leash section of the dog park. The size and accessibility of it is one of kind in our area and a huge appeal to the community. It sits here heavy utilized right next to Stanley lake which already was gutted in public utilization. Don't diminish public use of areas in Colorado. Find revenue from dog owners to fund better management. Also it would be foolhardy to think it would not be a cost sink to enforce it.

- 78.** Hi, I'm voicing my opinion that we should not cut down the off leash areas at the Westminster hills dog park. We love that so much is off leash. I'd also like to see more benches and trash cans along the walking trails. Thanks!

- 79.** Why are you making this beautiful off leash dog park into a tiny space for off leash. Putting that many dogs in such a confined space is not smart. We love this park and often meet friends here for play dates and the dogs are free to run. I want to know the reason why this is happening!

- 80.** I would the City of Westminster to do away with the dog park on 105th and Simms. I have a dog but will never go to a dog park for fear of my dog being attacked by another dog.

The dog park on 105th and Simms should be on-leash only for the protection of our dogs.

The traffic on the weekends and the parking in our neighborhood by those who visit the dog park is awful. There are a lot of small children in our neighborhood, and new families, and there has been more than one occasions that dogs get away from their owner and run loose in our neighborhood after visiting the Dog Park.

For reasons of eco depletion, damages, parking, safety, liter, dog waste, noise, and quality of life, I would appreciate that the City of Westminster would take steps as soon as possible remedy this issue.

- 81.** Please as one of over a million user of the off leash dog park please do not reduce the size. It's a wonderful area for dogs and people to be together. It's a wonderful use of city park area

- 82.** I am a community member who lives a few houses down from the Westminster Hills Dog Park (██████████) and would like to contribute my input on what sounds like potential changes at the park. I've provided visual options to jreale@cityofwestminster.us

Pros

- It is a valuable resource to primarily dog owners who are exercising and socializing their pets. Our family does not own pets, but can see the value there.
- There are a variety of trails that provide runners, bikers, and walkers to get out and enjoy the park. I do occasionally run and bike on the trails.

Cons

Eco Damage

- The environmental damage of the area feels like it is growing as trails get wider and more beaten down. We don't go to the dog park because environmentally, it feels a bit like a wasteland. I go to other similar areas (Dirty Bismark) and environmentally feels like a healthy ecosystem.
- It is a common space where each individual contributes to a little bit of damage but as a whole, there isn't enough time for the area to regenerate.

Overcrowding

- Near the entrance, there is overcrowding with just a bunch of people and pets occupying a small area. It often makes this area unpleasant to go through and I do my best to avoid it. In this area, it smells and the barren and wide trail is unpleasant.

Caustic feeling.

- During the weekends, particularly in the summer, it is very, very packed. Overflow does go onto our streets, which is annoying. The streets are public so the signage suggesting they park elsewhere away from the neighborhood is appreciated.

Dog Waste

- Just a constant problem with dog walking areas are the poo bags. It would be appreciated if there was signage (if possible) suggesting that leaving dog bags on the trail (even if you intend to get them later) is littering and grounds for a ticket.

Options

Wanted to provide visuals that I'm sure you've already considered. Sent to jreale@cityofwestminster.us

- 83.** I LOVE this dog park. Please do not take this park away from the community.
- 84.** Please do not take this park away from the community. We drive over 30 mins to get there from downtown because it's the only place like it that we can run free with my dog.
- 85.** This park is very important to me and my dog. We travel from the Genesee area once or twice per week so that she can get this exercise and socialization. The off-leash aspect, as it is, is very helpful and I urge you to continue to allow all of us the use of this space.
- 86.** Hello, please don't decrease the amount of open space available for dog owners at Westminster Hills open. Space.
This is truly a gem of an opportunity for dog owners in our area. We must look at it from an economic standpoint, I suspect many people live around here because of the access to this beautiful and expensive open Space..
We just moved back to Colorado, eight months ago, and have a golden retriever, a young one, and a big draw to live in the Westminster and Arvada area was open space/off leash area.
There must be an alternative!
- 87.** I hope this finds everyone well! I am frequently at the Westminster dog park and have never seen anyone organize a volunteer day to pick up poop or do anything at all pro-active to help. I believe that if anyone was trying to trouble shoot this problem, that it could be solved pretty quickly. Because I also frequent the dog park often, I know the demographic of the people to go there. I also know they would complain, but would absolutely pay to enter this dog park because they love it SO MUCH. If you charged 30\$ a year and 50\$ a year to outside residents of Westminster, we could afford to have the dog park cleaned up once a week. This also impacts local businesses bringing 1000 people a day into the community. I think it is important to hear their feedback from local business owners about not having this off leash area to enjoy and way less people coming to enjoy themselves. If it is proposed to cut such a large area of off leash dogs,

we would have to leash our pets every time. The pets would pull towards each other wanting to play, and making it not fun for anyone anymore. I have read over the proposed impact to the environment, and believe there can be a lot of trouble shooting to be done before this area is taken away from the community. I hope you will consider other options.

88. I only bring my dog to the large off leash dog Park because of it's size. I will stop using it if leash is required for most of it. I can walk my dog on leash in my neighborhood, there's no point in driving to the dog park if only a tiny piece remains off leash.

89. Please don't take away our off leash space! I come almost everyday with my dogs and they love the space to run and sniff. They aren't into playing with other dogs so the ability to just walk and not run into many dogs is great! The park is already cut in half with off leash areas, PLEASE don't take any more away from us or our pets!

90. I understand that there will possibly be some changes to the off leash dog part adjacent to Simms street. I have lived across the street from the park and have used it for 3 dogs I have owned over the years. I also use it for mountain biking, going out the back side adjacent to Indiana.
It would be unfortunate if the open space became dogs on leash only, with the exception of an area that will apparently be designated as off lease (fenced in). However, if the area is getting abused by dogs and people not picking up after them, then I'm fine with the change.
My biggest concern is making sure the area remains as open space, no building of anything on it. This state is getting way over crowded and nothing is being done about that problem. It's no wonder we have more crime and other issues with having mass of people.

91. Hello. I hope this message finds you all well. I've gotten quite a few messages from my contacts in Broomfield and Westminster about the closure and/or downscaling of the dog Park being proposed.
I'd like you to know that several of my friends who work in animal care are talking about self harm if this goes through. One is even saying she's going to kill herself if this happens. I'd like my friends to stay alive so I'd very much like if you didn't do this. It's going to make my friend kill herself.

92. I work in Westminster, CO and actively take my 5 year old dog to the park. I am very against any changes to the current setup. It is the safest, most welcoming outdoor off leash dog park I ever been to. I am actively considering moving to Westminster from Denver just to be close to the dog park.

I urge all council members to reject this proposal.

- 93.** I live in Broomfield, i come to Westminster hills open space dog park at least once a week for the last 3 years. Never have I even seen a dog fight. This park is so safe and beautiful. I can't believe y'all are contemplating reducing the size of the off leash area !! For what ?! So can develop it all and make \$\$?? I object to any restrictions on this dog park. How will reducing the size of the dog park somehow make this safer ?! Y'all are crooks !!
- 94.** I want all plans of changing or reducing the Westminster hills dog park to be rejected and left alone! It is the safest and best place to walk, and bike with your dog! It would a horrible thing to get rid of this open space! Please do not let this pass and be developed! It would ruin this area greatly for all! There is already a lack of outdoor spaces with the influx of people in this state!
- 95.** I believe the open space should remain the size it is and dogs should remain off leash. It is my favorite place to take my dog and go for a walk. Every time I am there, there is at least 30+ dogs.
- 96.** Dear Council members, I am writing you this E mail to voice my concerns about the off leash dog park located on 100 and Sims street, As much fun as it can be at times for the dogs and their owners it can also be a safety issue for others. As a close resident of the dog park my neighbors and I have all had off leash dogs on our property. In the past we have had goats harassed and killed from dog attacks, horses have been chased and attacked, new born calves have been chased and killed, the mother cow in that incident was also attacked trying to protect her young and had to be euthanized due to the attack. You built a beautiful bike trail along the south edge of the park that is used by a lot of new mothers with small children, HOW LONG UNTIL AN EXCITED DOG ATTACKS A SMALL CHILD IN YOUR PARK? Dogs are responsible for attacking more people in dog parks in Colorado than bears in all the state parks combined. Every day there are new articles written about dog attacks in our parks .Professional dog trainers caution against their use because of safety concerns. Unleashed dogs are the No 1 violation in Denvers parks , dog attacks are on the rise every week. I have had dog owners on my property trying to gain control of their dogs chasing coyotes from their dens. In your survey the number one priority of the dog park goers was the preservation of the wildlife. I have witnessed many dogs harassing prairie dogs on the west side of the park. These prairie dogs are part of the food chain that supply food to the Bald Eagles, owls and other birds of prey that live in the area. I think they are a protected species within the open space. To pave over them and make another parking lot is not conducive to promoting their existence or survival. Several dogs have been hit by cars on 100 th ave that have gone through the fence on the south side. An off leash dog park is a good idea as long as it is controlled and fenced in so the dogs are protected and the people who use the park are safe. The wildlife is not harassed and we can clean up the area where the dogs poop and its not all over the countryside. The lack of control of this off leash dog park is destroying this beautiful open space. Maybe fence off 100 acres for off leash owners and make the rest of the park a leash mandatory area. I have had my own dogs attacked at dog parks like this one . I have two dogs currently and would

never think to subject them to the harm that could come from an off leash dog having a bad day. I would like to use the park but at this point it is just too dangerous for both my pets and my family. Thank you for your time. Ill be waiting on your reply. [REDACTED]

- 97.** My name is [REDACTED] I'm a local home owner as well as local business owner. I'm concerned about the plans to reduce the off leash area near Stanley Lake. We have ample areas for cyclists, children and hikers all around the metro but this is the only area like this that we, dog owners have. The park is heavily used daily and such a unique asset to our community. As a tax payer without children, I gladly pay for other peoples children to have parks and safe places. I have no problem with my tax dollars going to build bike paths that I'll never use. What I do ask is that the space that is so heavily used by our community is left open. Westminster already took Stanley lake from local residents. Please do not take another amazing part of our community away from the people that live here.
- 98.** With the ever expanding metro area and Boulders rapid growth, open areas are more important to preserve than ever. Colorado is known for it's outdoorsy active people. With that comes a love for our furry companions. The off leash area in Westminster is a very needed place and part of our community. Not only is it a place for our dogs to run but it's a place for families to mingle. In the Facebook/instagram era, it gives us a place to let our dogs as well as humans a place to actually socialize. For our family this is such a needed place. There is nothing else like this on the front range, please reconsider before taking away such an important part of our community
- 99.** Please reconsider the decision to close the majority of the off leash park. Many people use this to exercise not only their dogs, but to get exercise themselves. We have many small, dusty, dirty dog parks in the Metro area, but none like this one. I have brought my dogs here for twenty years and don't know how I'd manage to keep them exercised without the use of this park. Having a large space where we can both wander is good for my mental health. Please respond to this email and explain the rationale for the decision that has been proposed about this space. We chose to live in this city because of it's fabulous open space. Don't take it away!
- 100.** Do not make it an on leash park at Westminster, we go there everyday. There are not enough off leash parks in Denver as it is.
- 101.** I've been coming to the Westminster Off Leash Park for over 6 years, it's an integral part of me and my dog's life. The off leash park helps keep me sane and keeps depression at bay. Please, I beg you, do not limit the off leash access to the park. You've already cordoned off much of the park to the west that I used to enjoy. Please leave it alone!

102. The Westminster open space deserves to be protected for the community. It provides an oasis outside the city to enjoy the outdoors with your dog off leash. These areas are few and far between nowadays and allow dog owners to let their dogs run free without concern. With Colorado becoming more and more crowded with tourists, the mountains are no longer an escape, with more and more restrictions for animals. Please leave this area as is for the enjoyment of so many.

103. Please do what you can to ensure the off leash dog park stays intact at its current size. This is the only place I've found where I'm able to take my dogs (Kaya and Rooster, both Huskies) where they actually feel excited to play and run with other dogs. Something about the natural feel of the landscape invites them to run free, whereas other more typical dog parks just make them nervous. Please listen to your constituents on this matter.

104. I am very upset to hear that the Westminster off-leash dog park space may be restricted or eliminated. This is an area that is use by so many people and creates an amazing communal place for a dog owners and lovers to socialize and exercise themselves and their dogs. In a day and age where obesity is an incredible epidemic & on the rise, the need for Open Spaces where people can walk and exercise is paramount! Please do not eliminate this space for our Recreation.

105. I am writing to voice my opinion to please preserve Westminster dog park! This is an area that brings so much joy, solitude, exercise, and peace of mind to so many. I have two high energy dogs that I bring to the park 2-3x per week, and have been doing so for the past three years. It is an incredible area for them to run free and get their energy out. With strict lease laws around the front range, there are very few areas where dogs have total ability to run free. And every time I go, the park is full of people, families, and dogs enjoying themselves and getting outside. It would be a disgrace if we got rid of such a beautiful park that is so abundantly utilized and brings so much joy to so many, both humans and canines, in our community

106. Please don't take away our favorite place to socialize our dogs and ourselves. I've lived in Colorado Springs and Fort Collins and the Westminster Hills Open Space/Off Leash Dog park has by far been the best dog park we've ever experienced.

Most dog parks are mud pit of dog pee and poop, no bigger than a standard back yard. The Westminster open space gives dogs and their humans space to exercise together. Unlike other dog parks that have only room for humans to stand around and watch, this beautiful landscape provides space for dogs to walk along side their owners and develop trust without a leash - a key component of responsible dog ownership.

There are countless other places for bikes and non-dog people to play where dogs are required to be on leash. Limitations like these lead dogs to develop leash aggression and physical injury from collars and harnesses. This is one of very few places where owners can move freely alongside their pups and pups can relax their backs and shoulders from restricting harnesses and collars. I have never met an aggressive dog at this park because unlike the tiny mud pits of other dog parks, there is space move freely, choosing to interact and play or keep walking as desired.

Besides the invaluable off-leash socialization between dogs, this space gives socially awkward humans a place to interact with other dog people and smile and laugh together about our dogs' quirky behaviors. At a time when we are all already so disconnected, spaces like this are essential to individual and community mental health.

This park is constantly busy and visitors I have met have always been kind and respectful. I'm certain that if funding or volunteer time was needed to maintain in the space, you'd simply need to ask and many individuals would be happy to help.

Please please please don't take this space away! Thank you for your consideration.

107. I regularly visit the Westminster Hills with my dog. She's a husky and loves to run and sniff, and this is one of the best places for her to exercise in the suburbs. It's nice to be able to meet up with a friend to go on a proper walk / hike instead of a fenced dog park where the only activity for humans is standing and watching.

The large space equates to less conflicts with other dogs than I've experienced walking on the street or at fenced dog parks. In fact, it's the only dog park that I go to aside from the Twin Lakes dog park in Gunbarrel, which has similar qualities of big space and lots of space to play for dogs. Please keep Westminster Hills off-leash!

108. My name is [REDACTED] I'm a local home owner as well as local business owner. I'm concerned about the plans to reduce the off leash area near Stanley Lake. We have ample areas for cyclists, children and hikers all around the metro but this is the only area like this that we, dog owners have. The park is heavily used daily and such a unique asset to our community. As a tax payer without children, I gladly pay for other peoples children to have parks and safe places. I have no problem with my tax dollars going to build bike paths that I'll never use. What I do ask is that the space that is so heavily used by our community is left open. Westminster already took Stanley lake from local residents. Please do not take another amazing part of our community away from the people that live here.

109. I am writing to express my extreme disappointment to close the majority of the park to off leash dog walking. I don't understand the reasoning behind the decision. I've been using the park for a while now and have never seen any issues with the dogs. The dogs walk along the paths with their owners and are all well behaved. There have not been any conflicts with other users of the park. Was there a study done as to any harm being done to the open space? Please publish it if you have so we can look for more reasonable solutions. If you haven't then you should defer the decision until you can point to any actual harm being done by off leash dogs. This is one of the few large open spaces where we can legally let dogs off the leash.

110. I live on Routt Lane, which is two blocks from the entrance of the Westminster Hills Dog Park. The large off-leash area of the dog park attracts visitors from all over the Denver-Metro area. The existing large off-leash area has diminished the environmental quality of the park and surrounding neighborhood due to:

- Severe odor from dog urine and feces emanating from park. In the warmer months, we can smell the odor when the wind blows from west to the east. Additionally, this amount of contamination from dog waste cannot be good for plants and animals

within the park.

- Increased noise on our street from dogs barking and vehicle traffic from park visitors.
- Elevated vehicle traffic on our street from park visitors, which makes it unsafe for children who may be playing near the road.
- Elevated amount of cars parked on our street, making it difficult to get my car into my driveway
- Many lost dogs from the park that end up wandering our neighborhood. We end up having to search for the owners, which is very disruptive because we have to attend to a strangers dog until the owner is found.

Please consider my concerns when deciding whether to lower the off-leash area. I believe that reducing the off-leash area would allow the park environment to recover and raise the quality of life for us that live next door.

111. Next, Westminster Hills open space. Allow me to heap all the praise I possibly can on Tomas Herrera-Mishler and his staff in the face of dozens of angry people yelling at them, even when I was asking them questions and the dog people couldn't contain their anger and began yelling at them over me, forcing my to request they wait for me to finish asking my questions and then having to deal with them being angry at me for not being angry. Also, disappointed that I didn't see any of the council members there during the 45 minutes that I was there from 1 to 1:45 to witness the abusive behavior your staff had to deal with.

The plan is perfect, and I recommend that the council approve it. Since the dog people appear to not be responsible dog owners or citizens of Westminster, allowing dog fights, not cleaning up their dogs waste, not being able to voice control their dogs or not caring about the open space they are loving to death. One million visitors a year is way to much, one million piles of feces (nitrogen spreaders for invasive species and e coli) is way too much for that habitat to sustain, not to mention that much e coli that near to our source of water. The move to shrink the off leash area will allow the dog people to prove that they are capable of being responsible in that smaller area (cleaning up waste, stopping dog fights/deaths, etc). Having a majority of the space on leash only, will allow no dog owners to enjoy the space and not be in fear of being attacked (I do not know you, I do not know your dog charging at me) and allow the city to fulfill is responsibility to get rid of invasive species and allow ground dwelling birds to hatch their young and no be harassed or eaten by rampaging dogs. Heck, we have the State Bird living there (the Lark Bunting) and it would be a shame if the city decides they need to die to keep dog owners happy.

Based on the things being yelled at me, the dog people are just going to ignore all the rules and run their dogs off leash in the proposed off leash area, again responsible dog owners.

As a reference, when Boulder started their off leash program decades ago, the owners had to prove that they could control there dog by voice commands when there were distractions, this would be worth looking into. Also, they had a guy that GIS/mapped all the piles of not picked up dog feces within 100 feet of the paths, this would be a good recommendation for the city to undertake to get a good handle of just how bad the problems is.

Thank you for your time, and good luck.

112. I do not own a dog and I do not personally utilize the Open Space Dog Park. However, this concerns me because I do live directly across the street. My backyard opens up to a full view of the park. My patio and bedroom window overlooks the park. The only thing separating my property from the park is a two lane road, approximately 50 feet. I never realized anyone in the neighborhood had any issues with the dog park until February 2024. I moved into this house late 2021. There seems to only be one specific house that has concerns regarding the park. Almost all the other neighbors do have dogs and I see them using the park quite frequently, multiple times a day. When I first moved into the neighborhood we did not have any "no parking" signs up yet. Previous to the signs being put up occasionally there would be cars parked on the street but nothing bothersome and never in high quantities, I'm talking 3 cars maximum, and it was almost exclusively on Saturdays or Sundays roughly 10am to 12 noon. There are far more cars parked on the neighborhood street when someone hosts a barbecue.

I have never had any issues with the visitors. They park their cars and go straight to the dog park, once they are done they go straight back to their cars and leave. They do not cause a disturbance. They do not cause damage, they do not steal, they do not litter, they are not loud, they do not linger, and not once have I ever experienced someone not cleaning up after their dog on my lawn. Occasionally I will stop and have a chat with the people strolling by and they are always friendly and courteous.

If temperatures are above freezing then I have my windows and patio doors open. Aside from a very rare disagreement between dogs I never hear any over the top noise. The cars driving by on the main road and planes flying above are far more disruptive. My two children, 5 years and 2 years, are constantly outside playing and riding their bikes and there are never cars flying by or strangers acting weird, never any dogs off leash in the neighborhood. I am always outside with my children and I do not believe their safety has been compromised in any sense because of the dog park or the people who frequent it.

When I heard people wanted to get the park shut down or possibly restructured to limit patrons or dog use, I was astonished. This park adds so much value to our community. It gives people and their dogs a place to get outside and breathe fresh air and feel the sun, and it gets people exercising. It is one of the only places people can go off leash with their dogs and it is free to visit. We need more places like this dog park, not less. I also know multiple people who have purchased homes in this neighborhood specifically to utilize the park.

My only suggestion is to bring back the overflow parking on the side of the road that was covered in grass last summer. The space is wide enough a car can comfortably park without impeding the bike lane, the street, or the park.

113. As an avid park patron, I'm reaching out to encourage the City Council members to consider alternatives to reducing the size of the off-leash dog area by implementing better park management tools.

The park's popularity only shines a spotlight on the public's need for this facility, and reducing the acreage isn't the best solution. As you are well aware, this park is used by not only Westminster residents, but others, like myself, who live nearby.

I'm extremely grateful for having access to the park! Sadly, I constantly witness patrons ignoring their dog's poop, which I'm guessing is the "root" problem, resulting in the need to make changes. Mostly, these people probably don't understand the negative

impact this can create. Educating the public and gaining their cooperation is essential to achieving everyone's ultimate goals.

Being a nonresident, I would like to suggest the following. In an effort to preserve the wildlife and the open space, and continue to fulfill the public's need for this area, implement an annual parking permit requirement. As a prerequisite, all applicants must first watch a video to educate them about the area, and be clearly informed of the park's rules. Following the video, all applicants must pass a short test, to assure they understand the rules and the impact their behavior has on the area. A reasonable fee structure would obviously need to be applied. Possibly doubling the fee for nonresidents seems reasonable. Regrettably, placing a parking pay station, similar to those found in downtown Denver, would seem inevitable to control those visiting without a permit. The hourly fee could be two or three dollars an hour, to encourage patrons to watch the video and obtain an annual permit. The main goal of this program should be to educate park patrons and to offset the associated financial costs.

I'd like to also remind the Council that we do live inside the confines of a major city, which creates a nearly unmanageable situation for wildlife conservation to begin with. I trust you will seek the advice of professional wildlife conservatives.

114. I am writing this email to express my disappointment of the WHOS management plan. I have been taking my dog Laila here for almost 8 years. She was only 3 months old when I started taking her. She learned how to interact with other dogs and what acceptable dog behavior is when socializing. I lived in Westminster for 5 years but have moved to Henderson in 2021. We still make the drive here 1-2 times a week. Laila was traumatized during the summer of 2020 when there were fireworks being set off everyday. Since then she won't walk around our neighborhood on leash or anywhere anymore. This dog park is the only place she goes that she seems comfortable and not anxious. I believe it is because she has come here all her life. Reducing space or making it all on leash might trigger her anxiety and stop her from going. I hope you consider the effect this will have on the community.

115. Hello City Council, I am writing to you regarding the current proposal to change the use options at the Westminster Hills Dog Park. I purchased my home in the Countryside neighborhood in 2015 specifically to be close to the dog park. It is a unique and wonderful option that I recognized as not only an outlet to enjoy open space with my dog, but also as a contributor to my property values.

Over the years I have noted, as everyone has, the uptick in utilization. I have often wondered why there is not better management of this park and for heaven's sake - charge a fee. Many, many municipalities charge for parking, use permits etc. to help fund maintenance of outdoor spaces. I urge you to consider a method of revenue generation that will sustain this wonderful park for years to come. Having the only option be to limit use to a smaller area and almost eliminate off leash use seems short sighted.

I also wonder if the environmental impact is so great, why were bulldozers and heavy equipment allowed in to permanently cement over bare land for a new bike path? I

urge you not to talk out of both sides of your mouth on this issue and do what is best for your community, the wildlife, the dogs and all the flora and fauna. I know we have to find a balance and I hope you will be open to more ideas than just those put forth in the proposal.

116. I am reaching out regarding the Westminster Hills Dog Park. I am highly concerned about the fact that City employees appear to be removing notices posted by concerned citizens from the sign boards. Nothing posted by the City advises of the plans to make changes to the off-leash area. Again, the new meeting sign only says "preserve and restore." This is 100% dishonest. The public has informed the City that they want and need transparency. Instead, common citizens have had to organize to inform the public about what is going on with possible changes at WHOs. Please be open and honest and open about the City plans, let the public know what you are doing, and please INCLUDE the public in your decision-making process. Some round table discussions with concerned citizens would be appreciated.

117. I am writing today to let my elected officials know that I do not support reducing the size of the westminster hills offleash dog park. The size of the offleash park is what it is appeal is. There are plenty of leashed walk areas in the city. Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion.

118. What a shame the city is considering going to the extreme at WHOS by removing 90% of off leash space before they even implement measures such as signage, education and community cleanup days. The majority of us users clean up and respect the space and we are willing to start a NPO to support and preserve this unique space.

There is no place else where I can exercise both myself, my dogs and my kids! I am a direct neighbor and we bought our home 12 years ago because of this unique area. To lose it would be detrimental to our way of life and potentially our home values. Yes, something must be done but there are other solutions as indicated in the report.

Please, let us do our part before we turn to such extremes as the city is currently considering.

119. Hello, I'm writing to make a plea to the city to keep our dog park as is. It is invaluable to people and dogs alike. It is a place of peace and solitude for all, allowing our dogs a place to run and play. It's a place where our neighbors flock and interact. It's a beloved part of our community.

120. I feel like the "study" that was done was very flawed and they are cherry picking what they want. First if you want to protect animals and native grasses why did they just DESTROY a huge area to put in a bike path? Why did they build a neighborhood on the same land they want to protect? Why are you spraying pesticides(that sure won't harm things 😊). I have been going for 17yrs, and the "wild life area" is THRIVING, it's the best it has been ever. It seems more effected by moisture not necessarily humans. Also if you want it to be a wildlife area, you must take down the barb wire fences (on both sides of Indiana!) I have had to call about MULTIPLE DEAD ELK AND DEER that have been entangled in fence, clean up garbage from Indiana (it has been there for YEARS!!) AND

build a safe crossing for these elk and deer they want to come over, otherwise you will continue to have deaths of the animals as well as injuries to humans in there cars. Nothing is perfect but a knee jerk reaction with NO COMMUNICATION from westminster is ridiculous. Don't let them pull the wool over your eyes with this "study". Thank you

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122. I live across the street from the dog park. I get all the weeds and seeds that blow down the street from the non-grass left from the dogs. It really is a people problem and not a dog problem. We can't get people to pick up after their dogs so the grass will grow back. I have a tiny dog so I don't get to use the park, the dogs are too big and too unruly for him, they would kill him. People in my neighborhood, sometimes will pick up poop, put in a bag, but LEAVE THE BAG there for me and other neighbors to pick up, or City workers to pick up. COME ON!! People are the problem, not the dogs BUT the people are not trained just like the dogs. Off Leash is a gift, but many, many dogs are not trained well enough, their owners just think they are and will not admit that they have not done their responsibility to the dog. It is not the dog's fault. The grass will never grow back if humans do not help it and do their part. HOW to do that, I do not know.....The dogs need a place to run to get anxiety out but humans are the problem. Westminster Hills is the perfect place but people are not taking care of it and do not appreciate what we have. The parking can get bad in front of our houses, even after more parking was added. People come from all over to let their dogs run free without giving one thought to us across the road from the cars, dogs, prairie dogs, people and their behavior. (not to mention what goes on out there at night, you can use your imagination) The people who pollute should be the ones that will clean up after their dogs. I VOTE for THEM to clean up but they will not chase their dog out where he goes to clean it up, thinking someone else will do it...some chemicals in that dog food will not let the grass grow back....or people just don't care enough to clean up BUT will be the first to gripe that it is taken away from them, and cry "Oh poor me" .It is a very bad problem and a big space that is not growing back fast enough. It is not safe for ALL so we don't go use it even though our taxes support it. :(I hope we can find answers.....I pray for those who have decisions to make that affect my neighborhood...BIG TIME!!! Please do the right thing.

123. I'm extremely concerned about the current plan to drastically reduce off-leash access. I have been coming to this park for over 20 years. I even bought my first house across the street from it so that we could enjoy it more. The large off leash area is the reason this park is loved by so many. The large number of people and dogs that frequent this park are clearly showing that there is a demand for this large off leash area. People come from all over to visit this park and then in turn support other Westminster businesses. It is extremely upsetting that Westminster can't figure out a way to manage it and their plan is just to take away the reason that it's popular in the first place. People can walk their dogs on leash anywhere! What they don't have are any other large off leash dog parks. Why not try an approach that doesn't punish the people who love it? This park is the best thing about Westminster in my opinion

124. Hello! I'm part of a group of volunteers hoping to organize a volunteer clean up day at the Westminster Hills Open Space Dog Park. We're targeting Sunday February 25 from 10am-12pm. (Weather permitting of course.)

What's the best department/staff to contact for possible help in disposing of all the waste we would collect? We have volunteers who can shuttle people to and from the parking lot at Wayne Carle JH (assuming they're okay with their lot as a gathering point) and volunteers to pass out poop bags, pick up poop, distribute tennis balls, etc.

I look forward to contacting the correct people so we can collaboratively help with keeping the dog park clean and loved!

125. There's been so much debate and friction about this topic of the dog park. We live in the neighborhood right by the main entrance of Sims. We're not as concerned about the off leash vs on leash but we do believe that there needs to be a way to improve parking so that our neighborhood is not flooded with random cars and people throughout the week. We have a young child at home and care about the safety and the ability for her to be outside without so many cars coming in and out.

126. My fiancé and I take our dog to the Westminster off leash dog park every single day. We have a high energy pup who absolutely loves the park. He gets to run free, play with other dogs, and get plenty of exercise. We are in the process of buying a house and are looking in Westminster because of proximity to the off leash park. Please preserve this off leash space! Getting rid of this space for dogs to run free would be a huge loss for Westminster. So many people get to enjoy this space and I've heard from several folks at the park that Westminster would be significantly less appealing to them to live if this off leash space goes away.

127. Please do not change the off leash space at the Westminster Hills Dog Park. It's an essential area to the community and Denver. This is the only park we take her to where we feel safe because of the large space, and she loves being off leash and we love the exercise for us too. As a Physical Therapist, I see the benefits to all of this off leash area and this is extremely important. Thank you!

128. Do not pass off leash

- 129.** Please keep our off-leash park as it is, off-leash and free. The proposed plan will create unsafe and unsanitary conditions for both humans and animals. The planned, small designated off-leash area will be too congested. This will increase the potential for violent interactions between dogs as well and increase transmission of diseases. Make it a fee-based park with voice and sight tags for off-leash use. Charge a day-use and/or annual parking fee. The revenue raised from the fees can be used to hire rules enforcement officers to patrol and issue citations for violations. Utilize community volunteers for clean-up and maintenance. Patrons that are paying for the privilege of using the park will be better stewards of the land than visitors who don't pay. Rules against dogs harassing wildlife will help the nesting birds. The breeds that have a propensity to scare up birds may require leashes or e-collar training. The vast majority of dogs at the park stay on the trail or within 15-20 feet from the trail. Dogs need to run, play and chase balls. Walking on a leash does not provide enough exercise or freedom that they require to be happy, healthy animals. Don't punish the majority of responsible owners and well-behaved dogs for the irresponsible and inconsiderate behavior of the few. This park is very important to a large portion of the community.
- 130.** I am reaching out regarding the City Council's plans to restrict access to the Westminster off leash dog park. This park has been apart of the community for years and has provided a safe place for both people and their dogs to get outside and exercise. I have been taking my dog to this park for years and it has become a very special place for my family. I'm writing this with the hope that you will consider my request and the requests of thousands of others to not restrict the off leash dog park.
- 131.** My dogs and I live in the neighborhood across from Simms and we go to the open space off leash dog park every day. We request that the city not make any changes to this sacred space where the dogs can run free. In over 10 years of going, I have never had any issues with dogs being off leash. Please do not make any changes as it does not support what the community wants!
- 132.** I heard that the city counsel is planning on reducing the dog park from the large 400 acres to a merely scant 40 acres and as I understand it this is to protect birds and the terrain. Given that 20 million dollars as I understand it was obtained to put in a concrete bike path - that cuts against this notion - I find this proposal to be hypocritical and antithetical the community that uses and loves the dog park regularly. Personally I will flat out disregard the requirement of a leash if this occurs and likely many others will too. Certainly this has already happened with the blocking off of the paths in the park leaving city council with a significant enforcement problem. But given that there is little space for dogs to run off leash in the area yet millions of acres of land throughout the state that is or can be preserved for nature, taking 360 acres from dogs (and their peeps) who love the space seems to be an unjustified use of power. That little amount of space will likely have a small impact on wildlife but an huge impact if removed in the pets in our community. Moreover that little space is going to become less environmentally friendly as we continue to develop the little remaining areas around the park - something that will happen sooner than later. Those impacts alone will push wildlife away but who cares that there's less space for our beloved pets to run. Please do

not do such a disrespectful thing which likely will just be disregarded by most of us. Good luck enforcing this.

- 133.** I have three German Shepherds and we are up there several days a week. Depending on the weather and time, we do many activities. We have walked the perimeter many times, or when it is really cold they LOVE to run around, chasing each other. It is a Godsend for them and for me. It would be awful if they had to be confined to a leash, or worse yet to a small enclosed area. To be honest, I would be afraid to take them because of the high incidents of dogs getting out of control. Please keep the park open and off leash.
- 134.** I'm writing to express my concern at hearing the WHOS dog park will be greatly reducing the areas where dogs can roam free. My three dogs and I regularly go for long walks in this park, and it's been one of our favorite activities for the last 8 years. If there is some kind of financial motivation for this decision, know that I, and likely many others, would be willing to pay a fee/purchase a pass to keep the space as it is.
- 135.** PLEASE do not limit the off leash part of the park!!!! This is the ONLY park in the area and we live it with our dogs. If there needs to be changes for conservation, I think the community is open. Please don't take away our favorite place in Westminster!!
- 136.** PLEASE do not severely restrict the offleash portion of Westminster open space. This is the only place in the area you can exercise and let your pups have a little sense of freedom. It is our absolute favorite place in the area and would be a huge loss to the community, and surrounding communities. High volume of use shows its value, and demonstrates the need it fills for the community.
- 137.** I am opposed to the proposed plan to decrease the acreage of off-leash dog area. There is a vast acreage of protected lands surrounding the open space and we the residents of Westminster should not have the access revoked for any cause of habitat or ecosystem when new housing developments do far more harm.
- 138.** Ok. I have owned my home in Countryside for 25 years. My home backs up to the Westminster Hills Dog Park and I'm heartbroken at the changes I've seen both to the open space and its rippling effects into our neighborhood.

The Westminster Hills land mass was an open space before it was a dog park. It was established to protect our endangered species and was a factor in my choice to purchase here: it was open and untouched. It gave me a feeling of OPEN space. It has now become a significant factor in my deliberations about leaving this area. The usage has grown ASTRONOMICALLY and the vast majority of it is not local. In fact, if you talk to those of us who live here you'll find most of us do not use it--even if we own dogs. We can't. Why? Because 1) frequently, the people that use it off-leash have dogs not under voice control as "required." The combination of aggressive dogs, negligent owners, and no leashes is a recipe for disaster; 2) it smells absolutely rank out there. When the wind blows directly out of the west, it's gag-worthy in the neighborhood; 3) the sheer volume of dog waste is disgusting. Unbagged piles of dog crap and green bags of s■■ litter the

landscape; 4) access points are so overrun it's hard to even get in and out (of both the open space and the neighborhood) safely.

I understand that our open space is (was?) attractive. I understand that other municipalities have closed their off-leash parks. I understand that people are itching for a place to let their dogs run wild and free. I also understand that meeting those needs for the people outside Westminster is not the responsibility of the people in Westminster. Since when is it our job to make our resources available to those across all of Denver? And to the point of completely decimating those resources?

You represent the city of Westminster (not Denver) and we are really disappointed to be in this situation. We've been begging for change for YEARS. We fought to get signs installed at our neighborhood entrance to address out of control parking; it took over a year. We've begged for more on-location parking for users or some way to stave off the congestion in our neighborhood. We were told the open space can't handle more visitation--but the visitation is happening. Westminster leadership keeps acknowledging there are issues (land destruction, parking) and simultaneously they resist making any useful changes. We are tired of fighting to get city council and those who "represent" us to actually take action on our behalf. We need you to do better. Please.

139. Hi. We have lived in the Countryside neighborhood for 20+ years. We live around the corner from the Westminster Hills Dog Park and have watched over the last 8-10 years as this resource has been slowly destroyed. Devastated.

It was initially established as an open space, which it seems to me, should take precedence over its use as a dog park. Are the local species valuable or not? Is the uptick in invasive species concerning or not? The last 5 years, we've seen a massive increase in tumbleweeds blowing down our blocks. The dust in our homes is insane. Tumble weeds and dust?! Are we in rural Texas here? You might guess it if you look at all the exposed dirt and debris out in the dog park these days.

This is not to mention the multitude of traffic-related issues we've been enduring over the last decade. On an average Saturday or Sunday from April - Oct we see 100+ dog park patron vehicles in our corner of the neighborhood. That's just our corner, across from the 105th & Routt access point. That's not counting the on-Simms illegal parking (on both sides, E & W), the 101st Ave & 103rd Ave neighborhood inlets across from the dog park and the street parking along 100th (the south dog park lot). It's a circus here!1) We have no idea who is in our neighborhood. Safety concerns anyone?2) We have no parking in front of our own homes. Super inconvenient!!3) We have trash and dog s left in our yards. Absolutely disgusting!4) Our weekend is full of the sound of slamming & locking car doors, barking dogs, yelling strangers, etc. Quality of life concerns anyone?I don't want to be in my own neighborhood on my own days off. This is ridiculous.

The city's own recent report stated that more than 1 million people visited our open space last year. That's more than Mile High Stadium sees in a year. Are we, the local residents, the only people concerned about this?? The open space is a shell of its former beauty. It's become overused & run down. The neighborhood is basically an extended parking lot. And now the Open Space Dept studies have come back to verify these

conclusions, so why are you hesitating to implement change? Because people you don't represent are whining they might lose access to an area to which they are not entitled? Why even have a person like Joe Reale in the position of Open Space Superintendent if you're not going to heed his professional recommendations?

We should not be expected to service everyone in the wider-Denver area--but as it currently stands, we are. Evergreen shut down Elk Meadows off-leash Park. Firestone closed the Aisiks off-leash Park. Parker closed Newlin Meadows off-leash Park. Why? Because of aggressive dogs, and diminished land conditions, and intrusive traffic in the surrounding neighborhoods. These are our issues too! Why are other municipalities willing to make changes for their constituents, but you are not? You are our elected officials. We expect more of you. We expect you to stop accommodating the temper tantrums of non-Westminster Denver residents. You represent us; not them. We expect you to make the hard, informed, necessary choice to limit the off-leash access to our once-beautiful open space. Doing so should remedy a multitude of other issues (traffic, deterioration, safety, etc). We've been asking for this for years. You now have the data to support the hard choice. Make it.

140. Please stop the plan to reduce the Westminster Hills Open Space off leash dog park. It provides so many community benefits providing a healthy space for both dogs and owners to get exercise. It is one of the few off leash locations and it's vast extents not only help exercise my shy dog, but also keeps me healthy walking, jogging, and biking. Traditional dog parks are terrible for shy dogs like mine that gets picked on by the mob upon entry. Westminster Hills gives her so much freedom and space. It also gave us a safe location to train her recall off leash and practice mountain biking with her. There are literally no other good options within a reasonable drive. Please do the right thing and dont take this valuable resource away from the community.

141. Reducing the acreage of the off-leash dog park by 90% will take away my favorite place to exercise my dog. I have visited other smaller dog parks, but these make my dog anxious and we both leave stressed. The 400 acre off-leash dog park is good for my mental health and my dog's mental health. I visited the park post-partum frequently due to its easy access and stress-free area for both myself and my dog to exercise. I don't understand why the 400 acre dog park is under attack by the Westminster Parks Department. I wanted to leave you with the following points.

1) I've been coming to the Westminster dog park regularly for 4 years and have never encountered an aggressive dog. I think the 400 acres eliminates dogs feeling that they are penned in and need to fight. Instead, they have space to run around each other and are not aggressive. If this is a concern then I would be willing to sign a usage agreement in order to continue using the park as is.

2) I understand that maintenance can be costly for any park. If the dog park is causing more maintenance dollars than other parks then I would be willing to make a donation towards the park maintenance as well as learn how to better maintain the area.

3) I've heard that maintaining the natural habitat is also a concern, but there are still 600 acres of open space not disturbed by off-leash dogs. This is plenty of area to focus on restoration and rehabilitation of the natural habitat.

In short, I'm extremely concerned about the current plan to drastically reduce off-leash access. This is a high usage park and an essential area for the dog community.

142. I have been living in the area adjacent to the WHOS since 2003. I came to this area to enjoy the relatively rural lifestyle the open spaces provided at the time. Over the years, I have watched my neighbors, Arvada Westminster and Broomfield, develop and grow. I understand that growth in this area is inevitable, and with it comes increases in open space usage. I get that, we all need activity in the outdoors to keep our minds and bodies healthy and balanced. However, it seems to be that the usage at WHOS has become rather unbalanced with regard to managing the needs of people and wildlife. I used to ride my horses in the open space, but quit doing so as an increase of unleashed dogs made it unsafe; I used to try and jog the trails, but the increase in dog waste, disturbed vegetation, and mud holes has made it unpleasant and unhealthy not to mention the increased difficulty to observe the wildlife there. Walking along Alkire and 100th was never pleasurable due to the small shoulder areas, but it is I thinkable now with the increased traffic going to/from the parking areas. My birdwatching jaunts in the area have been very different with the increase in people/dog disturbance and I pray that the eagles, hawks, owls and kestrels and all manner of supporting wildlife in the ecosystem can continue to make a living here.

So, although I was saddened by the report of the conditions present at the open space given at the open house at Westview Rec Center last year (noxious weeds, dog feces, E. Colo levels, wildlife impact), I was encouraged that the longer term goals are to mitigate the damage from overuse and bring balance back to WHOS, for the wildlife, nature observers, trail users as well as the dog lovers. The area is large enough for us to share by keeping activities segregated according to the proposed plans. Please help keep the area open space for all!

143. My husband and I bought our home in Countryside near the NE open space entrance in March 2016. We loved the idea of raising a family in a neighborhood with lots of long term residents, tucked away by the open space on the edge of the city. The first several weeks we lived here, we wandered the Open Space and enjoyed the view, so excited to have snuck into such a great neighborhood. The moment the weather warmed, we were met with an entirely different reality. Hundreds and hundreds of people on a given weekend flooded into our area. Weekdays the open space parking lot was sometimes full; on weekends it overflowed 1/2 mile down the shoulder of Simms and blocks into the neighborhood. Installing a second south side parking lot offered very short term relief to the parking issues as several off-leash dog parks in Denver metro closed, driving more people our way.

I first sought out the support of Joe Reale in 2019, shortly after myself and a neighbor held an off-leash dog as it died after being hit by a car while attempting to run across Simms. Ever heard the squeal of brakes as they hit an animal? I have. A different neighbor and her two young sons were VERY nearly hit in the middle of the blinking Simms crosswalk while returning from the open space just days prior. It was about that time that neighbors began to question the blue vehicle parked alongside our fence. Has anyone seen it move? We are a vigilant, highly communicative neighborhood. We called it in to be safe. Turns out it had been stolen from Aurora, more than 2 months prior, which no one had realized because of the sheer volume of cars cycling through our neighborhood any given week.

A few signs were installed at the entrance to the neighborhood—it took us months and months to get it done. Many residents would gently ask dog park patrons to heed the signs requesting they not use our streets for parking, only to be met with vitriol, cursing, even followup knocks at our doors upon returning to their cars replete with screams of “I can park wherever the F**K I want! Street parking is public parking!” Not an exaggeration.

Once upon a time, my husband’s and my work schedule, road time, etc, was such that we craved the respite of home on the weekends. Those days are long gone. Being home on weekends is actually quite stressful now. To begin, our neighborhood is no longer quiet & 9 mos of the year we must close our windows on account of the constant sounds of barking, dog park patrons navigating parking, car doors closing, beeping car locks, etc. Beyond that, we have a 2 year old who loves being outdoors. Last summer, an enormous off-leash German Shepherd bounded up to our daughter & relentlessly licked her face. I had to pull it away from her until the owner made their way around the corner with the statement “Oh, he’s a good dog. You don’t have to worry.” And how am I to know that as it runs toward my child?? And if it had chosen to bite rather than lick my child, then what? Now, not only is my daughter terrified of dogs, but she can’t play in her own front yard on the weekend.

The current highlights of weekend-living on the west end of Countryside now include:

Property damage

Dog waste & litter

Endless streams of new people

Random off leash dogs

People traipsing across our yards

Vehicles swinging into the neighborhood only to flip u-turns & speed away

No street parking for residents

Constant noise

This doesn’t even begin to touch the way the open space has been diminished over the last 8 years. What used to be narrow, defined trails within abundant beautiful wild grass and clean open views has been reduced to horrific stench, massively wide “trails,” out of control dogs, and dog waste dotting the landscape—some bagged, some not. It’s distressing to see that so much of its beauty has been worn down to dirt. The current situation is not sustainable. We’ve traded in our native plant growth for invasive weeds and the smells of fresh grass have been replaced by that of urine. And what about the impact of concentrated dog feces on the soil itself. How is this ok?

The City has done the research. It’s been confirmed: traffic is horrendous, the open space is being depleted & the vast majority of patrons are from outside Westminster. The Parks, Trails & Open Space Dept made its recommendation—a simple, practical, informed recommendation to limit usage. Many, MANY of us are in strong favor of the proposed recommendation (or something even more limiting, to be frank). Yet, you seem more concerned with the interests of people outside our neighborhood and city than the cries of your own constituents. We have dealt with the fallout of your lack of action on this matter for years with little to no support. The vigilance required to live in the neighborhood is exhausting. Many of us are talking about moving away—largely on

account of this issue. We love our dogs. We love our open space. We are tired of our concerns being dismissed. Truly. It's been YEARS of no one taking this seriously. Until apparently now, when a practical, reasonable recommendation has upset (mostly) those outside our area—people unaffected by the in and out daily impacts of the current open space usage.

I do not care how the people outside our city feel about the choices we make as a city. They are not owed off-leash access to our open space or entitled to an opinion about how we allocate our resources. If people want a voice in the discussion about our open space, by all means, they are welcome to move here. Until then, their opinions, frankly, are irrelevant. I do, however, care that we restore and protect the safety and comfort of our residents. I care that we protect our finite natural resources.

I would love to casually walk the open space with my husband again without stepping in dog waste. I'd love to comfortably take my daughter to enjoy it or let her play in her own front yard on a Saturday. I would love to enjoy what my neighborhood has to offer rather than leave in search of less congested, quiet living on the weekends. This is a safety and quality of life issue for many, MANY of us. Please take this seriously.

- 144.** I have been a Westminster homeowner for 8 years living about 400 feet from the Westminster Hills Open Space Simms entrance. I have seen usage skyrocket in those eight years, resulting in hundreds of random cars parked in front of my home every weekend. I used to use the trails in the park for evening walks, but the entire area now smells like dog waste. Untrained aggressive dogs routinely run across the road into the neighborhood, so it is unsafe for my young daughter to play in our own yard while she is too small to protect herself. I am tired of angry dog owners from other cities leaving waste in our neighborhood and acting like they own the streets. The open space is owned by Westminster and should be managed for the benefit of city residents, not the hundreds of thousands driving from other cities.

I fully support the proposed WHOS Area Management Plan to reduce the off leash portion of the dog park, which will hopefully reduce visitation and the above nuisances in the Countryside neighborhood as well as allowing for ecosystem protection and revegetation.

Please help us protect this vital open space for the benefit of Westminster residents!

- 145.** Please do not take away the off leash area! This is such an asset to our city. This is utilized by so many people and keeps us active and healthy by having such a large area to walk our furry friends! To take any of its size away would crowd this area and diminish its value as a large off leash area.

- 146.** Our dogs deserve a large off leash area. Please for once listen to what the people in this community are saying. No one wants Westminster to change. No one wants to decrease the off leash area. This is one of the few off leash areas in the state that isn't the size of a shoe box. We finally have one area where our dogs get to safely run, please do not take that away.

147. Keep the entire dog park leash free! It's one of the only open spaces where dogs are allowed to be off leash. I love taking my dog there and walking around the entire park, not just the tiny section you've proposed to keep leash free.