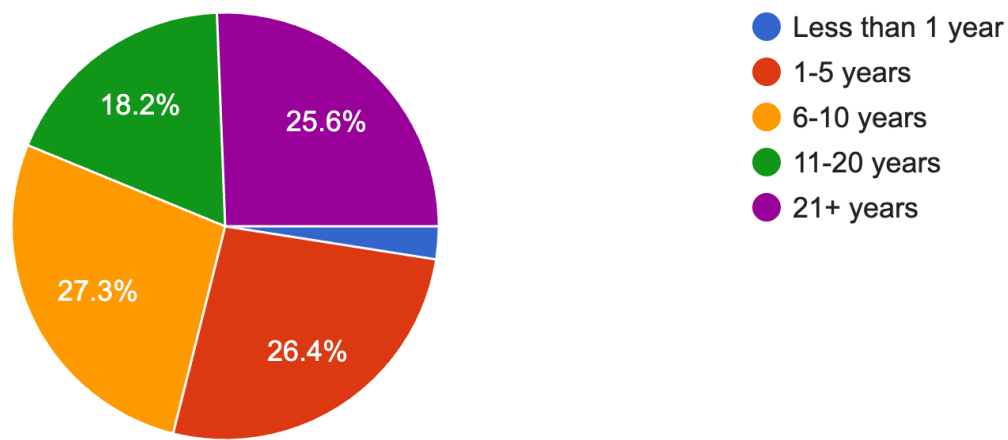


Westwood Hills Dog Waste Station Survey Results

July 2026

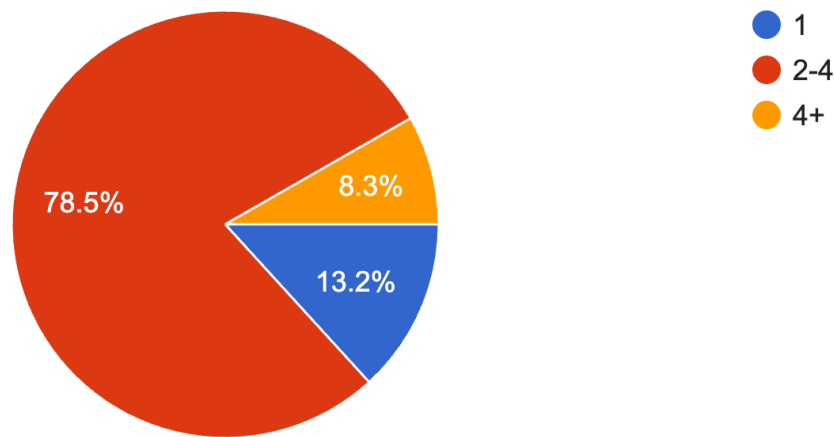
How long have you lived in Westwood Hills?

121 responses



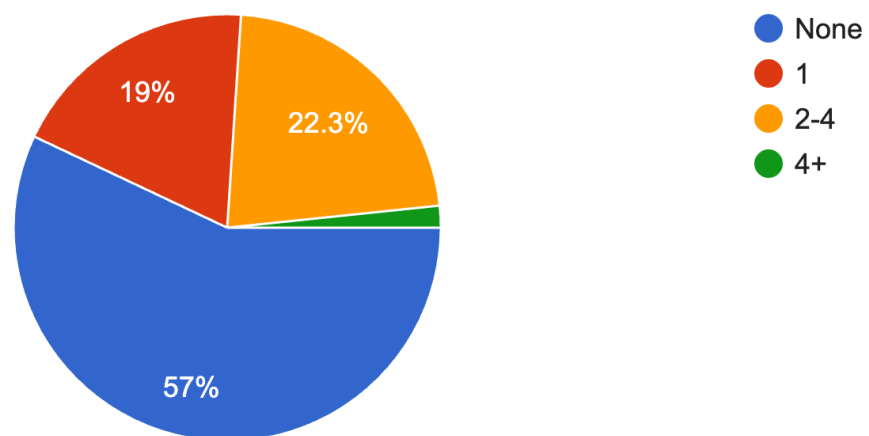
How many are in the household?

121 responses



How many children are under the age of 18 years in the household?

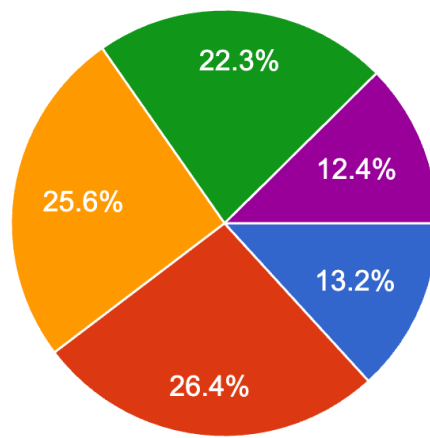
121 responses



Dog Waste Station Responses

How often do you use The Green (for any purpose)?

121 responses

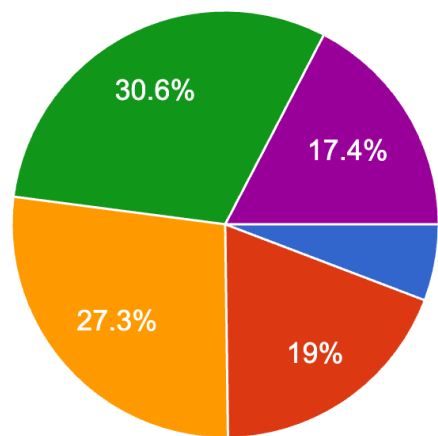


- Daily
- A few times a week
- A few times a month
- Rarely
- Never

Daily	16
A few times a week	32
A few times a month	31
Rarely	27
Never	15

Have you noticed unbagged dog waste on The Green? If so, how often?

121 responses

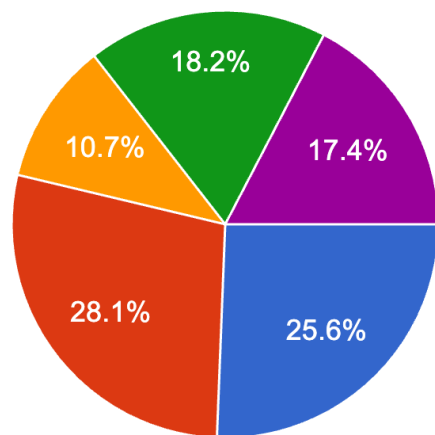


- Most visits
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never
- Not applicable - I don't use The Green

Most visits	7
Sometimes	23
Rarely	33
Never	37
Not applicable - I don't use The Green	21

Have you noticed bagged but improperly disposed dog waste on The Green? If so, how often?

121 responses

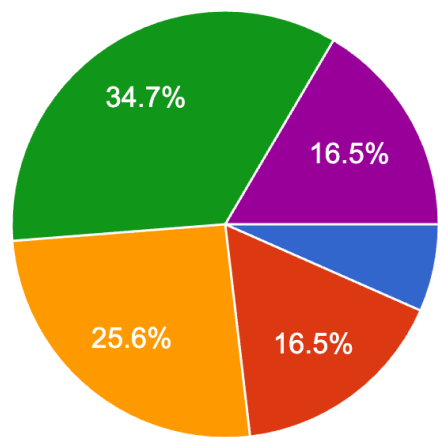


- Most visits
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never
- Not applicable - I don't use The Green

Most visits	31
Sometimes	34
Rarely	13
Never	22
Not applicable - I don't use The Green	21

Have you noticed odors from dog waste on The Green? If so, how often?

121 responses

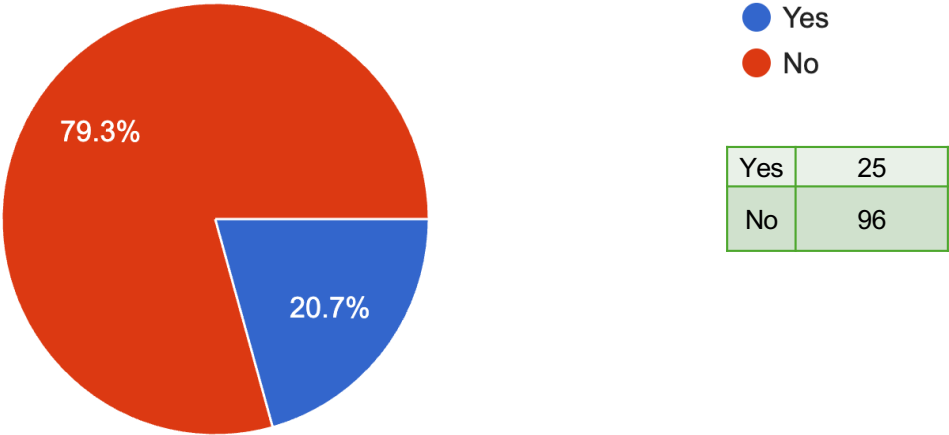


- Most visits
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never
- Not applicable - I don't use The Green

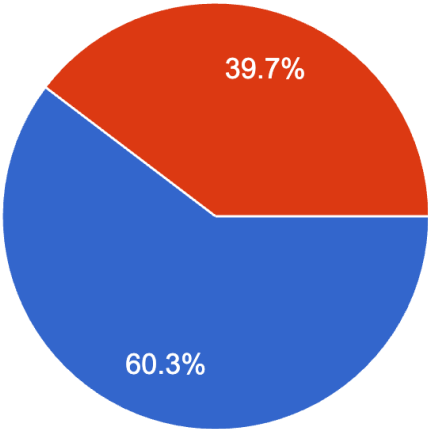
Most visits	8
Sometimes	20
Rarely	31
Never	42
Not applicable - I don't use The Green	20

Did you utilize the trash can on The Green for trash (other than dog waste)?

121 responses



Do you have a dog?
121 responses

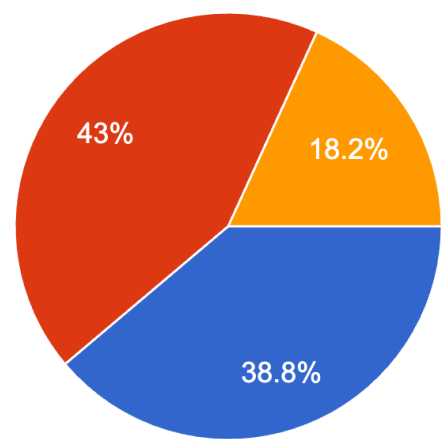


- Yes
- No

Yes	73
No	48

How many dogs do you have?

121 responses

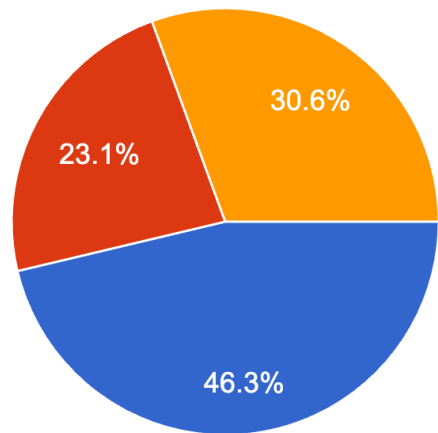


- I don't have a dog
- 1
- 2
- 3+

I don't have a dog	47
One	52
Two	22
3+	0

Do you walk a dog or dogs on The Green?

121 responses

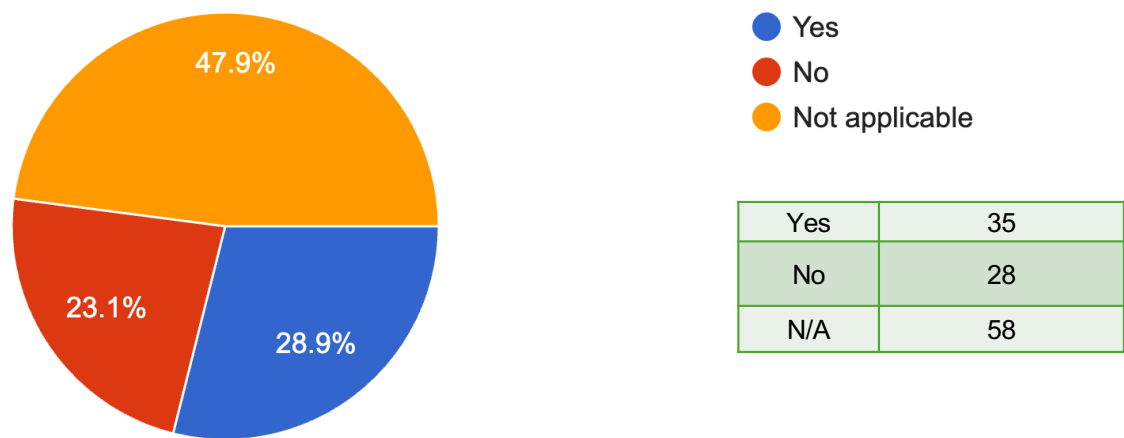


- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

Yes	56
No	28
N/A	37

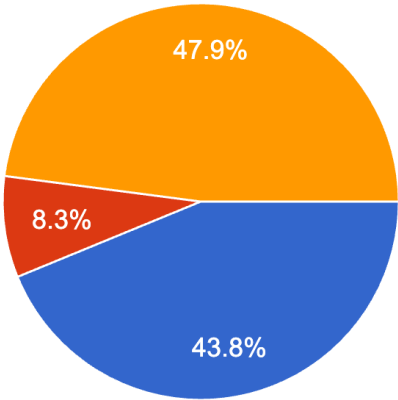
If you walk a dog on The Green, did you utilize the dog waste station for dog waste bags?

121 responses



If you walk a dog on The Green, did you utilize the dog waste station for disposal of dog waste bags?

121 responses

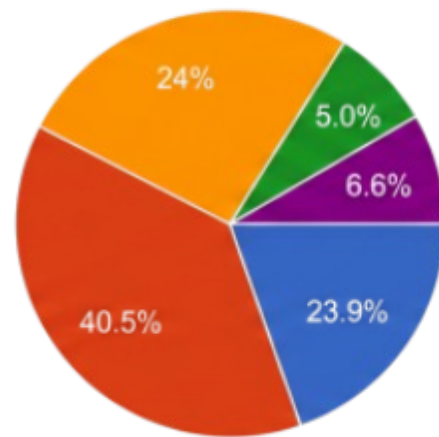


- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

Yes	53
No	10
N/A	58

Would you support installing a dog waste station on The Green?

121 responses

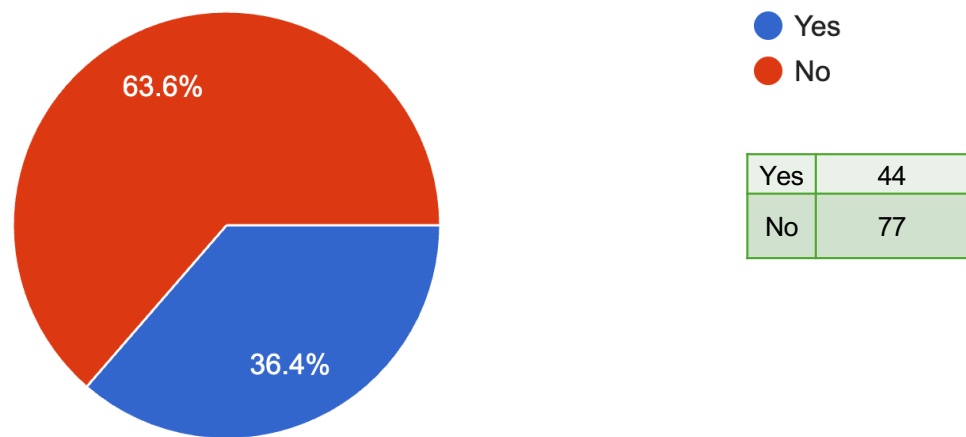


- Support
- Strongly Support
- Neutral or no opinion
- Opposed
- Strongly opposed

Support	29
Strongly Support	49
Neutral or no opinion	29
Opposed	6
Strongly Opposed	8

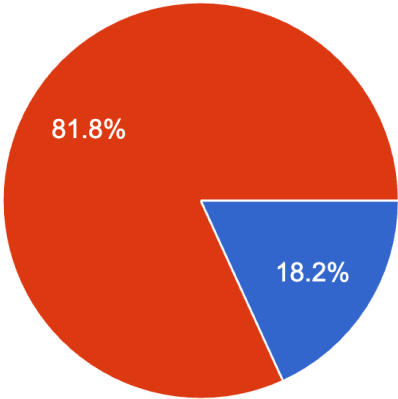
Would you be willing to assist the City with the task of refilling the dog waste bag dispenser?

121 responses



Would you be willing to assist the City with the task of emptying the trash can and replacing the trash can liner?

121 responses



- Yes
- No

Yes	22
No	99

Comments Summary:

- **Reinstatement and Infrastructure:** Many residents advocate for the immediate reinstallation of the dog waste station, reporting that its removal has directly caused an increase in littering, with bags of waste frequently abandoned in the area where the container previously stood. There is a strong consensus that providing a dedicated disposal point is essential for maintaining the cleanliness, aesthetics, and public health of The Green.
- **Odor Mitigation and Placement:** To address concerns regarding smell, suggestions include relocating the station to a more discreet, less trafficked area of the park, such as near existing commercial dumpsters or south of the bridge. Residents also proposed utilizing modern, odor-reducing infrastructure, such as in-ground, sealed containers with foot-pedal lids, to ensure the amenity remains unobtrusive.
- **Maintenance and Funding:** Opinions on funding vary, with some residents suggesting the use of city funds, HOA dues, or increased dog licensing fees to hire a professional removal service, thereby eliminating reliance on volunteers. Others feel that dog owners should be responsible for carrying their waste home, arguing that city resources should be prioritized for broader public services rather than pet-specific amenities.
- **Transparency and Engagement:** Several respondents expressed frustration regarding the decision-making process, citing a lack of transparency and consultation with the neighborhood before the removal. There is a clear desire for the City Council to be more transparent about the frequency of complaints, actual maintenance costs, and to seek community input before implementing similar changes in the future.

All Resident Comments (1 of 4)

1. I was surprised to find the dog station can removed. I had heard nothing of complaints or an issue with the dog station. I use it daily with my dog and have never noticed an odor. I found the waste can helpful and as discreet as it could be, tucked into the landscape. Since the can was removed, I have noticed several bags of dog waste left in the spot where the can used to be. That is much more offensive than the can itself. Prior to the dog station being removed, I never saw a bag of waste left on the grounds.
2. A dog waste station as been on the green for years and dog walkers are dependent on it. Use scented bags if odor is a problem. I haven't noticed it however.
3. If residents won't pick up after their dogs, then we should prohibit dogs on the green.
4. Could the city afford to (1) install a new solid container with lid to reduce the odor and (2) pay for a weekly removal service?
5. The cost to adequately maintain a dog waste can on our park is an unreasonable expense. People need to dispose of their own dog waste. We have better things to spend our property tax monies for. This entire demand to throw your dog waste into a dog waste can on our little public park rather than your own trash can in a 7 block city is simply silly.
6. I do feel like this would be a service someone/ some company could provide. Or if we allowed young adults in the neighborhood of legal working age to bid to take on this service as a job on an annual or biannual frequency.
7. On my most recent visit to The Green, there was a pile of filled dog waste bags piled up in the mulch. I believe having a receptacle for these bags on The Green would be a wise idea.
8. People who use the dog waste station could take turns emptying. Also it is appreciated when people walk their dog, they attempt to avoid flower gardens for their dogs toilet. thanks!
9. Unfortunately people will dispose of the bags on the ground/bushes or not clean up after their dogs at all if there's not a proper place to throw them away. I feel like people should have their own bags anyways (I've used the provided bags once or twice in case of emergency) and the bigger issue is having a place to dispose of the poop.
10. The only comment I have now is I saw people leaving their bagged dog waste where the station used to be even without the station. I didn't see improperly disposed bagged dog waste on The Green until the station was removed.
11. Removing the dog waste bin was a very poor decision, as I have also previously voiced several times.
12. I almost always carry my own dog waste bags, so I don't rely on the dog waste station on the green. But on the rare occasion I forget bags or run out, it's nice to have the station. Also, I've noticed that people have been throwing used waste bags on the ground where the station used to be, which increases the odor issue and looks gross. Thus, I think the benefits of reinstalling the waste station outweigh the costs/downside.
13. It makes sense that without other public disposal options people will be "creative" with their disposal. I often put trash I picked up during my dog walk in the can as there are no other public options.
14. Realizing the costs of emptying and maintaining a dog waste station every 2-3 days year round, the estimated cost increase of \$1,000 annually (as mentioned in comments above) seems very low. I trust the city council to research the public health requirements and all maintenance costs before committing city funds. A dog waste facility is a nice amenity for dog owners (which are probably a small % of our population), but compared to other services that serve the city's entire population, it may not meet the city council's prioritization for funding. I trust the city council to prioritize wisely.
15. I think in a neighborhood where homes start at \$500,000 a year at minimum, people can afford to stock their own dog waste bags.
16. A dog waste station in The Green is unnecessary. Residents with dogs often bring their own bags on walks. When collecting waste, it should be brought back with them to their homes and disposed of in their own receptacles. It is not reasonable for others to have to clean up a trash can dedicated to waste when owners can easily bring their own bags home. Furthermore, fines should be adopted by the City for those leaving dog waste bags on the ground or in other places in The Greens. As a parent to a young child, the uncleanness resulting from this activity directly impacts our ability to enjoy these spaces free from the impacts of owners feeling entitled to others cleaning up after their dogs.

All Resident Comments (2 of 4)

17. Seems like our HOA dues or taxes could cover this expense.
18. Thanks for asking.
19. Appreciate the volunteer. Seems to be supported by KCMO with city support.
20. Seems like this move was made bc of one or two people making a decision on behalf of Westwood Hills. I believe it's caused a bigger issue by removing it. Bags of dog waste where the can used to be every time I walk / run through The Green. So the complaint about the smell has only compounded based on this shortsighted decision. And for nonresidents - the dog waste station is convenient for anyone walking their dog around Westwood / WH Hills / west plaza etc. Let common sense prevail and reinstall the station. Add to my HOA dues if you have to.
21. My concern is that there is not a station. I see people visiting Hi Hat leaving bags because they don't want to take the bags back to hi hat. I believe a dog waste reciprocal is important for cleanliness and disease prevention. I wonder how other cities manage to have receptacles without such controversy. Surely there is a solution other than removing them. Thank you, Reed
22. I think the garbage can is more important than the bags.
23. I always appreciated the dog waste station. It made me feel welcome, whereas the current signs feel judgmental. (I always clean up after my pet.) I think it odd that we now have signs telling people to dispose of dog waste but have removed the means to help do that. Please note, re. questions 2 - 4 about odors, etc. I have noticed these since the dog waste station was removed. When it was in place, I noticed odors rarely. Sometimes the bag wasn't emptied regularly, and got too full. I've emptied it myself. I realize we relied on volunteers, and this is a lot to ask of someone. Perhaps a dog waste station could be located in a less prominent place? I didn't know we'd received complaints about odors, etc., so I didn't know why the station was removed. I think it would be great if we learned about decisions like this in advance. Perhaps the monthly newsletter would be a good place for this kind of information. Thanks!
24. Would rather support the cost than step in dog shit.
25. If there is a dog waste station then it has to go hand in hand w the 1000 to maintain. Ludwig and Joletta can't be the only ones responsible for emptying that trash can. Also I am shocked that that can is only used by our residents and not others just walking by. Surprised anyone would just pile bags and not just take them home to their own trash cans. Our city is only 10 blocks. It's not that hard to carry it home...
26. If the majority of residents support a dog waste station on the Green, the City should hire a service to regularly empty the waste. Continuing to rely on volunteers is not a viable solution.
27. Happy to contribute to the cost of a trash disposal service for this amenity like other cities are doing.
28. If other residents have experienced issues with odor, which I have only experienced when opening the can for waste disposal, would another option be placing the dog waste station on the south side of the bridge? This placement would be away from WWH events and congregation that are primarily on the green north of the bridge. It's a nice convenience having the dog station in WWH, but there are also options by the Dennis Park in Westwood that I utilize since the removal in WWH.
29. I find it to have been a hasty decision to remove the disposal overnight, prior to sending out a survey such as this one. It seems as though citywide decisions are commonly made based on the complaints of a few people, and public opinion is only sought if/when there are complaints. I also don't have a clear understating of why the cost of maintaining the disposal station would increase \$1000 - I have never been aware of a need for volunteers and am confident there are many people in the neighborhood who would be willing to help. It also seems as though alternate solutions could've been explored prior to the hasty removal of the station - relocating it to a less conspicuous place on the green, etc. I understand that it likely emits an unpleasant odor - although I walk through the green often and had never noticed this. However, there is an area of the green where directly over the fence is the dumpster for the flower shop, which I'm confident is not entirely free of odors. All that being said, I am against the removal of the dog waste station and strongly support putting one back in a more discrete location on the green.
30. If it is reinstalled, it needs to be emptied at least once if not twice a week to keep the smell down. Ideally dog owners should pay a fee to have a service to ensure pick up.
31. I have only seen dog waste bags laying on the ground AFTER the dog waste container was removed. NOT before. NEVER before. It was always picked up. That survey question is misleading and feels biased / confusing.
32. I utilized it when it was there but now that it's gone, I've just carried it on the rest of our walk or used a different one off Belinder. I only noticed one time recently that people had continued to toss bags of waste there which seemed weird to me. Hopefully that has stopped. Thanks for your time!

All Resident Comments (3 of 4)

33. I generally walk in the morning so - before the container was removed - I rarely noticed a smell or observed bagged waste not in the container. I support hiring a company to empty a (replaced) waste container, daily if needed. I also support replacing the dog waste container with a style that reduces odor and placing it away from The Shops.
34. Since the dog waste station has been removed, I have noticed more dog poop or dog bags left in the Green. I think it's well worth it for the City to pay \$1,000/year for public health and aesthetic purposes.
35. I think it's necessary to have a dog waste station on the green. People will continue walking dogs there and dogs will continue producing waste there. If there are no bags, there will inevitably be stinky waste. I think the best solution is to relocate the waste station to a more discreet place, perhaps in the area closer to the bridge that backs up to the already stinky dumpsters. This moves the odor away from the part of the green where gatherings take place and the odor is most offensive. Or out by the street on the south lawn, rather than the north side of the bridge. I believe dog walkers will find and use it even if it's relocated, though a temporary sign at the old location announcing its new location may be a good idea to raise awareness.
36. none
37. Can't we afford to have this maintained by the city?
38. I feel like a young person of our community could take this on for less \$ or if they need it for a community service project.
39. The dog waste station is of great value to our community and I want it back. A thousand dollars a year is pennies a day. Can you better explain what exactly the duties of the city will be for the thousand dollars? Would we still need volunteers or can the city take full responsibility?
40. Responsible dog owners ALWAYS carry waste bags and curb their dogs. This is Westwood Hills. I don't see why a waste station is necessary. The Green is no different from if my dog poops while walking down 49th Street.
41. Most dog walkers carry (or should) their own dog waste bags and carry the bag home to their own trash.
42. I prefer what doesn't create odors. I prefer clean public grasses too. I would love to be able to sit, picnic, and play with my child in this grass. With odors and soiled grass, I've stopped. We walk the path daily.
43. The cost of daily emptying is \$18 per day - 5 days /wk is over \$4500 per year - be transparent with your survey and not biased
44. I couldn't care less.
45. Dog owners' license fees should be increased to cover the cost of maintaining the dog waste station, if an outside service is employed.
46. I am not aware of another city that does not have any dog waste stations. We should have one.
47. A dog waste station may attract people with dogs who are not residents of Westwood Hills with dogs who may be untrained and of a dangerous variety. Dog waste stations attract people we are unfamiliar with whose ability to train dogs may be questionable which may increase noise and worse dogs who may harm our city's dogs or children. I don't want to attract negativity to Westwood Hills.

All Resident Comments (4 of 4)

48. -I have never encountered littering on the green until the trash receptacle was removed. -park like areas, especially those that encourage sitting via benches AND that are near places that sell food should always have a trash receptacle. -you can have a good looking trash can without providing bags. -It sounds like trash could be moved weekly into the dumpsters on the eve before trash was picked up if you continue to rely on residents. That being said, my guess is that you could find a way to work the fee into the city budget. -the signage (that was never needed before the trash receptacle was removed) is tacky and not in keeping with a historic community.
49. The dog waste bags are now on the ground where the trash can use to be in the Green. Others are putting the waste in vendor trash cans which I think would be worse. There is no other place to dispose of waste until the park so unless you have a trash can, expect either stools all over the green or doggie bags left sitting on the ground. Bags are not needed but a trash can is.
50. There has been an increase in dog waste in our yard both bagged and not. The Green looks lovely right now. I don't know if most understand it takes volunteer effort keeping it that way. Having said that, I think others outside WWH utilize the park and may have treated it as Westwood Park assuming the waste is taken care of. I've also witnessed people throwing waste in dumpsters behind shops.
51. Would be helpful to know how often the water station was full or frequency of change for the liner. Might help with volunteering efforts
52. Completely willing to help with responsibility. I don't use the station often but is very convenient when needed. Wouldn't be surprised if more dog waste is left unpicked up for a variety of reasons, sometimes unintentional if there isn't a place to dispose or grab a bag in emergency. Perhaps moving it to the south side near the creek would alleviate more concerns regarding smell where less people are in close proximity.
53. I would love to walk my dog to the green but every time I have tried, there are dogs running around off leash. Owners are present so assuming off leash is okay. If not, it would be great if there were signs requesting dogs stay on leash.
54. Let me first say that generally I like my neighbors and I try to get along with everyone. With that said, I think this is ridiculous. I have a dog that I take on walks. I go through the green. My dog will do its business somewhere along the walk. I will pick it up and I bring it home. I don't see why this is such a difficult process. The survey said it was gonna to cost \$1000. I believe it's gonna be closer to five or \$6000 if the waist is picked up daily.
55. I recently walked through the green space at the convergence of State Line, Romany, and 69th Terr. in Mission Hills and noticed that they have pet waste stations that are buried with a lid that is flush with the ground and is opened via a foot pedal. I've found the product online and provided a link at the end of this message. Given that this solution is buried and sealed unwanted odors should be eliminated and I appreciate that the appearance is discreet and would help maintain the beautiful appearance of The Green. The one that I saw had been painted green with a stenciled white dog-bone icon to indicate intended use. If I can be of further assistance in coordinating this solution, I'm happy to help! The link below is for a retailer based in Canada, there are other US based retailers, but this website has the most information about the product. <https://www.golfsupplyhouse.com/products/in-ground-trash-can>
56. When the dog waste bin was present I never saw improperly disposed of dog waste. Since it was removed, there has been an accumulation of a large amount of dog waste bags where the bin used to be. Now it smells and is unsightly. It was fine before. I think it was short sighted of the city to remove an amenity that was used by so many people for seemingly no reason. Most cities in our area have dog waste bins available to the public. I don't understand why we removed ours.
57. I feel this section of the survey is a little misleading. It says "Based upon complaints about odor, the City Council made the decision to remove the dog waste station." Are these documented complaints? Are they in writing or just anecdotal complaints? How many? Enough to warrant removal of the waste bin? Also, the survey is quite confusing. It asks "Have you noticed bagged but improperly disposed dog waste on The Green? If so, how often?" I have noticed improperly disposed dog waste bags but only SINCE the removal of the bin. Will residents know to make that clarification? I'm well-versed in the matter and the timeline and I wasn't sure how to respond. In another section (perhaps the most important) the survey asks "Would you support installing a dog waste station on The Green?" The first choice is "support" and the second is "strongly support." That feels misleading.
58. The decision by two council members to remove the dog waste station without consulting the neighborhood has been incredibly disappointing and counterproductive. The results of the removal speak for themselves: the Green now has highly visible, embarrassing piles of waste that smell significantly worse, ruining a shared community space. Replacing the station with passive-aggressive signs—while stripping away the bags and disposal bin that made compliance easy—makes no sense. Reinstalling the waste station is a complete no-brainer for neighborhood sanitation. If the removal was due to a budget issue regarding bags or servicing, I would gladly pay higher Westwood Hills HOA dues to ensure our community stays clean, sanitary, and welcoming. Please reverse this decision and reinstall the station immediately.
59. This should not be volunteer run. The city should appropriate funds for the removal of dog waste. I am also curious as to how many complaints have been filed regarding the odor?
60. Return the former Trash Can
61. Residents of an affluent community like Westwood Hills can't afford their own waste bags and then dispose of them properly? Oh, cry me a river.
62. As a resident who used The Green and the dog waste station daily, I was very disappointed when it was removed. The station played an important part in keeping the area clean and welcoming for everyone. When the station was in place, I never observed any problems. However, since its removal, I have seen a large pile of dog waste bags in the exact spot where it once stood. This tells me that residents would like to do the right thing and clean up after their pets but they need the infrastructure to do so. Please reinstate the dog waste station for our community space!