



# Fairfax Dog Park

FAIRFAX TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024



# AMERICANS' VIEW OF DOGS



LIKE: **88%**

LIKE A LOT: **74%**

LIKE A LITTLE: **14%**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMERICA'S CHOICE 2024

LIVE

**TRUMP ADVISERS: GOV. KRISTI NOEM NOT ON HIS VP SHORTLIST**

Harry Enten | **CNN** Senior Data Reporter

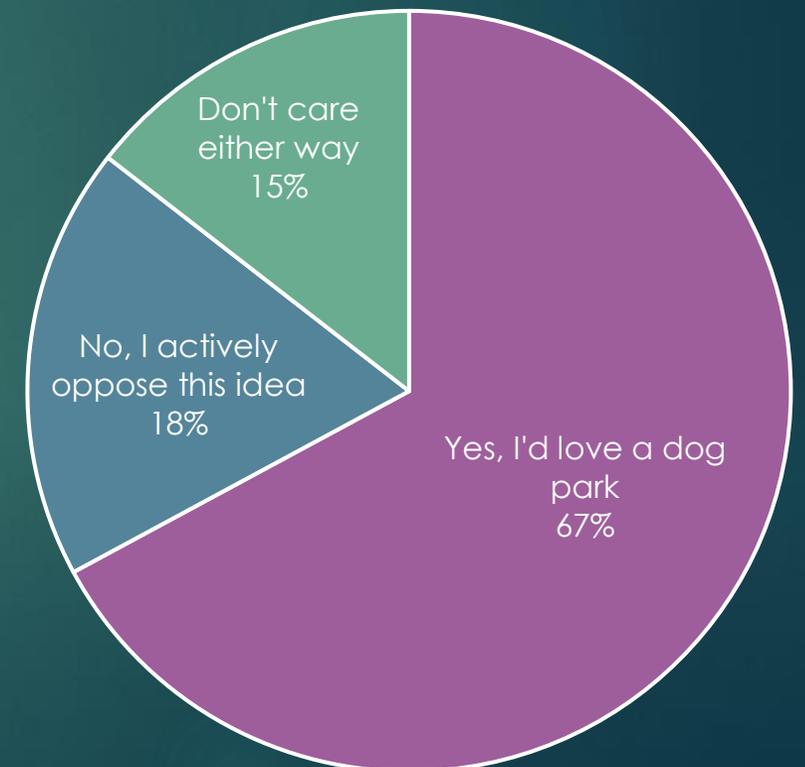
**CNN**

5:39 AM PT

TAND, THIS IS A PURELY DOMESTIC CRIME" ► WITHOUT PROVIDING A NAME, ARMY SPI NEWS CENTRAL

# The Community wants a Dog Park!

- ▶ The TC has at least twice in recent years been petitioned by residents to take up the issue of creating a dog park in Fairfax (at the July 12, 2017 and April 7, 2021 meetings).
- ▶ Highly unscientific poll on Nextdoor:



Fairfax is the one of the few incorporated cities / towns in Marin that doesn't have a dog park



San Rafael

Novato

Mill Valley

Larkspur

San Anselmo

Corte Madera

Sausalito



Tiburon

Belvedere

Ross

**Fairfax**

# Life as a dog in Fairfax

- ▶ It is prohibited to be off leash in Fairfax in all parks and on almost all road, sidewalks, trails, fire roads, and open space.
- ▶ The *only* place where dogs can legally be off leash is on the fire roads in the Loma Alta Preserve.
  - ▶ But these fire roads are shared with Hikers, Bikes, and Horses.
  - ▶ Fire roads are obviously unfenced and run through open space, so are exposed to wildlife like coyotes, mountain lions, and raptors.



# Fairfax has excellent public recreational facilities

(even though each one they may not be used by 100% of the residents, and some are decidedly niche!)

Examples in Fairfax:

- ▶ Tennis courts
- ▶ Bocce court
- ▶ Basketball court
- ▶ Playground / play structures for children
- ▶ Skate park
- ▶ Little league field

(Households with dog(s) are more numerous than all of these!)

# How many dogs live in Fairfax?

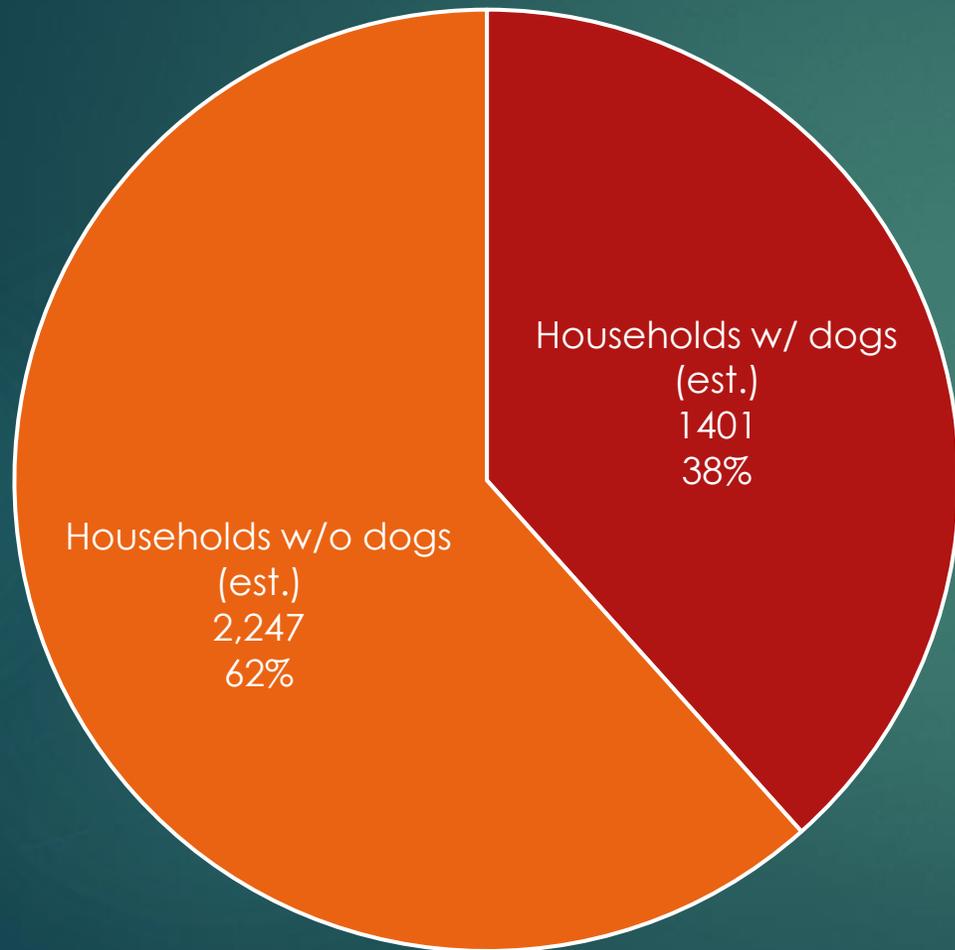


- ▶ Marin Humane recommends using the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) **Pet Ownership Calculator**, which estimates that:
  - ▶ 38.40% of households in California own dog(s)
  - ▶ The average dog-owning household has 1.6 dogs

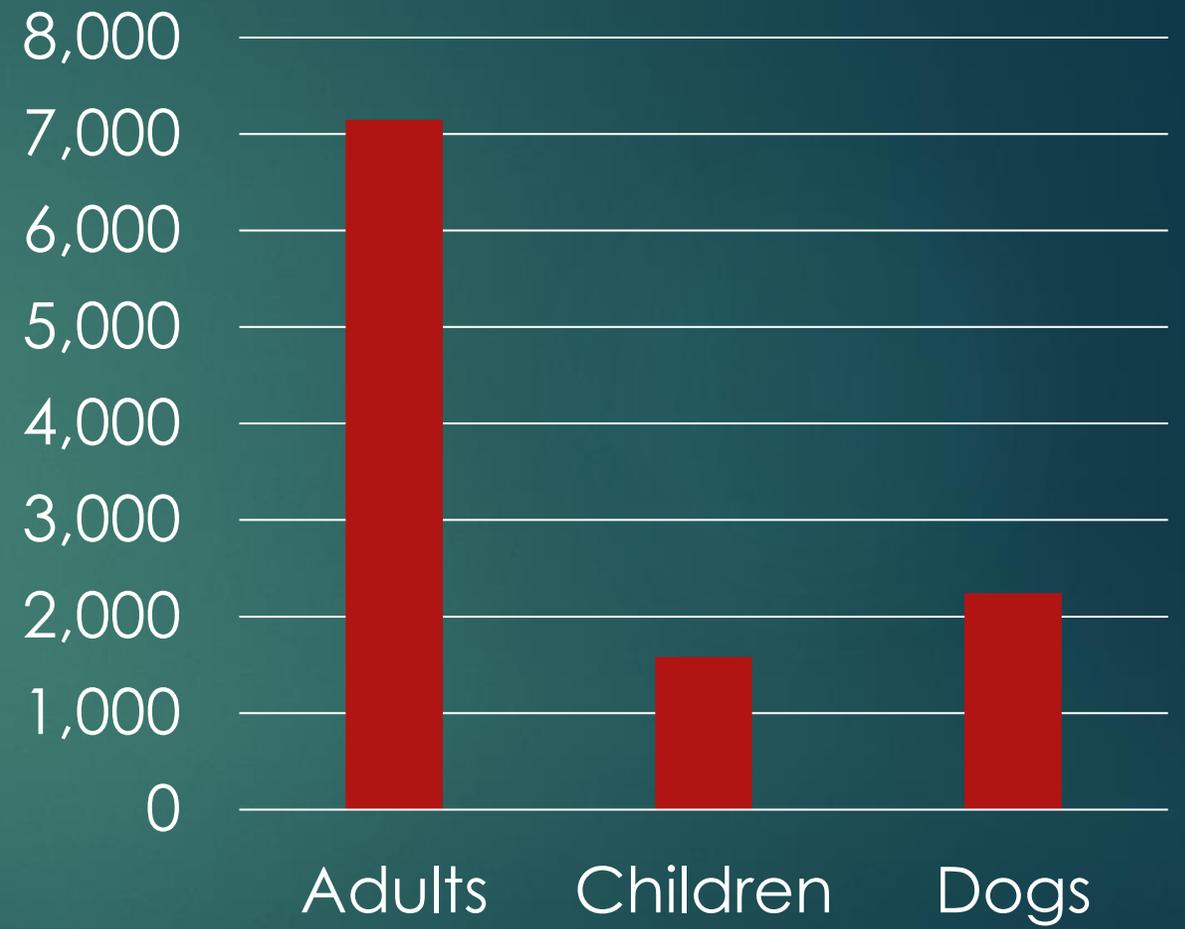
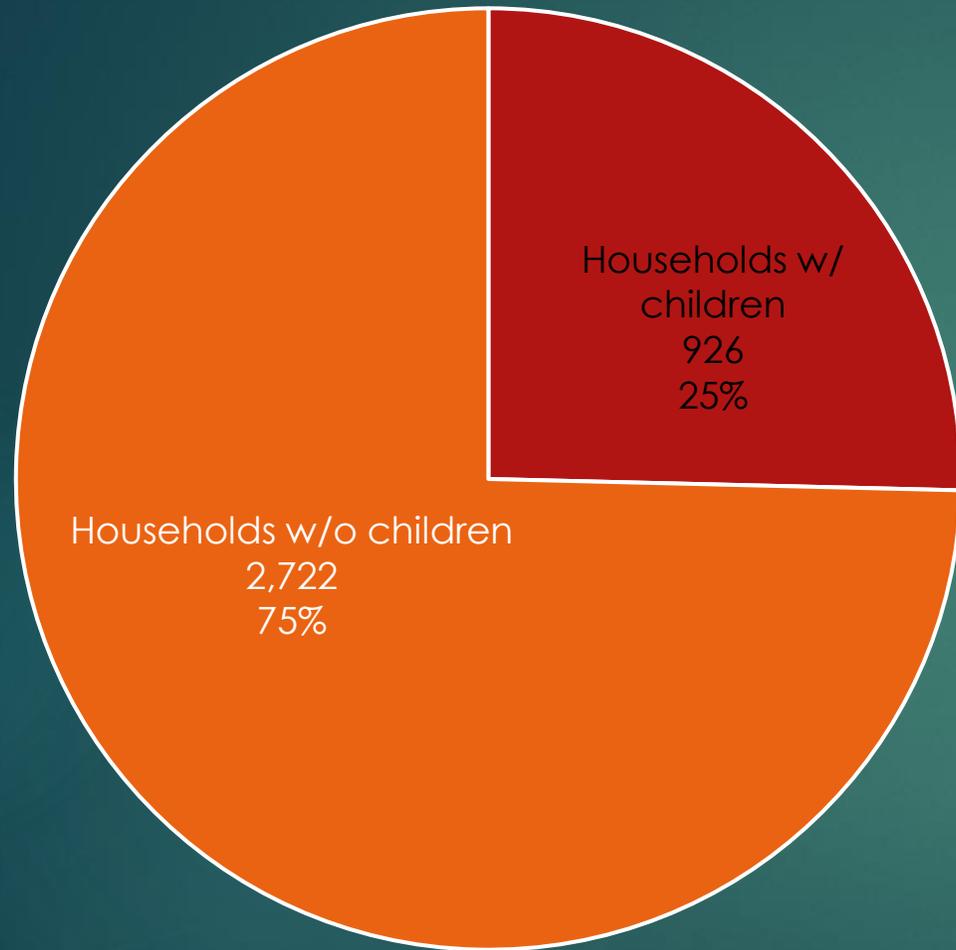
[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal\\_Health/eprs/cares/preparedness\\_stats.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/eprs/cares/preparedness_stats.html)

Per Nancy B McKenney, CEO/President of Marin Humane, only 25%-30% of the dog owning population, in general, license their dogs, so licensing statistics are of limited use.

# Fairfax Statistics



8,729	Residents
7,149	Adults
1,580	Children
2,242	Dogs (est.)
3,648	Households
926	Households with child(ren)
2,722	Households without children
1,401	Households with dog(s) (est.)
2,247	Households without dogs (est.)



# Funding and Resources

- ▶ Resources needed for a dog park will depend on the location chosen
  - ▶ E.g., will land be donated, leased, or purchased?
- ▶ To preempt defeatism citing funding as an insurmountable challenge, here are some possibilities:
  - ▶ Donations
  - ▶ Volunteers
  - ▶ Fundraisers
  - ▶ Sponsorships
  - ▶ Use portion of dog license fees collected by Marin County (via Marin Humane)
  - ▶ Town of Fairfax



Robert A • Cascades

“I would love to see a dog park here, I don't buy the argument that we, as a town, can only do one thing at a time.

[Having other] issues to solve does not mean we can't also have aspirational ideas like a Fairfax dog park. It is worthy of pursuit.

Maybe a Fairfax Dog Park nonprofit will get started, and then maybe someone wealthy who has a property will one day donate it for the tax write-off... and maybe a GoFundMe and a few corporate sponsors will fund the nonprofit to build it out. And maybe the town bars will have a weekend fundraiser effort and maybe the town itself will contribute something...

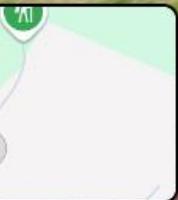
The point is that it starts with people seeing the value of something (which most here do) and then thinking outside the box. I think there would be great value to a Dog Park in Fairfax... I should live so long!”



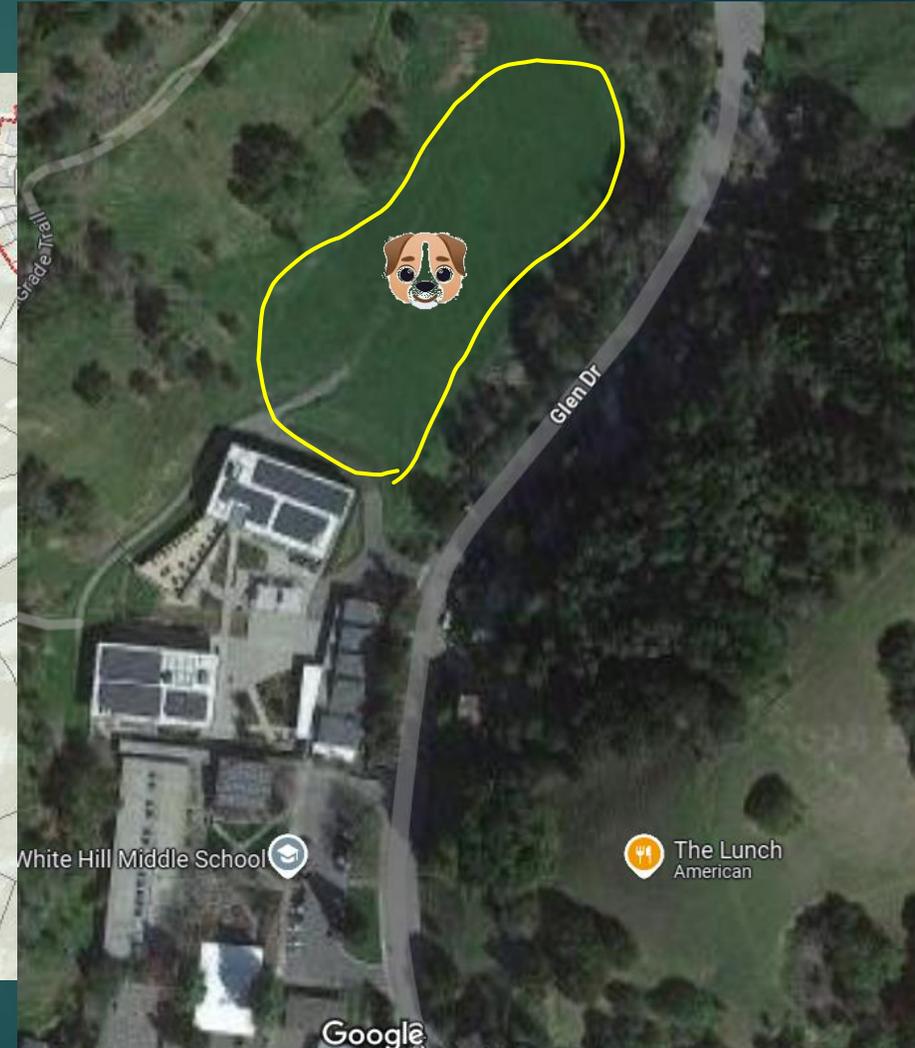
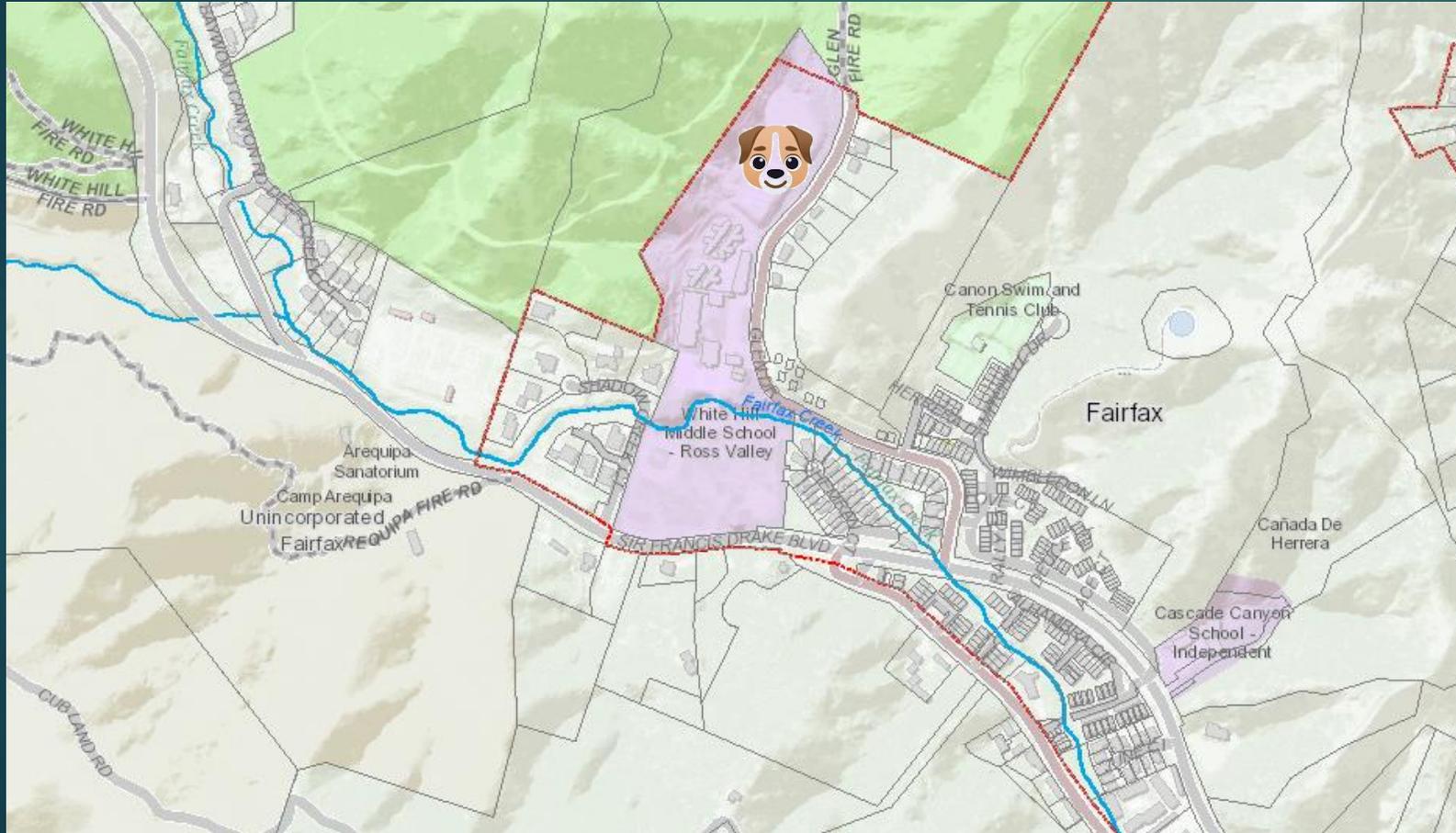
# Some possible locations

\* Not an exhaustive list. Not vetted for feasibility or cost willingness of owner to sell/lease/donate. Just some ideas I've collected by talking to residents and from my own observations, to get the conversation started!

# Field behind White Hill Middle School



# Field behind White Hill Middle School





Search Google Maps



Deer Park Fire Rd

Fairfax, California



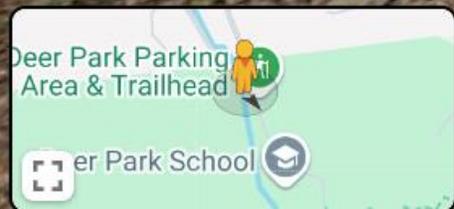
Google Street View

Mar 2020

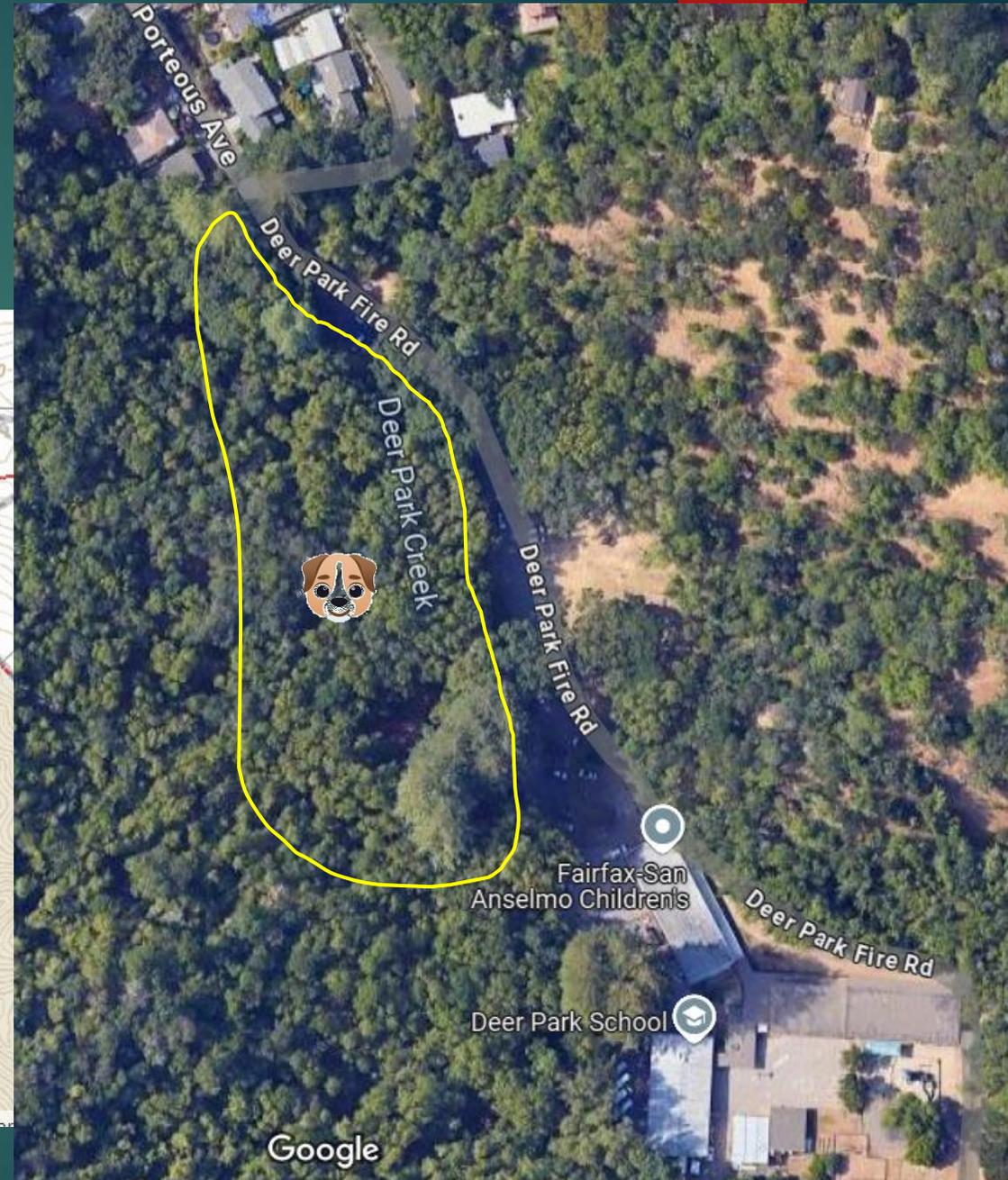
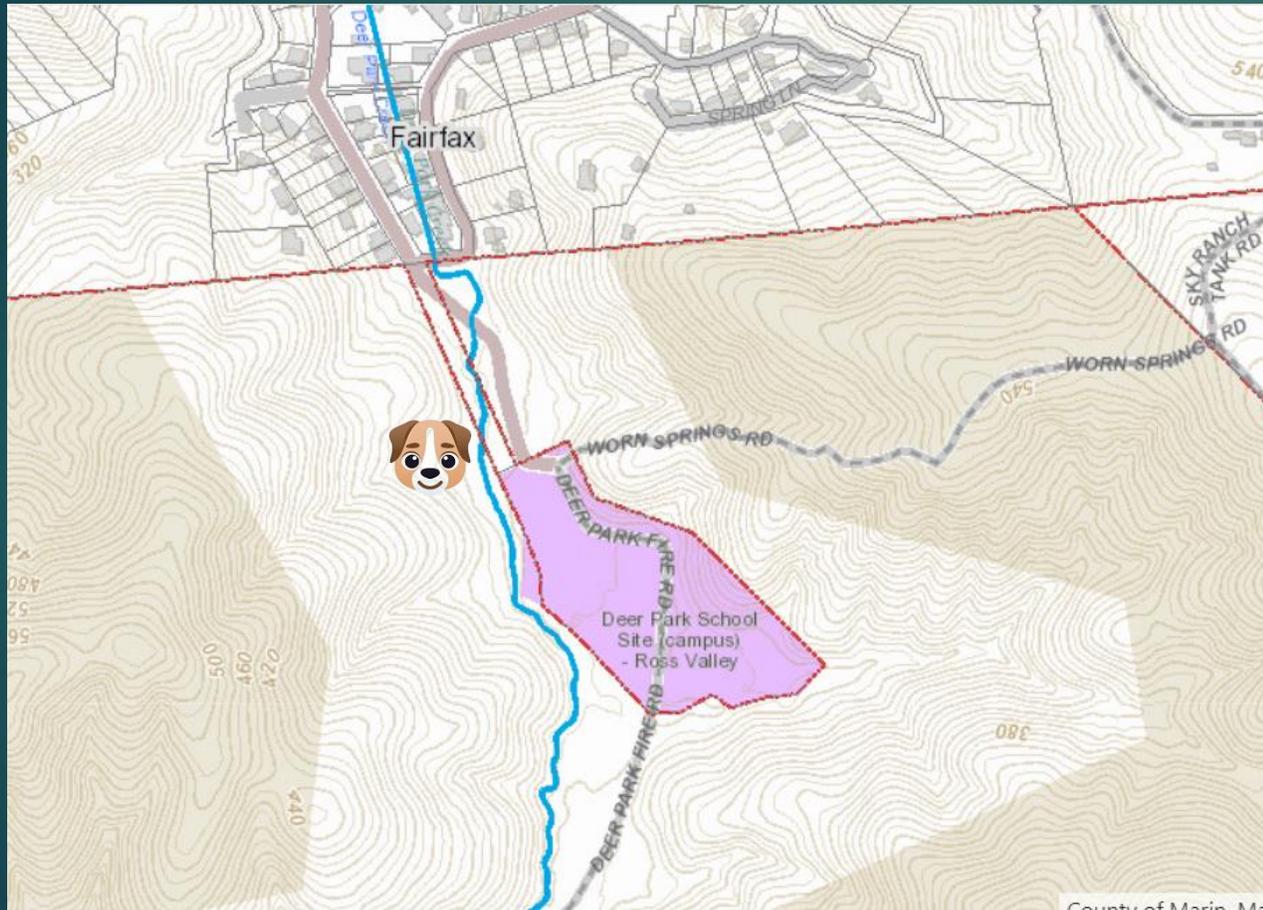
# Deer Park Watershed



Deer Park Fire Rd



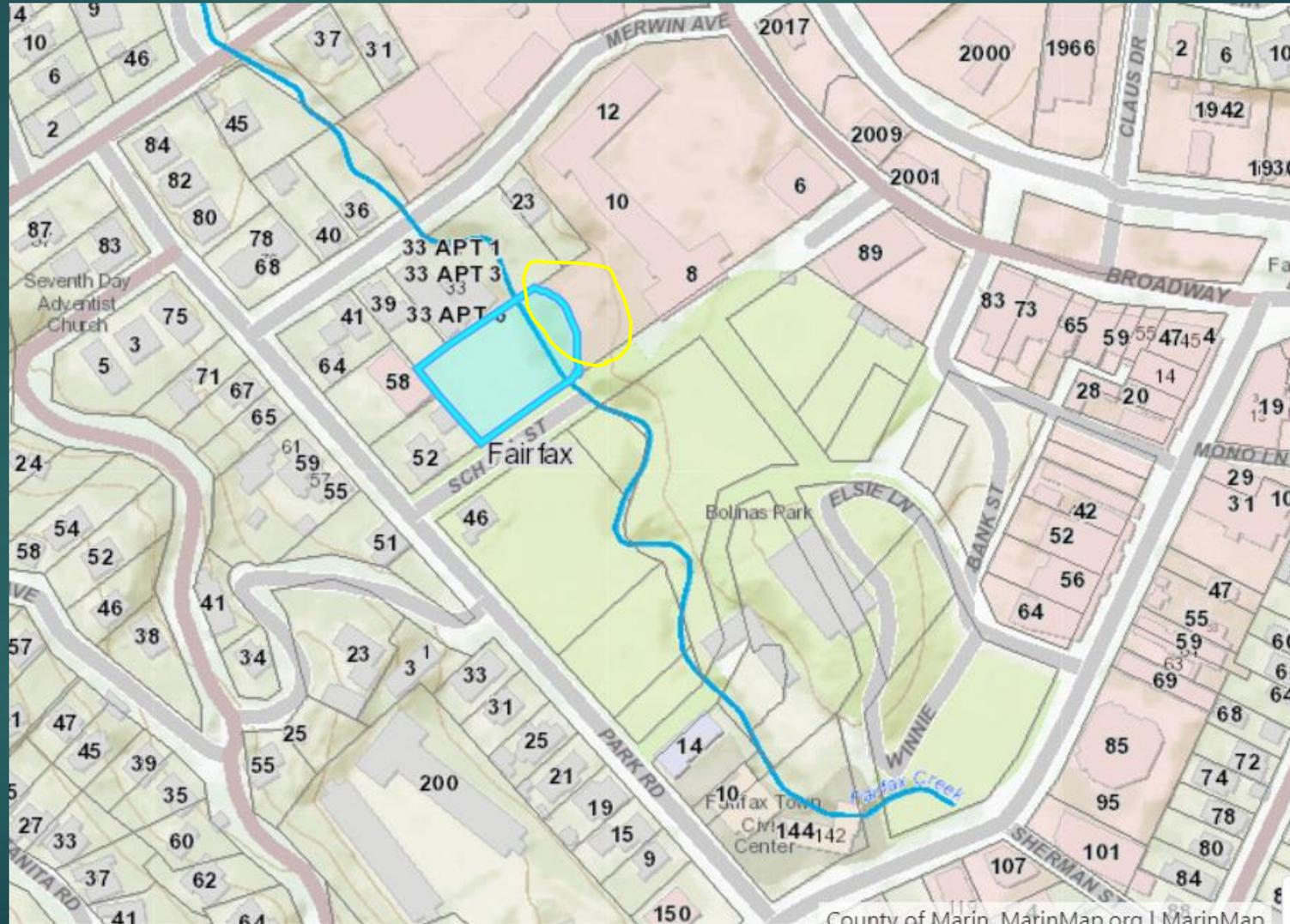
# Deer Park Watershed



Across the creek from Tennis Courts



# Across the creek from Tennis Courts



# Marin Town & Country Club

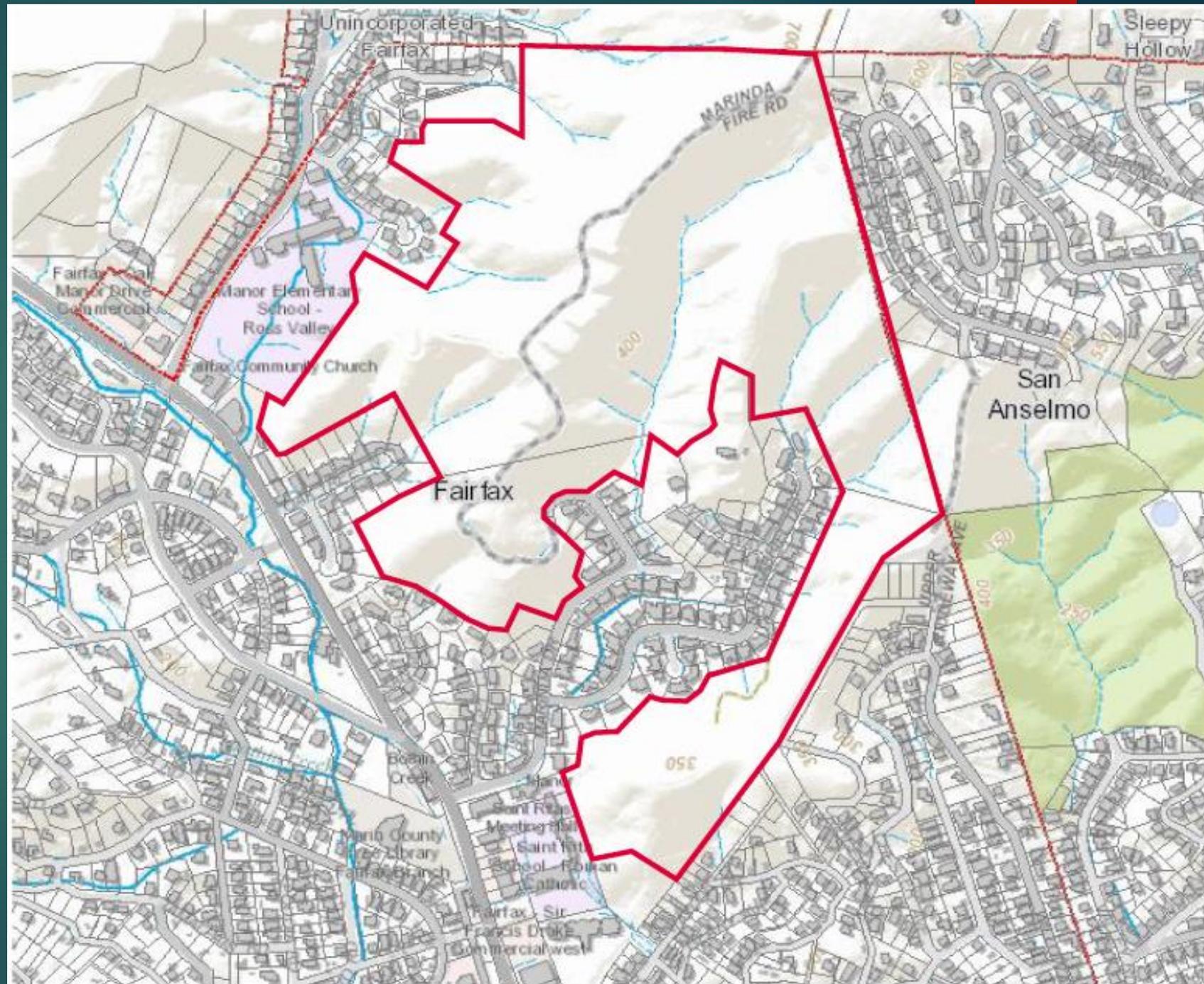


# Marin Town & Country Club



# Wall Property

???



# Next Steps

- ▶ We request that you continue to diligently work on this item until either it comes to fruition, or the Town Council formally votes not to pursue it during this term.
- ▶ We request that you ensure that the issue doesn't fade away with no resolution, as with past petitions on this topic.
- ▶ If it's found after a diligent effort that there is currently no feasible location, then at the very least, keep this item in mind so if another opportunity comes up to obtain land, we take advantage of it!



Thank  
you!

