

Results of Tybee Neighbors Website Survey Questions
05-08 Mini-Survey -- Public Safety Building and Dogs on the Beach
113 responses

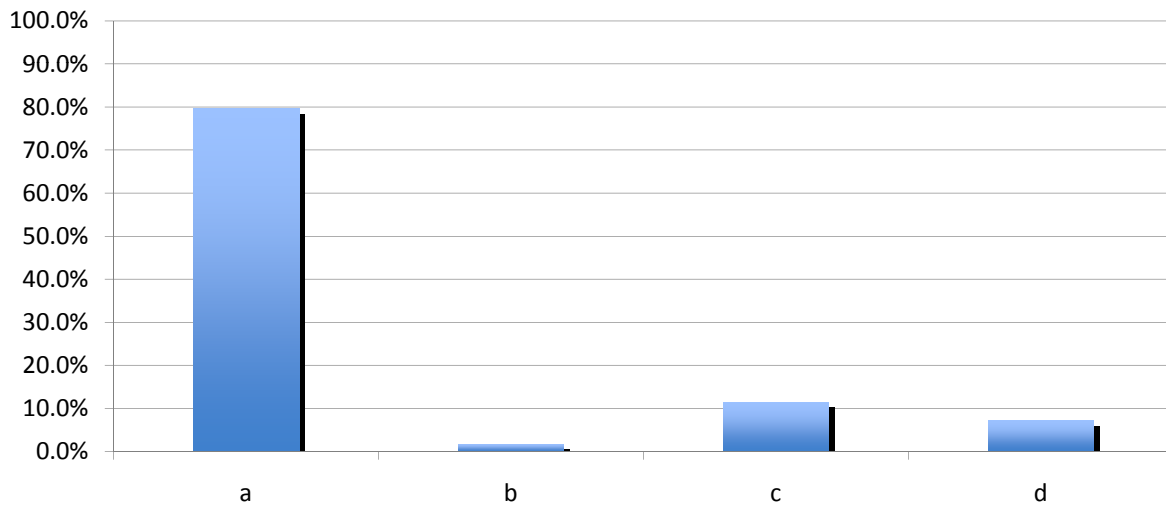
Issue #1

Background: The committee studying the location for the new Public Safety Building (police station, jail, court room, etc.) recently voted to recommend that the new building be located near the current police station, and not in Memorial Park which is also being considered. In the near future the City Council will be making a decision on where to locate this building.

Please check the response that most closely reflects your opinion. (Select only 1 response.)

- a. The new public safety building should be located in the area near the current police station.
- b. The new public safety building should be located in Memorial Park but only if it does not require tearing down the old school building.
- c. The new public safety building should be located in Memorial Park even it requires tearing down the old school building.
- d. None of the above or no opinion.

90	2	13	8
a	b	c	d
79.6%	1.8%	11.5%	7.1%

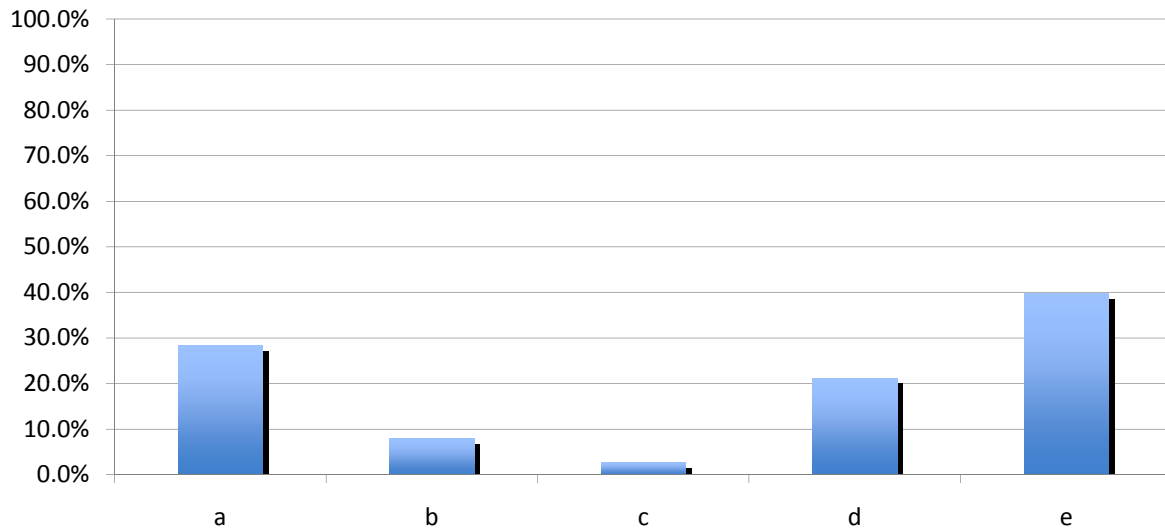


Background: The City Council is currently considering the possibility of allowing dogs on the beach in specific areas and at restricted times. Please click here for more details.

Please choose your level of agreement with the following statement(select only 1):
 I believe dogs should be allowed on the beach in specific areas at restricted times.

Strongly Disagree Disagree No Opinion Agree Strongly Agree

32	9	3	24	45
a	b	c	d	e
28.3%	8.0%	2.7%	21.2%	39.8%



Tybee Neighbors

May 2008 Survey Comments – Public Safety Building and Dogs on the Beach

Comments on Question # 1

Council should listen to its appointed committees and not act according to the personal and secret agendas of a few contributors.

* * *

A public safety building in Memorial Park is not good for Tybee.

I have a major problem with the thought of my grandchildren playing in a park where:

1. On court day there are all types of questionable and mysterious persons lounging around the park.
2. I don't want my grandchildren observing our officers escorting handcuffed people in and out of jail.
3. I think it is wrong and unsafe to add more traffic to the park area including the possibility of speeding police traffic during a call.

I also have a problem with the effect a Public Safety Building would have on the neighborhood around Memorial Park.

1. A Public Safety Building (most people will call it the "POLICE STATION") has a negative effect on property values in its immediate area.
2. The property values of the area it is now located in has already been adjusted for the impact.
3. It doesn't make since to negatively impact the property values of a whole new Neighborhood.

* * *

My house borders Memorial Park. There are enough sirens going off (at all hours) as it is, but I believe that Chief Price should have the last say in this issue. He is, after all, in charge of our safety. I feel that those who would move the station are more interested in developing the existing site rather than the safety of our island.

* * *

The old school building may be at the end of its life. Is there enough land for the new safety building square footage requirements, and keeping the current "y" functions like Yoga and exercise, and meeting space there too? As long as you could raise the new safety building up and get plenty of parking under, have it all connected with the firehouse, I think it is the right place to keep all city functions in one area near city hall. Also, add more parking but put it away from the street and under or screen it off with landscaping.

Then you could expand the campground and put the dog park at the curent police station area.

* * *

The park needs to meet the recreational needs of all members of our community. Locating the jail and court house in the park would not be consistent with keeping the park a safe place for Tybee's children and adults.

* * *

i see dollar signs all over this one.

* * *

What I would like to know is how the FEMA Flood Hazard Maps rate the risks associated with the two proposed locations considered by the committee. The degree of wave and velocity action vary from location to location on the island and this variable depends on wave height, coastal geometry, and the extent of exposure to the open ocean. I think that these are very important points to reference when making our decision where to locate a \$4.5 million building.

* * *

The only reason for selecting the current locale as the best site is that the Chief has stated in the past that the complex would require having an area to store impounded vehicles as well as animals that had been captured. Also, having the jail nearby in the park would seem to be incongruous with the area. That the building would also house the Fire Department offices would not be a problem as in most cities, the headquarters is usually not near the stations except maybe one. If construction on the island continues unabated, we will likely need another fire station in the not too distant future anyway or the fire insurance ratings will drop and our rates will soar.

* * *

I don't understand why the new public safety building should be anywhere but near city hall. This area is more centrally located and NOT in a residential neighborhood. I understand the police must respond quickly and want them to continue to do so, but in a residential neighborhood where most speed limits are 20 mph or under this would not work.

There are far too many people walking in this area, to the beach and to the lighthouse, with no crosswalks or other safety measures like in the main areas of town.

I think the old school building should be utilized as opposed to building a new building. This has always seemed such a waste to me and most especially when we are all tightening our belts to make ends meet. Shouldn't city hall be doing the same?

Thanks,

* * *

I see no reason for keeping the old school building as is is only causing us to pay more tax and on what??? I think all safety (police ,etc.) should be together.

* * *

It makes no sense to have a public safety blg in the already congested area of Memorial Park. The additional traffic alone of police cruisers, vehicles for court dates would make a royal mess.

* * *

I have heard Chief Price say that he wants the Police Station to remain where it is and he has valid reasons for his statement. I think Chief Price and his staff are the ones "in-the-know" and their opinions should be valued.

* * *

Near city hall is a better choice

* * *

I don't think we need a jail in memorial park.

* * *

The new building needs to have shared facilities for Police, fire and public meetings and be placed where the existing classrooms of the old school are located. Keep the old cafeteria for Plays and meetings. Move the Y into the Gym by double decking half the basketball court which is not needed. More green space can be created and all Tybee service will be efficiently located.

* * *

how about a satellite station at park for police , keep main operation where it is...

* * *

[Putting the public safety complex in Memorial Park would destroy the character of one of our most popular attractions.](#)

* * *

I think we should allow dogs in an area on the river side....maybe at Polk St. to allow those of us on the

north end a convenient place to take our dogs. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for bringing this up for discussion!!!!!! It is a shame our neighboring islands can find a way to make this work but Tybee has not. Maybe our time has come!!!!

* * *

The location of the police station is accesible to Hwy 80 for the safety of the area residents and ease of transportation of detenees. It should not endanger the safety of the persons using Memorial Park nor the children playing in the playground and using the YMCA facilities.

* * *

Parks are for recreation, not jails, courtrooms, and impound yards! How hypocritical – the same council members who don't want a skatepark or dogpark in Memorial Park now want to put a JAIL in the park?!?! Forget drug tests, give them IQ tests!

* * *

the old school bldg has asbestos and should be torn down

* * *

How/Why was this committee formed? This seems like micromanagement and an issue best left to City Manager and staff.

* * *

The old school building should not be torn down. It is used more than the "gym". Many worthwhile groups have used the building for meetings etc. for a long time.

* * *

A police presense on or near Butler may help with the speeding car issues we have during the on season and public safety. The station would be more centrally located on the island. And then maybe the old location could be utilized for a youth center of some kind.

* * *

The police department personnel have overwhelmingly requested that the police station remain at or near its current location.

We should honor the wishes of those who are dedicating their lives to protecting our community, and keep the police station at its current location.

* * *

Putting the public safety building in Memorial Park would destroy the essence of the park and surrounding neighborhoods. It seems that there is sufficient space near the current police station that could be utilized.

* * *

Is the new hurricaine resistant police station will be utilized as a command center post hurricaine hit, I believe it would be foolish to relocate the building in the most vulnerable and eroding section of the beach (Memorial Park) Center Street Beach.

* * *

The new public safety building should be located in the area near the current police station for several reasons.

1. The police chief feels that it should be there. He and his staff know the needs of the department and have legitimate reasons why it should stay at that location.
2. The public safety building committee has voted to recommend it be placed in its current location.
3. The Memorial Park is not the place for such a structure. We should not be building a JAIL in such close proximity with programs that serve children (YMCA, playground, and overall park activities.)
4. The property of Memorial Park has deed restrictions that the property is only to be used for

education and recreational activities.

5. A public safety building should be built in a location on the island that is protected from storm surges. Memorial Park is located one block from the ocean in our beach's most vulnerable area should a major storm hit.

* * *

Memorial park is crowded already - and parking would be a problem with the police and courtroom there.

The community needs a place to meet for club meetings weekly or monthly - where would that be if not in the old school building - the Guard House is beautiful but not accessible to the community.

* * *

The location of the building seems less relevant than the presence of our police personnel throughout our community. The current location doesn't impinge on an already overcrowded South end, and wouldn't scratch away at the little bit of park land the island has.

* * *

It has always been my understanding that the use of Memorial Park was designated for education and recreation. I do NOT think that the police station and jail should be a part of the education/recreation that was intended. Also, this area is way too public for some of the police business that often occurs such as the detainment of unsavory characters.

* * *

Use the current police station location for a parking structure and implement a transportation system for the island.

* * *

The public safety building does not need to be located centrally in the city because most if not all of the officers are constantly moving around the city in roving patrols. The jail certainly does not need to be placed in Memorial Park where families gather for recreation and where children play safely removed from villainous populations who are incarcerated.

* * *

Why would we want to relocate a facility like this near a playground, family gathering area, etc.?

* * *

Locating the public safety building more centrally on the island and on the main thoroughfare makes sense (especially close to the current fire station). The old school is utilized for meetings by non-profits, but alternate locations, such as the community center, should be utilized.

* * *

The Public Safety Building does NOT belong in a public park which should be used for recreational purposes.

* * *

I Think that a police sub station and enlarged fire dept/lifeguard/parking services building incorporated with the existing school bldg & fire dept would serve the purpose. Keep the main police offices, courtroom, jail and impoundment area where they are. The upgraded and consolidated memorial park structure may be made secure against storm damage and provide safe storage for equipment and emergency shelter for personnel and citizens.

* * *

The police station should be located at/near Tybrisa. Downtown Tybee is where most action occurs. Let's put the police where they can be a visible reminder to folks itching to break the law. At one time they were at the present TIMSC. What a wonderful location. As the TIMSC has plans to move and

Personally I like dogs and I have had dogs and I know that most people are very responsible. But it's that one percent that will make it bad for the good dog owners. When the accident happens I wouldn't want to feel the guilt for making the wrong decision in this matter.

* * *

I love the dog park however and think removing it is a huge mistake...many tourist come to tybee because it has one. are you aware???

* * *

I would like residents to be able to take their dogs on the beach in a restricted area, whenever we want. I think that we should need to purchase a pass that could be clearly visible on the dogs collar and stiff fines should be implemented to those caught breaking the rules.

Tybee guests should be able to purchase temporary passes that are dated and are a different color than residents.

I also think that a dog park should still be located somewhere on the island. I didn't like the one in memorial park but one should be found that allows a nice walk in it and has space enough to throw balls as well as enjoy the scene.

* * *

Basically people are good. You are creating too many new rules and laws and fees and fines and signs and who could keep track of it all??

Sanibel Island, Florida, allows dogs on the beach with a leash, that works for me.

Here is Hilton Heads policy: <http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/Island/bchregs.html>

Animals on the beach:

Are not permitted - Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day

Must be on a leash

- Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. April 1 through Thursday before Memorial Day

- Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday after Labor Day through September 30

Must be on leash or under positive voice control at all other times.

Persons in control of animals on the beach are required to remove and properly dispose of the animal's excrement.

* * *

The city of Venice, Florida has an excellent model for a successful "dogs on the beach" policy. I would gladly provide photos, do my best to obtain the written guidelines and design, and ascertain any impact the city has experienced in terms of liability, tourism revenues, etc.

Venice is a small island community on the Gulf Coast of Florida. The dog beach in Venice is well-marked and well-maintained and is self-patrolled by dog owners. It is one of the cleanest areas of the beach around - the dog owners are extremely motivated to remove not only their dog's "droppings", but also any trash left by others and also help to clean up the debris washed ashore.

Please advise if you would like further information or contact names and numbers.

On a side note, it would be quite interesting to discover how many injuries/deaths are attributed to "mean" people versus "mean" dogs on a per capita basis. Is there anyone out there who records such figures on a county or city basis? If so, please share.

Thank you.

* * *

Although I would very much like to walk on the beach with my dog, I recognize that the majority of dog owners that would be visiting the beach would not be responsible and take care of the sanitation issue. My belief is based on the condition of the beach on Sunday afternoon, May 4. It was terrible - litter was everywhere. I can't believe that our guests are so thoughtless and inconsiderate of others. Because people are people and would not clean up after themselves or adequately supervise their dogs, I would not favor opening the beach to dogs during the summer. I would support allowing dogs on leashes to walk on the beach in the winter months. Because we do not let dogs on the beach, I support the Dog park because it provided an area to the public to exercise their dogs.

I am very disappointed that the city council has focused on the dog park that cost nothing and did not make our city more welcoming for our guests. Likewise the rejection of the recycling trailer makes no sense. We need all the litter/trash cans possible to collect all the waste on the beach. If the recycling trailer contributed to one less beer can or wrapper on the beach - the city council was foolish not to accept the grant.

* * *

Talk about opening a can of worms! My neighborhood is like a mine-field of dog feces due to my fellow dog owners who are irresponsible and fail to scoop after their dogs. Are we to believe that a change of scenery will result in a change of behavior on their part? I think not. We'll have a beach with piles of poop rather than sand.

* * *

Allowing dogs on the beach, with certain restrictions for location and/or times is consistent with other beaches in the area and would broaden the appeal of Tybee.

* * *

Dogs were allowed on the beach when I first moved here and it was a wonderful thing. The health impact certainly can't be any worse than all the dirty diapers, condoms, broken glass and beer cans that are already left on the beach.

* * *

Most dogs would have preferred the freedom of the dog park. The beach, ocean and breezes do not mean a thing to the dogs if they have to be leashed.

No matter the fees, I do not trust most owners to pick up after their pets. Many do not pick up after their children or themselves. Just look at the litter on the beach every day.

Taking a dog to the beach on a leash is no different than walking the byways of Tybee with the dog on a leash.

I love my dog, but he does not belong on the beach. Some people do not belong on the beach.

* * *

This difficult issue has been satisfactorily addressed by previous councils and their processes (including public comment)/decisions should be respected. I am very disappointed that this was broached as a solution for relocating the dog park.

* * *

There seems to be a real health issue for many people about having dogs on the beach. I have to ask the question about diapers on the beachI picked up many left behind diapers on the beach last year. Is this not a health issue. How many tickets were issued for people littering on the beach last year ?? Why isn't there more trash pick-ups on the weekend on the beach?? And I have to askthere are obviously not enough rest rooms for the beach....so where do you think everyone is going ??? And doesn't that affect water quality???

Someone not cleaning up after themselves ... or their animals ... should be fined just the same. Are there not rules and laws in place already for littering?? Do we really need special rules and laws for littering??? Just enforce the ones we have in place.

* * *

While I am a dog owner and would love to be able to walk my dog on the beach, I also feel there should be stiff penalties for individuals who do not have control (preferably leashed) of their dogs and who do not properly "clean up" after their dogs. I would even suggest devising some means of empowering citizens to report individuals who do not follow the law.

* * *

Allowing dogs on the beach is a step in some direction, however, this does not allow dogs the opportunity to be off leash and interact with other dogs. Wish we had a dog park.

* * *

I witnessed a dog attack on 12th recently by two dogs who accidentally got loose. It was not pretty and the victim needed medical attention with a gaping wound in her thigh.

I just stepped in a pile of dog poo on the front lawn of a home on Chatham Ave. So much for the pooper scooper law. If owners do not abide by the rules on heavily monitored streets, how can we expect them to behave on the expansive stretch of beach?

The city should keep and maintain several visible and easily accessible dog parks on the island. It would be cheaper and safer than letting dog owners loose on our beaches

* * *

I don't own a dog, but I have seen the joy of the users of the dog park. The dog park was a relief for my property as I live near the condos across Butler. The visitors of the condos across from city hall had nowhere to take their pets before the dog park.

For my twenty three years of residency on this lovely island, I have not understood why dogs were not allowed on the beach. At least a trial period is appropriate. Let us try letting them go around low tide.

* * *

This topic has been discussed before and should not be enacted unless much more discussion and careful study takes place. Considerations should include: protection from turtle nesting season, protection from nesting birds, study of the effects of potential pollution to the ocean, ensuring that the city has enough enforcement personnel to make arrests, or levy fines as needed. If this passes, it is not a substitute for the dog park.

* * *

Off season and at special sections - dogs are now traveling with families on vacations - need somewhere to have them out and about - but only if on leashes and pooper scooped up!

* * *

NO DOGS ON THE BEACH. Although many Tybee Dog owners are conscientious and clean up (especially the Dog Park People), there are MANY dog owners that DO NOT and WILL NOT clean up after their dogs!!! I live near the beach and I am constantly cleaning up dog poo on my property. How does one clean up urine in the sand, especially left by the large dogs? Also, because Retractable Lead Dog Leashes up to 16 ft are available, there should be a limit to how far a dog/s can be from owner.****As for policing the area, Yeah Right -- Just like the sand dunes are policed and protected.******FIND A LOCATION FOR THE DOG PARK THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE DOG PARK PEOPLE!**

* * *

Adequate policing, thorough clean-up, dogs kept on leashes, and consistently applied fines for violations are critical to the success of this proposal. Dogs should not be on the beach between May 1 and Oct. 1

because of the nesting and hatching of loggerhead turtles. Dogs should not be permitted near the nesting grounds of birds, either.

* * *

My dog is cleaner than some of the people that come to the beach. She never leaves trash or cigarette butts on the sand.

* * *

ABOUT TIME!!! If other beach cities do this, Tybee should also. There is no health issue. Just need to be sure owners clean up after their dogs AND KEEP THEM ON A LEASH!!!

* * *

I believe that dogs should be allowed on the beach and I agree that there should be restricted times and areas. I am not sure if I agree that the dogs should always be on a lease. The best thing about the dog park is that the dogs could run free within the dog park. I believe dogs need the exercise and freedom to run free both in a dog park and on the beach. gain with restricted times and areas. Give our dog park back AND allow dogs on the beach!!! PLEASE!

* * *

I do not believe dogs are safe or sanitary for our beaches. Some owners are irresponsible regarding poop on occasion and others have dogs to be an extension of their bully personality. I have witnessed this to be the fact on the backwater with illegal owners and their dogs. Even happy dogs having fun on the beach tend to jump up on people in play. The reassurance that the dog doesn't bite is not enough for a frightened child. Big dogs who are and never have been under control are a menace and are dangerous to us all.

* * *

I am concerned about the few dog owners that will blatantly disregard rules and regulations, but that is not a valid reason to disallow dogs and their owners from enjoying our beautiful beaches.

* * *

Re dogs on the beach. I am a veterinarian and can assure you that dog feces will often contain eggs of roundworms a hookworms which are ineffective to humans after a short incubation period. Hookworms cause a disease known as cutaneous larval migrans which is seen in children that go barefoot in areas of the South quite often. Roundworms (ascarids) can cause liver and eye problems . Since people on the beach generally are not wearing clothes and are scantily clad, you are creating a public health disaster if you allow dogs on the beach as some owners are not responsible and will not clean up after them . A fine won't solve the parasite problem!!!

* * *

My husband & I do not like going over to Little Tybee (Jack's Cut) anymore because of people who bring dogs. They DO NOT clean up their poop and the owner's allow their dogs to run all over everyone's towels, chairs, etc. You will have small children trying to pick up or sit in this mess. I VOTE....NO DOGS ALLOWED AT ANY TIME.

* * *

I originally thought that dogs would be naturals on the beach. Following some much needed education, I now feel that dogs would be harmful on the beach. They can be potentially harmful to birds, turtle nests, bacteria levels in water, etc. Also, it is very evident that not all dog owners clean up after their dogs! As a dog owner, I am very saddened to state the latter as fact.

Finally, former mayor Walter Parker has stepped up to the plate. Pooping Puppies put every beach visitor at risk. And, some dogs are down-right mean and dangerous. No, No, No to dogs on the beach.

* * *

Dogs on the beach is excellent.

- Fees and special collars only echos that Tybee is about the money and not about the quality of life of the residents or the visitors to Tybee.
- I wish the people that use the beach were as clean as my dog and as well behaved as my dog.
- What are we doing about the stray cat population that keeps Tybee covered in fleas, excrement and urine?

* * *

As a dog lover, I can certainly see both sides of this issue. However, I believe that dogs should not be allowed on the beaches under any circumstances. Irresponsible pet owners abound! We the residents of Savannah and our visiting tourists would be subjected to uncontrolled animals, some not too friendly.

The wildlife would be subjected to the natural instincts of dogs to chase and play, and possible injure or kill said wildlife. And everyone would be subjected to the potential dangers of uncontained excrement adding to the already dangerous bacteria levels of our water. There are plenty of places for residents and tourists to walk their dogs. The beach shouldn't be one of them.

* * *

There are dogs allowed on the beaches up and down the coast and there seems to be no problem with the health in those communities. However, there is an alterative solution to that. I recently visited Chicago, where Lake property is some of the highest in the country. They have made 5 dog parks along the lake by building a fence which goes down into the water and confines the dogs to the fenced area. There the dogs can run and play in the water without doing there business where people walk and swim. I have a dog that needs to run and walking my dog on the beach does not allow him to run. The people who are concerned with those who do not pick up after their dogs would be spotted in a fenced in area. There is a portion of the North beach which is restricted from swimming because of pilings in the water. Why not build a fenced area there?

* * *

We could experiment by allowing dogs on leashes at the sound end beach from Thanksgiving through February. This would not impact major tourist season nor water quality at our swimming beaches.

* * *

The devil's in the details here. Well behaved dogs on leashes might be acceptable at times when few people are on the beach. They should not be allowed in areas where they could disturb wildlife (sea turtles, nesting birds, birds feeding in the surf, birds just sitting on the beach waiting for someone to throw bread in the air). This would eliminate most of our beaches from May to April.

Note that I have "no opinion" on the question as stated. As soon as someone makes an actual proposal, I will have a strong opinion.

Of course, as I sit on the beach on Tybee, I must say, I've never looked up and down the beach and said to myself, "Wouldn't this be a better place if dogs were allowed?"

* * *