

Toronto's Dog Off-Leash Strategy: A Citywide Approach to Dogs Off-Leash Areas

Date: March 27, 2025

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Parks and Recreation

Wards: All

SUMMARY

In response to Council direction ([2023.IE6.8](#), [2023.MM19.3](#)), this report proposes an updated citywide Toronto Dog Off-Leash Strategy (“Strategy”) to serve as both a framework and decision-making tool to guide planning, locating, designing, building, maintaining, and upgrading off-leash areas, as well as promoting responsible dog ownership through education and enforcement and engaging residents including off-leash area (OLA) users. In addition, the report proposes guidance for Commercial Dog Walker use of OLAs.

Toronto is home to more than three million people, and it is estimated that Toronto may be home to 600,000 or more dogs. Currently the City of Toronto's OLA network includes 81 OLAs, distributed across 21 wards which vary widely in size, design, amenities, and age. An additional 13 OLAs are under development and are anticipated for delivery over the next two years, which will bring the total to 94 OLAs in 23 wards by 2027.

Off-leash areas are an important part of Toronto’s park system and have become cherished community assets across the city. OLAs are designated spaces where dogs can exercise, play, and socialize off-leash with other dogs. OLAs enhance the well-being of dog owners by providing spaces for people to socialize with community members, spend time outdoors, and exercise.

Toronto’s Dog Off-Leash Strategy (“Strategy”) represents the next chapter for OLAs as the City of Toronto works to improve the park experience for all visitors, including both dogs and people. The Strategy builds on the City's existing approach in place since 2010 for new OLA development and seeks to refine and update to reflect Toronto's growth that has seen more people and dogs living together in increasingly dense communities and sharing limited parkland with many competing demands. Toronto’s updated Strategy takes a citywide approach and is underpinned by the following goals:

Goal 1: Plan Proactively. Implement a citywide and proactive approach to planning for new OLA development integrated with the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan.

Goal 2: Engage Community. Reinforce and strengthen the important role that residents including OLA users play in creating well-functioning and welcoming spaces across the OLA network.

Goal 3: Design, Locate, and Build Quality OLAs. Locate and build OLAs to a high and consistent standard with consideration to adjacent land uses and the natural environment.

Goal 4: Maintain - Keep Every OLA Clean and Well-Cared For. Maintain OLAs to a high and consistent standard.

Goal 5: Improve - Sustain and Increase Value. Improve existing OLAs through ongoing state-of-good repair investments.

Goal 6: Ensure Responsible Use of OLAs. Communicate and enforce simple and consistent rules of conduct at OLAs to support bylaw compliance through education and enforcement.

Goal 7: Commercial Dog Walker Access. Support Commercial Dog Walker access to OLAs by implementing guidance at new OLAs.

The review was informed by extensive public and OLA user engagement, a review of best practices from jurisdictions in Canada and internationally, as well as the *City-wide Study for Existing City of Toronto Dogs Off-Leash Areas* ("2021 Study"), which has guided a number of City improvements to OLA design, operations and maintenance, and administration to date. The work was undertaken through a combination of staff efforts supported by the consulting services of thinc design, a Toronto-based landscape architecture and planning firm. In addition, an interdivisional staff team that included representatives from Environment, Climate and Forestry, Municipal Licensing and Standards, and six Parks and Recreation branches provided leadership and oversight on this review. Further City Planning, and Solid Waste Management Services were consulted and provided advice.

This updated approach is supported by stakeholders who have encouraged the City to take a more proactive and comprehensive approach to OLA planning, design, maintenance, and stewardship, commensurate with OLA approaches in other major cities. If approved, the Strategy will replace the City's 2010 Off-leash Policy.

Finally, this report, as requested by City Council, also explored the feasibility of an off-leash dog track or an OLA along the York Beltline Trail in response to [2024.IE11.10](#). Staff have reviewed the location with the Ward Councillor with a view to serve as many people and dogs as possible. Discussions are ongoing. No further report back is anticipated at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Parks and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council approve Toronto's Dog Off-Leash Strategy as set out in Attachment 1, replacing the People, Dogs and Parks – Off-leash Policy, adopted by City Council at its meeting on January 26 and 27, 2010.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no direct financial impacts on the 2025 Budget associated with adoption of the recommendation in this report.

Financial considerations associated with adoption of the Toronto Dog Off-Leash Strategy fall into three categories:

1. Operations and Maintenance

Harmonize and update maintenance service standards to maintain the current 81 OLAs. The maintenance cost per OLA may vary depending on size, surface material, amenities and usage. Any increase to the current and base maintenance standard would require additional operating funds for Parks Operations.

2. State-of-Good-Repair

\$9.5 Million over the next 10 years is included in Parks and Recreation's 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan for Dog Off-Leash Areas State-of-Good-Repair.

3. New OLA Development

13 OLAs are under development over the next 2 years, 10 of which are in the 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan for Parks and Recreation, 2 to be delivered through Waterfront Toronto and one through a park being delivered through new residential development. This will bring the total to 94 OLAs in 23 wards by 2027. Staff recommendations for additional OLAs will be reviewed and prioritized in the forthcoming 2025 Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan and will be submitted for consideration through future annual budget processes.

The cost for an off-leash area in 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan for Parks and Recreation starts at \$535,000 for design, community engagement, and construction, with escalation applied annually for planned projects. Staff have reviewed the cost of building a new OLA to meet the proposed design guidance and estimate that no additional funding is required to the Capital Budget by adopting the recommended design guidance. However, potential variations in OLA size, site-conditions, market conditions, and the inclusion of optional design features may affect the actual total project costs on a project-by-project basis.

In addition to funding through the City's Capital Budget, the City will also continue to leverage OLA development opportunities through new park development or redevelopment that are either City-led or as parks delivered through new residential development, leverage available growth funding tools (such as legacy Section 37, Section 45, and Section 42 Above 5% Cash-in-lieu sources), and through government agencies and private partnerships.

Additional financial impacts associated with operating and capital resulting from implementation of the updated Toronto Dog Off-Leash Strategy will be included in future budget processes for consideration.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on June 26 and 27, 2024, City Council requested the General Manager, Parks and Recreation to: (1) develop criteria to determine sites acceptable for Commercial Dog Walkers and to propose a list of acceptable sites across the City, as part of the City-wide Dogs Off-Leash Area report due to City Council in the third quarter of 2024; and (2) prohibit Commercial Dog Walkers in Ramsden Park Dog Off-Leash Area, by posting appropriate signage as required under Section 608-34.1.C of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.MM19.3>

At its meeting on March 20 and 21, 2024, City Council requested the General Manager, Parks and Recreation to explore the feasibility of an off-leash dog track, or a dog off leash area along the York Beltline Trail west of William R. Allen Road, as part of the Council approved report for 2023.IE6.8 headed "Citywide Approach to Dogs Off-Leash Areas" by the third quarter of 2024.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.IE11.1>

At its meeting on October 11 and 12, 2023, City Council directed the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, to: (1) review and update the City's approach to planning, locating, funding, building, and maintaining Dogs Off-Leash Areas based on recognized best practices and integrated with the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan; (2) include a comprehensive review of other jurisdictions' Off-Leash Area plans, strategies, and approaches, and ambassador/stewardship programs, including but not limited to Vancouver, Surrey, Edmonton, Calgary, and Winnipeg, as part of the development of an evidence-based best practice approach to Dogs Off-Leash Areas for Toronto; (3) report back with the recommended new approach to Dogs Off-Leash Areas resulting from Part 1 above, including required funding to implement, to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee by the third quarter of 2024; (4) together with the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to ensure the approach to Dogs Off-Leash Areas includes bylaw enforcement strategies to address the ongoing concerns of all park users; and (5) include the findings and recommendations from the Toronto Dog Off-Leash Area Study, conducted by Thinc Design in 2019, in their report back to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee in the third quarter of 2024.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.IE6.8>

At its meeting on October 29 and 30, 2019, City Council adopted the Implementation Strategy for the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan which included Off-Leash Areas as a park-based recreation amenity, recommending five new OLAs be included in future Capital Budgets. Council also requested staff to review the dogs off-leash policy, applying international best practices, and report back.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.EX9.5>

At its meeting on January 26 and 27, 2010, City Council approved the revised Off-Leash Policy and corresponding amendments to Municipal Code.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2010.PE27.2>

At its meeting on January 27 and 28, 2009, City Council approved amendments to the Commercial Dog Walker Policy and corresponding amendments to the Municipal Code.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2009.PE21.6>

At its meeting on July 16, 17, 18, and 19, 2007 adopted the “People, Dogs and Parks – Off-Leash Policy” and, among other things, directed the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report back to the Parks and Environment Committee on the effectiveness of the Off-Leash Policy after implementation (Item PE7.3).

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cc/decisions/2007-07-16-cc11-dd.pdf>

COMMENTS

Toronto is home to more than three million people and is estimated to be home to 600,000 or more dogs.

OLAs are a significant part of Toronto’s park system and have become cherished community assets across the city. OLAs are designated spaces where dogs can exercise, play, and socialize off-leash with other dogs. OLA users noted that Toronto’s OLAs provide many unique and exciting experiences for dogs due to variety of types, design features, and new playmates, as well as enrich their lives by providing spaces for people to socialize with community members, spend time outdoors, and exercise. Stakeholders and other jurisdictions have also noted that OLAs can play a role in crime prevention by activating underutilized spaces and increasing residents' presence throughout communities.

OLA development and management at the City is currently guided by the 2010 Off-leash Policy (“2010 Policy”), and the Toronto Dog Off-Leash Strategy (“Strategy”) presented in this report builds on this foundation. Since 2010, however, Toronto has grown with more people and dogs living together in increasingly dense communities, often without access to private green space, and sharing limited parkland with many competing demands. While this is especially true in the more urban downtown areas, vertical communities have spread to all parts of the city necessitating an updated citywide approach. An updated approach is supported by stakeholders who have encouraged the City to take a more proactive and comprehensive approach to OLA

planning, locating, designing, building, maintaining, upgrading off-leash areas and stewarding OLAs, commensurate with approaches in other major cities.

1. Review Scope and Approach

The work to review and update the City's existing OLA approach was organized into four areas:

Current State Assessment

- Assess the current OLA approach in the areas of OLA planning, locating, designing, building, maintaining, and upgrading off-leash areas as well as promoting responsible dog ownership through education and enforcement, and engaging residents.
- Review the current approach to Commercial Dog Walker access to OLAs.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement and Review of Best Practices

- Conduct comprehensive research and stakeholder engagement in the areas of OLA planning, locating, design, stewardship, bylaw education and enforcement, maintenance and operations, administration, and commercial dog walker regulations to understand what's working well with Toronto's current approach and identify opportunities for improvement.

OLA Approach Updates

- Proposed updates informed by public and stakeholder engagement and benchmarked against best practices.
- Ensure the updated approach is responsive to Toronto's growth and serves as a decision-making and planning framework to guide the City's expansion and improvement of the OLA network, in balance with community priorities and other park amenities.

High-Level Implementation Plan

- Create a high-level plan to implement the Strategy.

2. Current Approach

The current policy in effect, "People, Dogs and Parks Strategy – Off-leash Policy" was adopted by City Council in July 2007 and subsequently updated in 2010 ("2010 Policy"). The 2010 Policy provides requirements in the following areas:

- Procedures for new OLA development to be considered in conjunction with capital redevelopment of existing parks or new park development.
- Residents interested in establishing an OLA must establish a local dog owners' association.
- Outlines the engagement process to engage with the local community in the planning of a new OLA.
- Location criteria to be used in City staff's review of the suitability of a potential site.
- Identifies exclusion areas where off-leash areas are not to be established.

- Identifies requirements for the protection for natural environment areas.
- Identifies fencing requirements.
- Identifies conditions under which a dog is not permitted in an off-leash area.
- Outlines the process for the cancellation of an off-leash area designation.
- Details enforcement fines and liability.

The Toronto Dog Off-Leash Strategy (“Strategy”) proposes to update the City’s approach in the following key areas to continue to improve the OLA experience and ensure access to OLAs for as many people and dogs as possible within resources and space available:

- Implement a citywide and proactive approach to planning for new OLA development, consistent with how the City plans, builds, and funds other important park amenities and integrate OLA implementation with the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan.
- Remove the requirement for residents to establish a local dog owners’ association to request a new OLA. OLA requests would continue to be considered but would be assessed through established parks planning processes and the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan, like all other parks amenities.
- Reaffirm and strengthen the important role of community members in creating and well-functioning and welcoming spaces across the OLA network through refreshed engagement processes as part of local OLA planning and development, as well as engaging stakeholders in the implementation of the Strategy.
- Update location criteria to include recommended setbacks from adjacent and sensitive land uses in order to find the best possible location for an OLA, including establishing a minimum OLA size and update exclusion areas to include Environmentally Significant Areas.
- Implement new design guidance for OLAs, including new mandatory features for all new OLAs, to create consistency in design and provide more predictability for residents, enable improved capital investments planning and optimize available funding.
- Implement a citywide, data driven plan for state-of-good-repair based on regular condition assessments, regular staff inspections, and community feedback.
- Implement transparent harmonized maintenance service standards for OLAs.
- Implement simplified and consolidated OLA rules of conduct.
- Refresh and implement updated OLA signage, website, and public communication.
- Establish consistent hours of operation for new OLAs.
- Develop guidance to support Commercial Dog Walker access to OLAs and help to mitigate against noise and overcrowding at small sized OLAs where needed.
- Update the process to review the designation of an OLA or OLA boundaries.

3. Research and Public and Stakeholder Engagement

Toronto Dog Off-Leash Strategy (“Strategy”) was developed through extensive research and engagement of residents including OLA users to understand what’s working well with Toronto’s current approach and identify opportunities for improvement focused on OLA planning, locating, design, stewardship, bylaw education and enforcement, maintenance and operations, administration, and commercial dog walker access. This

work was undertaken through a combination of staff efforts and through the consulting services of thinc design and included:

- Jurisdictional review of OLA policies, programs, and practices in 16 municipalities across North America, including in-depth interviews with 13 municipalities.
- Jurisdictional review of commercial dog walker policies and regulations in 14 municipalities.
- Public survey of Torontonians, including both OLA-users and non-users, to understand citywide perspectives on OLAs.
- Public survey of Torontonians, including Commercial Dog Walkers (CDWs), OLA-users, and non-users, to understand citywide perspectives on CDW use of OLAs.
- Stakeholder focus groups including representatives from dog owners' associations and dog-related organizations, nature and stewardship groups, residents' associations, and school boards, professional dog walkers, and individual OLA-users on: planning, design, location of OLAs, and how the City could improve the park user experience.
- Community workshop on CDW use of OLAs including representatives from dog owners' associations and dog-related organizations, nature and stewardship groups, residents' associations, and school boards, Commercial Dog Walkers, and individual OLA-users to inform the development of guidance for CDW use of OLAs.
- Interviews with Members of Toronto City Council.

The research and engagement findings can be found in Attachment 2 and 3 of this report.

4. Proposed Toronto's Dog Off-Leash Strategy

The proposed Toronto Dog Off-Leash Strategy ("Strategy") will advance a citywide and proactive approach to growing and sustaining the OLA network, consistent with how the City plans, funds, and maintains other important park amenities underpinned by six goals.

Goal 1: Plan Proactively

Implement a citywide and proactive approach to planning for new OLA development integrated with the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan so that new OLAs are built where they can serve the most people and dogs both in areas with and without a nearby OLA. The OLA provision gap areas identified in this Strategy will be reviewed and prioritized for new OLAs in the forthcoming Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan and will be reviewed every five years. Staff estimate that 45-50 OLAs will be needed to address these provision gap areas. The Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan will prioritize where new OLAs should be located over the next 20 years and will identify funding requirements to be considered in future Capital Budgets.

Strategy Actions:

- Identify OLA provision gap areas based on current and/or anticipated high population density, and nearby OLAs.

- Incorporate OLA provision gap areas into the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan and future Capital Budget planning to determine sequencing, timing, and funding, and review every five years.
- Encourage delivery of off-leash space outside of City-owned parkland.
- Remove requirement for residents interested in establishing an OLA to establish a local dog owners' association and to apply to the City for delivery of an OLA in their local neighbourhood.

Goal 2: Engage Community

Reinforce and strengthen the important role of residents including OLA users in creating and well-functioning and welcoming spaces across the OLA network, including participation in local OLA planning and development, as well as engaging stakeholders in the implementation of the Strategy.

Strategy Actions:

- Update and implement existing engagement approaches, processes and methods to ensure local community voices contribute meaningfully to OLA development and design, and an updated standard communications protocol. The updated engagement process and communications protocol is included as part of the Strategy in Appendix A.
- Establish a Citywide OLA Stakeholder Reference Group to support implementation of the Strategy.
- Create a shared webpage with information about local OLA community groups to facilitate connections and recognize local OLA volunteer groups.

Goal 3: Design, Locate, and Build Quality OLAs

Build new OLAs to a high and consistent standard, for people and off-leash dogs to enjoy that are responsive to a range of urban contexts and community needs, balance the needs of all park users and neighbours, and reduce impacts on the natural environment. The Strategy proposes to update OLA location criteria and design guidance to ensure consistency in OLA design and location citywide, provide more predictability for residents, and enable the City to better plan capital investments and optimize available funding. The full technical report from thinc design on OLA location criteria and design guidance for Toronto is included as part of the Strategy in Appendix B.

Strategy Actions:

- Update location criteria to include recommended setbacks from adjacent and sensitive land uses, establish minimum OLA size, and update exclusion areas to include Environmentally Significant Areas.
- Update design guidance to include both mandatory and optional features to create consistency in design and more predictability on the development costs, including fencing.
- Update the process for review of an OLA designation or boundaries.

Goal 4: Maintain - Keep Every OLA Clean and Well-Cared For

Maintain all OLAs to a high and consistent standard, delivering a positive user experience for dogs and park visitors. Survey respondents identified maintenance as a top feature that influences how OLAs are perceived and experienced.

Strategy Actions:

- Implement harmonized and updated OLA maintenance standards on a citywide basis and respond to local service requests from the community.
- Improve tracking of responses to community service requests through forthcoming integration with 311.
- Publish maintenance service standards for the OLA network on the City's website.

Goal 5: Improve - Sustain and Increase Value

Ensure the longevity and benefits of the OLA network through ongoing state-of-good repair investments and by addressing critical repairs, environmental protection, fencing, and accessibility needs on a timely basis using new design guidance, where possible. Improving conditions at OLAs through capital improvements and state-of-good-repair work is fundamental to ensure these spaces continue to provide enjoyable experiences for both people and dogs as well as sustaining and growing the value of Toronto's existing OLA network.

Strategy Actions:

- Implement a citywide, data driven plan for state-of-good-repair program for OLAs that is based on regular condition assessments and is responsive to community feedback and regular staff inspections.
- Prioritize critical repairs, accessibility upgrades, environmental impact, and fencing needs.

Goal 6: Ensure Responsible Use of OLAs

Communicate and enforce simple, consistent rules of conduct at OLAs to support bylaw compliance through education and enforcement, so OLAs work well for everyone and conflict is reduced with adjacent park users and neighbours. Although OLAs are intended to be spaces for enjoyment, they can sometimes be a focus of conflict, either between OLA users or between OLA users and other park visitors and neighbours. Public survey participants, stakeholders, and City Councillors stressed the importance of bylaw education and enforcement to ensure compliance with OLA rules of use. Bylaw compliance is best achieved through a combination of communication, education, and enforcement.

Strategy Actions:

- Simplify and consolidate OLA rules of conduct.
- Refresh and implement updated OLA signage, website, and public communication.
- Establish consistent hours of operation for new OLAs.
- Continue to promote responsible dog ownership through public education and support enforcement efforts.

Goal 7: Commercial Dog Walker Access

Support Commercial Dog Walker (CDW) access to OLAs by implementing guidance at OLAs that accounts for nearby residences and capacity of OLAs. Under Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 608, CDWs are allowed to walk and have control of 4 to 6 dogs at a time in a park. Currently, CDWs can access 50 of the City's 81 OLAs.

Under the proposed guidance, new OLAs:

- Over 1,000 square metres will allow CDW access.
- 1,000 square metres or under will not allow CDW access.

The guidance is intended to support CDW access to OLAs while mitigating against overcrowding at small sized OLAs. Under the proposed design guidance, noise concerns will be addressed through setbacks from surrounding residential properties.

Existing sites that allow CDW access will continue to allow CDW access as currently posted. Where there is a need to review CDW access, it will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis using the proposed CDW guidance above, 311 data, CDW usage patterns, and working with the Ward Councillor and in consultation with the community and CDWs to determine any changes.

In accordance with the proposed guidance, nine existing OLA sites that currently do not allow CDW access and are larger than 1,000 square metres and set back from residential properties have been identified to allow access to CDWs. Applying this approach will increase CDW access to OLAs from 50 to 59 OLAs. As requested by City Council, Attachment 4 provides the list of Off-Leash Areas by Ward with Proposed Changes for Commercial Dog Walker Access.

Strategy Action:

- Implement guidance to support CDW access to OLAs and help to mitigate concerns, where needed.

5. Key Implementation Points

If approved, the following actions will be implemented:

5.1 Plan Proactively

- Expansion priorities to fill OLA provision gap areas will be addressed in the 2025 Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan.

5.2 Engage Communities

- Update and implement updated engagement processes in 2025.
- Update and implement standard OLA communications protocol in 2025.
- Establish the Citywide OLA Stakeholder Reference Group in 2025.
- Implement OLA-related updates to the City's website immediately.

5.3 Design, Locate, and Build Quality OLAs

- Begin to use refreshed location criteria, new design guidance, and public engagement processes and protocols to guide all new OLA builds immediately.
- Location Criteria and Design Guidance will be reviewed every five years against emerging best practices and community feedback.

5.4 Maintain - Keep Every OLA Clean and Well-Cared For

- Implement updated and harmonized citywide maintenance service standards in 2025.
- Monitor and review 311 service requests related to OLAs once Parks and Recreation is fully integrated with 311.

5.5 Improve - Sustain and Increase Value

- State-of-good-repair projects will be identified and prioritized based on regular condition assessments, regular maintenance inspections by staff, and community feedback.
- Undertake condition assessments of the OLA network every five years.

5.6 Ensure Responsible Use of OLAs

- Implement simplified and consolidated OLA rules of conduct in 2025.
- Refresh OLA website and public communication in 2025.
- Updated signage will be rolled out starting in 2025.
- Work with Municipal Licensing and Standards Division on their public education campaign focused on promoting compliance with dog leash requirements in 2025.

5.7 Commercial Dog Walker Access

- Implement guidance for CDW access to OLAs at all future OLAs.
- Expand CDW access at 9 new OLAs in 2025.
- To implement any changes, post advance notice at each of sites and communicate change to CDWs, OLA users, and City Councillors. The changes will then be implemented by installing updated signage and updating the City's website.

6. Monitoring and Reporting

To monitor the implementation of the Toronto Dog Off-Leash Strategy (“Strategy”), the City will continue to review available 311 data to identify and address issues. In addition, the following key performance indicators) will be included as an accompaniment to the review of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan, anticipated in 2030. See table below for strategic goals and key performance indicators.

Strategic Goals and Key Performance Indicators

Strategic Goal	Key Performance Indicator(s)
1. Plan	-Number of new OLAs built in priority service gap areas -Integration of OLA priorities into Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan

Strategic Goal	Key Performance Indicator(s)
2. Engage Community	-Satisfaction with engagement process as measured through participant surveys
3. Design and Build	-Percent of new OLAs delivered according to schedule and site-specific budget
4. Maintain	-Satisfaction with OLA maintenance as measured through stakeholder surveys -311 service requests tracked and reported to establish a baseline for future evaluation
5. Improve - Sustain and Grow OLA Value	-Percent of planned SOGR projects completed -Percent of planned major rehabilitation projects completed
6. Ensure Responsible Use of OLAs	-Percent of OLAs with refreshed signage installed
7. Commercial Dog Walker Access	-311 service requests tracked and compared with previous year to establish baseline and monitor sites, including the 9 new sites.

7. Conclusion

The Toronto Dog Off-Leash Strategy (“Strategy”) represents the next chapter for OLAs as the City works to improve the park experience for all park users, dog owners and their dogs. Building on existing efforts, the proposed Strategy takes a comprehensive, citywide approach to addressing how and where future off-leash areas will be built and what they should look like, the maintenance and improvement of existing facilities, and ways to enrich the user experience, for people and dogs. The Strategy will serve as both a framework and decision-making tool to guide the lifecycle of OLA development and use, and to promote responsible OLA use through public engagement, positive education, and bylaw enforcement.

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Toronto Dog Off-Leash Area Strategy, 2025
2. Public and Stakeholder Engagement Results (Survey, Stakeholder Focus Groups, and Commercial Dog Walker Engagement)
3. Jurisdictional Review – Off-Leash Areas
4. List of Off-Leash Areas by Ward with Proposed Changes for Commercial Dog Walker Access
5. City-Wide Study for Existing City of Toronto Dogs Off-Leash Areas, May 2021