

## Sellwood Riverfront Park

Portland, OR  
1221 SE Oaks Park Way

- 1.5 acre off leash area
- hours: 5am-midnight
- waste bags and water are not provided on site
- nearby: connecting paths, parks, wetlands, forest
- large grass area and beach access to river for swimming
- just north of the parking lot
- no separation between large and small dogs
- no restrooms





# Thousand Acres & Sandy River Delta

Portland, OR  
Cown Point Hwy.

- considered to be the ‘off-leash mecca’ of Portland
- 1400 acres of open field, wetlands, blackberry bushes, many trails, two rivers for swimming- with designated areas where dogs can run free
- leash required for Confluence Trail and parking lot, \$100usd fine if not leashed in these areas
- not fenced
- other uses in the park: mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, 1/3 of the park is set aside for conservation efforts with no human or canine access, bird watching
- attempting to restore it to its native estuary wetland ecosystem while maintaining off leash regulations, as the site has been used as an aluminum factory
- largest off-leash area in Portland
- all-season
- washrooms available
- accessible gravel trails (Boundary Trail, Confluence Trail, Meadow Trail, Meadow Road, Ranch Dike Trail, Old Channel Trail)
- multiple parking lots
- three picnic tables

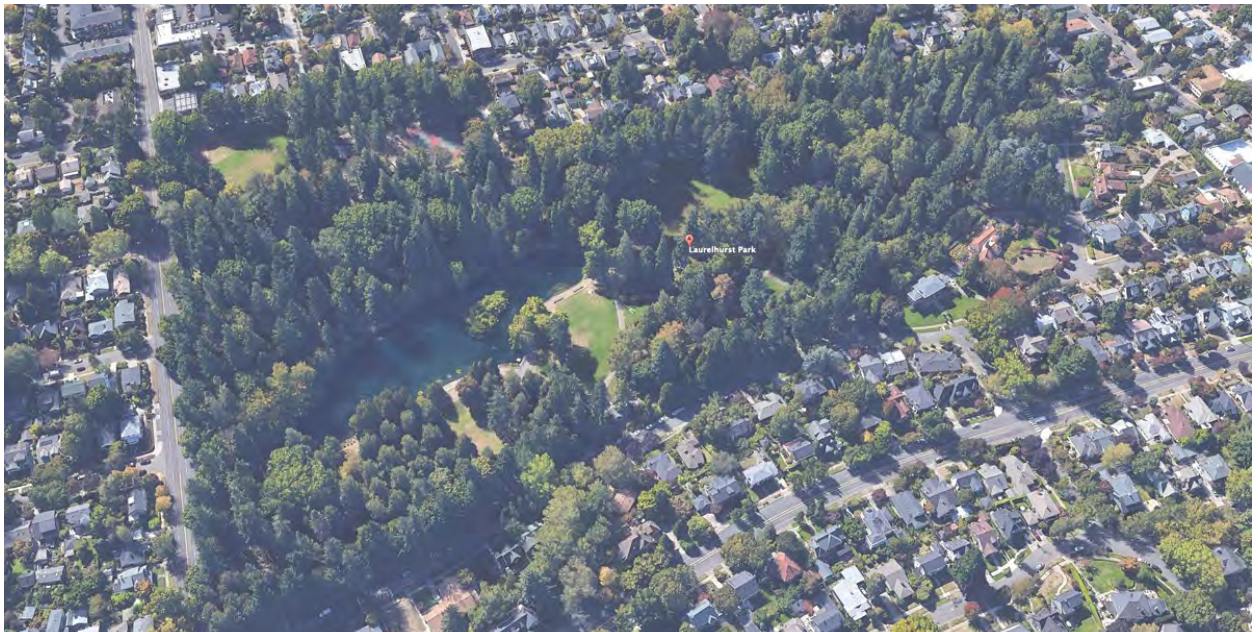




## Laurelhurst

Portland, OR  
SE 39th Ave. & Stark St.

- 1 acre off leash area, over an acre of grass, evergreen pines, paths and wildlife (ducks, squirrels, birds)
- unfenced, reminiscent of a smaller Central Park, requiring voice control
- picnic tables, fresh water, large open grassy area
- bathrooms
- no large and small dog area
- can rent picnic tables
- many waste bins
- neighboring amenities: basketball court, soccer field, playground area
- lots of joggers, walker and bikers



## 2. Seattle, WA

### 32 Off-Leash Areas: all single use.

#### Health and Safety

- certified dog walkers must have both a business license and dog walker license (\$100)
  - limited to a max of 10 dogs, with a certificate in animal behaviour (\$2,985 for the program City gives as pre-approved) required starting in August 2019
  - Otherwise limit for standard dog walkers is 3 dogs
- dogs are not allowed at organized athletic fields, beaches, or children's play areas in Seattle parks, per the Seattle Municipal Code
- relevant OLA rules include:
  - bring food into off-leash areas at your own risk
  - leave bicycles outside off-leash area
- Seattle is not specific about vaccinations but does say they are needed to use dog parks, and the County is the one who licenses dogs
- a Seattle 2017 review states that “dog waste is a significant contributor to the pollution of the region's water, particularly with E. coli bacteria. [Therefore] any proposal to establish additional water access sites will require environmental review.”

#### Environmental Design

- Seattle Parks and Rec's 2011 development plan recommended that:

- sites should be fenced
- with pathways
- benches
- kiosks
- drinking fountains
- other park furniture
- new (2017) site proposal rules state:
  - site must not be in an environmentally critical area.
  - Seattle Parks and Recreation will consider proposed sites on Shoreline Environments, but this will require additional vetting by various government agencies as it must be ensured that the City's water quality is not compromised
  - site must be ADA accessible (if existing site is not ADA accessible, then applicants should create a plan to make it accessible)
  - site must not have significant vegetation and large trees
  - proposed site must be at least 50 ft. away from other property lines
  - flat sites are preferred to slopes due to potential for erosion
  - consideration should be given for access to parking spots for OLA users and/or access by public transportation to the OLA
  - site should ideally be at least 5,000 sq ft
  - high visibility into the site is desired
- in Seattle 2017 appendix that is a current site inventory, basic OLA elements are given: Most OLAs include the following elements:



- perimeter fence and gate: 4' or 5' high chain link perimeter fence, double entry pedestrian gate and vehicle maintenance entry gate
- interior fence/barriers for plants protection: split fence with meshed wire, lower chain-link fence, cattle wire fence, or orange fencing during temporary restoration
- entrance area: entrance kiosk, signs (leash law, scoop law, good behavior), trash cans/dumpster, dog solid waste bag dispenser; storage/tool box; wheel barrels/maintenance tool equipment area; dog drinking fountain or bottled water supply in winter provided by volunteers.
- surface materials: commonly used surface materials include wood chips, 1/8" crushed rock, 1/4" crushed rock, granolithic rocks, pea gravel, dirt, sand, and grass areas.
- some jurisdictions are experimenting with synthetic turf and irrigations systems to flush feces
- use areas: bigger play field for throwing/catching game; trails for walking; gather areas for socialization; separated small and shy dog areas
- green space: trees, shrubs, groundcover and grass
- site Amenities for Dogs: dog drinking fountain, dog washing station, dog play apparatus, over/under play
- site amenities for dog owners: kiosk, seating areas of benches, logs and rocks, shelter, picnic tables, trash cans and dog waste bags

### Accessibility

- for all new OLA proposals, site must be ADA accessible or include plans to make it accessible
- individual OLA pages that must be clicked on give some accessibility information, including paths to OLA that are accessible
- in Seattle's 2017 Parks Master Plan a section detailing the assessment of existing sites and park district funding says that Parks and Rec manager, gardener, maintenance, and landscape architect did a study of existing conditions and identified three recurring needs:
  - ADA accessibility and drainage issues are the most common themes throughout
  - vegetation restoration and play features
  - small/shy dog space and gates/shelters were the third most common need identified
- 2017 master plan appendix 7: "Some existing OLAs do not have ADA accessible routes to the facility. Lower Woodland Park OLA is located on a steep slope, Dr. Jose Rizal Park is located at the bottom of slope, and Kinnear Park OLA is located with the steep wooded hillside. Where possible, it is desirable to have at least one ADA accessible route from a designated parking area to the OLA entrance and ensure some portion of the OLA area is ADA accessible."

### Etiquette

- not dictated beyond rules and regulations for dogs in parks:

- you are liable for damage or injury inflicted by your dog(s) (SMC 18.12.080)
  - you must be in control of your dog(s) at all times (SMC 18.12.080)
  - you must muzzle dogs that exhibit dangerous or aggressive behavior; biting, fighting, and excessive barking are not allowed (SMC 9.25.024)
  - you must leash your dog when it is outside the off-leash area; you must carry a leash for each dog while you are inside the off-leash area (SMC 9.25.084 and 12.18.080)
  - you must clean up after your dog(s) and deposit feces in the containers at the site, and you must visibly carry scoop equipment (SMC 9.25.082 and 18.12.080)
  - you must closely supervise young children
  - bring food into off-leash areas at your own risk
  - leave bicycles outside off-leash area
  - unattended dogs are not allowed in off-leash areas
  - female dogs in heat are not allowed in off-leash areas (SMC 9.25)
  - puppies younger than four months of age are not allowed in off-leash areas
  - owners who see unattended dogs or other rule violations should call Animal Control at 206-386-7387, Extension 2
- WOLF – Walkers are Off Leash Friends, is a Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA) subsidiary group that advocates for dog walkers also has criteria (a pledge)

that they put on the website: “I agree to maintain to my utmost ability the following best practices:

- I am up to date with city and state business licenses and liability insurance
- I adhere to Seattle City OLA park rules and regulations.
- I strive to leave the park cleaner than it was upon arrival. I “scoop poop” regardless of if its source.
- I agree to abide by pack size limits posted for each Seattle dog park, if/when such limits are imposed by the city. (Courtesy limit of 10 dogs is encouraged by WOLF, regardless of park limit.)
- all dogs are on leash both to and from the dog park
- all of my dogs are well socialized before entering the park and well behaved while in the park
- I strive for my dogs to enter into the dog park in a calm manner
- I avoid lingering around gates with my pack, especially when a new dog is entering the park. This will help avoid a mob or prey mentality and will help ensure safety for everyone.
- I display a cooperative and professional attitude while in the park at all times. I do not lose my temper, yell, or cuss at any dog or human. If human conflict arises, I am civil and respectful in the midst of disagreement.
- I carry a list of license numbers and client contact information for each of my dogs at all times
- I do not leave dogs unattended in the park at any time. If I need to leave

for an urgent matter, I ask another dog walker to briefly watch my pack. I do not leave dogs unattended in the park in order to bring in a second group of dogs.

- I am conscientious and courteous of other park users when entering and exiting the park. I unleash inside the park, not inside the “air lock.” This creates congestion. Upon preparing to leave the park, I leash my group before going through the “air lock.”
- I am careful to not leave dogs unattended in my vehicle for extended periods of time, especially in the summer
- I am pet CPR/First Aid certified
- I am knowledgeable in how to break up dog fights
- I am an ally to other dog walkers
- none of my dogs are in heat. All male dogs over one year old are neutered, well socialized, under my control, and do not create drama or conflict with other dogs.
- all dogs are over 4 months of age and are up to date on vaccinations and are healthy to the best of my knowledge
- I do not linger on my cell phone while in the park. I use it for taking photos of my dogs or in case of emergencies.
- I remain active with my dogs and attentive, keeping them in view at all times
- I am always walking, fetching, and or playing
- I avoid being stationary in the park and I avoid standing around talking or excessively socializing with humans

- I avoid overcrowding areas with my pack
- I value professional growth by seeking to learn from science based educational materials and programs
- I strive to volunteer for the Seattle dog community at least 3 hours per month
- I will take the educational class called the COLA Ambassador program.”
  - COLA has “Dog Owning Responsibilities” as well

### Enforcement

- Park District funding for an initiative called ‘Make Parks Safer’ which adds ‘one maintenance worker and one Humane Animal Control Officer to educate the public and enforce dog leash and scoop laws at ‘hot spot’ parks – locations with complaints, violations and impacts to users and/or natural resources’. Came in under budget and issued 455 citations for leash violations
- no licensing compliance rates available beyond self-selected survey of 4,000 in Seattle 2017 report – found that 86% had licensed their dogs
- program is essentially designating two people to handle dog related incidents in Seattle’s 485 parks (but only really the ‘hot spot’ parks), fines for no license, off-leash and scooping are \$50-\$150 and can be \$500 on a beach
- admittedly, the Animal Control staff help to educate dog owners and actively enforce Seattle’s leash, scoop and license laws. According to the County: Officers patrol in Seattle parks to ensure the safe and

appropriate use of both the off-leash and on-leash areas.

- Seattle 2017 indicates that the reason it cannot provide unfenced access to parks for dogs with special hours is that they only have one enforcement team for parks, (compared to New York City that has 400)

## Parking

- included in cost estimates for a standard 1-acre OLA as indicated in Seattle 2017
- the requirements for proposing OLAs say “consideration for access to parking spots for OLA users and/or access by public transportation to the OLA”

## Waste Disposal & Bags

- most sites have volunteer bag dispersal. City takes care of garbage removal, but dog waste goes to landfill
- many of the surfacing assessments take into account how easy it is to find dog feces in them, and how much weight of added material from the surfaces makes it into the trash and increases the weight of the garbage as a whole
- Seattle 2017 current situation with dog solid waste in Appendix 7:
  - dog feces is an endemic problem at all OLA sites and is challenging due to user behavior, volume, weight, and health concerns. Dog feces spread Parvo (a deadly disease to dogs) and other bacterial and parasitic diseases. A multi-pronged-approach would best address this situation. Increasing user education through interpretive signs, handouts, events, and updates on SPR’s webpage may help.

- in 2012, OLAs generated 4,000 tons of doggie doo-doo. Feces left on the ground can result in very unsanitary conditions and negative impacts to adjacent water bodies. Dog waste is also very heavy. It might be better to switch to a system that provides smaller cans that are serviced more frequently than the large dumpsters and/or the 32 gallon trashcans.
- Magnuson Park OLA uses about 3,000 doggie doo-doo bags per month. Dumpsters full with dog feces generate unpleasant smells, especially during heavy use in the summer season.

## Signage

- no indication on the policy with signs, beyond the information about 1 out of 14 parks having kiosks, which ostensibly include signs
- Seattle 2017 Appendix 7 seems to imply there are leash law, scoop law and behaviour requirements signs at most OLAs

## Buffer for Visual/Sound Attenuation

- not mentioned except to stipulate in the siting rules that “High visibility into the site is desired.”
- it appears that Seattle’s rules and regs address sound solely by this “You must muzzle dogs that exhibit dangerous or aggressive behavior; biting, fighting, and excessive barking are not allowed (SMC 9.25.024).”

## Shade & Wind Protection

- majority of the OLAs have shade. Some are all shade



### Drainage

- one of the three recurring needs identified in maintenance survey of 2011 – considered of primary importance along with ADA accessibility
- from Seattle 2017, Appendix 7: “Many of the OLAs have poor drainage, which when combined with high dog traffic and intense use, cause muddy conditions in the winter months and erosion problems during the summer months. Good overall site drainage and water availability for dog drinking stations and/or wash stations is important.”
- drainage identified as an issue in 6 out of 14 OLAs

### Vegetative Restoration

- one of the three recurring needs identified in maintenance survey of 2011 – considered of secondary importance along with play features
- from Appendix 7 in Seattle 2017: “Vegetation restoration is needed for several OLA such as Golden Gardens, Lower Woodland Park and Dr. Jose Rizal. Conditions could be improved by replanting the understory, introducing suitable barriers, educating users and working with volunteer groups for long term maintenance.”
- mentioned as necessary in 4 of 14
- new OLA siting requirements say: “Site must not have significant vegetation and large trees,” however many existing OLAs have them. Implies that vegetative damage is significant issue.

### General Size of OLA

- 0.105 acres (0.04 ha) smallest, to 8.6 acres (3.5 ha), largest. Total acreage OLAs in city is 28 acres (11.3 ha)
- from Vancouver best practices interview: “Preferred size is 2 (0.8 ha) acres - preferred minimum is 1 (0.4ha) acre.”

### Small Dog Areas

- one of the three recurring needs identified in maintenance survey of 2011 – ranked third in importance, however. Seattle calls the Small Dog Areas Small/Shy Dog Space
- according to Seattle’s 2017 report: “A prominent animal behaviorist believes large and small dogs should never mix, which would be inevitable at an unfenced OLA.”
- 4 out of 14 OLAs currently have them

### Surfacing

- Seattle 2017 included the following assessment of surfacing options: “Surfacing options in single use fenced areas include:
  - **turf (grass)** – grass surface areas are the most difficult and costly surfaces to maintain, but are also the most desired. The larger the grass area is, the easier it is to maintain. This ground cover typically does better when there are opportunities for the surface to self repair, such as rotating/alternate areas. High use without a long break degrades the surface and muddy areas develop where it is difficult to reconstitute grass. Urine also over saturates portions of the park with nitrogen, killing the grass and making the land difficult to reconstitute.

- **decomposed granite/gravel** – this ground cover has been used widely in fenced dog parks across the United States. The composite is not preferred by dogs, but is the most inexpensive and long-term solution. Running often creates a cloud of dust that covers dogs and people alike, and there are issues with the smell of urine. Finally, when feces are removed, large amounts of gravel go with it, increasing the price of hauling away the waste and a constant need to haul in more yards of replacement gravel.
- **pea gravel** – used in many dog parks as a less sharp cousin of gravel, this surface is a good option. Insects have been a problem with its surfacing, but drainage is excellent. Again this surface does add to cost of waste removal.
- **wood chips** – preferred by dogs over gravel, this surfacing can make it deceptively difficult to find dog feces, depending on the size of the chips. Like gravel, removing the feces also requires dog guardians to remove a percentage of the wood chips. In addition, there is an issue with the urine smell. Finally, replacing periodically becomes necessary unless left on site and continually covered with additional chips, and disposing of used chips is costly as it must be removed using the same policies as human waste.
- **artificial turf** – this type of ground cover comes at a high cost, and requires drainage and maintenance which is additionally costly. Environmental aspects have been much debated without enough scientific research. Communities such as Philadelphia, San Jose, Chicago, and Rapid City have had good luck with this type of ground cover.
- **sand** – an expensive but preferred option, sometimes used in combination with other surfaces to provide relief for sensitive or small dog paws. Low maintenance and easy to rake out, dogs like it and only small amounts of it are removed with feces, thus lowering the weight of hauling.
- **dirt** – dirt requires the lowest amount of maintenance, but the spaces become almost unusable with any inclement weather.
- current practices from Seattle 2017 Appendix 7:
  - Surface materials at OLAs have to withstand vigorous use, need to drain well and be easily maintained.
  - Although wood chips are often preferred, SPR has gradually replaced the wood chip surface material due to the associated problems of intense urine smells, rotting and continuing replacement efforts.
  - SPR's standard trail profile of 5/8" crushed rock topped with 1/4" crushed rock is a good surface material for OLAs.
  - Pea gravel will also work but is difficult to contain. Granolithic rock is the most popular surface material for OLAs.
  - Drainage rock such as type 22 aggregate installed at I-5 Colonnade is not very walkable. Some jurisdictions are experimenting with

synthetic turf, but this requires daily washing down of the surface to remove all traces of feces and to drain directly into sewer lines

- as per 2016 Vancouver interview: “various types of gravel, some grass/dirt fields. Were testing K9 turf at one site in 2016. Moving away from wood chips due to smell, mold, and fact that chips migrate outside of off-leash areas.”
- 2” for gravel, 4-6” for sand or mulch

### Entries & Gates

- most have double gates - 5/14 have double-gates as per inventory from 2017 Seattle master plan
- most have more than one entrance (at least 10 of 14)
- 2 of 14 have only one entry

### Fencing

- from Seattle 2017: “Although New York has unfenced OLAs it also has an enforcement staff of 400. In contrast, Seattle only has one team dedicated to enforcement of leash laws in its parks. It would be much more difficult for SPR to enforce regulations at unfenced leash areas. Portland features off-leash areas and reports complaints and problems with dogs outside the boundaries and at the wrong times. Portland has in some cases fenced its unfenced sites.”
- 14 out of 14 sites fenced (one site includes beach so is incompletely fenced). New plan mandates fencing at all OLAs: “Based on the potential for conflict between leashed and unleashed dogs and between dogs and other park activities, limited enforcement resources, and feedback from other

jurisdictions, SPR will continue to offer fenced OLAs only.” It also states there will be NO Off-leash trails.

### Lighting

- some have lighting, but only 1 of 14 expressly states that it is lit

### Irrigation

- mentioned as an issue in 1 of 14 (Appendix 7, Seattle 2017), during recommendation to raise or cap off sprinkler heads because of leakage

### Picnic Tables & Benches

- at least 5 of 14 have seating. It is a commonly mentioned upgrade in Appendix 7 of the Seattle 2017 master plan

### Community News Boards

- claim that most sites have information kiosks, which are essentially information boards, but it is unclear whether they allow community members to post to them

### Water Station (Bottle or Dog Fountain)

- from Vancouver interview: “most sites have drinking water for people and/or dogs.”
- at least 8 of 14 have water inside the OLA, 1 has water outside the OLA. At least 3 of 14 have specifically water fountain inside OLA

### Agility Equipment or Water Play

- one of the 3 recurring needs identified in maintenance survey of 2011 – “play



features”. Considered of secondary importance along with vegetative restoration.

- has recently (2019) been installed within 1 of 14 OLAs
- beach access in Seattle 2017: “The only OLA with beach access is at Magnuson Park, where a 145-foot stretch is available where dogs can swim. King County regularly tests the water there and at the swimming beach under its Major Lakes Monitoring Program and reports irregularities to SPR and Public Health – Seattle & King County... An Oregon Metro literature review found that dog waste is a significant contributor to the pollution of the region’s water, particularly with E. coli bacteria. Any proposal to establish additional water access sites will require environmental review.”
- surface material replacement: pickup, delivery and dumping of gravel, sand or mulch at the site for use within the off-leash area, currently spread by COLA volunteers
- “citizens for off-leash areas (COLA) is the official steward of Seattle’s dog off-leash program. Governed by partnership agreement between COLA and the city, they help to manage 13 of 14 off-leash area sites.
- COLA is involved in planning of off-leash area sites, education initiatives, monitoring, fundraising, site improvements, and basic maintenance (clean-up and spreading new materials) City provides materials and hauls away garbage”
- from COLA website: The Parks Department is responsible for providing routine maintenance to the off-leash areas. COLA acts as the officially-recognized steward group to the Parks Department, which means COLA meets with Parks quarterly to address maintenance and other issues related to the off-leash areas. Once issues are identified as necessary action items, Parks is responsible for the actual implementation. However, recent budget cuts in City departments – including the Parks Department – have forced COLA to shoulder the financial burden of improving the OLAs.”
- fundraising, grant writing, and seeking sponsorships to improve OLA

## Operations, Maintenance and Community Groups

- 2017 Master Plan estimates that it costs \$950,000 USD to develop a 1-acre OLA.
- “maintenance trends for dog parks vary widely, though [brief] weekly closures [of a few hours] by Parks and Recreation teams were found in several cities. (Los Angeles, CA; San Diego, CA)” Seattle 2017
- 2016 plan established maintenance standards for off-leash areas that address routine maintenance, surface material replacement, and equipment and supplies.
- routine maintenance: regular inspections, working with and supporting COLA stewards and volunteers, litter pickup, emptying of garbage cans and dumpsters, turf maintenance, weed and invasive plant control, tree maintenance and watering, maintenance of other plants on site

## Other Information:

- off-leash area within 2.5 miles of everyone in Seattle
- 6,414-acre park system of over 485 parks, 14 OLAs combine to 28 acres. Est. 150,000 dogs

## Appendix A: Best Practices

- COLA best practices report table (green)  
& 2014/2015 COLA biennial report (grey/  
orange)

### **Sources:**

Vancouver People Parks and Dogs Plan, 2017.

Seattle Parks and Recreation's People, Dogs & Parks Plan August 2017

Seattle Parks and Recreation's People, Dogs & Parks Plan 2016 Draft

<https://seattlecola.org/cola-statement-on-dog-walkers-in-seattle-off-leash-areas/>

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/find/dog-off-leash-areas#dennyparkoffleasharea>

# I-90 (Blue Dog Pond)

Seattle, WA  
1520 26th Ave.

- 1.7 acres opened next to I-90 lid in 1999
- heaviest use is summer months when runoff issues are less of a concern
- designated as a gravel coated retention basin, new gravel placed in an attempt to prevent the park from becoming a pond
- fully-fenced
- stewarded by volunteers and dog walkers
- issues with slopes, blackberries and poisonous hemlock (goats used to control it in the past)
- difficulty with rogue dog walkers, because of secluded terrain and lack of enforcement for animals
- giant ‘blue dog’ sculpture at entrance
- park functions as a storm water retention pond therefore several feet of water may collect during rainfall in low areas,
- single entry gate
- shrub beds and landscaping needed to reduce erosion
- hose-bib but no doggy drinking fountain
- ADA access but not everywhere
- no agility equipment





## Westcrest Park

Seattle, WA  
900 8th Ave.

- 8.4 acres opened in lower West Seattle in 1999
- flagship park for COLA (Citizens of Off-Leash Areas), design and users are some best and most organized in the city
- extremely well maintained, led by stewards
- variety of terrain and sections for all kinds of dogs, including a separate small/shy dog area, shelter for rainy season, and a short trail to help keep dogs moving
- COLA paid for resurfacing, and recently (2015-17) using a \$7500 USD grant from King County Wastewater Treatment's Rainwise program to explore issues of runoff into Westcrest from the nearby lidded reservoir
- Westcrest Doggiefest celebrates sustainability
- online presence and discussions of all kinds occur between users on social media
- open spaces and paths, doggie drinking fountain, shade, trees, benches and spaces to relax
- restrooms, play areas and picnic spaces nearby





# Warren G Magnuson Park

Seattle, WA  
7400 Sand Point Way N.

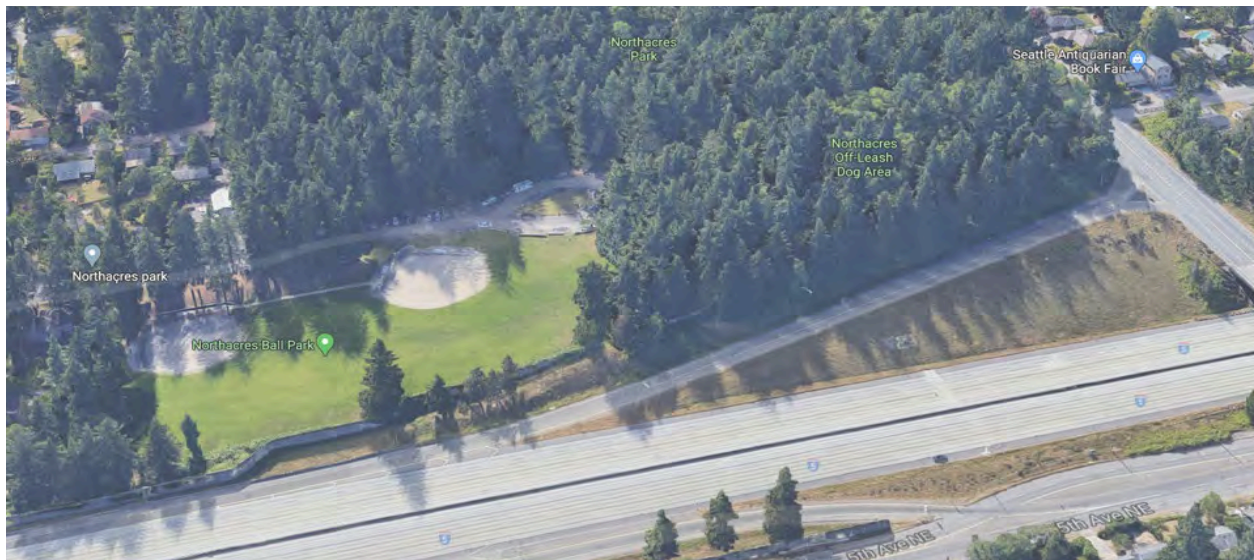
- Manguson Park is 8.6 acres in Sand Point, opening in 1999, and improved in 2005
- uses 3000 dog waste bags per month
- water access to Lake Washington's freshwater shoreline
- large, generally flat play area, winding trail, several open areas and changes of scenery
- fully fenced with multiple double gate entryway points
- drinking water stations, shade cover
- trail is mostly compact gravel and is wheelchair accessible
- small and shy dog area
- federally listed wetland, therefore rules with this designation
- large site, used by large groups
- topography flat with beach access
- needs seating, shelter, and lighting



## Northacres Park

Seattle, WA  
1278 1st Ave.

- 1.6 acres opened in North Seattle in 1997, improved 2000
- stewarded by a community member
- eleven regular work parties per year supported by local businesses
- small series of trails
- trees fenced off for their protection, fence maintained by COLA funding, as well as to repair a retaining wall
- difficult to throw a ball in because of fencing and no large field, inappropriate for dog walkers due to layout
- heavily forested with open spaces, trails, shade and good understory of vegetation
- only one access point at south end
- chairs and shady place to relax, water service for dogs
- restrooms, play areas, spray park, play fields, picnic areas nearby
- invasive plants, needs more native plants
- needs dog washing station with a hose-bib and associated drainage





# Dr. Jose Rizal Park

Seattle, WA  
1008 12th Ave.

- 1.5 acres on Beacon Hill, opened in 2001, renovated in 2011 when the Department of Transportation constructed a bicycle path connecting Mountains to South Greenway
- created with help from Amazon, located in a neaby building
- neighborhood volunteers, orchardists, and COLA stopped decline of park
- incredible view of Seattle, with grassy hills
- stewarded by a volunteer
- controlling graffiti is an issue
- water available to dogs
- fenced areas accessible from stairs at north end
- accessible from adjacent bike trail
- main entry is on a very steep slope, not manageable by some disabled people who need access through bike trail
- drainage needs crushed rock surfacing
- overgrown bushes



### 3. Vancouver, BC

**37 OLAs: 31 multiple use, 6 single use. 18 time or seasonal use restrictions.**

#### Health and Safety

- less than 15% of households in Vancouver have dogs – licensing compliance is between 38 and 66%
- dogs over 3 months must be licensed in Vancouver
- surface materials should be informed by comfort and safety for dogs as well as usage intensity, park user appeal and cost
- one of the suggested pilot materials, schotterausen, tends to use yarrow mix - this is toxic for dogs

#### Environmental Design

- 2017 strategy developed 5 types of OLAs with specific size, surface material, amenities, boundary tools, and circulation patterns for each

#### Destination park <1.2 ha,

- boundaries: fencing (secure/non-secure), bollards, vegetation,
- circulation: separated off-leash looping paths
- surfacing: grass and fine crushed gravel,
- standard amenities: waste bins, open space, shade, bag dispensers, seating
- special amenities such as: washrooms, water access, drinking water, and parking

#### Destination Trail (no size target, same as Destination Park for boundaries, circulation)

- surfacing: gravel path with planting,
- standard amenities: waste bins, open space, shade, bag dispensers, seating

#### Neighbourhood Park (0.4-1.2ha),

- boundaries: Fencing (secure/non secure, bollards, vegetation)
- circulation: separated off-leash looping path,
- surfacing: grass and fine crushed gravel,
- standard amenities: waste bins, open space, shade, bag dispensers, seating,
- special amenities on case-by-case basis

#### Neighbourhood Urban (0.04 to 0.4 ha)

- boundaries: secure, high quality fencing,
- circulation: designed to reduce congestion
- surfacing: durable specialty surfacing,
- standard amenities: waste bins, open space, shade, bag dispensers, seating,
- special amenities to attract and support high use, such as: water play agility features, or pooch patch

#### Neighbourhood Dog Run (size from 0.04 to 0.4ha),

- boundaries: secure standard fencing like chainlink,
- circulation: designed to reduce congestion,
- surfacing: durable standard surfacing such as fine crushed gravel,
- standard amenities: waste bins, open space,

- shade,
- bag dispensers,
- seating,
- special amenities on a case by case basis

### Design recommendations:

- design space and amenities for universal accessibility
- durable, suitable surfacing
- minimize environmental impacts
- locate adjacent to more compatible land and park uses and mitigate those that are less compatible
- restrict activity from a greater range of park areas (No dog areas?)
- clearly mark dog off-leash area boundaries and setback distances where needed
- assess existing site features and adjacent uses to determine appropriate boundary tools
- signage should be concise, clear, and consistent
- expand the separated dog waste program initiatives to effectively manage dog waste

## Accessibility

Universal accessibility is dictated in the design recommendations.

- 2017 plan: “the majority of paths should be wheelchair accessible and designed in consideration of those with limited mobility. Help meet the needs of persons with disabilities by integrating the following considerations throughout the design process:
  - wheelchair accessible routes to dog off-leash areas,

- accessible seating - including the route leading to it,
- accessible gates for fenced-off OLAs,
- accessible fountains, in consideration of dog owners who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices,
- wheelchair accessible parking - especially for destination dog off leash areas –
- provide lay-bys near dog off-leash areas, for drop off and pick up,
- consider adding braille to key in-park signs,
- consider lighting as special amenity to improve accessibility.”
- Vancouver has a bylaw exemption for people with disabilities that prevent them from picking up dog waste

## Etiquette

- proposed draft etiquette (for owners):
  - pick up after your dog
  - keep dogs from being aggressive with people and other animals
  - keep dogs within sight and under voice control
  - all dogs must be licensed
  - no persistent barking
  - no digging
  - maximum 3 dogs per handler
  - dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting off-leash area
- for all people using dog off-leash areas (for non-owners):
  - be prepared to encounter dogs off-leash



- supervise children closely
- limit open food
- do not approach a dog without owner permission
- booklet given out to new dog owners outlines all etiquette, encourages dog licensing and provides info.
- major points in booklet:
  - license your dog,
  - pick up after your dog,
  - use a leash unless in dog off-leash areas
- “encourage veterinarians to offer dog licensing in combination with annual vet checkups.
- develop a “rewards” program so that owners of licensed dogs can access discounts at participating pet stores, or access training resources.
- explore discounted licence fees for dog owners in need (possibly link to leisure access card program) and
- link fines or penalties to licensing fees for dogs deemed aggressive.”
- bylaws and fines:

### Enforcement

- dog activity in Vancouver parks is currently regulated by both the Animal Control by-law and the Parks Control by-law. Animal Control Bylaw enforcement takes place at all parks and beaches throughout the year. If you don't follow the bylaw, you may be fined between \$250 and \$2,000
- enforcement activity is led by the City of Vancouver's Animal Services group in partnership with the Park Board
- \$44 per dog per year for licence - \$10 fine for late renewal
- in 2017, Animal Control had only 11 officers (source: <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/2-400-warnings-55-tickets-is-vancouver-s-animal-control-all-bark-and-no-bite-1.3290663>)
- police and Park Rangers are the bylaw officers for owners picking up waste.
- they have 22 full time equivalents, but only 6 full time rangers
- as per 2017 plan: suggestions for increasing licensing compliance:
  - unlicensed dog/not wearing licence (\$250 fine)
  - licences are \$44 per dog per year (limit to number of dogs?)
  - off-leash when not in OLA (\$250)
  - not picking up after dog (\$250)
  - aggressive dog unmuzzled (\$500)
  - max for all offenses is \$10,000
- rules and regs:
  - pick up and dispose of your dog's waste
  - have a valid licence for your dog

### Parking

- not really discussed beyond wheelchair parking

### Waste Disposal & Bags

- red bins for dog waste, part of the Dog waste collection pilot project
- initiated in 6 parks at this time

- program aligns with the City’s Zero Waste goal, helping limit the amount of dog waste that ends up in the landfill

## Signage

- should be concise, clear, and consistent
- “the boundaries of all dog off-leash areas should be delineated with signage in addition to one or more of the other boundary tools Signage content and placement should minimize visual clutter, while providing information for people with and without dogs to help manage expectations about park use.”
- entry signage recommended by plan:
  - etiquette,
  - map of boundaries,
  - relevant bylaws,
  - contact info for bylaw enforcement,
  - damage/maintenance,
  - emergency contact info
- notices when dog disease cases, including zoonotic diseases, have been identified in the area (e.g. parasites, bacterial infections, kennel cough, etc.).
- boundary signs: Boundary signs should be located regularly in unfenced dog off-leash areas, clearly identifying the extent of the designated off-leash area, and clarifying which side of the boundary marker is on-leash and which side is for dogs off-leash.
- educational signage: Signage can be a valuable tool to educate the public about health and safety concerns related to dogs in public spaces.

## Shade & Wind Protection

- shade at 28 of 37 OLAs. No indication whether tree or structure, and how much.

## Drainage

- suggestion from plan indicates that drainage is a problem dealt with using surfacing and grading
- “drainage: The selection of surface materials is important to ensure good drainage and durability under wet conditions. Where drainage is poor, engineer the sub-surface to prevent ponding and maintain the quality of the surfacing.
- water that is collected from dog off-leash areas should be infiltrated to the ground in a suitable location rather than going into storm sewer system where it can have negative impacts on water quality in receiving waters (e.g. False Creek, Burrard Inlet, Fraser River).”

## Vegetative Restoration

- “plants for dog off-leash areas should be durable and kept low for increased visibility for other park users, where appropriate
- use of native vegetation should be encouraged
- check the ASPCA database of poisonous plants to ensure vegetation in OLAs is not toxic to dogs
- negative impacts on existing vegetation may include digging, urinating, or trampling due to high intensity dog activity
- strategies to protect new and existing vegetation in OLAs include:

- raised planters and/or protective edging (e.g. boulders, low post and wire mesh fencing, to restrict dog access to planted areas),
  - locate higher intensity use areas such as seating areas and entries away from existing vegetation,
  - maintain a thick layer (~75mm) of wood mulch over any areas of exposed or sensitive root systems,
  - use signage to remind owners to discourage dogs from digging in planted areas.
- low plantings or areas of taller grasses at OLAs have several benefits:
    - breaks up low sightlines (prevents body-slamming)
    - helping reduce conflict among dogs
    - provides seasonal interest, textures and scents
    - enhances biodiversity, provides buffer zones between mown grass and adjacent natural areas
  - ensure OLAs are kept free of wild grasses with barbed seeds (e.g. ‘spear grass’) which can harm dogs.”

### General Size of OLA

- plan suggests classifying all OLAs into 2 categories – neighbourhood (less than 1.2ha) or destination (larger than 1.2ha and trails)
- size range from 0.04ha to 2.5km of off-leash trails
- average size for all OLAs: 1.57ha, smallest is 0.04ha, largest is 11.71ha. Median size is 0.9 ha

### Small Dog Area

- none in Vancouver prior to 2017
- City’s strategy calls for creation of SDAs

### Surfacing

- “the selection of surface materials should be informed by the usage intensity of the site, appeal to park users, comfort and safety for dogs, and cost. It is challenging to find surface materials that are both durable and attractive to users in Vancouver’s wet climate - grass areas are highly desired but do not withstand high intensity usage and can quickly become muddy.”
- existing surfaces:
  - dirt
  - turf
  - grass (majority)
  - gravel
  - forest floor
  - wood chips
  - sandy beach
  - asphalt
  - concrete

### Entries & Gates

- sites with secure fencing should have double-entry gates according to strategy
- provide multiple entries, including gated access for maintenance vehicles.
- other considerations:
  - ensure gates are accessible for persons with disabilities,
  - locate gates away from corners to reduce pinch points at entries,



- provide visual obstacles at entry to reduce wide open sight lines between dogs entering the site and dogs already within the site.”

## Fencing

- 6 ‘securely fenced’, 5 ‘partially fenced’, lots of vegetative boundaries

## Lighting

- not considered beyond accessibility

## Irrigation

- not discussed when considering gravel. Possibly due to Vancouver’s wet climate

## Picnic Tables & Benches

- seating provided at 26 OLAs in 2017

## Community News Boards

- 2017 Strategy suggests signage kiosks that include community boards.

## Water Station (Bottle/Dog Fountain)

- human water fountain within 5 OLAs, dog fountain at 2 OLAs, two-tier at 1 OLA. In total, 8 OLAs with drinking facility within.
- further 22 OLAs have water fountain nearby.

## Agility Equipment or Water Play

- 5 of the OLAs have water access/play.

## Operations, Maintenance and Community Groups

- 2017 strategy: “Consider developing dog off-leash area maintenance, monitoring, and evaluation guidelines. Modeled after the City of Calgary’s checklist for evaluating off-leash areas, City of Calgary 2011.
- regular monitoring and inspection of dog off-leash areas informs maintenance needs (e.g. capacity of garbage bins, presence of uncollected dog waste) while periodic inspections could identify signs of overuse, damaged or malfunctioning site elements (e.g. drinking fountains), vandalism, or other issues.
- consider developing an electronic log of observations and reports for dog off-leash areas in order to track the following information on an ongoing basis:
  - number and nature of by-law and etiquette infractions
  - number and severity of risk management safety issues
  - extent of wear / damage to turf, planting, natural areas, and amenities
  - number and nature of interactions with wildlife
  - number and nature of injuries to animals and people
  - number and nature of noise complaints
  - extent of uncollected dog waste
  - general observations about user patterns
- maintaining records can help track trends at individual dog off-leash areas over time and help identify persistent issues that

could be addressed through site redesigns, upgrades, or education initiatives.”

### Other

- like in Calgary, OLAs in Vancouver are not intended to be solely OLAs; they are supposed to be multi-use spaces (unless they are small and urban).
- highlights of Precedent Research (From Appendix A, Vancouver People, Parks, Dogs Strategy)
- C2.1 Off-leash area metrics by jurisdiction:
  - compared to the other selected cities The City of Vancouver has a high amount of designated off-leash area space as a percentage of total parkland, at about 5.9%. Of the cities surveyed, only the City of Calgary has a higher percentage of off-leash area (6%). Similarly,
  - the City of Vancouver has a high number of off-leash hectares per number of dogs, with an estimate that ranges between 12 ha and 21 ha per 10,000 dogs. Only Calgary and Austin, TX, have more space allocated to designated off-leash areas, out of the cities surveyed
  - the City of Vancouver has a relatively low number of dogs per capita, with a range of 54 to 93 dogs per 10,000 people. Most of the other cities surveyed have more dogs per capita
- C2.2 Classification and distribution of off-leash areas:
  - out of the municipalities studied, only New York, Calgary, and Salt Lake County have different types of designated off-leash area.

- New York’s off-leash area typologies are based on whether sites are fenced (“dog runs”) or whether they are designated park areas with allowable off-leash hours (“designated off-leash areas”); hours are typically 9pm to 9am, outside of park closing hours
- Calgary and Salt Lake County have different scales of off leash area, including Neighbourhood, Community, and Regional. Neighbourhood off-leash areas are typically smaller and serve a more local area, whereas Regional off-leash areas are larger, have more amenities, and serve a larger area

### Sources:

<https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/dog-off-leash-areas.aspx>

<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/2-400-warnings-55-tickets-is-vancouver-s-animal-control-all-bark-and-no-bite-1.3290663>

source: <https://globalnews.ca/news/3754289/vancouver-park-rangers-dirty-needles/>

People Parks & Dogs Strategy, 2017

# Ambleside Park & Dog Beach

Vancouver, BC  
Burrard inlet

- within the District of West Vancouver
- 3.52 ha (grassy areas, trails, beach access)
- nearby amenities: beach, trails, skateboard park, pitch n’ putt (18 hole, par 3), 3 tennis courts, 2 baseball diamonds, fitness circuit, 3 basketball courts
- 59 acres in the park itself, 600 m long sandy beach and 1.2 km (.75 miles) shoreline seawall
- swimming and volleyball nets
- picnic tables and BBQs
- free parking
- concession, outdoor shower, public washrooms and change rooms, playground, waterpark duck pond, sports field
- “Dog Waste Only” distinctive red bins
- fully accessible
- views of Stanley Park and Lions Gate Bridge
- logs to sit on, sand and large boulders
- no bags offered
- trees for shade
- specific areas for dogs that are marked, dog owners must pick up dog





## Everett Crowley

Vancouver, BC  
8200 Kerr St.

- park is 37.06 acres, 2.46 km off-leash trail
- originally known as Kerr Road Dump, closed landfill for 25 years before opening as a park in 1987, abundance of plants/veg
- Richmond farmlands, New Kinross Creek, Avalon Pond, Manfred's Meadow and southern views, East Van southern slopes
- trails and quiet places, birds and lush woodland, hilly habitat, destination park
- time restrictions for when a dog can be off leash, with clear signage
- pond off limits for dogs, swimming not permitted, some trails require dogs to be leashed, several inner trails off-leash all day
- overlooks Marine Dr., views of Richmond and Fraser River running path
- no paved paths, can get muddy- bark mulch or dirt/gravel
- water bowls refilled by volunteers, waste bins available
- street parking
- benches provided in wooded area
- good mix of sun and shade
- accessible by transit
- no waste bags provided
- waste bins, drinking fountain, washrooms





# Spanish Banks

Vancouver, BC  
4783 NW Marine Dr.

- 5.04 ha
- on the Seawall system, picnic area, biodiversity area
- 3 distinct sections compose the park: dog OLA provided in Spanish Banks West and Spanish Banks Extension (not Spanish Banks East)
- West Zone amenities: designated quiet beach, concession, public washrooms, BBQs, picnic tables, 8 volleyball courts
- Spanish Banks Extension amenities: BBQs, kite boarding launch zone
- free parking, off-street parking
- not fenced
- clean and well-kept
- big grass area to run, and large beach area
- view of Northshore and city skyline
- no dog bags provided
- 6am-10pm
- sandy and rocky terrain
- low tide flats
- trail adjacent to beach
- mix of open grass area with shade trees and water access
- waste bins, drinking fountain for people, washrooms nearby, water access



## New Brighton

Vancouver, BC  
765 Commissioner St.

- 10 ha total, 2 OLAs: 0.2 ha (off-leash beach area to the west near the salt marsh), 0.7 ha (off-leash grass area to the east)
- field house, food concessions, outdoor swimming pools, picnic sites, playgrounds, soccer fields, washrooms
- combination of outdoor recreation space, industrial facilities, and views
- view of North Shore, Burrard Inlet, and grain elevators of Cascadia Terminals
- walking trails, outdoor pool, beach areas
- May 1-September 30, 5am-10pm, October 1-April 30, 5am-10pm
- requires a current license
- dog bags not provided
- shoreline habitat restoration, restoring tidal wetlands
- industrial, play area, pool, biodiversity area
- seating, waste bins, drinking fountain for people and dogs, washrooms nearby, water access
- destination park

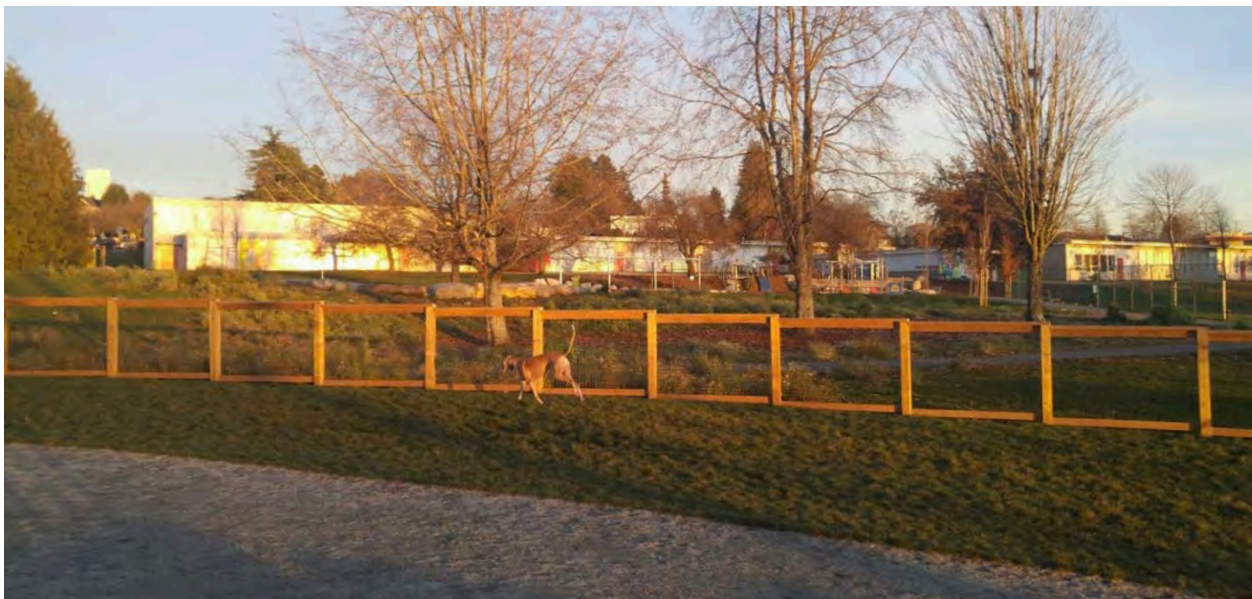




# Sunset Park

Vancouver, BC  
404 E 51st Ave.

- 0.52 ha
- community centre, playground, rink, soccer field
- fencing and amenities on east side
- 6am-10pm off leash play
- double gate
- all-season perimeter path
- open lawn grass enclosure with mature trees and new plantings, some large rocks
- for climbing and sitting areas, bounded by streets
- clean
- wooden fence with wire
- residential, city works yard, school, play area, picnic area
- drinking fountain for people nearby
- neighborhood park designation

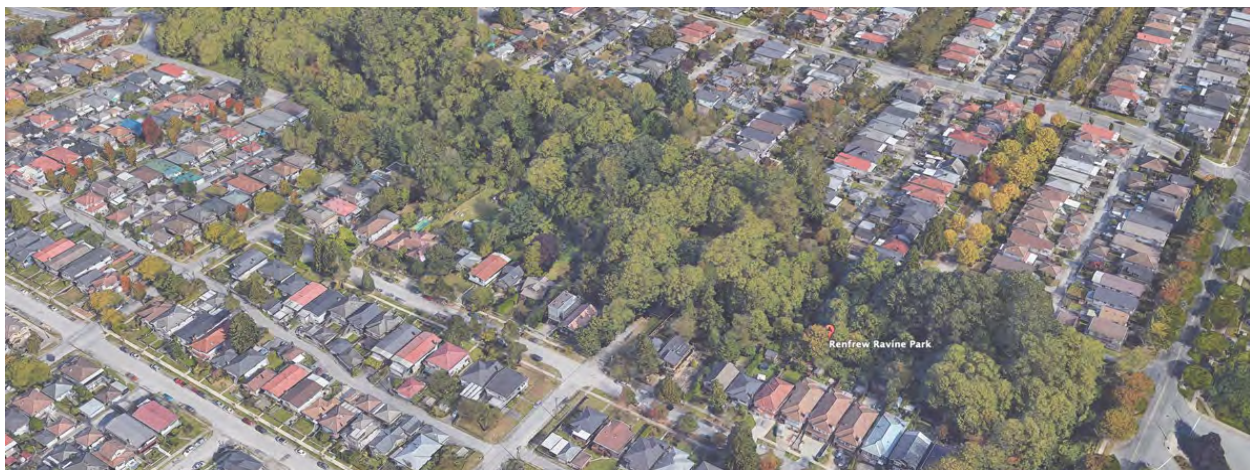




## Renfrew Ravine

Vancouver, BC  
3900 Renfrew St.

- 1392 sqft
- double gate
- originally part of the parking lot that was not well-used
- surrounded by large mature trees
- lighting and benches
- wooden fence with wire
- near boardwalk and timber steps through ravine
- ball hockey, community centre and library, field house, football field, indoor swimming pool, lacrosse boxes, lighted fields, playground, softball, wading pool, washrooms
- multidimensional: cypress shavings, pea gravel, wood chips
- lit inside the enclosure
- benches of concrete pads
- fallen branches, large boulders
- trees inside and outside, old mature trees



# Hadden Park (Kits Dog Beach)

Vancouver, BC  
1000 Chestnut St.

- 5.04 acres
- views of English Bay and downtown Vancouver
- near city's only saltwater pool
- dog fountain at Kits Beach concession, but not immediately nearby, human fountains nearby
- docking harbour
- waterfront access for dogs, swimming permitted
- totem, 100 ft tall, Kwakiutl
- not fully fenced, with some partial fencing
- occasionally free parking, limited street parking with a dedicated paid parking lot
- 6am-10am/5pm-10pm May 1-September 30
- shoreline cleanup efforts
- waste bins available
- mix of beach and grassy area
- biodiversity area and part of the Seawall
- seating, washrooms nearby
- residential neighborhood





### 4. Surrey, BC

**15 Off-Leash Areas: 3 multiple use. 12 single use.**

#### Health and Safety

- estimated 25% compliance rate for licencing
- five best management practices identified:
  - fencing
  - clear signage
  - year-round use
  - sustainable dog waste management
  - protecting water quality and habitat areas

#### Environmental Design

- dogs kept away from sports fields, school grounds, playgrounds, residential areas, and selected biodiversity conservation areas.
- existing soil conditions will help inform the site selection process for new dog off leash areas. Soils that are poorly-drained or potentially toxic will be avoided.
- most sites:
  - waste bins
  - walking paths
  - fencing

#### Accessibility

- accessible design is mandated in the 2012-2021 policy
- park entry pathways should be universally accessible

#### Etiquette

- ideally, an off leash area etiquette statement would be developed by the City of Surrey, and publicly posted in all off leash area sites

#### Enforcement

- dog park associations can be trained to take an active role in self-policing off leash areas
- City bylaw officers should be available to enforce off leash area rules when warranted, dog park association volunteers can help to notify city bylaw officers when additional enforcement appears to be needed
- the use of technology (e.g. texting, smartphone apps) can be used by volunteers and park visitors to help the City track and respond to infractions

#### Parking

- off-street parking will be provided for dog off leash areas where feasible. Neighbourhood parks may not require off-street parking if they are well connected to walking paths

#### Waste Disposal & Bags

- dog waste taken to landfill but possibly being taken to wastewater treatment plant (sewage) in the future

## Signage

- consider using signage to promote communication and education among dog owners, and the broader community. For example, key health and safety issues may be addressed such as vaccinations, and managing aggressive dogs.
- provide site signage in areas of high visibility, to identify designated off-leash areas and park etiquette.

## Buffer for Visual/Sound Attenuation

- consider providing buffers to mitigate noise from barking dogs in consideration of adjacent land use, such as residential areas
- dog activity and noise should be buffered to reduce disturbance to wildlife in adjacent areas. While setbacks help separate off leash areas from wildlife areas, features to mitigate noise should also be considered, such as berms
- off leash area rules should stipulate that owners should keep their dogs under control and prevent excessive barking.

## Shade & Wind Protection

- recommended

## Drainage

- poorly draining soils may prevent site from being designated a dog park.

## Vegetative Restoration

- retain and protect existing trees where appropriate, as establishing new trees in off leash areas can be challenging

## General Size of DOLA

- size, minimum 0.4 ha (1 acre), though may be smaller in dense urban areas

## Small Dog Area

- recommended but not required

## Surfacing

- surfacing material choice should be informed by affordability, ease of maintenance, dog owner satisfaction, drainage, aesthetics, universal accessibility, and cleanliness. Based on these criteria the ideal surfacing option for high traffic areas is crusher dust. Natural turf, while not a durable surface, is highly desired by dog park users. Re-purposed artificial turf should be explored as part of a pilot project on one of the new off leash area sites. A mix of surface materials promotes aesthetic and experiential interest
- surfacing: 9mm crushed gravel is successful but not as popular as grass. City is piloting the use of cypress wood shavings/sawdust (typically used in horse rings).
- consider surface and subsurface drainage patterns and implement design features to minimize the risk of surface water and groundwater contamination. In particular, the location and design of dog waste collection areas requires the application of best management practices. Provide varied terrain and topography. Consider integrating mounds, stumps and boulders to provide visual interest, varied play opportunities, and to potentially mitigate aggression between dogs by blocking low sight-lines.

### Entries & Gates

- if there is fencing, it should have a double-gate
- consider multiple entry points to reduce congestion and potential conflict around entries
- park entries should not be located in corners of the off leash area, so as to reduce the chance of dogs and owners becoming “cornered” upon entry
- provide durable surface materials with suitable drainage at park entries, as these are areas of concentrated use

### Fencing

- majority fenced – remainder are gradually being fenced – City trying to minimize conflict with other park users
- community engagement critical to selection of future parks, and improvements on current parks
- reducing the use of regular parks for off leash activity by supporting DOLAs

### Lighting

- site lighting at dawn and dusk could be explored as part of the public consultation process for each park. Lighting would extend park use and promote security

### Irrigation

- not mentioned, but report concludes that crusher dust is the best option, which may be similar to decomposed granite in regards to the need to control dust

### Picnic Tables & Benches

- provide seating, potentially as movable chairs or fixed benches, sightlines and size of clustered seating should balance promoting social conversation among dog owners with encouraging owners to supervise their dogs without social distractions

### Community News Boards

- suggested as consideration

### Water Station (Bottle/Dog Fountain)

- suggested as good basic amenity

### Agility Equipment or Water Play

- suggested as special amenities

### Operations, Maintenance and Community Groups

- encourages community groups to help maintain parks similar to New York and Seattle
- provision of dog park amenities should be informed by the classification of the off leash area (neighbourhood, community, destination) and corresponding maintenance resources available for the site
- durable and low-maintenance materials and site furnishings should be selected to reduce maintenance demands
- the maintenance plan for each site should address the collection and disposal of dog waste; pruning plants; and maintaining surfacing, fencing, site furnishings, and water supplies



- opportunities should be identified to engage dog park associations and/or local volunteers with site maintenance
- provision of dog park amenities should be informed by the classification of the off-leash area (neighbourhood, community, destination) and corresponding maintenance resources available for the site
- durable and low-maintenance materials and site furnishings should be selected to reduce maintenance demands
- the maintenance plan for each site should address the collection and disposal of dog waste; pruning plants; and maintaining surfacing, fencing, site furnishings, and water supplies
- opportunities should be identified to engage dog park associations and/or local volunteers with site maintenance

### **Sources:**

Vancouver People Parks Dogs 2017.

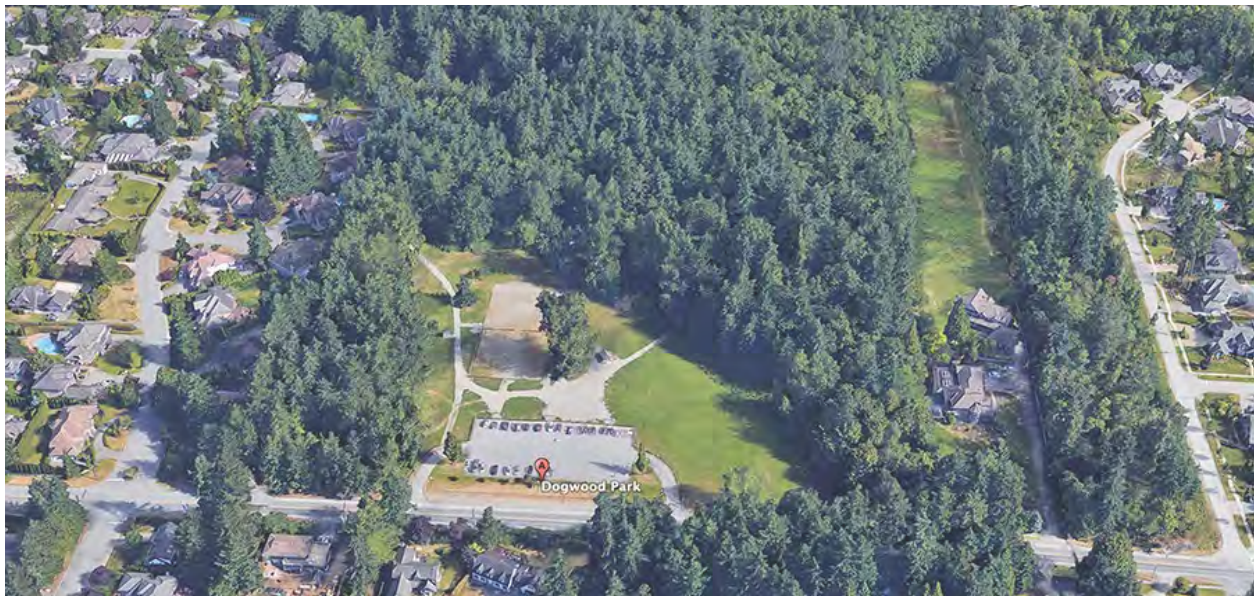
City of Surrey 2012-2021 Dog Off Leash Area Strategy

<https://www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/2254.aspx>

## Dogwood Park

Surrey, BC  
13485 20 Ave.

- parking, washrooms, mature shade trees, hiking, shade structure/shelter
- part of the larger linear park system including Chantrell Park, Bridlewood Park and Huntington Park (extension of the Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest system)
- large gravel parking area with access to grass through fence
- off-leash also has paths in forested area to the north, trees and bushes
- small dog enclosure
- fully fenced and gated enclosure with double-gated entry
- dog bags provided
- standard waste bins and dog waste bins





# Blalckie Spit Park

Surrey, BC  
3136 McBride Ave.

- in Crescent Beach neighborhood
- dog off-leash area and dog off-leash beach, located in separate areas (both fully fenced), shoreline and swimming area for dogs
- views of Mud Bay and North Shore Mountains
- neighboring amenities: Surrey Sailing Club, Crescent Beach Swim Club, Dunsmuir Community Gardens, nature trails, artwork (memory stones)
- double gated
- multi-dimensional, mixture of terrain (grass, gravel, and sand)
- no separate between small and large dogs
- shelter/shade
- tennis courts adjacent to off-leash
- parking, picnic tables, shade, tree cover, hiking, bird watching, gardening, pool, tennis courts
- drinking water available
- poo bags provided
- standard garbage collection





## Wills Brook

Surrey, BC  
2955 160 St.

- primarily a natural area protecting Wills Brook
- 1.2 acres in the off-leash area
- park itself is 7.7 acres, acquired during subdivision and land development to the west
- forest trail, interest for dogs and owners to watch the spawning salmon
- no small and large dog area, shared between dogs of all sizes
- large mature shade trees, birding, hiking
- all three entrances are double-gated

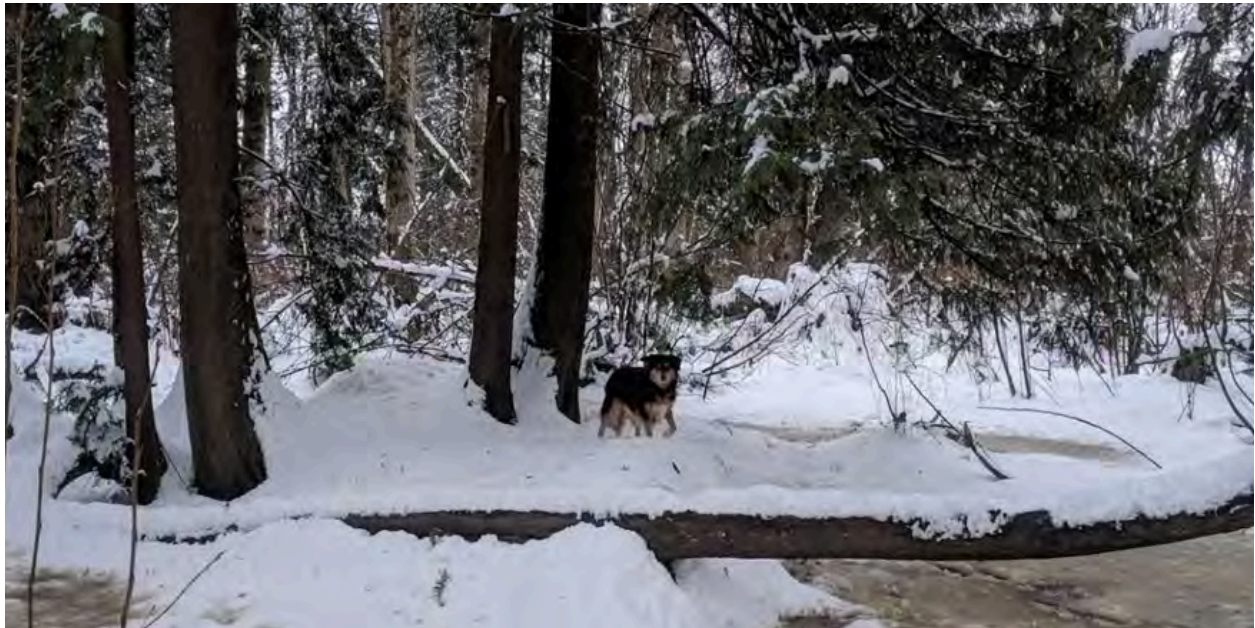




# Clayton

Surrey, BC  
7011188 St.

- fully fenced with large and small dog areas, double gated entry
- 1.25 ha (3 acres) total enclosed area
- grass fields, forest and bushes, paving perimeter paths
- parking lot
- benches and water fountain for dogs
- neighboring amenities: Clayton Community Garden
- bathrooms, mature trees for shade
- trails through the woods at the back
- running water
- dog waste bags provided



## 5. Calgary, Alberta

**147 Dog Off-Leash Areas: 137 multiple use, 10 single use.**

### Health and Safety

- voice, sound or visual commands required for owner to control their dog
- coyotes present in some areas
- licensing pets at 3 months of age, spay or neuter, provide training, physical care, socialization and medical attention for companion pets
- dogs not permitted within 5 metres of No Dog Areas, including play structures, school grounds, wading pools/swimming areas, sports fields, golf courses or cemeteries
- paved pathways are always on leash to reduce accidents and conflicts: Dog owners cannot ride a bike or in-line skate with their dog
- all areas within natural environment parks are on leash unless specified with a sign
- sensitive wildlife habitat is off limits, including Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Inglewood Wildlands, or off pathways in Weaselhead Natural Environment Park
- less than 2 metre length leashes in leashed areas
- make decisions related to OLAs that are sustainable in all aspects balancing: cost, environment, asset protection, manpower, availability, safety, and/or others
- assign responsibility to house and update the OLAMP w/ certain rotating person in Parks.
- types of OLA determine service provision and parking allotment (types determined by size)
- OLAs are designed in house – or through large capital projects – plan at minimum requires:
  - type of OLA
  - boundaries
  - signage
  - proposed amenities
  - maintenance plan
  - education and enforcement bylaw strategies
  - evaluation and monitoring plan
  - notification/signage protocols prior to designation of OLA
  - budget implications for capital and operating
  - clear roles and responsibilities of parties involved

### Environmental Design

**OLAMP (Off Leash Area Management Plan, published 2010) Guidelines:**

- design OLAs to accommodate multi-use functions in public parks, not for exclusive off-leash activity.
- design OLAs to maximize safety, minimize the potential for user conflict, and ensure clarity of boundaries of OLA.
- type of park determines amenities. They should reflect use patterns and enhance maintenance functions and lifespan of park assets.



- base services:
  - waste removal (all parks)
  - maintenance (all parks)
  - signage (all-parks)
  - online maps (all-parks)
  - responsible pet ownership and other educational info (all parks)
  - bylaw enforcement (all parks)
  - partial or fully enclosed fencing or natural barriers to separate use (all parks where necessary and feasible)
  - increased waste removal service in enclosed areas (all parks)
  - parking (only those above 4.3 ha)
  - benches (in 4.3-19.9 ha parks, only where feasible, for 19.9+ ha parks, should be installed)
  - enhanced maintenance schedule (19.9+ ha only)
  - washrooms where feasible (19.9+ ha where feasible)
  - services provided by potential volunteers or sponsorship based:
  - waste bags and dispensers
  - drinking water for dogs
  - responsible pet ownership info and seminars
  - other enhancements proposed or funded by stewards

## Accessibility

- not mentioned beyond parking or catchment area. No disability information provided online or in master plan

## Etiquette

- rules for OLAs involving etiquette:
  - dog should be in owner's full control, and
  - owner must pick up dog waste

## Enforcement

- dog owners are required to carry waste bags to pick up after their dog (\$25-\$1500 fines)
- responsibility and accountability for bylaw enforcement and public education with respect to behaviours in OLAs lies with the City of Calgary Animal and Bylaw Services
  - 90+ officers, but they are on all bylaws, not just parks.
- focus strategies on dog waste pick up, control of animals, and dogs running at large
- posted Rules on both Animal & Bylaw Services and Parks websites.
- OLAMP suggests educational practices in natural areas.

## Parking

- must be provided for community cluster or regional OLAs (OLAs with area of 4.3 ha or more)
- dogs must be on-leash in parking areas
- type of OLA determines service provision and parking allotment (types determined by size- as with Base Services under Environmental Design)

### Waste Disposal & Bags

- waste removal is a standard City-provided service (goes to landfill)
- OLA master plan suggests that volunteers or sponsorship could be used to provide waste bags
- increased waste removal service suggested for all enclosed (fenced) parks

### Signage

- standard design amenity for all off-leash parks
- designation signage only. No rules signage beyond pathway reminders and no dog areas
- entering/leaving off-leash area signs to clearly mark boundaries for citizens
- “No Dog” signs in playgrounds adjacent to/ within an off-leash site
- on pathways: “Dog Owners Remember – Paved Pathways are Always On-Leash”
- maps online should accurately reflect onsite signage

### Buffer for Visual/Sound Attenuation

- several OLAs have at least one soundwall on their perimeter

### Shade & Wind Protection

- not discussed

### Drainage

- not specified, probably evaluated on a case-by-case basis

### Vegetative Restoration

- vegetation is of higher priority than OLAs: of higher priority than OLAs - if vegetation is damaged, OLA is at risk of being removed

### General Size of DOLA

- off-leash areas and off-leash space accounts for more than 1250 hectares\*
- Calgary Parks-run OLAs are a total of 1,102 ha as of geodata update
- average size of total OLAs (both multiple and single use) is 7.5 ha
- Calgary attempts to make OLAs no less than 5000 sq m, however smallest OLA is much smaller than 0.5 ha (0.1 ha)
- 10 OLAs (those that are single use) are smaller than 0.5 ha.
- Largest OLA is Nose Hill Park Natural Area (349 ha), but next largest is 74.4 ha
- Of the 147 OLAs, Calgary opened 93 before early 2000s (63%), 47 between early 2000s and 2011 (32%) and 7 in the last 7 years (5%)
- Of those in the last 7 years, four are more than the city’s stated goal of 0.5 ha. 3 are much less than 0.5 ha (and are single use)
- standard size categories are:
  - <4.3 ha (“Neighbourhood,” 60% of OLAs, serves 800 m. walking distance)
  - 4.3-19.9 ha (“Community cluster”, 29% of OLAs) intended to serve an 8-min driving distance
  - 19.9+ ha (Regional, 11% of OLAs)- intended to serve a 20m driving distance as determined by Calgary’s Network Analysis Systems

- off leash designations make up for approximately 17% of the total Calgary Parks inventory in 2010

### Small Dog Area

- not mandated by City. Only present when OLA is enclosed by fence, and when overall OLA size is small - i.e. the Beltline OLA

### Surfacing

- as indicated in the 2017 Vancouver strategy appendix “Most off leash areas are surfaced with a mix of grass and dirt. Some sites have gravel or concrete hardscape surfacing in selected areas”

### Entries & Gates

- if fenced, no mandated gate number, but multiple gates in most parks. 2 out of 3 OLAs with gate information recorded have double-gated entries. Only 1 double-gated entrance in University District OLA

### Fencing

- partial in most areas, provided if feasible and necessary, but otherwise no fencing as a base service.
- currently 10 fenced (all single use)

### Lighting

- not mentioned

### Irrigation

- not mentioned

### Picnic Tables & Benches

- benches only required for largest (Regional) parks.
- supplied where feasible and necessary in Community Cluster parks

### Community News Boards

- in some parks

### Water Station (Bottle/Dog Fountain)

- considered a special amenity, something that should be sponsored or fundraised for
- according to geodata from Calgary Parks, 6 of their OLAs have doggie fountains

### Agility Equipment or Water Play

- some have agility equipment, some have water play

### Operations, Maintenance and Community Groups

- Parks Department responsible for OLAs within Parks inventory
- funding source identification suggested in Off Leash Area Management Plan: Parks, developers, community, private funding, grants, combo
- maintenance to use current Parks maintenance practices only as policy
- off Leash ambassador program - a pilot project that began in Egerts and Bowmont Parks off-leash areas, volunteers needed
- stakeholder engagement guidelines established for different classifications or off-leash areas



### Other Information

- like Vancouver, OLAs in Calgary are multi-use spaces that can be used by all park users
- governed by the OLAMP (Off Leash Area Management Plan, published 2010)
- OLAMP found these best practices in 2010:
  - off leash management plans tend to have some sort of vision, goal, or strategic statement
  - many also have principles in place that influence the content of their plans and any future decision making
  - a number of cities require new requests for off-leash areas to be supported by a community group
  - partnerships with community, business, and other government agencies are being considered for land acquisition, revenue generation and management of OLAs
  - in some cases, municipalities are asking community-based organizations to sign partnership agreements outlining clear roles and responsibilities including financial obligations.

#### Sources:

<http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Parks/Pages/Locations/Dog-off-leash-areas-in-parks.aspx>

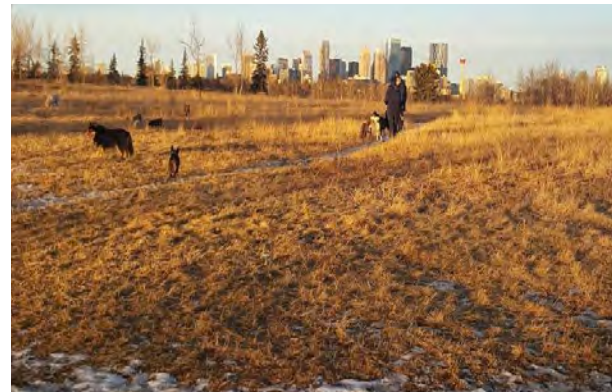
<http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/ABS/Pages/Animal-Services/Responsible-pet-ownership-bylaw.aspx>

Calgary Off Leash Area Management Plan, 2010

# River Park

Calgary, Alberta  
4500 14A st. SW

- 21 ha total, 3 separate off-leash areas (marked by signage)
- large designated OLA, Calgary's SW
- improvements to the OLA river access point, and restoration barrier (fencing/natural) installation to protect riparian vegetation
- no dog water access, gentle terrain grade
- parking lot, many benches, port-a-potty
- gravel trails in surrounding park
- view of downtown and Elbow River
- cat Margetts memorial area houses a fountain for dogs and people
- off-leash status since 1987, as a result of Calgary Alderman Barb Scott, and followed by Candice Lee in 1989 who founded Friends of River Park Society (FRPS)
- FRPS with meetings on poor behavior, overuse, lack of maintenance, and waste left behind
- cleanup efforts every second month, Candice writes off-leash newsletter, creator and manager of website, filling bag dispensers, coordinating fundraisers and events, goal is to preserve OLA
- 5 am-11 pm, waste bags supplied
- affiliated with other Calgary OLA groups
- FRPS did their own OLA study in Calgary, finding many near busy roads, small and unusable





# Rotary Park

Calgary, Alberta  
6171 St. NE

- 5.9 ha park
- 5 am-11 pm
- on the hill north of Memorial Drive and east of Centre Street in the northeast, Jim Fish Ridge vantage point, great views of downtown
- surrounding park amenities include: spray park, picnic tables, playground areas, washrooms (seasonal), water fountains (seasonal), tennis courts, lawn bowling
- picnic tables and benches
- will be built into the Rotary/Mattamy Greenway Project, by the Parks Foundation of Calgary, which is a 138km network of parks and pathways encircling the city- connecting specialty off-leash dog parks, family fitness parks, educational wetland interpretive areas, and unique play structures
- parking lot
- flat grassy areas, some shade with mature trees
- garbage bins
- pathways





# Sue Higgins

Calgary, Alberta  
 thland Dr. & Deerfoot

- lies on the banks of the Bow River in the SE
- The largest fenced off-leash area in Calgary
- 62 acres park, established 1994, originally ranch land that was proposed as golf course
- 5 am-11 pm
- park amenities: Deux Chiens Assis-public artwork, picnic tables, pathways and hiking trails, adjacent the Bow River, washrooms
- island, river banks, flood plain and inland marshes, forested area
- path parallel to river
- Balsam Poplar, Trembling Aspen, Spring Birch, willow, common cattails, sedges and rushes, native fescue, wildflowers
- many bird species: diving ducks, Canada Geese, gulls, red-winged blackbirds, woodpeckers, warblers, swallows, sparrows, blackbirds, shorebirds, grey squirrels
- wave poles and moguls for playing and training
- open fields for fetch, shady trees, open sun, quiet and busy with some seldom used spots
- 4 access points to Bow River (for waders in shallow areas and deeper water areas)
- waste bins, donated bags, 5 entrance gates, washrooms in parking lot, picnic tables
- two large notice boards for community member communication





## Tom Campbell's Hill

Calgary, Alberta  
25 St Georges Dr. NE

- 18 ha park, created in 1991, was a ranch land that became zoo pasture, then industrial park which became natural park
- 5 am-11 pm
- includes Renfrew and Bottomlands
- sits along St. George's Drive overlooking Memorial Drive and the converging Bow River and Nose Creek
- park amenities: hiking trails, interpretive exhibit (about history and the grassland ecosystem)
- Rough Fescue Grassland, aging poplars (allee leading to exhibit), invaded by  
Awnless Brome, native flowers like avens and moss flox
- 270° views of the city, including downtown
- Downy and hairy woodpeckers, ground squirrel, butterflies, ringlets, skippers
- small parking lot
- paved pathways, grass trails, wide open prairie plain all available for traversing
- waste bins
- not fenced
- large boulders scattered throughout





# Connaught Park

Calgary, Alberta  
11 St. & 14th Ave. SW

- in the Beltline community
- fenced off-leash area includes designed space for small dogs (up to 30lbs)
- 0.3 ha
- 6 am-10 pm
- park amenities: benches, picnic tables, close proximity to cafes, restaurants, apartment buildings and downtown businesses
- improvements funded by ENMAX Parks Program, part of city plan to improve all parks in the Beltline
- benches, lots of grass, woodchips, pine trees, shade, 3-tier water fountain for dogs and owners
- beside St. Stephen's Anglican Church
- double gate for entry to large dog area
- 2 stations with free bags and waste bins with foot pedal
- natural stone wall and seating area
- gravel pathways
- landscape buffer
- opened in 2016 as first inner-city OLA





## University District

Calgary, Alberta  
University Ave. NW

- 2 acre, part of larger 40 acre park for the community, connected by a 12km path system
- near a large residential development
- artificial turf cuts down on standing water and maintains durability in high traffic areas
- one section for larger breeds, and one for smaller breeds
- north and south dog parks
- fenced
- opened in July 2018
- double gated entrance
- one waste bin with bags
- mulched area with trees and shrubs
- plenty of benches
- low fencing





## East Village (EV)

Calgary, Alberta  
6th st. SE

- 12,000 sqft
- Calgary Municipal Land Corporation and the developers of East Village added this urban park in October 2018
- fully fenced
- agility elements
- double gated entry
- adjacent pathway system including wheelchair accessible paths
- durable turf
- nearby amenities: community garden, playground, sea-can sheds
- waste bins provided



## 6. Edmonton, AB

**43 OLA sites: 39 multiple use, 4 single use  
36 Off Leash Areas and 7 Off Leash Trails**

### Health and Safety

- all dogs over 6 mo must be licenced (not required to spay/neuter. No word on vaccinations)
- licencing fees spayed/neutered:
  - 1 year \$36
  - 2 year \$72
- licensing fees non-spayed/neutered
  - 1 year \$76
  - 2 year \$152
- max 3 dogs per residence (and 6 cats)
- dogs are not allowed on school grounds, sports fields, playgrounds and golf courses
- 2016 Dogs in Open Spaces Strategy recommendations for Health & Safety Design
  - risk of conflict at off leash areas can be reduced if the site is adequately sized, is located away from incompatible uses, has good circulation to disperse activity, has a variety of vegetation and terrain to break up low sightlines, has good enforcement presence, and has education programs to foster responsible dog ownership.
  - in shared-use areas additional strategies should be implemented to minimize conflict, such as separation of uses, education campaigns, and improved signage
  - public health risks from dog waste can be minimized by having good waste management strategies in place, enforcing dog waste pick up, ensuring good drainage, and educating people about the health risks
- off Leash Areas should also be designed using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, in order to promote user safety and positive site activity
- other 2016 Strategy recommendations touching on health and safety:
  - an animal behaviourist should be involved in reviewing concept designs for new or redeveloped off leash areas to ensure that potential points of dog conflict are mitigated

### Environmental Design

from 2016 Strategy:

- risk of conflict at Off Leash Areas can be reduced if the site is adequately sized, is located away from incompatible uses, has good circulation to disperse activity, has a variety of vegetation and terrain to break up low sightlines
- ideally locate Off Leash Areas away from areas of environmental sensitivity, such as natural areas, wildlife corridors, or other important ecological areas
- mitigation measures may include changing Off Leash Area boundaries, establishing buffer zones and protective fencing around sensitive areas, seasonal and/or time



- restrictions, and managing access to water bodies
- dog waste and drainage need to be managed carefully to reduce negative impacts of dog waste on receiving water bodies and wildlife
- priority winter-access sites should be designed to create or take advantage of good winter microclimates
- ‘winter-use’ gathering areas should be close to park entries, and should have good sun exposure and be protected from winter winds
- vegetation and landforms can be used to create windbreaks for shelter
- the Off Leash Area website should indicate which sidewalks and pathways in Off Leash Areas are cleared of snow, and which sites have access to yearround washrooms. The website should also provide information about the safe use of Off Leash Areas in winter
- the City could support the creation of private indoor off leash facilities for the winter months
- preferred adjacent land uses: commercial, municipal facilities, employment zones
- preferred land types: open space, transportation or infrastructure right-of-ways, utility right-of-ways, drainage lands, or other public land holdings
- include a variety of looped, shaded walking circuits that encourage owners to keep moving with their dogs
- city provided standard amenities (as in 2017 strategy):
  - waste bins
  - bag dispensers
  - signage (code of conduct, boundaries, site rules)
  - open space and trees (shade)
- not City-funded special amenities (as in 2017 strategy):
  - seating
  - drinking water
  - dog wash station (can be hydrant/hose bib)
  - washrooms
  - notice Boards
  - SDA/shy/injured/elderly
  - shelter structure
  - agility features
  - lighting
- circulation within the off leash area should consider maintenance requirements, such as vehicle access to waste bins. Concrete or asphalt paths are optional to facilitate vehicle access
- in shared-use areas, separate trails should be provided for bikes and dogs off leash
- off leash areas should be separated from multi-use pathways. Where this is not possible a combination of hard and soft boundaries should be used to separate uses as much as possible

## Accessibility

- neighbourhood off leash areas should be located along walking, biking and transit routes and use onstreet parking where feasible
- primary trails should be universally accessible, and the width and surfacing of trails should be proportional to their intensity of use and operational requirements

### Etiquette

- city has website information on responsible pet ownership.

### Enforcement

- bylaws enforced by Animal Control Peace Officers
- fines:
  - excessive barking - \$100
  - owning an unlicensed pet - \$250
  - animal at-large - \$100
  - failure to remove defecation - \$100
  - failure to control or leash a dog - \$100
  - dog attack causing no injury - \$100
  - dog attack causing injury - \$500 to \$2,500

### Parking

- in shared-use parks, access to the Off-Leash Area should be provided directly from the street or parking lot

### Waste Disposal & Bags

- waste bins and bags are considered standard amenities – should be at all OLAs
- from 2016 Strategy:
  - the number and type of waste bins should be informed by demand and available maintenance resources
  - large capacity, in-ground bins with lids are recommended as they can help reduce maintenance demands and reduce odours

- waste bins should be located at all park entries and at key locations throughout the park to encourage owners to pick up and dispose of dog waste. Locations should also be accessible for waste collection vehicles
- waste bag dispensers should be provided as a standard amenity to encourage owners to pick up dog waste
- there should be highly visible signage to encourage owners to pick-up and properly dispose of dog waste

### Signage

- as per 2016 strategy this is a standard amenity – should include site rules, the boundaries, and code of conduct, as well as encouragement to pick up and properly dispose of dog waste

### Buffer for Visual/Sound Attenuation

2016 Strategy:

- planting can be used to delineate boundaries, provide visual screening, buffer adjacent site uses, provide shelter, and create seasonal interest, while visually integrating the site with its surroundings. Planting can also be designed to support urban biodiversity
- areas of unmown grass or meadow can provide good opportunities and scents to engage dogs, and can reduce maintenance demands for the City (doesn't work with areas where there are deer ticks or Lone Star ticks though)

### Shade & Wind Protection

- trees as the standard shade protections
- shade structures considered special amenities requiring special funding

- vegetation and landforms can be used to create windbreaks for shelter

## Drainage

- drainage lands identified as a preferred land type for OLAs (seems like a bad plan because of mud and parasite issues with puddles)
- from 2016 Strategy:
  - while Off Leash Areas are best located away from surface water and sensitive groundwater areas, they should also be designed to capture and filter runoff from the site. Runoff treatment options will depend on site topography and soil conditions
  - on well-drained sites with low water tables, runoff should be directed to infiltrate on site. On sites with high water tables and/or low infiltration rates off leash area boundaries may need to be changed, or the site can be designed to direct runoff to specially-designed infiltration and/or treatment areas
  - off leash areas should be located on relatively level terrain to reduce soil erosion and runoff of eroded soil. Dogs should be restricted from accessing steep slopes
  - off leash areas should be regularly monitored for drainage and erosion problems and measures should be taken to address problems promptly

## Vegetative Restoration

- trees are standard shade structures, and 2016 Strategy recommends that existing vegetation be protected from potential impacts of dog off-leash activity

## General Size of DOLA

- 471.6 ha of off leash area (not including trails)
- average Off-Leash size of 13.1 ha
- smallest OLA is 0.07 ha, largest is 180.6 ha
- strategy of 2016 classified OLAs as
  - neighbourhood (smallest size: 0.2 ha to 5 ha): both off leash area and fenced dog park
  - district (2 – 5 ha); and
  - river Valley and Ravine (0.5 ha +, with environmental agency's input)

## Small Dog Area

- 2 of the 4 fenced OLAs have small/shy dog areas

## Surfacing

- path surfacing tends to be granular
- from 2016 Strategy:
  - the selection of surface materials should be guided by intensity of use, site drainage, maintenance demands, capital costs, and topography
  - grass or other groundcover plants are recommended for large, open, well-draining areas with low intensity of use
  - crushed stone surfacing is well-suited for pathways and areas of high use, such as entry locations.
  - concrete or asphalt are recommended for paths that are to be regularly plowed and highly used in winter, and for areas around dog wash stations or drinking fountains.



Maintenance vehicle access routes can also be surfaced with concrete or asphalt in high use sites

- sand and pea gravel can be useful surfaces in poor draining areas

### Entries & Gates

- the 4 fenced-in OLAs have double-gated entries. No indication of whether these have multiple entries or not.

### Fencing

- only 4 are entirely fenced
- 17 are partially fenced
- 2016 Strategy fencing recommendations:
  - hard edges (fencing) should separate off leash dogs from incompatible or sensitive adjacent land uses where setbacks or other mitigation strategies aren't feasible, recommended fence height is 1.2 m (4') with double-entry gates
  - recommended fencing options include post and wire fencing, post and rail fencing with mesh panels, or chain link fencing with black vinyl coating
  - fencing for River Valley and Ravine Off Leash Areas should be evaluated on a case by case basis. Fencing may be used for environmental protection and should be wildlife-friendly

### Lighting

- 18 of 42 are partially lit
- 1 of 42 is fully lit

### Irrigation

- drinking water access at 12 OLAs

### Picnic Tables & Benches

- seating considered special amenity (non-city supplied). There are, however, already OLAs with seating

### Community News Boards

- considered special amenity (non city supplied), there may already be OLAs with these

### Water Station (Bottle/Dog Fountain)

- drinking water access at 12 OLAs

### Agility Equipment or Water Play

- dog swimming (water play) at 11 sites (seasonally)
- this does however cause the need for the ice-safety for dogs info on the City's website
- agility equipment at one of the smaller OLAs

### Operations, Maintenance and Community Groups

- Off Leash Ambassador Program, trained ambassadors representing the city and providing information to users in off-leash areas, visit off leash parks of their choice on a regular basis with their dog to answer questions, note maintenance concerns, and redirect user questions to the proper city section, also provide park users with upcoming events and projects, recruiting

new volunteers. Had to discontinue in 2016 before re-launching with better screening processes. Only started in 2014. Was modeled after Calgary's program.

- strategy 2016 maintenance recommendations:
  - maintenance requirements can be minimized by thoughtfully designing waste management elements and circulation, incorporating durable and welldraining surfacing, and selecting durable and easily repaired site furnishings
  - in-ground waste bins with lids are recommended to reduce collection frequency. Bins should be located along maintenance vehicle access routes, and ideally along routes with snow clearing
  - park users, Off Leash Area Ambassadors, or private partners should be engaged in the restocking of dog waste bag dispensers
  - incentive programs can be explored to encourage compliance with dog waste bylaws
  - the demands of vegetation management at park sites can be reduced by limiting the extent of mown grass areas, leaving defined areas of the site unmown can increase the site's interest for dogs, while reducing maintenance demands, and potentially offering some habitat value

#### Sources:

[https://www.edmonton.ca/activities\\_parks\\_recreation/parks\\_rivervalley/off-leash-sites.aspx](https://www.edmonton.ca/activities_parks_recreation/parks_rivervalley/off-leash-sites.aspx)

<https://www.edmonton.ca/documents/PDF/DogsInOpenSpacesImplementationPlan.pdf>

Dogs in Open Spaces Implementation Plan of 2017

Dogs in Open Spaces Strategy Executive Summary 2016

Over 40 areas where dogs can run and play off-leash

## Hawrelak Trail Off Leash Site

Edmonton, AB  
76 Ave, Footbridge

- granular trail
- 68acre park in the river valley, 5ha lake and open meadows
- wheelchair accessible washrooms
- amenities: lake (no swimming, boating or fishing), paddle boat rentals, parking, pavilion with seasonal food concession, playground, skate rentals in winter, walking and cycling trails, washrooms, 4 picnic sites
- abundant trees, well shaded
- removed from busy roads
- dirt and paved walking paths





# Terwillegar Park

Edmonton, AB  
10 Rabbit Hill Rd, NW

- on the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River
- numerous multi-use trails, switchbacks, and expansive off-leash area
- amenities: canoe hand launch, parking, portable toilet, footbridge, walking, hiking, and mountain biking trails
- limited signage
- parking lot
- 5km perimeter
- lakes for swimming, low tide means more beach for exploring
- clear paths and wild paths with roots and rocks





# Hermitage Park

Edmonton, AB  
2115 Hermitage Road, NW

- 3.9 km loop trail
- northeast end of the city
- natural trails, picnic sites, fishing and paddling, portable toilets throughout the park, boating, walking and cycling trails, washrooms in maintenance building, birding
- gravel path and accessible parking lots
- kennedale Constructed Wetland- a gravel pit turned into the first wetland built for storm land treatment and river protection
- swimming area for dogs
- no fencing
- dogs cleaned up after and licensed, and controlled with voice command

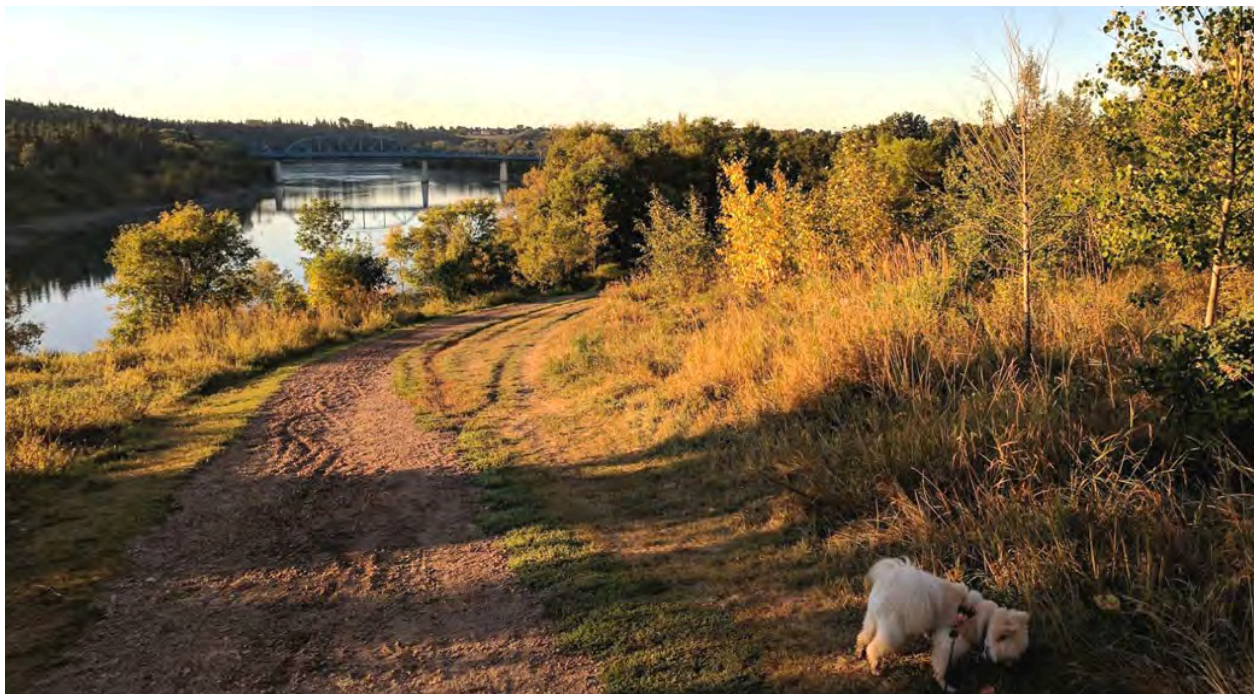




# Dawson Park

Edmonton, AB  
10298 89 St. NW

- picnic areas, safe drop-off and pick-up, parking lot
- gravel path with raised wooden edges, for visually impaired visitors
- hiking and biking trails, rest areas with toilets, benches
- preserved natural area





## 7. Denver, CO

### Health and Safety

- “Dog off-leash areas are to be a minimum of 30 m from playgrounds and 60m from arterial streets unless the site is completely fenced. off-leash areas should be separated from residential areas using dense vegetation or opaque fencing, and there should be a clear separation of off-leash areas from sports fields. No off-leash areas can be located within natural areas and off-leash areas are typically not located within smaller neighbourhood parks.”
  - One Year License - \$15
  - Three-Year License - \$40
  - Lifetime License - \$150 - valid for the lifetime of your pet - no expiration date
  - Senior Citizens (65 and over) - One free three-year license per senior citizen
- provide buffer from surrounding residents such as dense vegetation or opaque
  - distance requirement of 100 feet from a playground or children’s facility
  - no dog off-leash areas will be allowed in parks or open space designated as a Natural Area
  - existing off-street parking should be available
  - site must have positive drainage
  - site must have an ADA accessible paved entrance path
  - off-leash area should be at least one to three acres
  - site should be nonlinear to maximize usable space
  - site should have either shade trees or a shade structure
  - should have access to existing irrigation system or be already irrigated if possible
  - site should be free from toxic residue
  - separate Large and Small dog areas
  - also, a good dog park should provide: shade, water, seating
  - dog friendly surface material
  - opportunities for play

### Environmental Design

- “Sites should be relatively flat or with gentle grades to reduce erosion; retaining walls are used if required to accommodate grade changes. All sites have shade and seating. Some off-leash areas have separated areas for high energy / low energy dogs. No bag dispensers, bags, or lighting are provided. (2016) “ Seems that the city has now begun providing dispensers, but perhaps not bags themselves.
- all sites no longer have shade as per OpenData from Denver
- from 2010 master plan: Site Design Guidelines for Enclosed Dog Off-Leash Areas:

## Accessibility

- 2010 Master Plan suggested that all dog park sites should have ADA accessible paved entrance path but did not specify that path should continue through the off-leash park area

## Etiquette

- people must pick up after their dogs or they risk having their OLA shut down
- Rules of Dog Park Usage (from City website):
  - pets, other than dogs, are not permitted in a dog park
  - only activities common and customary for playing with, training and exercising dogs are allowed. No other uses, including other park uses and commercial uses, are allowed in a dog park.
- the following dogs are not permitted in a dog park:
  - aggressive dogs and dogs with a known propensity to attack or bite people or other dogs
  - any dog that acts aggressively towards people or other dogs shall be immediately removed from the dog park
  - female dogs currently in estrus
  - dogs that do not have a current rabies vaccination tags issued to the particular dogs, which tags must be attached to the dogs' collars or harnesses
  - dogs too young to be vaccinated against rabies
- the following restrictions shall apply to persons within a dog park:
  - a person ten (10) years of age or younger is not permitted in a dog park
  - any person eleven (11) to fifteen (15) years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older)
  - any person in charge of a dog must be sixteen (16) years of age or older
  - any one person may not be in charge of more than two (2) dogs at a time
- dogs are not permitted in a dog park when the dog park is closed or outside of the posted days and hours of operation for the dog park. Dogs are not permitted in a dog park when the dog park is dark and unlighted. Park Curfews apply.
- a person bringing a dog to a dog park must have a leash available at all times. A dog must be kept on a leash until it is inside the dog park. A dog must be placed on a leash before it may be taken outside of the dog park.
- notwithstanding the fact that a dog may be off leash in a dog park, a dog must be under the control of the person in charge of the dog and must be in view of that person at all times
- excrement must be promptly and completely picked up and properly disposed of by the person or persons who brought or allowed the animal into the facility
- human food is not permitted within dog parks. However, dog treats are permitted
- the person in charge of a dog is responsible for any damage to the dog park caused by the dog. Holes dug by a dog must be filled in and any turf damage must be repaired

### Buffer for Visual/Sound Attenuation

- one of the site design suggestions from the 2010 Master Plan is a dense vegetation buffer between park and neighbourhood or an opaque fence

### Shade & Wind Protection

- all sites have shade

### Drainage

- master plan suggests sites have positive drainage, and 2016 interview notes suggest that the City is concerned about erosion as well

### Vegetative Restoration

- some of the 2010 Master Plan recommendations for specific sites suggests that the health of certain trees and shrubs in some locations is poor and they will need replacement. It does not dictate preventative measures, however.

### General Size of DOLA

- preferred size is 1-2 acres (0.4 to 1 ha) but several existing sites are smaller than this
- total acreage given to dog parks in Denver is 15.8 (6.4 ha)
- average size of a dog park is 1.2 acres (0.5 ha)
- Number of dog parks smaller than 0.4 ha are 8/13.
- smallest park size is 0.07 acres (0.03 ha). Largest is 4.1 acres (1.7 ha)

### Small Dog Area

- some sites have high-energy/low energy dog spaces, but these are not categorized by size

### Surfacing

- infield mix from baseball diamonds - City has experimented with other surfacing but found this to be the most successful (as of 2016)
  - as per maintenance blog: general standard for an OK infield to be 60 to 70 percent sand, 30 percent clay and 10 percent silt. Particle size also makes a big difference in these materials.

### Entries & Gates

- double-gated entries at all sites

### Fencing

- all dog parks are fenced as a policy. Fences are 1.2m

### Lighting

- unlighted dog parks are open from sunrise to sundown, 7 days a week; Lighted dog parks are open from 5am-11pm, 7 days a week

### Irrigation

- 4/13 have water lines, and 2010 master plan says that sites should have access to existing irrigation system or be already irrigated if possible



## Picnic Tables & Benches

- all parks have seating

## Community News Boards

- it appears that some dog parks have news boards

## Water Station (Bottle/Dog Fountain)

- 4/13 parks have water according to GIS info

## Agility Equipment or Water Play

- it does not appear as though any City of Denver operated dog parks have water play or agility equipment, but nearby state parks have (ostensibly permitted) water access

## Operations, Maintenance and Community Groups

- sites are maintained by parks ops budget as of 2016; DPR established the Adopt-A-Dog Park program to enable civic groups, neighbors, individuals and businesses to help keep their local dog park clean. Currently, it is up to users to ensure that dog waste is picked up and placed in garbage. The maintenance apparently consists of waste haulage and some vegetation care

## Social/Amenity Space

- not mentioned

## Westminster Hills

Denver, CO  
Simms St. & 105th Dr.

- 420 acre site, meandering trails and roaming space
- partially fenced, dogs need to be under voice command
- dog drinking fountain
- benches and shade shelter
- sunrise to sunset
- proximity to Rocky Flats and retired plutonium plant, naturalized but considered brownfield (not important for this study, but noteworthy)
- swimming ponds and muddy canal
- regular poo pickup events (feces contamination led to the indefinite closure of another Denver off-leash area, Elk Meadow)
- need to bring water





# Stapleton

Denver, CO  
2002 Spruce St.

- just under 3 acres
- large, sand covered dog park
- small and large dogs share the site
- shade trees, benches and fountains
- water fountains
- bring your own bags, sometimes they are provided
- located near old airport, with multiple entrances into the park
- no parking lot, street parking
- in residential area





# Chatfield State Park

Denver, CO  
1150 N Roxborough Park Rd.

- 70 acres off-leash
- variety of terrain, multiple trails (paved and unpaved) and two ponds where dogs have access to swim
- fees for use of the state park (valid park pass for every vehicle, \$9usd daily) and the off-leash area (\$3usd daily, \$25usd annual), annual passes available
- fenced in, with natural barriers
- dusk until dawn
- restrooms, trees, trails, water, benches, tables, pet waste bags, dog pond
- signage indicated on and off leash areas
- 3 dogs per handler





# Cherry Creek

Denver, CO  
S Parker Rd.

- 107 acre fenced area with water access for swimming
- Cherry Creek flows through the OLA, renovated for erosion control and for better water access
- 3 dogs per handler
- Fee required for both the park and the OLA (\$10usd daily pass + \$3 OLA pass, ability to purchase annual passes for both)
- Short grass prairie and water-based nature systems
- Neighboring activities: biking, birding, boating, camping, cross-country skiing, fishing, education programs, picnicking, hiking, horseback riding, ice skating, swimming, volleyball, sledding, snowshoeing
- Park Facilities: amphitheater, boat ramps, camp grounds, picnic areas, marina, model airplane field, shooting range, stables, beach, trails
- 5 am-10 pm
- Possible interactions with snakes and coyotes



## 8. Winnipeg, MB

### 11 OLA sites: 9 multiple use, 2 single use

#### Health and Safety

Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw:

- ensure that, if the dog is over the age of six months, it is sterilized unless a valid dog licence for an unsterilized dog has been issued for the dog.
  - if dog is over 6 mo, needs to have a licence:
    - sterilized 1 year – \$39
    - unsterilized 1 year – \$74
  - ensure that the dog has been vaccinated for rabies and, where requested to do so by an enforcement officer, provide a certificate of vaccination demonstrating this fact;
    - ensure that the dog is not in any of the following areas
    - school grounds
    - playgrounds
    - sports fields
    - any other area where dogs are prohibited by posted signs
  - maximum 4 dogs per person
  - OLA designs shall incorporate clear sightlines to promote site safety. Assumption is that this is referring to human sightlines
- the City will design, ideally with fencing or other barriers to define clear boundaries, and manage OLAs to maximize safety and mitigate potential conflicts between general park users and OLAs in multi-use parks.
  - the City will advocate for ‘single-use’ OLAs over current ‘multi-use’ OLAs. A single-use OLA will provide for exclusive use of activities associated with off-leash dogs. ‘Multi-use’ OLAs, which are currently located within multi-use parks are not exclusive to off-leash activities. Wherever possible, on a case-by-case basis, the City will designate and design OLAs as ‘single-use’ based on municipal budget considerations, site-specific considerations, and user-driven demand.
  - the City will incorporate mitigation features when redeveloping or planning ‘multi-use’ OLAs in order to minimize potential conflicts between dogs, their owners, and other park users.
  - this could include design interventions, public awareness campaigns, additional signage, and additional enforcement.
  - where possible, the City’s OLAs will include amenities in accordance with their appropriate OLA Classification.
  - permanent OLAs should include a standard level of site amenities including
    - signage
    - open areas for running and playing
    - waste receptacles
    - clearly marked boundaries, and
- #### Environmental Design
- the City will ensure all new OLAs comply with Universal Design Standards and will identify resources to adapt existing OLAs to better meet Universal Design Standards



- seating, in accordance with their appropriate OLA Classification
- the City may consider additional OLA amenities in partnership with OLA associations and/or with private entities
- these amenities and their management will be determined on a case-by-case basis in collaboration with the City's Parks and Open Space Division, but could include
  - agility courses
  - additional waste or bag receptacles
  - dog enclosures
  - additional lighting
  - trails
  - water access
  - drinking fountains
- the City and an OLA association/private entity must establish management and service levels to ensure that the ongoing maintenance costs and management of additional OLA amenities are considered and resources are available
- OLAs that have secure boundaries (fully enclosed fencing) must have double-gated entries and exits
- visible boundaries may include signage and secure and/or permeable boundary features such as
  - berms
  - fencing
  - existing landscape features, or a combination thereof
- however, the City will aim to establish secure boundaries (fencing) around its OLAs based on municipal budget considerations and site-specific conditions
- OLA design shall provide access into the site by service/maintenance vehicles
- site drainage within OLAs will be managed so that surface water does not cause any negative impacts to the environment, adjacent properties, or adjacent waterbodies
- the site selection process for new OLAs will be guided by the OLA Siting Criteria, policies, and standards included within the OLAMP, in conjunction with a comprehensive public engagement process
- all of Winnipeg should be served by a Regional OLA or Community OLA catchment area
- neighbourhood OLAs should be established throughout Winnipeg.
- priority to establish new permanent OLAs should consider and evaluate the following OLA Siting Criteria:
  - underserved areas of the city
  - population density
  - dog license density
  - sites where OLAs can be developed 'sustainably'
  - land availability
  - at least 0.04 ha in size (0.1 acre)
  - adequate drainage
  - buffers from hazards and incompatible uses
  - easily accessible by public, service vehicles

## Accessibility

- the City will ensure all new OLAs comply with Universal Design Standards and will identify resources to adapt existing OLAs to better meet Universal Design Standards

### Etiquette

- when a dog is in an off-leash area, the owner of the dog must:
  - be present and have the dog within view at all times;
  - ensure that the dog is not in heat and that it does not act in a dangerous or aggressive manner towards humans or other dogs;
  - remove the dog from the off-leash area immediately if the dog is in heat or acts in a dangerous or aggressive manner towards humans or other dogs;
  - ensure that the dog comes when called;
  - have a leash available to restrain the dog if needed;
  - remedy any harm caused by the dog, including filling in holes dug by the dog; and
  - immediately remove and properly dispose of any excrement left by the dog
- Code of Ethics for all dog owners in off-leash areas:
  - stoop & scoop - Please use plastic bags to pick up after your dog
  - train your dog - Please train your dog to respond to commands, whether on or off-leash
  - respect other users of the park - Walkers, joggers, cyclists, skiers, and other dog owners have a right to enjoy
  - proper Licensing is required - please ensure your pet is properly licensed
- recommended additions from OLAMP 2018:
  - children must be supervised by their guardian at all times;
  - all participants enter an OLA with the understanding that they are responsible for their dog(s) actions at all times;
  - do not approach a dog without the handler's permission;
  - within 'multi-use' OLAs, all visitors must be aware and prepared to encounter off-leash dogs; and
  - within 'single-use' OLAs, all activities other than those activities associated with off-leash dog use will be prohibited

### Enforcement

- \$250 fine for no licence.
- animal Services Agency responsible for enforcement
- excessive barking fine = \$100-200

### Parking

- OLAs should maintain direct access from their designated parking areas or the street to reduce safety concerns of off-leash dogs outside the OLA.
- all categories of OLA should have parking access – on street for the smallest and lot parking for the largest OLAs

### Waste Disposal & Bags

- trash bins a standard amenity, bags considered

## Signage

- will include
  - code of Ethics
  - the rules of the OLAs as per Section 4(5) of By-law No. 92/2013;
  - the OLA boundaries; and
  - a ‘single-use’ or ‘multi-use’ designation; if the OLA is ‘single-use’, its signage will articulate that all recreational activities other than those activities associated with off-leash dog use will be prohibited in the OLA
- ‘entering OLA’ and ‘Leaving OLA’ signs shall be posted at key entrances/exits to OLAs to clarify OLA boundaries
- the City should post signs at key locations along pathways and trails indicating that pathways and trails located adjacent to OLAs are not part of the OLAs (i.e., “Pathways are Always On-Leash Unless Otherwise Specified”)

## Buffer for Visual/Sound Attenuation

- where feasible, OLAs adjacent to residential areas should maintain a minimum setback distance of 50 metres to mitigate noise. The requirement for visual screening will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

## Shade & Wind Protection

- trees are only thing mentioned

## Drainage

- site drainage within OLAs will be managed so that surface water does not cause any negative impacts to the environment,

adjacent properties, or adjacent waterbodies.

## Vegetative Restoration

- not a big consideration

## General Size of DOLA

- average size 99.5 ha. Smallest OLA is 0.1 ha, largest is 48.1 ha
- average size of fenced OLAs is 0.3 ha

Categories of OLA based on size of OLA:

1. Regional (8+ ha)
  - catchment area of 7.5 kilometres. This generally translates to an approximate 20-minute drive or less.
  - regional OLAs do not require secure fencing; however, clearly defined boundaries are recommended using a combination of secure and permeable boundaries such as landscaping, berms, trees/shrubs, partial fencing, or other boundary features. Where necessary, the installation of partial fencing may be required to maintain and enhance the safety of all users, or to protect adjacent land-uses.
  - the City may designate an area within a Regional OLA as a ‘single-use’ or designate the entire Regional OLA as ‘single-use’, and as such, secure boundaries should be established around the ‘single-use’ area. Only activities associated with off-leash dog use will be permitted within the single-use area of an OLA.
  - the City will determine if and where the single-use area of the OLA will be located. This area will be clearly identified by on-site signage.



- regional OLAs should include the following amenities:
  - waste receptacles;
  - signage;
  - open space;
  - trees;
  - trails/pathways;
  - seating; and
  - single-use fenced enclosure (for puppies, training, or other specific needs)
- regional OLAs must have designated on-site parking
- regional OLAs are typically located adjacent to collector or arterial roads
- 2. Community (0.5-8 ha)
  - most users consider the Community OLAs as “destinations”, as the majority of these OLAs are located outside of residential neighbourhoods, and therefore, are not widely accessed by pedestrian traffic. City needs to reintegrate into residential areas.
  - community OLAs should maintain a catchment area of approximately 3.75 kilometres. This generally translates to an approximate 10-minute drive or less for those residents who live within the catchment area.
  - city prioritize future Community OLAs in areas that are adjacent to or easily accessible to residential neighbourhoods, rather than locating them within industrial or commercial areas
  - doesn’t require fencing - but definitely if there’s a single-use portion it requires fencing
  - community OLAs should connect to pedestrian routes, where possible.
- community OLAs should include the following amenities:
  - waste receptacles;
  - signage;
  - open space;
  - trees;
  - trails/pathways (where feasible);
  - seating; and
  - consideration for a single-use fenced enclosure (for small/elderly dogs, puppies, training, or other specific needs).
- community OLAs should have on-site parking, as well as access to on-street parking.
- community OLAs should have access from collector or arterial roads. the City must consider the traffic impacts of the OLA on adjacent neighbourhoods and may consider the facilitation of a traffic impact study.
- time restrictions for Community OLAs may be considered for ‘multi-use’ sites, (i.e., restricting off-leash dog use to only certain times of the day to avoid conflict during athletic field play times or daycare/school use of site).
- 3. Neighbourhood (0.04 – 0.5 ha)
  - ‘large’ Neighbourhood OLA (0.1 - 0.5 ha)
    - the City will determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether a ‘large’ Neighbourhood OLA will be ‘single-use’ or ‘multi-use’.
    - intent of the ‘large’ Neighbourhood OLA is to provide users with an OLA that is ‘walkable’ from their home that provides enough area for a large dog to run,
    - designate an area within a Large Neighbourhood OLA as ‘single-

- use’ or designate the entire Large Neighbourhood OLA as ‘single-use’, and as such, secure boundaries should be established around the ‘single-use’ area
- ‘small’ Neighbourhood OLA (0.04 – 0.1 ha)
  - single-use’;
  - intent of the ‘small’ Neighbourhood OLA is to be similar to a ‘dog run’, serving residents who live in multi-family, high-density neighbourhoods
  - completely enclosed with a minimum 1.5-metre (5 foot) fence, a double-gated entry, and be designated as ‘single-use’.
  - City will encourage multi-family residential developers to establish private small Neighbourhood OLA facilities within their development sites
  - secure fencing may be integrated into the design, wherever possible
- catchment area of approximately 1.2 kilometres. This generally translates to an approximate 15-minute walk or less for those residents who live within the catchment area.
- located within or adjacent to residential areas and connect to pedestrian routes
- include the following amenities:
  - waste receptacles;
  - signage;
  - seating; and
  - open space.
- neighbourhood OLAs should have access to on-street parking
- 4. Seasonal Adaptive

- rinks in the summer
- tennis courts in the winter
- informal

## Small Dog Area

- suggested for community, regional, and neighbourhood OLAs (where feasible)

## Surfacing

- not discussed – likely because at time of study Winnipeg generally had very large unfenced OLAs. The newest urban OLA has K9 Turf

## Entries & Gates

- double-gates required if OLA is fenced - i.e. 2 OLDAs are double-gated entries at least

## Fencing

- where used, should be at least 1.5 m high
- 2 of 11 sites fenced, but more being planned

## Lighting

- no lighting in any of the OLAs, as per City Website. However, announcement of Bonnycastle Park OLA states that there are lights

## Irrigation

- not mentioned, but Bonnycastle has K9 Turf, so would assume it is used

## Picnic Tables & Benches

- 6 out of 11 OLAs have benches within them, including 1 of the fenced OLAs

### Community News Boards

- notice boards should be considered for installation at the entrances to each OLA (in accordance with the appropriate OLA Classification) for public use and monitored by the City (i.e., discriminatory or offensive materials will be removed)

### Water Station (Bottle/Dog Fountain)

- currently there are no OLAs with a doggie water fountain. OLAMP 2018 considers it a premium amenity, however, something that must be sponsored by the OLA association or a private partner.

### Agility Equipment or Water Play

- considered premium amenities that must be sponsored by OLA association or private group. Currently none in any OLAs

### Operations, Maintenance and Community Groups

- current OLA groups are mentioned, but no volunteer stewardship elements on City website
- the City will establish service levels, which reflect the available operating budget, for each of the different OLA Classifications, as per the 2018 OLAMP. These service levels will establish general maintenance standards for OLAs that will be performed by the City, and may include details pertaining to the following items:
  - OLA monitoring and inspection;
  - emptying waste receptacles;
  - maintaining fencing or other site boundary features;

- maintaining site furnishings, such as seating, lighting, signage, and if applicable, water features;
  - maintaining surfacing; and
  - maintaining site landscape features such as trees, shrubs, and grass
- the number and type of waste receptacles within an OLA will be guided by funded service levels.
  - waste receptacles will be located for OLA users, as well as City maintenance vehicles
  - community OLA association that advocates for specific OLA(s) amenities, or are stewards of a specific OLA, may be responsible for the management of some or all of the following:
    - maintaining and managing notice boards;
    - an annual ‘spring clean-up’ of OLA sites; and/or
    - maintaining OLA supported amenities such as an agility course, waste bag dispensers, water features

#### Sources:

<https://www.winnipeg.ca/publicworks/parksOpenSpace/OffLeashDogParks/default.stm>

<https://winnipeg.ca/ppd/PublicEngagement/OffLeashAreas/documents/Off-Leash-Dog-Areas-Master-Plan.pdf>

<http://windog.ca/>

<https://parkmaps.winnipeg.ca>

OLAMP 2018, WSP, Winnipeg



## Maple Grove OLPD

Winnipeg, MB  
190 Frobisher Rd,

- designated off-leash is 12.92ha
- stewardship by Maple Grove Park Dog Owners' Association (MGPDOA)
- fields for Fido rules and by-laws enforced
- operating under the Adopt-a-Park program
- multi-use park with football, rugby, organized disc sports, and boat launching facilities
- fields, forest and riverside areas with a number of trails
- fenced area for smaller dogs
- memorial benches throughout the park
- strong online presence
- large parking area
- partly fenced





## Kings Park OLDP

Winnipeg, MB  
198 Kings Dr.

- unfenced
- owners must have dogs licensed, and have voice control over them
- gentle rolling hills, bordering the Red River
- riverbank erosion program in 2015
- nearby amenities: soccer field, two baseball diamonds, Pagoda Gardens and the Carol Shield's Memorial Labyrinth
- king's Dog Park Association
- bags occasionally provided





# Kilcona OLDP

Winnipeg, MB  
Springfield Rd.

- Kilcona Park Dog Club Inc., is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to park stewardship, community development, healthy active living for people and their pets
- largest off-leash dog park in Winnipeg, set aside from the park in 1998
- volunteers planted native trees and shrubs in the park, to eventually create forested shelter beds
- annual clean-up
- KPDC collaborates with Maple Grove Dog Owners Association and Little Mountain Pet Owners Association
- historically, an industrial wasteland and brownfield, dump capped with 8ft of mud, with two grassy hills rising out of the prairie landscape
- lake or climbing hill
- benches
- parking lot
- bag dispensers, pilot project
- park itself is 441 acres
- waste bag dispenser can be advertising for companies, or individuals, listed above the bags, privately funded





## Little Mountain Park

Winnipeg, MB  
Farmer Ave. Stoney Mountain

- park itself is 47.84 ha
- managed by the Little Mountain Dog Park Club, and the Little Mountain Pet Owners Association
- originally a limestone quarry
- neighboring amenities: picnic tables, BBQ pits, Club House, Port-o-potty, waste bins and wooden poo bag dispensers
- areas of prairie, Aspen forest cover, and wetland marsh habitat
- large habitat of flora and fauna native to the area
- strong online presence with pet owner bios
- unfenced
- owners must have voice control over dogs, have them licensed, and cleaned up after
- other users: skiers, snowshoe enthusiasts, walkers, runners, cyclists
- two parking lots
- open lawns and trails

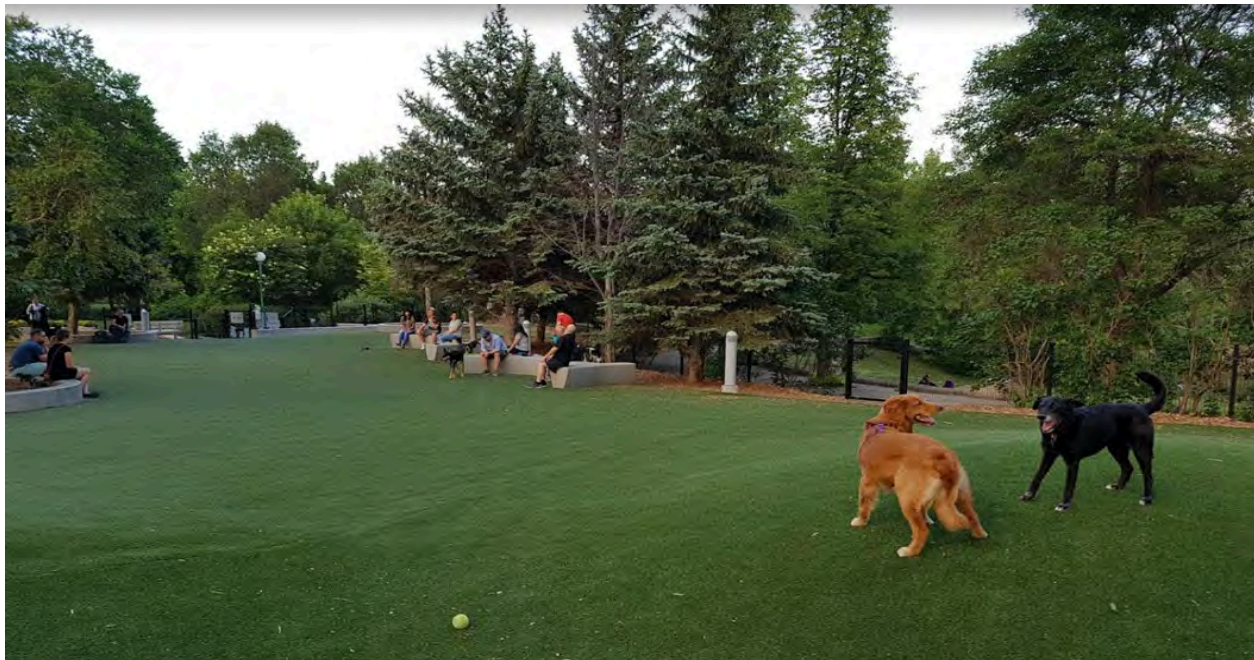




# Bonny Castle Dog Park

Winnipeg, MB  
Assiniboine Ave & Gary St.

- downtown location
- fully fenced, 0.12 ha off-leash area within Bonny Castle Park
- K9 Grass, wood chips, lights, signage, park furniture, waste receptacles, bottle-refill fountain for summer months
- existing trees and park elements were incorporated into the design, and additional trees and shrub planting were added
- around the edge of the new off-leash enclosure
- 7 am-10 pm
- mounds created for dog interest
- water available
- seating, benches and concrete benches
- double gate entry
- plenty of signage



## 9. Chicago, IL

### 32 Off-Leash Areas: all single use.

#### Health and safety

- vets verify and sell the DFA permits for use, ensuring that permitted dogs have no parasites, and are vaccinated against rabies, Distemper, Hepatitis, Para influenza; and Parvovirus, Bordetella, Leptospirosis. As per rules “Dogs must be healthy, fully immunized, dewormed, licensed, and comply with the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control Regulation in order to get DFA permit to use park.”
- permits must be renewed each year for each dog. No free vets in Chicago are on the list. Each licence costs \$10 – this likely pays for the enforcement and the vets’ office staff work.
- maximum of 3 dogs per person in order to receive permit
- puppies under 4 months old, and female dogs in heat prohibited from DFA

#### Environmental Design:

- as per package from City to DFA committees: “There are certain criteria to use in identifying a proposed DFA location. Look for areas that include the following:
- linear areas to section off
- ability to allow for hard surface area
- proximity to drainage to a sanitary sewer system
- available water line at the site, or the finances necessary to install appropriate infrastructure (necessary for area maintenance and for doggie drinking fountain), (Note: neither a Fire Department

hydrant nor the lake is an available water source.)

- both shaded and open areas for animals
- a strong buffer zone between DFA and other uses, such as tennis courts, field house
- seemingly “under-utilized” section of existing park, which will not interfere with park aesthetics or existing uses (Note: A section of park that is deemed “under-utilized” by the Region Manager in conjunction with the Dept. of Planning & Construction does not guarantee acceptance of the area as a DFA.)
- distance from residences to ensure that noise and activity levels are no more disruptive to neighbors than typical park uses
- compliance with all Americans with Disabilities Act Codes and Regulations
- not all parks are suitable for DFAs. Size of DFA will reflect the amount of available land, licensed dog population, park size and other considerations, and will be a minimum size of no less than 0.10 acres (4,356 square feet) and a maximum size of no more than 3.5% of total park acres, but not to exceed 15,000 square feet.

#### Accessibility

- all parks submitted are supposed to have compliance with ADA codes and regs, but this is apparently more of a preference than a requirement. However, there seems to be a lot of wiggle room.



## Etiquette

- called Rules and Regulations, but seem to include etiquette:
  - owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries caused by their dogs
  - owners must remain with and watch their dogs at all times.
  - Dogs must be leashed prior to and upon leaving the DFA
  - gates to the DFAs must remain closed except upon entering and exiting the DFA. Owners must immediately clean up after their dogs.
  - owners who fail to clean up after their dogs are subject to a fine of up to \$500.00 (City of Chicago Ordinance 7-12-420)
  - dogs with a known history of, or who exhibit, dangerous behaviors are prohibited
  - dogs must be healthy, fully immunized, dewormed, licensed and comply with the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control Regulation for Chicago Park District DFAs
  - no dog will be allowed in a DFA unless it has a current rabies vaccination
  - dog owners are responsible for the monitoring and maintenance of the DFA
  - no Food (human or dog food) is allowed inside the DFA Owners or other responsible persons must have a DFA permit with them for each dog visiting the DFA
- DFA permits are valid from January 1 through December 31 each year

- children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult; younger children must be closely supervised. Only three dogs per person allowed
- puppies under four months old and female dogs in heat are prohibited

## Enforcement

- 18 trucks for Chicago Animal Care and Control Officers - they are the ones who issue tickets to those not obeying regulations for permitting
- police are the ones who enforce off-leash and pick up after dog laws. From a 2018 news story:
  - “the overall number of tickets written has decreased since 2015, with 307 tickets issued in 2015 (\$141,109)
  - 226 tickets in 2016 (\$117,171)
  - 228 tickets in 2017 (\$128,958) and
  - \$112,699 from 189 tickets issued through Aug. 31 of [2018]”

## Parking

- no consistent policy applied

## Waste Disposal and Bags

- all owners supposed to pick up their dogs but after that, DFA committee responsible for maintenance within dog park
- the agreement between CPD and DFA groups says “It is the responsibility of the DFA Committee to clean up after their pets; rotate, bleach and replace any pea gravel areas, including removing pea gravel and waste that has spilled outside of the DFA; wash

- down the hard surface area bi-weekly; power wash hard surface area 3 – 4 times per year (schedule this with the Chicago Park District Area Manager); and on a daily basis, clean up any waste that other users may have missed.”
- the South Loop Dogs Association page shows 11 of the 23 surveyed OLAs to provide waste bags

### Signage:

- the City of Chicago Parks Department provide the rules and regulations sign and require all Dog Parks to post it clearly

### Buffer for Visual Sound Attenuation

- not mentioned beyond the recommendation that “Distance from residences to ensure that noise and activity levels are no more disruptive to neighbors than typical park uses”

### Shade and Wind Protection

- recommendation for “Both shaded and open areas for animals;” Not necessarily what has carried out in practice. At least one OLA appears to have shade structures

### Drainage

- not discussed beyond suggestions from application for building one that “Proximity to drainage to a sanitary sewer system; “ is preferred
- implies that they’re draining to sewer system, not storm water

### Vegetative restoration

- not mentioned

### General Size of OLAs

- minimum size is supposed to be 0.1 (0.04) acres, max. size supposed to be no more than 3.5% of total park acres or 15000 sq feet, whichever is less (0.14 ha). In reality, smallest OLA so far known to the South Loop DFA Committee is 0.045 acres (0.02 ha), the largest is Montrose Dog Beach: 2.76 acres (1.12 ha). The approximate average OLA size using info for 23 of the 32 parks is 0.33 acres (0.13 ha).

### Small Dog Areas

- 4 out of the 23 OLAs surveyed by the South Loop DFA group had SDAs. Others were claiming they were trying for one. Certainly not policy mandated

### Surfacing:

- according to south loop dog association vast majority of OLAs have asphalt and pea gravel surfacing (16 of the 23 surveyed)
- according to CPD info: “All DFAs are paved for better maintenance, with pea gravel in elimination areas and to serve as tree protection.”
- a significant minority have sprung for K9 turf (4 of 23), and the rest have sand or dirt and mulch
- according to info found on one DFA committee’s site, it is against Chicago Parks Dept policy to use grass in OLAs
- there have been several complaints of torn up paws from the concrete and asphalt surfacing

## Entries and Gates:

- some double, some single, some don't have 2 entrances, does not appear to be any City recommendations for this

## Fencing

- it appears that all of the OLAs are fenced in Chicago, it seems like it might be a City Policy to fence all OLAs

## Lighting

- no apparent policy on this, but some OLAs seem to be lit since their open hours are until 11 pm

## Irrigation

- proximity/access to a water line is necessary according to CPD, but is likely that this is not entirely required because only 19 of the 23 OLAs surveyed by the South Loop DFA group have dog water access.

## Picnic Tables and Benches

- no City requirements are given for seating, though it appears that majority of OLAs have seating

## Community News Boards

- several OLAs appear to have Facebook pages, but community boards are one of the features suggested by the City as good items to fundraise for

## Water Station (Bottle or Dog Fountain)

- 19 out of 23 OLAs surveyed by South Loop DFAC have clean water supplies. Doggie water fountain is one of the items suggested to fundraise for by the City.

## Agility Equipment or Water Play

- agility equipment is part of the suggested fundraising items by the City and 2 waterfront DFAs give access to Lake Michigan

## Operations, Maintenance and Community Groups

- all park development, maintenance and proposals are supposed to be community-group organized. Chicago Magazine says, however, that the majority of the development funds end up coming from the city in other ways, just not from Chicago Parks Dept: instead uses Alderman funding (i.e. councillor's own funding), and some other grants and city-implemented funds.
- more proof of this is found in the small print of the agreement the DFA Community group signs with City of Chicago Parks Dept: "the park district may budget for needed capital projects, including...fencing or gate repairs, asphalt replacement, site furnishing repair or replacement, landscape improvements, and fountain repair or replacement. The Park District may also budget up to 50% of the cost of the repair or replacement of any Chicago Park District DFA standard design element."
- the maintenance requirements on behalf of the DFAC are "It is the responsibility of the DFA Committee to clean up after their pets; rotate, bleach and replace any pea



gravel areas, including removing pea gravel and waste that has spilled outside of the DFA; wash down the hard surface area bi-weekly; power wash hard surface area 3 – 4 times per year (schedule this with the Chicago Park District Area Manager); and on a daily basis, clean up any waste that other users may have missed.”

- also: “The DFA Committee should organize fundraising campaigns to finance new projects for the DFA such as a doggie drinking fountain; an information/bulletin board; an isolation area or an agility area; non-capital improvements or repairs; a storage shed for hose, waste bags, and cleaning supplies; new benches; non-standard Chicago Park District DFA design element repair or replacement; and upgrades of standard design elements.”
- DFACs have to have at least 5 members. And someone from the DFAC is required to act as liaison with CPD.
- in most of the articles on the unfair geographic and thus racial distribution of DFAs in Chicago, it is claimed that DFACs really need to have approval of and help from their Aldersmen (i.e. City Councillors) in order to be likely to get a Dog Park
- finally, Jackson Park is a truly unplanned and unregulated Dog Park built in the centre of the South Side of Chicago (i.e. predominantly black and latinx neighbourhoods). Jackson Park has taken over the old disused tennis courts in the park it is named for, since they are already fenced in. The Dog park has homemade agility equipment and seems to be well-loved by people from the area. The City, however, has managed to bring the informal DFA into jeopardy because it is in the way of plans to expand a golf course, and plans to build the Obama Centre.

### History

- first DFA developed as a pilot under former General Superintendent, Meza, at Margate Park in 1999 (fenced area with grass surface), grass became eroded and exposed soil, improvements including asphalt surface, fencing and doggie drinking fountain, seating/benches added after that.
- Park District worked with dog owners since 1999
- according to the City, the preference is NOT to place DFAs in existing parks, however 27 of 32 DFAs exist in parks.
- according to South LOOP DFAC, the City of Chicago Parks Department changed the requirements they were looking for in proposals for DFAs in 2012. Before, requirements were from 2008.

### Social Science Results/Findings

- DFAs placed in areas with crime and gangs, dog presence reduced crime rate significantly

### Other (Comparisons)

- rules and Regulations are comparable to Toronto’s Code of Conduct. Main difference is more specific language about Owners remaining with dogs at all times
  - gates remaining closed upon entering and exiting the DFA
  - more specificity about ‘vaccinated’ and what it means: “Dogs must be healthy, fully immunized, dewormed, licensed and comply with the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control Regulation for

Chicago Park District DFAs. No dog will be allowed in a DFA unless it has a current rabies vaccination

- higher fines (\$500 USD) for not picking up after dog
- dog owners are responsible for the monitoring and maintenance of the DFA (this is the privatized American model, community is responsible with coming up with \$150 000 to develop the DFA to begin with)
- puppies under 4 mos not allowed in. All other prohibited animals the same
- children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult, and younger children must be closely supervised
- max. 3 dogs/person

**Sources:**

Chicago – DFA Policy\_2006, Received file

<https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/dog-friendly-areas>

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2018/10/10/city-collects-499937-in-off-leash-dog-fines-over-four-years/>

<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2019/02/chicago-dog-park-lincoln-yards-gentrification-racial-divide/581086/>

<https://landscapearchitecturemagazine.org/2019/02/26/dog-park-divide/>

<https://chicago.curbed.com/2018/6/22/17476620/chicago-dog-parks>

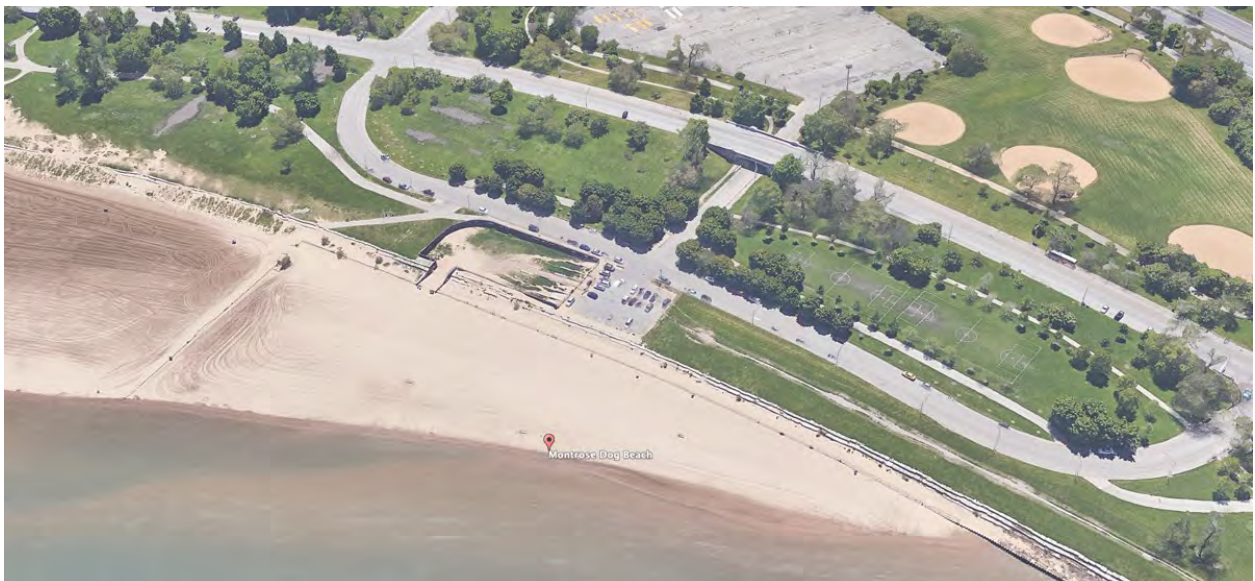
<http://www.chicagomag.com/Chicago-Magazine/June-July-2019/How-to-Get-a-Dog-Park-Put-in-Your-Neighborhood/>

<http://southloopdogpac.org/chicagodogparks/dog-parks/>

## Montrose Dog Beach

Chicago, IL  
610 Lawrence Ave.

- within Lincoln (Abraham) Park
- 1.55 ha (3.83 acres), located at north end of Montrose Beach
- double gate entrance
- entrance guides dogs and their owners down to the beach area, in a gradual transition from park to beach
- benches available
- plenty of area for free run and free swim
- well-used year round
- largest dog beach and dog friendly area in the City of Chicago
- parking at entrance, with nearby street parking if lot is full
- maintained by MonDog, a volunteer group that oversees cleanups and supplies poo bags from donations
- bag dispensers at entrance
- no small dog area
- voice control of dogs is critical, considering size of the park
- some issues with owners not collecting their dog waste, and covering it with sand
- no active water fountains
- can walk along the shoreline with dogs: human interest
- owners can pay to use dog wash
- chain link fence separates dog beach and adjacent human beach
- people stay longer here with pets than the average OLA





# Wiggly Field

Chicago, IL  
2645 Sheffield Ave.

- adjacent to Chicago L (Brown or Red Line tracks)
- 0.37 acres
- doggie drinking fountain
- within Noethling (Grace) Park
- double gate entrance
- water features available during summer, pools
- separate big/small dog areas (safer play for little, elderly, or more timid dogs)
- benches available
- runner's asphalt & pea gravel ground covering
- popular with lots of socialization opportunities
- bags available

