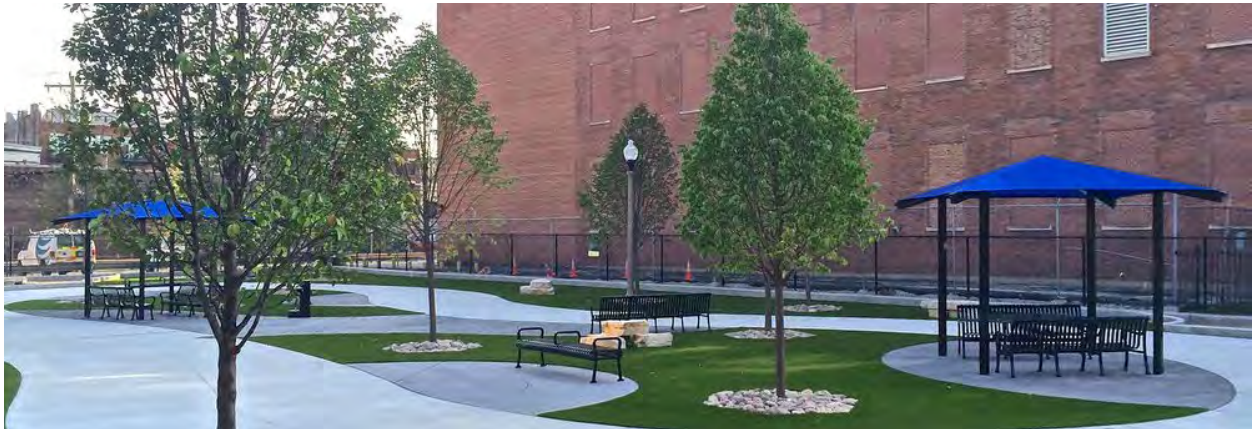


Skinner Bark Park

Chicago, IL
2645 Sheffield Rd.

- 0.40 acre
- park opened in 2014, community group formed in 2015
- drinking fountain, three-tier
- double gate entrance
- water features available during the summer, with water hose and fountains
- benches available
- artificial green turf, pea gravel, and concrete ground covering, with concrete walkway
- multi-dimensional with many materials in the romping area
- hose to fill bowls and kiddie pools
- shaded bench seating for socializing
- maintained by the Skinner Bark Park Community Group
- no bags provided
- no small dog area
- strong online presence: photos of dogs, events, community



Fred Anderson

Chicago, IL
1611 Wabash Ave.

- within Anderson (Fred) Park
- 0.44 acre
- drinking fountains
- double gate entrance
- water features available during summer
- benches and tables
- separate big/small dog areas
- artificial green turf (avoid muddy paws and allergens) and concrete ground covering
- contemporary
- water feature sculpture provides dog pool area, as well as a running drinking fountain
- well-lit and inviting for dogs at night, encouraging night time visits
- various shade structures
- maintained by the South Loop Dog Park Action Cooperative



Lake Shore East

Chicago, IL
450 Benton

- within Lake Shore East Park
- 0.10 acres located along southern edge of park
- doggie drinking fountain
- many shade trees
- stylized circular double gate entrance



Mary Bartelme

Chicago, IL
115 Sanhamon St.

- 0.10 acre in size
- replaced an existing parking lot, but still lots of parking available
- drinking fountains
- waste bags provided
- double gate entrance
- completely fenced in
- water features available during summer
- multi-dimensional walking area for pets
- concrete and artificial grass ground covering
- constant refilling drinking bowl, with a hose available for most of the year and a nearby mist tunnel



10. Philadelphia, PA

8 Single use off-Leash Areas

Health and Safety

- licences are mandatory and require rabies vaccination

Environmental Design

- required improvements will include:
 - fencing
 - artificial turf suitable for dog
 - lighting
 - water service
 - trash receptacles
 - seating
 - signage
 - the above for newly developed dog park applications are clearly not actually requirements. As with Chicago, most parks only meet a few of these requirements.

Accessibility

- not mentioned by the City. May be an internal factor when considering dog run citing

Etiquette

- best practices:
 - be a good neighbour and park steward
 - help to keep your park clean and safe for all to enjoy by picking up after your dog and using the trash cans

- always obey park or playground signs
- always keep control of your dog. It is the owner/handler's responsibility
- do not allow your dog to run and jump on other people or dogs uninvited
- do not leave your dog unattended
- do not tie your dog to fences, benches or any park furnishings
- keep off wet grass
- be considerate of picnickers and watch where your dog goes. Remember, urine damages grass and trees
- Obey City of Philadelphia licensing laws (get a dog license) (needs rabies vaccine)
- follow Commonwealth of Pennsylvania vaccination requirements (rabies)

Enforcement

- two main regulations guide Parks & Recreation in the management of dogs on Parks & Recreation property:
 - City of Philadelphia leash laws
 - City Council ordinance requires that dogs be on a six-foot or shorter leash and that owners clean up after their pets
- Philadelphia Code regulations governing the park system
 - Parks & Recreation has the authority to designate an animal-free area

anywhere within the Parks & Recreation system. This does not include support, service, or guide animals. See The Philadelphia Code Chapter 15-200, Section 111. Animal-free Area (PDF) for complete rules.

- must get a dog licence according to City of Philadelphia Licencing laws. Yearly and permanent offered,
 - yearly neutered/spayed is \$8
 - yearly intact is \$16
 - permanent spayed is \$16
 - permanent intact is \$40.00
 - maximum number of dogs/cats kept is 12, and of these only 2 dogs/cats can be unsterilized.
- dogs are prohibited in animal-free areas. An animal-free area is a zone where no animals are permitted, except service animals. Animal-free areas are usually in Parks & Recreation playgrounds, ballfields, spraygrounds, athletic courts, and gardens.
- City had 12 humane officers as of 2014 – they are also responsible for enforcing dog licencing and poop and scoop laws
- first violation of licencing or leash law is \$100, 2nd \$200, and 3rd violation \$300
- first violation of poop and scoop is \$150, and can continue up to \$300

Parking

- not a stated factor

Waste Disposal & Bags

- several Philadelphia dog runs have volunteer-supplied waste bags. Others do not. All have trash receptacles nearby. All waste to landfill

Signage

- requirement of design when requesting a dog run

Buffer for Visual/Sound Attenuation

- not a factor, though noise complaints are evident

Shade & Wind Protection

- not dictated, but Schuylkill River Dog Park has shaded areas and partners with Philadelphia Horticultural Society to maintain trees. There is concern about tree health at this park.

Drainage

- not a requirement in application for dog park, but as per Schuylkill River Park Dog Run, drainage is a high concern prior to the start of using K9 grass

Vegetative Restoration

- it appears that Philadelphia Parks and Recreation has Pennsylvania Horticultural Society assisting with “tree tenders” and vegetative health
- Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is known as a very active and effective organization in Philadelphia’s natural areas, it is a non-profit and acts in many ways as an extension of because Philadelphia Parks and Recreation does not have the budget for that level of maintenance in many cases

General Size of DOLA

- ~0.6 ha – smallest at present is 0.04ha. Currently 8 parks on City land. Several

others on private property run by non-profit members-only groups.

- total Philadelphia parkland is 5,066 ha (12,519.20 Acres)
- parks holding dog runs: $19.28 + 9.56 = 28.84$ ac (11 ha)
- Seger Dog Park is 0.17 ac (0.07 ha)
- Pretzel Park Dog Park is 0.14ac (0.06 ha)
- Mario Lanza seems to be the smallest and is ~400 sq m or just under a 10th of an acre. (0.04 ha)
- smallest of parks used for dog run: 0.5 ac (0.2 ha); 9.56 is largest dog run (3.9 ha)

Small Dog Area

- 2 out of 8 have SDA and Big Dog Area

Surfacing

- the City makes a point of requiring a turf for dog parks, this may be a recent change only made after the success seen at Schuylkill River Park

Entries & Gates

- several parks have double-gates, some parks only have single gates. Only a few city-parks dog runs have double-entries

Fencing

- all are fenced, fencing is required

Lighting

- many have lighting, and some city grants were used to put solar lighting in at a few of the dog parks

Irrigation

- mentioned that a water line is required as part of City's information on requesting a dog park

Picnic Tables & Benches

- seating available at most dog parks, some picnic tables in some of the dog runs
- community news boards visible at several dog parks but not standard on the City's website

Water Station (Bottle/Dog Fountain)

- water access seems to be required as per the City's website, but several of the parks do not have water fountains or water stations

Agility Equipment or Water Play

- none of the parks have water play. One of the parks has self-assembled agility equipment made from cinder-blocks and wooden pallets. It is reminiscent of Chicago's neighbourhood run Jackson Park (which is not City approved).

Operations, Maintenance and Community Groups

- City handles waste haulage. Community groups are responsible for maintenance and any/all upgrades. Community groups must run and fund the parks themselves, the City may only help minimally and only by the city councillor, rather than parks and rec.
- City's definition of a Dog Run: A dedicated, fenced-in area in a park or playground for dogs to exercise unleashed. There are currently seven [eight now] authorized dog runs on Parks & Recreation properties. All dog runs are managed and maintained by a local volunteer organization with oversight from Parks & Recreation.

Schuylkill River Park

Philadelphia, PA
300 S 25th St.

- enclosed dog run since '97, significantly improved in 2012 (new K9 grass and amenities)- in conjunction with the Pedestrian Connector Bridge Project and the Department of Parks and Recreation
- K9 Grass, cobblestone pathway beside K9 Grass, gravel and logs, benches along perimeter
- park tries to provide bio-degradable dog waste bags
- Friends of Schuylkill River Park (FSRP) makes improvements annually: added water fountain, improved surfaces, replaced benches, trees, lighting installed and brush trimmed for visibility
- FSRP created Dog Owners' Association in 2000, with monthly meetings and a website to help w/ communication
- small and large dog area, fenced, both offering shade trees
- statue of fire hydrant, dog water fountain, small dog pools, hose
- double gate entrance corral
- Dog Run Committee now replaces the Association, relying on volunteers to help pick up waste, fill holes, coming to cleanups and reporting issues in the park
- overpass connects park to the Schuylkill Banks
- over 1 acre of room to play
- parking along main roads that border east and south side of park

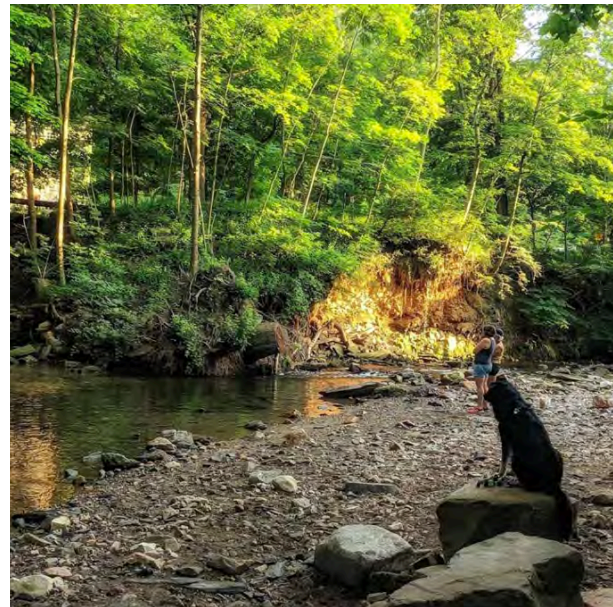


West Mill Creek Park

- located within Philadelphia metropolitan area
- a pilot off-leash program starting in 2009, by the Lower Merion Township Department of Parks and Recreation
- friends of West Mill Creek Park started in 2013, where volunteers have work days with garden maintenance and watering
- etiquette tips include having dogs licensed and having an off-leash permit (valid and visible, Lower Merion Township \$25 USD/yr, \$30 USD non residents, \$5 USD discount if dog has proof of training program), monitoring dogs, and not grouping in large areas where aggression could ensue
- strong online presence, with a particular focus on dog behavior
- parking lot nearby
- nestled in a forest glen with a creek running through
- wooden fence, gravel walkways, bright red benches
- much of the park space is wild with a dense forest canopy
- hawks, water birds and wildflowers

Lower Merion Township, PA 710 Mill Creek Rd.

- small and large dog areas, small dog area contained to a grassy yard shaded with a few mature trees, large dog area is flat lawn space, and walking trail that winds through the woods to the creek, where dogs have access to water
- no more than 2 dogs per handler
- waste bags provided, bring your own fresh water, no restrooms, not fully fenced from road, sunrise-sunset



Montgomery Bark Park

Montgomery Township, PA
1288 Welsh Rd.

- 1 acre
- fully fenced, far from roadway
- includes obstacles, toys, picnic tables, huge tree stump, dog statue
- two areas for large and small dogs, each with double gates
- trees scattered throughout, lots of shade
- pick up bags and poop scoopers available
- waste bins serviced daily
- seating
- owned by the Town of North Wales
- community members care for the area
- no fountains
- license required
- hard to find with secluded entrance, but very naturalized, mulched walk from parking lot, in wooded area behind Assi Plaza
- sunrise-sunset hours



Haverford Reserve

Haverford Township, PA
9000 Parkview Dr.

- located within Philadelphia metropolitan area
- self-sustaining, completely fenced in
- clean up days, monthly board meetings, CPR training, dog safety and behavior classes
- bags sometimes available as courtesy
- double gate
- visual and voice control
- small dog area for dogs under 20lbs
- 90% maintained by volunteers, dog owners, park users and through donations from supporters
- naturally shaded areas, picnic tables and other seating, a covered pavilion to escape the elements
- relies on grants, partnerships, and support from local businesses
- dog fountains
- dog park pavilion has community board, extending over large and small dog areas
- solar lights, to enjoy park after hours

- agility equipment built and installed by a local community member
- tool shed project: tool shed on site to keep grounds clean and cared for
- good signage



Morrisville Dog Park

Morrisville, PA
E Philadelphia Ave. & S DelmOr

- located within Philadelphia metropolitan area
- small dog area (35 lbs or less), small dog area 50 by 50 ft, large dog area 150 ft by 200ft
- dawn till dusk
- fully fenced
- 2 dogs per handler
- Friends of Morrisville Dog Park FMDP, founded 2009
- FMDP offers safe, clean, friendly and attractive off-leash space for dogs of all sizes to come with their owners to play, exercise and socialize, free of charge
- fundraising efforts opened dog park in 2011, through support of community members, and local businesses



11. New York, NY

190 Off-Leash Areas: 70 multiple use with time restrictions (called off-leash areas; available 9pm to 9am), 87 single use (called dog runs).

Health and Safety

- dogs not permitted in playgrounds, zoos, fountains, ball fields, on basketball/handball/tennis courts, in swimming pools/facilities, bathing areas, and New York City (NYC) beaches with some exceptions
- all dogs must be licenced, and to get a licence owner must provide proof that dog has received a rabies vaccinations. Dog licencing and rabies vaccination info comes from NYC Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene.
- licencing fees: \$8.50 per dog per year except for dogs that aren't spayed/neutered (\$34)
- by-law: New York State law requires that dogs be vaccinated against rabies, and the New York City Health Code requires every dog owner/attendant carry with them proof of current dog license and rabies vaccination while in public. Dog owners may be fined for violation of these laws.
- according to the New York Times in 2003, licencing rate was around 20%
- unclear if there are limits to the number of dogs that can be licenced by one person

Environmental Design

- according to NYC Parks website: Dog runs are large, fenced-in areas
- "large" is relative and many would be considered small to Toronto standards
- Dog Runs are the only dog-specific type of park

- surfacing varies, as do all amenities and water and shade
- only 64 of the 87 are in pre-existing NYC Parks. The rest may be privately owned or on other departments' public land.
- some dog parks operated outside of NYC Parks: e.g. west village dog owners group runs a membership based dog run for \$185 per year entirely volunteer-based with money only going towards maintenance and insurance because it is not in a public park

Accessibility

- according to data from NYC Parks, only 5 of the 87 fenced dog runs are fully ADA accessible

Etiquette

as stated on NYC website:

- do not leave your dog unattended
- do not tie your dog to benches, fences, or light poles
- always leash your dog on roadways
- keep aggressive or unsocialized dogs leashed and separated from other dogs at all times
- do not put yourself between fighting dogs. Throw water, toss a blanket, or create a loud noise.
- guard against animal theft by considering the use of a microchip ID for your dog.
- keep an eye on your dog at all times

- only you are responsible for your dog's actions
- please remember that other park visitors may be afraid of your dog. Do not allow your dog to run and jump on other people or dogs without an invitation.
- do not allow your dog to drink from park fountains, unless a special dog fountain is provided
- do not let your dog enter water bodies except for those specifically designated for dogs
- be good to the grass. Heavy use in a given area compacts soil and damages the turf. Keep walking – you'll see more and do less damage.
- please keep off wet grass. During and after a rainfall, topsoil is 20 times more vulnerable to compaction

Enforcement

rules and regs (bylaws):

- dogs must be on a leash (no more than six feet long) at all times, except in dog runs and designated off-leash areas at the prescribed times
- you must pick up after your dog and dispose of the waste in containers provided throughout the park
- you must prevent your dog from chasing birds, squirrels, and other animals
- Park Enforcement Police enforce these rules - 400 of them for the ~2K parks in the city
- fines for dog offenses begin at \$100 as per New York Times article

Parking

- no information available relating to parking provisions for dog runs. It appears as though dog runs are meant only for locals to use rather than as destination parks, though they may act that way in some cases.

Waste Disposal & Bags

- City appears to handle the waste that has been bagged and placed in City garbage bins, and it all goes to landfill
- whether waste bags are available changes from OLA to OLA, but largely depends on how well-organized the community group is

Signage

- all parks appear to have signage at the gates
- buffer for Visual/Sound Attenuation
- visible buffers in some designs, but no city policy. Not a standardized feature yet – unlike restrooms and playgrounds (2015)

Shade & Wind Protection

- no policy in wind/shade protection. The City uses different designers for its Dog Runs and they do not have a policy on what is required in each.
- it appears that many designers are in-house designers
- from news stories, however, it is possible to determine that standard features currently include surfacing, fencing, water, and SDAs

Drainage

- no city policy, but many dog runs appear to have traditional drains within. Unclear if they drain to sanitary sewers or storm sewers

Vegetative Restoration

- unclear what practices are used, beyond standard maintenance assessments
- NYC's etiquette indicates that people should keep moving so as to not stress the grass too much and keep off the grass in wet weather. It seems that NYC Parks doesn't use it in intensively used dog runs.

General Size of DOLA

- dog Runs measure from 0.02 ha (N=2) to 1.43 ha (N=1)
- average size is 0.17 ha or 0.42 acres
- total hectares combined is 15.13 ha
- median is 0.10 ha

Small Dog Area

- 4 small dog runs and 3 large dog runs out of 87 dog runs from existing data
- it appears that all new dog runs involve separate areas for small dogs and large dogs, but there is no document available to the public with details

Surfacing

- 16 of 87 dog runs have surfacing data available, of these 3 were sand surfaced, 3 were concrete surfaced, and 10 were 'natural' surfaced. The individual parks researched below prove that NYC also uses

decomposed granite, woodchips, mulch, and paving bricks.

- news stories show that dog runs built by NYC Parks are also using 'stone dust' as surfacing

Entries & Gates

- mostly double-gated. No City-wide info on this
- it appears as though the city does not worry about dual entry points. It is, however, possible that they count a maintenance entry as a second entry point.

Fencing

- all dog runs are fenced as per City policy. There are unfenced options during off-leash hours at the City's parks: sunrise to 9 am and 9 pm to 1:00 am

Lighting

- anecdotally the majority appear to be lit, many have hours until 1 am
- articles in the media appear to indicate that lighting is always provided

Irrigation

- not mentioned

Picnic Tables & Benches

- seating seems to be provided at all dog runs

Community News Boards

- not mentioned

Water Station (Bottle/Dog Fountain)

- it appears as though all new dog runs being put in or renovated include a water fountain for the dogs
- it may be that all dog runs have one

Agility Equipment or Water Play

- several new dog runs built by NYC parks include water play
- it is unclear how many dog runs have agility equipment

Operations, Maintenance and Community Groups

- waste left on streets will cause Department of Sanitation to investigate
- the first dog run ever developed was guaranteed to be volunteer maintained and run: Thompsons Park OLA hosts Halloween Parade that attracts large crowd and has recently installed K9 grass. Entirely community volunteer run.
- news stories from Brooklyn Bridge Park's (BBP) Dog Run show it is not maintained by the City - it's maintained by Friends of BBP. It seems that there is a combination of City-maintained and community-maintained runs.
- BBP dog park is, however, in contact with NYC Parks through the Friends of BBP. It is possible there is a cost-shared or other sort of agreement.
- there is no clear listing of which is which. For those runs that are volunteer maintained, it is clear that 'Friends of' groups do fundraise and contribute a certain amount to the building of their dog runs, but there is no clear indication as to the split, and it is not at all like in Chicago.

Social/Amenity Space

- Halloween dog costume parade means that Thompsons Park Dog Run has a stage set up in it. This is a temporary structure.

Sources:

Seattle Dogs and Parks Plan, 2017

<https://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/tompkins-square-park/facilities/dogareas>

<https://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/dogareas>

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/services/dog-licenses.page>

<https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Recreation/NYC-Parks-Dog-Runs/8nac-uner>

<https://www.brooklynpaper.com/grassy-goal-locals-demand-bridge-park-replace-dog-runs-stony-surface-with-turf/>

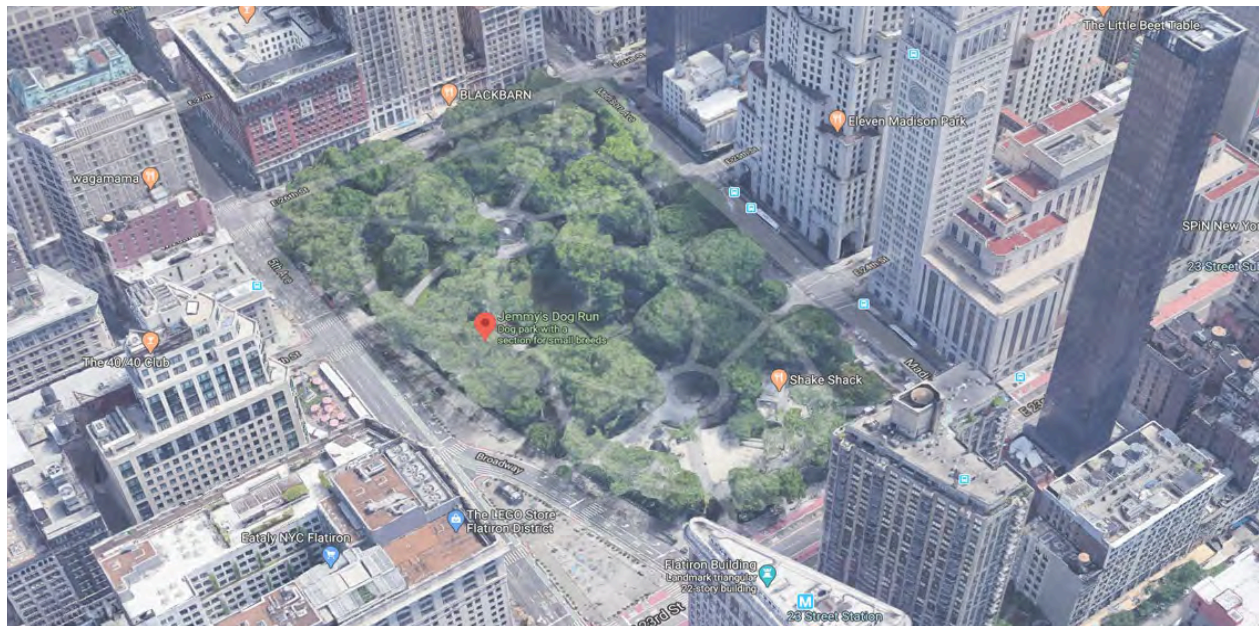
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/08/nyregion/where-the-dogs-are.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/07/nyregion/astoria-residents-cheer-plans-for-a-dog-run-but-frown-at-the-estimated-cost-1-million.html>

Jemmy's Dog Run

New York, NY
Location: 25th & Broadway

- within Madison Square Park
- smaller, but a favorite among dog lovers, 13 year old run
- double entry/exit gates
- water station available for dogs late spring and summer, and early fall, but owners encouraged to bring their own just in case
- plenty of seating and shade, circular benches around mature trees
- umbrellas to keep cool
- big and small dog areas
- pea gravel ground covering
- iron fence, lots of signage
- dog bags available, waste bins
- only 3 dogs allowed per person
- community board (behind glass with items left behind by owners and dogs, as well as services, rules and community info)
- shovel, rake, hoe and cleaning equipment provided for maintenance by owners, maintenance shed
- dog sculpture
- MAD SQ PK Mad. Sq. Dogs program, dog owners can join and receive tags, profiles of dogs that go up on the organization website, advertising community events and fundraisers
- Code of Conduct online, directions of Park Staff Members and Enforcement Officers



Tompkins Sqaure

New York, NY
500 E, 9th St.

- accessible
- first and largest dog run in NY
- strong online presence
- run is managed and funded by the community, not the city, runs entirely on community donations
- first Run raised money and organized volunteers
- Friends of First Run secured funding and shepherded design and renovation in 2008, costing \$450,000
- decomposed granite and sand running surface
- underground drainage
- large and small dog runs
- 3 swimming pools, picnic tables, bath areas and hoses to spray off dog
- open 365 days a year, 6am-midnight
- lots of seating
- waste bags provided
- community events like annual Halloween dog parade
- enforced by Park Enforcement Police
- basketball courts, bathrooms, fitness equipment, handball courts, outdoor pools, playgrounds, spray showers, Wi-Fi hot spots
- neighborhood park
- 10.50acre total of park



Peter Detmold Dog Run

New York, NY
454 E, 51st St.

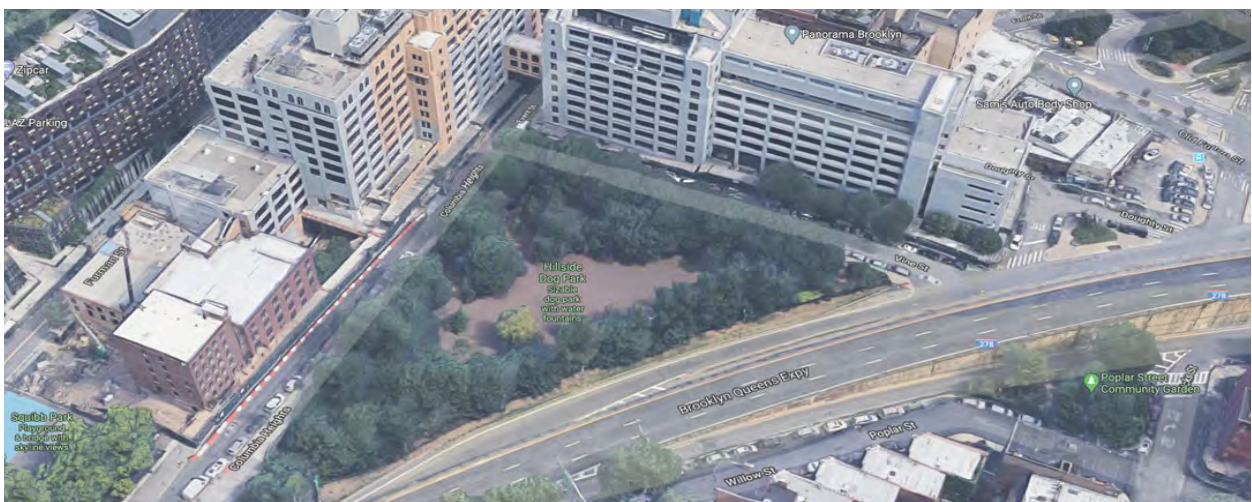
- 0.59acre
- designated Neighborhood Park
- near many UN residences and consulates
- adjacent to FDR Drive and overlooking the East River
- entirely fenced in
- mostly paving bricks in an L shape, underneath pedestrian bridge at E. 50th St.
- bench seating, cleaning equipment, waste bags and waste bins
- steep stone steps at entrance, not accessible
- can be noisy because of proximity to FDR
- some trees and dirt ground covering
- no small dog area
- waste bags and poop scoopers
- water
- good fencing and entry area



Hillside Dog Park

New York, NY
Vine St, Brooklyn Heights

- occupies sloping space
- became parkland when it was no longer needed for the highway
- 1.37 acres
- designated a Neighborhood Park
- wood chips ground cover
- between residential neighborhood and Brooklyn Bridge Park (interest for owners)
- shade, benches, hose, water fountain for both humans and dogs
- large area for dogs to run
- portable wading pool
- big and small dog runs
- parking can be difficult
- waste bins
- wooded area in the back
- dirt/mulch/woodchips ground covering, and grasses
- picnic tables and benches around the mature trees
- garbage provided through system of owners donating them



105th St Dog Run

New York, NY
Riverside Dr & W 105th St.

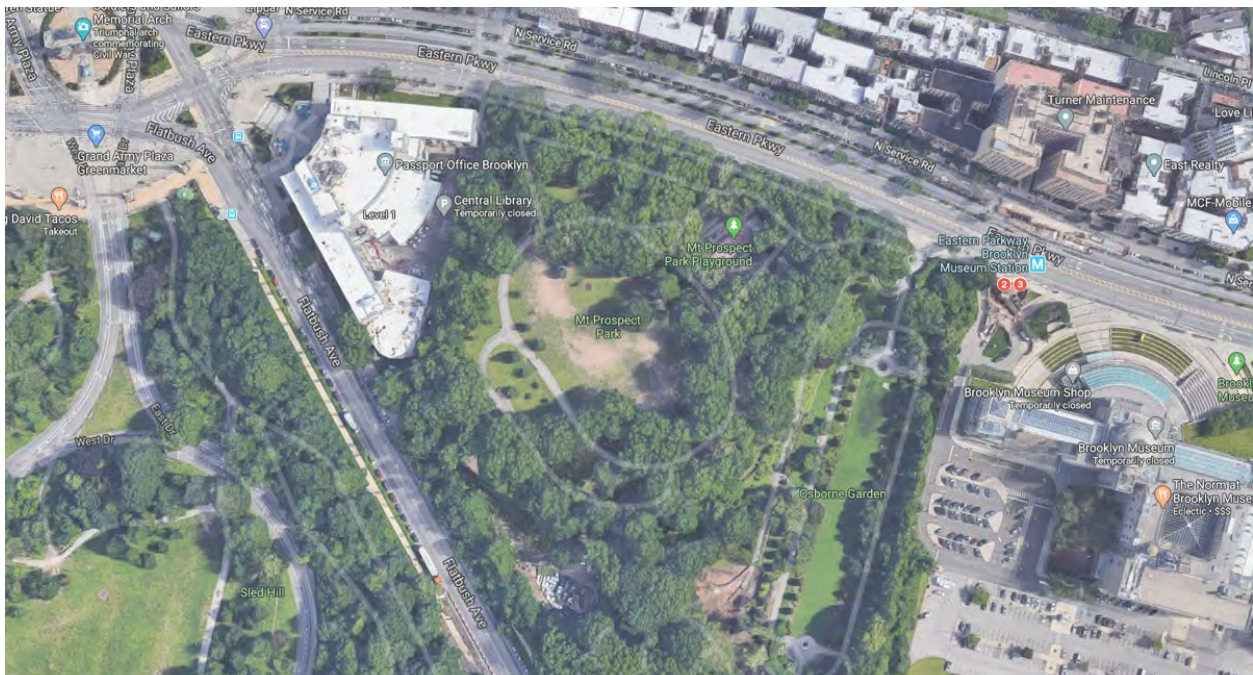
- operated by the Riverside Park Conservancy, a non-profit
- open all year long
- plastic bags and water provided
- lots of open space with separate runs for large and small dogs
- rejuvenated in 2012
- sand and gravel ground covering
- small tub and hose
- rakes and bags, as well as cleaning equipment
- restaurant and platform right across from the run, adjoining bar and cafe
- trees and greenery of Riverside Park
- 3 drinking bowls
- crushed granite litter material



Mount Prospect Park

New York, NY
Eastern Pkwy, Brooklyn

- 7.79 acres, park total
- designated Neighborhood Park, not a dedicated dog run
- off-leash hours 5am-9am, and in the evenings 9pm-1am
- fenced off part of the lake for dogs to swim in during the summer
- big open grassy area
- plenty of street parking
- dog friendly spouts
- bathrooms nearby
- seating only on paths
- off-leash areas: Middle and Upper Long Meadow, Neathermead, Peninsula
- two places for dogs to swim during off leash hours: Long Meadow Dog Beach at the Pools, and the water at the Lake adjacent to the Peninsula meadow
- dogs not allowed on ballfields at any time
- neighboring facilities: BBQs, baseball fields, bathrooms, bicycling and greenways, eateries, fishing, fitness equipment, hiking trails, historic houses, horseback riding trails, ice skating rinks, nature centers, playgrounds, spray showers, tennis courts, Wi-Fi hot spots, zoos and aquariums
- preservation and maintenance efforts taken on by the Prospect Park Alliance
- good signage



12. Halifax, NS

7 year-round OLA sites: 6 multiple use, 1 single use. Seasonal are all multiple use: 6 (summer sports fields); 30 (winter sports fields).

Health and Safety

- you must keep your dog leashed and under control in all Halifax parks unless otherwise specifically permitted
- there are designated off-leash areas in certain municipal parks and sports fields that you can use for off-leash activities provided that rules are followed. These areas are shared by all residents
- NB: “shared by all residents” is no longer entirely true because they now have dedicated off-leash parks that are enclosed and obviously single-purpose
- according to Reddit, there was a leptospirosis outbreak centred on the city’s dog parks two years ago
- dogs require a licence, but it is not dependent on a vaccination for rabies.
- Licencing fees:
 - neutered/spayed dogs: 1 year \$15, lifetime \$75 + microchip implant
 - intact dogs: 1 year \$50, lifetime \$200 + microchip implant
- that the area is of sufficient size to accommodate the expected level of usage
- that the use is compatible with the physical and environmental capabilities of the park and is designed to take into account:
 - topography
 - hydrology
 - vegetation and
 - property configuration
- the off-leash dog area use is compatible with other recreational activities and can occur simultaneously in the Park without negatively impacting other uses
- the off-leash dog use does not jeopardize public safety
- the type and proximity of nearby land uses outside of the park, and that adequate separation distances or mitigation measures are available to provide an appropriate buffer
- the availability of sufficient and appropriate parking
- any appropriate regulations or design features which should be imposed to satisfy the above criteria
- opportunities to encourage a greater level of physical activity by dog owners, such as having trails where owners can walk while their dog is off-leash; and the financial implications of establishing the off-leash dog area

Environmental Design

In considering new off-leash areas within parks, there is a broad range of factors that must be considered. The Administrative Order governing OLAs therefore sets out a requirement to prepare an evaluation, addressing a range of factors including:

- population distribution and dog licensing data

Accessibility

- Halifax has one fenced OLA that is only for service dogs and their owners

Etiquette:

- dog owners must have a licence, pick up waste, and keep dog leashed unless signs allow otherwise
- do not use the sports fields during wet weather conditions or unleash your dog when children or adults are playing on a sports field

Enforcement

off-leash rules:

- dogs must be on leash unless signs indicate otherwise
- dogs must have current municipal tags. (fine for not: \$237.50-\$5,000)
- you must carry a leash
- your dog must come to you when called
- there have been trespassing and noise complaints from property owners near some off-leash parks. Do not allow your pets to leave the off-leash area, it is essential that you only allow dogs with effective recall skills to be off leash in this area.
- you must keep your dog within sight
- you will be held responsible for any damages or injuries caused by a dog in your care
- dogs must not interfere with other park users
- aggressive dogs, female dogs in heat, and puppies under three months old are not permitted in off-leash areas

- you must pick up your dog's waste immediately
- don't unleash your dog when children or adults are playing in a sports field
- enforcement of bylaws is done by City bylaw enforcement, Halifax regional police and potentially animal control officers

Parking

- the availability of sufficient and appropriate parking is a requirement for siting OLAs in Halifax

Waste Disposal & Bags

- not discussed

Signage

- signage is required at all OLAs with rules

Buffer for Visual/Sound Attenuation

- not mentioned

Shade & Wind Protection

- not mentioned

Drainage

- not mentioned

Vegetative Restoration

- not mentioned

General Size of DOLA

- from 2017 staff report/Administrative Order: In relation to recreation for dogs

and their owners, off-leash dog areas are generally not appropriate at the Neighbourhood Park scale. This is due to the fact that such parks are typically small, located on local streets, have no parking, are intended to serve a limited population, and do not generally have sufficient area to accommodate an off-leash area with separation from residential uses while also allowing other recreational activities. Therefore, the criteria of the AO favour off-leash areas being provided within larger parks and in areas where population densities and number of dog licenses are the highest. Continued use of seasonal off-leash areas within sports fields, however, may serve to function at the neighbourhood level in many instances. There may also be some larger neighbourhood parks which exhibit characteristics that make them suitable for limited off-leash use. Sports courts, such as tennis or basketball courts, even when located in a larger park are not appropriate for off-leash use in any season due to high potential for user conflicts and potential issues with a concentration of dogs within small confined spaces.

- municipal order: a minimum Park size of 2.5 acres generally [is] required to accommodate an Off-Leash Dog Area;

Small Dog Area

- not mentioned

Surfacing

- granular

Entries & Gates

- double for the one gated park

Fencing

- two-types of OLA in Halifax:
 - shared Off-Leash Park (no fence)
 - dedicated Off-Leash Park (enclosed by fence)
- City report 2017: For new dedicated areas, there are styles of fencing other than chain link that can be considered, depending on the site and degree of concern over aesthetics

Lighting

- not consistent

Irrigation

- not consistent

Picnic Tables & Benches

- not mentioned

Community News Boards

- not mentioned

Water Station (Bottle/Dog Fountain)

- not mentioned

Agility Equipment or Water Play

- being installed in one park (the only fenced single use park)

Operations, Maintenance and Community Groups

- no volunteer organizations, but according to news reports, a sense of community has formed around the one fenced in dog park
- owners expected to pick up dogs' waste
- from report: some municipalities utilize a pay-per-use system where users of the off-leash area must pay to gain access to the site. This approach is something that may be considered in the future; however, at this time the proposed AO and the existing Parks By-law do not enable this means of service delivery. There is at least one privately owned off-leash area within HRM, and the private sector is better positioned to deliver this service on private lands that are appropriately zoned for such a commercial use.

Sources:

Halifax Staff. Off-leash Dog Area Administrative Order, Regional Council Report, 2017.

<https://www.halifax.ca/home-property/animal-services/halifax-leash-areas>

<https://www.halifax.ca/recreation/parks-trails-gardens/parks-outdoor-spaces/leash-dog-parks>

<https://www.halifax.ca/off-leash>

Mainland Common Dedicated

Halifax, NS
Mainland North Linear Pkwy

- parking lot available
- open grassy area suitable for playing fetch
- water tap or fountain for drinking water available, rain barrel for filling dog dish
- dog bags and garbage cans
- fenced off-leash
- small but scenic wooded area and wetland bog
- rapidly expanding destination for dog lovers and trail walkers
- separate section for small dogs only, large dog area, wooded area for both
- ideally located adjacent to Mainland North Linear Trail and sports fields
- in Clayton Park
- interpretive panels, maps and signage
- loop trail with bog look-off
- full of recreation options: baseball fields, soccer fields, Canada Games Centre, BMO Soccer Centre
- easy bus access
- upgraded drainage system- crusher dust now prevents buildup of mud
- shade structure



Sandy Lake Park

Halifax, NS
110 Smiths Rd, Bedford

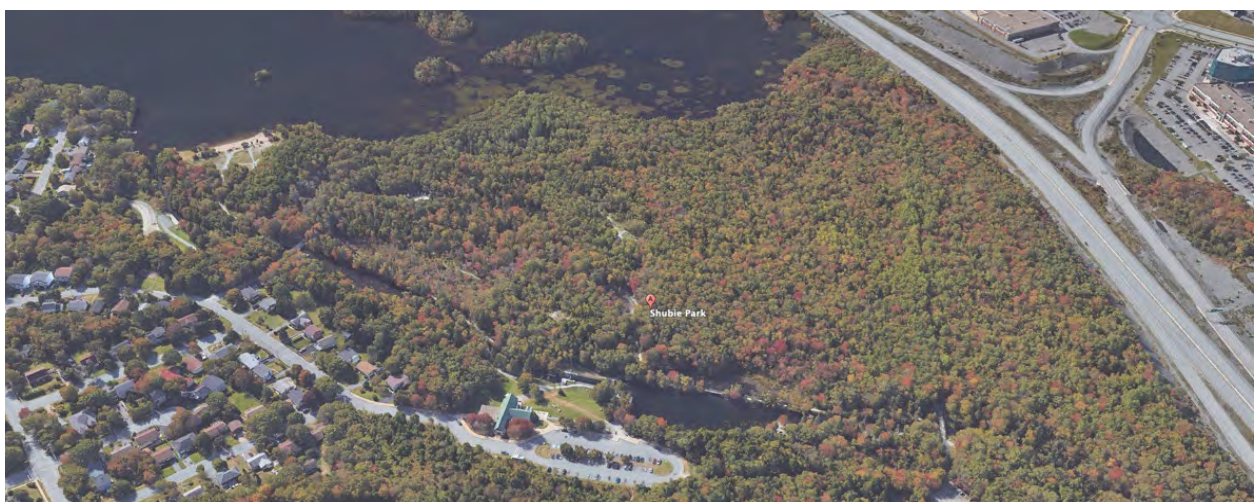
- neighboring facilities: parking lot, beach, change rooms/bathrooms, picnic area, beach volleyball court
- minimal signage
- trails area all off-leash
- garbage cans and dog bag dispensers
- parking at gate
- October-June is off-season and mostly off-leash in the park, except for the beach, beach season July 1-Sept 30
- large wooded area with lake access available for off-leash year-round, lake is within the Sackville River Watershed
- side trails with main trail
- freshwater access good for swimming
- terrain is rocky
- picnic tables overlooking the lake
- lake bordered by drumlins and multi-aged Acadian forest with pit and mound topography



Shubie Park

Halifax, NS
54 Locks Rd, Dartmouth

- canals run between each trail
- heavily forested
- signage marks on and off-leash areas for dogs
- parking lot, areas good for fetch, washrooms, waste bins, water fountain, freshwater access for swimming
- 1km of wooded trails, sizeable off-leash trail area
- off-leash dog park on the shores of MicMac Lake for running, swimming and socializing
- Trans Canada Trail connection
- many access points
- trails wide and accessible



Dartmouth Commons

Halifax, NS
Thistle Street and Wyse Road.

- 300acre park, fenced dog area
- 10 blocks of downtown Dartmouth
- street parking and parking lot
- set on a hillside, overlooking the city, steep so less accessible
- wide open and grassy
- maintained by the Halifax Regional Municipality
- neighboring facilities: baseball fields, city hall, library, museum, sports plex, schools, burial grounds
- volunteer run community initiative
- gardens
- community park with community pizza oven



Point Pleasant Park

Halifax, NS
5530 Point

- historic 75ha wooded area
- most of the park is wheelchair accessible
- 39km of easy, crisscross trail
- neighboring facilities: washrooms, cycling, preserved ruins, cultural walking tour, 2 parking lots
- all off-leash except: Sailors Memorial Way: no dogs allowed after 10am, Cambridge
- drive: dogs must be on-leash at all times, Parking lots: on-leash
- open area for fetch, paved or crushed gravel trails, access to salt water for swimming, and waste bins
- several off-leash trails and areas



13. Port Adelaide Enfield, Australia

- various public documents relating to studies on pet ownership and OLAs:
 - People, Pets and Places Animal Management Plan 2018-2023, by the City of Port Adelaide Enfield
 - Unleashed: A Guide to Successful Dog Parks, by the Dog and Cat Management Board, 2013
 - Design, Planning and Management of Off-leash Dog Parks, by Bob Holderness-Roddam M.Env.Mgmt., November 2017
- “A dog park is a designated public area that’s been set aside for dog guardians to legally exercise, play and socialise with their dogs off-leash in a secure environment. The park is fully enclosed or fenced and has amenities that make it clear that dogs are invited, not just permitted” from Unleashed: A Guide to Successful Dog Parks
- ALL dog parks in Port Adelaide Enfield are fenced
- 20 enclosed dog parks in Port Adelaide Enfield
- community engagement for these studies and documents for future planning includes:
 - online community survey,
 - face-to-face meeting with key stakeholders
 - telephone conversations with adjoining councils
 - focus group discussions with people from other cultures
 - Walk n’ Talk with beach users, (6) elected member presentations, (7) staff workshops, (8) social media campaign- from the People, Pets and Places Animal Management Plan 2018-2023
- most dog parks are developed by local councils
- dog equipment (particularly tunnels) and multi-dimensional surfaces are common in the planning and design of OLAs
- there are designated puppy parks as well as areas for small dogs
- unleashed: A Guide to Successful Dog Parks includes a Dog Park Checklist with elements categorized under Planning, Design, and Management and Operations, to assist in maintaining and opening OLAs in South Australia

Health and Safety

Environmental Design

- core infrastructure
 - perimeter fencing (this is likely to be the biggest single cost)
 - entry gates/doggy airlock (2 gates per entry)
 - service (maintenance) gates
 - pathways (internal and external)
 - ground surfaces (e.g. grass, mulch, gravel, sand, concrete)
 - landscaping (e.g. vegetation, screen planting, mounding)
- essential amenities

- drinking water fountains (including plumbing & drainage)
- bins and bag dispensers
- shelter
- seating
- signs (e.g. directional and park rules)
- optional amenities
 - site lighting
 - facilities (e.g. toilets)
 - notice board
 - dog equipment
- the site for a dog park is often dictated by the location of available land; however, this may not always be the most appropriate location. A good location should:
 - be easily accessible by road
 - have adequate space for off-street parking
 - have connections to existing pedestrian paths and trails
 - be within walking distance of residential areas
 - have good surveillance from public areas (not an isolated site).
- Other considerations include:
 - proximity to compatible uses/activities or other community facilities
 - some natural vegetation and topography
 - good drainage
- linear and non-rectangular shapes should be considered as they offer more opportunities to encourage park users to move and be more active through the park
 - linear shapes encourage people to move through a space and promote exercise by walking rather than standing in one spot. This has the additional benefit of reducing the concentration of dogs in one location by dispersing dogs and people throughout the park.
 - irregular (odd) shapes work better than rectangles. They provide more opportunities to create spaces for dogs to ‘get out of the main flow of traffic and ways to take a break from or avoid high-energy body-slammings canines’ (Smith, 2007: 26).
- park layout is one of the most important elements in the design of a dog park as this can influence the interactions within the dog park. It influences how dogs interact with each other, with people and how people interact with each other. ‘Many dogs may be sociable and friendly in one park but less so in another and the reason will often reflect the dog park’s design’ (Larsen Bridge, 2007:n.p).
- a variety of spaces or activity zones should be created within the dog park.
 - activity spaces or zones offer dogs a range of opportunities including active running as well as quieter environments where they can sniff, play and interact with their owners, and play one-on-one with other dogs away from the high running areas
 - activity zones also help in dispersing the dog and human traffic throughout the park, and the spread of wear and tear on the ground surfaces

- activity zones can be created by using earth mounding or vegetation to create visual barriers within the park to interrupt dogs from running
- towards each other and body slamming each other (King and Long, 2004). They also provide a natural refuge where dogs can get away for 'time out.' It is not recommended to have fenced areas within the dog park for 'time out' zones.

Accessibility

- easily accessible by road listed as criteria for good location. As well:
 - have connections to existing pedestrian paths and trails
 - be within walking distance of residential areas
- walking paths and/or trails within the park encourage dog owners to walk with their dogs rather than standing in one place. This helps reduce congestion and the concentration of dogs in one particular location and the potential for dogs to form into loose groups (Smith, 2007). 'Many older dogs are really not that interested in playing with other dogs but do love to run and explore. Paths that encourage owners and dogs to keep walking are best for enhancing the dog/owner relationship and preventing dog to dog conflict' (Larsen Bridge, 2007: n.p).

Etiquette

- below are some examples of dog park rules and etiquette in Australia
- Belconnen Dog Park, Lake Ginninderra, ACT, Australia
- please do:

- keep walking-this will reduce territorial behaviour
- stay alert and focused on your dog at all times
- keep your dog under effective control and leave if it becomes aggressive
- bring plastic bags and clean up after your dog-bins are provided
- limit dogs you bring to two per owner if possible

– please don't:

- come into the park if your dog is vaccinated, aggressive or on heat
- bring puppies that have not completed their vaccinations
- come into the enclosure if it is already crowded
- bring in food and toys
- bring in children without careful adult supervision

Enforcement (and education)

- good surveillance from public areas suggested as criteria for good location
- dog parks are established on the concept that park users will police themselves and each other rather than be subject to law enforcement personnel. Therefore, investing resources into education sessions for park users on what constitutes good dog park etiquette and how to stay safe is important, and provides an opportunity to address issues in a more positive manner.
 - in South Australia, dog park education is slowly being recognized as an important element of dog park management

- “Many dog guardians don’t know how to recognize if their dog is being bullied or being the bully or what good and bad play looks like. Dog park education needs to address concepts such as: basic park manners and skills, how to read dog body postures, and how to keep both dogs and people safe”

Parking

- according to their research 62% of people drive to dog parks – parking becomes very important
- thus important location criterion is that the location have adequate space for off-street parking
- the transition from the car park to the designated entrance of the dog park needs to be direct and safe. Locating off-street parking as close as possible to the dog park entrance is important in order to discourage owners letting their dog off-leash to and from the park and to reduce any potential conflict with nearby facilities/activities

Waste Disposal & Bags

- bag dispensers and waste bins should be considered at appropriate locations in and around the park for cleaning up after dogs
- consider bag dispensers with a locking device to prevent bags being pulled continuously and scattered in the park
- provide waste bins of a sufficient size and number to accommodate the expected demand
- parks should be fitted with dog waste bag dispensers and bags, and bins to allow the correct disposal of fecal material and other waste

- waste bins should be emptied more frequently than a conventional council bin, especially during warm to hot weather when unpleasant odours can be a problem

Signage

- directional signs should be located in areas of high visibility to clearly direct park users to the designated dog park. Information signs should be located within the park to prompt appropriate park user behaviour
- park rules should be located in high visibility areas en route to the park but at a distance from the main entry gates to avoid congestion, but not too far as that will discourage people from walking over to read them
- park rules should be presented in a friendly, easy to read and positive manner with consideration given to users who may not have English as their first language. Consider using signs that convey positive language or tone and icons or diagrams to reinforce key messages
 - pick up after your dog
 - always supervise your dog
 - dogs must be under effective control at all times
 - all dogs must have up-to-date vaccinations
 - report all dog attacks
 - close the gate properly
 - remove your dog if it annoys, intimidates or becomes aggressive towards other dogs
 - all children entering the park must be actively supervised by an adult
 - park not suitable for puppies
 - number of dogs allowed per person

- clear simple messages using symbols on attractive signs will gain attention and engage dog owners

Shade & Wind Protection

- shade should be provided so dogs can rest, cool themselves, and protect themselves against the weather. Trees as a natural source of shade are preferable, although they may need protection from urinating dogs until established.

Drainage

- good drainage listed as a consideration for location of dog park

Vegetative Restoration

- landscaping and plants add to the amenity of the park, but it is important to ensure that plants are non-toxic and non-irritating to dogs
- there are many plants that have seeds, stems, leaves, fruits or flowers that are irritating and/or toxic to dogs, and these plants should not be used either inside or on the way to a dog park
- consider introducing plants with various textures to enrich the dogs experience at the park

General Size of DOLA

- size range given in plan – 100 sq m to 17,000 sq m
- there is no simple formula for an ideal park size, and in many circumstances the size of the park is influenced by the amount of land available or the type of open space (i.e. local, district or region) proposed for the park. A major consideration in determining

an appropriate size is the expected number of users although this may be difficult to ascertain and may be influenced by the number of other off-leash parks in surrounding areas. In addition, a park that caters for the travelling community in a rural town would not require as much space as a destination park that gets regular, high use from external visitors to the area (e.g. North Adelaide Dog Park). However size does matter and generally, larger parks are better.

- ‘The area should be big enough for dogs to run around and space themselves out. If there’s not enough square footage available, a park can easily get crowded. Crowding can lead to tension among dogs and, as a result, fights can erupt’ (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 2013:n.p). The design and layout of the space also has a major influence on the effectiveness of the park as a dog park.
- advantages of larger sized parks include:
 - less wear and tear of ground surfaces
 - reduced overcrowding of dogs
 - less stressful for dogs
 - cater for more park users
 - provides a destination park, particularly if co-located with compatible activities
 - provides opportunities to create different activity zones within the dog park
- disadvantages of larger size parks include:
 - increased costs for core infrastructure (e.g. perimeter fencing, ground surfaces)
 - more maintenance required

- high visitation and overuse encouraged
- greater demands on parking
- traffic issues in surrounding streets
- generation of community resistance by using significant sections of open space
- advantages of smaller sized parks include:
 - provide a local community focus
 - provide off-leash opportunities in innercity locations
 - cost less to construct
 - address specific needs e.g. a dog park for the travelling community
- disadvantages of smaller sized parks include:
 - lead to overcrowding and potential dog to dog conflict
 - be overused, leading to deterioration of ground surfaces
 - inattentive owner behaviour
 - a small fenced area does not encourage people to walk with their dogs, but rather to stand around socialising. This increases the risk of inadequate supervision of dog behaviour. (McArthur, 2007: 85)

Small Dog Area

- shown in image but not really discussed beyond discouraging a fenced time-out area. Small dog areas seem to be approved, however.

Surfacing

- surface material choice can have a big impact on the appearance and experience at the dog park. This is a difficult issue to provide advice on because there is limited research on suitable ground surfaces for dog parks.
- a combination of surface materials should be used to match the activity zones (also see park layout) and corresponding intensity
- all surface materials must be ‘dog friendly’. Asphalt is not considered a suitable option because it can get ‘too hot in summer for dogs to walk on, and can possibly tear or burn the pads of their feet’ (Stecchi, n.d.:03-13).
- surfaces should be selected to deter dogs from moving too fast and getting up too much speed in the park
- well drained, durable, all weather materials are required for high traffic areas such as the safety airlock
- different materials have their own advantages and disadvantages and when selecting a surface material for an activity zone the intensity of use should be considered along with drainage, topography and maintenance requirements
- for example, grass has shown to be a poor surface for high running areas (active zones) in a dog park as it tends to deteriorate quickly, dust forms, and requires repair or replacement
- concrete may be appropriate for surfacing in the safety airlock, a high traffic area
- some of the different surface materials used in existing dog parks in South Australia includes:
 - grass or turf

- sand
- concrete
- bare earth
- gravel
- asphalt
- mulch/bark chips
- some questions to guide the selection of surface materials include:
 - is it dog friendly?
 - can the material withstand the wear and tear of dogs running?
 - can the surface help reduce dogs getting up too much speed?
 - does the material emit dust and if so, how will the dust be controlled?
 - is the material durable, will it last in a high activity area?
 - what maintenance will be required?

Entries & Gates

- providing multiple entry/exit points serves to minimise dog and human congestion at these locations and reduces wear and tear on surface materials. If there is only one main entry/exit point, dogs tend to converge on the newcomer, which can be a potential source of conflict.
- entry/exit points should be clear of physical structures and amenities such as shelters, benches or drinking fountains to discourage dogs and people congregating
- a separate entry for maintenance/service vehicles (i.e. council and emergency vehicles) should be provided away from the main entry/exit gates
- double-gates should be provided to prevent dogs escaping from the park. The double gates provide a 'safety airlock' where park

users transition from the external, on-leash environment to the internal, off-leash environment of the dog park.

- the safety airlock is a high traffic area and surface materials need to be durable to withstand high usage and be dog friendly
- gates should be fitted with self-closing child-proof locks to prevent dogs escaping and unsupervised children entering the park
- screening the entry gates from other dogs within the park can help avoid the potential for dog conflict when entering

Fencing

- secure perimeter fencing should be provided to discourage dogs escaping under, over or through the fence.
- constructing the fence with a concrete plinth will also assist with maintenance and prevent smaller dogs escaping under the fence. For example, Minkarra Dog Park, Flagstaff Hill located near a busy road used a chain mesh fence 1.7m high with a concrete plinth. The plinth also serves as a mow strip.
- moveable fencing may also be considered to close off areas of the park for events, or to allow for maintenance and/or turf regeneration
- it is desirable to select a fencing material that provides good visibility so that park users can see activity inside and around the park

Lighting

- site lighting is sometimes provided to extend hours of park use, particularly during winter months. However, lighting should be compatible with

adjacent land uses, particularly in residential areas.

Irrigation

- not discussed

Picnic Tables & Benches

- seating location and materials are an important consideration in the design stage. Some considerations include:
 - seating should be located away from entry/exit gates to avoid congestion
 - keep seating to a minimum, as people tend to sit down, socialize, and do less interacting with their dog. It is better to encourage dog owners to keep moving through the park, interacting and staying connected with their dog (also see circulation paths)
 - seating should be positioned to provide unobstructed views of the dog play areas
 - benches that surround trees are a good choice because they help protect the trees from dog urinating
 - picnic tables should not be located inside the dog park as they encourage food in the park. These facilities must be accommodated outside the dog park, at a good distance from the dog park entry gates.

Community News Boards

- providing a public notice board can assist park users to obtain useful information on animal health, welfare and safety and community events in the dog park e.g.

dog park education sessions. A notice board also provides an opportunity for the community to exchange information.

- notice boards for public use should be located outside the park and away from the main entry gates
- they could be situated alongside the park rules

Water Station (Bottle/Dog Fountain)

- drinking water for both dogs and humans is required inside the dog park. Dogs cannot cool themselves as efficiently as humans, therefore, they must have access to water and shade. It is recommended that more than one drinking water fountain be provided in the park. It is common in South Australian parks to have combined drinking fountains and water bowls catering for both dogs and humans.
- in providing drinking water bowls/fountains, it is important to consider:
 - adequate drainage around the water bowl to reduce water logging and mud
 - location of the water bowl away from the main entry gates to discourage dogs congregating in high traffic areas
 - suitable water bowls that are large enough for all dogs to use and easy to clean and maintain

Agility Equipment or Water Play

- providing equipment for dogs to practice their natural skills can be a bonus and this could include: tyres, logs, boulders, tunnels and other elements to enrich a dog's experience at the park

- dog equipment such as jumps, bridges with sloping sides and A-Frames can present issues if dogs and their owners have not been trained in their proper use, and may pose a safety problem to dogs (McArthur, 2006).
- audits of over 160 dog parks in the United States found that agility equipment:
 - falls into rapid decay from non-use or misuse
 - are used by very few people for their dogs
 - is used by children as a playground
 - is a waste of space and money unless you have users who are committed to using them (Stecchi, n.d)
 - it is recommended that puppies under 12 months of age do not use this equipment as puppies have soft bones and joints, which are easily injured (McArthur, 2006)
 - if dog equipment is considered it should be located away from entry/exit points and high running areas (active zones)
- allocating a budget for monetary costs and staff resources for ongoing maintenance is essential. It is ideal that this be given consideration at the planning stage. Although good design and sound construction may entail higher initial project costs this needs to be considered in balance with higher long-term maintenance costs associated with poor choices of materials and/or inappropriate placement of amenities.
- regular and effective monitoring of the spaces and the elements within it is important as it helps identify existing and emerging issues associated with a dog park including:
 - deterioration of surface materials
 - poor drainage
 - site amenities in poor or unsafe condition, ineffective gate closures and fencing
 - it is suggested that a regular maintenance program be
 - developed for each dog park site that outlines activities that need to be undertaken and the frequency they need to occur: daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually

Operations, Maintenance and Community Groups

- ongoing management and efficient day to day operations or maintenance are essential to the long-term success of a dog park. Although timely and regular maintenance is a key factor in the successful operation of any open space, dog parks have some unique characteristics and requirements that need to be addressed to provide a positive experience for both dogs and their owners.
- some of the key maintenance activities include:
 - picking up uncollected dog waste from the site
 - emptying waste bins
 - re-supplying dog waste bags
 - fixing broken or weathered signs
 - filling holes dug by dogs
 - pruning of plants
 - general cleaning and deodorising

- maintaining and replacing surface materials
- deficiencies in facilities e.g. drainage and erosion
- repairing perimeter fencing and gate locks
- repairing, replacing, park furnishings and dog equipment
- the engagement of park users in the day-to-day maintenance of a dog park is a model that could be considered as this can facilitate a sense of ownership and provide a more immediate response to issues that arise. This has the added benefit of reducing council costs and staff resources.
 - for example, the Alexandrina Council has implemented a program ‘Adopt a Dispenser’ where community members take responsibility for looking after a dog bag dispenser including re-stocking of plastic bags
 - technology such as ‘apps’ for park users to report issues with physical site conditions and maintenance needs could be considered to provide timely monitoring of maintenance or management issues e.g. Snap Send Solve
- anecdotal suggestions for adopting a park poo bag dispenser for volunteers
- evaluation: As dog parks continue to be developed it is important to know how effective they are from a social, physical, economic and dog behaviour perspective. Some questions that may need answers include:
 - do dog parks really work?
 - how is the effectiveness of dog parks measured?
 - what can we learn from existing parks?
 - how can existing dog parks inform the development of new and upgrade of existing parks?
- some indicators of effectiveness could include:
 - complaints, calls and feedback received by councils
 - monitor the number of dog park users to assess if the park is overused or underused e.g. gate counter
 - regular visits to the dog park while people are using it can tell you a lot about the park culture, dynamics and interactions.

Golden Grove Dog Park Port Adelaide Enfield, Australia **5125**

- fully fenced
- dog obstacles designed to accommodate novice through advanced dogs
- shade, seating, drinking water for dogs, poo bags and bins
- designed more for owners to walk their dogs off-leash with minimal distractions, vs. large open area for running and playing
- ground cover includes wood chips, paved pathways (accessible)
- tunnels
- double gate
- boulders and trees



Hectorville: Four Paws Park

Port Adelaide Enfield
5073

- variety of dog exercise equipment: tunnels, hoops, weaving poles, hurdles and a ramp
- dog drinking fountain, benches for seating
- integration into the landscape of Denis Morrissey Park, half of the park is covered in bark and is full of trees, as well as grassy areas
- lighting
- neighboring amenities: childrens play equipment, shelter, access to hiking trails
- public toilets located at the entrance
- parking lot
- well-fenced, two fully fenced areas: one for small dogs and puppies and one for large/ adult dogs
- double gates add security and the large/all dog area has a large mound
- both areas good size for running
- shelters, seating, footpaths, and dual use drinking fountains
- large open space and creek to explore
- picnic area
- opened in 2012
- course bins and doggy bags
- located behind a petrol station
- designed after lengthy community engagement



Pityarilla Dog Park

- also known as Marshmallow Park
- two large fenced enclosures, one for small dogs and one for larger breeds
- all entrances have a bin and doggy bag dispenser
- standard double gate, with high door latch handles for childproofing
- central turf area
- mature gum trees in the parklands provide shade

Port Adelaide Enfield, Australia
Greenhill Rd.

- sheltered area with seating
- water taps for both dogs and humans, designed to also refill water bottles
- logs, rocks, turfed grass
- water feature for dogs
- neighboring amenities: Marshmallow playspace, picnics area in the plaza, renewed creek bed, Oxbow Playspace (wild nature play), community courts, landscaped promenades
- parking lot



Stebonheath

- neighboring amenities: playground, BMX track and wetlands, toilets, BBQ facilities, deli and chip shop nearby
- 2900sq meters in Stebonheath Park, using existing trees to provide additional shade
- multiple water fountains, hills and mounds, tunnels, shelter and seating
- opened in 2013

Port Adelaide Enfield, AU Andrews Farm 5114

- installation of soakage pits to reduce water ponding on the grassed area
- addition of compost and coarse-washed sand to improve drainage
- fenced, poo bags, shelter, seating, agility equipment



Flagstaff Hill: Minkarra

Port Adelaide Enfield, AU
Happy Valley Dr. & Manning Rd.

- 0.4ha area
- poo bags, water fountains, hoops, jumps, hurdles
- fully fenced off, free-range dog park
- adjacent to: skate park, BMX track, playground (focus on families), walking and bike tracks
- designed after lengthy community engagement
- seating, weather shelters, drinking fountains, walking paths, and dog exercise equipment
- park furniture
- toilets
- park theme is ‘a park for everyone’



Bentley Reserve Holden Hill

Australia
32-40 Bentley Dr.

- fully fenced, divided into small space for dogs who need a bit more attention and large area where the free-range dogs can roam free
- jumps, logs, tunnels, and a slide for short training sessions
- rooms for play and shaded areas, shelters, seating, footpaths, and dual use drinking fountains
- neighboring amenities: large oval, playground, BBQ, tennis court, dogs allowed on lead, dog poo bags, picnic table, skate park, basketball ring, exercise equipment, toilets, netball court, Liberty Swing (for disabled children in wheelchairs to swing)
- adjacent to Holden Hill Community Centre



Baltimore Reserve

- park is full of native trees and shrubbery, it almost seems like Salisbury Council has fenced off a portion of bushland
- many places for dogs to explore and obstacles to run around
- tunnels, agility equipment, fountains and benches, pathways intertwining with the trees
- large oval nearby
- fully fenced

Port Adelaide Enfield, AU Parafield Gardens, 5107

- adjacent to: grassed kick/play field with soccer goals, basketball court, junior playground
- naturally undulating land crossed by trails and scattered with benches, wooden steps, jumps, large pipe tunnels, and drinking troughs
- AODA compliant for those in wheelchairs
- parking available
- shaded area



Roy Marten Dog Park

Port Adelaide Enfield, Australia
22 Wandana Terrace.

- two separate fenced off areas, for large and small dogs
- doggy water fountain
- car park
- adjacent amenities: play spaces, fitness trail, shelters, BBQs, sculptural garden, picnic tables, benches
- space to run, fully fenced, waste bins, seating, dog bags, bathrooms, water fountains
- multi-dimensional, with logs, grassy areas, mounds, wood chips, pathways, shelter, benches, tires, boulders, plantings, rubber ground cover
- quite large



Other Notable Dog Parks

In addition to the 15 municipalities researched and assessed, a number of individual dog parks across Ontario were reviewed. These include:

- Harmony Valley, Oshawa
- Bechtel Dog Park, Kitchener,
- Optimist Memorial Park, Windsor
- Apollo Crater Park Ottawa
- Prospect Park, Acton
- Cedarvale Park, Georgetown
- Jack Darling Park, Mississauga
- Etobicoke Valley Dog Park, Mississauga

Harmony Valley

Oshawa, ON
Grandview St

- 10ha off-leash area, areas of on and off-leash, marked with signage
- open 24 hours
- strong online presence, with photos of dogs, participating in Jane's Walk and recruitment requests for volunteers
- 25+ acres of open fields, water features and walking trails
- no fenced areas
- run by ODAWG (Oshawa Durham Area Walkers Group): conducting a spring cleanup, monitoring park use and etiquette, providing ongoing education, assisting in funding off-leash improvements, hosting meetings
- wooded with hills and gullies



Bechtel Dog Park

Kitchener, ON
59 Bridge St

- neighboring amenities: indoor field house (Manulife Soccer and Sports Complex), soccer and baseball fields, trails for hiking and cross-country skiing, batting cage, four hard court tennis courts, playground
- open 6 am-11 pm
- dog waste recycling program in Waterloo: Sutura receptacles that area collected less frequently (every 6-8 weeks) than

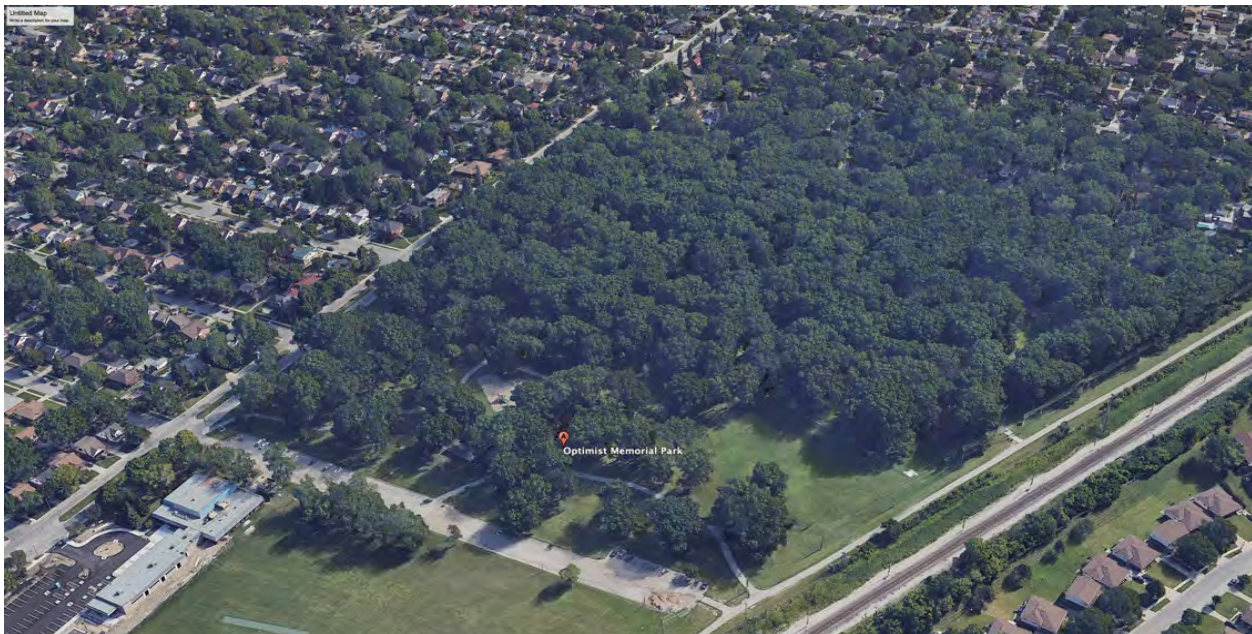
garbage receptacles, can have any poo bag put into them, separated in facility and the dog waste is turned into fertilizer and electricity put back into the grid (all-season use)



Optimist Memorial Park

Windsor, ON
1075 Ypres Ave

- entire park is 50 acres
- separate parks to accommodate small and large dogs, gated
- neighboring amenities: Optimist Community Centre, picnic shelter, soccer field, baseball, cricket pitch, play unit, toboggan hill, walking trails
- use during daylight hours only
- benches, doggy bags
- trees for shade



Apollo Crater Park

Ottawa, ON
600 Apollo Way

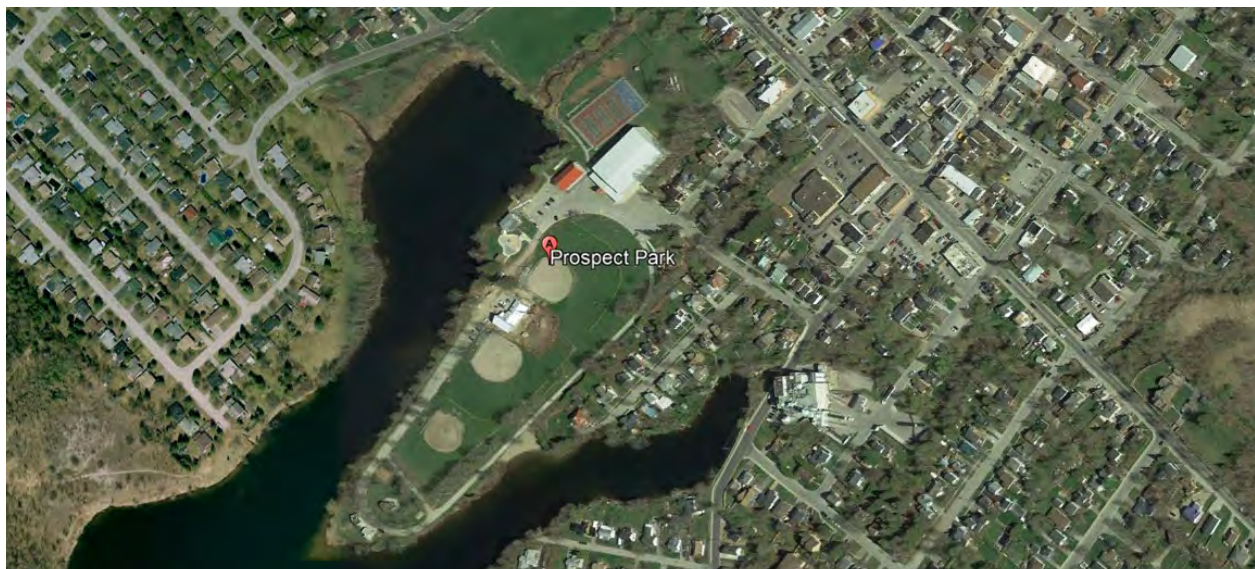
- large grass bowl (dry man-made storm water pond) with planted trees on edges, gradual slope, wide open landing areas, no obstructions
- no fences, voice recall required
- park for children on the edge
- no parking provided



Prospect Park

Acton, ON
30 Park Ave

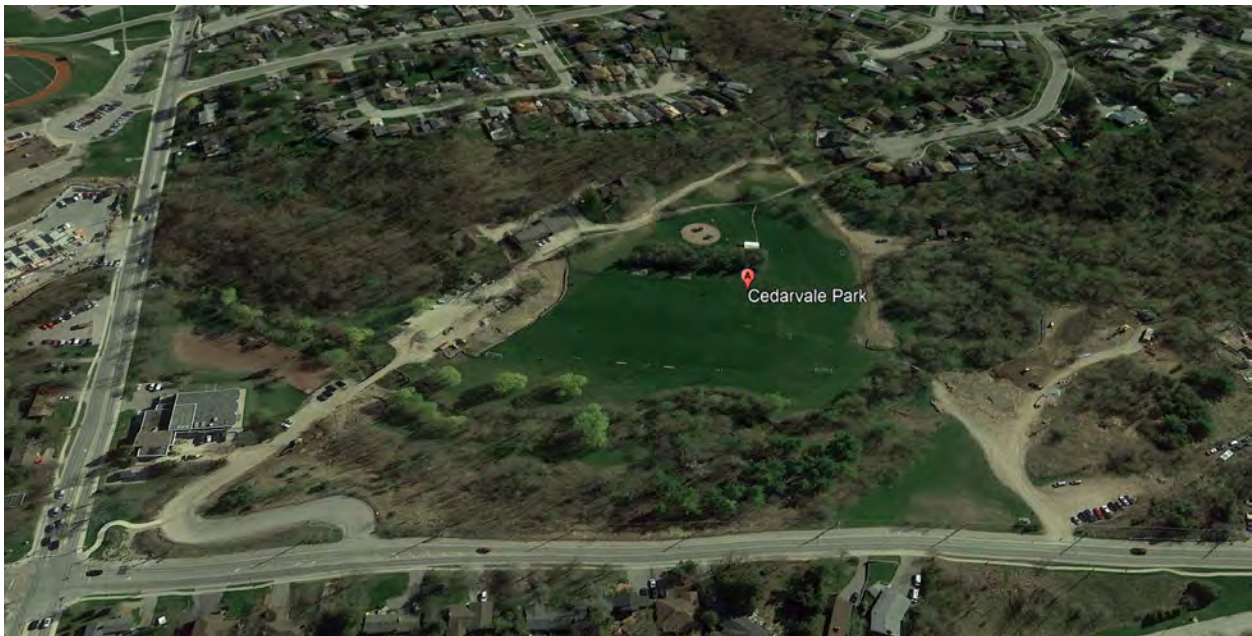
- Established and maintained by Leash-free Halton Hills volunteer group
- Membership is optional
- 0.6 acres of off leash area
- Motion sensor lights for night time usage
- Seating areas
- Hosts “Greyhound Only Hour”, for an additional fee Greyhound owners can participate in this event. Greyhounds must be muzzled
- On site parking
- neighboring amenities: Dufferin Rural Heritage Community Center, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, soccer field, kayaking, splash pad



Cedarvale Park

Georgetown, ON
181-185 Main St. S

- Established and maintained by Leash-free Halton Hills volunteer group
- Membership is optional
- 0.3 ha (0.8) acres of fenced off leash area
- Located in downtown Georgetown
- Automated lighting in leash free area.
- Seating areas
- Communication board for Leash-Free Halton Hills
- Hosts “Small Dog Hour”, for dogs under 25 lbs
- On site parking
- neighboring amenities: Armenian Boys’ Farm Home, soccer field, playground, trails



Jack Darling Park

Mississauga, ON
1180 Lakeshore Rd. West

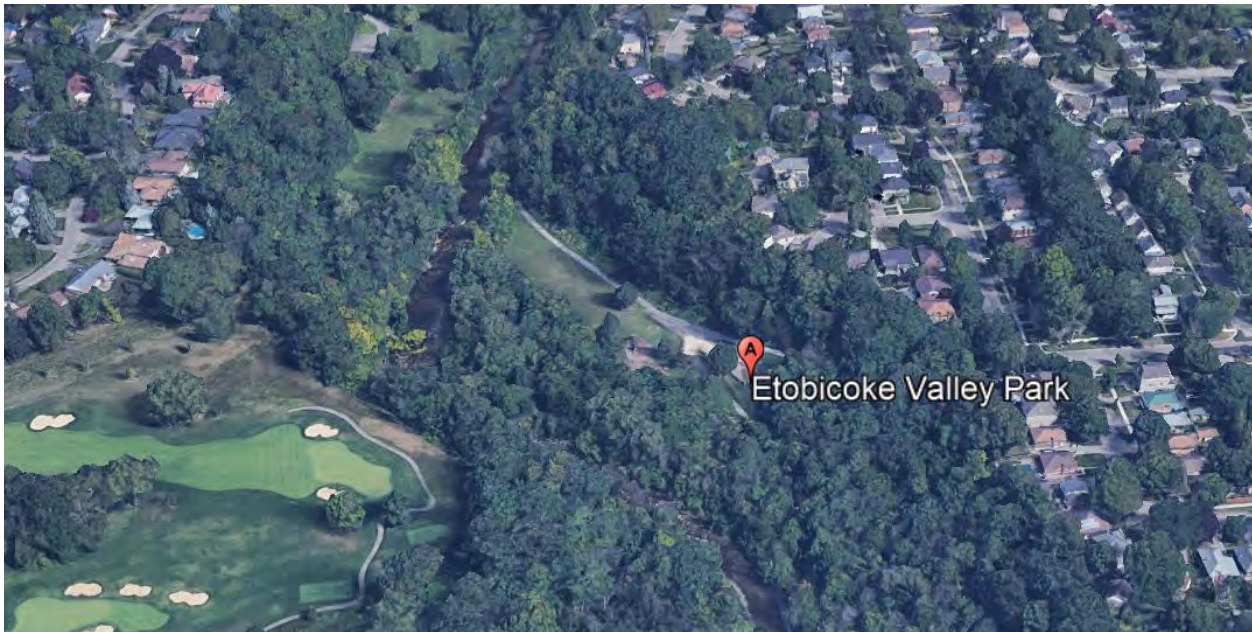
- One of the largest fenced off leash areas in Ontario (22 acres)
- Operated by Leash-Free Mississauga, a not for profit community organization that is a affiliated volunteer group with the City of Mississauga
- Organization is responsible for all day-to-day operations and capital improvements for all Leash-Free Zones in City of Mississauga parks, including Jack Darling
- Features a second small dog park for dogs under 25 lbs
- Daytime usage (7 am to 9 pm)
- Dogs must be leashed on weekends and holidays during the summer
- Voluntary membership is encouraged, but not mandatory
- On site parking
- Communication board for Leash-Free Mississauga
- Dog waste bags are available
- Neighboring amenities: toboggan hill, tennis courts, picnic area, playground, splash pad, trails



Etobicoke Valley Dog Park

Mississauga, ON
South of Dundas, Southcreek Rd

- Large naturalized off leash area: promoted as “a walk on the wild side”
- Creek side trail to walk dogs
- Not fully fenced
- Connections to many nearby parks including the City of Toronto’s Marie Curtis Dog Park
- Neighboring amenities: baseball diamonds, trails, parking
- Operated by Leash-Free Mississauga, a not for profit community organization that is a affiliated volunteer group with the City of Mississauga
- Organization is responsible for all day-to-day operations and capital improvements for all Leash-Free Zones in City of Mississauga parks, including Etobicoke Valley Dog Park
- Voluntary membership is encouraged, but not mandatory



City-Wide Study for Existing City of Toronto Dogs Off-Leash Areas

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Design, Operations, Maintenance, Administration and Best Practices



Appendix B: Case Studies



City of Toronto
May 2021



Document for the City of Toronto by

thinc design

Swerhun Facilitation

PLAN B Natural Heritage

Kerry Vinson, Animal Behaviour Consultants

Beverley McKee, Certified Fear Free Professional

Appendix B: Case Studies

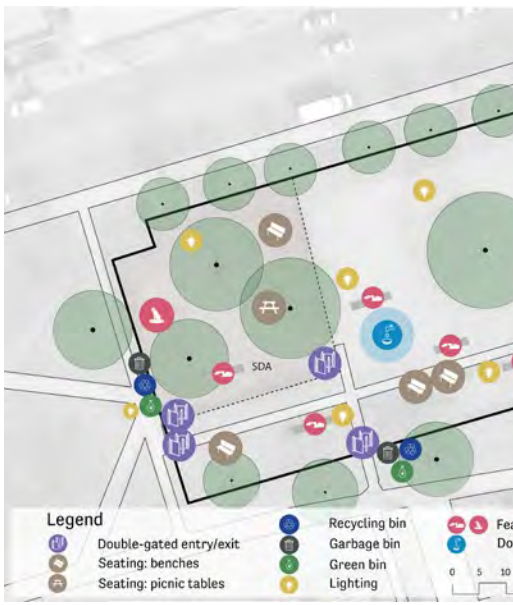
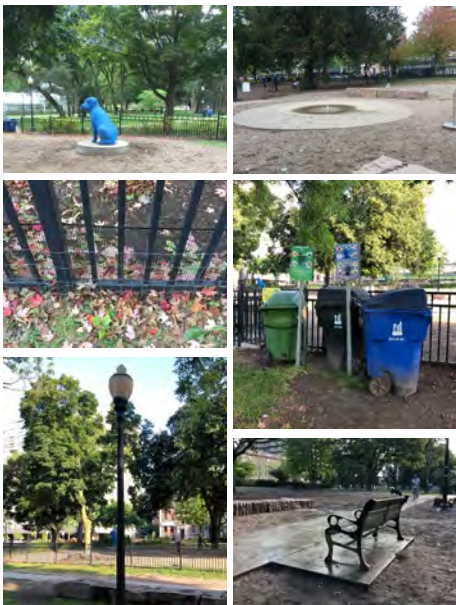
Case Study Sites

Allan Gardens	322
Bayview Arena Park	324
Beresford Park	326
Cherry Beach	328
High Park	330
L'Amoreaux Park	332
Merrill Bridge Road Park	334
Sandy Bruce Park	336
Sunnybrook Park	338
Wychwood Car Barns	340

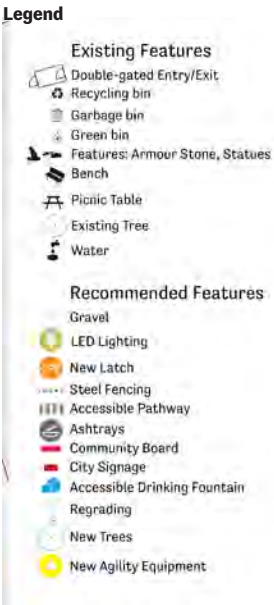
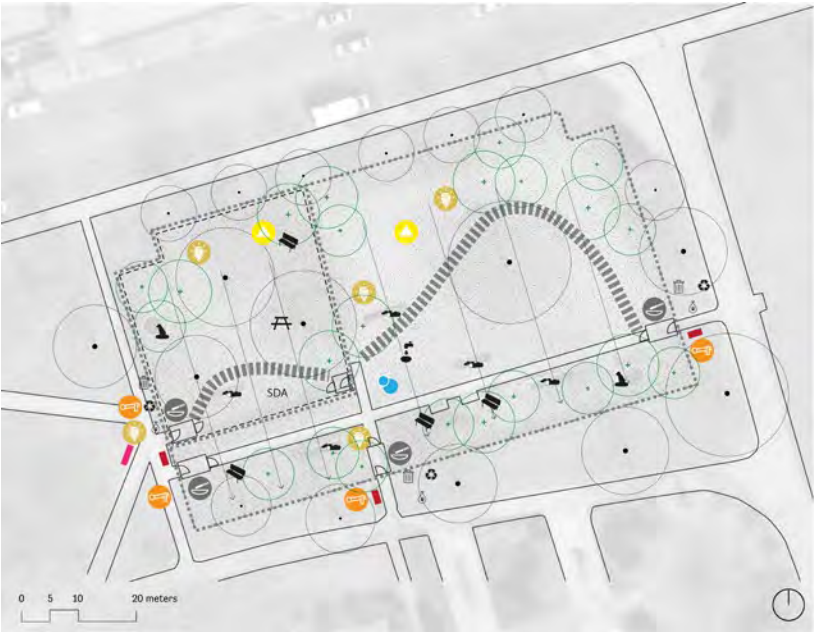
Allan Gardens

Inventory and Analysis

Topography	0-4% slope
Small Dog Area	yes
Access Area	paved sidewalks for all entries
Surfacing	grass/natural surface a lot of compaction
Fencing style	Wrought iron fencing with wire mesh reinforcement at base
Fencing height	1.29 m
Fence condition	Some rust, otherwise good
Gates	5 gates, all double gated
Exits/Entrances	1 entrance/exit from outside to Small Dog Area (SDA); 1 from General Area to SDA; 3 from outside to General Area
Trees	5 trees within the OLA in varying states of health – 1 with basal damage; 1 with severe defoliation; 3 trees within SDA appear in better health but still have root exposure and subject to compaction
Other vegetation	none



Preliminary Recommendations



- D1.4** Plant fenced trees within OLA
Allen Gardens OLA contains mature deciduous trees in varying states of health. Recommendation to plant additional trees within General Area and SDA to provide more shade and ensure a spread of tree ages. Both existing trees and proposed trees will be fenced.
- D3.1** Replace existing latches with upgraded latch
Redesigned latches will make gates more accessible. New latches will be more resilient during winter use.
- D4.3** Provide additional accessible pathway within OLA
Providing accessible, paved pathways (meeting AODA standards) encourages directive exercise within the OLA, and allows a larger proportion of dog owner make use of the OLA. Recommendation path that enters and goes through SDA.

The Allan Gardens OLA serves as an exemplar and contains attributes/criteria similar to the City's other existing OLAs. These recommendations are for demonstration purposes and are not intended to imply the OLA will be redesigned as illustrated in the immediate future.

- D4.7** Install community boards at main access point
Community boards provide a place where OLA users are able to post notices about community events, lost and found, and local news.

- D5.5** Replace lighting with LED
Where lighting currently exists, replace lights with LEDs. LEDs provide brighter lights and better durability while providing a reduced impact on the environment.

What We've Heard

The Allan Gardens Dog Owner's Association has shared these issues

Shade

Very limited shade within the general dog area. A large tree was recently lost.

Surfacing

Mixed feelings about what the best surface material would be: sandy dirt or crushed granite.

Cigarette Waste

Cigarette butts are littering the OLA.

Fencing

Larger dogs are able to jump over the fences. Wire mesh along bottom of fence has helped with small dogs but no maintenance of mesh.

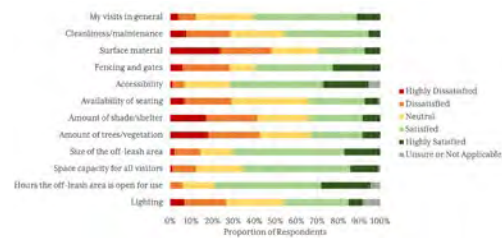
Lighting

The current lighting is not bright enough and insufficient.

Water

No easy access to water within SDA. No human water fountain.

A public survey on all City of Toronto Off-Leash Areas (OLA) has been completed, and individual case study site data for Allan Gardens satisfaction rating is included in the chart below.



D2.1 Surfacing to be regraded to encourage positive drainage (min 2%)

This OLA is flat and suffers from soil compaction, leading to poor drainage. Positive drainage will reduce pooling and puddling, particularly around the splash pad.

D2.8 Install 150mm crushed granite

This OLA is heavily used and requires a surfacing that can accommodate and support its usage. Recommendation to install crushed granite to 150mm depth to encourage proper drainage and reduce muddiness.

D3.3 Install steel fencing (min. 1.5m high)

Taller fences will prevent large dogs from jumping out of the OLA. Steel fencing also employs a mesh-like structure and will prevent small dogs from squeezing under or through the fence.

D4.1 Install Agility Equipment*

This OLA is high use but small in size. Agility equipment could provide more opportunity for rigorous play within the OLA and promote exercise. *Please note that any and all agility equipment will need to go through a professional inspection process prior to installation and yearly during use.

D4.4 Install ashtrays at access points

In an effort to prevent cigarette butts from littering the OLA, recommendation is to install outdoor ashtrays near all main access points.

D4.6 Install City signage within OLA and prior to main access point

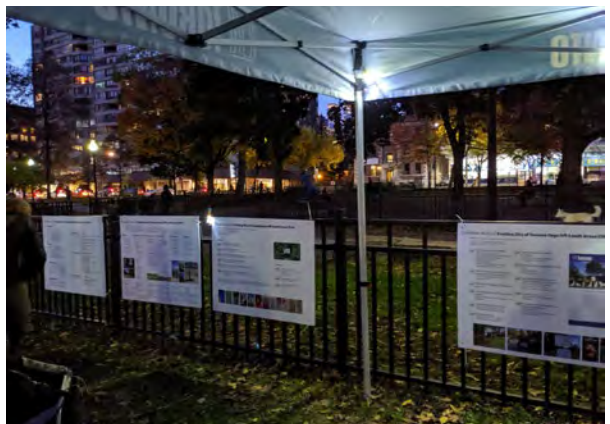
Signage prior to entry will allow non OLA users to determine whether they are eligible to use OLA. Signage within OLA allows current users to become familiar with any changes to by-laws or Codes of Conduct.

D6.1 Install multi-tier drinking fountain

There is an existing informal drinking splash pad within the OLA, however a multi-tier drinking fountain would provide drinking water for all users and would eliminate the need to bring water bowls.

OM Update maintenance procedures

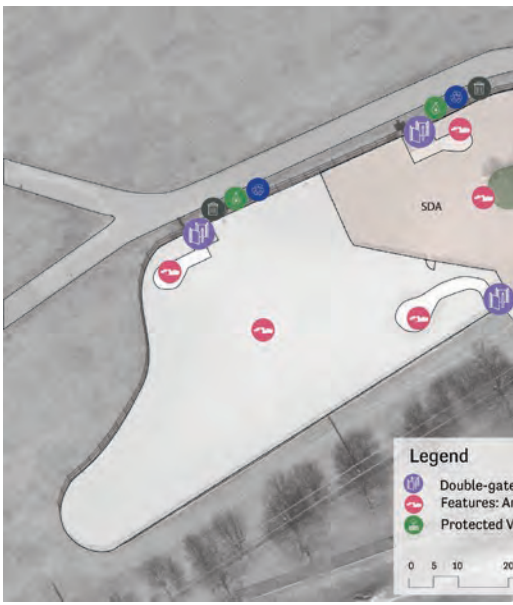
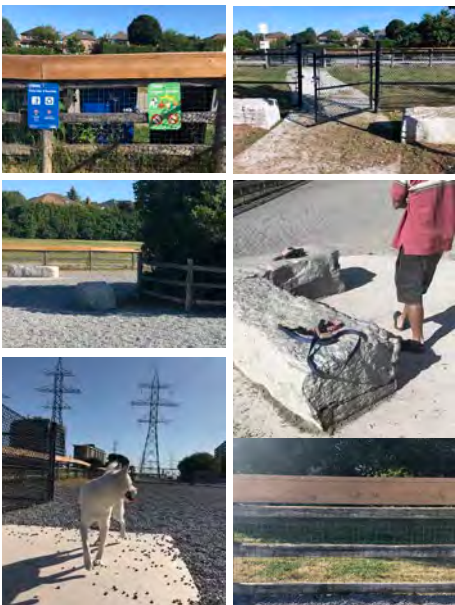
Maintenance will perform weekly inspections, monitor and maintain splash pad and irrigation, and protect and monitor vegetation health for all trees. Trees will be fenced off for protection.



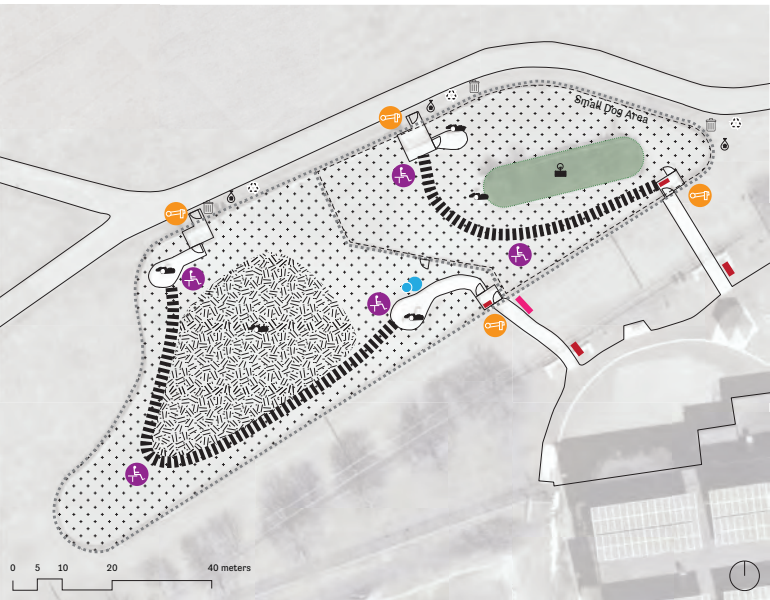
Bayview Arena Park

Inventory and Analysis

Topography	1-2% slope
Small Dog Area (SDA)	yes
Access Area	Interrupted paved pathway
OLA Area	Pea Gravel surface with paved pathway islands. Limited accessibility
Surfacing	pea gravel surface; material migration to concrete pathway island surfaces.
Fencing style	Post-and-paddle with wire mesh; height extension wood.
Fencing height	1.26m
Fence condition	In good condition.
Gates	Double gated except the gate between SDA and General Area. Broken latches.
Exits/Entrances	SDA 2; General Area 2 access from path and from parking.
Vegetation	SDA has shrub vegetation to a limited height providing minimal shade. All vegetation fenced-off.



Preliminary Recommendations



- Legend**
- Existing Features**
- Double-gated Entry/Exit
 - Recycling bin
 - Garbage bin
 - Green bin
 - Features: Armour Stone
 - Protected Vegetation
- Recommended Features**
- Seed Mix
 - Wood Chip, 200mm
 - New Latch
 - Steel Fencing
 - Accessible Pathway
 - Accessible Seating
 - Community Board
 - City Signage
 - Signage for Drinking Fountain

The Bayview Arena OLA serves as an exemplar and contains attributes/criteria similar to the City's other existing OLAs. These recommendations are for demonstration purposes and are not intended to imply the OLA will be redesigned as illustrated in the immediate future.

D2.2 Install dual surfacing in General Area

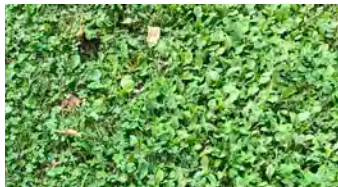
Install grass seed mix (fescue mix) on west side of proposed path and west side of fence to SDA. Install 200mm depth of wood chips within loop created by the proposed All Dogs Area path. Install grass seed mix (fescue mix) in SDA. Both kinds of surfaces absorb less heat than gravel.

D4.3 Provide accessible pathway within OLA

Providing accessible, paved pathways (meeting AODA standards) encourages some directive exercise within the OLA and allows a larger proportion of dog owners to make use of the OLA. We recommend a looping pathway in the General Area and a linear one in the SDA based on size.

D4.7 Install community boards at main access point

Community boards provide a place where OLA users are able to post notices about community events, lost and found, and news. They are a best practice for public parks.



What We've Heard

The Bayview Arena Park Dog Owner's Association has shared these issues

- Size**

Small, can prevent dog owners from walking their dogs while inside.
- Fencing and Entrances**

Gates often break during the winter, requiring crew of park staff to fix
- Shade**

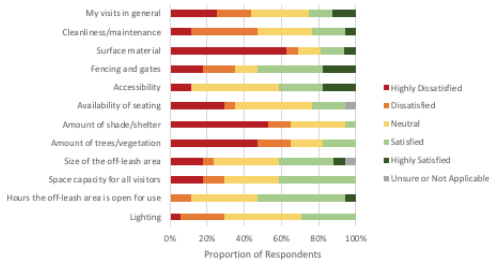
OLA becomes very hot because not enough shade/shelter, resulting in minimal use
- Water**

Water is not provided/permitted at the OLA
- Surfacing & Drainage**

Pea gravel gets very hot in summer
- Admin**

The heavily salted paths and gated areas can be harmful to dogs' paws

A public survey on all City of Toronto Off-Leash Areas (OLA) has been completed, and individual case study site data for Bayview Arena satisfaction rating is included in the chart below.



D3.1 Replace existing latch with upgraded latch

Replace the faulty latching mechanisms on all gates with new mechanism that is designed to work well, and without maintenance issues, during all seasons.

D3.3 Install post and paddle fencing (min. 1.5m height).

There is already post and paddle fencing around this OLA. We are proposing that the height of the fence be increased to 1.5m in order to adhere to best practices in dog park design. This height ensures that large dogs cannot jump the fence as easily.

D4.5 Install accessible seating

Providing accessible seating (meeting AODA standards) will allow for more comfort while spending time in the OLA. Those with mobility constraints will be able to make use of the OLA.

D4.6 Install City signage within OLA and prior to entry

Signage prior to entry will allow non OLA users to determine whether they are eligible to use OLA. Signage within OLA allows current users to become familiar with any changes to by-laws or code of conduct.

D6.1 Install accessible multi-tier drinking fountain

The OLA is located within a hydro corridor, and the City is unable to provide a water line within the corridor. A multi-tier drinking fountain is being proposed at the arena, with clear signage within the OLA.

OM Update maintenance procedures

Maintenance will perform weekly inspections, protect and monitor vegetation health, install surface bins in OLA, and top up wood-chip surfacing twice a year.



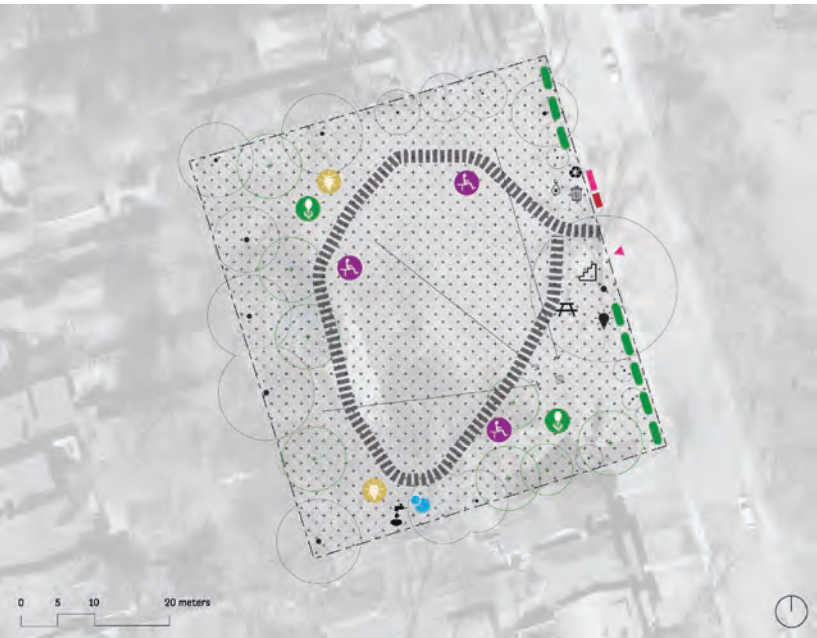
Beresford Park

Inventory and Analysis

Topography	2-8% slope
Small Dog Area	no
Access Area	paved sidewalk adjacent to road
Surfacing	Grass/Natural Some holes and digging damage;
Fencing style	chainlink; unfenced on street edge
Fencing height	2-3m chainlink
Fence condition	vegetation taking over and some rust
Gates	1 single gate from private yard
Exits/Entrances	N/A
Trees	1 dead young tree in gator bag; 2 newly planted trees in gator bags; mature trees with urine ring damage; root exposure and root wounding; some healthy trees along perimeter
Other vegetation	some shrubbery on perimeter



Preliminary Recommendations



Legend

Existing Features

- Recycling bin
- Garbage bin
- Green bin
- Bench
- Picnic Table
- Existing Tree
- Water
- Existing Community Board
- Existing Lighting
- Non-Gated Access Point
- Steps
- Catch Basin

Recommended Features

- Grass Seed Mix (Fescue Mix)
- Accessible Seating
- Accessible Pathway
- Community Board
- City Signage
- Drainage
- Accessible Drinking Fountain
- Vegetation Protection
- Vegetative Boundary
- Proposed Main Access Point
- Proposed Tree
- LED Lighting

- D1.3** Plant protected trees within OLA

Beresford OLA contains young deciduous trees with gator bags along the perimeter of the area. Recommendation to plant additional protected trees, while ensuring the centre area remains clear to allow for the winter skating rink.
- D3.5** Install vegetative boundary

There is a secure boundary along 3 sides of the OLA, however there are concerns with dogs running out into the road or adjacent playground. Installing a vegetative boundary will help to reduce dogs escaping the OLA, while keeping it free of gates and fencing.
- D4.6** Install City signage within OLA prior to main access point

Signage prior to entry will allow non OLA users to determine whether they are eligible to use OLA. Signage within OLA allows current users to become familiar with any changes to by-laws or Codes of Conduct.



The Beresford Park OLA serves as an exemplar and contains attributes/criteria similar to the City's other existing OLAs. These recommendations are for demonstration purposes and are not intended to imply the OLA will be redesigned as illustrated in the immediate future.

What We've Heard

The Beresford Park Dog Owner's Association has shared these issues

Fencing

Lack of barrier between road and OLA can be dangerous for dogs if they run out onto the street

Enforcement and Reporting

Lack of information and education about dogs conflicts. Unsure on actions resulting from 311 calls.

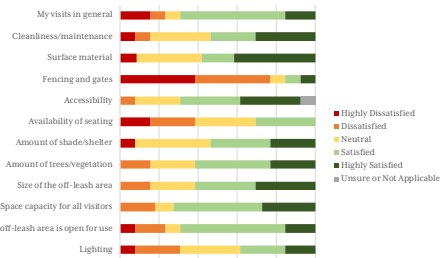
Human Litter

Incidents of meat scraps being found within the OLA have caused problems for dogs and users.

Roles and Responsibilities of OLA

Unclear role and responsibility of DOA Rep and therefore are unable to effectively communicate resources and information to the community.

A public survey on all City of Toronto Off-Leash Areas (OLA) has been completed, and individual case study site data for Beresford Park satisfaction rating is included in the chart below.



D2.1 Surfacing to be regraded to encourage positive drainage (min 2%)

This OLA is bowl shaped with a catch basin in the south east corner. Positive drainage to this catch basin will reduce pooling and puddling and ensure that the winter skating rink drains properly.

D2.8 Install grass seed mix (fescue mix)

Grass surfacing is favoured within this OLA. Recommendation is to retain the current surface material, but install a more durable seed mix with native grasses.

D4.3 Provide accessible pathway within OLA

Providing accessible, paved pathways (meeting AODA standards) encourages directive exercise within the OLA, and allows a larger proportion of dog owners to make use of the OLA. Recommendation for a looping path.

D4.5 Install accessible seating

Providing accessible seating (meeting AODA standards) will allow for more comfort while spending time in the OLA. Those with mobility constraints will be able to make use of the OLA.

D4.7 Install community boards at main access point

Community boards provide a place where OLA users are able to post notices about community events, lost and found, and local news.

D5.5 Replace lighting with LED

Where lighting currently exists, replace lights with LEDs. LEDs provide brighter lights and better durability while providing a reduced impact on the environment.

D6.1 Install multi-tier drinking fountain

There is an existing informal drinking tap within the OLA, however a multi-tier drinking fountain would provide drinking water for all users and would eliminate the need to bring water bowls.

OM Update maintenance procedures

Maintenance will perform weekly inspections, install surface bins for users to repair holes created by digging, monitor and maintain surface bin contents, and protect and monitor vegetation health for all trees and grassed areas. Temporary closed portions may result to encourage regrowth.



Cherry Beach

Inventory and Analysis

Topography	0-5% slope
Small Dog Area	no
Access Area	paved pathway
Surfacing	sand/grass/natural surface holes and digging damage pooling & mud/flooding
Fencing style	post and paddle with wire mesh chain link
Fencing height	1.2m
Fence condition	good condition, but post and paddle lower than required
Gates	3 single gates and 1 maintenance gate
Exits/Entrances	3 all from eastern portion of park.
Trees	5+ with roots exposed, soil compaction, urine rings (at entrance) Many areas with healthy trees.
Other vegetation	Environmentally Sensitive Area – shrub and groundcover varies



Preliminary Recommendations



- Legend**
- Existing Features**
- Gate
 - Recycling bin
 - Garbage bin
 - Green bin
 - Features: Agility Features
 - Bench
 - Boundary
 - Existing Tree
 - Water Access
 - Scrub Vegetation
 - Riprap
- Recommended Features**
- LED Lighting
 - New Latch
 - Accessible Pathway
 - Accessible Seating
 - Community Board
 - City Signage
 - Vegetation Protection
 - Proposed Double Gate
 - Interpretive Signage

D3.1 Replace existing latch with upgraded latch

Replace the existing latching mechanism on all gates with new mechanism that is designed to work efficiently, and without maintenance issues during all four seasons.

D4.5 Install accessible seating

Providing accessible seating (meeting AODA standards) will allow for more comfort while spending time in the OLA. Seating to be located along accessible pathway.

D4.8 Install educational/interpretive panels at main entry/exit

High Park is located within an ESA and certain measures and precautions need take place within these areas. Signage w assist in supporting the messaging and awareness of ESA sites.

OM4 Protect and monitor vegetation health

There are many large existing trees within the OLA. Based on recommendations by a certified arborist, these trees need to be properly protected with protective fencing around tree trunks with river rock or mulch at the base to prevent compaction and digging.

Cherry Beach is located within an Environmentally Significant Area, and certain measures and precautions need to take place prior to any design recommendations.

The Cherry Beach OLA serves as an exemplar and contains attributes/criteria similar to the City's other existing OLAs. These recommendations are for demonstration purposes and are not intended to imply the OLA will be redesigned as illustrated in the immediate future.

What We've Heard

The Cherry Beach Dog Owner's Association has shared these issues

Communication

Lack in effective communication between park users.

Erosion/Flooding

Landfill pieces protrude from the ground. Flooding causes swamp and limits access.

Dog Waste

People not picking up after their dogs.

Tree Loss

Due to erosion and other factors, trees are being lost within the OLA.

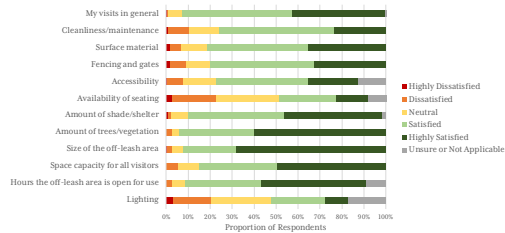
Holes

Dogs digging causes tripping hazards

Gates

Single gate system causes conflict at entry/exit

A public survey on all City of Toronto Off-Leash Areas (OLA) has been completed, and individual case study site data for Cherry Beach satisfaction rating is included in the chart below.



D3.2 Replace single gate with double gate system

Both existing entry/exit gates are single gate systems. Proposed solution is to modified existing single gates to double gate with concrete pad.

D4.3 Provide accessible pathway within OLA

Providing accessible, paved pathways (meeting AODA standards) encourages directive exercise within the OLA, and allows a larger proportion of dog owners to make use of the OLA. We recommend a looping pathway amongst the existing trees.

D4.6 Install City signage within OLA and prior to entry

Signage prior to entry will allow non OLA users to determine whether they are eligible to use OLA. Signage within OLA allows current users to become familiar with any changes to by-laws or code of conduct, and provide reference when needed.

D4.7 Relocate community boards at main access point

Community boards provide a place where OLA users are able to post notices about community events, lost and found, and news. They are consider a best practice for public parks.

D5.1 Install lighting at main entrance

Lighting exists in the parking lot adjacent to the OLA. Recommendation to provide lighting at the main entry/exit for gates, garbage and community boards.

OM Update maintenance procedures

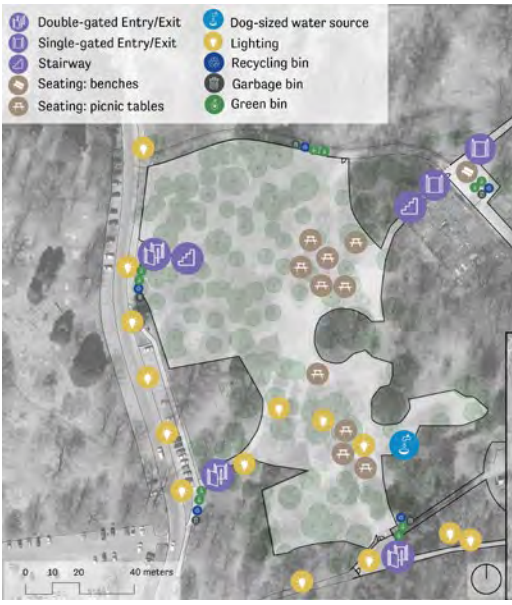
Maintenance will perform weekly inspections, monitor and maintain shoreline for erosion and hazards, protect and monitor vegetation health and state of good repair and install surface bins in OLA to users to repair holes created by digging.



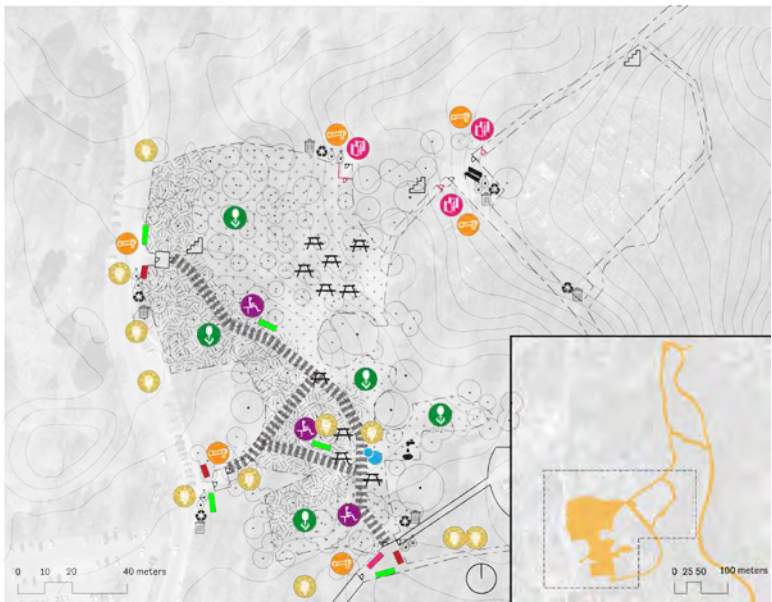
High Park

Inventory and Analysis

Topography	varies; 2-9% slope
Small Dog Area	no
Access Area	paved pathway
Surfacing	sand/grass/natural surface holes and digging damage erosion
Fencing style	post and paddle with wire mesh
Fencing height	1.2 m
Fence condition	Rusted, poor condition, breaks and gaps, warping/sagging, some unsafe conditions.
Gates	3 double-gated, 2 single-gated
Exits/Entrances	5 (Off-Leash Park area)
Trees	5+ with roots exposed, damaged 3 urine ring damage, root flare damage; 1 dead tree; many areas with healthy trees.
Other vegetation	Environmentally Sensitive Area – shrub and groundcover varies.



Preliminary Recommendations



High Park is located within an Environmentally Significant Area, and certain measures and precautions need to take place prior to any design recommendations.

The High Park OLA serves as an exemplar and contains attributes/criteria similar to the City's other existing OLAs. These recommendations are for demonstration purposes and are not intended to imply the OLA will be redesigned as illustrated in the immediate future.

Legend

- Existing Features**
- Double-gated Entry/Exit
 - Recycling bin
 - Garbage bin
 - Green bin
 - Bench
 - Picnic Table
 - Existing Tree
 - Water
 - Stairs
- Recommended Features**
- Grass
 - Wood chip
 - LED Lighting
 - New Latch
 - Accessible Seating
 - Accessible Pathway
 - Interpretive Signage
 - Community Board
 - City Signage
 - Accessible Drinking Fountain
 - Vegetation Protection
 - Proposed Double Gate

- D2.2** Install dual surfacing
- Install grass seed mix (fescue mix) on west side of proposed path to help stabilize the slope and prevent further erosion. Install 200mm depth of wood chips on west side of the proposed path within flatter areas.
- D3.4** Install ESA compatible fencing
- There is already fencing around this area. There are many holes that have required repairs. Fencing is inconsistent. The recommendations to increase the height of the fence to 1.5m in order to adhere to best practices in dog park design. Work needs to be further investigated as it relates to the ESA.
- D4.6** Install City signage within OLA prior to entry
- Signage prior to entry will allow non-users to determine whether they are eligible to use OLA. Signage within OLA allows current users to become familiar with any changes to by-laws or code of conduct, and provide reference where needed.

- D5.5** Replace existing lights with LED
- Where lighting currently exists, replace lights with LEDs. LEDs provide brighter lights and better durability while providing a reduced impact on the environment.

- D6.1** Install accessible multi-tier drinking fountain
- There is an existing drinking hose within the OLA, however a multi-tier drinking fountain would provide drinking water for all users and would eliminate the need to bring water bowls.

What We've Heard

The High Park Dog Owner's Association has shared these issues

Communication

Lack in communication between park staff and the park users.

Erosion

Spring Road entry has significant erosion. Safety is a concern.

Fencing

Inconsistent fencing, various holes and damage. Dogs escaping and getting injured.

Gate Damage

Gates are damaged and no longer function effectively.

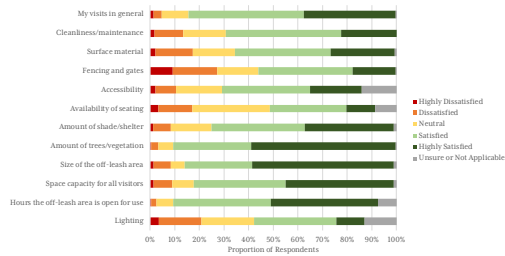
Waste Management

No green bins located at main entry/exit. Dog waste being left on the ground.

ESA Education

Lack of understanding and education about the importance of an ESA.

A public survey on all City of Toronto Off-Leash Areas (OLA) has been completed, and individual case study site data for High Park satisfaction rating is included in the chart below.



D3.1 Replace existing latch with upgraded latch

Replace the existing latching mechanisms on all gates with new mechanism that is designed to work efficiently, and without maintenance issues during all four seasons.

D3.2 Replace all single gate with double gate system

Most of the existing gates at High Park are double gate, however the connection at Spring Road are single gates. Proposed solution is to modified existing single gates to double gate with concrete pad.

D4.3 Provide accessible pathway within OLA

Providing accessible, paved pathways (meeting AODA standards) encourages directive exercise within the OLA, and allows a larger proportion of dog owners to make use of the OLA. We recommend a looping pathway as well as a linear pathway that connected the entrances.

D4.5 Install accessible seating

Providing accessible seating (meeting AODA standards) will allow for more comfort while spending time in the OLA.

D4.7 Relocate community boards at main access point

Community boards provide a place where OLA users are able to post notices about community events, lost and found, and news. They are consider a best practice for public parks.

D4.8 Install educational/interpretive panels at main entry/exit

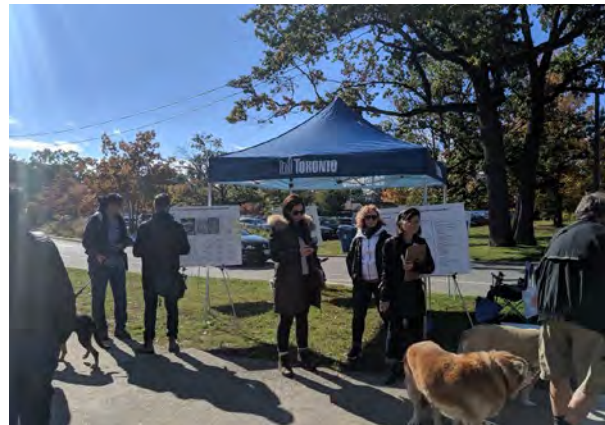
High Park is located within an ESA and certain measures and precautions need to take place within these areas. Signage will assist in supporting the messaging and awareness of ESA sites.

OM Update maintenance procedures

Maintenance will perform weekly inspections, protect and monitor vegetation health and state of good repair, install surface bins in OLA to users to repair holes created by digging, and top up wood-chip surfacing twice a year.

OM4 Protect and monitor vegetation health

There are many large existing trees within the OLA. Based on recommendations by a certified arborist, these trees need to be properly protected with protective fencing around tree trunks with river rock at the base.



L'Amoreaux Park

Inventory and Analysis

Topography	~2% slope
Small Dog Area	no
Access Area	paved pathway entry from walking path and from parking lot
Surfacing	grass/natural; compaction
Fencing style	post and paddle fencing with wire mesh
Fencing height	1 m
Fence condition	good condition
Gates	2 double gates from outside OLA
Exits/Entrances	2- one to parking, one to pathway
Trees	3 mature coniferous trees within OLA; urine ring and basal damage; in poor health; 3 trees outside OLA providing shade are healthy
Other vegetation	none



Preliminary Recommendations



The L'Amoreaux Park OLA serves as an exemplar and contains attributes/criteria similar to the City's other existing OLAs. These recommendations are for demonstration purposes and are not intended to imply the OLA will be redesigned as illustrated in the immediate future.

D4.7

Install community boards at main access point

Community boards provide a place where OLA users are able to post notices about community events, lost and found, and local news.

D1.3

Plant protected trees within OLA

This OLA has a very limited amount of shade, and does not meet a minimum of 20%. Additional deciduous trees are recommended to increase shade and canopy cover. Vegetation at the base of tree will protect it from urine rings/basal damage.

D3.4

Install steel fencing (min. 1.5m)

L'Amoreaux is located within the suburban area and steel fencing is recommended to reduce holes and damage. The height of the fence should be a minimum of 1.5 (5ft) high, as taller fences will prevent large dogs from jumping out of the OLA.

D4.3

Provide additional accessible pathway within OLA

Providing accessible, paved pathways (meeting AODA standards) encourages direct exercise within the OLA, and allows a larger proportion of dog owners to make use of the OLA. Recommendation is to provide a paved pathway that enters and goes through SDA.

D5.1

Install lighting at main entry/exit

Based on feed back received, there is a strong demand for lighting with the OLA. Recommendation is to provide lighting at main entry/exit (closest to the parking lot) to encourage multi-season use.

*If existing electrical services exist

What We've Heard

The L'Amoreaux Park Dog Owner's Association has shared these issues

Fencing and Gates

Holes within the fencing, dogs are able to escape. Latches stick, making access difficult.

Code of Conduct and By-Laws

Unlicensed dogs using the off-leash area. Users unaware of OLA rules and regulations.

Access to Water

Users get water from nearby washrooms, however washrooms not always open.

Drainage

Entrance to the OLA is very wet and water pools in the rain.

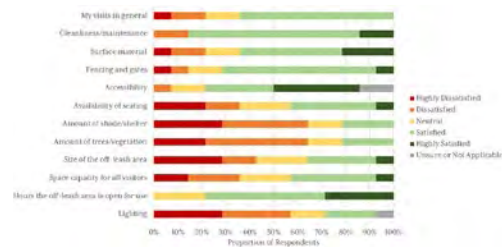
Small Dog Area

Desire to have a separate area designated for small dogs.

Shade and Trees

Little to no shade within the OLA, however it is believed that the OLA is located within a hydro corridor.

A public survey on all City of Toronto Off-Leash Areas (OLA) has been completed, and individual case study site data for L'Amoreaux Park satisfaction rating is included in the chart below.



D2.8 Install grass seed mix (fescue mix)t

Grass surfacing is favoured within this OLA. Recommendation is to retain the current surface material, but install a more durable seed mix with native grasses.

D3.1 Replace existing latches with upgraded latch

Redesigned latches will make gates more accessible. New latches will be more resilient during winter use.

D3.6 Install concrete pad at all access points

This OLA has existing concrete pad entries, however they are flush with the ground and have poor drainage that causes pooling. Concrete pad to be regraded to ensure positive drainage to eliminate pooling.

D4.2 Redefine existing OLA boundary to accommodate Small Dog Area

There is demand for a SDA within L'Amoreaux OLA, and the size of the park is sufficient that supplying a separate area for small dogs would not be an issue. Providing a SDA is a best practice in dog parks to allow for the comfort of both small and large dogs during play.

D4.5 Install accessible seating

Providing accessible seating (meeting AODA standards) will allow for more comfort while spending time in the OLA. Those with mobility constraints will be able to make use of the OLA.

D4.6 Install City signage within OLA and prior to main access point

Signage prior to entry will allow non OLA users to determine whether they are eligible to use OLA. Signage within OLA allows current users to become familiar with any changes to by-laws or Codes of Conduct.

D6.1 Install multi-tier drinking fountain*

There is no existing water fountain within Sandy Bruce. Installing a multi-tier drinking fountain for all OLA users. Surrounding surfacing would include gravel or concrete to ensure proper drainage and limit pooling and puddles.

*If existing waterline exists

OM Update maintenance procedures

Maintenance will perform weekly inspections, install surface bins for users to repair holes created by digging, monitor and maintain surface bin contents, and protect and monitor vegetation health for all trees and grassed areas. Trees will be protected to limit urine ring and basal damage.



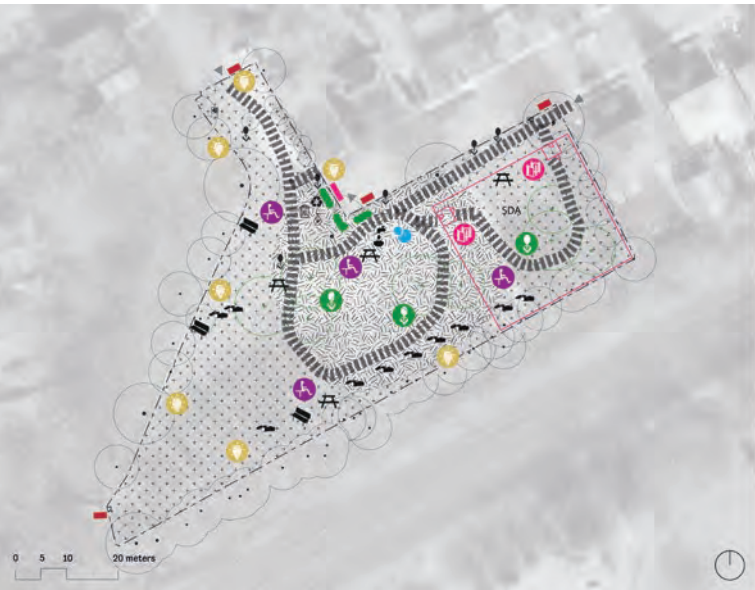
Merrill Bridge Road Park

Inventory and Analysis

Topography	2-11% slope
Small Dog Area	no
Access Area	paved sidewalks for main entry; wooden boardwalk steps for back entry
Surfacing	grass/natural surface & wood chips/ EWF; some holes and digging damage; some erosion and compaction; material migration.
Fencing style	wire mesh and post and paddle; chainlink; unfenced on several sides
Fencing height	1.2m post and paddle; 1.8m chainlink
Fence condition	good condition
Gates	1 single gate at ravine entrance
Exits/Entrances	5: 1 gated; 3 semi-formal; 1 informal
Trees	7 young trees fenced/protected; 1-2 mature trees with urine ring damage, some root exposure; perimeter has healthy trees
Other vegetation	none beyond groundcover



Preliminary Recommendations



D1.3 Plant protected trees within OLA

Merrill Bridge contains several protected trees, however the fencing used for protection needs to be updated to a City standard to ensure proper protection and maintenance.

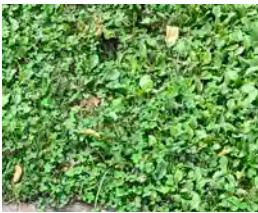
D4.2 Redefine existing OLA boundary to accommodate SDA

There is demand for a SDA within Merrill Bridge, and the size of the park is sufficient that supplying a separate area for small dogs would not be an issue. Providing a SDA is a best practice in dog parks to allow for the comfort of both small and large dogs during play.

D4.7 Relocate community boards at main access point

Community boards already exist at two of the access points, but this requires duplicate information to be posted on the boards. For consistency and ease of access, consolidation to a larger board placed at a more central location is recommended.

The Merrill Bridge Road OLA serves as an exemplar and contains attributes/criteria similar to the City's other existing OLAs. These recommendations are for demonstration purposes and are not intended to imply the OLA will be redesigned as illustrated in the immediate future.



What We've Heard

The Merrill Bridge Road Park Dog Owner's Association has shared these issues

Small Dog Area

No SDA within Merrill Bridge contributes to an unsafe/uncomfortable environment. Desire for separate area for small dogs.

Waste Disposal

OLA users often discarding dog waste in recycling bin.

Operations and Maintenance

Existing surface bin needs to be topped up more frequently to allow users to fill the holes their dogs have dug.

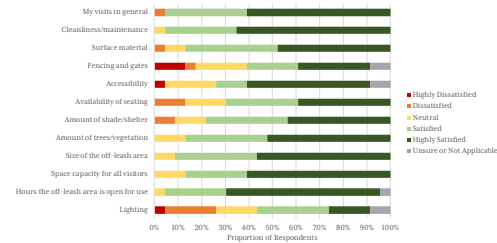
Communication

Difficulty getting response to requests from City and from Metrolinx regarding issues with rail corridor.

Bylaw Enforcement

Some commercial dog walkers are using the park despite the park's designation as non-CDW. Enforcement of by-laws and better signage of the code of conduct is required.

A public survey on all City of Toronto Off-Leash Areas (OLA) has been completed, and individual case study site data for Merrill Bridge satisfaction rating is included in the chart below.



D2.2 Install dual surfacing in general area

Retain the current grass areas of the OLA, but install to a more durable seed mix. Similarly, top up 200mm depth of wood chips within area that already contains them, but the path (D4.3) will allow for more containment and separation of the surfaces.

D4.3 Provide accessible pathway within OLA

Providing accessible, paved pathways (meeting AODA standards) encourages directive exercise within the OLA, and allows a larger proportion of dog owners to make use of the OLA. We recommend a looping pathway as well as a linear pathway that connects the entrances and includes the SDA.

D5.5 Replace existing lights with LED

Where lighting currently exists, replace lights with LEDs. LEDs provide brighter lights and better durability while providing a reduced impact on the environment.

D3.7 Formalize main access point

This OLA has several access points. The road barriers assist in designating areas to enter, however to ensure that all entries are supplied with appropriate signage and garbage bins, vegetation will be added to emphasize appropriate entries.

D4.5 Install accessible seating

Providing accessible seating (meeting AODA standards) will allow for more comfort while spending time in the OLA. Those with mobility constraints will be able to make use of the OLA.

D6.1 Install accessible multi-tier drinking fountain

There is an existing drinking tap and hose within the OLA, however a multi-tier drinking fountain would provide drinking water for all users and would eliminate the need to bring water bowls.

OM Update maintenance procedures

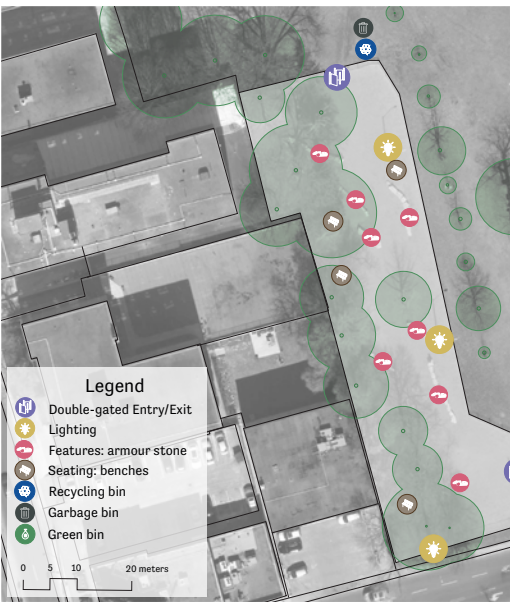
Maintenance will perform weekly inspections, monitor and maintain surface bin contents so users of OLA can repair holes created by digging, and protect and monitor vegetation health for all trees. Additional fencing or other protection will be considered for mature trees as part of these duties.



Sandy Bruce Park

Inventory and Analysis

Topography	~2-3% slope
Small Dog Area	no
Access Area	grass and dirt pathways
Surfacing	woodchips/EWF; material migration
Fencing style	omega/steel fencing on border with rest of parkland; old chain-link on border with private property; chain-link gates
Fencing height	1 m
Fence condition	old fencing is overgrown in some areas
Gates	2 double gates from outside OLA
Exits/Entrances	2; one to the north, one to the east
Trees	~11 mature trees; urine rings and basal damage with stripped bark; little root damage; perimeter trees outside OLA are healthy
Other vegetation	shrubs and groundcover along western edge



Preliminary Recommendations



The Sandy Bruce OLA serves as an exemplar and contains attributes/criteria similar to the City's other existing OLAs. These recommendations are for demonstration purposes and are not intended to imply the OLA will be redesigned as illustrated in the immediate future.

Legend

Existing Features

- Double-gated Entry/Exit
- Recycling bin
- Garbage bin
- Green bin
- Bench
- Features: Agility
- Existing Tree

Recommended Features

- Grass Seed Mix (fescue mix)
- Wood chip / EWF
- LED Lighting
- New Latch
- Accessible Seating
- Accessible Pathway
- Community Board
- Accessible Drinking Fountain
- Vegetation Protection
- Concrete Pad
- City Signage

D2.2 Install dual surfacing

Sandy Bruce OLA currently has wood chips/EWF. As this is a medium to high use park, woodchips are recommended. However, since this park is sloped there is lots of material migration. A mix of grass seed (fescue mix) will be implemented to help stabilize and reduce erosion/migration.

D4.3 Provide additional accessible pathway within OLA

Providing accessible, paved pathways (meeting AODA standards) encourages directive exercise within the OLA, and allows a larger proportion of dog owners to make use of the OLA.

D4.7 Install community boards at main access point

Community boards provide a place where OLA users are able to post notices about community events, lost and found, and local news.



What We've Heard

The Sandy Bruce Dog Owner's Association has shared these issues

Communication

Disappointed with the response rate from the City. Concerned that issues are not being tracked and/or recorded. Lack of information to DOA Rep to share with OLA users.

Slope and Drainage

Sandy Bruce is on a large slope and it's difficult to maneuver in the winter months with ice and snow. Pooling at base of slope.

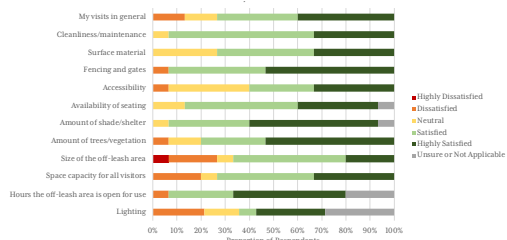
Gates and Concrete Pads

Significant snow and ice buildup as the concrete is flush with the ground. Poor drainage causes pooling and ice build up.

Surface Maintenance

Surfacing needs to be topped up more consistently. Concern that other parks get more attention. Replenishment should be done on a schedule.

A public survey on all City of Toronto Off-Leash Areas (OLA) has been completed, and individual case study site data for Sandy Bruce satisfaction rating is included in the chart below.



D3.1 Replace existing latches with upgraded latch

Redesigned latches will make gates more accessible. New latches will be more resilient during winter use.

D3.6 Install concrete pad at all access points

This OLA has existing concrete pad entries, however they are flush with the ground and have poor drainage that causes pooling. Concrete pad to be regraded to ensure positive drainage to eliminate pooling.

D4.5 Install accessible seating

Providing accessible seating (meeting AODA standards) will allow for more comfort while spending time in the OLA. Those with mobility constraints will be able to make use of the OLA.

D4.6 Install City signage within OLA and prior to main access point

Signage prior to entry will allow non OLA users to determine whether they are eligible to use OLA. Signage within OLA allows current users to become familiar with any changes to by-laws or Codes of Conduct.

D5.5 Replace lighting with LED

Where lighting currently exists, replace lights with LEDs. LEDs provide brighter lights and better durability while providing a reduced impact on the environment.

D6.1 Install multi-tier drinking fountain*

There is no existing water fountain within Sandy Bruce. Installing a multi-tier drinking fountain for all OLA users. Surrounding surfacing would include gravel or concrete to ensure proper drainage and limit pooling and puddles.

*If existing waterline exists

OM Update maintenance procedures

Maintenance will perform weekly inspections, install surface bins for users to repair holes created by digging, monitor and maintain surface bin contents, and protect and monitor vegetation health for all trees and grassed areas.



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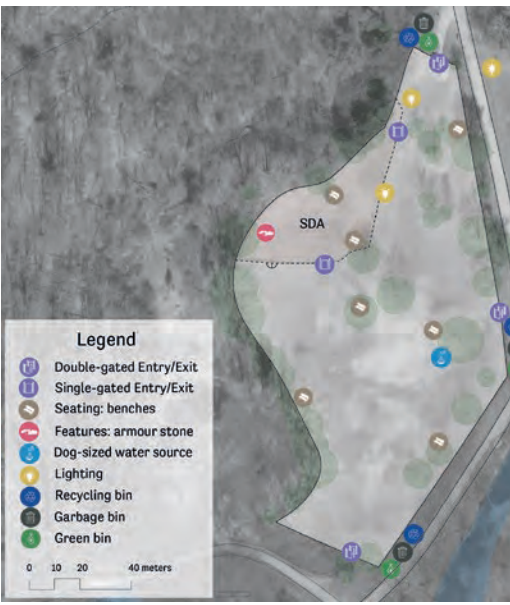
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Sunnybrook Park

Inventory and Analysis

Topography	-2% slope
Small Dog Area	yes
Access Area	paved road entry but unpaved/natural path connection into OLA
Surfacing	grass/natural surface holes/digging damage evident areas of poor drainage
Fencing style	post and paddle with wire mesh chain-link entrances
Fencing height	1 m
Fence condition	poor condition- holes, rust, sagging
Gates	3 double gates from outside OLA; 2 single gates between general area and small dog area
Exits/Entrances	2
Trees	-20 trees; often with exposed roots with root damage; basal damage/urine rings; compaction around roots; perimeter trees outside of OLA are healthy
Other vegetation	shrubs and groundcover protecting some trees along perimeter



Preliminary Recommendations



The Sunnybrook Park OLA serves as an exemplar and contains attributes/criteria similar to the City's other existing OLAs. These recommendations are for demonstration purposes and are not intended to imply the OLA will be redesigned as illustrated in the immediate future.

- Legend**
- Existing Features**
- Double-gated Entry/Exit
 - Recycling bin
 - Garbage bin
 - Green bin
 - Bench
 - Existing Tree
 - Water
 - Features: Agility Features

- Recommended Features**
- Grass Seed Mix (fescue mix)
 - LED Lighting
 - New Latch
 - Accessible Seating
 - Accessible Drinking Fountain
 - Community Board
 - City Signage
 - Interpretive Signage
 - New Agility Equipment

D2.8 Install grass seed mid (fescue mix)

Grass surfacing is favoured within this OLA. Recommendation is to retain the current surface material, but install a more durable seed mix with native grasses.

D4.1 Install Agility Equipment*

This OLA is high use and there is demand for interactive elements. Agility equipment could provide more opportunity for rigorous play within the OLA and promote exercise. *Please note that any and all agility equipment will need to go through a professional inspection process prior to installation and yearly during use.

D4.5 Install accessible seating

Providing accessible seating (meeting AODA standards) will allow for more comfort while spending time in the OLA.

D4.8 Install educational/interpretive panels at main entry/exit

Sunnybrook Park is located within an ESA and certain measures and precautions need to take place within these areas. Signage will assist in supporting the messaging and awareness of ESA sites.

D5.1 Install lighting at main entrance and along paved pathway

D5.4 Sunnybrook is a large OLA, and numerous users travel through the park. Existing lighting within OLA to be upgraded to LEDs, and additional lighting should be installed along looping pathway and main entry/exit.

What We've Heard

The Sunnybrook Park Dog Owner's Association has shared these issues

Water Supply

Base of water source drains poorly and puddle forms. Dogs are drinking from the puddles.

Maintenance and Winterization

Issues with the latches and concrete pads due to snow and ice build up. Using salt is a concern.

Fencing

Fencing near forested area is too low and of poor quality. Dogs are able to escape.

Communication

Some park users unfamiliar that OLA is for dogs. Users are biking and picnicking which can be unsafe for all.

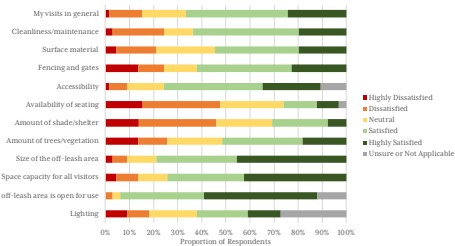
Small Dog Area

Dogs must enter general area prior to the SDA. Need direct access to SDA from main entry/exit

Interactive Elements

Lack of tactile amenities within OLA. Users would like to see elements for the dogs to play/exercise.

A public survey on all City of Toronto Off-Leash Areas (OLA) has been completed, and individual case study site data for Sunnybrook Park satisfaction rating is included in the chart below.



D3.1

Replace existing latches with upgraded latch

Redesigned latches will make gates more accessible. New latches will be more resilient during winter use.

D3.4

Install ESA compatible fencing

There is already fencing around this OLA, however there are holes that have required temporary repairs. The recommendations to increase the height of the fence to 1.5m in order to adhere to best practices in dog park design. Work needs to be further investigated as it relates to the ESA.

D4.2

Redefine existing OLA boundary to accommodate SDA

There is an existing SDA within the OLA, however users have to walk through the general area to access it. Boundary to be extended to the north to allow users direct access to the SDA.

D4.3

Provide additional accessible pathway within OLA

Providing accessible, paved pathways (meeting AODA standards) encourages directive exercise within the OLA, and allows a larger proportion of dog owners to make use of the OLA. Recommendation is to also include a path that goes through SDA.

D4.6

Install City signage within OLA and prior to main access point

Signage prior to entry will allow non OLA users to determine whether they are eligible to use OLA. Signage within OLA allows current users to become familiar with any changes to by-laws or Codes of Conduct.

D4.7

Install community boards at main entry/exit

Community boards provide a place where OLA users are able to post notices about community events, lost and found, and local news.

D6.1

Install multi-tier drinking fountain

There is an existing multi-tier drinking fountain within the OLA, however the surrounding surfacing does not drain properly. Installing appropriate surfacing at the base of the drinking fountain will ensure proper drainage and reduce pooling and puddles

OM

Update maintenance procedures

Maintenance will perform weekly inspections, install surface bins for users to repair holes created by digging, monitor and maintain surface bin contents, and protect and monitor vegetation health for all trees and grassed areas. Temporary closed portions may result to encourage regrowth. Tree fencing to be installed with proper root and base protection.



Wychwood Car Barns

Inventory and Analysis

Topography	0-2% slope
Small Dog Area	no
Access Area	paved sidewalks for all entries
Surfacing	crushed granite/sand; exposed filter fabric; compaction causing negative drainage; material migration
Fencing style	steel/Omega fencing; wire mesh fencing to protect existing trees
Fencing height	1.2 m
Fence condition	good condition
Gates	2 gates; all double gated
Exits/Entrances	2
Trees	5 young trees fenced/protected; trees within OLA are enclosed with fencing surrounded by high vegetation, causing moist tree trunk; perimeter outside OLA trees are healthy
Other vegetation	vines, ragweed, groundcover in corners and climbing on fencing



Preliminary Recommendations



- Legend**
- Existing Features**
- Double-gated Entry/Exit
 - Recycling bin
 - Garbage bin
 - Green bin
 - Picnic Table
 - Existing Tree
 - Water
 - Existing Vegetation Protection
- Recommended Features**
- Crushed Granite
 - LED Lighting
 - New Latch
 - Accessible Seating
 - Community Board
 - Regrading
 - Vegetative Buffer
 - New Agility Equipment
 - Updated Shade Structure
 - City Signage

- D1.5** Install shade structure
- Wychwood current has trees planted within the OLA, as well as a shade trellis. The trellis and trees do not provide enough shade. Recommendation to replace the slotted trellis with a solid roof to ensure adequate shade coverage.
- D3.1** Replace existing latches with upgraded latch
- Redesigned latches will make gates more accessible. New latches will be more resilient during winter use.
- D4.5** Install accessible seating
- Providing accessible seating (meeting AODA standards) will allow for more comfort while spending time in the OLA. Those with mobility constraints will be able to make use of the OLA.

The Wychwood Car Barns OLA serves as an exemplar and contains attributes/criteria similar to the City's other existing OLAs. These recommendations are for demonstration purposes and are not intended to imply the OLA will be redesigned as illustrated in the immediate future.

What We've Heard

The Wychwood Car Barns Dog Owner's Association has shared these issues

Drainage and Surfaces

Existing drainage does not work. Pooling and puddles form in the south-west corner.

Hours and Water

OLA is currently closed from 12pm to 3pm daily, and there is desire to remove this restriction. Water is available within the OLA but can't be accessed when it's closed/locked.

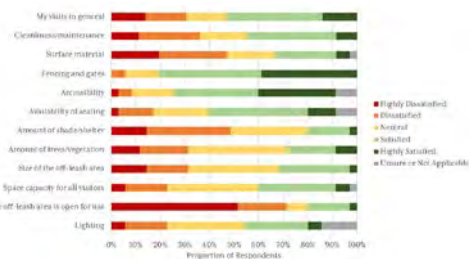
Seating and Shade

Picnic tables is not the preferred seating, trellis does not provide adequate shade.

Licensing and Communication

Feel that licensing dogs is a cash-grab from the City, and the money does not go back into the OLAs.

A public survey on all City of Toronto Off-Leash Areas (OLA) has been completed, and individual case study site data for Wychwood Car Barns satisfaction rating is included in the chart below.



D2.1 Surfacing to be regraded to encourage positive drainage (min 2%)

This OLA is flat and suffers from soil compaction, leading to poor drainage. Positive drainage will reduce pooling and puddling.

D2.5 Install 150mm crushed granite

Majority of users have issues with the lack of top ups and drainage within the OLA. This OLA is heavily used and requires a surfacing that can accommodate and support its usage. Recommendation to install crushed granite to 150mm depth and ensure proper drainage and top ups.

D3.5 Install vegetative boundary/buffer

OLA has numerous neighbours within close proximity and dogs barking has been an issue. Recommendation to install dense vegetation along residential side to reduce noise and dust migration.

D4.1 Install Agility Equipment*

This OLA is high use but small in size. Agility equipment could provide more opportunity for rigorous play within the OLA and promote exercise. *Please note that any and all agility equipment will need to go through a professional inspection process prior to installation and yearly during use.

D4.6 Install City signage within OLA and prior to main access point

Signage prior to entry will allow non OLA users to determine whether they are eligible to use OLA. Signage within OLA allows current users to become familiar with any changes to by-laws or Codes of Conduct.

D4.7 Install community boards at main entry/exit

Community boards provide a place where OLA users are able to post notices about community events, lost and found, and local news.

D5.5 Replace lighting with LED

Where lighting currently exists, replace lights with LEDs. LEDs provide brighter lights and better durability while providing a reduced impact on the environment.

OM Update maintenance procedures

Maintenance will perform weekly inspections, monitor and maintain irrigation, and protect and monitor vegetation health for all trees. Trees are fenced off for protection and vegetation to be maintained to ensure tree is not moist.



