

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

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Design, Operations, Maintenance, Administration and Best Practices

Appendix C: Consultation



City of Toronto
May 2021



Document for the City of Toronto by

thinc design

Swerhun Facilitation

PLAN B Natural Heritage

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Appendix C: Consultation

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Discussion Guide

DISCUSSION GUIDE

City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas (OLAs)

Design, Operations, Maintenance and Best Practices

The City of Toronto's Parks Standards & Innovations Unit is leading an interdivisional study to examine how the City's existing Dog Off-Leash Areas (OLAs) can be reimagined to better harmonize with existing park uses, provide a satisfying user experience, and operate with optimum efficiency. This study is a result of the recommendation in the Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan (2017) to "develop criteria for improving existing dog off-leash areas."

This study will explore common issues, global best practices, and potential solutions in an effort to develop design solutions to help improve the City's existing OLAs. The City will select ten case study sites and examine the variety of challenges and opportunities in OLAs of different size, context, and character. Ultimately, the study will strive to address common issues, reflect consideration of a range of perspectives and needs, and propose site-specific recommendations that could apply to OLAs City-wide.

Consultation is an important part of the process - this Discussion Guide is intended to support public and stakeholder conversations about improving OLAs.



Did you Know?

The City now has over 70+ OLA sites that are owned and/or managed by Toronto Parks Forestry and Recreation.

Why Now?

The City has heard that OLAs could be better.
Improving existing OLAs will help the City maintain a successful park amenity.

Toronto's population (human and dog) is increasing.
With more pets and dogs living in the City there is an increased demand to accommodate them in public space like parks.

Existing OLAs need to work as well as possible.
In 2010, the City's People Dogs and Parks – Off-Leash Policy led to a capital investment of over \$5 million dollars to create and improve OLAs. With that capital investment completed in 2016, the City is focusing on improving what it already has.



Study Goals

- Improve existing OLAs through effective design, maintenance, and operation
- Foster healthy relationships between dog owners and non-dog owners
- Elevate OLAs as spaces that provide a healthy, safe, accessible, and sustainable environment
- Adapt OLA designs to meet operational pressures, such as use and sustainability
- Develop guidelines to ensure consistent maintenance and operation across Toronto
- Develop design recommendations that can be applied to all existing OLAs
- Improve community involvement and develop future ongoing partnerships



What does the City think about when it thinks about accommodating dogs?

Dog and human safety, health and enjoyment	Harmonizing uses in parks and meeting a diversity of needs	Cost, including design, construction, and maintenance
Environmental impacts: foliage protection and surface erosion	Accessibility and feasibility	Feedback from park users



Where do OLAs fit into the City's approach to accommodating dogs?

OLAs are single-use spaces that are one of several options for dog owners and dogs. Other options are on-leash in public parks or sidewalks and off-leash in backyards and dog-friendly condo/apartment amenity spaces. Just like how the City provides a range of playgrounds for different children's age and ability levels, it also provides a range of OLAs so that dog owners can go to the one that is most appropriate for their dog.



Examples of different kinds of OLA amenities

Fenced Parks

- ▶ Woburn Park
- ▶ Regent Park
- ▶ Woolner Park
- ▶ L'Amoreaux
- ▶ And others

Small-Dog Areas

- ▶ Sunnybrook Park
- ▶ Allan Gardens
- ▶ Raymore Park
- ▶ Thomson Memorial Park
- ▶ And others

Commercial Dog Walkers

- ▶ Sherwood Park
- ▶ Cherry Beach
- ▶ Humber Bay Park West
- ▶ Botany Hill Park
- ▶ And others



Connected initiatives: the dog library

People, Dogs and Parks – Off-leash Policy (2010)

This policy outlines procedures and location criteria of OLAs in order to balance diverse community needs, and consider environmental impact.

Responsible Dog Ownership Campaign (2015)

Key findings on dog bite incidents and best practices on public education, legislation and enforcement in order to work towards increasing dog and human safety in the City.

Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan (2017)

Strategic directions to improve the availability of and access to facilities for parks & recreation at-large, with attention to balancing user needs, provision of OLAs as part of private development sites, and giving greater focus to improving existing OLAs.

Green Bin Pilot (2018)

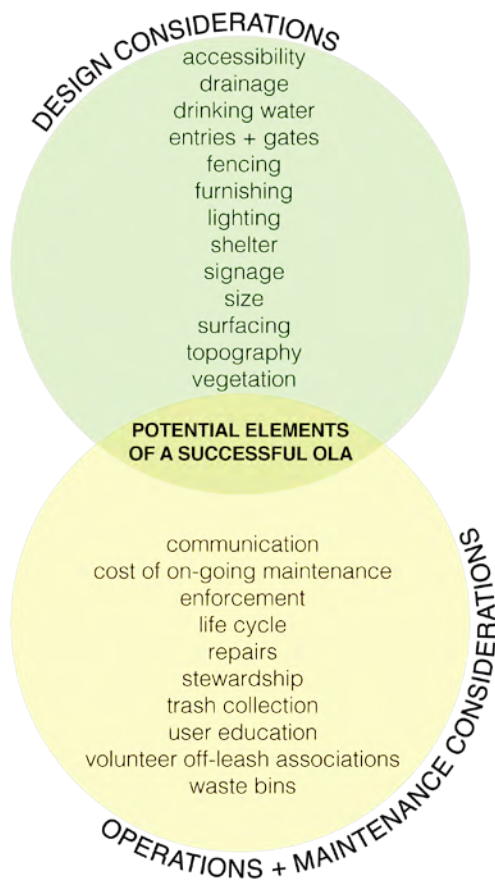
A successful pilot that aimed to divert organic waste from the landfill and reduce contamination in the recycling. Green bins are being installed now in all OLAs.

Pet-Friendly Design Guidelines for High Density Communities (2019/2020)

A future report of guidelines to inform the design and planning of pet amenities in multi-unit, high density communities with the goal of fostering more pet-friendly environments.



Design, Operations and Maintenance Considerations



This Study is looking at ways to improve the design, operations, and maintenance of existing off-leash areas. In order to provide a successful off-leash area, the overall goal for the design, operation and maintenance needs to be determined for each site individually.

All 70+ OLAs pose their own opportunities and challenges. However, a variety of design elements have proven successful and these can be included in Toronto's OLAs and tailored for each site. Some design elements to consider may include fencing, varying topography, variety of surfacing, shade, seating and water features.

With each design element comes different maintenance and operation requirements. Surfacing may require annual top ups (engineered wood fibre) or repairs (sod, artificial turf) and each site will require a different operation plan, as well as different installation and maintenance costs.

The consideration of design, operations and maintenance are interconnected. Throughout this process, the project team will work to understand the needs of the City, dogs, dog owners and the general public to ensure the design of OLAs satisfies the needs of the users while establishing a sustainable operation and maintenance program.

Did you Know?
Dogs must be licensed in order to use an off-leash area.

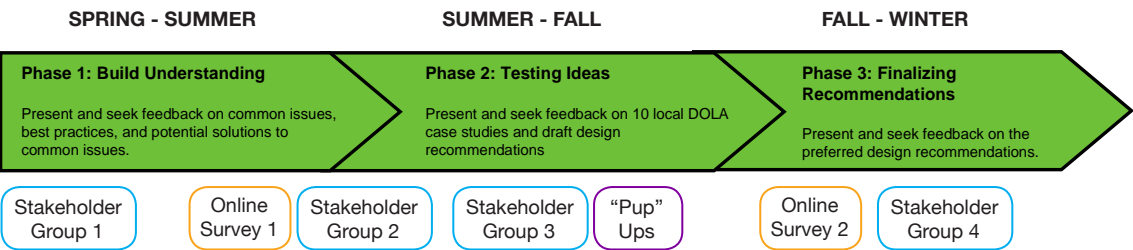
2019 OLA Surfaces	41% is grass	11% is sand
	22% is pea gravel	4% is crushed granite
	21% is EWF/wood chips	1% is boardwalk/natural trail



Get Involved!

Good decision-making needs good information. Your ideas, opinions, and local knowledge will help us improve the City's existing Dog Off-Leash Areas.

The Dogs Off-Leash Area (OLA) consultation process will happen in three phases and will involve City staff, park users, dog owners, and the general public city-wide.



There will be opportunities in-person and online to participate in the study, including:

Stakeholder Group Meetings

Purpose: Meet with organizations that have an interest in OLAs to present and discuss common issues, potential strategies to address issues, and draft recommendations.

"Pup" Ups – In 10 Sites

Purpose: Connect with dog-owners and park users through "in park events" in each of the ten case study sites to share and seek feedback on potential recommendations.

Public Surveys

Purpose: Present and seek feedback from the broader public on common issues, potential strategies to address issues, and draft recommendations.



For more information:
www.toronto.ca/olastudy
dola@toronto.ca

Figure C.1: Discussion Guide

Stakeholder Meeting Summaries

Meeting Summary - Stakeholder Meeting #1

City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas
Design, Operations, Maintenance & Best Practices
Metro Hall - Room 308 / 309, 55 John Street, Toronto
6:30 – 8:30

OVERVIEW

On Thursday, June 20, 2019, the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation hosted a stakeholder meeting for its City-Wide Study of Dog Off-Leash Areas. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce stakeholders to the Study and to present and seek feedback on: a preliminary best practices review; draft criteria to select case study sites; and a proposed approach to a public-facing survey and Discussion Guide to inform the Study. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting, including members of Dog Owners' Associations, dog walkers' associations, and others.

Sue Wenzl from the City of Toronto and Ian Malczewski from Swerhun Inc. provided an overview of the study, and Michael Tocher and Trish Clarke from thinc design presented initial observations and analysis around dog off-leash area best practices. thinc design also presented draft case study site selection criteria. Questions of clarification, breakout group discussions, and a plenary discussion followed the presentations. Participants also shared written feedback in the meeting and afterwards by email.

This meeting summary was prepared by Swerhun Inc., an independent third-party facilitation firm supporting the City of Toronto and thinc design in stakeholder and community engagement for the City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas. This summary captures feedback shared at the meeting and is not intended to serve as a verbatim transcript. A draft of this summary was shared with participants for review before it was finalized.

KEY MESSAGES

These Key Messages highlight major topics brought forward from meeting participants; readers should review them in concert with the more detailed summary of feedback below.

Desire for more communication and a better relationship between dog owners and the City. Participants said they would like to have a better relationship with the City, including being seen as partners rather than as problems. They said that dog owners have a lot of knowledge, expertise, and willingness to help with the maintenance of off-leash areas and would like the City to consider taking advantage.

General support for the Study. Participants were generally happy to see the City undertaking this Study to improve dog off-leash areas.

Strong desire to be consulted regularly in the process. Participants said they would like to be consulted on consistently and at major milestones in the process, including prior to the final selection of the proposed case study sites.

QUESTIONS OF CLARIFICATION

Following the overview presentation, participants asked questions of clarification. Questions and answers are summarized below.

Question: Does the City know the proportion of licensed dogs to all dogs in the City?

Answer: The percentage of licensed dogs is much lower than the actual dog population. 50,000 – 70,000 dogs are currently licensed, but the City estimates the population to be closer to 300k.

The lack of clear data on the number unlicensed dogs makes it difficult for the City to know where dogs are in relation to OLAs. Note added after the meeting: The city confirmed that there were 54,202 dogs registered in 2018.

Question: What is the end product of this Study? Who develops, reviews, and approves it? *Answer: thinc design is the prime consultant responsible for developing the Study, including reviewing best practices, proposing case study sites, and providing recommendations to City staff. thinc will also share information on how to implement recommended improvements. City staff will review, comment on, and ultimately approve the Study. The City will also review its budget to understand what can be implemented, including what kinds of changes could be implemented right away. The Study will not go to Council for approval.*

Question: Given that engagement is occurring through to the end of this year, when might Study recommendations be included in the City's budget? *Answer: The City is preparing its 2020 budget right now, so any budget considerations emerging from this Study will be considered in 2021 budgeting at the earliest. soonest.*

Question: What does TRCA stand for? *Answer: TRCA stands for Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. The TRCA is responsible for ravines and watersheds.*

Question: Does City have numbers on the usage of OLAs? *Answer: No. The City struggles with getting good, accurate data on OLA usage (or the usage of other park amenities), and this gap is something the City considers regularly. The City is able to infer OLA usage by looking at related data, such as the amount of garbage collected in parks.*

Question: There is an inconsistency in how the City describes dog facilities in East Lynn Park. The park itself no longer has a dog off-leash area (which was relocated to Merrill Bridge Road Park), but the City's website still describes East Lynn Park as accommodating dogs off leash. Who is the right person to contact about this inconsistency (which could lead to conflicts)? *Answer: The City staff in the room are the right people: they have noted it and will look into it.*

Question: K9 turf isn't listed as a surfacing type in the presentation. Why? *Answer: The list in the presentation is intended to reflect what is on the ground in the City today, and while K9 turf has been approved, it has not yet been installed. That said, the team will be looking at K9 turf as part of this project.*

Question: Why won't there won't be any new OLAs as a result of this Study? *Answer: This Study focuses on the improvement and maintenance of existing OLAs, not creating new ones. That does not mean the City won't build new ones in the future, just that that is not within the scope of this Study.*

Question: Are new OLAs only being built or maintained Downtown because of Section 37 money, where a lot of development happens? *Answer: It's unclear if there is a direct link between Section 37 funds (received from developers in exchange for increased height and density in Planning approvals processes), and the number of OLA areas. That said, Section 37 money could be a mechanism used to fund the development of future OLAs.*

Question: In order to be a professional dog-walker, you need 4-6 dogs and a permit that costs \$280.00. Why is this fee not allocated to the annual budget for OLAs? *Answer: The City has a revenue target, and its current policies and procedures do not allow it to direct fees collected directly into an amenity. Note added after the meeting: The city confirmed that revenues from the sale of Commercial Dog Walking Permits flow to an account for general*

Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) revenues. These revenues are distributed through the PFR operating budget, which supports the maintenance of off-leash areas and administrative costs of issuing the permits.

Question: What is the relationship between the TRCA, Parks, Forestry, and Recreation, and off-leash areas? *Answer: The TRCA and the City work together regularly on issues where their jurisdictions connect. When the TRCA owns land, they tell the City what it can and cannot do on those lands (such as surface treatments, etc.). The City works closely with them and looks at balancing the needs of the whole community — the needs of the dogs and dog owners are one of many perspectives the City needs to consider when making decisions about how to manage its increasingly limited park space.*

Question: Why are there only 8 sites being selected as case studies and how are you selecting them? *Answer: The City chose the number of sites based on a combination of trying to balance the cost of undertaking the Study with the need to reflect the diverse range of OLAs across Toronto. thinc design will be proposing case study site selection criteria and sites to the City for review and approval.*

Question: What is the venue to connect with the City if I want to try and help my park if we have the resources to do this? *Answer: The City has a dedicated email address for dog-off leash areas — dola@toronto.ca — which is the best place to connect.*

Question: What will happen for dog parks that don't have representatives at this meeting? What about dog parks that don't have an official representative or group? *Answer: this is a city-wide Study whose recommendations will apply to all dog parks, so a representative's absence does not mean their park will not be covered by this Study. That said, the team is planning to host future meetings across Toronto in an effort to reach other audiences. These meetings are targeted to people that are knowledgeable about an OLA and/or represent a broader constituency of dog owners. The City's best starting point for this audience is Dog Owner Association representatives, but if any participants know of an individual that knows an OLA well, could speak on behalf of that OLA's user-base. Where there is not an active OLA group, the City would be happy to receive their contact so they can be invited to future meetings.*

Question: Will the surveys be online or in-person? *Answer: They will be online. The team will share the link with stakeholders when it is live and would be grateful if you could distribute it to your network. The City will seek face-to-face feedback from the public at the Pup Ups in the case study site parks.*

Question: When will the 8 sites be picked and how will it be communicated? *Answer: The team will pick the sites in July and will communicate them back with this stakeholder group in the next meeting in the fall.*

DETAILED FEEDBACK ABOUT IMPROVING OLAS

Participants shared feedback and advice about issues and opportunities they would like to see considered through the Study. Their advice is organized into four categories below: feedback about design, operations, and maintenance; feedback about communications and information platforms; feedback about culture change and relationships; and feedback about funding and implementation.

Feedback about Design, Operations, and Maintenance

Participants said they would like to see the following design, operations, and maintenance ideas considered in the Study:

Provide additional seating in and around off-leash areas. Participants said they would like to see more seating both inside OLAs (for dog-walkers) and outside OLAs (for people who don't have a dog but want to come to the park or watch).

Shade and shelter, which are important for both humans and dogs. A few said their parks currently have inadequate covering or trees. Participants felt shelter should be available at all parks, saying it is important year-round to protect from sunlight, wind, and rain.

Play structures for dogs. Participants identified play equipment as an important design consideration to stimulate dogs and provide them with more interaction with the terrain, especially in smaller OLAs. Suggested play-supporting structures and landscaping features included logs, rocks, mounds, and obstacle courses.

Provide access to water features. Participants suggested the team look at adding water features such as drinking fountains and splash pads for dogs, especially in the summer months.

Terrain, surfaces, and fencing. Participants said topography and terrain are very important considerations for the design, operations, and maintenance of off-leash areas. They said they would like the team to consider multi-surfacing in OLAs, such as paved pathways and grassy areas. Participants also suggested exploring adding more fencing in downtown OLAs, saying partially-fenced OLAs can be confusing for both dog-owners and other park users.

Lighting. Participants said lighting is important for safety, especially when days are short, and suggested each park should have at least one well-lit area.

Promoting better maintenance. Participants said that leaving maintenance equipment in parks helps foster stewardship and supports keeping OLAs clean and orderly. They suggested adding more garbage cans, putting green bins in every OLA, and having free waste bag dispensers.

Promoting the Code of Conduct, signage, and increasing by-law enforcement. Participants suggested increasing education around the use of OLAs, particularly with more signage that explains etiquette, rules, and the Code of Conduct. Participants said a clear and present Code of Conduct would empower DOA reps to promote rules and create a safe space for everyone. Some said they wanted to see compliance and enforcement included in the scope of the Study. There was also a suggestion for the City to revisit time-of-use regulations for commercial dog walkers, suggesting that restricting their use of OLAs can lead to underuse of these assets, though others said it's important for OLAs to be primarily operated as assets for public use and benefit, not private, commercial benefit. *Note added after the meeting: in a post-meeting email, a participant suggested the City consider updating the code of conduct to restrict balls in OLAs (or at least restrict the size of balls to be "oversized") since there have been incidents of dogs choking on them. Connected to this comment, there was a suggestion for there to be a veterinary clinic that offers scope / extraction services within one kilometre of major OLAs.*

Message boards and signage. Participants suggested the City to review the communications strategy in OLAs. Participants suggested each OLA should have a message board that could include important information, updates, reminders, and promotion of the local Dog Owner Association group, if one exists. Other easy-to-read signage options could assist with OLA compliance such as flagging the safe number of dogs in a park, having "pick up after your pet" signs, or mapping where the OLA is within the greater context of a park.

Enforcement. Participants shared concern about “problem dogs” using OLAs and owners who have an inability to control them. They said they would like to see an effective way of enforcing bylaws to ensure that OLAs are a safe and enjoyable space for everyone.

Feedback about Communications and Information Platforms

Participants suggested the team consider a number of different ideas connected to communications platforms, including:

Online communication. Participants expressed interest in the creation of an online portal or platform that would allow for the exchange of information between OLAs, the City, dog walkers and owners, Dog Owner Association representatives, and other park users. They also suggested developing a smartphone app for Dog Owner Associations to collect usage data.

A website with information about OLAs. Participants suggested the City look into creating a website that provides details about each OLA in the City, including which OLAs have which assets and which OLAs are best-suited to which kinds of dogs.

An online support “ticketing” system. Participants suggested the City create a ticketing system that would allow OLA users to submit requests for maintenance, which would help foster accountability and allow the City and residents to track and monitor issues.

Feedback about Culture Change and Relationships

Highlight positive community impacts. Participants would like to see more attention given to the positive community and social impacts that dogs and OLAs have on social and economic factors in their park and surrounding neighbourhood. Participants said OLAs are important community hubs, which provide space for people and dogs to meet and develop relationships.

Encouraging stewardship. Many participants were interested in partnering with the City, saying Dog Owner Associations or community leaders could provide supplies and support for other dog owner initiatives in their neighbourhoods. They said Dog Owner Associations can help raise awareness and funding, promote compliance, and support community outreach. Participants said they would like a more direct way to connect and provide input to the City.

Work with Dog Owner Associations to expand collaborative relationships. Participants said they would like more opportunities like this stakeholder meeting to connect with the City to discuss ideas and issues related to OLAs. Some participants said they feel they are perceived as a problem by City staff and suggested creating collaborative relationships could help reduce this perception and improve the culture between dog owners and staff.

Increase transparency and coordinate “siloe” agencies. Participants would like more transparency and understanding about the jurisdictional responsibilities between the TRCA and the Parks, Forestry, and Recreation Division. Understanding the different jurisdictions and their mandates will help reduce some of the confusion and frustration of dog owners. Another participant suggested that a thorough explanation of the OLA standards and guidelines, such as the rationale of their size, would be helpful to increase trust and transparency.

Education. Participants would like to see more education around licensing dogs and dog etiquette. One person felt that the City’s Max campaign was ineffective due to brochures and pamphlets having only been available in community centres and libraries and suggested that they be available in dog parks themselves or in dog license renewal packages.

Create more consistent expectations around community involvement. For example, in some parks, it's okay for residents to contribute resources such as wood chips to maintain the park; in other parks, it's not okay.

Feedback about Funding and Implementation

Explore the full costs of the OLAs. Participants said it will be important to study and reveal the full life-cycle costs of OLA, which goes far beyond maintenance costs. Other costs that are important to explore include materials and building costs.

Sponsorship and private funding. Some participants suggested the City explore sponsorships and/or private funding to help with maintenance costs. Suggested funding models included working with non-profits to raise money, fundraisers, private sponsorship, and donations. There was also a suggestion to use revenue from commercial dog walker's licensing to improve and maintain OLAs.

Additional funding will be needed to respond to climate change. It was noted that climate change impacts (e.g. flooding and intense heat) are impacting parks including OLAs and additional funding will be required to maintain and restore parks and OLAs.

FEEDBACK ABOUT CASE STUDY SITES

Participants shared advice about both the case study site selection criteria and the case study site review process.

Feedback about the case study site selection criteria

Participants agreed with many of the draft site selection criteria thinc design presented. In particular, participants agreed with the criteria focused on ensuring the selected sites included OLAs in densely populated neighbourhoods (e.g. near condos) and in less densely populated neighbourhoods (e.g. near single family homes). They also shared the following advice about additional case study site selection criteria for the team to consider:

OLAs with well-known issues. The selected case study sites should include parks with existing well-known issues. Coxwell Ravine, Colonel Samuel Smith, and Marie Curtis are examples of parks with well-known issues.

OLAs that have a variety of usage. Participants shared a range of perspectives on whether the selected case study sites should reflect a variety of usages. Some said the case study sites should include both lightly used and heavily used OLAs. Others said the team should only focus on well-used OLAs since it will be easier to speak with people at those OLAs to understand issues and opportunities.

OLAs in parks with lots of amenities (and in parks with limited amenities). Participants said both types of OLAs should be reflected in the selected case study sites. Other uses outside of OLAs that should be considered when selecting the case study sites include parks where runners and cyclists pass through the OLA (such as in High Park) or whether the OLA has a children's playground in the vicinity.

OLAS that reflect a range of carrying capacities, including both "high capacity" and "low capacity" OLAs.

Feedback about the case study site review process

Add more case study sites. Some suggested the City add more case study sites, saying 8 was too few to represent the range of OLAs across the City. They suggested 16 sites would be best, but 12 could also work.

Collect basic usage statistics prior to selecting the case study sites, such as the level of park activities and the range of ways users arrive by to the OLA (e.g. by transit, by car, on foot).

Study sites in different times of day and year. Participants suggested the team review the case study sites in both summer and winter conditions. They also suggested the team study the sites in both morning and evening since the users tend to be different.

FEEDBACK ON THE SURVEY, DISCUSSION GUIDE, AND PROCESS

Discussion Guide feedback. Participants generally thought the Discussion Guide would be a useful tool to share information and help promote the study. Specific suggested refinements were:

- Under “Design Considerations,” add shelter and drinking water;
- Under “Operations and Maintenance” considerations, add snow and ice clearing;
- Change the “call to action” to promote visiting the website over the email.

Survey Feedback. Participants suggested the City ask about the following topics on the public survey:

- How non-dog owners use parks;
- Why people are letting their dogs off-leash in undesignated areas; and
- How many dog-owners have rescue dogs.

Consult on draft public survey and OLA site selection. There was interest from the participants to be consulted on the draft public survey before it goes public, potentially as “beta test” users. Participants also suggested the City share its proposed case study site selection criteria (along with the selected case study sites) prior to the final decision.

NEXT STEPS

The City, Swerhun Inc. and thinc design thanked participants for their time and feedback and committed to sharing a draft summary in the coming weeks. Swerhun reminded participants to email any additional feedback after the meeting.

Appendix A. Meeting Agenda

Stakeholder Meeting #1

City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas
Design, Operations, Maintenance & Best Practices
Metro Hall - Room 308 / 309
55 John Street, Toronto
6:30 – 8:30

Meeting Purpose

To introduce the City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas and to present and seek feedback on: a preliminary best practices review, draft criteria to select case study sites, and a proposed approach to a public-facing survey to inform the Study.

Proposed Meeting Agenda

- 6:30 Welcome, introductions, agenda review**
Swerhun Inc.
City of Toronto
- 6:45 Overview of study, best practices review, and draft case study site selection criteria**
City of Toronto
thinc design
Questions of Clarification
- 7:10 Discussion: best practices and selection criteria**
1. What are your thoughts on the preliminary best practices review? Are there any other best practices or ideas you would like to see considered in this study?
 2. What do you think about the draft case study site selection criteria? Are there any other criteria you would like to see considered?
- 7:45 Overview of public-facing Discussion Guide & Survey**
City of Toronto
- 8:00 Discussion: Survey, Discussion Guide and other advice**
3. What do you think of the proposed approach to the public-facing survey and Discussion Guide? Given the focus and objectives of the study, are there any other themes/topics you'd like to see considered in the Survey or Discussion Guide?
 4. Do you have any other advice for the City?
- 8:25 Wrap up and next steps**
- 8:30 Adjourn**

Please sign in

If you would like to receive a draft summary of the workshop, please sign in at the welcome table.

How to give feedback

Please submit all feedback to Matthew Wheatley, third party facilitator:

416 572 4365

mwheatley@swerhun.com

Feedback deadline:

June 27, 2019

Appendix B. Participant List

The following is a list of organizations that were invited to the Stakeholder Meeting. Those organizations that were represented at the meeting are signified in bold text.

Dog Owner Associations / Off-Leash Area Groups

Allan Gardens Dog Owners Association
Balmy Beach Park Dog Owners Association
Bayview Arena Park Dog Owners Association

Beresford Park

Bickford Park
Bill Johnson Park
Botany Hill Park

Cassels Avenue Playground

Cherry Beach

Colonel Danforth Park
Colonel Sam Smith Park

David Crombie Park

Don Valley Brick Works
Earl Bales Park

Grand Manitoba Park

Grange Park

Greenwood Park

High Park

Humber Bay Park West

Kew Gardens

King's Mill Park

Linkwood Lane Park

Marie Curtis Park

Merrill Bridge Road Park

Monarch Park

Norwood Park
Orphan's Green

Ramsden Park

Regent Park
Riverdale Park West
Sandy Bruce Park
Sherwood Park

Sir Winston Churchill Park

Sorauren Avenue Park
South Stanley Park

St. Andrew's Playground

Stan Wadlow Park

Sunnybrook Park

Thompson Street Parkette
Thomson Memorial Park
Vermont Square
Wildwood Crescent Playground
Withrow Park

Woburn Park

Wychwood Car Barns Park

Other Organizations

Access TO

Canadian Dog Walkers Association

Harbourfront Dog Team

Park People

Toronto Dog Park Community

Toronto Accessible Sports Council

Meeting Summary - Stakeholder Meeting #2

City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas
Design, Operations, Maintenance & Best Practices
East York Civic Centre – Council Chambers
Wednesday, August 21, 2019
7:00 – 9:00

OVERVIEW

On Wednesday, August 21, 2019, the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division hosted the second stakeholder meeting for its City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas (OLA). The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the project and to present and seek feedback on: examples of designs, operations, and maintenance best practices from other jurisdictions; a proposed structure and approach to case study profiles; and a revised proposed case study site selection criteria and proposed case study sites. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting, including Dog Owners' Associations, dog walkers' groups, and others.

The meeting included: opening remarks and an update on the study from Sue Wenzl (City of Toronto); introductions and agenda review by Ian Malczewski (Swerhun Inc.); a presentation from Trish Clarke (thinc design) on best practices, the proposed structure and approach to the case study profiles; and the revised proposed case study site selection criteria and ten proposed case study sites. Following the presentation, participants asked questions of clarification and engaged in small table discussions, a facilitated report back, and full room discussion.

This meeting summary was prepared by Swerhun Inc., an independent third-party facilitation firm supporting the City of Toronto and thinc design in stakeholder and community engagement for the City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas. This summary captures feedback shared at the meeting and is not intended to serve as a verbatim transcript. A draft of this summary was shared with participants for review before it was finalized.

KEY MESSAGES

These key messages highlight major topics brought forward from meeting participants; they should be read in concert with the more detailed summary of feedback below.

The density of the surrounding neighbourhood / projected dog population should be included in the selection criteria. The selected sites should include at least a few OLAs that are in higher density neighbourhoods (since these are under the most pressure).

Strong desire to be advised of and included in the Pup Ups. Connect with the DOA reps in advance of the Pup Ups in case study sites to help identify issues and get advice on how / when to host Pup Ups.

Some suggested additional selection criteria. There were no objections to the proposed case study site selection criteria. Participants suggested some additional criteria for consideration.

QUESTIONS OF CLARIFICATION

Following the overview presentation, participants asked a few questions of clarification. Questions and answers are summarized below.

Question: What does it mean for an OLA to be selected as one of the ten case study sites as part of this study?

Answer: The intention of the Case Studies is to serve as exemplars to demonstrate how the researched global Best Practices may be applied to real sites and solve issues that are common across

all of the City's OLAs. The intention is for each attribute of interest to be represented across the ten sites. That way, design solutions that address each variable may be developed accordingly. These design interventions will be summarized as a type of “lessons learned” and be used to inform future design work — should OLA renovations be undertaken — when adequate resources and funding are secured.

Question: Can you share a list of all the places/cities you looked at in your best practices review?

Answer: Yes, we will include the list in the Meeting Summary. (See Attachment C).

Question: Will this study result in the closure of any off-leash areas or reductions in size?

Answer: This is not the intention of the study. The intent of this study is to review existing off leash areas and develop criteria for the improvement of the off-leash areas. The People Dogs and Parks Policy includes a process which needs to be followed for the closure of an off-leash area.

Question: Is there an opportunity for all off-leash areas to have lighting and water for drinking?

Answer: Not all parks have access to the necessary infrastructure needed to add lighting and water to the off-leash areas. Including these elements is determined at the design and planning phase based on cost and access.

Question: How do you plan to engage non-dog owners in this Study?

Answer: They will be engaged through the public surveys and Pup Ups.

DETAILED FEEDBACK

Feedback about the proposed structure and approach to case study profiles

The team shared and sought feedback on a proposed checklist that will be used to gather data on the case study sites (see Attachment D). Feedback included additional elements to include as well as additional detail to collect on elements already included.

Additional elements to include:

- Whether there are safety concerns for humans and dogs, including algae in water;
- Whether it has seasonal access;
- Number of dog and people injury reports;
- Presence of graffiti;
- Amount of use (i.e. days and times the OLA is busier vs. less busy);
- Opening and closing times;
- Amount of traffic through the park (not just the OLA) including pedestrians, cyclists, motorized vehicles;
- Presence of a small dog area.

Additional detail on existing elements:

- Depth of surfacing;
- Types of gates; and
- When waste bins are available (i.e. if they are provided year-round).

Feedback about the revised case study site selection criteria and proposed case study sites.

The team presented and sought feedback on the revised case study site selection criteria and ten proposed case study sites. The purpose of sharing the proposed case sites was to seek feedback on how well participants felt they reflect the range of different OLAs across the City.

Participants agreed with many of the revised selection criteria proposed and several said the case study sites meet the selection criteria and reflect the range of different OLAs across the City.

Participants also suggested a few additional selection criteria for the team to consider when finalizing the 10 case study sites:

- **Density of the surrounding neighbourhood / projected dog population**, including making sure the selected sites include at least a few in higher density neighbourhoods (since these are under the most pressure);
- **Seasonality**: include both OLAs that are open year-round and OLAs that close seasonally;
- **Destination versus local use**, include OLAs that attract people from different parts of the City and OLAs that are used exclusively by local communities;
- **Lighting**, include OLAs both with and without lighting;
- **Surface depth**, include OLAs that have a range of surfacing depths;
- **Different types of traffic in park**, including OLAs near cyclist, pedestrian, and motorized vehicle routes;
- **Safety issues**, such as Thomson Memorial Park, which has had threats of assaults and physical altercations, and Marie Curtis Park, where coyotes have entered the OLA to mate with dogs.
- **The selected case study sites should have a designated DOA representative** or key contact person to help promote the study and gather feedback.

Other comments/suggestions related to the site selection criteria and case study sites:

Consider adding more unfenced OLAs. The proposed case study sites only include one unfenced area, it may be beneficial to have more unfenced areas.

Consider sharing a map of the selected sites, to ensure that they achieve a broad geographic coverage.

Make sure to connect with DOA reps in advance of Pup Ups in case study sites to help identify issues and get advice on how / when to host Pup Ups.

Specific parks suggested for case study sites. A few participants suggested specific OLAs that they felt should be included in the case study sites, including:

- **Marie Curtis Dog Park.** A participant said this OLA has a number of significant issues, including inappropriate fencing; poor surfacing; no lighting; close to a natural area; coyotes entering the OLA to mate with dogs;
- **Colonel Samuel Smith Park.**

Feedback about the public survey

A week prior to the meeting on August 7th the City shared a “beta” version of the first public survey for the study and asked stakeholders to share feedback by August 21st (the feedback deadline was extended to Sunday, August 25 in the meeting at participants’ request). At the meeting, the City provided a brief overview of the survey and asked if participants had any additional feedback, not already shared prior to the meeting.

Appendix C: Consultation

Participants said they appreciated the opportunity to share advice about the survey and shared the following feedback:

- Consider removing the dog license question. The question about whether or not a dog is licensed seems irrelevant unless the City is going to enforce the rule that only licensed dogs are allowed in OLAs.
- Explain the rationale for the demographic questions, (e.g. questions asking respondents to identify language, gender, economics, etc.) *Response: The demographic questions help the City understand if the survey has captured a sample that is representative of the broader population. These questions can also help the City better understand and explain who is using the OLAs.*
- Consider modifying the question style/format. Some of the questions only ask for respondents' top three answers, which can be quite limiting. Consider instead using a 5-point scale that allows respondents to rate all their responses.
- Consider adding more response options for Question 6 ("why do you go to the dog park") that are less practical and reflect many reasons why people go to dog parks, e.g. joy, happiness, etc.
- Consider replacing "vegetation" with "tree" in Question 10: "important areas for improvement."
- Consider adding a question about complaints, such as a question that asks respondents to identify the number of times they have complained to the City about an OLA.
- Advertise the survey at OLAs and with the stakeholders. Include a notice with a link on bulletin boards at the OLAs and send stakeholders a link once live so we can share it with our networks.

NEXT STEPS

The City, Swerhun Inc. and thinc design thanked participants for their time and feedback and committed to sharing a draft summary in the coming weeks. Swerhun reminded participants to email any additional feedback after the meeting to mwheatley@swerhun.com by Wednesday, August 28th. The City reminded participants to email to dola@toronto.ca by Sunday August 25th and let stakeholders know they will share the final survey once it is live.

Attachment A. Meeting Agenda

Stakeholder Meeting #2

City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas
Design, Operations, Maintenance & Best Practices
East York Civic Centre – Council Chambers
850 Coxwell Avenue
7:00 – 9:00pm

Workshop Purpose

To provide an update on the project and to present and seek feedback on:

- examples of designs, operations, and maintenance best practices from other jurisdictions
- a proposed structure and approach to case study profiles
- revised proposed case study site selection criteria and proposed case study sites;

Proposed Workshop Agenda

7:00 Welcome, introductions, agenda review

Swerhun Inc.
City of Toronto

7:15 Overview of examples, case study profile approach, and proposed site selection criteria

thinc design

Questions of Clarification

7:45 Discussion

1. What do think of the proposed structure and approach for the case study site profiles? Is there any other information you would like to see included in the profiles?
2. How well do you feel the proposed case study sites reflect the range of different OLAs across the City? How would you refine the case study site selection criteria (if at all) to ensure the selected sites better represent the City's OLAs?

8:45 Overview of survey and short discussion

City of Toronto

8:55 Wrap up and next steps

9:00 Adjourn

Attachment B. Participant List

The following is a list of organizations that were invited to the Stakeholder Meeting. Those organizations that were represented at the meeting are signified in bold text.

Dog Owner Associations / Off-Leash Area Groups:

- **Allan Gardens**
- Balmy Beach Park Dog Owners Association
- Bayview Arena Park Dog Owners Association
- Beresford Park
- Bickford Park
- Bill Johnson Park
- **Botany Hill Park**
- Cassels Avenue Playground
- **Cherry Beach**
- Colonel Danforth Park
- Colonel Sam Smith Park
- Don Valley Brick Works
- Earl Bales Park
- **Gerrard Carlaw Parkette**
- Grand Manitoba Park
- Grange Park
- Greenwood Park
- **Hillcrest park**
- High Park
- **Humber Bay Park West**
- **Kew Gardens**
- King's Mill Park
- **L'Amoreaux Park**
- Linkwood Lane Park
- **Marie Curtis Park**
- **Merrill Bridge Road Park**
- **Monarch Park**
- Norwood Park
- Orphan's Green
- Ramsden Park
- Regent Park
- Riverdale Park West
- Sandy Bruce Park
- Sherwood Park
- Sir Winston Churchill Park
- Sorauren Avenue Park
- South Stanley Park
- **St. Andrew's Playground**
- Stan Wadlow Park
- **Sunnybrook Park**
- **Thompson Street Parkette**
- **Thomson Memorial Park**
- Vermont Square
- **Warden Woods Park**
- Wildwood Crescent Playground
- **Withrow Park**
- Woburn Park
- **Wychwood Car Barns Park**

Other Organizations:

- Access TO
- **Canadian Dog Walkers Association**
- **Harbourfront Dog Team**
- Park People
- **Riverdale Dog Walkers Group**
- Toronto Dog Park Community
- Toronto Accessible Sports Council

Attachment C. List of places/cities included in the best practices review

Regional:

1. Mississauga, ON
2. Hamilton, ON
3. London, ON
4. Thunder Bay, ON
5. Ottawa, ON
6. Guelph, ON
7. Sudbury, ON

National:

1. Calgary, AB
2. Surrey, BC
3. Vancouver, BC
4. Halifax, NS
5. Edmonton, AB
6. Winnipeg, MB
7. Regina, SK

International:

1. United States:
 - a. Chicago, IL
 - b. Seattle, WA
 - c. New York, NY
 - d. Philadelphia, P A
 - e. Portland, OR
 - f. Denver, CO
 - g. Austin, TX
 - h. Seattle, WA
 - i. Tampa, FL
 - j. San Francisco, CA
2. Australia:
 - a. South Australia
 - b. Sydney, NSW
3. New Zealand
 - a. Christchurch, NZ
4. Europe:
 - a. London, UK
 - b. Munich, DE
 - c. Switzerland
 - d. Paris, FR
 - e. Madrid, ES

Attachment D. Proposed structure and approach to case study profiles

City of Toronto DOG OFF LEASH AREA					
GENERAL INFORMATION					
Name:					
District:		Main Intersection:			
Size (ha):		Shape:		Topography:	
SURFACING					
Surface Type: Engineer Wood Fiber Mulch Natural/Grass Pea Gravel Granite Chip Sand					
Surfacing Observations: Material Migration Poor Drainage Erosion Pooling/Mud Holes/Digging Root Exposure Compaction					
Surfacing Depth (mm):					
FENCING					
Fencing: Y / N		Gates: Y / N		# of Gates:	
Fencing Type: Iron Omega Chain Link Post and Paddle Wire Mesh Other:					
Gate Location:		Double Gate:			
Fence Observations: Cut Holes Large Gaps Rust Damage Warped/Sagging Unsafe Other:					
Fence Height (m):					
TREES					
Trees within OLA: Y / N		Trees providing shade within OLA: Y / N:			
If trees within OLA, are they fenced off: Y / N					
Tree Damage: Compaction Roots Exposed Damaged Canopy Urine Ring Stripped Bark Other:					
Number of Trees within OLA:		DBH:			
WATER					
Irrigation: Y / N		Dog Drinking Fountain: Y / N		Human Drinking Fountain: Y / N:	
Beach/Water Access: Y / N					
AMENITIES					
Landscape Features: Boulders Logs Play Amenities None Other:					
Signage: Y / N		Type:		Community Board: Y / N	
Lighting: Y / N		# of Lights:		Location:	
Seating: Y / N		Type:		Amount:	
# of City Bins:		Waste Bins: Green / Blue / Black			
ACCESSIBLE					
Within OLA: Y / N		To OLA: Y / N		Transit Connection: Y / N	
Walkability: Poor Satisfactory Good Great		Adjacent Amenities: Playground Sports Field Washroom Splash Pad Other:			

Figure C.2: Proposed structure & approach to case study profiles

Meeting Summary - Stakeholder Meeting #3

City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas
Design, Operations, Maintenance & Best Practices
North York Civic Centre – Committee Room #3
Wednesday, October 16, 2019
6:30 – 9:00pm

OVERVIEW

On Wednesday, October 16, 2019, the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division hosted the third stakeholder meeting for its City-Wide Study of Dog Off-Leash Areas (OLAs). The purpose of the meeting was to present and seek feedback on the Study's Preliminary Recommendations, including recommendations about design, operations and maintenance, and administration. Approximately 12 people attended the meeting, including representatives of Dog Owners' Associations and commercial dog walkers.

The meeting included: opening remarks and an update on the study from Sue Wenzl (City of Toronto); introductions and agenda review by Ian Malczewski (Swerhun Inc.); and a presentation from Trish Clarke (thinc design) on the Preliminary Recommendations. Following the presentation, participants asked questions of clarification and engaged in a group discussion about the Preliminary Recommendations.

This meeting summary was prepared by Swerhun Inc., an independent third-party facilitation firm supporting the City of Toronto and thinc design in stakeholder engagement for the City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas. A draft of this summary was shared with meeting participants for review before it was finalized.

KEY MESSAGES

These key messages highlight major topics brought forward from meeting participants; they should be read in concert with the more detailed summary of feedback below.

The Preliminary Recommendations are on the right track. Participants were generally happy with the Preliminary Recommendations, saying a number could help address specific issues people and dogs experience in off-leash areas. Participants especially appreciated the Preliminary Recommendations about design that focused on water, fencing, and entrances and gates.

Winter maintenance and communication are key operations, maintenance, and administrative issues. Several times over the course of the meeting, participants said that winter maintenance of OLAs is very important, especially when it comes to clearing snow and ice around gates, between parking lots and OLAs, and using salt vs. other, more dog-friendly materials. They also said that more communication between the City, dog owners, Dog Owner Associations, and Commercial Dog Walkers will be key (and expressed support for recommendations that focused on addressing these communications challenges)

How does implementation work? Several participants said they were interested to learn how the City would be implementing the recommendations, including which recommendations were short-term, medium-term, and long-term.

QUESTIONS OF CLARIFICATION

Following the overview presentation, participants asked a few questions of clarification. Questions and answers are summarized below.

Could you explain what the acronym “DOA” means? *DOA stands for Dog Owners Association. Dog Owners Association representatives are the primary audience for these stakeholder meetings (in addition to Commercial Dog Walkers and parks advocacy groups).*

Why does the location of an OLA in a Hydro corridor influence the recommendations? *Hydro One, the entity that owns the corridors, stipulates what kinds of things the City can and cannot do on their land (for example it has requirements and restrictions around lighting, trees, shade structures, and irrigation. Exactly what can go where depends on the location of the Hydro One / City property line.*

Is there a way to get Sherwood Park added to the Pup Up list? The park has many issues stemming from population growth in the area, the mix of users in the park, and the proximity of the off-leash area to an Environmentally Significant Area. *The Pup Up schedule is finalized as it is based on case study sites that were selected several months ago, and the team cannot add any more at this stage. That said, the sites were selected to ensure that the characteristics of all the City’s OLAs were represented so that the recommendations can apply to OLAs city-wide. High Park, which is one of the case study sites, is likely most similar to Sherwood Park in terms of its proximity to an Environmentally Significant Area. In the meantime, if there are specific issues that you’d like to see addressed, you could consider contacting either Parks Operations or the local Councillor’s office.*

Is one of the Pup Up / case study sites in a rapid growth area (similar to St. Andrews)? *Yes, rapid growth / population density is one of the characteristics that informed the selection of the case study sites, and the site that best represents that characteristic is Allan Gardens.*

Does the Study team have a veterinarian on the team? Vets know what kinds of plants are unhealthy for dogs, for example, and could help inform your recommendations. *The team includes an ecologist and an animal behaviourist who would be able to speak to this kind of issue and will be weighing in on the recommendations.*

Have you taken soil composition into consideration when making recommendations around surfacing? *Yes, we have considered it in our Preliminary Recommendations.*

Will this Study make recommendations about washrooms outside of OLAs? *No, the Study’s scope and its recommendations are focused on what is inside the boundaries of the OLAs.*

DETAILED FEEDBACK

Participants shared feedback about the three different categories of recommendations, summarized below.

Feedback about the Preliminary Design Recommendations

Participants shared feedback about six different types of Design Recommendations, including recommendations about Shade, Surfacing & Drainage, Fencing & Entrances, Amenities, Lighting, and Water.

Shade

Participants liked the recommendations around shade, particularly the recommendation to achieve 20% shade coverage. Suggested refinements to the preliminary recommendations about shade included:

- Consider identifying 20% as a minimum amount of shade coverage

- Where there is a recommendation to install a shade structure, make sure that the structure actually provides shade and can also offer some protection from the elements — some structures have large gaps in their roof which let sunlight (and rain) through. The Study should also recommend good drainage and/or grading around shade structures since water often gathers around the base, surrounding them in a circle of mud. Another way to address this issue might be to recommend connecting rain barrels to shade structures.
- Consider recommending shade structures be spread around an OLA rather than concentrated in a single area. Since people and dogs tend to congregate where there is shade, fights between dogs can occur if everyone is trying to use the same area.

Surfacing & drainage

Participants shared a range of questions about surfacing & drainage, including:

- Why does the recommendation for synthetic turf recommend a maximum of 1,000 square metres? *This recommendation is based largely on cost, since synthetic turf is the costliest surfacing in terms of design and maintenance.*
- Is there a recommendation for every OLA to have drainage underneath the surfacing? *The recommendations are striving to achieve a 2% slope to encourage drainage across all OLAs — the ability to install drainage under the surfacing depends on the existing surfacing, slope and surrounding context.*
- Will the surfacing recommendations impact whether an OLA can have multiple uses? For example, Beresford Park turns into an ice rink in the winter; would this Study change that use? *This Study is not looking at changing any uses; any major changes to a use would need to go through a broader consultation processes so that a range of stakeholders could be involved.*
- Consider changing the “dual surfacing” recommendation to a “multi-surfacing” recommendations since, if an OLA is large enough, it may be possible to have three (or more) types of surfacing.

Fencing & entrances

Participants liked several of the fencing and entrances recommendations, specifically the recommendation to: upgrade/replace latches at gates; ensure there are double gates at main entrances; have a vegetative boundary in non-fenced areas, and; ensure there are at least 2 entry/exit points to each OLA.

Participants shared a range of opinions on the recommendation to increase the height of fences to 5 feet. Some liked this recommendation, saying it would help prevent dogs from jumping in or out of OLAs. Others suggested that it might make sense to have a lower fence on at least one side of an OLA, potentially where a small dog area is, so that parents who in an OLA can still see over the fence if they have children playing in an adjacent playground.

A few participants asked if it would be possible for the City to build a fence where one doesn't exist today, such as Beresford park, where dogs sometimes dangerously run into the street. *thinc design responded that there would need to be a formal consultation process to understand demand before making any decisions about adding or removing fences.*

Finally, participants discussed fencing next to Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) at length. Some said that in some parks, like Sherwood Park, dogs have become stuck in the holes in fencing between the OLA and an ESA, so some people have cut the fencing. Others said that they understood a lower fence might be required next to ESAs to allow wildlife to pass. Participants suggested the team look more closely at fencing requirements beside ESAs and proposed a fencing type that doesn't injure people or dogs.

Appendix C: Consultation

Amenities

Participants generally liked the recommendations about amenities and suggested a few others for the team to consider, including:

- Consider adding specific recommendations around signage, including signage that clearly identifies activities/uses that are not permitted in OLAs (e.g. riding a bike, picnicking, or leaving unaccompanied young children) and signage that includes [illustrations of dog's body language](#) and/or problematic behaviour. *thinc design said it would review examples of illustrations, saying that including signage like this would need to be weighed against the potential to create an expectation that dog owners do not need to understand and/or monitor their dog's behaviour.*
- Consider identifying a “fetching lane” as a type of amenity (similar to a fast lane in swimming pool) and recommending one in OLAs with enough space.
- Consider recommending adding parking to OLAs. *thinc design explained that parking is outside the scope of Study's design recommendations, which are focused on the inside boundaries of OLAs.*

Lighting

Participants liked the lighting recommendations, particularly the recommendations to add lighting on pathways in OLAs where there is an existing electrical connection. They suggested a few tweaks to these recommendations, including suggestions that the team consider: specifying that lighting should point to dark or secluded areas (especially since these are areas dogs often leave feces) and recommending the lighting go on and off via motion sensors and/or light/darkness sensors.

Water

Participants were very enthusiastic about the water recommendations, particularly the recommendation to install multi-tier water fountains where possible. They said the “sprayer attachment” to these water fountains would likely be very popular. Some suggested adding a hand shower to be able to bathe dogs, though others felt bathing dogs shouldn't be encouraged since people might bring in soap that could damage surrounding environments.

A few said that water pressure can be an issue in OLAs — especially when they share a water line with a wading pool — and suggested recommending the addition of a separate water line in these OLAs. There was also a suggestion for the team to share how many OLAs in the City currently have fountains.

Feedback about the Preliminary Operations & Maintenance Recommendations

Questions about the Preliminary Operations & Maintenance Recommendations

- Who would be responsible for general maintenance? *The City would undertake maintenance work in close coordination and communication with each DOA representative.*
- Have you considered recommending closing OLAs when new grass seed is planted to ensure grass is able to grow? *Yes, we have a Preliminary Recommendation to look at periodic closures to ensure grass seed is able to grow.*

Participants also shared feedback about recommendations about temporary closures, surfacing top-ups / maintenance, and winter maintenance.

Temporary closures

Participants liked the recommendation to temporarily close OLAs to support vegetative growth. Suggested tweaks and additions included suggestions to:

- recommend temporary closures for other regular maintenance (not just vegetation growth), since sometimes maintenance work in or near an OLA can create safety issues;

- modify the recommendation to only close half an OLA at any given time (so that dog owners can still use part of the OLA), and;
- draw on the experience at Beresford Park, where dog owners put orange plastic mesh around grass seed, which protected the grass while it grew but still let dogs use the OLA.

Winter maintenance

Much of the discussion of the Preliminary Operations & Maintenance focused on winter maintenance. While participants liked the recommendations to ensure pathways to OLAs are free of ice and snow, some were sceptical, saying many parks are not maintained in the winter at all, so this recommendation might not make much of a difference. *The City said that it does do some winter maintenance in parks, and has to consider a range of factors when deciding which parks it can maintain in winter, including use and cost.*

Other feedback about winter maintenance included suggestions that the Study Team recommend: better snow and ice clearing between parking lots and OLAs; seasonal adjustments of the height of gates so they can still swing over snow (some DOA representatives bring their own tools to do this work today); using alternatives to salt (such as a beet juice mixture) in and near OLAs since salt hurts dogs paws and including this mixture in surfacing bins so dog owners can apply it themselves.

Feedback about the Preliminary Administrative Recommendations

The main topics discussed about the Preliminary Administrative Recommendations were about the recommendations focused on Commercial Dog Walker Permits, the DOA program, and by-law

Commercial Dog Walker Permits

While some like the idea that fees collected from Commercial Dog Walkers permits could be used to improve Commercial Dog Walker parks, a few were concerned that this recommendation (combined with the recommendation to increase by-law) could lead to disproportionate enforcement against Commercial Dog Walkers and/or deter some from getting permits. There was also some discussion about how the City provides permits to Commercial Dog Walkers, with the City explaining that the City does not *licence* the Commercial Dog Walking industry, but rather *issues permits* to Commercial Dog Walkers to allow them to use a publicly funded asset for commercial activity. All agreed that the role the City plays in providing permits to Commercial Dog Walkers could be clearer and the words “permit” and “licence” should not be used interchangeably.

The DOA program

Participants liked the recommendation to improve the Dog Owner Association program, with many saying they don’t understand how it works, have struggled to receive communications from the City through the program, and generally don’t understand the role. Participants liked that this recommendation would aim to improve communications between dog owners and the City. As part of this recommendation, participants suggested the team consider recommending a mechanism for the City to provide regular updates to DOA reps about changes / updates to policies. There was also a suggestion for the team to consider changing the title of Dog Owners Associations to Dog Owners Group (“DOG”).

Improvements to the City website

Participants liked the recommendation for improvements to the City website. They suggested these improvements should also provide an easy way for people to learn about any changes to by-laws. Changes could be posted to the website annually and/or shared with dog owners when they renew their dog license each year.

Other feedback

Participants shared a number of other suggestions about how the City could better accommodate dogs:

- The City should require developers to either pay a fee to improve dog parks near the proposal as part of their development approval process OR they should provide spaces for dogs in the buildings.
- It would be helpful to understand how these recommendations are going to be funded. *The City explained that, as part of the next stage of work, the Preliminary Recommendations will be refined and organized into three buckets: 1, “major changes” that require more than \$50,000 will become a capital project, which must go through the City’s capital planning budget process, 2: “smaller changes,” that require less than \$50,000 and can be done through minor changes to maintenance regimes; where the City may have money to make changes in the shorter term, and 3: “operational issues,” some of which may be able to be embedded into existing operational practices and/or minor repairs very quickly. Some “operational issues” may require additional staffing, which would then have to go into the 2021 budget process and vetted against other needs for amenities in parks.*

Feedback shared after the meeting

Additional feedback shared after the meeting (not already reflected in the feedback above) included:

- **Fencing.** Suggestion that the minimum height of fencing be six feet and lower fencing not be explored for Small Dog Areas (since small dogs can still jump over fences, snow build-up effectively decreases the height of fencing, and wildlife that needs to cross fencing near ESAs can still jump high enough to clear it).
- **Maintenance.** Support for the recommendation to temporarily close OLAs (bit by bit) to allow new grass to seed. Suggestion to keep winter maintenance to parking lots and one, main path to “destination” OLAs.
- **Signage.** It’s important that an rules should be printed in large lettering.
- **Amenities.** Play areas (such as fetching lanes) should be separated from the main area since dogs sometimes have aggression issues over toys.
- **Lighting.** Support for adding lighting as it is a safety issue (and should not be seen as a luxury).
- **Water.** Consider exploring “pay as you go” dog washing stations located adjacent to OLAs; these stations could be a source for OLA maintenance revenue. Support for the idea of multi-tier water fountains.

NEXT STEPS

The City, Swerhun Inc. and thinc design thanked participants for their time and feedback and committed to sharing a draft summary in the coming weeks. Swerhun reminded participants to email any additional feedback after the meeting to mwheatley@swerhun.com by Wednesday, October 30. The team also encouraged participants to attend one of the upcoming “Pup Ups,” where the City and Swerhun will continue to seek feedback on the Preliminary Recommendations.

Attachment A. Meeting Agenda

Stakeholder Meeting #3

City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas
Design, Operations, Maintenance & Best Practices
North York Civic Centre – Committee Room 3
5100 Yonge Street
6:30 – 9:00pm

Workshop Purpose

- To present and seek feedback on the study team's Preliminary Recommendations about: design, operations & maintenance, and administration.

Proposed Workshop Agenda

6:30 Welcome, introductions, agenda review

Swerhun Inc.
City of Toronto

6:40 Overview of the Preliminary Recommendations

thinc design

Questions of Clarification

7:15 Discussion

3 concurrent, rotating, facilitated discussions.

Station 1: Design

Station 2: Operations & Maintenance

Station 3: Administrative

1. What, if anything, do you like about the Preliminary Recommendations? Are there any you think would be particularly helpful in improving OLAs across the City?
2. What, if anything, do you think is missing from the Preliminary Recommendations? What would you suggest adding?

8:35 Report back & plenary discussion

8:55 Wrap up and next steps

9:00 Adjourn

Attachment B. Participant List

The following is a list of organizations that were invited to the Stakeholder Meeting. Those organizations that were represented at the meeting are signified in bold text.

Dog Owner Associations / Off-Leash Area Groups:

- Allan Gardens
- Balmy Beach Park Dog Owners Association
- Bayview Arena Park Dog Owners Association
- **Beresford Park**
- Bickford Park
- Bill Johnson Park
- **Botany Hill Park**
- Cassels Avenue Playground
- Cherry Beach
- Colonel Danforth Park
- Colonel Sam Smith Park
- **David Crombie Park**
- Don Valley Brick Works
- Earl Bales Park
- Gerrard Carlaw Parkette
- Grand Manitoba Park
- Grange Park
- **Greenwood Park**
- Hillcrest park
- High Park
- Humber Bay Park West
- Kew Gardens
- King's Mill Park
- L'Amoreaux Park
- **Linkwood Lane Park**
- Marie Curtis Park
- Merrill Bridge Road Park
- Monarch Park
- Norwood Park
- Orphan's Green
- **Ramsden Park**
- Regent Park
- Riverdale Park West
- Sandy Bruce Park
- **Sherwood Park**
- Sir Winston Churchill Park
- Sorauren Avenue Park
- South Stanley Park
- **St. Andrew's Playground**
- Stan Wadlow Park
- **Sunnybrook Park**
- Thompson Street Parkette
- Thomson Memorial Park
- Vermont Square
- Warden Woods Park
- Wildwood Crescent Playground
- Withrow Park
- Woburn Park
- Wychwood Car Barns Park

Other Organizations:

- Access TO
- **Canadian Dog Walkers Association**
- Harbourfront Dog Team
- Park People
- Riverdale Dog Walkers Group
- Toronto Dog Park Community
- Toronto Accessible Sports Council

Meeting Summary - Stakeholder Meeting #4

City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas

Tuesday, September 15

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Virtual meeting held online and by phone

OVERVIEW

On Tuesday, September 15, 2020, the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division hosted the fourth and final stakeholder meeting for its City-Wide Study of Dog Off-Leash Areas (OLAs). The purpose of the meeting was to share and seek feedback on the Final Draft Recommendations and discuss implementation and next steps. The meeting agenda is included as Attachment A.

Due to COVID-19 the meeting was held virtually. Participants were able to join online and/or by phone. Approximately 20 people attended the meeting, including representatives of Dog Owners Associations, commercial dog walkers, and environmental groups. A full list of the organizations invited and those that attended is included as Attachment B.

The meeting included: opening remarks and an update on the study from Sue Wenzl (City of Toronto); introductions and agenda review by Ian Malczewski (Swerhun Inc.); and a presentation from Michael Tocher (thinc design) on the Final Draft Recommendations. Following the presentation, participants asked questions of clarification and shared feedback.

This meeting summary was prepared by Swerhun Inc., an independent third-party facilitation firm supporting the City of Toronto and thinc design in stakeholder engagement for the City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas. A draft of this summary was shared with meeting participants for review before it was finalized. The summary captures feedback shared at the meeting and afterwards by email up until September 22nd; it is not intended to serve as a verbatim transcript.

KEY MESSAGES

These key messages highlight major topics brought forward from meeting participants; they should be read in concert with the more detailed summary of feedback below.

Many of the proposed recommendations align with what people have been advocating for.

Participants showed appreciation for the work put forth by the City and project team and said many of the recommendations respond to feedback and needed changes / improvements in Off-Leash Areas across the City.

Effective and consistent communication is essential. Participants reiterated interest in seeing communications between the City and OLA representatives as well as OLA representatives and general OLA users improved. There were suggestions to find a way to clarify who the reps are for each OLA and make that information accessible to general OLA users.

Interest in OLA specific analysis and recommendations. Participants said that no two OLAs are the same and suggested further work include an examination of each OLA in the City with a set of site-specific recommendations. Participants said a short 1-2 page analysis of each OLA with site-specific recommendations would be a useful tool for people to use when advocating for improvements to specific OLAs.

QUESTIONS OF CLARIFICATION

Following the overview presentation, participants asked a few questions of clarification. Questions and answers are summarized below.

With COVID-19 and financial restrictions is the City exploring alternative ways of obtaining funds and install amenities, e.g. Public Private Partnerships? *COVID-19 has definitely impacted the financial future of the City and this is top of mind for us as well. We can definitely take your ideas as suggestions and consider them.*

Is there anything the City can do to provide extra space for Off-Leash Areas during COVID-19 to allow for recommended physical distancing; similar to what the City did with patio space? *This is something the City will have to look at closely to ensure all impacts are considered, including impacts on other park users.*

What is the deadline for additional feedback after the meeting? *Tuesday, September 22nd.*

Did this process include an accessibility specific consultant? *No, we did not have a specific accessibility consultant as part of the team. That said as landscape architects it is our responsibility to be aware of accessibility issues through our work.*

DETAILED FEEDBACK

Participants shared feedback about the three different categories of recommendations as well process and other feedback. **The summary below includes feedback shared during the meeting as well as feedback shared afterward by email.**

Feedback about Design

Suggestions and comments related to accessibility. Participants shared a few different comments and suggestions related to accessibility including:

- It is important to provide accessible pathways / access to the off-leash areas as well as within the off-leash areas.
- Ensure the location of accessible pathways don't act as a barrier or limit use of a specific site/park.
- Consider retaining an accessibility consultant in the future for site-specific designs. There are several parks that require additional accessibility and would benefit from the expertise of an accessibility consultant.
- Review and upgrade park accessibility on a regular basis, particularly when park revitalization or modifications are being planned.

Develop site specific recommendations for every Off-Leash Area. A brief one/two-page assessment with site-specific recommendations would be helpful tool for people to use to advocate for specific improvements with their local Councillor. This write-up could include the current state of the OLA and the top five opportunities for improvement. A good example is provided in Seattle's Parks & Recreation People, Dogs & Parks Plan: [http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/ParksAndRecreation/PoliciesPlanning/Plans/Response_to_SLI_69-1-B-1_\(Dog_Off-Leash_Areas\).pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/ParksAndRecreation/PoliciesPlanning/Plans/Response_to_SLI_69-1-B-1_(Dog_Off-Leash_Areas).pdf). We would love to have City staff walk through all 73 off-leash areas with a local representative to understand site-specific issues and opportunities.

Suggestions and comments about small dog areas. Small dog area specific feedback included:

- Some dogs are very small and can get through the fences around small dog areas. Suggest adding screening to the recommendations for small dog areas to keep very small dogs in.
- Allowing shy or elderly dogs into small dog areas will be difficult to enforce and should be tested before being implemented. People may abuse this rule/recommendation and allow their reactive dog into a Small Dog Area, which could be dangerous for other dogs.
- Small dog areas should have an exterior entrance/exit so that people with small dogs do not have to cross the regular section of the OLA.

Entrance signage should be friendly and clear. Existing signs with the code of conduct are important but they are also very technical and can be ignored. It would be great to have friendly signs with pictures that clearly show positive behaviours and the rules. Picture based signs can also be helpful for people who don't speak English.

Comments and suggestions related to surfacing. A few specific comments and suggestions related to surfacing were shared, including:

- Multiple surface materials within each OLA is critical and should be stressed in the final report / recommendations.
- Looping trails are beneficial. They can make grass in dog parks work since people will stick to trails when it is damp.
- Synthetic turf should be an option in all sizes of OLAs. There are many examples of synthetic turf working in Canada and the US, including colder climates than ours in Toronto.

Consider using spring loaded gates with rubber bumpers. This style of gate, which are used in Halton Hills, do not have latches or make noise and are extremely durable.

Shelter for dogs should not be overlooked. People will take their dogs to OLAs in any weather so shelter from wind and cold weather is important. This is especially important in OLAs that are exposed to harsh elements (e.g. Humber Bay West, which is on the lake).

Feedback about Operations & Maintenance

Suggestions and comments related to natural environment and natural heritage. It was noted that several of the natural environment considerations and specific recommendations related to the natural environment and natural heritage are making steps in the right direction. It was also noted that much more will need to be done to ensure Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) are protected with increased education and enforcement. Specific comments and suggestions included:

- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) are already regulated by protection policies and these rules should be implemented fully prior to any other decisions made on existing Off-Leash Areas with an ESA component. It is not about reinventing the wheel. Rather, the existing rules need to be clarified and well understood so that they properly followed and implemented. This clarity should be either included as part of this process or a process immediately following this process.
- Education for dog owners on impacts of dogs on wildlife, water and natural areas will be needed. This should go beyond general signage and could include social media and use of the City's website. Education is also needed about consequences of not paying attention to one's dog when using an OLA.
- Discouraging lighting in or adjacent to ESAs is absolutely needed. Cumulative and induced impacts (i.e. disturbance created by increased light, noise, habitat fragmentation, and dog specific impacts on wildlife) over time cause a decline of biodiversity and degradation.

- OLAs adjacent to ESAs need to be appealing enough so that people voluntarily choose to use them instead of using ESAs. Some existing OLAs near ESAs (e.g. Sir Winston Churchill, Colonel Samuel Smith and Coxwell Ravine) feel like small off-leash pens and do not encourage responsible behaviour.

Feedback about Administration

Continue to explore ways to work closely with off-leash area reps and people who use off-leash areas. Many people use the park on daily basis and can provide lots of information, including how many people are using the off-leash areas on a regular basis. Continue to work with OLA reps to better understand how to resolve issues related to the code of conduct.

Time restrictions should be discussed with the local community. Off-leash areas are used at all different times of the day; this needs to be understood before any time restrictions are considered for specific OLAs.

Off-Leash Area representatives should be known. Many people don't know who their representative is or how to get in touch with them. The representative is meant to be a liaison between people who use the off-leash areas and the City. If people don't know who their rep is this process can't work. Suggest providing and requiring the OLA rep to have publicly accessible contact information such as a park specific email account.

Consider creating a forum where off-leash area reps and users can connect. It would be great to have a way for OLA reps to connect with one another to discuss and share ideas. *It was noted that there is a well-used Facebook group called Toronto Dog Park Community that many people use to connect. A link to the Facebook group is provided here:*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TorontoDogParkCommunity/>

Issue with getting response from the City through the DOLA email account. A participant said they have been having trouble for over a year now communicating with the City and getting a response to questions. *Please follow-up after the meeting with Swerhun so that the City can ensure we can connect with you. Note added after the meeting: The City followed up with the individual having issues getting a response shortly after the meeting.*

Process & Other Feedback

Concern about limited participation at stakeholder meetings. Find ways to improve/increase communication between the City and Dog Off-Leash Area representatives.

The results of the second survey should not be read in isolation of other feedback. All survey questions received high percentages as effective recommendations. No two Off-Leash Areas are the same and certain OLAs have ongoing issues that require perpetual City attention.

Use consistent terminology to avoid confusion. Suggest the City stop using the term DOA (Dog Owners Association) and instead consistently use DOLA (Dog Off Leash Areas). Using the two terms interchangeably causes confusing and can inhibit communication between the City and DOLA representatives. *Note added after the meeting: The City clarified that DOLA is not used in an effort to avoid confusion as it refers to "Dog Owners Liability Act".*

Update the estimated number of dogs in the City. The current estimate of 300,000 is closer to 500,00 to 600,000. The most recently available survey of Canadian dog ownership (2018, [Canadian Animal Health Institute](#)) notes an increasing dog ownership trend with 41% of households owning at least one dog.

Consider allowing commercial businesses to rent space in parks to provide training related to improved dog behaviour. Consider allowing fenced parts of parks or unfenced fields in the largest parks be rented to allow for training classes that encourage good dog behaviour. Income (rental fee and per trainee user fee) could be dedicated to additional fenced areas and maintenance of parks.

Suggestions related to new parks and OLAs. There were a few comments and specific suggestions to related to development of new parks and OLAs, including:

- Include a set of guidelines for new “ideal parks” that recommend an appropriately sized OLA (small, medium, large) based the areas dog population. Include estimated cost per hectare for design/construction and ongoing maintenance;
- Consider recommending requests for parkland specifically dedicated to dogs into new development requirements under the Ontario Planning Act; and
- Consider adjusting the Implementation Strategy for the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan to develop additional parks that resolve inequities in park distribution across the City. Specifically, to address areas where social inequities and racialized communities exist and where small to medium sized parks are not available within a 15 – 20-minute walk.

Visit other dog parks / OLAs to gain a different perspective on dog park designs. Specific parks/locations and reasons included:

- Leash-Free Halton Hills: Self-closing gates with rubber pads, nice signage, lots of trees, shelter, nice signposts, and a good community vibe;
- Jack Darling Park: long walkable trails, lots of trees, tons of space; and
- Etobicoke Valley Dog Park: wild and natural, dogs mostly stick to the trails because a lot of the bush is too thick.

NEXT STEPS

The City, Swerhun Inc. and thinc design thanked participants for their participation at the meeting and continued participation throughout the process. Swerhun committed to sharing the presentation and agenda the next day. Swerhun also committed to sharing a draft meeting summary in the coming weeks and reminded participants to email any additional feedback after the meeting to mwheatley@swerhun.com by Tuesday, September 22nd. The City explained that they will soon receive the final report from the Consultant team, which will be made publicly available.

Attachment A. Meeting Agenda

Stakeholder Meeting #4

City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas
Tuesday, September 15
6:30 – 8:00 pm
Virtual meeting held online

Workshop Purpose

To share and seek feedback on the Final Recommendations and discuss implementation and next steps.

Proposed Workshop Agenda

6:30 Welcome, introductions, agenda review

Swerhun Inc.

City of Toronto

6:40 Presentation - Overview of final recommendations, implementation and next steps

thinc design
City of Toronto

7:00 Questions of Clarification

7:10 Discussion

- 1. What are your thoughts about the final recommendations? Do you have any suggested refinements?
- 2. Do you have any other advice?

7:55 Wrap up and next steps

8:00 Adjourn

Attachment B. Participant List

The following is a list of organizations that were invited to the Stakeholder Meeting. Those organizations that were represented at the meeting are signified in bold text.

Dog Owner Associations / Off-Leash Area Groups:

- **Allan Gardens**
- Balmy Beach Park Dog Owners Association
- Bayview Arena Park Dog Owners Association
- Beresford Park
- Bickford Park
- Bill Johnson Park
- **Botany Hill Park**
- Cassels Avenue Playground
- Cherry Beach
- Colonel Danforth Park
- Colonel Sam Smith Park
- **David Crombie Park**
- Don Valley Brick Works
- Earl Bales Park
- Gerrard Carlaw Parkette
- Grand Manitoba Park
- Grange Park
- **Greenwood Park**
- **Hideaway Park**
- Hillcrest park
- High Park
- Humber Bay Park West
- **Kew Gardens**
- King's Mill Park
- L'Amoreaux Park
- Linkwood Lane Park
- Marie Curtis Park
- **Merrill Bridge Road Park**
- **Monarch Park**
- **Norwood Park**
- Orphan's Green
- Ramsden Park
- Regent Park
- Riverdale Park West
- **Sandy Bruce Park**
- **Sherwood Park**
- **Sir Winston Churchill Park**
- Sorauren Avenue Park
- South Stanley Park
- **St. Andrew's Playground**
- Stan Wadlow Park
- Sunnybrook Park
- Thompson Street Parkette
- Thomson Memorial Park
- Vermont Square
- Warden Woods Park
- Wildwood Crescent Playground
- Withrow Park
- Woburn Park
- **Wychwood Car Barns Park**

Other Organizations:

- Access TO
- Canadian Dog Walkers Association
- **Canadian Association of**
- **Professional Dog Trainers**
- **Harbourfront Dog Team**
- Park People
- **Protect Nature TO**
- Riverdale Dog Walkers Group
- **Toronto Dog Park Community**
- Toronto Accessible Sports Council

Pup Up Summaries

“Pup Ups” Summary

City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas
November 2019



Figure C.3: Images of a “Pup Up”

Overview

Between Thursday, October 17 and Monday, October 28, 2019, the City of Toronto’s Parks, Forestry, and Recreation Division (PFR) hosted ten pop up events in dog off-leash areas across the city. The pop up events (dubbed “Pup Ups”) were part of the public engagement process informing PFR’s City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas (OLAs), a Study exploring how to improve existing OLAs through changes to their design, operations & maintenance, and administration. The City retained thinc design, a landscape architecture firm, to prepare the Study with support from Swerhun Inc., public engagement specialists.

The purpose of the Pup Ups was to raise awareness of the Study and to share and seek feedback on thinc design’s Preliminary Recommendations. The feedback from the Pup Ups is one of several consultation inputs into the Study; other inputs include feedback from online public surveys, stakeholder meetings, and City staff. The Pup Ups took place in ten Case Study sites informing the Study’s recommendations and approximately 500 people attended.

The ten Case Study / Pup Up sites

Bayview Arena Park
Cherry Beach Park
High Park
Merrill Bridge Road Park

Beresford Park
Allan Gardens
Sunnybrook Park
Sandy Bruce Park

Wychwood Car Barns Park
L’Amoreaux Park

This summary, prepared by Swerhun Inc., documents feedback shared across all ten Pup Ups, organized under the categories of Design, Operations & Maintenance, and Administrative.

Role of the Case Study / Pup Up sites

The role of the Case Study / Pup Up sites is to inform the Study's recommendations by:

- ensuring they reflect consideration of the range of characteristics and conditions found across Toronto's 70+ OLAs, including (but not limited to): OLAs with and without fencing; OLAs with different types of surfacing; OLAs with and without lighting; OLAs in high-density, high-growth parts of the city and in lower-density, stable parts of the city; and,
- providing the Study Team with a diverse range of real-world OLAs to explore and conceptually demonstrate local applications of the Study's city-wide recommendations.

Pup Up promotion, format, and approach

Prior to the Pup Ups, the Study Team interviewed Dog Owners' Association (DOA) representatives for each Case Study site to better understand local issues and opportunities and to seek advice on a good time to host the Pup Ups. In addition to the feedback from the DOA representatives, other factors that informed the schedule and timing of the Pup Ups were: ensuring a range of morning, midday, afternoon, and weekend dates; enabling both those who work 9-5 jobs and those who do not to attend; availability of day-light hours, and; availability of resources. The full Pup Up schedule and summaries of discussions with DOA representatives are included (see **Attachment A** and **Attachment B**).

To support promotion of the Pup Ups, the team designed and shared posters with each DOA representative. The team also sent notice of the Pup Ups via an email to its stakeholder group, posts on social media, and an email to local Councillors.

The Pup Ups were designed as drop-in sessions so park users could arrive at any point during the event. Stationed beneath a blue City of Toronto tent near entrances to OLAs, City staff and Swerhun Inc. facilitators, asked participants to share what they liked about the Preliminary Recommendations and what they thought was missing. They also shared information via:

- **Five display boards**, including one providing a Study overview, three detailing the city-wide Preliminary Recommendations (one for Design, one for Operations & Maintenance, and one for Administrative), and one showing how the Preliminary Recommendations could apply to the specific Case Study site where the Pup Up was hosted (**Attachment C**).
- **A discussion guide** that explained the Study's objectives, the types of considerations that would be explored through the Study, the engagement process, the Case Study site selection criteria, and more (**Attachment D**).
- **A post card** with the Pup Up schedule and information on how to stay up to date on the process, including the project website (with QR code) and email address (**Attachment E**).

The team explained to participants that the purpose of the consultation was to seek feedback on **city-wide** Preliminary Recommendations, not site-specific changes to the OLA. The distinction was important because one of the display boards included an annotated illustration of potential design recommendations to the Case Study site. The purpose of site-specific illustrations was to inform participants' understanding of how the city-wide recommendations could be applied to the Case Study site (and other OLAs with similar characteristics). Significant changes to an OLA would require a funding source be secured and a dedicated community consultation process involving area stakeholders, the local Councillor, and others.

Key messages

These key messages highlight major topics shared at the ten Pup Up events; they should be read in concert with the more detailed summary of feedback below.

General support for the Preliminary Recommendations. Many participants shared support for the Preliminary Recommendations, saying several address key issues they currently experience in the City's OLAs.

Enhanced and ongoing communication is essential. Several participants said they were keen to see the Administrative recommendations implemented, especially those focused on improving communication between OLA users, City staff, and DOA reps.

Maintenance is crucial to the success of OLAs. Participants consistently said maintenance is a key issue needing improvement. They shared significant support for the Operations & Maintenance recommendations, especially the recommendations to perform weekly inspections and monitor and maintain state of good repair. Some participants indicated an interest / willingness to assist with light maintenance if materials could be provided by the City.

Surfacing materials should be dog-friendly and promote good drainage. Participants shared concerns about existing types of surfacing, primarily pea gravel. They said that, above all else, surfacing materials should not harm dogs' paws and should promote good drainage.

Support for the study and consultation. Several said they were happy the City is exploring ways to improve OLAs and is making an effort to speak with OLA and other park users.

Detailed feedback about the Preliminary Recommendations

Participants shared feedback about the three categories of city-wide Preliminary Recommendations. Their feedback included support for several of the Preliminary Recommendations as well as suggested refinements and additional recommendations to consider.

Feedback about the Preliminary Design Recommendations

Participants shared feedback about six categories of Design recommendations: shade, surfacing & drainage, fencing & entrances, amenities, lighting, and water.

Shade

Many participants said they liked the recommendations to provide shade, saying OLAs without shade become very hot in the summer and are less likely to be used. Some said they specifically liked the recommendation to ensure 20% shade coverage, saying it would still allow for plenty of space for people and dogs to be in the sun when it's cooler. Others weren't as sure, saying it's difficult to imagine what 20% coverage actually looks like. Suggested additions / refinements to the Preliminary Recommendations about shade included:

- Ensure shade structures / trees are spread out so that people and dogs don't have to gather in one area of the OLA, which can cause conflicts.
- Ensure shade structures are durable so that they last a long time, keeping in mind that Toronto can have severe winters with snow, ice, and wind.
- Consider shade structures that can also provide shelter from other elements, e.g. rain, wind, snow, etc. Porous shade structures do not provide much shade.

Appendix C: Consultation

Surfacing & drainage

Many participants across all the Case Study sites supported the recommendations to improve drainage in the OLAs, with several saying that poor drainage leads to muddy conditions and standing water (which is undesirable and unsafe for both dogs and people). Participants said good drainage is especially important at the entrances/exits to prevent muddy/icy conditions in and around gates.

Independent of the Preliminary Recommendations, participants shared a range of opinions on different types of surfacing. Generally, participants said surfacing materials should be chosen that are good for dogs (i.e. aren't harmful to their paws) and promote good drainage.

Many shared specific concerns about pea gravel, including that: it can be harmful to dogs' paws; it creates a lot of dust in the air; it can be difficult for dogs and people to walk in; and it becomes very hot in the summer. A few said pea gravel offers good drainage and is clean when it rains.

There were mixed opinions about woodchips, with some saying they are a preferred surface because they promote good drainage and reduce muddy and wet conditions, while others said they don't like them because they can hurt dogs' paws.

Some said they liked having grass as the surfacing material, though others said grass needs to be maintained and should only be planted where it's proven that it can grow and be sustained.

Fencing & entrances

There was significant support for the recommendation to replace existing latches with upgraded latches that can accommodate the use and climate. Participants also supported the recommendations to: install fencing that fits within the surrounding environment (e.g. steel in urban areas and post and paddle in natural environments); replace single gate systems with double gates, and; ensure there is more than one entrance/exit.

Several said they like the recommendation to raise fence heights to five feet to help prevent dogs from jumping in and out of OLAs and, in some cases, prevent coyotes from getting in. Suggested refinements to the fencing recommendations included:

- consider a maximum six-foot fence;
- make sure fencing is made out of materials dogs cannot climb, and;
- make sure to measure the height of fences from the top of the surface material since some materials (especially woodchips) build up around fences and effectively reduce their height.

A few said they haven't seen dogs jumping over fences and suggested the City conduct a site-by-site investigation before deciding whether to increase the height of fences.

Several participants supported the recommendation to investigate opportunities to create barriers (including vegetative barriers) between an OLA and high traffic areas and/or adjacent park uses. Participants said barriers should be functional, i.e. create both a visual and physical barrier that prevent dogs from getting out of the OLA.

Participants, particularly those at sites without fences, discussed and shared a range of opinions about adding fences / barriers to OLAs that don't currently have them. Several OLA users and other park users insisted that fences or other barriers should be added to increase safety for both dogs and people. A few shared experiences where dogs have run out of an unfenced OLA and were aggressive or attacked children. Others raised concerns about adding fences, saying it could lead to increased aggressive behaviour among dogs and potentially

more Commercial Dog Walkers using smaller OLAs (even where they are not permitted to do so). A few said that, in some instances, the absence of fencing was a decision made with the local community when the OLA was established. There was general agreement that the local community would need to be consulted about any changes to fencing. *In responses to feedback about adding or removing fencing, the City explained that this OLA Study will not be recommending adding or removing fencing; any decisions about adding or removing fencing to any OLA would require a dedicated community consultation process.*

Amenities

Participants generally liked recommendations that would increase the accessibility of OLAs, including installing and providing accessible seating and pathways. While there were no objections to ensuring seating is accessible, some cautioned against adding too much seating, saying it can encourage people to sit and not actively watch / interact with their dog(s). Participants also supported the recommendations to: install recycling, garbage, and green bins outside main entries/exits; install City signage within the OLA and prior to the entry; install community boards at main entries/exits, and; install educational and interpretive panels at main entries/exits.

Participants had mixed opinions about the recommendation to install agility equipment. Some liked the idea, saying it presents an opportunity for an engaging structured activity for dogs and people. Others shared concerns, including safety, maintenance, and cost, with some saying there are other more immediate needs in OLAs (and parks in general) that require funding.

There were also mixed opinions about recommendation to add Small Dog Areas (SDAs). Several participants said that existing SDAs are an important and well used part of the OLAs where they exist, saying they create a safer and more comfortable environment for small dogs and their owners. These participants supported the addition of SDAs in more OLAs across the city. Others raised concerns about segmenting OLAs, especially smaller OLAs. Specific suggestions related to SDAs included:

- ensure fences around SDAs are high enough to keep large dogs (and in some cases coyotes) out, and;
- add an external entrance/exit to the existing SDAs so that small dogs and their owners don't have to go through the main OLA.

Lighting

Participants generally liked the lighting recommendations, with many saying lighting is very important because it increases safety. Participants also said lighting makes it easier for dog owners to pick-up after their dogs at night, in turn keeping the OLA cleaner. Participants suggested a few refinements and additional things to consider related to lighting including: ensure solar and LED lights are bright enough to be useful; ensure lighting doesn't negatively impact neighbouring residents (i.e. shining into their backyard or homes); consider using timers for lighting so that they come on and turn off as needed; provide lighting in Small Dog Areas where there is already lighting in the main OLA.

Water

Participants were generally enthusiastic about the recommendations to add water features and/or amenities. Some said the water access doesn't necessarily have to be right in the OLA as long as it is close by.

Participants shared mixed opinions about the type of water access they would prefer. Some really liked the idea of providing a multi-tiered fountain that could be used by both dogs and people. Others felt dogs should be the primary focus and suggested investigating simpler and less expensive options that could be used by multiple dogs at once (e.g. some kind of trough). Some raised concerns about providing water with a bowl, saying it may contribute to the spread of kennel cough or infections. Several participants said the water source, regardless of type/style, should have good drainage to prevent muddy and icy conditions and/or standing water.

Feedback about the Preliminary Operations & Maintenance Recommendations

Several participants said that proactive and ongoing maintenance is crucial to the success of OLAs. Many that shared concerns about a lack of existing maintenance were very supportive of the Preliminary Operations & Maintenance Recommendations, especially the recommendations to perform weekly inspections and monitor and maintain state of good repair. Several supported the recommendations to install surfacing bins and doing regular surfacing top ups. Suggested additions / refinements to the Operations & Maintenance recommendations included:

- ensure pathways from outside the park to entrance/exits are maintained;
- explore ways to address the smell in OLAs as they tend to smell bad, and;
- investigate opportunities to perform winter maintenance (e.g. snow / ice removal), especially around entrances and exits to the OLAs.
- schedule maintenance during low use periods and provide notice before and during.

Feedback about the Preliminary Administrative Recommendations

Participants discussed and shared feedback about several of the Preliminary Administrative Recommendations. The recommendations that received the majority of attention were those focused on improvements to the City Website, signage and educational resources, improvements to the Dog Owner Association (DOA) program, and by-law enforcement.

Improvements to the City website

Participants generally liked the recommendation to improve the City website to increase access to information about OLAs and strengthen communication between OLA users, DOA reps, and the City. Participants suggested additional information that could be incorporated in an improved website, including:

- maps of parks where OLAs are located that show the specific area where the OLA is;
- consistent information about all OLAs (i.e. type of surfacing, size, entrances/exits, amenities, etc.);
- contact information for park supervisor and DOA rep(s), and;
- information about closures for maintenance (and other reasons).

Signage and education resources

Several participants supported the recommendations to post the code of conduct in every OLA. They suggested having the code of conduct posted at all entrances/exits and within the OLAs to increase awareness (and ideally compliance). Participants also liked the recommendation to create educational resources, suggesting these resources could be used to help identify both appropriate and inappropriate behaviour for dogs and people. Other suggestions related to signage and educational resources included:

- install signs at entrances/exits that explain how to use double gates (and the importance of using them properly);
- signs with information about how to monitor and manage different types of dog behaviors;
- notifications about scheduled maintenance and closures;
- contact information for DOA rep(s) and parks staff, and;
- investigate creating a TV commercial to inform people about the rules around having dogs off-leash.

Improvements to the DOA program

Many participants liked the idea of enhancing and raising awareness about the DOA program. Some said they didn't know there was a DOA program or that there is meant to be a DOA rep for each OLA. Participants particularly liked the idea of creating standardized contact information for the DOA reps and making this information readily available to OLA users (e.g. on the City website and posted at the OLAs).

By-law enforcement

Participants shared mixed opinions about increasing by-law enforcement. Some said increased enforcement is desperately needed to promote compliance and correct inappropriate behaviours in OLAs and surrounding areas. Others raised concerns that dog owners may be unfairly targeted and ticketed more frequently, suggesting instead to investigate ways to empower DOA reps and other dog owners to monitor their own communities. It was also suggested that all enforcement should be done in a respectful manner.

Some participants said they have had issues with the times by-law officers are available. For example, at one OLA, participants said someone has regularly left raw meat across the street early in the morning—a safety issue for both dogs and people—but by-law officers do not come early in the day. At another, participants said dogs barking in an OLA after midnight was a concern, but by-law officers do not investigate noise complaints at that hour.

Other feedback about the Preliminary Administrative Recommendations

Those that shared feedback about the other Administrative recommendations generally liked them, including recommendations to: promote volunteer and stewardship, introduce a process to consult on open and closed hours for OLAs, schedule lighting based on the seasons, and re-allocate Commercial Dog Walkers fees to improve Commercial Dog Walker parks.

Other suggested recommendations to consider included:

- Create a Commercial Dog Walker-specific OLA to reduce conflicts and/or create specific hours for CDWs in more OLAs (i.e. during the day when they are less used by other OLA users).
- Create a mechanism for residents / dog owners to set-up their own “donation box” (potentially a digital one) so residents can help fund improvements.
- Encourage the use of biodegradable dog bags as opposed to plastic ones.

Other Feedback

Participants shared additional feedback about off-leash areas generally, including:

- Consider developing a methodology and/or criterion that would look at expanding OLAs if there is sufficient demand.
- Consider developing a process to review and (where necessary) revise the code of conduct.

NEXT STEPS

At each Pup Up, the Study Team let participants know that a public survey with the Preliminary Recommendations would be available on the project website in the coming months (www.toronto.ca/olastudy). They encouraged participants to visit the project website to stay up to date on the process and complete the survey.

Attachment A: Pup Up Schedule

Off-Leash Area	Date	Time	Approximate number of people that stopped to talk
Bayview Arena Park	Thursday, October 17	4:30 – 7 pm	20
Cherry Beach Park	Saturday, October 19	9 – 11 am	60
High Park	Saturday, October 19	noon – 2 pm	100
Merrill Bridge Road Park	Tuesday, October 22	7:30 – 10 am	35
Beresford Park	Wednesday, October 23	8:30 – 11 am	50
Allan Gardens	Wednesday, October 23	4:30 – 7 pm	60
Sunnybrook Park	Thursday, October 24	10 am – noon	35
Sandy Bruce Park	Thursday, October 24	4:30 – 7 pm	30
Wychwood Car Barns Park	Saturday, October 26	9 – 11 am	50
L'Amoreaux Park	Monday, October 28	4:30 – 7pm	40

Figure C.4: “Pup Up” Schedule

Case Study Site Interview Summaries

City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas

OFF-LEASH AREA CASE STUDY SITE INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

As part of the City-Wide Study of Off-Leash Areas the City held conversations with representative from the 10 Off-Leash Area (OLA) Case Study Sites. The purpose of the conversations was to better understand ongoing issues and seek feedback on opportunities for improvements to help inform the City-wide recommendations.

Summaries from the then conversations with the OLA representatives are included on the following pages of this report.

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Beresford Park OLA Interview	397
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Merrill Bridge Road Park OLA Interview	407
Sandy Bruce Park OLA Interview	409
Sunnybrook Park OLA Interview	411
Wychwood Car Barns Park OLA Interview	414

City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas

ALLAN GARDENS OLA INTERVIEW

Friday, September 20, 2019

Conference Call

Participants:

Allan Gardens Off-Leash Area Representative

City of Toronto – Parks Standards & Innovations Unit

Swerhun Inc.

OVERVIEW

As part of the City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas the City is hosting conversations with representatives from the 10 Off-Leash Area (OLA) Case Study Sites. The City and Swerhun Inc. had a conversation with the representative from the Allan Gardens OLA to better understand ongoing issues and seek feedback on potential opportunities for improvements that can help inform the City-wide recommendations being developed through the study.

This summary was written by Swerhun Inc and was shared with participants in draft prior to being finalized. It provides a review of key topics discussed in the conversation; it is not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Communications with dog owners and OLA users

The representative began their position in the spring/summer of 2019, after the previous representative stepped down. The main communication mechanism for OLA users is a Facebook page. There is desire for a bulletin board in or around the off-leash area to share information and updates.

Common issues and proposed solutions

1. Fencing

Issue: Both large and small dogs are able to get out of the OLA. Large dogs can jump over the fence and small dogs can squeeze through gaps in the fence. OLA users have put in some wiring, which has helped to prevent small dogs from getting out but the wiring is not maintained.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate ways to improve and maintain fencing to prevent dogs from getting out of the OLA. Taller fences may not be a desirable solution as they are unlikely to be visually appealing.

2. Gates & winter maintenance

Issue: Gates often break, especially in the winter and repairs can take a long time to be completed. It can also be difficult to get to the OLA because of snow and ice buildup or salt used to clear paths, which can be harmful to dogs' paws.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate gate and latch materials that are stronger and less likely to break regularly. Use dog-friendly salt/ice melting options to remove snow and ice.

3. Accessibility

Issue: Several OLA users at Allan Gardens use wheelchairs and those without 'off-road wheels' have trouble accessing and using the OLA. Both the latches and the existing surface present problems for people in wheelchairs.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate the installation of accessible (e.g. paved) pathways within the OLA and gates/latches that are also accessible.

4. Surfacing

Issue: Most of the OLA is just dirt. There are mixed opinions about this surface; some are fine with it, whereas others want crushed granite. There is also understanding among OLA users that the original plan for the OLA was to provide crushed granite. OLA users have raised concerns that the dirt can cause infections in dogs and increase visits to the vet.

Proposed solution to investigate: Clarify if crushed granite was/is the planned surface and if so, consider crushed gravel as a possible surfacing option for the OLA.

5. Shade

Issue: There is minimal shade, especially in the large dog area. There was large tree, which died and was cut down without any known plans to replace it. This is especially a problem when the park is hot and busy.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate planning more trees to provide shade. Also clarify the process for adding trees to OLAs; there are other OLAs within the same ward that have received trees.

6. Lighting

Issue: The current lighting used are outdated gas lamps, which provide poor lighting.

Proposed solution to investigate: Replace current lights with modern LED lights that are brighter.

7. Access to running water

Issue: The only fountain is in the large dog area. This makes it difficult for small dog owners to get water for their dogs as they have either bring their dogs with them or leave them unattended while they get water for them. Additionally, there isn't a water fountain for people.

Proposed solution to investigate: Install a water fountain in the small dog area and potentially dual source fountains for both people and dogs.

8. Seating

Issue: Seating is limited, which is a highly desired asset in the OLA.

Proposed solution to investigate: install more benches / places to sit in the OLA.

9. Cigarette waste

Issue: OLA users appreciate the new facilities for recycling and bio-waste. However, cigarette butts are left throughout the OLA, which can be harmful to dogs.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate installing ashtrays to collect cigarette butts.

10. By-law and code of conduct signage

Issue: Signs are difficult to read and quickly understand because they are outside of the gates/fences and include technical/legal language.

Proposed solution to investigate: Install signs inside the OLA so people can see and reference them when they're using the dog park. Investigate using more common language to make it more accessible.

Pup-Up Event

Holding the Pup-Up at a few times would be ideal to get a broader range of OLA users. Busier times include Monday thru Thursday from 5:00 – 7:00pm. Suggest finalizing the date and time and sharing it with Councillor Wong-Tam before October 8th as she is holding and meeting for related to OLAs in her ward and could help promote the Pup-Up at this meeting.

City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas

BAYVIEW ARENA PARK OLA INTERVIEW

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

3337 Bayview Ave – Donut Counter

Participants:

Bayview Arena Park Off-Leash Area Representative
City of Toronto – Parks Standards & Innovations Unit
Swerhun Inc.

OVERVIEW

As part of the City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas the City is hosting conversations with representatives from the 10 Off-Leash Area (OLA) Case Study Sites. The City and Swerhun Inc. had a conversation with the representative for the Bayview Arena Park Off-Leash Area to better understand ongoing issues and seek feedback on potential opportunities for improvements that can help inform the City-wide recommendations being developed through the study.

This summary was written by Swerhun Inc and was shared with participants for review prior to being finalized. It provides a review of key topics discussed in the conversation; it is not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Communications with dog owners and OLA users

The Bayview Arena Parks OLA representative has been so since the OLA opened. They have developed connections with other local dog owners and OLA users through word of mouth and communicates with them at the park and sometimes through text messages.

Common issues and proposed solutions

1. Unneutered male dogs

Issue: Previously, the Code of Conduct prohibited unneutered male dogs in OLAs; they are now allowed. Unneutered male dogs, especially if untrained, can be aggressive and have resulted in injuries, including one person who had a piece of their finger bitten off in the OLA.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate why the Code of Conduct was revised to allow unneutered male dogs in OLAs and consider amending the policy.

2. Shade

Issue: This OLA does not have any shade/shelter and becomes very hot, which results in minimal use, especially during the summer months. The existing surface, pea gravel, also gets very hot.

*Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate ways to provide shade to keep the OLA cooler and more usable during hot weather. Investigate other surface options (e.g. smaller versions of pea gravel) that may not get as hot. Don't change the surface without first determining if there is a better option. *The City noted that this OLA is in a hydro corridor**

and the lack of shade may be a result of rules and regulations set by Hydro One, which the team will need to investigate further.

3. Size

Issue: This OLA is small and prevents dog owners from walking their dogs. Instead people and dogs stand around in groups and dogs often become territorial.

Proposed solution to investigate: Directed exercise (i.e. walking on a path / trail) is beneficial for both dogs and humans. Having OLAs that are large enough to accommodate people taking their dogs for a walk should be investigated. Agility equipment is not a desirable replacement for space to walk.

4. Gates

Issue: The gates often break during the winter and require a large crew of park staff to fix.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate why gates are breaking and potential alternative materials that are less likely to break.

5. Salt

Issue: The paths around the OLA and the area between the double gates are heavily salted during the winter. The salt can be harmful to dog's paws and act as a barrier to use.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate alternative ways to keep ice off the paths, e.g. shoveling and/or a dog-friendly salt. At the very least, do not salt the area between the double gates that provide access to the OLA.

6. Water

Issue: Water is not provided at the OLA, which requires people to bring their own from home.

Proposed solution to investigate: Park staff have explained that water cannot be run to the OLA because it is in a hydro corridor. As an alternative, explore opportunities to provide access to water at the arena (e.g. a fountain or tap outside).

Pup-Up Event

Early evening/after work may be the best time to host the Pup-Up. However, it is difficult to identify a specific time when the OLA is used more frequently because local dog owners don't often use the OLA because of the issues identified above. The team should find ways to connect with local dog owners that don't use the OLA (e.g. people walking their dogs in the hydro corridor) and ask arena/park staff when the OLA is more heavily used.

City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas

BERESFORD PARK OLA INTERVIEW

Friday, September 27, 2019

720 Bathurst Street – CSI Annex

Participants:

Beresford Park Off-Leash Area representative

City of Toronto – Parks Standards & Innovations Unit

Swerhun Inc.

OVERVIEW

As part of the City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas the City is hosting conversations with representatives from the 10 Off-Leash Area (OLA) Case Study Sites. The City and Swerhun Inc. had a conversation with the representative from the Beresford Park OLA to better understand ongoing issues and seek feedback on potential opportunities for improvements that can help inform the City-wide recommendations being developed through the study.

This summary was written by Swerhun Inc. and was shared with participants for review prior to being finalized. It provides a review of key topics discussed in the conversation; it is not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Communications with dog owners and OLA users

The representative began their position as the OLA representative about 3 years ago along with another member of the community. Communication between the OLA reps and other OLA users is generally informal (e.g. discussions at the OLA). The representative suspects that many people aren't aware that they are the reps for the OLA and suggested a more formalized system with publicly available contact information would help with communication (*see point 4 below for additional information*).

Common issues and proposed solutions

1. Fencing

Issue: Beresford Park does not have a fence and is next to a road that has relatively high traffic, especially during the morning and afternoon rush hour periods. The lack of barrier between the road and the OLA can be dangerous for dogs if they run out on to the street or across the street to the playground area.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate possible barriers between the OLA and the road and/or options to reduce the speed of cars (e.g. speed bumps, reduced speed limits, etc.). Many OLA and park users like not having a fence/barrier between the OLA and rest of the park because it promotes a mix of uses and interaction between different park users.

2. Human Litter (meat scraps)

Issue: An individual dumps meat scraps in the park across the street from the OLA. This attracts dogs across the street, which increases their risk of getting hit by the car and can

also make dogs sick if they eat the meat. It can also be harmful to children and other park users because the meat attracts wasps.

Proposed solution to investigate: The City and park users have had difficulty stopping the individual from dumping the meat but have recently become aware of who it is, and the frequency has decreased. Investigate additional opportunities to enforce consequences as dumping meat scraps is not allowed in parks.

3. Enforcement and reporting

Issue: There have been conflicts between dogs in the off-leash area, with certain dogs attacking other dogs. These instances are further problematic if/when dog owners either don't have recall over their dog or take the attitude that other dogs should simply get used to their dog's behaviour. Some dog owners are hesitant to call 311 to report issues because they don't know what action will be taken; they are nervous the other dog may be put down and/or they may be identified as the person issuing a complaint.

Proposed solution to investigate: Explore opportunities to increase education about the reporting system, i.e. how someone can report an issue in the OLA and what happens when someone reports an issue to the City. Examine problematic areas across the City and deploy enforcement staff and resources to those problematic areas.

4. Roles and responsibilities of OLA

Issue: The specific roles and responsibilities of the OLA reps are somewhat unclear. This can make it difficult for the OLA reps to fulfill their responsibilities and reduce their ability to be a useful resource for other OLA users and the City.

Proposed solution to investigate: If not already in place, investigate a process for formalizing the roles and responsibilities of the OLA representatives. Look for opportunities to communicate/publicize the set roles and responsibilities as well as the OLA reps' information. This could include having the roles and responsibilities and a list of all the OLA reps on the City's website with designated contact information so that OLA users know who to contact for their specific OLA. Investigate options to allow for a team of advocates for each OLA that could be led by one or two OLA reps. The additional advocates could help with education and communications.

The OLA representative also identified a number of features that are working well at the Beresford Park OLA, including: most OLA users follow the rules, including picking up after their dogs; the lack of fencing between the OLA and the rest of the park promotes a mix of uses and positive interactions between many park users; and the grass is a good surface.

Pup-Up Event

Weekday mornings or evenings are consistently busy (i.e. starting at 9:00 am or 5:00pm). The weekend is less consistently busy. Suggest talking with families using the playground across the street to get their perspective on the off-leash area.

City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas
CHERRY BEACH OLA INTERVIEW

Tuesday, September 24, 2019
 Conference Call

Participants:

Cherry Beach Off-Leash Area Representative
 City of Toronto – Parks Standards & Innovations Unit
 Swerhun Inc.

OVERVIEW

As part of the City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas the City is hosting conversations with representatives from the 10 Off-Leash Area (OLA) Case Study Sites. The City and Swerhun Inc. had a conversation with the representative from the Cherry Beach OLA to better understand ongoing issues and seek feedback on potential opportunities for improvements that can help inform the City-wide recommendations being developed through the study.

This summary was written by Swerhun Inc. and was shared with participants in draft before being finalized. It provides a review of key topics discussed in the conversation; it is not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Communications with dog owners and OLA users

The Cherry Beach representative has been going to the beach for over 30 years with her dogs and has seen the area evolve from an unofficial off-leash area to an official off-leash area. They became the official OLA representative more recently by default as the position was not filled by anyone else. The OLA has a very active Facebook group; while there are some ongoing technical issues with the administration it is used by the OLA rep and others as an effective means of communication. There are also a number of active professional dog walkers that use the OLA regularly and are very helpful with communicating information and updates to the many people who use the OLA. The OLA representative also noted that they have good communication with the Parks Supervisor.

Common issues and proposed solutions

1. Communicating with all OLA users

Issue: While the Facebook group is a very effective communication tool there is an awareness that it is not reaching all OLA users, especially younger and older users who don't typically use Facebook.

Proposed solution to investigate: The OLA rep and other active users have discussed using other forms of social media (e.g. twitter) to reach out to younger OLA users. Additional signs where information and updates can be posted may also help to reach more people.

2. Erosion and waste from the lake

Issue: As the OLA is on a landfill large pieces of rebar and rusted metal protrude from the ground. These pieces of rebar and metal are dangerous for both dogs and people.

Proposed solution to investigate: There is recognition that the City has made a concerted effort to mitigate erosion and the large pieces of metal and rebar, including: putting up orange fencing to act as a barrier for dogs and people; and putting down rocks/stones to prevent further erosion and cover the pieces of metal. While it may not be feasible, an ideal solution would be to remove the pieces of metal.

3. Flooding

Issue: Parts of the OLA area often flood, which creates a 'toxic swamp'. The flooding prevents dogs and people from getting to the west side of the OLA. There are also concerns that the water in the flooded areas may be harmful to dogs.

Proposed solutions to investigate: Investigate improved drainage options to help reduce flooding and standing water.

4. Dog waste left in the park

Issue: People not picking up after their dogs or picking up and leaving it in the OLA is an ongoing issue.

Proposed solutions to investigate: There is recognition that dog owners are responsible for picking up after their dogs and this requires a behaviour change by OLA users. Additional waste/compost bins at all entrances; additional signage; and stations where OLA users can pick up bags for dog waste may also help to correct this behaviour. *The City explained that compost bins have been added to all OLAs along with an education campaign that dog waste should be put in either garbage or compost bins but not recycling bins. It may not be possible to put bins at every entrance due to an inability to access and collect waste at entrances closer to the water. The City also explained that while they do not have resources to supply dog bags, the community can fundraise and connect with parks staff about options for distributing bags at the OLA.*

5. Loss of trees

Issue: A number of trees have been lost in the OLA, which may be contributing to erosion.

Proposed solutions to investigate: The OLA representative and other users are aware there is an opportunity to fundraise to bring in native tree species. The OLA rep and other users are continuing to follow-up with parks staff to see what can be done through fundraising.

6. Holes being dug by dogs

Issue: Dogs often dig holes; some of which are quite large (up to 3 feet deep), which can be dangerous for both people and dogs. This is especially problematic further away from the water where the soil is compacted and refilling holes can be difficult.

Proposed solutions to investigate: Many of the OLA users understand it is the dog owner's responsibility to refill any holes dug by their dog and will often remind and encourage individuals to do so when they see holes being dug. Tools (e.g. shovels) that can be left at the OLA and a bin with soil may help OLA users refill larger holes. Investigate additional options for filling holes in areas where soil is compacted.

7. Gates

Issue: The Cherry Beach OLA does not have safety/double gates. This can result in dogs escaping when other users and their dogs are entering the park.

Proposed solutions to investigate: Investigate adding double gates to entrances/exits to the OLA.

Pup-Up Event

Regular OLA users typically go to the park weekday mornings around 9:30 am and again at 3:30 pm. There is also a number of people that use the OLA after work around 6:30/7:00pm. However, they may start going sooner as the days get shorter. The OLA is also heavily used on the weekends as many non-regular users come to the park at this time. If feasible, a small incentive for participants (e.g. a doggy loot bag) may help to increase participation.

City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas

HIGH PARK OLA INTERVIEW

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

720 Bathurst Street – CSI Annex

Participants:

High Park Off-Leash Area Representatives

City of Toronto – Parks Standards & Innovations Unit

Swerhun Inc.

OVERVIEW

As part of the City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas the City is hosting conversations with representatives from the 10 Off-Leash Area (OLA) Case Study Sites. The City and Swerhun Inc. had a conversation with the two representatives from the High Park OLA to better understand ongoing issues and seek feedback on potential opportunities for improvements that can help inform the City-wide recommendations being developed through the study.

This summary was written by Swerhun Inc. and was shared with participants for review prior to being finalized. It provides a review of key topics discussed in the conversation; it is not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Communications with dog owners and OLA users

Both of the OLA representatives have a long-standing history of participation with High Park. One participant has been a user of the park for over 20 years. The second representative has over 30 years' participation in High Park related to dogs. Both have volunteered for 15 years on an advisory committee related to dogs in High Park. They predominantly use a Facebook page, High Park K9, and an email to connect with other OLA users. They also use the bulletin board situated in the park.

Common issues and proposed solutions

1. Communication

Issue: At times there can be a lack of information or clarity on plans for long-term maintenance being completed by the City. If the OLA representatives don't know/understand the long-term plans they in turn cannot keep other OLA users up to date. Additionally, OLA users have a great deal of useful information about the OLA they could share related to ongoing and site specific issues if they were more regularly included in the conversations with park staff about long-term operations.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate developing a process that would allow park staff to provide regular updates on ongoing maintenance / operations and gather information from OLA reps and users (e.g. an advisory committee or something similar).

2. Erosion issues at the Spring Road entry

Issue: The Spring Road OLA entry has significant issues with erosion and safety, and many users will go to another gate to avoid icy conditions and exposed tarp staples where the sand covering has eroded. The exposed tarp staples are located on the off leash trail that is west of Spring Road, opposite the metal staircase. Dogs have to be on-leash at the other gate, but people don't always follow this rule.

Proposed solution to investigate: Long-term solutions for the erosion by the staircase where the OLA entry at Spring Road is located. Look into the feasibility of connecting the two-sides of the OLA where users are currently not abiding by proper leash requirements so that it is legally allowed.

3. Fencing

Issue: Some of the current fencing is old and flimsy, and in certain areas heavy rainfall has eroded the surrounding sand creating muddy conditions. Dogs have escaped and/or have got stuck and hurt in the damaged fencing. In some cases, temporary fencing has been put up in the past to fill the gaps, however the barricades don't always work, and dogs manage to crawl underneath and/or get stuck. This is especially problematic in the area that leads down to the creek, which dogs and their owners regularly accessed prior to temporary fencing being put up.

Proposed solution to investigate: Look into installing post and paddle fencing and in some cases extending the height of the existing fencing. This could help create a more permanent and safer solution. Strive to strike a balance with fencing height and materials that prevent dogs from getting out of OLA while maintaining a natural look and feel.

4. Gate damage

Issue: Many gates to the OLA are damaged or no longer attached to a fence because of rotting wood. While there is some history of human-involved damage, this does not appear to be the primary cause of the issue. If dogs hop the fence or become stuck and the gate is not accessible, it creates an issue for the dog owner.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate a higher standard of maintenance and/or improved materials for the gates and fencing, ensuring that they are accessible for all users.

5. Waste management

Issue: There used to be non-organic and organic bins near the main OLA entry to Dog Hill east of Colborne Lodge Dr, which were well-received by OLA and park users. These bins were removed and resulted in issues with people leaving dog waste on the ground in the area for a period of time. This issue has subsided recently as people have become aware of and are using bins at nearby locations.

Proposed solution to investigate: Facilitate accurate expectations within the community about waste management; communicating when and why bins are moved as well as alternative locations. *Note added after the meeting:* See Attachment 1 for a map provided by the City identifying the organic and non-organic waste bins in High park.

6. Education about ESA

Issue: High Park is an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) in the City of Toronto; the OLA representatives suggested that more OLA and general park users would respect and follow by-laws in the park if they knew more about ESAs and the importance of protecting the natural environment. They also noted that they are keen to connect with other groups at High Park to help promote the importance of the natural environment and the ESA specifically.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate opportunities educate park users and help facilitate connections between OLA users and other High Park groups (e.g. ProtectNatureTO). Investigate education opportunities such as having experts come to the park to host sessions on Black Oak Savannah, hosting a Jane's Walk in High Park through the OLA to learn about the natural environment, and promoting community clean-up days.

Pup-Up Event

The representatives highlighted two sets of times that would be useful for the pup-up event. As a destination OLA, weekends are best and very busy as it draws people from all over the City. On weekdays there are more dog walkers during the day (10:00am – 4:00pm) and neighbourhood people in the morning. It was recommended that Thanksgiving week be avoided due to people taking travelling and taking extended holidays.

City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas

L'AMOREAUX PARK OLA INTERVIEW

Friday, September 20, 2019

Conference Call

Participants:

L'Amoreaux Park Off-Leash Area Representative

City of Toronto – Parks Standards & Innovations Unit

Swerhun Inc.

OVERVIEW

As part of the City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas the City is hosting conversations with representatives from the 10 Off-Leash Area (OLA) Case Study Sites. The City and Swerhun Inc. had a conversation with the representative from the L'Amoreaux Park OLA to better understand ongoing issues and seek feedback on potential opportunities for improvements that can help inform the City-wide recommendations being developed through the study.

This summary was written by Swerhun Inc and with the OLA representative in draft before being finalized. It provides a review of key topics discussed in the conversation; it is not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Communications with dog owners and OLA users

The representative started their position a few months ago when this study began and they became aware that L'Amoreaux Park did not have a rep. At this point they communicate primarily through word of mouth in the park and have put their email up on the OLA bulletin board.

Common issues and proposed solutions

1. Fencing

Issue: There are some gaps and holes in the fence, which allows dogs, primarily small dogs, to get out.

Proposed solution to investigate: Find holes/gaps and fix them to prevent dogs from getting out. Stay in contact with the OLA representative to help identify problem spots and fix them before they become large enough for dogs to get out.

2. Gates

Issue: The latches often stick, making it difficult to both open and close the gates.

Proposed solution to investigate: Examine the latches on the gates and make necessary repairs. Investigate alternative latches that are less likely to stick.

3. Access to running water

Issue: There is no direct access to water in the OLA. There is a small washroom near the parking lot, which some OLA users get water from. However, the washroom is not always open.

Proposed solution to investigate: There is a desire to have a water fountain in the OLA and if possible, a tri-level fountain that can be used by dogs, children, and adults.

4. Small-dog area

Issue: The OLA at L'Amoureux Park does not have a small dog area and small dogs and their owners can become uncomfortable in the OLA, especially if/when large dogs are rambunctious. This is particularly problematic if large dogs are left unattended.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate opportunities to include a small dog area at the L'Amoureux Park OLA and other OLA's in the city that currently don't have one. At the L'Amoureux Park OLA, specifically examine if it would be possible to add a portion of fence across the triangular corner of the OLA for a small dog section.

5. Promoting the code of conduct and by-laws

Issue: The OLA is often used by people from Markham who do not have their dogs licensed in Toronto and are therefore are technically not allowed to use the OLA.

Proposed solution to investigate: Increase signage in the OLA that outlines the code of conduct and by-laws, e.g. put the signs at each entrance/exit and put them inside the OLA so that OLA users can see and reference them while using the dog park.

6. Food waste around the OLA

Issue: There is a shelter area in the park near the OLA that many people use to have picnics and consume food. However, because there aren't any garbage cans near the shelter food, including chicken bones, are often left on the ground. Food waste can attract dogs and can be dangerous for them to consume.

Proposed solution to investigate: Consider adding garbage cans near the shelter area. City staff also suggested calling 311 as calls get recorded and tracked, which helps to identify persistent issues and enforcement.

7. Drainage

Issue: The entrance to the OLA becomes wet and swampy when it rains. OLA users often avoid using this entrance when it's wet.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate surfacing and improved drainage to prevent water buildup and swampy conditions.

8. Shade and trees

Issue: There are three trees in the OLA, which are either dead or in bad shape. These trees had provided shade, which helped to keep the park cool and accessible during hot weather.

Proposed solution to investigate: Additional deciduous trees are preferred as a means of providing shade. However, it's understood that because this OLA is in a hydro corridor new trees may not be permitted. Investigate alternative options for providing shade.

Pup-Up Event

The OLA is busy on weekday evenings (6:00 pm onward) and Saturday mornings; either of these times would be good times to host the Pup-Up. The OLA can also be quite busy on Sunday evenings.

City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas

MERRILL BRIDGE ROAD PARK OLA INTERVIEW

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

720 Bathurst Street – CSI Annex

Participants:

Merrill Bridge Road Park Off-Leash Area Representative
City of Toronto – Parks Standards & Innovations Unit
Swerhun Inc.

OVERVIEW

As part of the City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas the City is hosting conversations with representatives from the 10 Off-Leash Area (OLA) Case Study Sites. The City and Swerhun Inc. had a conversation with the representative from the Merrill Bridge Road Park OLA to better understand ongoing issues and seek feedback on potential opportunities for improvements that can help inform the City-wide recommendations being developed through the study.

This summary was written by Swerhun Inc and shared with the participants for review prior to being finalized. It provides a review of key topics discussed in the conversation; it is not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Communications with dog owners and OLA users

The representative has been a co-chair for the Merrill Bridge Road Park OLA since October 2018, and became the sole representative in June 2019. They have developed connections with other local dog owners and OLA users through the dog park email list which has approximately 150 subscribers, an active Facebook page which they help manage, as well as by communicating with people directly in the park. There is also a message board that has the dog park Facebook page information.

Common issues and proposed solutions

1. Communication with the City / governing bodies

Issue: Difficulty getting in contact with Parks and Metrolinx staff regarding a fallen tree in the rail corridor that is impacting the fence at the south edge of the park. This fallen tree has damaged the fence and the fence is the only barrier for the OLA. On a broader scale, there is a general concern about a lack of responsiveness from the City regarding ongoing issues.

Proposed solution to investigate: Education about the various actors involved with OLA maintenance, and streamlining reporting so issues are tracked and dealt with in a timely manner. *City staff also said they will continue to follow up with Metrolinx about having the fallen tree removed.*

2. Maintenance

Issue: As part of the OLA is grass, dogs dig holes that need to be repaired to avoid safety concerns for dogs and people. The park has a City bin where dog owners can retrieve soil to patch holes, however the supply has run out. Part of the issue is signage and communication; the code of conduct states that dog owners are responsible for repairing damage caused by their dogs, however very few do.

Proposed solution to investigate: Ensure that the Code of Conduct is visible to prompt dog owners to repair OLA surfaces if their dog causes damage. Research how maintenance tools are distributed amongst OLAs and whether there would be the opportunity for Merrill Bridge to receive more soil.

3. Communication and action regarding allowable/regulated OLA uses

Issue: Commercial dog walkers aren't legally allowed to walk their dogs in Merrill Bridge Road Park; however, many use the OLA due to a lack of proper signage. Additionally, there has been a range of opinions about OLA representatives policing park space.

Proposed solution to investigate: The City explained that non-emergency municipal service is data driven and calling 311 to report illegal uses of the OLA will not only track the comment, but reoccurring issues could prompt more response. It may also be helpful to inform the Canadian Dog Walkers Association so they can remind their members to not use areas they are prohibited in. Installing larger, clearer signage near the OLA entrance that states the Code of Conduct and by-laws may help mitigate this issue.

4. Proper waste disposal

Issue: OLA users are pleased that there is garbage, recycling and compost bins on-site. However, dog waste is often put in the recycling bin, which contaminates the recycling.

Proposed solution to investigate: Better signage and moving the recycling bin away from other bins to discourage people from putting in dog waste in the recycling bin.

5. No small-dog area

Issue: Big dogs and large puppies often dominate the OLA, and can contribute to an unsafe or uncomfortable environment for small dogs and their owners. Large dogs can trample small dogs.

Proposed solution to investigate: Review options to see if an area for small dogs is feasible at this location to help create a safer, more inclusive environment.

Pup-Up Event

There is a large group and broad range of dog-sizes in the OLA between 8:00-10:00am on weekday mornings, as well as 4:30-6:00pm, after standard working hours. Saturday mornings are also quite busy.

City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas
SANDY BRUCE PARK OLA INTERVIEW

Friday, September 20, 2019
 Conference Call

Participants:

Sandy Bruce Park Off-Leash Area Representative
 City of Toronto – Parks Standards & Innovations Unit
 Swerhun Inc.

OVERVIEW

As part of the City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas the City is hosting conversations with representatives from the 10 Off-Leash Area (OLA) Case Study Sites. The City and Swerhun Inc. had a conversation with the representative from the Sandy Bruce Park OLA to better understand ongoing issues and seek feedback on potential opportunities for improvements that can help inform the City-wide recommendations being developed through the study.

This summary was written by Swerhun Inc and shared with the participants for review prior to being finalized. It provides a review of key topics discussed in the conversation; it is not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Communications with dog owners and OLA users

The representative has been involved for two years. An email address has been created and posted that the OLA. There is also have a Facebook page, which is used to share information and has approximately 120 members.

Common issues and proposed solutions

1. Communication

Issue: The response rate from the City used to be quite reasonable. However, more recently it has started to take much longer (i.e. months and on one occasion a year) to get a response from the City on issues raised. There is also a perception that the standard answer to nearly all requests is “no” without explanation as to why. If responses from City staff are limited or delayed it can be difficult for the OLA representative to act as an effective liaison between the City and OLA users. If OLA users are not receiving information from the OLA rep, they often reach out to the City directly, resulting in the City receiving many additional inquiries that could be streamlined through the OLA rep.

Proposed solution to investigate: Develop a system that records and tracks inquiries from the OLA representative so they and the City can more effectively follow-up. Provide clarity on if/how OLA users can fundraise for certain features for their OLA (e.g. a water fountain).

2. Slope and drainage

Issue: The Sandy Bruce Park OLA has a large slope, which becomes quite slippery and dangerous in the winter and is not accessible for some OLA users. As snow and ice melt the water pools at the bottom of the hill. Ice then builds up at the bottom of the hill and again can become a dangerous environment for OLA users.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate installing a railing to make it easier and safer for everyone to move up and down the slope. Investigate the existing drainage system and make any necessary repairs/improvements.

3. Gates with concrete pads

Issue: The concrete pads at the gates/entrances to the OLA are flush with the ground. This results in significant snow and ice buildup, which can prevent the gates from closing and allows dogs to get out.

Proposed solution to investigate: Consider raising the concrete pads and/or using animal-safe de-icing materials to prevent snow and ice buildup and gates from staying open.

4. Surface maintenance

Issue: The OLA surface is woodchips and often requires maintenance and additional woodchips. Otherwise the OLA becomes very muddy. There is a perception that other OLAs with woodchips are restocked more regularly.

Proposed solution to investigate: Clearly communicate the replenishment cycle the City follows for woodchips (i.e. which park gets restocked and when). Share information about if/how OLA users can fundraise to help replenish woodchips as needed; there is strong potential for the local community to raise funds for this and other needs at the OLA.

5. Design implementation

Issue: Some aspects of the construction of the OLA do not appear to match the original design (e.g. location of rock walls). There is a perception that the design may not have been followed without an explanation as to why.

Proposed solution to investigate: Ensure park designs are properly implemented and explanations for any changes can be explained.

Pup-Up Event

The OLA is generally busiest on weekday evenings (5:00 – 7:00 pm) and weekend mornings (10:00 am – 12:00 pm); either of these times would be good times to host the Pup-Up.

City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas

SUNNYBROOK PARK OLA INTERVIEW

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

720 Bathurst Street – CSI Annex

Participants:

Sunnybrook Park Off-Leash Area Representative

City of Toronto – Parks Standards & Innovations Unit

Swerhun Inc.

OVERVIEW

As part of the City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas the City is hosting conversations with representatives from the 10 Off-Leash Area (OLA) Case Study Sites. The City and Swerhun Inc. had a conversation with the representative from the Sunnybrook Park OLA to better understand ongoing issues and seek feedback on potential opportunities for improvements that can help inform the City-wide recommendations being developed through the study.

This summary was written by Swerhun Inc. and was shared with participants in draft prior to being finalized. It provides a review of key topics discussed in the conversation; it is not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Communications with dog owners and OLA users

The representative has held their position for the last two to three years and is also a registered professional dog-walker in the neighbourhood. The OLA has a Facebook page for communication, but the discourse can, at times, be a source of tension. The representative prefers face-to-face communication and finds that it's the best way to facilitate sensitive issues. As a very frequent user of the OLA, they reach out to other users if there is a known problem that someone is experiencing.

Common issues and proposed solutions

1. Water supply

Issue: The water source in the park is on dirt or clay, and experiences drainage issues. It puddles at the base, which can be a hazard to dogs if they roll around or drink the water. There has been a lack of response from the City in the past when OLA users notify the city for maintenance.

Proposed solution to investigate: Install a pebble or concrete slab base under the water source to prevent pooling of water. A dual-level water fountain for both dogs and people would also be great to have.

2. Fencing

Issue: The fence near the forested conservation area is too low, and because it is made of horizontal timber with chicken wire, small dogs can escape when it gets damaged. It can be unsafe if dogs escape, particularly with a neighboring parking lot.

Proposed solution to investigate: Review the height and materials of the fence to see if other feasible materials could be used instead.

3. Small dog park location

Issue: In order to access the small dog area, people and their dogs have to pass through the large dog area which can create tension. Some people don't feel safe with their small dogs interacting with the larger dog population.

Proposed solution to investigate: Review the possibility of extending the fence line to a nearby service door in the OLA, in order to allow for a separate entrance.

4. Equipment, maintenance and winterization

Issue: The latches on the entry gates are often broken, and the platforms are not maintained in the winter. Ice builds up, which contributes to the damage of the entry gates and is a hazard to users of the park. While OLA users will often help maintain the park, the conditions can become very poor. Traditional salt is harmful to the pads on dog's paws.

Proposed solution to investigate: Clearer communication about maintenance expectations and determining resources for OLA users to help effectively maintain the park in the winter. Implementing other means of snow and ice removal, such as dog-safe salt or sand.

5. Communication about the OLA uses

Issue: Due to Sunnybrook's size and location, there are many different users who enjoy the park amenities. Some people picnic, bring in strollers, and bike through the OLA. These uses, at times, can conflict with dogs in the OLA.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate ways to promote the code of conduct and responsible behaviour in the OLA so that all users can enjoy the park. *The City explained that prohibiting specific users/uses would go against the mandate of City Parks, which is an inclusive use for all residents to enjoy.*

6. Size of OLA and nearby uses

Issue: A dead-end pathway behind the dog park is intended as an on-leash area, however many people take their dogs off-leash because it is quiet, has water, and allows their dogs to be walked. The OLA lacks flat open areas where dogs can be walked and have more interaction, instead of just running in circles.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate if it would be possible to extend the OLA to include the pathway area behind the existing area.

7. Lack of interactive elements

Issue: There is a lack of tactile amenities in the OLA for dogs to interact with. While it is important to have human-focused amenities such as benches, it is very important to improve the OLA with dogs in mind.

Proposed solution to investigate: It is understood that due to finances and physical layout of the OLA, it may not be feasible for high-cost solutions. Instead, investigate low-cost best practices being implemented in other cities.

8. Parking

Issue: The parking lot next to the OLA is often full of visitors coming to the nearby hospital.

Proposed solution to investigate: Increased enforcement of allowable parking in the lot and clearer signage to direct people trying to access the OLA to the other parking lots near the other side of the OLA, when the main lot is full.

Pup-Up Event

The busiest time during the week is 10:00am until noon, with high turn over, including dog owners and dog professionals, and other users. It is also busy at the same time on the weekends.

City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas

WYCHWOOD CAR BARNES PARK OLA INTERVIEW

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

720 Bathurst Street – CSI Annex

Participants:

Wychwood Car Barns Park Off-Leash Area Representative
City of Toronto – Parks Standards & Innovations Unit
Swerhun Inc.

OVERVIEW

As part of the City-Wide Study of Existing Off-Leash Areas the City is hosting conversations with representatives from the 10 Off-Leash Area (OLA) Case Study Sites. The City and Swerhun Inc. had a conversation with the representative from the Wychwood Car Barns Park OLA to better understand ongoing issues and seek feedback on potential opportunities for improvements that can help inform the City-wide recommendations being developed through the study.

This summary was written by Swerhun Inc and shared with the participants for review prior to being finalized. It provides a review of key topics discussed in the conversation; it is not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Communications with dog owners and OLA users

The representative began their position in the summer of 2019. There is a Facebook page for OLA updates, but it isn't very active. Word of mouth is currently the most useful way to communicate with users, and although it needs cleaning and updates, there is access to a bulletin board.

Common issues and proposed solutions

1. **Drainage and surfaces**

Issue: The park has a crushed granite surface which shifts with use to the edges of the OLA and causes drainage issues. There is a low-lying area in the south-west corner that has a drainage system, but it doesn't appear to be working well and hasn't for quite some time. Whenever it rains or ice melts, it becomes a pool and there are reports of dogs becoming sick from drinking or bathing in the mud.

Proposed solution to investigate: The surface material itself is not the issue for owners and dogs, however there is a need for additional crushed granite. One suggestion is to have a volunteer clean-up day. There is also need for clarity about what's allowed and encouraged in terms of self-regulated maintenance, i.e. what are OLA users allowed to do in terms of clean-up and fundraising for materials to help with maintenance.

2. Off-leash area hours and access to running water

Issue: The OLA is closed from 12:00 – 3:00pm daily, this rule was established when the OLA was created. There is a desire to have the OLA opened during these hours; many people use the OLA at this time, including people who take their dogs out on their lunch hour. Access to water is within the OLA, therefore people walking their dogs in the area during 12:00-3:00pm are unable to access water for their dogs.

Proposed solution to investigate: Investigate if it would be beneficial and possible to have the OLA open from 12:00 – 3:00pm daily.

3. Seating and shade

Issue: There are two picnic tables and a trellis in the OLA, but the type of seating isn't preferred, and the trellis doesn't provide adequate shade.

Proposed solution to investigate: Install benches in the OLA, as well as more shade covering whether it be a physical structure or trees in order to keep the area cooler, particularly in the summer months.

4. Communication about dog licensing

Issue: There's a perception from some OLA users that licensing dogs is a cash-grab from the City and that the capital doesn't go back into the parks, rather the City at-large.

Proposed solution to investigate: Better communication is needed to address this perception, and more education on how the funds from licensing dogs is used as well as the revenue sources for OLAs.

In addition, the representative inquired about community fundraising to maintain and improve the OLA. The City explained that there is a branch that manages partnerships and fundraising and said they would share information about how to contact this branch.

Pup-Up Event

Saturdays are the busiest day, but this may change when the Wychwood Market moves indoors. 10:00am and after working hours (between 5:00-6:00pm) are the busiest times during the week.

Survey 1 Questions

City of Toronto Dog Off-Leash Area Survey

The City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division is undertaking the **City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas**. With the number of people and dogs in Toronto growing, the use of dog off-leash areas continues to grow. This survey is one component of the study and will explore common issues, consider community needs, and suggest solutions to help improve the City's existing off-leash areas.

This is an anonymous survey. Please do not include any personal information such as your name or telephone number in your responses to this survey.

This survey takes about 10-20 minutes to complete.

Other ways to complete this survey: If you prefer to provide your feedback by telephone, please contact C. Fischer, Research Analyst, City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division at 416-338-8593.

For more information on the City-Wide Study of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas, you can email dola@toronto.ca and visit our website: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/construction-new-facilities/city-wide-study-of-existing-dog-off-leash-areas/>

Form number: 01-0291 2019-09

1. Are you currently a dog owner?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2. How many dogs do you currently own?

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3 or more

3. Do you have a small dog (maximum of 20 pounds, maximum of 12 inch height at shoulders)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

4. Are you a Commercial Dog Walker?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Dog off-leash areas in City parks are places for dogs to socialize, explore, and run free without a leash. They are informally referred to as 'dog parks.' The City of Toronto has

over 70 off-leash areas that are owned and/or managed by the Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division.

5. Have you visited an off-leash area in Toronto? Select the statement below that best describes you.

- ☐ I have visited an off-leash area in Toronto in the past year
- ☐ I have visited an off-leash area in Toronto, but not in the past year
- ☐ I have never visited an off-leash area in Toronto

6. Before this survey, were you aware that all dog owners in Toronto must license their dogs, and that dogs must be licensed to use Toronto's off-leash areas?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

7. Why do you visit off-leash areas? Please rank the top five most important reasons. Rank your choices so that #1 is more important than #2, #2 is more important than #3, etc.

CHOOSE ONLY 5 FROM THE LIST	#1 Important Reason	#2 Important Reason	#3 Important Reason	#4 Important Reason	#5 Important Reason
To relieve my dog (i.e. allow dog to go to the bathroom)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To exercise my dog	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To socialize my dog	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
For my personal exercise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To socialize with members of my community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To spend time outdoors/passively enjoy nature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To attend an organized/special event	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a park volunteer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
For personal enjoyment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other reason, please specify: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please use this 5-point scale where 1 means you 'Strongly Disagree' and 5 means you 'Strongly Agree'.

	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Somewhat Disagree	3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	4 Somewhat Agree	5 Strongly Agree	Unsure or Not Applicable
Off-leash areas in Toronto are important to my quality of life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off-leash areas in Toronto are important to my dog's quality of life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Which off-leash area do you visit most often? *(This will be a drop-down list.)*

Click the link below if you require a map of dog off-leash areas in the City of Toronto:
[PDF map opens in new tab]

Note about "Accessibility" option in question below: Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) compliance for exterior spaces is fulfilled when access ways of adequate width, grade, and surface are provided that connect a minimum of two entrance/exit points.

10. How satisfied are you with the off-leash area you visit most often? Please use this 5-point scale where 1 means you are 'Highly Dissatisfied' and 5 means you are 'Highly Satisfied.'

	1 Highly Dissatisfied	2 Dissatisfied	3 Neutral	4 Satisfied	5 Highly Satisfied	Unsure or Not Applicable
My visits in general	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cleanliness/maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Surface material (what is on the ground, e.g. grass, pea gravel, sand, wood chips, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fencing and gates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of seating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Amount of shade/shelter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Amount of trees/vegetation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Size of the off-leash area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Space capacity for all visitors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hours the off-leash area is open for use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lighting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Appendix C: Consultation

11. If you would like, please elaborate on your responses to the question above. Why are you satisfied or dissatisfied with these aspects of the off-leash area? Please explain.

Note about "Improvements to accessibility" option in question below: Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) compliance for exterior spaces is fulfilled when access ways of adequate width, grade, and surface are provided that connect a minimum of two entrance/exit points.

12. How could your *most-visited* off-leash area be improved? Please rank the top five most important areas for improvement. Rank your choices so that #1 is more important than #2, #2 is more important than #3, etc.

CHOOSE ONLY 5 FROM THE LIST	#1 Important Improvement	#2 Important Improvement	#3 Important Improvement	#4 Important Improvement	#5 Important Improvement
Improvements to waste disposal (e.g. green bins, dog waste bags)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improvements to surface material (what is on the ground, e.g. grass, pea gravel, sand, wood chips, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improvements to fencing and gates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improvements to accessibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More trees and plantings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More places to sit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More shade	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More lights	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Dog play equipment/agility equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Art/Decor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Addition of an area for small dogs only	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Addition of a water play area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Addition of a drinking water source	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Addition of a community notice board	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open for longer hours	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Washrooms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better enforcement of by-laws	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog Park Ambassador Program (focused on etiquette, stewardship, and responsible pet ownership)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. If you would like, please elaborate on your selections in the question above. Why did you choose your five most important improvements in the question above? Please explain.

14. Would you consider your most-visited off-leash area to be a:

- ☐ Destination off-leash area – a place that people travel to for its special features
- ☐ Neighbourhood off-leash area – primarily used by local residents
- ☐ Both
- ☐ Neither
- ☐ Unsure

Appendix C: Consultation

15. If you let your dog off-leash in public spaces outside of off-leash areas, even occasionally, why do you do it?

16. Which option below best categorizes your response to the question above? Select all that apply.

- ☐ It is inconvenient to travel to an off-leash area
- ☐ I prefer other public spaces that are cleaner than off-leash areas
- ☐ I prefer other public spaces that are more accessible than off-leash areas
- ☐ I prefer other public spaces with different features than off-leash areas (e.g. size, vegetation, access to water)
- ☐ I prefer other public spaces that feel safer than off-leash areas
- ☐ None of these options
- ☐ I don't let my dog off-leash in public spaces outside of off-leash areas

17. Do you have any concerns about the impacts of off-leash areas on quality of life in neighbourhoods or on the environment? Please explain.

18. On average, how frequently do you visit off-leash areas in Toronto?

- ☐ Every day (multiple times a day)
- ☐ Every day (once a day)
- ☐ 5 or more times per week
- ☐ 2 to 4 times per week
- ☐ Once a week
- ☐ A few times per month
- ☐ Less than once a month
- ☐ Less than once a year
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

19. When do you normally visit off-leash areas in Toronto? Select all that apply.

	Weekdays	Weekends
Mornings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Afternoons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evenings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. Do you typically visit:

- ☐ One off-leash area
- ☐ Multiple off-leash areas
- ☐ Other patterns of use, please specify: _____

21. How much time do you typically spend at your most-visited off-leash area?

- ☐ Under 30 minutes
- ☐ 30 minutes to 1 hour
- ☐ 1+ hour(s)

22. What means of transportation do you take to get to your most-visited off-leash area?
Select all that apply.

- ☐ Walk
- ☐ Bike
- ☐ Drive
- ☐ Public transit
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____

23. How long does it take you to reach your most-visited off-leash area?

- ☐ Under 5 minutes
- ☐ 5 to 15 minutes
- ☐ 15 to 30 minutes
- ☐ 30 minutes to 1 hour
- ☐ 1 or more hours

24. How did you learn about your most-visited off-leash area? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ I heard about this off-leash area from friends or family.
- ☐ I have attended scheduled meets, activities, etc. in this off-leash area.
- ☐ I live close to this off-leash area.
- ☐ I saw this off-leash area listed on the City of Toronto's Parks website.
- ☐ I saw this off-leash area in a newspaper or magazine article.
- ☐ I learned about this off-leash area from another source of media.
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____

Appendix C: Consultation

25. Are you aware of the Dog Owners' Association for your most-visited off-leash area?
Select all that apply.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure what a Dog Owners' Association is

26. Are you or would you be willing to become a member of a Dog Owners' Association?
Select all that apply.

- ☐ I am already a Dog Owners' Association member
- ☐ I would like to become a Dog Owners' Association member
- ☐ I would like more information about the role
- ☐ I am not interested

Dog off-leash areas are one amenity provided in City of Toronto parks.

27. In your opinion, what are the most important benefits that City parks provide? Please rank the top five benefits of parks in general (not specifically off-leash areas). Rank your choices so that #1 is more important than #2, #2 is more important than #3, etc.

CHOOSE ONLY 5 FROM THE LIST	#1 Important Benefit	#2 Important Benefit	#3 Important Benefit	#4 Important Benefit	#5 Important Benefit
Sense of community/community events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Healthy and active families	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fresh air away from traffic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quiet, restful enjoyment of nature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open green space and scenic views	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safe, enjoyable, accessible spaces for park users with dogs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ecological needs for a sustainable city	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreational facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental benefits for plants and wildlife	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Protect against climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased tourism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Civic pride	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

28. In your opinion, what benefits do dog off-leash areas provide to the City parks experience in general? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Park safety due to increased public surveillance from users of off-leash areas
- ☐ A solution to reduce conflict between dog owners and other park users
- ☐ Opportunities for social interaction and community-building events
- ☐ Satisfy a need that is not otherwise provided in the community
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____

Please tell us some general characteristics about yourself. This information will help us check whether a diversity of Torontonians are being included and having a say in improving the City's dog off-leash areas.

29. Please provide the first 3 characters of your postal code.

Please note: This question is optional.

30. Do you have a private green space or backyard at your place of residence?

- ☐ Yes – residence with private green space or backyard
- ☐ Yes – residence with shared private green space or backyard
- ☐ Yes – my building provides a dog relief station
- ☐ No – no private green space, backyard, or dog relief station
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

31. Disabilities, both visible and invisible, include physical, hearing, seeing, developmental, learning or mental health conditions, chronic illness and addictions. Disabilities may be from birth, caused by injury or accident, developed over time, or result from the combination of a person's condition and barriers in society. Do you identify as a person with a disability?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

32. What is your age?

- ☐ 0-4
- ☐ 5-12
- ☐ 13-18
- ☐ 19-29
- ☐ 30-55
- ☐ 56-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75+
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

33. Gender identity is the gender that people identify with or how they perceive themselves, which may be different from their birth-assigned sex. Gender identity is linked to a sense of self, the sense of being a woman, man, both, neither or anywhere along the gender spectrum (non-binary). What best describes your gender?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Trans female
- ☐ Trans male
- ☐ Gender fluid, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, non-binary, trans
- ☐ Not listed, please describe: _____
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

34. Indigenous people from Canada are those who self-identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian.

Do you identify as Indigenous to Canada?

- ☐ Yes – First Nations
- ☐ Yes – Inuit
- ☐ Yes – Métis
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Survey 1 Summary of Results

City of Toronto Dog Off-Leash Area Survey

Results for thinc's October 16 Stakeholder Meeting

Which off-leash area do you visit most often? (#9)

Most-Visited Off-Leash Area	Number of Respondents
Allan Gardens	107
Bayview Arena Park	18
Beresford Park	14
Cherry Beach	191
High Park	294
L'Amoureux Park	14
Merrill Bridge Road Park	23
Sandy Bruce Park	16
Sunnybrook Park	71
Wychwood Barns Park	36

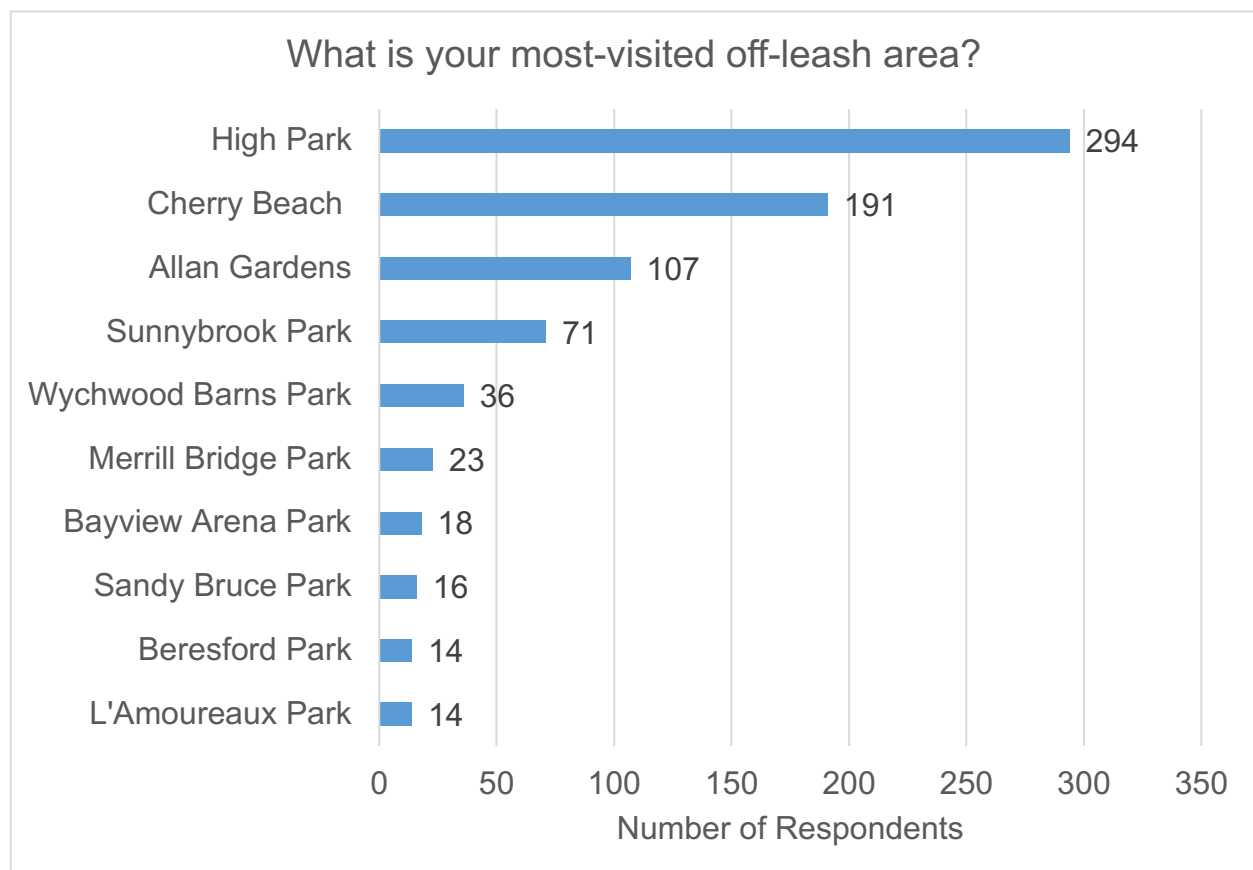


Figure C.5: Most Visited Dog OLA Survey

How satisfied are you with the off-leash area you visit most often?
Please use this 5-point scale where 1 means you are 'Highly Dissatisfied' and 5 means you are 'Highly Satisfied.' (#10)

Methods

Subset the data by question 9, the respondent's most visited off-leash area. Count the number of respondents that answered 'Highly Dissatisfied,' 'Dissatisfied,' etc. for each sub-question of #10. Convert counts to proportions by dividing by the total number of respondents that answered each sub-question. Proportions can be calculated by including or excluding respondents that selected 'Unsure or Not Applicable' in the total. The figures below use proportions *including* 'Unsure or Not Applicable.'

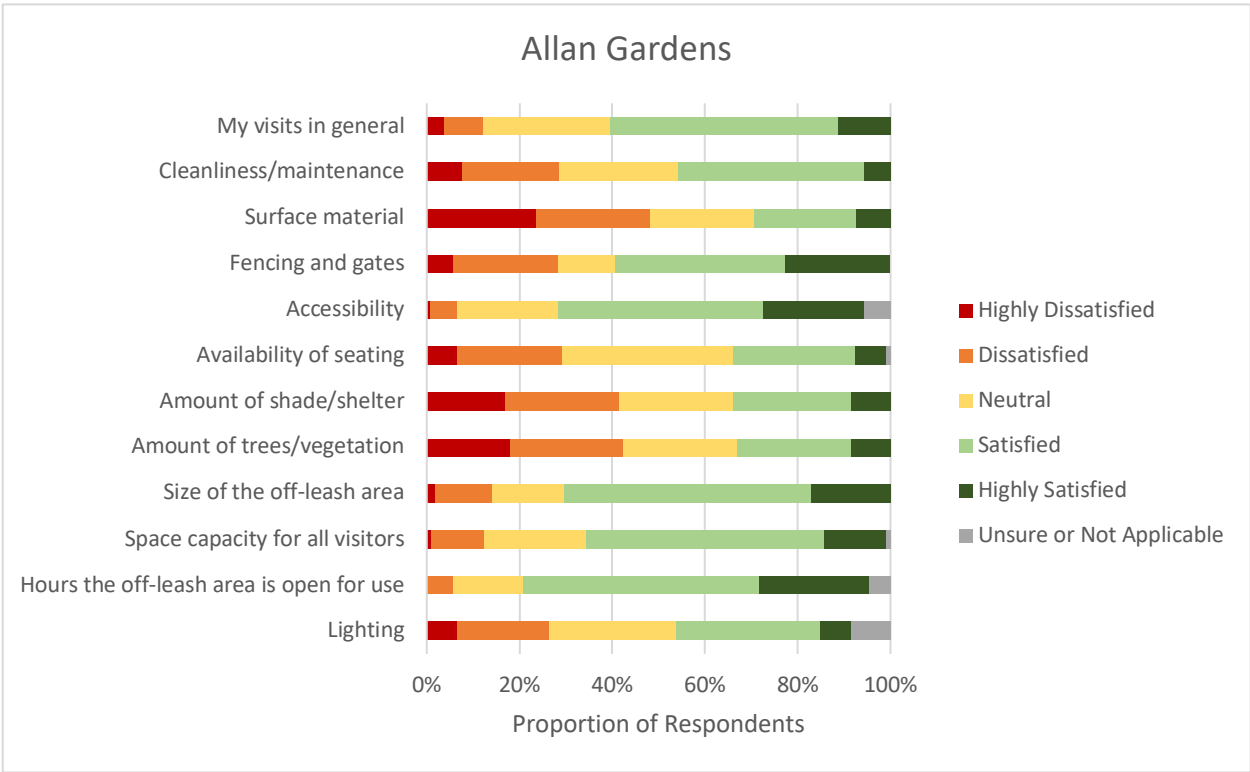


Figure C.6: Allan Gardens Satisfaction Graph

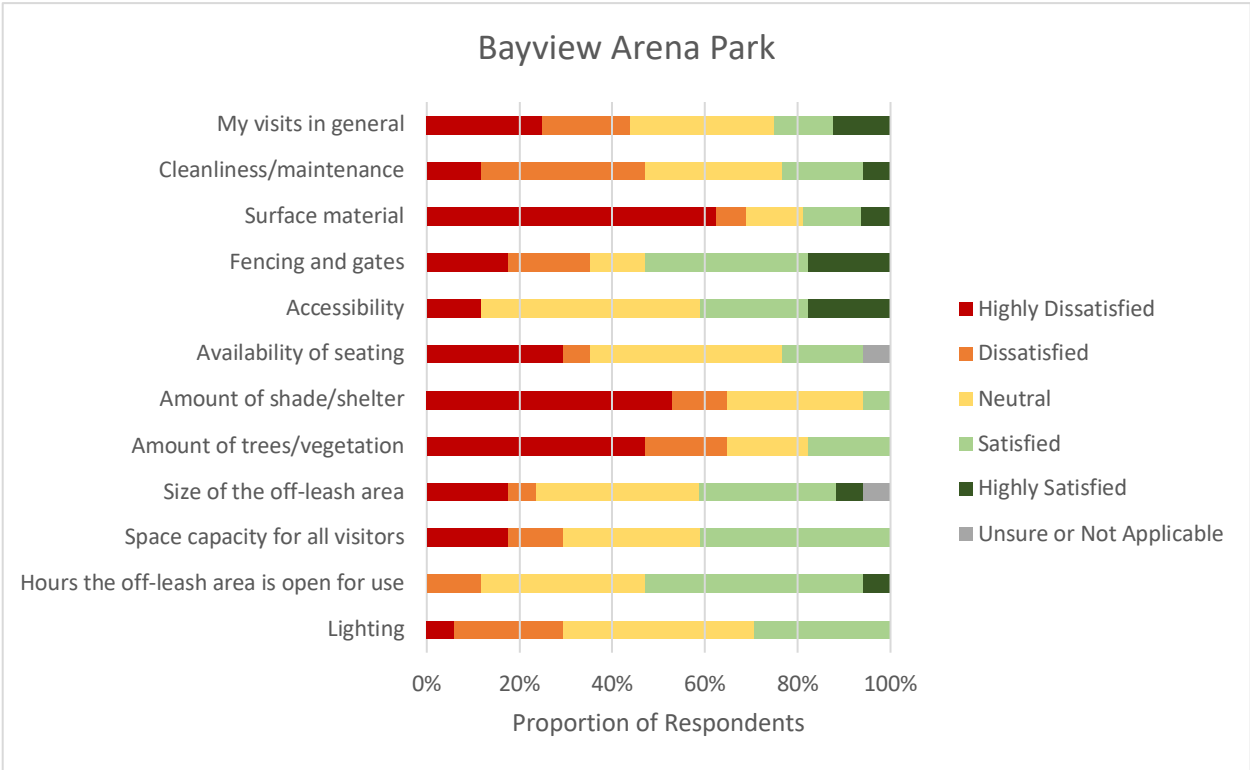


Figure C.7: Bayview Arena Park Satisfaction Graph

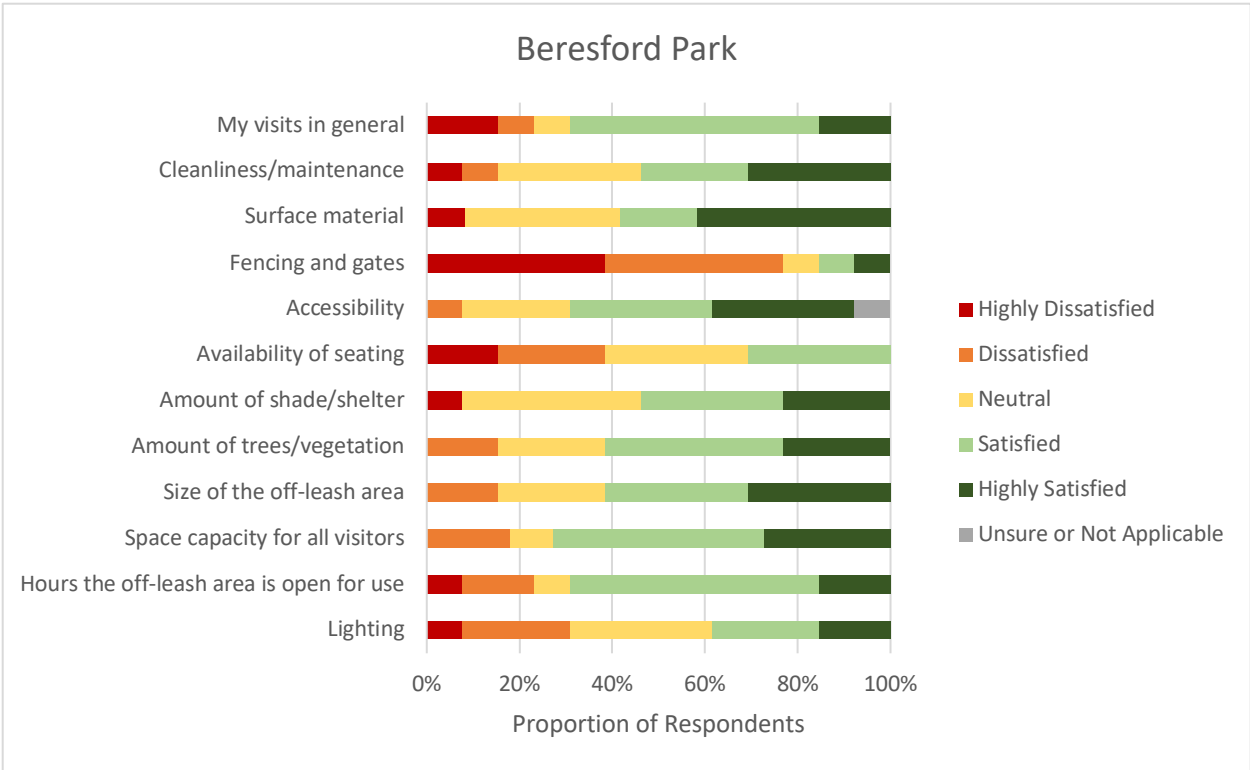


Figure C.8: Beresford Park Satisfaction Graph

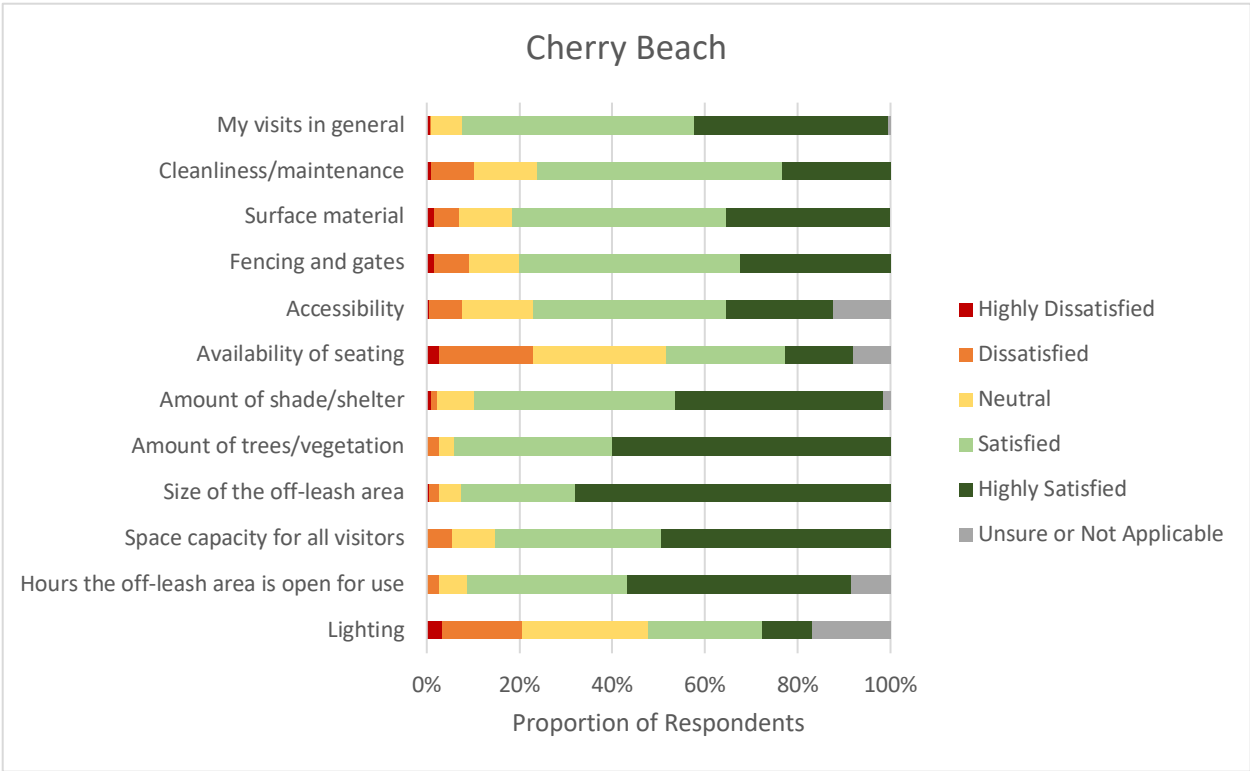


Figure C.9: Cherry Beach Satisfaction Graph

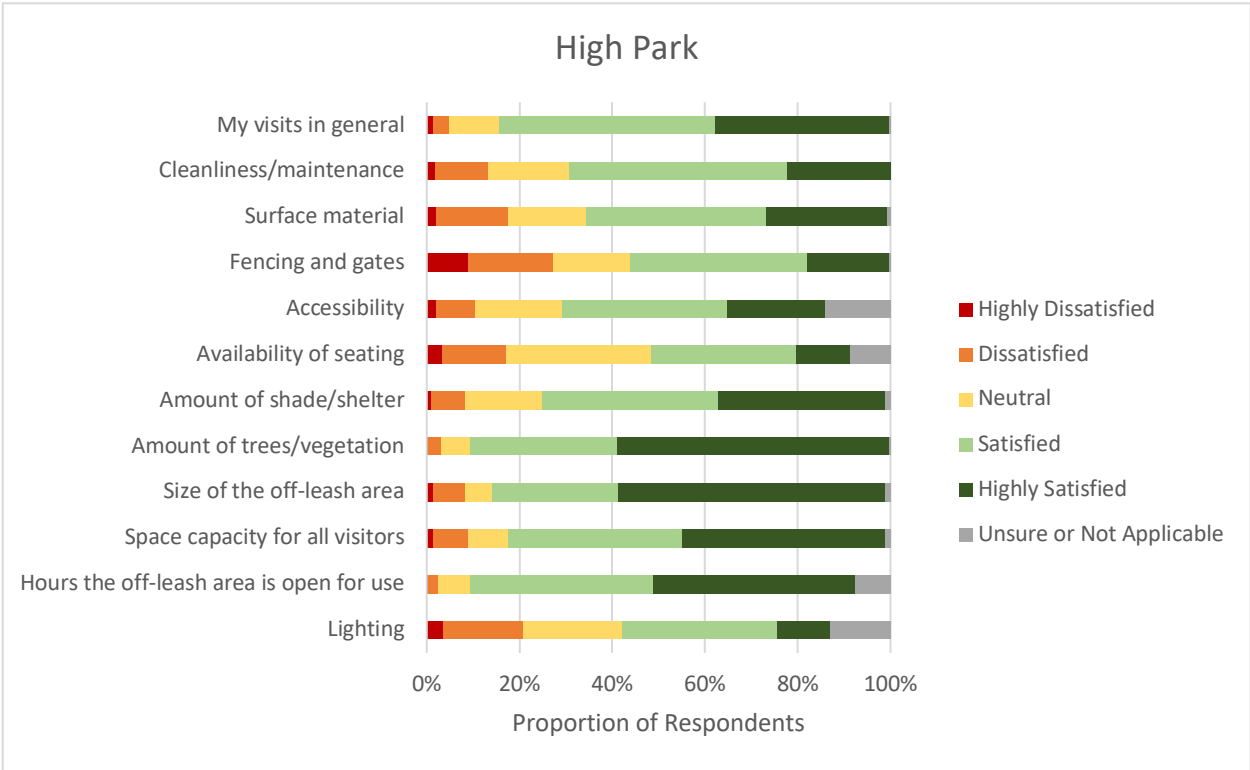


Figure C.10: High Park Satisfaction Graph

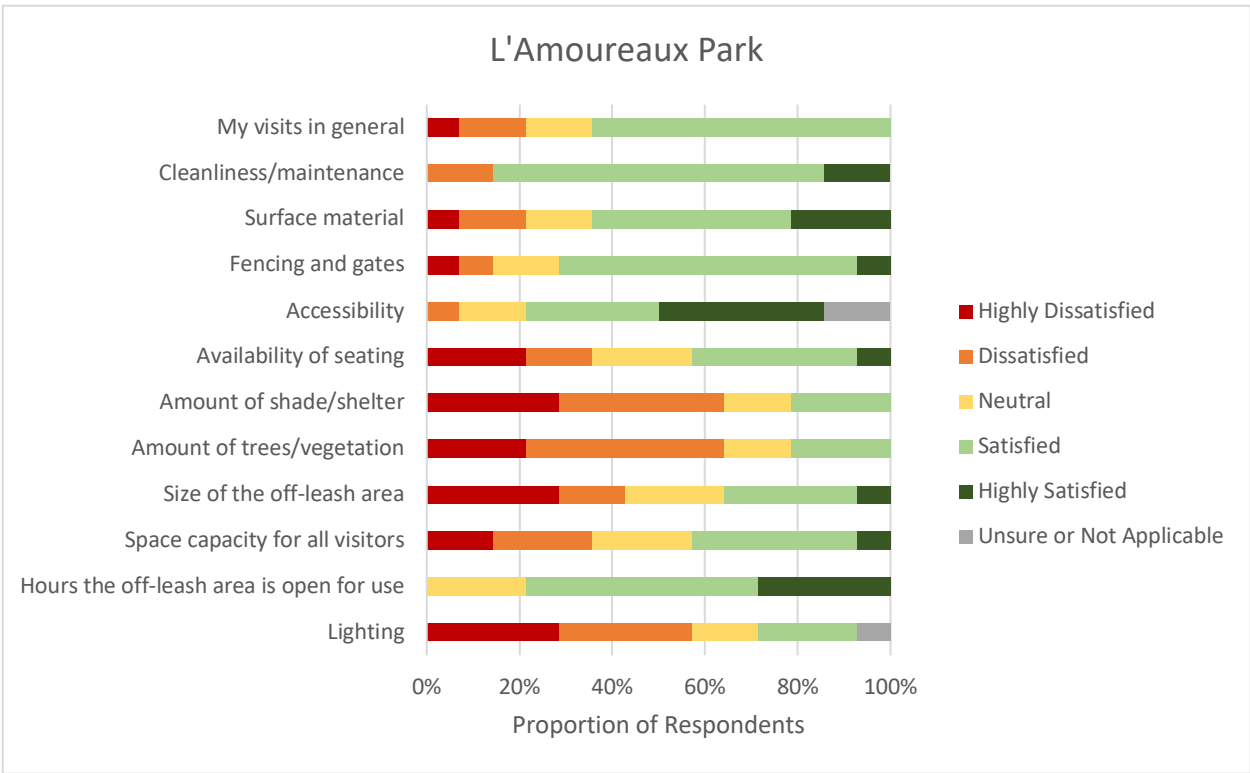


Figure C.11: L'Amoureux Park Satisfaction Graph

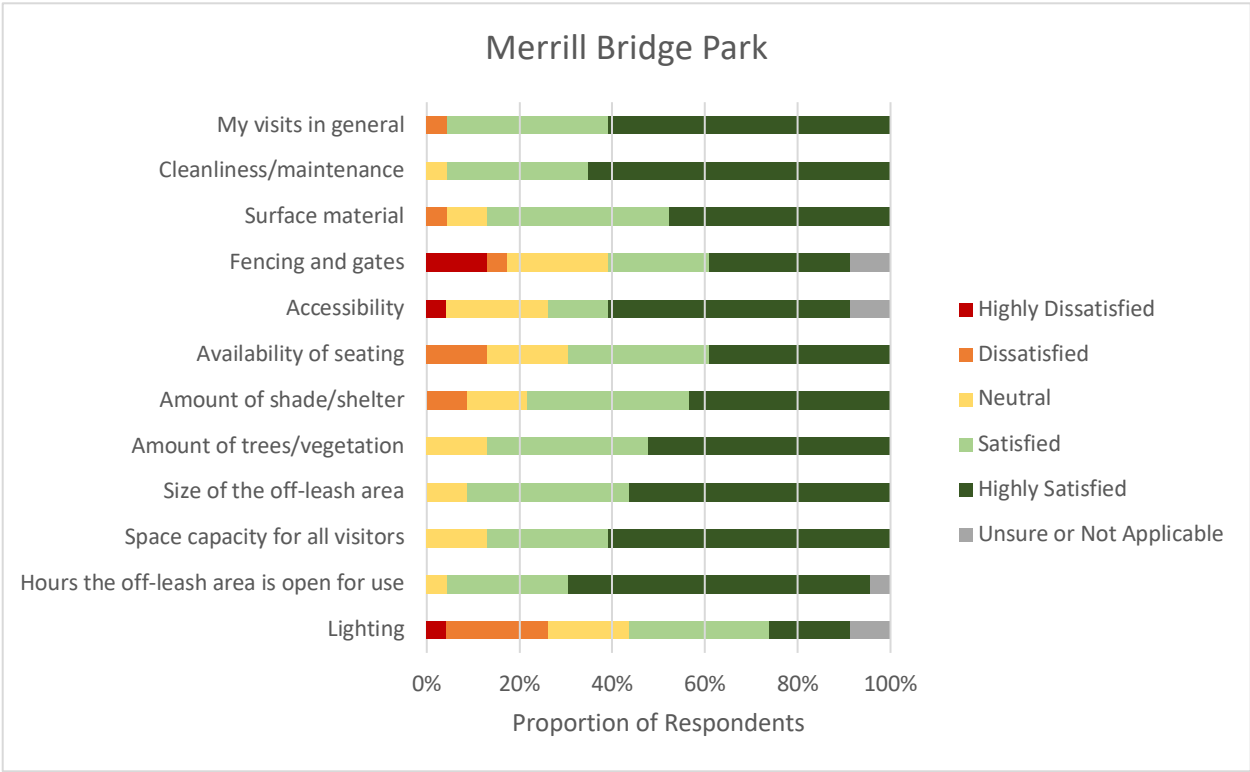


Figure C.12: Merrill Bridge Park Satisfaction Graph

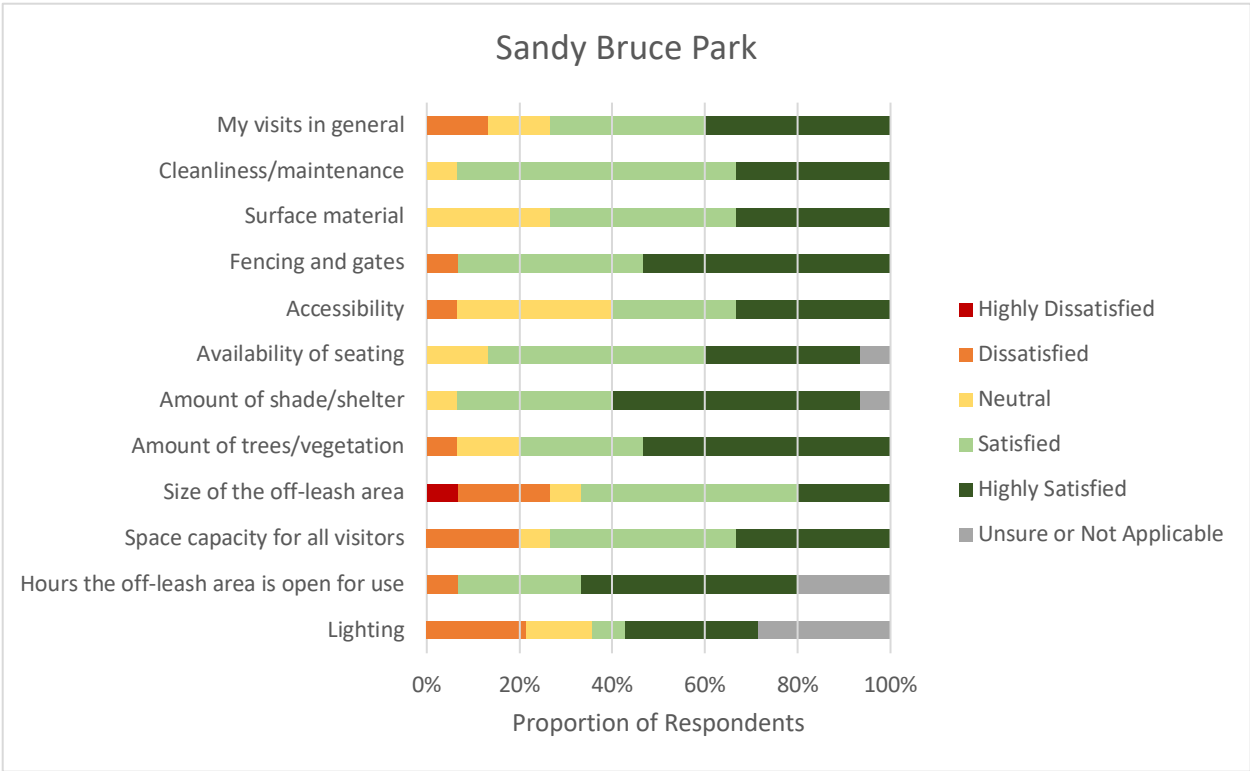


Figure C.13: Sandy Bruce Park Satisfaction Graph

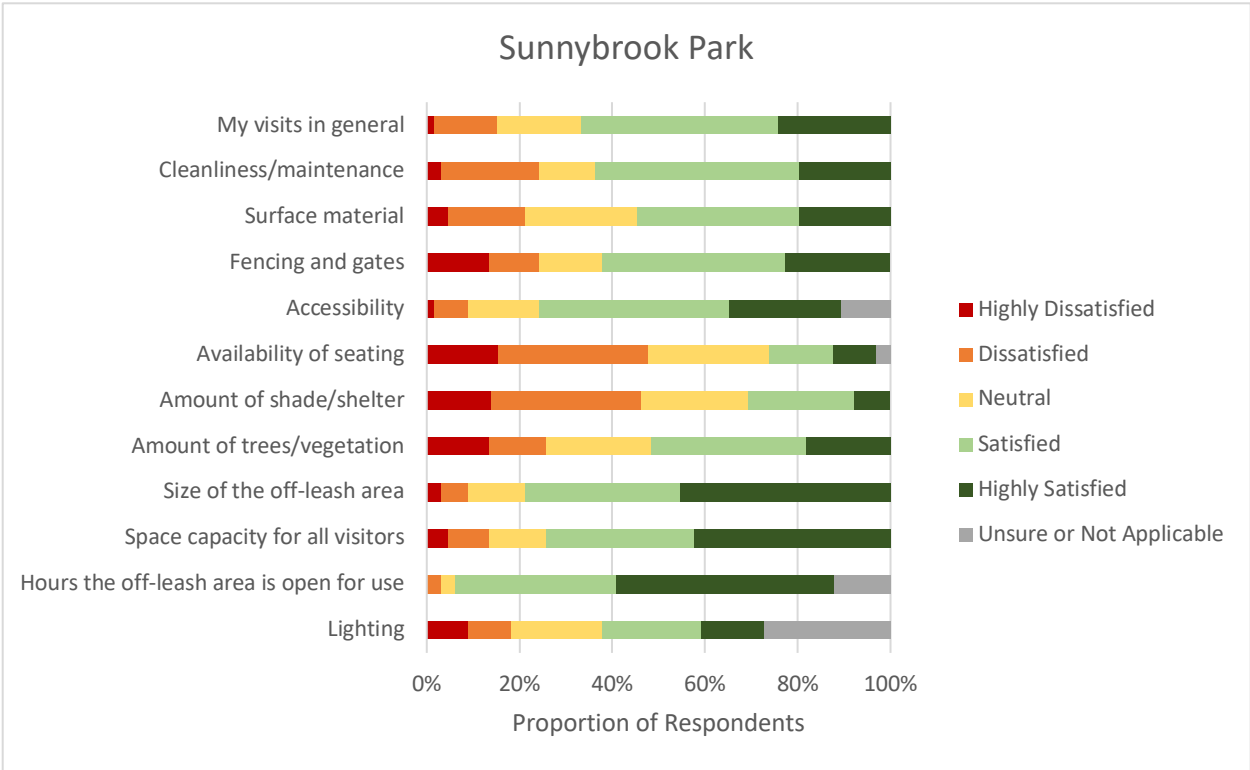


Figure C.14: Sunnybrook Park Satisfaction Graph

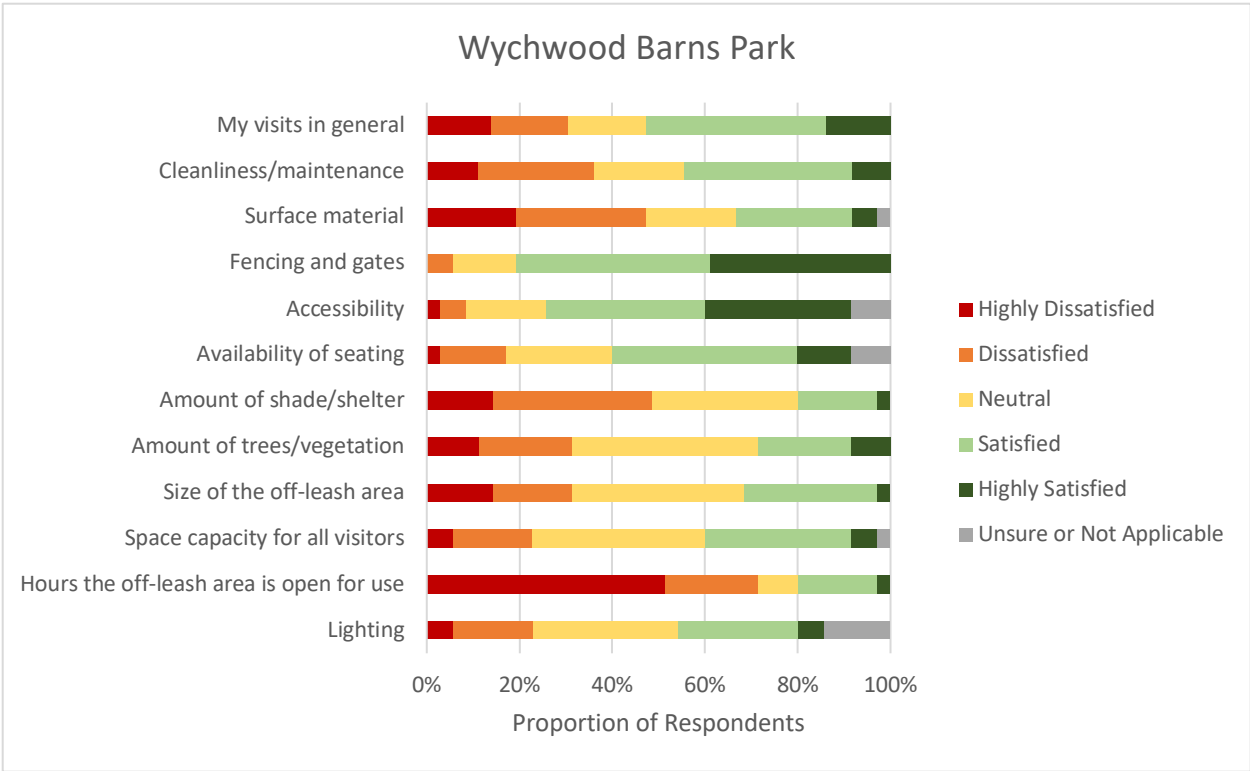


Figure C.15: Wychwood Barns Park Satisfaction Graph

How could your most-visited off-leash area be improved? Please rank the top 5 most important areas for improvement. Rank your choices so that #1 is more important than #2, #2 is more important than #3, etc. (#12)

Methods

Subset the data by question 9, the respondent's most-visited off-leash area.

A rank order scale's scores are weighted scores in which items selected first receive a higher value than the next ones in the list. This value is exponential and depends on the number of selections in your rank order scale. For each answer option, count the number of times it was ranked first, the number of times it was ranked second, etc. Because there are 20 answer options for question 12, a first choice rank gets a score of 20^2 , a second choice rank gets a score of 19^2 , a third choice rank gets a score of 18^2 , etc. The overall score for that answer option = the number of times it was ranked first multiplied by the first choice score + the number of times it was ranked second multiplied by the second choice score + ...

For example, this is how to calculate the weighted score for 'Improvements to surface material' for respondents that selected Allan Gardens as their most-visited off-leash area. 33 respondents ranked 'Improvements to surface material' as their first choice, 7 ranked it as their second choice, 3 ranked it as their third choice, 10 ranked it as their fourth choice, and 6 ranked it as their fifth choice.

Weighted Score = $(33)(20^2) + (7)(19^2) + (3)(18^2) + (10)(17^2) + (6)(16^2) = 21,125$

Weighted Score as a Percentage = $100 \times \text{Weighted Score} \div \text{Sum of all Answer Options' Weighted Scores}$

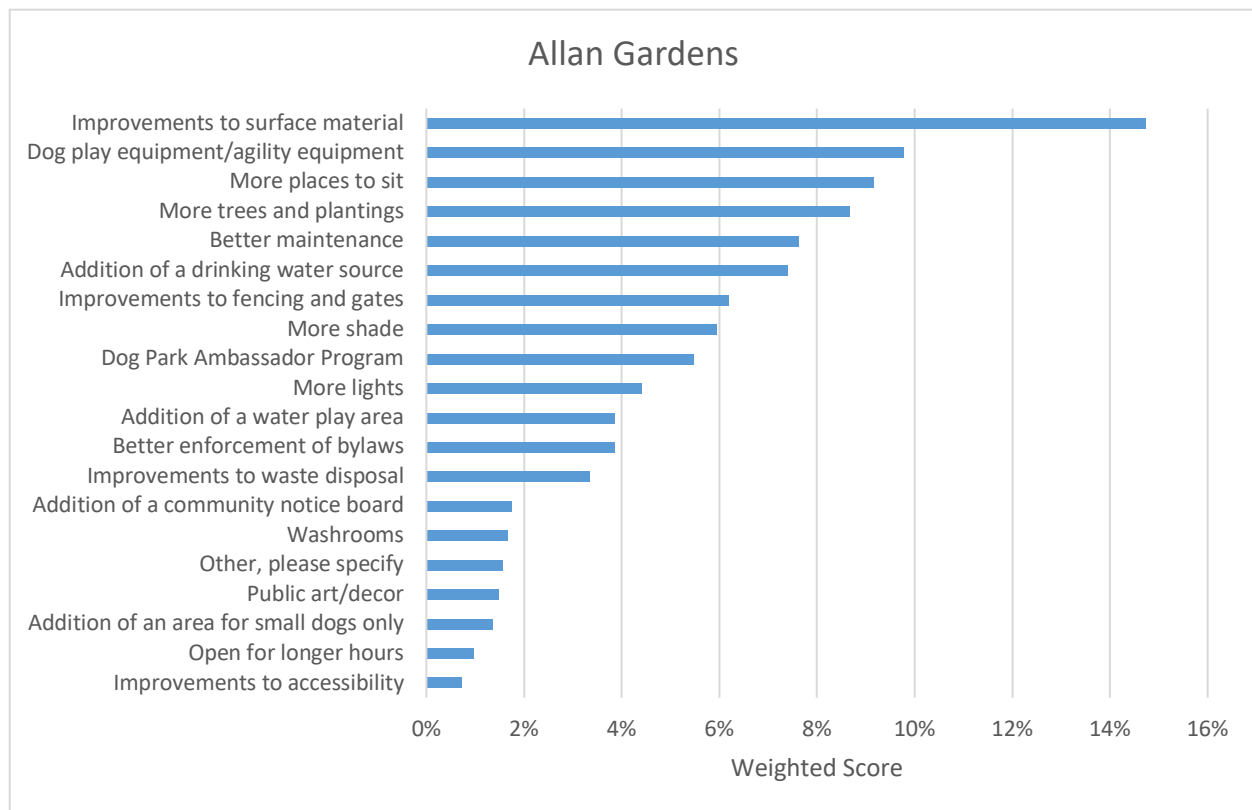


Figure C.16: Areas to be improved in Allan Gardens

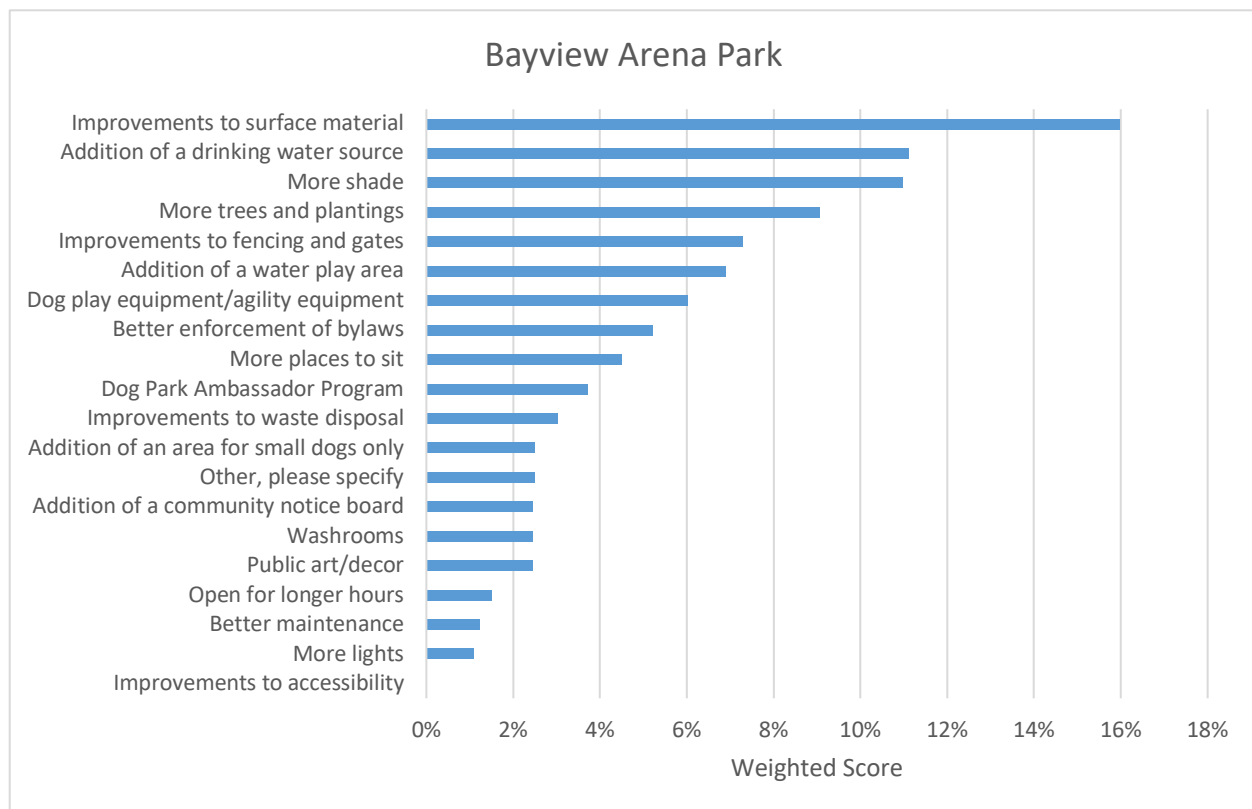


Figure C.17: Areas to be improved in Bayview Arena Park

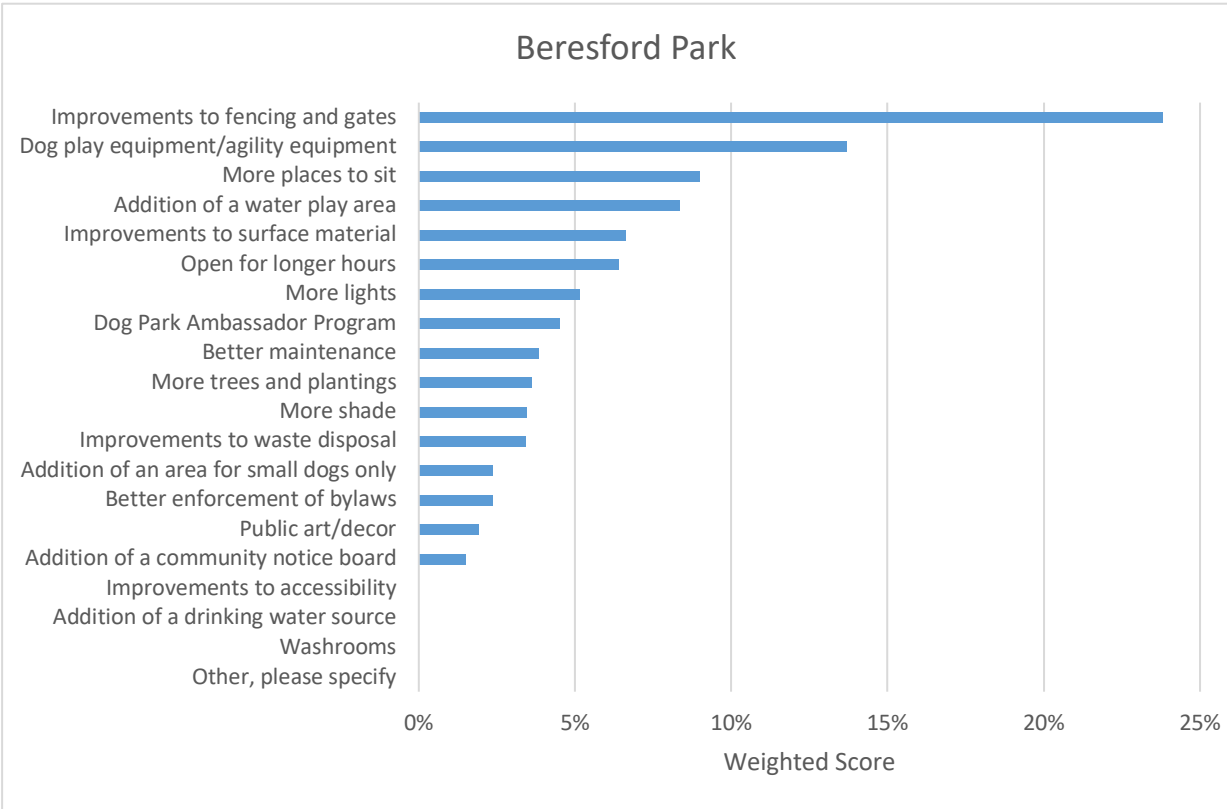


Figure C.18: Areas to be improved in Beresford Park

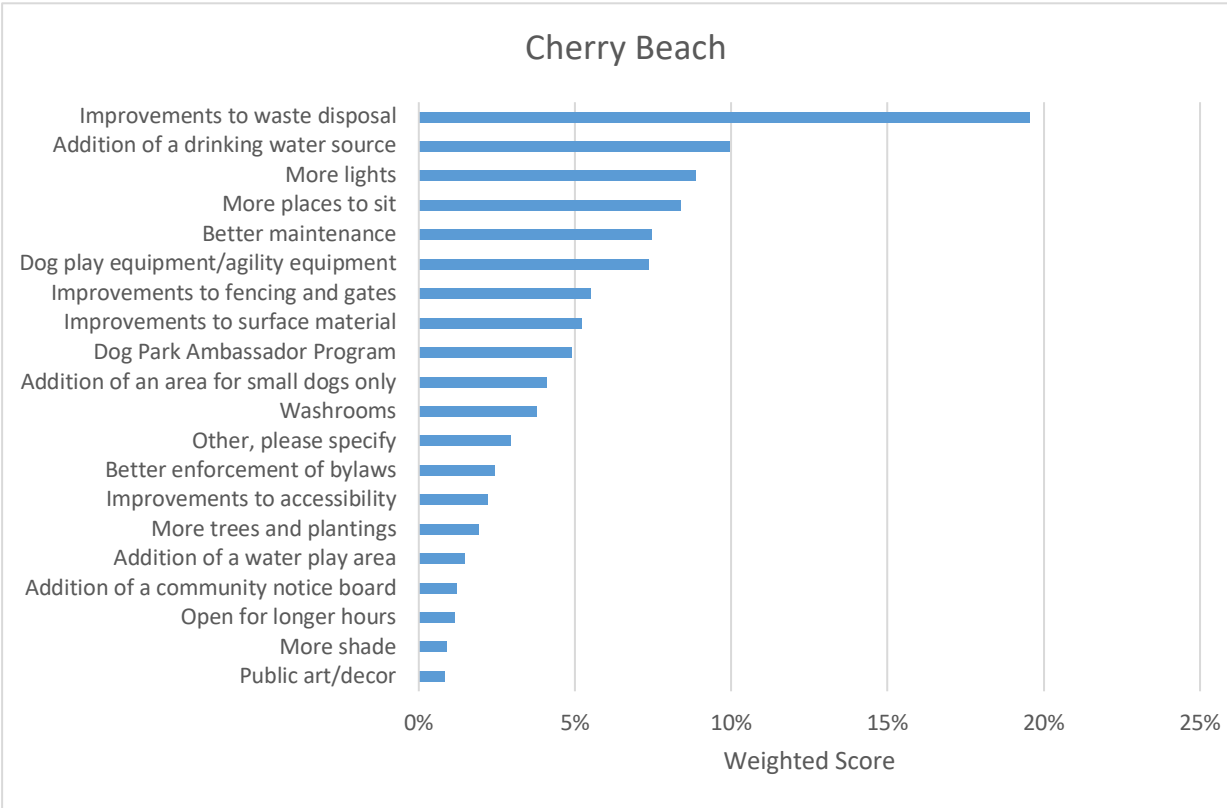


Figure C.19: Areas to be improved in Cherry Beach

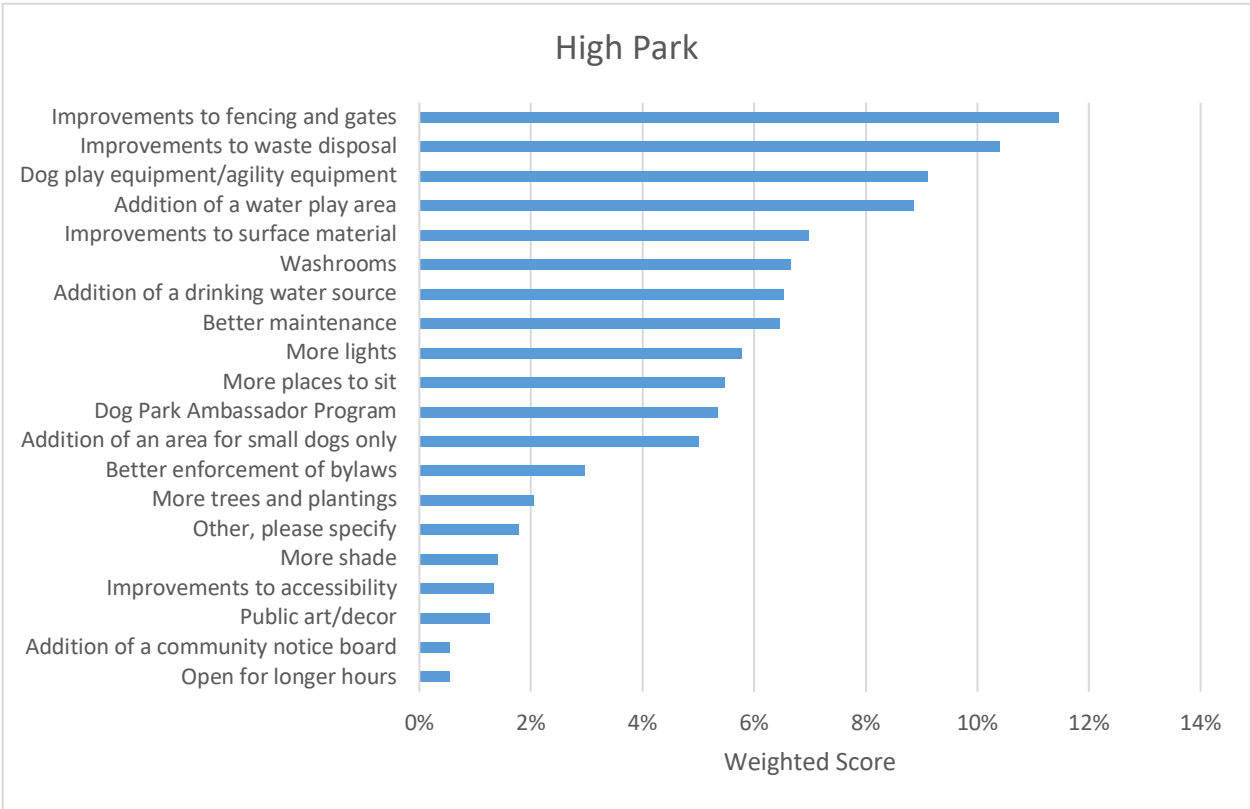


Figure C.20: Areas to be improved in High Park

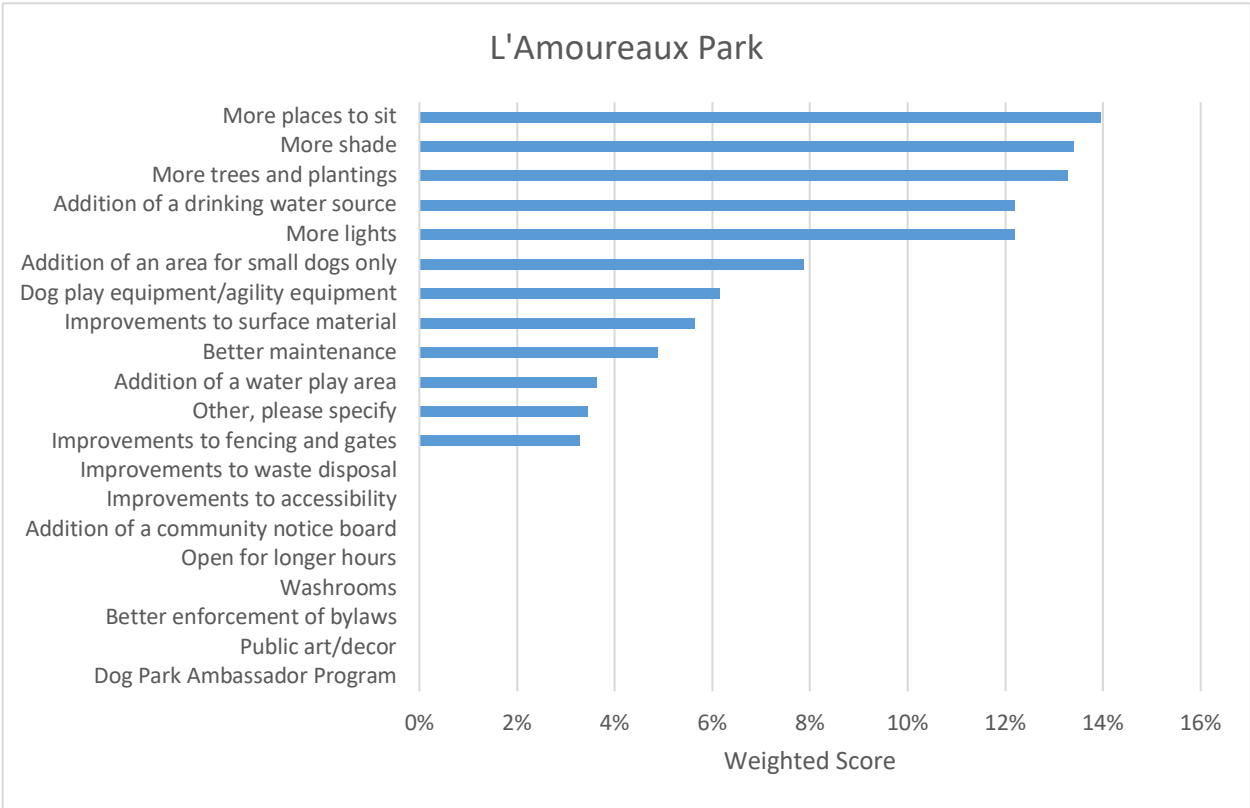


Figure C.21: Areas to be improved in L'Amoureux Park

Appendix C: Consultation

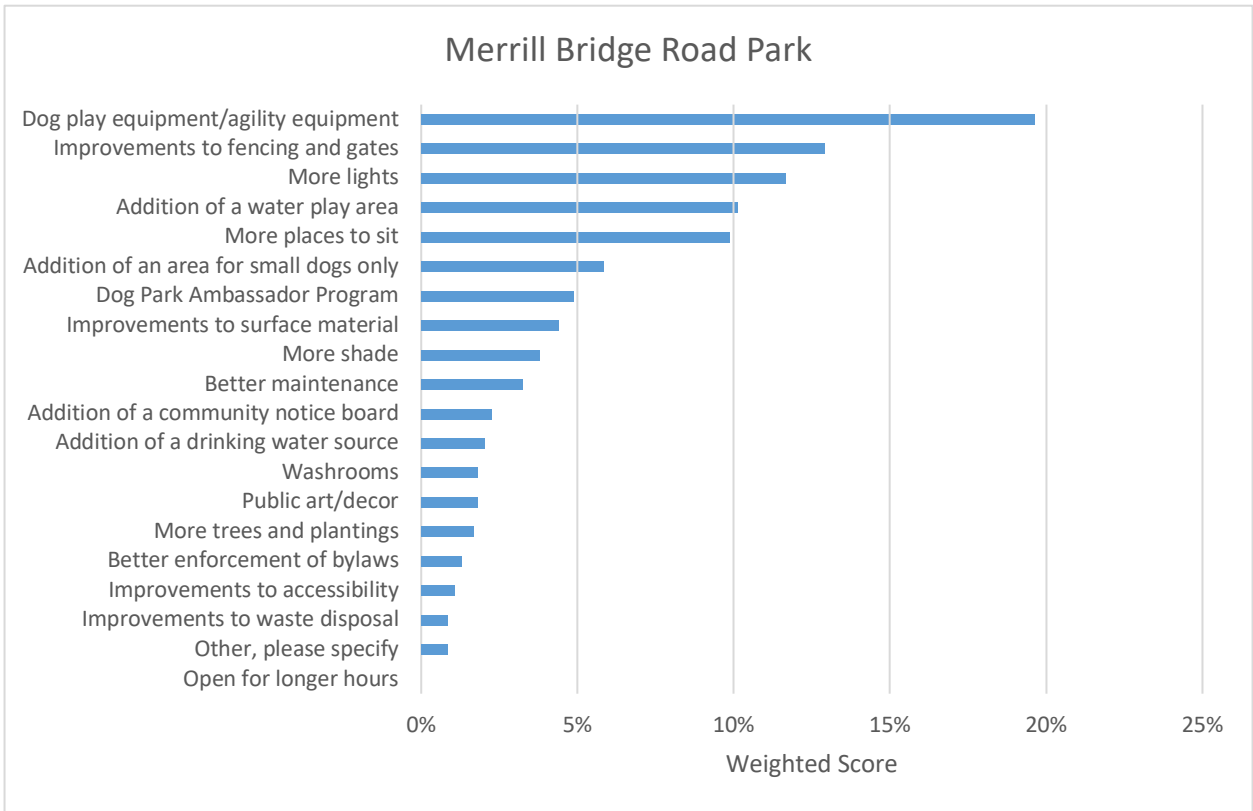


Figure C.22: Areas to be improved in Merrill Bridge Road Park

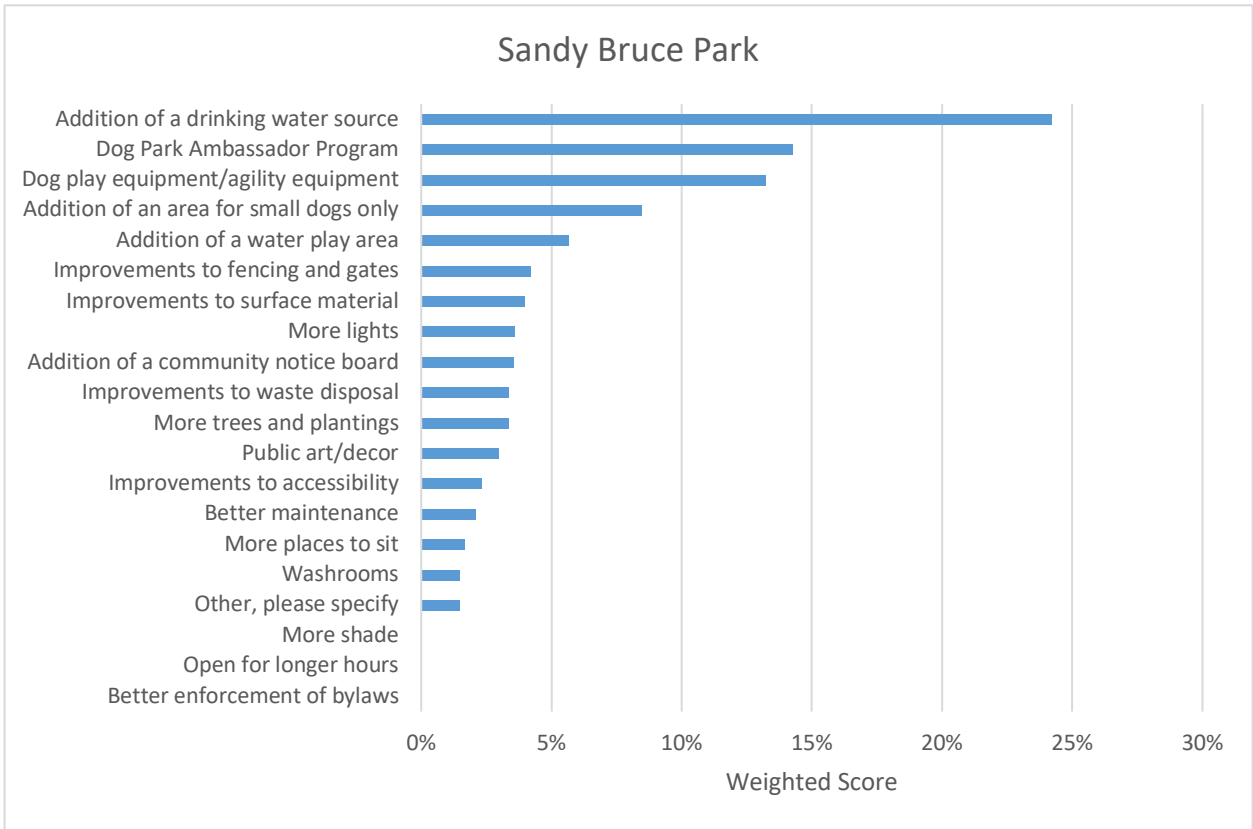


Figure C.23: Areas to be improved in Sandy Bruce Park

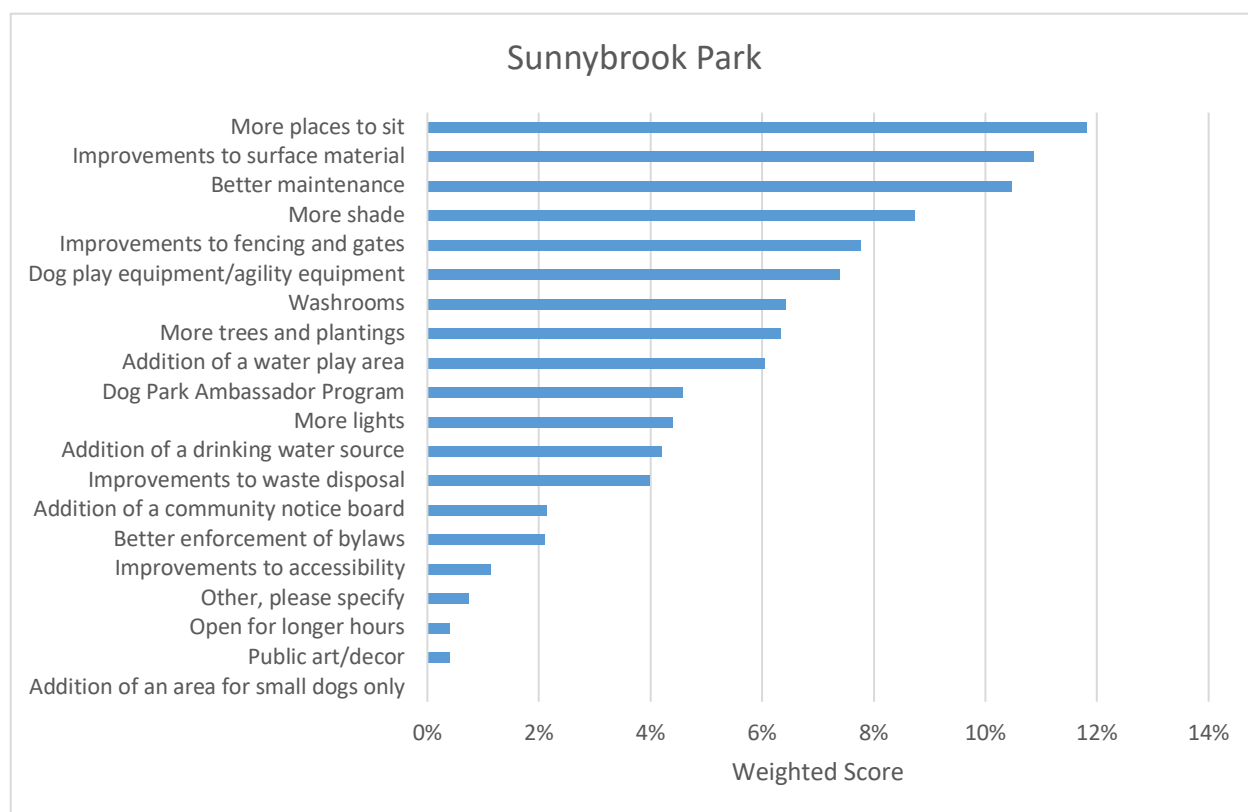


Figure C.24: Areas to be improved in Sunnybrook Park

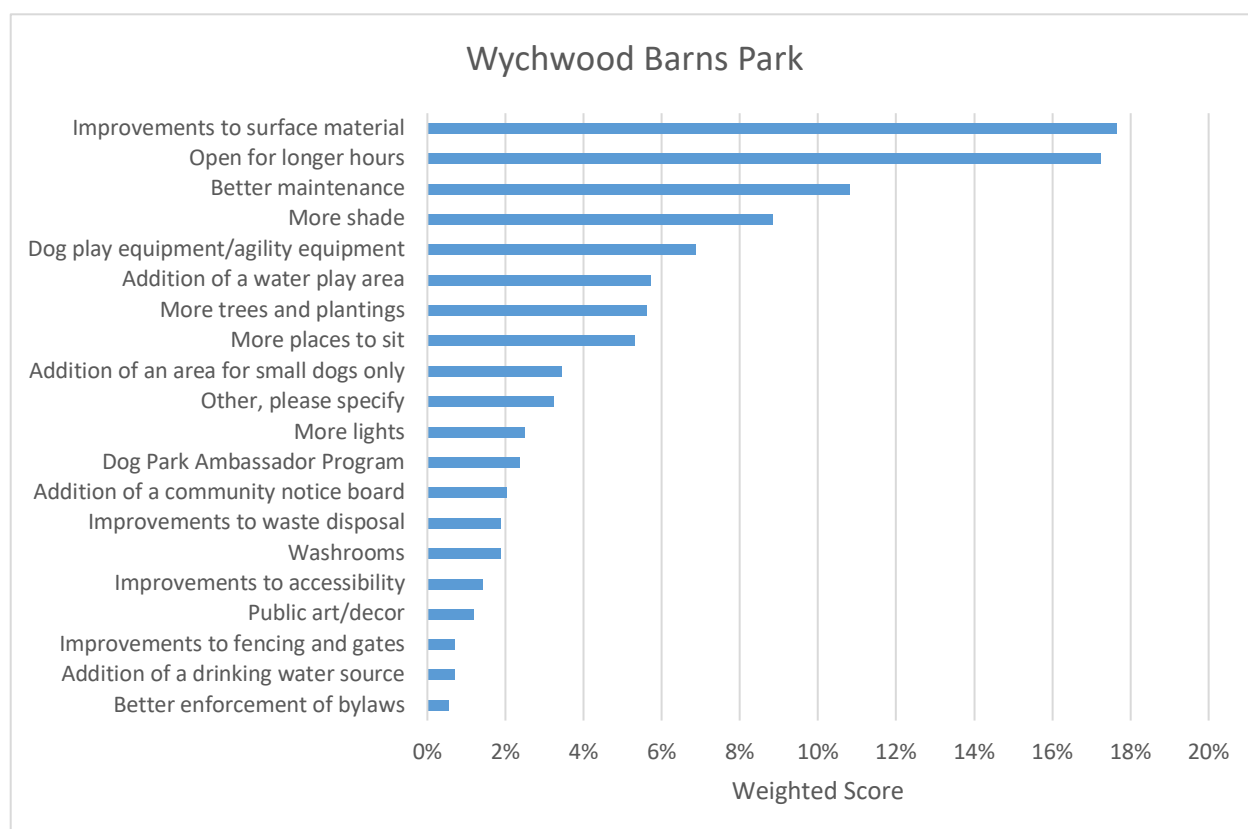


Figure C.25: Areas to be improved in Wychwood Barns Park

On average, how frequently do you visit off-leash areas in Toronto? (#21)

Methods

Subset the data by question 9, the respondent's most visited off-leash area. However, note that this question did not specify for respondents to answer only about their most-visited off-leash area. Count the number of respondents that answered each option. Convert counts to proportions by dividing by the total number of respondents that answered the question.

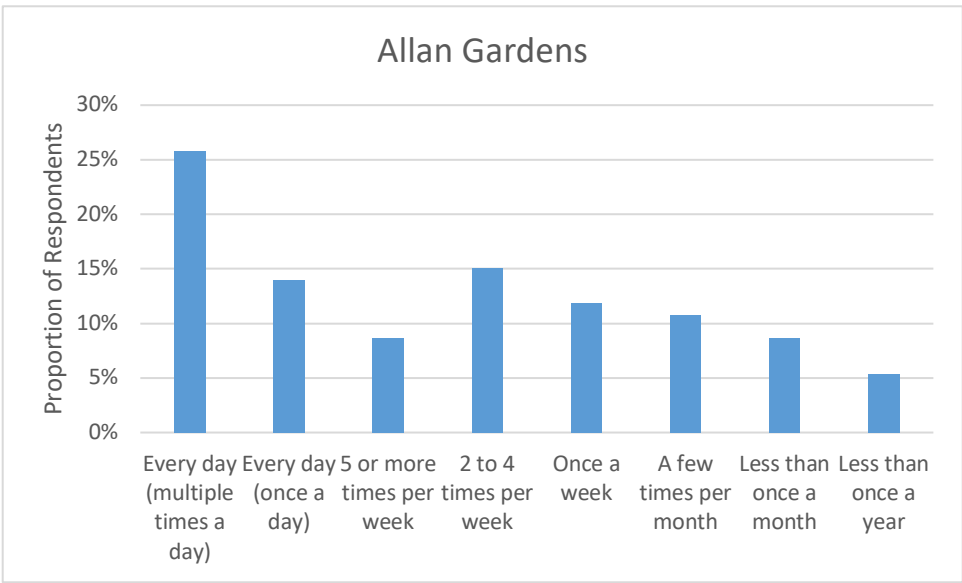


Figure C.26: Frequency of visits to Allan Gardens

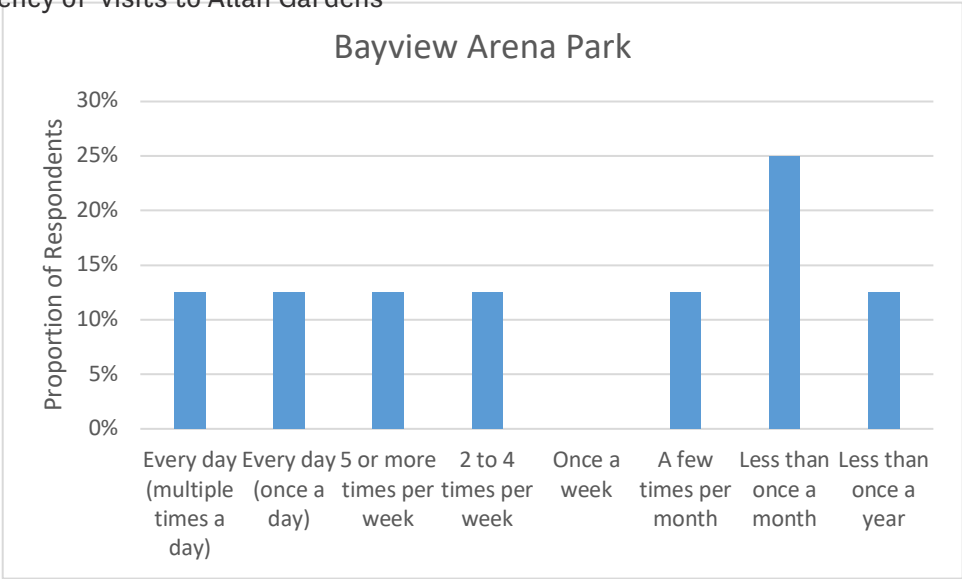


Figure C.27: Frequency of visits to Bayview Arena Park

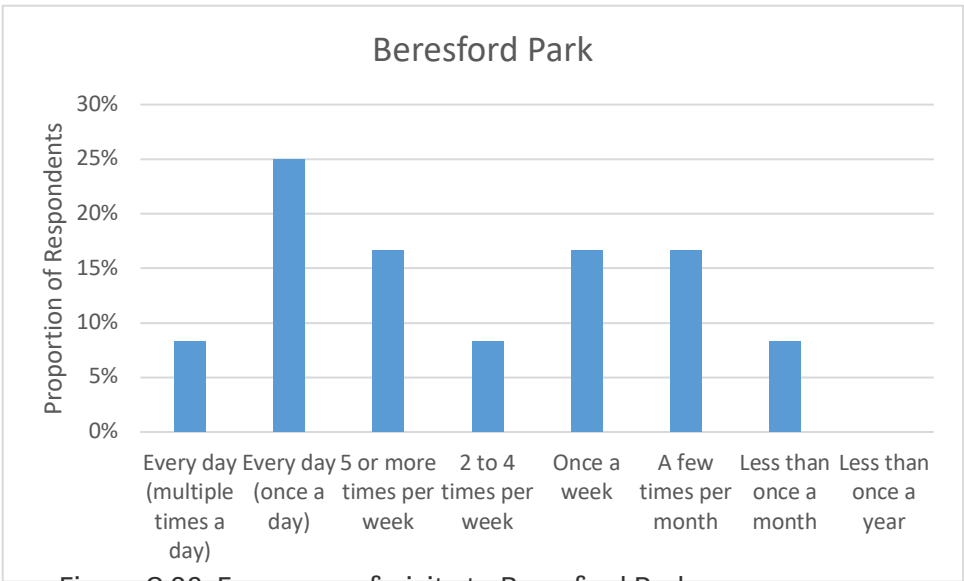


Figure C.28: Frequency of visits to Beresford Park

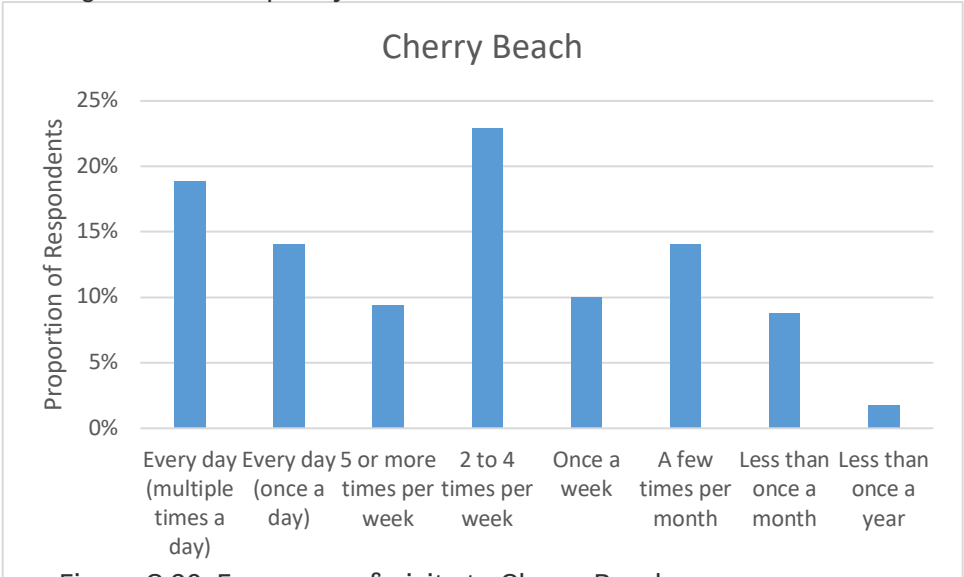


Figure C.29: Frequency of visits to Cherry Beach

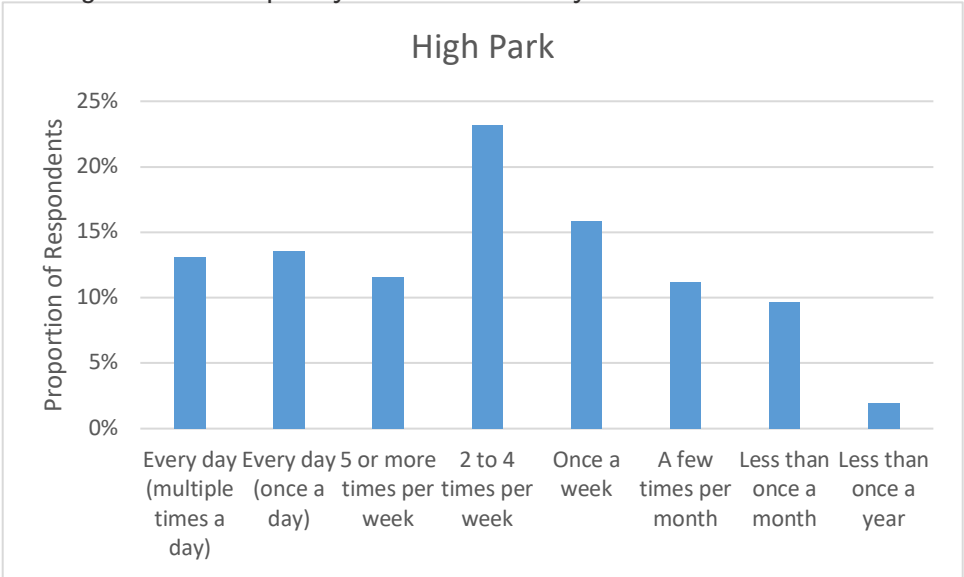


Figure C.30: Frequency of visits to High Park

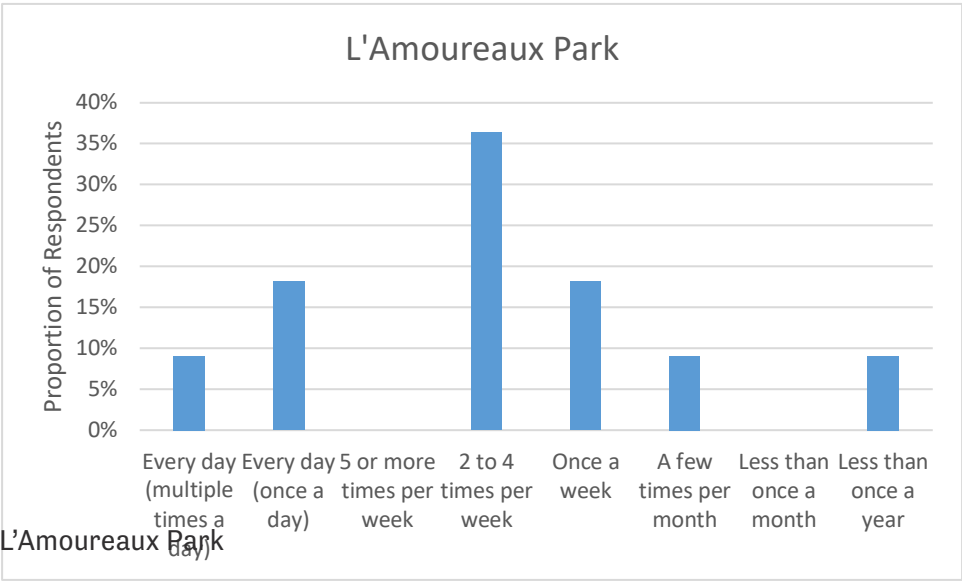


Figure C.31: Frequency of visits to L'Amoureux Park

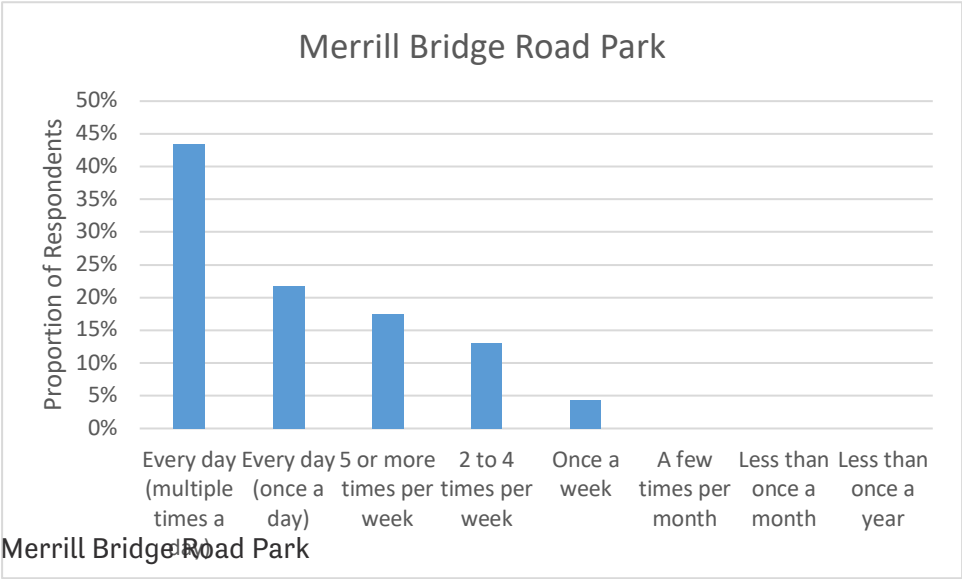


Figure C.32: Frequency of visits to Merrill Bridge Road Park

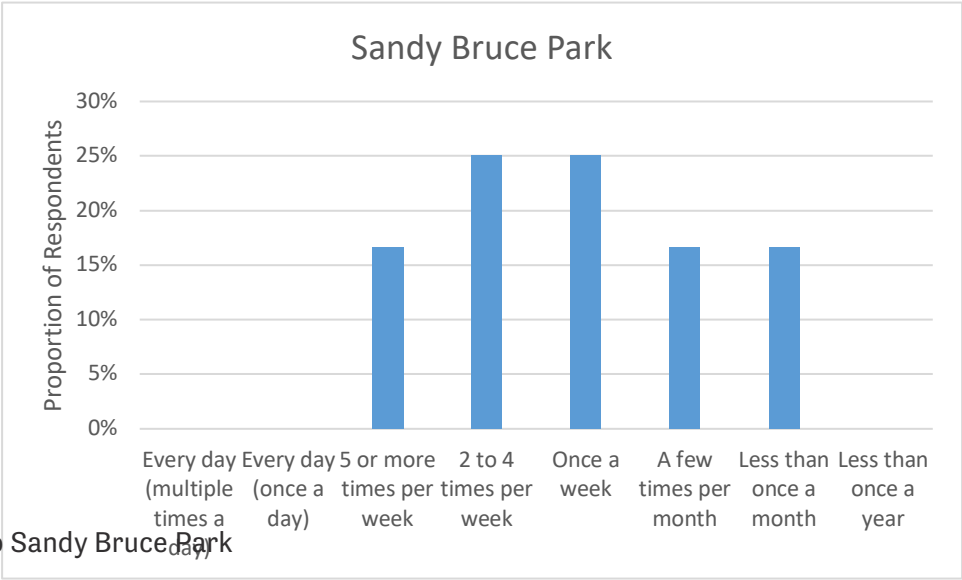


Figure C.33: Frequency of visits to Sandy Bruce Park

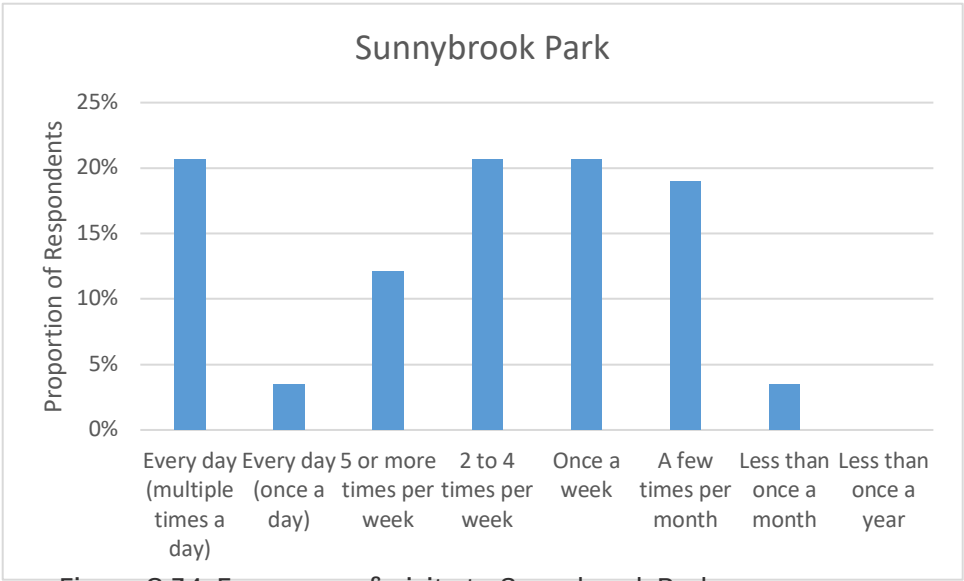


Figure C.34: Frequency of visits to Sunnybrook Park



Figure C.35: Frequency of visits to Wychwood Barns Park

When do you normally visit off-leash areas in Toronto? Select all that apply. (#22)

Methods

Subset the data by question 9, the respondent's most visited off-leash area. However, note that this question did not specify for respondents to answer only about their most-visited off-leash area. Count the number of respondents that answered each option. Convert counts to proportions by dividing by the total number of respondents that answered the question. Note that, because this is a 'Select all that apply' question, the sum of each answer option's proportion will not sum to 1.

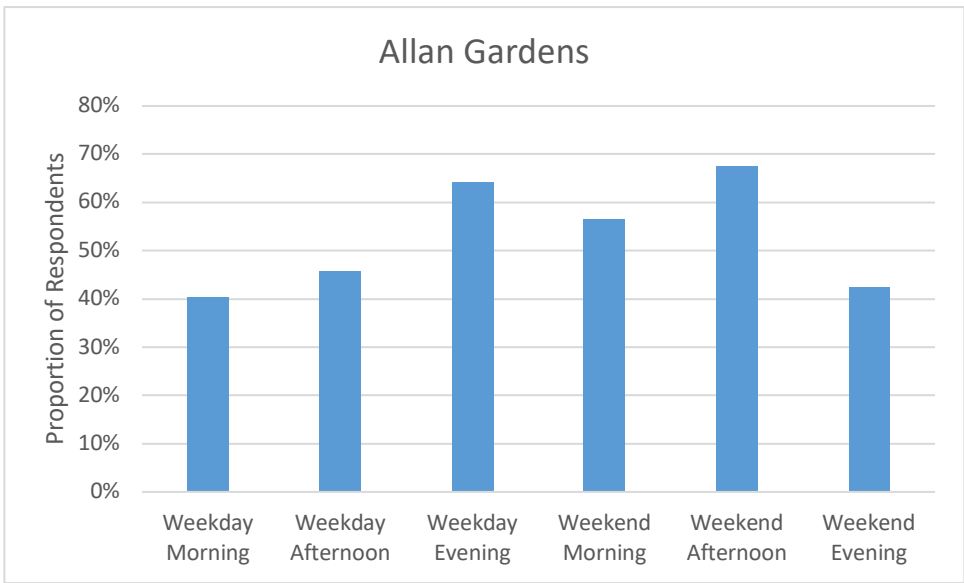


Figure C.36: Time of visits to Allan Gardens

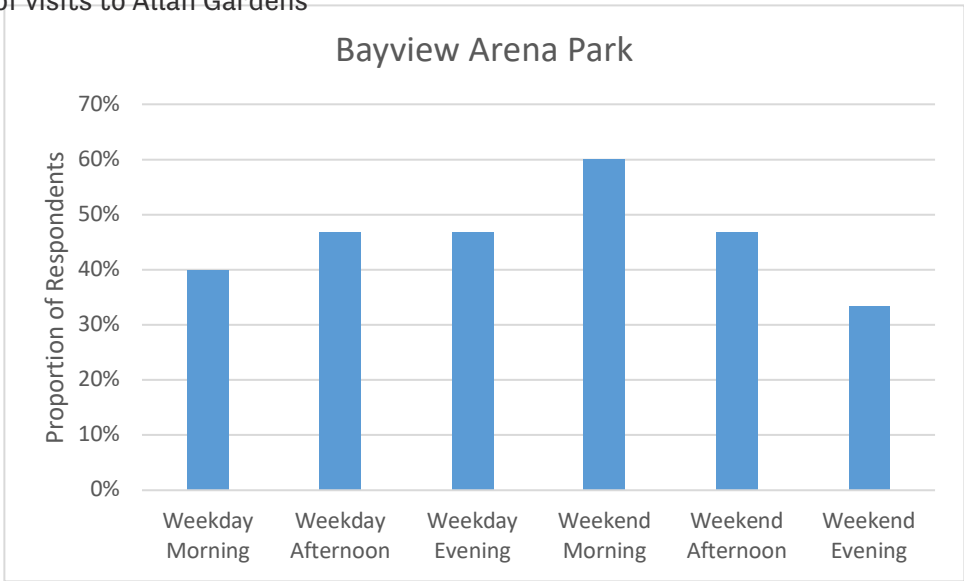


Figure C.37: Time of visits to Bayview Arena Park

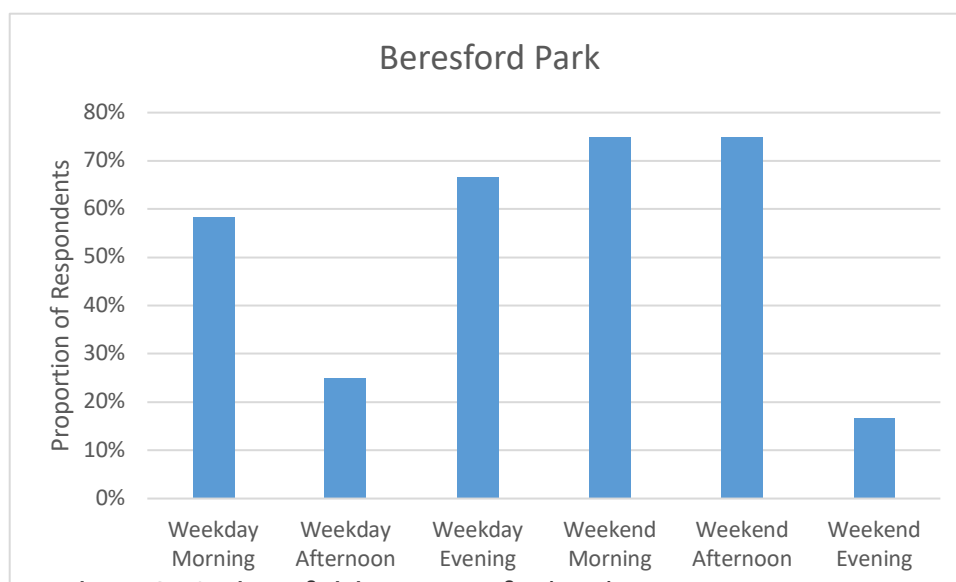


Figure C.38: Time of visits to Beresford Park

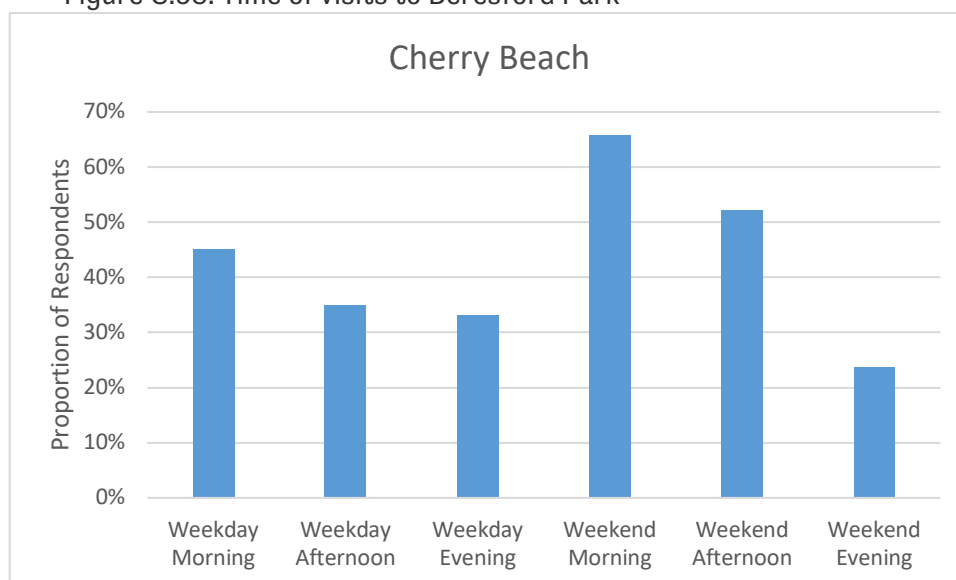


Figure C.39: Time of visits to Cherry Beach

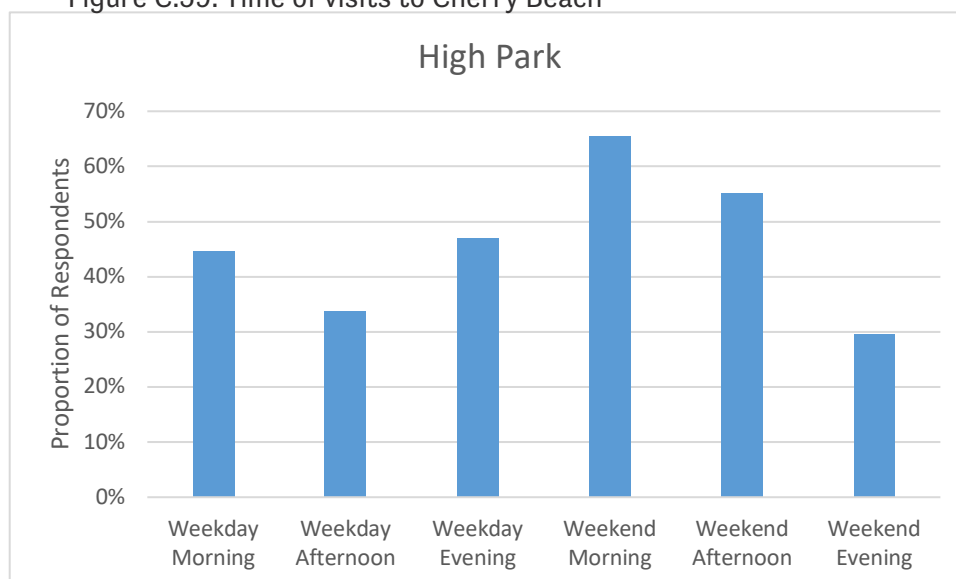


Figure C.40: Time of visits to High Parks

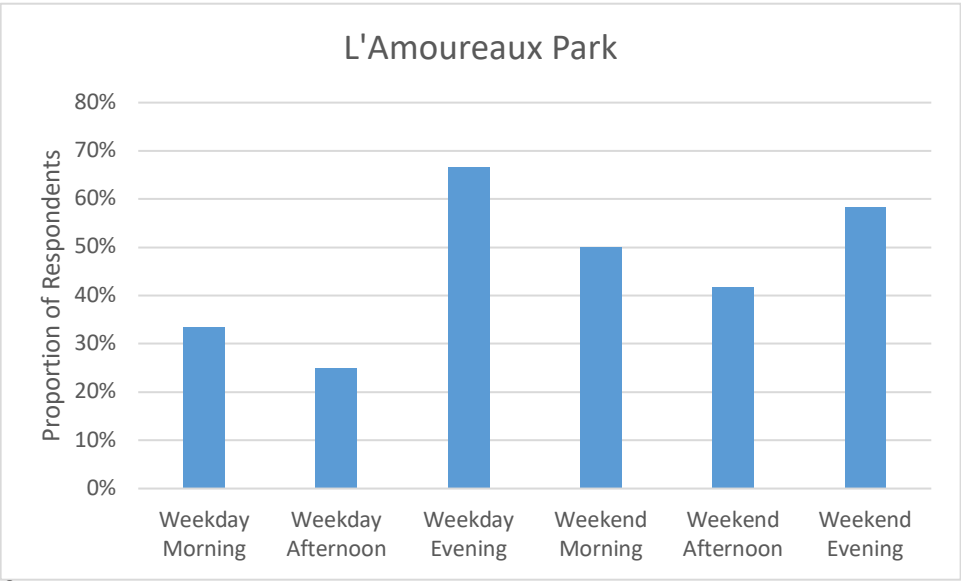


Figure C.41: Time of visits to L'Amoureux Park

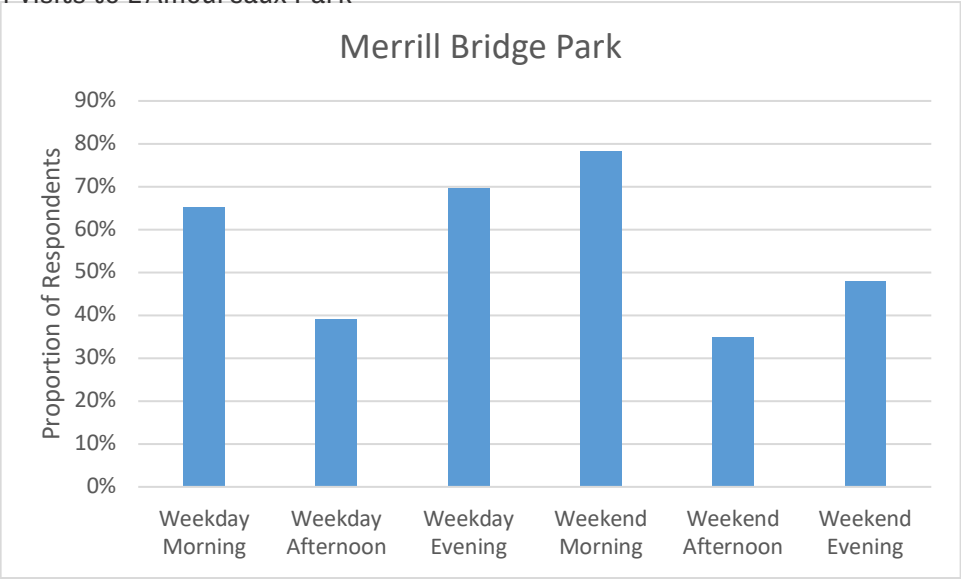


Figure C.42: Time of visits to Merrill Bridge Park

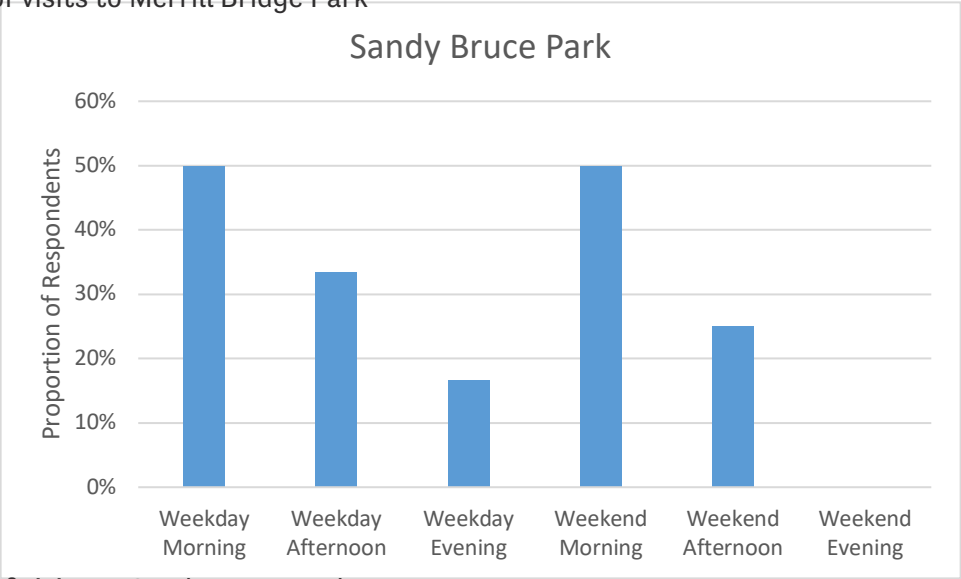


Figure C.43: Time of visits to Sandy Bruce Park

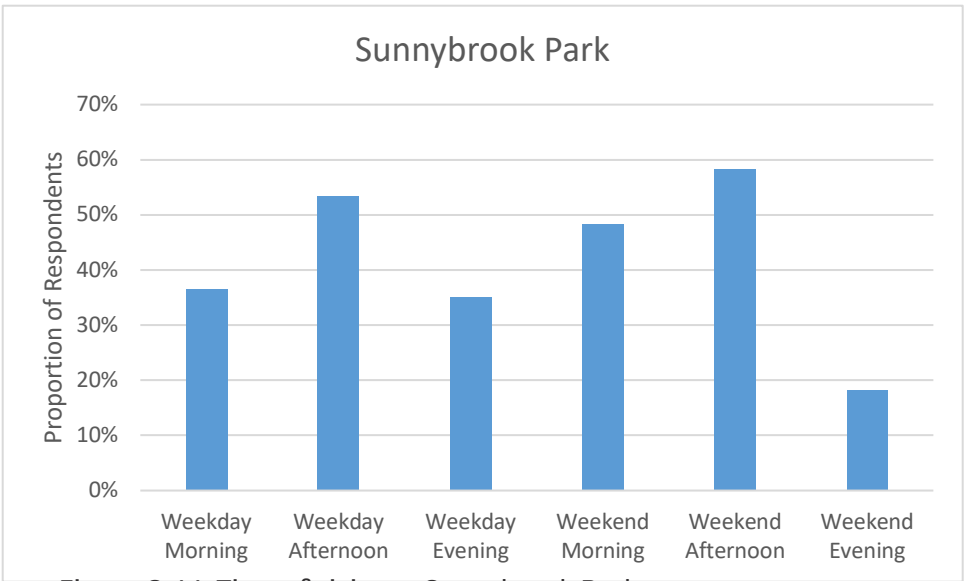


Figure C.44: Time of visits to Sunnybrook Park

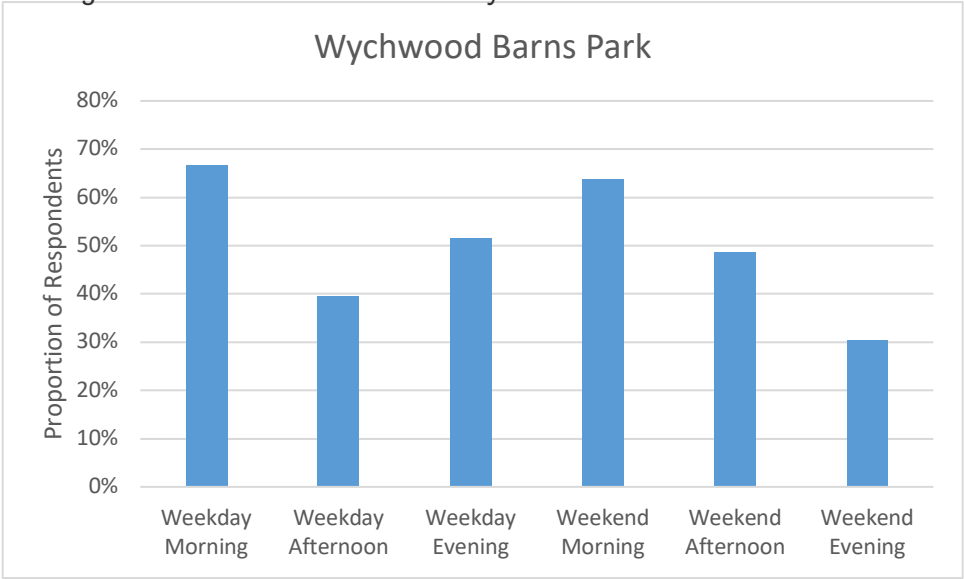


Figure C.45: Time of visits to Wychwood Barns Park

Feedback Survey on Draft Recommendations for Existing Dogs Off-Leash Areas

With the number of people and dogs in Toronto growing, the use of dogs off-leash areas (OLAs) continues to increase. The [Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan \(2017\)](#) recommended the City develop criteria for improving existing dogs off-leash areas.

This survey is part of the [City-Wide Study of Existing Dogs Off-Leash Areas](#). The goals of the study overall are to:

- Improve existing off-leash areas through better design, maintenance, and operation
- Encourage healthy relationships between dog owners and non-dog owners
- Elevate off-leash areas as spaces that provide a healthy, safe, accessible, and sustainable environment
- Develop guidelines to ensure consistent maintenance and operation across Toronto
- Develop design recommendations that can be applied to all existing off-leash areas
- Improve community involvement and develop future ongoing partnerships

In this survey, we want to hear what you think about the study's **draft recommendations** for improving existing off-leash areas. These recommendations were developed to achieve the goals of the study identified above. They have been informed by the technical work completed by the project team and feedback from an earlier public survey, stakeholder consultations, and pop-up events in off-leash areas. Visit the study website, www.toronto.ca/olastudy, to review summaries of this feedback and learn about next steps of the project.

Please note that all recommendations are to guide decisions related to future improvements, and implementation of the recommendations will be dependent on the availability of funding.

The draft recommendations are organized into the following sections:

1. Design Recommendations: Shade
2. Design Recommendations: Surfacing Material
3. Design Recommendations: Fencing, Gates, and Entrances
4. Design Recommendations: Amenities
5. Design Recommendations: Lighting
6. Design Recommendations: Water
7. Operations and Maintenance Recommendations
8. Administrative Recommendations

This survey takes about 25 minutes to complete, though you have the option of skipping sections. It is an **anonymous survey — please do not include any personal information such as your name or telephone number in your responses**. The survey will be available until February 10, 2020.

Other ways to complete this survey: If you prefer to complete this survey over the telephone, please call L. Genua, Research Analyst, Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division, at 416-392-0084.

-
1. Which draft recommendations would you like to view and provide feedback on? Check all that apply. If you leave a section un-checked, you will skip that page of the survey.

☐ Design Recommendations: Shade

Appendix C: Consultation

- ☐ Design Recommendations: Surfacing Material
- ☐ Design Recommendations: Fencing and Entrances
- ☐ Design Recommendations: Amenities (dog agility equipment, small dog areas, seating, trash, signage)
- ☐ Design Recommendations: Lighting
- ☐ Design Recommendations: Water
- ☐ Operations and Maintenance Recommendations (inspections, repairs, temporary closures, winter maintenance)
- ☐ Administrative Recommendations (communication materials on the City's off-leash area web page and on community notice boards in off-leash areas)

2. Are you a dog owner?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
3. Are you a Dog Owners Association representative?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
4. Have you visited an off-leash area in Toronto?
- ☐ I have visited an off-leash area in Toronto in the past year
 - ☐ I have visited an off-leash area in Toronto, but not in the past year
 - ☐ I have never visited an off-leash area in Toronto

Draft Design Recommendations: Shade

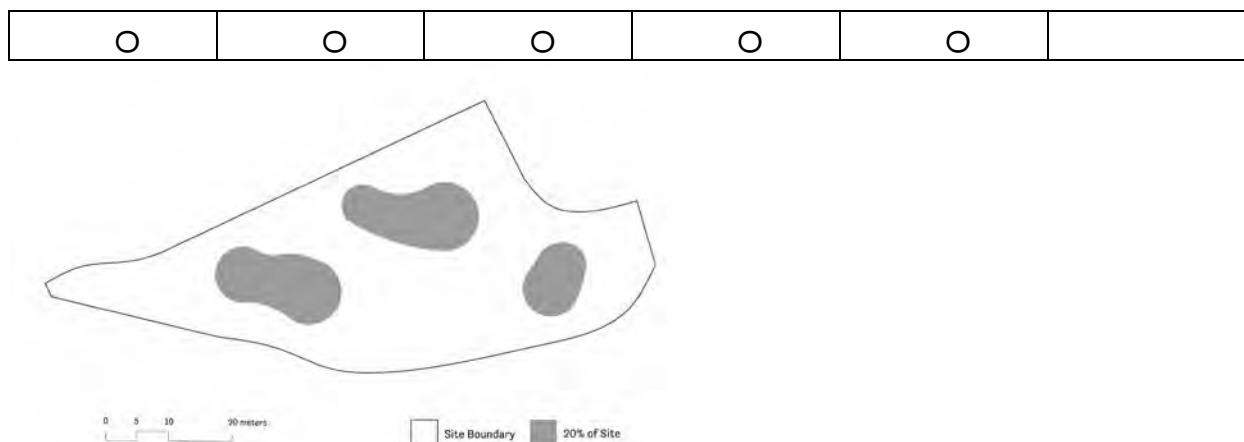
The shade recommendations strive to provide shade in off-leash areas (for both dogs and humans) by way of trees and/or shade structures. A number of considerations inform the shade recommendations, including: achieving a minimum shade coverage, environmental context, tree health/protections, and accessibility.

The draft shade recommendations are listed below. Implementation of these recommendations will be dependent on the availability of funding.

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each recommendation, from 1 "Strongly Disagree" to 5 "Strongly Agree."

5. Ensure at least 20% of the off-leash area has shade coverage. (See diagrams below.)

1. Strongly Disagree	2. Somewhat Disagree	3. Neutral	4. Somewhat Agree	5. Strongly Agree	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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[Caption: The diagram above provides an example of what 20% shade coverage could look like.]

6. Perform Environmental Impact Assessments for any off-leash area within or adjacent to areas covered by the Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-Law (Municipal Code 658).

1. Strongly Disagree	2. Somewhat Disagree	3. Neutral	4. Somewhat Agree	5. Strongly Agree	I Don't Know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Protect newly-planted trees in off-leash areas from dog urine, digging, and compaction by fencing the tree or planting it in a raised planting bed (approximately 3 to 4 feet high).

1. Strongly Disagree	2. Somewhat Disagree	3. Neutral	4. Somewhat Agree	5. Strongly Agree	I Don't Know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Shade structures should be used instead of trees where tree planting is not feasible.

1. Strongly Disagree	2. Somewhat Disagree	3. Neutral	4. Somewhat Agree	5. Strongly Agree	I Don't Know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Shade structures should be open on all sides to comply with Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards and to avoid clustering of dogs.

1. Strongly Disagree	2. Somewhat Disagree	3. Neutral	4. Somewhat Agree	5. Strongly Agree	I Don't Know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Which statements below best describe concerns you have (if any) about the shade recommendations above? Select all that apply to you.

- ☐ I think the minimum amount of shade should be more than 20%.
- ☐ I think the minimum amount of shade should be less than 20%.
- ☐ I do not want trees in the off-leash area to be protected from dog-related damage through fencing.

- ☐ I do not want trees in the off-leash area to be protected from dog-related damage through raised planting areas.
 - ☐ I do not think shade structures should be open on all four sides.
 - ☐ Other, please specify: _____
 - ☐ I have no concerns
-

Draft Design Recommendations: Surfacing Material & Drainage

These recommendations reflect the six different types of surfacing materials the City may install in an off-leash area: wood chips, engineered wood fibre, crushed granite, gravel, artificial turf, and hardy fescue mix. Hardy fescue mix is a blend of native grasses that provide greater resilience to wear and drought, and is salt-tolerant to counter the effects of dog urine. In some off-leash areas, a combination of these surfacing types may be used. These surfacing materials are all different in terms of dog and human comfort, environmental impacts, accessibility, permeability, and cost.

A number of considerations inform which surfacing type is recommended for what type of off-leash area, summarized in the table below. The two primary considerations are **the size of the off-leash area** and the **usage of the off-leash area**. Other factors influencing these recommendations are:

- Topography. Given that not all off-leash areas have uniform slopes of 2% (which is required to ensure positive drainage), topography influences which kind of surfacing might apply where.
- Proximity to an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA). Where an existing off-leash area is in or adjacent to an ESA, environmental guidelines, policies, and protections would also inform the recommended surfacing.
- Presence of water line. Since crushed granite and artificial turf require access to a water line for maintenance, the presence or absence of a water line influences which type would apply.

Size Topography	Extra Small Off-Leash Area (under 1,000 square metres)		Small Off-Leash Area (1,000 to 2,000 square metres)		Medium Off-Leash Area (2,000 to 5,000 square metres)		Large Off-Leash Area (over 5,000 square metres)	
	<i>less than 2% slope</i>	<i>greater than 2% slope</i>	<i>less than 2% slope</i>	<i>greater than 2% slope</i>	<i>less than 2% slope</i>	<i>greater than 2% slope</i>	<i>less than 2% slope</i>	<i>greater than 2% slope</i>
Low Use	Multi surfacing: fescue (native grass blend) with wood chips for pooling	Multi surfacing: wood chips in heavy use areas and fescue (native grass blend) in low use areas	Multi surfacing: fescue (native grass blend) with wood chips for pooling	Fescue (native grass blend)	Multi surfacing: fescue (native grass blend) with wood chips for pooling	Fescue (native grass blend)	Multi surfacing: fescue (native grass blend) with wood chips for pooling	Fescue (native grass blend)
Medium Use	Gravel	Wood chips/engineered wood fibre	Wood chips/engineered wood fibre	Multi surfacing: wood chips in flatter area, fescue (native grass blend) in sloped areas	Multi surfacing: wood chips in flatter area, fescue (native grass blend) in sloped areas	Multi surfacing: wood chips heavy use areas and fescue (native grass blend) in low use areas	Multi surfacing: wood chips in flatter area, fescue (native grass blend) in sloped areas	Fescue (native grass blend)
High Use	<i>With water line:</i> Artificial turf <i>With no water line:</i> Gravel	<i>With water line:</i> Artificial turf <i>With no water line:</i> Gravel	<i>With water line:</i> Crushed granite <i>With no water line:</i> Multi surfacing: gravel with wood chips/engineered wood fibre	Wood chips/engineered wood fibre	<i>With water line:</i> Crushed granite <i>With no water line:</i> Multi surfacing: gravel with wood chips/engineered wood fibre	Wood chips/engineered wood fibre	Multi surfacing: wood chips in flatter area, fescue (native grass blend) in sloped areas	Multi surfacing: wood chips heavy use areas and fescue (native grass blend) in low use areas

Figure C.46: DOLA surface comparison

11. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the surfacing type decision matrix recommended in the table above, from 1 "Strongly Disagree" to 5 "Strongly Agree."?

1. Strongly Disagree	2. Somewhat Disagree	3. Neutral	4. Somewhat Agree	5. Strongly Agree	I Don't Know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following additional surfacing recommendations, from 1 "Strongly Disagree" to 5 "Strongly Agree."

12. Where feasible, regrade off-leash areas to ensure adequate drainage.

1. Strongly Disagree	2. Somewhat Disagree	3. Neutral	4. Somewhat Agree	5. Strongly Agree	I Don't Know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Do not use filter fabric with any of the surfacing materials.

1. Strongly Disagree ○	2. Somewhat Disagree ○	3. Neutral ○	4. Somewhat Agree ○	5. Strongly Agree ○	I Don't Know ○
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14. Which statements below best describe concerns you have (if any) about the surfacing recommendations above? Select all that apply to you.
- ☐ I do not think gravel should ever be used as a surfacing material.
 - ☐ I do not think crushed granite should ever be used as a surfacing material.
 - ☐ I think fescue (native grass blend) should be used as the surfacing material in most off-leash areas.
 - ☐ I think these recommendations will cause health and safety issues.
 - ☐ I think these recommendations will cause accessibility issues.
 - ☐ Other, please specify: _____
 - ☐ I have no concerns

Draft Design Recommendations: Fencing, and Entrances

The fencing and entrances recommendations strive to address issues regarding height, style, access, human and dog safety/comfort, and state of good repair. Implementation of these recommendations will be dependent on the availability of funding. The primary consideration that informs the recommendations is whether or not the existing off-leash area is fenced. The type of environment (i.e. urban and suburban or natural) also informs the type of fencing recommended. As with any major design recommendation, where fencing for an off-leash does not currently exist, additional community consultation would be required to add a fence.

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each recommendation, from 1 "Strongly Disagree" to 5 "Strongly Agree."

15. Ensure off-leash areas have more than one entry/exit point.

1. Strongly Disagree ○	2. Somewhat Disagree ○	3. Neutral ○	4. Somewhat Agree ○	5. Strongly Agree ○	I Don't Know ○
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16. Ensure each entry/exit to a fenced off-leash area has a double-gate system to prevent dogs from escaping.

1. Strongly Disagree ○	2. Somewhat Disagree ○	3. Neutral ○	4. Somewhat Agree ○	5. Strongly Agree ○	I Don't Know ○
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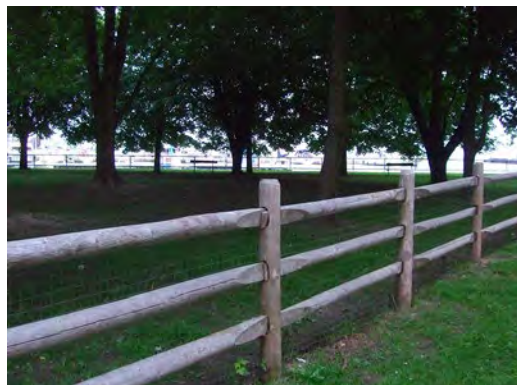
17. Ensure fences are at least 5 feet high.

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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18. Use steel fencing in urban and suburban environments. Use post and paddle fencing in natural environments. (See images below).

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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Post and Paddle Fence



Steel Fence



19. Replace existing latches on off-leash area gates with upgraded, redesigned latches to accommodate intensity of use and four-season climates.

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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20. For unfenced off-leash areas, plant dense vegetation to help visualize the boundary between the off-leash area and reduce dogs' sight lines to neighbouring park spaces (e.g. sports fields, playgrounds).

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
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21. Which statements below best describe concerns you have (if any) about the fencing and gate recommendations above? Select all that apply to you.

- ☐ I do not think off-leash areas need more than one entry/exit point.
- ☐ I think single gates work well and do not need to be replaced with double gates.
- ☐ I think the existing latches work well and do not need to be replaced.
- ☐ I think 5 foot fences are too high.
- ☐ I think 5 foot fences are too low.
- ☐ I do not think any off-leash areas should be fenced.
- ☐ I do not think any off-leash area should be unfenced.
- ☐ Densely planted vegetation is not good enough to delineate the boundaries of an unfenced off-leash area.
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____
- ☐ I have no concerns

Draft Design Recommendations: Amenities

The amenities recommendations strive to improve accessibility and the experience for both dogs and their owners. These recommendations address amenities including dog agility equipment, small dog areas, seating, pathways, garbage bins, signage, and community boards. A number of considerations will need to be examined prior to the implementation of the following recommendations. Some of the considerations may include: environmental impacts, policies, accessibility, dog comfort, cost, safety and demand.

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each recommendation, from 1 "Strongly Disagree" to 5 "Strongly Agree."

22. Install dog agility equipment in off-leash areas with high usage intensity (approximately 300 or more visitors per day, on average) to promote dog exercise where space constraints might otherwise limit it. All agility equipment will require a professional inspection process (similar to playground equipment).

1. Strongly Disagree	2. Somewhat Disagree	3. Neutral	4. Somewhat Agree	5. Strongly Agree	I Don't Know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

23. Ensure that small dog areas (for dogs weighing a maximum of 20 pounds, with a maximum height of 12 inches at the shoulders) within off-leash areas are at least 600 square metres (approximately the area of one-and-a-half basketball courts) or 30% of the total off-leash area, whichever is larger.

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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24. Install accessible seating in the off-leash area, compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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25. Create an accessible pathway in the off-leash area, compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Larger off-leash areas will have a looping pathway and smaller off-leash areas will have a linear pathway connecting the access points.

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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26. Place recycling, garbage, and green bins outside the main entry/exit.

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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27. Install signs with the off-leash area Code of Conduct and by-laws both within off-leash areas, as well as outside the main entry/exit.

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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28. Install community notice boards at the main entry/exit to all off-leash areas.

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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29. Where off-leash areas are close to Environmentally Significant Areas, install signage at the main entry/exit and within the off-leash area to educate people about the negative effects of dogs on these sensitive environments.

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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30. Which statements below best describe concerns you have (if any) about the amenity recommendations above? Select all that apply to you.

- ☐ I do not think any off-leash areas should have dog agility equipment.
- ☐ I do not think dog agility equipment should be limited to off-leash areas with high usage intensity.
- ☐ I think small dog areas should be larger than specified in these recommendations.
- ☐ I think small dog areas should be smaller than specified in these recommendations.
- ☐ I do not think signs with the off-leash area Code of Conduct will be effective at improving behaviour in off-leash areas.
- ☐ I do not think community notice boards are necessary.
- ☐ I do not think educational signs about Environmentally Significant Areas will be effective at keeping dogs away from these sensitive environments.
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____
- ☐ I have no concerns

Draft Design Recommendations: Lighting

The lighting recommendations strive to address issues about access, safety, environmental impacts, and community concerns. They reflect the different types of lighting the City can install and the location of lighting, all of which are different in terms of dog and human comfort and safety, environmental impacts, accessibility, and cost (including cost of design, construction, and maintenance). Installation of lighting would also require further community consultation to review the neighbourhood and community context, as well as demand.

The decision to install lighting and the type of lighting recommended depend on the off-leash area's size, intensity of use, and access to an existing electrical service line. The full, detailed recommendations for lighting can be viewed by clicking [here](#). A summary of these recommendations is provided below. Implementation of these recommendations will be dependent on the availability of funding.

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each recommendation, from 1 "Strongly Disagree" to 5 "Strongly Agree."

31. Provide lighting (either electric or solar-powered) at the main entrance to all off-leash areas, except low-use off-leash areas (approximately 100 or less visitors per day, on average) that do not have access to existing electrical service lines.

1. Strongly Disagree	2. Somewhat Disagree	3. Neutral	4. Somewhat Agree	5. Strongly Agree	I Don't Know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

32. Provide lighting along paved paths within off-leash areas that receive high use (approximately 300 or more visitors per day, on average), have access to electrical service lines, and are larger than 1,000 square metres (approximately the area of two basketball courts).

1. Strongly Disagree ○	2. Somewhat Disagree ○	3. Neutral ○	4. Somewhat Agree ○	5. Strongly Agree ○	I Don't Know ○
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33. Ensure that lighting is shielded so that light only shines downward, and use sensors to automatically turn lighting on at dusk and off at dawn.

1. Strongly Disagree ○	2. Somewhat Disagree ○	3. Neutral ○	4. Somewhat Agree ○	5. Strongly Agree ○	I Don't Know ○
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34. Which statements below best describe concerns you have (if any) about the lighting recommendations above? Select all that apply to you.

- ☐ I think all off-leash areas should have lighting at the entry/exit, regardless of size and usage intensity.
- ☐ I think all off-leash areas should have lighting along the interior pathways, regardless of size and usage intensity.
- ☐ I do not think any off-leash areas should be lit at night.
- ☐ I am concerned that lighting at night will disturb people that live by the off-leash area.
- ☐ I am concerned that lighting at night will negatively impact the environment.
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____
- ☐ I have no concerns

Draft Design Recommendations: Water

The water recommendations strive to provide access to water (within or near existing off-leash areas) for drinking (both dogs and humans), play for dogs, and irrigation. **All water recommendations rely on access to existing water lines and installation of gravel/concrete in a 1.5 metre radius from the water fixture to prevent puddling and erosion.** Other factors influencing these recommendations include:

- Usage of the off-leash area
- Environmental impacts (water run-off, erosion, infiltration, etc.)
- Additional community consultation to review adjacent park amenities and demand
- Surfacing type
- Availability of funding

Appendix C: Consultation

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each recommendation, from 1 "Strongly Disagree" to 5 "Strongly Agree."

35. Ensure there is a multi-tiered drinking fountain for humans and dogs within or near the off-leash area.

1. Strongly Disagree ○	2. Somewhat Disagree ○	3. Neutral ○	4. Somewhat Agree ○	5. Strongly Agree ○	I Don't Know ○
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36. Install a spray feature as part of the multi-tier drinking fountain in high-use (approximately 300 or more visitors per day, on average) off-leash areas.

1. Strongly Disagree ○	2. Somewhat Disagree ○	3. Neutral ○	4. Somewhat Agree ○	5. Strongly Agree ○	I Don't Know ○
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37. Install irrigation to control dust at off-leash areas with crushed granite and to rinse the surface at off-leash areas with artificial turf.

1. Strongly Disagree ○	2. Somewhat Disagree ○	3. Neutral ○	4. Somewhat Agree ○	5. Strongly Agree ○	I Don't Know ○
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38. Which statements below best describe concerns you have (if any) about the water recommendations above? Select all that apply to you.

- ☐ I do not think off-leash areas need drinking fountains.
- ☐ I do not think off-leash areas need spray features.
- ☐ I think all off-leash areas should have spray features, regardless of usage intensity.
- ☐ I do not think there should be gravel or concrete on the ground around water fixtures.
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____
- ☐ I have no concerns

Draft Operations and Maintenance Recommendations

These recommendations address maintenance standards for off-leash areas, including regular inspections, temporary closures, and snow and ice clearing. Implementation of these recommendations will be dependent on the availability of funding.

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each recommendation, from 1 "Strongly Disagree" to 5 "Strongly Agree."

39. Develop off-leash area maintenance standards for features including surfacing material, signage, garbage, fencing, seating, etc.

1. Strongly Disagree ○	2. Somewhat Disagree ○	3. Neutral ○	4. Somewhat Agree ○	5. Strongly Agree ○	I Don't Know ○
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40. Perform weekly inspections of all off-leash areas to identify need for repairs.

1. Strongly Disagree ○	2. Somewhat Disagree ○	3. Neutral ○	4. Somewhat Agree ○	5. Strongly Agree ○	I Don't Know ○
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41. Temporarily close off-leash areas when necessary to support re-growth of hardy fescue mix (a blend of native grasses).

1. Strongly Disagree ○	2. Somewhat Disagree ○	3. Neutral ○	4. Somewhat Agree ○	5. Strongly Agree ○	I Don't Know ○
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42. Where the City of Toronto conducts winter maintenance, the main pathway to an off-leash area should be cleared of ice and snow in winter months. Where winter maintenance does not occur, pathways to off-leash areas should have clear hazard signage so that users know to continue at their own risk.

1. Strongly Disagree ○	2. Somewhat Disagree ○	3. Neutral ○	4. Somewhat Agree ○	5. Strongly Agree ○	I Don't Know ○
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43. Which statements below best describe concerns you have (if any) about the operations and maintenance recommendations above? Select all that apply to you.

- ☐ I think weekly inspections are too frequent.
- ☐ I do not think off-leash areas should be temporarily closed to allow hardy fescue mix re-growth.
- ☐ I think the City of Toronto should clear the pathways to all off-leash areas in the winter.
- ☐ I am concerned that de-icing salt used to clear pathways in the winter will hurt my dog's paws.
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____
- ☐ I have no concerns

Draft Administrative Recommendations

These recommendations address communications between the City of Toronto, off-leash area users, and Dog Owners Associations. Implementation of these recommendations will be dependent on the availability of funding.

Appendix C: Consultation

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each recommendation, from 1 "Strongly Disagree" to 5 "Strongly Agree."

44. Include the roles and responsibilities of other governing bodies that affect off-leash area use and design (e.g., Animal Services, By-law Enforcement, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Hydro One Inc., etc.) on www.toronto.ca/parks/dogs with their contact information so that users can direct questions to the correct agency.

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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45. Make information on how to licence your pet in Toronto easily accessible at www.toronto.ca/parks/dogs and outline the importance of licencing your pet.

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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46. Add a key map outlining the locations of all City of Toronto off-leash areas, as well as their physical characteristics (e.g., surfacing type, additional amenities, etc.) to www.toronto.ca/parks/dogs.

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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47. Create and regularly update educational materials for dog owners about responsible dog ownership, aggressive dogs and dog behaviour, and Environmentally Significant Areas, etc.

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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48. Promote volunteer and stewardship opportunities related to off-leash areas on off-leash area community notice boards and on www.toronto.ca/parks/dogs.

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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49. Improve the Dog Owners Association (DOA) program by ensuring all new DOA representatives receive a welcome package that includes role descriptions, a copy of the off-leash area code of conduct and applicable by-laws, with answers to frequently asked questions, and access to the off-leash area's community notice board.

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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50. Allocate revenues collected from commercial dog walker permit fees to off-leash areas open to commercial dog walkers.

1. Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	2. Somewhat Disagree <input type="radio"/>	3. Neutral <input type="radio"/>	4. Somewhat Agree <input type="radio"/>	5. Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	I Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
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51. Which statements below best describe concerns you have (if any) about the administrative recommendations above? Select all that apply to you.

- ☐ I do not want to see all of this information on the City's off-leash area web page (www.toronto.ca/parks/dogs).
- ☐ I think there should be more information on the City's off-leash area web page (www.toronto.ca/parks/dogs) than described in these recommendations.
- ☐ I do not want to see volunteer opportunities on community notice boards at off-leash areas.
- ☐ I do not think the revenue from commercial dog walker permit fees should be used specifically for off-leash areas open to commercial dog walkers.
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____
- ☐ I have no concerns

Please tell us some general characteristics about yourself. This information will help us check whether a diversity of Torontonians are being included and having a say in improving the City's dog off-leash areas. All of these questions are optional. You can choose not to answer by selecting "prefer not to answer."

52. Please provide the first 3 characters of your postal code. (Please note this question is optional.)

53. What is your age?

- ☐ 19 or younger
- ☐ 20-29
- ☐ 30-49
- ☐ 50-69
- ☐ 70 or older
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

54. Do you identify as a person with a disability? Disabilities, both visible and invisible, include physical, hearing, seeing, developmental, learning or mental health conditions, chronic illness and addictions. Disabilities may be from birth, caused by injury or accident, developed over time, or result from the combination of a person's condition and barriers in society.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

☐ Prefer not to answer

55. What best describes your gender? Gender identity is the gender that people identify with or how they perceive themselves, which may be different from their birth-assigned sex. Gender identity is linked to a sense of self, the sense of being a woman, man, both, neither or anywhere along the gender spectrum (non-binary).

☐ Female

☐ Male

☐ Trans female

☐ Trans male

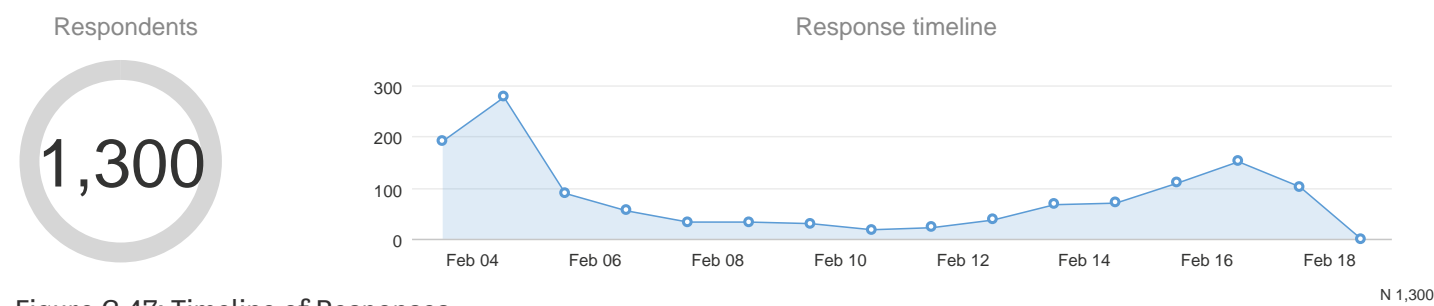
☐ Gender fluid, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, non-binary, trans

☐ Not listed, please describe: _____

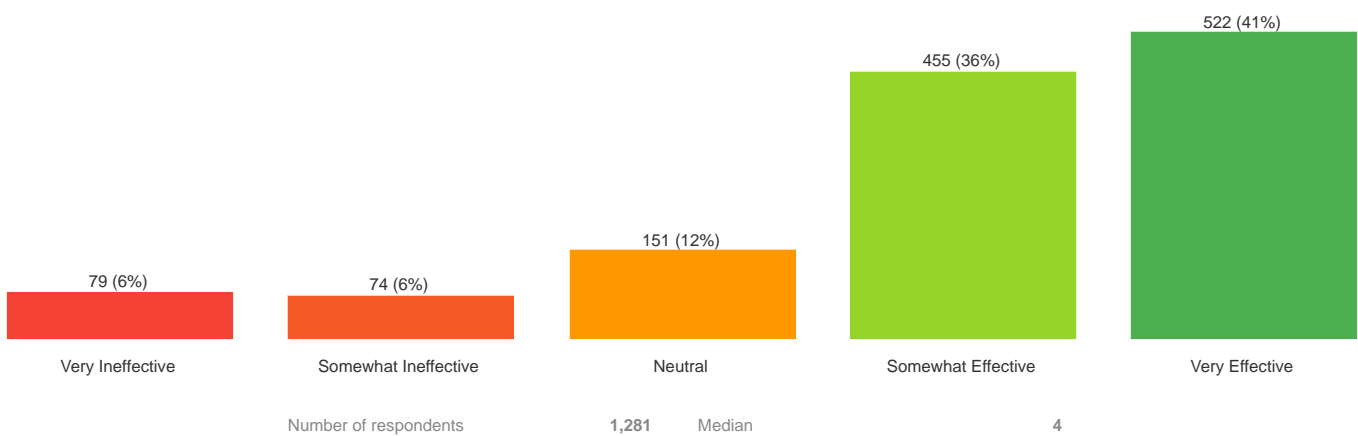
☐ Prefer not to answer

Survey 2 Summary of Results

Feedback Survey on Recommendations for Existing Off-Leash Areas



Shade: How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?



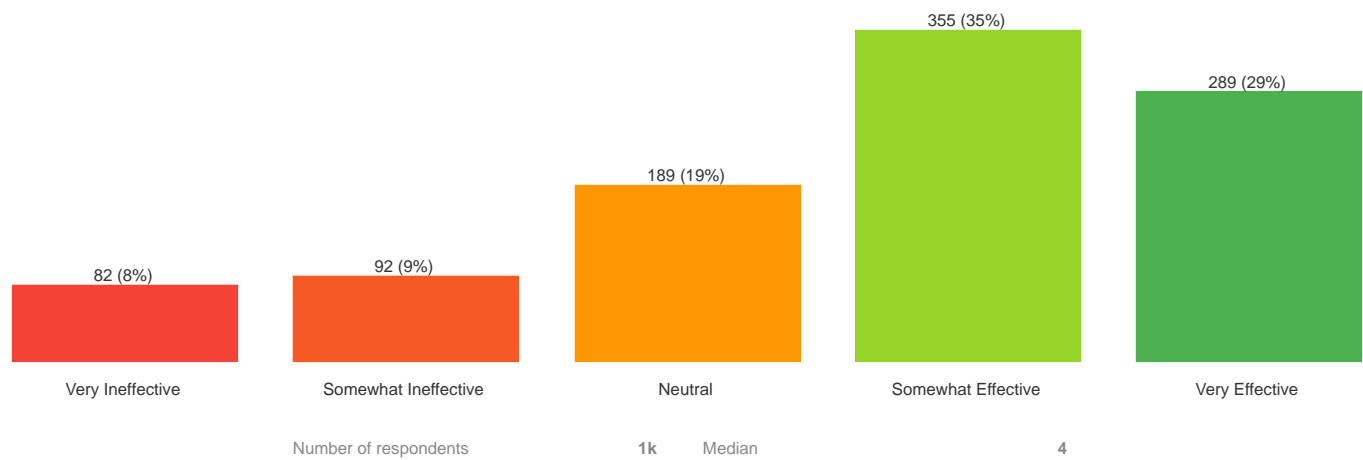
Shade

How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?	Count	Percentage
Very Ineffective	79	6%
Somewhat Ineffective	74	6%
Neutral	151	12%
Somewhat Effective	455	36%
Very Effective	522	41%

Figure C.48: Shade survey results

N 1,281

Surfacing and Drainage: How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?

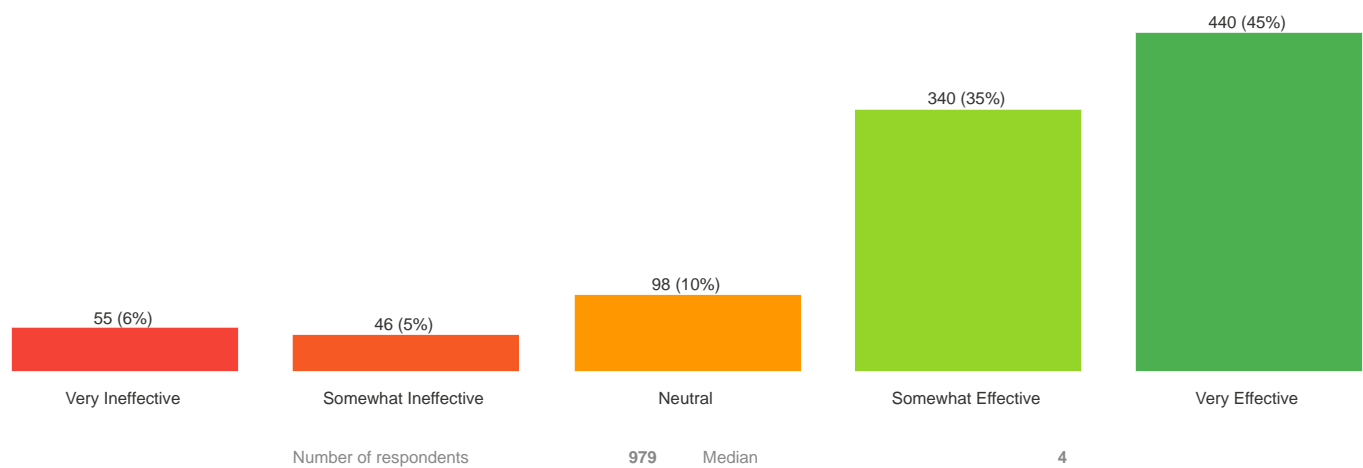


Surfacing and Drainage

How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?	Count	Percentage
Very Ineffective	82	8%
Somewhat Ineffective	92	9%
Neutral	189	19%
Somewhat Effective	355	35%
Very Effective	289	29%

Figure C.49: Surfacing and Drainage survey results N 1,007

Fencing and Entrances: How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?



Fencing and Entrances

How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?	Count	Percentage
Very Ineffective	55	6%
Somewhat Ineffective	46	5%
Neutral	98	10%
Somewhat Effective	340	35%
Very Effective	440	45%

Figure C.50: Fencing and Entrances survey results

N 979

Amenities: How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?

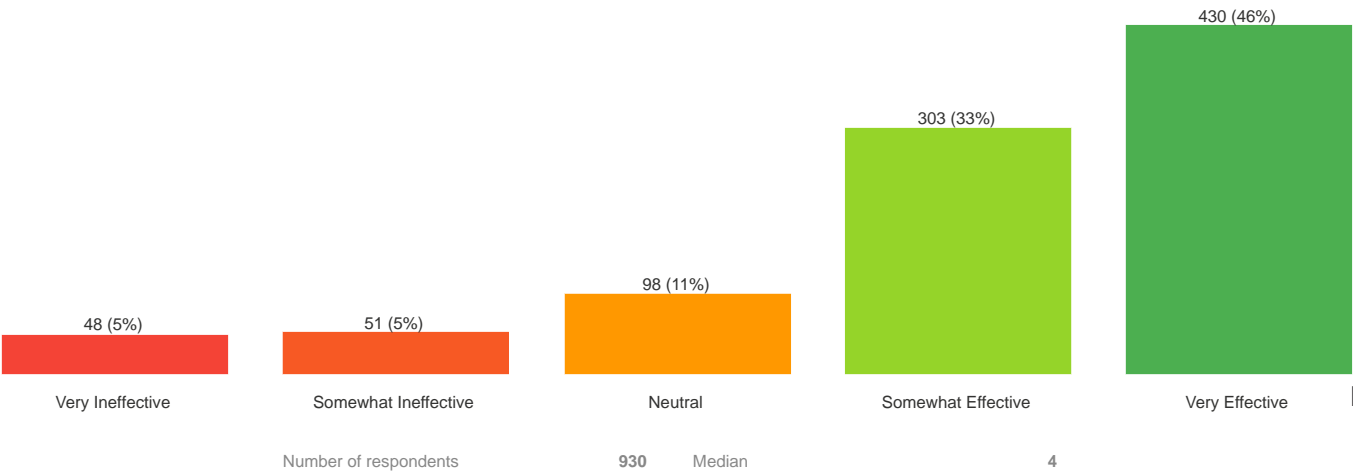


Figure C.52:

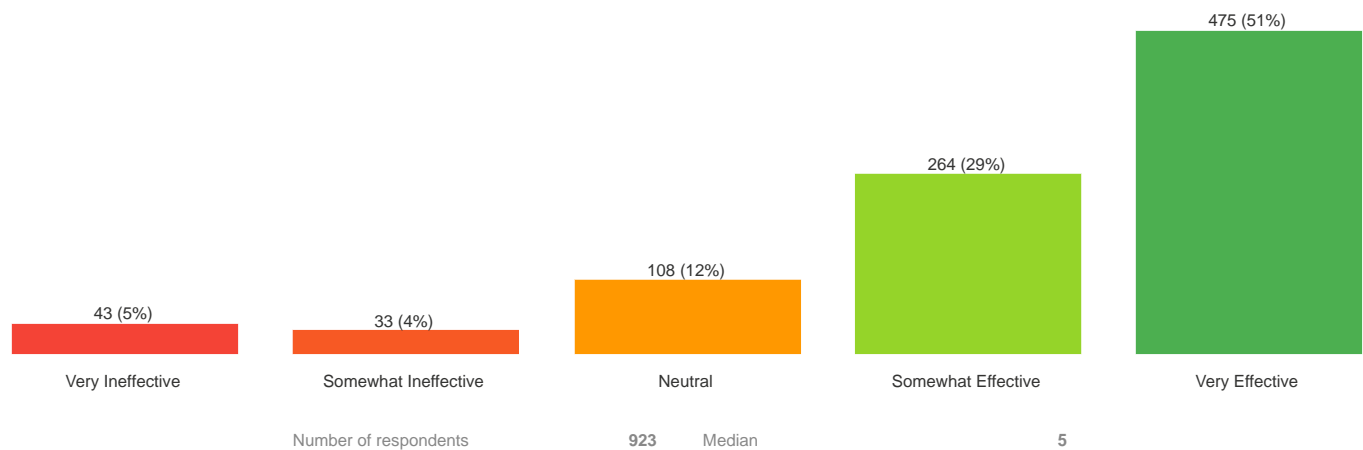
Amenities

How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?	Count	Percentage
Very Ineffective	48	5%
Somewhat Ineffective	51	5%
Neutral	98	11%
Somewhat Effective	303	33%
Very Effective	430	46%

Figure C.51: Amenities survey results

N 930

Lighting: How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?



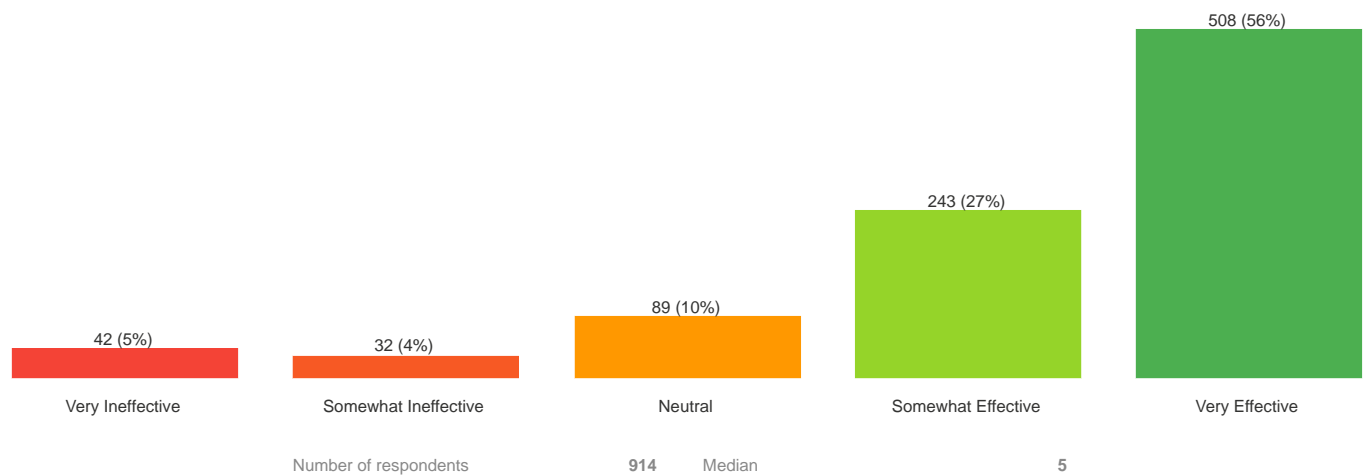
Lighting

How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?	Count	Percentage
Very Ineffective	43	5%
Somewhat Ineffective	33	4%
Neutral	108	12%
Somewhat Effective	264	29%
Very Effective	475	51%

Lighting survey results

N 923

Water: How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?



Water

How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?	Count	Percentage
Very Ineffective	42	5%
Somewhat Ineffective	32	4%
Neutral	89	10%
Somewhat Effective	243	27%
Very Effective	508	56%

Figure C.53: Water survey results

N 914

Operations and Maintenance: How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?

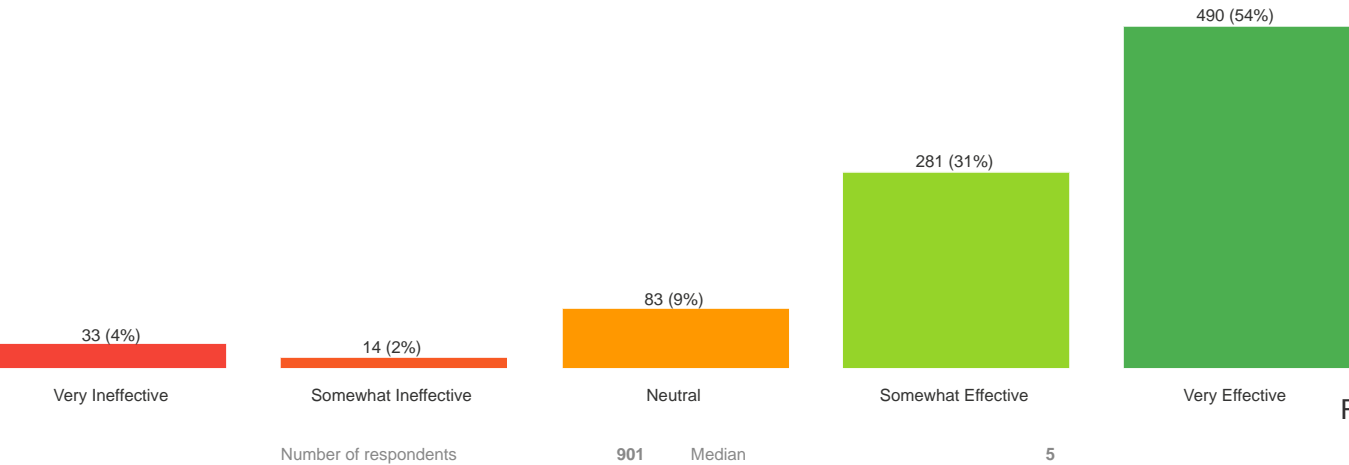


Figure C.55: A

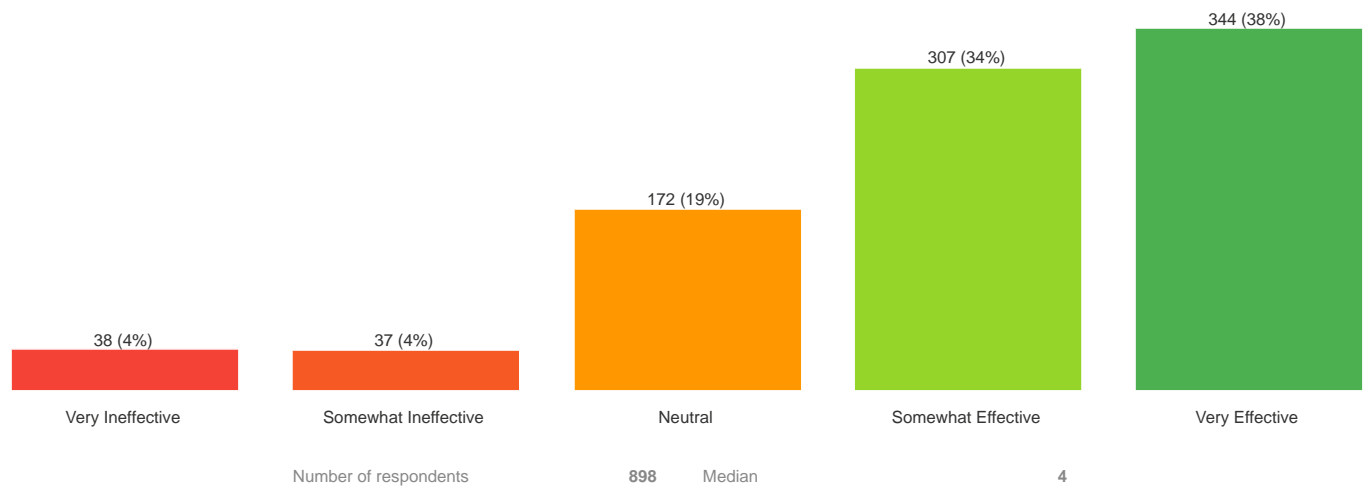
Operations and Maintenance

How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?	Count	Percentage
Very Ineffective	33	4%
Somewhat Ineffective	14	2%
Neutral	83	9%
Somewhat Effective	281	31%
Very Effective	490	54%

Figure C.54: Operations and Maintenance survey results

N 901

Administration: How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?



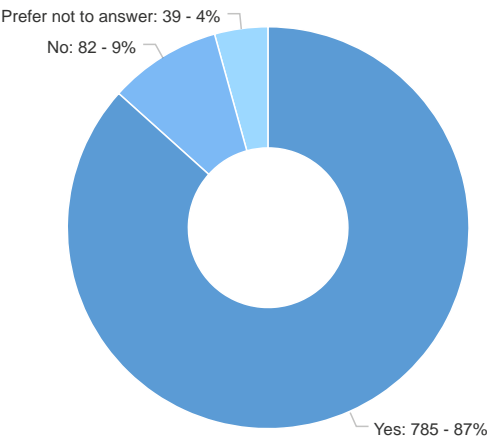
Administration

How effective do you think these recommendations would be in improving existing Off-Leash Areas?	Count	Percentage
Very Ineffective	38	4%
Somewhat Ineffective	37	4%
Neutral	172	19%
Somewhat Effective	307	34%
Very Effective	344	38%

N 898

Administration Survey Results

Are you a dog owner?



N 906

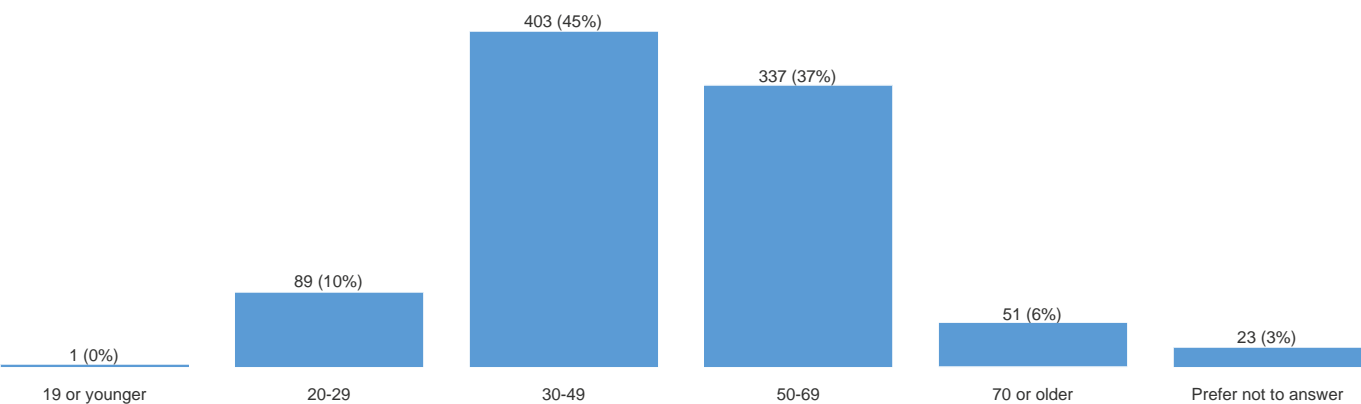
Dog Ownership

Are you a dog owner?	Count	Percentage
Yes	785	87%
No	82	9%
Prefer not to answer	39	4%

Figure C.56: Dog Ownership Survey Results

N 906

What is your age?



N 904

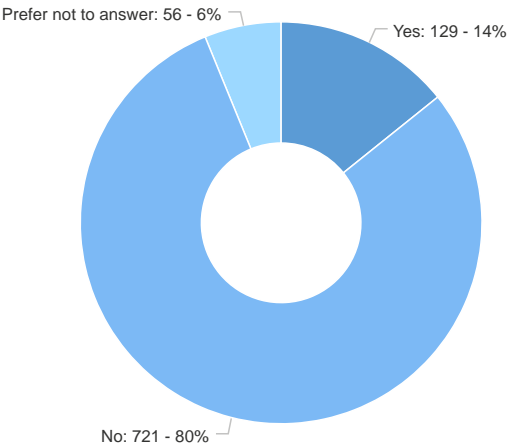
Age

What is your age?	Count	Percentage
19 or younger	1	0%
20-29	89	10%
30-49	403	45%
50-69	337	37%
70 or older	51	6%
Prefer not to answer	23	3%

Figure C.57: Age Survey Result

N 904

Do you identify as a person with a disability? Disabilities, both visible and invisible, include physical, hearing, seeing, developmental, learning or mental health conditions, chronic illness and addictions. Disabilities may be from birth, caused by injury or accident, developed over time, or result from the combination of a person's condition and barriers in society.



N 906

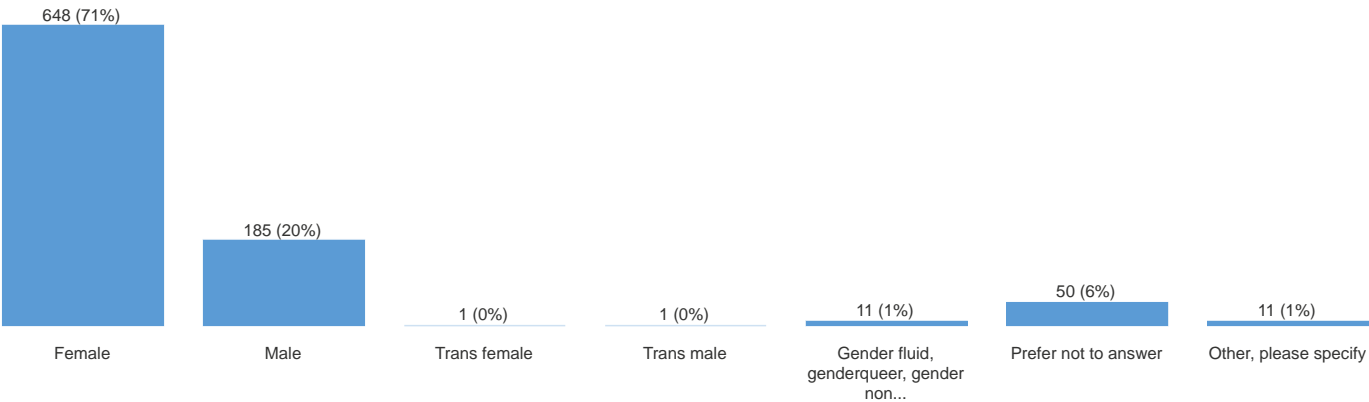
Do you identify as a person with a disability? Disabilities, both visible and invisible, include physical, hearing, seeing, developmental, learning or mental health conditions, chronic illness and addictions. Disabilities may be from birth, caused by injury or accident, developed over time, or result from the combination of a person's condition and barriers in society.

Do you identify as a person with a disability?	Count	Percentage
Yes	129	14%
No	721	80%
Prefer not to answer	56	6%

Figure C.58: Disability Survey Result

N 906

What best describes your gender? Gender identity is the gender that people identify with or how they perceive themselves, which may be different from their birth-assigned sex. Gender identity is linked to a sense of self, the sense of being a woman, man, both, neither or anywhere along the gender spectrum (non-binary).



N 907

What best describes your gender? Gender identity is the gender that people identify with or how they perceive themselves, which may be different from their birth-assigned sex. Gender identity is linked to a sense of self, the sense of being a woman, man, both, neither or anywhere along the gender spectrum (non-binary).

What best describes your gender?	Count	Percentage
Female	648	71%
Male	185	20%
Trans female	1	0%
Trans male	1	0%
Gender fluid, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, non-binary, trans	11	1%
Prefer not to answer	50	6%
Other, please specify	11	1%

Figure C.59: Gender Survey Results

N 907

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

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Design, Operations, Maintenance, Administration and Best Practices



Appendix D: Cost Estimates



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 D: Cost Estimates

Case Study Cost Estimates	479
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Case Study Cost Estimates

The following cost estimates are based on the recommendations applied to the ten case study sites. The cost estimates are provided to help illustrate the potential costs associated with implementing the various recommended improvements to Toronto's existing off-leash areas.

A range of unit prices are used to reflect the range of costs often provided as well as the fact there may be efficiencies associated with undertaking improvements in conjunction with other park improvements.

It is also important to note that all of the case study sites were done with limited community engagement and are for demonstration purposes only. Therefore the actual design and costs to implement the recommendations will need to be confirmed through an actual park redevelopment process in collaboration with City staff, stakeholders and the community.

Some key assumptions made as part of this costing exercise include:

- Site control is required around the perimeter of the off-leash area
- Silt control is required around the perimeter of the off-leash area
- Quantity/placement of tree protection fencing estimated based on a site by site basis
- For drinking fountains, there is an existing water service
- For lighting improvements there is an existing service

1. Allan Gardens

#	Item	Description
1.0 Site Preparation		
1.1	Mobilization and Demobilization	Startup and closeout, access, bonding, permits, insurance, general requirements
1.2	Site Control	Welded Wire Mesh Fence (surrounding park)
1.3	Site Control Signage	Signage posted at regular intervals
1.4	Tree Control Fencing	Tree protection fencing internal to site
1.5	Silt Control	Around perimeter, at drainage swales and drainage infrastructure
1.6	Clearing and Grubbing	Including removal of existing vegetation, roots and any surfacing
2.0 Surfacing		
2.1	Gravel	150 mm depth (including weeping tile sub drainage)
3.0 Paving		
3.1	Asphalt Pathway	1.8 m wide pathway
4.0 Fencing		
4.1	Steel Fencing	1.5 m height (Omega brand or equivalent)
4.2	Steel Single Gate	Per gate
4.3	Permanent Tree Protection Fencing	2.4 m distance - square of wood posts and paige wire fencing (1.5 m height)
5.0 Amenities		
5.1	Agility Equipment	Approximately 5 elements
5.2	Multi-Tier Drinking Fountain	Using existing water line exists
5.3	Community Notice Boards	Locking message board with lock and key
5.4	By-Law and City Signage	At main entry/exit point
6.0 Vegetation		
6.1	Deciduous Tree	75 mm cal.
7.0 Lighting		
7.1	Initial Electrical Service	New or upgraded hydro service
7.2	Light Fixture	Light, pole and wiring

Figure D.1: Allan Gardens Cost Estimate

Quantity	Unit	Unit Price			Cost		
		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
1	%	1.5%	3.0%	5.0%	\$ 5,628.08	\$ 14,511.15	\$ 29,775.25
333	lm	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 4,995.00	\$ 6,660.00	\$ 8,325.00
4	each	\$ 20	\$ 40	\$ 60	\$ 80.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 240.00
342	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 3,420.00	\$ 5,130.00	\$ 6,840.00
333	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 3,330.00	\$ 4,995.00	\$ 6,660.00
4427	m2	\$ 2	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$ 8,854.00	\$ 17,708.00	\$ 26,562.00
Sub Total					\$ 26,307.08	\$ 49,164.15	\$ 78,402.25
4427	m2	\$ 15	\$ 25	\$ 35	\$ 66,405.00	\$ 110,675.00	\$ 154,945.00
Sub Total					\$ 66,405.00	\$ 110,675.00	\$ 154,945.00
182	m2	\$ 50	\$ 65	\$ 80	\$ 9,100.00	\$ 11,830.00	\$ 14,560.00
Sub Total					\$ 9,100.00	\$ 11,830.00	\$ 14,560.00
356	lm	\$ 300	\$ 350	\$ 400	\$ 106,800.00	\$ 124,600.00	\$ 142,400.00
10	each	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
437	lm	\$ 250	\$ 300	\$ 350	\$ 109,250.00	\$ 131,100.00	\$ 152,950.00
Sub Total					\$ 226,050.00	\$ 267,700.00	\$ 310,350.00
1	allowance	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 9,000	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 9,000.00
1	each	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
1	each	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,750.00
1	allowance	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 14,250.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 19,750.00
23	each	\$ 300	\$ 500	\$ 800	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 18,400.00
Sub Total					\$ 6,900.00	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 18,400.00
1	allowance	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
5	each	\$ 6,500	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,500	\$ 32,500.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 47,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 52,500.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 77,500.00
Sub Total All Items					\$ 401,512.08	\$ 532,869.15	\$ 673,907.25
Contingency 10%					\$ 40,151.21	\$ 53,286.92	\$ 67,390.73
Cash Allowance 5%					\$ 20,075.60	\$ 26,643.46	\$ 33,695.36
Design Fees 10%					\$ 46,173.89	\$ 61,279.95	\$ 77,499.33
City Management Fee 8%					\$ 40,633.02	\$ 53,926.36	\$ 68,199.41
HST 2.16%					\$ 12,845.95	\$ 17,048.57	\$ 21,560.93
GRAND TOTAL					\$ 561,391.74	\$ 745,054.41	\$ 942,253.02

2. Bayview Arena Park

#	Item	Description
1.0 Site Preparation		
1.1	Mobilization and Demobilization	Startup and closeout, access, bonding, permits, insurance, general requirements
1.2	Site Control	Welded Wire Mesh Fence (surrounding park)
1.3	Site Control Signage	Signage posted at regular intervals
1.4	Tree Control Fencing	Tree protection fencing internal to site
1.5	Silt Control	Around perimeter, at drainage swales and drainage infrastructure
1.6	Clearing and Grubbing	Including removal of existing vegetation, roots and any surfacing
2.0 Surfacing		
2.1	Wood Chips	150 mm depth (including granular and weeping tile sub drainage)
2.2	Grass Seed Mix	Including surface preparation
3.0 Paving		
3.1	Asphalt Pathway	1.8 m wide pathway
3.2	Bench Concrete Pad	2.5 m x 1.0 m pad
4.0 Fencing		
4.1	Steel Fencing	1.5 m height (Omega brand or equivalent)
4.2	Steel Single Gate	Per gate
5.0 Amenities		
5.1	Benches	On existing concrete pad
5.2	Multi-Tier Drinking Fountain	Using existing water line exists
5.3	Community Notice Boards	Locking message board with lock and key
5.4	By-Law and City Signage	At main entry/exit point
6.0 Lighting		
6.1	Light Fixture	Light, pole and wiring

Figure D.2: Bayview Arena Park Cost Estimate

Quantity	Unit	Unit Price			Cost		
		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
1	%	1.5%	3.0%	5.0%	\$ 2,661.23	\$ 6,590.28	\$ 13,240.70
278	lm	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 4,170.00	\$ 5,560.00	\$ 6,950.00
4	each	\$ 20	\$ 40	\$ 60	\$ 80.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 240.00
	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
278	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 2,780.00	\$ 4,170.00	\$ 5,560.00
2576	m2	\$ 2	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$ 5,152.00	\$ 10,304.00	\$ 15,456.00
Sub Total					\$ 14,843.23	\$ 26,784.28	\$ 41,446.70
499	m2	\$ 20	\$ 30	\$ 40	\$ 9,980.00	\$ 14,970.00	\$ 19,960.00
2077	m2	\$ 5	\$ 8	\$ 12	\$ 10,385.00	\$ 16,616.00	\$ 24,924.00
Sub Total					\$ 20,365.00	\$ 31,586.00	\$ 44,884.00
196	m2	\$ 50	\$ 65	\$ 80	\$ 9,800.00	\$ 12,740.00	\$ 15,680.00
5	each	\$ 600	\$ 800	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Sub Total					\$ 12,800.00	\$ 16,740.00	\$ 20,680.00
285	lm	\$ 300	\$ 350	\$ 400	\$ 85,500.00	\$ 99,750.00	\$ 114,000.00
8	each	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 12,000.00
Sub Total					\$ 93,500.00	\$ 109,350.00	\$ 126,000.00
5	each	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 15,000.00
1	each	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
1	each	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,750.00
1	allowance	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 18,250.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 25,750.00
5	each	\$ 6,500	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,500	\$ 32,500.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 47,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 32,500.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 47,500.00
Sub Total All Items					\$ 192,258.23	\$ 246,460.28	\$ 306,260.70
Contingency 10%					\$ 19,225.82	\$ 24,646.03	\$ 30,626.07
Cash Allowance 5%					\$ 9,612.91	\$ 12,323.01	\$ 15,313.04
Design Fees 10%					\$ 22,109.70	\$ 28,342.93	\$ 35,219.98
City Management Fee 8%					\$ 19,456.53	\$ 24,941.78	\$ 30,993.58
HST 2.16%					\$ 6,151.09	\$ 7,885.23	\$ 9,798.48
GRAND TOTAL					\$ 268,814.28	\$ 344,599.27	\$ 428,211.85

3. Beresford Park

#	Item	Description
1.0 Site Preparation		
1.1	Mobilization and Demobilization	Startup and closeout, access, bonding, permits, insurance, general requirements
1.2	Site Control	Welded Wire Mesh Fence (surrounding park)
1.3	Site Control Signage	Signage posted at regular intervals
1.4	Tree Control Fencing	Tree protection fencing internal to site
1.5	Silt Control	Around perimeter, at drainage swales and drainage infrastructure
1.6	Clearing and Grubbing	Including removal of existing vegetation, roots and any surfacing
2.0 Surfacing		
2.1	Grass Seed Mix	Including surface preparation
3.0 Paving		
3.1	Asphalt Pathway	1.8 m wide pathway
3.2	Bench Concrete Pad	2.5 m x 1.0 m pad
4.0 Fencing		
4.1	Permanent Tree Protection Fencing	2.4 m distance - square of wood posts and paige wire fencing (1.5 m height)
5.0 Amenities		
5.1	Benches	On existing concrete pad
5.2	Multi-Tier Drinking Fountain	Using existing water line exists
5.3	Community Notice Boards	Locking message board with lock and key
5.4	By-Law and City Signage	At main entry/exit point
6.0 Vegetation		
6.1	Deciduous Tree	75 mm cal.
6.2	Vegetative Border	Dense shrub/perennial planting
7.0 Lighting		
7.1	Light Fixture	Light, pole and wiring

Figure D.3: Beresford Park Cost Estimate

Quantity	Unit	Unit Price			Cost		
		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
nts 1	%	1.5%	3.0%	5.0%	\$ 1,374.53	\$ 3,556.59	\$ 7,452.60
211	lm	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 3,165.00	\$ 4,220.00	\$ 5,275.00
2	each	\$ 20	\$ 40	\$ 60	\$ 40.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
323	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 3,230.00	\$ 4,845.00	\$ 6,460.00
211	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 2,110.00	\$ 3,165.00	\$ 4,220.00
2781	m2	\$ 2	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$ 5,562.00	\$ 11,124.00	\$ 16,686.00
Sub Total					\$ 15,481.53	\$ 26,990.59	\$ 40,213.60
2781	m2	\$ 5	\$ 8	\$ 12	\$ 13,905.00	\$ 22,248.00	\$ 33,372.00
Sub Total					\$ 13,905.00	\$ 22,248.00	\$ 33,372.00
221	m2	\$ 50	\$ 65	\$ 80	\$ 11,050.00	\$ 14,365.00	\$ 17,680.00
3	each	\$ 600	\$ 800	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 3,000.00
Sub Total					\$ 12,850.00	\$ 16,765.00	\$ 20,680.00
133	lm	\$ 250	\$ 300	\$ 350	\$ 33,250.00	\$ 39,900.00	\$ 46,550.00
Sub Total					\$ 33,250.00	\$ 39,900.00	\$ 46,550.00
3	each	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 9,000.00
1	each	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
1	each	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,750.00
1	allowance	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 14,250.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 19,750.00
8	each	\$ 300	\$ 500	\$ 800	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,400.00
33	lm	\$ 60	\$ 80	\$ 100	\$ 1,980.00	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 3,300.00
Sub Total					\$ 4,380.00	\$ 6,640.00	\$ 9,700.00
2	each	\$ 6,500	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,500	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 19,000.00
Sub Total					\$ 13,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 19,000.00
Sub Total All Items					\$ 107,116.53	\$ 145,543.59	\$ 189,265.60
Contingency 10%					\$ 10,711.65	\$ 14,554.36	\$ 18,926.56
Cash Allowance 5%					\$ 5,355.83	\$ 7,277.18	\$ 9,463.28
Design Fees 10%					\$ 12,318.40	\$ 16,737.51	\$ 21,765.54
City Management Fee 8%					\$ 10,840.19	\$ 14,729.01	\$ 19,153.68
HST 2.16%					\$ 3,427.08	\$ 4,656.51	\$ 6,055.35
GRAND TOTAL					\$ 149,769.67	\$ 203,498.16	\$ 264,630.01

4. Cherry Beach

#	Item	Description
1.0 Site Preparation		
1.1	Mobilization and Demobilization	Startup and closeout, access, bonding, permits, insurance, general requirements
1.2	Site Control	Welded Wire Mesh Fence (surrounding park)
1.3	Site Control Signage	Signage posted at regular intervals
1.4	Tree Control Fencing	Tree protection fencing internal to site
1.5	Silt Control	Around perimeter, at drainage swales and drainage infrastructure
1.6	Clearing and Grubbing	Including removal of existing vegetation, roots and any surfacing
2.0 Paving		
2.1	Asphalt Pathway	1.8 m wide pathway
2.2	Bench Concrete Pad	2.5 m x 1.0 m pad
3.0 Fencing		
3.1	Steel Single Gate	Per gate
4.0 Amenities		
4.1	Benches	On existing concrete pad
4.2	Community Notice Boards	Locking message board with lock and key
4.3	By-Law and City Signage	At main entry/exit point
4.4	Interpretive Signage	Per sign
5.0 Lighting		
5.1	Light Fixture	Light, pole and wiring

Figure D.4: Cherry Beach Cost Estimate

Quantity	Unit	Unit Price			Cost		
		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
ts 1	%	1.5%	3.0%	5.0%	\$ 795.75	\$ 2,050.50	\$ 4,212.50
320	lm	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 8,000.00
2	each	\$ 20	\$ 40	\$ 60	\$ 40.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
874	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 8,740.00	\$ 13,110.00	\$ 17,480.00
320	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 6,400.00
450	m2	\$ 2	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,700.00
Sub Total					\$ 18,475.75	\$ 28,240.50	\$ 38,912.50
450	m2	\$ 50	\$ 65	\$ 80	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 29,250.00	\$ 36,000.00
3	each	\$ 600	\$ 800	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 3,000.00
Sub Total					\$ 24,300.00	\$ 31,650.00	\$ 39,000.00
6	each	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 9,000.00
Sub Total					\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 9,000.00
3	each	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 9,000.00
1	each	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,750.00
1	allowance	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
3	each	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 13,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 16,250.00	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 26,750.00
1	each	\$ 6,500	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,500	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 9,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 6,500.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 9,500.00
Sub Total All Items					\$ 71,525.75	\$ 96,590.50	\$ 123,162.50
Contingency 10%					\$ 7,152.58	\$ 9,659.05	\$ 12,316.25
Cash Allowance 5%					\$ 3,576.29	\$ 4,829.53	\$ 6,158.13
Design Fees 10%					\$ 8,225.46	\$ 11,107.91	\$ 14,163.69
City Management Fee 8%					\$ 7,238.41	\$ 9,774.96	\$ 12,464.05
HST 2.16%					\$ 2,288.39	\$ 3,090.31	\$ 3,940.45
GRAND TOTAL					\$ 100,006.87	\$ 135,052.25	\$ 172,205.06

5. High Park

#	Item	Description
1.0 Site Preparation		
1.1	Mobilization and Demobilization	Startup and closeout, access, bonding, permits, insurance, general requirements
1.2	Site Control	Welded Wire Mesh Fence (surrounding park)
1.3	Site Control Signage	Signage posted at regular intervals
1.4	Tree Control Fencing	Tree protection fencing internal to site
1.5	Silt Control	Around perimeter, at drainage swales and drainage infrastructure
1.6	Clearing and Grubbing	Including removal of existing vegetation, roots and any surfacing
2.0 Surfacing		
2.1	Wood Chips	150 mm depth (including granular and weeping tile sub drainage)
2.2	Grass Seed Mix	Including surface preparation
3.0 Paving		
3.1	Asphalt Pathway	1.8 m wide pathway
3.2	Bench Concrete Pad	2.5 m x 1.0 m pad
4.0 Fencing		
4.1	Steel Single Gate	Per gate
5.0 Amenities		
5.1	Benches	On existing concrete pad
5.2	Multi-Tier Drinking Fountain	Using existing water line exists
5.3	Community Notice Boards	Locking message board with lock and key
5.4	By-Law and City Signage	At main entry/exit point
5.5	Interpretive Signage	Per sign
6.0 Lighting		
6.1	Light Fixture	Light, pole and wiring

Note: The recommendations provided as part of this case study for High Park pertain to the area known as “Dog Hill” only and exclude the larger off-leash trail network found throughout the park. Therefore, the entire network of trails needs to be considered before for a complete set of recommendations and associated costs can be established for High Park.

Figure D.5: High Park Cost Estimate

Quantity	Unit	Unit Price			Cost		
		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
1	%	1.5%	3.0%	5.0%	\$ 3,510.15	\$ 9,711.30	\$ 20,974.50
12185	lm	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 182,775.00	\$ 243,700.00	\$ 304,625.00
6	each	\$ 20	\$ 40	\$ 60	\$ 120.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 360.00
394	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 3,940.00	\$ 5,910.00	\$ 7,880.00
12185	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 121,850.00	\$ 182,775.00	\$ 243,700.00
9828	m2	\$ 2	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$ 19,656.00	\$ 39,312.00	\$ 58,968.00
Sub Total					\$ 331,851.15	\$ 481,648.30	\$ 636,507.50
4073	m2	\$ 20	\$ 30	\$ 40	\$ 81,460.00	\$ 122,190.00	\$ 162,920.00
5780	m2	\$ 5	\$ 8	\$ 12	\$ 28,900.00	\$ 46,240.00	\$ 69,360.00
Sub Total					\$ 110,360.00	\$ 168,430.00	\$ 232,280.00
412	m2	\$ 50	\$ 65	\$ 80	\$ 20,600.00	\$ 26,780.00	\$ 32,960.00
3	each	\$ 600	\$ 800	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 3,000.00
Sub Total					\$ 22,400.00	\$ 29,180.00	\$ 35,960.00
3	each	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 4,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 4,500.00
3	each	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 9,000.00
1	each	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
1	each	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,750.00
1	allowance	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
5	each	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 22,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 26,750.00	\$ 34,500.00	\$ 42,250.00
11	each	\$ 6,500	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,500	\$ 71,500.00	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 104,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 71,500.00	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 104,500.00
Sub Total All Items					\$ 565,861.15	\$ 805,358.30	\$ 1,055,997.50
Contingency 10%					\$ 56,586.12	\$ 80,535.83	\$ 105,599.75
Cash Allowance 5%					\$ 28,293.06	\$ 40,267.92	\$ 52,799.88
Design Fees 10%					\$ 65,074.03	\$ 92,616.20	\$ 121,439.71
City Management Fee 8%					\$ 57,265.15	\$ 81,502.26	\$ 106,866.95
HST 2.16%					\$ 18,104.12	\$ 25,766.57	\$ 33,785.50
GRAND TOTAL					\$ 791,183.62	\$ 1,126,047.08	\$ 1,476,489.28

6. L'Amoreaux Park

#	Item	Description
1.0 Site Preparation		
1.1	Mobilization and Demobilization	Startup and closeout, access, bonding, permits, insurance, general requirements
1.2	Site Control	Welded Wire Mesh Fence (surrounding park)
1.3	Site Control Signage	Signage posted at regular intervals
1.4	Tree Control Fencing	Tree protection fencing internal to site
1.5	Silt Control	Around perimeter, at drainage swales and drainage infrastructure
1.6	Clearing and Grubbing	Including removal of existing vegetation, roots and any surfacing
2.0 Surfacing		
2.1	Grass Seed Mix	Including surface preparation
3.0 Paving		
3.1	Asphalt Pathway	1.8 m wide pathway
3.2	Bench Concrete Pad	2.5 m x 1.0 m pad
3.3	Entrance Concrete Pad	3.0 m x 2.0 m entrance pad
4.0 Fencing		
4.1	Steel Fencing	1.5 m height (Omega brand or equivalent)
4.2	Steel Single Gate	Per gate
4.3	Permanent Tree Protection Fencing	2.4 m distance - square of wood posts and paige wire fencing (1.5 m height)
5.0 Amenities		
5.1	Benches	On existing concrete pad
5.2	Multi-Tier Drinking Fountain	Using existing water line exists
5.3	By-Law and City Signage	At main entry/exit point
6.0 Vegetation		
6.1	Deciduous Tree	75 mm cal.
7.0 Lighting		
7.1	Light Fixture	Light, pole and wiring

Figure D.6: L'Amoreaux Park Cost Estimate

Quantity	Unit	Unit Price			Cost		
		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
1	%	1.5%	3.0%	5.0%	\$ 3,032.93	\$ 7,481.76	\$ 15,011.90
244	lm	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 3,660.00	\$ 4,880.00	\$ 6,100.00
2	each	\$ 20	\$ 40	\$ 60	\$ 40.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
171	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 1,710.00	\$ 2,565.00	\$ 3,420.00
244	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 2,440.00	\$ 3,660.00	\$ 4,880.00
2149	m2	\$ 2	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$ 4,298.00	\$ 8,596.00	\$ 12,894.00
Sub Total					\$ 15,180.93	\$ 27,262.76	\$ 42,425.90
2149	m2	\$ 5	\$ 8	\$ 12	\$ 10,745.00	\$ 17,192.00	\$ 25,788.00
Sub Total					\$ 10,745.00	\$ 17,192.00	\$ 25,788.00
280	m2	\$ 50	\$ 65	\$ 80	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 18,200.00	\$ 22,400.00
6	each	\$ 600	\$ 800	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 6,000.00
6	each	\$ 800	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,600	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 9,600.00
Sub Total					\$ 22,400.00	\$ 30,200.00	\$ 38,000.00
280	lm	\$ 300	\$ 350	\$ 400	\$ 84,000.00	\$ 98,000.00	\$ 112,000.00
4	each	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 6,000.00
209	lm	\$ 250	\$ 300	\$ 350	\$ 52,250.00	\$ 62,700.00	\$ 73,150.00
Sub Total					\$ 140,250.00	\$ 165,500.00	\$ 191,150.00
6	each	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
1	each	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
1	allowance	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 19,000.00	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 27,000.00
11	each	\$ 300	\$ 500	\$ 800	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 8,800.00
Sub Total					\$ 3,300.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 8,800.00
1	each	\$ 6,500	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,500	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 9,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 6,500.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 9,500.00
Sub Total All Items					\$ 217,375.93	\$ 276,654.76	\$ 342,663.90
Contingency 10%					\$ 21,737.59	\$ 27,665.48	\$ 34,266.39
Cash Allowance 5%					\$ 10,868.80	\$ 13,832.74	\$ 17,133.20
Design Fees 10%					\$ 24,998.23	\$ 31,815.30	\$ 39,406.35
City Management Fee 8%					\$ 21,998.44	\$ 27,997.46	\$ 34,677.59
HST 2.16%					\$ 6,954.71	\$ 8,851.27	\$ 10,963.16
GRAND TOTAL					\$ 303,933.70	\$ 386,817.00	\$ 479,110.58

7. Merrill Bridge Road Park

#	Item	Description
1.0 Site Preparation		
1.1	Mobilization and Demobilization	Startup and closeout, access, bonding, permits, insurance, general requirements
1.2	Site Control	Welded Wire Mesh Fence (surrounding park)
1.3	Site Control Signage	Signage posted at regular intervals
1.4	Tree Control Fencing	Tree protection fencing internal to site
1.5	Silt Control	Around perimeter, at drainage swales and drainage infrastructure
1.6	Clearing and Grubbing	Including removal of existing vegetation, roots and any surfacing
2.0 Surfacing		
2.1	Wood Chips	150 mm depth (including granular and weeping tile sub drainage)
2.2	Grass Seed Mix	Including surface preparation
3.0 Paving		
3.1	Asphalt Pathway	1.8 m wide pathway
3.2	Bench Concrete Pad	2.5 m x 1.0 m pad
4.0 Fencing		
4.1	Post and Paddle Fencing	1.5 m height with welded wire mesh
4.2	Steel Fencing	1.5 m height (Omega brand or equivalent)
4.3	Steel Single Gate	Per gate
4.4	Permanent Tree Protection Fencing	2.4 m distance - square of wood posts and paige wire fencing (1.5 m height)
5.0 Amenities		
5.1	Benches	On existing concrete pad
5.2	Multi-Tier Drinking Fountain	Using existing water line exists
5.3	Community Notice Boards	Locking message board with lock and key
5.4	By-Law and City Signage	At main entry/exit point
6.0 Vegetation		
6.1	Deciduous Tree	75 mm cal.
6.2	Vegetative Border	Dense shrub/perennial planting
7.0 Lighting		
7.1	Light Fixture	Light, pole and wiring

Figure D.7: Merrill Bridge Road Park Cost Estimate

Quantity	Unit	Unit Price			Cost		
		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
1	%	1.5%	3.0%	5.0%	\$ 2,955.90	\$ 7,661.73	\$ 15,877.20
355	lm	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 5,325.00	\$ 7,100.00	\$ 8,875.00
4	each	\$ 20	\$ 40	\$ 60	\$ 80.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 240.00
349	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 3,490.00	\$ 5,235.00	\$ 6,980.00
355	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 5,325.00	\$ 7,100.00
3964	m2	\$ 2	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$ 7,928.00	\$ 15,856.00	\$ 23,784.00
Sub Total					\$ 23,328.90	\$ 41,337.73	\$ 62,856.20
1342	m2	\$ 20	\$ 30	\$ 40	\$ 26,840.00	\$ 40,260.00	\$ 53,680.00
2622	m2	\$ 5	\$ 8	\$ 12	\$ 13,110.00	\$ 20,976.00	\$ 31,464.00
Sub Total					\$ 39,950.00	\$ 61,236.00	\$ 85,144.00
415	m2	\$ 50	\$ 65	\$ 80	\$ 20,750.00	\$ 26,975.00	\$ 33,200.00
4	each	\$ 600	\$ 800	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 4,000.00
Sub Total					\$ 23,150.00	\$ 30,175.00	\$ 37,200.00
59.0	lm	\$ 150	\$ 200	\$ 250	\$ 8,850.00	\$ 11,800.00	\$ 14,750.00
60	lm	\$ 300	\$ 350	\$ 400	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 24,000.00
4	each	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 6,000.00
152	lm	\$ 250	\$ 300	\$ 350	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 45,600.00	\$ 53,200.00
Sub Total					\$ 68,850.00	\$ 83,200.00	\$ 97,950.00
4	each	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
1	each	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
1	each	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,750.00
1	allowance	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 16,250.00	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 22,750.00
8	each	\$ 300	\$ 500	\$ 800	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,400.00
16	lm	\$ 60	\$ 80	\$ 100	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,280.00	\$ 1,600.00
Sub Total					\$ 3,360.00	\$ 5,280.00	\$ 8,000.00
7	each	\$ 6,500	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,500	\$ 45,500.00	\$ 56,000.00	\$ 66,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 45,500.00	\$ 56,000.00	\$ 66,500.00
Sub Total All Items					\$ 220,388.90	\$ 296,728.73	\$ 380,400.20
Contingency 10%					\$ 22,038.89	\$ 29,672.87	\$ 38,040.02
Cash Allowance 5%					\$ 11,019.45	\$ 14,836.44	\$ 19,020.01
Design Fees 10%					\$ 25,344.72	\$ 34,123.80	\$ 43,746.02
City Management Fee 8%					\$ 22,303.36	\$ 30,028.95	\$ 38,496.50
HST 2.16%					\$ 7,051.10	\$ 9,493.52	\$ 12,170.49
GRAND TOTAL					\$ 308,146.42	\$ 414,884.31	\$ 531,873.25

8. Sandy Bruce Park

#	Item	Description
1.0 Site Preparation		
1.1	Mobilization and Demobilization	Startup and closeout, access, bonding, permits, insurance, general requirements
1.2	Site Control	Welded Wire Mesh Fence (surrounding park)
1.3	Site Control Signage	Signage posted at regular intervals
1.4	Tree Control Fencing	Tree protection fencing internal to site
1.5	Silt Control	Around perimeter, at drainage swales and drainage infrastructure
1.6	Clearing and Grubbing	Including removal of existing vegetation, roots and any surfacing
2.0 Surfacing		
2.1	Engineer Wood Fibre Mulch	150 mm depth (including granular and weeping tile sub drainage)
2.2	Grass Seed Mix	Including surface preparation
3.0 Paving		
3.1	Asphalt Pathway	1.8 m wide pathway
3.2	Bench Concrete Pad	2.5 m x 1.0 m pad
3.3	Entrance Concrete Pad	3.0 m x 2.0 m entrance pad
4.0 Amenities		
4.1	Benches	On existing concrete pad
4.2	Multi-Tier Drinking Fountain	Using existing water line exists
4.3	Community Notice Boards	Locking message board with lock and key
4.4	By-Law and City Signage	At main entry/exit point
5.0 Lighting		
5.1	Light Fixture	Light, pole and wiring

Figure D.8: Sandy Bruce Park Cost Estimate

Quantity	Unit	Unit Price			Cost		
		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
1	%	1.5%	3.0%	5.0%	\$ 1,682.93	\$ 4,075.20	\$ 8,027.00
254	lm	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 3,810.00	\$ 5,080.00	\$ 6,350.00
2	each	\$ 20	\$ 40	\$ 60	\$ 40.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
150	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 3,000.00
254	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 2,540.00	\$ 3,810.00	\$ 5,080.00
244	m2	\$ 2	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$ 488.00	\$ 976.00	\$ 1,464.00
Sub Total					\$ 10,060.93	\$ 16,271.20	\$ 24,041.00
958	m2	\$ 65	\$ 75	\$ 85	\$ 62,270.00	\$ 71,850.00	\$ 81,430.00
1055	m2	\$ 5	\$ 8	\$ 12	\$ 5,275.00	\$ 8,440.00	\$ 12,660.00
Sub Total					\$ 67,545.00	\$ 80,290.00	\$ 94,090.00
150	m2	\$ 50	\$ 65	\$ 80	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 9,750.00	\$ 12,000.00
3	each	\$ 600	\$ 800	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 3,000.00
2	each	\$ 800	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 3,200.00
Sub Total					\$ 10,900.00	\$ 14,550.00	\$ 18,200.00
3	each	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 9,000.00
1	each	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
1	each	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,750.00
1	allowance	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 14,250.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 19,750.00
3	each	\$ 6,500	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,500	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 28,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 19,500.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 28,500.00
Sub Total All Items					\$ 122,255.93	\$ 152,111.20	\$ 184,581.00
Contingency 10%					\$ 12,225.59	\$ 15,211.12	\$ 18,458.10
Cash Allowance 5%					\$ 6,112.80	\$ 7,605.56	\$ 9,229.05
Design Fees 10%					\$ 14,059.43	\$ 17,492.79	\$ 21,226.82
City Management Fee 8%					\$ 12,372.30	\$ 15,393.65	\$ 18,679.60
HST 2.16%					\$ 3,911.45	\$ 4,866.63	\$ 5,905.47
GRAND TOTAL					\$ 170,937.49	\$ 212,680.96	\$ 258,080.03

9. Sunnybrook Park

#	Item	Description
1.0 Site Preparation		
1.1	Mobilization and Demobilization	Startup and closeout, access, bonding, permits, insurance, general requirements
1.2	Site Control	Welded Wire Mesh Fence (surrounding park)
1.3	Site Control Signage	Signage posted at regular intervals
1.4	Tree Control Fencing	Tree protection fencing internal to site
1.5	Silt Control	Around perimeter, at drainage swales and drainage infrastructure
1.6	Clearing and Grubbing	Including removal of existing vegetation, roots and any surfacing
2.0 Surfacing		
2.1	Grass Seed Mix	Including surface preparation
3.0 Paving		
3.1	Asphalt Pathway	1.8 m wide pathway
3.2	Bench Concrete Pad	2.5 m x 1.0 m pad
4.0 Fencing		
4.1	Steel Single Gate	Per gate
5.0 Amenities		
5.1	Agility Equipment	Approximately 5 elements
5.2	Benches	On existing concrete pad
5.3	Multi-Tier Drinking Fountain	Using existing water line exists
5.4	Community Notice Boards	Locking message board with lock and key
5.5	By-Law and City Signage	At main entry/exit point
5.6	Interpretive Signage	Per sign
6.0 Lighting		
6.1	Light Fixture	Light, pole and wiring

Figure D.9: Sunnybrook Park Cost Estimate

Quantity	Unit	Unit Price			Cost		
		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
1	%	1.5%	3.0%	5.0%	\$ 3,199.05	\$ 8,665.56	\$ 18,885.90
551	lm	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 8,265.00	\$ 11,020.00	\$ 13,775.00
3	each	\$ 20	\$ 40	\$ 60	\$ 60.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 180.00
640	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 12,800.00
551	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 5,510.00	\$ 8,265.00	\$ 11,020.00
12784	m2	\$ 2	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$ 25,568.00	\$ 51,136.00	\$ 76,704.00
Sub Total					\$ 49,002.05	\$ 88,806.56	\$ 133,364.90
12784	m2	\$ 5	\$ 8	\$ 12	\$ 63,920.00	\$ 102,272.00	\$ 153,408.00
Sub Total					\$ 63,920.00	\$ 102,272.00	\$ 153,408.00
732	m2	\$ 50	\$ 65	\$ 80	\$ 36,600.00	\$ 47,580.00	\$ 58,560.00
5	each	\$ 600	\$ 800	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Sub Total					\$ 39,600.00	\$ 51,580.00	\$ 63,560.00
5	each	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
1	allowance	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 9,000	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 9,000.00
5	each	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 15,000.00
1	each	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
1	each	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,750.00
1	allowance	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
1	each	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 26,750.00	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 39,250.00
12	each	\$ 6,500	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,500	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 96,000.00	\$ 114,000.00
Sub Total					\$ 78,000.00	\$ 96,000.00	\$ 114,000.00
Sub Total All Items					\$ 262,272.05	\$ 377,658.56	\$ 511,082.90
Contingency 10%					\$ 26,227.21	\$ 37,765.86	\$ 51,108.29
Cash Allowance 5%					\$ 13,113.60	\$ 18,882.93	\$ 25,554.15
Design Fees 10%					\$ 30,161.29	\$ 43,430.73	\$ 58,774.53
City Management Fee 8%					\$ 26,541.93	\$ 38,219.05	\$ 51,721.59
HST 2.16%					\$ 8,391.11	\$ 12,082.78	\$ 16,351.55
GRAND TOTAL					\$ 366,707.19	\$ 528,039.90	\$ 714,593.00

10. Wychwood Car Barns Park

#	Item	Description
1.0 Site Preparation		
1.1	Mobilization and Demobilization	Startup and closeout, access, bonding, permits, insurance, general requirements
1.2	Site Control	Welded Wire Mesh Fence (surrounding park)
1.3	Site Control Signage	Signage posted at regular intervals
1.4	Tree Control Fencing	Tree protection fencing internal to site
1.5	Silt Control	Around perimeter, at drainage swales and drainage infrastructure
1.6	Clearing and Grubbing	Including removal of existing vegetation, roots and any surfacing
2.0 Surfacing		
2.1	Crushed Granite	150 mm crushed granite, (including sub drainage - not including irrigation)
5.0 Amenities		
5.1	Medium Shade Structure	3 m x 3 m shade structure
5.2	Agility Equipment	Approximately 5 elements
5.3	Benches	On existing concrete pad
5.4	Community Notice Boards	Locking message board with lock and key
5.5	By-Law and City Signage	At main entry/exit point
6.0 Vegetation		
6.1	Vegetative Border	Dense shrub/perennial planting
7.0 Lighting		
7.1	Light Fixture	Light, pole and wiring

Figure D.10: Wychwood Car Barns Park Cost Estimate

Quantity	Unit	Unit Price			Cost		
		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
1	%	1.5%	3.0%	5.0%	\$ 2,757.75	\$ 7,172.40	\$ 14,715.50
200	lm	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
3	each	\$ 20	\$ 40	\$ 60	\$ 60.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 180.00
232	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 2,320.00	\$ 3,480.00	\$ 4,640.00
200	lm	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
2368	m2	\$ 2	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$ 4,736.00	\$ 9,472.00	\$ 14,208.00
Sub Total					\$ 14,873.75	\$ 27,244.40	\$ 42,743.50
2368	m2	\$ 25	\$ 35	\$ 45	\$ 59,200.00	\$ 82,880.00	\$ 106,560.00
Sub Total					\$ 59,200.00	\$ 82,880.00	\$ 106,560.00
2	each	\$ 40,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
1	allowance	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 9,000	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 9,000.00
4	each	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
1	each	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,750.00
1	allowance	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 96,750.00	\$ 121,000.00	\$ 145,250.00
100	lm	\$ 60	\$ 80	\$ 100	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Sub Total					\$ 6,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
3	each	\$ 6,500	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,500	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 28,500.00
Sub Total					\$ 19,500.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 28,500.00
Sub Total All Items					\$ 198,723.75	\$ 266,324.40	\$ 337,053.50
Contingency 10%					\$ 19,872.38	\$ 26,632.44	\$ 33,705.35
Cash Allowance 5%					\$ 9,936.19	\$ 13,316.22	\$ 16,852.68
Design Fees 10%					\$ 22,853.23	\$ 30,627.31	\$ 38,761.15
City Management Fee 8%					\$ 20,110.84	\$ 26,952.03	\$ 34,109.81
HST 2.16%					\$ 6,357.95	\$ 8,520.76	\$ 10,783.66
GRAND TOTAL					\$ 277,854.34	\$ 372,373.16	\$ 471,266.15

