

MM33.14 - Exploring a New Dog Off-Leash Area Along Aukland Road - by Councillor Amber Morley, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik

October 9, 2025

Attention: Sylwia Przedziecki, City Clerk

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Cc: mayor_chow@toronto.ca; councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca; [Councillor Morley@toronto.ca](mailto:Councillor_Morley@toronto.ca); [Councillor Malik@toronto.ca](mailto:Councillor_Malik@toronto.ca); [Councillor Saxe@toronto.ca](mailto:Councillor_Saxe@toronto.ca)

RE: PH17.2 - Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods – Neighbourhood Retail and Services Study- Phase Two Final Report

**** This Motion is subject to referral to the Etobicoke York Community Council. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral. Communications has been submitted on this Item.***

Dear Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of City Council,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this Motion.

This is recommendation to Refer this motion to the Etobicoke York Community Council for further evaluation whether proposed location is suitable for OLA.

Establishing of OLA in this Hydro corridor within Natural Heritage System requires a careful evaluation to ensure consistency with Criteria and Design Guidance for Toronto's Dogs Off-Leash Areas and this city environmental policies to protect biodiversity.

Explanation:

- In Toronto, the off leash areas (OLAS) and related issues were just recently considered by City Council along **IE20.9 - Toronto's Dog Off-Leash Strategy: A Citywide Approach to Dogs Off-Leash Areas**
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.IE20.9>

"Toronto's Dog Off-Leash Strategy as set out in Attachment 1 to the report (March 27, 2025) from the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, as amended by Parts 2 to 5 below, replacing the People, Dogs and Parks - Off-leash Policy, adopted by City Council at its meeting on January 26 and 27, 2010".

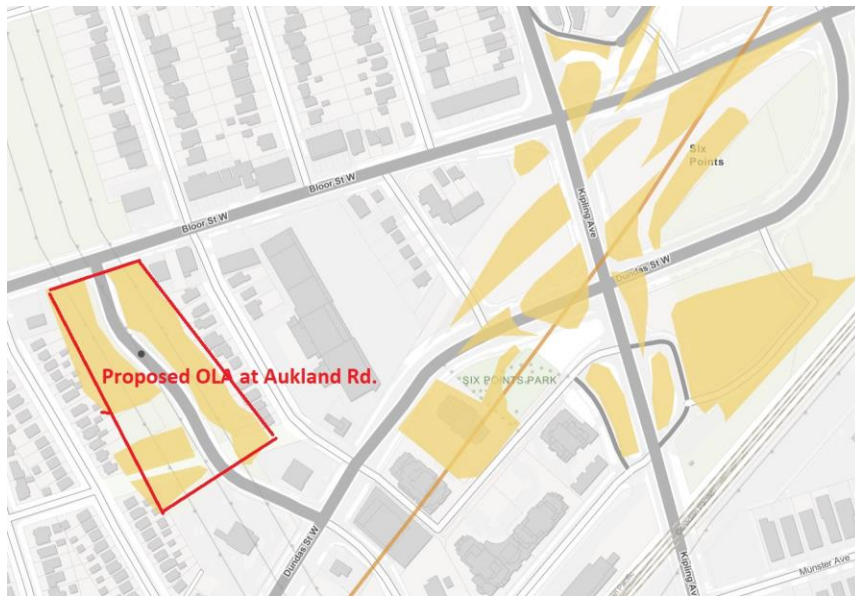
Attachment 1 - Toronto Dog Off-Leash Area Strategy, 2025

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2025/ie/bgnd/backgroundfile-254202.pdf>

Any new proposal must be evaluated along the rules established.

This Strategy includes planned proposals for new OLAS (15) that should be in consistency with the rules. This Motion proposed location is not included.

- **This Member Motion proposes a new OLA on the land** designated as a part of Natural Heritage system at Toronto's Maps
<https://map.toronto.ca/torontomaps/> Yellow fields indicate Natural Heritage System.



This area was evaluated as a part of Etobicoke Greenway Project <https://www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/major-projects/etobicoke-greenway>

Etobicoke Greenway Transmission Line Project Class Environmental Assessment Richview TS x Manby TS Line Rebuild Project <https://www.hydroone.com/about/hydroone/CorporateInformation/majorprojects/EtobicokeGreenway/Documents/Etobicoke%20Greenway%20Final%20ESR%20Report.pdf> **Environmental Study Report**

Some of this area includes woodlands and in general hydro corridors are important part of city biodiversity as providing for fauna connectivity and habitat.

CHAPTER THREE BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL CITYTORONTO OFFICIAL PLAN. Chapter 3,3-45

*“Biodiversity refers to the rich variety of life forms and the critical roles they play within varied ecosystems. Ecological health is related to healthy biodiversity. The greater the biodiversity of a defined geographic area, the greater the ecological health and resiliency of that area. Policies protecting and enhancing the natural heritage system are a key pillar of biodiversity conservation within Toronto. The biodiversity found in small green spaces, street trees, green roofs, community gardens, **hydro corridors**, cemeteries, and backyards also play an important role in our urban ecosystem”.*

In general, OLAS should avoid/reduce impacts on natural environment, which criteria are included in Appendix B for the full Location Criteria and Design Guidance for Toronto’s Dogs Off-Leash Areas. <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2025/ie/bgrd/backgroundfile-254202.pdf>

Yours sincerely,

Lenka Holubec, on behalf of ProtectNatureTO