

City Wide Study of **Existing City of Toronto Dogs Off-Leash Areas (OLA)**

Background

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 eight 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

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.

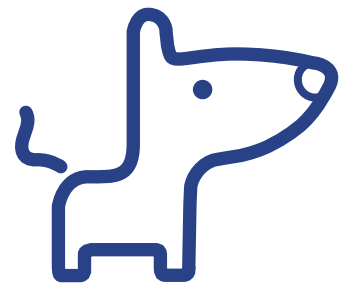
Existing OLAs need to work as well as possible

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.

Goals + Objectives

1. Improve existing OLAs through effective design, maintenance, and operations
2. Foster healthy relationships between dog owners and non-dog owners
3. Elevate OLAs as spaces that provide a healthy, safe, accessible, and sustainable environment
4. Adapt OLA designs to meet operational pressures, such as use and sustainability
5. Develop guidelines to ensure consistent maintenance and operation across Toronto
6. Develop design recommendations that can be applied to all existing OLAs
7. Identify required operating and/or capital budget to maintain & improve existing sites
8. Improve community involvement and develop future ongoing partnerships

Phase One Building Understanding



Work Plan
March 2019

Review and Synthesis of Background Materials
April 2019

External Stakeholder Consultation #1
June 2019

Public Survey #1
July 2019

Internal Stakeholder Consultation
July 2019

Phase Two Testing Ideas

Site Tour of 8 Case Studies
July 2019

Interviews with Local Stakeholders
late July & early August 2019

High Level Concepts
August 2019

External Stakeholder Consultation #2
August 2019

‘Pup’ Ups
September 2019

Public Survey #2
September 2019

Concepts and Recommendations Finalized
October 2019

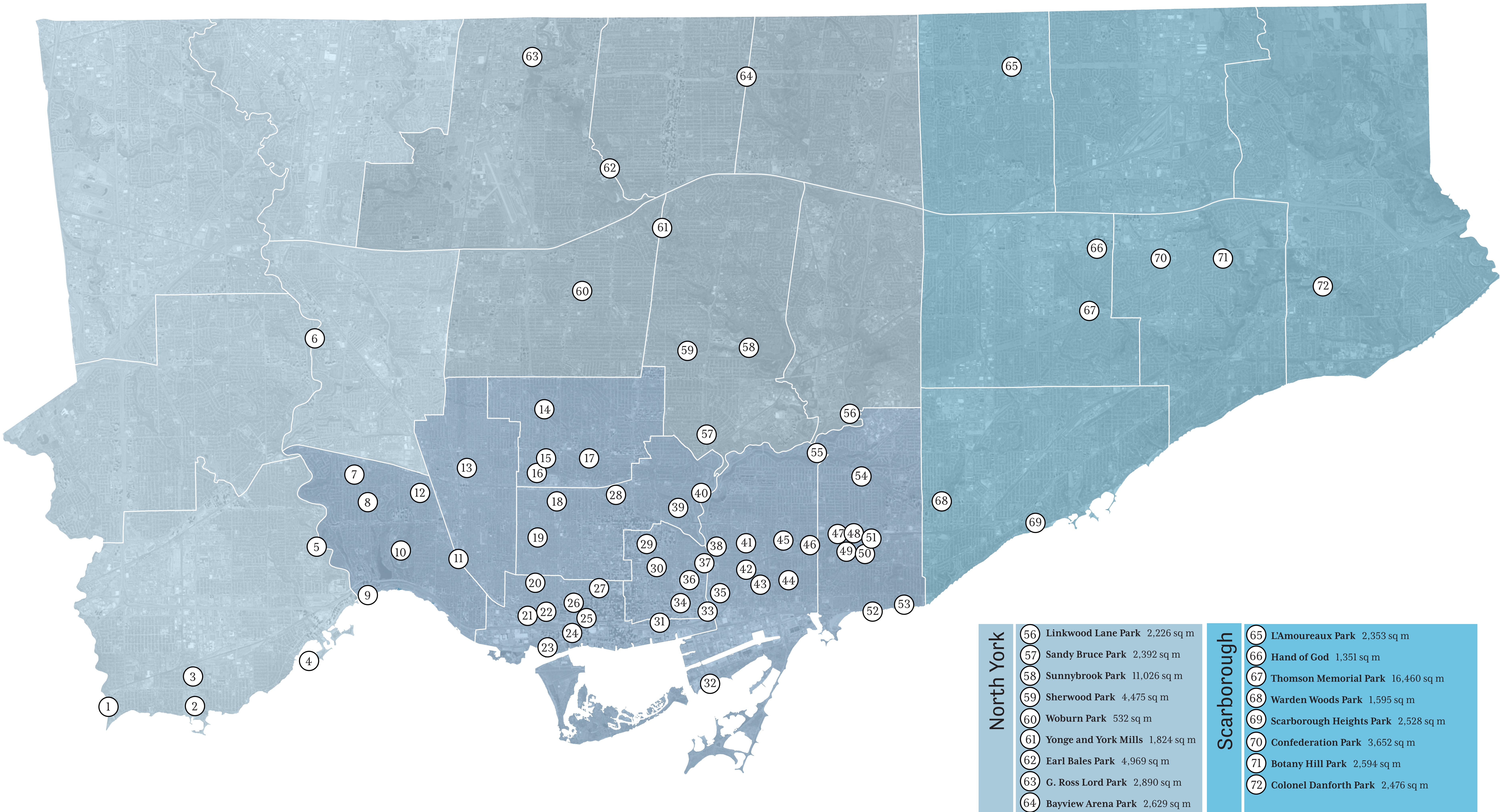
Phase Three Finalizing Recommendations

Draft Report
October 2019

External Stakeholder Consultation #3
October 2019

Final Report
November 2019

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Etobicoke

- 1 Marie Curtis Park 4,764 sq m
- 2 Colonel Sam Smith Park 4,118 sq m
- 3 Don Russell Memorial Park 16,510 sq m
- 4 Humber Bay Park West 6,227 sq m
- 5 King's Mill Park 12,738 sq m
- 6 Raymore Park 3,781 sq m
- 7 Woolner Park 2,450 sq m

Toronto + East York

- 8 Beresford Park 2,805 sq m
- 9 Sir Casimir Gzowski Park 1,678 sq m
- 10 High Park 32,346 sq m
- 11 Sorauren Avenue Park 1,623 sq m
- 12 Baird Park 902 sq m
- 13 Earls court Park 1,785 sq m
- 14 Cedarvale Park (Seasonal) 4,390 sq m
Cedarvale Park (Year Round) 4,838 sq m
- 15 Wychwood Car Barns Park 1,231 sq m
- 16 Hillcrest Park 1,888 sq m
- 17 Sir Winston Churchill Park 4,730 sq m
- 18 Vermont Square 1,240 sq m
- 19 Bickford Park 2,258 sq m
- 20 Trinity Bellwoods Park 15,734 sq m
- 21 Bill Johnston Park 774 sq m
- 22 Stanley Park South 2,165 sq m
- 23 Coronation Park 6,020 sq m
- 24 Canoe Landing (Temporary) 532 sq m
- 25 Clarence Square 1,971 sq m
- 26 St. Andrew's Playground 545 sq m

- 27 Grange Park 624 sq m
- 28 Ramsden Park 2,372 sq m
- 29 Barbara Hall Park 968 sq m
- 30 Allan Gardens 2,650 sq m
- 31 David Crombie Park 1,496 sq m
- 32 Cherry Beach 38,806 sq m
- 33 Corktown Common 422 sq m
- 34 Orphan's Greenspace 1,695 sq m
- 35 Thompson Street Parkette 917 sq m
- 36 Regent Park 836 sq m

- 37 Riverdale Park West 45,247 sq m
- 38 Riverdale Park East 4,417 sq m
- 39 Craigleigh Gardens 6,015 sq m
- 40 Don Valley Brickworks 4,187 sq m
- 41 Withrow Park 4,415 sq m
- 42 Gerrard Carlaw Parkette 1,881 sq m
- 43 Hideaway Park 480 sq m
- 44 Greenwood Park 2,650 sq m
- 45 Greenwood TTC Yard OLA 10,357 sq m
- 46 Monarch Park 12,335 sq m

- 47 Merrill Bridge Road Park 5,005 sq m
- 48 Oakcrest Park 1,330 sq m
- 49 Wildwood Crescent Playground 1,486 sq m
- 50 Cassels Avenue Playground 6,129 sq m
- 51 Norwood Park 1,654 sq m
- 52 Kew Gardens (Beaches Park) 22,774 sq m
- 53 Silverbirch Park 13,844 sq m
- 54 Stan Wadlow Park 2,178 sq m
- 55 Coxwell Ravine (Taylor Creek Park) 1,038 sq m

North York

- 56 Linkwood Lane Park 2,226 sq m
- 57 Sandy Bruce Park 2,392 sq m
- 58 Sunnybrook Park 11,026 sq m
- 59 Sherwood Park 4,475 sq m
- 60 Woburn Park 532 sq m
- 61 Yonge and York Mills 1,824 sq m
- 62 Earl Bales Park 4,969 sq m
- 63 G. Ross Lord Park 2,890 sq m
- 64 Bayview Arena Park 2,629 sq m

Scarborough

- 65 L'Amoureux Park 2,353 sq m
- 66 Hand of God 1,351 sq m
- 67 Thomson Memorial Park 16,460 sq m
- 68 Warden Woods Park 1,595 sq m
- 69 Scarborough Heights Park 2,528 sq m
- 70 Confederation Park 3,652 sq m
- 71 Botany Hill Park 2,594 sq m
- 72 Colonel Danforth Park 2,476 sq m

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Existing OLAs

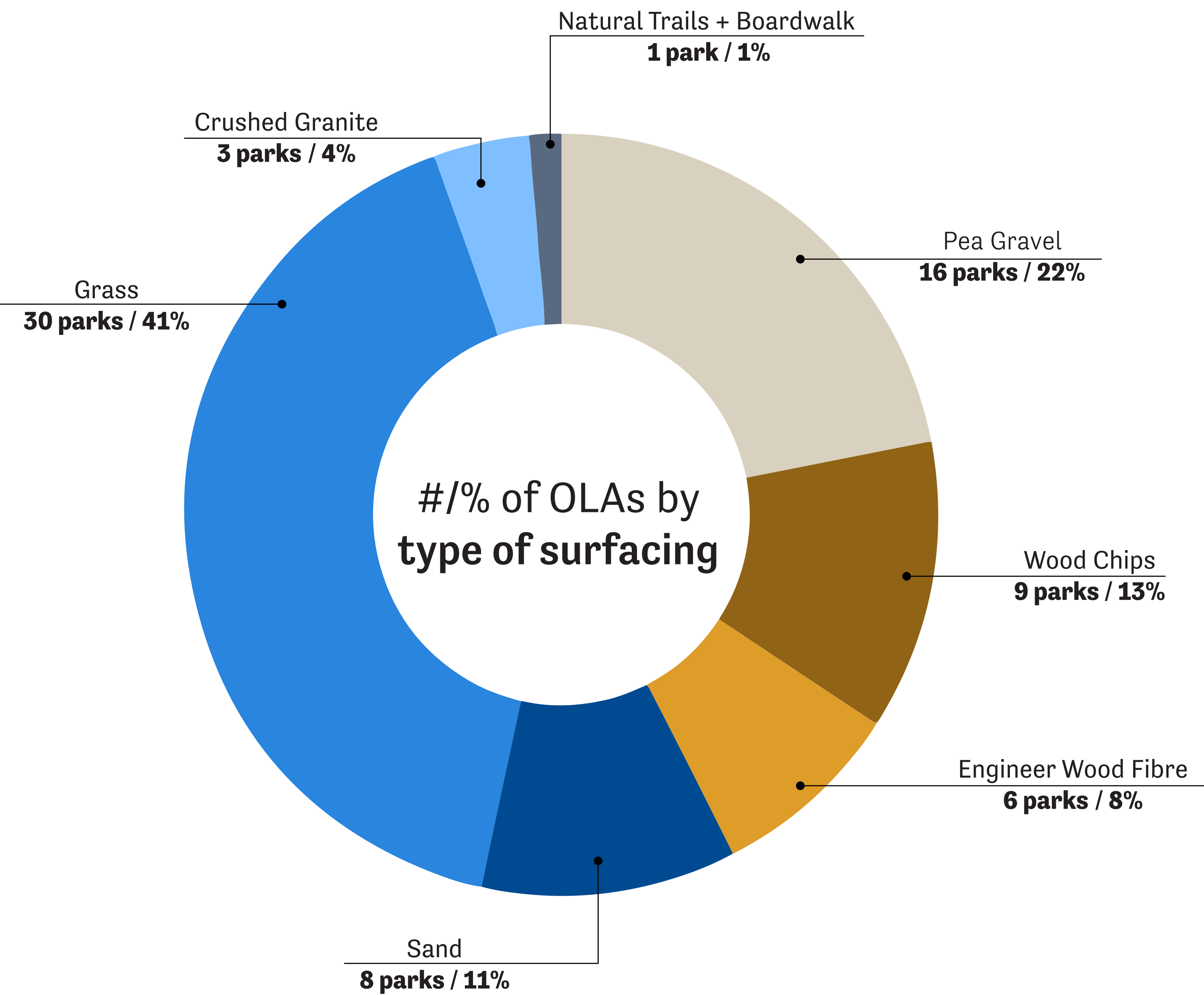
Statistics, Design, Maintenance and Operations

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.

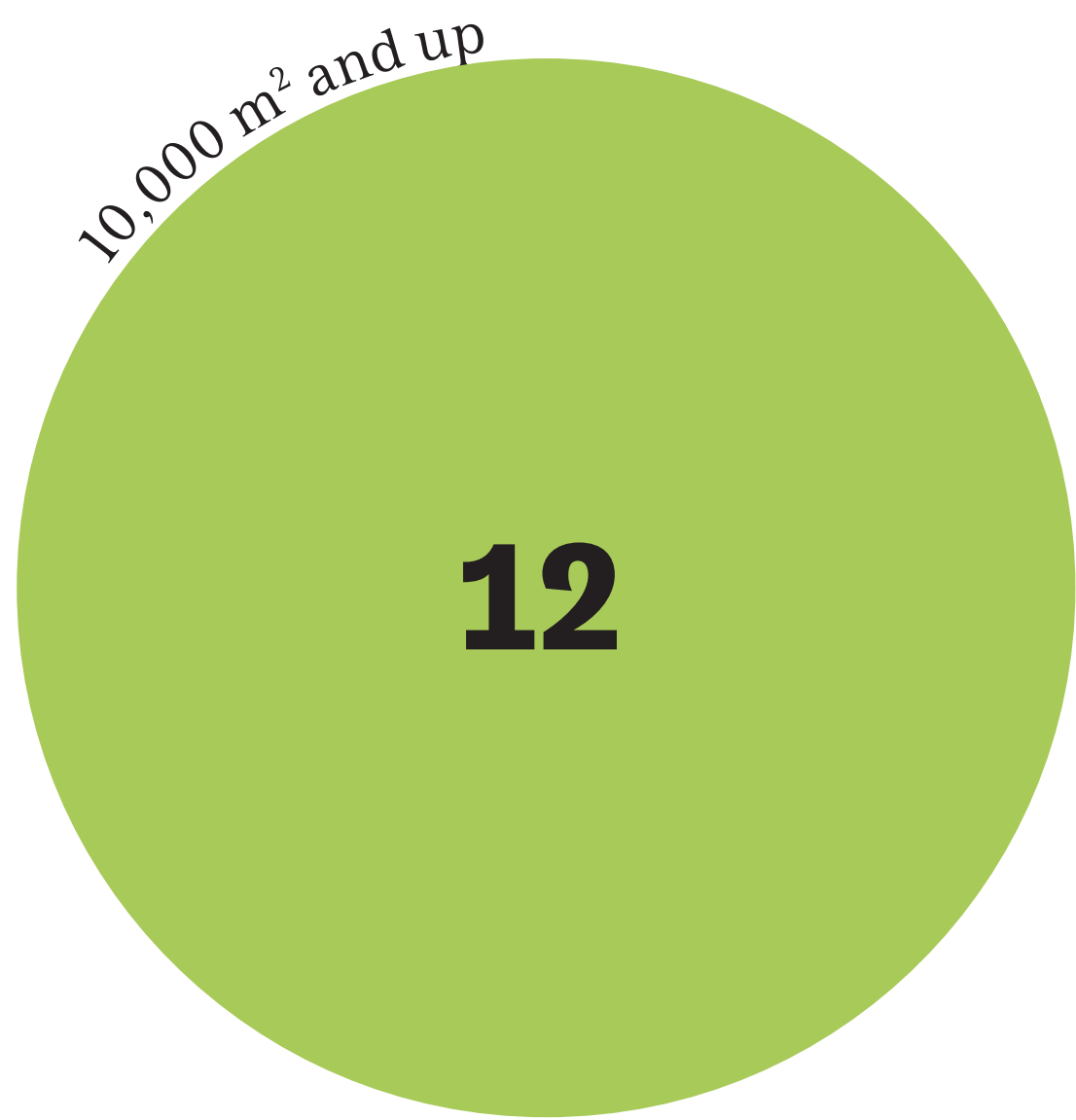
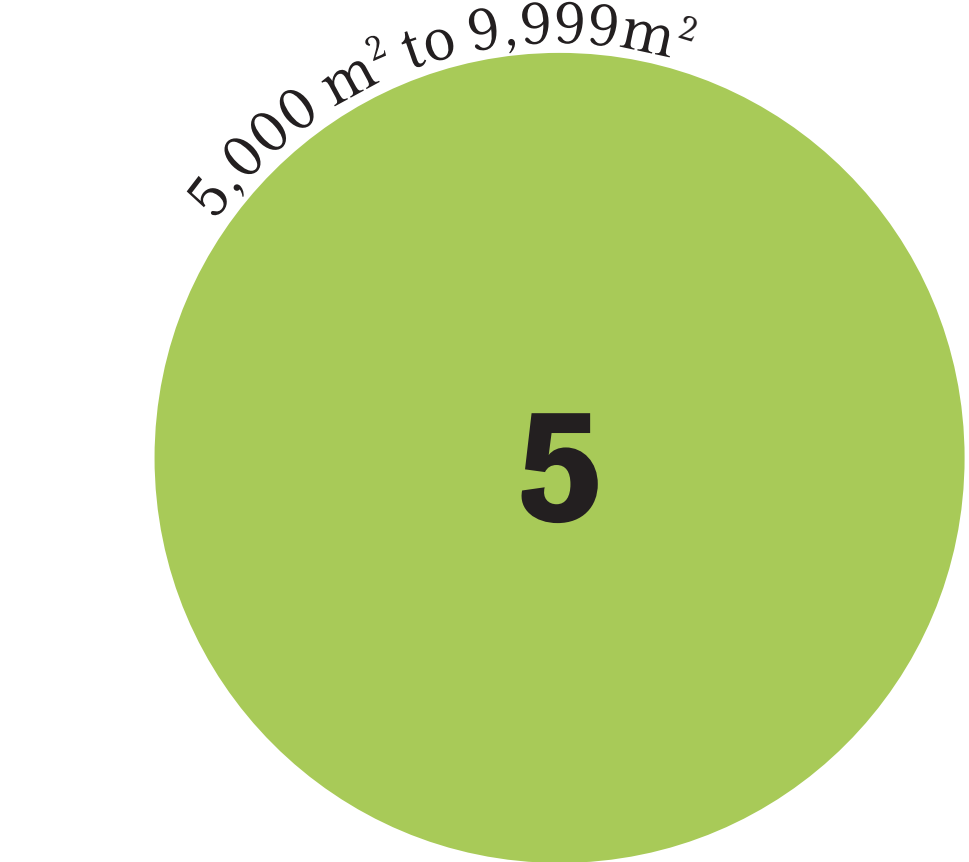
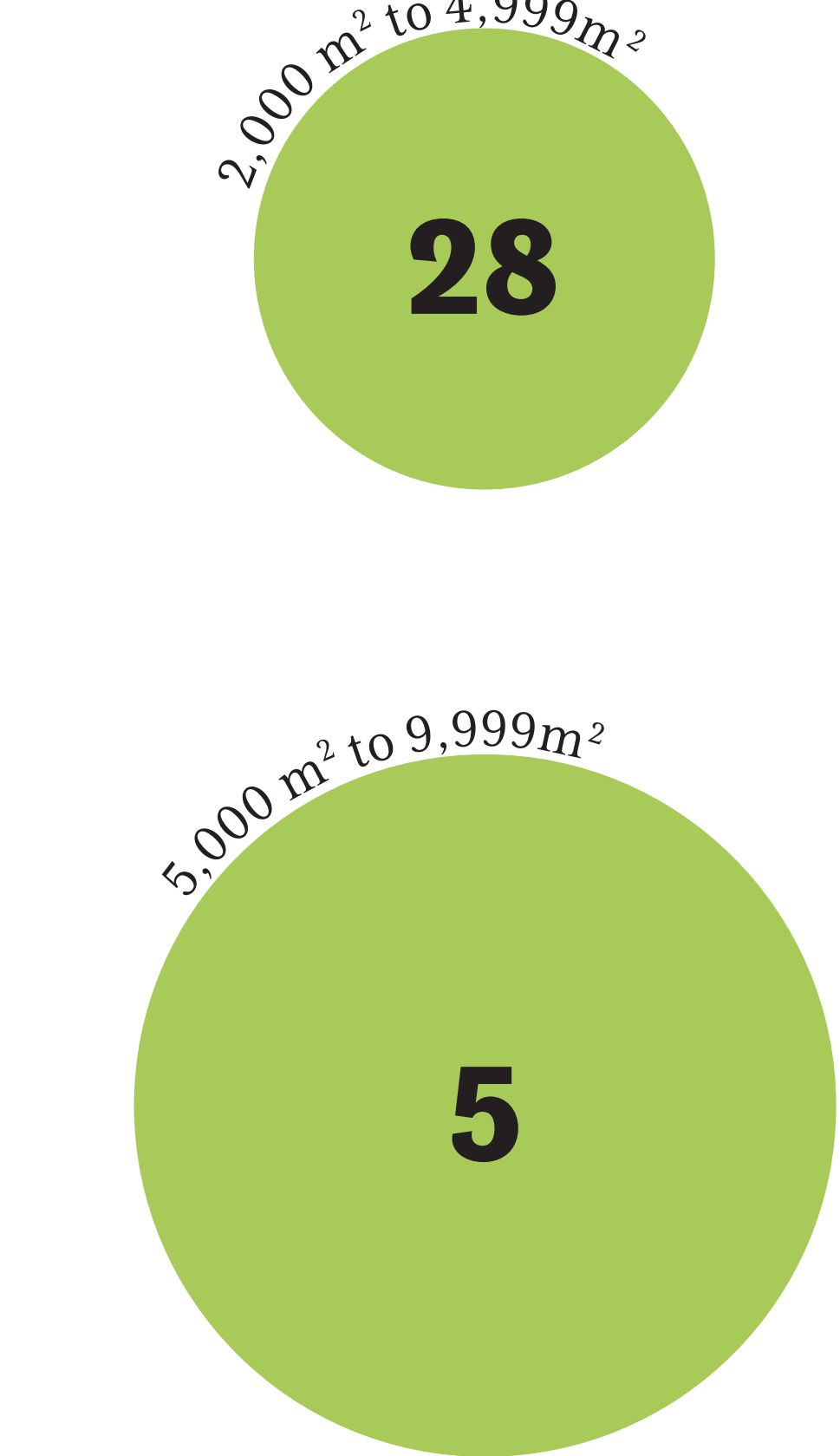
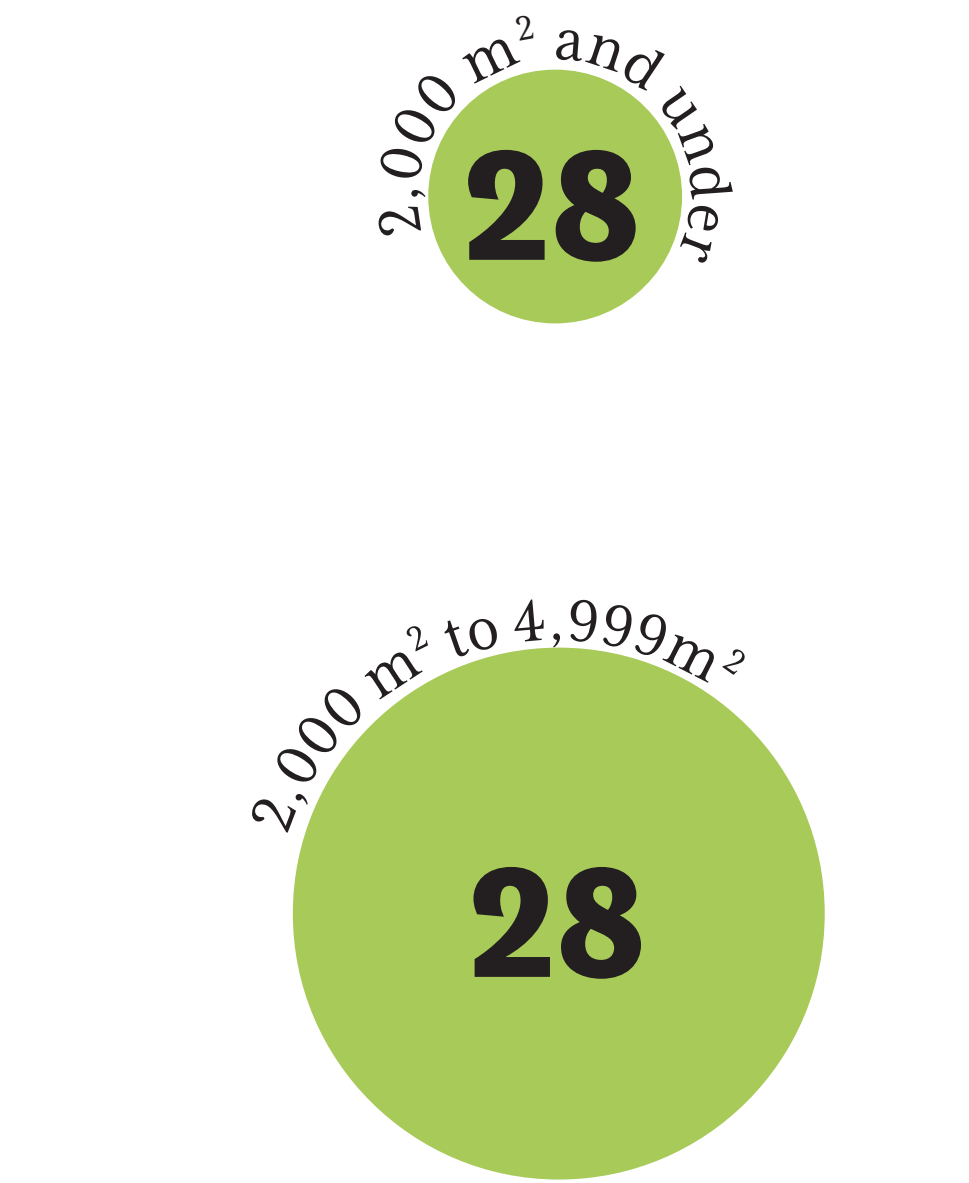
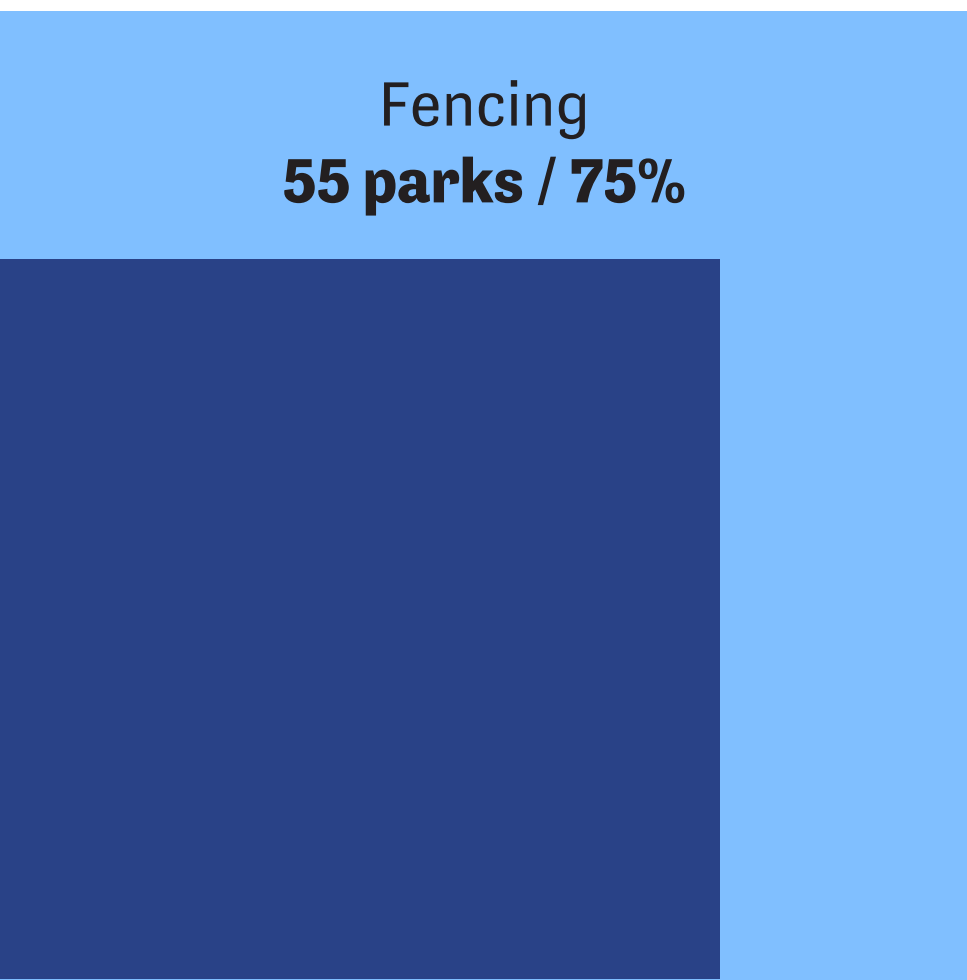
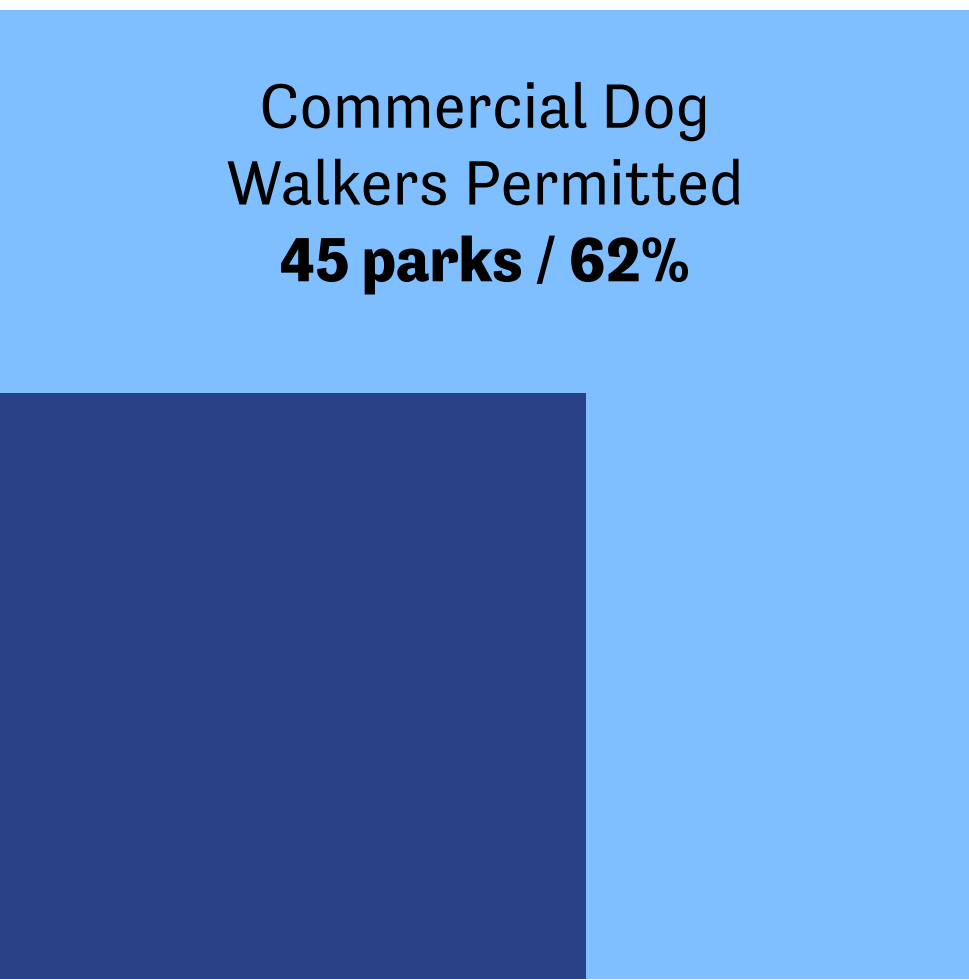
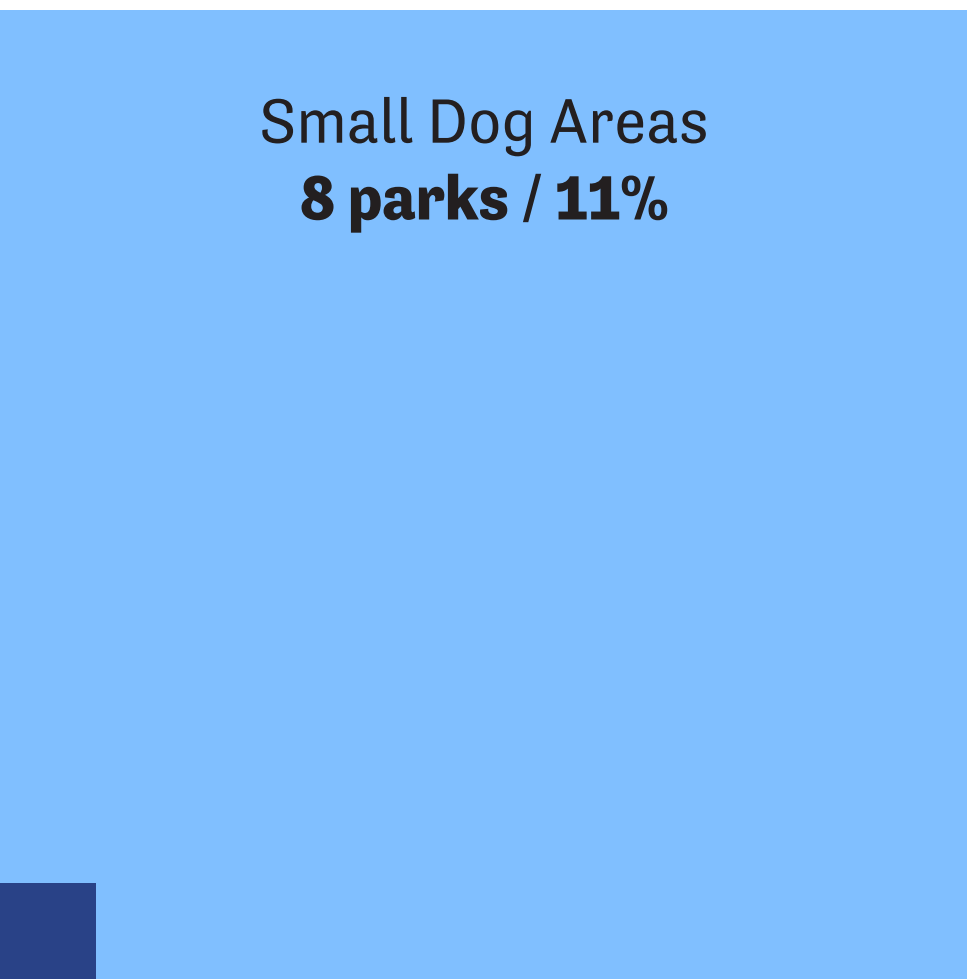
All 73 sites pose their own opportunities and challenges. However, a variety of design elements have proven successful and these can be included in Toronto's OLAs and tailored for each site. Some design elements to consider may include fencing, varying topography, variety of surfacing, shade, seating 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.



largest vs smallest



#of OLAs by size

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Potential Selection Criteria 8 Case Studies Sites

We will examine all existing OLA sites, and with support from City staff, select, examine and evaluate eight (8) case study sites. We will identify needs, and provide design recommendations to improve the sites. It is important to select sites that reflect a variety of challenges presented by parks of different sizes, context and character.

Our potential selection criteria will be based on at a wide variety of considerations. Our understanding is that there are various opportunities and constraints to the existing OLAs, and our goal is ensure our selected case studies represent a diverse range of off-leash areas. Some key considerations are listed on the right. If you feel as though we are missing any key subjects, please let us know in the comment sheets provided.

PARKING	IRRIGATION	SEATING, WASTE BINS, PICNIC TABLES, COMMUNITY BOARDS, ETC.	ACCESSIBILITY
DRAINAGE	LIGHTING	SURFACING VARIETIES	WATER ACCESS
FENCING TYPES	SMALL DOG AREA	SHADE + VEGETATION	ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE
TIME RESTRICTIONS	URBAN VS SUBURBAN	SMALL / MEDIUM / LARGE	FENCE VS NO FENCE

Sample of Best Practices Reviewed Nationally and Internationally



A CONNAUGHT PARK CALGARY, AB



D WASHINGTON PARK CINCINNATI OH



B JEMMYS RUN MANHATTAN, NYC



E RENFREW RAVINE VANCOUVER, BC



G STANLEY PARK TORONTO, ON



I MCCORMICH PLACE PARK



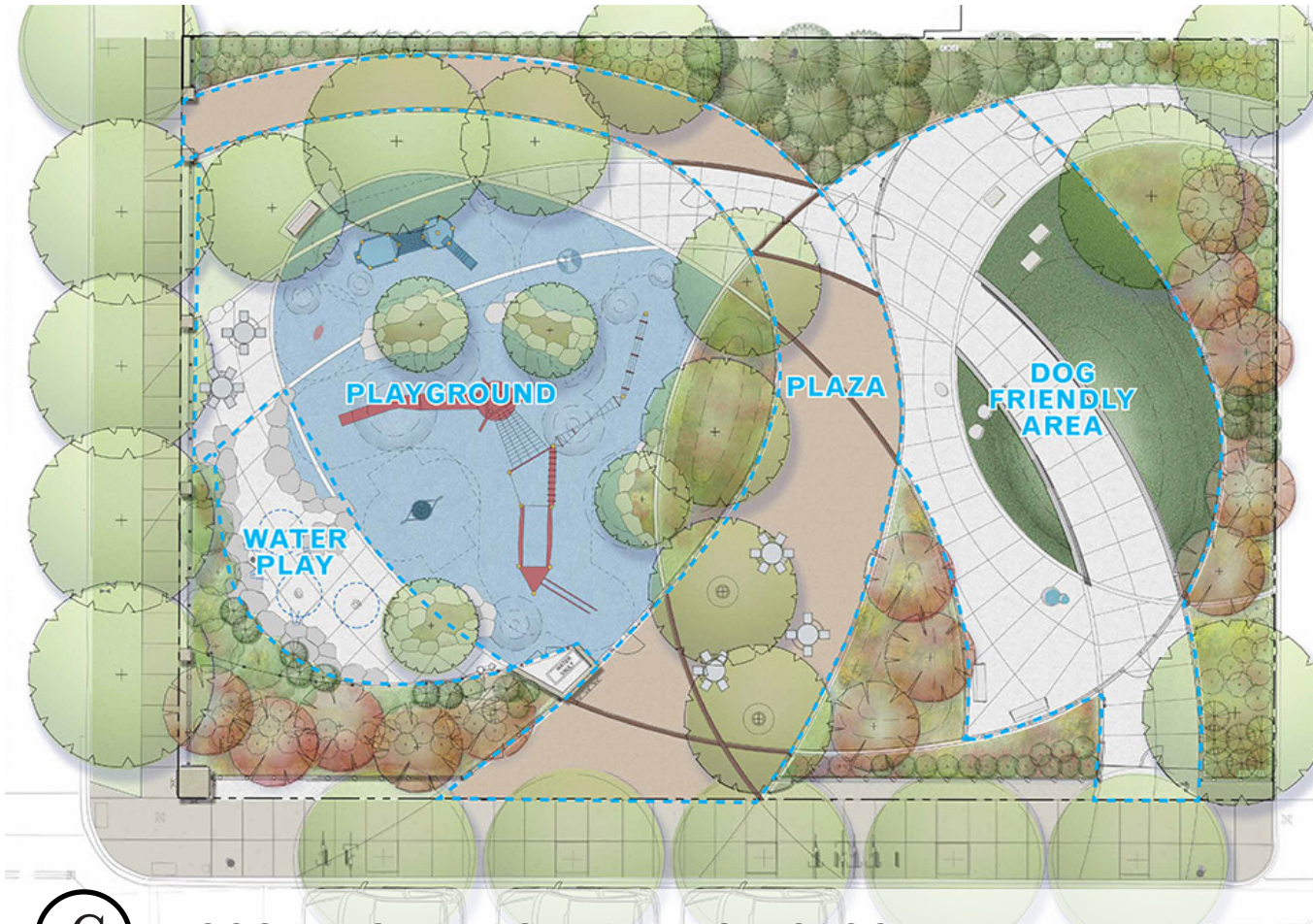
K ALLEN GARDENS TORONTO, ON



L RIVERSTONE PARK LETHBRIDGE, AB



M SKINNER BARK PARK CHICAGO, IL



C MCCORMICH PLACE PARK CHICAGO, IL



H GRANGE PARK TORONTO, ON



J SCHUYLKILL RIVER PARK PHILADELPHIA, PA



N MONTROSE DOG BEACH CHICAGO, IL