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

CHERRY BEACH

Inventory and Analysis

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

What We've Heard

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

Communication
Lack in effective communication between park users.

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

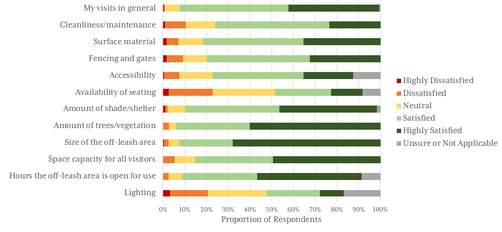
Dog Waste
People not picking up after their dogs.

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

Holes
Dogs digging causes tripping hazards

Gates
Single gate system causes conflict at entry/exit

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



Preliminary Recommendations

Legend

Existing Features
- Gate
- Recycling bin
- Garbage bin
- Green bin
- Features: Agility Features
- Bench
- Boundary
- Existing Tree
- Water Access
- Scrub Vegetation
- Riprap

Recommended Features
- LED Lighting
- New Latch
- Accessible Pathway
- Accessible Seating
- Community Board
- City Signage
- Vegetation Protection
- Proposed Double Gate
- Interpretive Signage

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

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

D3.1 Replace existing latch with upgraded latch

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

D3.2 Replace single gate with double gate system

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

D4.3 Provide accessible pathway within OLA

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

D4.5 Install accessible seating

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

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

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

D4.7 Relocate community boards at main access point

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

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

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

D5.1 Install lighting at main entrance

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

OM Update maintenance procedures

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

OM4 Protect and monitor vegetation health

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