

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

ALLAN GARDENS

Inventory and Analysis

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

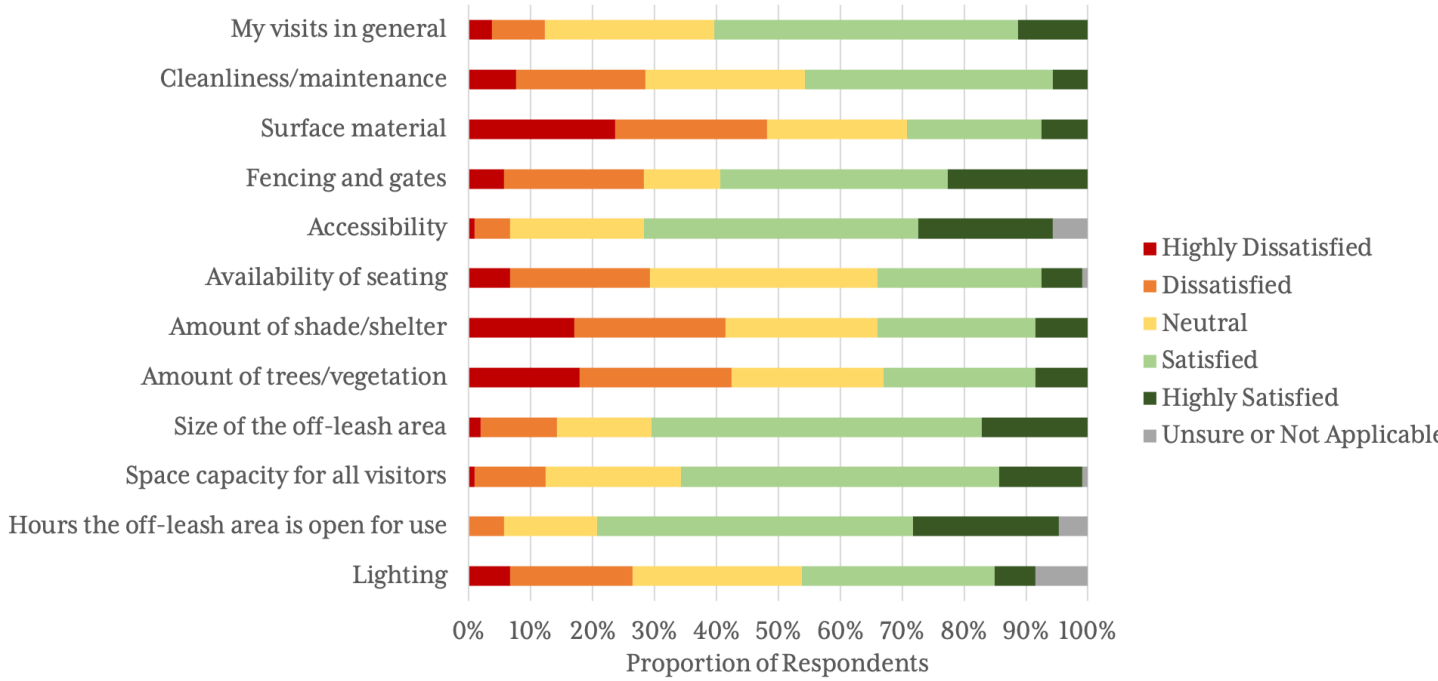


What We've Heard

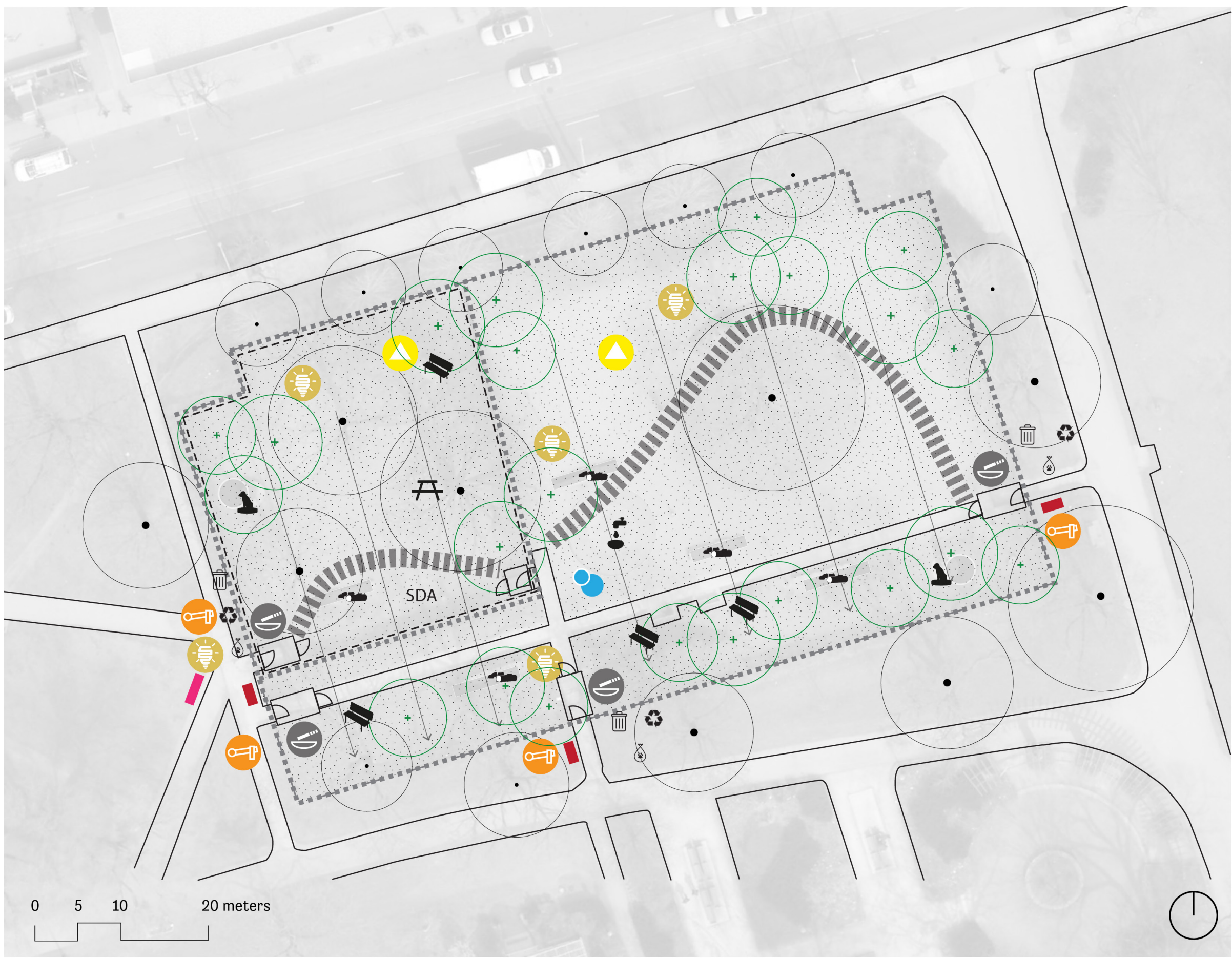
The Allan Gardens Dog Owner's Association has shared these issues

Shade Very limited shade within the general dog area. A large tree was recently lost.	Fencing Larger dogs are able to jump over the fences. Wire mesh along bottom of fence has helped with small dogs but no maintenance of mesh.
Surfacing Mixed feelings about what the best surface material would be: sandy dirt or crushed granite.	Lighting The current lighting is not bright enough and insufficient.
Cigarette Waste Cigarette butts are littering the OLA.	Water No easy access to water within SDA. No human water fountain.

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



Preliminary Recommendations



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

D1.4 Plant fenced trees within OLA Allan Gardens OLA contains mature deciduous trees in varying states of health. Recommendation to plant additional trees within General Area and SDA to provide more shade and ensure a spread of tree ages. Both existing trees and proposed trees will be fenced.	D2.1 Surfacing to be regraded to encourage positive drainage (min 2%) This OLA is flat and suffers from soil compaction, leading to poor drainage. Positive drainage will reduce pooling and puddling, particularly around the splash pad.	D2.8 Install 150mm crushed granite This OLA is heavily used and requires a surfacing that can accommodate and support it's usage. Recommendation to install crushed granite to 150mm depth to encourage proper drainage and reduce muddiness.
D3.1 Replace existing latches with upgraded latch Redesigned latches will make gates more accessible. New latches will be more resilient during winter use.	D3.3 Install steel fencing (min. 1.5m high) Taller fences will prevent large dogs from jumping out of the OLA. Steel fencing also employs a mesh-like structure and will prevent small dogs from squeezing under or through the fence.	D4.1 Install Agility Equipment* This OLA is high use but small in size. Agility equipment could provide more opportunity for rigorous play within the OLA and promote exercise. *Please note that any and all agility equipment will need to go through a professional inspection process prior to installation and yearly during use.
D4.3 Provide additional accessible pathway within OLA Providing accessible, paved pathways (meeting AODA standards) encourages directive exercise within the OLA, and allows a larger proportion of dog owners to make use of the OLA. Recommendation for path that enters and goes through SDA.	D4.4 Install ashtrays at access points In an effort to prevent cigarette butts from littering the OLA, recommendation is to install outdoor ashtrays near all main access points.	D4.6 Install City signage within OLA and prior to main access point Signage prior to entry will allow non OLA users to determine whether they are eligible to use OLA. Signage within OLA allows current users to become familiar with any changes to by-laws or Codes of Conduct.
D4.7 Install community boards at main access point Community boards provide a place where OLA users are able to post notices about community events, lost and found, and local news.	D5.5 Replace lighting with LED Where lighting currently exists, replace lights with LEDs. LEDs provide brighter lights and better durability while providing a reduced impact on the environment.	D6.1 Install multi-tier drinking fountain There is an existing informal drinking splash pad within the OLA, however a multi-tier drinking fountain would provide drinking water for all users and would eliminate the need to bring water bowls.
		OM Update maintenance procedures Maintenance will perform weekly inspections, monitor and maintain splash pad and irrigation, and protect and monitor vegetation health for all trees. Trees will be fenced off for protection.