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

SANDY BRUCE PARK

Inventory and Analysis	
Topography	~2-3% slope
Small Dog Area	no
Access Area	grass and dirt pathways
Surfacing	woodchips/EWF; material migration
Fencing style	omega/steel fencing on border with rest of parkland; old chain-link on border with private property; chain- link gates
Fencing height	1 m
Fence condition	old fencing is overgrown in some areas
Gates	2 double gates from outside OLA
Exits/Entrances	2; one to the north, one to the east
Trees	~ll mature trees; urine rings and basal damage with stripped bark; little root damage; perimeter trees outside OLA are healthy
Other vegetation	shrubs and groundcover along western edge

Preliminary Recommendations



The Sandy Bruce 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.



Legend

- **Existing Features**
- Double-gated Entry/Exit
- Recycling bin
- 🛅 Garbage bin
- 🕉 Green bin Nench Bench
- Features: Agility (\cdot) Existing Tree

Recommended Features

- Grass Seed Mix (fescue mix)
- Wood chip / EWF
- ED Lighting
- New Latch
- Accessible Seating
- **IIII** Accessible Pathway Community Board
- Accessible Drinking Fountain
- **R** Vegetation Protection
- Concrete Pad
- City Signage



Install dual surfacing

Sandy Bruce OLA currently has wood chips/EWF. As this is a medium to high use park, woodchips are recommended. However, since this park is sloped there is lots of material migration. A mix of grass seed (fescue mix) will be implemented to help stabilize and reduce erosion/ migration.



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.



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.





What We've Heard

The Sandy Bruce Dog Owner's Association has shared these issues

Communication

Disappointed with the response rate from the City. Concerned that issues are not being tracked and/or recorded. Lack of information to DOA Rep to share with OLA users.

Slope and Drainage

Sandy Bruce is on a large slope and it's difficult to maneuver in the winter months with ice and snow. Pooling at base of slope.

Gates and Concrete Pads

- Significant snow and ice buildup as the concrete is flush with the ground. Poor drainage causes pooling and ice build up.
- Surface Maintenance Surfacing needs to be topped up more consistently. Concern that other parks get more attention. Replenishment should be done on a schedule.

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





Replace existing latches with upgraded latch

Redesigned latches will make gates more accessible. New latches will be more resilient during winter use.



Install concrete pad at all access points

This OLA has existing concrete pad entries, however they are flush with the ground and have poor drainage that causes pooling. Concrete pad to be regraded to ensure positive drainage to eliminate pooling.



Install accessible seating

Providing accessible seating (meeting AODA standards) will allow for more comfort while spending time in the OLA. Those with mobility constraints will be able to make use of the OLA.



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.



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.



D6.1 Install multi-tier drinking fountain*

There is no existing water fountain within Sandy Bruce. Installing a multitier drinking fountain for all OLA users. Surrounding surfacing would include gravel or concrete to ensure proper drainage and limit pooling and puddles.

*If existing waterline exists



OM Update maintenance procedures

Maintenance will perform weekly inspections, install surface bins for users to repair holes created by digging, monitor and maintain surface bin contents, and protect and monitor vegetation health for all trees and grassed areas.