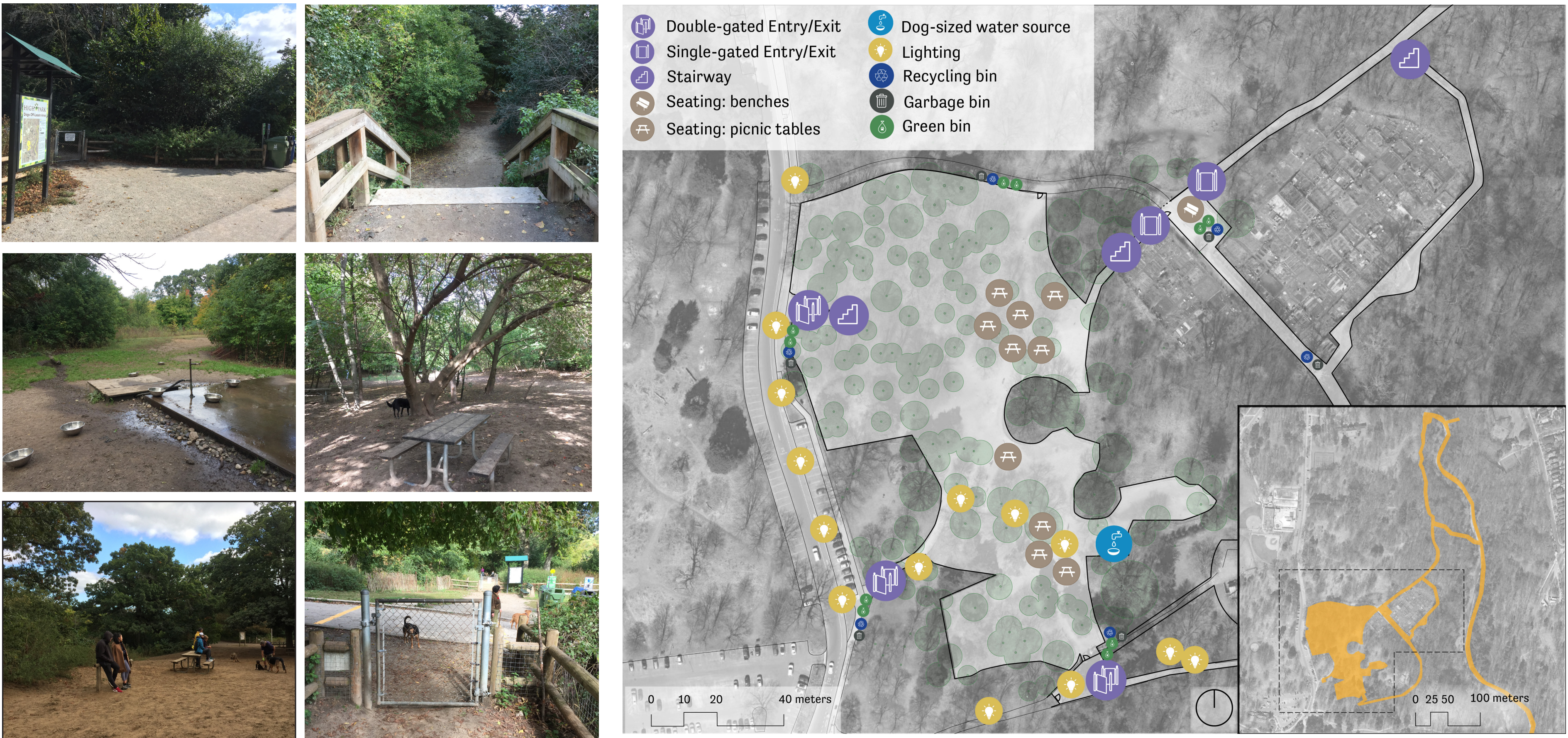


City Wide Study of Existing City of Toronto Dogs Off-Leash Areas (OLA)

HIGH PARK

Inventory and Analysis

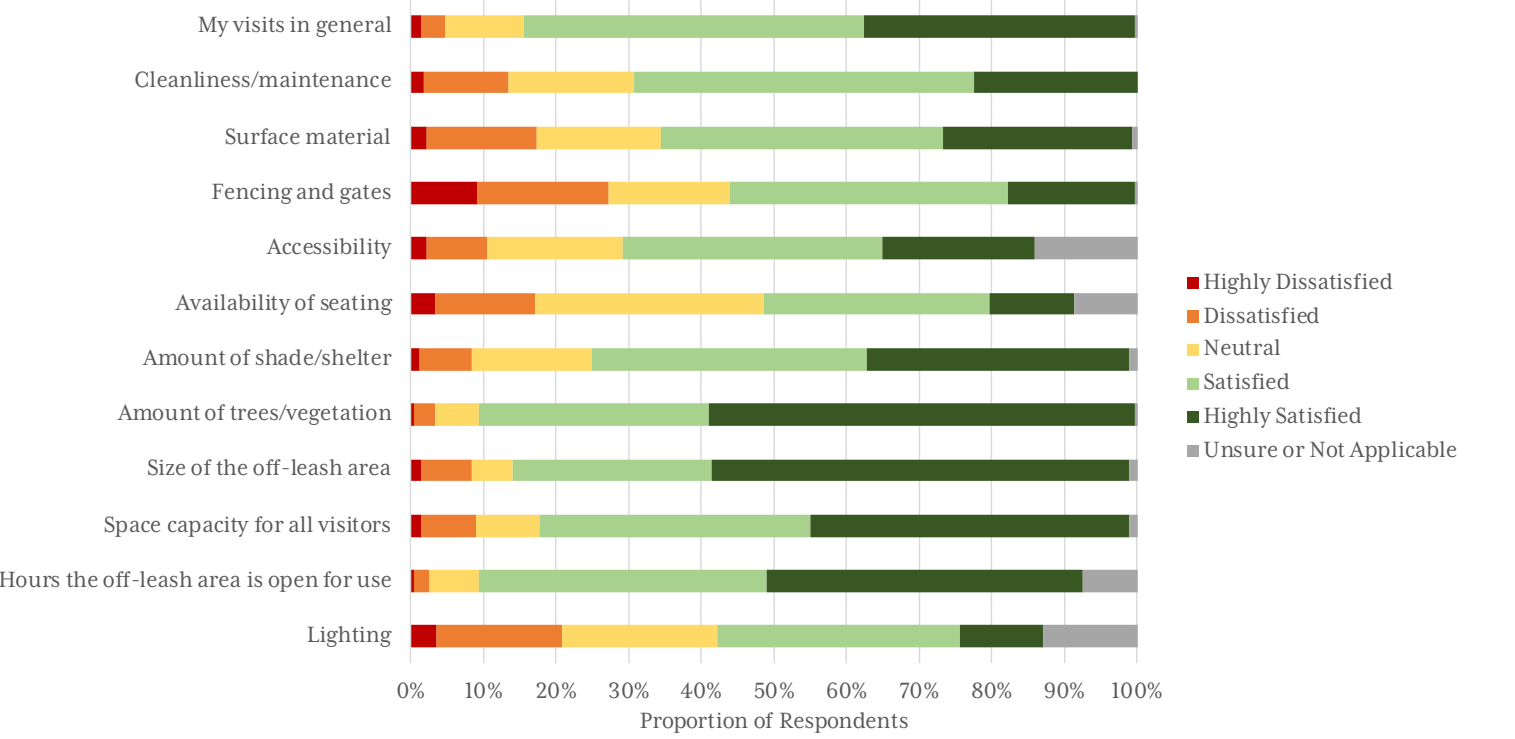
Topography	varies; 2-9% slope
Small Dog Area	no
Access Area	paved pathway
Surfacing	sand/grass/natural surface holes and digging damage erosion
Fencing style	post and paddle with wire mesh
Fencing height	1.2 m
Fence condition	Rusted, poor condition, breaks and gaps, warping/sagging, some unsafe conditions.
Gates	3 double-gated, 2 single-gated
Exits/Entrances	5 (Off-Leash Park area)
Trees	5+ with roots exposed, damaged 3 urine ring damage, root flare damage; 1 dead tree; many areas with healthy trees.
Other vegetation	Environmentally Sensitive Area – shrub and groundcover varies.



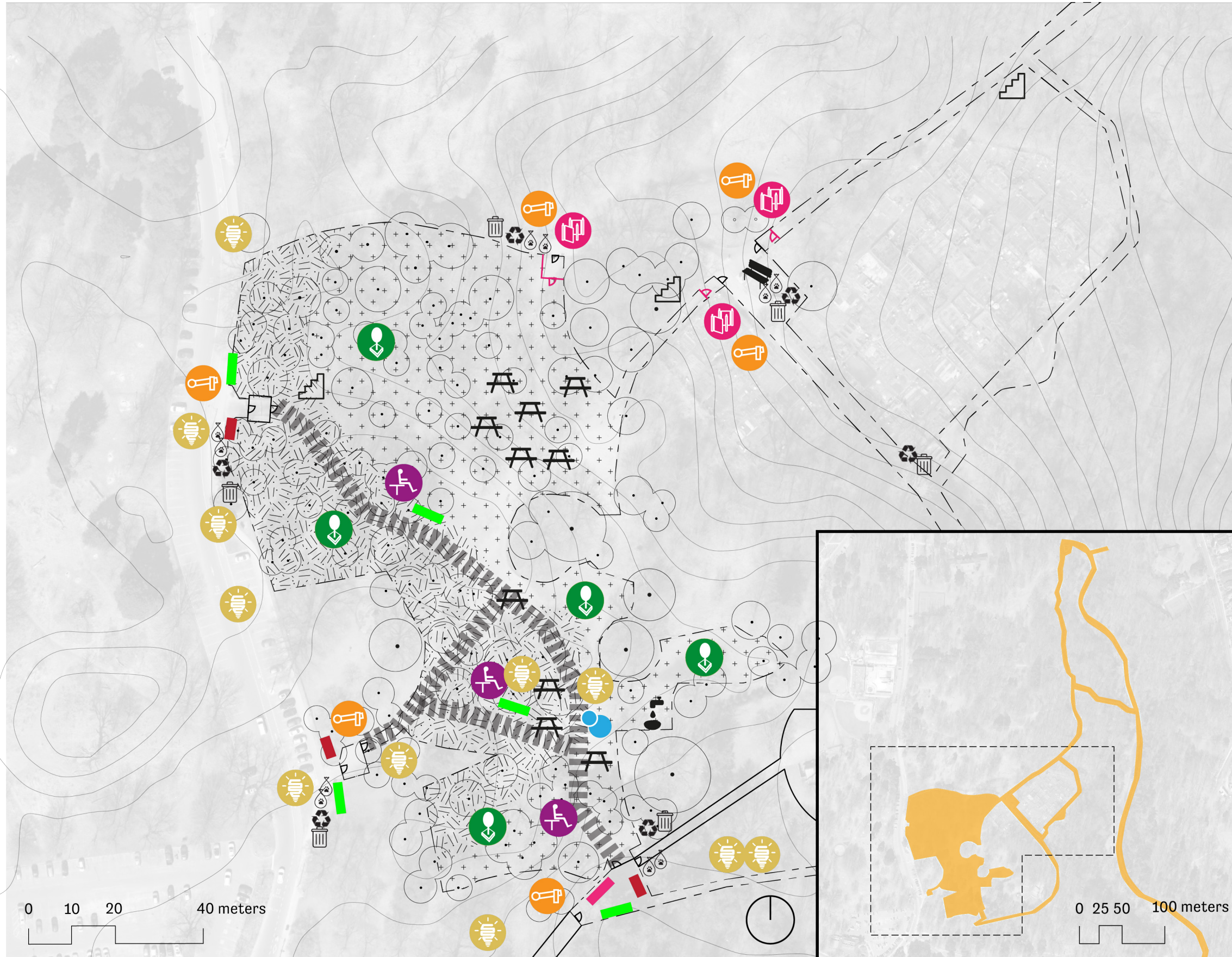
What We've Heard

- The High Park Dog Owner's Association has shared these issues
- Communication**
Lack in communication between park staff and the park users.
 - Gate Damage**
Gates are damaged and no longer function effectively.
 - Erosion**
Spring Road entry has significant erosion. Safety is a concern.
 - Waste Management**
No green bins located at main entry/exit. Dog waste being left on the ground.
 - Fencing**
Inconsistent fencing, various holes and damage. Dogs escaping and getting injured.
 - ESA Education**
Lack of understanding and education about the importance of an ESA.

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



Preliminary Recommendations



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

The High Park 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.

- D2.2** Install dual surfacing
Install grass seed mix (fescue mix) on east side of proposed path to help stabilize the slope and prevent further erosion. Install 200mm depth of wood chips on the west side of the proposed path within the flatter areas.
- 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 all single gate with double gate system
Most of the existing gates at High Park are double gate, however the connection at Spring Road are single gates. Proposed solution is to modified existing single gates to double gate with concrete pad.
- D3.4** Install ESA compatible fencing
There is already fencing around this OLA. There are many holes that have required repairs. Fencing is inconsistent. The recommendations to increase the height of the fence to 1.5m in order to adhere to best practices in dog park design. Work needs to be further investigated as it relates to the ESA.
- 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 as well as a linear pathway that connected the entrances.
- D4.4** 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.
- D4.5** Install accessible seating
Providing accessible seating (meeting AODA standards) will allow for more comfort while spending time in the OLA.
- 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.
- D5.5** Replace existing lights 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 accessible multi-tier drinking fountain
The is an existing drinking hose 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, protect and monitor vegetation health and state of good repair, install surface bins in OLA to users to repair holes created by digging, and top up wood-chip surfacing twice a year.
- 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 at the base.