

City of Markham

Off-Leash Dog Area Guidelines

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DRAFT





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thinc design

Liberty Market Building

171 East Liberty Street, Unit 204

Toronto, ON M6K 3P6



studio@thincdesign.ca



thincdesign.ca

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1.0 Purpose and Scope

This document will set out the guidelines for determining designated off-leash dog areas in Markham and aid the City in establishing and standardizing new off-leash dog areas to ensure consistency, quality, and efficiency throughout the City.

Topics discussed include:

1. Classification hierarchy for service level;
2. Design guidelines;
3. Site selection criteria;
4. Operations and maintenance; and,
5. Education and enforcement.

2.0 Service Areas and Classification

The location and distribution of off-leash dog areas is important to ensure residents have appropriate access to off-leash facilities within their community. Additionally, the level of service should be considered, as off-leash dog areas may vary in the amenities and experiences they offer. For example, smaller off-leash dog areas offer less amenities and should be located within walking distance. Larger community off-leash dog areas offer more amenities and should be equally distributed throughout Markham.

Three (3) types of off-leash dog areas are proposed:

1. Urban
2. Neighbourhood
3. Community

Each with a different target service area, size, types of features and amenities. Table 2.1 highlights the key difference for each type of off-leash dog area. However, the considerations provided under each type are only a guide and should be flexible in consideration of community-specific needs and characteristics that might result in varying from these guidelines.

Pop-Up/Temporary Off-Leash Dog Area

Off-leash dog areas proposed within new or upcoming parks not identified in the Off-Leash Dog Area Implementation Plan will follow the pop-up/temporary off-leash dog area process. These enclosed pop-up spaces assess site suitability for a potential permanent facility. Temporary construction fencing and gates will define the area (see Appendix A, Detail OLA23 & OLA24), while target service area, size, parking and small dog area considerations will generally align with the desired off-leash dog area service level (Table 2.1).



Table 2.1 - Off-Leash Dog Area Service Levels

Topic	Urban ¹	Neighbourhood	Community
General Description	A fenced area within intensification areas that provides a relief area for dogs.	A fenced area that serves the direct surrounding neighbourhood and community within walking distance.	A fenced area that serves the larger portion of the community within a long walk or short drive away. A community off-leash dog area will also adopt the neighbourhood off-leash dog area target service area (1.5 km or 1,500-metres) to better reflect the service needs of nearby residents.
Target Service Area	1.5 km (1,500-metre)	1.5 km (1,500-metre)	3.75 km (3,750-metre)
Size	0.04-0.1 ha (400-1,000 m ²)	0.1-0.3 ha (1,000-3,000 m ²)	0.3-0.5 ha (3,000-5,000 m ²)
Parking	Not Required	Recommended (Street Parking)	Required
Small Dog Area	Sizes >1,000 m ²	Required	Required
Fencing/ Screens	Chain Link Fence or Decorative Metal Fence (3.1.2 Fencing, Buffers, Gates and Entrances)	Chain Link Fence or Post and Rail Fencing with Wire Mesh Infill (3.1.2 Fencing, Buffers, Gates and Entrances)	Chain Link Fence or Post and Rail Fencing with Wire Mesh Infill (3.1.2 Fencing, Buffers, Gates and Entrances)
Surfacing	Wood Fibre or Artificial Turf (3.1.1 Surface Materials)	Wood Fibre (3.1.1 Surface Materials)	Wood Fibre or Natural Turf (3.1.1 Surface Materials)
Gates and Entrances	Single double-gated entrance with concrete transition area (3.1.2 Fencing, Buffers, Gates and Entrances)	Single double-gated entrance with concrete transition area and maintenance gate (3.1.2 Fencing, Buffers, Gates and Entrances)	Single or multiple double-gated entrance(s) with concrete transition area and maintenance gate (3.1.2 Fencing, Buffers, Gates and Entrances)
Sub-drainage	Required	Required	Required
Water Service	Required	Required	Required
Planting	If Space Permits	Required	Required
Seating	Recommended	Required	Required
Sponsorship Opportunities	Shade Structure	Shade Structure	Shade Structure

¹ New developments within intensification areas are encouraged to provide private off-leash dog areas in private amenity spaces, and/or pet relief areas.

ESTABLISHED OFF-LEASH DOG AREAS

- A** **Huntington Park** (7086 m²)
Community - TSA: 3750-metre (3.75 km)
- B** **Cornell Community Park** (3116 m²)
Community - TSA: 3750-metre (3.75 km)
- C** **Box Grove Park** (2800 m²)
Neighbourhood - TSA: 1500-metre (1.5 km)
- D** **Miller Ave Park** (4694 m²)
Community - TSA: 3750-metre (3.75 km)

POP-UP/PILOT OFF-LEASH DOG AREAS

- 1** **Cricklewood Park** (1034 m²)
Neighbourhood - TSA: 1500-metre (1.5 km)
- 2** **Victoria Square Park** (679 m²)
Urban - TSA: 1500-metre (1.5 km)
- 3** **Monarch Park** (1720 m²)
Neighbourhood - TSA: 1500-metre (1.5 km)
- 4** **Mintleaf Park** (2000 m²)
Neighbourhood - TSA: 1500-metre (1.5 km)
- 5** **Blodwen Davies Park** (1050 m²)
Neighbourhood - TSA: 1500-metre (1.5 km)
- 6** **Berczy Park South** (2020 m²)
Neighbourhood - TSA: 1500-metre (1.5 km)
- 7** **Aaniin Community Centre** (1518 m²)
Neighbourhood - TSA: 1500-metre (1.5 km)
- 8** **Ada Mackenzie Park** (1560 m²)
Neighbourhood - TSA: 1500-metre (1.5 km)

Service Levels of Existing Off-Leash Dog Areas

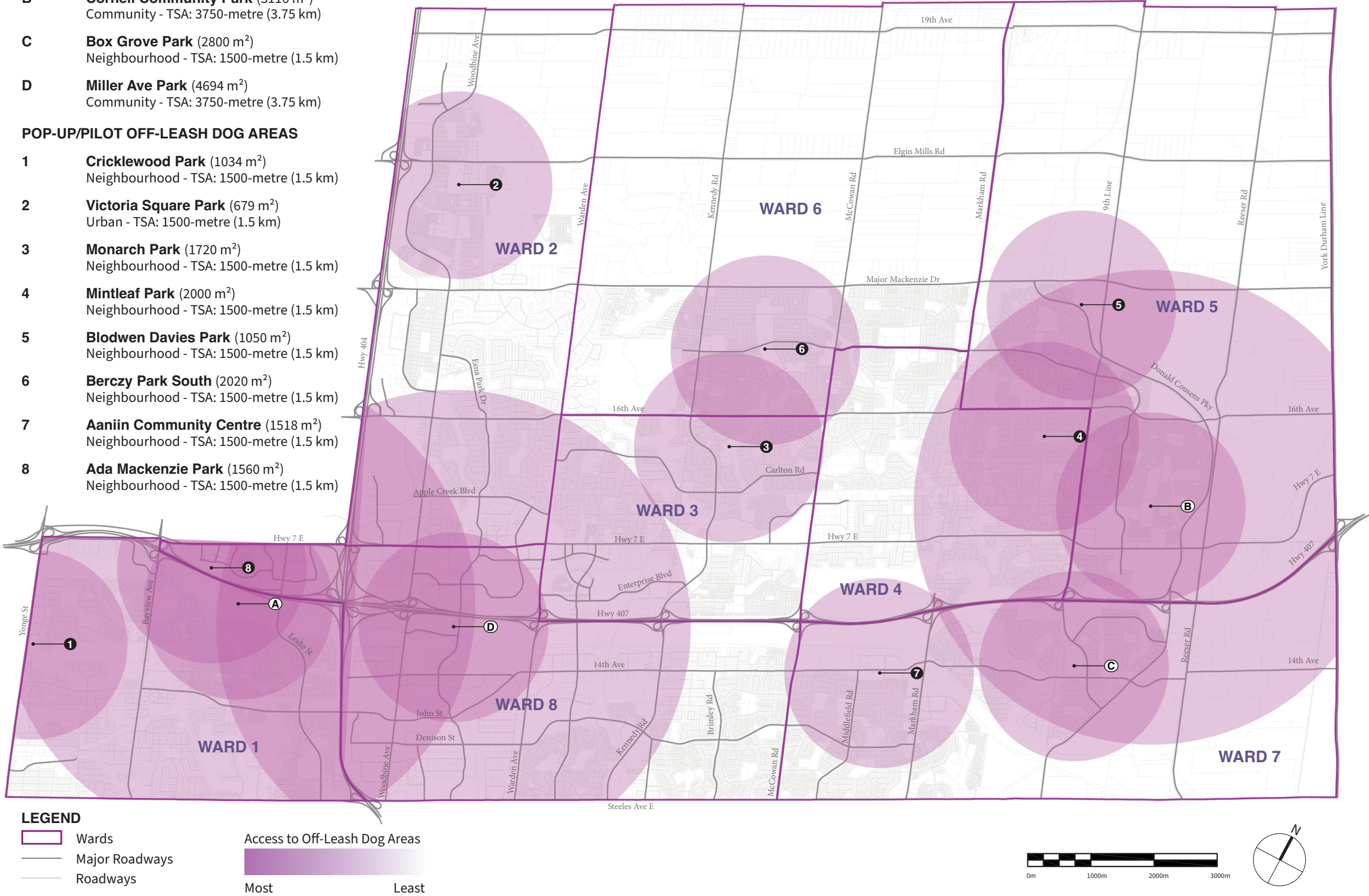


Figure 2.1 - Service Levels of Existing Off-Leash Dog Areas

3.0 Design Guidelines

Off-leash design standards can be organized into three (3) categories: standard, sponsorship and non-permitted features.

Standard features are amenities and design features to be considered for implementation in all off-leash dog areas in Markham. Sponsorship features are not essential for a designated off-leash dog area. While adhering to the City Donation Policy, sponsors can provide adequate funding for the sponsorship feature so that the City can use the funding to plan, design, procure, and install the feature in its intended location. Non-permitted features are amenities and design features that have been assessed but are not to be included in the design of off-leash dog areas in Markham.



The purpose of these standards is to ensure off-leash dog areas are consistent throughout Markham in terms of amenities, materials, and layout.

Standard features:



Surface Materials



Fencing, Buffers, Gates and Entrances



Subdrainage and Topography



Seating, Signs and Waste Receptacles



Separated Dog Areas



Accessible Routes and Pathways



Planting



Water Service



Parking

Sponsorship features:



Shade Structure



Community Notice Board



Other Items as Approved

Non-permitted features:



Lighting



Waste Bag Dispensers



Planting Within the Fenced Area



Pathways Within the Fenced Area



Picnic Tables



Green Bins



Agility Equipment




3.1 Standard Features

3.1.1 Surface Materials

Surface material selection considers use intensity, site size, drainage, maintenance, cost, accessibility, cleanliness, and topography. The following are acceptable materials for use chosen based on dog compatibility, safety, and public preference.

Table 3.1 outlines the advantages, disadvantages and application methods of each surfacing material.

Table 3.1 - Surfacing Options for Off-Leash Dog Areas

Surface Material	Description	Application
STANDARD: Wood Fibre (WF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost: Medium • Maintenance: High • Drainage: Good • Accessibility: Low • Durability: High • Cleanliness: Low • Advantages: Easy installation • Disadvantages: Difficult to clean, degrades over time, odour problems, poor quality wood fibre is rough on paws, dogs may ingest surfacing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard treatment for majority of off-leash dog areas • Small to medium size area (See Table 2.1) • Site must undergo frequent maintenance (See Table 6.1) • Compatible with wet sites • Site requires subdrainage (See 3.1.3 Subdrainage and Topography) • See Appendix A, Detail OLA01
ALTERNATIVE: Natural Turf (Grass) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost: Low • Maintenance: High • Drainage: Poor • Accessibility: Medium • Durability: Low • Cleanliness: Medium • Advantages: Natural, soft on paws • Disadvantages: Muddy, Not suitable for small sites, seeding requires establishing time, challenging to maintain in Ontario 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered based on the following specific criteria: large size, full sun, excellent drainage, low to moderate use • Large size area (See Table 2.1) • Fescue seed mix resilient to wear, drought and dog urine • Site to undergo seasonal partial closure and maintenance rotation of aerations, overseeding and fertilization as required to help natural turf recover on active site (See Table 5.1) • Provide separate entrances to facilitate partial seasonal closure • Provide subdrainage as required (See 3.1.3 Subdrainage and Topography) • See Appendix A, Detail OLA02
ALTERNATIVE: Artificial (K9) Turf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost: High • Maintenance: High • Drainage: Excellent • Accessibility: High • Durability: High • Cleanliness: High • Advantages: Optimal for dogs paws • Disadvantages: Requires frequent irrigation and maintenance, retains heat and can get very hot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered based on the following specific criteria: water service available for cleaning, higher budget projects, urban locations • Small size area due to cost (See Table 2.1) • Requires access to water and sanitary for maintenance (See Table 5.1) • Site requires subdrainage (See 3.1.3 Subdrainage and Topography) • See Appendix A, Detail OLA03

3.1.2 Fencing, Buffers, Gates and Entrances

Fencing helps define the limits of an off-leash dog area. Buffers and screens are recommended to reduce visual stimulus from outside the off-leash dog area and integrate the facility with the overall park composition. Tables 3.2 to 3.4 outlines the advantages, disadvantages, and application of each barrier type.

Table 3.2 - Fencing Options for Off-Leash Dog Areas

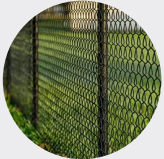


Barrier Type	Description	Application
Fencing		
General Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum height of 1.5-metres (5-feet) • Consider taller fencing up to 1.8-metres (6-feet) near schools and roadways to mitigate potential conflicts • Gaps between fencing and gates must not exceed 75mm (3-inches) and the base of the fence mesh must be buried into the ground • Fencing should limit acute angles to prevent dogs from being pinned into corners • Materials to be dog urine resistant such as aluminum, vinyl, concrete, composite, cedar or redwood 		
STANDARD: Black Vinyl Chain Link Fence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost: Low • Maintenance: Medium • Accessibility: High • Durability: High • Advantages: Vinyl coated, inexpensive • Disadvantages: Generally not considered as aesthetically pleasing as other options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal application • 9-gauge chain link • Black vinyl • Minimum 1.5-metre (5-feet) high • Consider taller fencing up to 1.8-metre (6-feet) near schools and roadways • See Appendix A, Detail OLA05
ALTERNATIVE: Decorative Steel Fencing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost: High • Maintenance: Low • Accessibility: High • Durability: High • Advantages: Reduced visual prominence, variety of colours and styles • Disadvantages: Expensive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible in urban environments • Maximum 75mm (3-inch) gaps between pickets, if present • Minimum 1.5-metres (5-feet) high • Consider taller fencing (up to 1.8-metres or 6-feet) near schools and roadways • See Appendix A, Detail OLA06
ALTERNATIVE: Post and Rail Fencing with Wire Mesh Infill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost: Medium • Maintenance: Medium • Accessibility: High • Durability: Medium • Advantages: Aesthetically pleasing, easy to repair depending on environment • Disadvantages: Wire mesh may restrict movement of wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only to be used when within natural environments • Wire mesh infill to be galvanized steel or PVC-coated wire with max. 75mm (3-inch) gaps • Minimum 1.5-metre (5-feet) high • Consider taller fencing up to 1.8-metre (6-feet) near schools and roadways • See Appendix A, Detail OLA07

Table 3.3 - Buffer Options for Off-Leash Dog Areas

Barrier Type	Advantages	Disadvantages	Application
Buffers			
Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual barrier to deter reactive dogs Adds aesthetic value Provides noise barrier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires maintenance Does not contain dogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evergreen trees Large-to-medium deciduous shade trees Placed in front of fencing, outside of the off-leash dog area (See 3.1.7 Planting) See Appendix A, Detail OLA21 & OLA22

Table 3.4 - Entrance Options for Off-Leash Dog Areas

Barrier Type	Advantages	Disadvantages	Application
Entrances			
General Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gates should swing inward toward the off-leash dog area to guide dogs away from the entrance and prevent them from pushing the gate open from the inside (See Appendix A, Detail OLA08) Gate latch to allow for easy one-handed operation at a height operable by a person using a mobility device, but difficult for a child to open (See Appendix A, Detail OLA08) Consider multiple entrances for larger areas (> 5,000 m² or 0.5 ha) or busy areas to assist in reducing congestion at entrance ways Locate where visible from street, major pathway/trails but set-back from main circulation routes to avoid congestion at entrances 			
Gates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains dog inside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires constant maintenance due to heavy use Can be a source of noise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gate and gate latch must be compliant with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards and Markham's Accessibility Design Guidelines See Appendix A, Detail OLA08
Double-Gated Transition Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition area helps to prevent dogs from escaping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space and cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No amenities are to be featured in the transition area (i.e. seating, etc.) to prevent loitering at entrances Hard surfacing prevents mud and gaps from forming under fencing Transition area to be minimum 2.5-metre x 2.5-metre (8-feet) and no larger than 4.2-metre x 4.2-metre (14-feet) to prevent loitering See Appendix A, Detail OLA10
Maintenance Access Gate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide access for maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential escape point if not designed and maintained properly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-metre (10-feet) to 4-metre (13-feet) wide two panel swing gate Lock to prevent unauthorized use Position for easting access of large equipment related to surfacing maintenance See Appendix A, Detail OLA09

3.1.3 Subdrainage and Topography

Subdrainage and topography extend the usable season of an off-leash dog area and are essential for its long-term performance and durability. A well-designed subdrainage system supports surfacing materials by managing water flow and preventing saturation. Proper topography and drainage direction ensure effective water movement and durability. Below is an outline of key grading requirements and recommended subdrainage systems for each surfacing type:

Topography

- Sites should be relatively flat with a preferred slope of 3% and a maximum slope of 4%;
- Site should slope away from other land uses, directing overland flow toward a catch basin;
- Consider soil testing and composition, sandy loam with low organic matter being the ideal composition;
- Avoid heavy clay soils as it can lead to water retention, mud formation and soil compaction;
- Drainage must be designed to mitigate when located on clay soils; and,
- All drainage will be designed based on geotechnical investigation.

Wood Fibre (WF)

- Perforated 150mm diameter drainage tile in a 450mm x 450mm clear stone trench around the perimeter of the area and in all low areas; and,
- Avoid using landscape/filter fabric/drainage cloth to separate clear stone from wood fibre as this will be exposed and ripped by dogs.

Natural Turf (Grass)

- Subdrainage as required (i.e. french drain) to address isolated low points/wet areas.

Artificial (K9) Turf

- Clear stone throughout the entire area and perforated drainage tile at regular intervals as per manufacturer's recommendation connected to sanitary.

3.1.4 Seating, Signage and Waste Receptacles

Seating, signage and waste receptacles are standard amenity items from a user comfort and accessibility perspective. The following guidelines are recommended for their design and placement:

Seating

- Provide multiple locations for seating spaced equally throughout the off-leash dog area;
- Whenever possible, locate away from access points to avoid congestion (minimum 8-metres or 26-feet);
- Preference locations for seating near trees and/or shaded areas;
- Locate seating at least 2-metres (7-feet) from the fence to prevent dogs from using the seat to jump over the fence (see Appendix A, Detail OLA11);
- Position to provide unobstructed views;
- Install with enough space (minimum 900mm) to accommodate a mobility device on one side (see Appendix A, Detail OLA11);
- Designated seating must be compliant with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards and Markham's Accessibility Design Guidelines; and,
- Grouped seating may limit owners from interacting with or watching their dog, it is recommended to keep benches to a minimum.

Signage

Signs provide valuable information regarding the code of conduct and regulatory information, time restrictions, user etiquette, general education and wayfinding. The following guidelines are to be followed when implementing signage:

- Provide by-law, code of conduct and contact information (see Appendix A, Detail OLA15):
 - By-law signage is to include applicable by-laws and penalty fines;
 - Code of conduct signage is to include general etiquette and regulations to be followed when using the off-leash dog area (see 6.2 Enforcement); and,
 - Contact information for emergencies or maintenance issues.
- To be clear, concise and consistent, with photographs and icons to have the information universally understood;
- Set-back from entrances and/or off to the side of walkways to avoid congestion at access points, while still being visible from entrances (see Appendix A, Detail OLA20);
- Provided at multiple locations, both inside and outside the off-leash dog area to avoid congestion in one area while increasing the prospect of informing users;
- Certain locations may require wayfinding signage throughout the park as the off-leash dog areas are hidden away or far from the park entrance and available parking (see Appendix A, Detail OLA15);
- Signage indicating that dogs are to be kept on-leash until entering the designated off-leash dog area must be provided at all park entrances

and at the parking lot (if present) (see Appendix A, Detail OLA17);

- Signage indicating designated areas for small and large dogs is to be posted on the designated areas entrance gates (see Appendix A, Detail OLA16); and,
- Signage indicating to clean up after dogs should be placed above the waste disposal location (see Appendix A, Detail OLA17).

Waste Receptacles

Standard waste receptacles are to be located outside of the off-leash dog area at each entrance to allow for ease of pick-up for staff maintenance and waste management (see Appendix A, Detail OLA12).

3.1.5 Separated Dog Areas

Separated areas for large and small dogs are a standard amenity among Markham's off-leash dog areas >1,000 m² (0.1 ha). Health and safety concerns due to dogs of different sizes interacting differently with each other and with a potential increase in conflict. The following outlines the design and layout of these separated spaces:

- Small dog areas are for dogs < 20 lbs with a maximum height of 12-inches (300mm) at the shoulder and large dog areas are for dogs > 20lbs;
- Small dog area should be at least 30% of the total off-leash dog area; and,
- If there is community interest, consider a pilot project to include shy dogs as being permitted in the small dog area.

3.1.6 Accessible Routes and Pathways

Design must be compliant with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards. Provide accessible pathways to the off-leash dog area that meet Markham's Accessibility

Design Guidelines to ensure equal accessibility for people of all abilities (see Appendix A, Detail OLA04).

- All pathways leading to the off-leash dog area should be a minimum width of 1.8-metres (6-feet);
- 2% preferred, less than 5% maximum slope;
- Surfaces are to be firm, stable and slip-resistant (i.e. asphalt or concrete); and,
- Pathways to the off-leash dog area should be accessible from the parks main pathway system, a public sidewalk or a parking lot.

3.1.7 Planting

Trees can be used to provide shade in the off-leash dog area and act as a visual barrier to conceal an area, break up low sightlines and buffer noise. Planting does best when outside the perimeter of the off-leash dog area as dog activity can have an adverse effect on the health of plants and locating outside of the fenced area allows for easier maintenance access. Additionally, planting adds aesthetic appeal to the off-leash dog area allowing the amenity to be complementary with the overall park composition. The following should be considered when planting around off-leash dog areas (see Appendix A, Detail OLA21 & OLA22):

- Plant non-toxic, dog-friendly plants as per American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) list;
- Plants are to be native, low maintenance, hardy and tolerant to dog activities;
- Strategically place for summer mid-to-late day shade large canopy trees around the perimeter of the off-leash dog area;
- Strategically place coniferous tree and/or shrubs to screen prevailing winds from north-east; and,

- Locate trees at least 2.5-metres (8-feet) from the fence to accommodate maintenance (i.e. mowing) along the fence line.

3.1.8 Water Service

Providing water service is an essential requirement for off-leash dog areas. A water tap and/or drinking fountain will be provided when an existing water service is located nearby. If no such service exists, the City should explore opportunities to install one. When providing water, the following guidelines are to be followed (see Appendix A, Detail OLA14):

- A simple water tap is to be provided to users, however, no water bowls are fillers are to be supplied on site;
- The water tap is to be provided outside of the double-gated transition area on a concrete pad to avoid dogs congregating and minimize flooding/erosion; and,
- A hose-bib is required for areas with artificial (K9) turf surfacing for maintenance and cleaning.

3.1.9 Parking

Parking is not an essential amenity for all off-leash dog area service levels. The availability of parking may be essential when considering the location of the off-leash dog area including locations that are not within a walkable distance of residents (i.e. a 10 minute walk). The following guidelines are to be followed when providing parking for off-leash dog areas:

- Adhere to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards and Markham Accessibility Design Guidelines;
- Preference to use existing parking lots where possible, and ensure that parking needs are considered among the different uses;
- Parking to depend on the location, proximity to other parks/off-leash dog areas, catchment, other

amenities, etc. The demand is best determined on a case-by-case basis using best practices or comparable sites as reference;

- Appropriate amount of spaces to accommodate the anticipated number of facility users;
- Provide an accessible path that leads from the parking lot to the off-leash dog area;
- On-street parking is allowable as long as it does not create any operational and capacity issues; and,
- Only permit on-street parking when it is allowed on existing surrounding streets.

3.2 Sponsorship Features

3.2.1 Shade Structure

Using trees and shade structures to protect against the elements provides a comfortable microclimate for users. The following should be considered when implementing shade structures within the off-leash dog area (see Appendix A, Detail OLA13):

- Size, location, material and provision should be at the discretion of the Manager Parks and Open Space in conjunction with Operations, and would be incorporated as needed through design;
- Shade structures must be constructed as per the Ontario Building Code;
- Shade structure material (i.e. metal or wood posts and footings) must be resistant to corrosion from dog urine;
- Shade structures are to be open on all sides to allow for unobstructed views for safety;
- Seating can be provided under shade structures as long as seating guidelines are followed (Section

3.1.4 Seating, Signage and Waste Receptacles);

- No open pergolas or trellises, no non-permeable roof materials permitted; and,
- Design for comfortable microclimate during winter and summer months.

3.2.2 Community Notice Boards

Many Markham residents are actively involved in their community and are looking for opportunities to connect with their fellow citizens. Community notice boards offer an opportunity for the off-leash to share dog-related information such as volunteer opportunities and community events. The notice board should offer the opportunity for residents to post information, be weather protected, and be located in a visible location but set-back from the main path of travel (see Appendix A, Detail OLA18).

3.2.3 Other Items as Approved

Additional sponsored elements may be considered on a case-by-case basis. These could include creative or site-specific features that enhance the user experience. These features are subject to review and approval by the applicable city departments to ensure safety, compatibility, and maintenance feasibility.

3.3 Non-Permitted Features

Non-permitted features are features that have been assessed by the City in terms of suitability and practicality for the off-leash dog areas of Markham. These features and their reasoning include:

Lighting

The City of Markham does not provide lighting within Markham's parks and trails, therefore lighting will not be permitted for use in off-leash dog areas.

Waste Bag Dispensers

The City of Markham does not provide waste bag dispensers at off-leash dog areas. It is the responsibility of the dog owner to bring their own waste bags and pick up after their pet.

Planting Within the Fenced Area

The City of Markham does not permit planting of any sorts within the boundaries of the off-leash dog area due to challenges with maintenance and the poor likelihood of survival due to dog activity and urine.

Pathways Within the Fenced Area

The City of Markham does not provide internal pathways within the boundaries of the off-leash dog area. This is due challenges with maintenance and cost.

Picnic Tables

The City of Markham does not permit picnic tables within off-leash dog areas, as they may encourage food consumption on-site and lead to food-related behavioral issues in dogs.

Green Bins

The City of Markham does not supply or maintain green bins within off-leash dog areas. Standard waste receptacles will be used for waste management in these spaces.

Agility Equipment

The City of Markham does not permit agility equipment at off-leash dog areas due to maintenance challenges, costs, potential injury risks for dogs, and concerns over shared use conflicts between dog walkers and the general public.



4.0 Site Selection Criteria

Properly locating off-leash dog areas is required to minimize conflicts with nearby residents, other park facilities and users. Issues such as noise (excessive dog barking), smell (dog waste), potential for unwanted dog/people conflicts, safety, impact on wildlife, and maintenance must be carefully considered and balanced with user access and enjoyment of the space.

4.1 Size and Space Allocation

The minimum size requirement for an off-leash dog area is 0.04 ha (400 m²) within an urban context, with a preference for off-leash dog areas of 0.1 ha (1,000 m²), and a maximum size requirement of 0.5 ha (5,000 m²). It is recommended that the size of an off-leash dog area correlates to the expected level of service or service area. Larger off-leash dog areas are more effective in serving the community, as they help reduce the likelihood of user conflicts that can arise when multiple dogs share a limited space.¹ However, given the challenges associated with finding an appropriate location that meets all site design requirements, smaller off-leash dog areas need to be considered, especially in more dense/developed urban communities with competing demands for park space. For more information on levels of service, refer to section 2.0 Service Areas and Classification.

4.2 Provision and Distribution

The distribution and provision standards will prioritize the following considerations when establishing new off-leash dog areas to ensure equitable access for all residents. It should be noted that this serves as a guide only and does not factor geographical considerations such as the catchment area being severed by major

roads or highways (e.g. Hwy 407) or a higher than expected dog population:

1. Unserved regions within the City;
2. Density of the population and licensed dogs;
3. Projected growth;
4. Land availability:
 - a. Off-Leash dog area portion of park:
 - Urban: Minimum park size of 0.05 ha (500 m²) or 80% of park
 - Neighbourhood: Minimum park size of 0.2 ha (2,000 m²) or 50% of park
 - Community: Minimum park size of 1.2 ha (12,000 m²) or 25% of park
 - b. Adequate drainage;
 - c. Buffers from hazards and incompatible uses (i.e. natural areas); and,
 - d. Easily accessible.

To prevent overlap of target service areas and oversupply of off-leash dog areas in Markham, the following setback rules and buffer logic apply (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1 - Setbacks Between Off-Leash Dog Areas

Off-Leash Dog Area 1	Off-Leash Dog Area 2	Minimum Centre Distance
Community	Community	7.5 km (7,500-metre)
Community	Neighbourhood	3.0 km (3,000-metre)
Community	Urban	3.0 km (3,000-metre)
Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	3.0 km (3,000-metre)
Neighbourhood	Urban	3.0 km (3,000-metre)
Urban	Urban	3.0 km (3,000-metre)

¹ Port Adelaide Enfield. People, Pets and Places: Animal Management Plan. 2018. https://www.cityofpae.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0032/413987/Animal-Management-Plan.pdf

4.3 Land Use Compatibility and Setbacks

Land use compatibility is essential when locating successful off-leash dog areas to reduce conflict between dog activity and adjacent neighbourhood and park uses. The following includes compatible land uses that have been shown to work well based on other municipalities' experience/best practices, although the feasibility and costs associated with each type of land use is site specific.

Compatible land uses for off-leash dog areas include:

1. Open space/parks;
2. Transportation or infrastructure rights-of-way;
3. Utility rights-of-way;
4. Drainage lands; and,
5. Other public holdings.

Compatible adjacent land uses to off-leash dog areas include:

1. Commercial;
2. Residential;
3. Municipal facilities;
4. Employment zones;
5. Institutional;
6. Light industrial; and,
7. Woodlots and natural heritage areas.

Table 4.2 outlines required setbacks from various land uses when integrating off-leash dog areas into a neighbourhood.



Table 4.2 - Recommended Minimum Setbacks for Adjacent Land Uses

Adjacent Land Use/ Activity	General Description	Recommended Minimum Setback or Mitigation Measures
Greenway System and Natural Heritage Network	Places that have natural heritage attributes worthy of retention or special care. Includes rare ecosystems, habitats for species at risk, ecological corridors, and natural vegetation that are easily disturbed by human activities.	Outside of the Natural Heritage Network (natural heritage features and their associated vegetation protection zones as determined by Official Plan policies). Outside of Ecological Linkages and Corridors unless mitigation measures can avoid impacts to ecological connectivity. Outside of naturalized meadows and hedgerows. 15-metre (50-feet) buffer zone separated by solid fencing.
Watercourse and SWM Ponds	A body of water including a river, creek or pond.	30-metre (100-feet) buffer zone separated by solid fencing.
Community Gardens and Orchards	A piece of land intentionally gardened and maintained for food production.	25-metre (80-feet) buffer zone separated by solid fencing Locate off-leash dog areas downhill from food-production to ensure runoff does not drain toward orchards/gardens.
Picnic Areas, Horticultural Display, Cemeteries and Commemorative Areas	Gardens for gatherings, decorative, and ceremonial purposes, especially areas with picnic tables for consuming food or drink.	25-metre (80-feet) buffer zone separated by solid fencing and vegetative screening as necessary for these areas.
Commercial and Light Industrial	Retail and employment lands.	25-metre (80-feet) separated by solid fencing, landforms, landscaping or other mitigation measures.
Highways, Major Arterial and Major Collector Roadways	Roadways that consist of heavy vehicular traffic at any time during the day or night. This may include highways, arterial roadways and major collector roadways.	25-metre (80-feet) from the edge of road is the minimum setback requirement separated by solid fencing at least 1.8 metres (6-feet) high.
Multi-Use Trails/ Pathways	Any multi-use trail or pathway that is designed to accommodate the movement of pedestrians and cyclists.	10-metre (30-feet) is the minimum setback requirement with solid fencing and vegetative screening to help block views of dogs to/from the off-leash dog area.
Playgrounds, Sports Facility or Water Play (Wading Pools and Splash Pads)	An outdoor playground, sports fields, play courts, ice-rink, skate park, wading pool or splash pad.	50-metre (165-feet) buffer zone; the off-leash dog area is to be completely fenced with screening to help block dogs' views of the area. Access route to the off-leash dog area should avoid the area whenever possible.
Residential Areas	Any area of land where housing predominates.	25-metre (80-feet) is the minimum setback requirement when separated by solid fencing, landforms, landscaping or other mitigation measures.
Elementary Schools & Daycares	Schools for the first six (6) grades, including kindergarten.	50-metre (165-feet) minimum buffer zone, but 75-metre (250-feet) desired; off-leash dog area is to be completely fenced.

4.4 Site Conditions

Selecting the appropriate location for an off-leash dog area is dependent on the sites conditions and should adhere to the following criteria:

1. Must be a City-owned, designated park or open space; unless granted permission (long term lease, easement, legal agreement) by the property owner;
2. Large enough to accommodate the required facility design (Table 2.1);
3. The site is a relatively flat, well drained site (max. slope 4%) with no additional grading required or ability to allow for additional grading;
4. There is a buffer or ability to add a buffer between the off-leash dog area and other park/land uses;
5. The site can be easily accessed for regular maintenance and waste pick-up;
6. The park is compliant with minimum recommended setbacks (Table 4.2);
7. Accessible by public transportation and compliant with all Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards;
8. Safe through Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles; and,
9. Considers exposure to the elements (sun, wind, snow, rain) and other environmental factors such as natural shade.

4.5 Site Assessment and Evaluation Process

Tables 4.3 to 4.6 outline an evaluation matrix with twelve (12) criteria (80 points total) to be used to help determine whether a location is suitable for an off-leash dog area, where each criteria receives a score of either zero (0), three (3), five (5) or ten (10) depending on the category and whether the site meets or exceeds the criteria. A minimum score of 60 points (80%) is required for consideration, though a high score does not guarantee site approval.

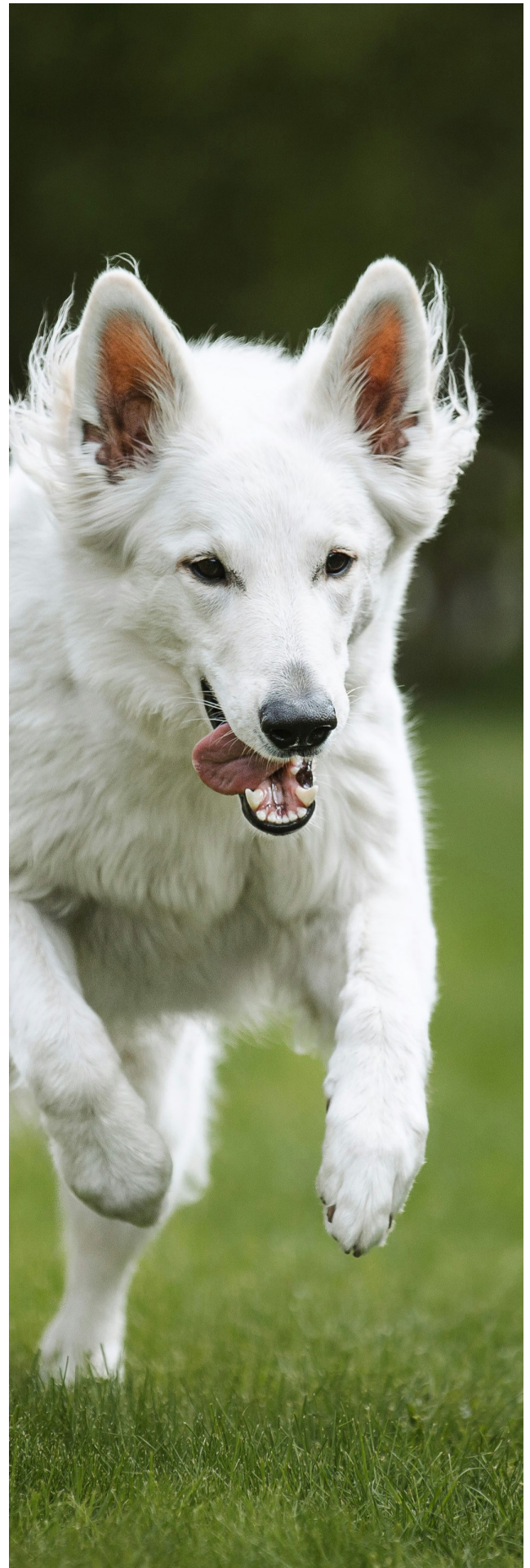


Table 4.3 - Site Conditions Criteria for the Site Assessment Evaluation Matrix

#	Criteria	Criteria Description	Criteria Scoring
1	Location Size	Site must be large enough to accommodate the required off-leash dog area type (urban, neighbourhood, community). If the site scores zero (0), the site is not suitable for an off-leash dog area.	0: Does not meet size requirement 5: Meets size requirement (0.625 ha or 625 m ²) 10: Exceeds size requirements (>0.625 ha or 625 m ²)
2	Topography	Site is relatively flat and well drained.	0: Poor (uneven terrain, not accessible, significant earthworks required) 5: Average (minor grading may be required) 10: Good (relatively flat and well drained)
3	Compatibility and Buffers	Potential site is not yet programmed and there is a buffer between the off-leash dog area and other park uses ensuring it will not interfere with aesthetics.	1: Poor compatibility (heavily used, no natural or constructed buffer) 3: Moderate compatibility (moderately used with some areas not yet programmed) 5: Excellent compatibility (not yet programmed, substantial natural or constructed barriers)
4	Ownership	Potential site must be Markham owned. If the site scores zero (0), the site is not suitable for an off-leash dog area.	0: Not Markham Owned 3: Not Markham owned, but granted permission by property owner 5: Markham owned

Table 4.4- Accessibility Criteria for the Site Assessment Evaluation Matrix

#	Criteria	Criteria Description	Criteria Scoring
5	Parking	Site has nearby dedicated parking facilities.	1: No parking 3: Street parking allowed 5: Dedicated parking facility
6	Walkways	Site is accessible by unpaved trails or sidewalks/paved walkways. If unpaved, trails still needs to be AODA compliant.	0: None 3: Unpaved 5: Paved
7	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)	Site follows CPTED principles with clear sightlines and natural surveillance, territorial reinforcement (fencing, signage, etc.), and is well maintained.	0: Poor (poor visibility, lack of signage, not maintained) 3: Average (some CPTED principles are present or potential for implementation) 5: Good (well-maintained, clear sightlines, proper signage, and adheres to CPTED principles)

Table 4.5 - Provision and Distribution Criteria for the Site Assessment Evaluation Matrix

#	Criteria	Criteria Description	Criteria Scoring
8	Service Levels	Proximity to other existing off-leash dog areas according to the service level looking to implement (Table 4.1).	0: Does Not Meet 5: Meets

Table 4.6 - Location Criteria for the Site Assessment Evaluation Matrix

#	Criteria	Criteria Description	Criteria Scoring
9	Proximity to Natural Heritage Network or other naturalized areas	Site must not result in negative environmental impacts. Off-leash dog areas should be setback from natural heritage features (Natural Heritage Network), including wildlife habitats, wildlife corridors, naturalized space and areas prone to flooding or erosion hazards. If the site scores zero (0), the site is not suitable for an off-leash dog area.	0: < 15-metres (50-feet) 5: 15 - 30-metres (50 - 100-feet) 10: > 30-metres (100-feet)
10	Proximity to Children Play Areas and School Yards	Achieves required set-backs (as per Table 4.2). If the site scores zero (0), the site is not suitable for an off-leash dog area.	0: < 50-metres (165-feet) 3: 50 - 75-metres (165 - 250-feet) 5: > 75-metres (250-feet)
11	Proximity to Residential Areas	Site is outside of required setback +5 points if it also has natural buffer to residential (i.e. tree screening). If the site scores zero (0), the site is not suitable for an off-leash dog area.	0: < 25-metres (80-feet) 5: 25 - 50-metres (80 - 165-feet) 10: > 50-metres (165-feet)
12	Proximity to Neighbouring Land Uses	Achieves required set-backs (as per Table 4.2). If the site scores zero (0), the site is not suitable for an off-leash dog area.	0: Does not meet 3: Meets 5: Exceeds all

5.0 Maintenance

5.1 Waste Management

This section outlines the general upkeep, maintenance, and repair of off-leash dog areas, including dog waste cleanup and off-site waste disposal, the responsibilities of dog owners and the City of Markham staff, the maintenance schedule, and overall waste management protocols.

5.1.1 Responsibilities

Dog Owners:

- It is the responsibility of dog owners to clean up after their pets and dispose of waste properly in designated waste receptacles;
- Owners are to carry sufficient supply of dog waste bags to dispose of waste immediately upon leaving the area; and,
- Failure to comply with this policy will result in fines and/or other penalties.

Markham Parks Operations Staff:

- Maintain the cleanliness and upkeep of off-leash dog areas, including regular disposal of waste bin contents; and,
- Provide signage indicating the importance of waste disposal (See 3.1.4 Seating, Signage and Waste Receptacles).

5.1.2 Maintenance Schedule

- Waste bins to be emptied weekly or more frequently during peak usage periods (April-September), and serviced as necessary throughout the year, including winter months; and,
- Off-leash dog areas are to be inspected weekly to ensure cleanliness and maintenance (See 5.3 Monitoring and Assessment).

5.1.3 Waste Disposal Procedures

Dog Waste Disposal

- Dog owners to be encouraged through signage to take dog waste home and place in residential green bins to dispose of dog waste;
- Owners must tie the used dog waste bag securely before disposal;
- Provide at least one (1) waste receptacle at each off-leash dog area for disposal of pet waste; and,
- Advise through signage that no other types of trash or recyclables are permitted in these bins.

Other Waste Disposal

- Other types of trash or recyclables are to be disposed of in designated receptacles provided elsewhere in the park.

5.2 General Maintenance

Maintenance of the off-leash dog area is to be done regularly by Markham Parks Operations staff and includes: surfacing maintenance and top-ups, water service, gate repair, fencing repair, signage maintenance and replacements, seating maintenance and repair, and other amenities. Tables 5.1 and 5.2 outline the maintenance protocols and schedules to uphold Markham's off-leash dog area standards.

5.2.1 Responsibility of the Public

Dog owners are responsible for maintaining the off-leash dog area by treating it with care and respect. This includes preventing damage and graffiti, disposing of dog waste properly, and ensuring the space remains clean and well-kept for all users.

Table 5.1 - Maintenance Schedule

Item	Frequency			
	Regular/As Required	Monthly	Seasonal	Yearly
Natural Turf (Grass)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair bare spots • Mowing • Apply wood fibre to cover seasonally muddy areas 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring fertilization, aeration and overseeding (off-leash dog area would require 3-5 weeks of shutdown) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring partial closing on a rotational basis to allow for repair and regeneration of turf
Wood Fibre (WF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raking and re-distribution • Top-ups 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of wood fibre (WF)
Artificial K9 Turf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation for rinsing/ cleaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disinfection using a bacterial enzyme cleaner • Magnetic grooming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection and repair of surface (patch and/or repair damaged sections) 	
Fencing and Screens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection of fencing conditions and repair of any damage immediately 			
Gates and Entrances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustment and repair to hinges, locking mechanism, and other moving parts to ensure smooth operation • Assess if entrance area has become muddy/unusable apply wood fibre as necessary 			

Table 5.2 - Seasonal Frequency

Topic	Best Practice
Seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect and clean all seating • Repair or replace any damaged or broken seating or seating material
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect and replace any worn-out, damaged or missing signs • Ensure all signs are properly secured and visible
Water Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning of water service by the end of April • Decommission by end of October (turning off water service, blowing out water line and draining the fixture)
Shade Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect and repair any damaged or loose components • Clean and maintain structure surfaces
Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly maintenance of all planting around the off-leash dog area • May include pruning, weeding, deadheading, pest control and watering
Snow Clearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routinely remove snow after snowfall events from all parks pathways that are maintained for winter • Consider dog-friendly de-icing treatments over typical sand-salt mix on park pathways that contain an off-leash dog area

5.3 Monitoring and Assessment

Monitoring and assessment of all off-leash dog areas is to be completed on a monthly basis to ensure all off-leash dog areas are up to City standards. If the off-leash dog area does not meet City standards, the area must be closed until the issue is resolved and then re-assessed to determine suitability of reopening to the public.

5.3.1 How To Use

The following outlines how to use the Monitoring and Assessment Checklist (5.3.2 Monitoring and Assessment Checklist).

- The checklist is to be completed by a member of the City of Markham Operations Staff;
- The checklist is to be completed for all off-leash dog areas on a monthly basis and kept for Markham records for up to 12 months;
- If less than five (5) statements do not meet City standards, the following statements must be resolved before the next scheduled assessment;
- If five (5) or more statements do not meet City standards, the off-leash dog area will be deemed unsuitable for use and will close until further notice; and,
- If an off-leash dog area is closed due to a failed assessment, the failed statements must be resolved and the site will be re-assessed seven (7) days after the failed assessment. If the site meets City standards, the off-leash dog area will be allowed to reopen.



5.3.2 Monitoring and Assessment Checklist

Table 5.3 outlines the monitoring and assessment criteria.

Table 5.3 - Regular Maintenance Monitoring and Assessment Checklist

Off-Leash Dog Area Monitoring and Assessment Checklist		
Off-Leash Dog Area Location:		
Date Completed:		
Statement	(Yes)/(No)/(N/A)	Additional Notes:
Regular Maintenance		
Fencing is in good condition, with no holes or gaps or damage to the material		
Surfacing is in good condition (see below): Wood Fibre: 300mm (12-inches) depth maintained Natural Turf (Grass): Appears mowed with no holes or large bare areas in the natural turf (grass) Artificial (K9) Turf: Appears to be clean of dog waste remnants with no holes or tears		
Gates are in good condition, with no holes, gaps or damage to the material		
Gate latch is in good working condition, with no damage or rust and able to lock and unlock easily		
Transition area is free of dog waste and surfacing is in good condition		
Water service is working, with no leaks when turned off		
Seating is in good condition with no damage to the material		
All signage is in good condition and appears to be easy to read and clearly displays all contents		
Planting appears to be maintained and healthy		
Shade structures appear to be in good condition with no damage to the material		
Waste Management		
The off-leash dog area is clean of dog waste		
Off-leash dog area bins appear to be emptied and sanitized regularly and not overfilled with dog waste		
Off-leash dog area waste receptacles seem to contain only dog waste, no other trash or recyclables are found within the designated bins		

6.0 Education and Enforcement

6.1 Education

Promoting responsible pet ownership and proper off-leash dog area etiquette can help contribute to responsible usage and improve the overall experience for all park users. Some educational tools to be considered include:

- 1. Complimentary Training Sessions;
- 2. Off-Leash Dog Area Ambassador Program; and,
- 3. Public Outreach.

6.1.1 Complimentary Training Sessions

Offering free or low-cost (subsidized) group training sessions with a certified dog trainer can enhance dog handling skills and behaviour. These sessions present sponsorship and partnership opportunities, subject to the City’s review and input. Specifically, these training sessions can:

- Educate owners on proper off-leash dog area etiquette;
- Provide tools regarding proper dog training techniques;
- Improve understanding of dog body language and signs of stress which

may provide an early warning of a potential conflict;

- Improve their dog’s behaviour and recall; and,
- Address dog reactivity and reduce conflicts with other dogs.

6.1.2 Off-Leash Dog Area Ambassador Program

An Off-Leash Dog Ambassador Program should be designed on a site-by-site basis to promote responsible dog ownership and the safe, enjoyable use of off-leash dog areas. Ambassadors serve as liaisons between the community and the City, providing education, support, and assistance to dog owners. Following a similar model to other municipalities (Refer to Off-Leash Dog Area Background Report, 4.3 Community Involvement), these programs can be volunteer-led through committees, non-profits, or structured stewardship groups.

If resident-led, the City should provide oversight, support, and coordination to ensure equitable access and prevent exclusivity or privatization. The Parks and Recreation Department (or another relevant body) could guide the program, review sponsorship and fundraising , and address maintenance or enforcement concerns.

Table 6.1 - Off-Leash Dog Area Ambassador Program Responsibilities

Education and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribute informational materials about local off-leash regulations and responsible dog ownership• Act as a resource for dog owners with questions or concerns
Monitoring and Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regularly visit off-leash dog areas to observe and report any issues, such as safety hazards or non-compliance with regulations• Report incidents or concerns to the appropriate authorities (i.e. Animal Services)
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foster a positive and inclusive atmosphere in off-leash dog areas• Help reduce conflicts between dog owners through education• Organize community events, such as clean-up days or dog-friendly gatherings
Feedback Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solicit feedback from dog owners and park users on their experiences and suggestions for improvement• Provide feedback to other departments on successes and challenges associated with off-leash dog areas and dogs in parks

A formal agreement or policy could define roles and expectations while maintaining accountability. Ambassador responsibilities are outlined in Table 6.1.

6.1.3 Public Outreach

Additional public outreach is required to help inform the public of safety and user etiquette protocols when using off-leash dog areas. Some public outreach strategies may include:

1. Social media campaigns addressing off-leash dog area protocols and proper dog and owner etiquette to address items such as proper disposal of pet waste and proper dog owner/handler etiquette in off-leash dog areas;
2. Using fun and graphic-based signage to help encourage visitors to read and adhere to signage; and,
3. Enhanced City of Markham website regarding off-leash dog areas including rules and responsibilities, proper etiquette and future plans.

6.2 Enforcement

6.2.1 Promote Licensing

Licensing is mandatory in the City of Markham and must be completed within 30 days of adoption. It promotes responsible pet ownership by ensuring dogs are vaccinated, reducing the risk of disease transmission. Licensing also enables Animal Care division of the Legislated Services Department to identify owners and enforce compliance through fines, penalties, or warnings. However, registration rates remain significantly lower than the actual number of dogs in the city, highlighting the need for stronger efforts to promote licensing awareness and participation. Some recommended approaches include:

- Media campaign to promote the benefits of licensing;
- Collaborate with dog/pet related businesses and services to offer

discounts for licensed dogs (i.e. City of Toronto Blue Paw program);

- Work with Veterinary offices to encourage their clients to become registered;
- Look for opportunities to offer “benefits” to owners and dogs with a valid license (i.e. City sponsored dog-friendly events);
- Licensing days at local parks-officers are on scene to offer on the spot licensing for ease;
- Contact Property Management at Condominium properties and host licensing days in their lobbies, request pet registry lists from the building and follow up with letters to the residents who have pets; and,
- Deploy summer students to patrol largely populated areas and educate/encourage pet licensing on the spot.

6.2.2 Code of Conduct

Individuals using any off-leash dog areas in Markham must adhere to the Animal Protection and Services By-Law 2018-91 regulations, the Dog Owners Liability Act, and the following Code of Conduct provided by City Parks and Public Properties By-law.

The Code of Conduct to be posted at the entrance of each off-leash dog area is outlined below:

An owner of a dog is not required to keep a dog leashed within an enclosed, fenced area, designated as an Off-leash Dog Area, but must adhere to the following regulations while utilizing the area:

1. ***All persons using the dog park do so at their own risk;***
2. ***All dog owners are subject to Dog Owner’s Liability Act and the City of Markham Animal Protection and Services By-law 2018-91 as amended. Limit of 3 dogs per owner; unless employed as a dog walker and therefore***

have no more than 6 dogs in their care at any time;

3. *Dogs must be accompanied by a person at least 16 years of age or older;*
4. *Handlers must be inside fenced area with their dogs at all times and not leave dogs unattended or unsupervised at any time;*
5. *Handlers must “stoop and scoop” and dispose of excrements in the containers provided;*
6. *Children under the age of 12 must be always supervised by an adult;*
7. *The following dogs are not permitted within the off-leash area:*
 - *Unlicensed dogs;*
 - *Dogs are required to be muzzled pursuant to Dog Owners’ Liability Act;*
 - *Dogs 6 months and younger;*
8. *Dogs must be leashed when entering and exiting the off-leash area;*
9. *No dog treats in the park;*
10. *Aggressive dogs exhibiting aggressive/ bullying like behaviors are not to be in the off-leash area and must be removed if behavior is displayed;*
11. *Designated small dog area is reserved for dogs 20lbs or less with a maximum height of 12-inches at the shoulder;*
12. *All dogs have valid vaccinations (ex. rabies);*
13. *All dogs are subject to health and tag inspections by the City of Markham; and,*
14. *No glass containers or food permitted in the off-leash areas.*

This document, Off-Leash Dog Area Guidelines, will ensure that existing and new communities in the City have appropriate access to off-leash dog areas that are safe and inclusive for people and their dogs.

Next steps for this process is Off-Leash Dog Area Recommendations. These recommendations will apply the guidelines outlined in this document to identify, consult and recommend a path forward for implementing off-leash facilities across the City of Markham. This plan includes:

1. Recommendations for new off-leash dog areas;
2. Recommendations for existing pop-up and established off-leash dog areas in Markham; and,
3. Lifecycle considerations including the process for establishing a pop-up or permanent off-leash dog area and closing an off-leash dog area.



Appendix A: Standard Off-Leash Dog Area Detail Sets

To complement the Off-Leash Dog Area Guidelines above, the following design guidelines and standards include a series of details for the construction of off-leash dog areas and associated elements.

The four (4) details included in the Standard Off-Leash Dog Area Surfacing Details Set are listed below:

- OLA01 - Wood Fibre (WF)
- OLA02 - Natural Turf (Grass)
- OLA03 - Artificial (K9) Turf
- OLA04 - Concrete Pathway

The six (6) details included in the Standard Off-Leash Dog Area Fences and Gates Details Set are listed below:

- OLA05 - Black Vinyl Chain Link Fence
- OLA06 - Decorative Steel Fence
- OLA07 - Post and Rail Fencing with Wire Mesh Infill
- OLA08 - Entrance Gate and Latch
- OLA09 - Maintenance Access Gate and Latch
- OLA10 - Concrete Double-Gated Transition Area

The four (4) details included in the Standard Off-Leash Dog Area Furnishing Details Set are listed below:

- OLA11 - Bench on Concrete Pad
- OLA12 - Waste Receptacles on Concrete Pad
- OLA13 - Standard Shade Structure
- OLA14 - Water Service/Tap

The six (6) details included in the Standard Off-Leash Dog Area Signage Details Set are listed below and can be found on the following pages:

- OLA15 - Signage: Wayfinding, By-law, Code of Conduct
- OLA16 - Signage: Small and Large Dog Area
- OLA17 - Signage: Waste Pickup and Leash-On
- OLA18 - Community Notice Board
- OLA19 - Sign Post with Concrete Footing
- OLA20 - Sign Placement

The two (2) details included in the Standard Off-Leash Dog Area Signage Details Set are listed below and can be found on the following pages:

- OLA21 - Perimeter Tree Planting
- OLA22 - Perimeter Buffer Planting

The two (2) details included in the Standard Off-Leash Dog Area Pop-Up Details Set are listed below and can be found on the following pages:

- OLA23 - Temporary Construction Fence
- OLA24 - Temporary Construction Gate and Latch

OLA01 - Wood Fibre (WF)

OLA02 - Natural Turf (Grass)

OLA03 - Artificial (K9) Turf

OLA04 - Concrete Pathway

OLA05 - Black Vinyl Chain Link Fence

OLA06 - Decorative Steel Fence

OLA07 - Post and Rail Fencing with Wire Mesh Infill

OLA08 - Entrance Gate and Latch

OLA09 - Maintenance Access Gate and Latch

OLA10 - Concrete Double-Gated Transition Area

OLA11 - Bench on Concrete Pad

OLA12 - Waste Receptacles on Concrete Pad

OLA13 - Standard Shade Structure

OLA14 - Water Service/Tap

OLA15 - Signage: Wayfinding, By-law, Code of Conduct

OLA16 - Signage: Small and Large Dog Area

OLA17 - Signage: Waste Pickup and Leash-On

OLA18 - Signage: Community Notice Board

OLA19 - Sign Post with Concrete Footing

OLA20 - Sign Placement

OLA21 - Perimeter Tree Planting

OLA22 - Perimeter Buffer Planting

OLA23 - Temporary Construction Fence

OLA24 - Temporary Construction Gate and Latch



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thinc design

Liberty Market Building

171 East Liberty Street, Unit 204

Toronto, ON M6K 3P6



studio@thincdesign.ca



thincdesign.ca

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