

Dogs in Open Spaces Strategy Timeline

- **1990s** - The City's original off-leash areas were established over time and on an ad hoc basis, mostly in response to public requests. Demands for improvements to existing sites, and management of issues around safety, bylaw enforcement and distribution of off-leash areas eventually led to the City recognizing the need to review Edmonton's policies and practices around off-leash areas.
- **March 2016** - Council endorses the Dogs in Open Spaces Strategy (developed in 2015), which guides the planning, design and management of OLAs in Edmonton.
- **September 2017** - CPSC receives the Dogs in Open Spaces 10 Year Implementation Plan, which includes developing a process for the establishment, enhancement and elimination (decommissioning) of OLAs, including options for City-led, developer-led and community-led OLAs.
- **July 2019** - Council receives report CR_7144 Off-Leash Dog Park - Recommendations which covers Administration's detailed review of the Neighborhood Park Development Program (NPDP) and Community Group Led Construction (CGL) processes as options for community-led OLAs. At the time, both the NPDP and CGL processes were also under review as a result of a City Audit in 2018.
 - This report concluded that City-led and developer-led OLAs are the most effective processes to ensure equitable distribution of amenities that meet City guidelines, but that a community-led model could be used in the absence of capital funding as long as community-initiated development was aligned with the Dogs in Open Spaces Strategy and that the CGL and NPDP processes were modified to include OLAs.
- **2019-2021** - Administration review of how the City collaborates with community groups related to OLAs in the absence of a process for community groups to initiate, fund, or establish OLAs independently.
 - Following this review and feedback from internal and external stakeholders, Administration recommended against developing a process for community groups to fund, build, and manage permanent OLAs. Funding through NPDP raises issues around equity, and project initiation through NPDP or CGL can create direct division within a community and competition between user groups.
- **November 2021** - Council approved an increase to the operating budget in Parks and Roads Services by \$206,000 on an ongoing basis to fund the Dogs in

Attachment 1

Open Space Strategy implementation. These funds included a position whose work includes enhancing how the City works with developers on establishing new off-leash areas, as well as funds for enhanced education and communications. At this time, Administration is working on an enhanced communications plan focused on off-leash areas and associated programs. Initial discussions have also taken place around tactics for improving engagement with developers interested in building off-leash areas through the existing Shared Park Development Program and Off-leash Program.

- **April 2022** - Memo to Council #428383488-001 Community Initiated Off-Leash Parks from City Operations. Outlines the City's mechanisms to create or enhance OLAs, including a recap of the 2019-2020 review on options for community-initiated OLAs.
 - The memo maintains the review findings that community-initiated OLAs are not recommended for various reasons including resourcing inequities, distribution/location and community conflicts between user groups.
 - The memo also states that the Community Parks Framework is under development and will contribute to the planning and prioritization of OLAs as speciality amenities based on service level targets, use, condition, demand, and demographics.
- **June 2022** - Council motion to provide this report (CR_CO01284 Community-initiated Proposals for Off-leash Dog Parks), which revisits options for community-initiated OLAs.