

Location Criteria for Establishment of Off-Leash Areas

Since its approval in 2016, the Dogs in Open Spaces Strategy has guided the planning, design, and management of OLAs in Edmonton. Establishment of new OLAs is led by the following principles:

- 1) Whenever feasible, establishment and enhancement should be integrated as part of neighbourhood and park renewal processes or in collaboration with developers.
- 2) Establishment of OLAs should be prioritized in neighbourhoods with highest dog license numbers that are not in target proximity (15 minute journey by walking/rolling) of an existing OLA.
- 3) Access to OLAs should be provided to ensure equitable opportunity for access throughout Edmonton.
- 4) Citizen requests and Councillor inquiries should be considered and help demonstrate need within neighbourhoods for OLAs.

Specific locations for OLAs are chosen based on the criteria in Table 1.

Table 1: Site selection criteria used for establishing new off-leash areas.

	City Built and Maintained Off-Leash Areas		Developer Built and City Maintained	Community Built and Maintained Off-leash Areas	
	Capital Projects	New Pop-up Dog Park Program	Developer	Community Group Led Construction (CGL)	Temporary Off-Leash Program
Min/Max OLA Size	Neighbourhood Fenced: .01- 2 ha Neighbourhood Unfenced: .2- 2 ha District OLA: 2 ha to 4ha River Valley/Ravine OLA: at least .5 ha	Neighbourhood Fenced .01- 2 ha Neighbourhood Unfenced: .2- 2 ha	Neighbourhood Fenced .01- 2 ha Neighbourhood Unfenced: .2- 2 ha	Neighbourhood Fenced .01- 2 ha Neighbourhood Unfenced: .2- 2 ha	Neighbourhood Fenced .01- 2 ha Neighbourhood Unfenced: .2- 2 ha
Required setbacks from incompatible adjacencies unless mitigation measures (e.g. fencing, landscaping or other barrier) are in place.	School grounds and walking routes, sportsfields, play areas and walking routes, pools and splash pads- 25m setback, OLA will be partially or completely fenced if the site is within a shared-use park with any one of these activities Private residences (to property line), cemeteries - 100m setback Arterial roads, golf courses, public gathering places and festival sites - 50m setback Multi-use trails, equestrian trails - 25m setback Environmentally sensitive areas				
Physical land features	Minimum slope of 1% with positive drainage. Sightlines for safety and visibility Unfenced Neighbourhood level OLAs (large, open, well-draining areas with low intensity of use): natural turf Fenced Neighbourhood-level OLAs: Surfacing should be more durable for high intensity of use. Easily accessible by City maintenance vehicles.	Well drained land without frequent water pooling. Sightlines for safety and visibility Unfenced Neighbourhood level OLAs (large, open, well-draining areas with low intensity of use): natural turf Fenced Neighbourhood-level dog parks: Surfacing should be more durable for high intensity of use. Easily accessible by City maintenance vehicles.	Minimum slope of 1% with positive drainage. Sightlines for safety and visibility Unfenced Neighbourhood level OLAs (large, open, well-draining areas with low intensity of use): natural turf Fenced Neighbourhood-level OLAs: Surfacing should be more durable for high intensity of use. Easily accessible by City maintenance vehicles.	Minimum slope of 1% with positive drainage. Sightlines for safety and visibility Unfenced Neighbourhood level OLAs (large, open, well-draining areas with low intensity of use): natural turf Fenced Neighbourhood-level OLAs: Surfacing should be more durable for high intensity of use.	Well drained land without frequent water pooling. Sightlines for safety and visibility Unfenced Neighbourhood level OLAs (large, open, well-draining areas with low intensity of use): natural turf Fenced Neighbourhood-level OLAs: Surfacing should be more durable for high intensity of use.

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	Taking advantage of the wind blocking effects of any nearby buildings, trees or land forms and ensuring that the majority of the OLA is outside of any building shadows would greatly increase usability throughout all seasons. The OLA should be located to maximize exposure to sunlight during winter days to encourage year around use.		Taking advantage of the wind blocking effects of any nearby buildings, trees or land forms and ensuring that the majority of the OLA is outside of any building shadows would greatly increase usability throughout all seasons. The OLA should be located to maximize exposure to sunlight during winter days to encourage year around use.	Taking advantage of the wind blocking effects of any nearby buildings, trees or land forms and ensuring that the majority of the OLA is outside of any building shadows would greatly increase usability throughout all seasons. The OLA should be located to maximize exposure to sunlight during winter days to encourage year around use.	Taking advantage of the wind blocking effects of any nearby buildings, trees or land forms and ensuring that the majority of the OLA is outside of any building shadows would greatly increase usability throughout all seasons. The OLA should be located to maximize exposure to sunlight during winter days to encourage year around use.
Walking/Driving Distance Targets	1.25km/15 minute walking distance to Neighbourhood Level OLAs and 12.5km/15min driving distance to District Level OLAs. OLAs that are established in areas without other nearby OLAs, should anticipate that dogs and their owners from areas outside of the 15 minute walking radius will drive to the OLA.	1.25km/15 minute walking distance to Neighbourhood Level OLAs OLAs that are established in areas without other nearby OLAs, should anticipate that dogs and their owners from areas outside of the 15 minute walking radius will drive to the OLA.	1.25km/15 minute walking distance to Neighbourhood Level OLAs OLAs that are established in areas without other nearby OLAs, should anticipate that dogs and their owners from areas outside of the 15 minute walking radius will drive to the OLA.	1.25km/15 minute walking distance to Neighbourhood Level OLAs OLAs that are established in areas without other nearby OLAs, should anticipate that dogs and their owners from areas outside of the 15 minute walking radius will drive to the OLA.	Targets for this type of OLAs are not present due to the transient nature of these amenities.
Parking	For Neighbourhood Level off-leash areas, off-street parking is not required, however, the implications of on-street parking should be considered. It is recommended that nearby on-street parking that does not impede access to adjacent residences or businesses be present. Distinct Level OLAs are recommended to have off-street parking.	For Neighbourhood Level off-leash areas, off-street parking is not required, however, the implications of on-street parking should be considered. It is recommended that nearby on-street parking that does not impede access to adjacent residences or businesses be present.			

	City Built and Maintained Off-Leash Areas		Developer Built and City Maintained	Community Built and Maintained Off-leash Areas	
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Accessibility	Accessibility is a key consideration when developing OLAs. Planning and design of new OLAs follow Accessibility for People with Disabilities Policy C602 and the Access Design Guide.			Community groups are strongly encouraged to consider the accessibility needs of all Edmontonians in their planning and design process.	Community groups are required to ensure that these spaces are accessible for all Edmontonians. This could include the addition of temporary or permanent ramps.
Priority Neighbourhoods for New Sites*	<p>High Priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hamptons or Glastonbury • Secord or Rosenthal • Westview Village • Trumpeter • Windermere • South Terwillegar <p>Medium Priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Berry or Hollick Kenyon • Kilkenny • Crawford Plains • Summerside or Walker • Allard • Rutherford • Ambleside or Glenridding Heights • Haddow/Terwillegar Towne • Edgemont • Granville or Breckenridge Greens • Suder Greens or Webber Greens • Jamieson Place • La Perle • Britannia Youngstown or Glenwood • Glenora • Starling or Hawks Ridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trumpeter or Starling or Hawks Ridge • Westview Village • Secord or Rosenthal • Suder Greens or Webber Greens • Granville or Breckenridge Greens • The Hamptons or Glastonbury • Edgemont • Jamieson Place • La Perle • Britannia Youngstown or Glenwood • Glenora • Windermere • South Terwillegar • Haddow/Terwillegar Towne • Ambleside or Glenridding Heights • Allard • Rutherford • Summerside or Walker • Crawford Plains • Matt Berry or Hollick Kenyon • Kilkenny <p><i>Neighbourhoods are listed grouped in geographic areas. Order of install and confirmation of specific sites will be dependent on available parks and open space.</i></p>	<p>New developments where there is land available, and interest and support from the developer for including an OLA.</p> <p>Developers are not required to establish OLAs as part of base level development.</p>	As part of the Community Group Led Construction process, community groups must lead public engagement and a community needs assessment to confirm local priorities for OLAs.	<p>Any neighbourhood with a Community League interested in applying to participate in the program.</p> <p>Example sites that were created and installed by community leagues in 2022 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belmead Community League • Dovercourt Community League • Elmwood Community League • Greenfield Community League • Kenilworth Community League • Malmo Community League • Meadowlark Community League • Oliver Community League • West Jasper Sherwood Community League

The following neighbourhoods have been prioritized for the placement of pop-up or permanent dog parks based on the criteria for establishment of new off-leash areas, public engagement conducted during Strategy creation, heat mapping to demonstrate areas of greatest need (Attachment 2), and over 90 inquiries tracked since 2016 from residents and Councillors requesting off-leash areas in these neighbourhoods. **Selection of specific sites will occur through Q4 2022 and Q1 2023, with installation planned to start in Q2 2023. The pop-up placement will be dependent on the availability of parkland and community feedback during limited consultation that would occur prior to installation. Neighbourhood residents would receive notice prior to a pop-up off-leash area being placed with contact information provided in that notice and onsite for more information or to submit feedback on the location.*