

Comparison of Processes for Development or Enhancement of Off-Leash Dog Parks

The table below presents a comparison of the current and new proposed processes available for developing or enhancing dog off-leash areas.

Table 1: Comparison of Processes for Establishing Dog 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
Project Proponent & Funding Source	City	City	Developer, or partnership with the City	Community groups	Community groups
Landbase	City	City	Developer initially, then City once inventory is transferred	Licensed area (e.g. community league licensed area or area of parkland that the community organization applying to build and maintain the off leash area (OLA) is willing to enter into a license and maintenance agreement for, similar to a community garden)	Community league licensed area
Project Timelines to Build An OLA	Completion 1-3 years following capital approval	Pop-up dog parks can be established quickly (weeks/months) Timelines for permanent establishment depending on budget availability.	Around 2-3 years	Variable, community resource-dependent	Around 2 weeks from application submission to approval
Alignment to Dogs in Open Spaces Strategy	Strong alignment for infrastructure, ensured through City planning, management and operation	Strong alignment, ensured through circulation of sites prior to installation.	Strong alignment, ensured through development approvals and Shared Park Development Process	Process changes required to ensure alignment	Process changes required to ensure alignment
Maintenance & Operation	City	City	City, once inventory is transferred from developer	Community group/league	Community group/league
Insurance Responsibility	City	City	Developer initially, then City once inventory is transferred	Community groups, insurance costs may rise with increased liability	Community groups, insurance costs may rise with increased liability
Program Support	City	City	City (Urban Planning and Economy and Dog Off-Leash Program)	City (Park and Facility Development Team and Dog Off-Leash Program)	City (Neighbourhood Services, Community Standards and Dog Off-Leash Program)
Risks or Issues	Ensuring operational funding is available for operating impacts of capital for ongoing maintenance and	Complaints - not all residents or park users will appreciate pop-up dog parks.	City would not operate, maintain, or assume responsibility or liability for off-leash areas until inventory is	Community is responsible to construct, operate, and maintain off-leash areas.	Community would construct, operate, and maintain 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
	education and enforcement of bylaws and rules in off-leash areas.	<p>Adding pop-up dog parks using a streamlined process without additional resources for enforcement and education may lead to safety related incidents.</p> <p>Negative public perception if pop-up dog parks do not become permanent in the long term.</p>	<p>transferred.</p> <p>Ensuring operational funding is available for operating impacts of capital for ongoing maintenance and education and enforcement of bylaws and rules in off-leash areas once transferred.</p> <p>City is still responsible for bylaw enforcement; support for issues would be minimal and reactive without additional resources.</p>	<p>Community Leagues may require insurance or Additions to existing insurance to include off-leash areas in licensed areas.</p> <p>City is still responsible for bylaw enforcement; support for issues would be minimal and reactive without additional resources.</p> <p>Risk of community group establishing and not being able to maintain the off-leash area and off-leash area needing removal.</p> <p>Termination of Tripartite agreement with community league would require the league remove any improvements that it placed on the land within 6 months, or longer if agreed to by the City. If assets are not removed, they become the property of the City who would be responsible to either maintain or remove the improvements.</p>	<p>Community Leagues may require insurance or Additions to existing insurance to include off-leash areas in league licensed land.</p> <p>Risk of community group establishing and not being able to maintain the off-leash area and off-leash area needing removal.</p> <p>City is still responsible for bylaw enforcement; support for issues would be minimal and reactive without additional resources.</p>
Cost to Install an Off-leash Area	<p>*Estimated Cost: \$125,000 - \$300,000 per new unfenced off-leash area (Dependent on scope, amenities, site preparation)</p> <p>\$150,000- \$450,000 per new fenced off-leash area (Dependent on scope, amenities, site preparation)</p> <p>\$60,000 to \$400,000 per enhanced existing off-leash area (Dependent on site amenities, fencing, site preparation)</p>	<p>Estimated Cost: \$1500-4500 per fenced pop-up dog park</p> <p>\$500-1500 per unfenced pop-up OLA</p> <p>Includes basic amenities (garbage container, minimal signage, dog bag dispenser)</p>	<p>Estimated Cost: Funded by Developer or through Shared Park Development Program.</p> <p>\$115,000-\$320,000 per new off-leash area (dependent on enhanced amenities but sites installed so far have included fencing, trails, dog park structures, benches, additional landscaping and maintenance).</p>	<p>Community Group: To be determined. Dependent on scope and complexity of community proposed project.</p> <p>City: No additional resources required. Internal oversight of the Park and Facility Development/CGL process and support for groups using this process would be done by existing City staff.</p>	<p>Estimated Cost for Community Group: \$100 - \$10,000 per new off-leash (dependent on existing infrastructure)</p>
Annual Costs to Maintain each Off-leash Area	<p>City Operations and Maintenance: \$20,000- \$60,000 per fenced off-leash area \$2,000- \$6,000 per unfenced off-leash area</p>	<p>City Program Coordination and Admin: \$120,000</p> <p>City Operations and Maintenance: \$500- \$1,500 per pop-up fenced dog park</p> <p>\$500- \$1,000 per pop-up unfenced OLA</p>	<p>Costs to City dependent on Shared Park Development Program continuing to be funded for 2023-2026.</p>	<p>Community Group Operations and Maintenance: \$20,000- \$60,000 per fenced off-leash area \$2,000- \$6,000 per unfenced off-leash area Dependent on scope and amenities within OLA</p>	<p>Community Group Operations and Maintenance: \$700- \$2,500 per fenced temporary off-leash area \$700- \$1,000 per unfenced temporary off-leash area</p>
Community Standards Enforcement &	Enforcement and Incident Response is currently under resourced and is not able to meet the current standard of practice.				

	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
Incident Response	Continued establishment of OLAs without new funding for enforcement will continue to strain resources for dog-related issues. The original recommendation in the Dogs and Open Spaces Strategy, for additional resources required to increase OLAs, identified the addition of 4 Animal Control Peace Officers and one Peace Officer vehicle. The estimated annual operating costs of these additional resources is approximately \$540,000 for personnel, equipment and training, with a capital cost of \$140,000 for the Animal Control peace Officer Vehicle.				

*Capital Projects Estimates based on: Size (as per Strategy): 0.2 ha (0.5 acre) to 2 ha (5 acres); Amenities (any size fenced - depending on design extremely small fenced areas might only have 1 entrance): fencing, 2 double gate entry systems including concrete base, 1 maintenance gate, 2 dog waste bag dispensers, 2 garbage cans (in ground preferred), 2 etiquette signs, 4 entering/leaving signs (2 of each); Amenities (per ha unfenced): 2 dog waste bag dispensers, 2 garbage cans (above ground preferred), 2 etiquette signs, 8 entering/leaving signs (4 of each).