

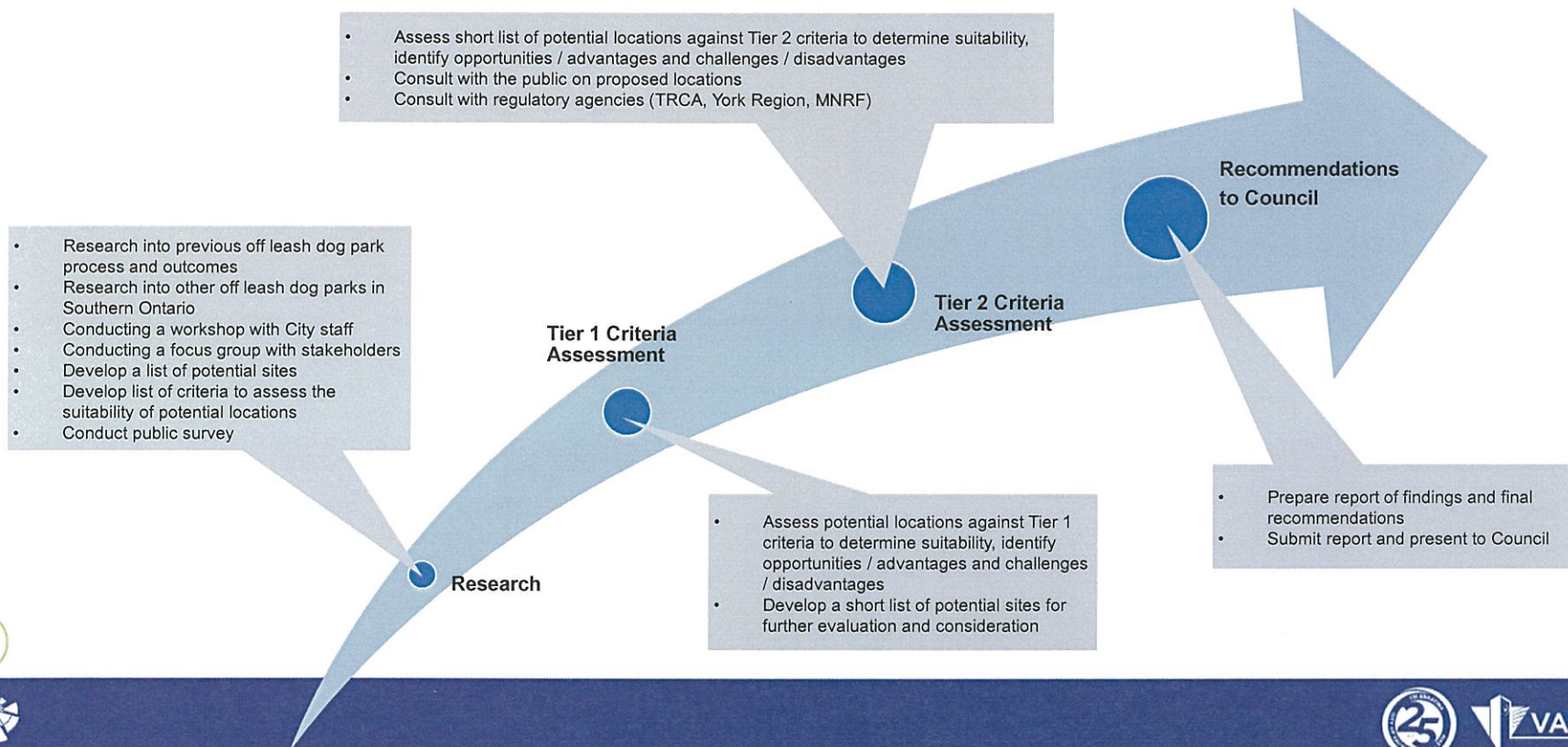
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COMMUNICATION	
CW -	DEC 6/16
ITEM -	2

# Off Leash Dog Park West of Hwy 400 Site Selection December 6, 2016

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# Timeline and Site Selection Process





# Overview of Other Dog Areas in Southern Ontario

- Dog parks in Southern Ontario were reviewed to understand:
  - Governance structure
  - Management of issues (noise, litter, smell)
  - Characteristics of park
  - Municipal policies and enforcement



City of Mississauga



Town of Richmond Hill

Details	Brampton	Cobourg	Markham	Mississauga	Richmond Hill
Population (2011)	523,911	18,519	301,709	713,443	185,541
No. of Dog Parks	4	1	1	7	2
Types	- n/a	- Primary scale, fenced off leash	- n/a	- Primary scale, fenced off leash	- Primary scale and local scale, fenced off leash
Size	- n/a	- Entire site (including parking) is greater than 8 acres (3.24 hectares)	- n/a	- Variety of sizes and types ranging from 1.4 to 22 acres (0.56 to 8.9 Ha)	- Sizes are 1.9 acres (0.75 hectares) [Tower Hill] and 2.5 acres (1 hectare) [Phyllis Rawlinson] (min. size 2.5 acres/1 hectare)
Setbacks	- n/a	- n/a - Location is across the street from rural residential properties and abuts an industrial area	- n/a	- n/a	- 15 m outside boundaries of other recreational facilities; 30 m from playgrounds; (unofficial) 100 m from house
Parking	- n/a	- 25 spots on gravel lot	- ~100 spots on paved lot	- Available at all sites - Type and number of spots varies between the locations	- Tower Hill (local) does not have parking but an agreement with pet store across the street; Phyllis Rawlinson has ~100 spots as part of the larger park
Surface	- Grass - Wood chips	- Grass - Wood chips	- Wood chips	- Grass - Wood chips - Trails at some locations	- Native grass with over seeding and mulch
Amenities and Infrastructure <sup>1</sup>	- Fully-fenced - Agility - Parking - Water station - Picnic tables and benches - Shed for shade (gazebo) - Waste collection bags and containers	- Fully-fenced - Agility - Parking - Water station - Picnic tables and benches - Shed for shade - Waste collection bags and containers	- Fenced (partially) - Agility area - Shade - Picnic tables - Waste collection bags and containers - Water station	- Fully-fenced with double-gated entrance with separate areas for small and large dogs - Parking - Public washrooms - Natural and man-made with a variety of terrains - Natural wooded area - Seasonal agility equipment - Running water splash pool - Dog wash station	- Fully-fenced with double-gated entrance with separate areas for small and large dogs - Parking - Public washrooms - Upgraded access path to meet accessibility standards - Plantings to reduce visibility of residents
Governance	- Owned and operated by the City of Brampton - Dog owners must have vaccinated, licensed and neutered or spayed their dogs before they can use the leash-free parks	- Owned by the Town - Operated through a partnership between the Town and Cobourg and District Dog Owners Group - All dogs must own and wear a dog tag to enter the park	- Volunteer run – responsible for overall organization of off leash free areas - Membership \$20 year	- Volunteer-run, member-funded organization (Leash-Free Mississauga est. 1997) responsible for all day-to-day operations and capital improvements - All parks are open to the public - Memberships support operation and maintenance - Memberships annually cost \$15 for 1 dog and \$20 for 2-4 dogs	- Managed and maintained by the Town in partnership with Richmond Hill K9 Club through the Off Leash Dog Area Policy - Richmond Hill K9 Club is responsible for upholding the "Shared Responsibility for Ongoing Operations" - No off leash areas are established without the existence of a group that adopts the "Shared Responsibility for Ongoing Operations"
By-laws	- By-Law 389-2004 A By-law to Amend Dog By-law 7-02 to Provide for Rules Relating to Off-leash Parks	- By-Law 026-2015 establish and regulate the use of off-leash dog parks	- By-Law 2005-254 Animal Control By-Law	- Animal Care and Control By-law 0096-04	- Off Leash Dog Area Rules Park Use By-law 16-03 - Off Leash Dog Area Policy (2009)
Community Involvement	- No community group associated with off leash parks	- Cobourg and District Dog Owners Group (CADD OG)	- Leash Free Markham Committee (Advisory Committee appointed by Council) is run by volunteers	- Leash-Free Mississauga	- Richmond Hill K9 Club
Reference	- <a href="http://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/Animal-Services/Pages/Off-Leash-Parks.aspx">http://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/Animal-Services/Pages/Off-Leash-Parks.aspx</a>	- <a href="http://www.cobourg.ca/en/my-cobourg/Leash-Free-Dog-Park.aspx">http://www.cobourg.ca/en/my-cobourg/Leash-Free-Dog-Park.aspx</a>	- <a href="http://www.markham.ca/vps/po-rtal/Markham/Residents/Animal-Services/BylawsAndOffLeashAreas">http://www.markham.ca/vps/po-rtal/Markham/Residents/Animal-Services/BylawsAndOffLeashAreas</a>	- <a href="http://www.mississauga.ca/porta/Residents/LeashFree">http://www.mississauga.ca/porta/Residents/LeashFree</a> - <a href="http://www.leashfreemississauga.ca/">http://www.leashfreemississauga.ca/</a>	- <a href="http://www.richmondhill.ca/subpage.asp?pagid=prc_parks_o ff_leash_dog_area">http://www.richmondhill.ca/subpage.asp?pagid=prc_parks_o ff_leash_dog_area</a>



# Primary Off-Leash Dog Area

## Identified Requirements:

- Serves a group of neighborhoods
- Accessible by foot and car with parking provided
- Generally 1 hectare or greater, and
- Provides physical space and access to infrastructure required for off leash dog facilities

This is  
the focus  
of this  
study

## Assessment Criteria

### Tier 1

- Proximity to play areas, designated areas, residential areas, major intersections, and streets
- Ease of access by vehicle
- Availability
- Ownership
- Size
- Accessibility
- Safety and security
- Traffic implications
- Park status
- Microclimate
- Drainage

### Tier 2

- Cost of Construction
- Cost of Maintenance
- Cost of Acquisition
- Innovation
- Synergies
- Public House and Survey Feedback

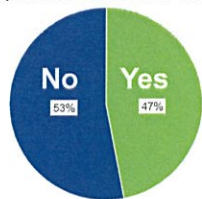


# Existing Off-Leash Dog Facility Concord Thornhill Regional Park (CTRP)

What we've heard in the survey:

Number of  
Survey Responses **200**

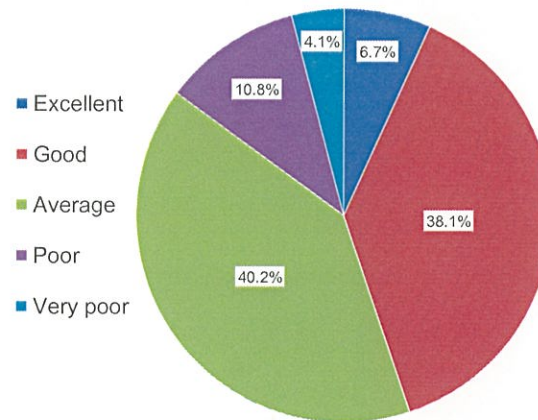
Respondents That Visited CTRP



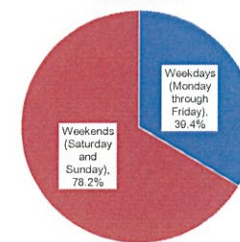
## Key feedback

- Increased bylaw enforcement (aggressive dogs, inappropriate use, poop & scoop waste collection)
- Improved maintenance (frequency)
- Improved surface material (improve grass, add wood chips)
- Improved lighting
- Improved accessibility
- Addition of:
  - Shade/wind coverage (trees, shelter)
  - Drinking water
  - Agility / training area
  - Benches
  - Separate entrances for small and large dogs
  - Varied terrain

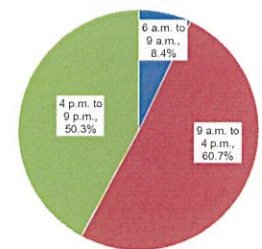
Respondents Rating of CTRP



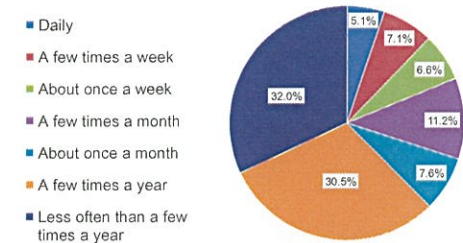
Days That Respondents Visited CTRP



Times That Respondents Visited CTRP



How Often Respondents Visited CTRP





# What We've Heard

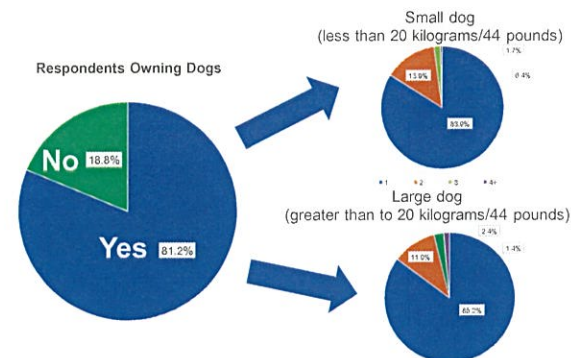
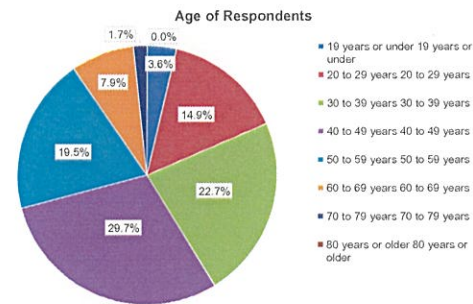
- **Number of Survey Responses: 530**

- **Key takeaways:**

- Need for more than one park, variety of sizes and locations
- Preference for local parks
- Most owners have one dog
- Willing to walk 10-15 minutes
- Willing to drive 10 minutes

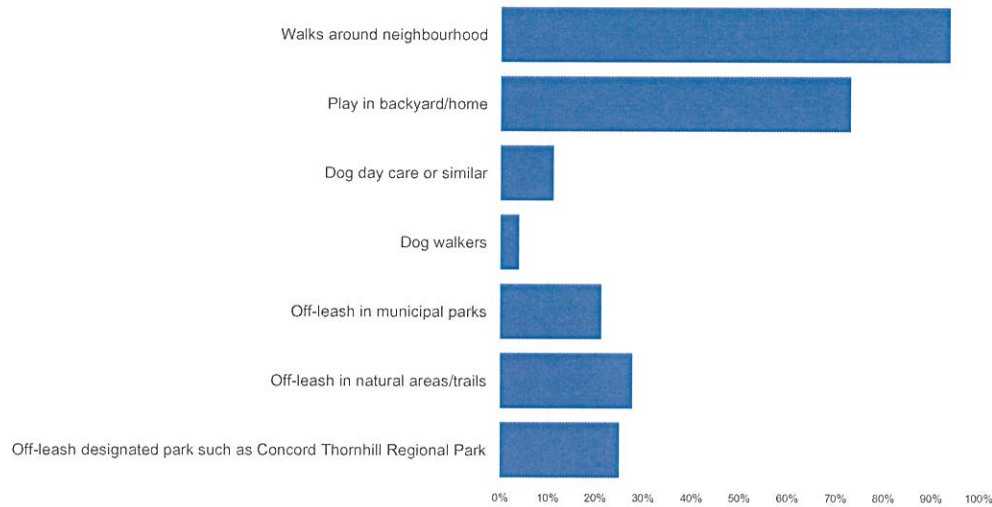
- **Identified concerns:**

- Dog waste (not picking up, not enough waste bins, waste bins not cleaned out, smell)
- Safety (leashing dogs unless in unleashed areas, leashing dogs upon entrance and exit of off leash area, aggressive dogs, fencing)
- Noise (barking)
- Traffic (increased and parking)
- Hours of operation
- Improve education on the use of a dog park and policies
- Management (bylaw enforcement)
- Improve and responsive maintenance

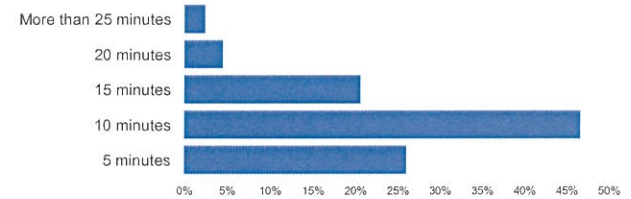


# What We've Heard

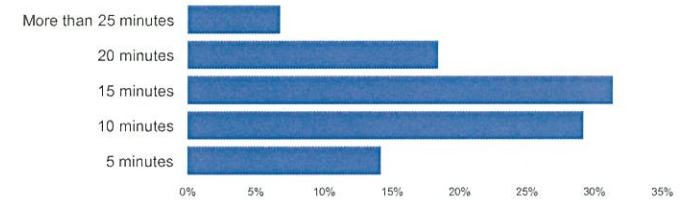
How Respondents Exercise Their Dogs



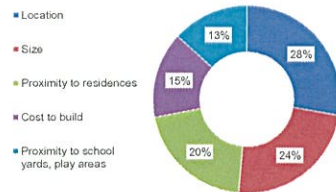
Time Respondents Would Spend Driving to Park



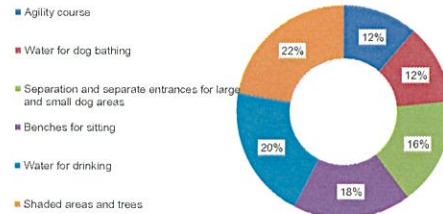
Time Respondents Would Spend Walking to Park



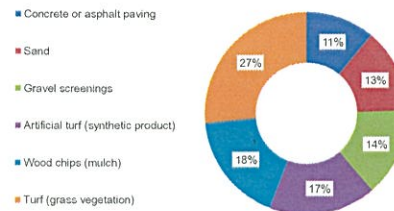
Respondents Rating of Criteria



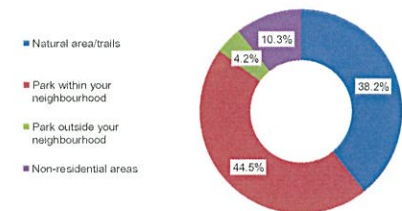
Respondents Rating of Amenities



Respondents Rating of Surface Material



Respondents Location Type Preferences



# What Makes a 'Good' Off Leash Dog Area

## Sound Planning and Management

- Governance
- Education and Awareness
- Effective Guidelines for Design, Operation, and Use
- Effective and Responsive Maintenance

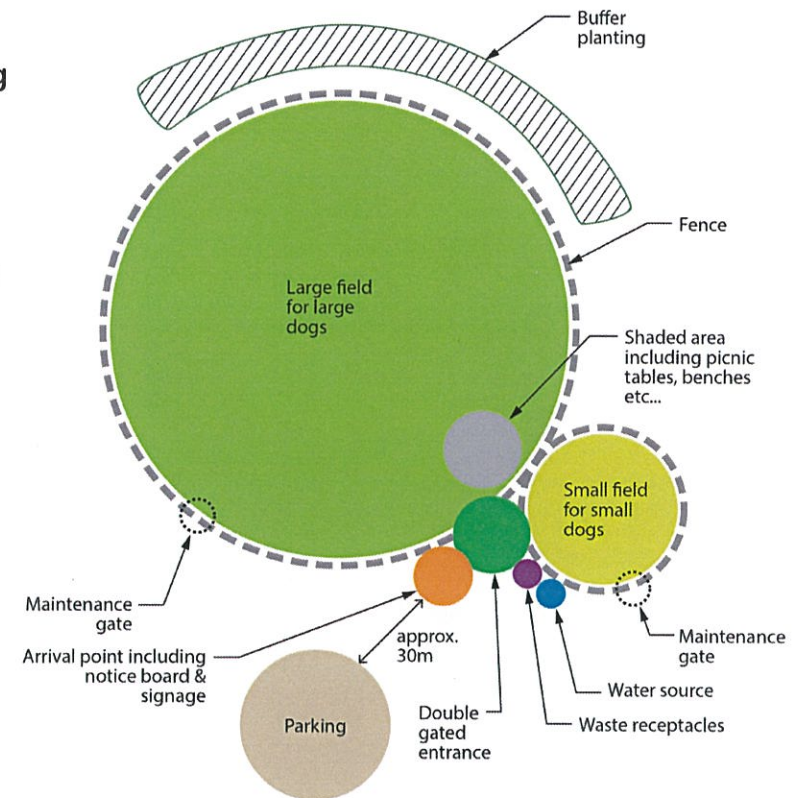
## Characteristics

- Appropriate size
- Close proximity to enable walking and short driving time
- Safe, secure, and accessible
- Social space
- Part of the community
- Offers recreational opportunities

## Features and Facilities

- **Separate enclosure for small dogs**
- **Shade trees and structures**
- **Access to water**
- Outdoor furniture (benches, picnic tables)
- Perimeter fencing and double gates
- Surfaces that are easy to maintain
- Waste receptacles
- Clear signage
- Agility course (play equipment)
- Parking

► In Bold indicates top features from the survey





# Tier 1 Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Criteria Description	Criteria Rankings	Location A General Description: Kirby Road and Weston Road	Location B General Description: Rutherford Road and Highway 27 – behind new FedEx building	Location C General Description: Major Mackenzie Drive and Highway 27	Location D General Description: Foster Woods – Major Mackenzie Drive and Islington Avenue	Location E General Description: Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue – behind new Hospice location	Location F General Description: Islington Avenue and Highway 27	Location G General Description: Aviva Park Drive and Weston Road
Proximity to play areas	Potential site considers proximity to play areas, school yards, athletic fields and seasonally active play areas, with greater distance preferred	1: < 15 m (49 ft.) 3: 15 m to 30 m (50 ft. to 98 ft.) 5: > 30 m (98 ft.)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Proximity to designated areas	Potential site cannot result in negative environmental effects. Distance away from Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), with greater distance preferred	1: < 5 m (16 ft.) 3: 5 m to 15 m (16 ft. To 50 ft.) 5: > 15 m (50 ft.)	5	3	1	1	1	3	5
Proximity to residential areas	Potential site within residential area but distance away from residences (including visual, odour and noise buffers), with greater distance preference	1: < 15 m (49 ft.) 3: 15 m to 30 m (50 ft. to 98 ft.) 5: > 30 m (98 ft.)	5	5	5	3	3	1	5
Proximity to major intersection	Potential site preference for close proximity to major intersection (Major Mackenzie and Highway 27) and within existing residential areas	1: Far away 3: Adjacent to 5: At intersection	3	5	5	3	5	3	3
Proximity to major street	Potential site location preference on major street	1: Several streets away 3: Adjacent 5: On	3	3	5	3	5	5	1
Ease of access by vehicle	Potential site location provides ease of access by vehicle	1: 20 minute drive 3: 10 minute drive 5: 5 minute drive	1	3	5	5	5	1	1
Availability	Potential site must be available to the City	NA: Unavailable 1: Available long term (3+ years) 3: Available near term (1-2 years) 5: Available	1	3	3	1	3	3	5
Ownership	Potential site must be City-owned; however, consideration may be given to locations that are not City-owned but meet all other criteria	1: Unowned 3: Owned Publically but not City owned or partially owned by City 5: City owned	1	3	3	1	3	3	5
Size	Potential site must be large enough to accommodate required facility design (min 0.5 ha)	1: < 1 ha (2.47 acres) 3: 1 - 2 ha (2.47 to 4.92 acres) 5: > 2 ha (3.92 acres)	3	5	5	3	3	3	5
Accessibility	Potential site provides accessibility (parking, public transit, AODA)	1: Poor 3: Average 5: Good	1	3	1	3	3	1	3
Safety and security	Potential site considers users and non-users safety and security (easily visible, electricity for lighting)	1: Poor 3: Average 5: Good	1	5	1	5	5	5	5
Traffic implications	Potential site does not pose increased burden on traffic patterns (left-hand turn without lights) or safety (parking)	1: limited turn movements and close to intersections 3: full turn movements but close to intersection 5: full turn movements and at least 300m from intersection	5	5	1	3	3	3	5
Park status	Potential status of park	1: limited park development potential 3: new park designation possible 5: designated park	3	5	3	1	1	1	3
Microclimate	Potential site considers exposure to weather elements (sun, wind, snow, rain) and other environmental factors such as natural shade or within a flood plain	1: full exposure 3: average exposure 5: limited exposure/protected	3	3	1	3	3	3	3
Drainage	Potential site should be well drained (max. slope 15%)	1: Poor 3: Average 5: Good	3	5	1	3	3	3	3
Total Tier 1 Ranking (out of a possible 75)			43	61	45	43	51	43	57
Tier 1 Percent Ranking			57%	81%	60%	57%	68%	57%	76%
Tier 1 Rank			5	1	4	5	3	5	2

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# Tier 2 Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Criteria Description	Criteria Rankings	Location B	Location C	Location E	Location G
			General Description: Rutherford Road and Highway 27 – behind new FedEx building	General Description: Major Mackenzie Drive and Highway 27	General Description: Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue – behind new Hospice location	General Description: Aviva Park Drive and Weston Road
Cost - Construction	Potential site considers constructability	1: \$\$\$ 3: \$\$ 5: \$	5	1	1	5
Cost - Maintenance	Potential site considers ongoing maintenance efforts	1: \$\$\$ 3: \$\$ 5: \$	5	1	1	5
Cost - Acquisition	Costs of land acquisition or lease where required	1: \$\$\$ 3: \$\$ 5: \$	1	3	3	5
Innovation	Potential site affords innovative opportunities such as community participation, community group operation, in-kind donations, etc.	1: no potential 3: limited potential 5: significant potential	5	5	5	5
Synergies	Opportunity to create synergies with existing facilities such as parking or trails	1: no potential 3: limited potential 5: significant potential	5	1	5	3
Public Open House	Feedback from the public open house	1: Unsupportive feedback 3: Limited feedback 5: Supportive feedback	3	1	5	3
Total Tier 2 Ranking (out of a possible 30)			24	10	20	22
Total Tier 1 Ranking (out of a possible 75)			61	45	51	57
Overall Percent Ranking			81%	52%	68%	75%
Overall Rank			1	4	3	2

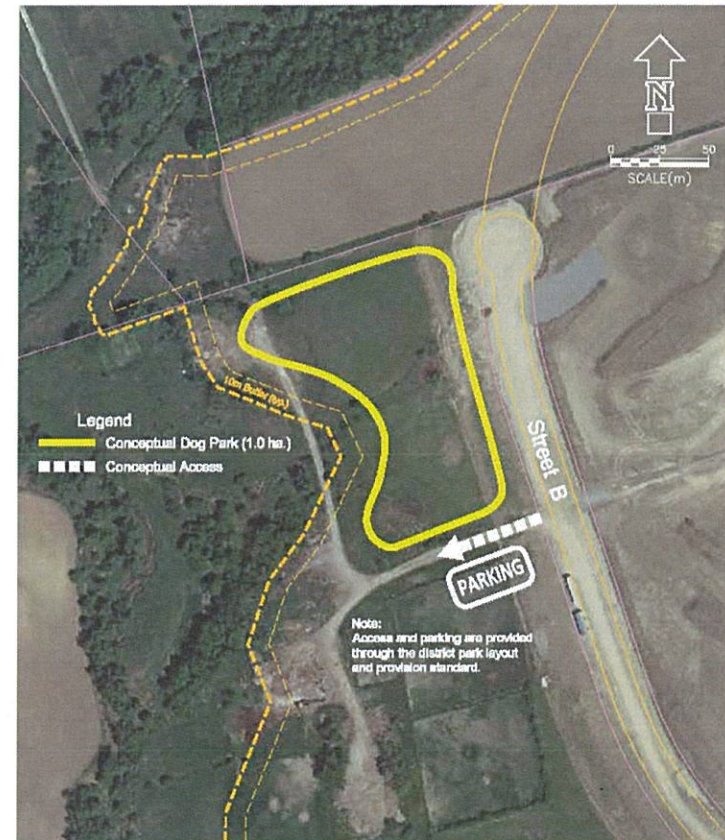


## Short Listed Locations



# Proposed Location B

- Located near Rutherford Road and Highway 27 behind the new FedEx building
- Scored 61 out of 75 as part of the Tier 1 assessment
- Scored 24 out of 25 as part of the Tier 2 assessment
- Advantages / Opportunities
  - Construction and maintenance cost efficiencies
  - Synergies with planned district park facilities
  - Infrastructure could be designed to suit
- Disadvantages / Challenges
  - 2-3 year timeframe due to development schedule for new District Park
  - Additional open space property purchase to the north should be considered for other park uses





# Proposed Location C

- Located near Major Mackenzie Drive and Highway 27
- Scored 45 out of 75 as part of the Tier 1 assessment
- Scored 10 out of 25 as part of the Tier 2 assessment
- Advantages / Opportunities
  - Owned by the City
  - Easily accessible location
  - Existing trail into neighbouring residential area
- Disadvantages / Challenges
  - Integration with York Region realignment of Major Mackenzie required
  - Consultation with neighbouring property owners
  - Coordination with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to meet flood plain regulatory conditions
  - York Region may require additional overflow parking provisions
  - Restrictive vehicular access
  - Additional property purchase required for access and parking





# Proposed Location E

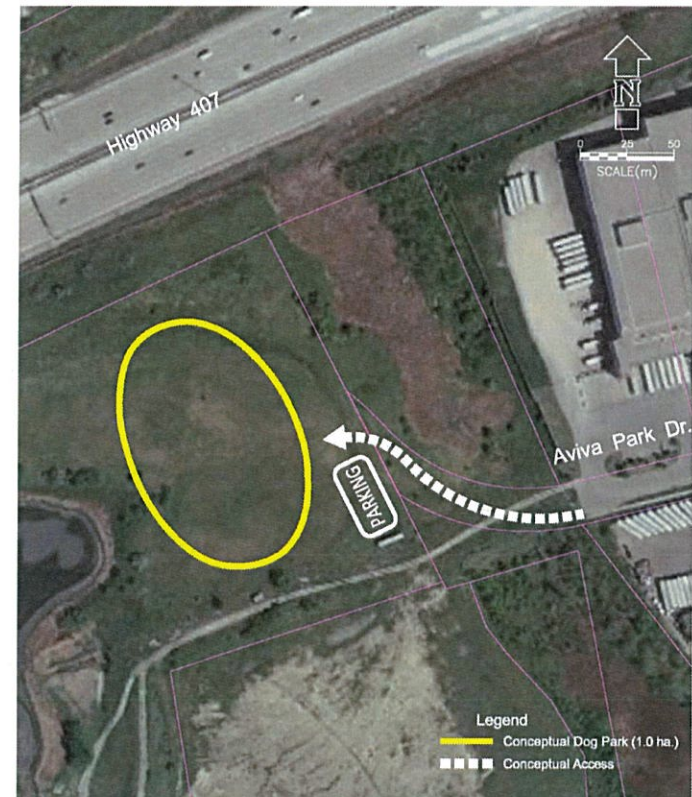
- Located near Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue behind the proposed hospice location
- Scored 51 out of 75 as part of the Tier 1 assessment
- Scored 20 out of 25 as part of the Tier 2 assessment
- Advantages / Opportunities
  - Existing open space, natural area
  - Central location that is easily accessible
- Disadvantages / Challenges
  - Consultation with neighbouring property owners
  - Coordination and lease agreement with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and meet sensitive features conditions.
  - York Region may require additional overflow parking provisions
  - Restrictive vehicular access
  - Extensive site work required, grading and servicing





# Proposed Location G

- Located at the end of Aviva Park Drive
- Scored 57 out of 75 as part of the Tier 1 assessment
- Scored 22 out of 25 as part of the Tier 2 assessment
- Advantages / Opportunities
  - Owned by the City
  - Stormwater retention area that could be retrofitted
- Disadvantages / Challenges
  - Adjacent to industrial area and truck traffic
  - Located south of Highway 407
  - Accessibility considerations to be further evaluated



# Preferred Site

- **Location B: Rutherford Road and Highway 27**

- **Based on the results of the assessments: 85 out of 105 points (80.9%)**

- Tier 1 assessment received 61 out of 75 points (81.3%)
    - Tier 2 assessment received 24 out of 35 points (68.6%)

- **Envisioned to be developed as part of a planned District Park**

- **Opportunities**

- Construction and maintenance cost efficiencies
    - Synergies with planned district park facilities
    - Infrastructure could be designed to suit

- **Challenges**

- 2-3 year timeframe due to development schedule for new District Park
    - Additional open space property purchase to the north should be considered for other park uses
    - Reduced ease of access [proximity from current residential areas (i.e., increased distance) and associated effort to commute (i.e., would require users to drive to the location)]

- **Feedback received**

- Good location with necessary infrastructure and potential connections with trails
    - Identified preference and need for Local scale and timely off-leash facilities



# Recommendations

## 1. Primary Recommendation

- Development of Primary Off-Leash Dog Area West of Highway 400 at Location B in combination with sound planning and management.

## 2. Secondary Recommendations

- Undertake further community consultation for the planning and design of local Off-Leash Dog Areas
- Consider ways to enhance the Existing Off-Leash Dog Area