

## CITY OF VAUGHAN

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2016**

Item 2, Report No. 43, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 13, 2016.

*Councillor Carella declared an interest with respect to this matter as he is an officer of a not-for-profit corporation that owns land immediately abutting the subject lands, and did not take part in the discussion or vote on the matter.*

2

#### **OFF-LEASH DOG PARK SITE SELECTION WEST OF HWY 400 WARD 1, 2 AND 3**

**The Committee of the Whole recommends:**

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager of Planning & Growth Management and the Director of Parks Development, dated December 6, 2016, be approved; and
- 2) That the presentation by Ms. Mary Kelly, Senior Consultant of Human Environment, Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, North Service Road, Burlington, and Communication C9, presentation material titled “*Off Leash Dog Park West of Hwy 400 Site Selection*”, be received.

#### **Recommendation**

The Deputy City Manager of Planning & Growth Management and the Director of Parks Development in consultation with the Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations, Director of By-Law and Compliance, Licensing & Permit Services recommend:

1. That the report by Amec Foster Wheeler dated October 18, 2016 appended as Attachment 1 be received;
2. That the highest scoring site, Location B, at the future Block 59 District Park in Ward 2 be considered as the preferred location for the City's second primary Off-Leash Dog Area and that staff further review the feasibility of this location and report back on the proposed design, land requirements and funding impacts; and
3. That based on strong community support for smaller local Off-Leash Dog Areas that staff be authorized to undertake further community consultation for the planning and design of local Off-Leash Dog Areas and report back to a future Committee of a Whole meeting before the end of Q2 2017.

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 2, Objective 2.2:

- To develop Vaughan as a City with maximum greenspace and an urban form that supports our expected population growth.

#### **Economic Impact**

Development of an Off-leash Dog Area at the future Block 59 District Park is estimated to cost in the order of \$200,000-\$250,000. Staff will review design, land requirements and funding impacts of the proposed Off-Leash Dog Area and report back. Capital Projects for the development of the

## CITY OF VAUGHAN

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2016**

#### Item 2, CW Report No. 43 – Page 2

future Block 59 District Park and an Off-Leash Dog Area are included in the 2017 Capital Budget and forecast. The economic impact of smaller local Off-Leash Dog Areas will need to be determined based on factors including context, size, location and operating costs.

#### **Communications Plan**

A notice will be sent to all stakeholders and residents that participated in the open house forum to provide an update on the recommendations of this report and the approved next-steps. The consultant's reports and a summary of the Off-Leash Dog Area site selection process will be posted on the City page.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the public consultation process for the selection of a second location for an Off-leash Dog Area west of Highway 400 and to seek Council approval to conduct additional study of smaller Off-Leash Dog Areas.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

##### **The Active Together Master Plan identifies community support for developing additional Off-Leash Dog Parks**

The 2013 Active Together Master Plan (ATMP) provides recommendations related to the provision of Off-Leash Dog Parks including the recommendation to develop a second Off-Leash Dog Park in an area west of Highway 400. Other recommendations include developing primary Off-Leash Dog Parks away from residential areas (i.e. Block 35 and 59), and exploring options for establishing small, more localized Off-Leash Dog Areas in closer proximity to residential communities especially in high density areas, which would be in addition to the larger primary off-leash parks recommended for each quadrant of the City.

The need for development and inclusion of Off-Leash Dog Parks within the City's park system is clearly identified. The 2013 update of the ATMP estimated that there are over 76,000 dog owners in the City with many dog owners seeking local recreation opportunities and requesting additional dedicated Off-Leash Dog Areas in neighbourhoods throughout the City. Off-Leash Dog Areas provide pet owners with the opportunity to exercise and socialize their dogs in a controlled area and they facilitate interaction between pet owners bringing social and physical activity benefits to residents. Off-Leash Dog Areas have proven to be quite successful in many municipalities, with larger urban areas often having several such facilities.

In response to a petition received for establishing an Off-Leash Dog Park in Woodbridge, Council, at its September 9, 2014 Committee of the Whole Meeting, adopted the following resolution (Item 50, Report No. 36, Recommendation 1 and 2):

*That the petition be received and referred to the Finance, Administration and Audit Committee, for consideration as part of the 2015 budget discussions; and*

*That in anticipation of such consideration, appropriate staff prepare a report on potential locations for an off leash park west of Highway 400, estimated costs, etc.*

Following direction from Council and receipt of public support through the petition bearing over 250 signatures, a Capital Project was approved as part of the 2015 Budget for preparing the required study for site selection.

## CITY OF VAUGHAN

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2016**

Item 2, CW Report No. 43 – Page 3

#### **An RFP process was undertaken to select a consultant to lead the site selection evaluation process and obtain feedback from the public and project stakeholders**

In November 2015 a Request for Proposal (RFP) was prepared and released (RFP15-524). Five (5) companies downloaded the RFP documents, no proposals were received and the RFP was cancelled. A second RFP (RFP16-035) was prepared and released in February 2016. Five (5) companies downloaded the RFP documents and two (2) proposals were received. Based on the results of the RFP evaluation, consulting firm Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure (Amec Foster Wheeler) was the highest scoring Proponent and a contract for their services was awarded.

Understanding the City's goal to identify potential Off-Leash Dog Park sites located west of Highway 400, Amec Forster Wheeler developed and undertook a study process that:

1. Considers available information from the City;
2. Provides recommendations on site selection criteria, evaluation conditions and assessment scoring;
3. Identifies priority areas and list of potential sites;
4. Identifies a short-list of three to four potential sites with high-level conceptual facility fits;
5. Includes consultation with City staff and community stakeholders in an equitable and transparent manner; and
6. Reports on the findings to City Council

#### **A variety of site selection criteria and evaluation factors were used to help determine a list of suitable sites for Off-Leash Dog Areas**

Based on the review of the previous assessment criteria for the site selection of additional Off-Leash Dog Park Areas along with information from other locations in Southern Ontario and off-leash best practices, the study team considered the following criteria to move forward for further refinement and determination of potential sites:

- Proximity to areas where children play
- Proximity to areas that are environmentally sensitive or designated
- Proximity to residential areas
- Proximity to major intersections and busy streets
- Availability and ownership of properties
- Size and accessibility by car or for pedestrians
- Safety, security and traffic considerations
- Site characteristics (such as drainage, vegetation)
- Cost (purchase, construction, maintenance)
- Opportunities for innovation
- Results of community input

The consolidated Site Selection Criteria for Off-leash Dog Areas was used to determine a short list of preferred sites using a two-step process:

Step 1 – Site Section Criteria – Tier 1: general criteria that *must be met* for a site to be considered as a potential Primary Off-Leash Dog Area to move on to Tier 2 process, refer to Attachment 1, Table 3-1.

Step 2 – Site Selection Criteria - Tier 2: criteria to evaluate the relative quality of suitable sites and provide ranking. Develop preliminary layout plans and cost estimates for the potential Off-Leash Dog Areas, refer to Attachment 1, Table 3-2. This step includes public consultation and feedback from the community.

## CITY OF VAUGHAN

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2016**

Item 2, CW Report No. 43 – Page 4

#### **A total of thirteen (13) potential sites were reviewed and considered as potential sites for Primary Off-Leash Dog Areas**

A summary of the thirteen (13) potential sites is presented on Table 3-3 and Figure 3.2 in Attachment 1. Following an initial screening, a total of seven (7) sites were evaluated using Tier 1 criteria as potential locations for a Primary Off-Leash Dog Area:

- Location A: Kirby Road and Weston Road (Identified future Park, Block 35, Ward 1)
- Location B: Rutherford Road and Highway 27 (Identified future Block 59 District Park, Ward 2)
- Location C: Major Mackenzie Drive and Highway 27 (City-owned property, open space, Ward 2)
- Location D: Foster Woods – Major Mackenzie Drive and Islington Avenue (City- owned property, open space, Ward 1)
- Location E: Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue (TRCA Lands, behind new Hospice location, Ward 2)
- Location F: Islington Avenue and Highway 27 (TRCA Lands, open space, Ward 1)
- Location G: Aviva Park Drive and Weston Road (City- owned property, open space, Ward 3)

Following the Tier 1 review a short list of four (4) sites advanced to Tier 2 review process for a Primary Off-Leash Dog Area, including Location B, C, E and G with location A, D and F determined to be not suitable due to availability/ownership, proximity to designated areas, and proximity to residential areas.

#### **Four (4) shortlisted locations were presented for public consultation and feedback**

A public consultation open house forum was held on September 20, 2016 and attended by over 76 residents, with over 100 comment sheets submitted. From the feedback received, Location E (Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue TRCA Lands, behind new Hospice location) scored the highest for reasons such as close proximity to residential area and natural character. When the consultant reviewed Location E in more detail, the consultant found that Location E requires additional costs associated with site grading, servicing, is situated adjacent to a wetland feature and would require the City to enter into a lease or license agreement with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) for the use of these lands. During the Tier 2 process and following initial discussion with TRCA staff, there was general support for an Off-Leash Dog area within Location E. However, during subsequent discussions with TRCA staff, there is a reluctance to proceed with the development of these lands for an Off-Leash Dog Area at this time due to ongoing discussions with the Region of York to use these lands for a Forestry/tree planting project.

In addition, the facility fit and cost estimate review process identified Location B (Rutherford Road and Highway 27, future Block 59 District Park) and Location G (Aviva Park Drive and Weston Road City-owned property, open space) as the two best candidates for a Primary Off-Leash Dog Area (refer to Attachment 1, Table 4-1). Both are publicly owned or planned future parkland properties, meet proximity and space requirements of the Tier 1 Selection Criteria, are not impacted by environmentally sensitive or designated features, and are accessible from a main road. Both sites are located within 10-15 minute drive from local residents.

#### **Location B (Rutherford Road and Highway 27, future Block 59 District Park) was identified as the highest scoring location**

Based on the results of the final evaluation Location B is recommended as the next Primary Off-Leash Dog Area having scored higher than both Location G and Location E. The Consultant also noted that Location B is the least expensive to develop and the most economically feasible



## CITY OF VAUGHAN

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2016**

#### Item 2, CW Report No. 43 – Page 5

location as construction costs can be shared with the development of the Block 59 District Park. As per the preliminary facility fit layout (refer to Figure 4.1), the setbacks and layout of the Off-Leash Dog Area within the park may require future acquisition and/or parkland conveyance of lands towards the northern limits of the District Park. These additional lands should be considered by the City in order to allow for expansion of the Off-Leash Dog Area or sports facilities, and the development of off-road trail systems.

#### **Additional Findings by the Consultant**

**A review of the existing Off-Leash Dog Area at Concord Thornhill Regional Park (CTRP) was undertaken to help understand operational considerations in the context of the planning for a second primary site.**

Through workshops held with Parks and Forestry Operations, By-law & Compliance, Licensing & Permits Services, Animal Control staff and external stakeholders during the month of June, 2016 and the online survey conducted from July 1, 2016 through to September 11, 2016, the following has been summarized in relation to comments received for the existing Off-Leash Dog Area within CTRP. The purpose of the workshops and the survey questions was to understand lessons learned from the current Off-Leash Dog Area; to gain an understanding of the opportunities and challenges in the selection of a second site within the municipality, and to discuss other issues or concerns. The following summarizes the key points from the workshops (refer to Attachment 1, Section 5.3).

1. Increased by-law enforcement (aggressive dogs, inappropriate use, poop & scoop waste collection)
2. Improved maintenance (frequency)
3. Improved surface material (improve grass, add woodchip surfacing)
4. Improved lighting
5. Improved accessibility (upgrade existing granular pathway and drainage)
6. Add Amenities :
  - a. Shade/wind coverage (trees, shelter)
  - b. Drinking water
  - c. Agility / training area
  - d. Benches
  - e. Separate entrances for small and large dogs
  - f. Provide varied terrain

Based on comments received from user groups and a general review of the CTRP Off-Leash Dog Area, the following levels of service are recommended for all future Primary Off-Leash Dog Areas:

Standard Level of Service: It is recommended that standards for Primary Off-Leash Dog Areas include materials and facilities that have an overall low capital and maintenance costs, are therefore feasible for implementation at all Off-Leash Dog Areas:

1. Parking area,
2. 1.5m high perimeter fencing and entry gates,
3. Woodchip and/or natural turf surfacing,
4. Lighting,
5. Notice Board or Kiosk,
6. Separate enclosures and entrances for small dogs and large dogs,
7. Site Furnishing (Seating, Trash, Recycling and Dog Waste Bins);
8. Waste bag dispensers,
9. Code of conduct and educational signage,
10. Entry and leaving area signs, and
11. Shade tree planting/Shade Structure

## CITY OF VAUGHAN

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2016**

#### Item 2, CW Report No. 43 – Page 6

Enhanced Level of Service: It is recommended that items associated with higher capital and maintenance costs may be considered through sponsorship or donations from an affiliated organization and off-leash dog group or through special funding or grants:

1. Water Fountain
2. Agility course (play equipment)

Although agility equipment was identified through the community consultation process and expressed desirability from Off-Leash Dog Area users, this equipment should only be used in a proper training environment, and not by amateurs. Staff have concerns that unsupervised use can lead to risk of injury when this equipment is improperly used.

Parks Development staff will work with Parks and Forestry Operations, By-law & Compliance, Licensing & Permits Services, Animal Control staff on the recommended improvements and determine what works should be considered in future capital and operating budgets.

#### **Public consultation and survey results identified an overwhelming desire for the City to establish smaller Off-Leash Dog Areas**

In addition to comments received for the timely development of a second Primary Off-Leash Dog Area west of highway 400, staff also received request for Local Off-Leash Areas within a 500m (5-10 minute) walking distance from residential homes. Survey results indicate that a majority of dog owners take their dogs for exercise locally and prefer to walk a short distance to a local Off-Leash Dog Area instead of driving a car to a larger Primary Off-Leash Area on a regular basis.

In addition, many communities throughout the City are experiencing an increase of residential infill projects and development intensification, mainly in the form of medium density and high-rise towers. In order to support both the current residents and planned population growth within existing communities, it is becoming very important for the City to provide park and open space amenities that appeal to a variety of lifestyles and age groups. In most growing municipalities, local neighbourhood and urban Off-Leash Dog Areas are a standard level of service and serve the community by providing both a recreation and social function.

To further explore ways the City can accommodate the interests and lifestyle of these current and future residents, further review and public consultation is proposed regarding the development of Local Off-Leash Dog Areas that permit dogs to run off-leash in designated areas within a local neighbourhood or district park. Through additional public consultation City staff will review the possibility of identifying smaller Local Off-Leash Dog Areas throughout the City, with specific criteria, where there is a demonstrated demand from the community and report back to Council with the findings and a proposed approach.

#### **Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2016-2018)**

This report is consistent with the priorities established in the updated Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map, specifically:

- Invest, renew and manage infrastructure and assets
- Continue to cultivate an environmental sustainable City
- Support and promote arts, culture, heritage and sports in the community

#### **Regional Implications**

Not Applicable.

**CITY OF VAUGHAN**

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2016**

Item 2, CW Report No. 43 – Page 7

**Conclusion**

A thorough public consultation process was undertaken to assess potential locations to establish a second Primary Off-Leash Dog Area in the City located west of Highway 400. Through the evaluation process, the proposed site selection criteria identified four suitable sites for a future Primary Off-Leash Dog Area with Location B, located at Rutherford Road and Hwy 27, within the future Block 59 District Park, as the recommended site for the next Primary Off-Leash Dog Area. Staff will conduct a feasibility assessment of this site and report back. Additional consideration and public consultation is also recommended regarding the development of Local Off-Leash Dog Areas within existing Neighbourhood and District Parks. Staff propose completing further review and analysis and report back to a future Committee meeting with findings and a proposed approach.

**Attachments**

1. Planning and Site Selection Report, prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler, dated October 18, 2016

**Report prepared by:**

Martin Tavares, Manager of Parks & Open Space Planning, ext. 8882  
Michael Habib, Senior Planner, ext. 8092  
Jamie Bronsema, Director of Parks Development, ext. 8058

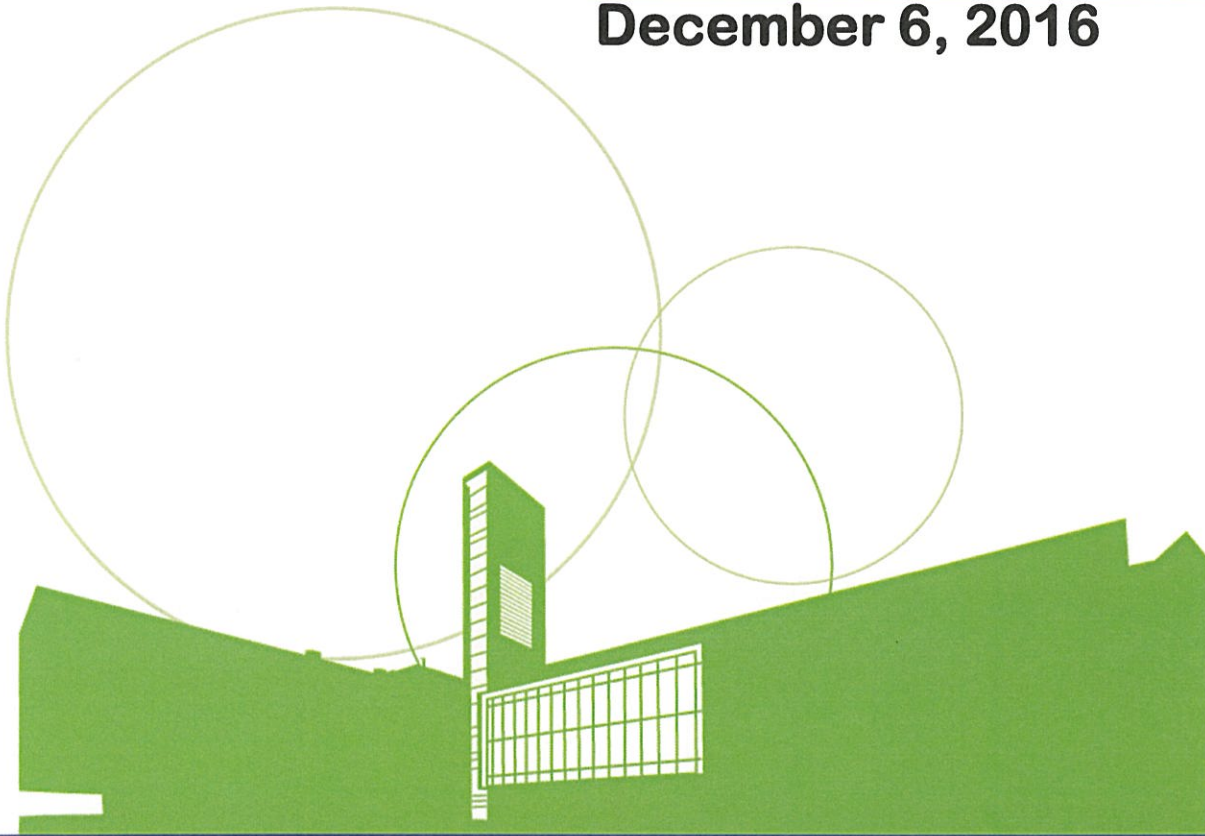
(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

*Councillor Carella declared an interest with respect to this matter as he is an officer of a not-for-profit corporation that owns land immediately abutting the subject lands, and did not take part in the discussion or vote on the matter.*

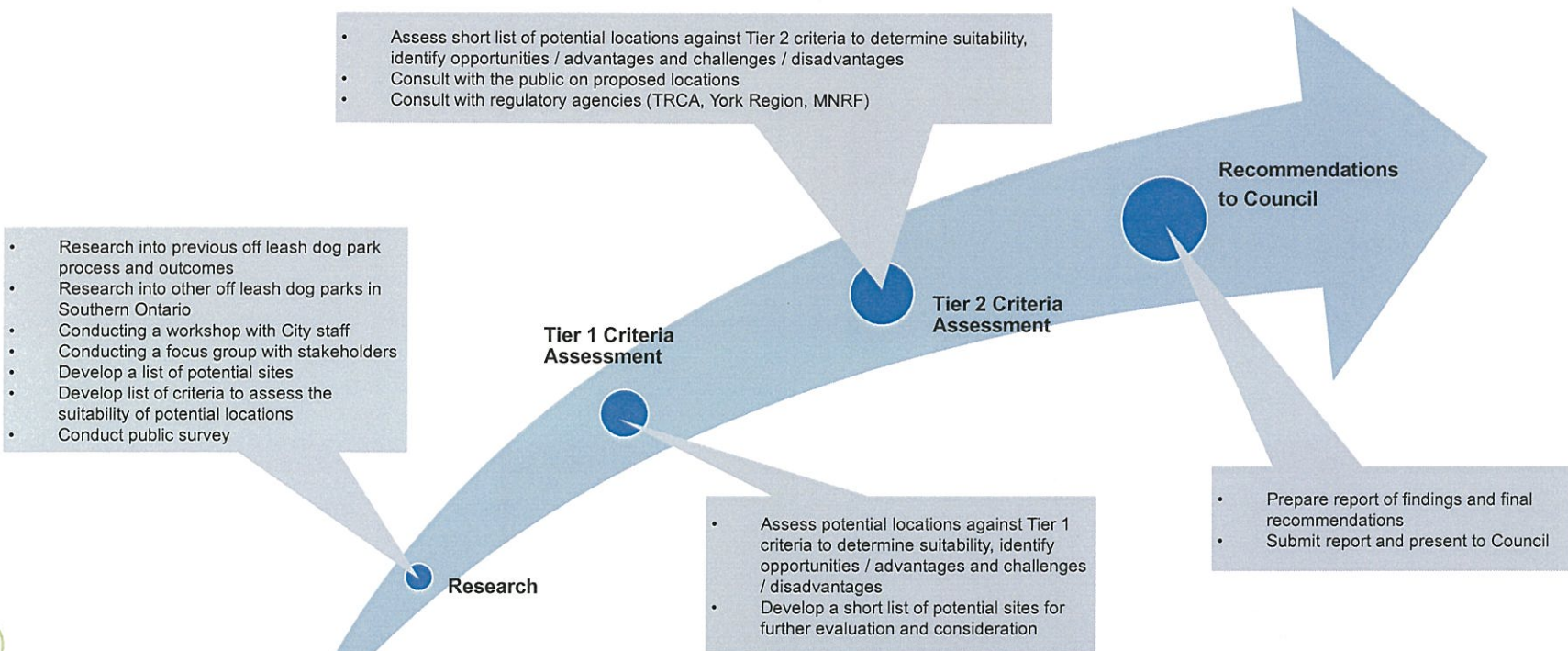
C	<u>9</u>
COMMUNICATION	
CW -	<u>DEC 6/16</u>
ITEM -	<u>2</u>

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

---



# 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 Klub through the Off Leash Dog Area Policy - Richmond Hill K9 Klub 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 - <a href="http://www.mississauga.ca/portals/residents/leashfree">http://www.mississauga.ca/portals/residents/leashfree</a> - <a href="http://www.leashfreemississauga.ca/">http://www.leashfreemississauga.ca/</a>	- Richmond Hill K9 Klub
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/portals/residents/leashfree">http://www.mississauga.ca/portals/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

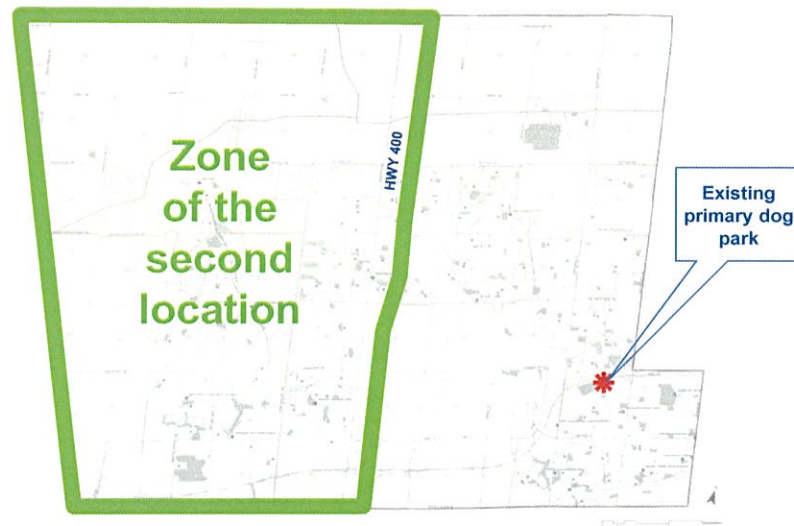
## Assessment Criteria

### 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

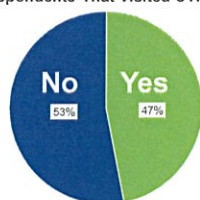


# Existing Off-Leash Dog Facility Concord Thornhill Regional Park (CTRP)

What we've heard in the survey:

Number of  
Survey Responses **200**

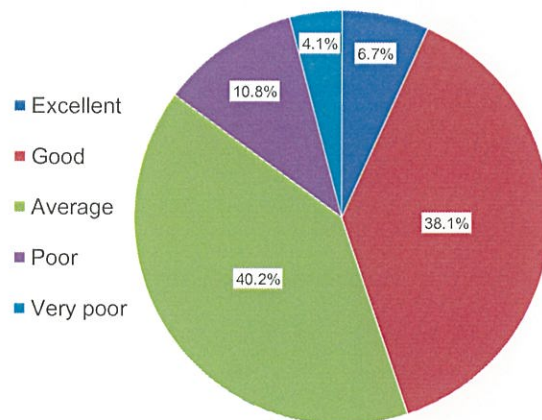
Respondents That Visited CTRP



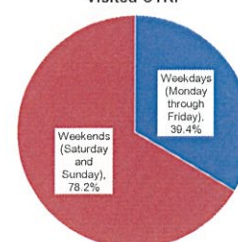
## Key feedback

- 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

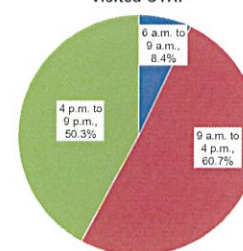
Respondents Rating of CTRP



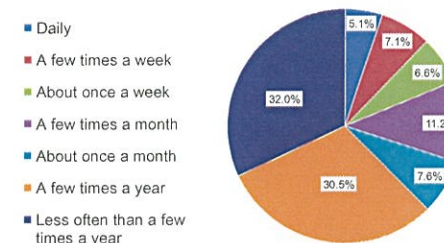
Days That Respondents Visited CTRP



Times That Respondents Visited CTRP



How Often Respondents Visited CTRP





# What We've Heard

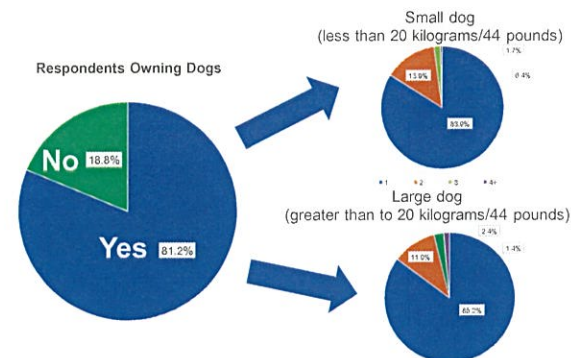
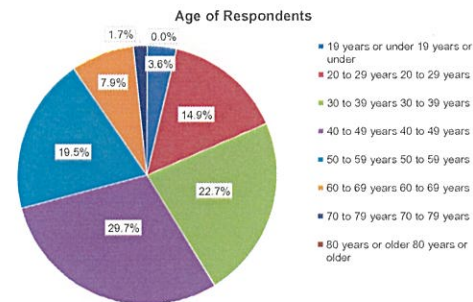
- **Number of Survey Responses: 530**

- **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

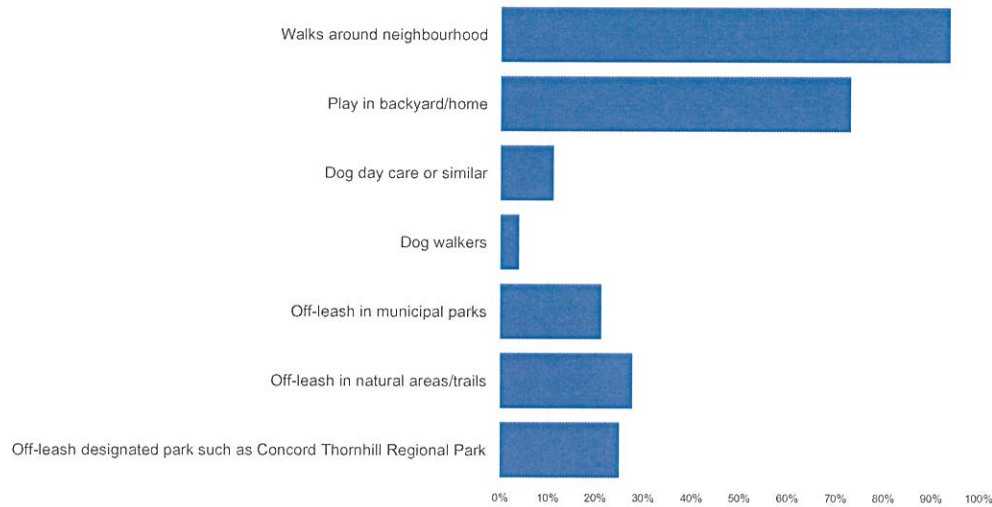
- **Identified concerns:**

- 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

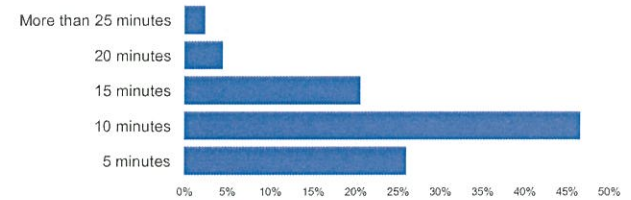


# What We've Heard

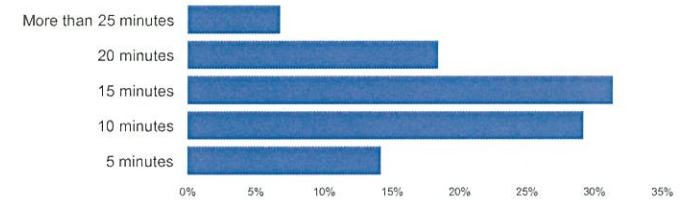
How Respondents Exercise Their Dogs



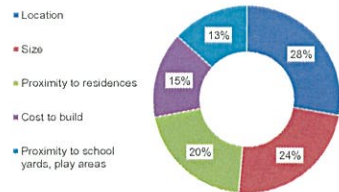
Time Respondents Would Spend Driving to Park



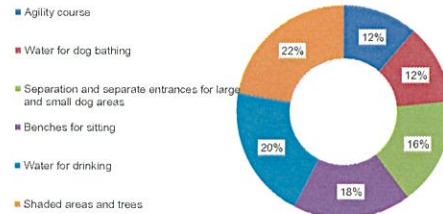
Time Respondents Would Spend Walking to Park



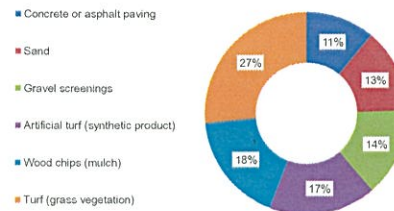
Respondents Rating of Criteria



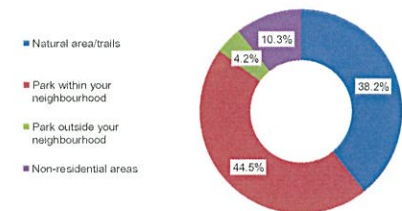
Respondents Rating of Amenities



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

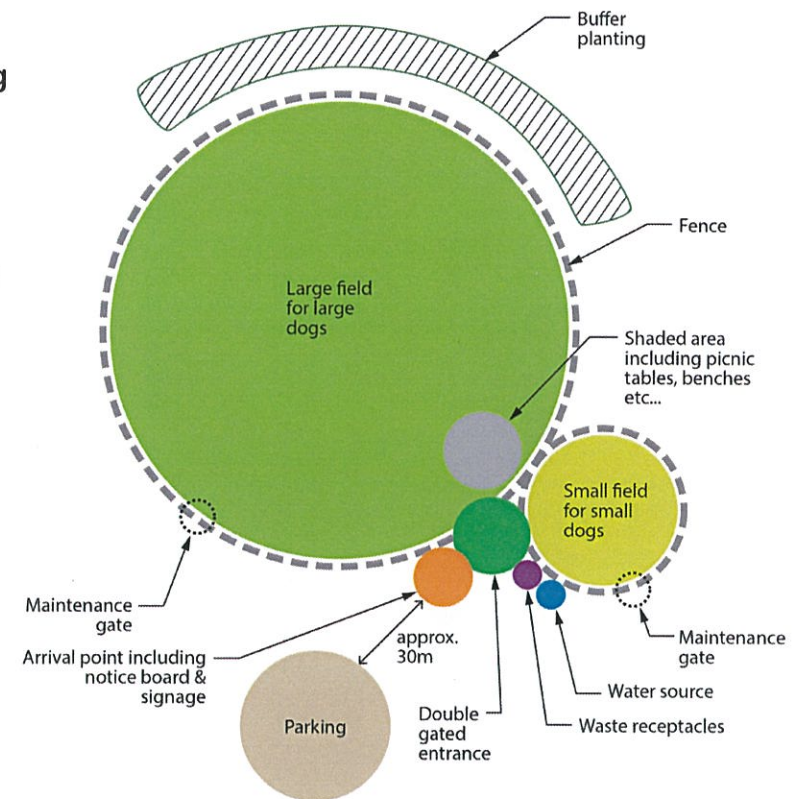
## Characteristics

- 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 (59 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 (16ft. To 59 ft.) 5: > 15 m (59 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 (59 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 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

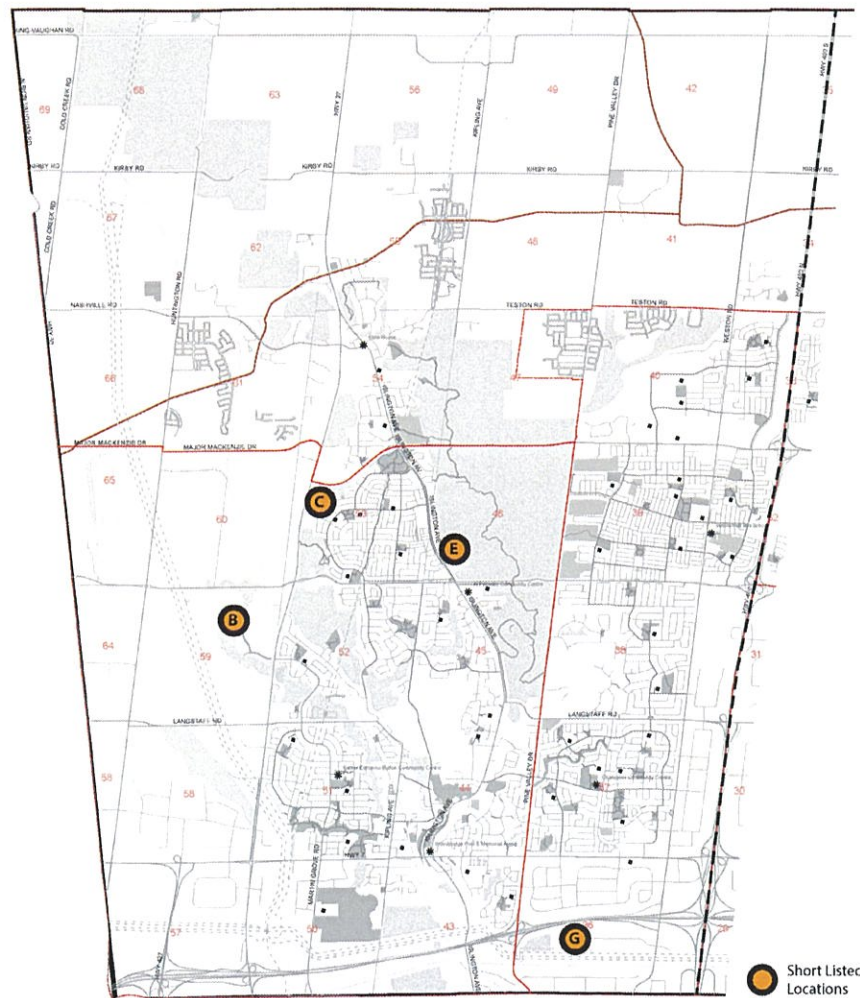
9



# 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

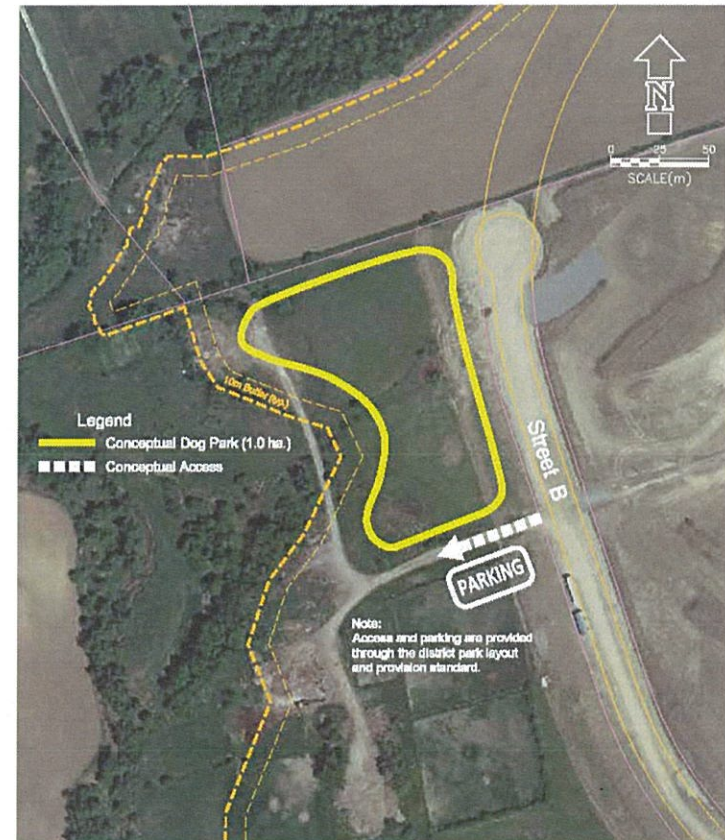
## Short Listed Locations





# 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





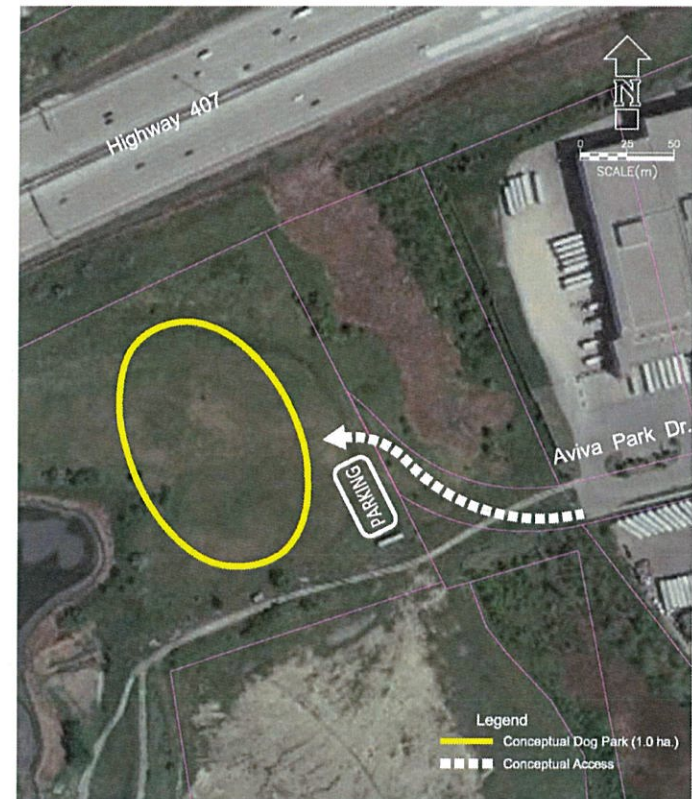
# Proposed Location E

- 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

**OFF-LEASH DOG PARK  
SITE SELECTION WEST OF HWY 400  
WARD 1, 2 AND 3****Recommendation**

The Deputy City Manager of Planning & Growth Management and the Director of Parks Development in consultation with the Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations, Director of By-Law and Compliance, Licensing & Permit Services recommend:

1. That the report by Amec Foster Wheeler dated October 18, 2016 appended as Attachment 1 be received;
2. That the highest scoring site, Location B, at the future Block 59 District Park in Ward 2 be considered as the preferred location for the City's second primary Off-Leash Dog Area and that staff further review the feasibility of this location and report back on the proposed design, land requirements and funding impacts; and
3. That based on strong community support for smaller local Off-Leash Dog Areas that staff be authorized to undertake further community consultation for the planning and design of local Off-Leash Dog Areas and report back to a future Committee of a Whole meeting before the end of Q2 2017.

**Contribution to Sustainability**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 2, Objective 2.2:

- To develop Vaughan as a City with maximum greenspace and an urban form that supports our expected population growth.

**Economic Impact**

Development of an Off-leash Dog Area at the future Block 59 District Park is estimated to cost in the order of \$200,000-\$250,000. Staff will review design, land requirements and funding impacts of the proposed Off-Leash Dog Area and report back. Capital Projects for the development of the future Block 59 District Park and an Off-Leash Dog Area are included in the 2017 Capital Budget and forecast. The economic impact of smaller local Off-Leash Dog Areas will need to be determined based on factors including context, size, location and operating costs.

**Communications Plan**

A notice will be sent to all stakeholders and residents that participated in the open house forum to provide an update on the recommendations of this report and the approved next-steps. The consultant's reports and a summary of the Off-Leash Dog Area site selection process will be posted on the City page.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the public consultation process for the selection of a second location for an Off-leash Dog Area west of Highway 400 and to seek Council approval to conduct additional study of smaller Off-Leash Dog Areas.

## **Background - Analysis and Options**

### **The Active Together Master Plan identifies community support for developing additional Off-Leash Dog Parks**

The 2013 Active Together Master Plan (ATMP) provides recommendations related to the provision of Off-Leash Dog Parks including the recommendation to develop a second Off-Leash Dog Park in an area west of Highway 400. Other recommendations include developing primary Off-Leash Dog Parks away from residential areas (i.e. Block 35 and 59), and exploring options for establishing small, more localized Off-Leash Dog Areas in closer proximity to residential communities especially in high density areas, which would be in addition to the larger primary off-leash parks recommended for each quadrant of the City.

The need for development and inclusion of Off-Leash Dog Parks within the City's park system is clearly identified. The 2013 update of the ATMP estimated that there are over 76,000 dog owners in the City with many dog owners seeking local recreation opportunities and requesting additional dedicated Off-Leash Dog Areas in neighbourhoods throughout the City. Off-Leash Dog Areas provide pet owners with the opportunity to exercise and socialize their dogs in a controlled area and they facilitate interaction between pet owners bringing social and physical activity benefits to residents. Off-Leash Dog Areas have proven to be quite successful in many municipalities, with larger urban areas often having several such facilities.

In response to a petition received for establishing an Off-Leash Dog Park in Woodbridge, Council, at its September 9, 2014 Committee of the Whole Meeting, adopted the following resolution (Item 50, Report No. 36, Recommendation 1 and 2):

*That the petition be received and referred to the Finance, Administration and Audit Committee, for consideration as part of the 2015 budget discussions; and*

*That in anticipation of such consideration, appropriate staff prepare a report on potential locations for an off leash park west of Highway 400, estimated costs, etc.*

Following direction from Council and receipt of public support through the petition bearing over 250 signatures, a Capital Project was approved as part of the 2015 Budget for preparing the required study for site selection.

### **An RFP process was undertaken to select a consultant to lead the site selection evaluation process and obtain feedback from the public and project stakeholders**

In November 2015 a Request for Proposal (RFP) was prepared and released (RFP15-524). Five (5) companies downloaded the RFP documents, no proposals were received and the RFP was cancelled. A second RFP (RFP16-035) was prepared and released in February 2016. Five (5) companies downloaded the RFP documents and two (2) proposals were received. Based on the results of the RFP evaluation, consulting firm Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure (Amec Foster Wheeler) was the highest scoring Proponent and a contract for their services was awarded.

Understanding the City's goal to identify potential Off-Leash Dog Park sites located west of Highway 400, Amec Forster Wheeler developed and undertook a study process that:

1. Considers available information from the City;
2. Provides recommendations on site selection criteria, evaluation conditions and assessment scoring;
3. Identifies priority areas and list of potential sites;
4. Identifies a short-list of three to four potential sites with high-level conceptual facility fits;
5. Includes consultation with City staff and community stakeholders in an equitable and transparent manner; and
6. Reports on the findings to City Council

**A variety of site selection criteria and evaluation factors were used to help determine a list of suitable sites for Off-Leash Dog Areas**

Based on the review of the previous assessment criteria for the site selection of additional Off-Leash Dog Park Areas along with information from other locations in Southern Ontario and off-leash best practices, the study team considered the following criteria to move forward for further refinement and determination of potential sites:

- Proximity to areas where children play
- Proximity to areas that are environmentally sensitive or designated
- Proximity to residential areas
- Proximity to major intersections and busy streets
- Availability and ownership of properties
- Size and accessibility by car or for pedestrians
- Safety, security and traffic considerations
- Site characteristics (such as drainage, vegetation)
- Cost (purchase, construction, maintenance)
- Opportunities for innovation
- Results of community input

The consolidated Site Selection Criteria for Off-leash Dog Areas was used to determine a short list of preferred sites using a two-step process:

Step 1 – Site Selection Criteria – Tier 1: general criteria that must be met for a site to be considered as a potential Primary Off-Leash Dog Area to move on to Tier 2 process, refer to Attachment 1, Table 3-1.

Step 2 – Site Selection Criteria - Tier 2: criteria to evaluate the relative quality of suitable sites and provide ranking. Develop preliminary layout plans and cost estimates for the potential Off-Leash Dog Areas, refer to Attachment 1, Table 3-2. This step includes public consultation and feedback from the community.

**A total of thirteen (13) potential sites were reviewed and considered as potential sites for Primary Off-Leash Dog Areas**

A summary of the thirteen (13) potential sites is presented on Table 3-3 and Figure 3.2 in Attachment 1. Following an initial screening, a total of seven (7) sites were evaluated using Tier 1 criteria as potential locations for a Primary Off-Leash Dog Area:

Location A:	Kirby Road and Weston Road (Identified future Park, Block 35, Ward 1)
Location B:	Rutherford Road and Highway 27 (Identified future Block 59 District Park, Ward 2)
Location C:	Major Mackenzie Drive and Highway 27 (City-owned property, open space, Ward 2)
Location D:	Foster Woods – Major Mackenzie Drive and Islington Avenue (City- owned property, open space, Ward 1)
Location E:	Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue (TRCA Lands, behind new Hospice location, Ward 2)
Location F:	Islington Avenue and Highway 27 (TRCA Lands, open space, Ward 1)
Location G:	Aviva Park Drive and Weston Road (City- owned property, open space, Ward 3)

Following the Tier 1 review a short list of four (4) sites advanced to Tier 2 review process for a Primary Off-Leash Dog Area, including Location B, C, E and G with location A, D and F determined to be not suitable due to availability/ownership, proximity to designated areas, and proximity to residential areas.

#### **Four (4) shortlisted locations were presented for public consultation and feedback**

A public consultation open house forum was held on September 20, 2016 and attended by over 76 residents, with over 100 comment sheets submitted. From the feedback received, Location E (Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue TRCA Lands, behind new Hospice location) scored the highest for reasons such as close proximity to residential area and natural character. When the consultant reviewed Location E in more detail, the consultant found that Location E requires additional costs associated with site grading, servicing, is situated adjacent to a wetland feature and would require the City to enter into a lease or license agreement with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) for the use of these lands. During the Tier 2 process and following initial discussion with TRCA staff, there was general support for an Off-Leash Dog area within Location E. However, during subsequent discussions with TRCA staff, there is a reluctance to proceed with the development of these lands for an Off-Leash Dog Area at this time due to ongoing discussions with the Region of York to use these lands for a Forestry/tree planting project.

In addition, the facility fit and cost estimate review process identified Location B (Rutherford Road and Highway 27, future Block 59 District Park) and Location G (Aviva Park Drive and Weston Road City-owned property, open space) as the two best candidates for a Primary Off-Leash Dog Area (refer to Attachment 1, Table 4-1). Both are publicly owned or planned future parkland properties, meet proximity and space requirements of the Tier 1 Selection Criteria, are not impacted by environmentally sensitive or designated features, and are accessible from a main road. Both sites are located within 10-15 minute drive from local residents.

#### **Location B (Rutherford Road and Highway 27, future Block 59 District Park) was identified as the highest scoring location**

Based on the results of the final evaluation Location B is recommended as the next Primary Off-Leash Dog Area having scored higher than both Location G and Location E. The Consultant also noted that Location B is the least expensive to develop and the most economically feasible location as construction costs can be shared with the development of the Block 59 District Park. As per the preliminary facility fit layout (refer to Figure 4.1), the setbacks and layout of the Off-Leash Dog Area within the park may require future acquisition and/or parkland conveyance of lands towards the northern limits of the District Park. These additional lands should be considered by the City in order to allow for expansion of the Off-Leash Dog Area or sports facilities, and the development of off-road trail systems.

#### **Additional Findings by the Consultant**

#### **A review of the existing Off-Leash Dog Area at Concord Thornhill Regional Park (CTRP) was undertaken to help understand operational considerations in the context of the planning for a second primary site.**

Through workshops held with Parks and Forestry Operations, By-law & Compliance, Licensing & Permits Services, Animal Control staff and external stakeholders during the month of June, 2016 and the online survey conducted from July 1, 2016 through to September 11, 2016, the following has been summarized in relation to comments received for the existing Off-Leash Dog Area within CTRP. The purpose of the workshops and the survey questions was to understand lessons learned from the current Off-Leash Dog Area; to gain an understanding of the opportunities and challenges in the selection of a second site within the municipality, and to discuss other issues or concerns. The following summarizes the key points from the workshops (refer to Attachment 1, Section 5.3).

1. Increased by-law enforcement (aggressive dogs, inappropriate use, poop & scoop waste collection)
2. Improved maintenance (frequency)
3. Improved surface material (improve grass, add woodchip surfacing)
4. Improved lighting



5. Improved accessibility (upgrade existing granular pathway and drainage)
6. Add Amenities :
  - a. Shade/wind coverage (trees, shelter)
  - b. Drinking water
  - c. Agility / training area
  - d. Benches
  - e. Separate entrances for small and large dogs
  - f. Provide varied terrain

Based on comments received from user groups and a general review of the CTRP Off-Leash Dog Area, the following levels of service are recommended for all future Primary Off-Leash Dog Areas:

**Standard Level of Service:** It is recommended that standards for Primary Off-Leash Dog Areas include materials and facilities that have an overall low capital and maintenance costs, are therefore feasible for implementation at all Off-Leash Dog Areas:

1. Parking area,
2. 1.5m high perimeter fencing and entry gates,
3. Woodchip and/or natural turf surfacing,
4. Lighting,
5. Notice Board or Kiosk,
6. Separate enclosures and entrances for small dogs and large dogs,
7. Site Furnishing (Seating, Trash, Recycling and Dog Waste Bins);
8. Waste bag dispensers,
9. Code of conduct and educational signage,
10. Entry and leaving area signs, and
11. Shade tree planting/Shade Structure

**Enhanced Level of Service:** It is recommended that items associated with higher capital and maintenance costs may be considered through sponsorship or donations from an affiliated organization and off-leash dog group or through special funding or grants:

1. Water Fountain
2. Agility course (play equipment)

Although agility equipment was identified through the community consultation process and expressed desirability from Off-Leash Dog Area users, this equipment should only be used in a proper training environment, and not by amateurs. Staff have concerns that unsupervised use can lead to risk of injury when this equipment is improperly used.

Parks Development staff will work with Parks and Forestry Operations, By-law & Compliance, Licensing & Permits Services, Animal Control staff on the recommended improvements and determine what works should be considered in future capital and operating budgets.

**Public consultation and survey results identified an overwhelming desire for the City to establish smaller Off-Leash Dog Areas**

In addition to comments received for the timely development of a second Primary Off-Leash Dog Area west of highway 400, staff also received request for Local Off-Leash Areas within a 500m (5-10 minute) walking distance from residential homes. Survey results indicate that a majority of dog owners take their dogs for exercise locally and prefer to walk a short distance to a local Off-Leash Dog Area instead of driving a car to a larger Primary Off-Leash Area on a regular basis.

In addition, many communities throughout the City are experiencing an increase of residential infill projects and development intensification, mainly in the form of medium density and high-rise towers. In order to support both the current residents and planned population growth within existing communities, it is becoming very important for the City to provide park and open space amenities that appeal to a variety of lifestyles and age groups. In most growing municipalities,

local neighbourhood and urban Off-Leash Dog Areas are a standard level of service and serve the community by providing both a recreation and social function.

To further explore ways the City can accommodate the interests and lifestyle of these current and future residents, further review and public consultation is proposed regarding the development of Local Off-Leash Dog Areas that permit dogs to run off-leash in designated areas within a local neighbourhood or district park. Through additional public consultation City staff will review the possibility of identifying smaller Local Off-Leash Dog Areas throughout the City, with specific criteria, where there is a demonstrated demand from the community and report back to Council with the findings and a proposed approach.

### **Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2016-2018)**

This report is consistent with the priorities established in the updated Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map, specifically:

- Invest, renew and manage infrastructure and assets
- Continue to cultivate an environmental sustainable City
- Support and promote arts, culture, heritage and sports in the community

### **Regional Implications**

Not Applicable.

### **Conclusion**

A thorough public consultation process was undertaken to assess potential locations to establish a second Primary Off-Leash Dog Area in the City located west of Highway 400. Through the evaluation process, the proposed site selection criteria identified four suitable sites for a future Primary Off-Leash Dog Area with Location B, located at Rutherford Road and Hwy 27, within the future Block 59 District Park, as the recommended site for the next Primary Off-Leash Dog Area. Staff will conduct a feasibility assessment of this site and report back. Additional consideration and public consultation is also recommended regarding the development of Local Off-Leash Dog Areas within existing Neighbourhood and District Parks. Staff propose completing further review and analysis and report back to a future Committee meeting with findings and a proposed approach.

### **Attachments**

1. Planning and Site Selection Report, prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler, dated October 18, 2016

### **Report prepared by:**

Martin Tavares, Manager of Parks & Open Space Planning, ext. 8882

Michael Habib, Senior Planner, ext. 8092

Jamie Bronsema, Director of Parks Development, ext. 8058

Respectfully submitted,

John MacKenzie  
Deputy City Manager  
Planning and Growth Management

Jamie Bronsema  
Director of Parks Development

# **ATTACHMENT 1**



**CITY OF VAUGHAN  
WEST OF HIGHWAY 400  
OFF-LEASH DOG PARK SITE SELECTION  
PLANNING AND SITE SELECTION REPORT**

**Submitted to:  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, Ontario  
L6A 1T1**

**Submitted by:  
Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure  
a Division of Amec Foster Wheeler Americas Limited  
160 Traders Blvd., Suite 110  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L4Z 3K7**

**October 18, 2016**

**TC160417**

October 18, 2016

TC160417


Michael Habib  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1T1

Dear Mr. Habib,

Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, a Division of Amec Foster Wheeler Americas Limited (Amec Foster Wheeler) is pleased to submit this Planning and Site Selection Report for an off-leash dog park west of Highway 400 to the City of Vaughan.

Yours truly,

**AMEC Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure**  
**a Division of Amec Foster Wheeler Americas Limited**



Mary Kathryn Kelly, B.Sc.  
Senior Consultant, Human Environment

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.0 BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Review of Other Dog Areas in Southern Ontario .....	7
2.2 Initial Assessment .....	10
2.3 What Makes a Good Off-Leash Dog Area .....	10
<b>3.0 SITE SELECTION PROCESS.....</b>	<b>12</b>
3.1 Site Selection Criteria.....	12
3.2 Potential Sites – Long List .....	14
3.3 Evaluation and Assessment.....	21
<b>4.0 POTENTIAL SITES – SHORT LIST .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>5.0 CONSULTATION FINDINGS .....</b>	<b>33</b>
5.1 City Staff Workshop – June 1, 2016 .....	33
5.2 Stakeholder Workshop – June 28, 2016.....	33
5.3 Public Survey .....	34
5.4 Other Consultation Activities .....	35
5.5 Public Open House – September 20, 2016 .....	37
<b>6.0 PREFERRED SITE .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>7.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>8.0 CLOSURE.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>9.0 REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>44</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1: Southern Ontario Comparatives .....	8
Table 3-1: Site Selection Criteria – Tier 1 .....	13
Table 3-2: Site Selection Criteria – Tier 2 .....	14
Table 3-3: Potential Off-Leash Dog Area Locations .....	15
Table 3-4: Tier 1 Assessment of Long List of Potential Locations .....	24
Table 4-1: Tier 2 Assessment of Short List of Potential Locations .....	27
Table 4-2: Short List Locations Advantages and Disadvantages .....	28

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1: Generic Layout.....	10
Figure 3.1: Site Selection Process .....	12
Figure 3.2: Potential Off-Leash Dog Area Locations .....	20
Figure 3.3: Potential Off-Leash Dog Area Long List Locations.....	23
Figure 4.1: Potential Off-Leash Dog Area Short List Location ‘B’ .....	29
Figure 4.2: Potential Off-Leash Dog Area Short List Location ‘C’ .....	30

Figure 4.3: Potential Off-Leash Dog Area Short List Location 'E' .....	31
Figure 4.4: Potential Off-Leash Dog Area Short List Location 'G' .....	32

## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A:	Survey and Information Poster
Appendix B:	Survey Results Summary
Appendix C:	Consultation Findings Reference Materials
Appendix D:	Open House Comment Form Results Summary

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure (Amec Foster Wheeler) was retained by the City of Vaughan (the City) to undertake a site selection process to address the need for an off-leash dog park west of Highway 400. This need has been identified by citizens who have generated a petition and voiced their need to the City. As well, the results of the 2013 Active Together Master Plan (ATMP) identified the need to develop additional off-leash dog parks. The City committed to an open and transparent site selection process is required to ensure that the proposed locations address environmental constraints and social concerns.

The family dog is an important member of many families. The Canadian Animal Health Institute (2015) identify that 34% of Canadian households own dogs. For the City of Vaughan, whose census data identifies 80,835 households, there would be 27,484 households owning dogs (Statistics Canada, 2012). The ATMP, based on information from the Vaughan Dog Owners Group (DOG), estimates that 76,000 residents own dogs in Vaughan. Providing areas where these family members can safely play and socialize are important to the dog's quality of life. Families may have limited available space to provide a safe place for dogs to play and socialize. Off-leash dog areas fulfill this need for families.

Amec Foster Wheeler recognizes that the City aims to identify four potential off-leash dog areas west of Highway 400 through a process that:

- Considers available information from the City;
- Provides recommendations on site selection criteria, evaluation conditions and assessment scoring;
- Identifies priority areas and a long-list of potential sites;
- Identifies a short list of three potential sites with high-level conceptual facility fits;
- Includes consultation with City staff and community stakeholders in an equitable and transparent manner; and
- Reports on the findings to City Council.

Through discussions with the City the focus of the study was directed towards the assessment and site selection of off-leash dog areas that would be considered Primary in scale, similar to that of the Concord/Thornhill Regional Park. Regional and District parks provide the physical space as well as access to infrastructure required such as fencing, electricity, parking, etc. The City recognizes that off-leash dog areas that would be considered Local in scale and could be situated in existing community parks are also of the interest of dog owners. These parks provide a physical space to exercise dogs; however, their size and available infrastructure are limited. The City will assess Local scale off-leash dog areas as part of a separate exercise.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

The City first considered the need for off-leash dog facility in 2003. A list of potential sites was developed, which included locations in Maple, Woodbridge, Kleinburg and Thornhill. In March 2003, City Council was provided with these locations as well as recommendations for further research and a pilot site be developed in 2004.

In 2006, City Councillor Tony Carella recommended that the City initiate a pilot study for an off-leash park within Ward 2. An off-leash dog area was investigated within the Hydro One corridor in the vicinity of Highways 7 and 27. Following comments received at the January 10, 2007 public meeting, the location was not pursued any further due to significant objection to the location; however, there was a recommendation for the development of an 'Off-Leash Area Working Committee' to determine a more appropriate location.

Between February 2007 and November 2008, the Working Committee developed a list of potential sites and established criteria to assess the site suitability, rank sites and consult with the public. A total of 32 potential sites were evaluated with a short list of 7 sites moved forward for further evaluation. The Working Committee ultimately selected site #3, the Concord-Thornhill Regional Park, as the City's first off-leash dog facility. In 2009, the City's first off-leash dog park was constructed and opened. The Working Committee strongly recommended that sufficient funds be set aside in 2011 budget to fund the construction of a second off-leash dog area west of Highway 400 to serve the western half of the city.

In 2008, the Active Together Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Culture & Libraries supported the inclusion of off-leash park areas and recommended the following:

- The City should develop at least one new off-leash dog park as a pilot project to gauge the demand for the facility and the capacity of the community to support it through assistance with certain operational aspects. Additional off-leash areas should be pursued if the pilot project is deemed successful (2008 – 2012); and
- Advance planning should be undertaken for the development of up to 5 additional off-leash dog parks (2008 – 2017).

In 2013, the Active Together Master Plan Parks, Recreation & Libraries was updated (2013 Review & Update) and reiterated the City's commitment to the implementation of additional off-leash areas and recommended the following:

- Develop a second off-leash dog park in an area west of Highway 400 in the short-term. Sponsorship from an affiliated organization is recommended to assist with park management;
- Develop off-leash dog parks in the District Parks proposed for Blocks 35 and 59 (both are in employment areas); and
- Explore options for establishing smaller, more localized off-leash areas in closer proximity to residential communities and higher density areas. These secondary facilities would be in addition to the larger primary off-leash parks recommended for each quadrant of the City.



In 2014, City Council received a petition requesting that the City to establish an off-leash dog facility in the community of Woodbridge. There were 500 signatories to the petition. In response to the petition, City Council passed a resolution to direct staff to prepare a report on potential locations for an off-leash dog park west of Highway 400.

In 2015, the City issued a request for proposal (RFP) for consultant services related to the site selection of an off-leash dog park west of Highway 400. The City received no responses to this RFP and subsequently re-issued the RFP (this Study) in March 2016. In May 2016, Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure was awarded the contract.

## **2.1 Review of Other Dog Areas in Southern Ontario**

The following provides an overview of several off-leash dog areas in Southern Ontario that were considered as part of this project. The review focused on:

- Communities of similar size to the City of Vaughan,
- The number, location and size of off-leash dog areas,
- The infrastructure of off-leash dog areas,
- The operation and maintenance (including community groups), and
- Community acceptance.

This information was gathered from publically available information as well as personal communications with municipal representatives. Not all municipalities responded to the study team's inquiries. Table 2-1 presents a summary of the southern Ontario communities with off-leash dog areas. Based on the review of information and personal communications it was identified that the development of a volunteer-led dog owners groups is a key component of successfully managed off-leash dog areas. The City of Richmond Hill identified that their dog areas have the most users when compared to other municipal parks and that the investment is the 'best bang for your buck'.

**Table 2-1: Southern Ontario Comparatives**

Details	Brampton	Cobourg	Markham	Mississauga	Richmond Hill
Population (2011)	523,911	18,519	301,709	713,443	185,541
No. of Dog Areas	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 - 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	- Owned by the Town	- Volunteer run –	- Volunteer-run, member-	- Managed and maintained

Details	Brampton	Cobourg	Markham	Mississauga	Richmond Hill
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the City of Brampton</li> <li>- Dog owners must have vaccinated, licensed and neutered or spayed their dogs before they can use the leash-free parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Operated through a partnership between the Town and Cobourg and District Dog Owners Group</li> <li>- All dogs must own and wear a dog tag to enter the park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>responsible for overall organization of off-leash free areas</li> <li>- Membership \$20 year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>funded organization (Leash-Free Mississauga est. 1997) responsible for all day-to-day operations and capital improvements</li> <li>- All parks are open to the public</li> <li>- Memberships support operation and maintenance</li> <li>- Memberships annually cost \$15 for 1 dog and \$20 for 2-4 dogs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by the Town in partnership with Richmond Hill K9 Klub through the Off-Leash Dog Area Policy</li> <li>- Richmond Hill K9 Klub is responsible for upholding the "Shared Responsibility for Ongoing Operations"</li> <li>- No off-leash areas are established without the existence of a group that adopts the "Shared Responsibility for Ongoing Operations"</li> </ul>
By-laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By-Law 389-2004 A By-law to Amend Dog By-law 7-92 to Provide for Rules Relating to Off-leash Parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By-Law 026-2015 establish and regulate the use of off-leash dog parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By-Law 20005-254 Animal Control By-Law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Animal Care and Control By-law 0098-04</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Off-eash Dog Area Rules Park Use By-law 16-83</li> <li>- Off-Leash Dog Area Policy (2009)</li> </ul>
Community Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No community group associated with off-leash parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cobourg and District Dog Owners Group (CADD OG)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leash Free Markham Committee (Advisory Committee appointed by Council) is run by volunteers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leash-Free Mississauga</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Richmond Hill K9 Klub</li> </ul>
Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <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></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <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></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="http://www.markham.ca/portal/Markham/Residents/AnimalServices/BylawsAndOffLeashAreas">http://www.markham.ca/portal/Markham/Residents/AnimalServices/BylawsAndOffLeashAreas</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/leashfree">http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/leashfree</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://www.leashfreemississauga.ca/">http://www.leashfreemississauga.ca/</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="http://www.richmondhill.ca/subpage.asp?pageid=prc_parks_off_leash_dog_area">http://www.richmondhill.ca/subpage.asp?pageid=prc_parks_off_leash_dog_area</a></li> </ul>

Notes:

1 - Not all amenities and infrastructure available at all parks within a municipality

n/a – Information regarding specific details was not available via the associated municipalities' website. Inquiries were made to cities of Brampton and Markham but no responses have been received.

Source:

Statistics Canada, 2012 Census Profiles Brampton, Cobourg, Markham, Mississauga, Richmond Hill

City of Brampton, 2016

Town of Cobourg, 2016; pers. comm. Teresa Behan, Town of Cobourg, 2016

City of Markham, 2016

City of Mississauga, 2016

Town of Richmond Hill, 2016; pers. comm. Trace Steele, Town of Richmond Hill, 2016

## 2.2 Initial Assessment

Based on a review of the previous assessment criteria, information from other locations in Southern Ontario, and best practices, the study team considered the following criteria to move forward for further refinement.

- Proximity to areas where children play,
- Proximity to areas that are environmentally sensitive or designated
- Proximity to residential areas;
- Proximity to major intersections or streets;
- Availability and ownership of properties;
- Size and accessibility by car or for pedestrians;;
- Safety, security and traffic considerations;
- Site characteristics (such as drainage, vegetation);
- Cost (purchase, construction, maintenance);
- Opportunities for innovation; and
- Results of Community input.

## 2.3 What Makes a Good Off-Leash Dog Area

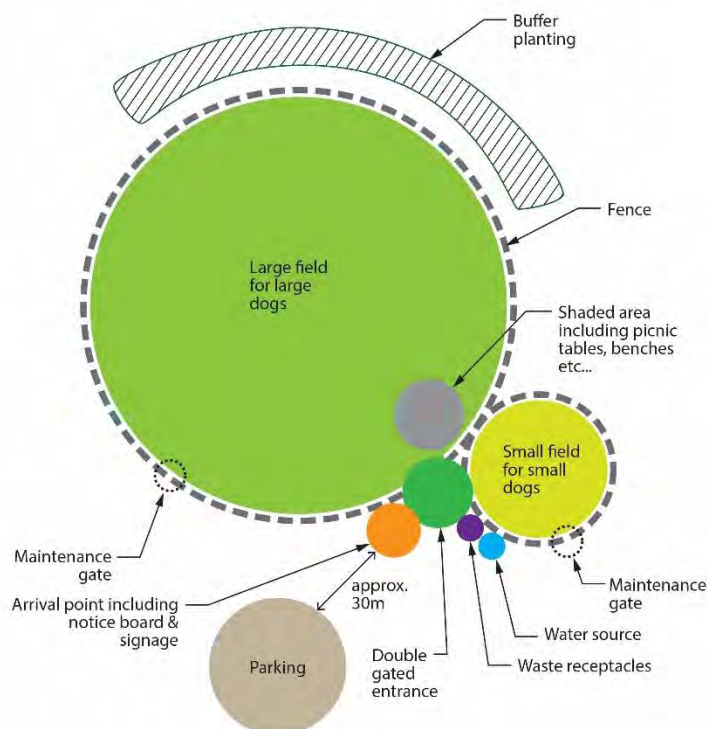
Research identified that the following components are critical to developing and maintaining an effective off-leash facility. Figure 2.1 presents a generic layout of an off-leash dog areas.

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

Key characteristics of an off-leash dog area include:

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

**Figure 2.1: Generic Layout**



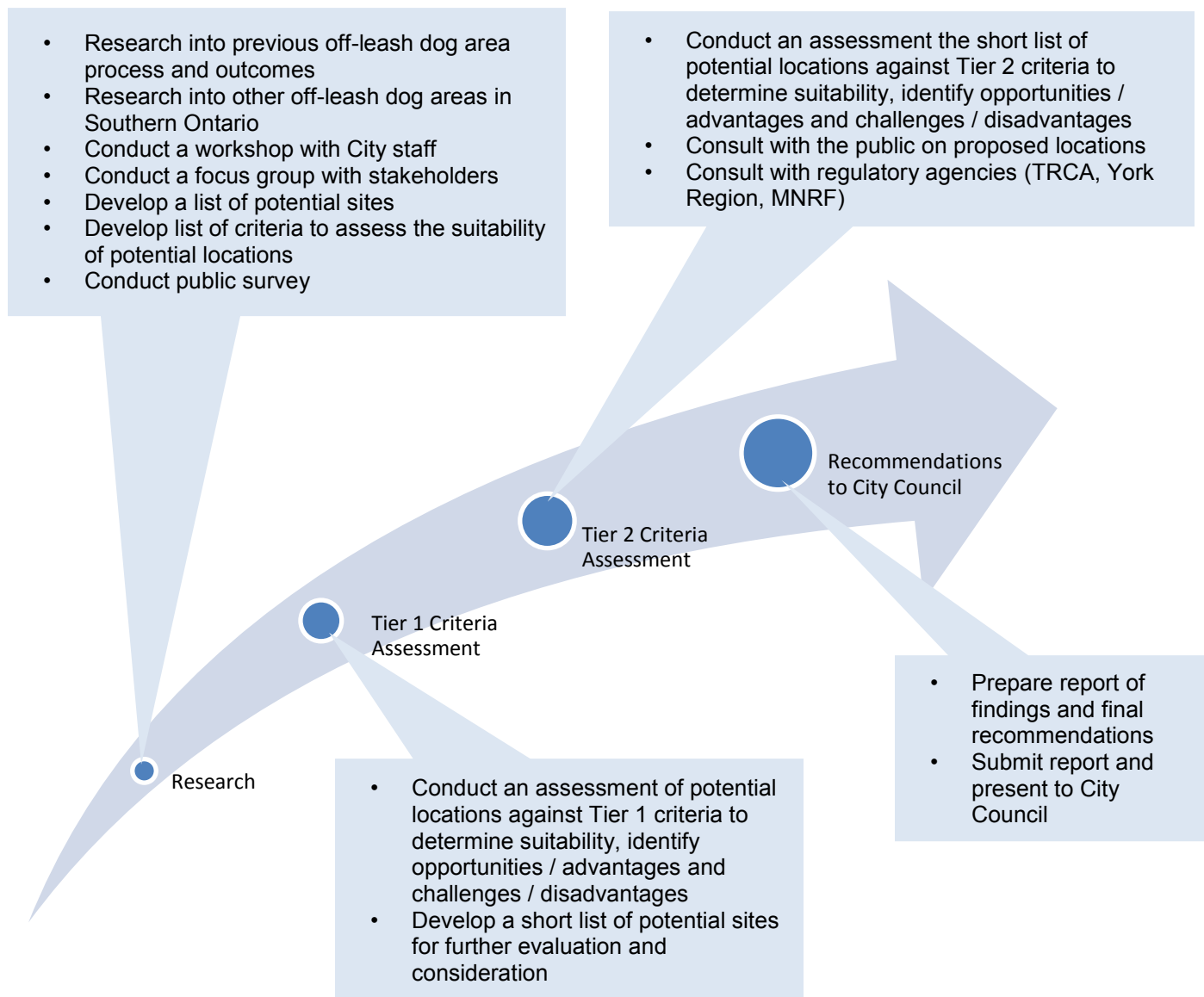
Some of the features and facilities that should be included in a dog area are:

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

### 3.0 SITE SELECTION PROCESS

The site selection process follows three consecutive steps leading up to the recommendation to City Council. Figure 3.1 below presents the site selection process.

**Figure 3.1: Site Selection Process**



### 3.1 Site Selection Criteria

The site selection criteria was assembled from the previous off-leash dog facility site selection process, from research on other existing off-leash facilities in Southern Ontario, research on off-



leash dog areas in general, and through discussions with City staff and stakeholders. The criteria was vetted through discussions with the City staff and public during workshops in June 2016 (see Section 5.0 Consultation Findings).

These criteria were divided into two tiers: Tier 1 and Tier 2. The Tier 1 criteria were used to assess the long list of potential Primary scale sites to determine whether these sites met the minimum requirements to proceed for further evaluation. An overview of the long list of potential site is presented in Section 3.1 and Figure 3-1. The results of the Tier 1 assessment are discussed in Section 3.2. The Tier 2 criteria were used to assess the short list of potential sites; the details of the Tier 2 assessment for the short list of potential sites is presented in Section 4.0.

Table 3-1 and Table 3-2 presents the criteria, including a description and ranking, for the Tier 1 and Tier 2 assessments.

**Table 3-1: Site Selection Criteria – Tier 1**

Criteria	Criteria Description	Criteria Rankings
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 (59 ft. to 98 ft.) 5: > 30 m (98 ft.)
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 (16ft. To 59 ft.) 5: > 15 m (59 ft.)
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 (59 ft. to 98 ft.) 5: > 30 m (98 ft.)
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
Proximity to major street	Potential site location preference on major street	1: Several streets away 3: Adjacent 5: On
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
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
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
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)
Accessibility	Potential site provides accessibility (parking, public transit, AODA)	1: Poor 3: Average 5: Good
Safety and security	Potential site considers users and non-users safety and security (easily visible, electricity for lighting)	1: Poor 3: Average 5: Good

Criteria	Criteria Description	Criteria Rankings
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
Park status	Potential status of park.	1: limited park development potential 3: new park designation possible 5: designated park
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
Drainage	Potential site should be well drained (max. slope 15%)	1: Poor 3: Average 5: Good

**Table 3-2: Site Selection Criteria – Tier 2**

Criteria	Criteria Description	Criteria Rankings
Cost – Construction <sup>1</sup>	Potential site considers constructability.	1: \$\$\$ 3: \$\$ 5: \$
Cost - Maintenance <sup>1</sup>	Potential site considers ongoing maintenance efforts.	1: \$\$\$ 3: \$\$ 5: \$
Cost - Acquisition <sup>1</sup>	Costs of land acquisition or lease where required	1: \$\$\$ 3: \$\$ 5: \$
Innovative Opportunities	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
Synergies	Opportunity to create synergies with existing facilities such as parking or trails	1: no potential 3: limited potential 5: significant potential
Public Survey/Public Open House	Feedback from the public survey and public open house	1: Unsupportive feedback 3: Limited feedback 5: Supportive feedback


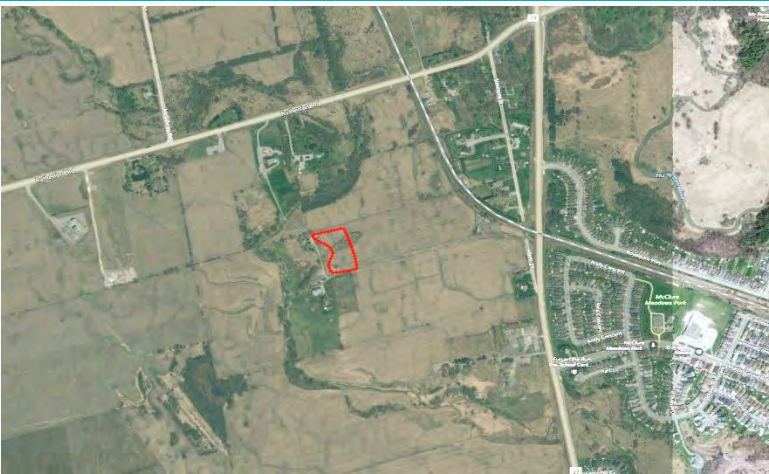

Notes:

1 – Cost was evaluated using orders of magnitude and considered the standard level of service that is currently being employed at the existing off-leash dog facility. The lowest order of magnitude is represented by \$ and the highest order of magnitude is represented by \$\$\$.

### 3.2 Potential Sites – Long List

The City identified 13 potential sites based on discussions with City staff and community residents as well as those considered during the previous assessment. This long list considered potential sites that would be considered both Primary and Local in scale. A summary of the long list of these 13 potential sites is presented in Table 3-3 and the locations are presented on Figure 3-1.

**Table 3-3: Potential Off-Leash Dog Area Locations**

Location and Comments	Aerial Map of Potential Location <sup>1</sup>
<p><b>1: Kirby Road and Weston Road (Block 35)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified in the 2013 ATMP</li> <li>• Timeframe: 5 to 10 years and subject to a secondary planning process</li> <li>• Long term horizon</li> <li>• Primary scale</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2: Rutherford Road and Highway 27 (Block 59)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified in the 2013 ATMP</li> <li>• Timeframe: 2 to 3 years as part of the development of a new District Park</li> <li>• Location behind existing FedEx building</li> <li>• A facility plan for the park will have to be modified to account for a dog area with potential to use the adjacent (north) open space</li> <li>• Primary scale</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3: Major Mackenzie and Highway 27</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New location identified in 2016</li> <li>• Timeframe: 2 to 3 years</li> <li>• City-owned open space that can be developed for park use</li> <li>• Some purchase of land may be required for access</li> <li>• Issue with access to property – may require right-in or right-out access</li> <li>• Close to major intersection</li> <li>• Primary scale</li> </ul>	



## Location and Comments

## Aerial Map of Potential Location<sup>1</sup>

### 4: Foster Woods (Major Mackenzie Drive and Islington Avenue)

- Previously identified, shortlisted and ranked 1st overall in 2008
- Timeframe: 2 to 3 years
- Community and neighbour consultation required
- Requires lease or management agreement with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Primary scale



### 5: Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue

- Previously identified, shortlisted in 2008
- Timeframe: 2 to 3 years
- Location would be behind the planned hospice site
- Requires lease or management agreement with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Primary scale



### 6: Chancellor District Park

- New location identified in 2016
- Location is an existing soccer field
- Low lying wet area on the west side of the park
- Community scale





## Location and Comments

## Aerial Map of Potential Location<sup>1</sup>

### 7: Giovanni Caboto Park

- New location identified in 2016
- Location is an existing soccer field
- Access to parking maybe an issue
- Close to existing residential houses
- Community scale



### 8: Vaughan Grove Sport Park




- Previously identified in 2008
- South location not considered feasible
- Property is leased from the Region for the Vaughan Grove sports lands; may require additional agreements to add an off-leash facility in the park
- Community scale



### 9: Islington Avenue and Highway 27

- New location identified in 2016
- Timeframe: 2 to 3 years
- Located in the Kleinburg area
- Community and neighbour consultation required
- Primary scale
- Requires lease or management agreement with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority



Location and Comments	Aerial Map of Potential Location <sup>1</sup>
<p><b>10: Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Potential Off-Leash Facility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Considered as part of the Master Plan for the TRCA Park</li> <li>Timeframe unknown</li> <li>Primary scale; however, outside City planning</li> </ul>	
<p><b>11: Islington Avenue and Woodbridge Avenue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New location identified in 2016</li> <li>Location is small cleared area</li> <li>Limited parking available</li> <li>Community scale</li> <li>Requires lease or management agreement with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority</li> </ul>	
<p><b>12: Weston Downs Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New location identified in 2016</li> <li>Location is an open area adjacent to community building</li> <li>Close to existing residential houses</li> <li>Community scale</li> </ul>	



#### Location and Comments

#### Aerial Map of Potential Location<sup>1</sup>

##### 13: Aviva Park Drive and Weston Road

- New location identified in 2016
- Timeframe: 2 to 3 years
- Adjacent to a stormwater management pond
- Primary scale



#### Notes

1: Location may not be exactly as shown.

**Existing Primary Off-Leash Dog Park at Concord/Thornhill Regional Park**

**Potential Sites considered - Part of Long List**

**Tier 1 Assessed Locations**

**Tier 1 and Tier 2 Assessed Locations**

**Scope West of Highway 404**

**Legend**

- Schools (Public/Catholic)
- Community Centres
- Ward Boundaries
- Bike Paths and Trails
- Rail
- TransCanada Pipeline
- Transmission Line
- Woodlot
- Existing Parks
- Open Space

**Scale:** 0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers

**North Arrow**

**Map Notes:** This map is for internal use only. This map is not for sale and is not to be used for any other purpose without the written permission of the City of Vaughan. The map is a reference document only and should not be used for any other purpose. The map is a reference document only and should not be used for any other purpose. The map is a reference document only and should not be used for any other purpose.

### 3.3 Evaluation and Assessment

As a result of initial discussions with the City staff it was determined that the focus of this study would be to assess potential off-leash facilities at a Primary scale similar to the existing Off-Leash Facility at Concord/Thornhill Regional Park. For this reason, the following seven locations were assessed using the Tier 1 evaluation criteria (Table 3-4):

- Location A: Kirby Road and Weston Road - Block 35
- Location B: Rutherford Road and Highway 27 – future Block 59 District Park
- Location C: Major Mackenzie Drive and Highway 27
- Location D: Foster Woods – Major Mackenzie Drive and Islington Avenue
- Location E: Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue – behind new Hospice location
- Location F: Islington Avenue and Highway 27
- Location G: Aviva Park Drive and Weston Road

Each criteria was given a possible value of 5, where each criteria was ranked from a low of 1 to a high of 5. With 15 criteria the total eligible points in the Tier 1 assessment was 75. Locations meeting a Tier 1 score of 75% (56 points) or higher were considered the preferred sites; however, locations meeting a Tier 1 minimum score of 60% (45 points) were moved forward for further assessment as part of the Tier 2 assessment.

The results of the Tier 1 assessment are presented on Table 3-4. Potential sites B and G ranked the highest respectively receiving 61 and 57 points out of the possible 75. Location B is in the location of a new proposed District Park anticipated to be constructed over the next 2-3 years. Location B is situated closer to designated areas and to make best use of the land the City would need to consider acquiring open space directly north of the proposed park boundaries should the planned facilities and park program remain unchanged. Location B would provide the necessary infrastructure as it could be designed as part of the District Park infrastructure needs. Location G is situated south of Highway 407 and does not have the preferred proximity to major intersections or streets, and therefore limits ease of access. Location G is not an existing park with surface conditions that might affect adequate site drainage. The City would need to consider access requirements with neighbouring property owners (businesses). However, for Location G the land is City-owned and currently used for stormwater management. Potential locations B and G were moved forward to the Tier 2 assessment.

Two other potential locations, C and E, ranked above the minimum score of 60% (45 points) and were moved forward to the Tier 2 assessment. Location C ranked 45 out of the possible 75. This potential location would be situated on City-owned open space at Major Mackenzie and Highway 27. An existing trail into a neighbouring residential area provides opportunities for connection to existing residential areas. The Region of York is in the process of re-aligning Major Mackenzie in this area, so further discussions with the Region are required. Given road access would be off regional road Highway 27, York Region indicated a requirement for additional parking may be requested to limit overflow parking and limited access points. Furthermore, the site is likely partially falls within a TRCA flood plain regulated area that would require meeting additional regulatory conditions. Location E ranked 51 out of the possible 75.

This potential location would be situated behind a planned hospice near Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue. Given likely access of Islington Avenue, York Region indicated a requirement for additional parking might be requested to limit overflow parking and limited access points. Consultation and coordination with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority would be required due to lands being located within their owned and regulated limits.



**Figure 3.3: Potential Off-Leash Dog Area Long List Locations**

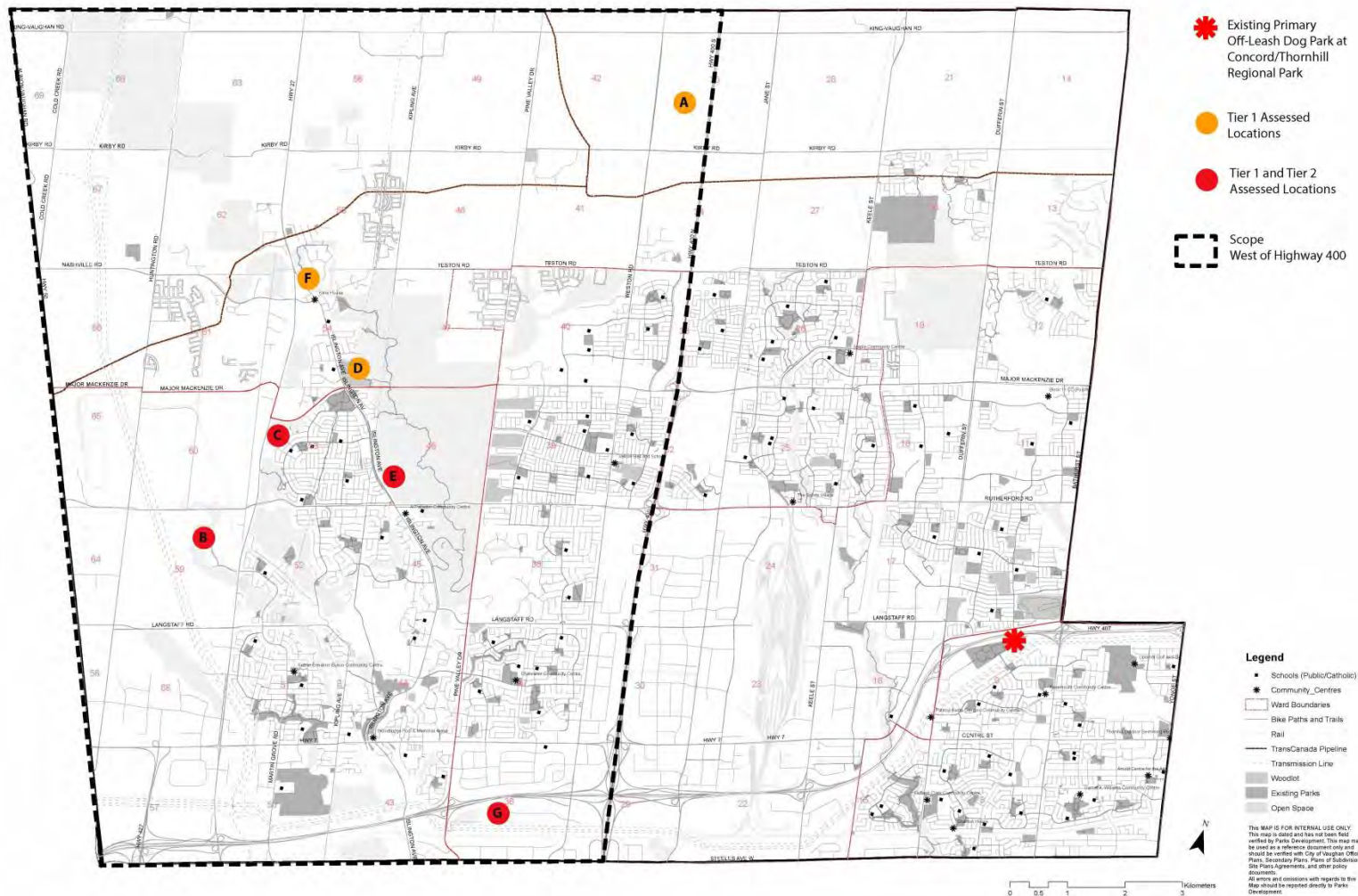




Table 3-4: Tier 1 Assessment of Long List of Potential Locations

Criteria	Criteria Description	Criteria Rankings	Location A	Location B	Location C	Location D	Location E	Location F	Location G
			General Description: Kirby Road and Weston Road - Block 35	General Description: Rutherford Road and Highway 27 – future Block 59 District Park	General Description: Major Mackenzie Drive and Highway 27	General Description: Foster Woods – Major Mackenzie Drive and Islington Avenue	General Description: Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue – behind new Hospice location	General Description: Islington Avenue and Highway 27	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 (59 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 (16ft. To 59 ft.) 5: > 15 m (59 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 (59 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



Criteria	Criteria Description	Criteria Rankings	Location A	Location B	Location C	Location D	Location E	Location F	Location G
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			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

#### **4.0 POTENTIAL SITES – SHORT LIST**

Based on the results from the Tier 1 assessment, the following four locations were assessed using the Tier 2 evaluation criteria (Table 4-1):

- Location B: Rutherford Road and Highway 27 – future Block 59 District Park
- Location C: Major Mackenzie Drive and Highway 27
- Location E: Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue – behind new Hospice location
- Location G: Aviva Park Drive and Weston Road

Each criteria was given a possible value of 5, where each criteria was ranked from a low of 1 to a high of 5. With 6 criteria the total eligible points in the Tier 2 assessment was 30. Locations meeting a Tier 2 score of 75% (56 points) or higher were considered preferred sites.

The following presents in order of preference a summary of the results. Table 4-1 presents the criteria rankings and Table 4-2 identifies the advantages / opportunities and disadvantages / challenges of the proposed locations.

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

Potential Location B ranked highest in the Tier 1 assessment (61 out of 75 points) and ranked the highest in the Tier 2 assessment (24 out of 35 points). Location B is envisioned to be developed as part of a planned District Park that would provide construction and maintenance cost advantages. The acquisition of open space to the north could have negative cost implications and therefore scored lower in this category. The City may consider options for lease or similar with the existing property owner. The timeline, anticipated to be constructed over the next 2-3 years, and distance from residential areas limited the public's preference for this location. While comments received during the open house identified that the location was a good idea there was a clear preference and need for local and timely off-leash facilities.

##### **Location G: Aviva Park Drive and Weston Road**

Potential Location G ranked second in the Tier 1 assessment (57 out of 75 points) and ranked second in the Tier 2 assessment (22 out of 35 points). While Location G does not have the preferred proximity to major intersections or streets that limits ease of access, there was an identified interest in this location from the public due to speed to which the location could be made available and due to its distance away from residential areas. The City would need to consider access requirements with neighbouring property owners (businesses) and topography.

##### **Location E: Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue**

Potential Location E ranked third in both the Tier 1 assessment (51 out of 75 points) and Tier 2 assessment (20 out of 35 points). Identified cost implication associated with the constructability and maintenance of the location present the most significant unknown challenge to this proposed location. Consultation and coordination with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority would be required due to lands being located within their regulated limits. Location E was clearly favored by the public with 69% of the comment forms identifying a preference for this location.



## Location C: Major Mackenzie Drive and Highway 27

Potential Location C ranked lowest in both the Tier 1 assessment (45 out of 75 points) and Tier 2 assessment (10 out of 35 points). While this potential location is situated on City-owned open space with an existing trail to a neighbouring residential area, the proximity to Major Mackenzie and access off Highway 27 presented concerns to the public. Public comments regarding this location identified concern related to ease of access and associated traffic, low-lying flood plain areas and realignment of Major Mackenzie.

**Table 4-1: Tier 2 Assessment of Short List of Potential Locations**

Criteria	Criteria Description	Criteria Rankings	Location B	Location C	Location E	Location G
			<b>General Description:</b> Rutherford Road and Highway 27 - future Block 59 District Park	<b>General Description:</b> Major Mackenzie Drive and Highway 27	<b>General Description:</b> Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue - behind new Hospice location	<b>General Description:</b> Aviva Park Drive and Weston Road
Cost - Construction	Potential site considers constructability	1: \$\$\$ 3: \$\$ 5: \$	5	1	1	3
Cost - Maintenance	Potential site considers ongoing maintenance efforts	1: \$\$\$ 3: \$\$ 5: \$	5	1	1	3
Cost - Acquisition	Costs of land acquisition or lease where required	1: \$\$\$ 3: \$\$ 5: \$	1	1	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 <sup>1</sup>	Feedback from the public open house	1: Unsupportive feedback 3: Limited feedback 5: Supportive feedback	3	1	5	3
Total Tier 2 Ranking			24	10	20	22
Total Tier 1 Ranking			61	45	51	57
Overall Percent Ranking			81%	52%	68%	75%
<b>Overall Rank</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

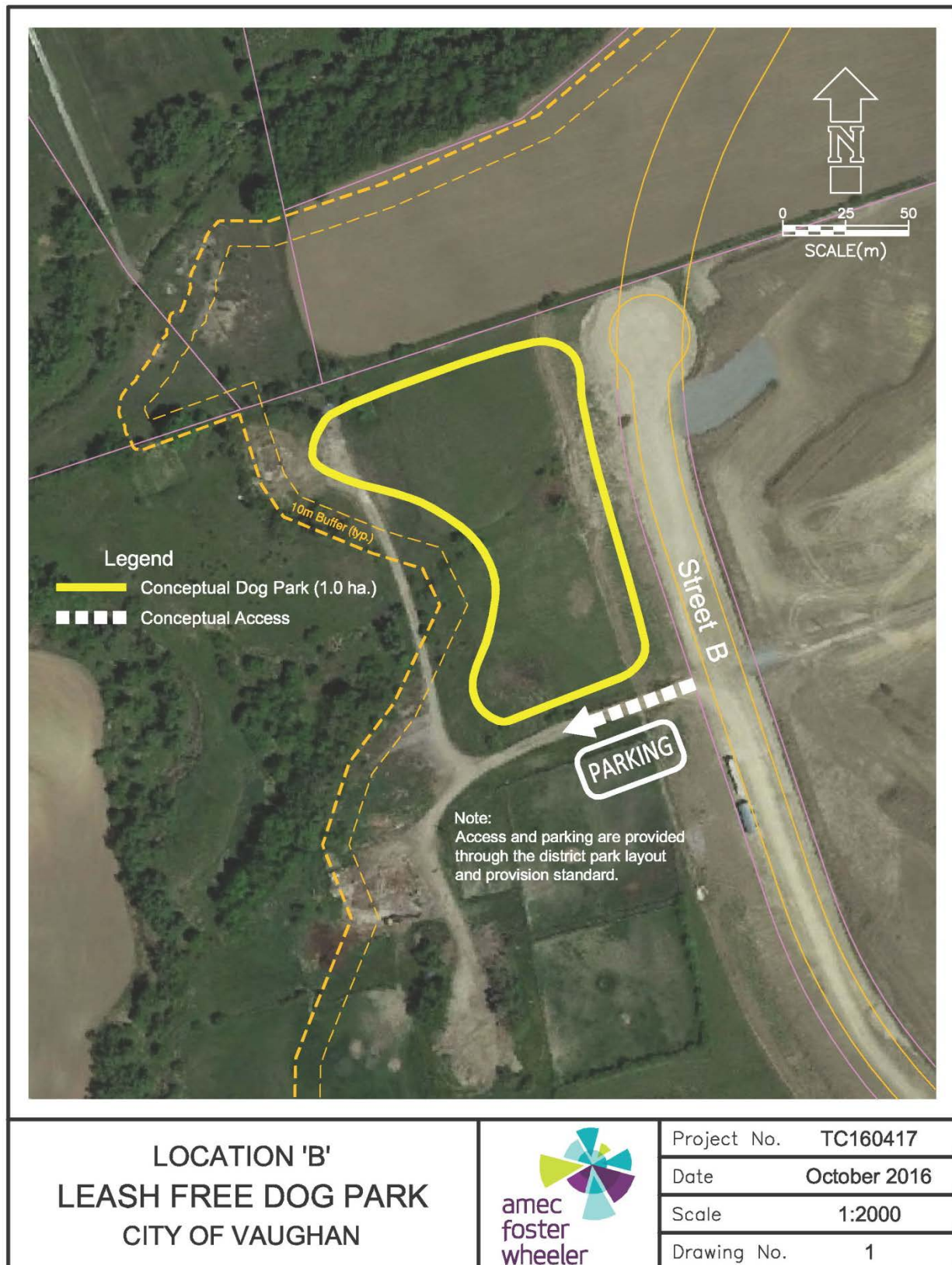
Notes

1 – The open house results identified a preference for Location E (69.4%), followed by Location G (15.3%), Location B (14.3%), and Location C (1.0%)

**Table 4-2: Short List Locations Advantages and Disadvantages**

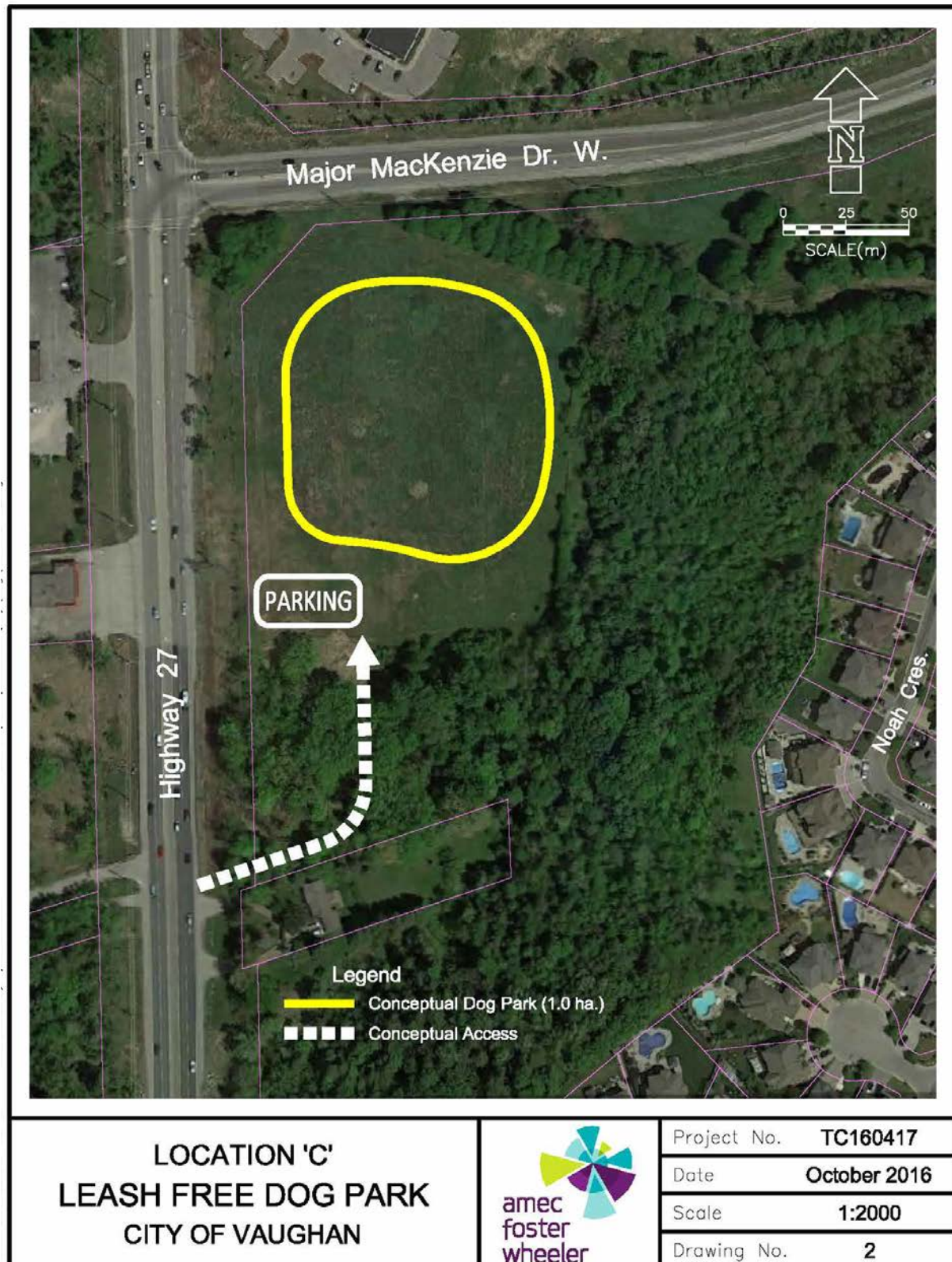
Location	Advantages/ Opportunities	Disadvantages/ Challenges
B: Rutherford Road and Highway 27 - future Block 59 District Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infrastructure could be designed to suit</li> <li>Construction and maintenance cost efficiencies</li> <li>Synergies with planned district park facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-3 year timeframe due to development schedule for new District Park</li> <li>Additional open space property to the north would likely be required</li> </ul>
G: Aviva Park Drive and Weston Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Owned by the City</li> <li>Stormwater retention area that could be retrofit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjacent to industrial area and truck traffic</li> <li>Located south of Highway 407</li> <li>Accessibility considerations to be further evaluated</li> </ul>
E: Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue - behind new Hospice location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing open space, natural area</li> <li>Central location that is easily accessible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation with neighbouring property owners</li> <li>Coordination and lease agreement with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and meet sensitive features conditions.</li> <li>York Region may require additional overflow parking provisions</li> <li>Restrictive vehicular access</li> <li>Extensive site work required, grading and servicing</li> </ul>
C: Major Mackenzie Drive and Highway 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Owned by the City</li> <li>Easily accessible location</li> <li>Existing trail into neighbouring residential area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration with York Region realignment of Major Mackenzie required</li> <li>Consultation with neighbouring property owners</li> <li>Coordination with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to meet flood plain regulatory conditions</li> <li>York Region may require additional overflow parking provisions</li> <li>Restrictive vehicular access</li> <li>Additional property purchase would likely be required</li> </ul>

**Figure 4.1: Potential Off-Leash Dog Area Short List Location 'B'**



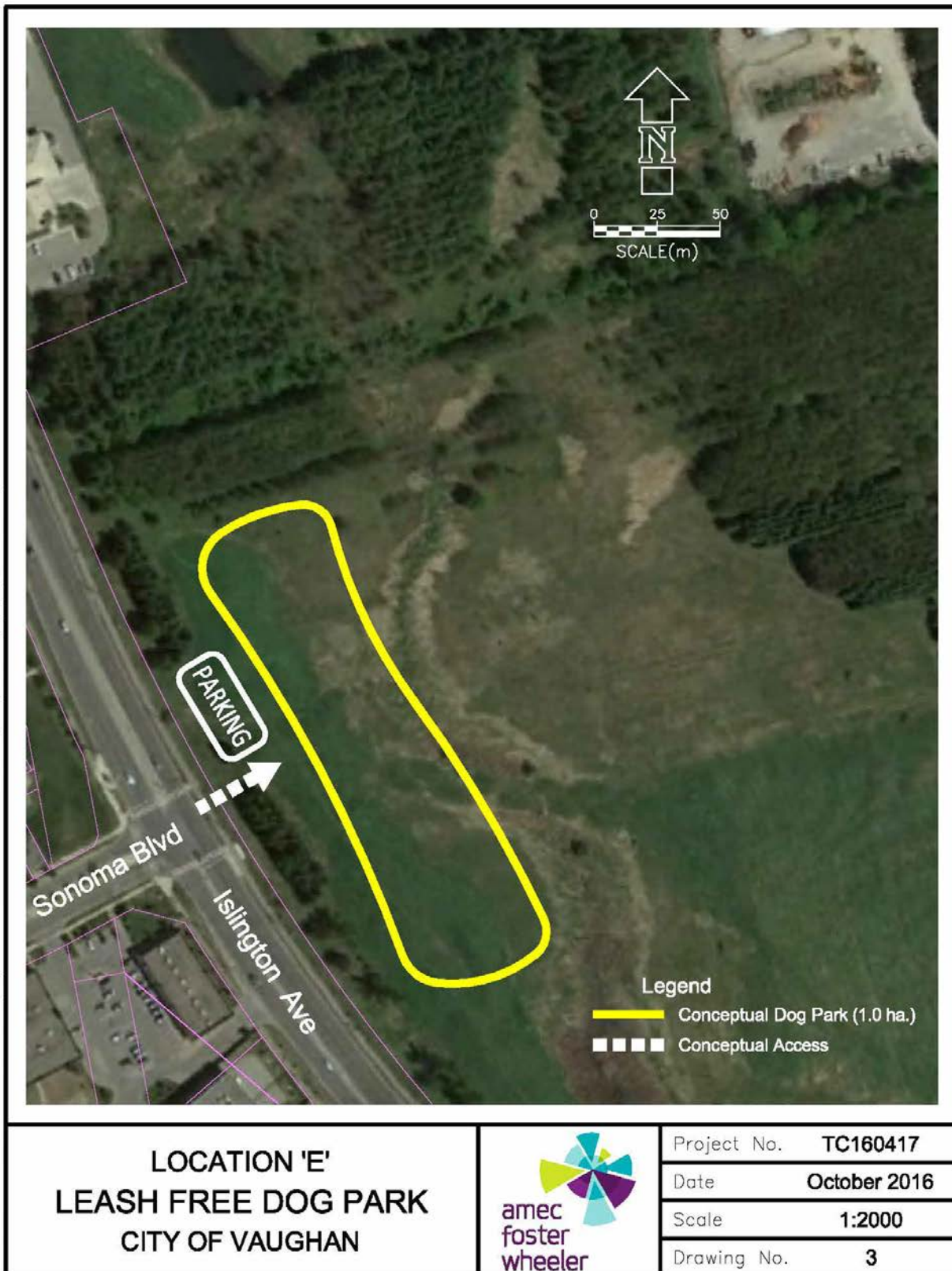


**Figure 4.2: Potential Off-Leash Dog Area Short List Location 'C'**

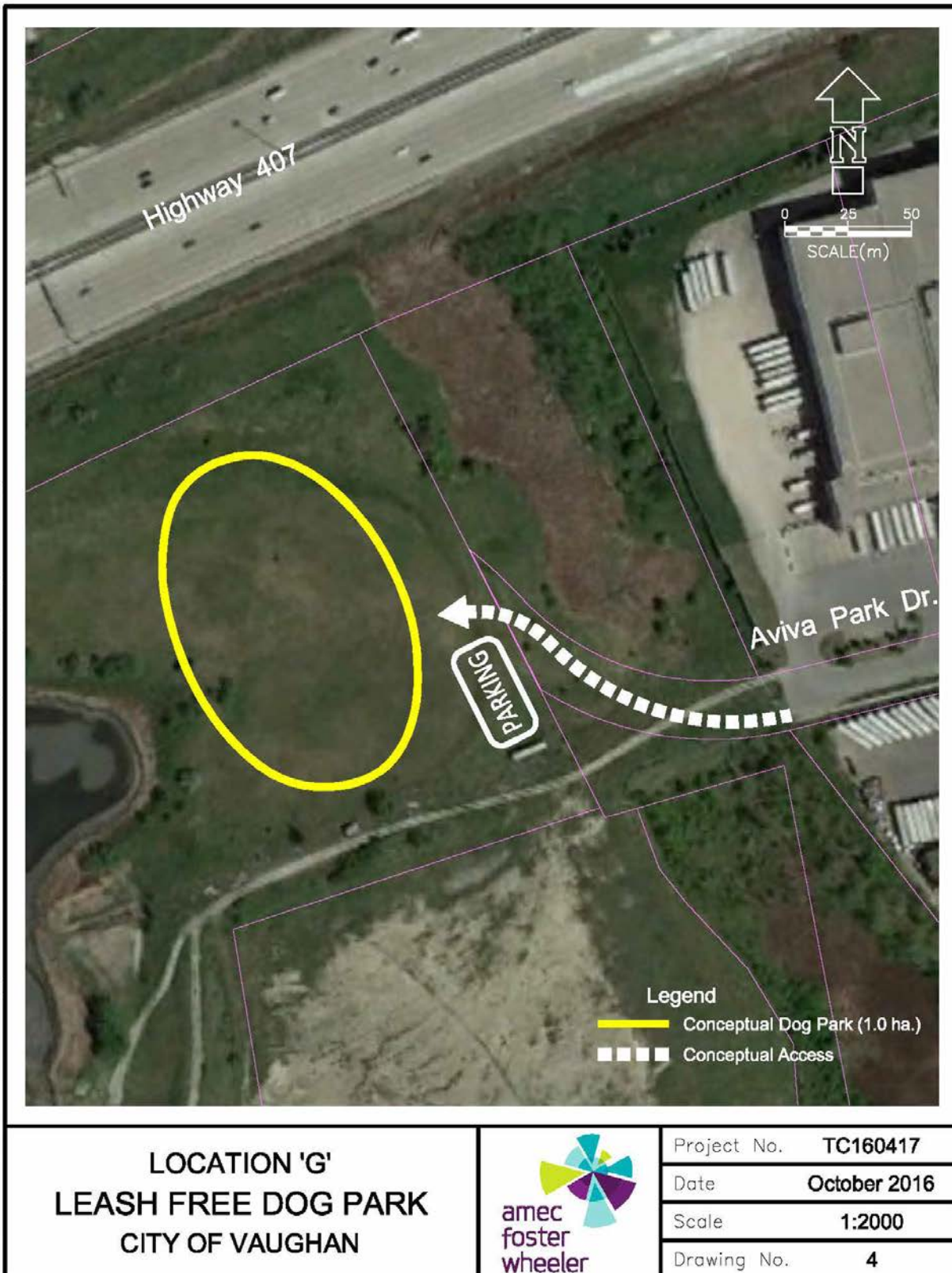




**Figure 4.3: Potential Off-Leash Dog Area Short List Location 'E'**



**Figure 4.4: Potential Off-Leash Dog Area Short List Location 'G'**



## **5.0 CONSULTATION FINDINGS**

### **5.1 City Staff Workshop – June 1, 2016**

A workshop was held with City staff on June 1, 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to understand lessons learned from the current dog facility in Concord/Thornhill Regional Park, to gain an understanding of the opportunities and challenges in the selection of a second site within the municipality, and to discuss other issues or concerns. City staff that were in attendance were from the Parks Development, Parks and Forestry Operations, and Animal Services departments. The following summarizes the key points from the workshop.

#### **Existing Off-Leash Dog Area Issues**

- The existing holding area not properly identified
- The information board is damaged and the size/text is not appropriate for the site
- Little maintenance on existing park except grass cutting and garbage collection

#### **Requirements for a New Off-Leash Dog Area and Possible Location**

- Requires an education program for users and adjacent property owners
- Recommended that a volunteer group be responsible for governance and maintenance of facility
- Needs adequate parking
- Requires amenities such as shaded area, water source, adequate garbage collection; benches (inside and outside of gated area); various types of facilities (agility, hilled area)
- New park will require an operations/maintenance standards
- Requires enforceable governance standards with one point of contact for staff within the City
- Requires adherence to the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*

#### **Other Issues and Concerns**

- Different requirements for a Primary and Local scale parks
- The location will need to be safe for both people and City Staff (By-law enforcement, Animal Services and Maintenance)

As part of the City Staff Workshop, staff were asked to provide comments on the preliminary long-list of potential locations. Comments received were incorporated in the initial screening of locations.

### **5.2 Stakeholder Workshop – June 28, 2016**

A stakeholder workshop was held on June 28, 2016 with representatives from the community that had previously identified interest in an off-leash dog area in the City of Vaughan. The following is a summary of the discussion that was held.

#### **Existing dog facility – Concord Thornhill Park**

- Lack of amenities including:
  - Water
  - Shade/shelter – natural or man-made



- Benches
- Small dog area with proper signage
- Enforcement of governance
  - posting rules of engagement;
  - signage;
  - balance between recreational vs. enforceable
- Consolidation of Animal by-laws
  - Alignment of by-law and off-leash dog facility rules
- Need to ensure individuals are responsible for their own dogs – rules need to be clear

#### Look and feel of a new off-leash dog area

- Partnership with a community group for maintenance and ownership of park – similar to Markham and other communities
- Prefer natural material such as woodchips or grass
- Include possible trail connection
- Prefer different elevation – rolling hills
- Short-term build an off-leash dog area in a Local scale park

#### Existing dog facilities in other communities

- Richmond Hill – Tower Hill
  - Natural area
  - No hard surfaces
- City of Mississauga (Leash Free Mississauga)
- Markham (Leash Free Committee)
- Coburg
- Ottawa/Kanata

### 5.3 Public Survey

In discussion with the City a survey was developed with the following objectives:

- Promote the study;
- Gather information on some of the characteristics of dog owners in the City;
- Gather information on use and characteristics of the existing Concord Thornhill Regional Park;
- Solicit opinion on the site selection criteria proposed;
- Identify characteristics of dog facility, and
- Identify potential locations of a future dog area.

The survey was released on July 1, 2016 and remained open until September 11, 2016. There were 530 responses received. The survey was electronic with some paper-based entries at filled at public events. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix A and a summary of the results can be found in Appendix B.

In general, the survey identified:

- Need for more than one park, variety of sizes and locations



- Preference for Local scale parks
- Most owners have one dog
- Many respondents exercise their dogs by walks around neighbourhood
- Willing to walk 10-15 minutes
- Willing to drive 10 minutes

The following concerns were identified:

- 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 areas and policies
- Management (bylaw enforcement)
- Improve and responsive maintenance

The following was provided in relation to the Concord Thornhill Regional Park:

- Increased by-law 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

#### **5.4 Other Consultation Activities**

City staff were present at the following public events to promote the study and gain feedback on possible locations as well as completing the public survey:

- July 1, 2016 from 1:00pm to 8:30pm: Canada Day Event - Mackenzie Glen District Park
- July 27, 2016 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm: Concert at the Park - Sonoma Heights Community Park
- August 3, 2016 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm: Concert at the Park - Chancellor District Park

Information was also posted on the City of Vaughan website at:

[https://www.vaughan.ca/projects/community/off\\_leash\\_park](https://www.vaughan.ca/projects/community/off_leash_park)

And a practical and easy to remember friendly URL link was created for access and promotion

<http://www.vaughan.ca/dogpark>

The Public Information Centre poster with the survey information (Appendix A) was also placed at the following locations:

City-Owned Facilities:

- City Hall
- City of Vaughan Joint Operations Centre
- Maple Community Centre
- Al Palladini Community Centre
- Vellore Village Community Centre
- Chancellor Community Centre
- Father E. Bulfon Community Centre
- Garret A. Williams Community Centre
- North Thornhill Community Centre

Animal Hospitals (promoting community survey and website):

- 110 Nashville Rd, Vaughan, ON L0J 1C0
- 9750 Weston Rd, Woodbridge, ON L4H 2Z7
- 10435 Islington Ave, Kleinburg, ON L0J 1C0
- 125 Hawkview Blvd, Vaughan, ON L4H 3T7
- 8611 Weston Rd, Woodbridge, ON L4L 9P1
- 200 Marycroft Ave #24, Woodbridge, ON L4L 5X9
- 3737 Major Mackenzie Dr W #103, Vaughan, ON L4H 0A2
- 8280 Hwy 27 #16, Woodbridge, ON L4H 0R9
- 140 Woodbridge Ave, Woodbridge, ON L4L 4K9
- 5731 York Regional Rd 7, Woodbridge, ON L4L 4Y9
- 9600 Islington Ave, Woodbridge, ON L4H 2T1

Pet Valu (promoting community survey and website):

- 9200 Weston Rd #31, Vaughan, ON L4H 2P8
- 8290 Hwy 27 #11, Woodbridge, ON L4H 0S1
- 9600 Islington Ave #15, Woodbridge, ON L4H 2T1
- 7575 Weston Rd, Vaughan, ON L4L 9K5

Pet Smart (promoting community survey and website):

- 7575 Weston Rd, Woodbridge, ON L4L 9K5

The City of Vaughan also distributed the Public Information Centre flyer (Appendix A) with a link to the survey at the neighbourhood south of the Concord/Thornhill Regional Park Off-Leash Dog Facility at approximately 198 properties.

Letters were sent out addresses within 500 metres of the four short-listed sites, 2014 petition signatories with addresses, and ratepayers associations west of Highway 400 listed below:

- Kleinburg & Area Ratepayers' Association
- Millwood Woodend Ratepayers' Association
- Carrying Place Ratepayers' Association
- West Woodbridge Homeowners' Association
- Pinewood Estates Ratepayers' Association
- Vellore Woods Ratepayers' Association
- Vaughanwood Ratepayers' Association
- Weston Downs Ratepayers' Association
- Village of Woodbridge Ratepayers' Association
- National Estates Ratepayers' Association

Additional notification for the Public Open House include a mobile sign located outside of Chancellor Community Centre and it was also posted to all City-owned outdoor electronic boards in the City of Vaughan.

### **5.5 Public Open House – September 20, 2016**

A Public Open House was held on September 20, 2016 at the Chancellor Community Centre. Staff from the City and Amec Foster Wheeler were present to discuss the project with the Public. The purpose of the Public Open House was for the community to:

- Learn about key findings from the survey, which was available from July 1 to September 11, 2016;
- Find out about the background work and research completed to date;
- Choose and provide input on a preferred location for a primary off-leash dog area out of four short listed potential sites;
- Speak with staff to provide feedback on conceptual design, facility requirements and preferences;
- Propose other locations for future local dog areas; and
- Provide input through a comment form.

The following information was presented to the public:

- Timeline and Site Selection Process
- Primary Off-Leash Dog Parks
- Existing Dog Park – Concord Thornhill Regional Park
- What We've Heard So Far
- What Makes a 'Good' Off-Leash Dog Park
- Primary Off-Leash Dog Park – Proposed Locations
- Next Steps

Copies of the material presented at the Open House can be found in Appendix C.

The Public Open House was well attended by members of the Public with over 76 attending the meeting. In general, the following comments were heard at the meeting:

- Would prefer to have an off-leash area in a Local scale park (within walking distance)
- Difficult to access Primary scale locations during the work week due to commuting times

- Preference for Location E, followed by Location G, B and C
- In agreement with the site selection criteria
- Would like an off-leash dog area as soon as possible – 2 to 3 years in unacceptable

A comment sheet and short survey was also provided. A summary of the comments is presented in Appendix D.



## 6.0 PREFERRED SITE

Based on the results of the Tier 1 and 2 assessments as well as input received from consultation with the community, the preferred Primary scale site recommended is Location B.

### Location B: Rutherford Road and Highway 27

Location B is identified as preferred site based on the results of the assessment where it received the following results.

- Overall assessment received 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%)
- Community comment forms identified a 14.3% preference

Location B is envisioned to be developed as part of a planned District Park that would be constructed over the next 2-3 years. The necessary infrastructure and park development works would be part of the overall new district park design and ultimate construction. This would provide Location B construction and routine maintenance cost advantages.

Location B is situated closer to designated areas and to make best use of the land the City could consider acquiring open space directly north of the proposed park boundaries. The acquisition of lands to the north could have negative cost implications and therefore scored lower in this category; however, the expanded area would provide the City opportunities further expand uses. The City may consider options for lease or similar with the existing property owner.

The ease of access presents a challenge to Location B due to the proximity from current residential areas (i.e., increased distance) and associated effort to commute (i.e., would require users to drive to the location). The commute distance provides a challenge in that weekday users are already burdened with extensive commute times to/from employment. Many potential users identified that this would be the best location for weekend visits. While comments received during the open house identified that the location was a good idea there was a clear preference and need for Local scale and timely off-leash facilities.

## 7.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the primary and secondary research completed as part of the off-leash dog area site selection for the area west of Highway 400 in the City of Vaughan, the following recommendations are proposed.

### **Primary Recommendations: New Off-Leash Dog Area West of Highway 400**

The following recommendations represent the culmination of information derived from research, discussions with City staff, community members, survey results, public meeting input as well as research and discussions with other southern Ontario municipalities.

- Sound Planning and Management
  - Establish Off-Leash Dog Area Guidelines with established level of service.
  - Establish an Off-Leash Facility Master Plan that outlines expectations, process, criteria and standardizes infrastructure requirements.
  - Establish a schedule for implementation for site selection and development of future off-leash areas.
  - Consider potential additional off-leash dog areas as part of the Redevelopment Strategy.
  - Integrate the planning of off-leash facilities into future subdivisions.
- Governance
  - Improve by-laws that remove any contradictions and clearly communicate the City's expectations for development and use of off-leash dog facilities as well as dog ownership. Review by-law with existing user groups to seek feedback.
  - Establish a volunteer-led dog owners group to develop and regulate official off-leash dog areas in collaboration with the City. The dog owners' group would serve as an advocacy group that works on behalf of their members and the needs of their canine family members. Membership would not be required to use off-leash areas but would be required to participate in the group (i.e., attend meetings, vote, etc.). Consider similar models in other municipalities such as Leash-Free Mississauga, CADD OG, and Richmond Hill K9 Klub.
- Education and Awareness
  - Develop a communication campaign that expands on the existing Responsible Pet Ownership brochure to better inform both dog owners and non-dog owners of the City's by-laws associated with dog ownership and off-leash dog areas.
  - Clearly communicate using graphics at off-leash areas as well as other parks where dogs frequent.
  - Consider a graphically designed brand ambassador similar to Newmarket's Safety Cone Sam or Lucy the Ladybug.

- Effective Guidelines for Design, Operation, and Use
  - Establish standard guidelines for the design of off-leash facilities including size, setback, infrastructure, and materials.
  - Develop a standardized maintenance schedule with necessary seasonal variation to establish a level of service.
  - Establish a volunteer-led dog owners group to develop and regulate official off-leash dog areas in collaboration with the City (as described above). Review guidelines with group to ensure effectiveness.
  - Establish relationships with community organizations and businesses to support investment in construction and ongoing maintenance (such as donations of materials and/or time).
  - Develop effective signage that clearly communicates rules of use.
- Effective and Responsive Maintenance
  - Develop a standardized maintenance schedule with necessary seasonal variation to establish a level of service.
  - Establish an online and phone based hotline for documenting maintenance and related concerns.
  - Establish a volunteer-led dog owners group to develop and regulate official off-leash dog areas in collaboration with the City
- It is recommended that the City develop Location B as part of the future District Park.

### **Secondary Recommendations: Existing and Local Off-Leash Dog Areas**

While the focus of the study was siting a location west of Highway 400 in Vaughan, the study team identified two additional sets of recommendations for the City's consideration. The following two sets of recommendations are based on the input received from the community.

#### Concord Thornhill Regional Park Off-Leash Dog Facility

Input received through discussions with City staff and community members as well as the survey and public meeting identified a number of governance, amenities and infrastructure, and maintenance measures that would improve the existing dog facility. It is recommended that the City consider the following items.

- Effective Guidelines for Design, Operation, and Use
  - Amenities and infrastructure
    - Provide shelter and/or shade trees to address weather exposure (wind, rain, sun).
    - Provide potable water for drinking.
  - Maintenance

- Establish an online and phone based hotline for documenting maintenance and related concerns.
  - Establish and communicate regular maintenance (daily, monthly, annual) for transparency.
  - Consider methods to improve surface conditions (rotation schedule, fencing off, overseeding, etc.).
- Governance
    - Improve by-laws to ensure clarity and consistency.
    - Clearly communicate by-law expectations through pictorial signage.
    - Increase the frequency of visits of enforcement officers.

#### Local Off-Leash Dog Area

Input received through the survey and public meeting identified a clear preference and need for Local scale off-leash dog area. This preference and need is tied to a few key factors including

- proximity to residential areas that enable access by ease of walking;
- proximity that considers the commute time that many individuals face and challenge use of Primary scale parks during weekdays;
- fostering a sense of community (comments identified a care for an individual's neighbourhood verses going elsewhere that an individual does not have ties to); and
- existing groups of dog owners that gather to socialize with each other as well as their dogs.

This recommendation suggests that the City consider undertaking a pilot project that engages dog owners and non-dog owners, selects a Local scale park to situate a fenced area, considers the criteria developed as part of this study augmented for the local scale, and conducts an two-year evaluation to determine effectiveness and opportunities for improvement.



## 8.0 CLOSURE

This report presents the results of the study to site an off-leash dog area west of Highway 400 in the City of Vaughan. Through research and consultation, and a series of evaluative steps, Location B is recommended to for development by the City as well as consideration of the secondary recommendations associated with Local scale parks and improvements to the existing off-leash dog area.

Yours truly,

**Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure**  
**a Division of Amec Foster Wheeler Americas Limited**

Written by: Mary Kathryn Kelly, B.Sc.  
Senior Consultant, Human Environment



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 18-Oct-16

Written by: Heather Dearlove, B.Sc.  
Environmental Planner



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 18-Oct-16

Reviewed by: Rob Young, P.Geo., MCIP RPP  
Associate Environmental Planner



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 18-Oct-16

## 9.0 REFERENCES

- Allen, Laurel. 2007. Dog Parks: Benefits and Liabilities. Masters of Environmental Studies Thesis, University of Pennsylvania.
- Canadian Animal Health Institute. 2015. Latest Canadian Pet Population Figures Released. <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/canadian-pet-population-figures-cahi-2014> Accessed June 2016
- City of Ann Arbor. 2014. Recommendations and Guidelines for Dog Park Site Selection, Design, Operations and Maintenance.
- City of Brampton. 2016. Animal Services, Off-Leash Dog Areas webpage. <http://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/Animal-Services/Pages/Off-Leash-Parks.aspx> Accessed June - October 2016.
- City of Markham. 2016. Animal Services, Bylaws and Off Leash Areas webpage. [http://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/Markham/Residents/AnimalServices/BylawsAndOffLeashAreas!/ut/p/a1/jdBNb4MwDAbgX8OxiUPCx3bLgpSFfIBW0bFcJqgoRSqkonTR\\_v3otB4mbWyWL5aeV7KNNc6x7oq3pi6GxnTF8Tpr\\_zVWIAifQywp84CrVbBJ6JpuqDuClxElyR9ZsACATEagqvQhS5ZzCsr\\_Xx5-KQ5\\_5Z-xniKCeF-AJVKIxTZM3ScGoFS09VZRSuT6BqZu-AQTS8ZYN2WL7K5FqO78kLouG5sSEgC93si7koY11n21r\\_qqR5d-O1hGE7newccsNai2pj6WKGdaR34KXlw5wHn3yU-tVkJZrp8t1-AAi7RiAl/dl5/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/](http://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/Markham/Residents/AnimalServices/BylawsAndOffLeashAreas!/ut/p/a1/jdBNb4MwDAbgX8OxiUPCx3bLgpSFfIBW0bFcJqgoRSqkonTR_v3otB4mbWyWL5aeV7KNNc6x7oq3pi6GxnTF8Tpr_zVWIAifQywp84CrVbBJ6JpuqDuClxElyR9ZsACATEagqvQhS5ZzCsr_Xx5-KQ5_5Z-xniKCeF-AJVKIxTZM3ScGoFS09VZRSuT6BqZu-AQTS8ZYN2WL7K5FqO78kLouG5sSEgC93si7koY11n21r_qqR5d-O1hGE7newccsNai2pj6WKGdaR34KXlw5wHn3yU-tVkJZrp8t1-AAi7RiAl/dl5/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/) Accessed June - October 2016.
- City of Mississauga. 2016. Parks and Forestry, Leash Free Zones webpage. <http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/leashfree> Accessed June - October 2016.
- Cobourg and District Dog Owner's Group. 2016. CADD OG website. <http://www.caddog.org/> Accessed June - October 2016.
- Leash-Free Mississauga. 2016. Leash-Free Mississauga website. <http://leashfreemississauga.ca/> Accessed June - October 2016.
- pers.comm. 2016. Teresa Behan, Town of Cobourg.
- pers. comm. 2016. Trace Steele. Town of Richmond Hill.
- Richmond Hill K9 Klub. 2016. Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/Richmond-Hill-K9-Klub-194134380608564/> Accessed June - October 2016.
- Statistics Canada. 2012. Brampton, Ontario (Code 3521010) and Canada (Code 01) (table). Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> Accessed June 2016.
- Statistics Canada. 2012. Cobourg, Ontario (Code 3514021) and Canada (Code 01) (table). Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=EA> Accessed June 2016.
- Statistics Canada. 2012. Markham, Ontario (Code 3519036) and Canada (Code 01) (table). Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> Accessed June 2016.

- Statistics Canada. 2012. Mississauga, Ontario (Code 3521005) and Canada (Code 01) (table). Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> Accessed June 2016.
- Statistics Canada. 2012. Richmond Hill, Ontario (Code 3519038) and Canada (Code 01) (table). Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> Accessed June 2016.
- Statistics Canada. 2012. Vaughan, Ontario (Code 3519028) and Canada (Code 01) (table). Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> Accessed June 2016.
- Town of Cobourg. 2016. Animal Services, Leash-Free Dog Park webpage. <http://www.cobourg.ca/en/my-cobourg/Leash-Free-Dog-Park.aspx> Accessed June - October 2016.
- Town of Richmond Hill. 2016. Planning & Regulatory Services Department, Planning Division, Off Leash Dog Areas in Richmond Hill. [http://www.richmondhill.ca/subpage.asp?pageid=prc\\_parks\\_off\\_leash\\_dog\\_area](http://www.richmondhill.ca/subpage.asp?pageid=prc_parks_off_leash_dog_area) Accessed June - October 2016.
- Vaughan Off Leash Dog Park. 2016. Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/vaughandogpark/> Accessed June - October 2016.

## **APPENDIX A: SURVEY AND INFORMATION POSTER**





# OFF-LEASH DOG PARK COMMUNITY SURVEY

We would like your feedback!

Complete our online survey at **[vaughan.ca/dogpark](http://vaughan.ca/dogpark)**.



Promotional material for the Public Open House



# PUBLIC MEETING **OFF-LEASH DOG PARK**

Chancellor Community Centre  
350 Ansley Grove Rd.  
Woodbridge, L4L 5C9  
**Sept. 20, 2016 | 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

For more information visit [vaughan.ca/dogpark](http://vaughan.ca/dogpark)







# PUBLIC MEETING OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

Chancellor Community Centre  
350 Ansley Grove Rd., Woodbridge  
**Sept. 20, 2016 | 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

We would like your feedback!  
Complete our online survey at **[vaughan.ca/dogpark](http://vaughan.ca/dogpark)**.





# OFF- LEASH DOG PARK

We would like your feedback!

Complete our online survey before  
September 11th 2016 at

**[vaughan.ca/dogpark](http://vaughan.ca/dogpark)**

For additional information  
please contact:  
Michael Habib  
Parks Development  
City of Vaughan  
Tel: (905) 832 - 8585, ext. 8092  
[michael.habib@vaughan.ca](mailto:michael.habib@vaughan.ca)







Concord Thornhill Regional Park  
Off-Leash Dog Area







The City of Vaughan recognizes the value an off-leash dog park brings to dogs and their families. In 2009, the City constructed and opened their first primary off-leash dog park in the Concord Thornhill Regional Park. Since that time, residents have identified a desire to have a second primary off-leash dog park situated west of Highway 400. The City has begun the process of siting this off-leash new dog park and is interested in hearing from residents about the existing and future need of off-leash dog parks.

This survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete and the information provided will be used by the City to influence the planning process for site locations.

1. Where do you live in Vaughan? Please enter your postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What age group do you fall into?

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19 years and under | <input type="checkbox"/> 50-59 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20-29 years        | <input type="checkbox"/> 60-69 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30-39 years        | <input type="checkbox"/> 70-79 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 40-49 years        | <input type="checkbox"/> 80+ years   |

3. Are you a dog-owner?                      **YES**                      **NO**

***If NO skip to question 15***

---

4. If yes, how many dogs do you have and what size are they? (circle number)

- |  |          |          |          |           |
|--|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Small dog (less than 20 kilograms/44 pounds)                 | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4+</b> |
| Large dog (greater than or equal to 20 kilograms/44 pounds ) | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4+</b> |

5. How do you currently exercise your dog(s)? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Walk around neighbourhood
- ☐ Play in backyard/home
- ☐ Dog day care or similar
- ☐ Dog walkers
- ☐ Off-leash in municipal parks
- ☐ Off-leash in natural areas/trails
- ☐ Off-leash designated park such as Concord Thornhill Regional Park
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. How many minutes do you think is reasonable to DRIVE to a designated off-leash dog area?

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 minutes  | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 minutes           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 25 minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 minutes |   |

7. How many minutes are you willing to WALK to an off-leash dog area?

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 minutes  | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 minutes           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 25 minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 minutes |   |

8. Have you visited the Concord Thornhill Regional Park off-leash dog park?                      **YES**                      **NO**

***If NO skip to question 15***

---

9. How often do you visit Concord Thornhill Regional Park with your dog?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daily               | <input type="checkbox"/> About once a month                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A few times a week  | <input type="checkbox"/> A few times a year                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> About once a week   | <input type="checkbox"/> Less often than a few times a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A few times a month |   |

10. What days of the week are you most likely to visit Concord Thornhill Regional Park with your dog? (mark all that apply)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekdays (Monday through Friday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekends (Saturday and Sunday) |
|---|---|

11. What time of day are you most likely to visit Concord Thornhill Regional Park with your dog? (mark all that apply)
- ☐ 6 a.m. - 9 a.m. ☐ 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. ☐ 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.
12. How would you rate the Concord Thornhill Regional Park off-leash dog park?
- Excellent      Good      Average      Poor      Very Poor
13. Please tell us about what you like, dislike or could be improved.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
14. Have you visited an off leash dog park elsewhere that is a great example? Please let us know where.
- \_\_\_\_\_
15. The City is using the following criteria to evaluate options for locating the new off-leash dog park. What do you think should be most important? Please rank in importance where **1** is very important and **6** is least important.
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Size
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☐ Proximity to school yards, play areas
- ☐ Cost to build
- ☐ Other (please specify and rank) \_\_\_\_\_
16. What features or amenities for an off-leash dog park do you prefer? Please rank the following items where **1** is most preferred and **7** is least preferred.
- ☐ Benches for sitting
- ☐ Shaded areas and trees.
- ☐ Water for drinking
- ☐ Water for dog bathing
- ☐ Separation and separate entrances for large and small dog areas
- ☐ Agility course
- ☐ Other (please specify and rank) \_\_\_\_\_
17. What surface material for an off-leash dog park do you prefer? Please rank where **1** is most preferred and **7** is least preferred.
- ☐ Turf (grass vegetation)
- ☐ Artificial turf (synthetic product)
- ☐ Wood chips (mulch)
- ☐ Gravel screenings
- ☐ Concrete or asphalt paving
- ☐ Sand
- ☐ Other (please specify and rank) \_\_\_\_\_
18. Would you have any concerns if you lived near an off-leash dog park? If yes, what would those be?
- \_\_\_\_\_
19. What do you think would be an appropriate distance between an off-leash dog park and residences?
- \_\_\_\_\_ (enter distance in metres)
20. We would like your opinion on potential locations in Vaughan, West of Highway 400, where a future off-leash dog park could be located. Please choose one.
- ☐ Natural area/trails
- ☐ Park within your neighbourhood,
- ☐ Park outside your neighbourhood
- ☐ Non-residential areas
- ☐ Other specific location \_\_\_\_\_
21. Do you have a preferred location for an off-leash dog park? Please identify a potential location and describe why you believe it would be a good option for the City's consideration. Please provide any details that will help us in identifying the location such as park name, nearest intersection, nearby landmark or business.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
22. Please leave us with any additional notes and comments.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## **APPENDIX B: SURVEY RESULTS**

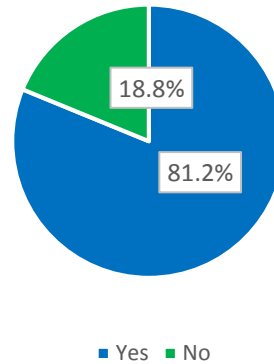


## Appendix B: Survey Results

### Responses for Demographics

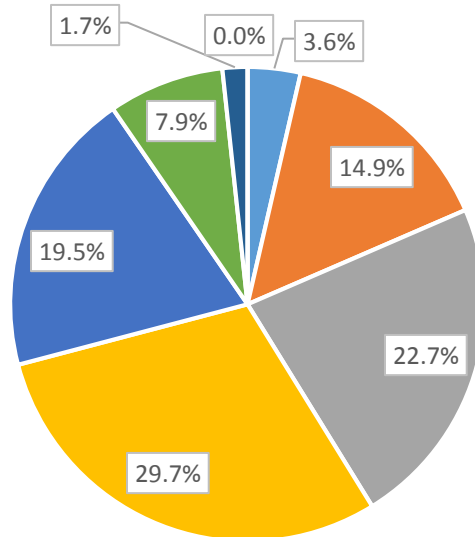
- Number of Survey Responses: 530

Respondents Owning Dogs

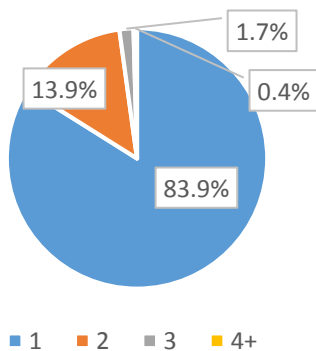


Age of Respondents

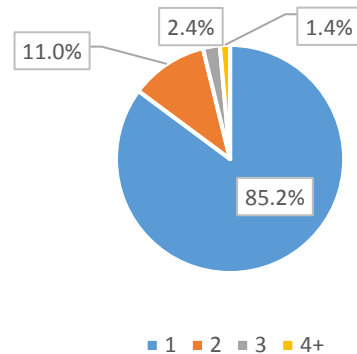
- 19 years or under 19 years or under
- 20 to 29 years 20 to 29 years
- 30 to 39 years 30 to 39 years
- 40 to 49 years 40 to 49 years
- 50 to 59 years 50 to 59 years
- 60 to 69 years 60 to 69 years
- 70 to 79 years 70 to 79 years
- 80 years or older 80 years or older



No. of Small Dogs Per Respondent  
(less than 20 kilograms/44 pounds)



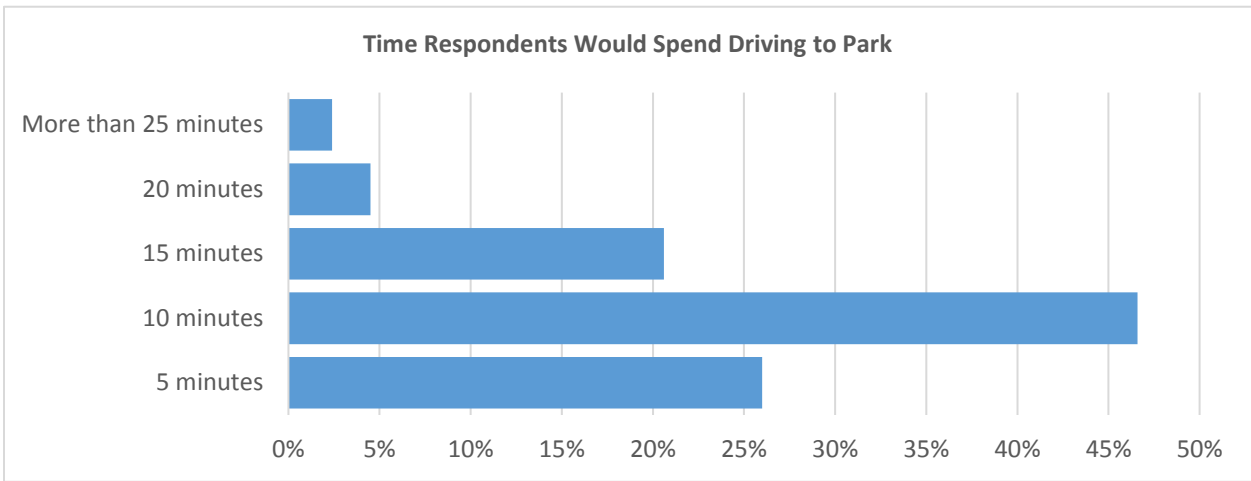
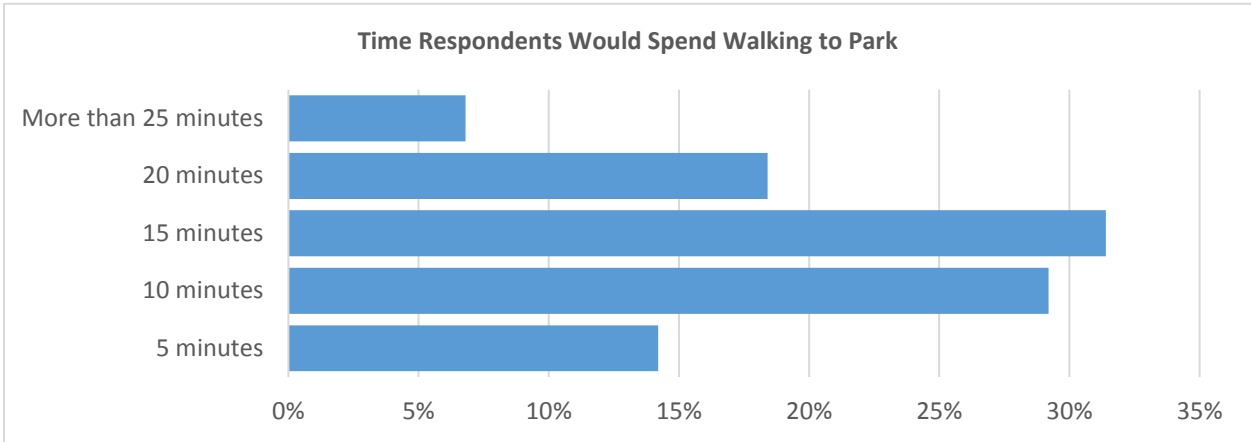
No. of Large Dogs Per Respondent  
(greater than 20 kilograms/44 pounds)



## Responses for Existing Study

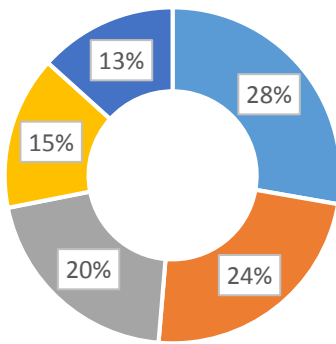
- Number of Survey Responses: 530
- Key takeaways:
  - Need for more than one park, variety of sizes and locations
  - Preference for local parks
  - Most owners have one dog
  - Willing to walk 10-15 minutes
  - Willing to drive 10 minutes
- Identified concerns:
  - Dog waste (not picking up, not enough 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





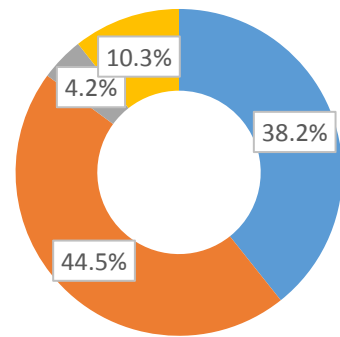
**Respondents Rating of Criteria**

- Location
- Size
- Proximity to residences
- Cost to build
- Proximity to school yards, play areas



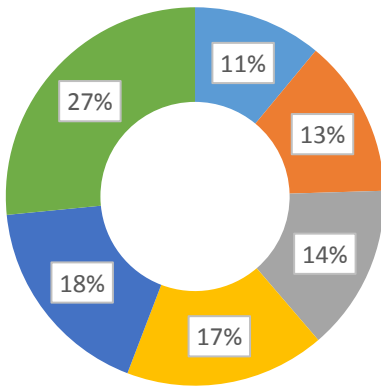
**Respondents Location Type Preferences**

- Natural area/trails
- Park within your neighbourhood
- Park outside your neighbourhood
- Non-residential areas



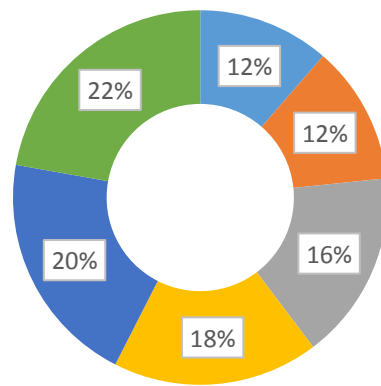
**Respondents Rating of Surface Material**

- Concrete or asphalt paving
- Sand
- Gravel screenings
- Artificial turf (synthetic product)
- Wood chips (mulch)
- Turf (grass vegetation)



**Respondents Rating of Amenities**

- Agility course
- Water for dog bathing
- Separation and separate entrances for large and small dog areas
- Benches for sitting
- Water for drinking
- Shaded areas and trees

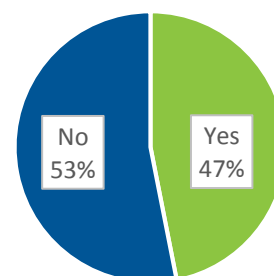




## Responses related to the Concord Thornhill Regional Park

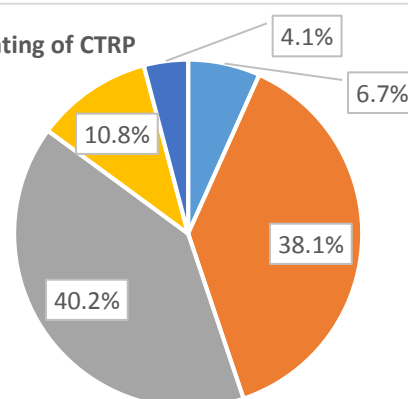
- Number of survey responses: 200 of 530
- Key feedback
  - Increased bylaw enforcement (aggressive dogs, inappropriate use, poop & scoop waste collection)
  - Improved maintenance (frequency)
  - Improved surface material (improve grass, add wood chips)
  - Improved lighting
  - Improved accessibility
  - Addition of:
    - Shade/wind coverage (trees, shelter)
    - Drinking water
    - Agility / training area
    - Benches
    - Separate entrances for small and large dogs
    - Varied terrain

Respondents That Visited CTRP



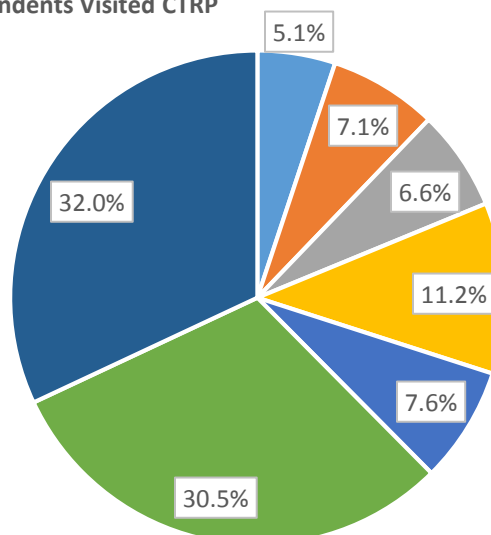
Respondents Rating of CTRP

- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Very poor

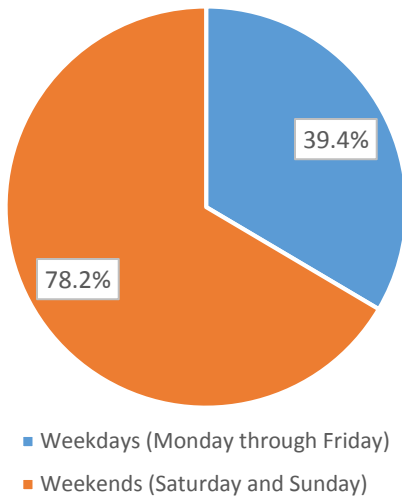


How Often Respondents Visited CTRP

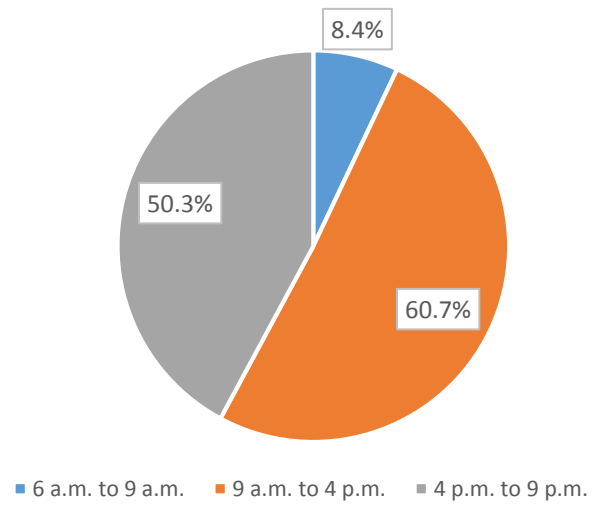
- Daily
- A few times a week
- About once a week
- A few times a month
- About once a month
- A few times a year
- Less often than a few times a year



**Days That Respondents Visited CTRP**



**Times That Respondents Visited CTRP**



## **APPENDIX C: CONSULTATION FINDINGS REFERENCE MATERIALS**



# PUBLIC MEETING OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

Chancellor Community Centre  
350 Ansley Grove Rd.  
Woodbridge, L4L 5C9  
**Sept. 20, 2016 | 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

For more information visit [vaughan.ca/dogpark](http://vaughan.ca/dogpark)





# nhill pianist Botticelli ming fortepiano recital

## uReport

concert, Music  
 lience

cert, The Past: Imagining Mozart's  
 nhill pianist Andrea Botticelli per-  
 a 1790 fortepiano.  
 he Richmond Hill Centre for the

aydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, the  
 version of the modern day piano.  
 keyboard instruments capable of  
 mes and forever changed the way

ts in technology and research, it  
 ossible to recreate a functioning

is been praised as "brilliant and  
 uances and virtuosity". She grew  
 a graduate of Unionville High  
 m, the University of Toronto, and

ned across Canada and abroad  
 Spain and the United States in  
 as the George Weston Recital  
 a Recital Hall and Roy Thomson

member at the Royal Conserva-  
 il and Eli Taylor Performance  
 for those 21 years or younger;  
 all 905-787-8811.

ion Chamber Music director



ANDREA BOTTICELLI

**SleepCountry** **MIX & MATCH SALE** **ENDS TUESDAY!**  
**\$498** **HOT BUY** **SHEET SALE**  
 EUROTOP QUEEN SET  
 Details Inside

RE  
 INMENT.



## PUBLIC MEETING OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

Chancellor Community Centre  
 350 Ansley Grove Rd.  
 Sept. 20, 2016 | 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

For more information visit [vaughan.ca/dogpark](http://vaughan.ca/dogpark)



an  
 ard  
 the  
 an-  
 and-  
 tra-  
 ree-  
 sed  
 3 are  
 upon  
 st of  
 Soci-  
 this  
 its to  
 e out  
 been  
 on for  
 mong  
 hools  
 ed to  
 nspire  
 write,"  
 e a lot  
 writing  
 young-

# Run for Vaughan kicks off at Wonderland Sept. 25

Calling all runners! It's time to kick up your heels in support of the Vaughan hospital.

The 12th annual Run for Vaughan gets underway at Canada's Wonderland Sunday Sept. 25 at 8 a.m.

The event, organized by Vaughan's Radiyya Muslim community, features a 5 km and 1 km runs as well as 1 km family fun run.

About 1,500 people take part in the run each year, organizers say, and to date it has raised \$600,000 toward the future hospital, slated to open in 2019 at Major Mackenzie Drive and Jane Street. Organizers hope to raise \$100,000 this year.

For more information, visit the Run for Vaughan web page, [runforvaughan.com](http://runforvaughan.com)

— Adam Martin-Robbins

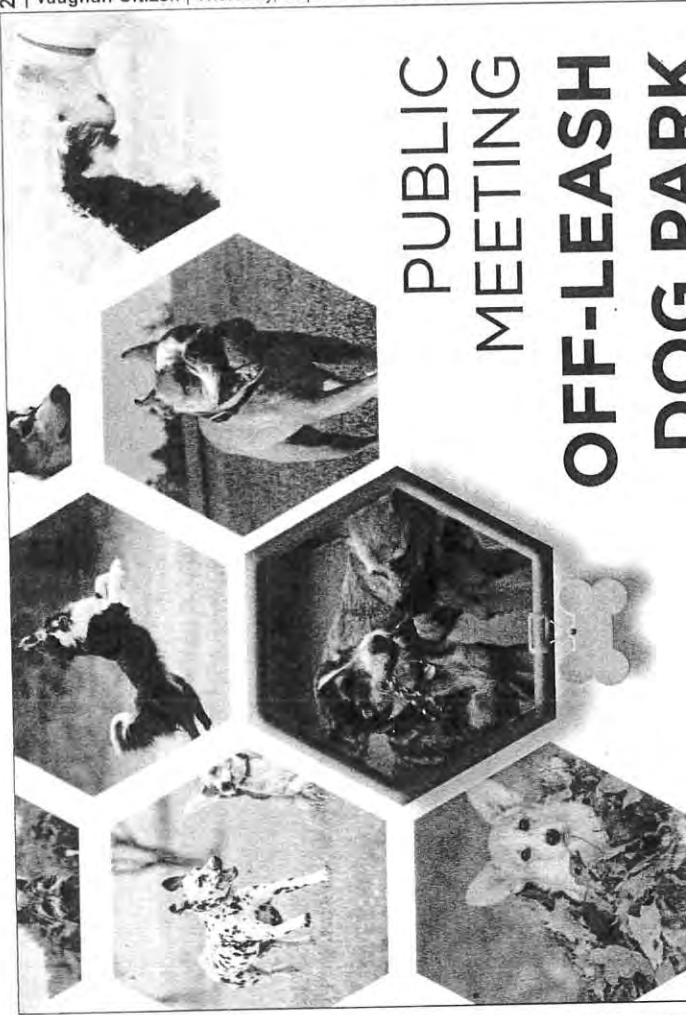


## The Barn Store & Farmer's Market

**Sept. 18, 2016**  
11244 Keele Street  
(just north of Teston Rd.)

**Come Have Some Fun!**  
Customer Appreciation  
**PIG ROAST**  
Sunday September 18th 9-6pm  
(Pig Roast from 1pm-3pm)  
Raffle Draw for a Gift Basket  
Daily/Hourly Specials  
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

**Select Merchandise 50% off**  
Free range Eggs and Local Honey Available  
Thanksgiving is coming! We are taking orders for farm fresh Turkeys, and Pies (apple and Pumpkin)  
Some proceeds going to Sick Kids Foundation  
**647-471-2101**  
**905-716-2115**



## PUBLIC MEETING OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

Chancellor Community Centre  
350 Ansley Grove Rd.  
**Sept. 20, 2016 | 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

For more information visit [vaughan.ca/dogpark](http://vaughan.ca/dogpark)



Join us for World Cup of Hockey,  
Blue Jays & NFL Games!



Novotel • **TRIO**

WINE | FOOD | PLEASURE

... 42" ...



## **YOU'RE INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE FOR A PRIMARY OFF-LEASH DOG PARK WEST OF HIGHWAY 400**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 20, 2016

**Place:** Chancellor Community Centre  
Gymnasium  
350 Ansley Grove Rd.,  
Vaughan, Ontario  
L4L 5C9

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Residents and user groups are invited to drop in at any time between the hours noted above to see information panels and **provide input on a preferred location for a primary off-leash dog park west of Highway 400 out of a short list of potential sites and on facility requirements and preferences.** Please note there will not be a formal presentation however staff will be available to guide you through the material and provide feedback.

Comment sheets will be provided at the Open House to receive your input or alternately, as of September 21, 2016 concept plans and comment sheets can be found on the Parks Development page of the City's Off-Leash Dog Park Website:

**[www.vaughan.ca/dogpark](http://www.vaughan.ca/dogpark)**

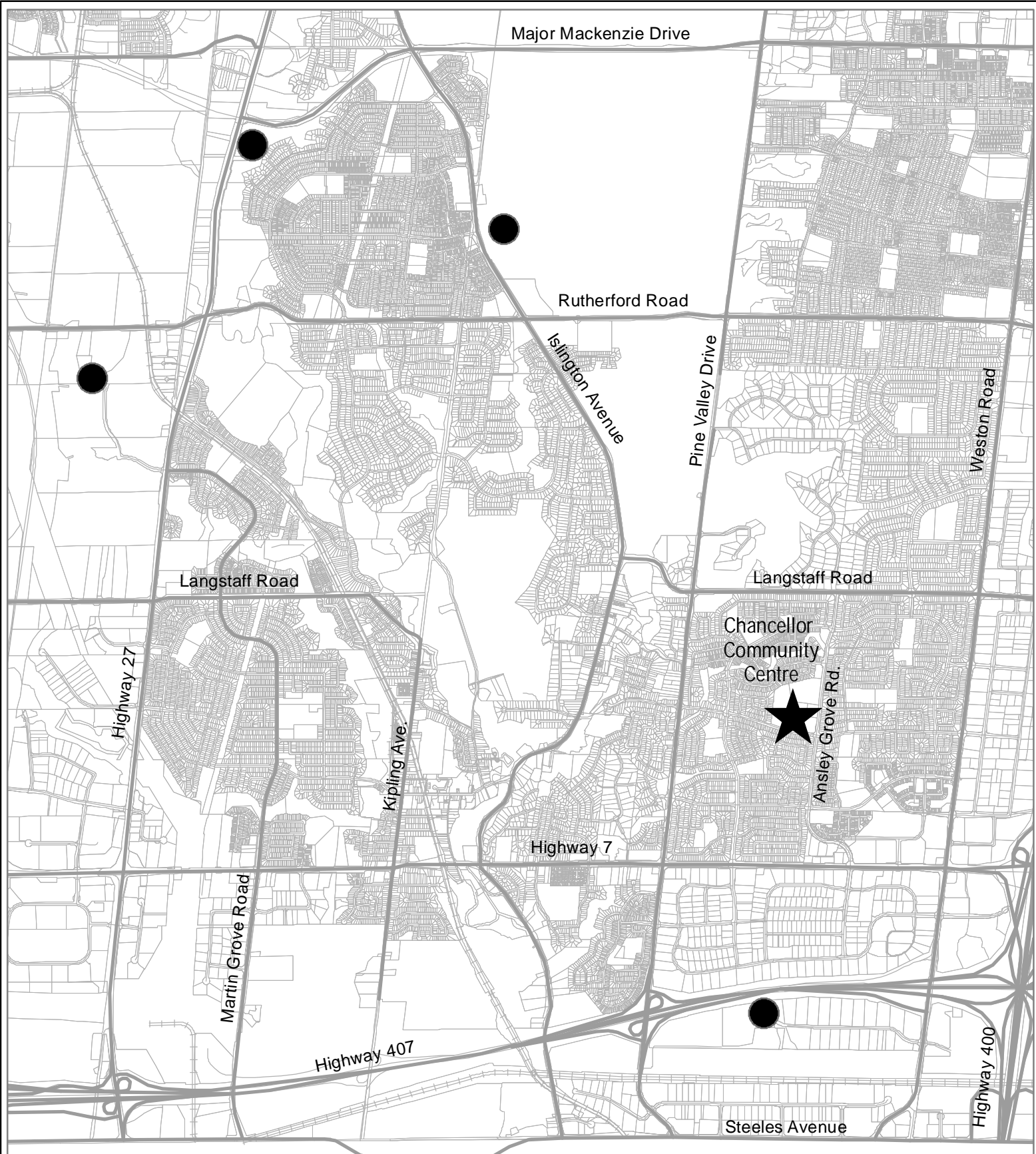
The presentation boards will include results of a survey which is running until September 11, 2016. A link to the survey is also available at the above website.

**For further information about this project please contact:**

Michael Habib  
Senior Planner  
Parks Development  
(905) 303-2069 Ext. 8092  
[michael.habib@vaughan.ca](mailto:michael.habib@vaughan.ca)

**Note:** If you require accommodation for the meeting please contact us and we will work with you to meet your needs.





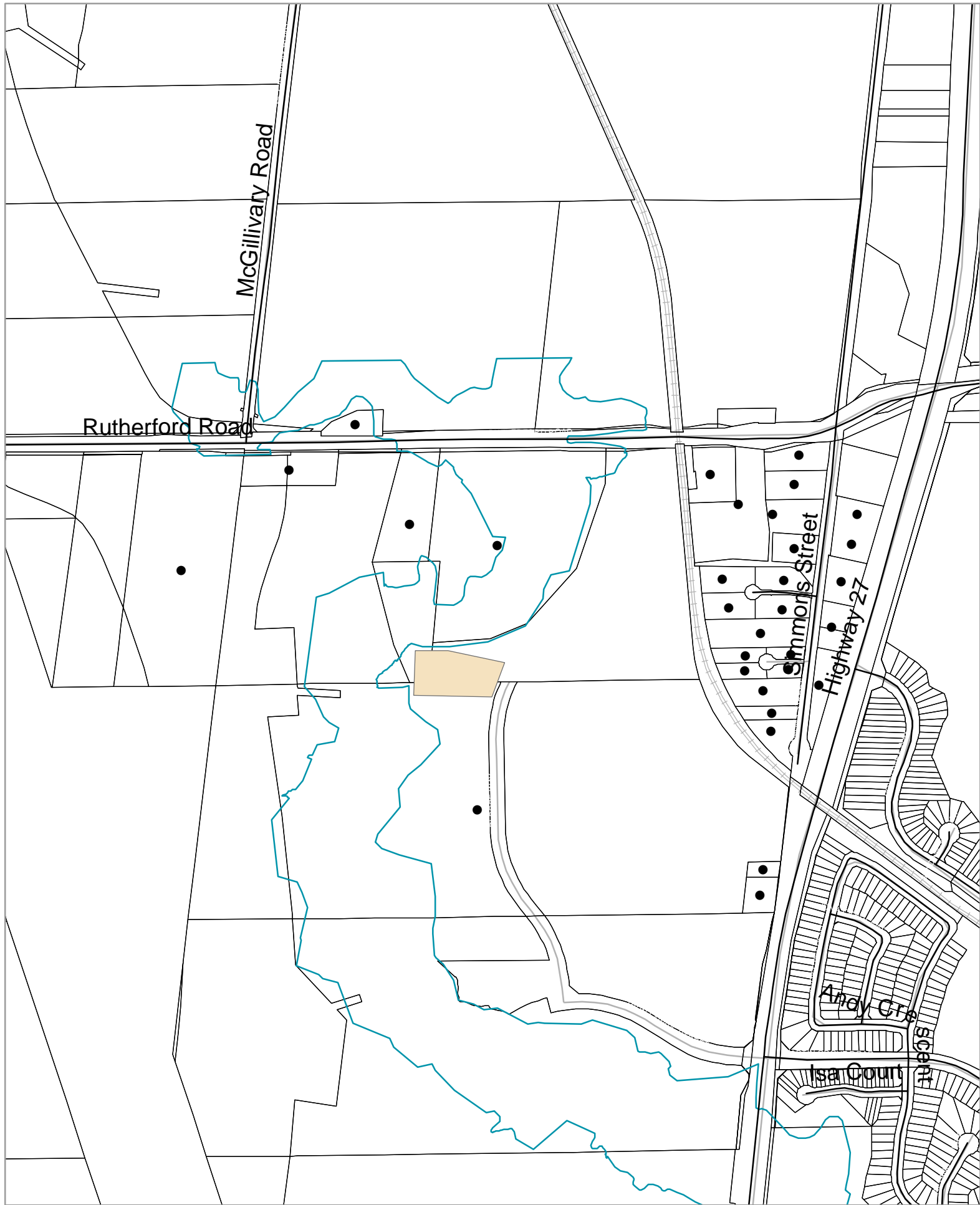
Primary Off-Leash  
Dog Park  
West of Highway 400

Open House Location:  
Chancellor Community Centre  
Gymnasium  
Tuesday, September 20, 2016  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
350 Ansley Grove Rd.,  
Vaughan, Ontario, L4L 5C9



 Location Options





Location B Mail List  
Off Leash Dog Park





Location C Mail List  
Off Leash Dog Park





Location E Mail List  
Off Leash Dog Park

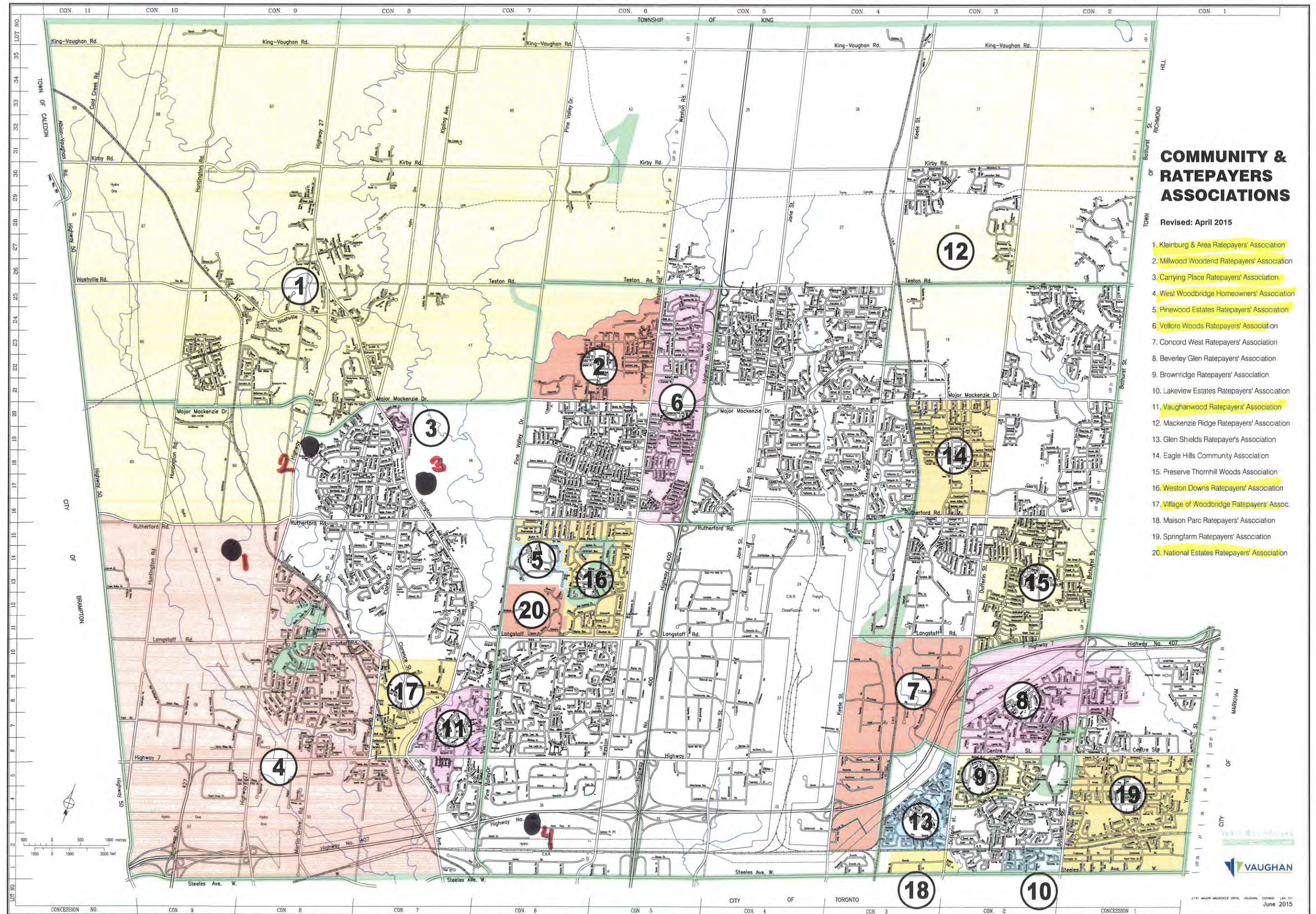




Location N Mail List  
Off Leash Dog Park







# COMMUNITY & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATIONS

Revised: April 2015

1. Kleinburg & Area Ratepayers' Association
2. Millwood Woodend Ratepayers' Association
3. Carrying Place Ratepayers' Association
4. West Woodbridge Homeowners' Association
5. Pinewood Estates Ratepayers' Association
6. Vellcro Woods Ratepayers' Association
7. Concord West Ratepayers' Association
8. Beverley Glen Ratepayers' Association
9. Brownridge Ratepayers' Association
10. Lakeview Estates Ratepayers' Association
11. Vaughanwood Ratepayers' Association
12. Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers' Association
13. Glen Shields Ratepayer's Association
14. Eagle Hills Community Association
15. Preserve Thornhill Woods Association
16. Weston Downs Ratepayers' Association
17. Village of Woodbridge Ratepayers' Assoc.
18. Maison Parc Ratepayers' Association
19. Springfarm Ratepayers' Association
20. National Estates Ratepayers' Association



# Welcome!

## Public Open House

### Site Selection of the Primary Off-Leash Dog Park West of Highway 400

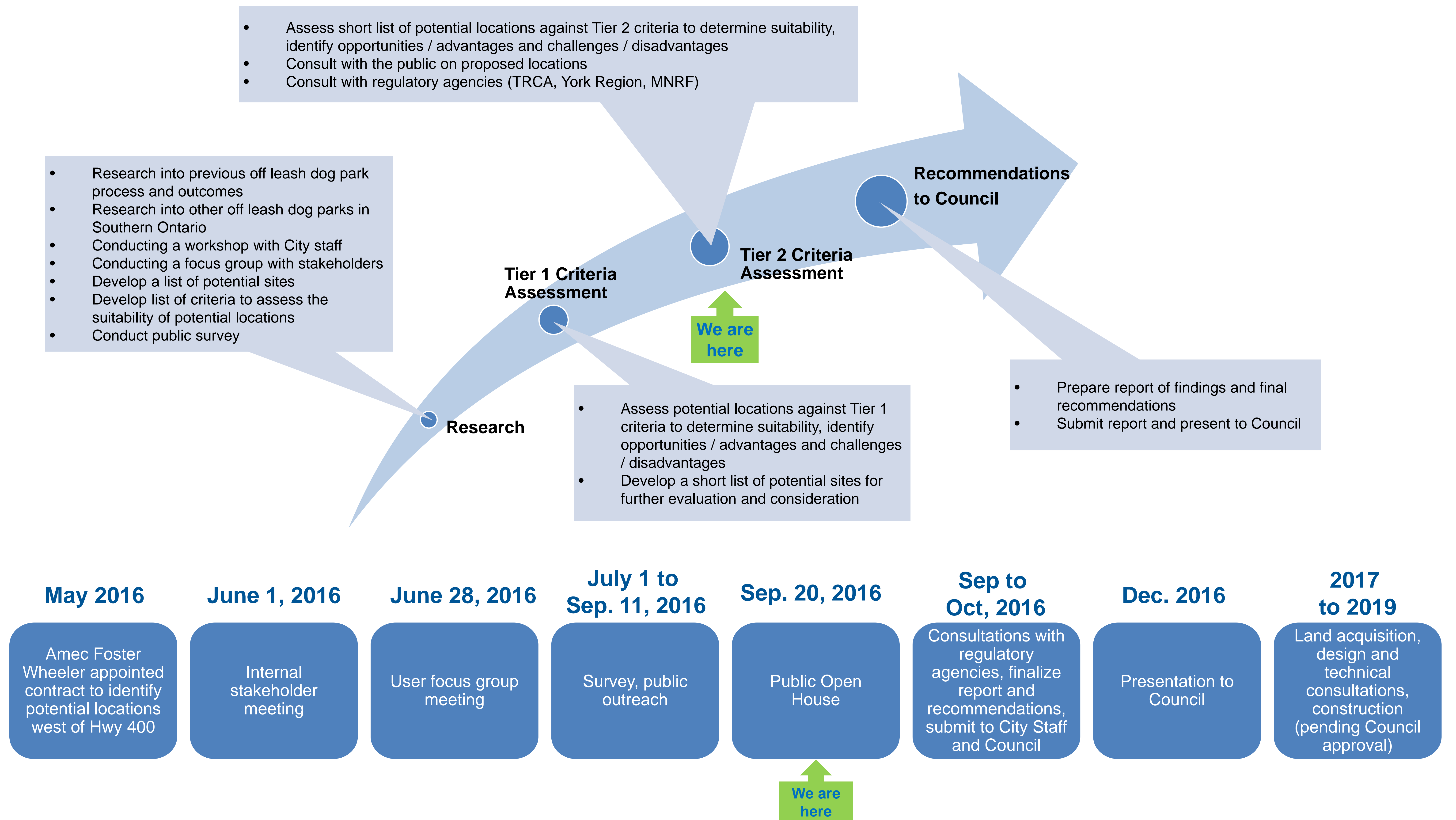
#### Today we invite you to

- 1 **Get updated with progress so far**
- 2 **Learn about key findings from the survey**
- 3 **Choose your preferred location for a Primary Off Leash Dog Park of the short listed sites**
- 4 **Find out about the background work and research completed to date**
- 5 **Speak with staff and consultants**
- 6 **Propose other locations for future local dog parks at the map**
- 7 **Fill out a comments sheet – Deadline is October 4th**

**Your feedback is important  
to finalize site selection!**

**Comment Deadline  
October 4th**

# Timeline & Site Selection Process



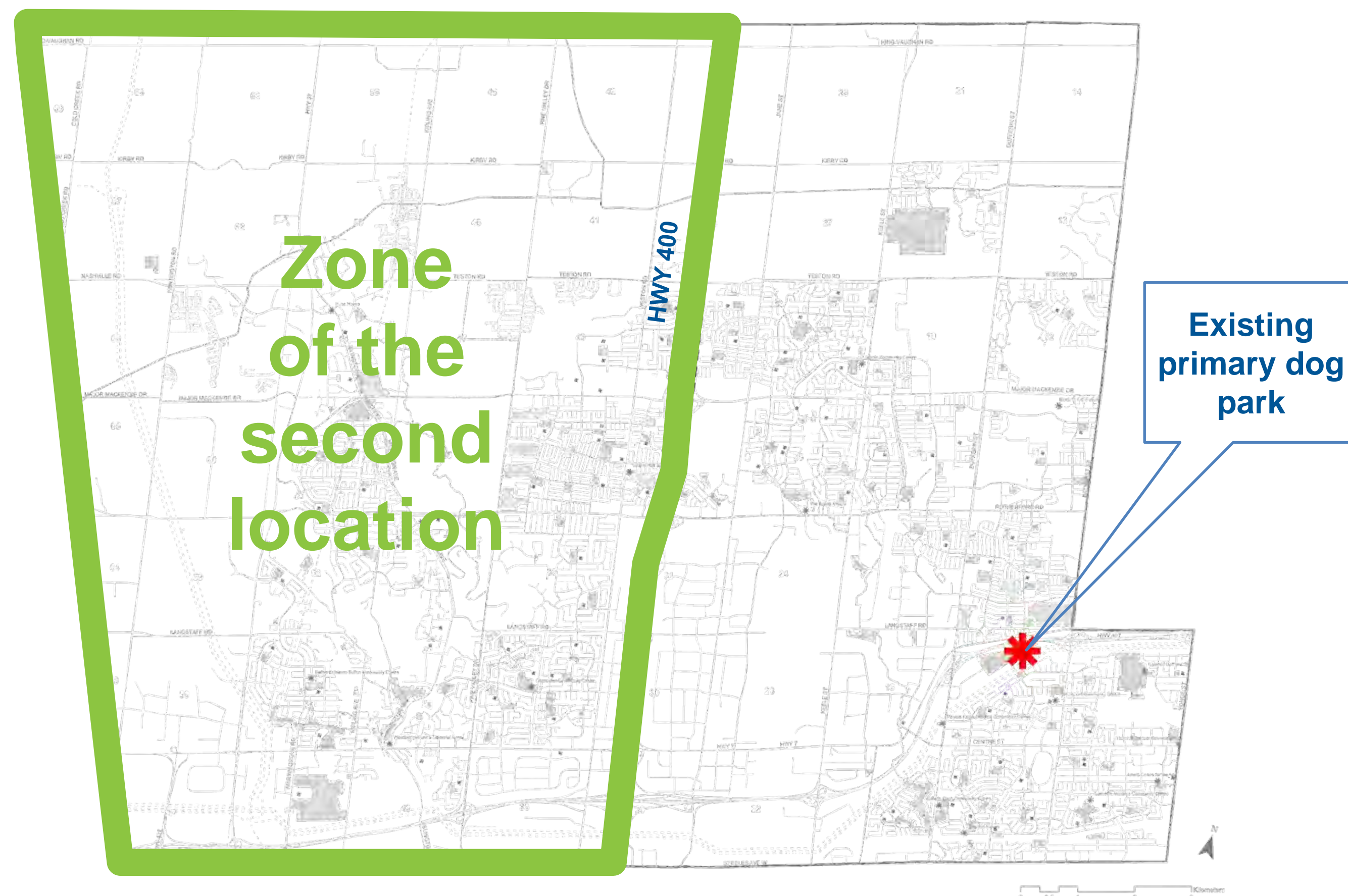


# Primary Off-Leash Dog Parks

## 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 Dog Park

## Concord Thornhill Regional Park (CTRP)

### What we've heard in the survey

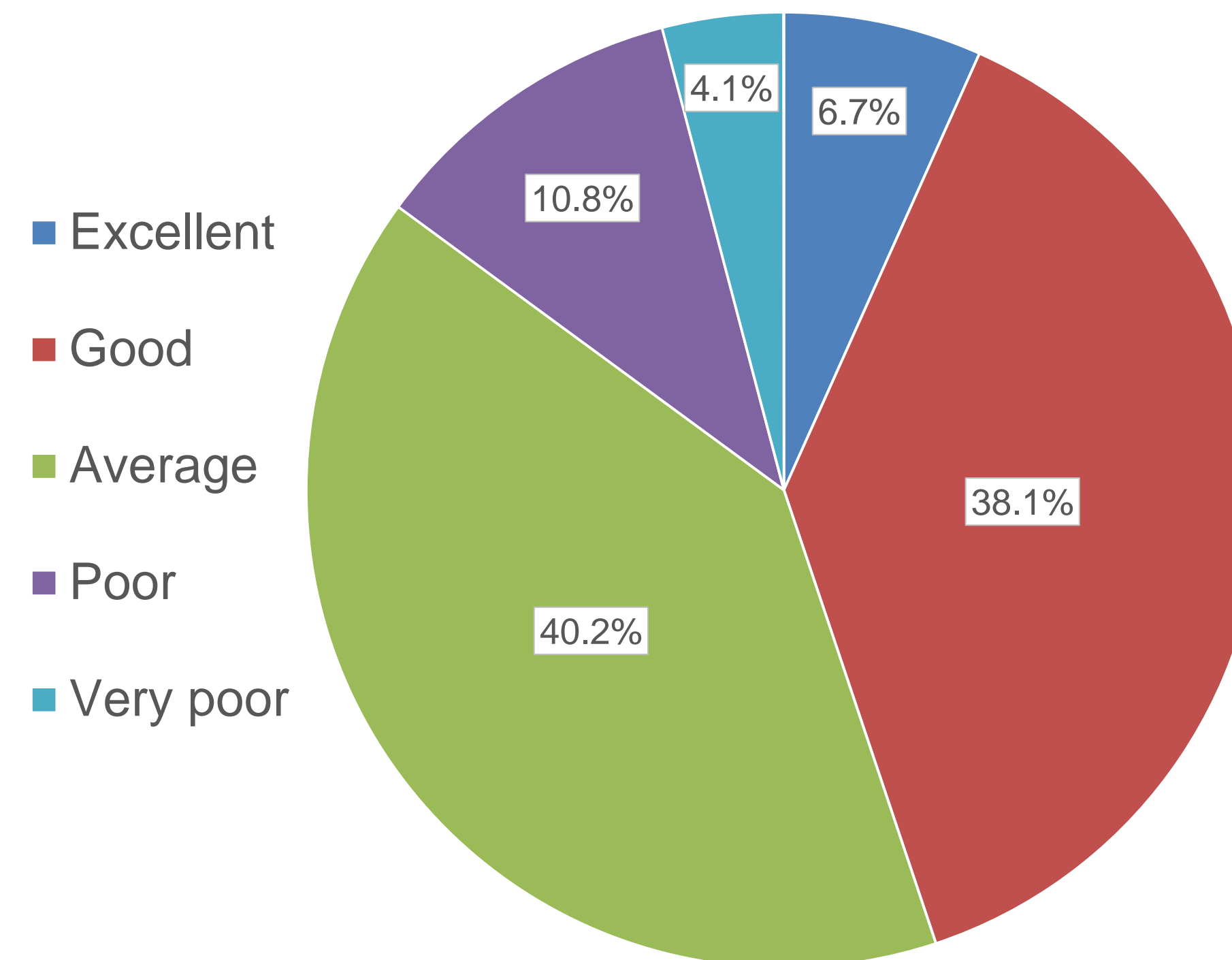
Number of  
Survey Responses

**200**

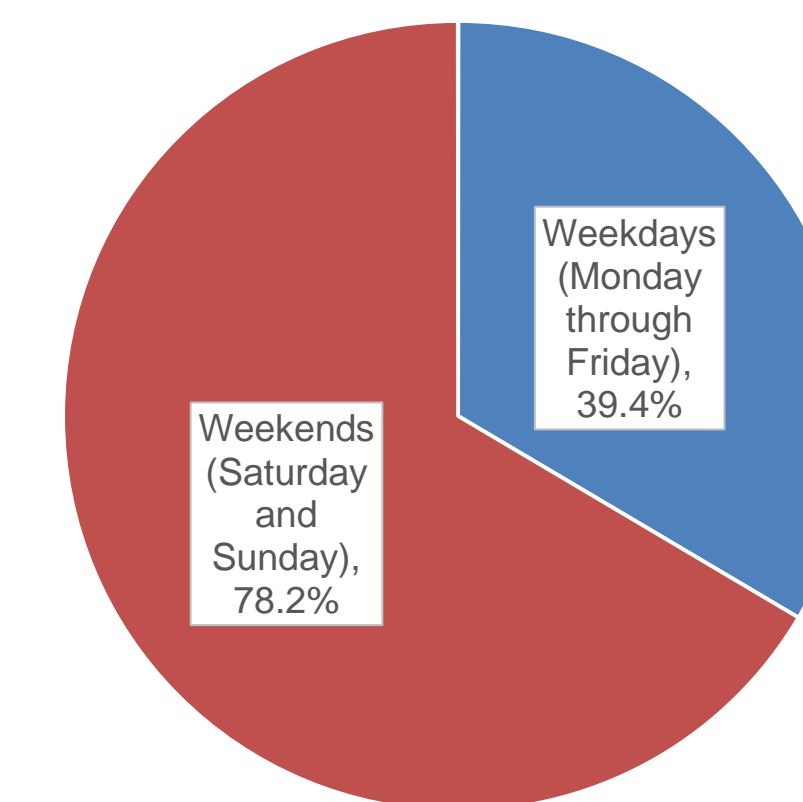
### Key feedback

- 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

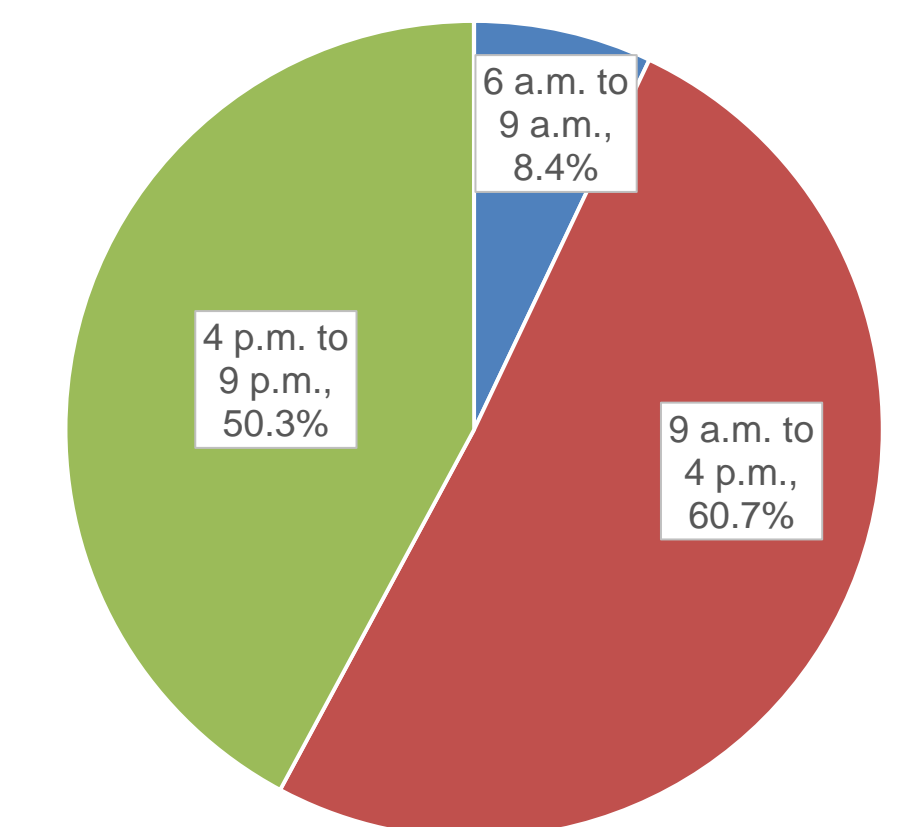
Respondents Rating of CTRP



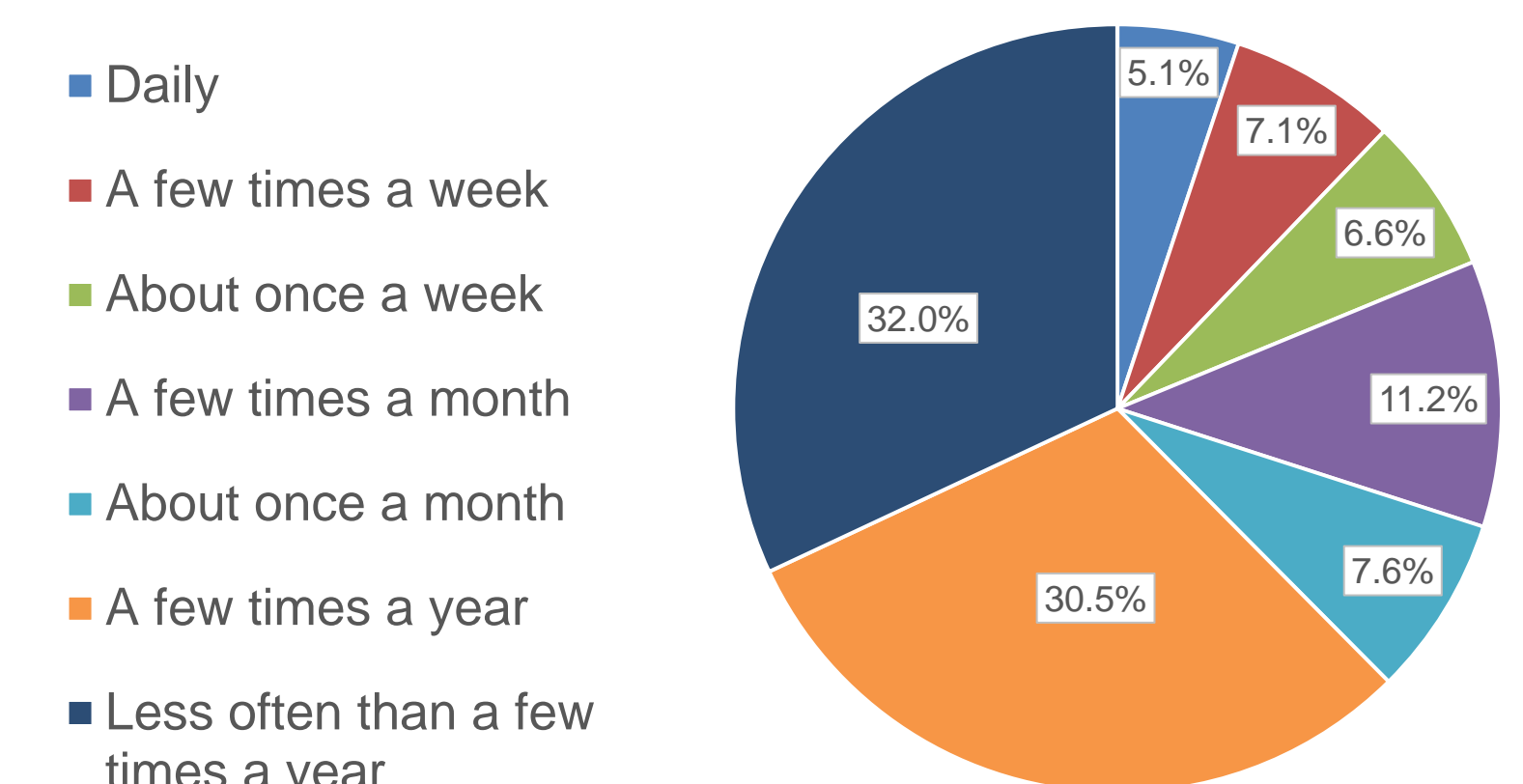
Days That Respondents Visited CTRP



Times That Respondents Visited CTRP



How Often Respondents Visited CTRP





# What We've Heard So Far

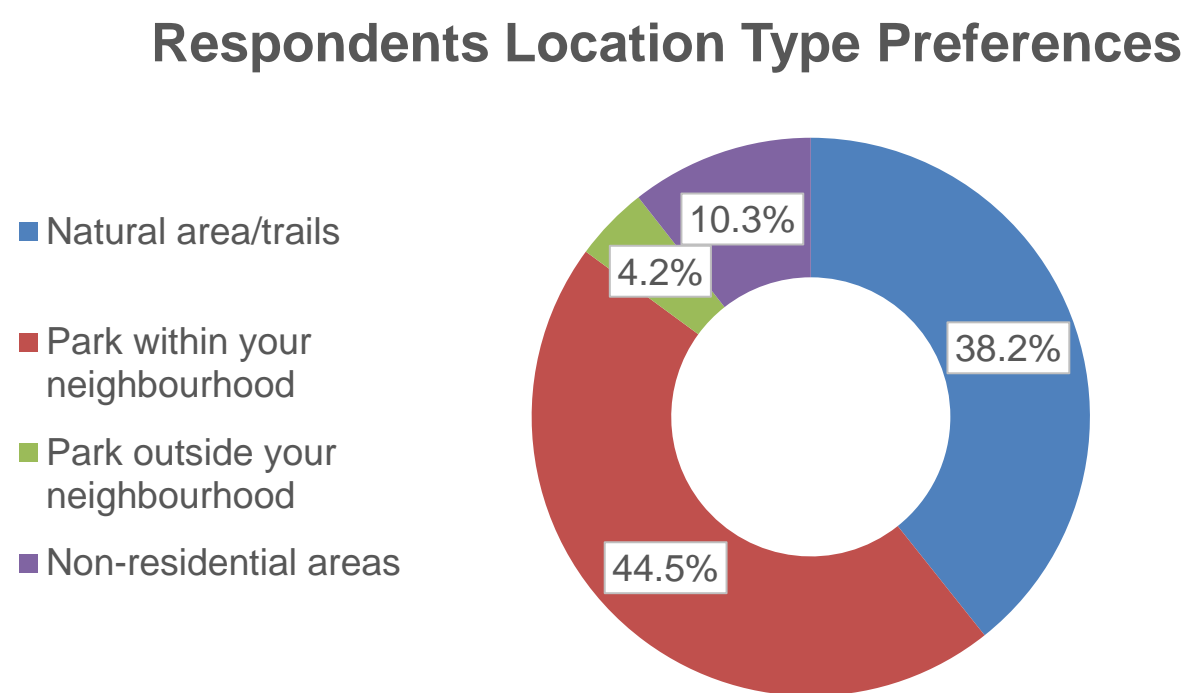
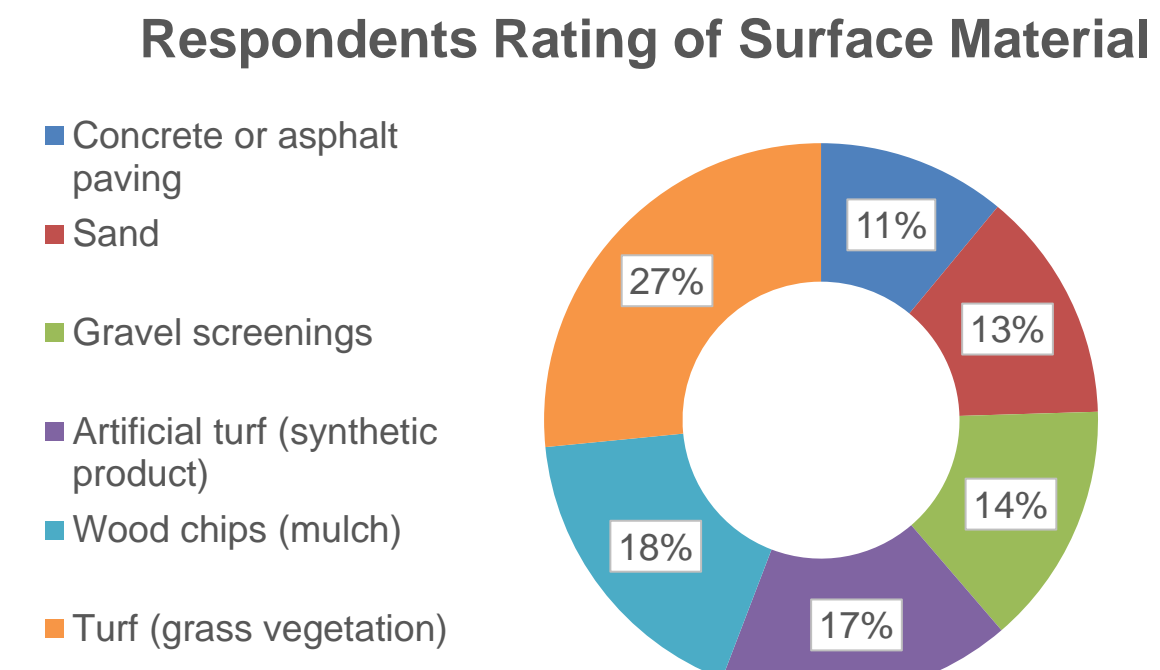
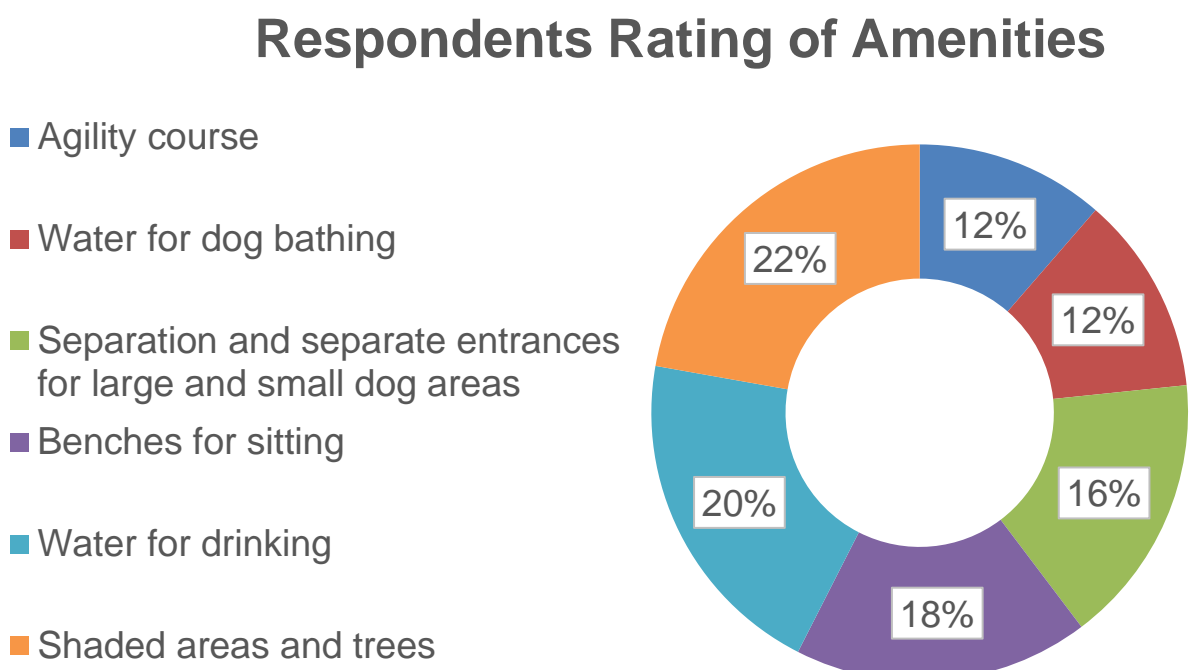
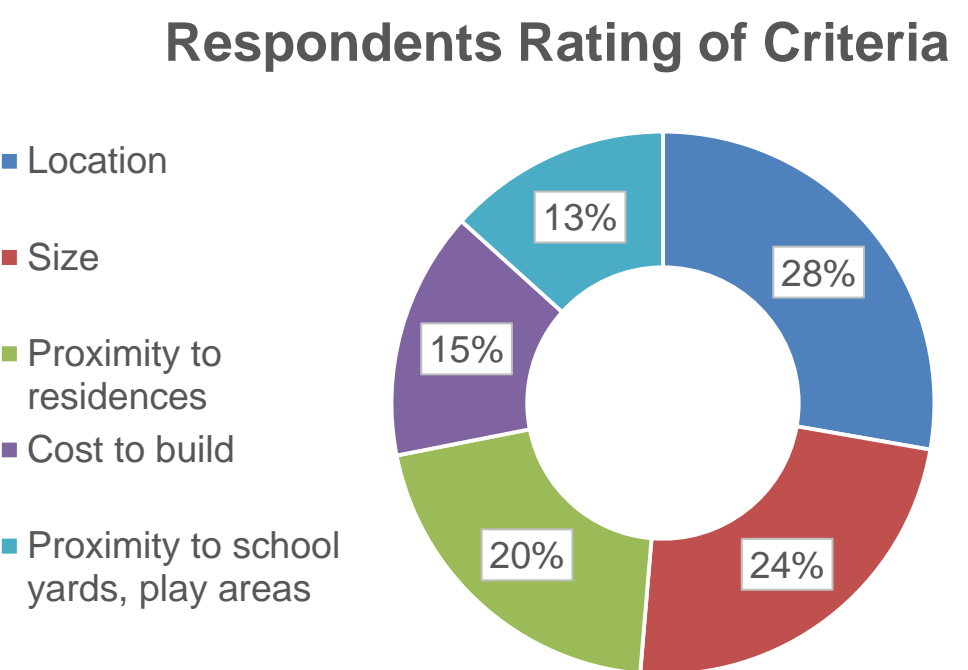
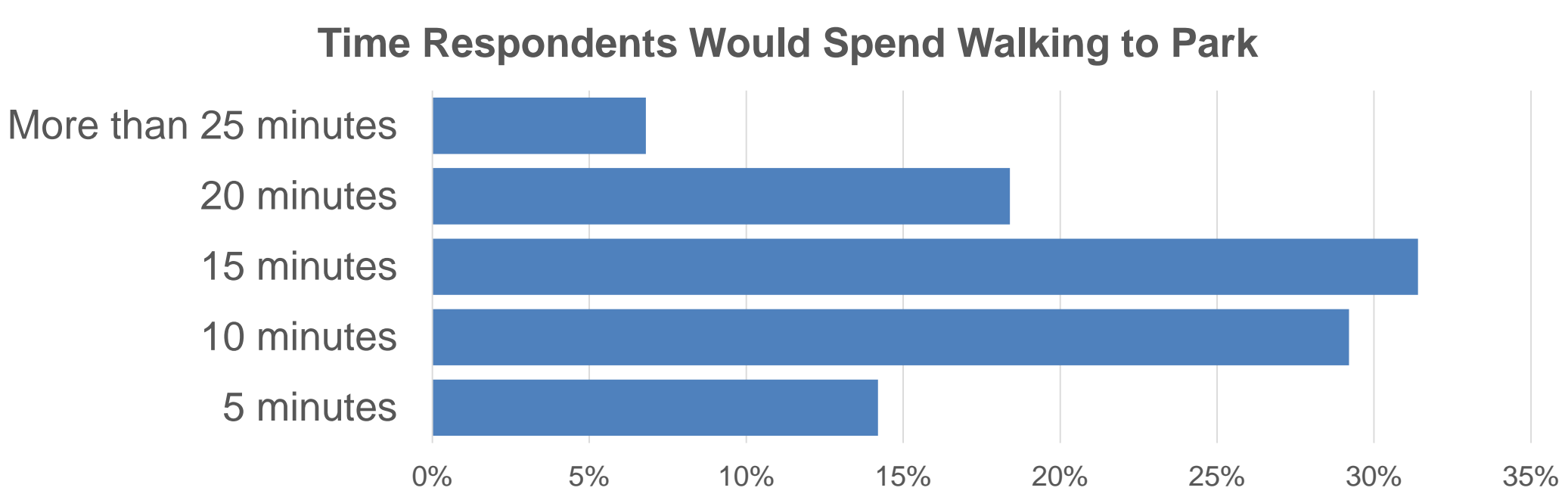
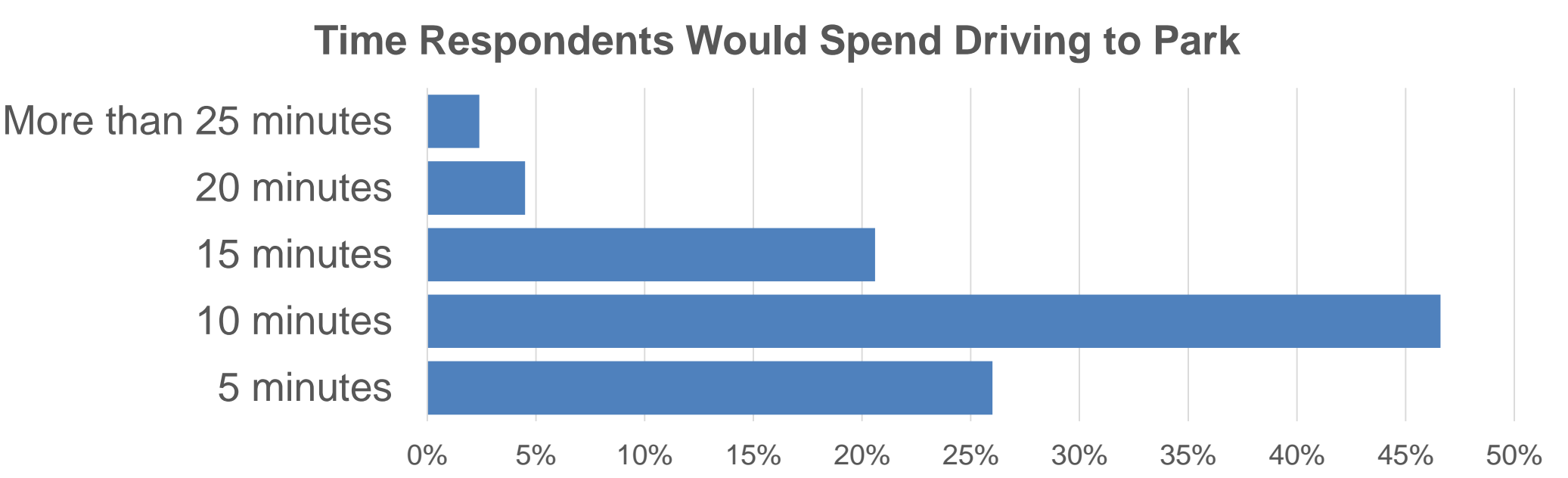
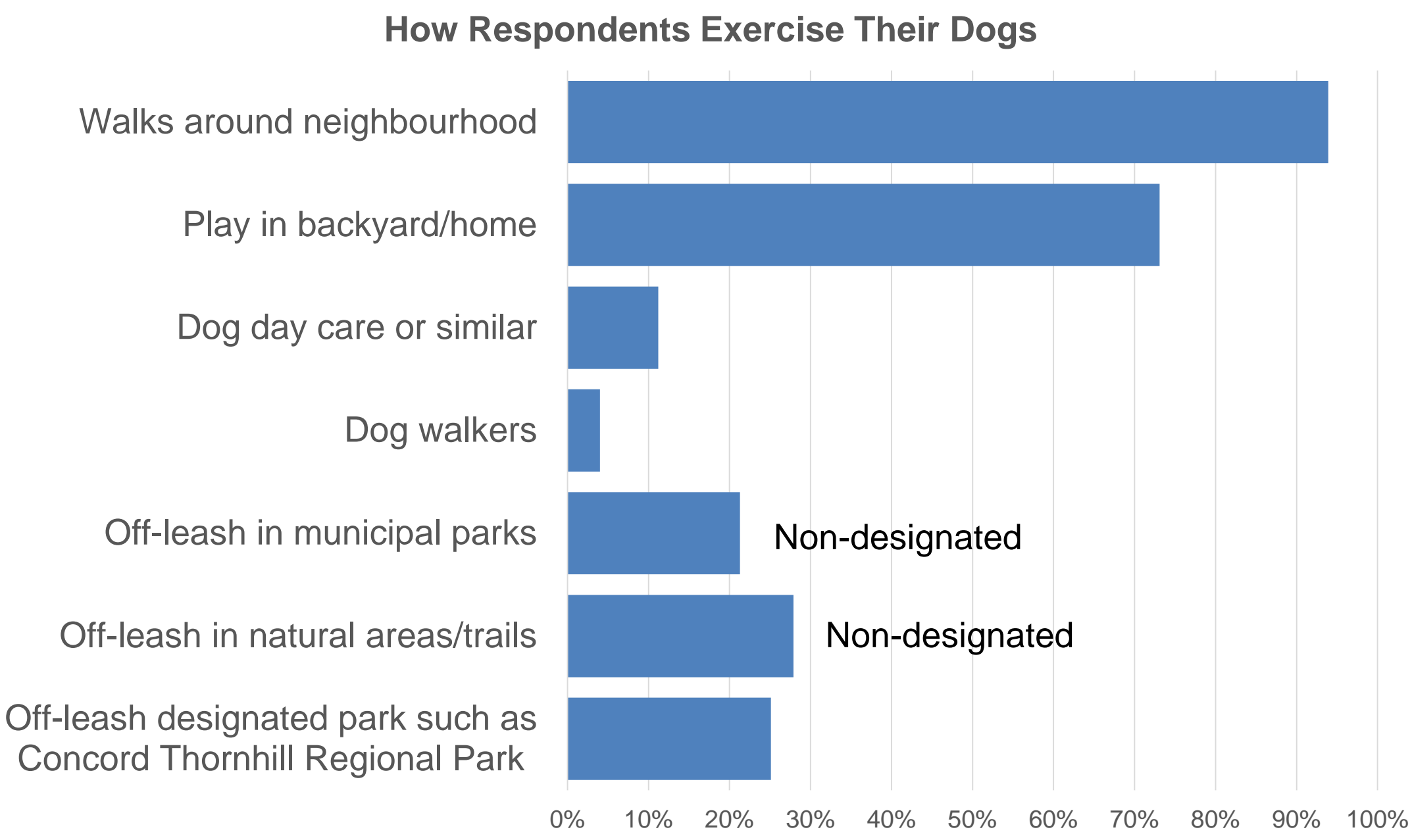
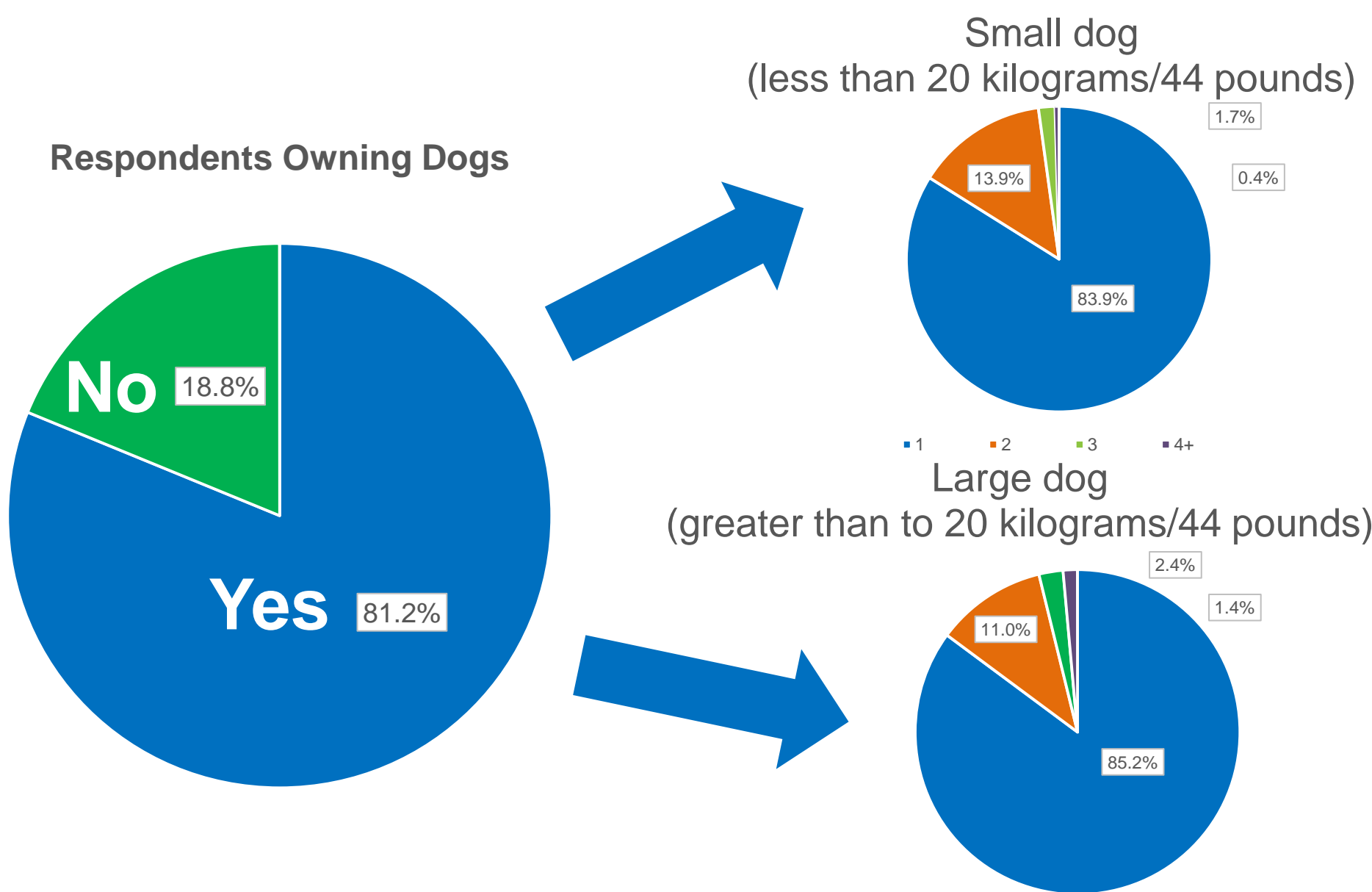
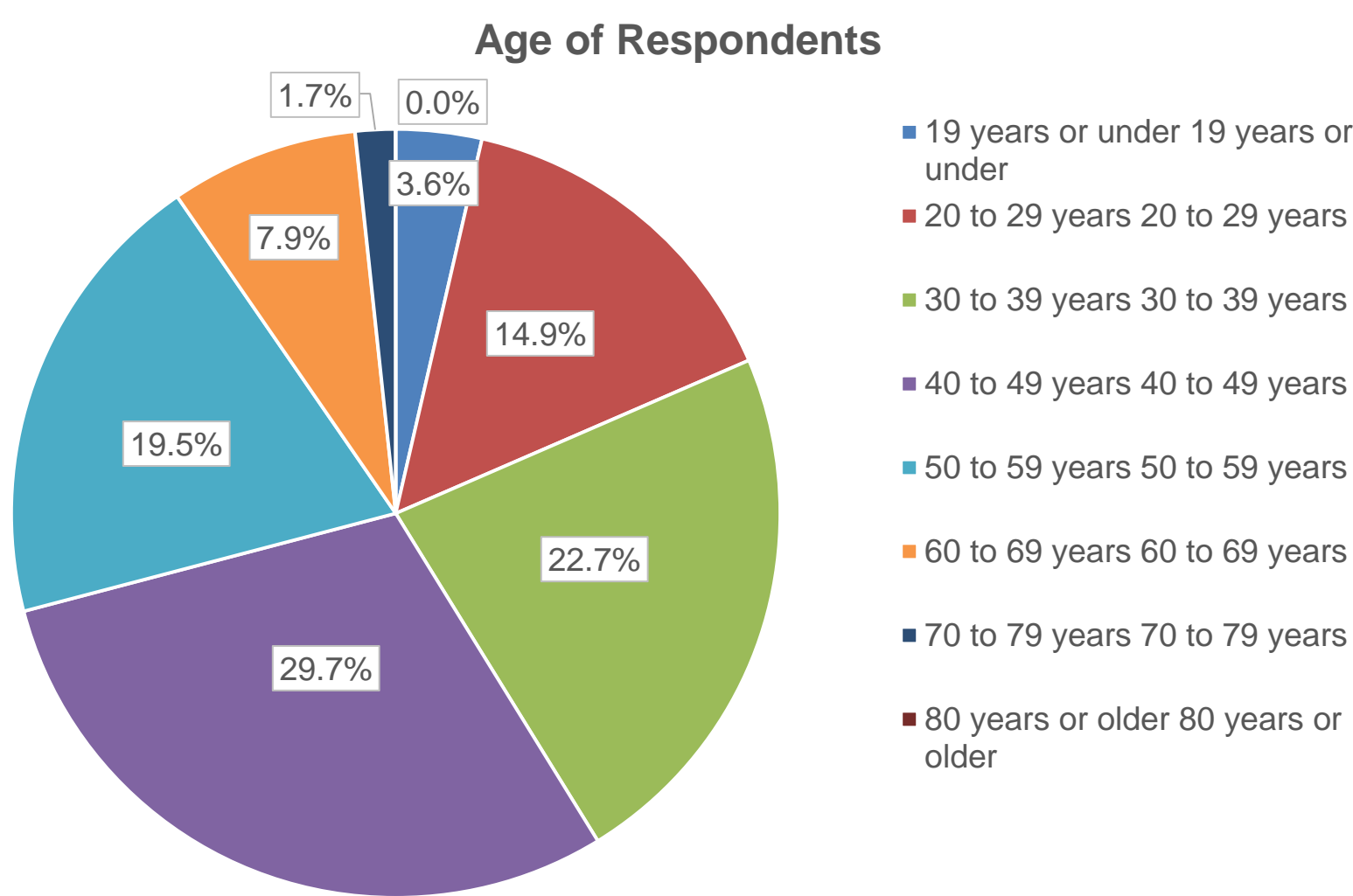
Number of Survey Responses **530**

## 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 Makes a 'Good' Off Leash Dog Park

## Sound Planning and Management

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

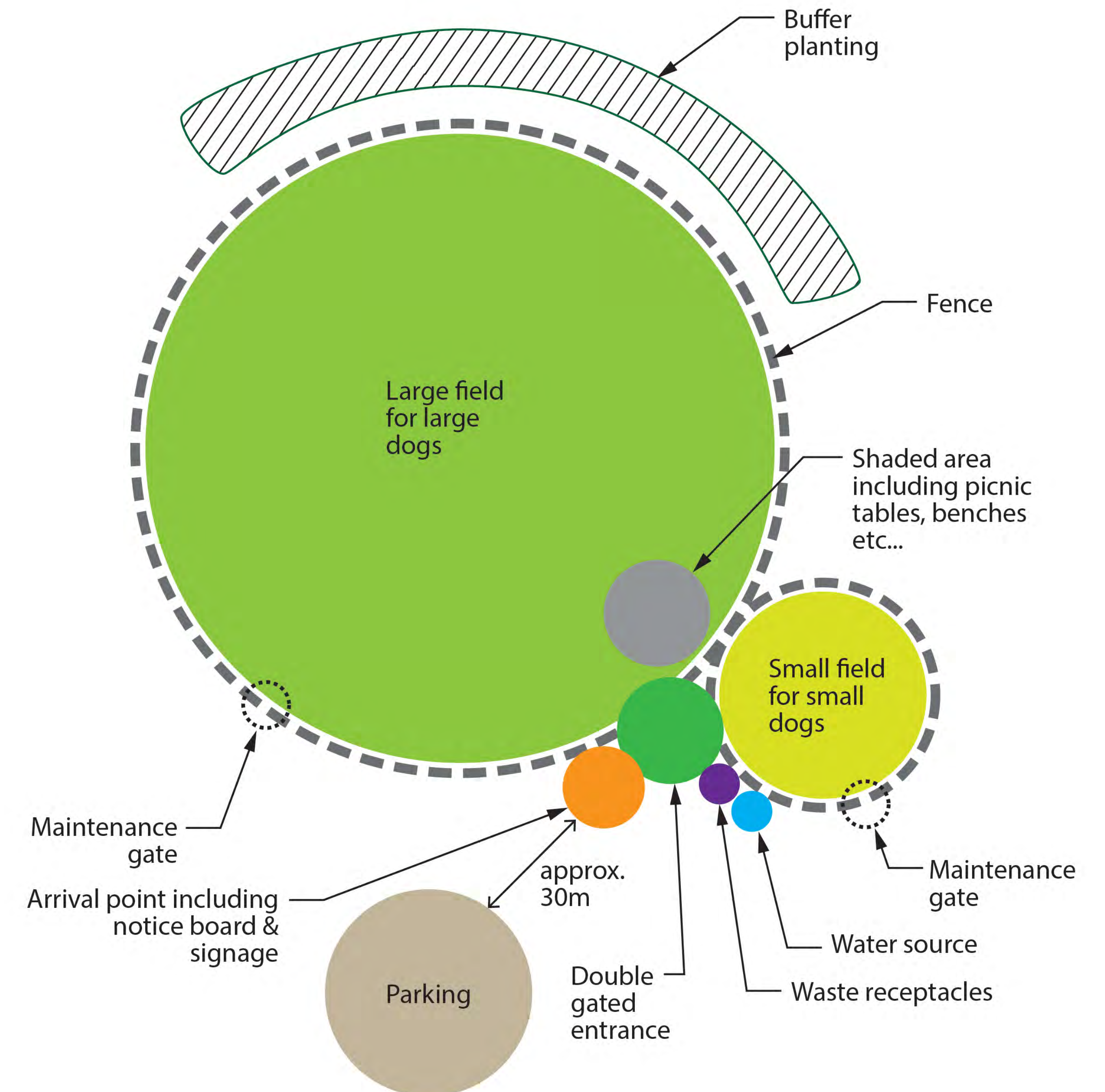
## Characteristics

- 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





# Primary Off Leash Dog Park – Proposed Locations



## 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 21 out of 25 as part of the initial Tier 2 assessment
- Advantages / Opportunities
  - Access to future multiuse trail
  - Construction and maintenance cost efficiencies
  - Available for development
  - Synergies with planned district park facilities
- Disadvantages / Challenges
  - Additional open space property purchase to the north would likely be required



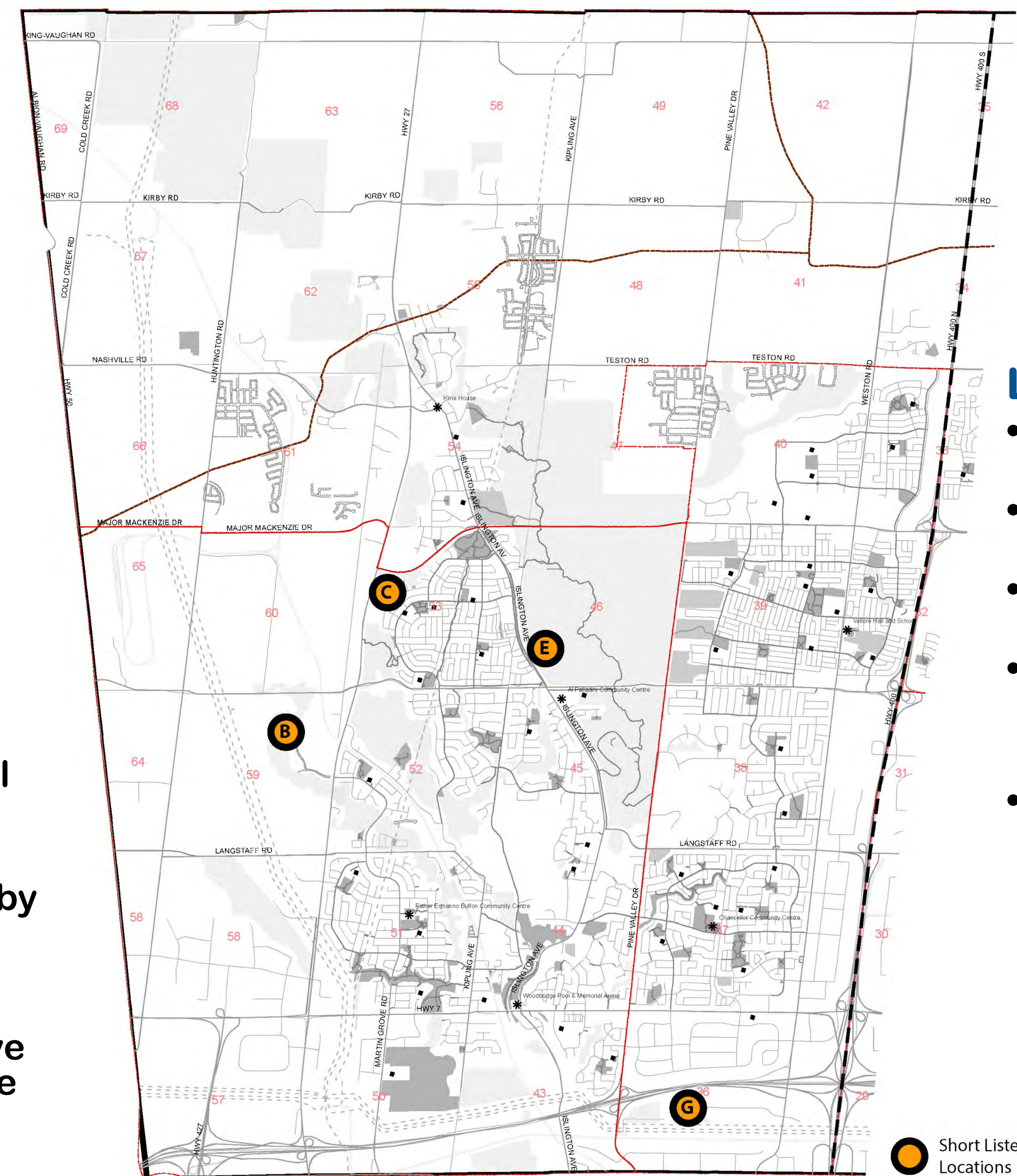
## Location E

- 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 15 out of 25 as part of the initial Tier 2 assessment
- Advantages / Opportunities
  - Central location that is easily accessible by walking
- Disadvantages / Challenges
  - Coordination with neighbouring property owners
  - Close proximity to environmentally sensitive areas (wetland)
  - Restrictive vehicular access
  - Lease, license, or easement required with external agency
  - Extensive site work required, grading and servicing



## Location C

- Located near Major Mackenzie Drive and Highway 27
- Scored 45 out of 75 as part of the Tier 1 assessment
- Scored 11 out of 25 as part of the initial Tier 2 assessment
- Advantages / Opportunities
  - City owned land
  - Existing trail into neighbouring residential area
- Disadvantages / Challenges
  - High risk due to impact by spring and summer flooding
  - Close proximity to environmentally sensitive areas (wetland, sensitive habitat, and flood plain)
  - Restrictive vehicular access
  - Additional property purchase would likely be required



West Vaughan

## Location G

- Located at the end of Aviva Park Drive
- Scored 57 out of 75 as part of the Tier 1 assessment
- Scored 23 out of 25 as part of the initial Tier 2 assessment
- Advantages / Opportunities
  - Owned by the City
  - Good vehicular access
- Disadvantages / Challenges
  - Increased travel time
  - Adjacent to industrial area and truck traffic
  - Located south of Highway 407
  - Accessibility considerations to be further evaluated





# Proposed Locations



~ Place your comments here~



# Proposed Locations

~Place your comments here~





# Thank You

## Next Steps

1. **Your input is important!** The City will be finalizing the preferred site based on your feedback received through this open house and via information posted on the website, and in consultation with regulatory agencies (TRCA, York Region, MNRF)
2. **Finalize recommendations and submit to City Council.** A presentation to City Council are anticipated for December 2016
  - If approved by City Council, appropriate funds will be set aside for the development of the selected location
3. **Recommendations will identify the City consider a Local Dog Park pilot project.**
  - These are:
    - Off leash dog parks may be located in local, community parks
    - Provide a location to exercise dogs but tend to be smaller in size and have limited infrastructure
    - Require consultation with neighbouring property owners

**Comment  
Deadline  
October  
4th**

**We Want to Hear from You!**



# Primary Off Leash Dog Park – Proposed Locations



## 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 21 out of 25 as part of the initial Tier 2 assessment
- Advantages / Opportunities
  - Access to future multiuse trail
  - Construction and maintenance cost efficiencies
  - Available for development
  - Synergies with planned district park facilities
- Disadvantages / Challenges
  - Additional open space property purchase to the north would likely be required



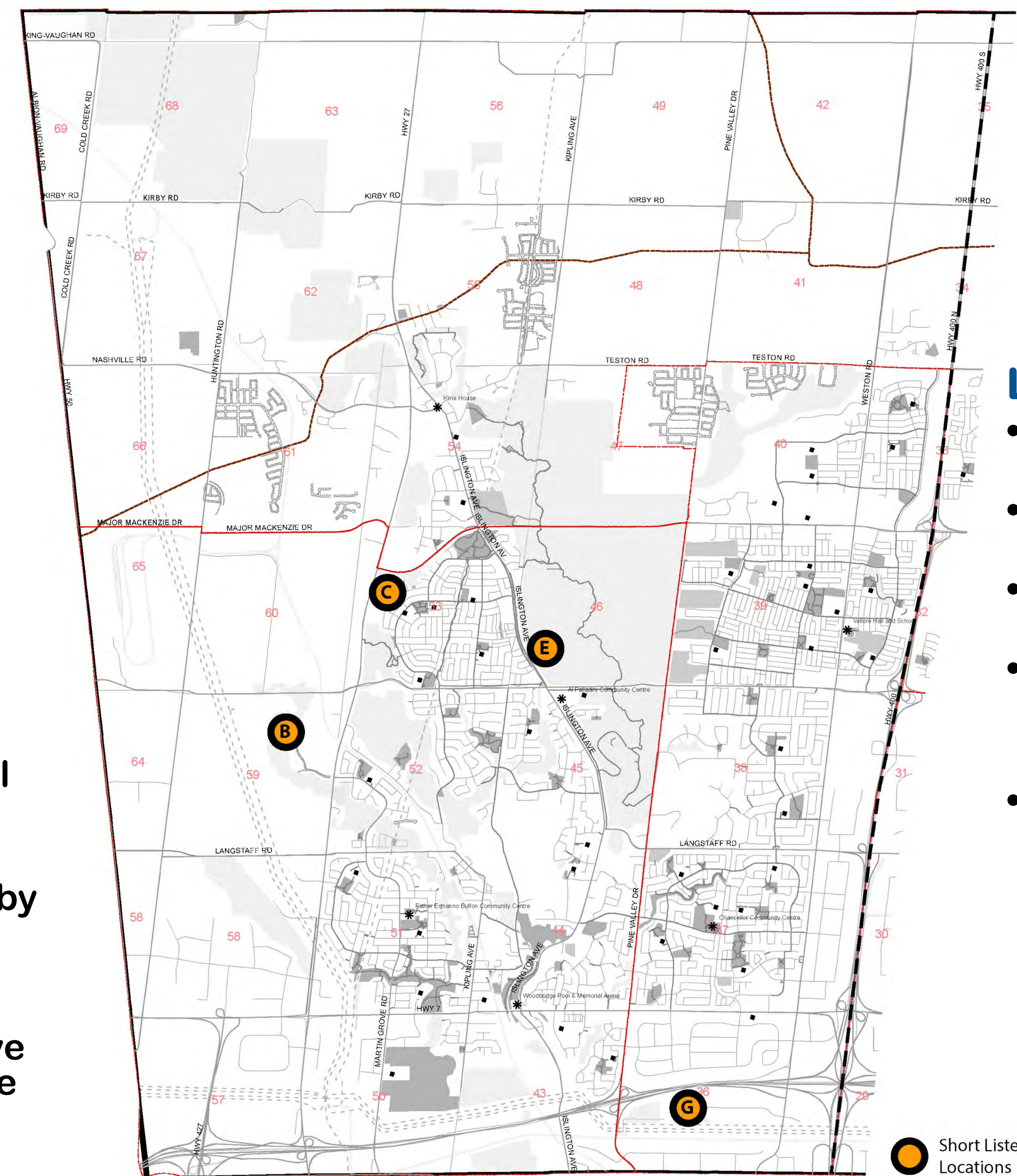
## Location E

- 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 15 out of 25 as part of the initial Tier 2 assessment
- Advantages / Opportunities
  - Central location that is easily accessible by walking
- Disadvantages / Challenges
  - Coordination with neighbouring property owners
  - Close proximity to environmentally sensitive areas (wetland)
  - Restrictive vehicular access
  - Lease, license, or easement required with external agency
  - Extensive site work required, grading and servicing



## Location C

- Located near Major Mackenzie Drive and Highway 27
- Scored 45 out of 75 as part of the Tier 1 assessment
- Scored 11 out of 25 as part of the initial Tier 2 assessment
- Advantages / Opportunities
  - City owned land
  - Existing trail into neighbouring residential area
- Disadvantages / Challenges
  - High risk due to impact by spring and summer flooding
  - Close proximity to environmentally sensitive areas (wetland, sensitive habitat, and flood plain)
  - Restrictive vehicular access
  - Additional property purchase would likely be required



West Vaughan

## Location G

- Located at the end of Aviva Park Drive
- Scored 57 out of 75 as part of the Tier 1 assessment
- Scored 23 out of 25 as part of the initial Tier 2 assessment
- Advantages / Opportunities
  - Owned by the City
  - Good vehicular access
- Disadvantages / Challenges
  - Increased travel time
  - Adjacent to industrial area and truck traffic
  - Located south of Highway 407
  - Accessibility considerations to be further evaluated







## COMMENT SHEET

**OFF LEASH DOG PARK WEST OF HWY 400 – Tuesday, September 20, 2016**

**Chancellor Community Centre – Gymnasium  
350 Ansley Grove Rd.**

Your input is greatly appreciated and will be considered in the selection of the preferred location for an off leash dog park west of Highway 400.

Please submit your completed Comment Sheet at the end of the Open House or return by October 4, 2016 to:

Email: [Michael.habib@vaughan.ca](mailto:Michael.habib@vaughan.ca) or fax 905-303-2068

Attention: Michael Habib,

City of Vaughan, 2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.

Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

Telephone: 905.303.2069 ext. 8092

### 1. How did you hear about this Open House?

<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Poster
<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Road Sign	<input type="checkbox"/> Flyer
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Media (Facebook, Twitter)	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Event
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice/Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	

### 2. Please choose your preferred location and tell us why.

<input type="checkbox"/> Site B	<input type="checkbox"/> Site C	<input type="checkbox"/> Site E	<input type="checkbox"/> Site G
_____			
_____			

### 3. Are there any aspects of the off leash dog parks that we have not addressed that you wish to bring to the City's attention? These may include policies, location or amenities.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Would you be willing to do the following to contribute to managing dog parks?

Volunteer time	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Make a donation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

### 5. Additional comments may be provided in the space below.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

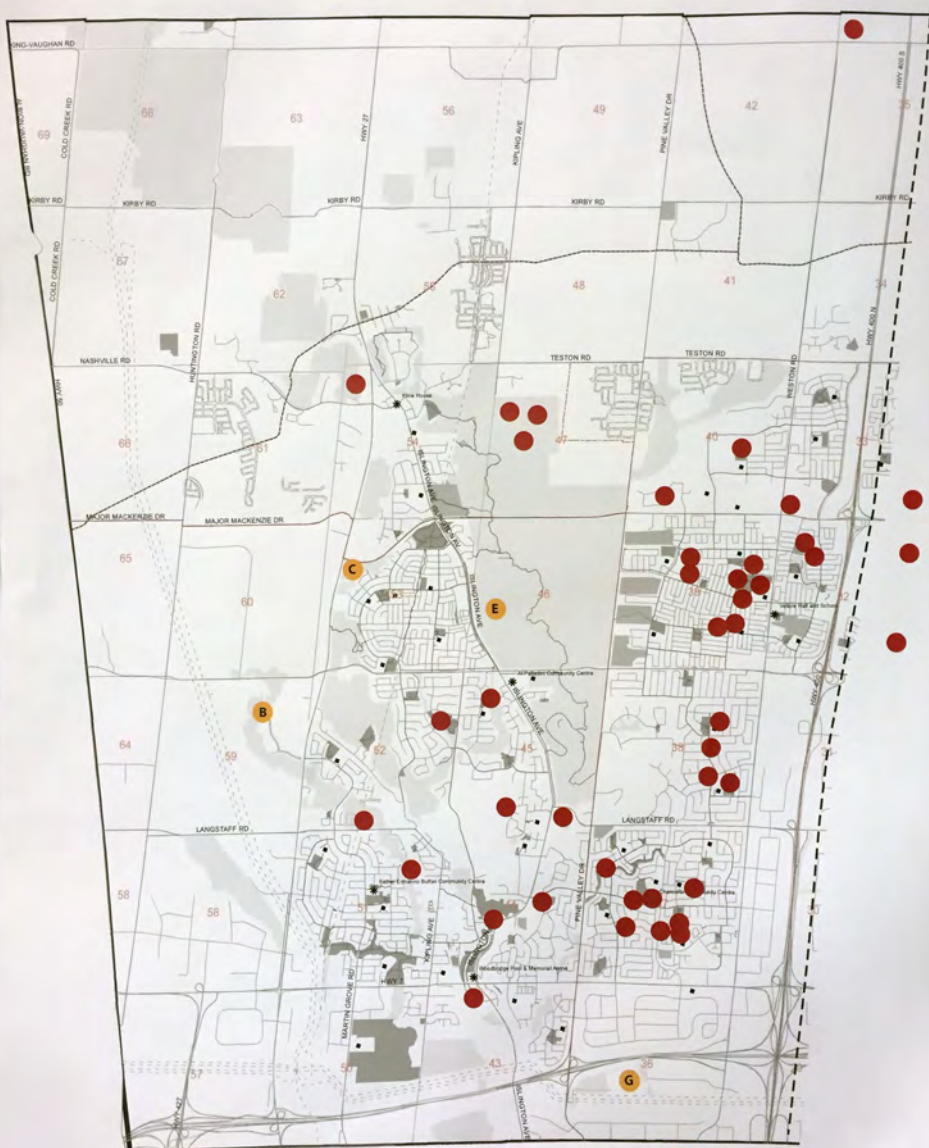
Name (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_


Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Proposed by Participants at the September Public Open House



-  Short Listed Primary Locations  
 Proposed Local Locations

## **APPENDIX D: OPEN HOUSE COMMENT FORMS RESULTS**

Appendix D: Public Open House Comment Forms Summary

Respondent	Question 1									Question 2					Question 3	Question 4				Question 5
	Electronic Board	Mobile Street Sign	Social Media	Notice/ Letter	Poster	Flyer	Public Event	Word of Mouth	Other:	Site B	Site C	Site E	Site G	Why		Volunteer time Yes	Volunteer time No	Make a donation Yes	Make a donation No	
1									Email from Councilor				1		Timeline is unacceptable. Deal with this issue faster			1		
2													1	away from residential, close enough to me to drive, no wetland situation, city owned	small local dog parks would be welcomed		1		1	
3		1											1	for a local site you should have one on the southwest corner of Chancellor Community Centre (you already have two fence lines, parking and lighting)	should have large and small breed areas, not just size	1		1		please see comments on local park at Chancellor this is the most local area by dog ownership
4	1							1					1	location is close to home and easily accessible. Not located near residential area	please have sufficient parking, exercise stations for dogs to play (i.e., tunnels, platforms, etc.), proper lighting, running water, poop bag stations					
5		1											1				1		1	How does a city of Vaughan have only 1 dog park. Not fair.
6					1			1					1		specific bylaws for dog park. Current contradictions need to be addressed.	1		1		Move the fence at Rocco Park to encircle grown tree to provide shade in summer. Quick and cheap fix to the shade issue.
7	1								Vet's office and email				1	close to me			1		1	
8		1	1										1	this is the only location that is in the south part of woodbridge	closer to residential, easier to walk to		1		1	why are all the locations where there is a lot of traffic. A more quiet and less populated areas would be better, like the Thornhill location is in a park in as secluded part of the park.
9								1	only found out 2 days ago				1	dislike all locations as too far to drive with traffic concerns after work	how did you come up with the sites; why not municipal parks in the residential areas		1		1	does not have to be a huge space. Start small then build a second park in response is good. Suggestion: Giovanni Cabota, Chancellor, St. Clare (sp?) parks. All within waking distance from here.
10									Vaughan Weekly, Dr. Darlington Vet				1		Water fountains	1				
11				1								1		It is in close proximity to a residential area and walking trail. It would be nice if the park would link to the trail that runs along side. Also within walking distnace	No		1		1	My tax dollars that go towards education can be used towards this project. We have no kids in school!
12				1								1		Good location; within walking distance from residence.	No		1		1	My tax dollars that go towards education can be used towards this project as we do not have any kids in school.
13	1							1				1		central location		1				
14				1								1		Close to neighbourhood with easy accessibility, close to trails	No		1		1	
15						1						1		It's walking distance, it keeps the bads clear of traffic	exisiting local park with designated areas would support the needs of dog owners and elevated traffic (cars) on roads		1		1	We should not be purchasing lands, but instead use money to create fenced in areas at existing parks
16			1									1		close to house, parking, large area		1		1		
17				1								1					1		1	
18				1								1		close to home, parking, big park, family recreation location, easy access	locations (more), amenities	1		1		please keep me updated on the progress
19			1									1		close to house, large area, parking		1		1		
20								1				1		central to most, cuts travel time for most citizens						the sooner the better
21									previous meeting			1		proximity, site c swampy and Hwy 27 traffic dangerous, site G to far			1	1		hope to have available before 2019
22								1				1					1		1	
23			1					1			1									
24							1			1				least disadvantges, don't have to worry about flooding, excessively muddy area, possibility to add trails in the future	additional garbage containers around the park (more than just the one at the entrance)		1		1	
25		1								1						1			1	close to Market Lane (i.e. fairgrounds in Woodbridge)
26		1								1				closest to home, a park in western downs would be ideal as welle	Western Downs, close to market lane (lots of dogs use the Fair grounds anyways)	1		1		
27									City Website	1				location to my home			1		1	there is a large group of dog owners petitioning for a small off leash within Vaughan Mills Park, unused Bacci lanes
28		1								1				less disadvantages, closer to home base	Does the shelter entail picnic tables, gazebos, man made lake	1				
29										1							1		1	
30				1								1		it is close to home, would like to walk	it must be within walking distance of community		1	1		have plenty of garbage bins
31							1					1	1	proximity good location	dogs must be supervised by owner, dogs should be seperated depending on size and temperment		1		1	rules by City must be enforce ruled for dog owners for the safety of all other dogs and people
32					1							1		promity to home, also ok with B & C		1				
33								1	1			1					1		1	Chancellor Community Centre
34				1								1			Belair Way, Chancellor Community Park	1		1		



Appendix D: Public Open House Comment Forms Summary

Respondent	Question 1									Question 2				Question 3	Question 4				Question 5	
	Electronic Board	Mobile Street Sign	Social Media	Notice/ Letter	Poster	Flyer	Public Event	Word of Mouth	Other:	Site B	Site C	Site E	Site G		Why	Volunteer time Yes	Volunteer time No	Make a donation Yes		Make a donation No
35								1				1		closest to home, still not optimal but if I have to choose one	just because small dogs are small, dosen't mean the space should be smaller, be generous, also shade, no picnic tables,	1		1		all your locations require dring, while I don't always mind I won't be likely to use it in the winter because I have to put a we dog in my car, please consider smaller neighbourhood parks rather than I large one, Westi/Rutherfood area Community Centre
36									at vets			1		close to home, I can walk in the conservation area						
37								1				1		great conservation area near by where people already walk by all the time	water might cost too much, especially in winter, lights are a must	1		1		this location is central to a large area and nearby cities
38		1										1		pretty close to home, can take dog for a walk in the conservation area/forest/nnature after he plays with other dogs at the park	this should not take more than 1 year to complete once the location has been chosen	1		1		Site C and G are too close to loud, busy roads Site B a lot of traffic on Hwy 27, hassel to get to
39		1										1		close to walking trails	east of 400, north Vaughan		1		1	
40								1						none, how did you selec them?			1		1	How did you come up with the sites? As a resident (21 years) I was never consulted
41						1						1			It should have some benches and picnic table, water station for dogs		1		1	
42														Roco parkway needs shade (shelter from hot sun and cold) water in summer, and grass at front of large dog area without the dangerous rocks that seriously hur dog, an option would be to emcompass the large tree within the fencing instead of outside.					We cannot ignore dog behaviours, however agresive dogs need a secure muzzel	
43				1		1								large park of Islington Avenue and Hwy 7 behind beer store	1					Village of Woodbridge streetscape is all about walkable community, in our community there are many dog walkers, also would enjoy the benefit of a large neighbourhood park
44			1	1		1								lives near Roco,						
45		1	1											none of the above, smaller local parks	large park for large dogs, smaller local parks for small dogs	1			1	
46	1											1		away from residential, close enough to drive, from the board with local sites, identified by people, the majority on the east/south side and would probably go south to use it	don't put on wetlands or flood sites, vehicular access is very important					
47		1								1		1					1		1	
48		1		1								1		Accessibility is key! If not central and easy to get to no one will use the facility						facility of this kind is way over due why not have two locations
49			1							1				few disadvantages, adequate size and location		1				
50		1						1		1				great addition to newly planned regional park but require a more central located 'community' dog park because it is farther out	if the city does not own the land, is there a tax implication or time delay?		1	1		a local 'community' dog park is required closer to the existing neighbourhoods - Robert Watson Park or underused Bocce Ball Courts or hydro lands
51										1				less disadvantages; away from neighnours who would complain						
52									wife	1				looks to be the most advantageous			1		1	
53								1				1			parking access and spaces, shelter from rain and sun; accessible water for drinking; frequent cleanup			1		I would ideally like a park that is smaller but it is a walking distance away from by house; avoid driving 10+ mins
54									Attended fitness class			1		closest to weston and major mac	location near my home	1		1		weston and major mac local neighbourhood dog parks
55				1								1		close to home; far away from neighbourhood	No	1		1		
56	1											1		nice and quiet area closest to my location			1		1	
57									Employee of Vaughan, resident			1		second pick B		1		1		
58									Woof-a-palooza.ca			1		more central and can accommodate more people		1				
59				1								1								
60								1		1					Liability/safety of "people in charge"			1		no sand or mulch, too much bacteria, plus sand hold heat and will burns paws - artificial turf, what it will be made of, too much chemicals who cleans/disinfectants? Should have small pavement area for pet owners to use, weather related plus for people with consor wheelchairs to have a solid place to stand, seperate are for small/big dogs (plus what determines it), double gates for safety at entrances, shaded area lots of trees, no gravel, benches, holding owners responsible, proof of dog vacinations so our dogs aren't put at risk

Appendix D: Public Open House Comment Forms Summary

Respondent	Question 1									Question 2				Question 3	Question 4				Question 5	
	Electronic Board	Mobile Street Sign	Social Media	Notice/ Letter	Poster	Flyer	Public Event	Word of Mouth	Other:	Site B	Site C	Site E	Site G		Why	Volunteer time Yes	Volunteer time No	Make a donation Yes		Make a donation No
61	1			1	1			1		1				none are appropriate, the negatives of each site outweigh the benefits, the city's approach is misguided, large central dog parts are not feasible for weekend use. A solution is need for daily activity and socailization. If this is not going to get us away from reluctantly using normal parks for larger activity, than what is the point of this exercise? What problme does the City think this is going to solve? In a City as car-dependent as Vaughan, we need to strengthen our communities and allow this kind of activity at a local, community level. On a weeknigh, after my hour drive home from work, I will not be get my dog and driver to some place where I can walk my dog.	The city needs to look at community -level solutions	1		1		
62	1												1	Do not prefeere regional off leash parks, people there tend not to watch their dogs and don't pick up after their dogs.	There are people in Vaughan who do not have a car and cannot drive to Regional off leash sites. There not enough shade in these parks.	1		1		My #1 preference is a off leash area in my community park. I believe that is best for the community having people who live in the community and walk in the community. Makes the community safer. Also, I believe that people are more about maintaining a communtty off leash area. They will "police" other dog owners. I'm in my community park .... I walk my dog every day, twice a day. There's so much unused space in our community park that there's, the space to leave existing facilities but take some unused spaces and add a fence. Please provide shade in this area.
63									I have made pettition and collected signatures			1			We would like access to Humber River Trails	1				
64				1								1			local areas	1				Belaic Park, Chancellor Park Community
65		1	1		1	1			none											After closely looking at the options shown I really thing that this is 'over thought'. All we are asking for are 'neighbourhood parks'. Areas that are somewhat close not, 25 min drive to a non lite, muddy swamp with no parking. I know that a lot of the area parks to Vaughan can all use a small area to let there pups run and socialize. Maybe an area of a park could use a small fences area that is safe and no where near as expensive. As what is proposed is 9 years since the last dog park and will probably be 11 years before another is a located. Lets hope that they are not too old by that time.
66			1									1		site E is walking distance from my house			1		1	
67								1				1		Ideal location for dogs in Woodbridge, Kleinburg and vicinities	interested in fenced area for dog to run, water for drinking, no luxury items for dogs		1	1		only a part time employee, can't afford pay fee for use of dog park, I can offer donations to contribute to maintenncance of basic park for dog need.
68				1									1	it has good vehicular accessibility and does not disturb the existinnng communnity	no		1		1	
69				1								1		walking distance			1		1	
70								1				1				1				
71						1						1								
72						1						1			No		1		1	n/a
73						1						1								
74						1						1				1				
75					1							1				1				
76						1						1								
77								1				1								
78								1				1								
79								1				1								
80								1				1								
81								1				1								
82						1						1			not at this time					we hope this will happen inour area
83								1				1								
84								1				1								
85								1				1								
86								1				1								
87								1				1								
88						1		1				1								
89								1				1								
90								1				1								
91								1				1								
92								1				1								
93								1				1								
94								1				1								
95								1				1								
96								1		1				Close to the area I live in		1		1		

Appendix D: Public Open House Comment Forms Summary

Respondent	Question 1									Question 2				Question 3	Question 4				Question 5
	Electronic Board	Mobile Street Sign	Social Media	Notice/ Letter	Poster	Flyer	Public Event	Word of Mouth	Other:	Site B	Site C	Site E	Site G		Volunteer time Yes	Volunteer time No	Make a donation Yes	Make a donation No	
97	1												1	Location E is not appropriate - too close to residential; scored low; environmentally sensitive area; too close to fire/emergency hall; sirens could cause reactions from dogs; traffic issues on Islington; application for Hospice and condos nearby; too expensive; prime real estate		1		1	Except for a few the majority would have to drive to the dog park; they should be build away from residential areas, at the most appropriate and economically viable locations, and location G gits this criteria best of all.
98								1				1							
99								1				1							
100								1				1							
101								1				1							
102								1				1							
Total:	8	13	9	16	5	12	2	41		14	1	68	15		29	32	22	30	

Question 1:	How did you hear about this Open House?
Question 2:	Please choose your preferred location and tell us why.
Question 3:	Are there any aspects of the off leash dog parks that we have not addressed that you wish to bring to the City's attention?
Question 4:	Would you be willing to do the following to contribute to managing dog parks?
Question 5:	Additional comments may be provided in the space below.