



## **OFF LEASH RECREATION AREA**

### **Program Plan Review**



LS 4205-17

April 17, 2012

## Introduction

The intent of this report is to provide a program plan for the expansion of Off Leash Recreation Area (OLRA) capital project areas within the City of Saskatoon (City). This report provides a series of recommendations from the Leisure Services Branch, Community Service Department, to Animal Services, Corporate Services Department, regarding the program planning opportunities for ORLAs.

While it is understood that the OLRA is a capital project, it is strongly felt that the recommendations of operating and maintaining ORLAs, at the end of this report, be applied before any additional ORLAs are constructed.

## Methodology

There were three primary ways data was gathered for this program plan:

1. Reviewed information provided by Animal Services, including existing amenities, recent City Council reports, and feedback received from user groups.
2. Reviewed best practices from other municipalities and organizations across North America, such as Vancouver, BC; Kingston, ON; Calgary, AB; New York, NY; and through the Trust for Public Land (an American national non-profit, land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, historic sites, rural lands and other natural places).
3. Conducted a survey of city of Saskatoon dog owners by Inshtrix Research, Inc. in December, 2011 (see Attachment 1).

The predominant theme that was uncovered during the best practice data gathering is that there is no clearly defined best practice in existence for establishing ORLAs or program amenities. Most municipalities struggle with the mixing of the multiple user groups of a park or naturalized area, and/or finding an appropriate location for an OLRA. However, the municipalities recognize the need for this recreational pursuit.

The Inshtrix Research, Inc. survey provided the insight that the City is on the correct path regarding the type of amenities offered at the existing and future ORLAs. The survey also provides guidance on priorities of capital funding, operational funding, and program enhancements.

## Off Leash Recreation Area Current Location/Amenities and Descriptions

Currently, there are five OLRA's operating in Saskatoon and one ORLA that is relocating once a suitable location is determined. Below is a list of the current OLRA locations and existing amenities (see map Attachment 2).

- **Avalon** - At the south end of Broadway Avenue and adjacent to Glasgow Street
  - Amenities: ten regular garbage cans; parking; fencing
- **North of Hampton Village** - Between Junor Avenue and the airport. Access by taking Hampton Circle to Hampton Gate North
  - Amenities: four regular garbage cans
- **Near Silverwood** - Adjacent to the northeast corner of the Silverwood Golf Course, along the riverbank north to the City limits. Access off Kinnear Avenue or the east end of Adilman Drive
  - Amenities: four regular garbage cans; one large barrel
- **Near Briarwood** - 0.4 km North of 8th Street on the east side of McOrmond Drive adjacent to the City's Compost Depot (south of Wilson's Greenhouse on McOrmond Drive)
  - Amenities: eight regular garbage cans; parking
- **Sutherland Beach** - Across Circle Drive from Preston Crossing (at the northeast corner of the Circle Drive Bridge). Access off Central Avenue just north of Attridge Drive, or from Spadina Crescent by taking the pedestrian walkway under the Circle Drive Bridge
  - Amenities: 13 regular garbage cans; parking; one donated memorial bench
- **Montgomery** - Temporarily closed. Expected to be reopened in a new location as soon as a suitable location is determined.

The City has established an ORLA user group for each of the existing five OLRA's. These user groups work with Animal Services to enhance the OLRA in terms of both educating users on proper conduct, improving the layout, and improving current amenities.

## Program Plan Review Process

The Leisure Services Branch prepared the program plan review process (see Attachments 3 and 4). Once the process outline was created, a presentation to Animal Services was made. The

overall intent of the OLRA Program Plan is to provide a standard when incorporating OLRAs within the City. By having a standard, a consistent message can be delivered to all stakeholders.

The three key components the program plan is to deliver:

1. Quality – amenities, surface, maintenance, number;
2. Cost – identifying basic and above basic services, to assist Animal Services with appropriate budgeting for their capital and operating budgets; and
3. Size –at a neighbourhood, suburban, and city-wide level. These terms are used in order to keep the language similar to Park Guidelines.

Each of these key components is further described in the Off Leash Recreation Area Program component of this report.

### **Off Leash Recreation Program Objectives**

Based on the methodology, the following program objectives were derived. By having clear program objectives, this will enhance the OLRA user experience and minimize the negative attributes of OLRAs. There are two main categories for program objectives:

1. Enhancement of opportunities for dog owners to:
  - foster human socialization through the interaction of the dog owners at OLRAs;
  - increase sense of community and enhance leisure experiences of dog owners;
  - reduce incidence of unauthorized off leash activity in parks and open spaces;
  - provide additional opportunities for people with dogs to be active outdoors resulting in safer parks/areas (e.g. eyes on the street theory);
  - improve dog health; and
  - increase public awareness around responsible dog ownership.
2. To minimize negative attributes of OLRAs:
  - risk of conflicts between people and dogs;
  - noise and smell associated with dogs and dog waste;
  - land use conflicts (e.g. if the land is used for a dog park, it cannot be ecologically restored or used to site other recreational facilities); and
  - potential impact on other area/park programming.

The above objectives can be met by implementing the following suggestions:

- 1) consistent OLRA program components;
- 2) OLRA Application Process as outlined below; and
- 3) additional operating and maintaining recommendations of ORLAs to be considered.

## 1. **Off Leash Recreation Program Components**

There is a variation across North America in what is standard for an OLRA. The following suggested guidelines are a compilation of the research, what currently exists, and suggested areas of improvement based on the survey results. It is important to note that based on the survey results, current OLRA users are pleased with the current amenities provided at the OLRA's and that there is not an appetite for anything beyond base service levels.

*The following base requirements are recommended to be incorporated into OLRA's:*

**Neighbourhood Level** – within walking distance by users.

1. Waste Receptacles – currently the City's Parks Branch does not have a standard on amount of waste receptacles needed in a park. In 2012, the Parks Branch is completing a review and developing Standard Park Development Guidelines, which may outline an appropriate number of waste receptacles based on size and use of a park. It is recommended OLRA's follow the same guidelines.
2. Waste Removal – bi-weekly basis; Thursday/Monday pick-up schedule – Thursday, preparation for busier weekend time; Monday, clean-up after busy weekend.
3. Turf Management – cut turf and maintain pathways at a minimum once per month; if located within a municipal reserve maintain at same level as a neighbourhood park.
4. Signage - user friendly, positive messaging, plain language and not wordy; way finding signs located throughout the ORLA for safety; consistent signage that is used in parks; see attached Park signage as an example (Attachment 5).

**Suburban Level** – typically driven to by users, fenced either by manmade fencing or provided by terrain or natural barriers.

1. Parking - minimum 25 stalls
2. Fencing - double gated entrance
3. Waste Receptacles – currently the City’s Parks Branch does not have a standard on amount of waste receptacles needed in a park. In 2012, the Parks Branch is completing a review and developing Standard Park Development Guidelines, which may outline an appropriate number of waste receptacles based on size and use of a park. It is recommended OLRAs follow the same guidelines.
4. Waste Removal – bi-weekly basis; Thursday/Monday pick-up schedule – Thursday, preparation for busier weekend time; Monday, clean-up after busy weekend.
5. Turf Management – cut turf and maintain pathways at a minimum once per month; if located within a municipal reserve maintain at same level as a district park.
6. Signage - user friendly, positive messaging, plain language and not wordy; way finding signs located throughout the ORLA for safety; consistent signage that is used in parks; see attached Park signage as an example (Attachment 5).
7. Education Program - minimum twice per year and continued attendance at Pets Day in the Park.
8. Community Support – may be multiple communities

**City-wide Level** – a destination location identified by amenities either natural or manmade.

1. Same base-level services as Suburban Level plus:
  - i. Parking - minimum 50 stalls
  - ii. Waste Removal - bi-weekly basis; Thursday/Monday pick-up schedule – Thursday, preparation for busier weekend time; Monday, clean-up after busy weekend.

**Important Notes:**

- Currently the City's size standards for parks has a range of .25 ha for a pocket park; 5.7 ha for a neighbourhood park; and 20.8 ha for a district park. These standards may not always be applicable or practical when defining an OLRA. Some future OLRAs may be a program amenity within a park; therefore, the size would need to be conducive to overall land mass availability and/or other program amenities within the park. It is suggested that the range of size standards for parks could be used as guidelines, but other features of the OLRA should be the defining tool (e.g. walking versus driving, special features, etc.).
- Research shows the standard of practice for maintaining OLRAs follows the guidelines municipalities use for the maintenance of parks.
- Educations Programs at each location will assist in the Enforcement/Education component (described later in this report). These programs should be held a minimum of two times per year at each location, along with continued participation at the Pets Day in the Park event. Education programs may enhance the support needed from the general community if an OLRA is being suggested or requested for a certain location.
- The intent was to identify the number of OLRAs within the city of Saskatoon, but at this point the Leisure Services Branch is not able to suggest the number. Survey results indicated more OLRAs are preferred by current users over an increase in types of amenities. However, the same survey suggests existing services at the current OLRAs need to be operationally maintained on a more regular basis. Additional OLRAs will need to be dependent on both capital and operating funding available.

**2. Develop an Application Process for New/Revised/Removal of OLRAs**

It was discovered through the best practice review that the City of Calgary has an application process that could be used as a template (see Attachment 6). The idea behind the application process is that it puts the OLRA into the hands of the users and the community. The potential users need to gather support from their neighbours and assist with the initial community buy in. This process would be particularly useful at the neighbourhood level, where residents should know the usage patterns of unused space (e.g. berms) or unused park space. By community members providing upfront

community support, the hope is to alleviate the “not in my backyard syndrome” that often accompanies any new type of development. In addition to the City of Calgary’s example for developing a template, the City of Saskatoon’s Community Development Branch has an application process for Community Gardens. The Community Garden Applications are received once a year, and are reviewed by an administrative committee consisting of Leisure Services Branch staff, Community Development Branch staff, and Parks Branch staff, and final approval is provided by the Community Services Department Senior Staff.

### **3. Off Leash Recreation Program Operational Recommendations to Consider**

As briefly stated in the introduction, it is understood that this report is to address a capital expenditure program. However, in order for any expansion of a program to be successful, the following recommendations to Educate/Enforce, Enhance, and Expand, need to be considered. The intent of each recommendation is to ensure a successful program is in place and can be used to provide the necessary support of any additional OLRA, whether located at a neighbourhood, suburban, or city-wide level. Each recommendation is explained in more detail below.

#### **Education/Enforcement**

According to the research compiled by Insightrix Research, Inc., a number of dog owners are not fully apprised of the existing City’s Animal Control Bylaws. The infractions range from dog owners using city parks, pathways, and/or neighbourhood streets to run and play with their dogs, to OLRA users being unaware of their responsibility to clean-up after their pet during their visit. In fact, 90% of respondents did not know they were required to clean-up after their dog while visiting an OLRA. The lack of knowledge and/or the abuse of existing Animal Control Bylaws create conflict in other program areas, such as parks, pathways, or streets that are currently not conducive to pets off leash.

Education is woven into the OLRA program components as outlined earlier in this report. More focus on education and enforcement of Animal Service bylaws and policies will be required in order to have a successful OLRA expansion program. The survey provides ample evidence of what the focus needs to be. Through education/enforcement there is hope that inappropriate behaviours are transformed or at least noticeably minimized.



Enforcement lays the foundation that inappropriate use or behaviour will not be tolerated, and education provides the public with knowledge of alternative options.

### **Enhance Existing OLRAs**

The Inshtrix Research, Inc. survey suggests regular and ongoing operational maintenance of OLRAs is critical for a successful OLRA program. It does not mean including additional services or programs. For example, there is not a strong interest in improving pathways within the OLRAs. The current format of unstructured paths is an acceptable form, although increased maintenance to the areas are desired. Regular turf management, increased number and the frequency of emptying of waste receptacles, and increased signage throughout the OLRA is necessary to satisfy users.

### **Expansion**

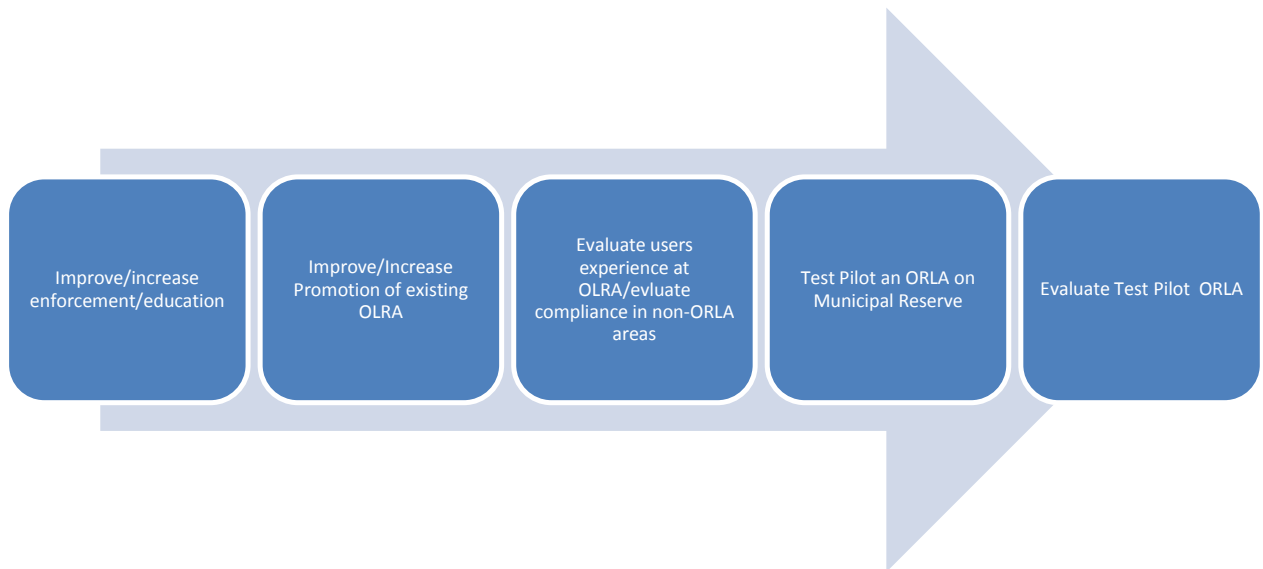
In an ideal world where funding is unlimited, the number one item to do is increase the number of OLRAs. Current users do not want additional services beyond the base-level service already provided. However, the survey results also strongly indicate the lack of satisfaction of the base services in existence. Therefore, additional OLRAs should come after enhancement, or at least enhancement of existing and addition of new OLRAs should happen simultaneously, should funding exist.

### ***Next Steps***

#### ***Incorporate a Pilot Municipal Reserve OLRA Process***

The premise of this recommendation is that there needs to be an attitude of mutual respect amongst all users of open spaces. Non-dog owners need to feel comfortable that their park will not be ruined by dog owners who choose not to clean-up after their pet, be mowed over by uncontrollable dogs, or generally feel unwelcome in their neighbourhood park. Dog owners need to feel welcomed in their park with their pet. There is no clearly defined best practice in existence when it comes to determining where to place an OLRA. Most municipalities have struggled with the mixing of the multiple user groups within an open space. One group has typically felt unheard; therefore, it will take a considerable amount of time and effort on the part of Animal Services to ensure proponents and opponents of OLRAs are heard and concerns are addressed. Intense education, for both groups, will need to be focused on ensuring each user group feels comfortable in the

shared space. The realization that this is a complete philosophical shift in thinking of what a park is to be used for is paramount. By focusing on one test pilot location, resources will not be stretched thin and a best practice approach can be created for Saskatoon.



# CITY OF SASKATOON

## OFF-LEASH RECREATION

### AREA STUDY

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January

2012



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# Executive Summary

## Objectives

The City of Saskatoon contracted Inshtrix Research to conduct a study with a random selection of dog owners within the city to understand dog owners' awareness, usage and opinion of City-run off-leash recreational areas (OLRAs).

## Methodology

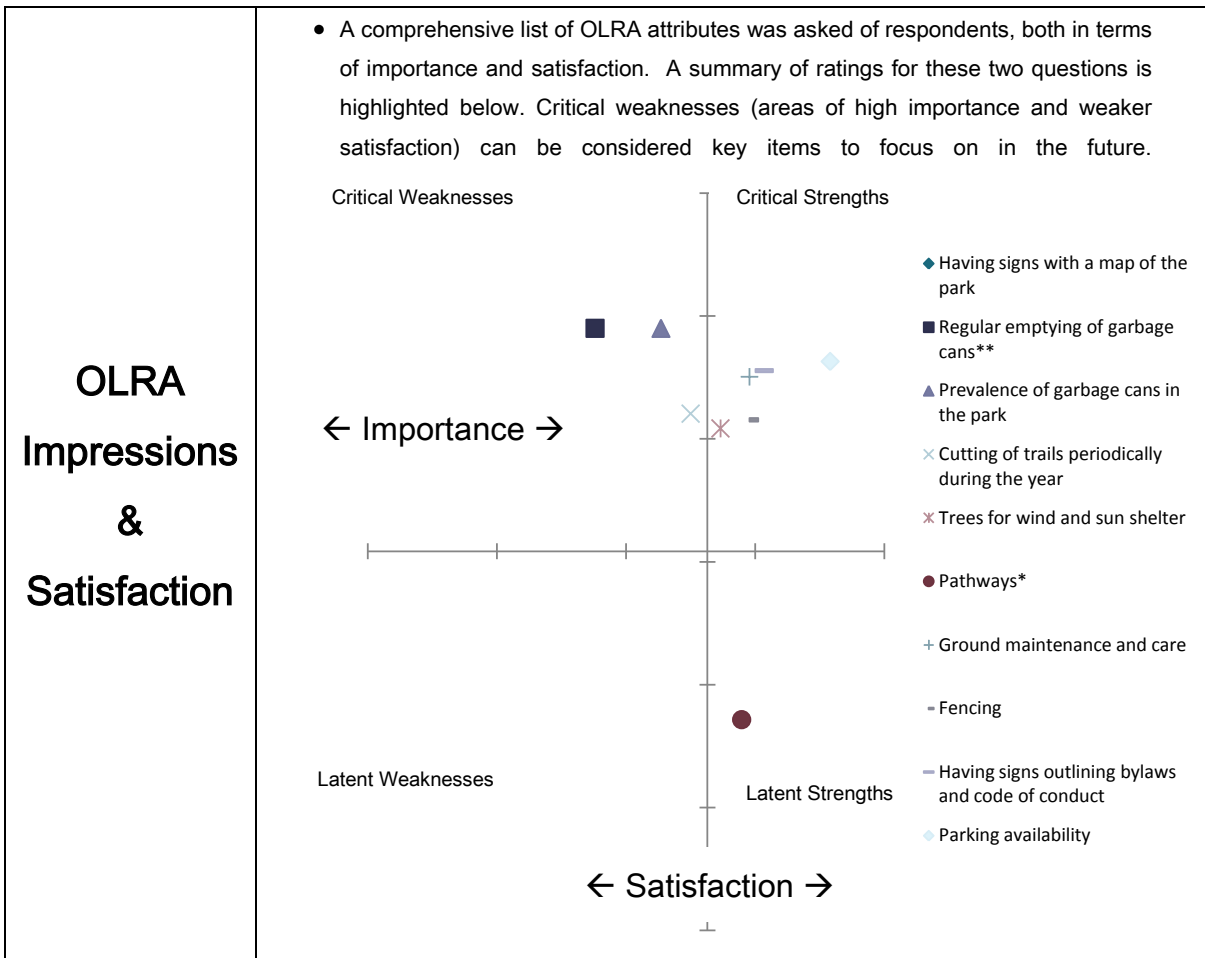
Using Inshtrix Research's online panel, SaskWatch Research™, a total of 202 respondents participated in the study with 101 respondents who use OLRAs and 101 who do not. Data were collected from December 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011. A margin of error is not applicable in this study because an online panel was used to collect the data.

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- Nearly two thirds (64%) of OLRA users walk their dog(s) in public places once per day or more, versus only one quarter (26%) of non-OLRA users who do the same.
- Most commonly, respondents walk or run their dog(s) sometimes or all the time in their own neighbourhood (90% OLRA users, 82% non-users), followed by OLRAs (58% among users) and city parks (47% among users, 36% among non-users). Fully 10% of users say they take their dog(s) to Kiwanis Memorial park at least sometimes and 5% do so at Kinsmen Park.
- Among those who rarely or never walk their dog(s), most believe their dog(s) receives sufficient exercise in their back yard (52%). Two in ten (19%) say they are infrequently walking their dog(s) because of difficulty controlling the animal(s) in public.

## Dog Walking

<p><b>Off-Leash Activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When asked how often owners take their dog(s) off-leash in each of a number of public areas, there are sizeable numbers admitting to having their dog(s) off-leash at least some of the time in several locations that are designated as on-leash only. Most notably, dog owners have their dog(s) off-leash rarely or more often in their neighbourhood (34%), in city parks (25%) and along hiking and biking trails (21%).</li> <li>• When quizzed on their knowledge of City dog bylaws, dog owners' assumptions are correct in many areas. However, 90% falsely believe that dogs are allowed off-leash in city parks. Similar proportions believe that it is not necessary for owners to remove dog droppings at OLRAs (87%) or that dogs need to be on a leash in OLRA parking lots (86%). Further, knowledge that dogs are not allowed in Kiwanis Memorial Park and Kinsmen Park, even when on a leash, is moderate (only 65% and 64%, respectively, believe this to be the case).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among those who use OLRAs, Sutherland Beach (47%) and Avalon (44%) are most prominently visited. Equal proportions (18%) have visited either Briarwood or Silverwood OLRAs, only 9% have visited Hampton Village and another 9% cite other OLRAs in and around the city.</li> <li>• Six in ten (60%) of OLRA users say they visit such sites at least once every two or three weeks with one in ten (11%) reporting that they visit OLRAs daily.</li> <li>• Primary motivators for visiting OLRAs include canine exercise (89% list this as one of their top three reasons), or for dog socialization (66%). Fewer note going for personal fitness (41%) or for convenience (33%).</li> <li>• The primary barrier among those who do not visit OLRAs is concerns regarding canine to canine altercations (45%). Several other barriers are noted by roughly one quarter of respondents; most notably site cleanliness (28%), dislike of OLRAs in general (27%) and concerns that their dog(s) might acquire ticks or other parasites (27%).</li> </ul>	<p><b>OLRA Behaviours</b></p>



- When prompted with two development strategies, one half (49%) of OLRA users are supportive of a focus on building more ORLAs but having fewer amenities at each. One quarter (25%) support the opposite: building fewer ORLAs but having more amenities at each. A majority of non-OLRA users are indifferent on the matter (58%, versus 26% among users).
- Seven in ten (70%) OLRA users say they support an increase in dog licencing fees to assist in maintaining and funding OLRA's. Non-users however, are less supportive of this notion (39% strongly oppose increasing dog licencing fees).
- Most of those who support or only moderately oppose increased licencing fees are willing to pay an additional 10% per year (69% of respondents).

## Future Planning

## CONCLUSIONS

- Education: Knowledge of City bylaws is high in some areas but notably weak in others. Specific areas to focus on include on-leash requirements in city parks and parking lots of OLRAs, cleaning up after dogs in OLRAs and greater clarity as to where dogs are allowed and not allowed in Kiwanis Memorial Park and Kinsmen Park.
- Although not directly asked, awareness of existing OLRAs within the City may not be completely widespread. An awareness campaign, combined with the educational messages noted above may help divert off-leash activities in other areas of the city and increase patronage at OLRAs.
- Although there is a small sample size in this study, based on the results, a strategy of offering more OLRAs with basic services is supported over the building of fewer OLRAs with more amenities at each. This is confirmed in both the strategic question asked of respondents and through lower importance ratings noted for several potential amenities that could be offered at OLRAs. Having said this, satisfaction with the current level of service offered at OLRAs is weak for many base-level services. It is strongly recommended that programs and initiatives be established or enhanced to offer an improved experience at existing locations before resources are deployed to the building of new OLRAs; in particular: prevalence of garbage cans, regular emptying of garbage cans, signage and cutting of trails periodically.
- Results indicate that dog owners place minimal importance on the building of paved, woodchip or crusher dust pathways. Investment in other areas is recommended before the City considers developing these types of pathways in OLRAs.
- As to be expected, any licencing fee increases to support OLRA activities will be greeted more warmly among users of the sites. Some static among non-users is anticipated if increased fees are implemented.
- Further research opportunities exist to provide additional insights on dog owners within the city. Such options could include focus groups to flesh out satisfaction and amenity needs in OLRAs, input on new OLRA locations, trending knowledge levels of canine bylaws and/or a census-style study to estimate the population of dogs within the city by breed, size, etc.



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# Introduction and Methodology

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## STUDY BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

In November 2011, the City of Saskatoon contracted Insightrix Research to conduct a study with a random selection of dog owners within the city. The primary purpose of the study is to understand dog owners' awareness, usage and opinion of City-run off-leash recreational areas (OLRAs), i.e. dog parks.

Specific study objectives include:

- Frequency of walking dogs;
- Outdoor locations dogs are taken in and around the city;
- Knowledge of bylaws related to having dogs on-leash and off-leash in Saskatoon;
- Usage of OLRAs;
- Motivators and barriers to using OLRAs;
- Importance and satisfaction of various attributes and services offered at OLRAs;
- Opinions on future OLRA priorities, including funding sources; and,
- Understand differences among dog owners who use OLRAs and those who do not.

## METHODOLOGY

To achieve the above research objectives, a quantitative study was conducted with a random selection of Saskatoon residents. The study was conducted online using Insightrix's online panel, SaskWatch Research™. This panel is comprised of over 4,000 randomly selected Saskatoon residents who have agreed to participate in ongoing surveys for Insightrix Research. The panel composition closely matches that of the general population of Saskatoon on a number of demographic variables. Participation in each study is voluntary and panel members receive points which can be converted into cash for each questionnaire they complete.

## Sampling

A random selection of panel members was selected to participate in this study. An email invitation was distributed to this pool of panel members, which included a unique link for each panel member to access the online questionnaire. Having a unique link prevents participants from completing the questionnaire multiple times. Given the topic of the study, the email introduction stated that to be eligible to participate, respondents must have a dog in their home. In addition, screening criteria were asked at the beginning of the questionnaire to ensure respondents qualified for the study. To ensure a mix of OLRA and non-OLRA users were surveyed, quotas were set (50% of respondents were to fall into each category).

## Questionnaire Development

To achieve the objectives noted earlier, Inshgtrix worked closely with representatives from the City of Saskatoon to develop specific questions. A combination of free-text response questions and close-ended questions from which respondents can choose a response were included in the study.

## Quantitative Data Collection

Data were collected between December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011. In total, 1,595 panel members were invited to participate in the study, of which 383 started the questionnaire (a start rate of 17%). It is noted that because the email introduction specified that respondents must be dog owners, this start rate is lower than typical (i.e. those who do not have dogs in the home likely did not attempt to start the questionnaire). Of the 383 who started the questionnaire, 130 screened out due to the study criteria (i.e. do not own a dog) or because their quota was full (i.e. the maximum number of respondents within a specific category such as “non-OLRA users” had been reached). In the end, 202 Saskatoon residents participated in the study, for a response rate of 14%. This is calculated as follows:  $202 \div (1,595 - 130) = 14\%$ . A margin of error cannot be reported on for this study because it was conducted online and is considered a non-probability proportional sampling technique.

## Reporting

This report has been prepared to document the findings of the study. Given that quotas were set to enable comparisons between OLRA users and non-users, caution is recommended when reviewing results of all respondents combined. This is because the exact population of dog owners by usage of OLRAs is not known. As such, in most cases, results have been separated between the two audience types.

Statistically significant differences between sub-groupings of the population are highlighted in this report. A standard alpha value of less than 0.05 is considered statistically significant. This means that there is less than a 5% chance that the results would have occurred by chance. Note that the sample size for this project is small. As such, cross-tabulation by demographic variables has not been completed.

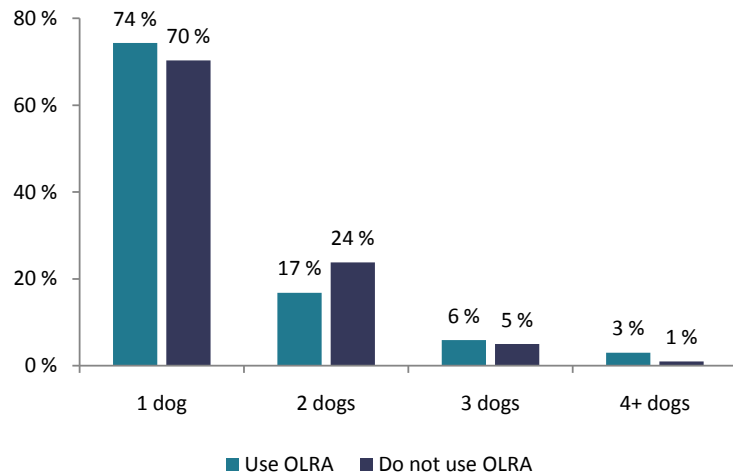
# Study Results

## DOG PROFILES

### Dog Count & Size

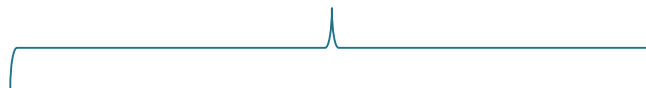
To begin, respondents were asked to indicate the number of dogs they have in their home. Seven in ten respondents have only one dog in the home (74% among those who take their dog(s) to an OLRA and 70% among those who do not). Slightly more non-OLRA users have two dogs in the home (24%) when compared to those who use OLRA (17%).

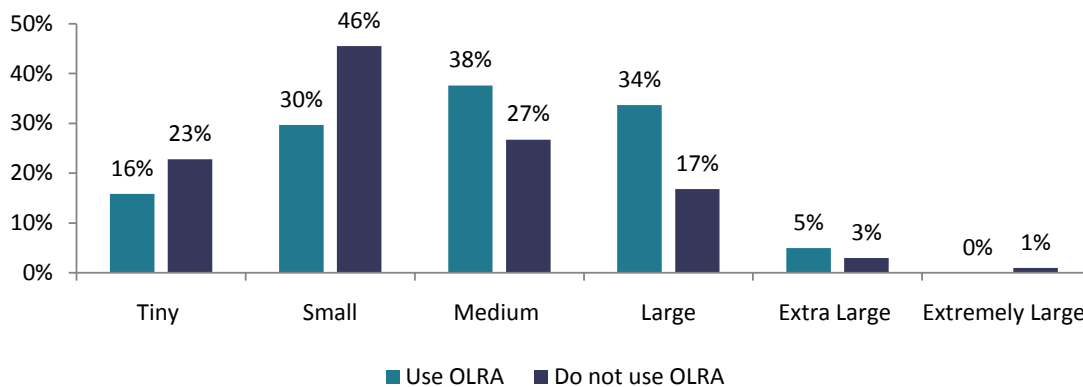
2. How many dogs do you have in your household? (This includes caring for a dog either permanently or temporarily). Base: All respondents, n=202.



When asked to classify their dog(s) into specific sizes by weight, the following groupings were noted. Specifically, those who have used OLRA at least once are more likely to have larger dogs than are those who have never been to an OLRA. Specifically, 77% of OLRA users state their dog(s) are at least 23 pounds (medium sized), compared to 44% among non-users.

Use OLRA: 77%  
Do not use OLRA: 44%

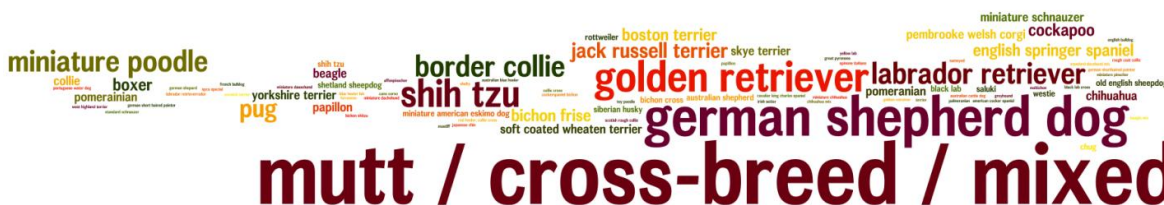




3. How big are your dogs? If you have dogs of different sizes, please select all appropriate options. Base: All respondents, n=202.

## Breeds of Dogs in the Household

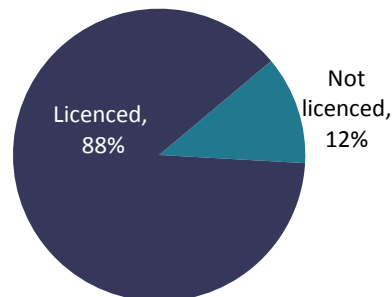
Next, respondents were asked to indicate the breed of dog(s) they have. The following word cloud has been prepared, based on the responses provided by respondents. Specifically, the larger the font size, the more frequently, the breed (or category) was mentioned. Most commonly, respondents report that they have some type of cross-breed or mixed breed canine. Specific breed mentioned include German Shepherd, Golden Retriever, Shih Tzu, Border Collie and Labrador Retriever.



4. What breeds of dogs do you own? Base: All respondents, n=202.

## Incidence of Licenced Dogs

To minimize study bias, at the end of the questionnaire, respondents were asked to indicate how many of their dogs are licenced. Of the 260 dogs being reported on, 88% are said to be licenced, with the remaining 12% being unlicensed.



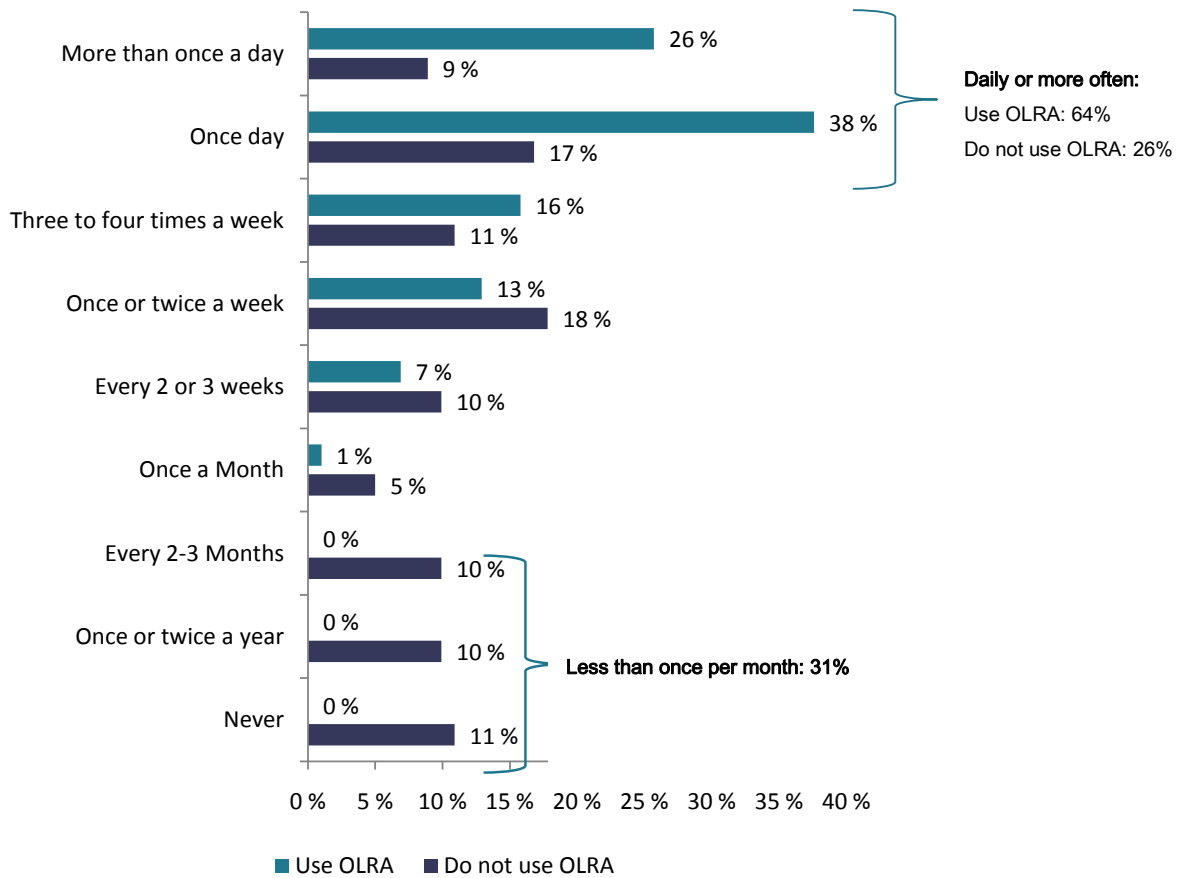
23. Is your dog currently licensed in Saskatoon? Base: All dogs being reported on, n=260.



# DOG WALKING

## Frequency of Walking/Running dogs in Public Areas

When asked how often dog owners walk or run their dogs in public areas, notable variations exist among OLRA users and non-users. Specifically, one quarter (26%) of OLRA users state they run or walk their dog(s) more than once per day, compared to only 9% among non-OLRA users. Further, nearly four in ten users (38%) state they take their dog(s) out daily, compared to 17% among non-users. This results in a total of 64% of users who take their dog(s) out in public at least once per day, versus 26% among non-users. Three in ten (31%) non-OLRA users take their dogs out in public less than once per month.

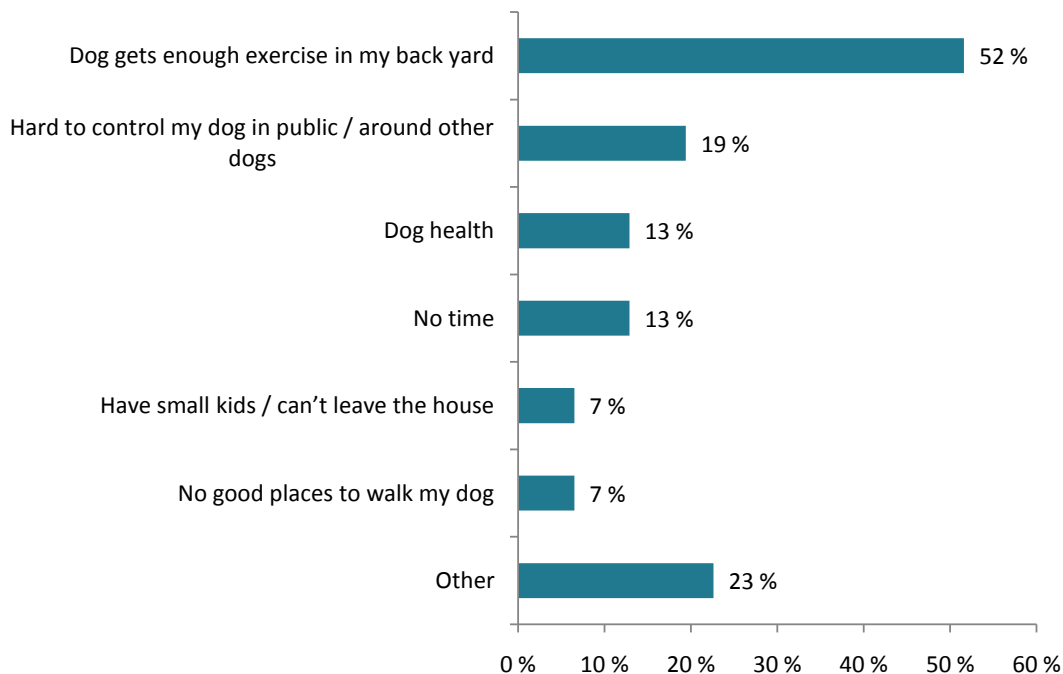


5. How regularly do you walk or run your dog(s) in public areas (parks, neighbourhood, etc.)? Base: All respondents, n=202.



## Reasons for Never or Rarely Walking or Running Dogs

Among those who take their dog(s) out for a walk or run less than once a month were asked why this is the case. The following list was provided to respondents and multiple selections from the lists were allowed. Most commonly, respondents report that they believe their dog(s) gets enough exercise in their back yard (52%). Two in ten (19%) say their dog(s) are hard to control in public and equal proportions (13%) say their dog(s)' health is an issue or that they do not have sufficient time to take their dog(s) for a walk. Another 23% identified other reasons which are outlined below the graph.



6. Why do you never or rarely walk or run your dog(s)? Base: Those respondents who take their dog(s) out less than once per month, n=31.

Other reasons for infrequently or never taking dog(s) for a walk or run are outlined below:

- Dog has bad hips.
- Dog is in her senior years.
- Guard dogs.
- He has a bad hip and can't walk too far anymore.
- He hates going for a walk, prefers car rides.
- Lack of control most other dog owners have over their dogs.
- My dog loves the treadmill.
- My dog will not walk or run with me, hides behind toilet if we suggest it.
- Old, bad arthritis.
- Others do.
- Plays soccer.
- Take them to an indoor facility.

- Where we are it's hard.

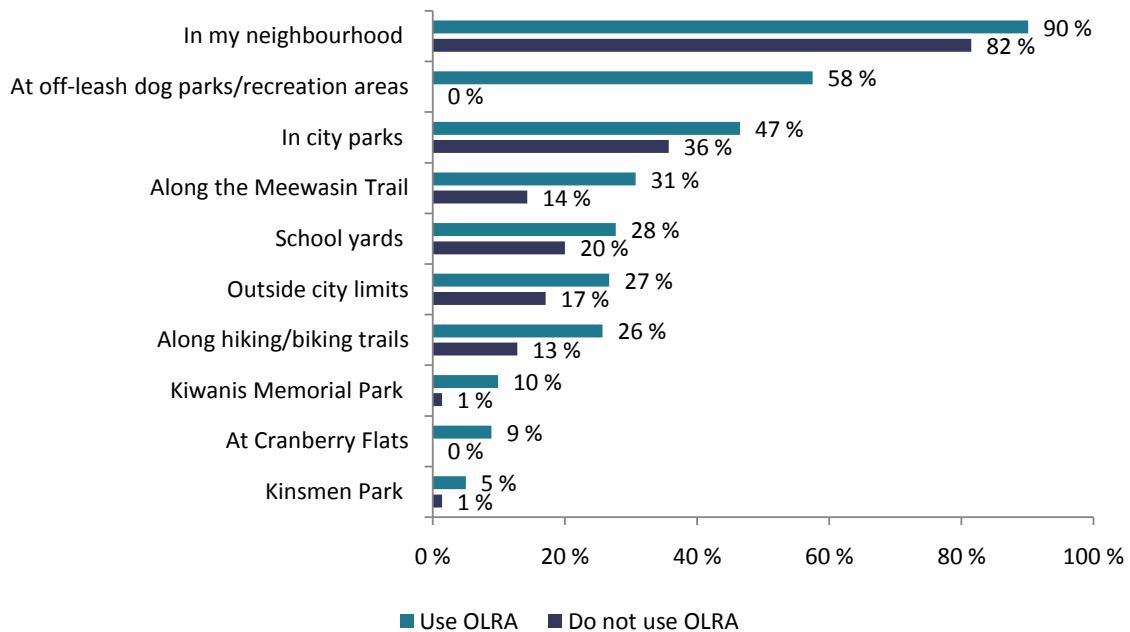
## Use of Public Spaces

Next, dog owners were asked to indicate how often they take their dog(s) to each of the following places in Saskatoon to walk, socialize or exercise, using a scale of: all the time, sometimes, on occasion, rarely or never. The graph below summarizes the proportion of respondents who say they take their dog(s) to each location sometimes or all of the time. Note that a complete distribution of responses can be found in Appendix A.

In most cases, OLRA users are more likely to take their dog(s) to each location on a more frequent basis than are non-OLRA users. Most commonly, dog owners report that they take their dog(s) for walks or runs in their local neighbourhood (90% among OLRA users and 82% among non-OLRA users). Six in ten OLRA users say they take their dog(s) to off-leash parks at least some of the time.

Nearly one half (47%) of OLRA users say they take their dog(s) to city parks at least sometimes, compared to slightly more than one third (36%) of non-users. Similar proportions of users say they take their dogs along the Meewasin Trail (31%), to school yards (28%), outside the city limits (27%) or along hiking or biking trails (26%). Non-users note less frequent visits to each of these locations. Few respondents list Kiwanis Memorial Park, Cranberry Flats or Kinsmen Park as locations they take their dog(s) at least some of the time.

### % sometimes or all the time



7. How often do you take your dog(s) to walk, socialize, or exercise in each of the following locations? Base: Those respondents who often or occasionally walk or run their dog(s), n=171.

Respondents were also asked where else they take their dog(s) to walk, socialize or exercise, beyond the list provided above. The following responses were noted:

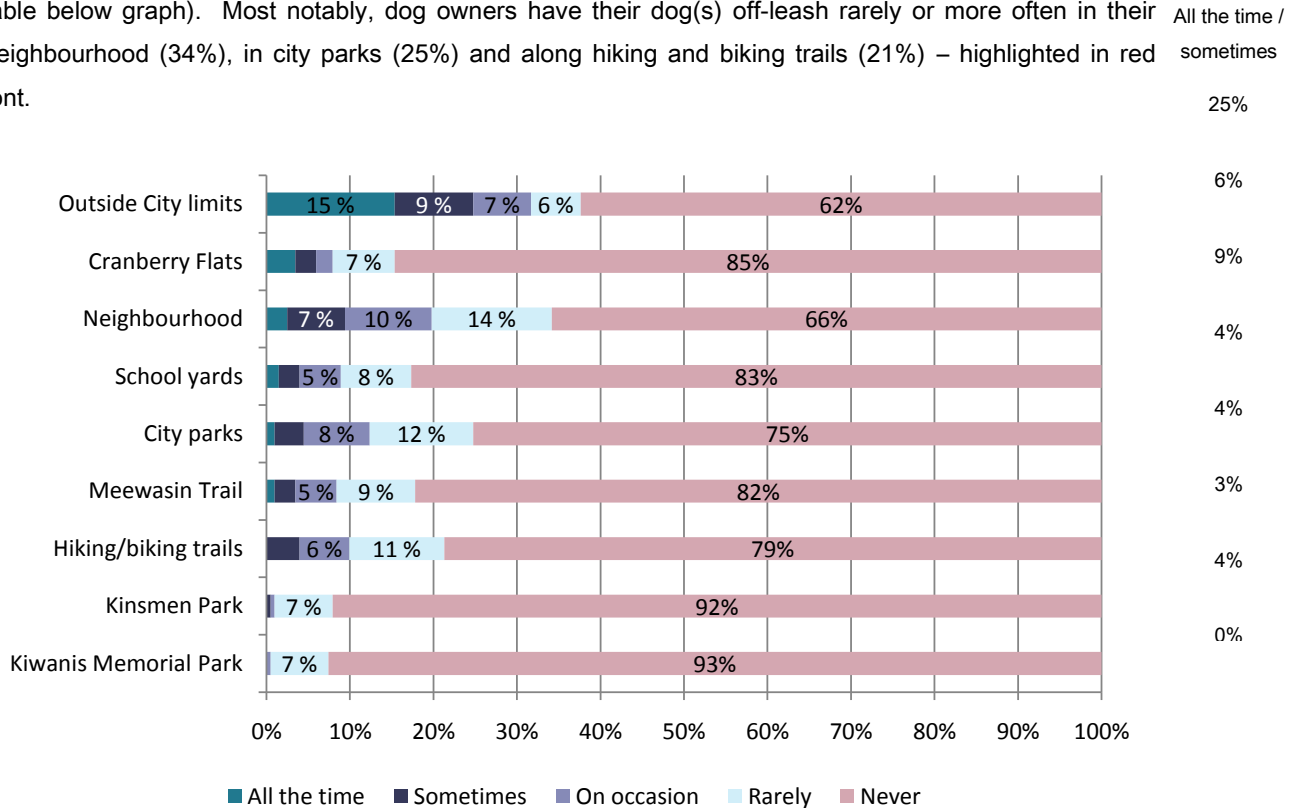
- Airport sloughs.
- Back lanes.
- Chief Whitecap Area.(3)
- Chief Whitecap Park, which is the regular area. The other mentioned are only when I can't get to Chief Whitecap Park.
- City streets.
- Dog obedience class.
- Doggy Day Care.
- Farm.
- Friend's homes that have dogs.
- Grid roads.
- He goes to play with neighbours' dogs.
- In own backyard.
- Local private fenced area, friend at Blackstrap.
- On rare occasions we might go to a friend's farm.
- On the streets.
- Only when we go to family get together outside of city limits. We let her off-leash to run around the property.
- Our own yard playing fetch.
- Plays with other dogs either in his yard or theirs.
- Socializing at Obedience Class.
- Sutherland off-leash dog park.
- The lake.
- To friend's and relations' homes.
- To my office to socialize occasionally, and when camping I walk them in the campgrounds.

- We often go to my parent's farm, which is like doggy summer camp.
- We often take our dog to the lake... (Likely doesn't apply to this survey though).
- Where my dad lives; small town outside the city.
- At our cabin.
- At the lake Anglin in the summer.
- Hunting in various places.
- Hunting.
- I take my dog to work with me out of town where there are cats and another dog.
- I usually walk my dog down back alleys in the Holliston, Brevoort Park, Eastview, and Adelaide, Churchill areas.
- In my yard, along the road out of town when we travel,
- in the fields on the farm.
- Only at the lake where we have our cabin.
- Other neighborhoods.
- Other than on the street, no.
- Provincial and regional parks.
- To the farm.
- Up at the lake.
- We do a lot of camping, so a lot of walking in camp grounds. And in other cities when we are visiting there.
- We have a very large back yard and we have two other dogs that visit regularly.
- When traveling.
- When we go to the lake he runs around there.
- Yes to the farm.

# OFF-LEASH ACTIVITIES

## Use of Public Spaces Off-Leash

Next, those who take their dog(s) at least rarely to each of the locations listed earlier were asked how often their dogs are off-leash in these environments, using the same scale of: all the time, sometimes, on occasion, rarely and never. These findings have been recalculated to the entire population to provide an overall incidence of such events taking place throughout the city (i.e. those who never visit these locations with their dog(s) were placed in the “never” category). Most commonly, dogs are off-leash when outside the city limits (25% all the time or sometimes). Another 6% state their dog(s) are off-leash all the time or sometimes at Cranberry Flats. One in ten (9%) report they have their dog(s) off-leash at least sometimes in their own neighbourhood. However, there are sizeable numbers admitting to having their dog(s) off-leash at least rarely in several locations that are designated as on-leash only (see summary table below graph). Most notably, dog owners have their dog(s) off-leash rarely or more often in their neighbourhood (34%), in city parks (25%) and along hiking and biking trails (21%) – highlighted in red font.



9. How often do you have your dog(s) off-leash in each of the following locations? Base: Those respondents who walk or run their dog(s) in each of these locations, n=41-167.

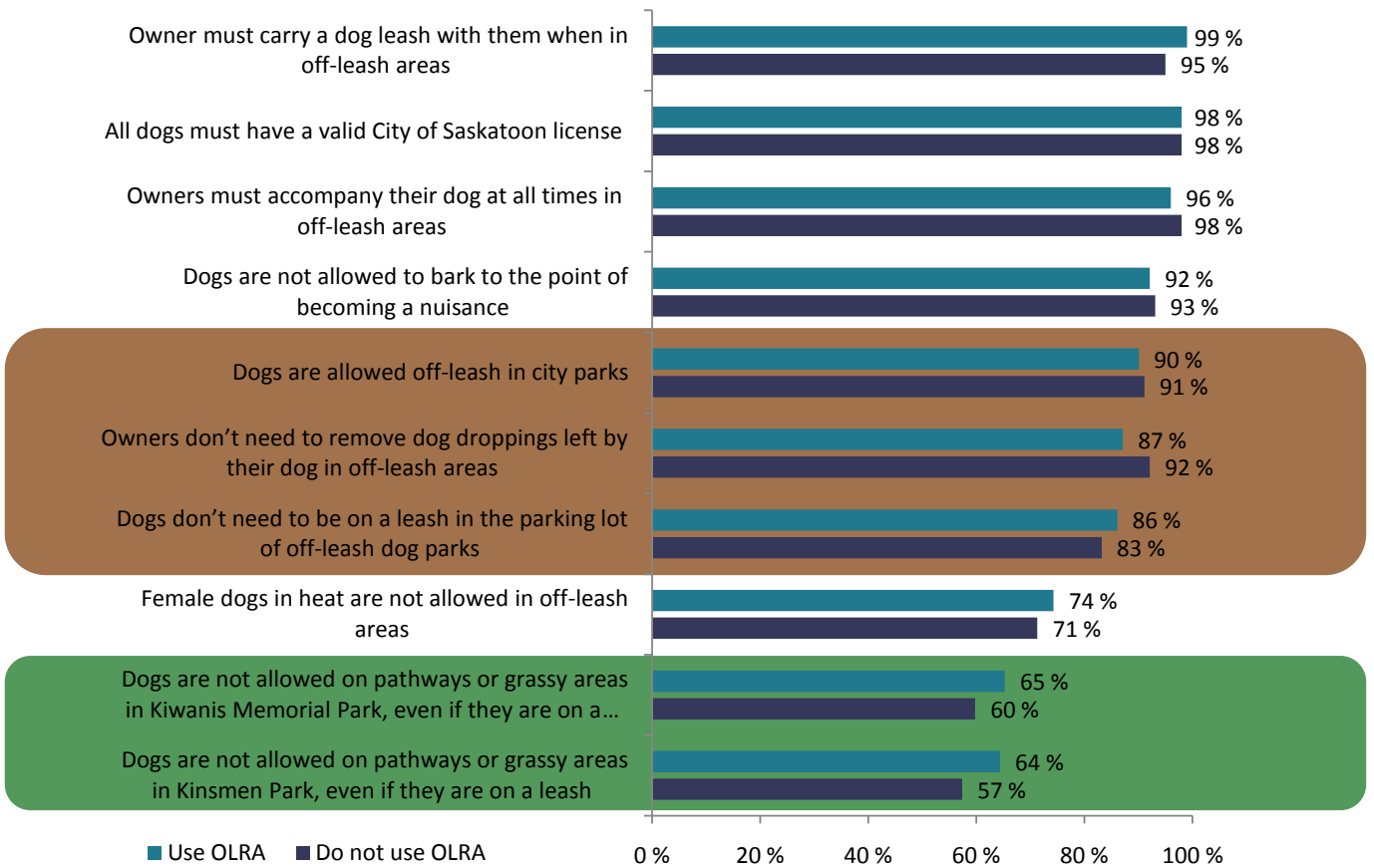
	Kiwanis Memorial Park	Kinsmen Park	Meewasin Trail	City parks	School yards	Hiking/biking trails	Neighbourhood	Cranberry Flats
Rarely or more often	7%	8%	18%	25%	17%	21%	34%	15%

## Knowledge of City of Saskatoon Dog Bylaws

Next, respondents were presented with a series of statements and asked if each statement were true or false. Note that some statements were phrased such that ‘false’ is the correct answer to minimize respondent suspicions that ‘true’ is always ‘right’. Overall, striking similarities in knowledge levels are noted between OLRA users and non-users. Most dog owners are aware of basic practises including having a leash on hand in OLRAs, owning a dog license, accompanying dogs in OLRAs and preventing dogs from becoming a nuisance due to barking. However, nine in ten dog owners erroneously believe that dogs are allowed off-leash in city parks (90% among OLRA users and 91% among non-users). Further, most owners incorrectly believe that dog droppings in OLRAs do not need to be removed (87% and 92% respectively) or that dogs are not required to be on a leash in OLRA parking lots (86% and 83% respectively). These three findings are highlighted in brown for easy identification in the table below. Finally, the correct belief that dogs are not allowed in grassy areas of Kiwanis Memorial Park or Kinsmen Park, even on-leash, is only moderate (ranging from 57% to 65%). These three findings are highlighted in green for easy identification in the table below.



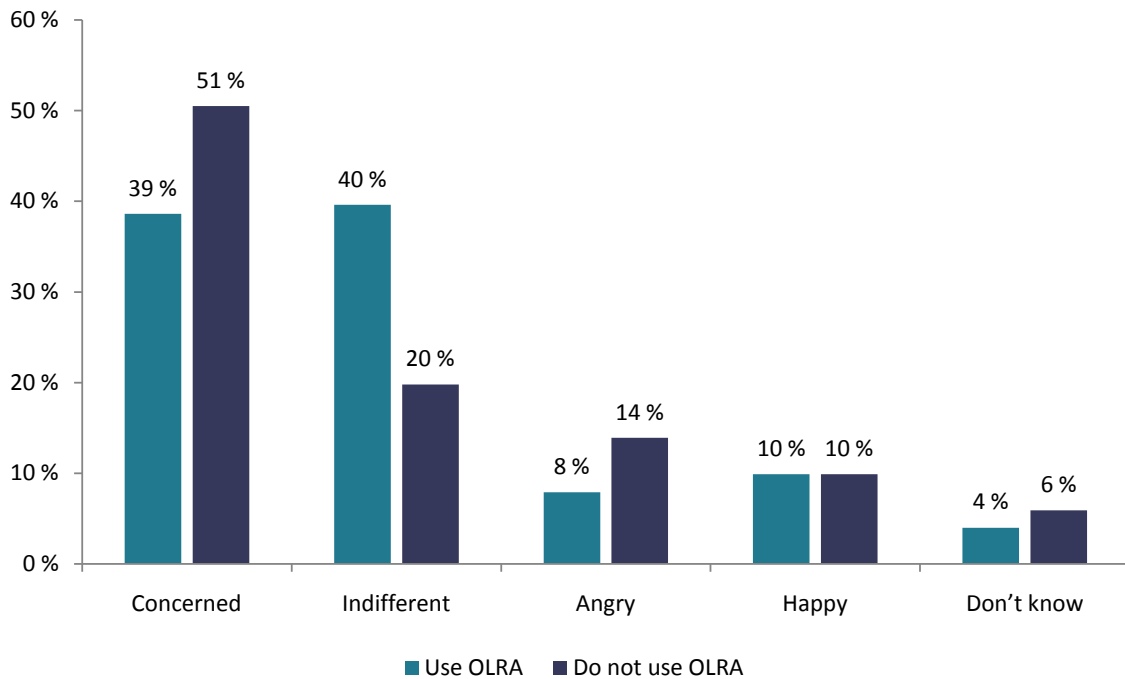
### % who said 'True'



10. Next we have a few statements about dogs in Saskatoon. Please indicate which of these you believe to be true or false. Base: All respondents, n=202.

## Feelings Regarding Dogs Off-Leash in City Parks

Next participants were asked to express how they feel when they see a dog off-leash in a city park. The following words were presented to respondents to choose from. Multiple selections were possible. Variances are noted between the two populations of interest. Specifically, non-OLRA users are more likely to say they are concerned than are OLRA users (51% vs. 39%, respectfully). In contrast, twice as many users say they are indifferent to the situation than are non-users (40% versus 20%, respectfully).



11. Which of the following best describes how you feel when you see dogs off-leash in a city park (i.e. not off-leash designated areas)? Base: All respondents, n=202.

## Incidence of Receiving Tickets

When asked if respondents have received fines or tickets for having a dog(s) off-leash in a non-designated area of the city, a total of four report that they have received tickets.

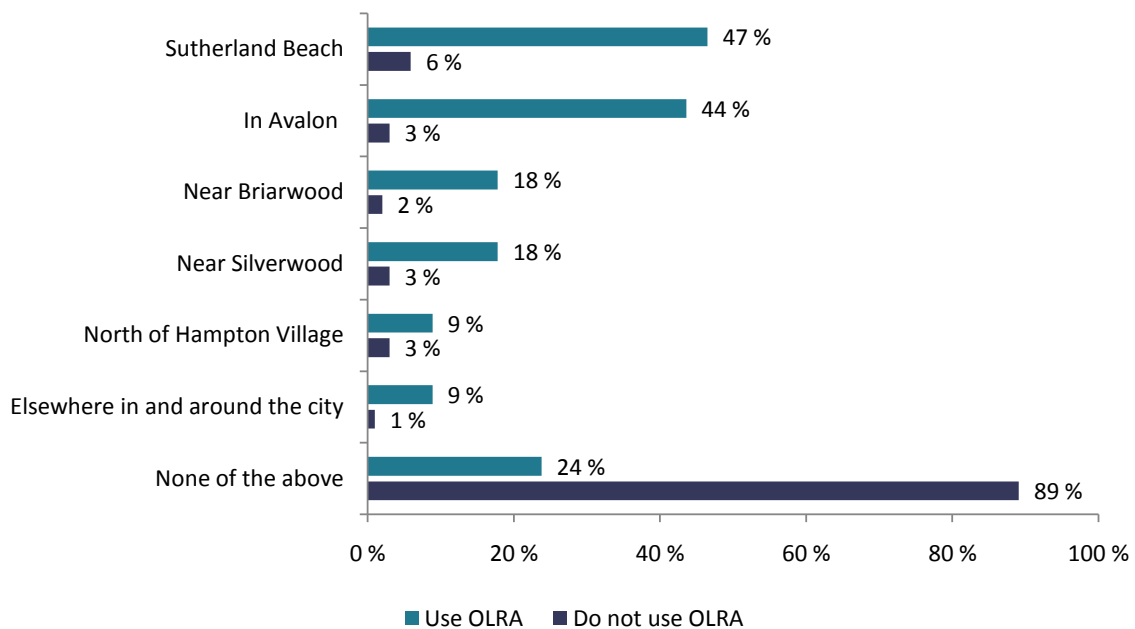
	Use OLRA		Do not use OLRA	
	count	percent	count	percent
Have received ticket	3	3 %	1	1 %

12. Have you ever received a ticket for having your dog(s) off-leash in non-designated areas in Saskatoon? Base: All respondents, n=202.

# OLRA BEHAVIOURS & MOTIVATORS

## Frequency of Visiting

Next, all respondents were asked if they have ever taken their dog(s) to one or more of the five specific OLRAs within Saskatoon. Despite having earlier stated that they never take their dog(s) to OLRAs, 11% of non-user respondents report having been to at least one of the five OLRAs after being presented with the names of each. Among users, respondents have most commonly been to Sutherland Beach (47%) or Avalon (44%). Far fewer have visited OLRAs near Briarwood (18%), Silverwood (18%), or Hampton Village (9%). Another 9% state they have been to other off-leash areas in and around the city, and 24% of OLRA users say they haven't been to any of the ones listed below, despite having reported doing so earlier in the questionnaire. It is suspected that many of these respondents take their dog(s) off-leash in locations well outside the city limits (such as at a recreational property).



13. Have you taken your dog(s) to one or more of the off-leash recreation areas listed below in the past 12 months? Please click on any areas you have visited. Base: All respondents, n=202.

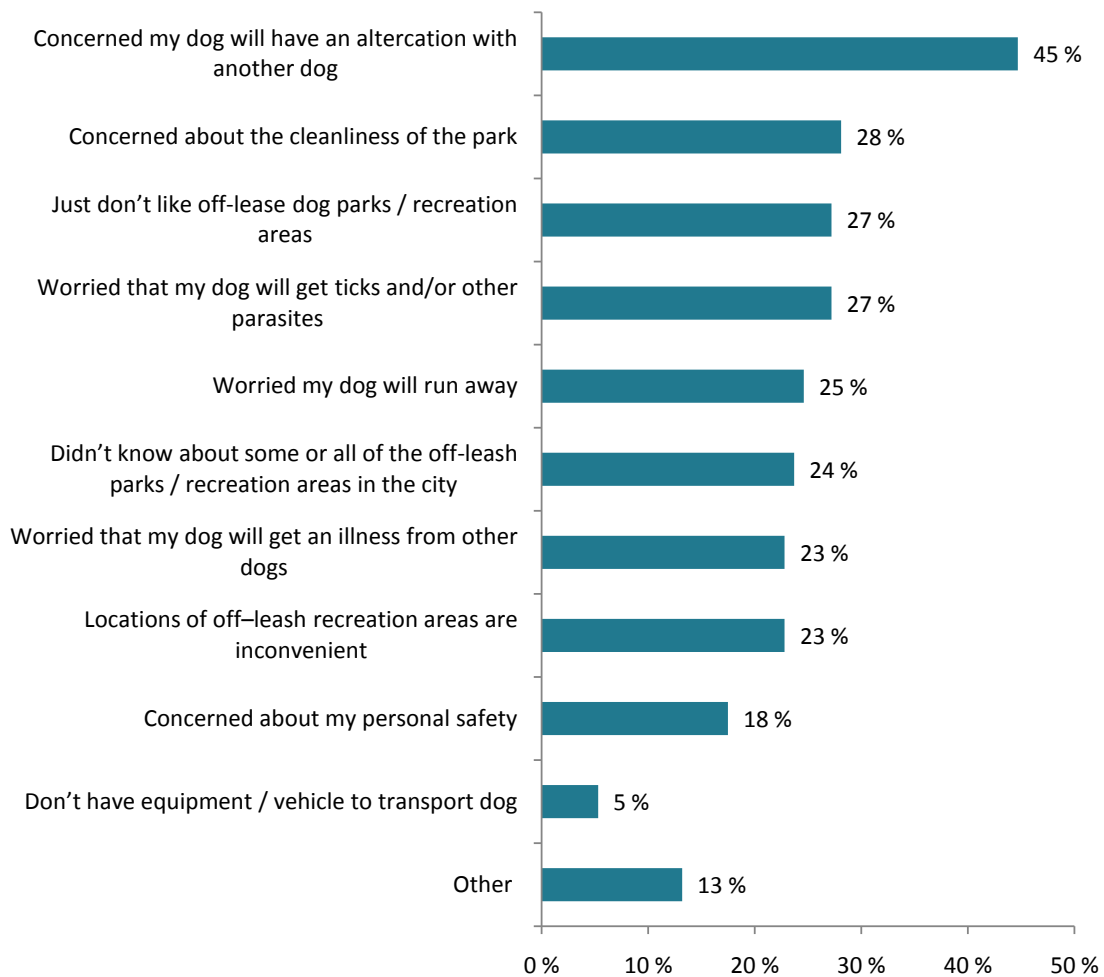
Among those who selected "elsewhere in and around the city", specific locations are noted below.

- Chief Whitecap.(5)
- Furdale.

- Relative's acreage.
- South on Spadina.
- Whitecap.(2)

## Barriers to Visiting OLRAs

Respondents who have never taken their dog(s) to one of the OLRAs presented in the previous question were asked why this is the case. A series of answer options was presented to respondents to choose from. Multiple selections were allowed. Most commonly, respondents are concerned that their dog will have an altercation with another dog at the OLRA (45%). Most other barriers are noted by between two and three in ten respondents. In addition, 13% noted other reasons not included in the answer options available. These specific responses are included on the next page.



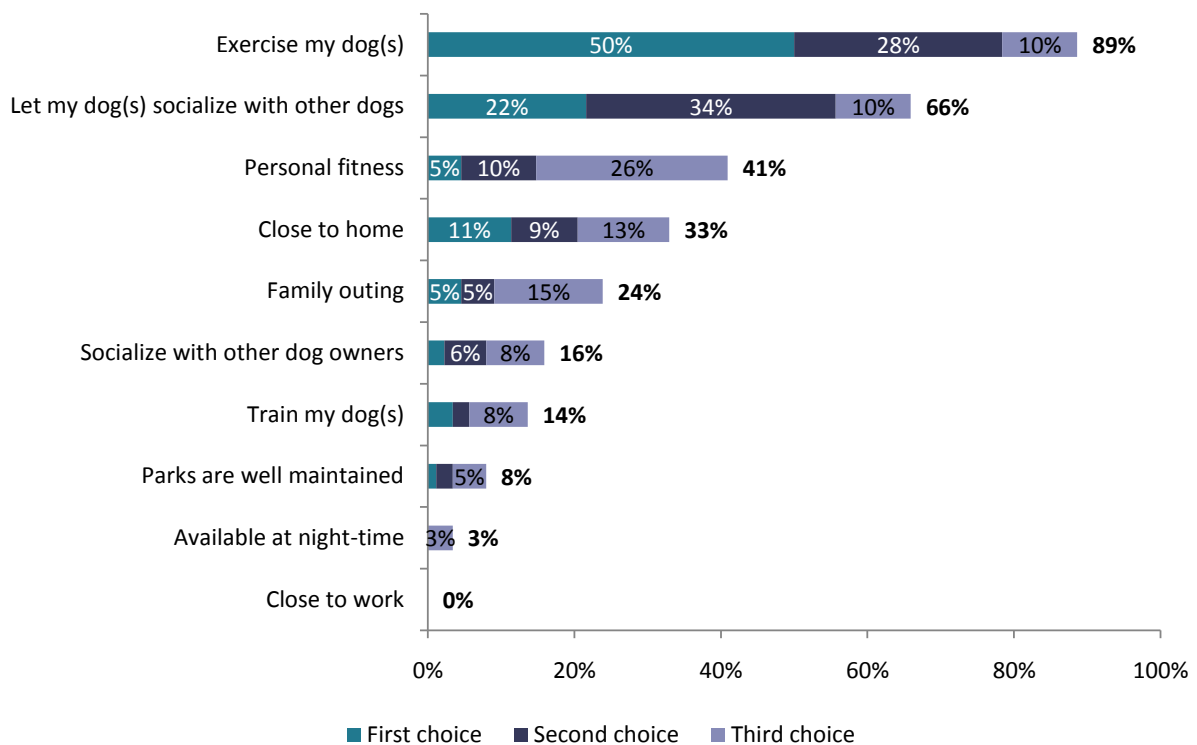
14. Why have you not taken your dog(s) to any of these off-leash recreation areas? Please select all that apply. Base: Those respondents who have not taken their dog(s) to these off-leash recreation areas in the last twelve months, n=114.

Other reasons for never visiting OLRAs include:

- Concerned for the safety of my dog.
- Dog gets exercise in back yard.
- Dog is too old/lame.
- Dog won't go!
- Guard dogs.
- Have just moved into city and just haven't had the time or interest in going to an off-leash park.
- I can take her out of town to my own property.
- I have another more convenient place.
- I live on the edge of the city and when I do take her for a walk I just go out into the field.
- I'm too old to drive to someplace just to let the dog run. We can play in the back yard.
- My dog is a Beagle and should never be let loose as they will follow a scent and get lost.
- My dogs are hunting hounds and will chase anything that runs.
- My dogs are not obedient enough to return when called so I do not allow them off-leash in public.
- Not social with other dogs.
- Off-leash areas seem to be the "dregs" of the city. They are not nice for humans or dogs.
- One dog doesn't do well with other dogs.
- Only have him temporarily so we don't tend to go there when he is here.
- Our Greyhound is trained to focus in on something and run (ex-racer). When that happens she doesn't pay attention to her surroundings and wouldn't know how to get back to us/home. When we adopted her we were told never to let her off-leash because of that.
- Prefer the safety of the indoor facility.
- She is an old dog.
- Small dog.
- Too much bother.
- Too old.
- Very small dog and concerned she would be attacked.

## Motivators to Visiting OLRAs

Those who have visited an OLRA (88 respondents) were asked to identify why they choose to take their dog(s) to such locations. A list of reasons was provided and respondents were asked to rank, in order, their top three reasons for visiting OLRAs. The graph below summarizes the findings, including the proportion who selected each answer option as their top reason, second most important reason and third most important reason. Overall, the most common reason for visiting such locations is to exercise one's dog(s). One half of respondents (50%) stated this as their top reason for visiting OLRAs, and another three in ten (28%) named it as their second reason, followed by 10% who listed it as their third reason, for a total of 89%. Canine socializing is also a popular drawing card (66% list it as one of their top three reasons), followed by personal fitness of the owner (41%). Convenience (35%) is noted by roughly one third of respondents and an opportunity for family outings by 24%. Other factors were selected infrequently.



15. What are the top three reasons you choose to take your dog(s) to an off-leash recreation areas? Base: Those respondents who have taken their dog(s) to an off-leash area on the last twelve months, n=88.

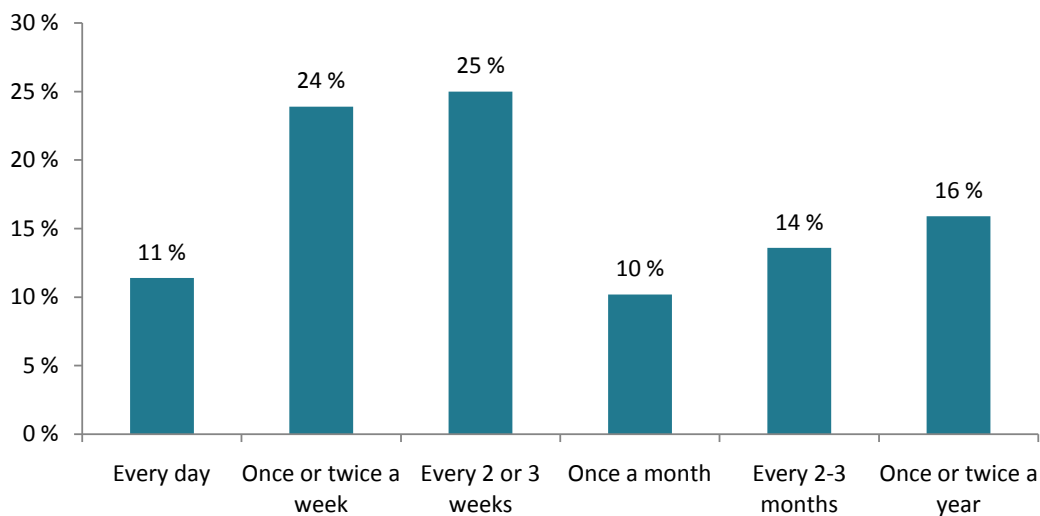
Additional reasons offered by select respondents include:



- Let my dog run free.
- Meditative for me.
- Someone asked me to go there.
- To get out in nature.

## Frequency of Visiting Off-Leash Areas

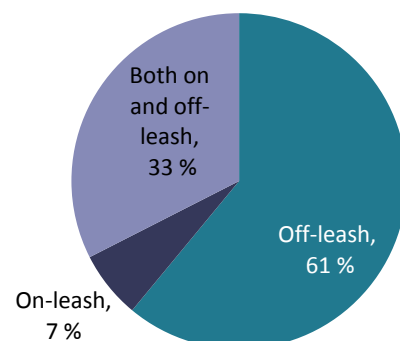
When asked how often owners take their dog(s) to OLRAs, one in ten respondents reports doing so daily (11%), while roughly one half do so between once or twice a week (24%) or once every two to three weeks (25%). Three in ten however, visit OLRAs less than once every two to three months (30%).



16. How often do you visit the off-leash recreation areas in and around Saskatoon? Base: Those respondents who have taken their dogs to an off-leash area on the last twelve months, n=88.

## Incidence of On-Leash / Off-Leash in OLRAs

When asked whether dog(s) are on-leash or off-leash within OLRAs, most report the latter being the case (61%). One third (33%) say their dog(s) are sometime on-leash and sometime off-leash while few (7%) state their dog(s) are always on-leash.



17. While in off-leash recreation areas, is your dog(s) usually on their leash or off their leash? Base: Those respondents who have taken their dog(s) to an off-leash area within the last twelve months, n=88.

# OLRA IMPRESSIONS & SATISFACTION

## Importance of Amenities, Paths & Grounds in OLRAs

All respondents were asked to rate the importance of various aspects of OLRAs using the following word scale: “need to have, nice to have, not essential, don’t spend money on that”. Given the highly consistent ratings between OLRA users and non-users, the findings to this question have been graphed with the two respondent types combined. Given the high number of statements asked, data has been split into two broad categories: paths & grounds, and amenities.

### *Paths and Grounds*

Attributes deemed to be most important include having signs outlining bylaws and code of conduct (55% say this is a “need to have”), along with fencing (55% “need to have”). Other important factors include ground maintenance and care (47% “need to have”), night time lighting (39%) and cutting of trails during the year (37%). Respondents are less supportive of spending money on paved paths (41% say to “not spend money” on this), along with having woodchip paths (25% offering the same rating) or crusher dust or gravel pathways (20%).

**Need to have /  
Nice to Have**

91%

90%

84%

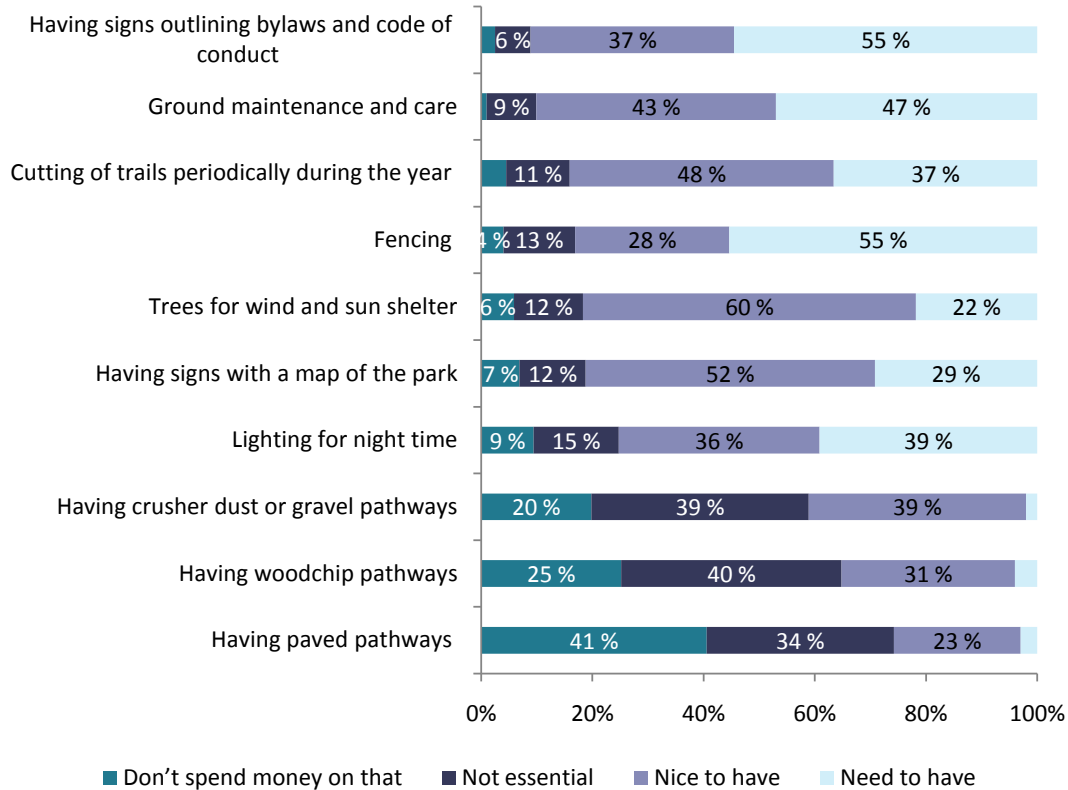
83%

82%

81%

75%

41%



18. How would you rate the importance of each of the following in an off-leash recreation area? Base: All respondents, n=202. A full distribution of chart data can be found in Appendix A.

**Amenities**

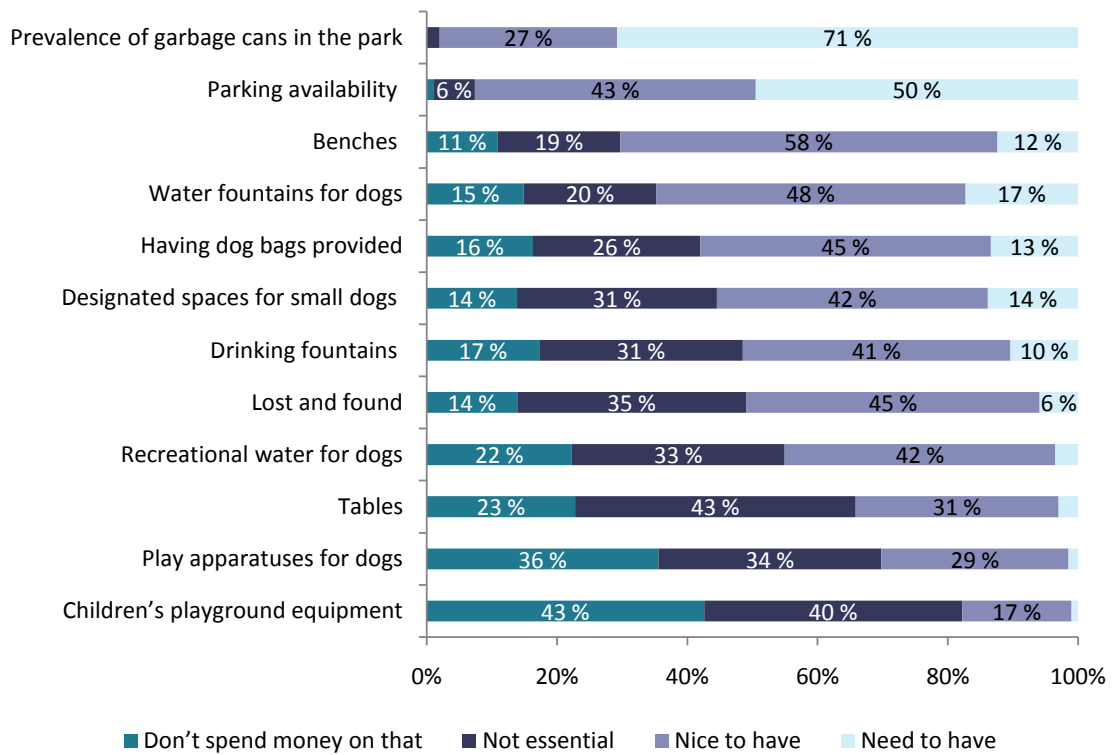
In general, most path and grounds attributes noted earlier are deemed to be more important than a majority of the amenities highlighted below, notwithstanding: the prevalence of garbage cans (71% list it as a “need to have”), and parking availability (50% cite this as a “need to have”). Other amenities are notably less important. Combining those who selected amenities as “need to have” or “nice to have” creates totals of 70% for having benches and 65% for water fountains for dogs. Other amenities deemed at least “nice to have” by between one half and six in ten respondents include having dog bags (58%), designated spaces for small dogs (56%), drinking fountains for humans (52%) and lost and found (51%). Notable proportions recommend not spending money on installing children’s playground equipment (43%) or play apparatuses for dogs (36%).

**Need to have /  
Nice to Have**

98%

93%

70%

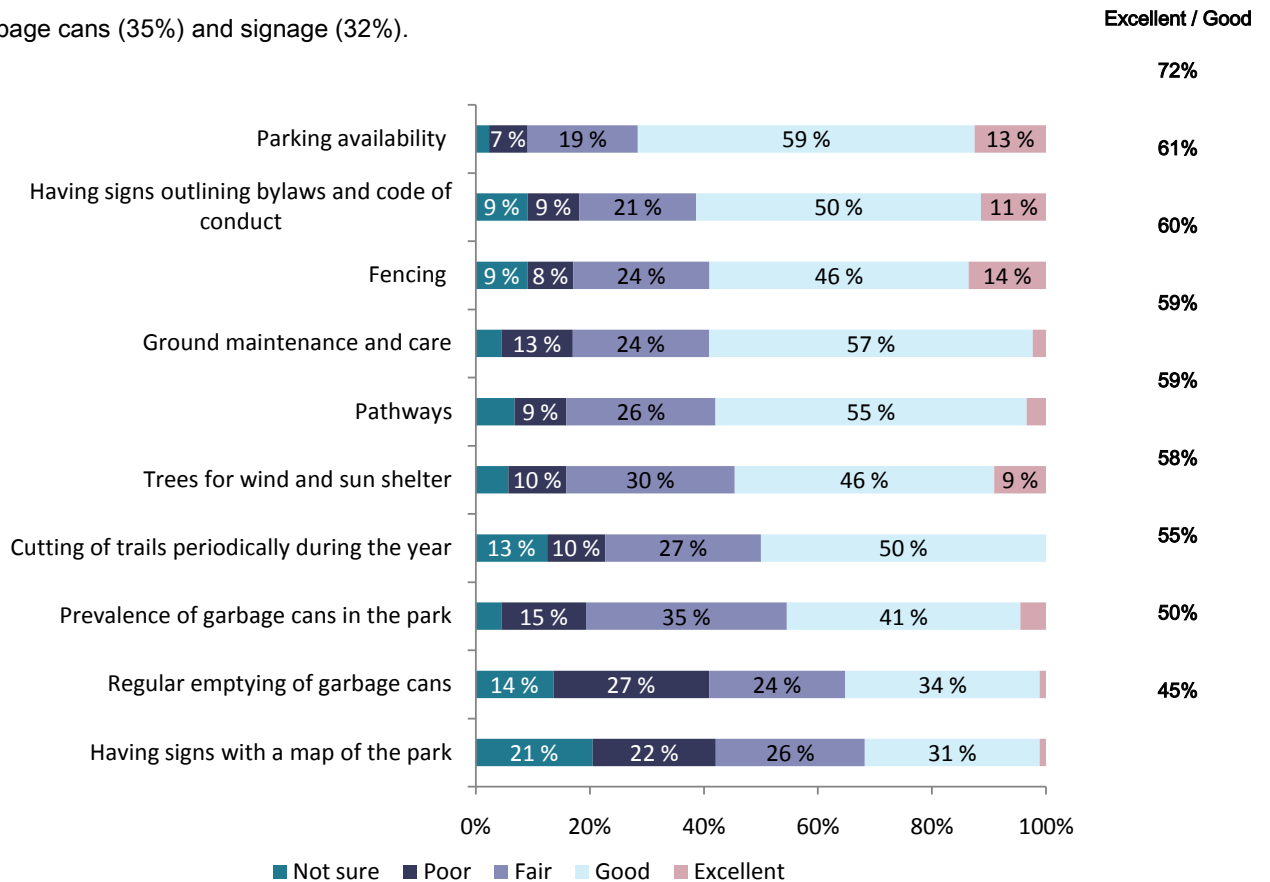


18. How would you rate the importance of each of the following in an off-leash recreation area? Base: All respondents, n=202.

A full distribution of chart data can be found in Appendix A.

## Satisfaction with Saskatoon's OLRAs

Next, those who have been to an OLRA were asked to rate their satisfaction on many of the same attributes noted earlier using a five point word scale. Overall, satisfaction is generally soft, with the largest proportion of respondents offering assessments of good. Combining ratings of excellent and good highlights that satisfaction is highest for parking availability (72%), followed by signs outlining bylaws and codes of conduct (61%). Several other statements, ranging from fencing to cutting of trails, exhibit similar satisfaction levels among respondents (ranging from 50% to 59% offering ratings of excellent or good). Satisfaction is poor in the areas of garbage can prevalence (45% excellent/good), regular emptying of garbage cans (35%) and signage (32%).



19. How would you rate Saskatoon's off-leash recreation areas in each of the following areas? Base: Those respondents who have taken their dog(s) to an off-leash area within the last twelve months, n=88.

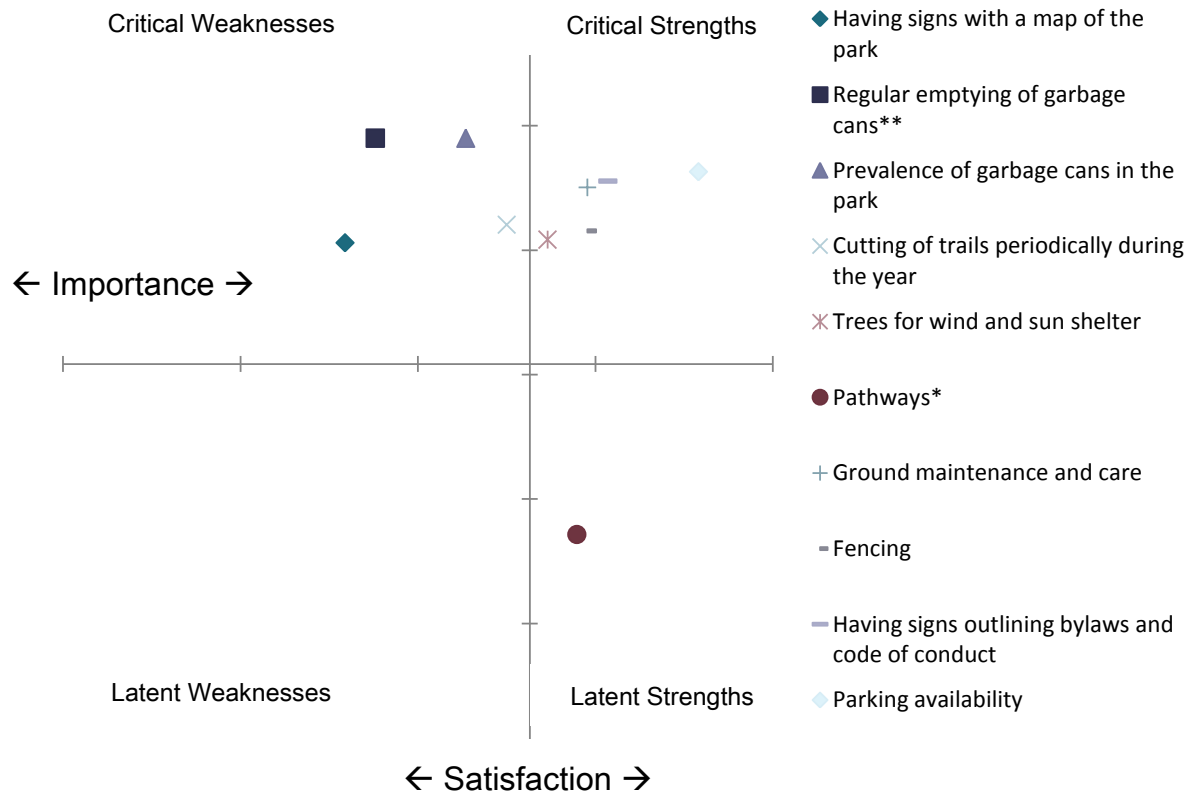
A full distribution of chart data can be found in Appendix A.

## Importance / Satisfaction Matrix

To assist with comparing the ratings of importance and satisfaction of various attributes with OLRAs, the following matrix has been prepared. The matrix plots the proportion of respondents who offer importance ratings of need to have/nice to have against satisfaction ratings of excellent/good. The position of the x axis and y axis are based on the average ratings of all statements combined (note that satisfaction was not asked of all statements in which respondents were asked to provide an importance rating on).

- **Critical Weaknesses** are areas of comparatively high importance but comparatively weak satisfaction. These can be considered top priority areas to focus on.
- **Critical Strengths** are areas of both comparatively high importance and satisfaction. Continued strong performance in these areas is essential.
- **Latent Weaknesses** are areas of comparatively lower importance and lower satisfaction (none present in this analysis).
- **Latent Strengths** are areas of comparatively lower importance but higher satisfaction. Continued emphasis in these areas is less critical than in those within the top two quadrants.

As noted below, four critical weaknesses emerge: prevalence of and regular emptying of garbage cans, cutting of trails and signage. These can be considered top priority items to address in existing OLRAs.



\* Importance is based on the combined average of importance of crusher dust, woodchip and paved pathways. Satisfaction is based on pathways currently available on site.

\*\* The importance of regular emptying of garbage cans was not asked. It is assumed to be of equal importance as the prevalence of garbage cans.

## FUTURE PLANNING

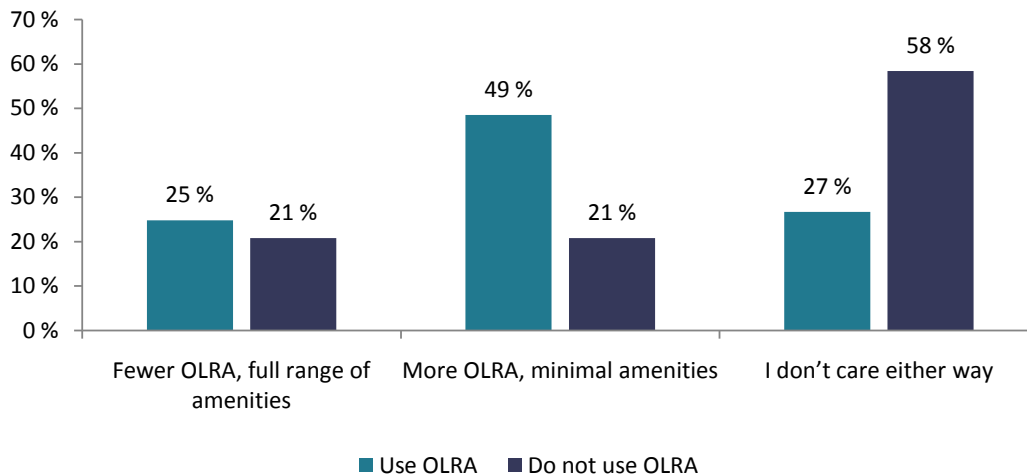
Following a thorough assessment of OLRAs attributes, respondents were asked a series of questions related to future development and funding.

### Development Strategy

First, respondents were asked which type of development approach or strategy they believe the City should follow in developing new OLRAs. Specifically, respondents were presented with the following two options:

- Develop fewer new off-leash recreation areas but have a full range of amenities at each
- Develop more new off-leash recreation areas but have minimal amenities included at each

While equal proportions of users and non-users support the development of fewer OLRAs but offer a full range of services at each (25% and 21% respectively), more users (49%) support the development of several OLRAs with minimal amenities at each than do non-users (21%). Not surprisingly, non-users are more likely to be indifferent on the strategy options (58% vs. 27% among users).

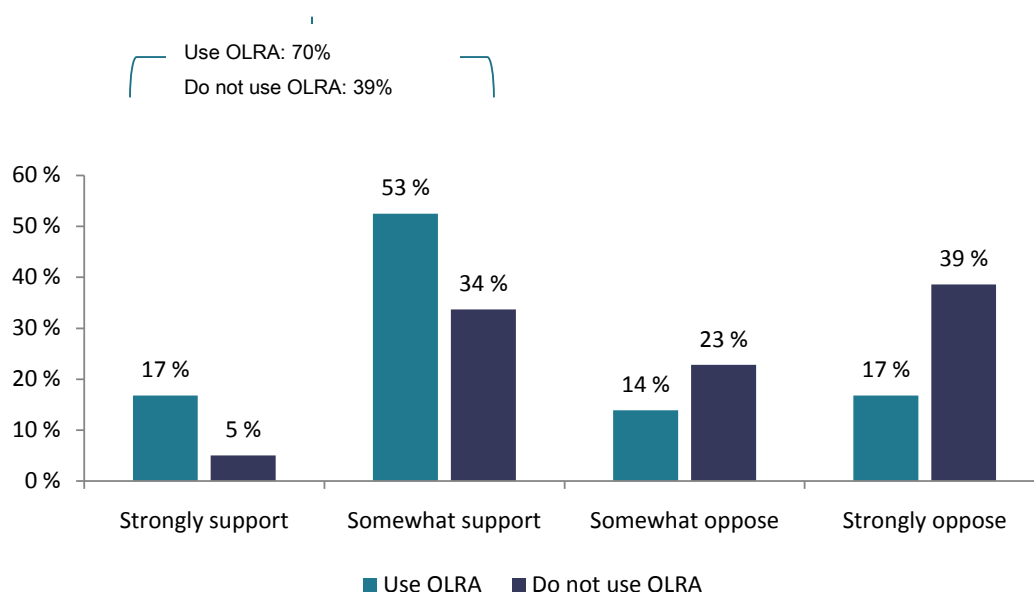


20. Which of the following would you support for future development of off-leash recreation areas? Base: All respondents, n=202.



## Additional Licencing Fees

Turning to the topic of funding, respondents were asked how much they support an increase in dog licencing fees to pay for maintenance and development of OLRAs. Not surprisingly, users of the sites are more likely to support increases in licencing fees than are non-users (70% at least somewhat support vs. 39%, respectively). Four in ten non-users (39%) strongly oppose such an approach to cover costs of OLRAs.



21. One source of funds to maintain and develop off-leash recreation areas is through a portion of licencing fees collected by the City of Saskatoon. The current annual licence is \$27 per year if your dog is spayed / neutered and \$54 if your dog is not (based on 2011 rates). With this in mind, do you support or oppose additional licencing fees to pay for maintenance and development of off-leash recreation areas? Base: All respondents, n=202.

## Amount of Increase Willing to Pay

Those who support or only somewhat oppose the above suggestion were asked how much of a dog licencing fee increase they would be willing to incur to help fund maintenance and development of OLRAs. Among these respondents, most report a willingness to incur a 10% increase in licencing fees (69%). Another two in ten (21%) would be willing to pay 20% more for an annual dog licence and the remaining 10% say they support a 30% increase.

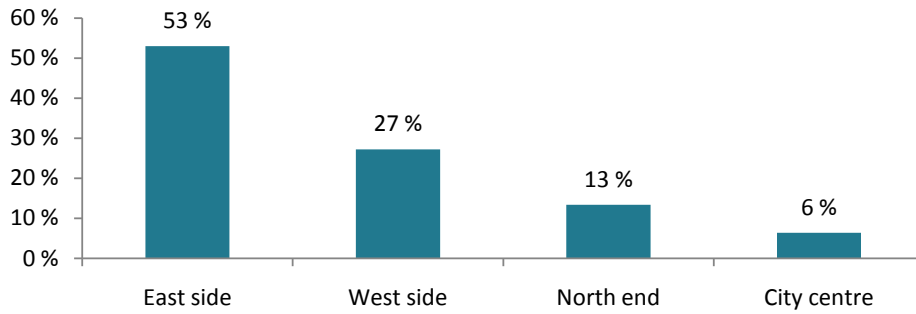
Amount of Increase	count	proportion
--------------------	-------	------------

10% more (new annual fee of \$30 / \$59)	100	69%
20% more (new annual fee of \$32 / \$65)	31	21%
30% more (new annual fee of \$35 / \$70)	15	10%

22. How much of an increase in annual licence fees would you be willing to pay? Base: Those respondents who would support additional licencing fees, n=146.

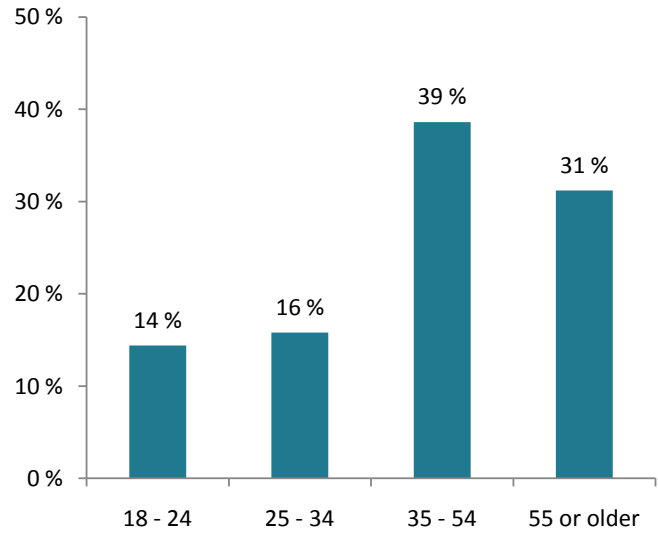
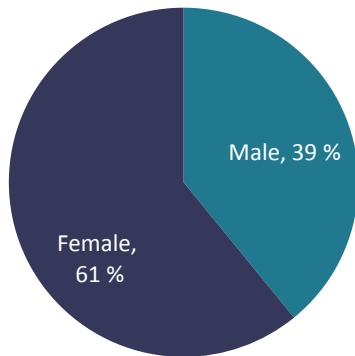
## DEMOGRAPHICS

### Area of Residence



24. In which part of the city do you live? Base: All respondents, n=202.

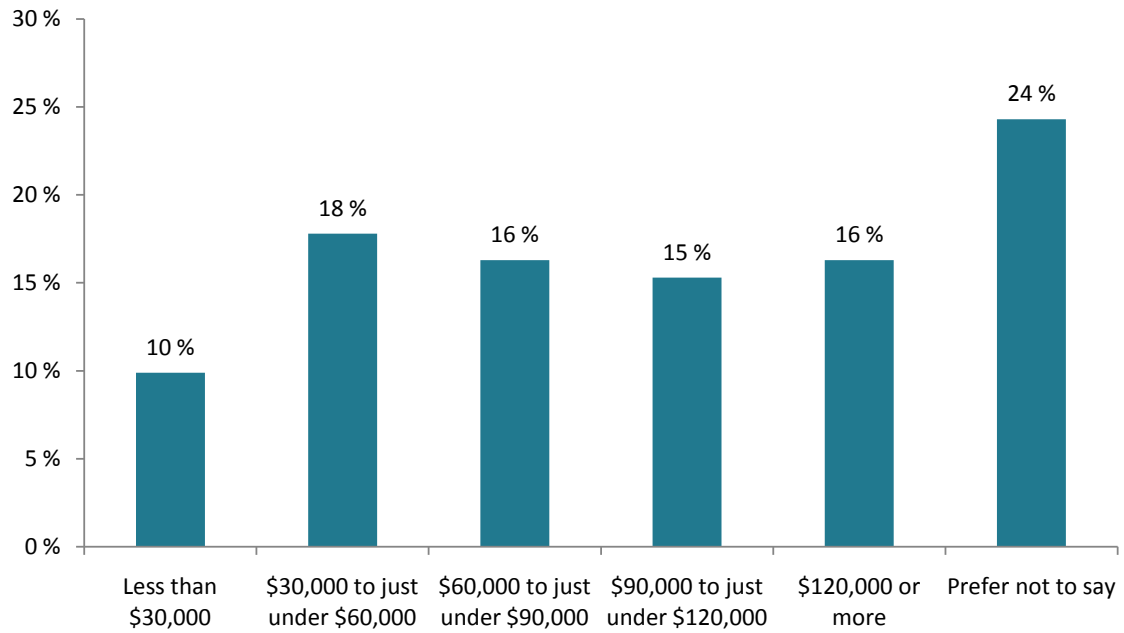
### Age and Gender



25. Please indicate your gender: Base: All respondents, n=202.

26. Into which age range do you fall? Base: All respondents, n=202.

## Household Income



27. Into which of the following ranges does your annual household income fall? Base: All respondents, n=202.

## APPENDIX A

### FULL DISTRIBUTION OF CHART DATA

#### Use of Public Spaces Off-Leash

9. How often do you have your dog(s) off-leash in each of the following locations? Base: Those respondents who walk or run their dogs in each of these locations, n=41-167.

	In my neighbourhood	In city parks	School yards	Along the Meewasin Trail	Along hiking/biking trails	Outside city limits	Kiwanis Memorial Park	Kinsmen Park	At Cranberry Flats
All the time off leash	3 %	1 %	2 %	1 %	0 %	18 %	0 %	0 %	4 %
Sometimes off leash	8 %	4 %	3 %	3 %	5 %	11 %	0 %	1 %	3 %
On occasion off leash	12 %	9 %	6 %	6 %	7 %	8 %	1 %	1 %	2 %
Rarely off leash	17 %	15 %	10 %	11 %	13 %	7 %	8 %	8 %	9 %
Never off leash	57 %	48 %	38 %	37 %	32 %	11 %	21 %	15 %	6 %

#### Motivators to Visiting OLRAs

15. What are the top three reasons you choose to take your dog(s) to an off-leash recreation areas? Base: Those respondents who have taken their dogs to an off-leash area within the last twelve months, n=88.

	First choice	Second choice	Third choice	total
Exercise my dog(s)	50%	28%	10%	89%
Let my dog(s) socialize with other dogs	22%	34%	10%	66%

Personal fitness	5%	10%	26%	41%
Close to home	11%	9%	13%	33%
Family outing	5%	5%	15%	24%
Socialize with other dog owners	2%	6%	8%	16%
Train my dog(s)	3%	2%	8%	14%
Parks are well maintained	1%	2%	5%	8%
Available at night-time	0%	0%	3%	3%
Close to work	0%	0%	0%	0%

## Importance of Amenities, Paths & Grounds in OLRAs

18. How would you rate the importance of each of the following in an off-leash recreation area?

Amenities: Base: All respondents, n=202.

	Don't spend money on that	Not essential	Nice to have	Need to have
Prevalence of garbage cans in the park	0 %	2 %	27 %	71 %
Parking availability	1 %	6 %	43 %	50 %
Water fountains for dogs	15 %	20 %	48 %	17 %
Designated spaces for small dogs	14 %	31 %	42 %	14 %
Having dog bags provided	16 %	26 %	45 %	13 %
Benches	11 %	19 %	58 %	12 %
Drinking fountains	17 %	31 %	41 %	10 %
Lost and found	14 %	35 %	45 %	6 %
Recreational water for dogs	22 %	33 %	42 %	4 %
Tables	23 %	43 %	31 %	3 %
Play apparatuses for dogs	36 %	34 %	29 %	2 %
Children's playground equipment	43 %	40 %	17 %	1 %

Paths and Grounds: Base: All respondents, n=202.

	Don't spend money on that	Not essential	Nice to have	Need to have
Fencing	4 %	13 %	28 %	55 %
Having signs outlining bylaws and code of conduct	3 %	6 %	37 %	55 %
Ground maintenance and care	1 %	9 %	43 %	47 %
Lighting for night time	9 %	15 %	36 %	39 %
Cutting of trails periodically during the year	5 %	11 %	48 %	37 %
Having signs with a map of the park	7 %	12 %	52 %	29 %
Trees for wind and sun shelter	6 %	12 %	60 %	22 %
Having woodchip pathways	25 %	40 %	31 %	4 %
Having paved pathways	41 %	34 %	23 %	3 %
Having crusher dust or gravel pathways	20 %	39 %	39 %	2 %

## Satisfaction with Saskatoon's OLRAs

19. How would you rate Saskatoon's off-leash recreation areas in each of the following areas? Base: Those respondents who have taken their dogs to an off-leash area within the last twelve months, n=88.

	Not sure	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Fencing	9 %	8 %	24 %	46 %	14 %
Parking availability	2 %	7 %	19 %	59 %	13 %
Having signs outlining bylaws and code of conduct	9 %	9 %	21 %	50 %	11 %
Trees for wind and sun shelter	6 %	10 %	30 %	46 %	9 %
Prevalence of garbage cans in the park	5 %	15 %	35 %	41 %	5 %
Pathways	7 %	9 %	26 %	55 %	3 %
Ground maintenance and care	5 %	13 %	24 %	57 %	2 %
Regular emptying of garbage cans	14 %	27 %	24 %	34 %	1 %
Having signs with a map of the park	21 %	22 %	26 %	31 %	1 %
Cutting of trails periodically during the year	13 %	10 %	27 %	50 %	0 %





# CITY OF SASKATOON OFF LEASH RECREATION AREAS

# 1

**Near Silverwood**

Adjacent to the east end of Silverwood Golf Course, along riverbank north to City Limits

**North East of Circle Dr Bridge**

Sutherland Beach Off-Leash Recreation Area, accessed via grid road with entry off of Central Ave, 50m north of Attridge Dr

**Near Hampton Village**

Along Junor Avenue, 2 km north of 37th Street

**Near Briarwood**

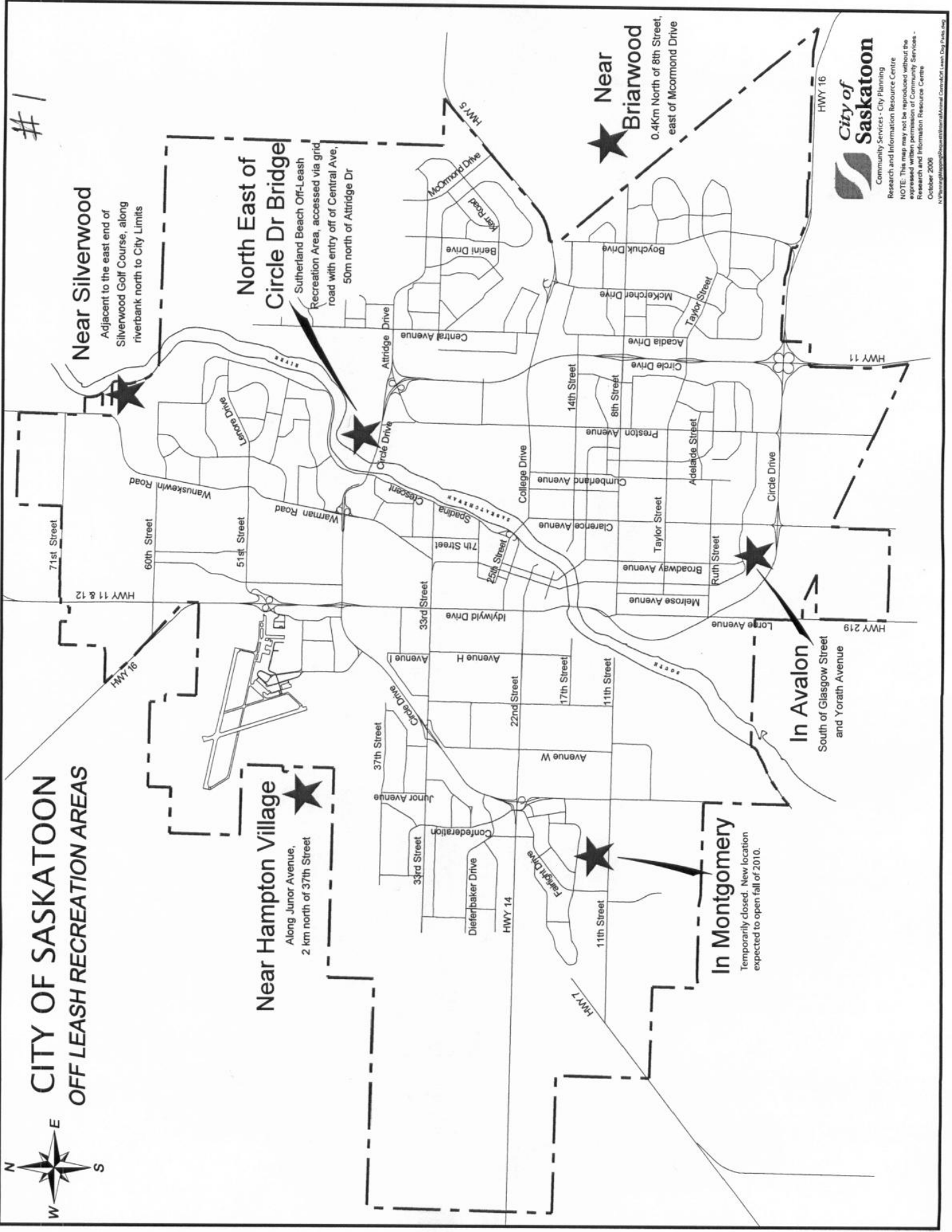
0.4Km North of 8th Street, east of McCormond Drive

**In Montgomery**

Temporarily closed. New location expected to open fall of 2010.

**In Avalon**

South of Glasgow Street and Yorath Avenue



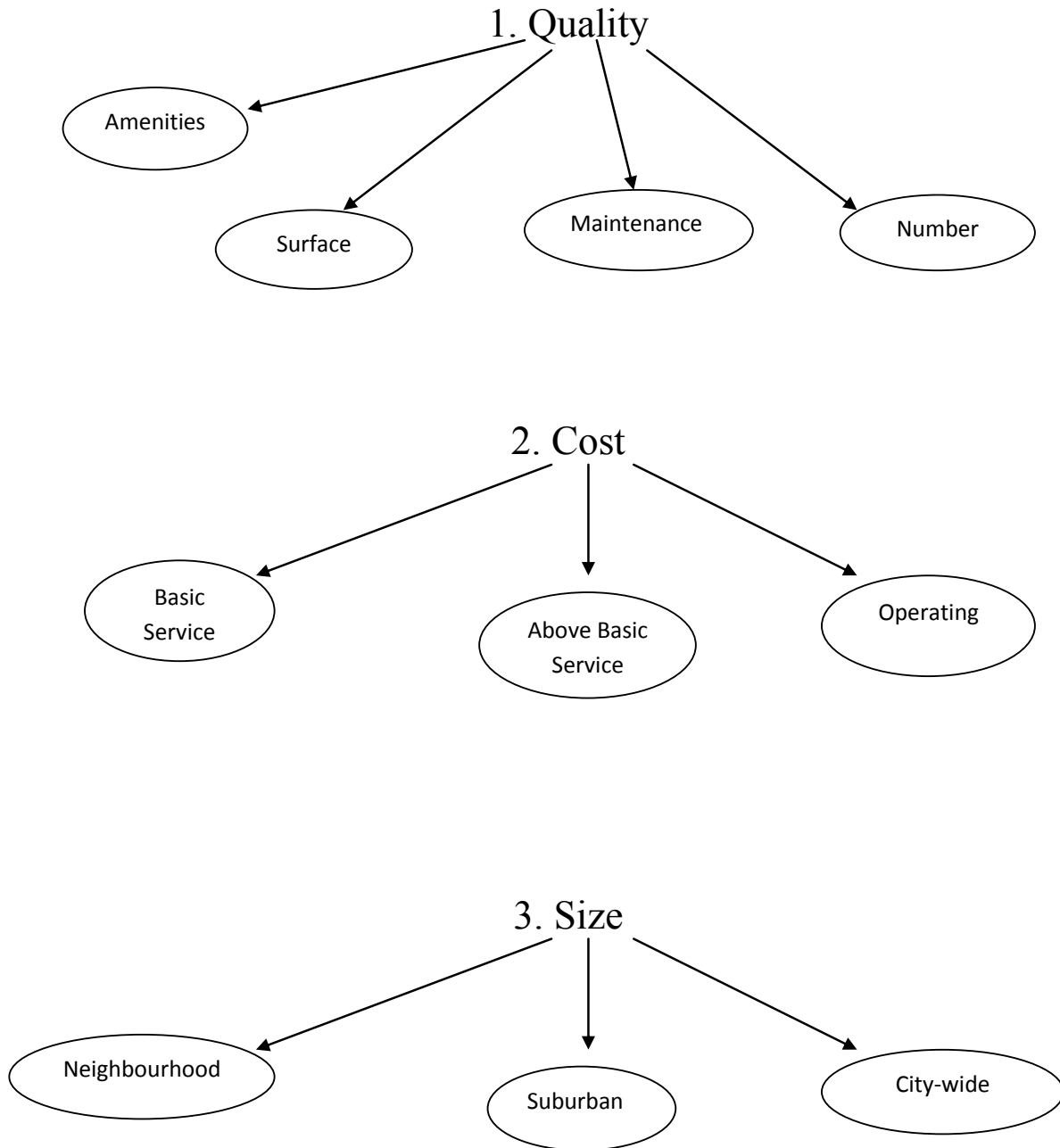
Community Services - City Planning  
Research and Information Resource Centre  
NOTE: This map may not be reproduced without the permission of Community Services - Research and Information Resource Centre  
October 2008

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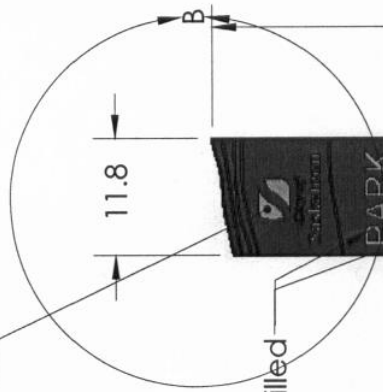
**OFF-LEASH RECREATION AREA****Leisure Services Branch****Program Plan Review Process**

<b>Process</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leisure Service Branch (LSB) will investigate and identify key stakeholders for usage of Off Leash Recreation Area (OLRA) and the impacts to areas within and surrounding the OLRA.</li> <li>2. Potential stakeholders               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ROLO</li> <li>b. MVA</li> <li>c. Parks and Facilities branch</li> <li>d. SPCA</li> <li>e. Dog Owner's (information retrieved from licence database).</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Sept 15/11
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. LSB to lead process in identifying types of parks (neighbourhood, district, city-wide), size, location, number and the support amenities (benches, turf, garbage cans, other...)</li> </ol>	Oct 15/11
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. LSB, in consultation with Animal Services Coordinator and Leisure Service's Research Team, will complete a review of existing locations, conditions, functions, and OLRA characteristics.</li> </ol>	Nov 1/11
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. LSB, in consultation with the Community Engagement Office, will identify best practice(s) for garnering stakeholder input. Suggested options are:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Random survey of dog owners</li> <li>b. Focus group</li> <li>c. Stakeholder input</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Nov1/11
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Based on collected information, identify and formulate key program objectives that will provide a framework for the OLRA program plan.</li> </ol>	Nov 3/11
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Prepare an Administrative Report of OLRA standards for review of LSB</li> </ol>	Nov 10/11
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Present final Administrative Report of OLRA standards to Revenue Control – Animal Control Services for design and implementation phase. Revenue Control will provide rational and budgetary requirements for City Council to consider via Capital and Operating Budgets.</li> </ol>	Nov 15/11

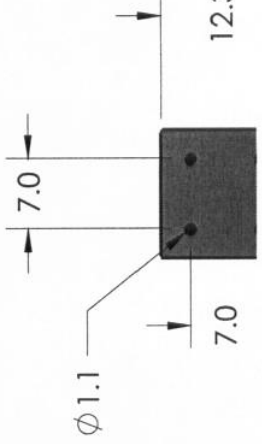
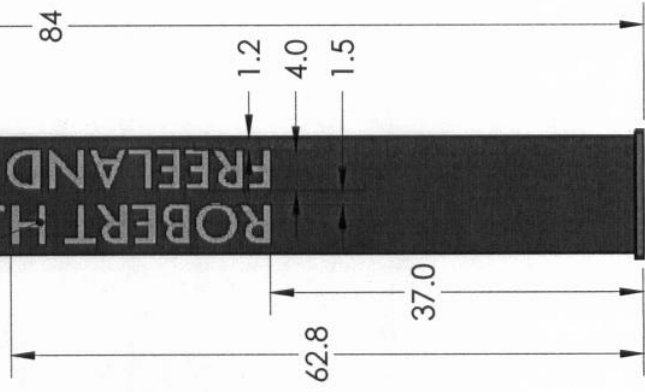
### The 3 Key Components to Gather from Inshtrix Research, Inc. Survey



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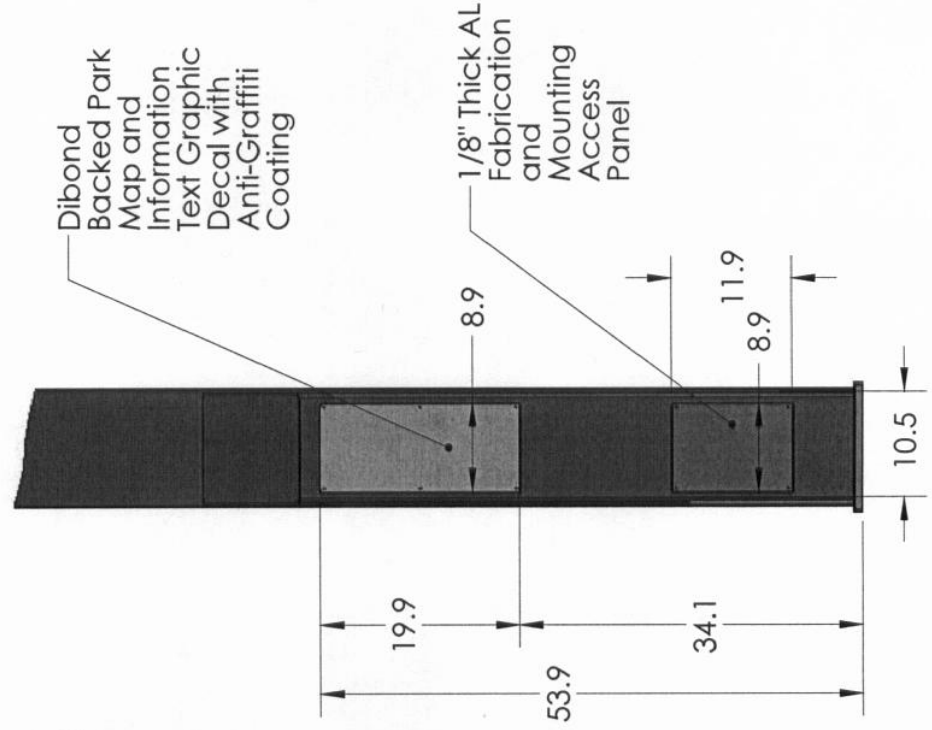


ed and Filled



DETAIL A  
SCALE 1:10

Dibond  
Backed Park  
Map and  
Information  
Text Graphic  
Decal with  
Anti-Graffiti  
Coating



**Notes**

- Material: Constructed on edges on
- Paint: Blue
- Specific approval: "PARK" air
- from surf
- City of Sa
- base mat
- front face
- Anchoring concrete

**REL P**

Small Park S



# The City of Calgary Parks Off-Leash Area Designation/Design Request Form

Date:

## **Please Note:**

- If you do not wish to complete the application process, you can have your opinion about a specific off-leash area directed to The City of Calgary Parks by calling 3-1-1 or emailing: [3-1-1ContactUs@calgary.ca](mailto:3-1-1ContactUs@calgary.ca).
- The City of Calgary's criteria for requests regarding a change in designation or design of an off-leash area include (but are not limited to): significant key stakeholder support, funding availability, land status, service gaps in the area, mitigation of potential safety concerns, adequate parking (or potential space for parking), site terrain, site accessibility and environmental impact.
- The specific dog designations on public land are: On-leash, Off-leash or No Dogs.
  - All public areas are designated as on-leash areas unless otherwise posted. All dogs must be on-leash within five meters of a play structure, wading pool/swimming area, sports field, golf course, or a cemetery.
  - For more details on these designations, please view the [Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw](#).

## **1. Contact Information:**

If submitting on behalf of a group, this form must be completed by the group's **approved primary contact**.

Applicant's Name:

Group Name (if applicable):

Mailing Address:

Postal Code:

Daytime Phone Number:

Email Address:

## **2. Site Information:**

Where is the off-leash area site located?

Community where site is located:

Street address of site (or nearest intersection):

• Park name if there is one:

Specific location within a park:

Who owns the land where the proposed site will be located (if known)?

### **3. Nature of the Request:**

Propose a new off-leash area

Change an existing off-leash area's designation or design

What designation or design change would you like to make to this off-leash area?

### **4. Reason for Request:**

Please summarize why the designation/design change is being requested.

### **5. Stakeholder Support:**

*Only requests that demonstrate significant key stakeholder support will be considered (stakeholders from within the service area such as: community associations, not-for-profit groups, community members, and residents adjacent to the proposed/existing site).*

What key stakeholders are in support of your request to date?

### **6. Stakeholder Engagement:**

*Once the initial request is accepted, written support from key stakeholders will be required for the process to move forward. Engagement of all key stakeholders within the service area will be required to establish a new off-leash area or change the designation or design of an existing off-leash area.*

Are you able and willing to provide written support from key stakeholders in order for the request to move forward?

Yes

No

## 7. Submit Request:

**IMPORTANT: To save a copy of this completed form for your files, you must print a hard copy before submitting your online form.**

*Once submitted, your request will be sent to The City of Calgary Parks for initial screening. The City of Calgary Parks will contact you once the initial screening of your request is completed.*

Print Form

Email Form

