

OFF-LEASH DOG AREA FRAMEWORK

Currently the majority of Calgary's 138 dog off-leash areas are located primarily in Parks, but some areas are also on city-owned land awaiting future development and on land leased from the Province. Over the past year the following principles have been developed to guide off-leash designation.

PRINCIPLES GUIDING DOG USE DESIGNATION

When considering a site potentially suitable for supporting a designated dog off-leash area, the site should be evaluated on the basis of the following principles:

- classification and/or function of the entire site
- size of entire site
- types of recreation activity in the vicinity/close proximity
- intensity of uses on and near the site
- public health and safety factors
- economic impacts of potential enhancements
- ability to clearly sign and delineate areas

When feasible, new dog off-leash areas should:

- be at least .5 hectares in size
- not occupy more than 30% of a multi-use parcel
- not bisect Regional pathways
- be located in disturbed natural areas only
- have clearly delineated boundaries
- when unfenced, not border roadways
- utilize functional vegetation and landscape that allows owners to maintain visual contact with their animal while ensuring safe movement of users.

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The chart below shows a framework to guide the assessment and management of present and future off-leash areas. It is organized by site size, intended service area and proposed corresponding amenities. It is important to note that areas designated for dog off-leash use are usually situated within a larger open space or park site.

Type of off-leash dog use area → ----- Level of off-leash service ↓	Neighbourhood	Community Cluster	Multi-use Regional
Approximate size range	under 4.3 ha	4.3 – 19.9 ha	19.9+ ha
Proposed service area	800 metre walking distance	8 minute driving distance	20 minute driving distance
Basic service			
• standard waste removal service	✓	✓	✓
• standard maintenance schedule	✓	✓	✓
• clear signage	✓	✓	✓
• online maps	✓	✓	✓
• responsible pet ownership and other educational information	✓	✓	✓
• bylaw enforcement (where required)	✓	✓	✓
Enhanced service			
• parking	---	✓ off site only	✓ off/on site
• enclosed fencing or natural barriers to separate use	---	where feasible ✓	✓
• enhanced waste removal service in enclosed areas	---	✓	✓
• Parks volunteer rangers	---	---	as resources permit ✓
• benches	---	where feasible ✓	✓
• enhanced maintenance schedule	---	---	✓
• washrooms - where feasible – in multi-use areas only	---	---	✓
Potential Partnership-based service			
• dog waste bags & dispensers		✓	✓
• drinking water for dogs	---	✓	✓
• responsible pet ownership information and seminars	---	where feasible ✓	where feasible ✓
• other enhancements proposed or funded by stewards	✓	✓	✓