

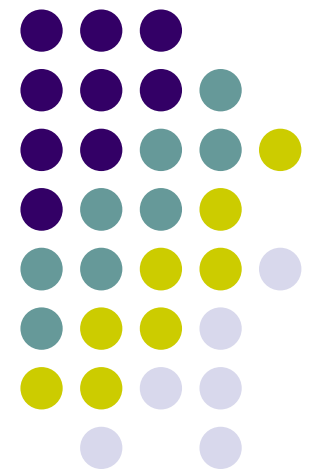
# Off-Leash Dog Park/Area Project Proposal

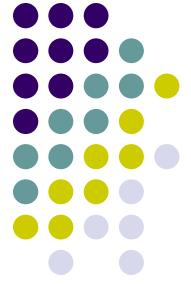
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Presentation to:  
**Policy Committee,**  
City of Greater Sudbury

**Dogs Off-Leash in Greater Sudbury**  
Minnow Lake Community Action Network

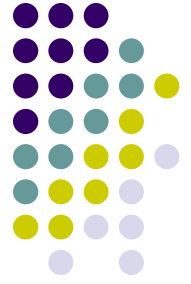
Wednesday, June 16, 2010





# Agenda

1. Acknowledgements
2. D.O.G.S. Committee
3. Objective
4. Background & Myths
5. Benefits
6. Municipal Benchmarking
7. Relationship to Master Plans
8. Current By-law and Legislation
9. Community Support
10. Minnow Lake Residents
11. Conclusion



# **1. Acknowledgement**

## **Minnow Lake C.A.N**

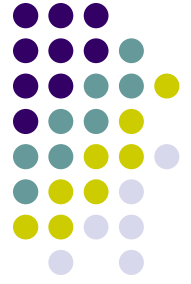
John Lindsay, President  
Robert (Bob) King, Treasurer  
Executive Members

## **Leisure Services, City of Greater Sudbury**

Chris Gore, Manager  
Jaime Thurston, Community Development Coordinator  
Jacinda McLean, Support Staff  
Ted Durbacz, Recreation Coordinator

## **City Councillor**

Janet Gasparini, Ward 11 City Councillor



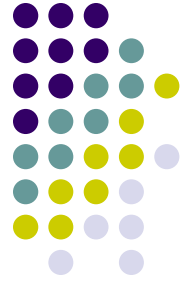
## **2. D.O.G.S. Committee**

### **Executive:**

Pierre Perreault, Chairperson,  
Lesley-Anne Bardeggia, Communication  
Carmen Birtwistle, Recorder  
Danielle Charest, Fundraising  
Julie Vaillancourt, Research  
Julie Sykora, Communication/Recorder  
Supports

### **Membership:**

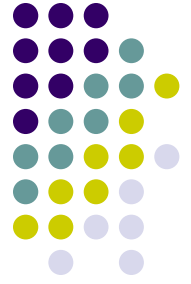
13 Members - Jan. 27, 2010 (First Meeting)  
187 Members – May 21, 2010



## 2. D.O.G.S. Committee *(cont.)*

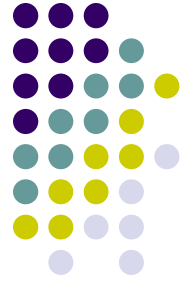
### Issues Addressed:

- Since our first meeting on Jan. 27, 2010 we have had 2 meetings per month and the public was always invited to attend;
- Research consisted of : Current By-laws, Legislation, Municipal Dog Parks, Survey Design and Delivery, Community Consultation, etc.; Conducted an Online/Paper Based Survey open to all Households in the Minnow Lake Area (Ward 11);
- Conducted a Community Engagement Meeting to present the project and obtain feedback to all residents of Ward 11 interested in this initiative;
- Compiled Survey Data and drafted a report to present to the Policy Committee of the City of Greater Sudbury.



### 3. Objective

- We are appearing before the Policy Committee of the City of Greater Sudbury to request that the Committee consider and support the creation of an Off-Leash Dog Park/Area.
- Furthermore that the parcel of land located at the corner of Donna Drive and Second Avenue North in Ward 11, be considered the location for the proposed Off-Leash Dog Park/Area.
- In support of the proposal of an Off-Leash Dog Park, we have done our homework. With the support of key City Staff we have prepared a report based on various sources of information provided in part by City Staff, from other jurisdictions throughout Ontario and North America and input from the Minnow Lake Community (Ward 11).



## 4. Background & Myths

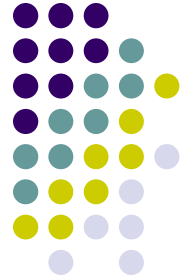
- Off-leash areas have been successfully implemented and maintained throughout North America. Often people oppose these areas due to the common myths and misconceptions about off-leash areas.
- In reality, these areas provide great benefits not only to dogs, but also to the community at large.
- In Ontario, dog owners have successfully lobbied municipal governments for the establishment of off-leash facilities since the 1990's.
- A dog park or 'off-leash' dog park is a facility set aside for dogs to exercise and play off-leash in a legal, safe and controlled environment under the supervision of their owners.
- Parks vary in accoutrements, although a typical dog park offers a 4' to 6' fence; separate, double-gated entry and exit points; benches for owners; shade for hot days; tools to pick up and dispose of animal waste in covered trash cans; regular maintenance and cleaning of the grounds.



## 5. Benefits

- It contributes to the overall physical fitness by encouraging them to exercise with their dogs.
- It provides mental health benefits in the reduction of anxiety and depression and help redevelop a sense of purpose with their community;
- The elderly and disabled citizens need easy access within their community to exercise their companion and working dogs;
- A dog park promotes responsible dog ownership through mandatory registration and regular shots;
- Enclosed play areas prevent off-leash dogs from infringing on the rights of other community residents and park users such as joggers, small children, and those who may be fearful of dogs;



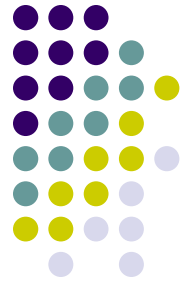


## 5. Benefits *(cont.)*

- It helps neighbours to get to know each other and to build a sense of community;
- Also dogs who get enough exercise are less likely to create a nuisance, bark excessively, destroy property or jump up.
- Its an increase in revenue from the sale of dog licenses from responsible dog owners willing to use the dog park;
- It would develop a community partnership with residents of Minnow Lake to assist the City in the building and on-going maintenance of the dog park like it does with other community organizations.
- The City would have a community partner to assist in promoting and the importance of responsible dog ownership.
- It would improve and make an aesthetically pleasing use of a current eye sore for the community.

# Off-Leash Dog Park/Area Project Proposal

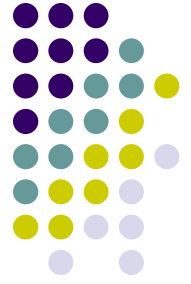
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### Advantages:

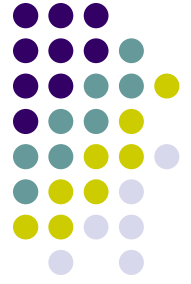
- No environmental concerns
- Not suitable for residential or commercial usage
- Current land doesn't back onto residential lots
- Would enhance local tourism
- It has clearly delineated barriers (by nature & man-made)
- Reduce the presence of dogs in other local parks





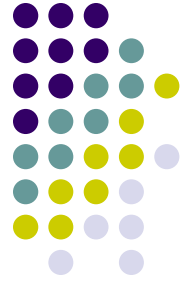
## 6. Municipal Benchmarking

- Dog Owners are looking to be treated fairly, equitably and respected as users of city parklands.
- Throughout Ontario and North America, Off-Leash facilities have generally taken on two forms – Parks or Areas.
- An Off-Leash Park is an entirely dedicated park in which dogs may be exercised off-leash.
- An Off-Leash Area is one to two hectare fenced areas within an existing park with multiple users, where dogs may be exercised off-leash.



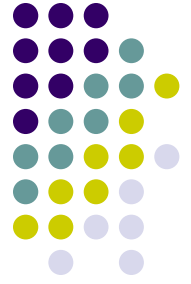
## 6. Municipal Benchmarking *(cont.)*

- Currently there are 125 Off-Leash dog facilities in existence in over 35 Ontario Municipalities
- In Toronto they have 35 facilities of various sizes within existing parks or dedicated off-leash dog park
- In Elliot Lake they have recently created their first fenced dog facility.
- In Hamilton they have 5 facilities located throughout their community that is fenced and dedicated exclusively for dogs.



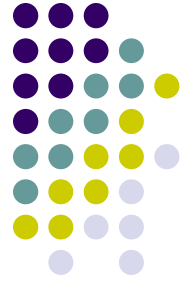
## 7. Relationship to the Master Plan

- For the D.O.G.S. Committee it was important that the Off-Leash Dog Park/Area exist within some framework.
- Both the *City of Greater Sudbury's Master Plan* and the *Parks, Open Space & Leisure Master Plan* identify clearly the importance of the issue and the need to develop an off-leash dog play area within the urban areas of the City.
- Furthermore, we believe that an Off-Leash Dog Park contributes and promotes the Parks, Open Space & Leisure Master *Plan* objective of promoting the well-being of citizens in a healthy, safe and stimulating community.
- What better way to promote a healthy, safe and stimulating community then by creating the city's first Off-Leash Dog park where by citizens can get outdoors, enjoy each others company, develop a sense of community while being in a safe environment of an fenced off-leash dog park.



## 8. Current By-Law & Legislation

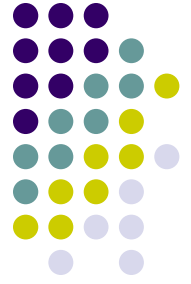
- At the present time, dogs and their owners are affected by the City of Greater Sudbury's By-law to *Regulate the Keeping of Animals and the Registration of Dogs and Cats* and the *Dog Owners' Liability Act*.
- If the Policy Committee supports the proposed initiative, it will need to review and amend its current by-law, so to permit the creation of off-leash parks/area with rules/regulations for users.
- Our Committee would welcome and opportunity to work with City Council and City Staff in the implementation of such policies.



## 9. Community Support

- **June 2007** – 138 (89%) Sudbury members of Facebook signed an on-line petition for the creation of a dog park.
- **February 2010** – 645 (71%) listeners of a Sudbury morning Radio show called in their support for the creation of a dog park (908 calls)
- **May 2010** – 79.5% of Minnow Lake survey respondents strongly agreed that the City of Greater Sudbury needs dog parks.

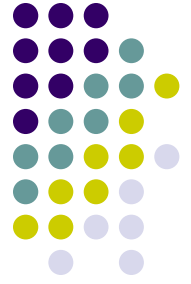




## 10. Minnow Lake Residents

- 70% of Minnow Lake Residents say that a dog park at the proposed location would improve the area and benefit the City
- 67.9% of residents reported that building a dog park and maintaining (66.7%) a dog park were appropriate uses of municipal funds
- 60.3% of dog owners that indicated that their dogs were not licensed, identified that there was 'No Service in Return'
- 71.1% of respondents indicated very/somewhat likely to license their dogs if required to use the off-leash dog area
- 90.5% of respondents indicated that waste bags and trash cans were the most important feature at a dog park



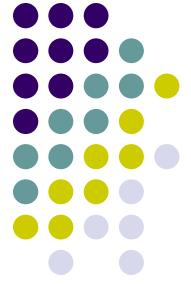


## 11. Conclusion

- We are appearing before the Policy Committee of the City of Greater Sudbury to request that the Committee consider and support the creation of an Off-Leash Dog Park/Area.
- Furthermore that the parcel of land located at the corner of Donna Drive and Second Avenue North in Ward 11, be considered the location for the proposed Off-Leash Dog Park/Area.

# Off-Leash Dog Park/Area Project Proposal

Policy Committee, City of Greater Sudbury



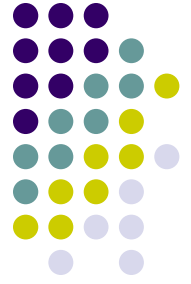
## Example Double Gated Entrances & Exits:





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### Example of different type of fencing:

#### Material for Fencing:

Galvanized chain link, Chicken wire, Polypropylene mesh, Deer mesh, Wooden



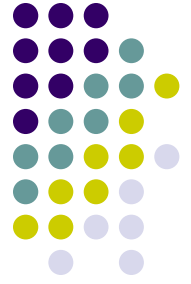
Above: Galvanized

Left: Deer mesh with wooden posts



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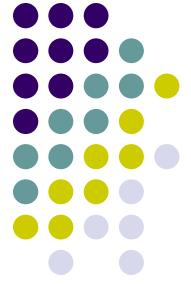


## Example of Agility Structures:



# Off-Leash Dog Park/Area Project Proposal

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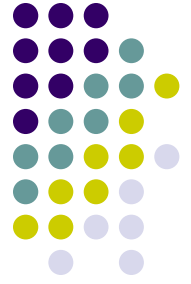


### Example of Rules & Disposal Containers:





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**Examples of other possible structures:**



Park Bench and Shade Structure



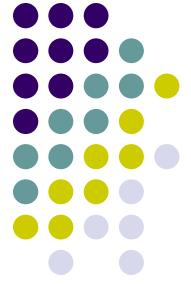
Water Fountain



Picnic Tables

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### Examples of other possible structures:



Donor bricks and water fountain (Fundraising)



Dog Bag Dispenser



Dog Park Bulletin Board