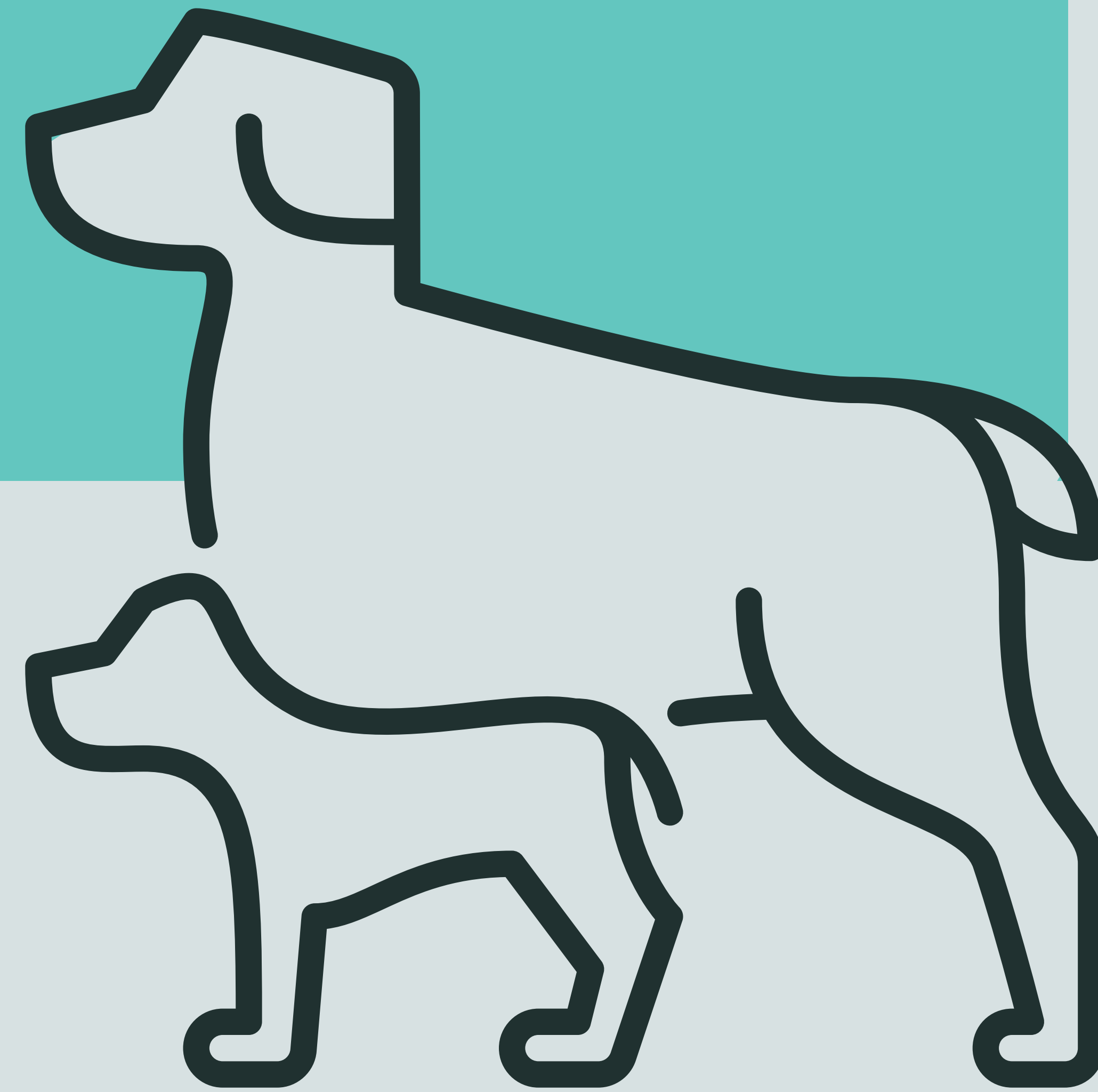


HEATHER PARK DOG OFF-LEASH AREA CONCEPT

ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT



Context



In 2017, we approved the People, Parks and Dogs Strategy to help deliver carefully designed parks for people with and without dogs. The strategy identified the importance of providing off-leash areas (OLAs) within a 15-minute walk of most residents. An OLA at Heather Park will increase access for dog off-leash activity in two priority neighbourhoods that are currently underserved. Heather Park is large enough that a small, fenced off-leash area could be added with minimal impact to other activity spaces in the park.

In our first round of engagement, we heard from you on topics including park use and proposed amenities. The options provided in the survey were based on guidelines from the People, Parks and Dogs Strategy and an analysis of existing site conditions. The results from the first public engagement have directly informed the design concept in this round of engagement. This round, we are seeking your input on the design concept to help us work toward a refined design that benefits all park users.



Park Access



Pedestrian
Sidewalks/
Park Trails



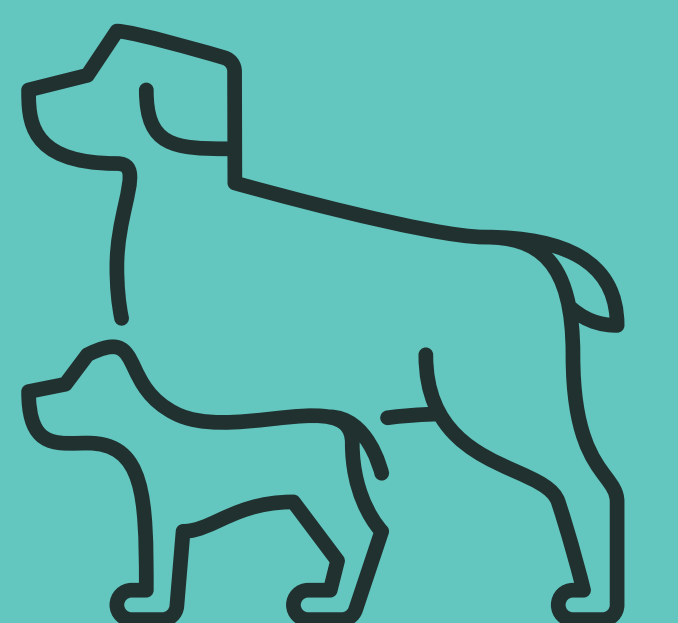
Bike
Informal bike
lane/slow street



Parking
On street
2 hour parking

HEATHER PARK DOG OFF-LEASH AREA CONCEPT

Round 2 Engagement: April 27 – May 18



What We Heard

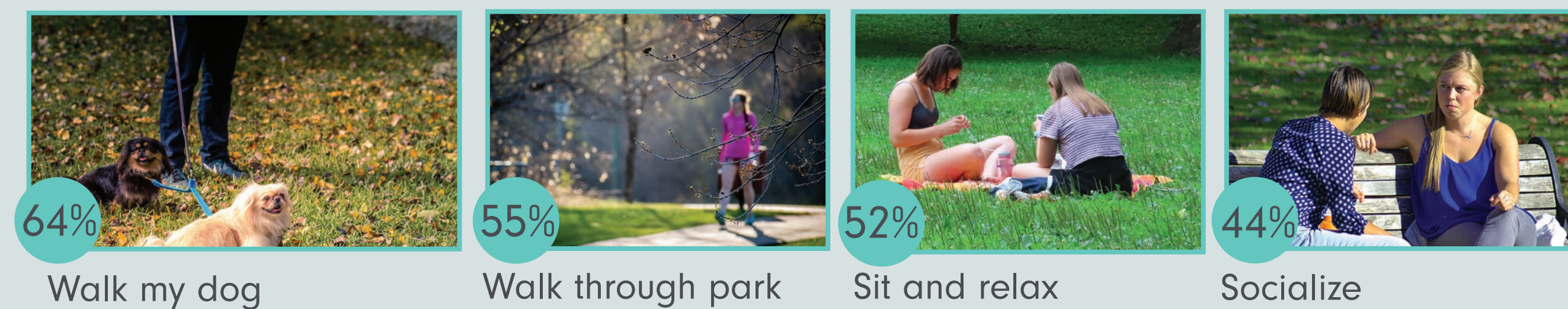
Round 1 Engagement



A Park Use

Heather Park is a popular destination for laid-back activities like walking, sitting, relaxing, and socializing. As well, daycare groups use the park for outdoor activities and playtime. Many respondents expressed concern about having enough space for the OLA without it interfering too much with these activities.

Top 4 activities enjoyed at the park:



C Agility Features

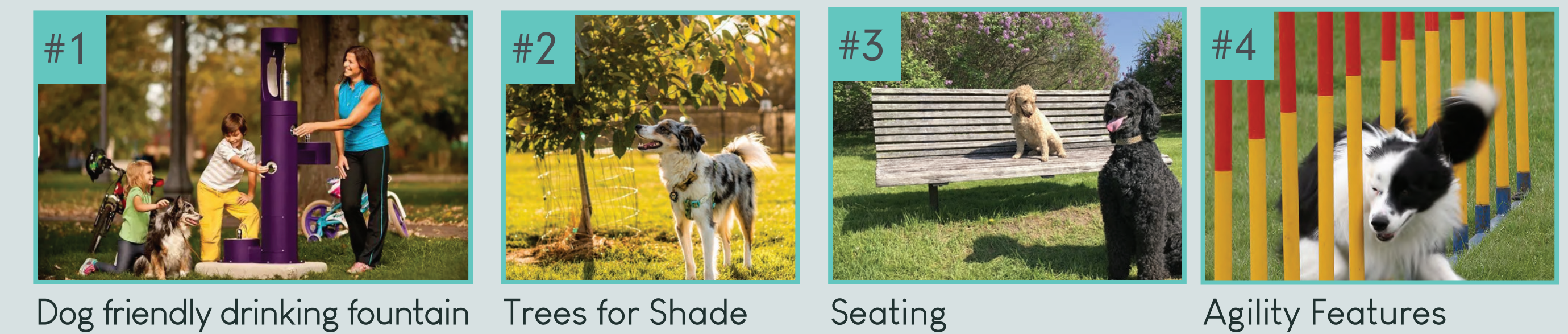
77% of dog-owning respondents were interested in having elements for enrichment and agility incorporated into the OLA. Of the agility features proposed, ramps, hurdles, and stepping stones were the 3 most preferred.



B Amenities

We heard that OLAs are important social spaces for both dogs and humans and that there is often a lack of amenities in these spaces.

From the first round of engagement, here is how survey respondents ranked some suggested amenities:



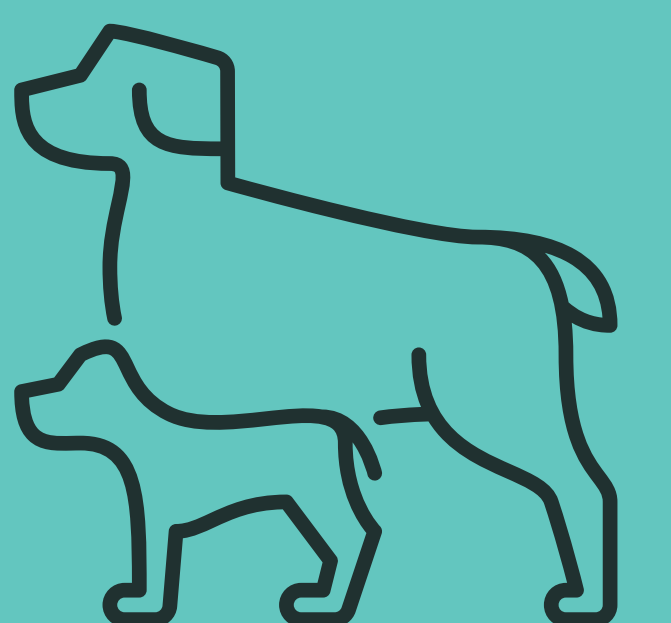
D Other Considerations

Caring for OLAs is an on-going task. The heavy concentration of dog activity, animal waste and leaf debris presents maintenance challenges for all types of surfacing. In our first round of engagement, we heard that most respondents preferred wood/cypress chips for surfacing.



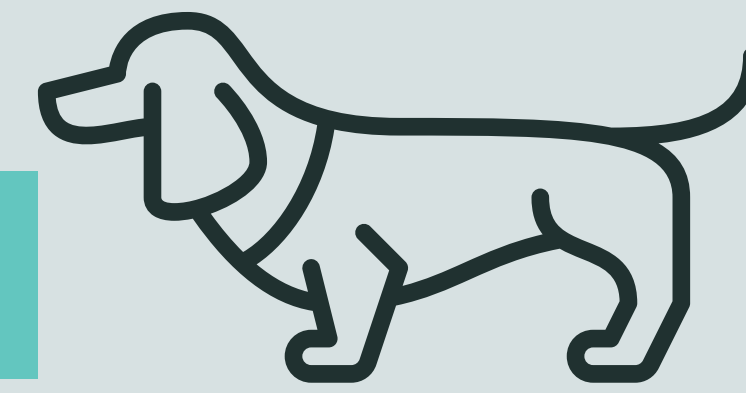
HEATHER PARK DOG OFF-LEASH AREA CONCEPT

Round 2 Engagement: April 27 – May 18



Design Concept

Diagram and Section



NOTES + THEMES

The OLA would be on the west side of the park, away from the playground, tennis courts, and horse chestnut trees which pose a health risk for dogs. The lawn remains a central feature of the park to accommodate a variety of activities. The OLA will be fenced to make the space safe and comfortable for all park users. See below to learn how feedback from the first round of engagement has shaped the design.

A Park Use

The size and location of the OLA ensures that much of the lawn remains open for other activities. By fencing the OLA, people and activities outside of this area are less likely to be disturbed by dogs, park users can clearly see the boundaries of the OLA, and dogs can exercise in a safe space.

B Amenities

We have included the most preferred amenities (water, shade, seating, and agility features) in the design of the OLA so that it is a more comfortable and functional space for all.

C Agility Features

By including agility features in the design, we've maximized the space by providing different exercise options for dogs. The top three preferred agility features have been included in the design of the OLA and have been located close to one another to keep the rest of the OLA open for running.

D Other Considerations

By locating the OLA away from the existing tree canopies along Willow Street, we can reduce the amount of leaf debris in the OLA. Leaf debris would degrade the surface and create an on-going maintenance challenge. We are working closely with our maintenance teams to identify a suitable surface while also keeping the public's preference in mind. To reduce the number and duration of maintenance shutdowns required, choosing a durable surface that our teams can maintain is very important.

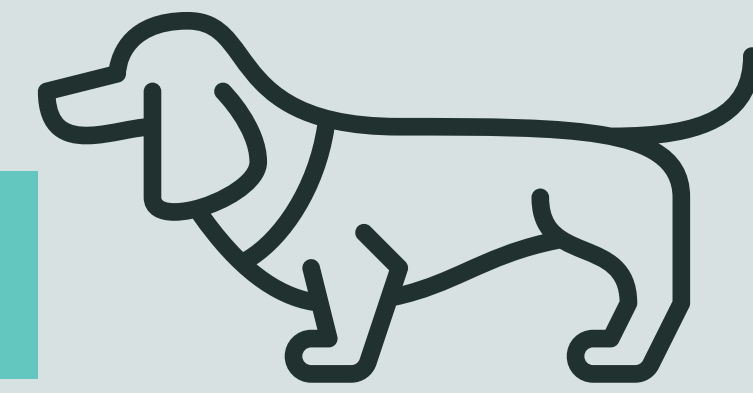
HEATHER PARK DOG OFF-LEASH AREA CONCEPT

Round 2 Engagement: April 27 – May 18



Design Concept

Plan and Programming



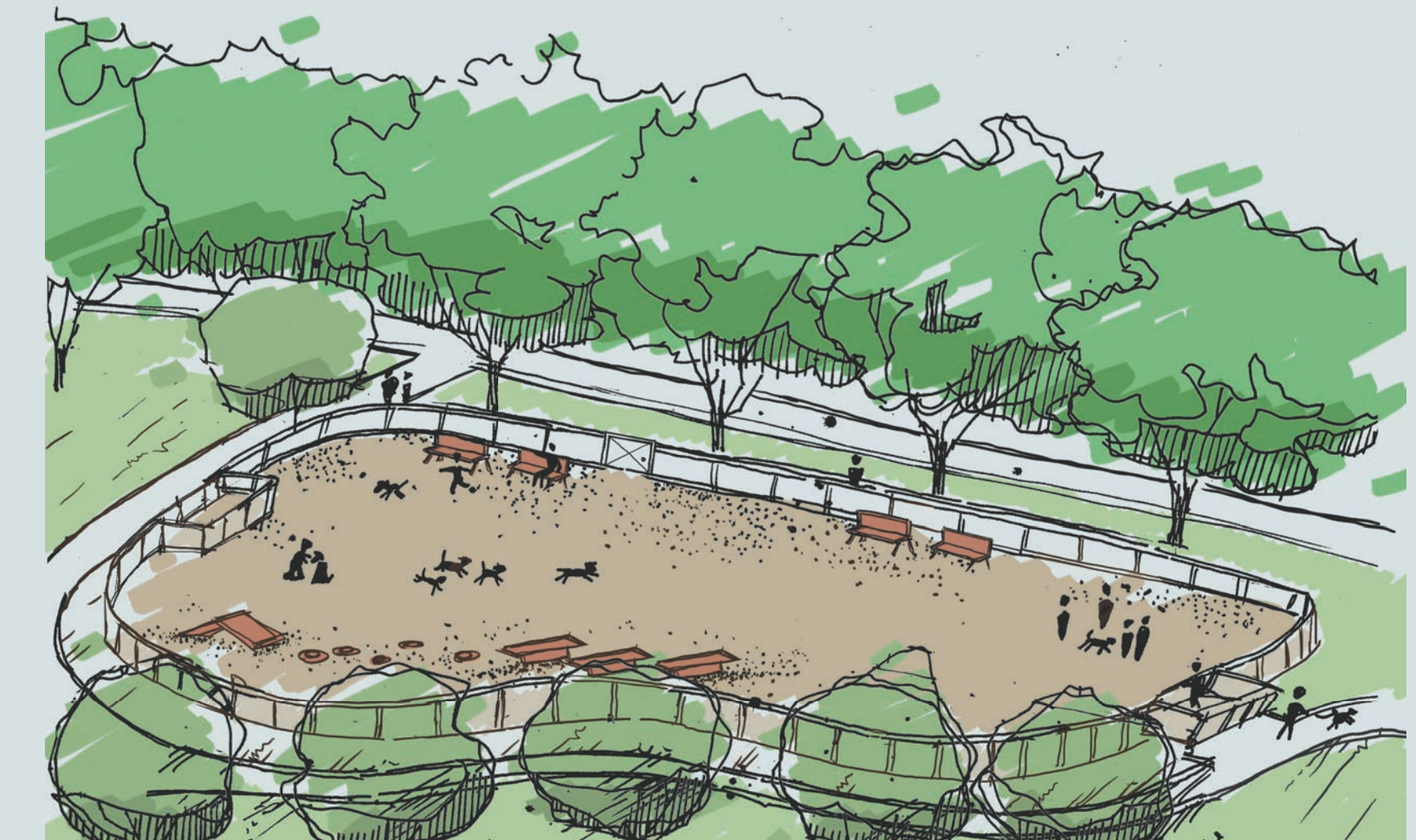
W 18th Ave



NOTES

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Drinking fountain | 6 Double entry gates |
| 2 Proposed shade trees | 7 Benches |
| 3 Hurdles | 8 Waste bins |
| 4 Stepping stones | 9 Maintenance Gate |
| 5 Ramp | |

View towards Willow St

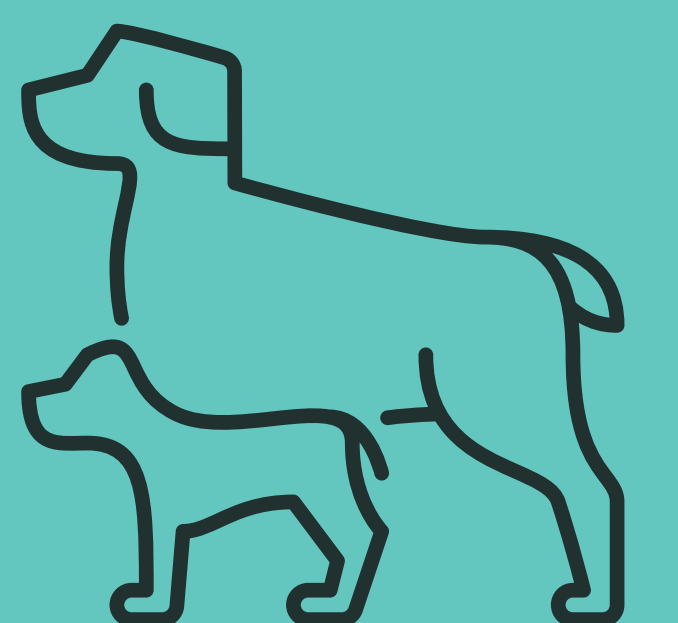


Section looking north on Willow St



HEATHER PARK DOG OFF-LEASH AREA CONCEPT

Round 2 Engagement: April 27 – May 18



Design Concept

Precedent Images



View of OLA looking south to W 19th Ave



Perimeter path



Double gate



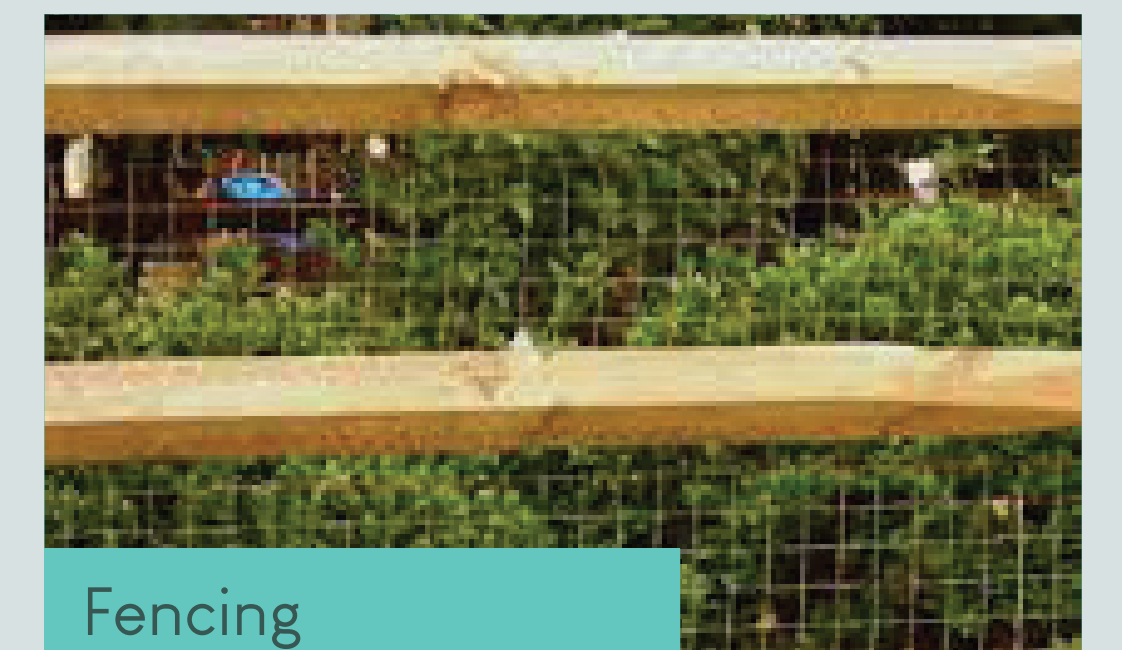
Drinking fountain



Shade trees



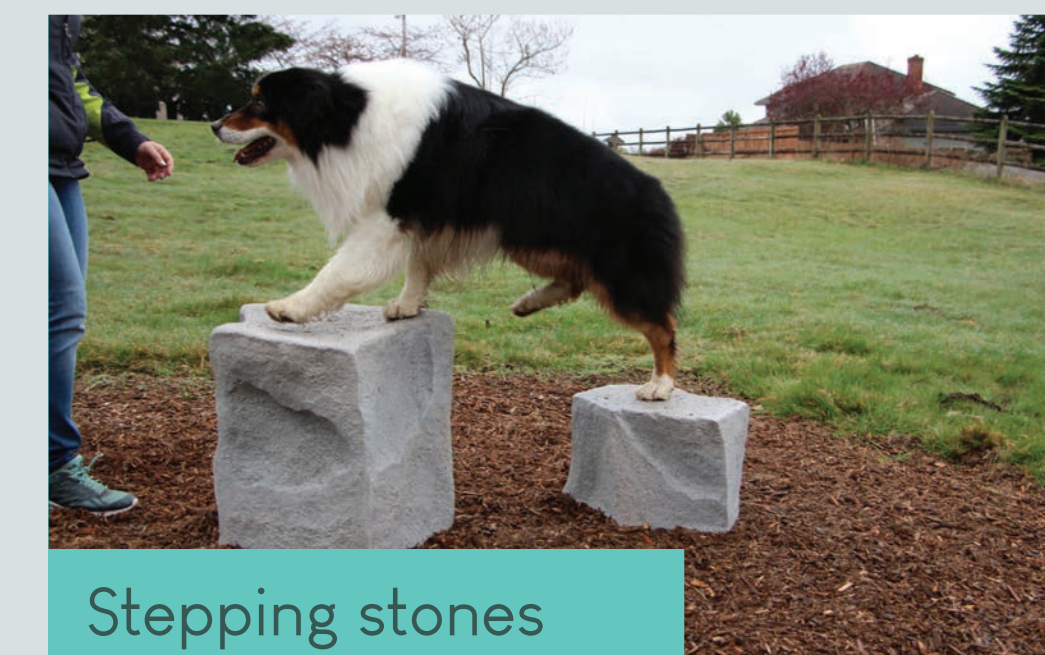
Benches



Fencing



Hurdles



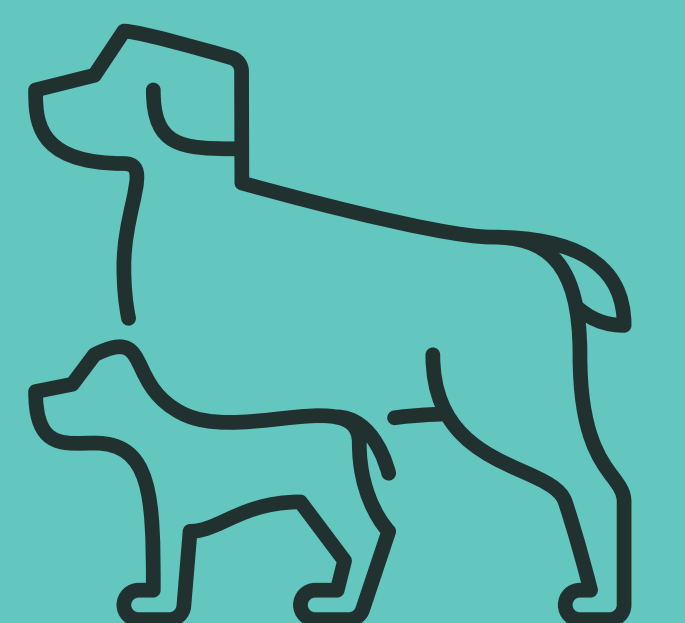
Stepping stones



Ramp

HEATHER PARK DOG OFF-LEASH AREA CONCEPT

Round 2 Engagement: April 27 – May 18



Next Steps



Your feedback will help us refine the design concept, which will be revealed in summer 2022. The recommended concept plan will then be presented to the Park Board for decision in the fall.



Let us know what you think of the proposed dog off-leash area in Heather Park. For future updates on this project and other off-leash area initiatives, sign up to be added to our mailing list:
shapeyourcity.ca/heather-park-ola

HEATHER PARK DOG OFF-LEASH AREA CONCEPT

Round 2 Engagement: April 27 – May 18

