

Yardstick Snippets February 2018 – Dog park provisions - just one of the many outputs of the OPA Yardstick project.

We all know that dogs in parks are a common cause of conflict and complaint, but there is a clear need to provide facilities for their use. The City of Lethbridge in Alberta surveyed its parks users in 2017 and identified some interesting outcomes from users.

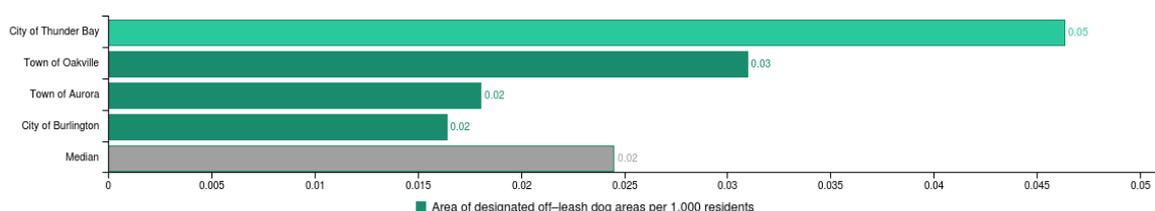
Of the 200 survey respondents, 35% reported that they were walking a dog while at the park, making this the most popular activity. 14 respondents made comments about dog related improvements they would like to see made. Most of these related to a need for better enforcement, better signage or a need for more off-leash dog parks in the city.

The Yardstick Parks Benchmarks project tells us that designated off-leash dog areas were provided by 82% of Canadian Yardstick member organisations in 2017. The highest rate of provision is in the City of St Albert in Alberta, where around 4500m² are provided for every 1000 residents. The highest rate in Ontario is in City of Thunder Bay which provides 500m² per 1000 residents. The median rate of provision for Ontario members is 240m² per 1000 residents, half the rate of provision of other Canadian members.

H. Canada

Area of designated off-leash dog areas per 1,000 residents

Year Selection: 2017



Lighting and water are provided at about a quarter of dog parks in Ontario, whereas 53% of other Canadian members provide water at their dog parks, and 20% provide lighting.

Do you know what your parks users think of your parks, or what is important to them? Do you know how well your parks perform in relation to other local authorities?

OPA would welcome your participation in Yardstick in 2018. Benchmarking will close at the end of February, but parks user surveys can be carried out all year round. For further information contact the Yardstick Project Manager Chris Rutherford (chris@yardstickglobal.org) or Shelley at the OPA office (shelley@ontarioparksassociation.ca). www.yardstickglobal.org