



DOGS OFF LEASH IN GREATER SUDBURY VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

2013-2014 STRATEGIC VISION

In June 2013, the Dogs Off Leash in Greater Sudbury Volunteer Association (DOGS) created a visioning document that listed the strategies, goals, priorities and a project list for the years 2013-2014. The document was developed as a result of research into dog park designs and best management practices in a variety of other dog parks in Canada.

The resulting two-year goals are listed below, along with a scorecard of the accomplishments for 2013 and the list of projects and events that are planned for 2014.

GOALS 2013-2014

1. Complete the physical configuration of the park, including parking facilities, enclosure surfaces, park amenities and signage.
2. Develop a Communications Strategy to communicate to all appropriate stakeholders. This will include the development of appropriate public relations materials.
3. Develop clear role definitions for responsibilities of City of Greater Sudbury staff and of park volunteers.
4. Develop a maintenance plan for the park.
5. Develop common practices and resources that can be used by the Minnow Lake Dog Park and all other future City dog parks.
6. Develop guidelines for community engagement, including required volunteer training.
7. Identify budget requirements for park operations in order to determine required yearly fundraising projects.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013

1. Physical configuration of park:
 - Lights were installed in both enclosures and in the parking lot courtesy of Councillor Terry Kett via the City's Healthy Community Initiative funds.
 - The City enlarged the parking lot and created 2 handicapped parking spaces.

- The City built a walkway that allows safe access from the parking lot to the access road leading to the large dog enclosure.
- DOGS volunteers planted over 350 seedlings donated by Vale.
- DOGS volunteers spread topsoil provided by the City and spread hardy grass seed donated by Ontario Hydro.
- DOGS volunteers spread crusher dust in the center of both enclosures where high traffic does not allow grass to grow; the costs were shared by the City and DOGS.
- DOGS volunteers reconfigured and mulched flower/shrub beds in various locations at the park; the shrubs were donated in 2012 by Canadian Tire South End and mulch donated in 2013 by Home Depot.
- DOGS volunteers planted mature deciduous trees donated by Home Depot in both enclosures.
- The DOGS Executive arranged for donations of 4 picnic tables, rakes, shovels, a weedeater and a wheelbarrel from Home Depot.
- The DOGS Executive arranged for a donation of supplies and manpower from Home Depot for shelters to be built in 2014.
- Many “clean-up days” were organized throughout the year and DOGS volunteers removed large rocks, bricks, cement slabs, and other obstructions in the enclosures to allow the City to cut the grass without damage to its equipment.
- DOGS volunteers maintain all flower/shrub beds at the park, assist with the orderly disposal of garbage, ensure that all dog waste is picked up in the enclosures, help to keep the enclosure entrances clear of snow and ice in the winter, and replenish the mutt mitts dispensers as needed.

2. Communications Strategy:

- The DOGS Executive developed a Communications Strategy and DOGS funded the following recommendations:
 - Etiquette Rules signs were designed and purchased for each enclosure.
 - A Tips flyer was designed; copies were printed by the City; DOGS purchased flyer dispensers and installed one at each enclosure gate entrance.
 - Bulletin boards were purchased and installed at each enclosure gate entrance.
 - A new website and facebook page were created.
 - Marketing, donations and sponsorship guidelines are in development.

3. Role definitions

- Guiding principles for volunteer responsibilities are being developed in coordination with Cindy Dent, Manager of Recreation.
 - 4. Maintenance Plan
 - The DOGS Executive drafted a Maintenance Plan which has been forwarded to Cindy Dent for review and final approval.
 - 5. Common practices
 - All resources were developed with the intent to share successful practices and implementations with other dog park associations. This includes the design of the new website, which will allow additional dog parks to have a presence on the site.
 - 6. Guidelines for Community Engagement
 - To be developed in 2014.
 - 7. Budget requirements
 - Budget requirements for maintenance of the park were confirmed with the Parks department. Budgets for events and enhancement projects identified for 2014 are currently being developed.
-

2014 PRIORITIES AND PROJECTS

1. Address identified accessibility issues at the park.
 2. Build shelters in partnership with Home Depot.
 3. Plant additional coniferous trees to provide shelter from the wind, especially in the winter.
 4. Spread additional grass seed to enhance the remaining denuded areas in the enclosures.
 5. Install storage at the park for equipment and supplies.
 6. Install dog playground equipment in both enclosures.
 7. Install water facilities in the enclosures (the City has confirmed that water will be run to the park as part of the Second Avenue reconstruction project).
 8. Partner with the Minnow Lake CAN to build a community garden on the site.
 9. Install recycling facilities and washroom facilities.
 10. Install directional signage at the new entrance once it is built.
 11. Explore possibilities for dog waste composting.
-

2014 EVENTS

1. A spring Open House, scheduled for June 28, 2014
2. A fundraising initiative in fall 2014