



***MEDIA RELEASE***

**Thursday, July 30, 2020**

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

## **Sunnidale Park dog off-leash park to reopen August 1**

(Barrie, ON) The City of Barrie's Dog Off-Leash Recreation area (DOLRA) located at Sunnidale Park is set to reopen this Saturday, after being closed last September for construction and regeneration projects.

Last fall, construction of two permanent bridges was completed to allow access across Kidd's Creek. The bridges were built to address winter slip and fall concerns in the area and to ensure that City maintenance vehicles can access Sunnidale Park to do work when needed.

Following the bridge construction, the Sunnidale DOLRA remained closed to allow for regeneration and restoration of the site. The popularity of the site has taken a toll on the soil, and the closure allowed vegetation in the dog park to regenerate. The work completed includes the following:

- replacement of 900 feet of fence to make the park more secure
- woodchips added to all trails
- addition of seven new benches and two picnic tables
- removal of dead trees
- creation of a new lookout area with seating

The Sunnidale Park Master Plan recognized the need for the periodic closure of the Sunnidale DOLRA, and rotating closures of the other DOLRA within the City. This was done so that sites can have a restoration and repair period, which is vital to the health of these park areas for optimal future use.

DOLRAs are areas set aside for residents to exercise and socialize their dogs off-leash in a protected environment, without being in contravention of municipal by-laws. The City of Barrie currently has two DOLRAs—one in Sunnidale Park (227 Sunnidale Rd.) and the Bayview Drive DOLRA, located at 555 Bayview Dr.

We remind residents to enjoy the city's DOLRAs with their canine companions while following the guidelines, including picking up after pets and disposing of the waste properly, and ensuring that your dog is wearing current [registration tags](#) and has an up-to-date rabies vaccination. Safety precautions for COVID-19 should also be followed while using the DOLRA—don't gather in groups, stay two metres apart and avoid touching surfaces.

Visit [barrie.ca/DOLRA](http://barrie.ca/DOLRA) for more information on Barrie's off-leash dog parks.

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