

# Committee of the Whole Report, Sept 3, 2024

- Highland Gate Trail: Presented to Council as a viable option for consideration but was ultimately put aside due to public opposition in 2019.
- Staff recently met with a resident who suggested an off-leash trail area within the new parkland.
- It was suggested to staff that the residents adjacent to this area were supportive but would require further investigation and outreach by staff to ensure this was a viable option.

# Best Practices

- 50 to 100 metre setback from residential properties
- Should not be located in environmentally sensitive areas
- Ground surface should be durable and easily maintained
- Room for sufficient off-road parking
- Close to arterial roads. Proper planning to prevent creation of traffic bottlenecks













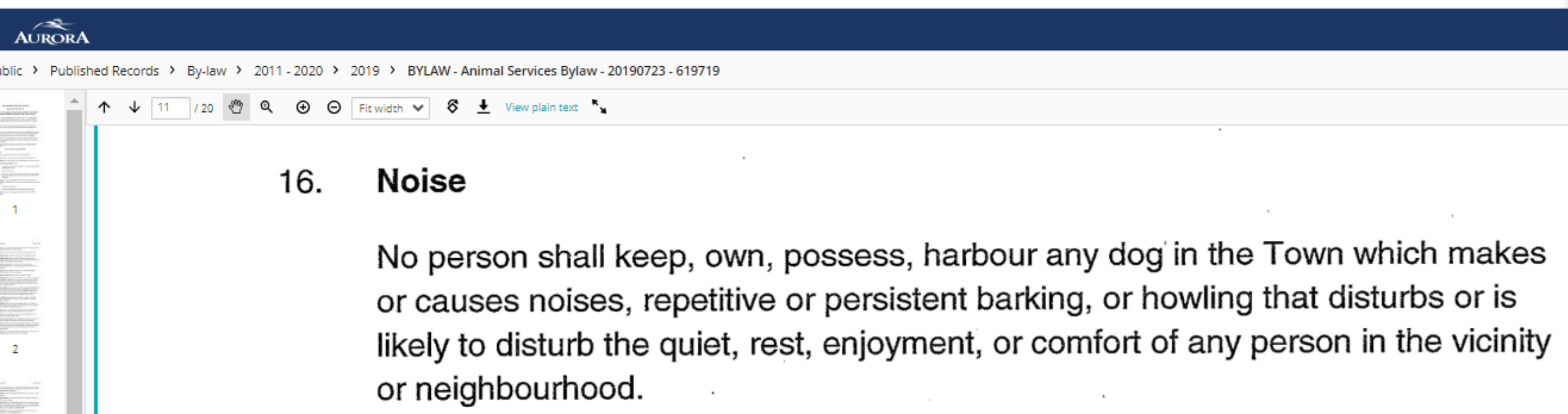
# Noise

- The typical decibel range of a dog bark is between 60 dB and 110 dB, the loudest recorded bark at 113.1 dB, although the majority of dog barks fall between 80 dB and 90 dB.
- [https://www.adcogov.org/sites/default/files/27%202017%20ACAS\\_Sound%20Study.pdf](https://www.adcogov.org/sites/default/files/27%202017%20ACAS_Sound%20Study.pdf)

Sound	Decibels
Dog Barking	80-100 dB
Normal Conversation	60 dB
Human Shouting	80-90 dB
Wolf Howl	90-115 dB
Lawnmower	80-85 dB
Motorcycle	95 dB
Whistle	104-116 dB
Music Concert	100 dB



# Town of Aurora By-law: Dog Noise



The screenshot shows the Town of Aurora website with a dark blue header. The breadcrumb trail is: Public > Published Records > By-law > 2011 - 2020 > 2019 > BYLAW - Animal Services Bylaw - 20190723 - 619719. The page number is 11 / 20. The main content area displays section 16, titled "Noise". The text of the bylaw states: "No person shall keep, own, possess, harbour any dog in the Town which makes or causes noises, repetitive or persistent barking, or howling that disturbs or is likely to disturb the quiet, rest, enjoyment, or comfort of any person in the vicinity or neighbourhood."

**16. Noise**

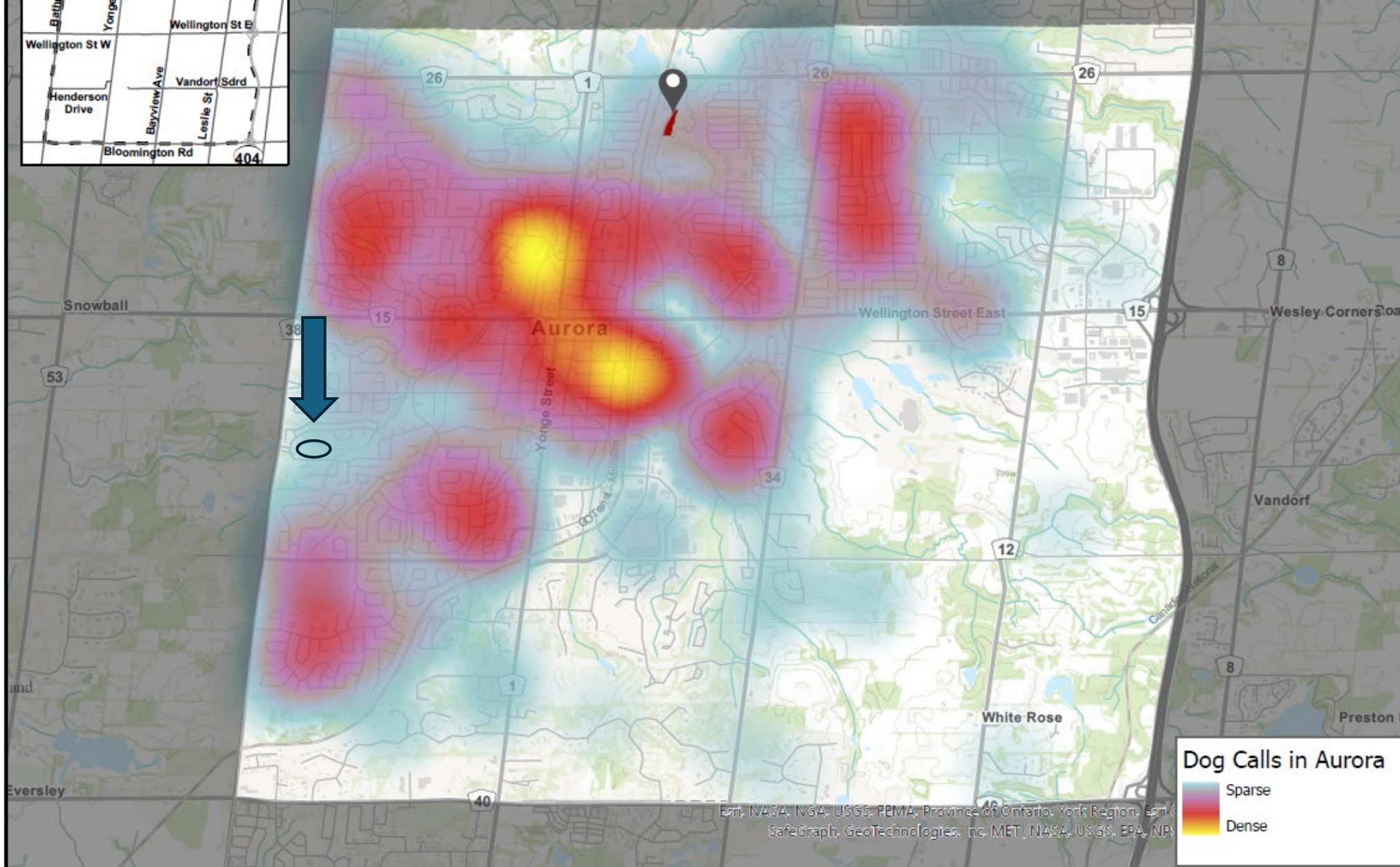
No person shall keep, own, possess, harbour any dog in the Town which makes or causes noises, repetitive or persistent barking, or howling that disturbs or is likely to disturb the quiet, rest, enjoyment, or comfort of any person in the vicinity or neighbourhood.

# Wildlife Corridor

- Coyote
- Fox
- Rabbit
- Turtle







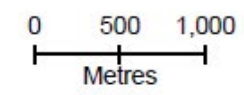
**Dog Calls in Aurora**



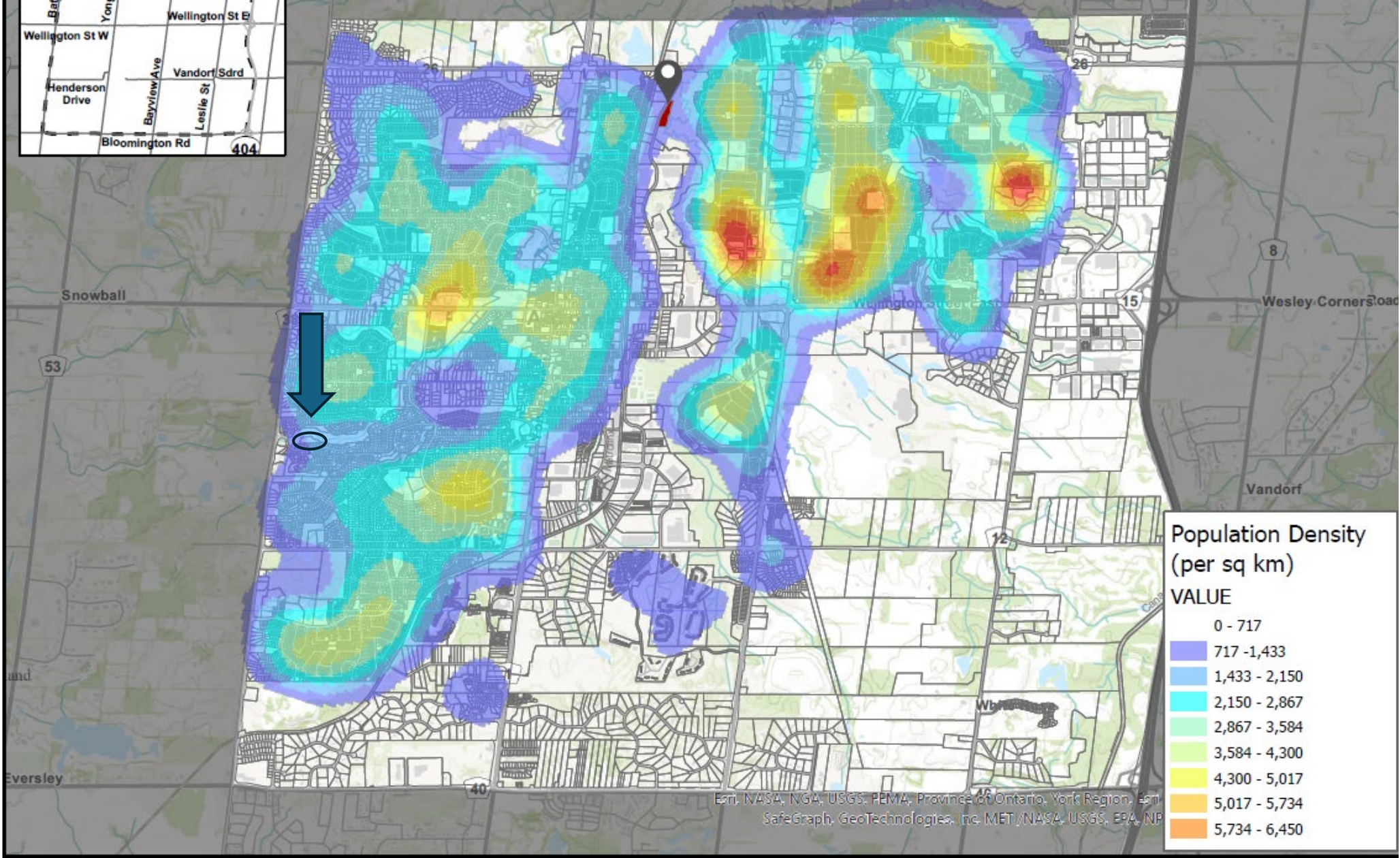
**Heat Map - Dog Calls in Aurora**  
**Leash Free Areas in Aurora**

Appendix A  
Town of Aurora

-  Existing Leash Free Area (Canine Commons)
-  Existing Leash Free Area Boundary







## Population Density Leash Free Areas in Aurora

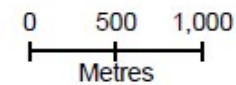
Appendix B  
Town of Aurora



Existing Leash Free Area (Canine Commons)



Existing Leash Free Area Boundary





# Best Practices

- No off-street parking available. On-street at entrances are largely on curves.
- The surface cannot be easily maintained without removing 3-4 hectares of wildflowers, grasses, and trees that have finally begun to grow.
- The park has only been complete for a year. This is the only aspect of the Highland Gate development that is complete 8 years later.
- The park is beautiful as it is and is well-used as it is, including by dog walkers. Installing a dog park/dog run would fundamentally alter the passive and naturalized green space it was intended to be.
- Homeowners already have the traffic and noise of a well-attended park. Adding even more people and dogs to the mix would significantly affect the noise level.

# Park Opening June 11, 2023

as reported by Brock Weir in NewmarketToday

- “The reality is Aurorans care so deeply about our natural spaces, so I am absolutely thrilled that we have been able to add so many new acres of public parkland to our community. This park really is stunning; from the new trails to the playgrounds to the new vegetation that is being planted, I know Aurorans are going to love using this new outdoor space.
- I’m also really happy we were able to work with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, the Federal Department of Fisheries and the Ministry of Natural Resources to reinstate Tannery Creek to its original natural condition and develop a healthier ecosystem.
- “What makes me incredibly proud is... the town working together with our partners in the development community and in collaboration with residents to create outdoor spaces that enhance the quality of life for everyone.”
- Mayor Mrakas, Ron Weese, Rachel Gilliland, Wendy Gaertner