

**From:** [Clerks@vaughan.ca](mailto:Clerks@vaughan.ca)  
**To:** [Bellisario, Adelina](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FW: [External] Off-Leash Dog Park - North Maple Regional Park (NMRP)  
**Date:** May-28-21 1:34:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Off-Leash Dog Park Poster.pdf](#)  
[Off-Leash Dog Park - North Maple Regional Park.pdf](#)  
[Map - Zoom Out.png](#)  
[Map - Zoom In.png](#)

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**From:** Habib, Michael <Michael.Habib@vaughan.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2021 1:33 PM  
**To:** Clerks@vaughan.ca  
**Cc:** Foy, Julie <Julie.Foy@vaughan.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: FW: [External] Off-Leash Dog Park - North Maple Regional Park (NMRP)

Hello,

We received this email related to the upcoming Off Leash Dog Area Strategy item to be presented at COW Working Session June 2, 2021 at 9:30 am.

Please include as communication as requested by the resident below.

# Local Off-Leash Dog Park (North Maple Regional Park)



 [Gloria Beresford-Last](#) started this petition to City of Vaughan and 2 others

This petition has been organized on behalf of the many dog owners from the Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association and the surrounding communities in the City of Vaughan.

Based on information shared at the City of Vaughan's meetings that were held back in 2019 focusing on the development of **Off-Leash Dog Parks** throughout the city of Vaughan, we are aware that plans to develop an Off-Leash Dog Park at **North Maple Regional Park (NMRP)** are in the works. That being said, we understand that such a Dog Park may not be constructed for another 8 to 10 years as other plans for development in the park are taking priority.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we can only assume that many of those plans have been set back due to ongoing social restrictions and the uncertainty that the future currently holds. With such plans being set back or even put on hold, we think that this serves as an opportune time to place more focus, time, and resources on the development of the Off- Leash Dog Park at NMRP.

Thanks,  
Michael

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**From:** Gloria Beresford-Last <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 1:48 AM

**To:** Amato, Christina <[Christina.Amato@vaughan.ca](mailto:Christina.Amato@vaughan.ca)>

**Cc:** Robert A Kenedy <[rkenedy@yorku.ca](mailto:rkenedy@yorku.ca)>; Tavares, Martin <[Martin.Tavares@vaughan.ca](mailto:Martin.Tavares@vaughan.ca)>; Habib, Michael <[Michael.Habib@vaughan.ca](mailto:Michael.Habib@vaughan.ca)>; Bronsema, Jamie <[Jamie.Bronsema@vaughan.ca](mailto:Jamie.Bronsema@vaughan.ca)>; Kyte, Johanna <[Johanna.Kyte@vaughan.ca](mailto:Johanna.Kyte@vaughan.ca)>; Ciampa, Gina <[Gina.Ciampa@vaughan.ca](mailto:Gina.Ciampa@vaughan.ca)>; Heidi Last <[REDACTED]>; lafrate, Marilyn <[Marilyn.lafrate@vaughan.ca](mailto:Marilyn.lafrate@vaughan.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: FW: [External] Off-Leash Dog Park - North Maple Regional Park (NMRP)

Hello Christina,

187 have signed. Let's get to 200!




First name

Last name

Email

Maple, L6A  
Canada

Display my name and comment on this petition

 [Sign this petition](#)

By signing, you accept Change.org's [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), and agree to receive occasional emails about campaigns on Change.org. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Thank you for your patience in awaiting my reply. I had intended to reply to your email more promptly, however, due to unforeseen work commitments, I was unable to.

Firstly, in regards to the Local Off-Leash Dog Park Area Strategy, my mother, Heidi Last (who is CCed to this email), and I attended two different workshops at Vaughan City Hall in mid- to late-2019. We also took the time to provide our feedback via the online survey. During these workshops, my mother and I requested from the facilitators that we be kept up to date regarding the unfolding of these plans. Unfortunately, we never received any further information or feedback, including any information pertaining to the top seven sites you speak of above.

In regards to the upcoming report that will be presented to Vaughan Council on June 2, 2021, my mother and I would like to request our involvement in and presence at this presentation. Your email states that the "presentation will highlight feedback heard from residents." We would like our petition on Change.org (<https://www.change.org/NMRPDogPark>) and its pertaining data (i.e. description, supplementary information, number of signatures, etc.) to be included as **a part of this report to Vaughan Council on June 2, 2021**. It is PARAMOUNT that the information and data in our petition be SERIOUSLY considered in this report. With well over 100 signatures, this petition CLEARLY demonstrates STRONG AND CURRENT support and commitment by our community and the residents of the Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association (MRRRA).

To aid in the prompt advancement of plans for and development of an Off-Leash Dog Park at North Maple Regional Park (NMRP), we are VERY interested in developing a Stewardship Program through the MRRRA. I am willing to take charge in the development and implementation of this Stewardship Program. If the prompt development of an Off-Leash Dog Park at NMRP is absolutely and completely out of the question at this point in time, then I am willing to take charge in the development and implementation of this Stewardship Program for an Off-Leash Dog Park on TRCA lands at one of the sites I proposed in my initial letter to Councilor Iafrate (I have attached a copy of the map and documents that I sent to Councilor Iafrate to this email for your reference).

In essence, we speak on behalf of the community of MRRRA when we say that we request the development of an Off-Leash Dog Park at NMRP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, NOT in the distant future.

We look forward to hearing back from you regarding the above.

Kindest Regards,

—Gloria Beresford-Last

On Tue, May 18, 2021 at 4:39 PM Amato, Christina <[Christina.Amato@vaughan.ca](mailto:Christina.Amato@vaughan.ca)> wrote:

Good Afternoon Gloria and thank you for your inquiry on off-leash dog parks in the City. The City is currently working on finalizing a [Local Off-Leash Dog Area Strategy](#) that started in September 2019. Throughout the study, the City collected feedback from residents through various engagement activities including workshops, pop-ups, surveys

as well as direct feedback from residents. The City reviewed several locations and narrowed these down to the top seven (7) sites based on site-specific features that best matched site selection criteria and what residents said was important to them. A report to Council with future off-leash dog area recommendations will be presented on June 2, 2021. The presentation will highlight feedback heard from residents. One location that has been selected for a local off-leash dog site is **Mackenzie Glen District Park**, located in Ward 1 at 220 Cranston Park Ave. A key requirement to advance any proposed off-leash dog area is to maintain **local off-leash dog area stewards**, adopting sites in their community. If City Council approves the recommended sites, the next step is to develop the Stewardship Program, begin the detailed designs and commence implementation of the off-leash dog program over the next several years. Through this program and if additional sites that meet the recommended site selection criteria for local off-leash dog areas are identified with a strong community support and commitment, these sites will be reviewed by staff for capital and operating costs for future budget approval processes. With regards to the North Maple Regional Park, a primary off-leash park had been identified (Northeast Quadrant of the City) based on the review and update of the Active Together Master Plan, with further review during future phases of the regional park development. [Active Together Master Plan](#)

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Martin Tavares, Manager of Parks and Open Space Planning.

For more information please visit [Vaughan.ca/dogpark](http://Vaughan.ca/dogpark)

Thank you,

**Christina Amato**  
**Citizen Service Representative of Parks Infrastructure Planning & Development**  
905-303-2069, ext. 8061 | [christina.amato@vaughan.ca](mailto:christina.amato@vaughan.ca)

**City of Vaughan | Infrastructure Development**  
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr., Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1  
[vaughan.ca](http://vaughan.ca)



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**From:** lafrate, Marilyn <[Marilyn.lafrate@vaughan.ca](mailto:Marilyn.lafrate@vaughan.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2021 10:13 AM  
**To:** Gloria Beresford-Last <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Robert A Kenedy <[rkenedy@yorku.ca](mailto:rkenedy@yorku.ca)>; Heidi Last <[REDACTED]>; Ciampa, Gina <[Gina.Ciampa@vaughan.ca](mailto:Gina.Ciampa@vaughan.ca)>; Bronsema, Jamie <[Jamie.Bronsema@vaughan.ca](mailto:Jamie.Bronsema@vaughan.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: [External] Off-Leash Dog Park - North Maple Regional Park (NMRP)

Thank you Gloria for your email and letter expressing a desire for an off-leash dog park. To bring you up to date on the North Maple Regional Park (NMRP), funding for the groundworks

for Phase 2 was approved last year to move the earth on 130 acres (balance of the parcel of land that is not currently developed), construct the necessary infrastructure (sewer and water) to service the lands for the future facility installations.

Starting later this year, the majority of the park will be fenced off and heavy equipment will be moving in to begin the work.

This work will take approx 18 months to complete barring any unforeseen problems.

Therefore, the current park will not be available for any new use.

Your letter included a map of suggested locations for the off-leash dog park in particular Nevada Park.

I would appreciate a little more information regarding that location ie are you looking at being able to use the actual park or lands down the hill?

We have had ongoing complaints from the residents around that park about people coming into the park that don't belong there, traffic, parking issues and debris left behind.

Another noted location that you have suggested is located on TRCA lands.

Any use for a dog park here would be totally up to TRCA as they govern those lands.

The City also needs to determine the costs for fencing a temporary dog park and would need to be considered in the 2022 budget by Council.

Finally, there is a proposal for a pilot project that seems to be acceptable to the local community at Mackenzie Glen Park which is located just south of Teston Rd along Cranston Park.

Realistically, this has a far better chance of proceeding faster than the TRCA lands but that doesn't mean we won't ask TRCA.

Finally, an off-leash dog park already exists in the eastern part of Vaughan and Council was clear in wanting the next one to be located in the western part of Vaughan. However, the pilot project at Mackenzie Glen Park is of a different scale and thus more likely to proceed.

I am taking the liberty of forwarding your email to our Parks Development staff who will review your request and respond accordingly.

Kind regards,  
Marilyn Iafrate

Sent from my iPad

On May 5, 2021, at 3:11 AM, Gloria Beresford-Last <[REDACTED]>  
wrote:

Hello Councillor Iafrate,

Please find attached to this email a letter regarding the **URGENT** need for an **Off-Leash Dog Park in North Maple Regional Park (NMRP)**.

We have also included a link below to an ongoing petition on Change.org that has been created and distributed throughout our

community in support of this letter:

<http://chnng.it/vhyD5Wf9>

Please know that I have CC'ed the president of Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association, Robert Kenedy, to this email.

Thank you for your time, attention, and immediate action regarding this matter.

Looking forward to your reply.

Kindest Regards,

—Gloria Beresford-Last & Heidi Last

Glacier Ct, Maple, [REDACTED]

<Off-Leash Dog Park - North Maple Regional Park.pdf>

This e-mail, including any attachment(s), may be confidential and is intended solely for the attention and information of the named addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient or have received this message in error, please notify me immediately by return e-mail and permanently delete the original transmission from your computer, including any attachment(s). Any unauthorized distribution, disclosure or copying of this message and attachment(s) by anyone other than the recipient is strictly prohibited.

# Would you like to see a local **Off-Leash Dog Park?**

The City of Vaughan is considering plans for a local Off-Leash Dog Park either at **North Maple Regional Park (NMRP)** or on **Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)** lands.

We need YOUR help to set these plans in motion and expedite the process!

For more information and to pledge your support, please scan the QR Code below:



Or visit the following link:

<https://www.change.org/NMRPDogPark>

## Off-Leash Dog Park – North Maple Regional Park (NMRP)

Hello Councillor Iafrate,

April 26, 2021

We are reaching out to you today on behalf of many dog owners from the Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association and the surrounding communities.

Based on information shared at the City of Vaughan's meetings that our family attended back in 2019 focusing on the development of Off-Leash Dog Parks throughout the city of Vaughan, we are aware that plans to develop an Off-Leash Dog Park at North Maple Regional Park are in the works. That being said, it is to our understanding (based on a previous conversation with you) that such a Dog Park may not be constructed for another 8 to 10 years as other plans for development in the park are taking priority.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we can only assume that many of those plans have been set back due to ongoing social restrictions and the uncertainty that the future currently holds. With such plans being set back or even put on hold, we think that this serves as an opportune time to place more focus, time, and resources on the development of the Off-Leash Dog Park at NMRP.

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Humane Canada has reported a 30% to 70% increase in pet adoptions and fostering in Canada (this statistic does not account for the increase in pet purchases, only fostering and adoptions) (Pruden). Given this recent boom in pet ownership, it is fair to assume that there is/will also be a MAJOR increase in the need/demand for an Off-Leash Dog Park, especially one that is within close proximity to downtown Maple.

People need to get out with their pets, and while walks are, of course, a healthy and safe way of achieving exercise, proper socialization of pets is also of the utmost importance to their development (Tudor). Not only is proper socialization essential to both the physical and mental health of a pet, but it is also paramount to human physical activity and mental health as well (Tudor). An Off-Leash Dog Park is a great way for both pets and their owners to socialize in a healthy and safe manner while allowing people to maintain proper physical distancing protocols.

As such, we kindly urge the City of Vaughan to reconsider building the NMRP Off-Leash Dog Park AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Taking into account the above-mentioned points, NOW is the time that we need this Off-Leash Dog Park more than ever!

While the establishment of an Off-Leash Dog Park in NMRP would by far be preferential in terms of location (it is a very central point in Maple), if, for whatever reason, it is simply not possible to achieve within a reasonable timeframe, we have attached a map at the bottom



of this letter indicating other possible sites/locations (indicated in red) where an Off-Leash Dog Park can be built in the interim on Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) lands. Please keep in mind that it is very important that any potential site for an Off-Leash Dog Park be easy to find and easily accessible. This includes being within a short walking distance to a parking lot (NMRP) or on-street parking where visitors to the Off-Leash Dog Park can park.

In addition, perhaps acquiring sponsorships could help to expedite the development and construction of this very-much-needed Off-Leash Dog Park (preferably in NMRP).

Please note that along with this letter, we will be putting together a petition which will be signed by fellow pet owners who are in support of this letter. We will also be forwarding a copy of this letter and petition to our Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association president, Robert Kenedy.

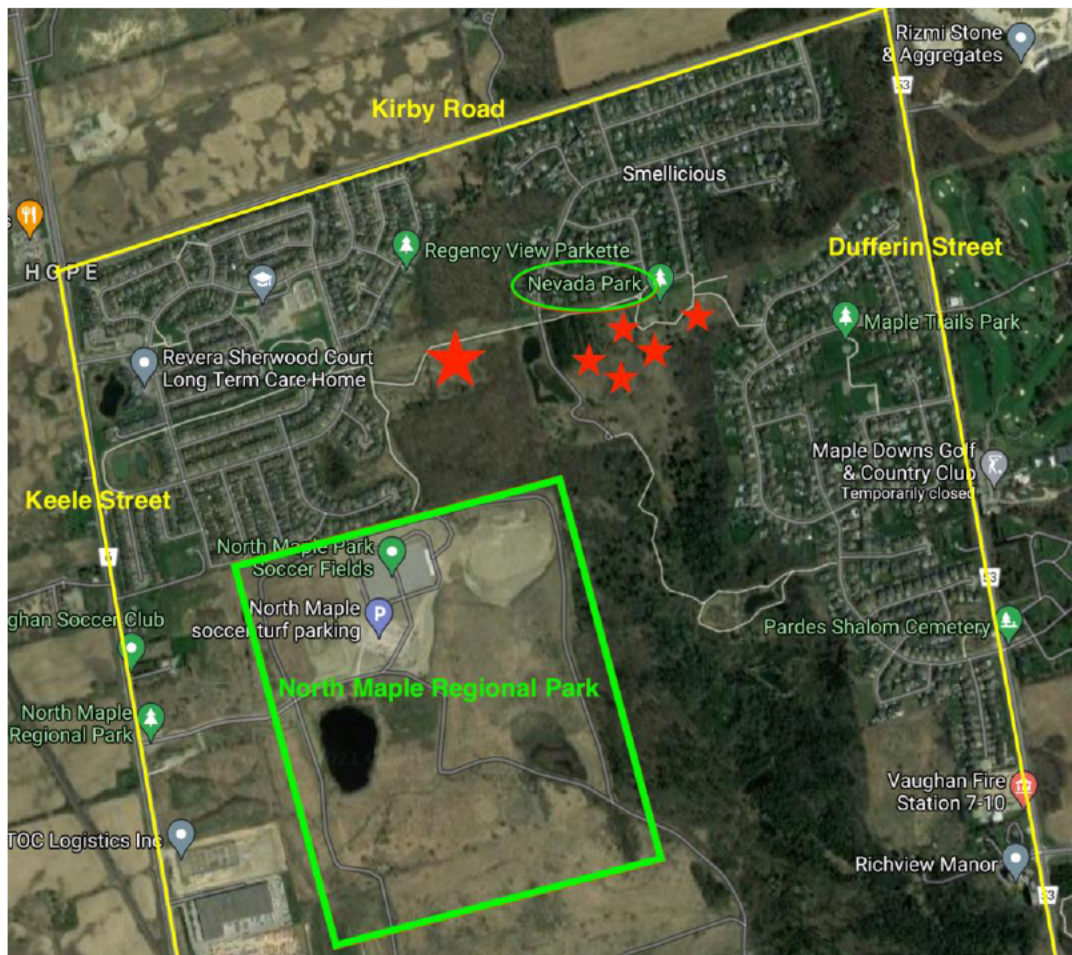
On behalf of our fellow residents of the Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association, the surrounding communities, AND our pets, we thank you for taking the time to read this, for your consideration, and for your immediate action.

kindest Regards,

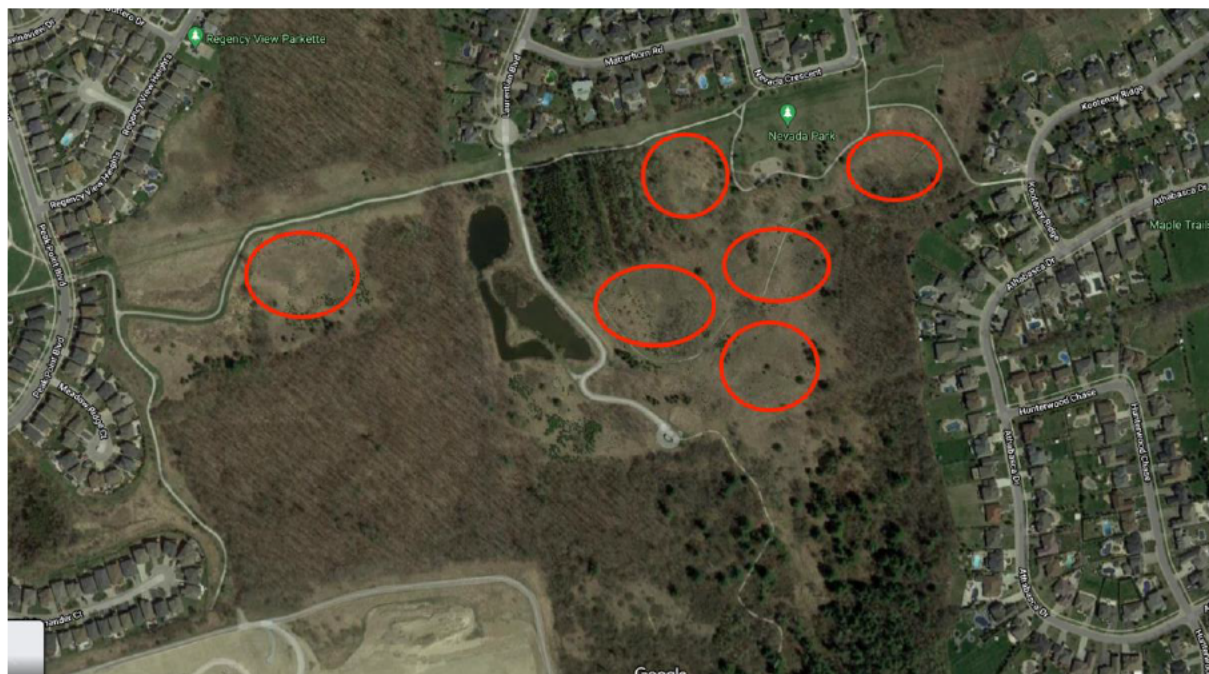
—The residents of the  
Mackenzie Ridge  
Ratepayers Association and  
surrounding communities  
AND our pets.



## Alternative Sites/Locations for an Off-Leash Dog Park



Zoomed Out  
← ← ←



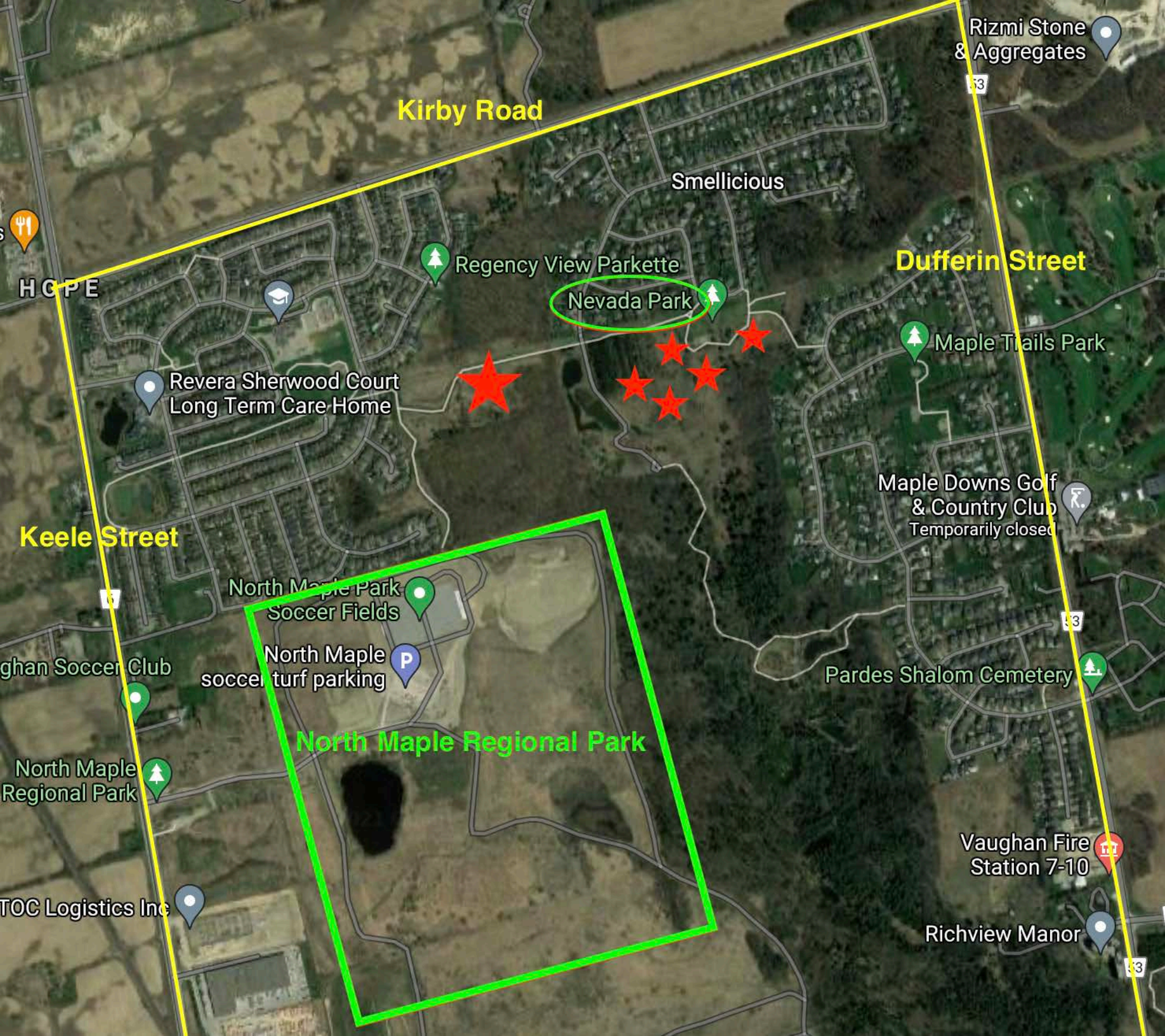
Zoomed In  
→ → →

## Sources

Evans, Pete. "Pandemic Isolation Sees Booming Demand for Pets — And for Business That Cater to Them." *CBC*, 27 December 2020, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/pandemic-pet-business-1.5850051>  
Accessed 27 April 2021.

Pruden, Jana G. "Dogs in High Demand as Canadians Crave Companionship During COVID-19 Lockdown." *The Globe and Mail*, 17 May 2020, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-dogs-in-high-demand-as-canadians-crave-companionship-during-covid-1/>  
Accessed 27 April 2021.

Tudor, Ken. "4 Reasons Why Socialization is Important for Your Dog's Health." *PetMD*, 13 August 2014, <https://www.petmd.com/blogs/thedailyvet/ken-tudor/2014/august/4-reasons-why-socialization-important-your-dogs-health-31938>  
Accessed 27 April 2021.



Rizmi Stone & Aggregates

Kirby Road

Smellicious

Dufferin Street

HOPE

Regency View Parkette  
Nevada Park

Maple Trails Park

Revera Sherwood Court  
Long Term Care Home

Maple Downs Golf & Country Club  
Temporarily closed

Keele Street

North Maple Park  
Soccer Fields

North Maple  
soccer turf parking

Pardes Shalom Cemetery

ghan Soccer Club

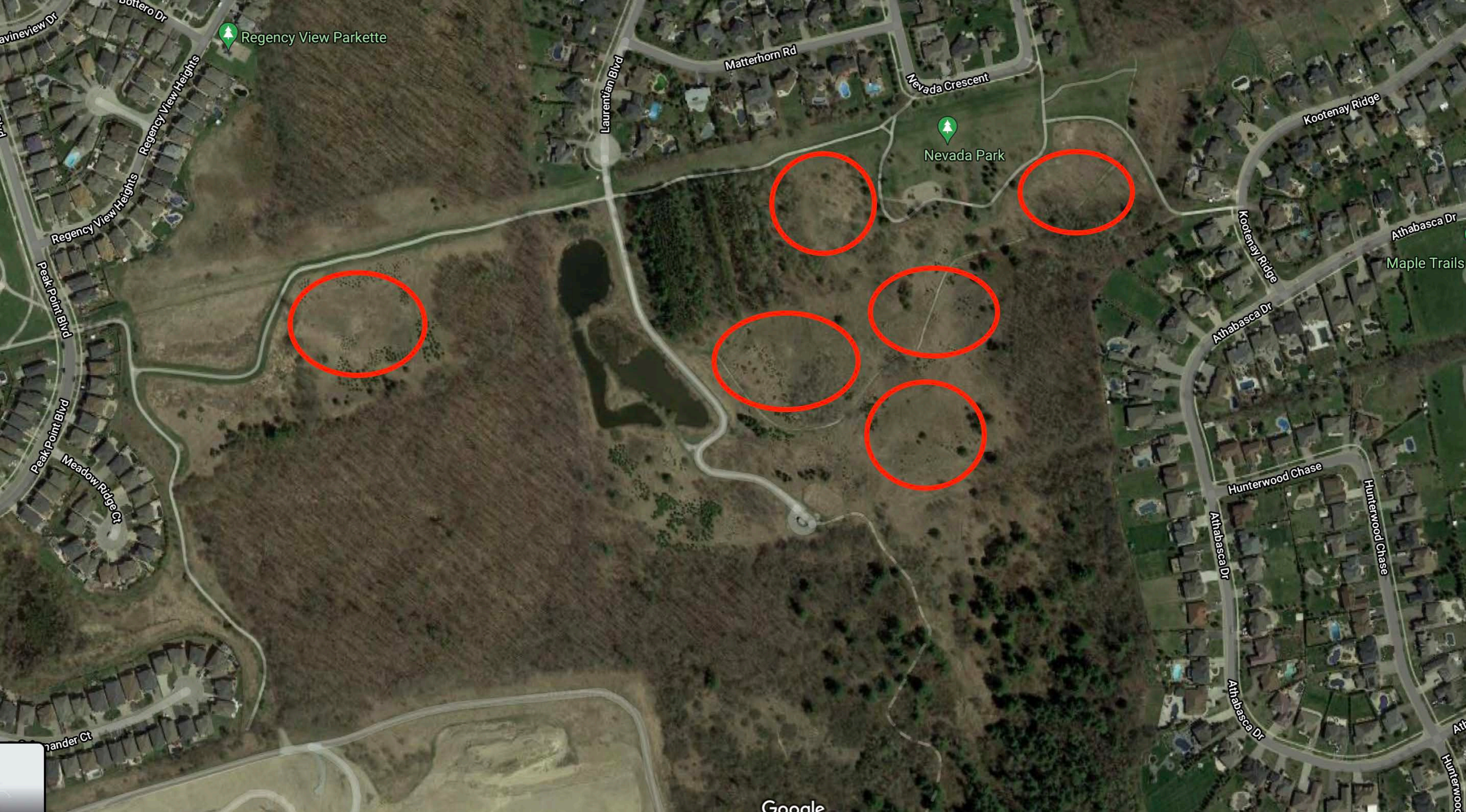
North Maple Regional Park

North Maple  
Regional Park

Vaughan Fire  
Station 7-10

TOC Logistics Inc

Richview Manor



Regency View Parkette

Nevada Park

Google

avineview Dr  
Bottero Dr  
Matterhorn Rd  
Nevada Crescent  
Laurentian Blvd  
Regency View Heights  
Peak Point Blvd  
Meadow Ridge Ct  
Kootenay Ridge  
Athabasca Dr  
Maple Trails  
Hunterwood Chase  
Athabasca Dr