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**18 RESULTS OF THE DOG OFF LEASH AREA TRIAL**

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**Report prepared by:** Open Space Planner**Report dated:** 25 February 2011**File No.:** GRP/11/4/3/3 - BP11/127

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**Report Summary**

This report provides a summary and analysis of the results of the six month dog off leash trial of 16 parks across the City of Ryde. The Trial commenced on October 27 2010 concluded on 27 April 2011. The purpose of this report is to present the community response to the Trial and to offer appropriate recommendations on how to provide for off leash dog exercising areas for the City of Ryde that are consistent with the results of the Trial.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- (a) That the exercising of dogs off leash is prohibited at the following parks:
  - Carara Reserve, West Ryde
  - Waterloo Park, Marsfield
  - Cudal Reserve, Ryde
  - Putney Park, Putney
  - Santa Rosa Park, Ryde
  - Forrester Park, Eastwood
  - Fontenoy Park, Macquarie Park
- (b) That future budget allocations are provided for enclosed dog off leash areas ELS Hall Park, Denistone Park and Olympic Park. In the intervening time, these parks are to be managed as dog off leash areas.
- (c) That North Ryde Common and Kotara Park are managed as free running off leash areas and a future budget allocation provided for additional infrastructure.
- (d) That the following sportsgrounds offer opportunities for off leash dog exercising when not used for organised sport:
  - Peel Park, Gladesville
  - Brush Farm Park, Eastwood
  - Darvall Park, Denistone
  - Pidding Park, Ryde
- (e) That the community is notified of Council's decision and all parks under the Trial are signposted in accordance with Council decision.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Report on the provision of recreation spaces for Dogs, July 2010
- 2 Submission from the Gladesville Ravens
- 3 Submission from Community Reps on the Companion Animals Committee regarding Trial of Leash free Areas, Judy Willis
- 4 Bushland Management Working Group Submission for Off Leash Areas - March 2011

**ITEM 18 (continued)**

Report Prepared By:

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Report Approved By:

**Simone Schwarz**  
**Group Manager - Community Life**

**ITEM 18 (continued)****Background**

There has been ongoing planning and presentations on the provision of areas where the Ryde Community can exercise their dogs off leash. This has included:

- Council resolution to create the of leash area at Blenheim Park (1 November 2005),
- Council resolution to trial Meadowbank Park as a timed leash free area for one year (11 November 2005) and a subsequent decision to make the leash free area permanent (2 May 2006), and
- Council reports have suggested possible locations that have included Darvall Park, West Denistone Park, Glades Bay Reserve, Gannan Park, McCauley Park, Forrester Park and ELS Hall Park (various reports from 2001 – 2010).
- Council resolution regarding the status of the Meadowbank Park off leash area remaining unchanged, 6 October 2009
- A request by Councillors for a review of what other local government areas provide for dog recreation and further consideration for the provision of these facilities within the City of Ryde (Works and Community, 2 February 2010).
  
- In response to the last dot point, a *The Study on the Provision of Recreation Areas for Dogs 2010* (Refer to **ATTACHMENT 1**). was completed and presented to the Committee of the Whole, 20 July 2011. At this meeting, Council resolved the following:

*That Council trial allowing off leash areas within suitable times in the following suitable parks in the City of Ryde:*

- *Kotara Park, North Ryde*
- *Carara Park, Ryde*
- *North Ryde Common, North Ryde*
- *Cudal Reserve, Ryde*
- *Waterloo Park, Marsfield*
- *Denistone Park, Denistone East*
- *ELS Hall Park, North Ryde*
- *Olympic Park, Ryde*
- *Putney Park, Putney*
- *Brush Park, Eastwood*
- *Darvall Park, Denistone West*
- *Forrester Park, Eastwood*
- *Santa Rosa Park, North Ryde*
- *Fontenoy Park, Macquarie Park*
- *Pidding Park, Ryde*
- *Peel Park, Gladesville*

Subsequent to this, at the Council Meeting, 27 July 2010, further debate on the provision of off leash areas was conducted and the following resolution was made by Council:

*That within 6 months of the commencement of the trial off-leash areas for dogs, approved by Council on 20 July 2010, the General Manager submit a report to Council considering:*

**ITEM 18 (continued)**

- (a) *the outcome of the trial; and if satisfactory*
- (b) *the possibility of extending off-leash areas to all parks in Ryde other than specific parks which are nominated by exception.*
- (c) *That dog owners in the City of Ryde receive educational material that provides information on their responsibilities as a dog owner*

This report provides the detail on Trial was that conducted in accordance with the above Resolution and the subsequent response from the Community and responds to (a) and (b) of the above resolution. Point (c) will be actioned by Council's Regulatory Team as a part of the Companion Animals Management Plan.

**Report**

In accordance with the Council resolutions from 20 July and 27 July, 2010, a trial of off leash areas was conducted. A summary of the Trial is provided below.

Date Commenced: Wednesday 27 October 2010

Schedule End: Wednesday 27 April 2011

*Park's subject to the dog off leash Trial:*

- Carara Reserve - Goodwin Street, Ryde
- Kotara Park - Abuklea Road, Marsfield
- Waterloo Park - Vimiera Road, Marsfield
- ELS Hall Park - Kent Road, North Ryde
- North Ryde Common - Twin Road, North Ryde
- Denistone Park - Terry Road, Denistone
- Olympic Park - Potts Street, Ryde
- Cudal Reserve - Henry Street, Ryde
- Putney Park - Pellisier Road, Putney

*Sportsground subject to the dog off leash Trial* (Please note, the following sportsgrounds were trialled as dog off leash areas when organised sport was not occurring.)

- Peel Park - Morrison Road, Gladesville
- Santa Rose Park - Quarry Road, North Ryde
- Forrester Park - Vimiera Road, Eastwood
- Brush Farm Park - Lawson Street, Eastwood
- Fontenoy Park - Fontenoy Road, Macquarie Park
- Darvall Park - Chatham Road, Denistone
- Pidding Park - Cressy Road, Ryde

Please note: Blenheim Park and Meadowbank Park continued to provide areas off leash dog activity and were not a part of the Trial.

*Onsite park management of the off leash area*

- Each park in the Trial was line marked to show where dogs were permitted to run off leash. In all areas outside of the line marked areas, dogs were not permitted to be off a leash. (It should be noted that some of the parks were trialled as free running off leash areas when *The Study on the Provision of Recreation Areas for Dogs 2010* recommended enclosed off leash areas.)



**ITEM 18 (continued)**

- Signs were erected in all parks under the Trial, with details of how the community could comment on the trial.
- Dog waste bins were placed at all parks and sportsgrounds in the Trial.
- Dog waste bag dispensers were also provided at each trial location

*The community was notified in the following ways:*

- Over 5,500 letters were sent to all homes within 150m – 200m of each park in the Trial, informing residents of the Trial and how they can have their say.
- Each letter was accompanied by a colour aerial photograph of the parks that identified the trial off leash area in red hatching.
- Council’s web page provide locations, maps and information for each of the off leash trial areas.

*How the community had their say about the Trial*

A number of options were provided to the community to provide their feedback to Council.

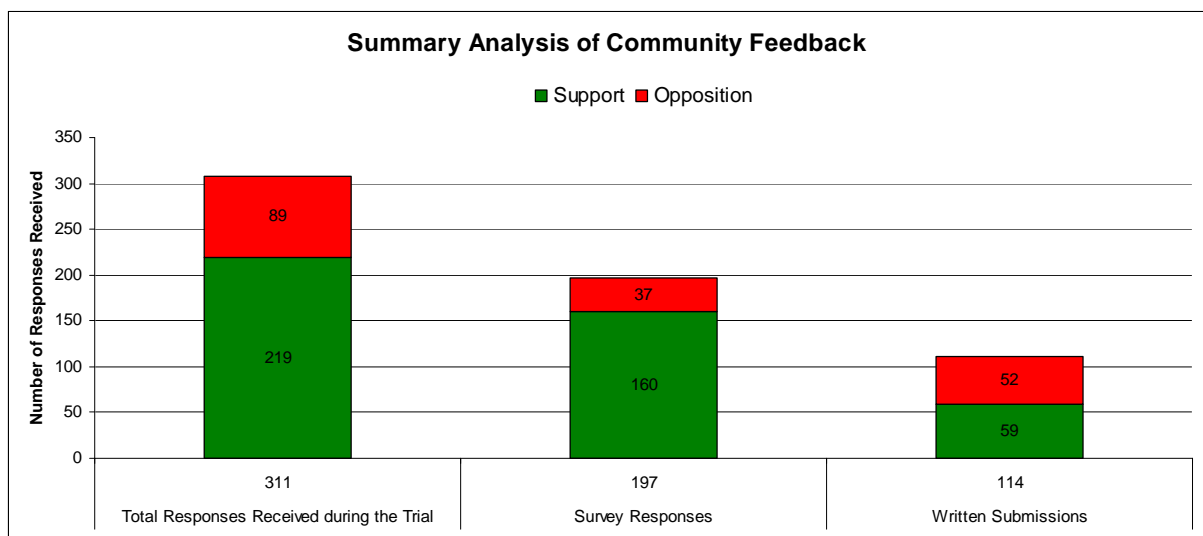
- Complete an online submission at [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au)
- Write a submission and send via email or post to the City of Ryde.

**Results of the Trial**

At the conclusion of the Trial the City of Ryde had received a total of 312 responses to the Trial. This included

- 114 written submissions
- 1 petition with 17 signatures supporting the use of Darvall Park as off leash area,
- 197 completed surveys.

The results of the community feedback is summarised on Table 1.



**Table 1: Analysis of the Community Feedback**

Further analysis was conducted on the results of each park and whether the community was in support or opposed the use of individual parks as an off leash exercise area for dogs. The results shown on Table 2 combine both the written submissions received from the community and the results from the online survey.

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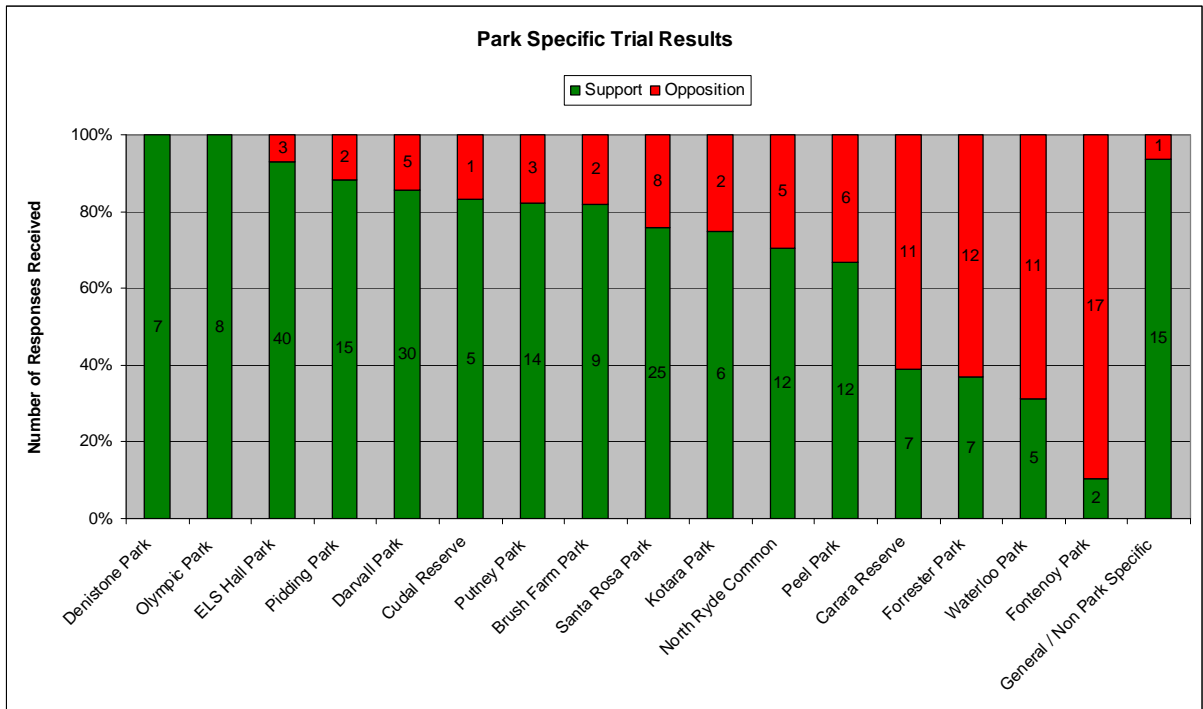
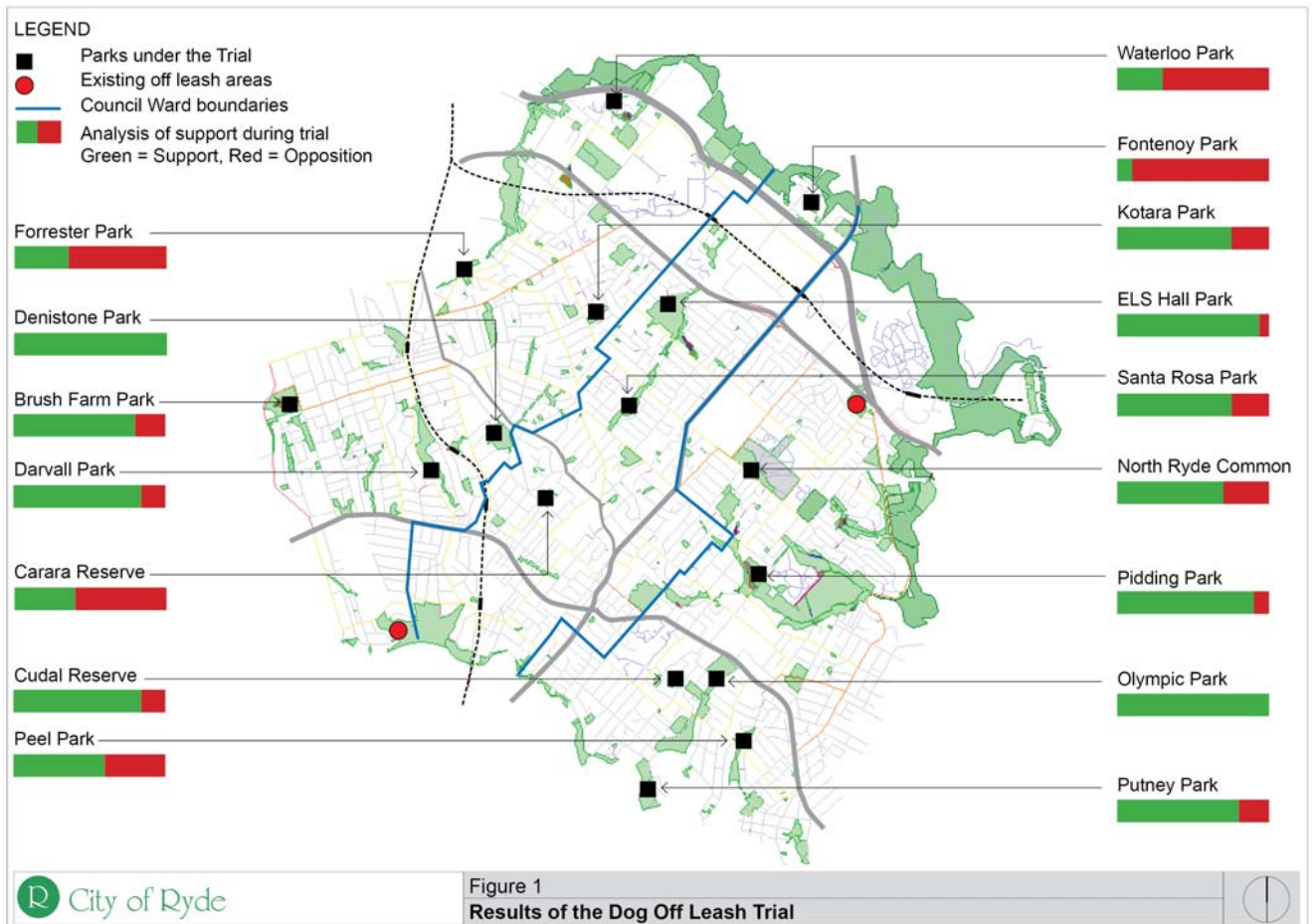


Table 2: Park specific analysis of the Community Feedback

Please also refer to Figure 1 for further analysis of the results.



**ITEM 18 (continued)**

In addition to the community being asked whether they supported the use of a park as a dog off leash recreation area, the community was also invited to provide Council with general feedback on the provision of off leash areas. Three common themes were established by the community during the Trial. These themes and issues have been taken into consideration in the determination of the recommendations contained in this report.

*a. Lack of Community consultation prior to the commencement of the Trial*

Prior to and at the commencement of the Trial in October 2010, Council received many submissions that expressed anger with the lack of community consultation prior to the commencement of the Trial.

An assessment of these community submissions indicated that many people who were angered about the process, had both opposing and or supportive views of the use of the parks in the Trial a place for off leash dog exercising.

*b. Lack of supporting infrastructure for the off leash areas*

Complaints were received from the community about the lack of supporting infrastructure that was provided during the trial, such as fencing, seating, shade and water access. These complaints were received from supporters and opposers of the parks use as an off leash exercise area for dogs.

The most frequent request received was for the use of fencing to enclose the off leash areas (in a similar way to the off leash area provided at Blenheim Park). From the opponents' point of view, the fencing would allow them to continue to use the park without fear or concern of unwanted interaction with dogs. From the supporters' perspective, fencing was requested as it would provide a safer environment for their dogs to run.

Other arguments for the use of fencing included:

- Safety
- Protection of bushland areas and waterways
- To remove conflict with other park activities, such as playgrounds
- Control of dogs off leash into a specific area within a Park

The opposing view to the use of fencing is the creation of a section of the park that will only be used for one purpose.

As outlined in the *Study on the Provision of Recreation Areas for Dogs* (July 2010) it is considered appropriate to fence some spaces to provide a variety of recreation areas across the City. These sites were Olympic Park, Denistone Park, Putney Park, Waterloo Park and ELS Hall Park.

A review of the submissions and feedback Council received expressed the clear message that any future permanent off leash areas should be established with suitable seating, shade provision and access to water.

**ITEM 18 (continued)***c. Control of dogs and community safety*

The community raised concerns over the control of dogs when they are off leash. Community education is an important part of ensuring the safe management of off leash areas and the City of Ryde should continue to provide education on dog owner responsibilities when taking their dogs out into the public domain.

**Park Specific Comments and Recommendations**

The following table provides a summary of the community feedback received on each park in the Trial. Included is a recommendation that includes not only community feedback and the results of the Trial, but also the desire to have city wide approach to the provision of dog of leash areas that responds to geography and a providing choice for the community of recreation area types.

<u>Summary of the Community's Feedback</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
<b>Carara Reserve - Goodwin Street, Ryde</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The local community has been very outspoken about the off leash trial in Carara Reserve with the majority of the community opposed to the use of the Reserve as an off leash area.</li> <li>▪ The bin within the Reserve was moved twice during the <i>Trial</i> due to complaints from the local residents.</li> </ul>	<p><i>At the conclusion of the Trial, <b>Carara Reserve ceases to be a dog off leash area.</b> Temporary signs are to be erected in the Reserve to alert the community that dogs off leash are no longer permitted and notification sent to the local community. The temporary signs are to be removed after 6 months.</i></p>
<b>Kotara Park - Abuklea Road, Marsfield</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The community showed a moderate to high level of support for off leash use of the Park.</li> <li>▪ There were many requests for additional infrastructure within the Park to improve the amenity for people with their dogs.</li> <li>▪ Concerns were raised about the need for fencing and need for additional dog waste bins</li> </ul>	<p><i>At the conclusion of the Trial, <b>Kotara Park to be formalised as a free running off leash area.</b> Additional seating, dog waste bins and modified signage to be installed (subject to funding).</i></p>
<b>Waterloo Park - Vimiera Road, Marsfield</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The majority of the local community surrounding Waterloo Park were opposed to its use as an off leash area.</li> <li>▪ There was confusion during the trial of the location of the off leash area and many dog owners were using the wrong location thus creating conflicts with other park users.</li> </ul>	<p><i>At the conclusion of the Trial, <b>Waterloo Park ceases to be a dog off leash area.</b> Temporary signs are to be erected in the Park to alert the community that dogs off leash are no longer permitted and notification sent to the local community. The temporary signs are to be removed after 6 months.</i></p>

**ITEM 18 (continued)**

<u>Summary of the Community's Feedback</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
<b>ELS Hall Park - Kent Road, North Ryde</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Significant support for the provision of an off leash area at ELS Hall Park was received during the Trial.</li> <li>▪ This is further supported by the Masterplan and Plan of Management for ELS Hall Park where a fenced dog off leash area was designated for the Park.</li> <li>▪ There were some community concerns outlining the conflict between users of the Park and the off leash dogs, however this could be overcome with the use of fencing.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Recommendation for ELS Hall Park:</i>  <b>At the conclusion of the Trial, ELS Hall Park to be formalised as an enclosed off leash area with a perimeter fence, additional seating, dog waste bins and modified signage to be installed (subject to funding).</b>  <i>Way finding signage is also recommended to inform the community as to where the off leash activities can occur.</i></p>
<b>North Ryde Common - Twin Road, North Ryde</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The community showed a moderate to high level of support for off leash use of the Park.</li> <li>▪ There is potential for conflict with the use of North Ryde Common for special events, EG Australia Day.</li> <li>▪ The community indicated that the one bin installed in the Park was insufficient due to the size of North Ryde Common and should it become a permanent off leash area, additional bins and signs are required.</li> </ul>	<p><i>At the conclusion of the Trial, North Ryde Common to be formalised as a free running off leash area with the exception of organised events days such as the Australia Day celebrations. Additional seating, dog waste bins and modified signage to be installed (subject to funding).</i></p>
<b>Denistone Park - Terry Road, Denistone</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A high level of support for the provision of an off leash area at Denistone Park was received during the Trial. Suggestions were received from the community including the provision of fencing to remove possible conflicts with the children's playground and other parks users.</li> </ul>	<p><i>At the conclusion of the Trial, Denistone Park to be formalised as an enclosed off leash area with a perimeter fence, additional seating, dog waste bins and modified signage to be installed (subject to funding).</i></p>
<b>Olympic Park - Potts Street, Ryde</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A high level of support for the provision of an off leash area at Denistone Park was received during the Trial.</li> <li>▪ Suggestions were received from the community including the provision of fencing to remove possible conflicts with the children's playground, other parks users and due to the close proximity of the adjoining roads.</li> </ul>	<p><i>At the conclusion of the Trial, Olympic Park to be formalised as an enclosed off leash area with a perimeter fence, additional seating, dog waste bins and modified signage to be installed.</i></p>



**ITEM 18 (continued)**

<u>Summary of the Community's Feedback</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
<b>Cudal Reserve - Henry Street, Ryde</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The community showed a moderate level of support for off leash use of the Reserve.</li> </ul>	<p><i>The results of the Trial indicated a higher level of community support for the Olympic Park site than Cudal Reserve. Due to the close proximity of Cudal Reserve to Olympic Park, it is recommended that at the conclusion of the Trial, <b>Cudal Reserve ceases to be a dog off leash area.</b> Temporary signs are to be erected in the Reserve to alert the community that dogs off leash are no longer permitted and notification sent to the local community. The temporary signs are to be removed after 6 months.</i></p>
<b>Putney Park - Pellisier Road, Putney</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The community showed a moderate level of support for off leash use of Putney Park.</li> </ul>	<p><i>While the results of the Trial indicated a moderate level of support for the Trial, the potential for ongoing conflicts with other park users remains very high without providing an enclosed off leash area. With the proximity of Olympic Park and Peel Park recommended as an off leash area, it is recommended that at the conclusion of the Trial, <b>Putney Park ceases to be a dog off leash area.</b> Temporary signs are to be erected in the Park to alert the community that dogs off leash are no longer permitted and notification sent to the local community. The temporary signs are to be removed after 6 months.</i></p>
<b>Peel Park - Morrison Road, Gladesville</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The community showed a moderate level of support for off leash use of Peel Park. Council received one submission from a sports club during the Trial. This submission was from Gladesville Ravens in opposition to the use of Peel Park as an off leash area. The submission was received prior to the Trial commencing (Refer to <b>ATTACHMENT 2</b>).</li> </ul>	<p><i>While the results of the Trial indicated a moderate level of support for the use of Peel Park as an off leash recreation area, the development of an off leash site at this location would require minimal additional infrastructure. Therefore it is recommended that at the conclusion of the trial, <b>Peel Park continues to be a dog off leash area when not being used by organised sports.</b></i></p>

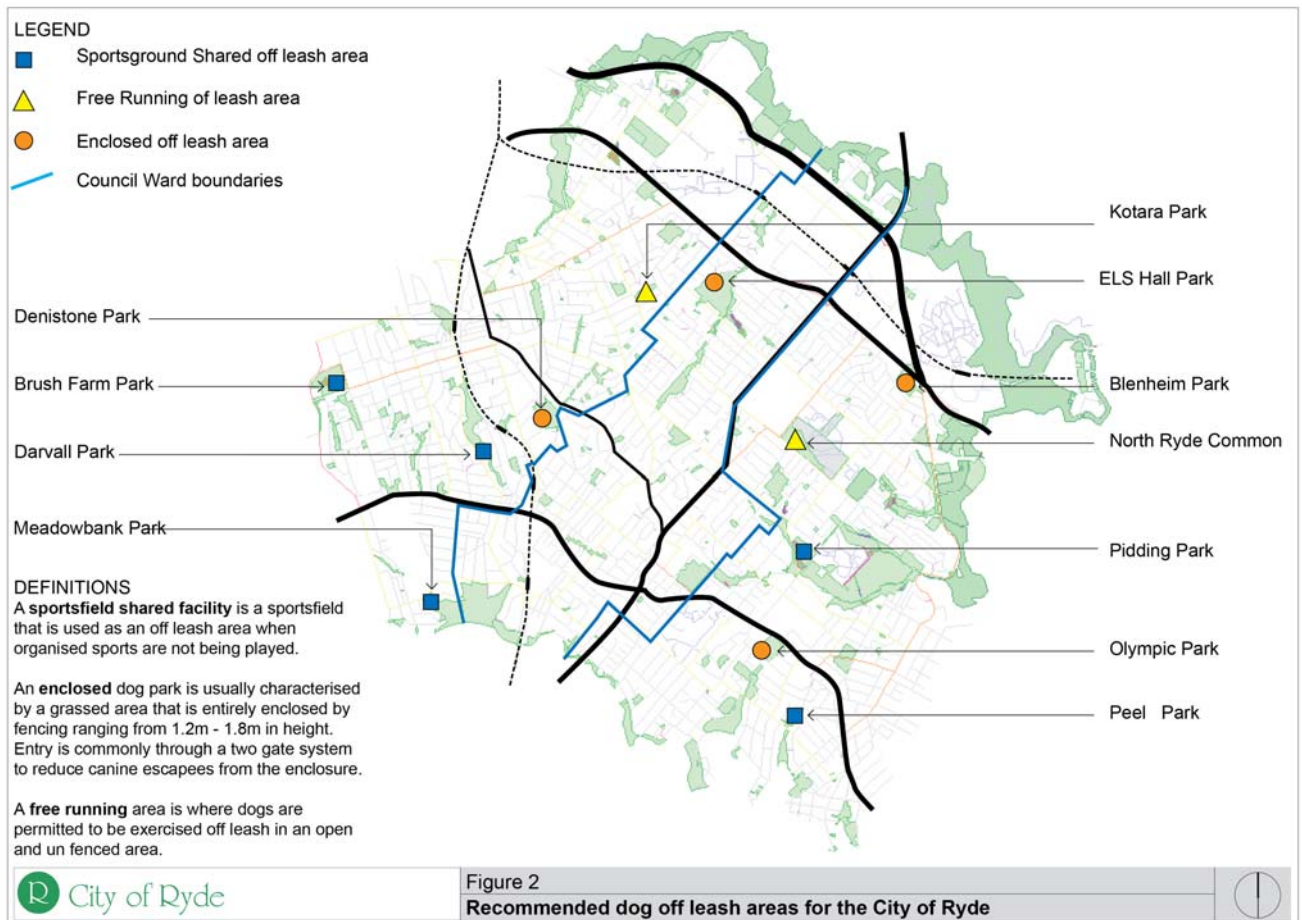
**ITEM 18 (continued)**

<u>Summary of the Community's Feedback</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
<b>Santa Rosa Park - Quarry Road, North Ryde</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The community showed a moderate level of support for off leash use of Santa Rosa Park.</li> <li>▪ The community raised concerns about the protection of the creek that passes through the Park if dogs are allowed to run off leash.</li> <li>▪ Council received a number of requests that the off leash area at Santa Rosa be enclosed with a fence.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Results of the Trial indicated a moderate to high level of community support for the Santa Rosa Park however due to the close proximity of Santa Rosa Park to ELS Hall park, it is recommended that at the conclusion of the Trial, <b>Santa Rosa Park ceases to be a dog off leash area.</b> Temporary signs are to be erected in the Park to alert the community that dogs off leash are no longer permitted and notification sent to the local community. The temporary signs are to be removed after 6 months.</i></p>
<b>Forrester Park - Vimiera Road, Eastwood</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The community showed very little support for off leash use of Forrester Park.</li> <li>▪ There were many submission received that outlined the impact the off leash activity would have on the surrounding Bushland.</li> <li>▪ A submission was received from Hornsby Shire Council expressing their concerns with the use of Forrester Park as an off leash area and the impact on the neighbouring Bushland areas.</li> </ul>	<p><i>At the conclusion of the Trial, <b>Forrester Park ceases to be a dog off leash area.</b> Temporary signs are to be erected in the Park to alert the community that dogs off leash are no longer permitted and notification sent to the local community. The temporary signs are to be removed after 6 months.</i></p>
<b>Brush Farm Park - Lawson Street, Eastwood</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The community indicated a high level of support for the use of the Park as an off leash area.</li> <li>▪ The Heritage Advisory Committee has expressed their opposition to the use of the Park as an off leash area.</li> <li>▪ There is a need to provide additional infrastructure to the park to provide further protection to the Bushland areas.</li> </ul>	<p><i>At the conclusion of the Trial, <b>Brush Farm Park continues to be a dog off leash area</b> when not being used by organised sports. This is further supported by the existing use of the Park by the Brush Farm Dog Club. Additional fencing will be required to provide protection to the bushland areas within the Park (subject to funding).</i></p>
<b>Fontenoy Park - Fontenoy Road, Macquarie Park</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The community indicated a very low of support for the use of the Park as an off leash area.</li> <li>▪ The community express concerns about the conflicts with the existing uses of the park.</li> </ul>	<p><i>At the conclusion of the Trial, <b>Fontenoy Park ceases to be a dog off leash area.</b> Temporary signs are to be erected in the Park to alert the community that dogs off leash are no longer permitted and notification sent to the local community. The temporary signs are to be removed after 6 months.</i></p>

**ITEM 18 (continued)**

Summary of the Community's Feedback	Recommendation
<b>Darvall Park - Chatham Road, Denistone</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The community showed a high level of support for off leash use of the Park.</li> <li>▪ The community had some concerns about the proximity of the children's playground to the off leash area.</li> <li>▪ There are areas of bushland surrounding the Park and consideration will be needed to the addition of fencing to provide additional protection of the bushland.</li> </ul>	<p><i>At the conclusion of the Trial, <b>Darvall Park continues to be a dog off leash area when not being used by organised sports.</b> Additional fencing will be required to provide protection to the bushland areas and childrens playground within the Park (subject to funding).</i></p>
<b>Pidding Park - Cressy Road, Ryde</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The community showed a high level of support for off leash use of the Park.</li> <li>▪ The community supported the shared use of the Pidding Park.</li> </ul>	<p><i>At the conclusion of the trial, <b>Pidding Park continues to be a dog off leash area when not being used by organised sports.</b></i></p>

Please refer to **Figure 2** for a map of the recommended off leash areas as identified above.





**ITEM 18 (continued)*****Moving Forward from the Trial***

In accordance with the Council Resolution from the Committee of the Whole, May 3 2011, the trial conditions for each park were extended to allow for the calculation and analysis of the Trial results. The following processes are proposed in response to the resolution of this matter.

1. Parks that will cease to be off leash areas.
  - A notification letter to be sent to all residents within 150m – 200m of the park notifying them of Council's decision.
  - Signage to be erected to notify the community that dogs off leash are no longer permitted in the Park. This sign will specify where the closest off leash area is located and are to be removed after 6 months.
  - Update on the Council webpage.
  - Notification in the Ryde City View.
  - Council's Regulatory team will be notified and a grace period of 4 weeks to be offered to the community to support transition following the conclusion of the Trial.
  - All dog waste bins will be removed and reused in other suitable locations.
2. Parks to become permanent off leash areas.
  - A notification letter to be sent to all residents within 150m – 200m of the park notifying them of Council's decision.
  - Modified signage to detail the requirements of dog owners when using the park for off leash activities.
  - Update on the Council webpage.
  - Notification in the Ryde City View.
  - As recommended in the *The Study on the Provision of Recreation Areas for Dogs 2010* and in alignment with the feedback from the community, some parks will require additional infrastructure, such as seating, waste bins, fencing, shade etc. the sites must be prioritised and when funding becomes available, improvements made. In the meantime, the management of the sites should continue as under the Trial.
3. Notification of the Trial Results
  - A notification will be sent to all members of the community who made a submission on the off leash Trial advising them of Council's resolution.
  - All relevant Advisory Committees will be notified of the resolution and the process of transition from Trial to permanent arrangements.
  - Results and updates on the conclusion of the Trial will be uploaded on Council's Webpage.
  - Notification of Council's resolution will be advertised in the Ryde City View.

**Consultation**

Internal Council business units consulted included:-

- Regulatory Services
- Public Works

Internal Workshops held:-

- Not Applicable

**ITEM 18 (continued)**

City of Ryde Advisory Committees consulted included:-

- Companion Animals Advisory Committee  
Staff attended a Companion Animal Advisory Committee Meeting on 6 September 2010. At this meeting, the roll out of the Trial was discussed and members of the Advisory Committee were encouraged to forward a submission on the Trial. The community representatives of the Companion Animal Advisory Committee submitted a joint letter in support of dog off leash areas (Refer to **ATTACHMENT 3**).

During the Trial, information on the progress of the Trial was reported to the Companion Animal Advisory Committee via the City of Ryde's Committee Coordinator.

- Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee  
Staff attended three Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee meetings during the preparation for and management of the Trial. At each of these meetings, the sports community were invited to provide feedback and comments on the trial, especially the sportsfields that were being trialled.
- Bushland Working Group  
Staff attended one Working Group Meeting to discuss the dog off leash trial. At the meeting, the Working Group was encouraged to forward a submission on the Trial (Refer to **ATTACHMENT 4**).

External public consultation included:-

- Over 5,500 letters were sent to all homes within 150m – 200m of each park under the Trial, informing residents of the off leash trial and how they can provide their feedback to Council.
- Each letter was accompanied by an aerial photograph of the parks that identified the trial off leash area in red hatching.
- Council's web page provide locations, maps and information for each of the off leash trial areas.
- A number of options were provided to the community to provide their feedback to Council. These were Complete an online submission via email or post
- A notification was sent out at the end of the Trial advising the community of the temporary arrangement prior to a decision being made by Council on the future of off leash areas across the City. This notification was sent to all homes within 150m of all parks under the Trial.

**Comments**

All submissions received from the community have been stored in Councils document management system.

**Critical Dates**

There are no critical dates or deadlines to be met.

**ITEM 18 (continued)****Financial Impact**

The implementation of the Trial recommendations will require capital funding however this project is not provided for in the current 2010/11 budget nor the 2011/12 budget.

The following estimations have been calculated on the cost for establishing off leash areas that those parks recommended as a result of the Trial:

<b>Recommended Parks</b>	<b>Infrastructure Required</b>	<b>Estimated Capital Cost</b>
<b>Enclosed off leash areas (similar to Blenheim Park)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ELS Hall Park</li> <li>▪ Denistone Park</li> <li>▪ Olympic Park</li> </ul>	Perimeter fencing and gates Seating and shade Bins Signs Landscaping and pathways Access to water and drainage	\$70,000 per park
<b>Free Running areas</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ North Ryde Common</li> <li>▪ Kotara Park</li> </ul>	Bins Signs Seating and shade Landscaping and pathways Access to water and drainage	\$40,000 per park
<b>Shared Sportsfield areas</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Peel Park</li> <li>▪ Brush Farm Park</li> <li>▪ Darvall Park</li> <li>▪ Pidding Park</li> </ul>	Additional seating and shade Bins Signs Fencing to protect bushland areas (where required) Landscaping and pathways Access to water and drainage	\$50,000 per park

There will be an on-going cost of maintaining this dog off leash areas and should be included in future operation budgets.

**Policy Implications**

There are no policy implications through adoption of the recommendation.

**Other Options**

Other alternatives that were considered in the preparation of this report were:

- Extension of the Trial for all or some of the parks
- All parks rejected or accepted as off leash areas
- Additional parks to be tested as off leash areas

**ITEM 18 (continued)****Conclusion**

At the completion of the six month dog off leash area Trial, the Ryde community has provided to Council 314 letters and survey responses that expressed their opinions and suggestions on the Trial. The responses received are reflective of the polarising nature of the provision of off leash areas within the urban landscape and support arguments against all parks within the City of Ryde becoming an off leash destination.

Exercising companion animals is a legitimate recreational activity and a means to community and neighbourhood building. With over 9,000 dogs registered in the Ryde local government area, there is an identified need for additional off leash areas that are accessible across the City.

The community has indicated a general support for the provision of additional off leash areas across the City. With this being said, the community has also quite clearly rejected some parks for ongoing use as a place of off leash dog recreation.

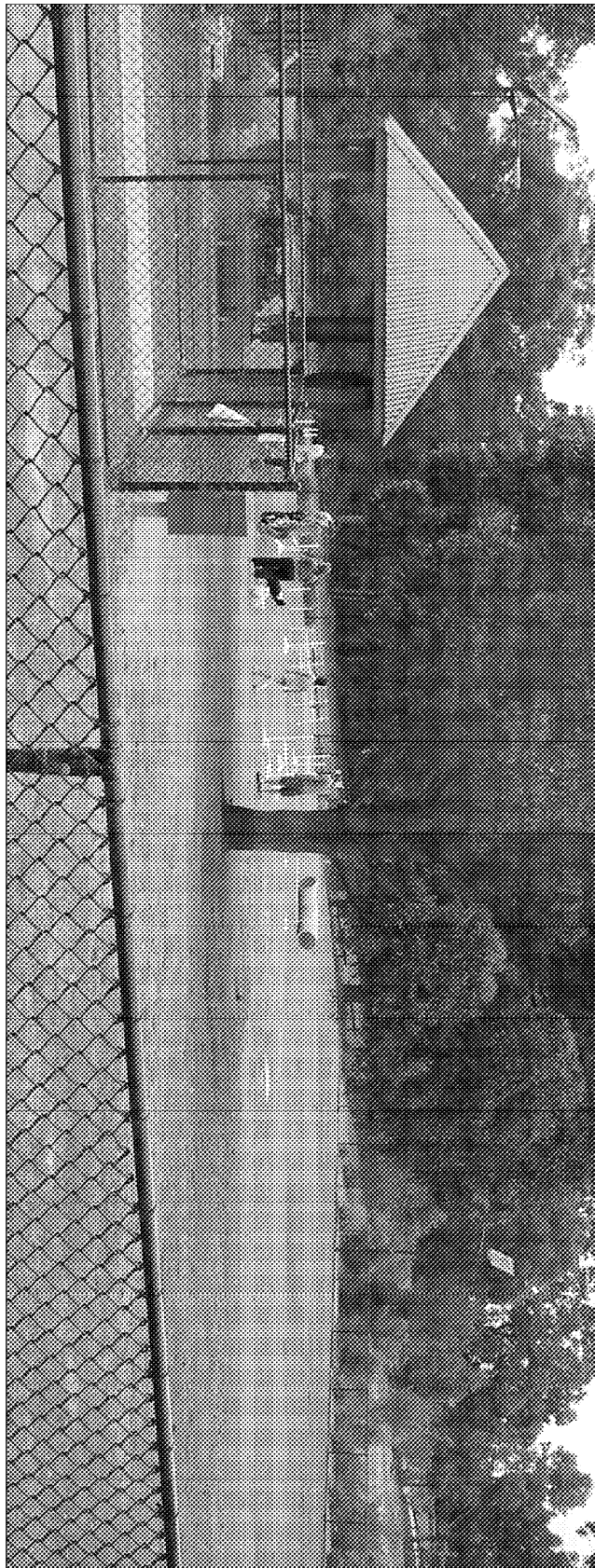
The desired outcome of the Trial and this report is to establish a City wide approach to the provision of dog off leash areas as was presented in *The Study on the Provision of Recreation Areas for Dogs 2010*. The following recommendations consider the opinions and concerns of the Ryde community, the geography of the City and meeting the needs of dog owners when exercising their dogs.

Ongoing education of dog owners of their responsibilities is an important component of creating a landscape that the whole community can enjoy.



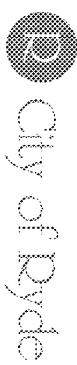
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***A study on the provision of recreation  
areas for dogs in the City of Ryde***

Prepared by: Open Space, Community Life  
July 2010



**ATTACHMENT 1**

**ITEM 18 (continued)**

CITY OF RYDE

PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

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PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

**PART ONE: INTRODUCTION**

Companion animals have come to play an important part in the lives of many people. The majority of homes in Australia have at least one companion animal and pets are a wonderful source of companionship and pleasure for many people.

The Australian Companion Animal Council states that pet ownership in Australia is one of the highest in the world, with an estimated 63% of Australia's 6.6 million households owning some kind of pet (53% owning a cat or dog). It was estimated that in 2007, 37.1 million pets were owned throughout Australia, including 3.7 million dogs and 2.2 million cats.

The national average of dog ownership has remained steady at 18 dogs per 100 people.

The City of Ryde has approximately 9000 registered dogs however it is estimated that 10% of the Ryde population owns a dog, potentially lifting the population of dogs to 10100. Based on this data, it can be further deduced that within the Ryde community there is a dog living in every 3.9 houses.

Providing suitable recreation areas for dogs is an important role of Local Government and the City of Ryde has two designated dog off leash recreation areas, Meadowbank Park and Blenheim Park, refer to Figure 1.

The provision of open spaces that accommodates recreation activities with dogs is not only important for the physical and mental well being of the animal, but also for the physical and mental well being of the pet owner.

Council understands that companion animals promote the health and happiness of their owners. Most pet owners are responsible and endeavour to do the right thing when in public places. But sometimes, some pet owners, and pets, do not behave responsibly causing

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significant distress to others.

Dog owners are a substantial group of park and open space users and planning and management of spaces within the City for dog recreation must incorporate both urban animal management and open space and recreation planning.

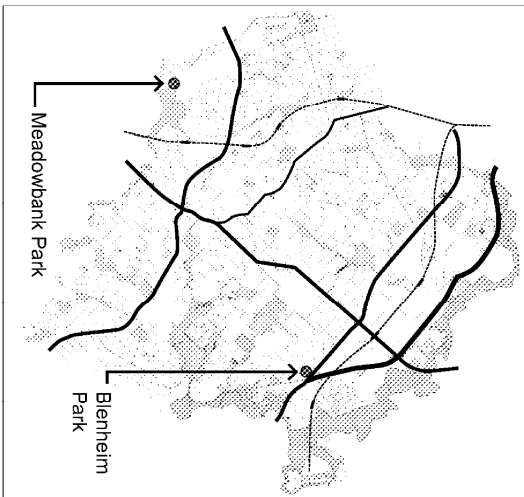


Figure 1: Existing designated dog recreation areas

**Aims of this Study**

- This Report aims to:-
- Provide a snapshot of the need for recreation areas of the community who own a dog.
  - Review what the surrounding local government

areas provide as dog recreation areas for their community,

- Review what the current trends are in the provision of dog recreation areas in public open spaces,
- Conduct a suitability assessment of Council's open space as potential locations as a dog recreation area, and
- Provide recommendations on where to have additional off leash areas for consideration.

The City of Ryde needs to take a strategic management approach to dog management in public reserves and investigate options for areas and/or time share for off leash activities.

**Structure of this Study**

The structure of this Study is in 4 parts.

<b>Part</b>	<b>Content</b>
<b>ONE</b>	An Introduction to the City of Ryde, the companion animal population and what the City is currently offering as designated dog recreation areas.
<b>TWO</b>	An assessment of the current trends in the provision for dog recreation areas and a summary of what the surrounding local government areas are offering their communities.
<b>THREE</b>	A discussion on the types of dog recreation areas that can be provided.
<b>FOUR</b>	An assessment of all open spaces within the City of Ryde for suitability as a place for a dog recreation area. A discussion on options and recommendations.



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**Demand for designated dog recreation and off leash areas**

Recent engagement with the Ryde Community has expressed clearly that spaces where the community and their dogs can go for recreation is a high priority. This has included the following:

*Ryde 2030 Community Strategic Plan - Consultation Outcomes Report (18 August 2009)*

- A hope for community facilities and infrastructure where there are "facilities where dogs can run without a leash".

*Leisure and Recreation Needs - Community Consultation Report (April 2009)*

- Off leash dog areas were identified as the **second** highest community facility that is lacking, inadequate or is required.

- Off leash dog areas were identified as the eighth highest priority for open space and recreation facilities in the City over the next 5 - 10 Years.

- There is a strong current and future demand for informal leisure and recreation facilities or settings including dog-exercise areas, and

- Report Recommendation : "That Council progressively provide additional informal leisure and recreation facilities or settings – notably parks and open space (of varying types), bike paths, walking paths and tracks, dog-exercise areas, and youth facilities (including skateparks)".

**A short history of the provision of dog recreation areas in the City of Ryde**

Over the past five years, there have been numerous reports and plans presented to Council with recommendations on the possible location and provision of off leash areas within the City. This has

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included

- Council resolution to create the off leash area at Blenheim Park (1 November 2005),
- Council resolution to trial Meadowbank Park as a timed leash free area for one year (11 November 2005) and a subsequent decision to make the leash free area permanent (2 May 2006), and
- Council reports have suggested possible locations that have included the following parks:

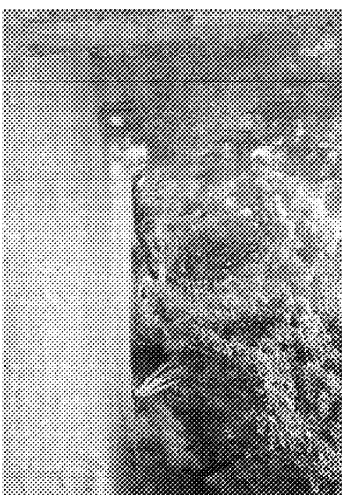
- Darvall Park,
- West Denistone Park,
- Glades Bay Reserve,
- Gannan Park,
- McCauley Park,
- Forrester Park and
- ELS Hall Park.

Council staff have previously undertaken community consultation on some of these options while other have been rejected by the Councillors.

The most recent decision made by Council on the issue of dog recreation areas was with specific reference to the lengthening of hours at Meadowbank Park, Committee of the Whole, 6 October 2009, where the resolution was as follows:

1. That the report of the Manager - Open Space, dated 4/08/2009 on RESULT OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION - Extension of Dog Off Leash Area Times at Meadowbank Park, be received and noted.
2. That there be no change to the current off leash area times at Meadowbank Park.
3. That the General Manager prepare a report to Council detailing suitable alternate locations within Meadowbank Park with the intention to extend the dog off leash hours.

Point three of the above Council Resolution is the subject of this report.



*Parks previously suggested as places for dog recreation Left: West Denistone Park, Right: Glades Bay Park enclosed dog off leash area*

**ITEM 18 (continued)****ATTACHMENT 1**

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PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

***Possible conflicts surrounding provision of dog recreation areas***

There are many demands placed on the public open spaces and parks across the City and accordingly, the management of the open space needs to be flexible and able to respond to the changing recreation needs of the community.

Conflicts in the use of open space are not restricted to the provision of space for dog recreation. Conflicts can occur between activities, behaviours, uses and with the impacts on surrounding neighbours. One of the major challenges in the planning and management of urban open spaces in the weighing up of these conflicts and finding ways to manage the conflicts rather than attempting to totally eliminate the conflicts.

The planning for dog recreation should be approached in the same way.

Some of the common conflicts that impact the creation of dog recreation areas include:

- Adjoining neighbours, such as noise and odours from the dog park, traffic generation etc.,
- Inappropriate behaviour of the dogs and their owners, such as not picking up dog waste, lack of supervision their dogs and barking,
- Aggressive dogs and safety,
- Non compliance with local regulations, such as leash controls, and
- Clashes between uses of a park.

It will not be possible to eliminate all of these conflicts in the placement and design of a dog recreation area, however it is the goal to minimise these conflicts.

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PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

**PART 2: CURRENT TRENDS IN DOG RECREATION**

**Types of Dog Recreation Areas**

Across Sydney there are many different types of areas where dog are permitted to freely run off a leash. As a part of this report, a study has been completed that investigates at each of the six main types of dog recreation areas that are used in Ryde's neighbouring LGAs and across Sydney. Many Councils are using a combination of types of these facilities across their LGAs to give the community a choice of location and type of facility to visit.

**It is a combination of each of the types of dog recreation areas that is recommended for implementation in the City of Ryde.**

However it is essential that consideration is given to the characteristics of each of the recreation area types, the characteristics of a specific locations and the manner in which the suggested location is currently used by the community.

Over the next few pages, five of the key types of recreation areas are detailed, including examples and locations.

The Table below offers a snapshot summary of the major characteristics of the recreation areas. (Further detail on each can be obtained in the subsequent pages).

**Regional Context**

A review has been conducted and data gathered on the provision of dog recreation areas in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) adjoining the City of Ryde. This has included:

- Lane Cove,
- Willoughby,
- Canada Bay,
- Parramatta,
- Kur-Ring-Gai,
- Hornsby and
- Hunters Hill.

Each of the LGAs were inspected and the dog recreation areas observed where divided into six main

categories. These are:

1. Sportsfield Shared Facility,
2. Enclosed Free Running,
3. Free Running
4. Walking Trails
5. Dog water holes and
6. Timed.

A summary of the provision within each LGA is in Table 2

Each of these facility types, with the exception of the timed facility, represents a current trend in the management of public open space for the purposes of providing spaces for dogs to be able to run off leash. Over the next few pages, a discussion that includes characteristics, locations and images of each type of facility is provided.

Table 1: Types and characteristics of dog recreation areas

Type of Facility	Some of the major characteristics		Some of the major characteristics								
	Fully enclosed area	Area partially enclosed	Access to drinking water	Access to water	Owner seating	Combination of on and off leash	Times vary for on and off leash	Dog litter bins	Dog waste bags provided	Regulatory signage	Availability, 24 hours 7 days
Sportsfield Shared Facility		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Enclosed Free Running	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Free Running					✓			✓	✓	✓	
Walking Trails			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Water Holes				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	

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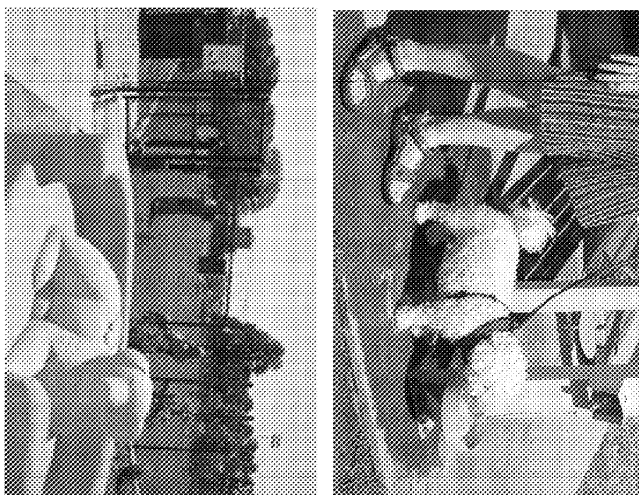
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PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

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Table 2: Provision of dog recreations areas in the LGAs surrounding the City of Ryde as at February 2010.

LGA	Sportsfield Share Facility	Enclosed Free Running	Free Running	Timed	TOTAL	Notes
City of Ryde	1	1	0	0	2	2 free running areas have access to water
Lane Cove	6	0	11	0	17	1 Walking Trail: Shell Park - Manns Point Walk
Willoughby	6	0	6	1	13	2 areas with access to water (one is timed)
Canada Bay	0	0	11	4	15	2 Walking Trail: Iron Cove Bay Walk and Hen and Chicken Bay Walk
Parramatta	2	0	3	0	5	
Kur-Ring-Gai	9	4	7	0	20	Dog training facilities are connected to St Ives Showground
Hornsby	2	6	0	0	8	
Hunters Hill	0	0	0	3	3	



LEFT: Dog water bowls along the Ryde River Walk and RIGHT: Sculptural elements used in other LGAs

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PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

**Sportsfield Shared Facility**

A sportsfield shared facility is a sportsfield that is used as an off-leash area when **organised** sports are not being played. These areas are often very large and can accommodate many dogs off-leash simultaneously.

Some of the most common features of this type of area include:

- The sportsfield is enclosed with a fence, (such as the fence shown on the image to the right)
- The facilities surrounding the park are directed at meeting the needs of the organised sports (such as kiosks, car parking, floodlighting), with the addition of dog waste bags, bins and signage.

Local Examples:

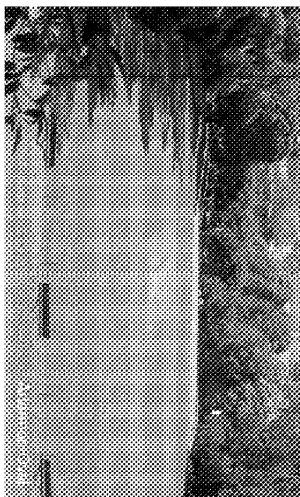
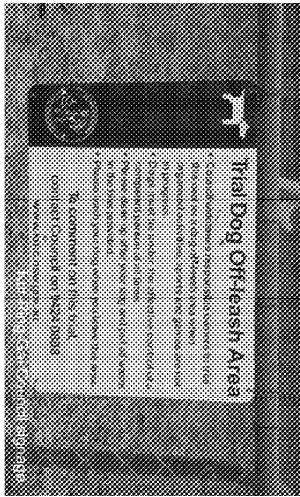
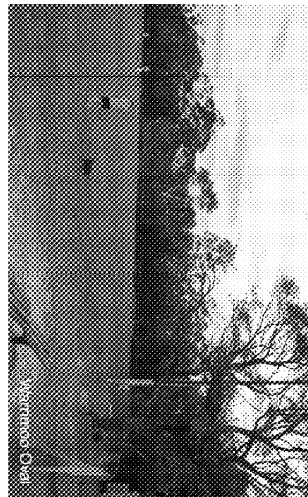
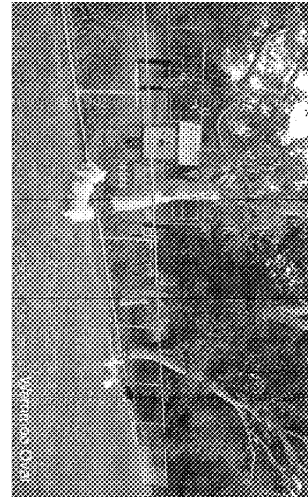
- Epping Oval, Epping
- Artamon Oval, Artamon
- Warrimoo Oval, St. Ives

Some of the benefits of this type of facility include:

- Dogs can be enclosed and cannot run onto surrounding roads and parkland areas
- Large expanses of grass that allows many dogs to use the area at the same time
- Less chance of an owner to loose sight of their dog

Some negatives of this type of facility include:

- Potential for conflict between dog owners and sports users
- Dog waste left on sportsfield



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**Enclosed Free Running**

An enclosed free running dog park is usually characterised by a grassed area that is entirely enclosed by fencing ranging from 1.2m - 1.8m in height. Entry is commonly through a two gate system to reduce canine escapes from the enclosure.

Amenities within these enclosures for dog owners can include seating, picnic tables, landscaping, trees and shade.

Amenities for the dog can include water bowls.

In the USA, there are trends to towards the provision of small dog and large dog facilities collocated within the same park (as shown in the images at the bottom).

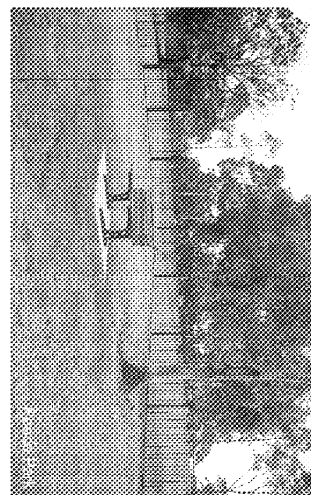
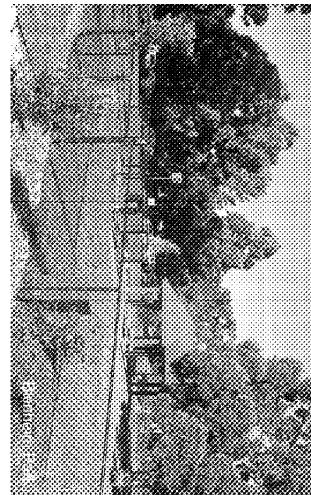
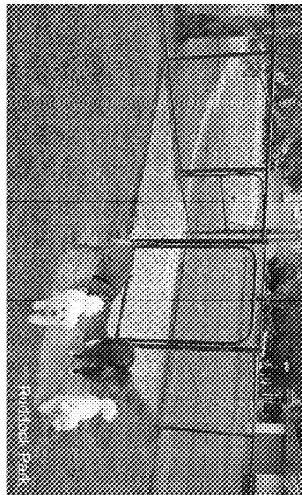
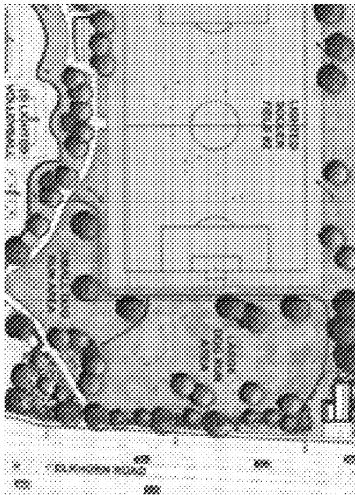
Local Examples:

- Blenheim Park, North Ryde
- Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush Bay (SOPA)
- Ruddock Park, Westleigh (Hornsby)
- Bicentennial Park, Pymble (Kur-ring-gai)
- Peace Park, Ashbury (Canterbury)

Some of the benefits of this type of facility include:

- Dogs are enclosed and cannot run onto surrounding roads
  - Park users are separated from the dogs
  - Less chance of an owner to loose sight of their dog
- Some negatives of this type of facility include:
- Concentration of dogs in one area
  - Odour can be an issue if the area is extensively used
  - Owners can be less actively engaged with the control of their dog

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PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

**Free Running Areas**

A free running area is where dogs are permitted to be exercised off leash in an open and unfenced area. Often these locations are pieces of parkland that are not used by the community and/or have very little existing recreation value. Examples of this can include road reserves and public authority reserves and easements.

These areas should be large so as to provide ample room for recreation with suitable distances from roads.

Amenities within these areas for dog owners can include seating, landscaping, trees and shade.

Amenities for the dog can include water bowls.

Local Examples:

- Yarralumla Avenue Reserve, St Ives, (Kur-ring-gai)

Some of the benefits of this type of facility include:

- Large open areas for running and recreation
- Can provide a recreational benefit to some of the unused pieces of parkland across the City.

Some negatives of this type of facility include:

- Can exclude other activities within the reserve or parkland
- Chance of an owner to lose sight of their dog
- Owners must be actively engaged with the control of their dog

**Dog Water Holes and Beaches**

Many dogs enjoy swimming and playing in water. There are many LGAs across Sydney that provide a designated dog beach area where dogs are allowed to be off leash and play / run into water.

Dog water holes / beaches are often co-located in parks and open spaces that offer other activities, such as boat ramps, picnic areas, cycleways and playgrounds.

Sydney examples of dog water holes / beaches:

- Halliday Park, Five Dock (Canada Bay LGA)
- Lyseight Park, Drummoyne (Canada Bay LGA)
- Rowland Reserve, Bayview (Pittwater LGA)
- Clarkes Point Reserve, Woolwich (Hunters Hill LGA)

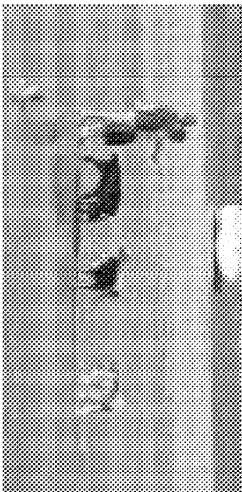
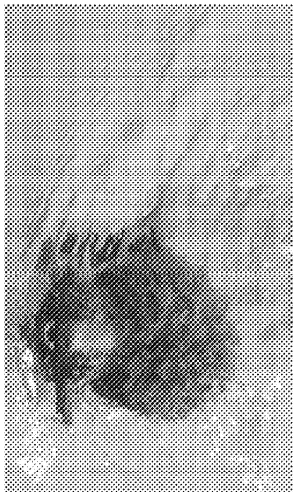
There are examples across Sydney where the access to the beach is time controlled.

Some of the benefits of this type of facility include:

- A place where dogs can swim and cool off especially in the summer months
- Alternative exercise opportunities for dogs and dog owners

Some negatives of this type of facility include:

- Concentration of dogs in one area
- Potential contamination of the waterway with dog faeces
- Owners can be less actively engaged with the control of their dog
- Potential conflict with other park users.



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**Dog Walking Trails**

A dog walking trail are becoming increasingly popular as the community becomes more aware of living a healthy life style and are often used for physical fitness. Often these trails include sections that are on leash and areas where dogs can be removed from leashes and can run freely.

Ryde River Walk is a local example of a dog walking trail with off leash opportunities at Meadowbank Park and on leash walking along the shared pathway from Meadowbank to Putney.

Other Trail examples are:

- Lake Parramatta Walk, (Parramatta City)
- Hen and Chicken Bay Walk, (Canada Bay)
- Shell Park to Manns Point Walk, (Lane Cove)
- Tunks Park to Flat Rock Creek (Willoughby)
- Iron Cove Bay Walk (Canada Bay and Leichhardt)

Most of these types of trails link many different recreation areas, such as water holes, free running and on leash areas. The benefits of these areas can include:

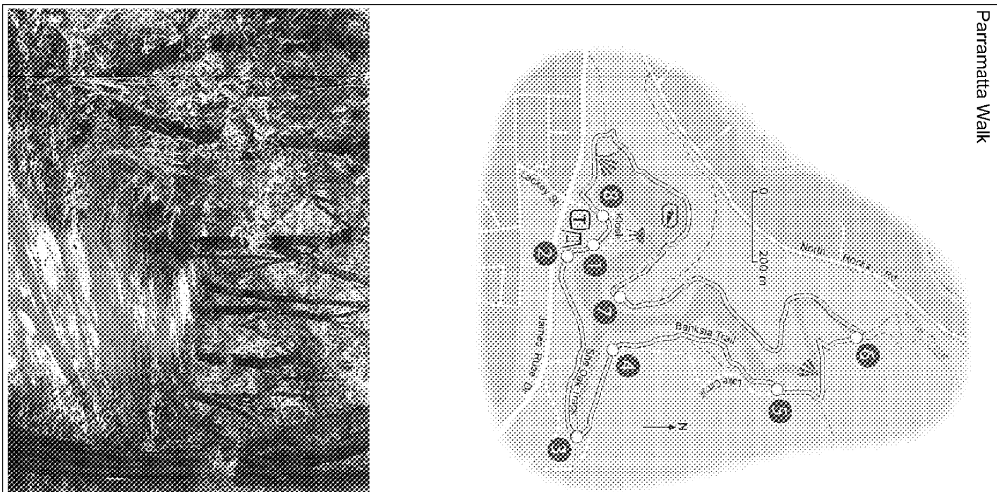
- Encouraging a healthy lifestyle of the people who own dogs
  - Spreads the concentration of dogs across a large area
  - Encourages the use of walking trails and the river foreshore
- Some negatives of this type of facility include:
- Potential conflicts with other trail users
  - Contamination of river foreshore if owners do not clean up after their dog

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Hen and Chicken Bay Walk



Parramatta Walk





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PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

**PART 3: ASSESSMENT OF RYDE PARKS FOR SUITABILITY AS A PLACE FOR DOG RECREATION**

An assessment has been conducted to determine the suitability of the parks within the City of Ryde to provide a space for dog owners to recreate and exercise with their dogs off leash.

The assessment of all 207 parks and reserves has been conducted using a combination of elimination, constraining and complimentary factors. Each park or reserve has been either eliminated or given a score on their suitability. The process taken for the assessment of the parks was as follows:

*The Assessment Process:*

**Step 1: Elimination Questions**

Six elimination questions were considered during the assessment. These were:

1. Is the entire park / reserve categorised as Natural Area under Generic Plan of Management?
2. Does the entire park / reserve abut or adjacent to Lane Cove National Park?
3. Are dogs specifically banned, such as a Wildlife Refuge?
4. Is the park / reserve too small with there being no space due to existing facilities and or landscape?
5. Is the park / reserve located within a commercial area?
6. Is the park / reserve considered to have cultural or natural heritage significance?

**It must be noted that while the park or reserve may have been eliminated in this assessment process, it does not exclude the used of the facility for walking dogs on leads, with the exception of those areas designated as a National Park or a Wildlife Refuge.**

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**Step 2: Constraining Factor Analysis**

All parks and reserves that were not eliminated in Step One were then scored on the impact of the following five constraining factors:

1. Sportsground
2. Bushland
3. Playground
4. Café / Restaurant
5. Access Points

These factors score the elements that can restrict the use of an area for the recreation of dogs. Some of these constraining factors are also outlined in the Companion Animals Act, including playgrounds, cafe and bushland.

The higher the score, the less constraining factors that would restrict the use of the park for dog recreation. The scoring of the constraining factors is shown in Table 3 over the page.

The total for each park was then combined with the parks complimentary factor score, as outlined in Step 3 of the assessment.

**Step 3: Complimentary Factor Analysis**

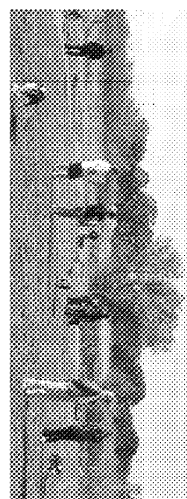
Before assessing the complimentary factors of a park, it was necessary to assign a type of dog recreation facility to each park. This assignment was based on the topography, location, design and exiting use of the park or reserve.

Accordingly, each park was assigned one of the following that was then used to score the park.

1. Shared Facility
2. Free running
3. Enclosed Free Running

The complimentary/factors considered in this assessment were (and as shown in Table 4)

1. Does the sports ground have an existing circumference fence?
2. Is there off Street car parking?
3. Is on street car parking available?
4. Are existing toilet facilities located in the Park?
5. What is the considered potential impact on neighbouring residences?
6. What is the frequency of potential conflicts with other users / users?



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Table 3: Constraining Factors Scoring Table

Sportsground	Constraining Factors Scoring Table				Playground	Cafe	Access
	Bushland	Bushland	Playground	Cafe			
5 points No Sportfields	5 points No bushland	5 points No bushland is fenced	5 points No Playground	5 points No Cafe	5 points Local Road		
4 points Low / No use weekends and weekdays W/S	4 points Bushland is fenced	4 points Playground is enclosed	4 points Cafe is enclosed				
3 points High use weekend / Low use weekdays W/S	3 points Bushland can be easily enclosed / fenced	3 points Playground can be separated with a minor park redesign	3 points Cafe can be separated with minor park redesign	3 points Collector Road			
2 points Low use weekend / High use weekdays W/S	2 points Bushland on all faces of the park with no fencing	2 points Playground can be separated with significant park redesign	2 points Cafe can be separated with significant park redesign	2 points Sub Arterial			
1 point High use weekend and weekdays W/S	1 point Bushland of high value and to be protected / heavily vegetated	1 point Playground unable to be fenced and separated from the park	1 point Cafe is unable to be enclosed or separated from the park	1 point Motorway / Arterial			

Table 4: Complimentary Factors Scoring Table

Complimentary Factors Scoring Table		Off Street car parking		On street car parking		Existing toilet facilities		Impacted on neighbouring residences		Potential conflicts with other users / users	
Sports ground has an existing circumference fence		Off Street car parking		On street car parking		Existing toilet facilities		Impacted on neighbouring residences		Potential conflicts with other users / users	
5 points Yes	5 points Yes	5 points Parking lane available on both sides	5 points Yes	5 points Yes	5 points Low	5 points Low	5 points Low	5 points Low	5 points Low	5 points Low	5 points Low
0 points No	0 points No	3 points Parking lane available on one side only	0 points No	0 points No	3 points Medium	3 points Medium	3 points Medium	3 points Medium	3 points Medium	3 points Medium	3 points Medium
		0 points No on street parking			0 points High	0 points High	0 points High	0 points High	0 points High	0 points High	0 points High

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ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

CITY OF RYDE

PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

Assessment Results: Parks considered unsuitable

**Elimination Factor 1: Bushland and Natural Areas.**

Parks within the City of Ryde that are categorised entirely as a natural area under the Generic Plan of management.

These parks are not considered suitable due to the core objectives of the Local Government Act and the Companion Animals Act.

SUBURB	PARK NAME	SUBURB	PARK NAME
Chatswood West	Quebec Reserve River Avenue Miriam Park	North Ryde	Banool Reserve Boobajool Reserve Bundara Reserve Greenwood Park
Dennistone	Miriam Park		Magdala Park Martin Reserve Myvall Reserve Nundah Reserve Pindari Park Portius Park Umarra Park Wicks Park
East Ryde	Kitty Creek Reserve Pryor Park Rafferty Reserve	Ryde	Aitchandar Park Barton Park Burrows Park Laurel Park Minga Reserve Lambert Park
Eastwood	Forsyth Park Outlook Park Rokeva Reserve	West Ryde	
	Yarramar Reserve		
Gladesville	Looking Glass Bay Park Mallee Reserve Westminster Road - Unnamed Park		
Macquarie Park	Alston Park Caldew Reserve		
Marsfield	Berrinerrt Reserve Booth Reserve Busco Road - Unnamed Park Ivanhoe Reserve Lucknow Park Pembroke Park Somerset Park Waterloo Reserve		

**Elimination Factor 2: Proximity to a National Park.**

The following parks have been eliminated as they are located adjacent to Lane Cove National Park

SUBURB	PARK NAME	SUBURB	PARK NAME
Chatswood West	Kobaba Park	North Ryde	Yrinnell Reserve
Macquarie Park	Christie Park Dunholm Reserve		

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ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

CITY OF RYDE

**Elimination Factor 3: Size and existing landscape of the Park.**

Parks within the City of Ryde that are considered to be either too small or the existing landscape and or park elements occupy majority of the parkland space.

SUBURB	PARK NAME	SUBURB	PARK NAME
Chatswood West	Mulhall Place	Macquarie Park	Lane Cover Road Un-named Park
Dennistone	Bimbi Reserve Cooper Reserve	Marsfield	Porters Park Catherine Reserve Kenneth Park Liberty Park
Dennistone East	Colvill Park	Meadowbank	Wharf Road Boat Ramp
	Jackson Reserve Kings Park Richmond Park Rutherford Park Salter Park	Melrose Park	Meditation Park
Dennistone West	Allars Street Un-named Park	North Ryde	Melrose Park Sindel Reserve Booral Reserve Flinders Park Gwandalan Reserve Kathleen Reserve Nimbiri Reserve
	Cecil Park Driver Park Hibble Park Lonsdale Park Lynn Park	Putney	Donnelly Park
Eastwood	Braemar Park Gwendale Park Irene Park Lynelle Park Rotary Park Valerie Park	Ryde	Benson Place Kulgoa Reserve Lavarack Street - Un-named Park Nerang Park Salawong Reserve Watts Park
Gladesville	Balun Reserve Boyla Reserve Darril Reserve Glades Bay Reserve Koonadan Reserve Yarluk Reserve	West Ryde	Griffiths Avenue Un-named Park Korpie Reserve Linton Avenue Un-named Park Linton Park Patience Park

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**ATTACHMENT 1**

**ITEM 18 (continued)**

CITY OF RYDE

PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

**Elimination Factor 4: Dogs are specifically prohibited.**

Parks within the City of Ryde that are considered to be either too small or the existing landscape and or park elements occupy majority of the parkland space.

SUBURB	PARK NAME
North Ryde	Field of Mars Reserve

**Elimination Factor 5: Located within a predominantly commercial area.**

Parks within the City of Ryde that are considered to be either too small or the existing landscape and or park elements occupy majority of the parkland space.

SUBURB	PARK NAME
Dennistone	Community Park
East	Jacaranda Reserve
East Ryde	Healy Reserve
Eastwood	Glen Reserve
Gladesville	Tim Reserve

**Elimination Factor 6: The Park has cultural significance**

Parks within the City of Ryde that are considered to be either too small or the existing landscape and or park elements occupy majority of the parkland space.

SUBURB	PARK NAME
Meadowbank	Anderson Park
Putney	Bennelong Park

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ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

CITY OF RYDE

Assessment Results: Parks considered suitable: Constraining Factors + Complimentary Factors

Steps Two and Three of the assessment scored each park in accordance with Tables 3 and 4. The purpose of this was to select the most suitable parks for consideration for use as dog recreation areas.

93 parks and open spaces were scored on constraining factors and complimentary factors and the results used to short list the following parks for consideration as a place where the community can exercise their dogs off leash.

**Sportsfield Shared Facility**

PARK NAME	WARD
Brush Park	West
Darvall Park	West
Forrester Park	West
Santa Rosa Park	Central
Fontenoy Park	Central
Pidding Park	East
Peel Park	East

**Enclosed Free Running Area**

PARK NAME	WARD
Waterloo Park (North)	West
Denistone Park	West
Meadowbank Park (Modification)	West
ELS Hall Park	Central
Blenheim Park (Existing)	East
Olympic Park	East
Putney Park	East

**Dog Walking Trail**

PARK NAME	WARD
Ryde River Walk	All
Shrimptions Creek Trail	Central

Note: The existing dog off leash areas at Meadowbank Park is to be reviewed during the preparation of the Meadowbank Park Masterplan and this could result in a change of location within the Park

**Dog Water Hole**

PARK NAME	WARD
Kissing Point Park	East

**Free Running Area**

PARK NAME	WARD
Kotara Park	West
Carara Park	Central
North Ryde Common	East
Cudal Reserve	East

JULY 2010

ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

CITY OF RYDE

PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

**PART 4: OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The six recommendations of this study are as follows:

Recommendation 1: Application of a City Wide Approach to the provision of on and off leash dog recreation areas

Recommendation 4: Create shared sportsfield dog facilities across the City at the following locations:-

Recommendation 2: Create enclosed free running areas across the City at the following locations:

- Olympic Park,
- Denistone Park,
- Putney Park

- Plidding Park,
- Peel Park,
- Darvall Park,
- Santa Rosa Park,
- Fontenoy Park and
- Brush Farm Park.

- Waterloo Park,
- ELS Hall Park,
- Blenheim Park and
- Meadowbank Park

Recommendation 5: Create a dog water hole at Kissing Point Park.

Recommendation 6: Create dog walking trails along the Ryde River Walk and Shrimptons Creek.

Recommendation 3: Create free running areas across the City at the following locations:

- Kotara Park,
- North Ryde Common,
- Carara Park and
- Cudal Reserve

Each of the recommendations are discussed and outlined in more detail on the following pages.

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ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

Recommendation 1: A City Wide Approach to the provision of on and off leash dog recreation areas

That Council applies a strategic approach to the provision of recreation areas for dogs and their owners that is considered on a comprehensive Council wide basis rather than a piecemeal park by park approach.

A variety of recreation area types is also recommended as one type of facility does not fit all recreation needs.

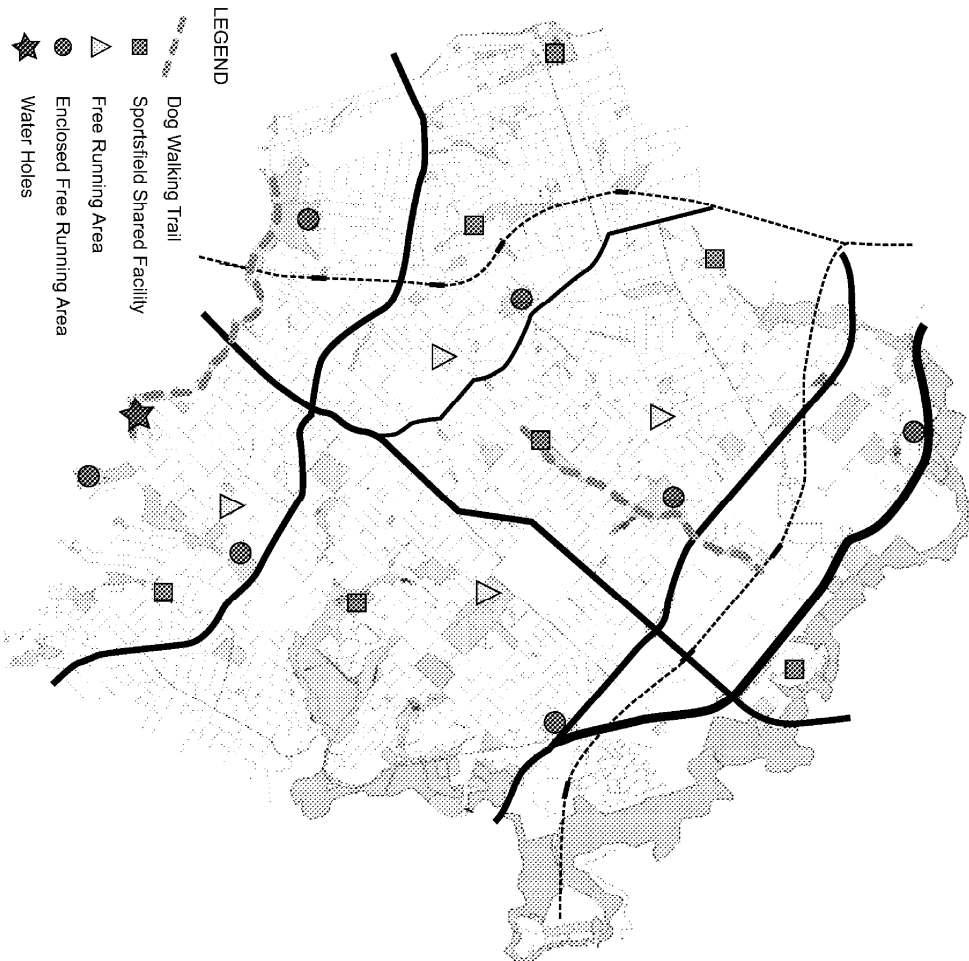
The assessment outlined earlier in this document is a city wide approach to the provision of dog recreation areas for the City of Ryde. The results of this assessment are shown on the diagram to the right. Each of the parks that scored well and offer the most potential as a dog recreation area has been plotted across the City with the aim of providing places that are accessible to most residents of the City.

The parks identified to the right are as follows.

- Brush Park
- Darvall Park
- Meadowbank Park (existing)
- West Dennistone Park
- Kissing Point Park
- Putney Park
- Olympic Park
- Peel Park
- Cudal Reserve
- Pidding Park
- Macquarie Common
- Blenheim Park (existing)
- Santa Rosa Park
- Forrester Park
- Waterloo Park
- Fortlenoy Park
- ELS Hall Park
- Kotara Park
- Carrar Reserve

Each of the recommended parks are discussion in more details on the following pages.

JULY 2010





ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

CITY OF RYDE

PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

Recommendation 2: Enclosed Free Running Areas - Olympic Park, Denistone Park, Putney Park, Waterloo Park, ELS Hall Park, Blenheim Park and Meadowbank Park

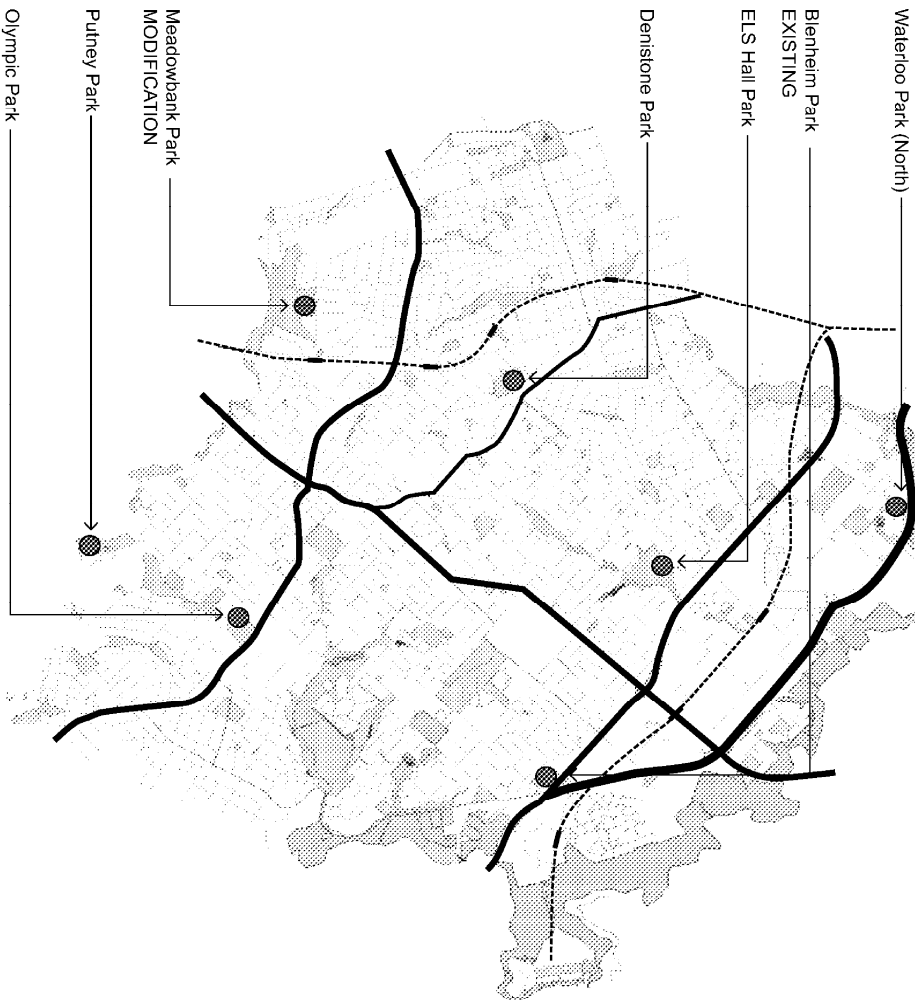
The City of Ryde has one existing enclosed free running dog off leash park located at Blenheim Park. This area is characterised by a fully enclosed fenced area where dogs are able to run freely within a confined area.

This type of facility is very popular and the diagram to the right proposes and additional 5 enclosed free running areas across the City. The selection of each of the proposed sites was as a result of the park assessment previously outlined in this report. The proposed locations are well distributed across the City.

The locations proposed are each discussed below.

The development of enclosed free running areas would require capital investment that could include the following:

- Perimeter fencing and entry gates,
- Seating,
- Landscaping (for amenity and screening purposes),
- Dog waste bins and bags and
- Water access for dogs.

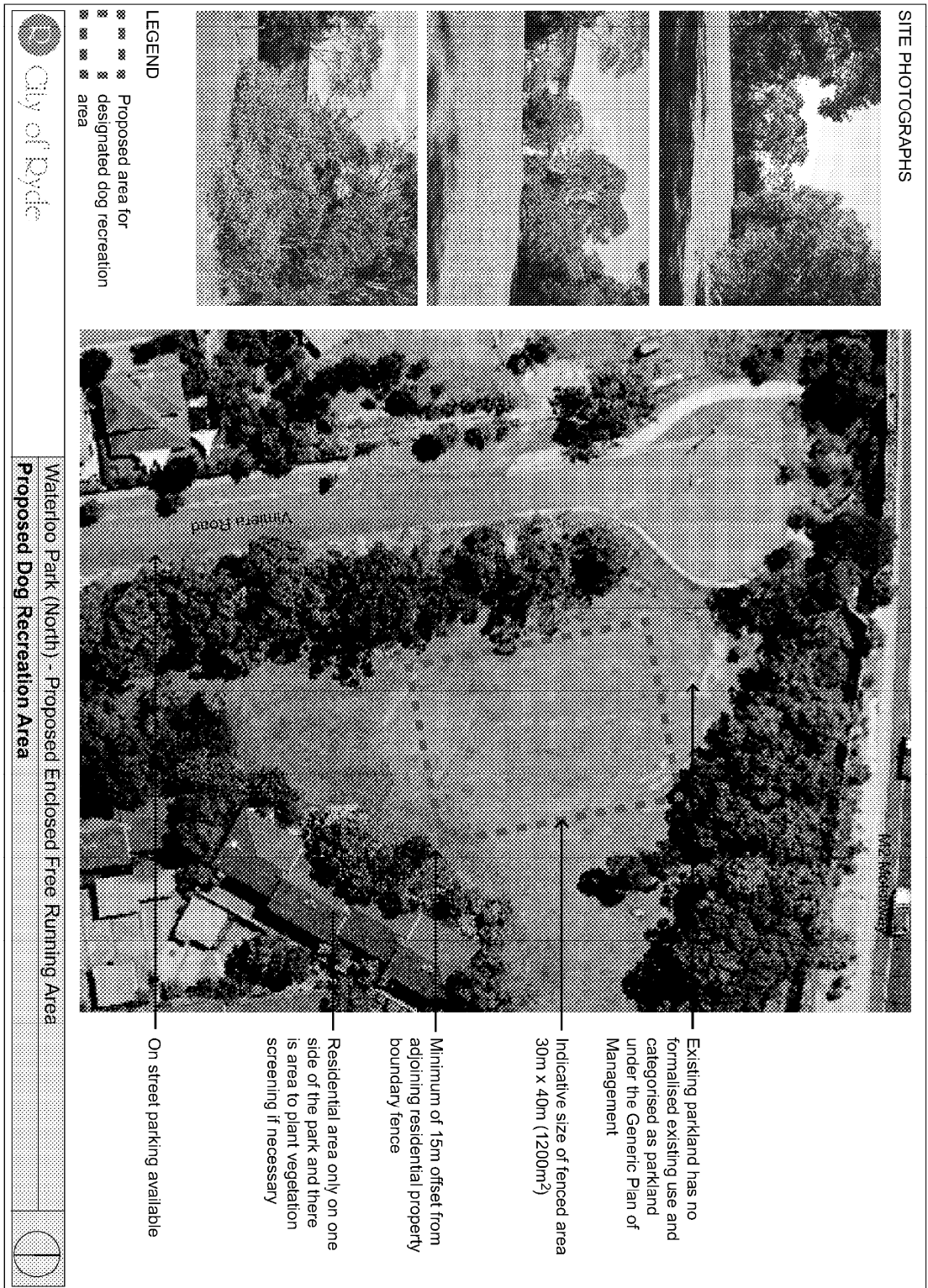


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ITEM 18 (continued)


ATTACHMENT 1





ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1




City of Ryde

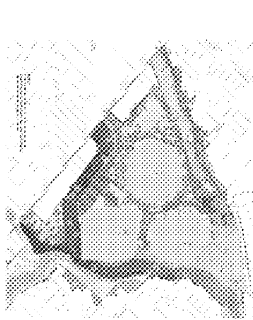
**LEGEND**

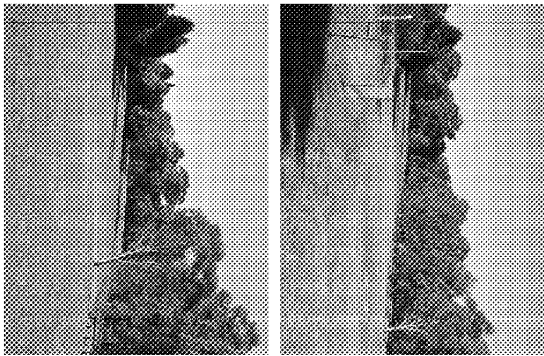
- ▣ Proposed area for
- ▣ designated dog recreation area

**SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Park Masterplan**





**ELLS Hall Park - Proposed Enclosed Free Running Area**

**Proposed Dog Recreation Area**


On street parking available

Indicative size of fenced area  
75m x 25m (1875m<sup>2</sup>)

Existing parkland used for passive recreation and is identified as a dog off leash area in the Shrimpsons Creek Plan of Management and Masterplan

Minimum of 15m offset from adjoining residential property boundary fence


Residential area only on one side of the park and there is area to plant vegetation screening if necessary





ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

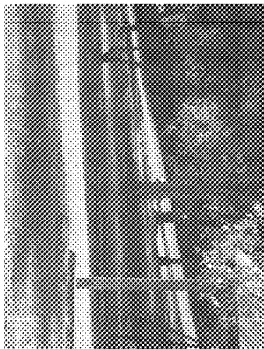
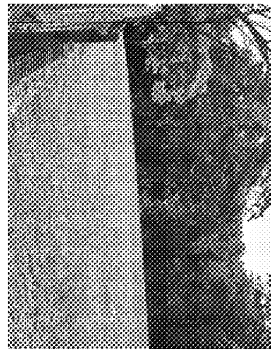
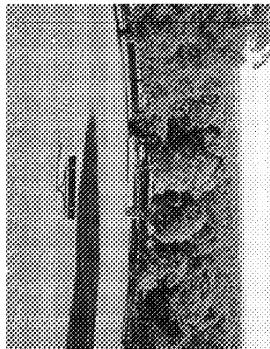



City of Ryde

**LEGEND**

- ▣ Proposed area for
- ▣ designated dog recreation
- ▣ area

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



On street parking available

Residential area only on one side of the park and there is area to plant vegetation screening if necessary

Existing parkland used for passive recreation and categorised as parkland under the Generic Plan of Management


Indicative size of fenced area 40m x 50m (2000m<sup>2</sup>)

Existing playground

Minimum of 10m offset from adjoining residential property boundary fence

Denistone Park - Proposed Enclosed Free Running Area


Proposed Dog Recreation Area





ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

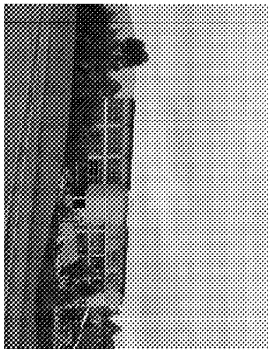
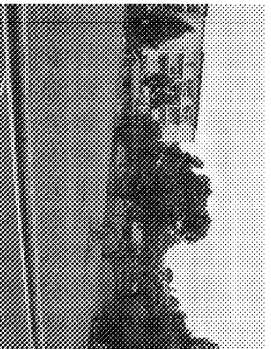
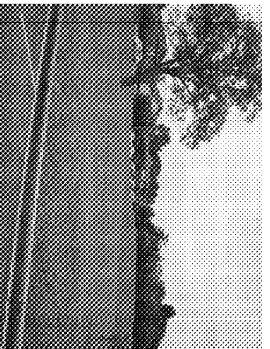


City of Ryde

**LEGEND**


- ⊠ Proposed area for
- ⊠ designated dog recreation
- ⊠ area

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Olympic Park - Proposed Enclosed Free Running Area

Proposed Dog Recreation Area



Potential for screening if required.


The site is sloped and this could result in reduced visual impact on surrounding residents

Indicative size of fenced area 50m x 30m (1500m<sup>2</sup>)

Existing parkland used for passive recreation and categorised as Operational Land and Parkland under the Generic Plan of Management

On and off street parking available


No directly adjoining houses as park is surrounded by roads





ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

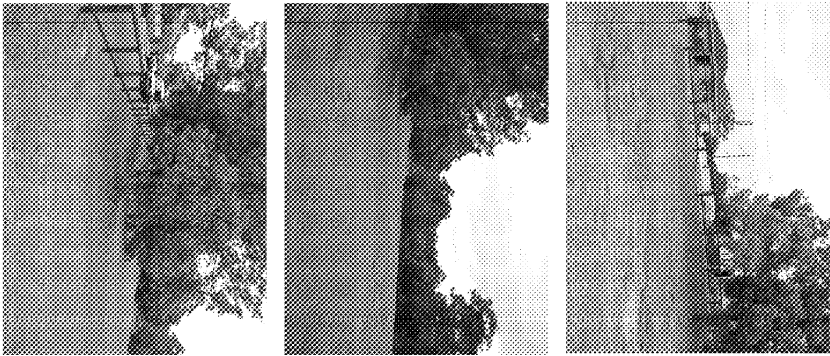



City of Ryde

**LEGEND**

- ▣ Proposed area for
- ▣ designated dog recreation
- ▣ area

**SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**





Putney Park - Proposed Enclosed Free Running Area

Proposed Dog Recreation Area

- On and off street parking available
- The site is sloped and this could result in reduced visual impact on surrounding residents
- Potential for screening if required.
- Indicative size of fenced area 60m x 25m (1500m<sup>2</sup>)
- Existing parkland is designated for passive recreation and a plan of management and masterplan is currently being prepared for the park
- No directly adjoining houses

ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

CITY OF RYDE

PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

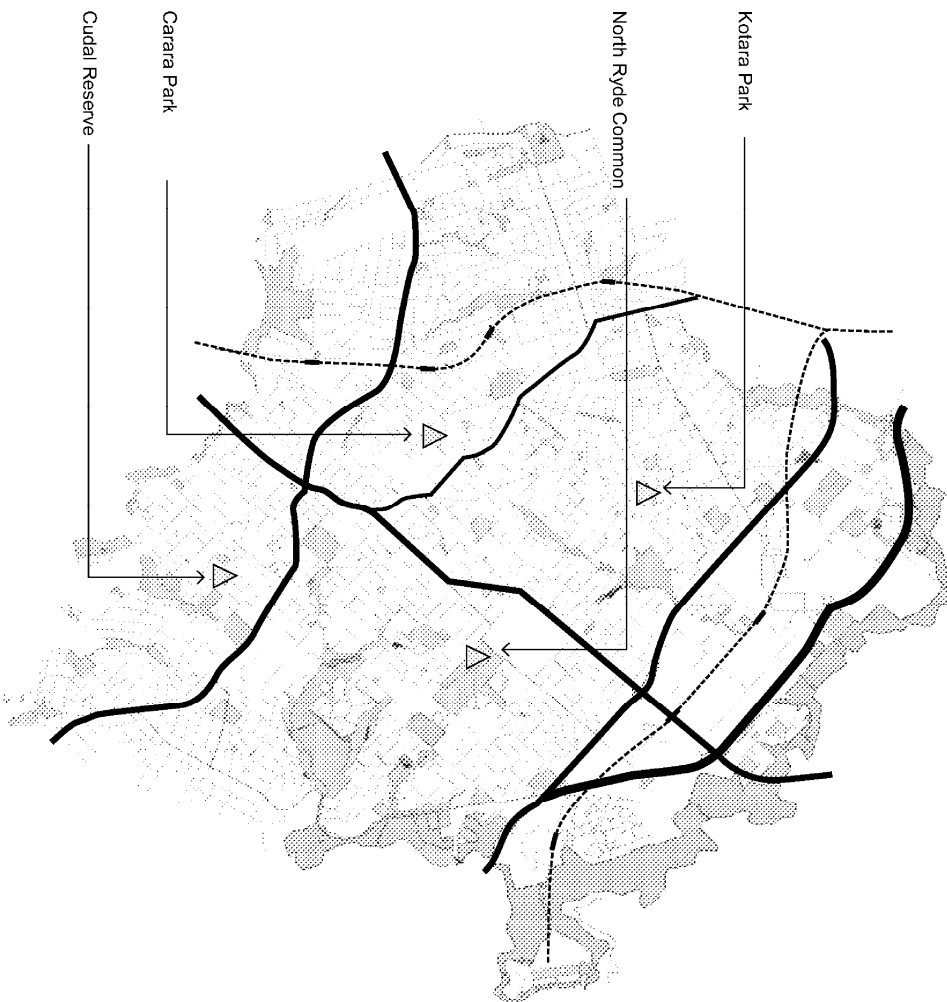
Recommendation 3: Free Running Areas - Kotara Park, North Ryde Common, Carara Park and Cudal Reserve

Free running areas are widely used in neighbouring LGAs and they offer a larger area for dogs and their owners to recreate.

It is proposed that four free running area be located across the City of Ryde. These areas are open spaces that are able to offer more to community as a destination for recreation.

The infrastructure needed to transform these parks into free running dog recreation areas may include the following:

- Signage that promotes responsible management of dogs off leash in public spaces,
- Seating,
- Landscaping (for amenity and screening purposes),
- Dog waste bins and bags
- Fencing may be needed along any interface with bushland areas and or road (if applicable) and
- Water access for dogs.




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ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

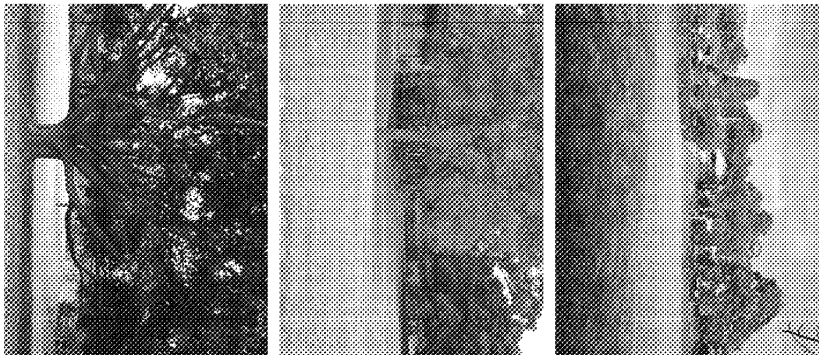



City of Ryde

**LEGEND**

- ▣ Proposed area for
- ▣ designated dog recreation
- ▣ area

**SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**





Cudal Reserve - Proposed Free Running Area


Proposed Dog Recreation Area

Surrounding street have a low traffic volume

Screening may be required along the boundary of residential blocks

The Reserve is a large grassed area. The existing use of the Reserve is for passive recreation


On street parking available on Harry Street and Arnold Street





ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1


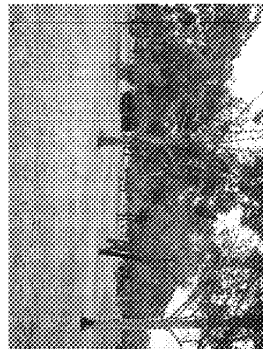
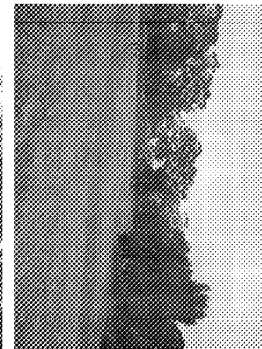



City of Ryde

**LEGEND**

- ▣ Proposed area for
- ▣ designated dog recreation area

**SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**



Surrounding streets have a moderate traffic volume

The Reserve is a large grassed area. The existing use of the Reserve is for passive recreation


Events are held in this Park and during these events dogs should be on leash

Free running area should be located a minimum of 120m meters away from Wicks Road

On street parking available on Twin Road

North Ryde Common - Proposed Free Running Area


Proposed Dog Recreation Area





ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1





City of Ryde

**LEGEND**

▣ Proposed area for  
designated dog recreation  
area

**SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**






On and off street parking available

Screening may be required along the tennis courts

The Reserve is a large grassed area. The existing use of the Reserve is passive recreation

Surrounding streets have a low traffic volume

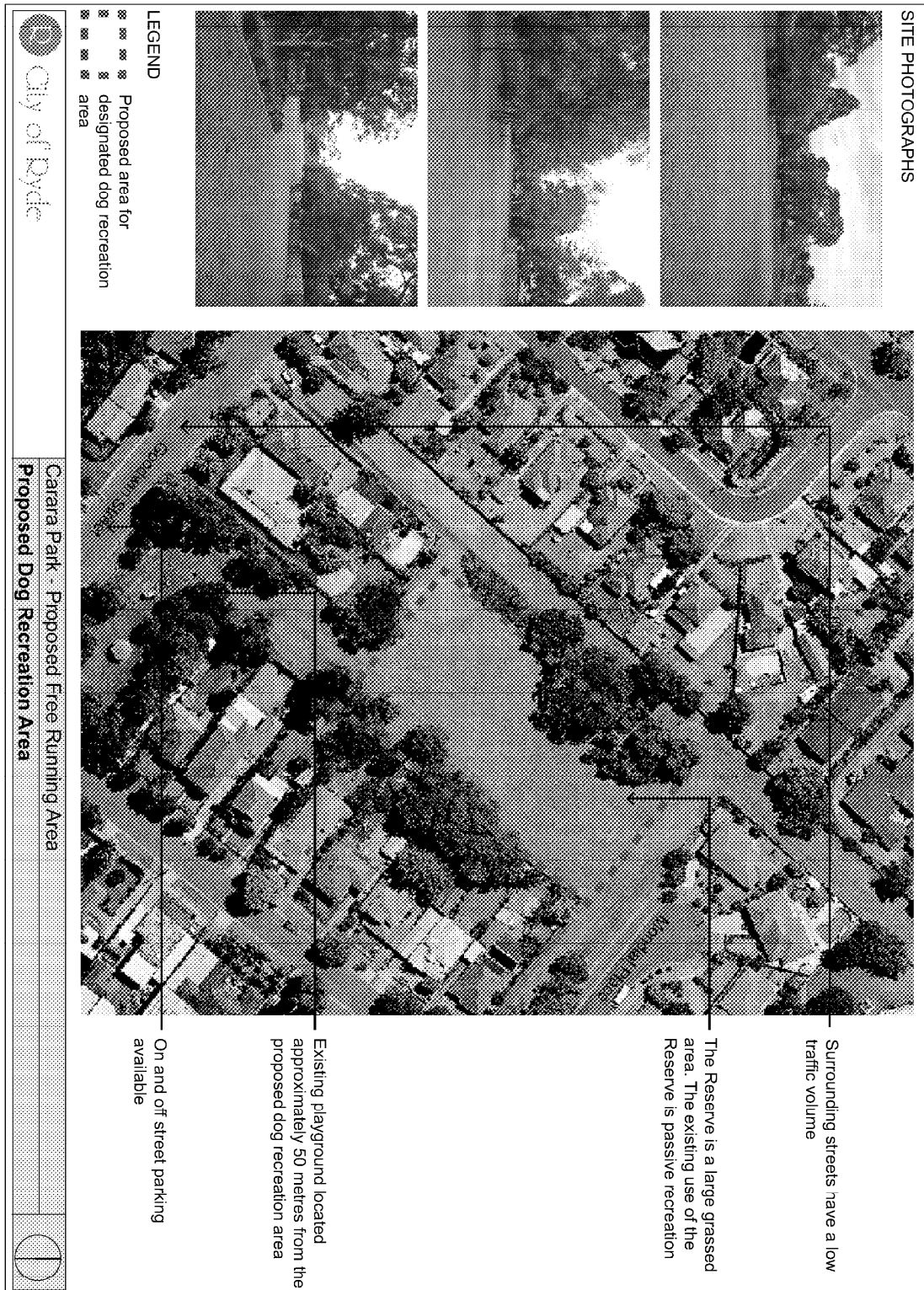
Kotara Park - Proposed Free Running Area  
Proposed Dog Recreation Area





ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1



ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

Recommendation 4: Sportfield Shared Facility - Pidding Park, Peel Park, Darvall Park, Santa Rosa Park, Fontenoy Park and Brush Park

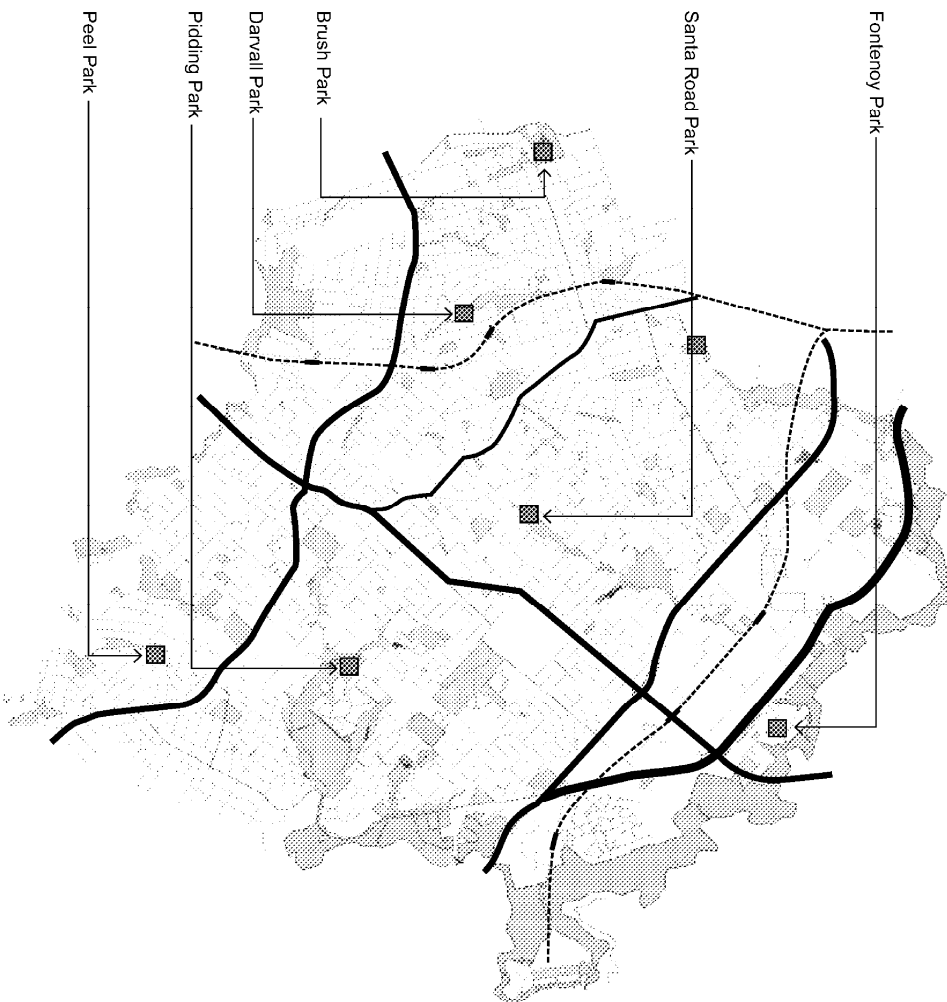
Shared facilities are commonly used through the neighbouring Council areas and the offer a way to promote multi-use of a sportfield.

The availability of these area as an off leash area is limited to those time then organised sporting activity is not occurring. For the purposes of this Study, organised sporting activity is defined as any sports activity that has been booked through Council's Recreation Coordinator. This include both seasonal and casual sports hire of sportfields.

This Study recommends the creation of seven sportfield shared facilities across the City. These sportfields have been selected because they have a lower organised sporting usage.

The infrastructure needed to transform these parks into shared sportfield dog recreation areas may include the following:

- Signage that promotes responsible management of dogs off leash in public spaces and outlines that use of the area for off leash dog activities is only when organised sports is not occurring,
- Seating,
- Dog waste bins and bags
- Fencing may be needed along any interface with bushland areas and or road (if applicable) and
- Water access for dogs.




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ITEM 18 (continued)

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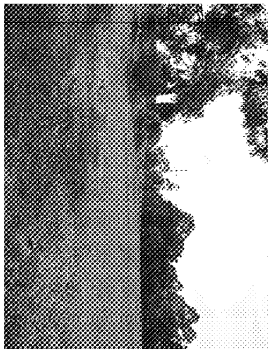
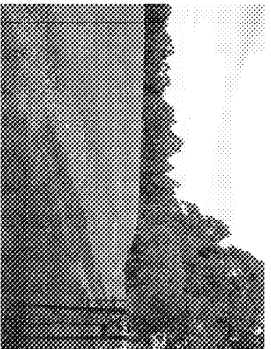
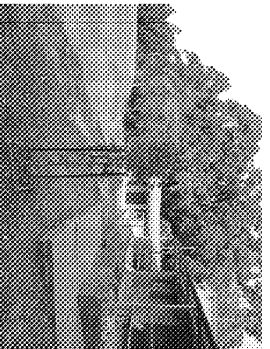


City of Ryde


**LEGEND**

- ▣ Proposed area for
- ▣ designated dog recreation
- ▣ area

**SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**

Brush Park - Proposed Sportsground Shared Facility  
Proposed Dog Recreation Area



On and off street parking available


The existing topography of the Park provides a barrier between the Park and Lawson Street

There is limited sports use on the sportsfield on weekdays in both the winter and summer sports seasons.

Existing park amenity building

Fencing of the natural areas would be required along the interface with the sportsfield





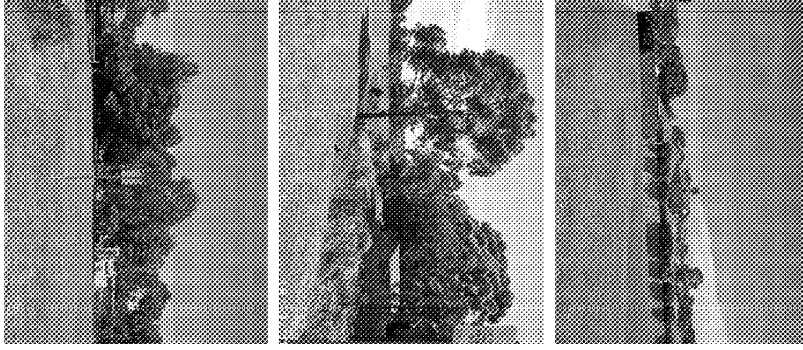


Existing dog club uses this Park for training days





ITEM 18 (continued)


ATTACHMENT 1

 <p>City of Ryde</p>	<p><b>LEGEND</b></p> <p>  Proposed area for   designated dog recreation   area                 </p>	<p><b>SITE PHOTOGRAPHS</b></p> 
<p>Santa Rosa Park - Proposed Sportsground Shared Facility Proposed Dog Recreation Area</p> 		<p>Existing park amenity building</p> <p>Fencing of the natural areas would be required along the interface with the sportsfield</p> <p>There is low sports use on the sportsfield on weekdays and weekends in both the winter and summer sports seasons.</p> <p>On and off street parking available</p>



ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

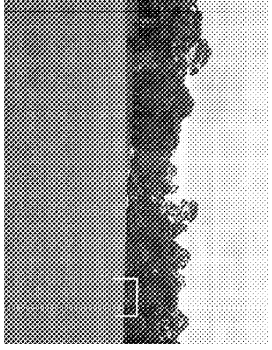
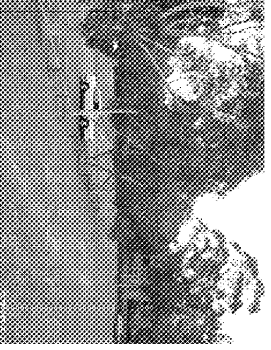




City of Ryde

**LEGEND**

- ▣ Proposed area for
- ▣ designated dog recreation
- ▣ area

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Fontenoy Park - Proposed Sportsground Shared Facility  
Proposed Dog Recreation Area

Existing park amenity building

Fencing of the playground area may be necessary


On and off street parking available

There is low sports use on the sportsfield on weekdays and weekends in both the winter and summer sports seasons.






ITEM 18 (continued)


ATTACHMENT 1

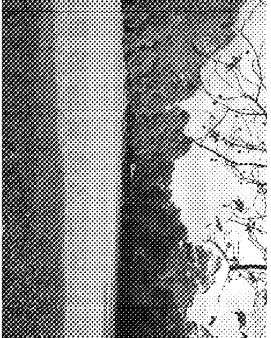


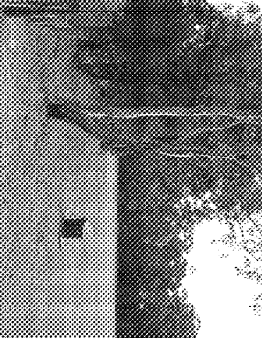
City of Ryde

**LEGEND**

 Proposed area for  
 designated dog recreation  
 area








SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Darvall Park - Proposed Sportsground Shared Facility  
Proposed Dog Recreation Area



On street parking available

There is low sports use on the sportsfield on weekdays and weekends in both the winter and summer sports seasons.

The existing fence and topography of the Park provides a barrier between the Park and Chatham Road


Fencing of the natural areas would be required along the interface with the sportsfield

Existing playground located approximately 90 metres from the proposed dog recreation area



ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

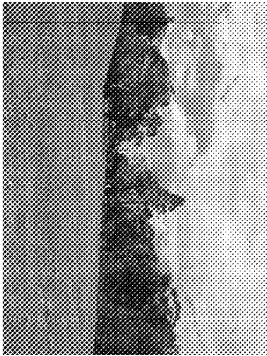
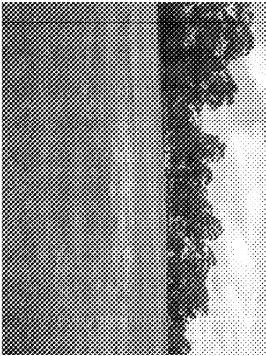



City of Ryde

**LEGEND**


- ▣ Proposed area for
- ▣ designated dog recreation
- ▣ area

**SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**

Pidding Park - Proposed Sportsground Shared Facility

Proposed Dog Recreation Area



There is low sports use on the sportsfield on weekdays and weekends in both the winter and summer sports seasons.

Existing park amenity building


On and off street parking available

Existing fencing of the natural area



ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

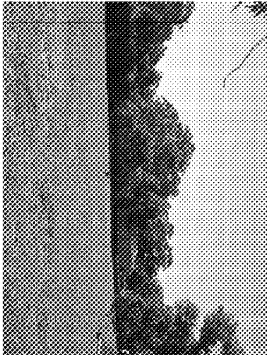
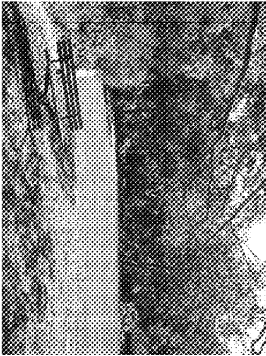
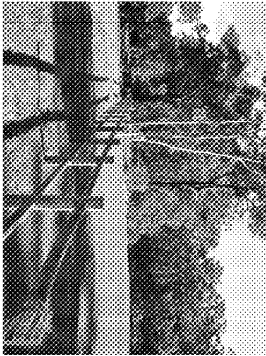



City of Ryde

**LEGEND**

- ▣ Proposed area for
- ▣ designated dog recreation area

**SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**




Forrester Park - Proposed Sportsground Shared Facility  
Proposed Dog Recreation Area

Fencing of the natural areas would be required along the interface with the sportsfield

There is low sports use on the sportsfield on weekdays and weekends in both the winter and summer sports seasons.

Existing playground located adjacent and fencing would be recommended


On and off street parking available





ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

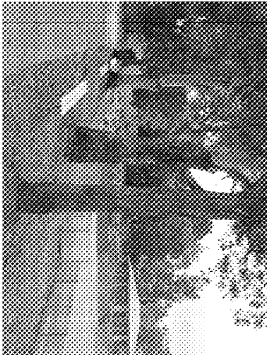
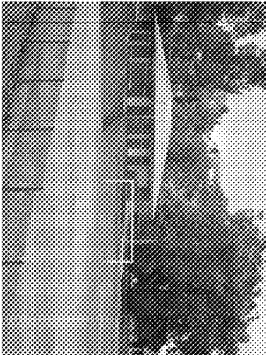
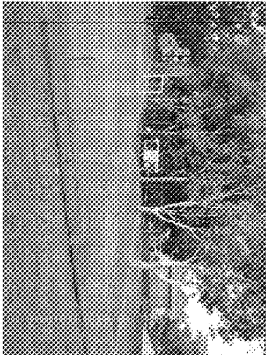



City of Ryde

**LEGEND**

- ☒☒☒☒☒☒ Proposed area for
- ☒☒☒☒☒☒ designated dog recreation
- ☒☒☒☒☒☒ area

**SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**



Peel Park - Proposed Sportsground Shared Facility  
Proposed Dog Recreation Area

Existing playground located approximately 75 metres from the proposed dog recreation area

Existing park amenity building

On and off street parking available

There is low sports use on the sportsfield on weekdays and weekends in both the winter and summer sports seasons.

On and off street parking available

ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

Recommendation 5: Dog Water Hole - Kissing Point Park

Areas where the community can take their dogs for a swim are growing across Sydney with areas located in Canada Bay, Lane Cove and Pittwater to name only a few. These areas are extremely popular especially in the summer months.


Swimming is an excellent exercise for dogs and the provision of areas where dogs are permitted to swim also provides a destination for dog owners to picnic and enjoy the outdoors.

Kissing Point Park offers a unique location as a water hole. On the eastern side of the Park, there is a large sand bar that creates a large area of shallows that is ideal as a dog swimming area.

As this recommendation is a new type of facility to be provided in the City of Ryde, an education program is also recommended that will encourage dog owners to manage their dogs correctly and ensure a clean waterway is maintained.

The infrastructure needed to transform this area of Kissing Point Park into a dog water hole may include the following:

- Signage that promotes responsible management of dogs off leash in public spaces,
- Seating,
- Dog waste bins and bags,
- Fencing may be needed along any interface with the road and
- Water access to allow the dog owners to rinse their dogs after swimming.

**LEGEND**  

 Proposed area for designated dog water hole

JULY 2010



On and off street parking available

The adjoining grass area should also be an off leash area  
 Sand area suitable for swimming



ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

CITY OF RYDE

PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

Recommendation 6: Dog Walking Trail - Ryde River Walk and Shrimptons Creek

Provision of dog recreation areas should not only extend to areas where dogs are permitted to be off-leash. Encouragement of the use of **on-leash recreation areas** is also very important.

As outlined earlier in this report, a dog walking trail is an identified path where the community is encouraged to walk their dog on a leash. Ideally, these trails connect to a variety of off-leash recreation areas and are supported with waste bins / bags and water bowls along the trail.

Two trails are identified as having potential as a dog walking trail:

- Ryde River Walk
- Shrimptons Creek Trail

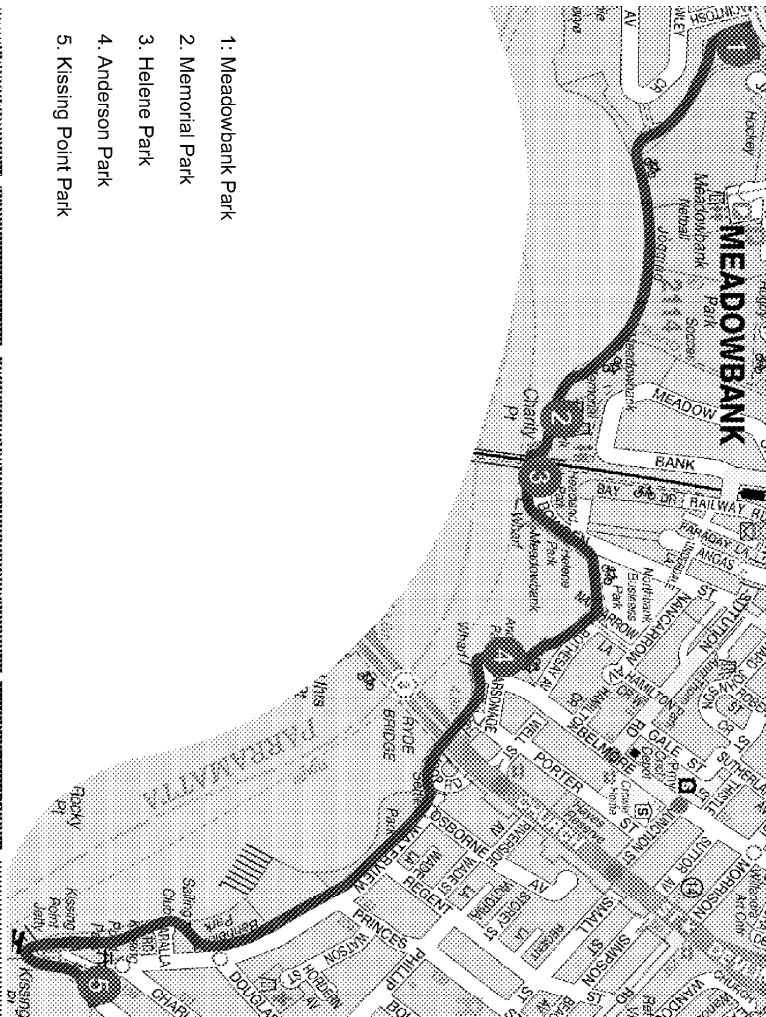
**Ryde River Walk**

The Ryde River Walk is a 3.3km path that connects Meadowbank Park and Kissing Point Park. The Walk currently offers some of the elements of a dog trail, including a variety of park and landscape areas, dog drinking bowls and connection to the existing off-leash area at Meadowbank Park.

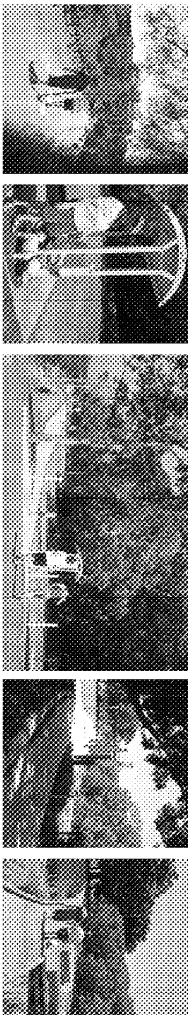
Formalisation of the Trail is recommended to include the following elements, and as shown on the image to the right:

- Additional dog water bowls along the length of the Trail as existing at Memorial Park and Ryde River Wharf Reserve
- On-leash access to the River at Memorial Park
- Dog water hole at Kissing Point Park

JULY 2010



- 1: Meadowbank Park
- 2: Memorial Park
- 3: Helene Park
- 4: Anderson Park
- 5: Kissing Point Park



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ITEM 18 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

PROVISION OF DOG RECREATION AREAS REPORT

**Shrimptons Creek**

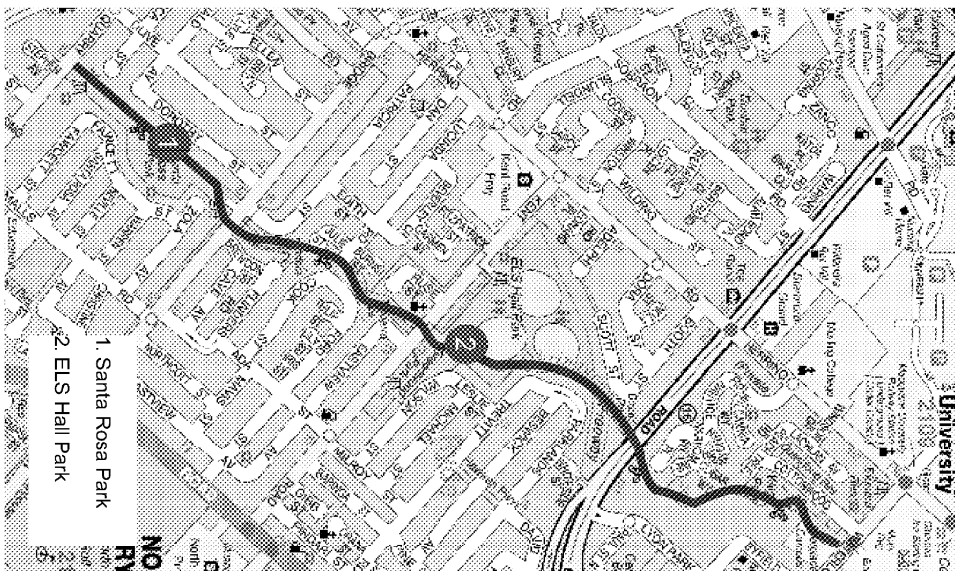
Shrimptons Creek Pathways offers to the community a 2.5km trail through North Ryde. There is opportunity to connect the proposed off leash areas of Santa Rosa park and ELS Hall Park along an on leash trail through a variety of parklands and landscape settings.

The development of a dog Trail along Shrimpton Creek would require the placement of dog waste bins / bags, signage and water bowls along the existing pathway and the possible additional of connection pathways between the proposed off leash areas.

*The development of Dog Trails is a low cost option in the provision of recreation areas for dogs and their owners. One of the significant benefits of the type of facility is that it encourages the dog owner to exercise with their dog and thus promoting a healthy lifestyle opportunity for the Ryde Community.*

*As this proposal is an on leash option, to be successful, these Trails should Interconnect with offleash recreation areas.*

JULY 2010



CITY OF RYDE

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## ITEM 18 (continued)

## ATTACHMENT 2

Page 1 of 2

**E-mail Message**

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**From:** Karen Brennan [SMTP:brennank@themediastore.com.au]  
**To:** Peter Montague [EX:/O=COREX/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FFC226CB-6FD9D0BC-CA2571CE-21E2DD], City of Ryde [EX:/O=COREX/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B10238AD-EA5F1DA7-CA256F68-7740E214rocher@tpg.com.au [SMTP:14rocher@tpg.com.au]  
**Cc:**  
**Sent:** 25/10/2010 at 5:40 PM  
**Received:** 25/10/2010 at 5:43 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Trial Dog Off Leash Area at PEEL PARK - Ryde Council !

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**Attachments:** 001.jpg  
002.jpg

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Hi Peter & Fiona Morrison

A local resident and mother of a child playing for Ravens has forwarded the letter advising Peel Park is an off leash area trial for 6 months and also attached is the off leash area with is the playing surface of Peel Park

Can some from council confirm what is to happen when Ravens have hired the ground for women's football trials in October/November and grading/trials for teams in February next year - do the dogs take over the park?

There will be '\*\*\*\*' all over the field. It is there every time we play even through it isn't an off leash area.

The parents pick it up before the kids take the field.

It will be worse when you encourage people to let their dogs run free over the park.

Is council going to enclose Peel's playing surface?

There is children's play equipment at the Stanbury Street end of the park.

There will be dogs that will leave the playing surface and 'roam around the rest of the grassed area'.

If not I hope no one gets bitten.

It would have been nice to have been given a heads up on the change to the park. Ravens have been a regular season hirer of Peel Park since 1962 for the winter soccer/football season. I'm sure we would be listed somewhere on the council records for the last 48 years. Our club is also represented at the Sports Council Meetings every month - no word about this at all.

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**ITEM 18 (continued)**

**ATTACHMENT 2**

Page 2 of 2

I am not opposed to the off leash area, I have 2 dogs of my own and take them to North Ryde off leash area regularly. But the North Ryde park is completely fenced/enclosed for every ones safety including the dogs.

Karen Brennan

Treasurer & Board Member of Gladesville Ravens

From: ruth gosbell [mailto:ruthyg1@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Monday, 25 October 2010 6:27 PM  
To: Jock Cunningham; bruno7@optusnet.com.au; Karen Brennan; koussas@bigpond.com  
Subject: Re: Trial Dog Off Leash Area at PEEL PARK - Ryde Council !

Hi Jock, Bruno and Karen, Mark,

I received a City of Ryde Letter today:

"Trial Dog Off Leash Area at Peel Park".

Dated: 22 October 2010 REF: D10/49759,

Thought someone from Ravens should know.

Trial commences 27th October 2010.

Regards,

Ruth Gosbell

2 scanned documents attached.

file://C:\Documents and Settings\FionaM\Local Settings\Application Data\TOWER So... 7/04/2011

**ITEM 18 (continued)**

**ATTACHMENT 3**

March 2011

Community Representatives from the  
Companion Animals Committee

Jan Aiello, Helen Johnstone, Nora Alexanian & Judy Willis

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## Submission

In support of the Extension of trial of 17 Leash  
free areas in Ryde City Council

**ITEM 18 (continued)****ATTACHMENT 3****Contents**

1.	Background	3
2.	Introduction	3
3.	Social benefits of companion animals	3
4.	Health benefits of companion animals	4
5.	Community demand for designated dog recreation and off leash areas	4
6.	Why dogs need access to public open spaces?	5
7.	City wide approach solution	5
8.	Expected benefits from increased access to leash-free parks	6
5.	Conclusion	8



**ITEM 18 (continued)****ATTACHMENT 3****1. Background**

The Community Representatives of the Ryde Council Companion Animals Advisory Committee (CAAC) have been working for the last two and a half years to improve access to leash free areas for the residents of Ryde.

In 2009 The CAAC requested that Council consider an extension of the leash free hours at Meadowbank Park Leash free area to be more user friendly for dog owners. While this request was defeated at Council, one outcome was the need to look at a more city wide approach to leash free areas and a study was undertaken and in July 2010 it was agreed by Council that a trial of additional leash free areas be established for a period of 6 months.

**2. Introduction**

- There are around 10,000 registered dogs in the Ryde City Council. That represents approximately one dog owned for every 10 people who live in the municipality (estimated population in June 2008 was 103,597- source community Atlas).
- The trial of additional leash free areas was passed at Council on 20 July 2011 following the submission of the report *A study on the provision of recreation areas for dogs in the City of Ryde undertaken by Open Spaces at Ryde Council*.
- The report recognized that the provision of open spaces that accommodates recreation activities with dogs is not only important for the physical and mental well being of the animal, but also for the physical and mental well being of the pet owner.
- The literature widely supports that companion animals promote the health and happiness of their owners. Most pet owners are responsible and endeavour to do the right thing when in public places. But sometimes, some pet owners, and pets, do not behave responsibly causing distress to others.
- Dog owners are a substantial group of park and open space users and planning and management of spaces within the City for dog recreation must incorporate both urban animal management and open space and recreation planning.

**3. Social benefits of Companion Animals**

- Companion animals deliver proven physical, psychological and health benefits for pet owners and have important benefits for society as a whole. Modern lifestyles can create loneliness, isolation and a sense of vulnerability. Dog ownership provides companionship, gives immense pleasure and reduces stress levels, without the demands of human relationships.
- Growing up with a dog assists in the social development of children by improving social skills and self-esteem. Children can learn responsibility, empathy and respect by living with and caring for a dog.

**ITEM 18 (continued)****ATTACHMENT 3**

- Dogs also help to build social networks within the community, creating opportunities for greater social interaction. A shared interest in dogs brings together people from all walks of life. Dogs can help to initiate conversations between strangers in public places, or be the basis more structured social activities such as dog showing and dog obedience classes.

**4. Health benefits of Companion Animals**

- Since the 1960's a plethora of research has arisen proving the value of dogs in various therapeutic settings. Dogs provide a wide range benefits to the sick and disabled, and assist those in need of greater independence e.g. guide dogs for the blind, assistance dogs for the disabled. Dogs are widely used for therapy in hospitals, prisons, psychiatric institutions, nursing homes and schools.
- Several Australian studies have shown quantifiable links between pets and better health. Owning a dog is associated with better cardiovascular health and lower levels of stress and depression.
- Research conducted in Australia and Germany has shown that pet ownership is associated with better human health. Dog and cat owners use the health system less than non-owners; they make fewer annual doctor visits and spend less time in hospital.
- Dogs enhance preventative health measures in the community through companionship, stress reduction, exercise and assistance to those who may otherwise depend on Government funded assistance. The long term health benefits of owning pets lead to savings in national health expenditure.

**5. Community demand for designated dog recreation and off leash areas**

*A study on the provision of recreation areas for dogs in the City of Ryde undertaken by Open Spaces at Ryde Council identifies a clear demand for leash free areas from the following community consultation reports:*

- *Ryde 2030 Community Strategic Plan - Consultation Outcomes Report (18 August 2009)*
- A hope for community facilities and infrastructure where there are "facilities where dogs can run without a leash".
- *Leisure and Recreation Needs - Community Consultation Report (April 2009)*
- Off leash dog areas were identified as the **second** highest community facility that is lacking, inadequate or is required,
- Off leash dog areas were identified as the eighth highest priority for open space and recreation facilities in the City over the next 5 - 10 years,
- There is a strong current and future demand for informal leisure and recreation facilities or settings including dog-exercise areas, and
- Report Recommendation : "*That Council progressively provide additional informal leisure and recreation facilities or settings – notably parks and open space (of varying types), bike paths, walking paths and tracks, dog-exercise areas, and youth facilities (including skate parks)*".

**ITEM 18 (continued)****ATTACHMENT 3****6. Why dogs need access to public open spaces?**

- The most obvious reason why dogs need access to public open space is because of their popularity. Dog owners are a substantial group of park users.
- The second reason has to do with its links with promoting acceptable behavior from dogs. Dogs need to be properly socialised in appropriate behaviour. They also need regular outings to reduce boredom and pent-up energy at home. Access to a park close to home is the safest and most effective way to ensure owners socialise their dogs and provide them with on-going experiences in the outside world. This not only benefits the dog and its owner but also neighbours who are affected by unacceptable behaviour at home, other park and street users and authorities responsible for urban animal management.
- The third reason why dogs need access to public open space is for the positive effects it can have on their owners. Owning a dog encourages people to exercise and visit their local park. Taking a dog out has also been found to stimulate social interaction with other humans.

*“Dog owners are a substantial group of park users.”*

- All of these reasons are likely to be magnified in the future as a consequence of the government's urban consolidation policies (i.e. a higher incidence of smaller homes and back gardens). As more people live in compact types of housing it will place greater demands on public open space both for humans and as an outlet for dogs; a fourth reason to provide for dogs' access to public open space.

**7. City Wide Approach Solution**

- A city wide approach should aim for integration of dogs with other park users. While separation is warranted in some instances, it should not be a philosophy upon which to base an area-wide strategy for dogs.
- Councils should apply a strategic approach that considers access on a comprehensive municipal wide basis rather than on a piecemeal park by park basis. The latter is reactive and problem-oriented. It fails to adequately address needs.
- A city wide approach, which is not time restricted, spreads the load across the city and means that usage will be staggered across the day according to residents needs and commitments.
- An education campaign for dog owners regarding their responsibilities under the Companion Animals Act is also essential when a city wide approach is taken. This can be in the form of feature articles in the Ryde City View Magazine, information for new pet owners on registration of new animals, information in the new resident packs and information sent with quarterly rate notices.



**ITEM 18 (continued)****ATTACHMENT 3**

- A city wide approach will allow residents to walk to a leash free area rather than have to drive to the currently restricted number of Leash free areas
- The following parks were subject to the trial:

**Park off-leash areas**

Specific areas within the following parks will be trialled as dog off leash areas.

- Carara Reserve - *Goodwin Street, Ryde*
- Kotara Park - *Abuklea Road, Marsfield*
- Waterloo Park - *Vimiera Road, Marsfield*
- ELS Hall Park - *Kent Road, North Ryde*
- North Ryde Common - *Twin Road, North Ryde*
- Denistone Park - *Terry Road, Denistone*
- Olympic Park - *Potts Street, Ryde*
- Cudal Reserve - *Henry Street, Ryde*
- Putney Park - *Pellisier Road, Putney*

**Sportsground Off Leash Areas**

The following sportsgrounds were also be trialled as dog off-leash areas when organised sport is not occurring. Maps of off-leash areas are available via the links below:

- Peel Park - *Morrison Road, Gladesville*
- Santa Rose Park - *Quarry Road, North Ryde*
- Forrester Park - *Vimiera Road, Eastwood*
- Brush Farm Park - *Lawson Street, Eastwood*
- Fontenoy Park - *Fontenoy Road, Macquarie Park*
- Darvall Park - *Chatham Road, Denistone*
- Pidding Park - *Cressy Road, Ryde*

**8. Expected benefits from increased access to leash-free parks****1. Benefits for Dogs**

It is widely recognised that dogs benefit greatly from a chance to run freely and socialise with other dogs as it reduces boredom, pent-up energy, barking and other nuisance behaviour.

The dog park is neutral territory for dogs and the likelihood of nuisance or aggressive behavior is significantly reduced.

**ITEM 18 (continued)****ATTACHMENT 3****2. Benefits for Dog Owners**

Dog owners are a substantial group of park users.

Greater access to more leash free areas means that dog owners can choose the most appropriate exercise time for their dog depending on work and family commitments

**3. Benefits for Nearby Residents**

Unrestricted hours will ensure that the number of dogs in the area will be staggered across the day not concentrated into restrictive time limited periods (as is the case presently at Meadowbank LFA). Perceived problems regarding additional traffic and too many dogs at one time should be negated if attendance at leash free areas is staggered.

The use of leash free areas and the presence of dogs and their owners deters antisocial behavior such as vandalism and graffiti.

**4. Benefits for Ryde City Council**

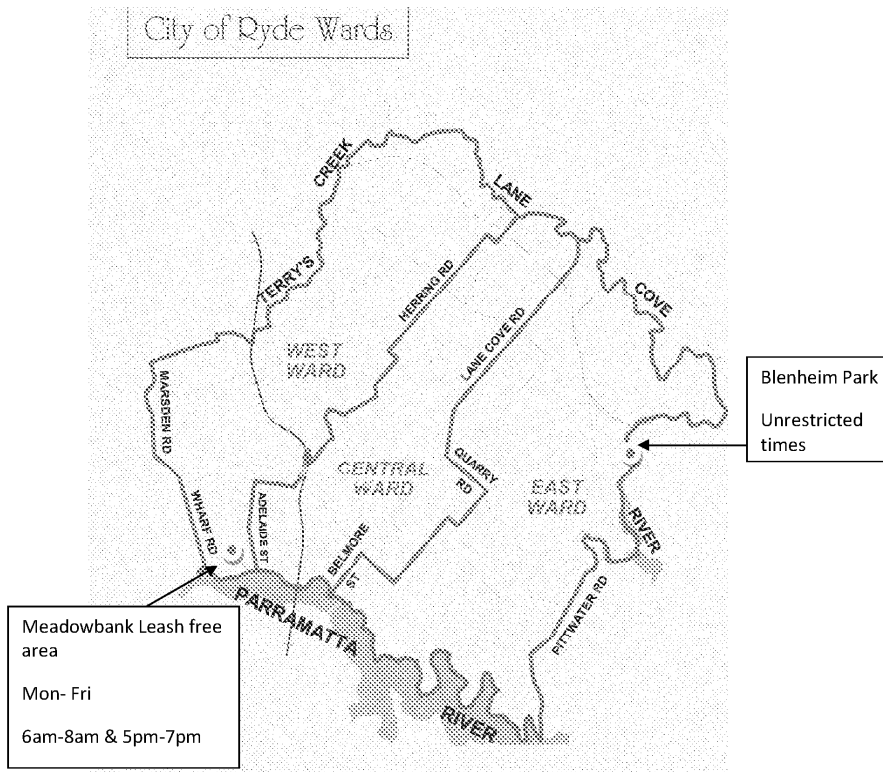
Ryde Council has the opportunity to provide the dog owners of Ryde with more reasonable access to leash-free areas. Ryde Council is one of the few Sydney Metropolitan Councils that has the least number of leash-free areas, with just one full-time leash-free area at Blenheim Park and 20 hours a week (Mon- Fri only) at Meadowbank.

**ITEM 18 (continued)**

**ATTACHMENT 3**

**Current leash free areas – Ryde City Council**

The current established leash free areas are illustrated on the following map.



**5. Conclusion**

Leash free areas are an essential cornerstone in the overall framework for the promotion of responsible pet ownership and in reducing nuisance behavior in dogs.

The Community Representatives of the Ryde Council Companion Animals Committee whole heartedly support the expansion of trial leash free areas to become permanent leash free areas in Ryde City Council.



**ITEM 18 (continued)****ATTACHMENT 4**

The General Manager  
City of Ryde  
Locked Bag 2069  
NORTH RYDE NSW 1670

9 March 2011

Dear Mr Neish

**City of Ryde Bushland Management Working Group - Submission on the Trial Dog Off Leash Areas**

The members of the City of Ryde Bushland Management Working Group would like to submit their concerns over the current trial Dog Off Leash areas. It is felt, by all members, there is a lack of protection to Bushland areas and habitat corridors abutting some of the Dog Off Leash areas included in the trial. The Parks considered to be of significance are;

- Brush Farm Park
- Darvall Park
- Denistone Park
- Forrester Park
- Santa Rosa Park
- Waterloo Park

It is unanimously agreed by the Committee the criteria and recommendations set out in Part 4 of "*A Study on the Provision of Recreation Areas for Dogs in the City of Ryde*" and submitted to Council's Committee of the Whole on 20 July 2010 be adopted and followed.

All Dog Off Leash areas abutting Bushland and Habitat Corridors should be fenced at a distance of 5 Metres from these areas to minimise the chances of dogs running into those areas and negatively impacting on the flora and fauna contained within. Also where access to Dog Off Leash areas is via Bushland tracks, the necessary controls for dogs (E.g. dog required to be on a leash) must be clearly stated.

In light of the increasing frequency of dog attacks on children and adults the Committee also asks Council to possibly consider the fencing of Dog Off Leash areas as part of the review of the trial.

We look forward to the City of Ryde undertaking the review of the trail and considering our submission.

Yours sincerely

The members of the City of Ryde Bushland Management Working Group