



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

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Part One: Introduction</b>                                                         | <b>5</b>  |
| Aims of this Study                                                                    | 5         |
| Structure of this Study                                                               | 5         |
| Demand for designated dog recreation and off leash areas                              | 6         |
| A short history of the provision of dog recreation areas in the City of Ryde          | 6         |
| Possible conflicts surrounding provision of dog recreation areas                      | 7         |
| <b>Part 2: Current trends in Dog Recreation</b>                                       | <b>9</b>  |
| Types of Dog Recreation Areas                                                         | 9         |
| Regional Context                                                                      | 9         |
| Sportsfield Shared Facility                                                           | 11        |
| Enclosed Free Running                                                                 | 12        |
| Free Running Areas                                                                    | 13        |
| Dog Water Holes and Beaches                                                           | 13        |
| Dog Walking Trails                                                                    | 14        |
| <b>Part 3: Assessment of Ryde Parks for suitability as a place for dog recreation</b> | <b>15</b> |
| The Assessment Process:                                                               | 15        |
| Step 1: Elimination Questions                                                         | 15        |
| Step 2: Constraining Factor Analysis                                                  | 15        |
| Step 3: Complimentary Factor Analysis                                                 | 15        |
| Assessment Results: Parks considered unsuitable                                       | 17        |
| Elimination Factor 1: Bushland and Natural Areas.                                     | 17        |
| Elimination Factor 2: Proximity to a National Park.                                   | 17        |
| Elimination Factor 3: Size and existing landscape of the Park.                        | 18        |

|                                                                                                  |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Elimination Factor 4: Dogs are specifically prohibited.                                          | 19        |
| Elimination Factor 5: Located within a predominantly commercial area.                            | 19        |
| Elimination Factor 6: The Park has cultural significance                                         | 19        |
| Assessment Results: Parks considered suitable: Constraining Factors + Complimentary Factors      | 20        |
| Enclosed Free Running Area                                                                       | 20        |
| Free Running Area                                                                                | 20        |
| Sportsfield Shared Facility                                                                      | 20        |
| Dog Walking Trail                                                                                | 20        |
| Dog Water Hole                                                                                   | 20        |
| <b>Part 4: Options and Recommendations</b>                                                       | <b>21</b> |
| Recommendation 1: A City Wide Approach to the provision of on and off leash dog recreation areas | 22        |
| Recommendation 2: Enclosed Free Running Areas                                                    | 23        |
| Recommendation 3: Free Running Areas                                                             | 29        |
| Recommendation 4: Sportsfield Shared Facility                                                    | 34        |
| Recommendation 5: Dog Water Hole                                                                 | 42        |
| Recommendation 6: Dog Walking Trail                                                              | 43        |



## 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

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.

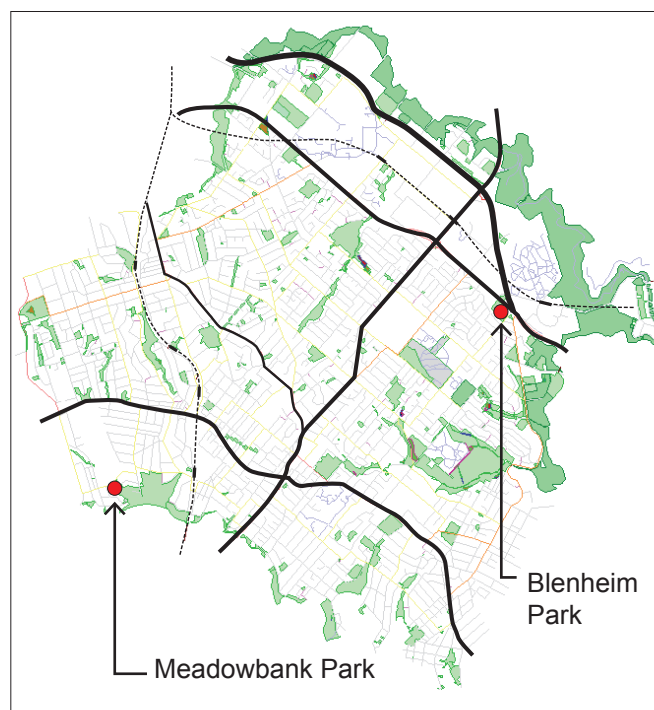


Figure 1: Existing designated dog recreation areas

### 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.

| Part  | Content                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ONE   | An introduction to the City of Ryde, the companion animal population and what the City is currently offering as designated dog recreation areas.                                                                                                          |
| TWO   | 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.<br><br>A discussion on the types of dog recreation areas that can be provided. |
| THREE | An assessment of all open spaces within the City of Ryde for suitability as a place for a dog recreation area.                                                                                                                                            |
| FOUR  | A discussion on options and recommendations.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## ***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

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 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*



### ***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 is 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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## 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 LGA's and across Sydney. Many Councils are using a combination of types of these facilities across their LGA's 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 area 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 (LGA's) adjoining the City of Ryde. This has included:

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

Each of the LGA's 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 |                         |                          |                 |               |                                 |                                 |                 |                         |                    |                               |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
|                             | 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                 |                                   |                         |                          | ✓               | ✓             |                                 |                                 | ✓               | ✓                       | ✓                  | ✓                             |

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

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



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



## 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
- Artarmon Oval, Artarmon
- 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 lose 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



Warrimoo Oval



Warrimoo Oval



Kur-Ring-Gai Council signage



Artarmon Oval



## 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 escapees 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 lose 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



Blenheim Park



Peace Park



Ruddock Park



Kissing Point Village Green





## 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 LGA's 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)
- Lysaght 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.



## Dog Walking Trails

A dog walking trail are becoming increasing popular as the community becomes more ware 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)

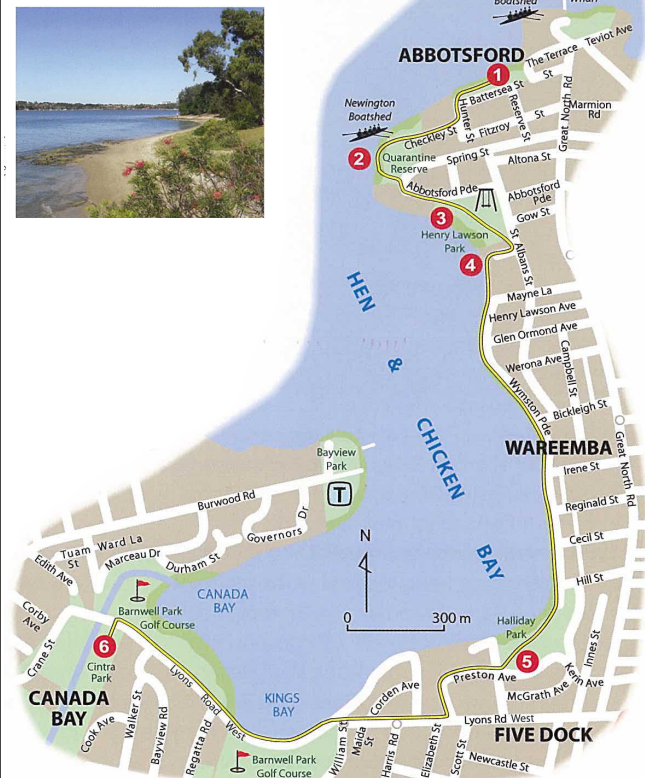
Most of these types of trails link many different recreation areas, such as water holes, free running and on leash areas. The benefits of these areas can include:

- 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

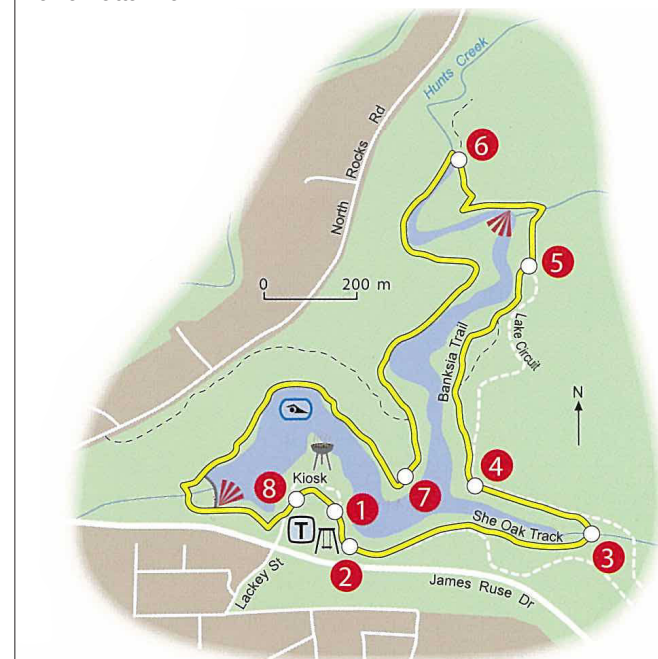
Some negatives of this type of facility include:

- Potential conflicts with other trail users
- Contamination of river foreshore if owners do not clean up after their dog

Hen and Chicken Bay Walk



Parramatta Walk





## 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?

If a park or reserve answered yes to any of the above questions, it was considered inappropriate as a place for off leash dog recreation.

**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.**

#### 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 uses / users?

Table 3: Constraining Factors Scoring Table

| Constraining Factors Scoring Table |                                         |          |                                                                |            |                                                            |          |                                                          |          |                     |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Sportsground                       |                                         | Bushland |                                                                | Playground |                                                            | Café     |                                                          | Access   |                     |
| 5 points                           | No Sportsfields                         | 5 points | No bushland                                                    | 5 points   | No Playground                                              | 5 points | No Café                                                  | 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 | Café 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  | Café is unable to be enclosed or separated from the park | 1 point  | Motorway / Arterial |

Table 4: Complimentary Factors Scoring Table

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

## 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                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Chatswood West | Quebec Reserve                  |
|                | River Avenue                    |
| Dennistone     | Miriam Park                     |
| East Ryde      | Kitty Creek Reserve             |
|                | Pryor Park                      |
|                | Rafferty Reserve                |
| Eastwood       | Forsyth Park                    |
|                | Outlook Park                    |
|                | Rokeva Reserve                  |
|                | Yarramar Reserve                |
| Gladesville    | Looking Glass Bay Park          |
|                | Mallee Reserve                  |
|                | Westminster Road - Unnamed Park |
| Macquarie Park | Alston Park                     |
|                | Caldew Reserve                  |
| Marsfield      | Berriwerri Reserve              |
|                | Booth Reserve                   |
|                | Busco Road - Un-named Park      |
|                | Ivanhoe Reserve                 |
|                | Lucknow Park                    |
|                | Pembroke Park                   |
|                | Somerset Park                   |
|                | Waterloo Reserve                |

| SUBURB     | PARK NAME         |
|------------|-------------------|
| North Ryde | Banool Reserve    |
|            | Boobajool Reserve |
|            | Bundara Reserve   |
|            | Greenwood Park    |
|            | Magdala Park      |
|            | Martin Reserve    |
|            | Myall Reserve     |
|            | Nundah Reserve    |
|            | Pindari Park      |
|            | Portius Park      |
| Ryde       | Ulmarra Park      |
|            | Wicks Park        |
|            | Aitchandar Park   |
|            | Barton Park       |
|            | Burrows Park      |
|            | Laurel Park       |
|            | Minga Reserve     |
| West Ryde  | Lambert Park      |

### ***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       |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Chatswood West | Kobaba Park     |
| Macquarie Park | Christie Park   |
|                | Dunholm Reserve |

| SUBURB     | PARK NAME       |
|------------|-----------------|
| North Ryde | Yinnell Reserve |

### ***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                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Chatswood West  | Mulhall Place               |
| Dennistone      | Bimbi Reserve               |
|                 | Cooper Reserve              |
| Dennistone East | Colvin Park                 |
|                 | Jackson Reserve             |
|                 | Kings Park                  |
|                 | Richmond Park               |
|                 | Rutherford Park             |
|                 | Salter Park                 |
| Dennistone West | Allars Street Un-named Park |
|                 | Cecil Park                  |
|                 | Driver Park                 |
|                 | Hibble Park                 |
|                 | Lonsdale Park               |
|                 | Lynn Park                   |
| Eastwood        | Braemar Park                |
|                 | Gwendale Park               |
|                 | Irene Park                  |
|                 | Lynelle Park                |
|                 | Rotary Park                 |
|                 | Valerie Park                |
| Gladesville     | Balun Reserve               |
|                 | Boyla Reserve               |
|                 | Darri Reserve               |
|                 | Glades Bay Reserve          |
|                 | Koonadan Reserev            |
|                 | Yarluke Reserve             |

| SUBURB         | PARK NAME                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Macquarie Park | Lane Cover Road Un-named Park   |
|                | Porters Park                    |
| Marsfield      | Catherine Reserve               |
|                | Kenneth Park                    |
|                | Liberty Park                    |
| Meadowbank     | Wharf Road Boat Ramp            |
| Melrose Park   | Meditation Park                 |
|                | Melrose Park                    |
| North Ryde     | Sindel Reserve                  |
|                | Booral Reserve                  |
|                | Flinders Park                   |
|                | Gwandalan Reserve               |
|                | Kathleen Reserve                |
|                | Nimbin Reserve                  |
| Putney         | Donnelly Park                   |
| Ryde           | Benson Place                    |
|                | Kulgoa Reserve                  |
|                | Lavarack Street - Un-named Park |
|                | Nerang Park                     |
|                | Salerwong Reserve               |
|                | Watts Park                      |
| West Ryde      | Griffiths Avenue Un-named Park  |
|                | Korpie Reserve                  |
|                | Linton Avenue Un-named Park     |
|                | Linton Park                     |
|                | Patience Park                   |

***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 East | Community Park    |
|                 | Jacaranda Reserve |
| East Ryde       | Heatly Reserve    |
| Eastwood        | Glen Reserve      |
| Gladesville     | Trim 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 |



## 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.

### 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    |

*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*

### Free Running Area

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

### 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    |

### Dog Walking Trail

| PARK NAME              | WARD    |
|------------------------|---------|
| Ryde River Walk        | All     |
| Shrimptons Creek Trail | Central |

### Dog Water Hole

| PARK NAME          | WARD |
|--------------------|------|
| Kissing Point Park | East |

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

- Olympic Park,
- Denistone Park,
- Putney Park
- Waterloo Park,
- ELS Hall Park,
- Blenheim Park and
- Meadowbank Park

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

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

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

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

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

## 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.

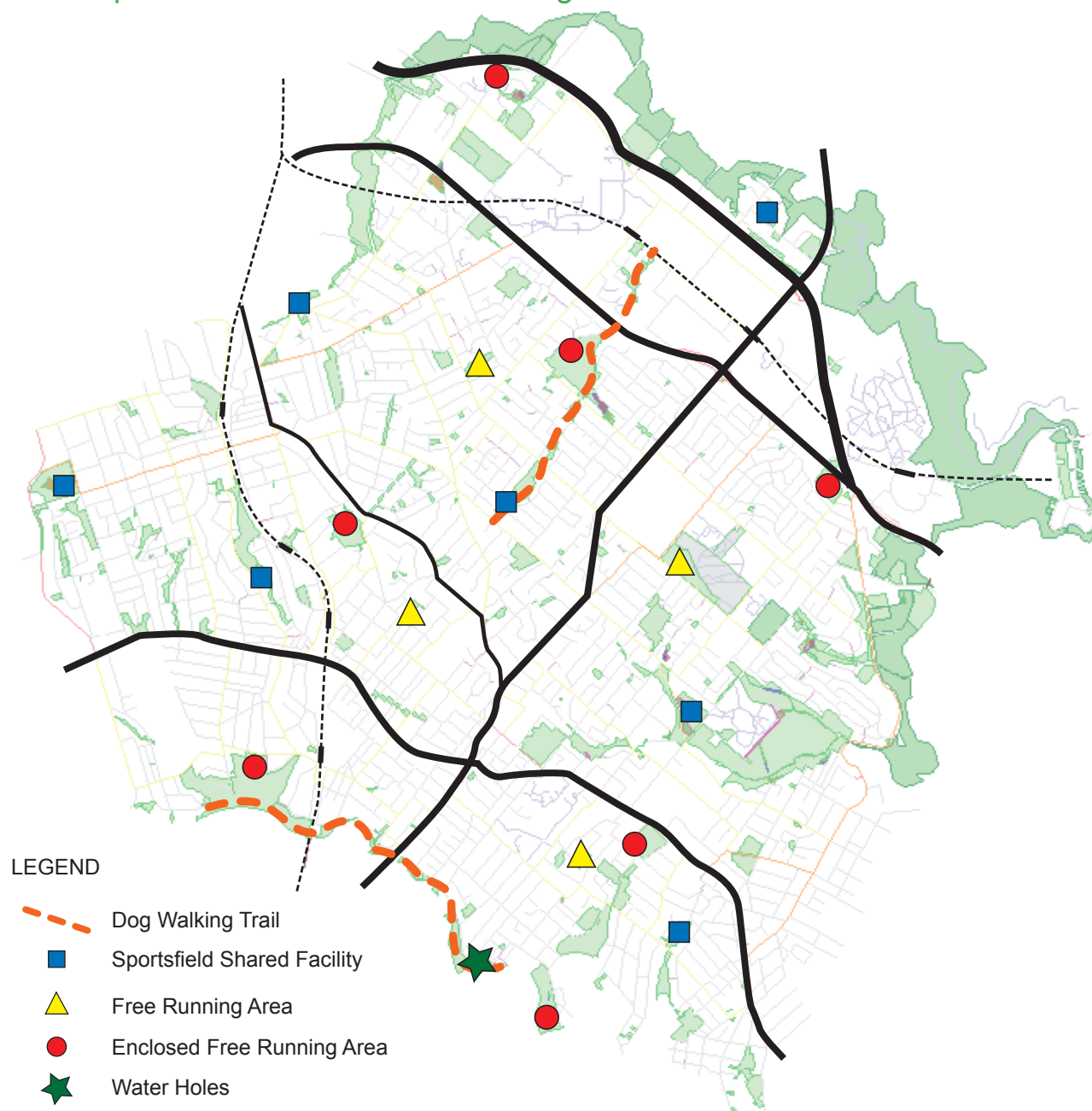
A variety of recreation area types is also recommended as one type of facility does not fit all recreation needs.

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
- Fontenoy Park
- ELS Hall Park
- Kotara Park
- Carar Reserve

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



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

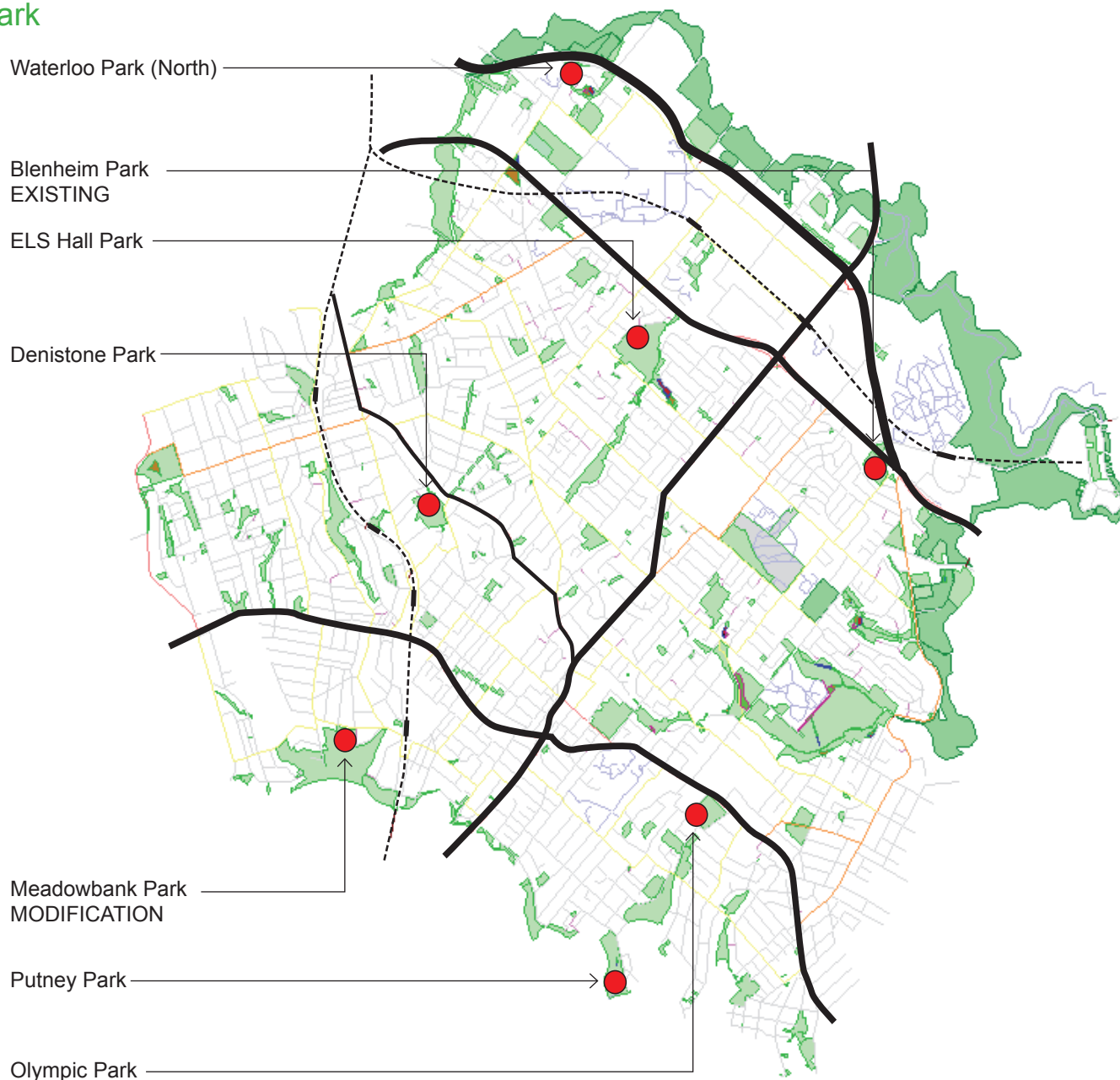
The City of Ryde has one existing enclosed free running dog off leash park located at Blenheim Park. This area is characterised by a fully enclosed fenced area where dogs are able to run freely within a confined area.

This type of facility is very popular and the diagram to the right proposes an 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.





## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



### LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for designated dog recreation area



Existing parkland has no formalised existing use and categorised as parkland under the Generic Plan of Management

Indicative size of fenced area 30m x 40m (1200m<sup>2</sup>)

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

On street parking available



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Park Masterplan



## LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for designated 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 Shrimptons 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



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



### LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for designated dog recreation area



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

On street parking available



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



## LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for designated dog recreation area



Potential for screening if required.

The site is sloped and this could results 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



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



## LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for designated 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

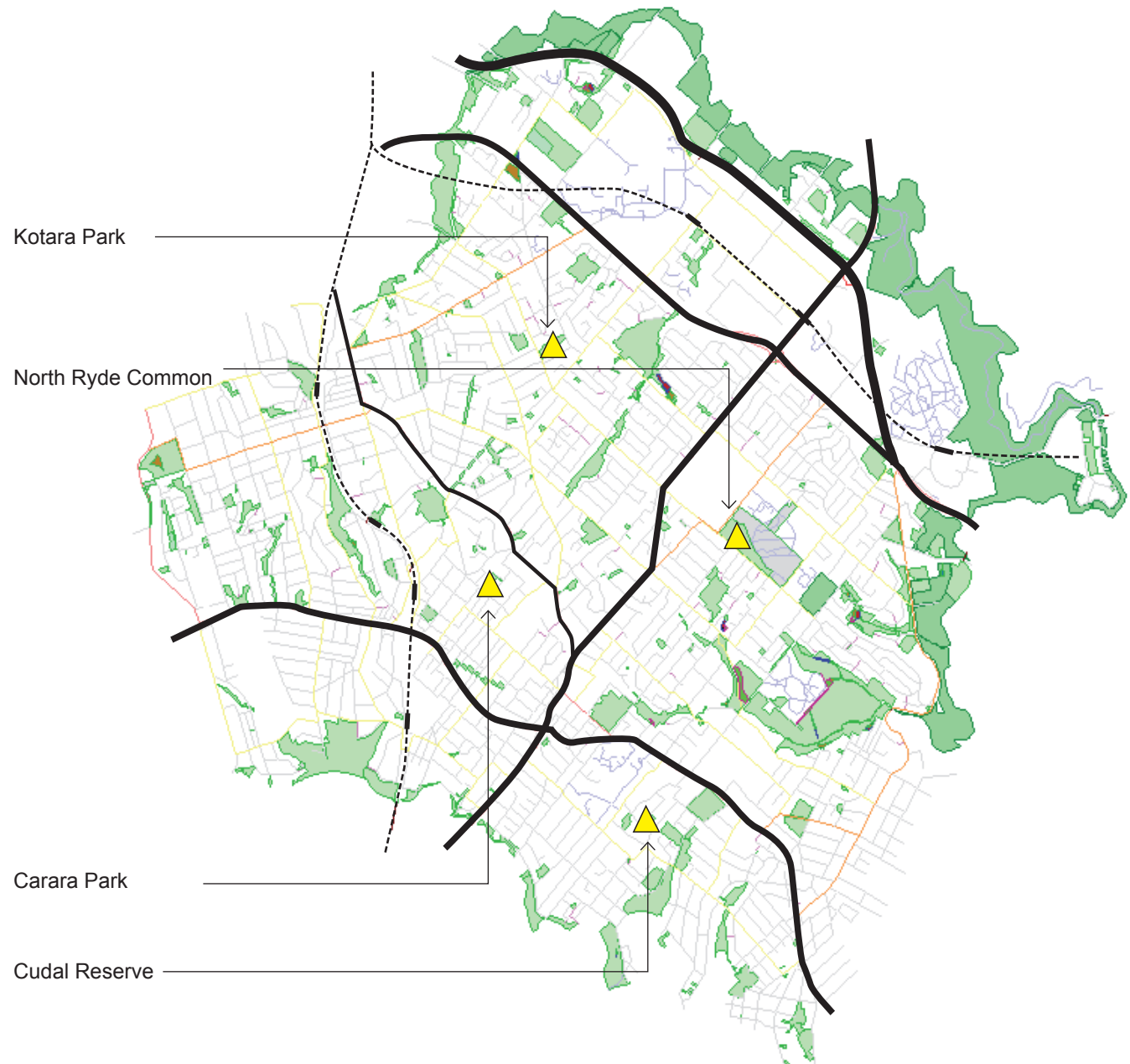
### Recommendation 3: Free Running Areas - Kotara Park, North Ryde Common, Carara Park and Cudal Reserve

Free running areas are widely used in neighbouring LGA's 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.





## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



### LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for designated dog recreation area



On street parking available on Harry Street and Arnold Street

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

Screening may be required along the boundary of residential blocks

Surrounding street have a low traffic volume



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



### LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for
- ■ ■ ■ designated dog recreation
- ■ ■ ■ area



On street parking available on Twin Road

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

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

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

Surrounding streets have a moderate traffic volume



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



## LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for designated dog recreation area



Surrounding streets have a low traffic volume

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

Screening may be required along the tennis courts

On and off street parking available



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



### LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for designated dog recreation area



Surrounding streets have a low traffic volume

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

Existing playground located approximately 50 metres from the proposed dog recreation area

On and off street parking available



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

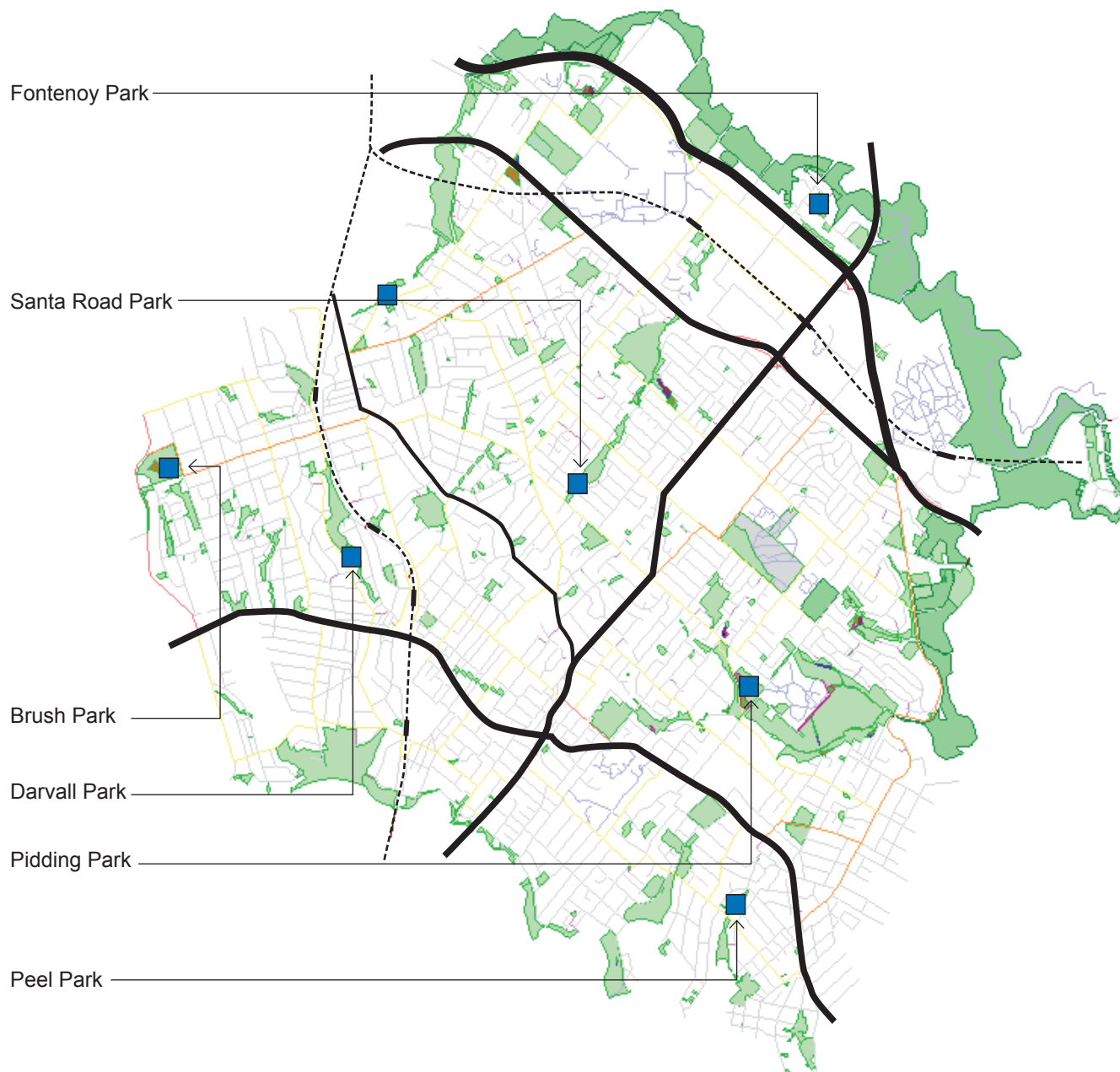
Shared facilities are commonly used through the neighbouring Council areas and the offer a way to promote multi-use of a sportsfield.

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 sportsfields.

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

The infrastructure needed to transform these parks into shared sportsfield 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.





## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



## LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for
- ■ ■ ■ ■ designated 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



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



### LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for
- ■ ■ ■ ■ designated dog recreation
- ■ ■ ■ ■ area



Existing park amenity building

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.

On and off street parking  
available



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



## LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for designated dog recreation area



Fencing of the playground area may be necessary

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.



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



### LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for designated dog recreation area



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

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

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

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

On street parking available



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



## LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for
- ■ ■ ■ ■ designated 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



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



### LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for
- ■ ■ ■ ■ designated 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



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



### LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ Proposed area for designated 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



## 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.

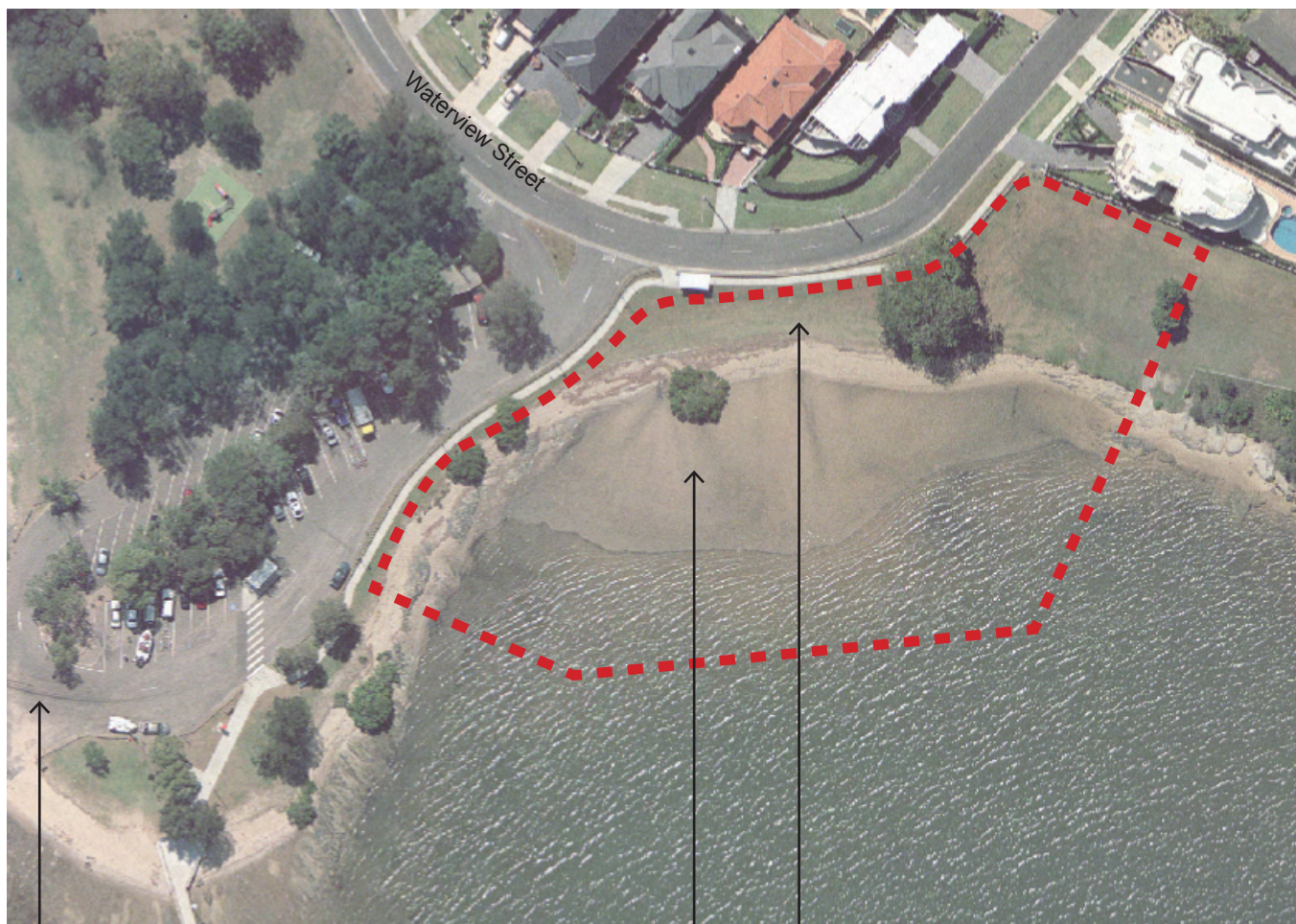
As this recommendation is a new type of facility to be provided in the City of Ryde, an education program is also recommended that will encourage dog owners to manage their dogs correctly and ensure a clean waterway is maintained.

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



On and off street parking available

The adjoining grass area should also be an off leash area

Sand area suitable for swimming



## 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:

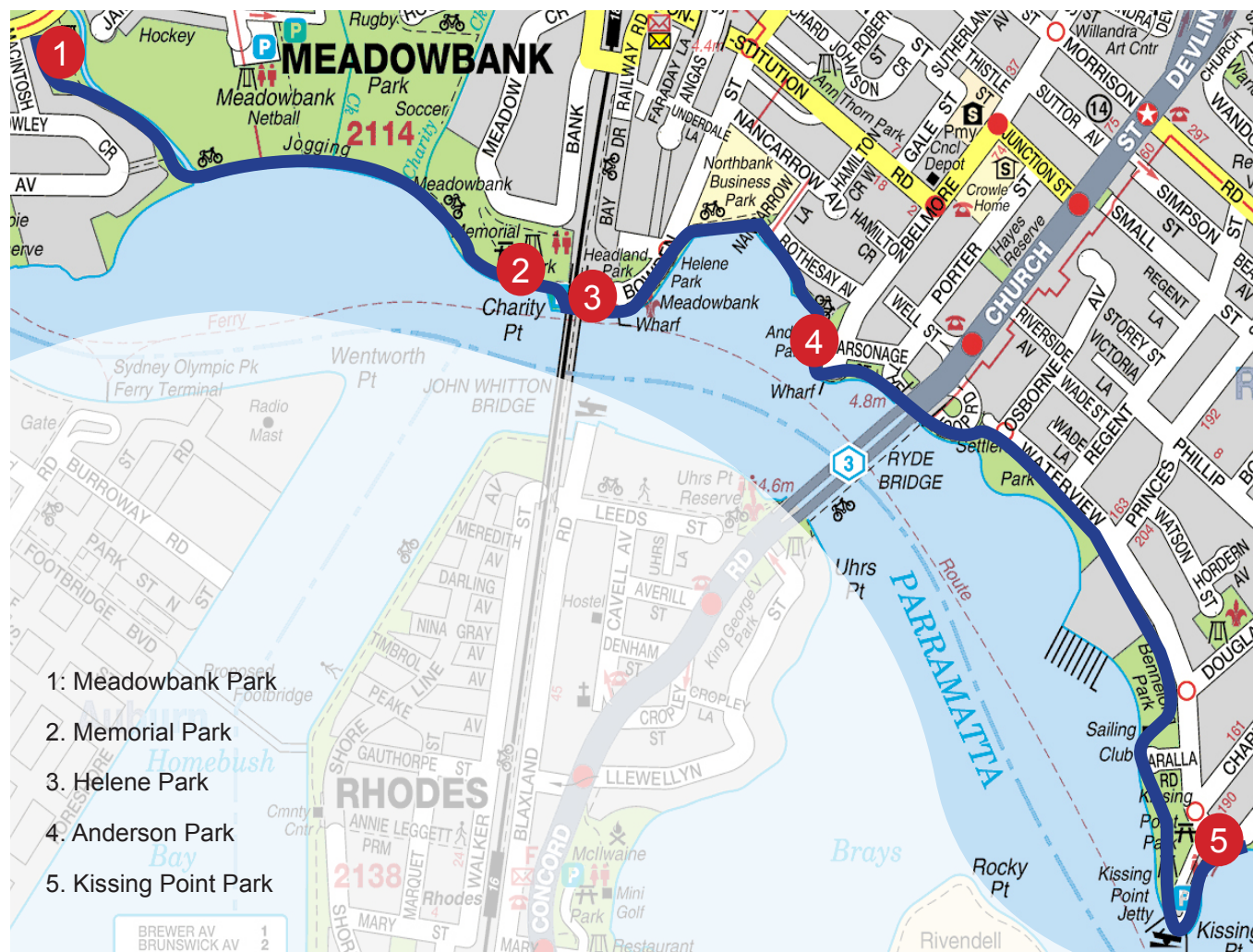
- Ryde River Walk
- Shrimptons Creek Trail

### 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





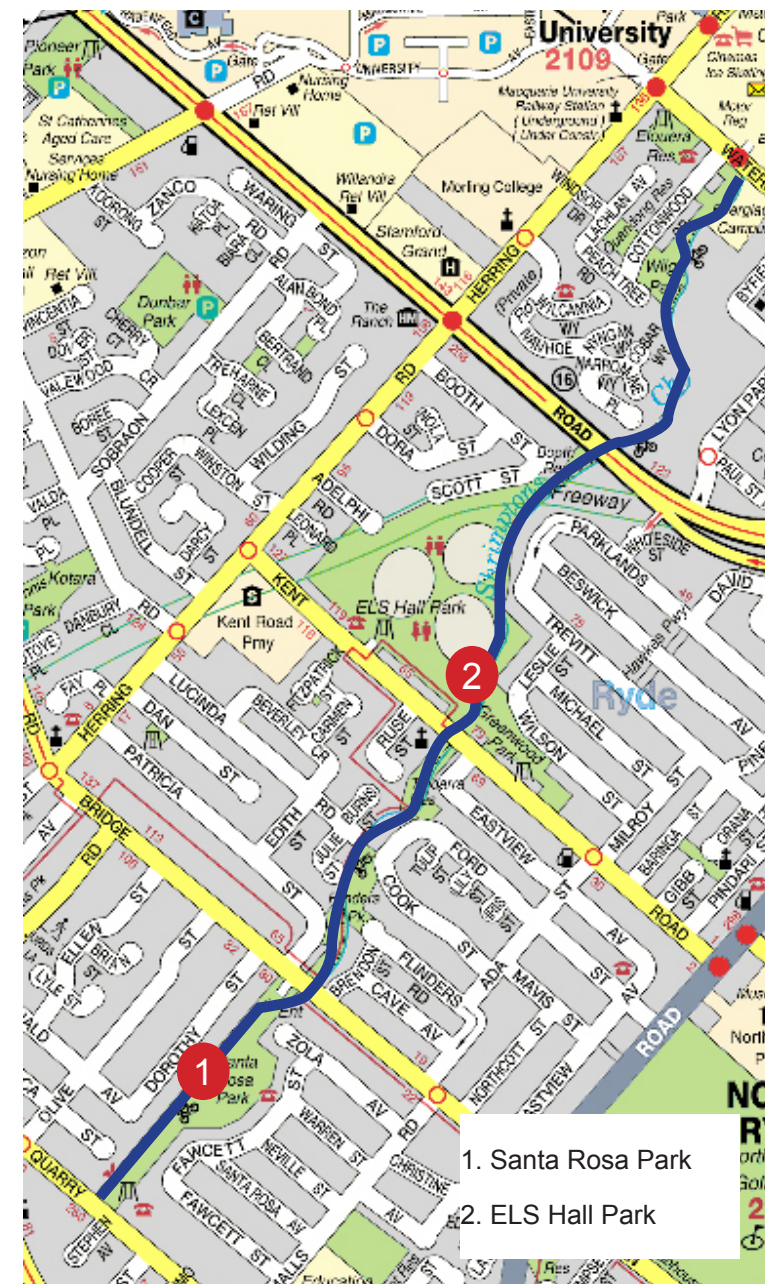
## Shrimptons Creek

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 off leash recreation areas.*



1. Santa Rosa Park
2. ELS Hall Park