

Strategic Community Reference Group

Meeting 1 Report — Dog Management Plan

Date: Monday 27 May 2024

Time: 6.00–8.30 pm

Location: Civic Centre Conference Room 2 & 3

90 Boas Avenue, Joondalup

Facilitator: Joel Levin — AHA! Consulting

Attendees

Presiding Member: Cr John Raftis/Mayor Albert Jacob

Elected Members: Cr Christopher May

Cr Rohan O'Neill

Community Members:

North Ward Allan Connolly

Helen Winterton

North-Central Ward Camila Mazzo

Bettina Gould

Central Ward Linda Smith

South-West Ward Len Collier

South-East Ward Rachel Kemp

South Ward Josh Hurley

Lynda Crawford

Subject Matter Experts: Lesley Humphreys — Director, LMH Consulting/Paws4Play

Kellie Bryson — Animal Management Specialist, City of Joondalup

City Officers: Nico Claassen, Director Infrastructure Services

Michael Hamling, Manager Parks and Natural Environment Chloe Cooper, Strategic Planning and Engagement Coordinator Michelle Meuwese, Coordinator Landscaping Design Services

Emily Peters, Policy Officer

Observers: Cr Phillip Vinciullo

Apologies: David Hudson, South-West Ward Community Representative

Tara Lie, Youth Representative

Susan North, Central Ward Community Representative

Aimee Wright, Youth Representative

Did not attend Janine Blake, South-East Ward Community Representative

Josh Challis, Youth Representative

Overview

The purpose of the meeting was to provide input into the development of a new Dog Management Plan. The meeting investigated scoping and priorities for the plan and explored roles and responsibilities of the City and the community in regard to dog management.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- To explore perceptions and issues associated with dogs and dog management.
- To explore roles and responsibilities of local governments, individuals and external organisations.
- To identify priorities and approaches to dog management in the City.

Subject matter experts were invited and participated in the Strategic Community Reference Group meeting. Additionally, Lesley Humphreys gave a presentation on dog management, which will be expanded on further in the outcomes section.

The following subject matter experts attended this meeting:

Lesley Humphreys, Director, LMH Consulting/Paws4Play

Lesley has been a senior planning and policy consultant for the past 11 years, having previously managed a large recreation and parks portfolio for the Yarra Ranges Council in Melbourne. Lesley has worked with metropolitan, rural, and regional councils on a diverse range of projects. As a result, she understands the complexity of issues that face government in planning for community needs. She specialises in strategic planning with a focus on recreation, community, open space and health and well-being planning and policy writing.

Kellie Bryson, Animal Management Specialist, City of Joondalup

Kellie holds multiple qualifications in Companion Animal Services, specialising in Canine Behaviour and Training. Kellie is currently operating as part of the City's Animal Management Program, providing expert education to the community and internal staff on the safe and efficient management of animals in the City.

Preparation

To ensure an engaging experience, Strategic Community Reference Group members were expected to familiarise themselves with the provided pre-reading material ahead of time. The information in the pre-reading materials was designed introduce the topic and promote contribution to the discussion.

Additionally, to ensure that the meeting achieved its objectives, members were asked to undertake the following preparation task:

As you go about your week, try and attend an area populated with dogs, such as a local park. While you are there, please observe:

- How many dogs are in the area?
- How are the dogs behaving?
- Are the dogs on- or off-leash?
- How are other people, besides the dog owners, using the space?
- Is there any dog waste in the area?
- Is there anything else related to dogs and dog management that you notice?

Outcomes

Online poll — You and dogs

The purpose of the online poll was to determine the reference group members' pre-conceived notions about and feelings towards dogs. Members were asked to complete the online poll using their mobile devices, where they answered questions about their relationship with dogs according to pre-determined response options.

After completing the poll, results were anonymised and presented to the group for discussion as percentages. The reference group identified that most members own, like and enjoy dogs. However, during the discussion, it was also noted that other sections of the community may not have similarly positive perceptions of dogs as they do. The online poll saw the following results:

1. What is/has been your connection to dog ownership?

Current owner	54%
Past owner/family had dogs	15%
Would like to have a dog one day	23%
Never owned one/not interested	8%

2. What is your pet of choice?

Dogs	91%
Cats	0%
Hamster	0%
Bird	0%
Fish	0%
Other	9%

3. How would you describe your interaction with dogs?

Very joyful	50%
Joyful	25%
Neutral	25%
Tense	0%
Very tense	0%

The raw outputs can be found in Appendix 2 — Online poll results

Presentation — Introduction to dog management

The next part of the session was a presentation from subject matter expert, Lesley Humphreys. This presentation provided members with an introduction to dogs and dog management in the local government context and presented the most up-to-date research and knowledge on the subject.

The presentation covered the following aspects of dogs and dog management:

- Research, knowledge and information
- The importance of pets
- The benefits of off-leash, on-leash, and dogs prohibited areas
- Common conflicts in our communities
- Issues around fenced and unfenced areas
- Questioning common attitudes and perceptions
- Challenges for local governments and communities.

Reference group members had the opportunity to ask Ms Humphreys questions and make comments regarding the presentation. Members asked questions to clarify points in the presentation and stated that

they understand why many areas are fenced in the City of Joondalup. Members also noted that the needs of community members who are not dog owners should be considered, respected, and catered for in a Dog Management Plan.

The slides from this presentation can be found in Appendix 3 — Subject matter expert presentation.

Activity 1 — Dogs in spaces

The purpose of this activity was to explore approaches to managing dogs in City-owned or managed spaces and determine community sentiments for each approach. The activity began with an introduction and description of the open-spaces to be considered and options for approaches to dog management.

The following information was presented to the reference group members:

Open space	Description	Image
Recreation Parks	Recreation Parks are public open spaces predominantly used for informal recreation activities , such as walking, jogging, picnicking and play. They are generally designed to accommodate low-wear applications and contain recreation-based infrastructure.	
	People attend these public open spaces with the primary purpose of engaging in social and leisure activities.	Oahu Park (Hillarys)
Sports Parks	Sports Parks are public open spaces predominantly used for formal , structured sports activities , such as team competitions, physical skill development and training. They are generally designed to accommodate the playing surface and infrastructure requirements of specific sports. People attend these public open spaces with the primary purpose of engaging in organised sports activity , training , competition or viewing as a spectator .	lluka District Open Space (lluka)
Natural Areas	Natural Areas are public open spaces predominantly used to protect local ecological and biodiversity values. They can include bushland, coastal and wetland areas. These public open spaces can provide opportunities for low-impact recreational activities, such as walking, jogging or cycling. Natural Areas are managed to enable some recreational access while protecting local ecological and biodiversity values.	Huxley Park (Burns Beach)

Open space	Description	Image
	Beaches are not a specified classification and can be considered either Recreation Parks or Natural Areas.	
Beaches	City of Joondalup beaches extend from the northern boundary at Burns Beach to the southern boundary at Marmion, and from the waterline to where to first sealed road commences in the east.	
	Beach management requires balancing recreation, tourism, development and conservation needs to ensure the long-term sustainable use of the coastline.	Hillarys Dog Beach (Hillarys)

The members were then presented with potential approaches to dog management in these four types of spaces, which are:

- Prohibited dog access
- Dogs allowed on-leash
- Dogs allowed off-leash
- Other

In their four table groups, members discussed their perspectives on approaches to dogs in each of the four spaces, taking their own notes, as required, on the templates provided.

Individual members took the following notes:

Member A			
What is the best approach to dogs in these spaces?		Why do you think that?	
	✓ Prohibited dog access	•	Give families a safe space.
Recreation Parks	O Dogs allowed on-leash		·
Recreation Falks	O Dogs allowed off-leash		
	O Other		
	O Prohibited dog access	•	Allows control when sports are occurring.
Sports Parks	✓ Dogs allowed on-leash		
Sports Farks	O Dogs allowed off-leash		
	O Other		
	O Prohibited dog access	•	Let there be a happy medium.
Natural Areas	✓ Dogs allowed on-leash		
Natural Areas	O Dogs allowed off-leash		
	O Other		
	O Prohibited dog access	•	Specific animal [beaches].
Beaches	O Dogs allowed on-leash		
Deaches	✓ Dogs allowed off-leash		
	O Other		

Member B		
What is the best approach to dogs in these spaces?		Why do you think that?
Recreation Parks	 ○ Prohibited dog access ✓ Dogs allowed on-leash ○ Dogs allowed off-leash ✓ Other — Play spaces for children not [dogs] 	 Controlled social interactions with owners present at all times to ensure safe environment for dogs, owners and other residents that may be using the area. Play spaces for children [dogs] totally prohibited.

Sports Parks	○ Prohibited dog access✓ Dogs allowed on-leash○ Dogs allowed off-leash○ Other	Same as above.Community safety should always be top priority.
Natural Areas	○ Prohibited dog access✓ Dogs allowed on-leash○ Dogs allowed off-leash○ Other	 Categorising bushland areas 1/2/3 zone [eg] for dogs and ability to introduce dogs to that area.
Beaches	 ✓ Prohibited dog access ○ Dogs allowed on-leash ✓ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	Dog Beach off-leash.Other beaches strictly prohibited.

Member C			
What is the best approach to dogs in these spaces?		Why do you think that?	
Recreation Parks	 ○ Prohibited dog access ○ Dogs allowed on-leash ○ Dogs allowed off-leash ✓ Other — Depends on individual park 	 Some recreational parks have no play space and may have larger open fields or have picnic facilities. Also depends on park size etc. 	
Sports Parks	✓ Prohibited dog access ○ Dogs allowed on-leash ○ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other	 Depending on classification of sports ovals, time of day. Dogs prohibited on school ovals (though Department of Education land). 	
Natural Areas	○ Prohibited dog access✓ Dogs allowed on-leash○ Dogs allowed off-leash○ Other	Restricted to established paths/trails.	
Beaches	 ○ Prohibited dog access ○ Dogs allowed on-leash ○ Dogs allowed off-leash ✓ Other — Designated dog beach only 	Issues with beach/dune erosion, overcrowding.	

Member D			
What is the best approach to dogs in these spaces?		Why do you think that?	
Recreation Parks	 ○ Prohibited dog access ○ Dogs allowed on-leash ✓ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	Dogs (and owners) did some place to chase a ball.Dogs allowed.	
Sports Parks	 ○ Prohibited dog access ✓ Dogs allowed on-leash ○ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	Duty to protect kids/players.On-leash = more control.	
Natural Areas	 ○ Prohibited dog access ✓ Dogs allowed on-leash ✓ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	Some areas would be ok.Some areas on-leash to protect wildlife.	
Beaches	 ○ Prohibited dog access ○ Dogs allowed on-leash ✓ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	On dog beachMany dogs/owners enjoy the freedom of the beach.	

Member E		
What is the best appro	pach to dogs in these spaces?	Why do you think that?
Recreation Parks	 ○ Prohibited dog access ✓ Dogs allowed on-leash ✓ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	On-leash or if children's playground is fenced.Off-leash outside.
Sports Parks	○ Prohibited dog access✓ Dogs allowed on-leash○ Dogs allowed off-leash○ Other	 Dogs on-leash if sporting activities are taking place. If oval is not being used, then let dogs off leash.
Natural Areas	○ Prohibited dog access✓ Dogs allowed on-leash○ Dogs allowed off-leash○ Other	
Beaches	 ○ Prohibited dog access ○ Dogs allowed on-leash ✓ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	If it's a dog beach.

Member F			
What is the best approach to dogs in these spaces?		Why do you think that?	
Recreation Parks	 ○ Prohibited dog access ○ Dogs allowed on-leash ○ Dogs allowed off-leash ✓ Other — Playground/BBQ/Picnic: on-leash Other areas: off-leash. 	 Kids, seniors, eating areas, freedom to enjoy without dogs, noise. General: Better education Better rules, enforcement, compliance Categorise each space and stick to it Keep it as simple as possible. 	
Sports Parks	 ○ Prohibited dog access ○ Dogs allowed on-leash ○ Dogs allowed off-leash ✓ Other — School ovals: prohibited; Club oval: on-leash; Other oval: off-leash. 	 Kids, waste, freedom to enjoy without dogs, ruins sports games. General: Pets aren't people. 	
Natural Areas	○ Prohibited dog access✓ Dogs allowed on-leash○ Dogs allowed off-leash○ Other	 Designated to pathways and trails Noise, native species, waste, freedom to enjoy without dogs, environment. 	
Beaches	 ○ Prohibited dog access ○ Dogs allowed on-leash ○ Dogs allowed off-leash ✓ Other — Dog beach: on-leash; Other beaches: prohibited 	 May need to rotate dog beaches due to destruction. Freedom to enjoy without dogs, noise. 	

Member G				
What is the best appro	pach to dogs in these spaces?	Why do you think that?		
Recreation Parks	○ Prohibited dog access✓ Dogs allowed on-leash○ Dogs allowed off-leash○ Other	Safety.Online education package.		
Sports Parks	 ○ Prohibited dog access ✓ Dogs allowed on-leash ○ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 			
Natural Areas	 ○ Prohibited dog access ✓ Dogs allowed on-leash ○ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	Categories too broad.		

Beaches	 ○ Prohibited dog access ✓ Dogs allowed on-leash ✓ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	
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Activity 1 continued with members forming new groups and sharing what was explored in their original table discussion. After which, members engaged in a short plenary discussion and Q&A with subject-matter experts and City Officers, stating the following observations about dog behaviour and Field Officers:

Dog behaviour:

- Dog behaviour is the primary consideration for approaches to spaces and dog owners have a personal responsibility to build their own skills in managing their dogs.
- Dog waste is an issue, but difficult to police.
- It is often a minority of dog owners that do not do the right thing, such as having effective control of their dog. However, the majority of dog owners do the right thing in the designated areas.
- It is important to look at the approach to dogs in spaces from a whole-of-community perspective.
- Compliance issues are important, and the City should provide education to dog owners when they
 register their new dogs.
- The City should investigate educating and providing resources to puppy/dog trainers in the area.
- Parks are for everyone.
- The City is planning to roll-out a dog education program in local schools.

Field Officers:

- The City has increased Field Officer training to include best-practice in animal management and have increased the amount and regularity of targeted patrols in 'hot-spot' areas.
- The capacity of the Field Officers is a challenge:
 - · There are too many parks to patrol simultaneously.
 - · Field Officers are also responsible for other tasks that are not dog-related, eg parking.
- There is a stigma around 'Rangers' (now known as Field Officers). People can find interactions with Field Officers to be confrontational — there is a fine line between compliance and having a friendly discussion.

Following the mid-activity plenary discussion, reference group members returned to their original tables and, as a group, determined their preferred approach to dogs in each of the four spaces and their reason for that approach. Each of the four table groups presented their ideas to the reference group in the template provided, and the members discussed their designations and rationale. After this, members individually rated each of the groups' approaches. During the presentations, a plenary discussion about issues in Recreational Parks and Beaches ensued, with the following points raised:

Recreation Parks:

- Safety of community members is paramount.
- Some dogs are not behaving the way they should.
- There are a lot of Recreation Parks in the City, so there is potential to have a range of on- and off-leash areas, or timed access.
- Some people (eg with young children) may not want to be around off-leash dogs.
- Some people have dogs that need to run, and they need areas to do so.
- Some suburbs have a mix of different parks in different areas, allowing for varied approaches to dog management. There is a risk that my local park's designation will not align with my and/or my dog's needs.

Beaches:

(Subject matter experts discussed and answered members' questions about Hillarys Dog Beach, supported by City Officers, as required.)

- During summer, around half of dog attacks reported to the City occur at Hillarys Dog Beach.
- Beach spaces are not considered to be conducive to positive interactions between dogs and between
 dogs and people. This is because beaches are very exciting places for dogs, where they become highly
 aroused and often 'go over the threshold'. When dogs are in this state, owners often do not have, or
 struggle to maintain, effective control of their animal.
- There is a small cohort of people and dogs who have the capacity to use a dog beach safely and effectively; however, dog fights (and people fights) are very common.
- The majority of dog attacks occur when dogs are off-leash, rates of dog attacks on people are much higher than dog-on-dog attacks, and dog attacks are increasing nationwide.
- Hillarys Dog Beach is unique it is small, narrow and not very appropriate for its purpose. The beach
 is often very crowded, which compounds the risk of dog attacks. However, Cities of Stirling and
 Wanneroo have larger beach areas where dogs are allowed off-leash, and they have the same attack
 rate and issues as the City of Joondalup.
- Many owners really enjoy taking their dogs to the beach, it is a large part of their routine and improves their mental health.
- Hillarys Dog Beach is eroding and has lots of degradation, also asbestos on dunes; the environmental impacts will be very difficult to off-set, mitigate or rehabilitate.
 - Does that mean we need more or different dog beaches?

The designation templates, rating scorecards, and additional comments/rationale provided by groups while presenting their designations can be found in the activity outcomes overview below.

Images of the raw outputs from this activity can be found in Appendix 4 — Dogs in Spaces activity outputs.

Group 1		
What is the best appro	oach to dogs in these spaces	Why do you think that?
Recreation Parks	 ✓ Prohibited dog access ✓ Dogs allowed on-leash ○ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	 Playspace for children — prohibited. Safety of other park users; not all dogs have good recall.
Sports Parks	 ○ Prohibited dog access ✓ Dogs allowed on-leash ✓ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	On-leash when events are operating.Timed access for off-leash.
Natural Areas	✓ Prohibited dog access ✓ Dogs allowed on-leash ○ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other	 Categorise the parks into zones for access according to biodiversity and sensitivity [of the area]. There are issues monitoring compliance in Natural Areas as many areas are large, hidden and secluded.
Beaches	O Prohibited dog access O Dogs allowed on-leash ✓ Dogs allowed off-leash O Other	 Only designated dog beach. Explore possibility of timed access for onand off-leash and for access to other beaches. Need more options than off-leash at Hillarys Dog Beach. Another location(s) on smaller, less popular beaches, such as North Burns Beach. But dogs should be prohibited at swimming beaches. An on-leash/leash friendly Dog Beach area for owners who prefer to keep their dog on-leash.

Group 1 — Scorecard	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total votes
Recreation Parks	0	3	0	1	5	9
Sports Parks	0	2	0	4	4	10
Natural Areas	0	0	1	1	6	8
Beaches	0	0	2	3	5	10

Group 2		
What is the best approac	h to dogs in these spaces	Why do you think that?
Recreation Parks	 ○ Prohibited dog access ✓ Dogs allowed on-leash ○ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	 Majority on-leash Fenced playgrounds. OR some recreational parks, or times, on-leash and some off-leash.
Sports Parks	 ○ Prohibited dog access ✓ Dogs allowed on-leash ✓ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	 On-leash while sporting activities are on. Dogs should be on-leash during sporting activities, especially if the clubs are hiring the space. Off-leash when no sports are being played.
Natural Areas	○ Prohibited dog access✓ Dogs allowed on-leash○ Dogs allowed off-leash○ Other	 Paths in natural area. Could designate specific paths/trails for off-leash. Protect animals, eg Yellagonga.
Beaches	 ○ Prohibited dog access ○ Dogs allowed on-leash ✓ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	 Look at more beaches for dogs in COJ area. More education/course/online registration.

Group 2 — Scorecard	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total votes
Recreation Parks	0	2	0	4	1	7
Sports Parks	1	0	0	3	4	8
Natural Areas	0	0	1	3	3	7
Beaches	0	2	1	2	4*	9

^{*}Note: Definitely education at registration, but at purchase too.

Group 3		
What is the best approac	h to dogs in these spaces	Why do you think that?
Recreation Parks	○ Prohibited dog access○ Dogs allowed on-leash○ Dogs allowed off-leash✓ Other	Varies, depends on individual park ie: size, play space, other facilities such as BBQ/picnic facilities.
Sports Parks	✓ Prohibited dog access ○ Dogs allowed on-leash ○ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other	 Organised dedicated sporting ground: prohibited. Informal ovals: ok. Due to cleanliness etc.
Natural Areas	○ Prohibited dog access✓ Dogs allowed on-leash○ Dogs allowed off-leash○ Other	Restricted to established paths/trails.
Beaches	○ Prohibited dog access○ Dogs allowed on-leash○ Dogs allowed off-leash✓ Other	 Designated dog beach only. Designated dog beach only or remove entirely.

Group 3 — Scorecard	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total votes
Recreation Parks	0	2	1*	5	2	10
Sports Parks	1	3	1	4	1	10
Natural Areas	0	0	3	7	1	11
Beaches	0	1	1	7	0	9

^{*}Note: Too vague to respond.

Group 4				
What is the best approac	h to dogs in these spaces	Why do you think that?		
Recreation Parks	 ○ Prohibited dog access ○ Dogs allowed on-leash ✓ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	Recreational parks (of the 1–3 options) provide an opportunity for dogs to exercise off-leash.		
Sports Parks	 ○ Prohibited dog access ✓ Dogs allowed on-leash ○ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	 Maintaining safe spaces for sports. Timing for off-leash use during non-busy times eg school hours. 		
Natural Areas	 ○ Prohibited dog access ✓ Dogs allowed on-leash ✓ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	Depends on the environmental status of the area.		
Beaches	 ○ Prohibited dog access ○ Dogs allowed on-leash ✓ Dogs allowed off-leash ○ Other 	 Dog beach needs to be bigger. Need to open up more "non-swimming" beaches for use on-leash. 		

Group 4 — Scorecard	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total votes
Recreation Parks	4	3	0	3	1	11
Sports Parks	2	1	1	1	5	10
Natural Areas	0	2	2	2	5	11
Beaches	0	1	2	5	3	11

Activity 2 — Guiding principles

The purpose of this activity was to identify and discuss ideas and principles to guide the design of areas for dogs in the City of Joondalup.

The following scenario was presented to the group:

There is a plan to create a fenced dog area in a park near your home.

What principles should guide the design of this area?



In table groups, reference group members explored the scenario and wrote their ideas/principles for the most important things to consider in the creation of a fenced dog exercise area on sticky notes. After which, the ideas/principles were presented and discussed in a plenary session. Members also had the opportunity to ask questions of subject matter experts and City Officers during the plenary.

The reference group devised the following ideas/principles to guide the design of a fenced dog area:

Designation and establishment:

- Dogs allowed on-leash only in the rest of the park/area (outside the fenced area).
- Must be the right size/fit for the existing park/area.
- Needs different spaces within the fenced area to separate small dogs and big dogs.
- Consider noise to surrounding residences when setting hours of operation.
- Choose an area with easy access, car traffic considerations, and parking availability.

Landscaping and terrain:

- Should include trees/shaded areas.
- Investigate more sustainable surfacing alternatives to grass.
- Conduct sustainable terrain management.
- Must consider general maintainability of the park/area.
- Add obstacles eg trees to slow dogs in running areas which will slow wear/damage.
- Consider using two areas on rotation to allow regeneration (like cattle grazing).

Amenities:

- Benches/seating
- Coffee shop/van
- Water access (for dogs and humans)
- Dog waste bags and bins/regular bins

The plenary discussion encompassed the following talking points:

Cost:

The cost of a fenced dog exercise area (~\$600,000) seems very high. Both the establishment and maintenance costs (eg new turf) feel excessive. Instead of more infrastructure, put money into monitoring different areas instead of establishing a fenced area. City Officers and subject matter experts noted that these costs are not specific to our region and are similar across the country.

Rationale:

The City already has 250+ areas where dogs can be off-leash; it seems that the purpose of a fenced dog exercise area is just for people who cannot control their dogs. Fenced dog exercise areas can attract lazy owners who do not monitor their dogs inside the area. This is often compounded when owners are distracted by their phones in the seating areas, especially when seating areas are incorrectly placed. However, fenced dog exercise areas provide dog owners who have mobility issues or other disability support needs with a space to exercise their dogs and it is important that the City supports these community members.

Risks:

Considering the previous discussion on the behavioural issues reported at Hillarys Dog Beach; a small, fenced dog area may increase the risk of dogs behaving badly and create more conflict and tension between dogs, owners and Field Officers. It might be better to have broader options than a just a fenced area; however, the group is concerned about repercussions if fenced dog exercise areas are removed or eliminated as options. Risks of dog rushes/attacks and other poor dog behaviour could be mitigated by placing obstacles to prevent tracking, providing sensory things to engage them.

Subject matter experts discussed the pros and cons of fenced dog exercise areas including the behaviour of dogs and owners:

- Not all owners have effective control over their dog, and most don't realise that dogs need to have good recall, even within the fenced area.
- Fenced dog exercise areas can promote the notion that owners do not need to train their dogs and do not need to have effective control of them.
- Dogs are predatory animals no matter how well-trained a particular dog is, a small breed is at-risk of injury from a large breed.
- There are a vast number of untrained or under-trained dogs in the City, they also need to be catered for.

An image of the raw outputs from this activity can be found in Appendix 5 — Guiding Principles activity outputs.

Appendix 1 — Additional members' comments

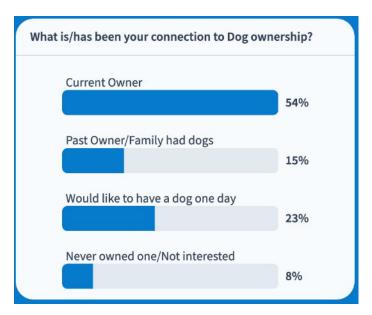
While I'm not currently a dog owner, I have been in the past and I still regularly dog sit for neighbours as well as walking regularly myself. I have seen some dog owners let their dogs chase wildlife (swans and ducks) at Yellagonga in Woodvale and Lake Goollelal in Kingsley. I wonder if consideration should be given to keeping dogs on leads in these areas. I do understand it's particularly difficult in Woodvale with Perry's Paddock being a major dog exercise area and management of this area sits with the City of Wanneroo.

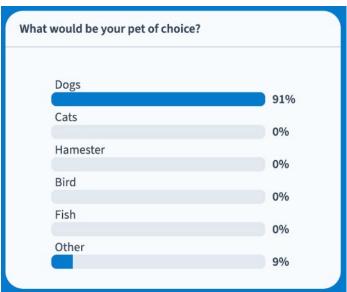
I spoke to various people in the Flinders-Broadbeach park and heard some recurring sentiments:

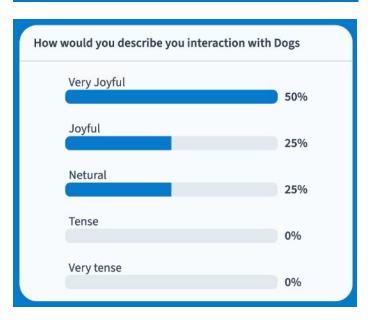
- Dogs off-leash in the northern end near the lakes are often uncontrolled and people would feel safer having that end be on-lead only.
- The City's rego tags easily fall of their dog's collars and are lost, perhaps some design improvements could be made to these, so they are sturdier.
- [Hillarys] Dog Beach is not somewhere that people with smaller dogs feel safe to bring their dogs due to historical attacks and some uncontrolled dogs.
- Experiences with designated gated off-lead dog recreation areas are mixed; however, all said that if there was one to be implemented locally that having separate small and large dog enclosed spaces would be better than all in one.

Regarding fenced dog parks, I know the cost to provide parks are high, but the City could consider mitigating this via sponsorship from organisations such as vet hospitals. The City could offer naming rights of dog parks, or signs in fencing advertising dog food etc. It might be worth considering if it alleviates some of the burden of cost. These organisations might also be eager to contribute towards pop-up stands/events at parks/beach/school education programs.

Appendix 2 — Online poll results







Appendix 3 — Subject matter expert presentation









- Research/information
- The importance of pets
- The henefits off/on-leash 'no dog'
- Conflict in our communities
- The fenced/unfenced conundrum
- Challenging attitudes/perceptions
- Summary the challenges





RESEARCH/KNOWLEDGE



- Where our research comes from
 - Peer reviewed research
 - Experienced/respected practitioners
 - Projects with LGAs/communities
 - Workshops, interviews, surveys with LGA staff and councillors



- 'Internet intelligentsia'
- Minimising bias
- The human animal bond implications

















What pet owners say about their pets				
Pet Survey responses	YR	OEC +		
Pets are an important part of my family	99%	91%		
It is important for me to have a pet in my life	97%	89%		
My pets give me great comfort in times of need	94%	83%		
My pet is important because they give me unconditional affection	94%	84%		
We talk to more people because we have a pet	78%	71%		

ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPORTANCE OF PETS

- The human-animal relationship
- Dog numbers



THE BENEFITS ON/OFF -LEASH/'NO DOG'

Health/Sustainability domains

- Social (humans)
- Social (dogs)
- Environmental/Natural
- Fconomic
- Built



The majority of FOLA benefits can be achieved in OLAs









CONFLICT IN OUR COMMUNITIES

DOG OWNER ANGST



Pet grievances about off-leash areas:

Aggressive dogs







Aggressive or impolite dog owners





CONFLICT IN OUR COMMUNITIES GENERAL COMMUNITY ANGST



- Conflict (control of dogs):
 - Btw dog owners
 - OS activities
 - Off-leash in on-leash areas
 - Sensitive environmental areas







THE FENCED/UNFENCED CONUNDRUM





other park activities (90%)



Relax more (65%)

Runoff uncertainty (65%)

Annoying others (62%)









- 'Effective control of dogs
- Socialisino
 - Urban environment
 - off-lead
 - other dogs
 - Walking
 - Responsiveness to recall





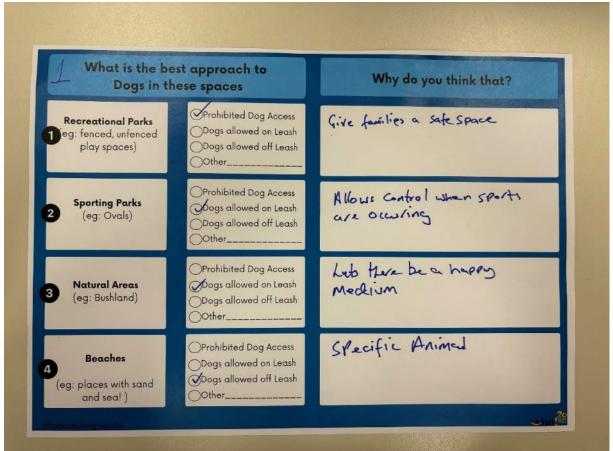






Appendix 4 — Dogs in spaces activity outputs

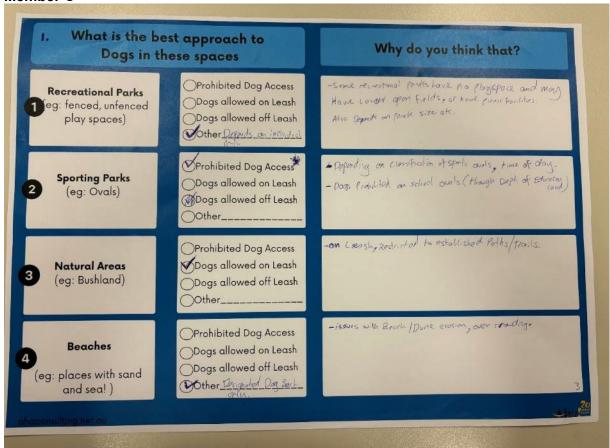
Member A



Member B



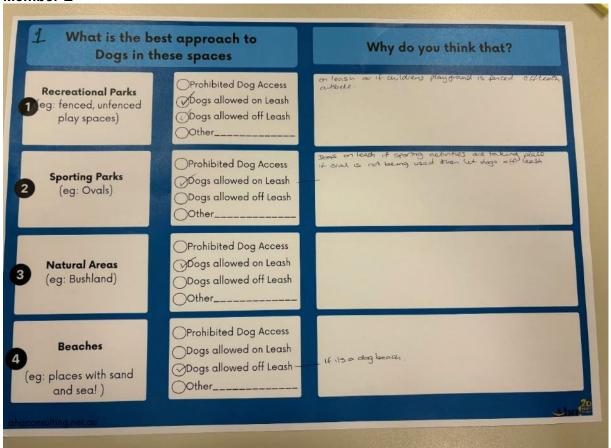
Member C



Member D



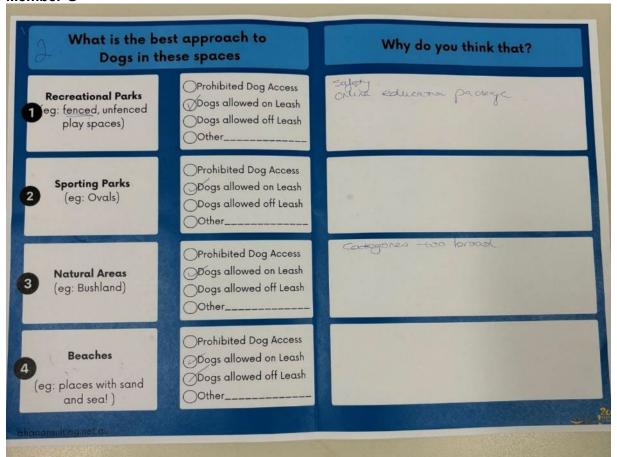
Member E

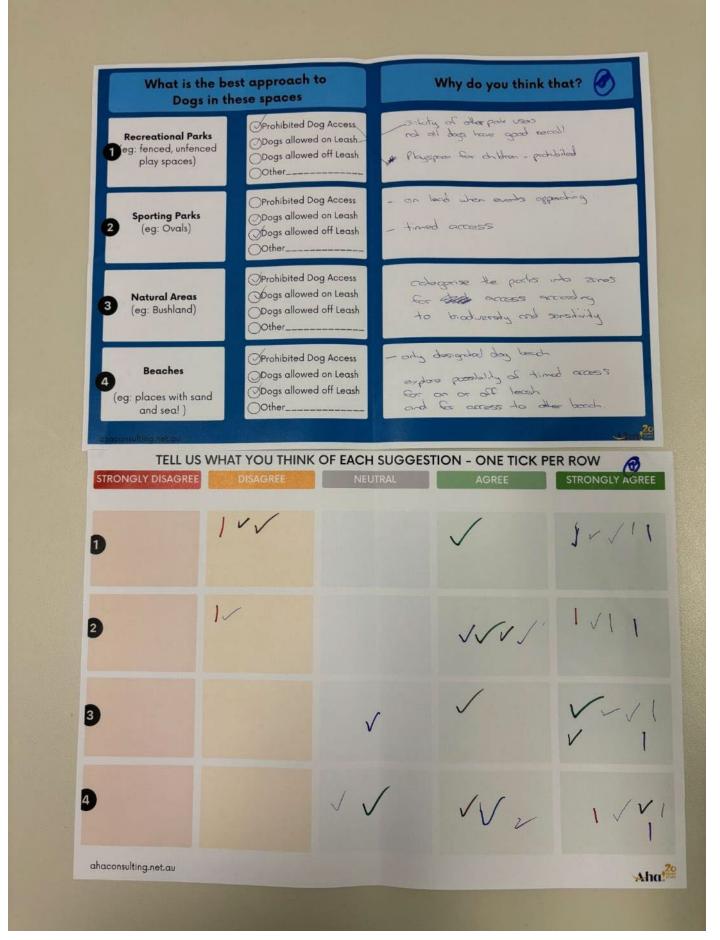


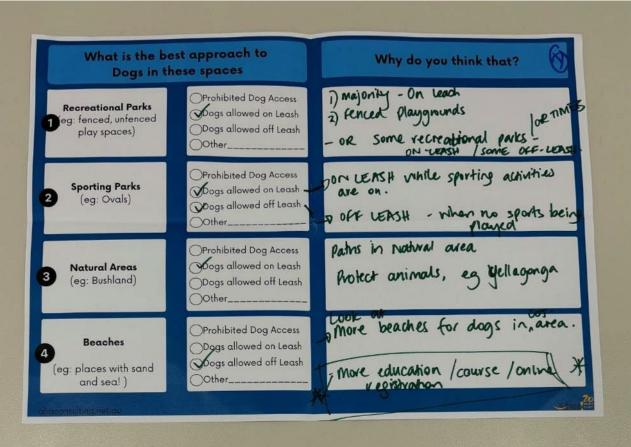
Member F

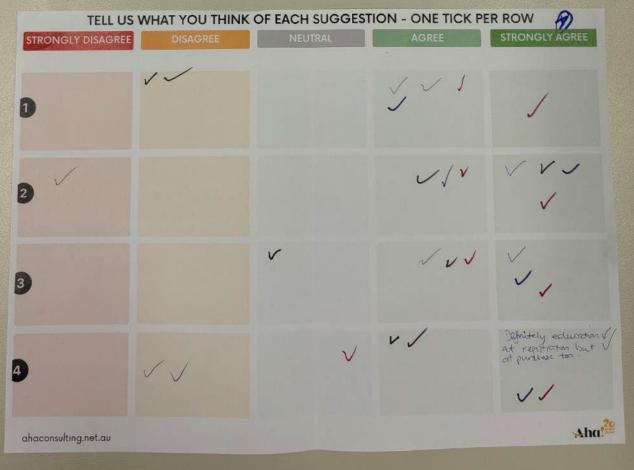


Member G

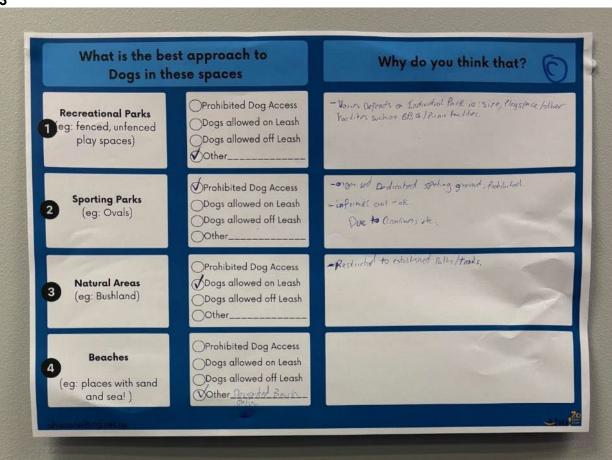


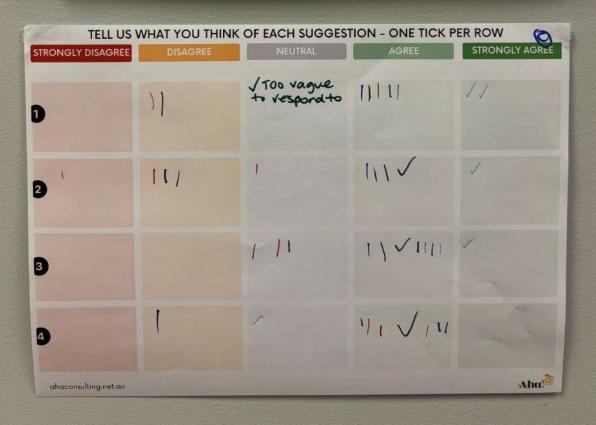


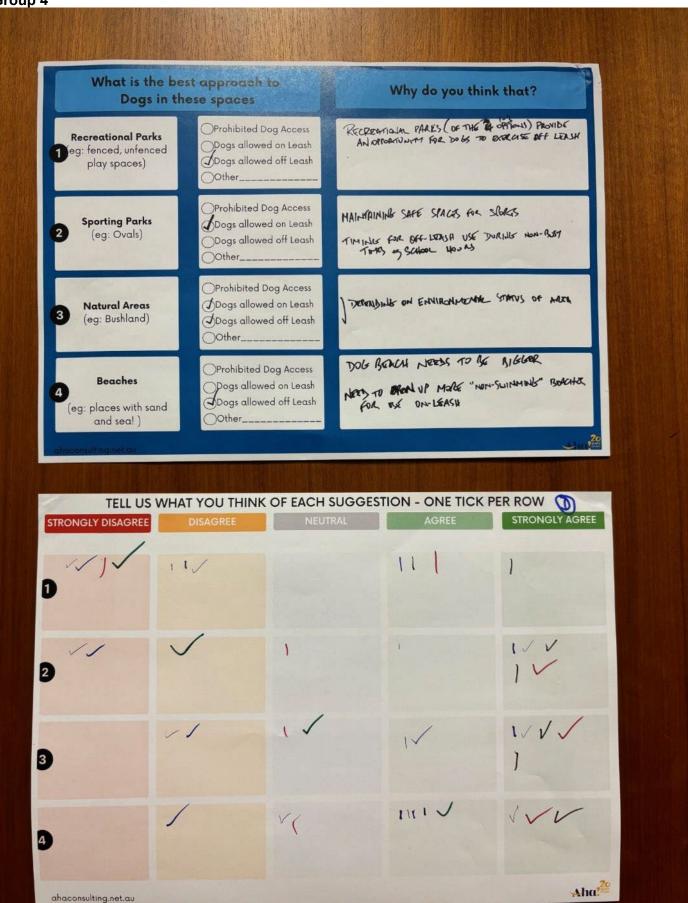


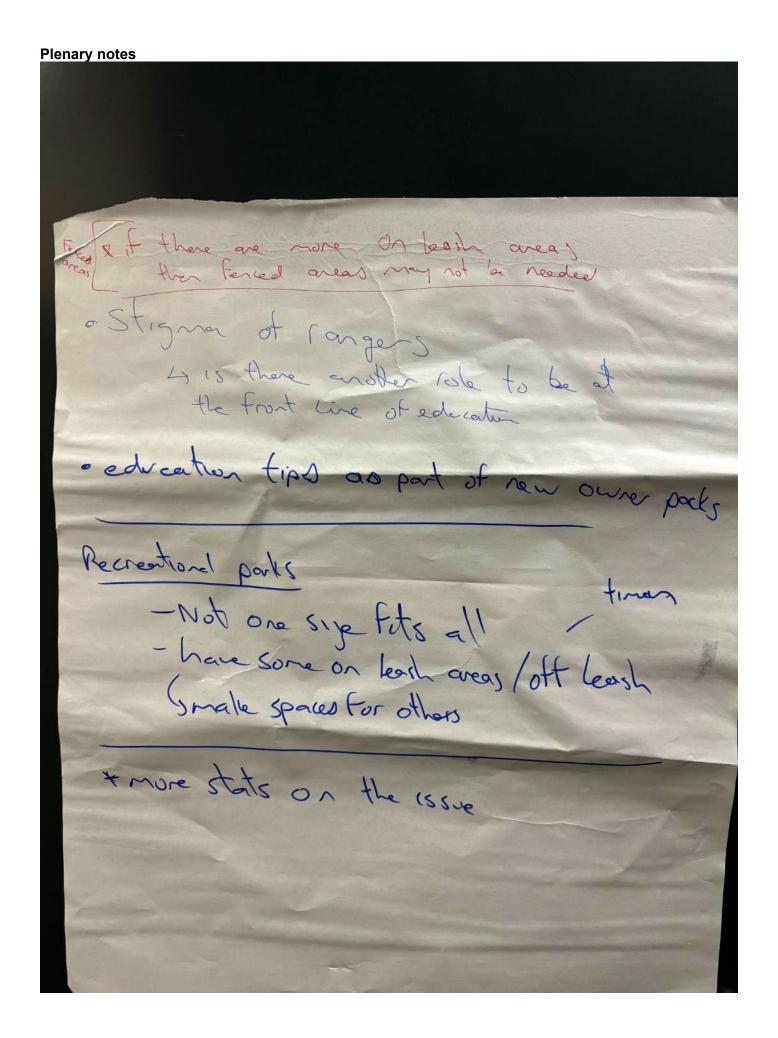


Group 3

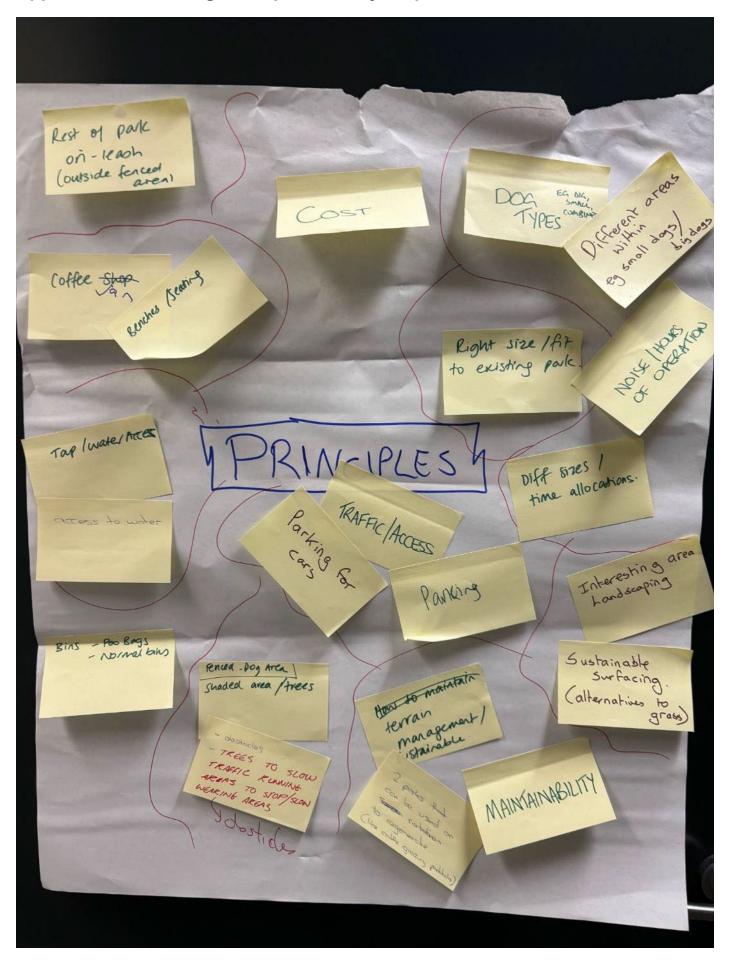






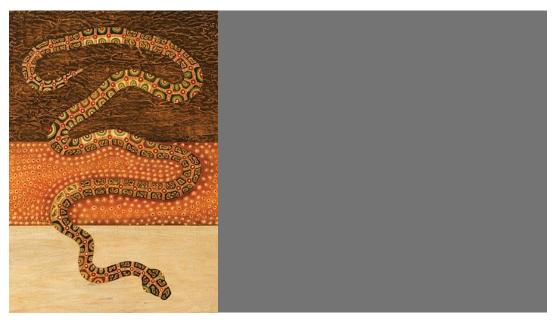


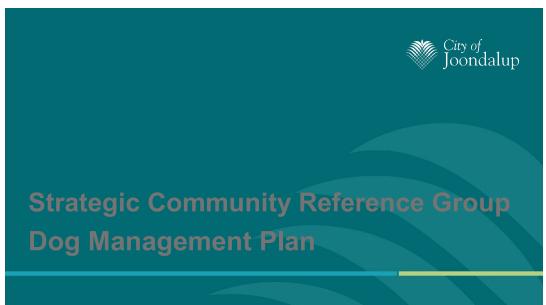
Appendix 5 — Guiding Principles activity outputs



Size Thought people hungs to manage dog activity Things to distract dogs Sensong hungs to affact then u Sight breakers

Appendix 6 — Meeting slides





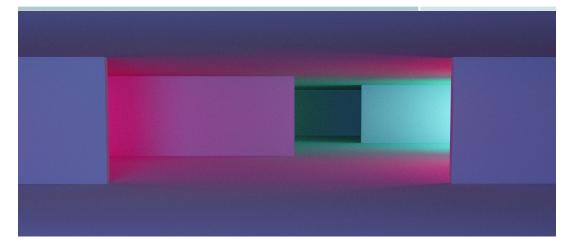
Supper on arrival





Welcome







Purpose and objectives



To provide input into the development of a new Dog Management Plan. The meeting will identify scoping and priorities for the plan and explore roles and responsibilities of the City and the community in regard to dog management.

Objectives:

- To explore perceptions and issues associated with dogs and dog management.
- To explore roles and responsibilities of local governments, individuals and external organisations.
- To identify priorities and approaches to dog management in the City.





This evening, we will:

- Explore possible approaches to managing dogs in different public spaces.
- Develop some guiding principles for the establishment of "dog areas".
- Determine which breed of dog is cutest ((a)).







Coming together is the beginning.

Keeping together is progress.

Working together is success.

— Henry Ford

How have I arrived?

How will I invite others in?





Conduct agreement



Respect



Be mindful of people's time.

Agree to disagree.

Listen to quieter voices and do not dominate the conversation.

Active listening



Prioritise consent, not consensus.

Listen to all and endeavour to understand the views of others.

Open mindedness



Remain open-minded to all opinions.

Be community-minded.

Do not judge others' opinions or experiences.

Participation



Promote a safe space for all.

Share your views with others and do not keep your thoughts to yourself.

You and your dogs





PollEv.com/surveys/umDzFeC5UUxQw2fC4jAiP/respond



Introduction to dog management



Dogs in different spaces

Recreation Parks



Recreation Parks are public open spaces predominantly used for **informal recreation activities**, such as walking, jogging, picnicking and play.

They are generally designed to accommodate lowwear applications and contain recreation-based infrastructure.

People attend these public open spaces with the primary purpose of **engaging in social and leisure activities**.







Sports Parks are public open spaces predominantly used for **formal**, **structured sports activities**, such as team competitions, physical skill development and training.

They are generally designed to accommodate the playing surface and infrastructure requirements of specific sports.

People attend these public open spaces with the primary purpose of engaging in organised sports activity, training, competition or viewing as a spectator.







Natural Areas are public open spaces predominantly used to **protect local ecological and biodiversity values**.

They can include bushland, coastal and wetland areas. These public open spaces can provide opportunities for low-impact recreational activities, such as walking, jogging or cycling.

Natural Areas are managed to enable **some** recreational access while protecting local ecological and biodiversity values







Beaches are not a specified classification and can be considered either Recreation Parks or Natural Areas.

City of Joondalup beaches extend from the northern boundary at Burns Beach to the southern boundary at Marmion, and from the waterline to where to first sealed road commences in the east.

Beach management requires balancing recreation, tourism, development and conservation needs to ensure the long-term sustainable use of the coastline.



m Dogs in different spaces



As a group, explore these four spaces and consider the best approach to dogs and why?

Each member is to take their own notes on their template.

You will share your notes with another group in the next step.

	est approach to hese spaces	Why do you think that?
Recreational Parks eg: fenced, unfenced play spaces)	OProhibited Dog Access ODogs allowed on Leash ODogs allowed off Leash Other	
Sporting Parks (eg: Ovals)	OProhibited Dog Access ODogs allowed on Leash ODogs allowed off Leash Other	
Natural Areas (eg: Bushland)	OProhibited Dog Access Dogs allowed on Leash Dogs allowed off Leash Other	
Beaches (eg: places with sand and seal)	OProhibited Dog Access ODogs allowed on Leash ODogs allowed off Leash Other	

m Dogs in different spaces



Form new groups and share your thoughts with each other.

What is the best approach to Dogs in these spaces		Why do you think that?	
Recreational Parks Teg: fenced, unfenced play spaces)	OProhibited Dog Access Opogs allowed on Leash Opogs allowed off Leash Other		
Sporting Parks (eg: Ovals)	OProhibited Dog Access ODogs allowed on Leash ODogs allowed off Leash Other		
Natural Areas (eg: Bushland)	OProhibited Dog Access Dogs allowed on Leash Dogs allowed off Leash Other		
Beaches (eg: places with sand and seal)	OProhibited Dog Access ODogs allowed on Leash ODogs allowed off Leash Other		
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m Dogs in different spaces



Using the A1 template, create a master sheet for your group's recommendations.

What is the best approach to Dogs in these spaces		Why do you think that?	
Recreational Parks eg: fenced, unfenced play spaces)	OProhibited Dog Access Dogs allowed on Leash Dogs allowed off Leash Other		
Sporting Parks (eg: Ovals)	OProhibited Dog Access Dogs allowed on Leash Dogs allowed off Leash Other		
3 Natural Areas (eg: Bushland)	OProhibited Dog Access Dogs allowed on Leash Dogs allowed off Leash Other		
Beaches (eg: places with sand and seal)	Prohibited Dog Access Dogs allowed on Leash Dogs allowed off Leash Other		
		⇒hu ^{2c}	



Guiding principles — Dog areas



m Dogs in different spaces



What is the best approach to Dogs in these spaces		Why do you think that?	S
Recreational Parks eg: fenced, unfenced play spaces)	OProhibited Dog Access Opogs allowed on Leash Opogs allowed off Leash Other		0
Sporting Parks (eg: Ovals)	Prohibited Dog Access Opogs allowed on Leash Opogs allowed off Leash Other		•
Natural Areas (eg: Bushland)	Prohibited Dog Access Ober allowed on Leash Ober allowed off Leash Other		•
Beaches (eg: places with sand and seal)	OProhibited Dog Access ODogs allowed on Leash ODogs allowed off Leash Other		•



Guiding principles



There is a plan to create a fenced dog area in a park near your home.

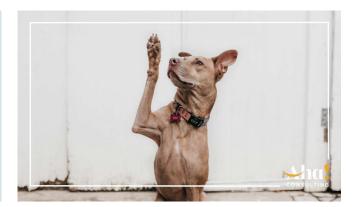
What principles should guide the design of this area?







Dog management
Roles/expectations
General information







Item	Date
Development of the Dog Management Plan	27 May 2024
Exploration of Place Activation	12 Aug 2024
Development of the Bike Plan	18 Nov 2024

