

# Wire Mill Park Dog Off-leash Area - Time Restrictions

Community Consultation Report

April 2022

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## Background

In February 2021, Council received a petition from residents in Chiswick requesting that Wire Mill Park be investigated as a potential off-leash dog park. In response to this petition, Council undertook community consultation from 12 April to 5 May 2021 to understand the sentiment of the wider community.

Findings from this initial consultation were taken to Council in June 2021 where it was decided a trial off-leash area would take place to better understand community views and concerns. The trial ran from 8 December 2021 – 23 February 2022 and community feedback was collected throughout this period. In March 2022, a report was put to Council of the findings, the recommendation to not proceed with an off-leash area at Wire Mill Park was overturned and then supported in principle as a time restricted off-leash area. Council staff liaised with community representative on acceptable time restricted solutions. As there was still some debate a mini survey was posted on collaborate and put to the community to get their preference on time restrictions for the proposed Wire Mill Park off-leash area and suggested park improvements (including those that had provided feedback previously). The survey ran from 1 – 10 April 2022, the summary of results is provided in this report.

This report should be read in conjunction or with reference to the earlier Wire Mill Park dog off-leash trial consultation report (March 2022).

## Consultation methods

- Collaborate survey (Refer to Results – Community Survey)

## Notification methods

The following methods were implemented to notify the community of this consultation:

- 4 x A3 site posters
- Collaborate project page: <https://collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/wiremillpark>
- Direct email to building management and strata for the Riviera Apartments
- Direct email to participants from earlier consultation

See Appendix A for more detail.

## Consultation summary

### Collaborate reach

- 537 page views
- 358 unique site visitors
- 30 additional people following the project for updates (in the survey period)

### Social media reach

Councils' social media platforms were not used for this additional community survey.

## Results

### Community survey

The community survey sought feedback on dog off-leash time restrictions for Wire Mill Park. We received 88 responses and aimed to answer the following questions:

*What timeframe do you prefer?*

*Morning off-leash time restrictions at Wire Mill Park are proposed from 7am - 9am everyday. We need your input to determine the evening time restrictions for the dog off-leash area.*

*1) Weekday evening off-leash times*

- 5.00pm - 7.00pm
- 4.30pm - 6.30pm
- Other (please specify)

*2) Winter weekend evening off-leash times*

*During the winter soccer season the off-leash area at nearby Lysaght Park is limited.*

- 4.30pm - 6.30pm
- 5.00pm - 7.00pm
- 2.00pm - 7.00pm
- Other (please specify)

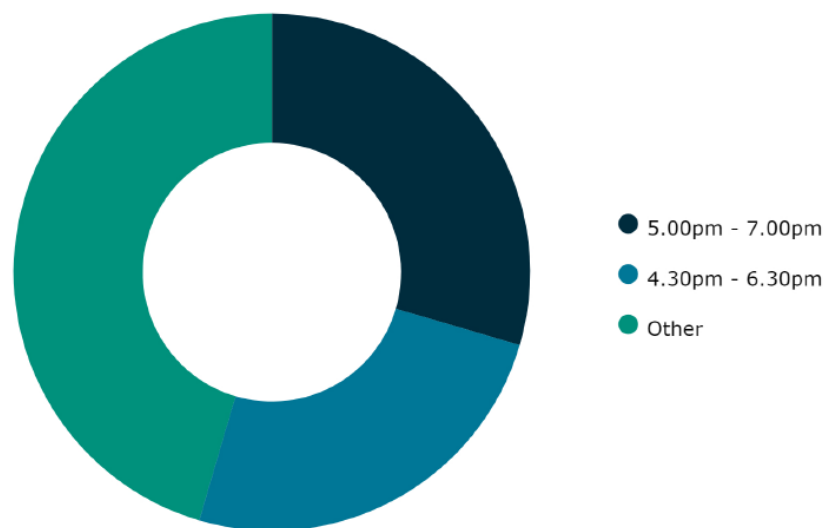
*3) Summer weekend evening off-leash times*

- 5.00pm - 7.00pm
- 4.30pm - 6.30pm
- 2.00pm - 7.00pm
- Other (please specify)

*Do you have any other feedback?*

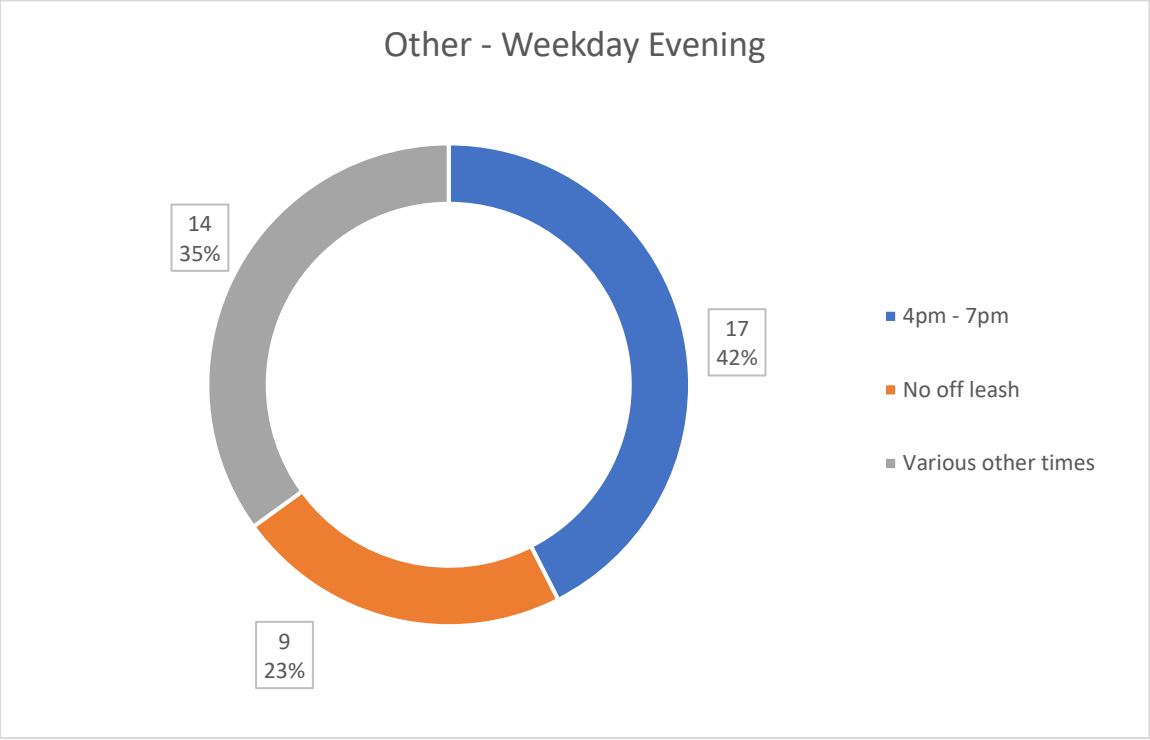
Results are summarised below.

Preferred Weekday evening off-leash times

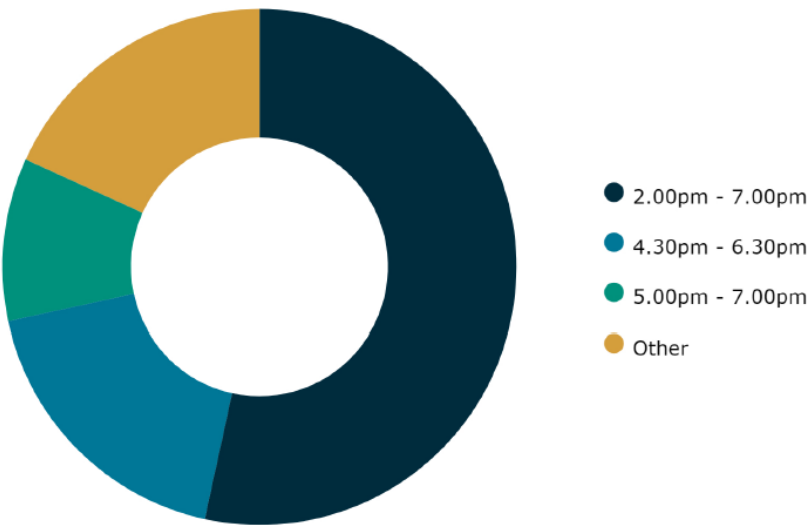


Answer choices	Percent	Count
5.00pm - 7.00pm	29.55%	26
4.30pm - 6.30pm	25.00%	22
Other	45.45%	40
Total	100.00%	88

“Other” was analysed and broken down into –

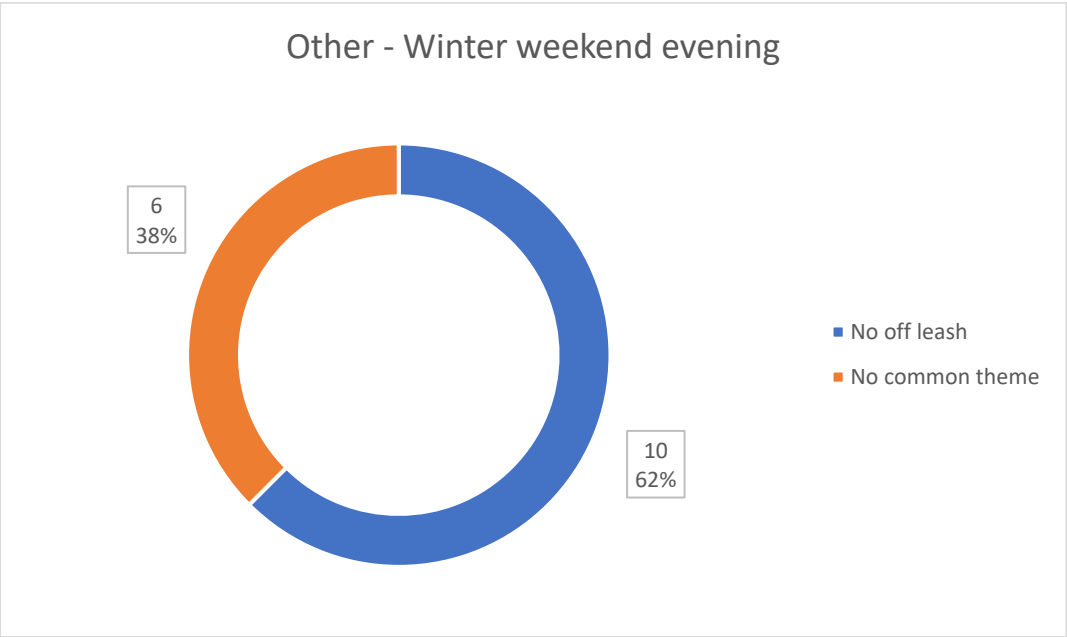


Preferred Winter weekend evening off-leash times

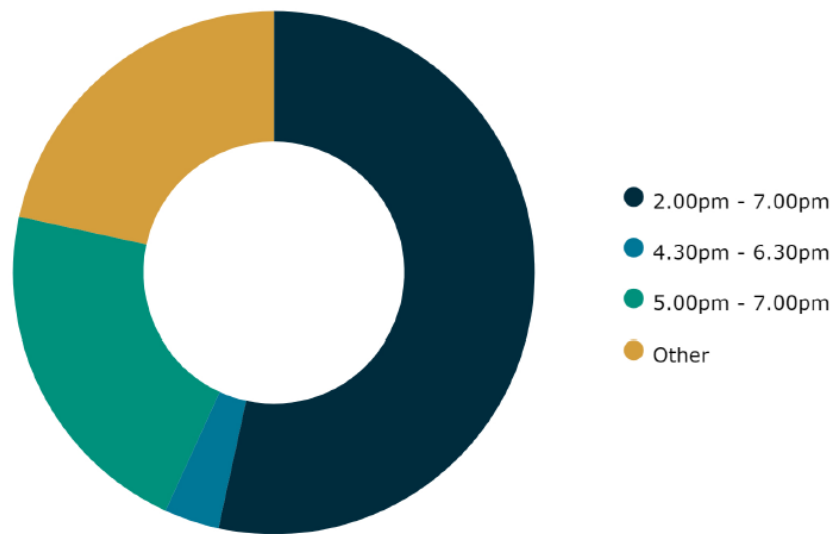


Answer choices	Percent	Count
2.00pm - 7.00pm	53.41%	47
4.30pm - 6.30pm	18.18%	16
5.00pm - 7.00pm	10.23%	9
Other	18.18%	16
Total	100.00%	88

“Other” was analysed and broken down into –

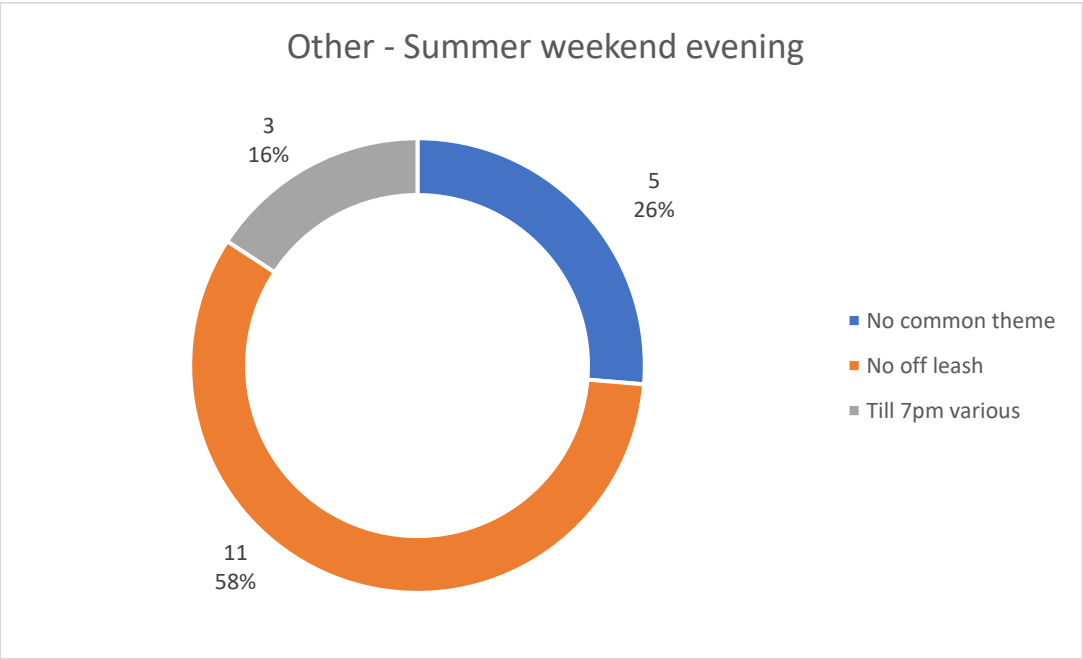


Preferred Summer weekend evening off-leash times



Answer choices	Percent	Count
2.00pm - 7.00pm	53.41%	47
4.30pm - 6.30pm	3.41%	3
5.00pm - 7.00pm	21.59%	19
Other	21.59%	19
Total	100.00%	88

“Other” was analysed and broken down into –



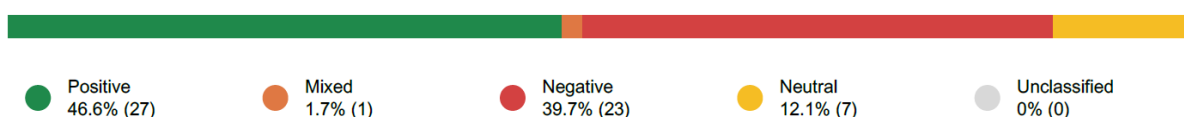
### Additional feedback

Respondents were invited to provide any extra feedback or comments on the trial. 58 respondents answered this question and results are summarised below.

Consistent with the feedback during the trial, the support for park improvements included picnic facilities, signage, bin for dog waste and drinking fountain.

Comments were categorised into 4 sentiment types:

- Positive – statements which show support for a permanent off-leash area
- Mixed – statements which provide suggestions for improvements to the park
- Negative – statements which do not support what has been drafted
- Neutral – statements outside the scope of this consultation



The feedback from the community was categorized into similar themes, the word cloud below demonstrates the array of topics where comment was provided. Largely topics of feedback was from those that provided a negative (against an off-leash arrangement), with request for it to be on-leash and this was due to irresponsible dog owners.



### Drop-in sessions

No further drop-in sessions were held during the span of the time restrictions survey.

### Feedback via phone/email

Council officers received 7 emails and phone calls providing feedback during the survey period. The main issues were:

- To advise they couldn't access the survey
- To advise they were not happy with the decision of Council at the March 2022 meeting.

## Conclusion

The community survey received 88 contributions stating preferences to a time restricted off-leash area at Wire Mill Park. This is comparable to the 304 contributions received during the 2.5 month trial off-leash period. The time restricted survey period attracted an additional 30 people following the project.

In this instance, the recommended off-leash time restrictions have been informed by most votes and is provided as follows:

- Weekday mornings 7.00am – 9.00am
- Weekday evenings 5.00pm – 7.00pm
- Weekend evenings (all year) 2.00pm – 7.00pm

Within the feedback on time restriction preferences, there were 10 participants who suggested there should be no off-leash times at the location.

The survey participants were asked to provide additional feedback on these improvements. Council received 58 items of additional feedback in the survey. While not all the additional feedback referred to the proposed improved facilities, those that did supported the following:

- picnic shelter (6)
- signage (4)
- waste bin with dog bags (4)
- trees for shade (3)
- drinking fountain (1)

Items of feedback which referred to matters other than the proposed improved facilities were presented by those not in support of the off-leash arrangement and included:

- Irresponsible dog owners (12)
- Concern for safety of public with off-leash dogs (9)
- park being too small for off leash area (7)
- no enforcement (4)
- roaming dogs (3)
- barking dogs (3)

As the survey showed that key concerns relate to irresponsible dog ownership, the area being too small and lack of enforcement, the establishment of the off-leash area should be monitored for 12 months for issues and incidents.

## Appendices

### A. Notification method

A3 posters placed on site x 4

## Off-leash dog area trial

### Wire Mill Park

We are proposing a timed dog off-leash arrangement similar to other time restricted off-leash areas across the city and we would like your feedback.

We are also planning to make improvements at the proposed Wire Mill Park off-leash trial area.

Please take 5 minutes to provide your feedback via the QR code by

**Friday, 8 April 2022**



### Have your say

🖱️ [collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/wiremillpark](https://collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/wiremillpark)  
✉️ [council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au)  
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