Henley Park, Concord

Off-Leash Dog Park Trial Community Engagement Outcomes Report

March 2020 _____





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Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

This report outlines the level of support and suggestions received during the offleash dog park trial in Henley Park, Concord from 10 February - 15 March 2020.

Project Context

Council's recently adopted Dogs in Public Places Strategy seeks to reduce confusion around where and when dogs are allowed off-leash in our local parks, and has successfully opened several new areas for dogs to exercise throughout the City. As part of developing the Dogs in Public Places Strategy, we investigated whether there is an adequate supply of dog parks in the City.

Within the strategy, Henley Park, Concord was identified as a possible site for an off-leash dog park due to performance measures outlined in the draft NSW Greener Places – Open Space for Recreation Guide. One of the criteria refers to household proximity to dog exercise areas. It states that there should be: "Access to an off-leash opportunity within 10 minutes (800m) walking distance of all houses."

The map below shows the portion of our City that falls within an 800m radius of an existing off-leash dog exercise area. The strategy identifies an opportunity to explore options for the establishment of a dog off-leash exercise area in Henley Park to address this need.

Level of Support

Number of submissions : 46

- 85% support a permanent off-leash dog park
- 15% against a permanent off-leash dog park

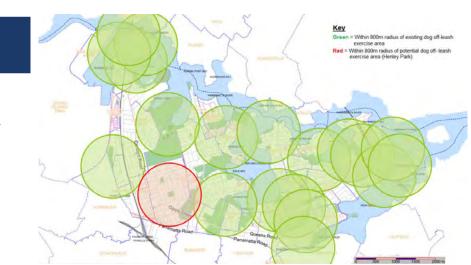


Top 6 elements needed for a successful off-leash dog park

- 1. Is entirely fenced in = 13.78/16
- 2. Located within walking distance = 13.69/16
- 3. Not fenced in is a designated location that is available for others to use = 13.40/16
- 4. Includes a drinking fountain with pet bowl = 12.78/16
- 5. Provide dog litter bags and bins = 12.77/16
- 6. Has natural shade = 12.3

Key Considerations

- Fencing of the whole park
- Fencing of some of the park
- Fencing of Flavelle St boundary
- No fencing



Community Engagement Snapshot

10 February - 15 March 2020

The community was informed of the opportunity to participate in engagement period via a variety of channels including:

- Inclusion in the Inner West Courier on 12 February and 4 March 2020
- A5 Postcard distributed to 4,000 residential and business properties within an 800 metre loci of each of the park
- Promotion via Council's website and social media channels Flyers located at Concord Library
- Social media promotion across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram reaching over 10,700 people
- Council Website home page tile from 17 February 15 March 2020
- Collaborate email campaign to 260 in database



- Direct: 102 35.17%
- Social Media: 93 32.07%
- Websites: 67 23.10%
 - Search Engine: 28 9.66%
 Other: 0 0.00%

Traffic sources to the online engagement portal

Engagement Opportunities and Activities

COLLABORATE CANADA BAY

Council's digital engagemnet platform invited visitors to view all the relevant documentation, to ask questions and undertake the community survey. Unique visitors: 280

Additional channels for community members to share their feedback included:

- Email: parksupgrade@canadabay.nsw.gov.au
- By post and phone
- Social Media: sharing and commenting

Community Listening Post

The community was encouraged to meet with Council representatives at a drop-in at the park

Sunday ,23 February 3:30-5:30pm. Attendees: 15+

Engagement Snapshot



DAY ENGAGEMENT PERIOD



EMAIL SUBMISSION





ONLINE ENGAGEMENT PAGE VIEWS



SURVEYS COMPLETED



QUESTIONS ASKED ON Q&A PAGE



COMMUNITY MEMBERS PARTICIPATED



ATTENDEES AT THE LISTENING POSTS



COMMENTS SUBMITTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

About Henley Park, Concord

Henley Park is located in Concord on the corner of Flavelle and Pitt Street. Originally a general cemetery, it became a park in 1938.

A large open grass park with dedicated play equipment lends itself to family fun or birthday parties.

There is a gated children's playground in the park.

No organised sports are played in the park, and was therefore a strong option for an off-leash dog park.

Passive surveillance of the park on a Sunday identified varied activities taking place; including drone flying, exercise, dog walking, children's playground visits and frisbee.

For the purposes of the trial, a temporary bin with dog bags and signs were installed in the park.



Current Behaviour In The Park

Of the 33 respondents who walk their dog in Henley Park, 40% do so both on-leash and off-leash currently, while 30% of dog walkers only walk their dog off-leash.

Other activities were under represented in the park, with the children's playground only being used by 9 respondents. This is likely due to lack of interest in the trial.

Level of support for the park becoming an off-leash park based on park usage & proximity

- 90% of respondents who use the park rarely support the trial indicating that park usage by dog owners would increase if the park became an offleash dog park permanently
- Over 50% of children's playground users indicated they would support an off-leash dog park
- 80% of daily users also support an off-leash dog park
- 75% of those who use the park several times a week also support an off-leash dog park
- 7/8 perimeter residents support an off-leash dog park.

Participant usage & suburb

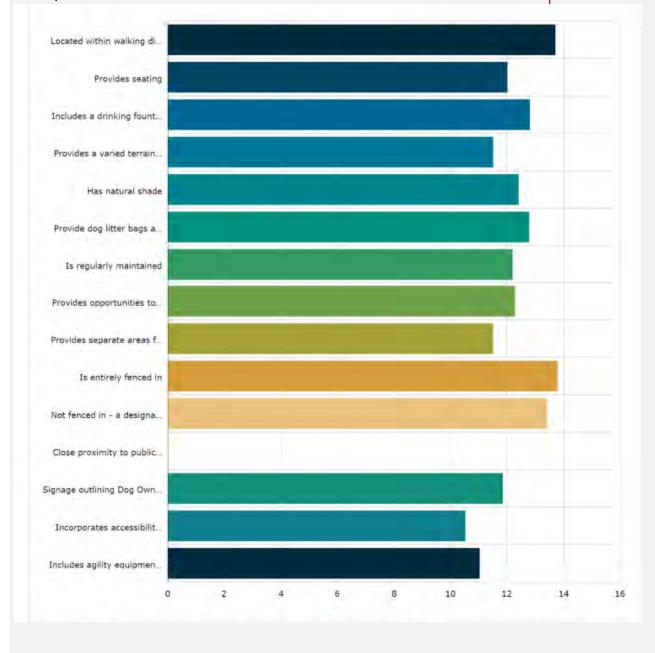
At least once a week	73%
Daily	23.8%
Live in Concord	88%
Live in Rhodes	5%

Henley Park Community Feedback

Please choose the top 6 element you think are needed for a successful off-leash dog park

Respondents: 42

Survey Questions: 7



How to interpret this graph - the higher the average score for each element, the higher the element was ranked by respondents, i.e. number 1 is weighted more than number 6

Fencing

Arguments for and against fencing the park, should it become an off-leash area, were posed throughout the consultation. Some participants would like the entire park fenced, while others think a section would be suitable. However, the issue of wear and tear in other local fenced dog areas was mentioned several times. Qualitative feedback tagging is as follows:

Entirely fenced No fencing (but support off-leash dog park) Some fencing Flavelle St boundary fence

- 13 mentions
- 6 mentions
- 18 mentions
- 7 mentions

A Flavelle Street boundary fence was suggested several times due to the street posing the most danger for dogs running onto the road:

"In that context I respectfully submit that fencing off 25% of the Park in the north east corner area of the Park adjoining Flavelle Street and 28 Flavelle Street would create a significantly large off-leash area with several shade trees and leave 75% of the Park including the existing playground and numerous shade trees available for passive recreation."

"Fencing, at least along Flavelle Street"

Various options were proposed for "some fencing" including:

"I have a dog and would love for the whole park to be off leash... However that would not be great for some others. A large enough area (40% houses with dogs so 40% of the park??) could be fenced off to create a manageable area while still leaving the rest of the park for those who want to picnic or other without furry friends."

"Fencing off a portion of the park for the pets and leave the rest to play ball etc."

"This is a great initiative. Thank you for taking on board the recommendations for open space provision. My answers above are based on a large enough area that is fenced for dog play. As much as I would love the dog area to be unfenced, realistically this needs to consider people who don't like dogs and don't want to be accosted by an off leash dog (however friendly that dog might be!!)"

Amenities

Beyond fencing and location, the most popular elements for a successful dog park are a drinking fountain, litter bags and bins and natural shade:

- 1. Is entirely fenced in = 13.78/16
- 2. Located within walking distance = 13.69/16
- 3. Not fenced in a designated location that is available for others to use = 13.40/16
- 4. Includes a drinking fountain with pet bowl = 12.78/16
- 5. Provide dog litter bags and bins = 12.77/16
- 6. Has natural shade = 12.38/16
 - Water fountain

A "water feature" that extends beyond a dog bowl filling station was suggested to keep dogs cool in summer.

• Dog litter bags and bins

These would be provided should the trial be successful.

• Natural Shade

If the whole park was not an off-leash dog park, natural shade could be provided in tin the corner on the Castlereagh St border . However this area is quite close to the Children's Playground.



Henley Park Community Feedback - Concerns

do you have		Is a concern	Is not a concern	I am unsure
about dogs being off-leash in Henley Park	Owners not picking up dog droppings	47.62% 20	45.24% 19	7.14% 3
Respondents: 42	Dogs annoying	23.81%	61,90%	14.29%
	people and families	10	26	0
Survey	Dogs annoying	16.67%	69.05%	14.29%
Question: 6	other dogs/my dog	7	29	5
	Dogs being off- leash around children	35.71% 15	52.38% 22	11.90% 5
	Dogs running out	69.05%	28.57%	2.38%
	onto nearby roads	29	12	1
	Not being able to control my dog well enough for it to be off-leash	21.43% 9	66.67% 28	11.90% 5
	Inconsiderate	40.48%	42.86%	16.67%
	Attitude/manners of	17	18	7
	some dog owners			
	Owners leaving	38.10%	50.00%	11.90%
	dogs unattended	16	21	5
	Too many dogs	23.81% 10	69.05% 29	7.14% 3
	Dog biles to other	35.71%	47.62%	16.67%
	dogs or humans	15	20	7

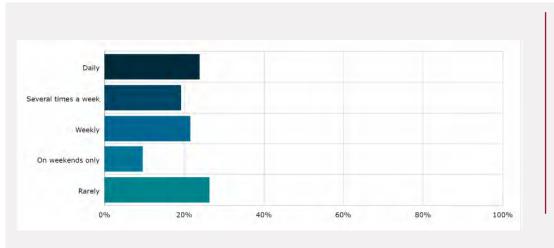
15% of respondents did not support Henley Park as a dog park, with key feedback being a need to maintain shared space for all of the community and dogs being deterrent to some people using the park.

"By having an off-leash dog park it becomes a deterrent for families, community groups, school groups and other social groups from using the park as they may fear constant interruption by dogs. Dog owners have a responsibility to control and care for their pet and where many dog owners are responsible, there are dog owners who believe that their dog should be allowed the freedom to run free. These dog owners do not appreciate the rights of individuals who may feel uncomfortable walking through a park where dogs are off-leash and may not want dogs running up to them."

"Park is used for many activities by many locals throughout the day, it should stay as a multi-use park."

"Sacrificing the entire park would greatly compromise these varied activities, a more suitable location for this would be a fenced off portion of Central park adjoining the Bowling club, Central park is by virtue of its name, central to the location and conducive to this use."

Henley Park Community Feedback - current and future usage

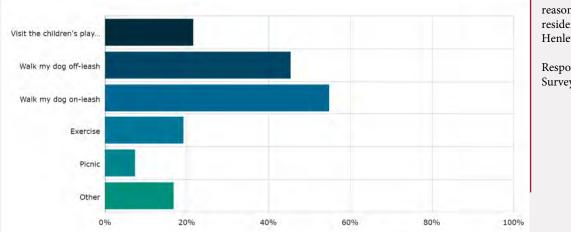


How often do you visit the park? Respondents: 42 Survey Question: 1

	Before 9am	9am-5pm	After 5pm	All day
Weekdays	16.67%	8.33%	30.56%	44.44%
	6	3	11	16
Weekends	5.26%	31.58%	2.63%	60.53%
	2	12	1	23

If there was an offleash dog area, when would the community most likely visit Henley Park?

Respondents: 38 Survey Question: 5



What are the main reasons that residents visit Henley Park

Respondents: 42 Survey Question: 2

Other Suggestions

Two participants shared some ideas for improvements or additions to off-leash dog parks in the LGA:

"Brice Mutton Reserve is a closed in space on Queen St, is rarely used. This would be a great location for an off leash dog park that could serve Concord West & Liberty Grove residents."

"Kendall Reserve should have fake grass/astro turf as it's a dust bowl"

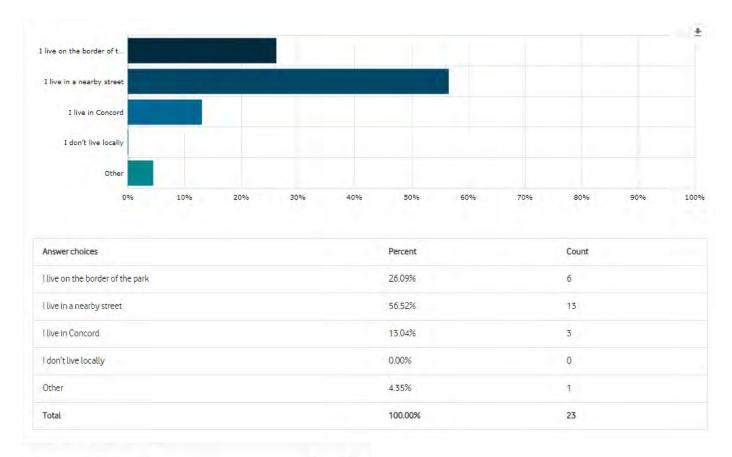
APPENDICES

- 1. Participant Breakdown
- 2. Drop In Report
- 3. Q&A
- 4. Promotional Materials
- 5. Survey Questions

1. Participant Breakdown

- 88% Concord residents
- 5% Rhodes residents

Of those who shared their proximity to the park (23 participants):





2. Drop In Report - Sunday, 23 February 3.30 - 5.30PM at Henley Park

Council officers met with 15+ groups of residents to discuss the trial and potential outcomes of community feedback. The main question posed was: if the trial is successful and the community supports the park becoming an off-leash dog park, would the park be fenced? If so, how much of the park would be fenced?

Council officers explained that the feedback collected would be analysed and a recommendation made to Council based on community feedback. The formation of an off-leash dog park would also need to incorporate the principles outlined in the recently adopted Dogs In Public Places Strategy with reference to fencing, amenities, enforcement etc.

General feedback was mixed; perimeter residents would like the park to remain as is, dog owners with smaller dogs were happy without a fence, while dog owners with larger or more athletic dogs would like a fence – even a small area of the park so as not to disturb passive recreation and shared spaced principles.

Council Officers encouraged residents to provide formal written feedback online at Collaborate Canada Bay. Councillor Yap attended the drop-in and discussed the trial with several groups of residents also.



3. Q&A on Collaborate Canada Bay

Can council look at Alternative parkland for this use or underused council/state owned land, rather than our beloved Tvotes | 6 views I Henley Park? Hint Westconnex land?

luc_b asked 21 days ago | Question asked to Robert Marshall

Does council have considerations that this Park was gifted to the people of Concord in 1924, and was later expanded after the Cemetery was closed? Respecting the past use could compromise heritage aspect/use of the park as a passive community recreation area. Many diverse activities occur in the park for diverse needs of the community, however designating the entire park as a dog park would reduce the amenity. There is definite higher risk in dog attacks as this is a very open parkland.

Do you like this question?

18 T	

Robert Marshall Replied 18 days ago

Hi,

The draft NSW Greener Places – Open Space for Recreation Guide states that there should be: "Access to an off-leash opportunity within 10 minutes (800m) walking distance of all houses." Henley Park was strategically identified in the Dogs in Public Places Strategy and chosen for this trial (as opposed to other parks) largely because residents within 800m currently don't have this opportunity, unlike residents in the majority of other locations in the City of Canada Bay.

Answer

Edit

÷

1 votes | 7 views

There are other dog parks in Canada Bay that successfully cater for a variety of uses for both dog owners and non-dog owners, and this would also be the intended outcome if this site was to become a permanent dog park.

Council wishes to hear from the community before a decision is made so that all concerns can be considered. We encourage everyone to take the opportunity to complete the survey during the trial period.

Kind regards

Robert

Was this answer helpful?

al 0	
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Dog Attack.

tatiana_naam asked a month ago | Question asked to Robert Marshall

What happens if a dog owner fails to restrain a dog coming at you and possible attacking whilst being or just walking through the park ? I am asking because this happened to me in August 2018. Avoiding my local park is NOT an option. Thanks.

Do you like this question?

1 III	

Replied 2 months ago Edited 20 days ago	Answer
Hi,.	
In accordance with legislation and Council's Dogs in Public Places Strategy, dogs are required to be under effective control of their owner when they ar This includes off-leash exercise areas. Non-compliance can be reported to Council and our enforcement officers will investigate. Burwood Police can a there is a serious issue.	
Regards,	
Robert	
Was this answer helpful?	
	nuch fints
a 1 Remove Ur	npublish Edit

3. Q&A on Collborate Canada Bay

Henley park off lead any time limits ie. Before 9 or after 10. Especially weekends osa_culmone_torrisi asked 2 months ago Question asked to Robert Marshall	0 votes 8 views
Basically any specified times the park is NOT off lead. Especially weekends? Is the entire park off lead including sporting field Any water fountains available?	d With the exception of the children's enclosu
Do you like this question?	
Robert Marshall Replied 2 months ago	Anst
Hi Rosa,	
There are no formal sporting activities that occur at Henley Park, so informal sporting activities can continue to occur in co for the fenced Children's playground can be used as an off-leash exercise area during the trial period and there are no time	a second s
A water fountain is available near Pitt Street but it does not include a dog bowl. It will be upgraded to include a dog bowl if exercise area in the future. A temporary bin with doggy bags will also be provided during the trial period.	the site becomes a permanent off-leash
Once we receive feedback from the community around the trial and how it could work into the future, we'll determine what regarding off-leash areas/times etc. More permanent amenities would also be included if the trial is successful.	parameters (if any) are needed for the park
Thanks,	
Robert	
Was this answer helpful?	
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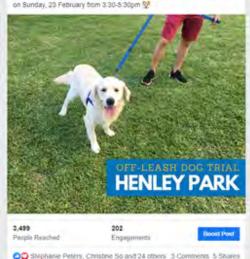
City of Canada Bay

D Like

Performance for Your Post

....

Do you like exploring our wonderful parks with your dog? Our recently adopted Dogs in Public Places Strategy identified Henley Park in Concord as potentially suitable as an off-leash dog area and we want your feedback! We're running a trial until 15 March 2020. Take your pooch for a stroll and tell us what you think vab bit lymenkeyandrial or in person at Henley Park on Sunday, 23 February from 3:30-5:30 pm 💆



Comment

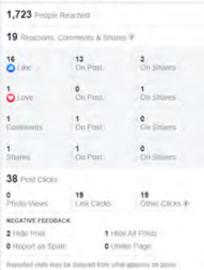
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lave you heard about	d our Henley Park dog trial?	2	
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	until 15 March 2020. Take you via bil ly henleyparktrial	r pooch for a st/c	il and
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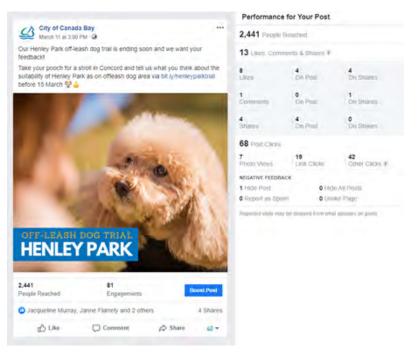
Performance for Your Post





Performance for Your Post

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Do you like exploring our wonderful parks with your dog? We're trialling Henley Park in Concord as an offleash dog area and we want your feedback! Take your pooch for a stroll and tell us what you think via bit.ly/henleyparktrial before 15 March 2020



9:04 AM - Feb 11, 2020 - Twitter Web App

Henley Park off-leash dog trial

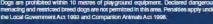


The City of Canada Bay recently adopted our Dogs in Public Places Strategy which identified Henley Park as potentially suitable for an off-leash dog area. We are therefore running a trial from **10 February** to 15 March 2020.

Dogs are allowed to be off-leash in the designated area highlighted in red.

We will be in the park to answer questions and discuss the trial on Sunday, 23 February

collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au



Further information

collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au parksupgrade@canadabay.nsw.gov.au 9911 6555





Have your say 10 Feb-15 Mar

Henley Park off-leash dog trial

Mayor Angelo Tsirekas invites you to take part in our off-leash dog area trial at Henley Park in Concord.

The City of Canada Bay recently adopted our Dogs in Public Places Strategy which identified Heniey Park as potentially subplied on off-leash dog area. We are therefore running a trial from 10 February to 15 March 2020.

We encourage you to visit the park during the trial and tell us what you think at collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au.

Share your feedback:

Online at collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au
 In person at Henley Park on Sunday, 23 February 3:30–5:30pm.



Further information

collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au 9911 6555

City of Canada Bay





5. Survey Questions

Share your feedback

Your feedback will help us determine whether this park is suitable as an off-leash dog park

How regularly do you visit Henley Park? Parameter

What do you do in the park? Requirem	
Select all that apply	
Visit the children's playground	
Walk my dog off-leash	
Walk my dog on-leash	
Exercise	
Picnic	
Other (please specify)	
Do you think this park is suitable as an off-leash dog park?	
Yes	
No	
What facilities would be required to make this park appropriate for off-leash dog activity whilst enabling all community members to enjoy them?	

+

If Council was to make Henley Park off-leash, when would you be most likely to visit it?

	Before 9am	9am-5pm	After 5pm	All day
Weekdays				
Neekends	0		Ô.	

What concerns do you have about dogs being off-leash in Henley Park Ferner

Is a concern	Is not a concern	I am unsure
Ci.	3	C
G	0	
C	(C)	iQ.
C		
	Is a concern	C 2 C 0 C 0 C 2 C 2 C 2 C 2 C 2 C 2 C 2 C 2 C 2 C 2

5. Survey Questions

Please choose the top 6 element you think are needed for a successful off-leash dog park Located within walking distance (for example, 5 minutes from home) - P Provides seating 2 Includes a drinking fountain with pet bowl đ Provides a varied terrain / landscape 4 Has natural shade 5 Provide dog litter bags and bins 6 Is regularly maintained Provides opportunities to socialise and strengthen community connections Provides separate areas for large and small dogs Is entirely fenced in Not fenced in - a designated location that is available for other uses Close proximity to public parking Signage outlining Dog Owner Responsibilities Incorporates accessibility provisions for access and signage Includes agility equipment such as raised tunnels, recycled tyres, bar jumps, resting platforms and/ slalom

Clear Selection

Do you have any other feedback?

Postcode Required	
Postcode Required What is your postcode?	
What is your relationship to the park? Required	
·····	
	Submit

