

Dog Exercise Area Policy

Responsible Division	Community Services
Responsible Business Unit	Rangers and Security
Responsible Officer	Manager Rangers and Security
Affected Business Units	Rangers and Security
ECM Document Set ID	4886047

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance that enables fair and accountable decision making in relation to specifying or amending dog exercise areas or prohibiting dogs from certain areas.

Scope

This policy applies to certain public places under the care, control or management of the City.

Definitions

Active reserves are predominantly utilised for organised sporting activities and require high levels of maintenance to sustain quality turf. Organised sport should be at the forefront of decision making as the intended primary use and the potential for dogs to damage turf and the risks to health and convenience of dog excreta that is not removed.

Dog exercise area: A public place under the care, control or management of the City where dogs have been approved to be exercised without being tethered or held by a leash, however the dog must remain under the control of the person who is responsible for it.

Passive reserves: Areas utilised for recreational activities that do not involve organised sport. They generally contain low maintenance turf with medium quality surface conditions suitable for low wear applications. They can encourage long stay usage with barbecues, playgrounds and toilet facilities or short stay usage with fewer facilities. These reserves are considered the most appropriate for use as dog exercise areas.

Policy Statement

1. Class and size of location

There is no standard relating to the recommended size of dog exercise areas. Consideration should be given to areas that:

- Provide sufficient room to enable dogs to be exercised with minimal risk of conflict between dogs and other users of the location.
- Are sufficiently contained to prevent owners from losing sight or control of their dog.

Passive, active and static reserves each have differing user types, levels of activity and community expectations. No parks or reserves are to be considered as dog exercise areas during sporting or community activities.

Static reserves or land parcels may not be suitable due to their location, topography, geographical features etc. where use of these locations may present a risk to the City.

2. Playgrounds, carparks and lakes

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 29 January 2019 Council, resolved the following public places are not dog exercise areas, meaning dogs are permitted but must be on lead:

- Any park or reserve during a community event or sporting activity.
- Within 5 metres of a lake.
- Within a carpark.
- Within 20 metres of any unfenced playground, regardless of whether it is a specified dog area.

3. Prohibited areas

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 29 January 2019, Council resolved that dogs are prohibited at the following public places, other than on designated paths and with a leash securely fastened:

- Lightning Swamp Bushland.
- Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary.
- Baigup Wetlands.

Dogs are totally prohibited from any park or reserve where fox trapping, nesting wildlife, weed eradication or other seasonal activities are taking place and are suitably signed during those activities.

4. Other factors for consideration

Other factors for consideration when assessing suitability of potential dog exercise areas include:

- Proximity to road networks
- Proximity to other dog exercise areas
- The location and type of nearby facilities
- Health risks and inconvenience of dog excreta
- Proximity to vulnerable community members

Class	Sport	Playground	Other	Status
Passive	No	Yes	Reserve is small and does not accommodate 20 metre diameter around playground.	On lead
Passive	No	No	Close proximity to road and no physical barriers	On lead
Passive	No	No	No roads or schools nearby and clearly defined boundary	Off lead
Passive	No	Yes	Open space, 20 metre radius around playground, no organised sport	Off lead
Active	Yes	No	Regular organised sporting activities, well maintained high quality turf	On lead
Active	Yes	Yes	Regular organised sporting activities, well maintained high quality turf.	On lead
Passive	No	No	Clear and open space, high visibility, physical boundary, no competing uses	Off lead
Passive	No	No	Environmentally sensitive areas.	Prohibited, partly prohibited or on lead

Table 1 – Example assessments

Related Legislation

Section 31 of the *Dog Act 1976*, relating to the control of dogs in certain public places, states:

“(2B) A local government may, by absolute majority as defined in the Local Government Act 1995 section 1.4, specify a public place, or a class of public place, that is under the care, control or management of the local government to be a place where dogs are prohibited:

(a) at all times; or

(b) at specified times.

(3A) A local government may, by absolute majority as defined in the Local Government Act 1995 section 1.4, specify a public place, or a class of public place, that is under the care, control or management of the local government to be a dog exercise area.

(3C) At least 28 days before specifying a place to be —

(a) a place where dogs are prohibited at all times or at a time specified under subsection (2B); or

- (b) a dog exercise area under subsection (3A); or
- (c) a rural leashing area under subsection (3B),

Related Documentation

City of Bayswater Dog Exercise Review April 2018

Document details.

Relevant delegations	Nil		
Risk evaluation	Low		
Strategic link	Theme:	Community	
	Goal C1:	Create safe and inviting places for people to come together.	
	Goal C3:	Maximise the use of the City's facilities and parks by all sections of the community.	
Council adoption	28 January 2025	Resolution	10.5.1.2
Next review due	January 2029		