

Item No: C03/20-391

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - DOG PARKS GRANVILLE AREA

Responsible Division: Works & Infrastructure
Officer: Director Works & Infrastructure
File Number: C09/19-208
Community Strategic Plan Goal: *A great place to live*

SUMMARY

This report provides a response to the Notice of Motion - Dog Parks Granville Area resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 18 September 2019 (Min.690 C09/19-208).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve the construction of dog off-leash parks at the following locations:

- 1. Kurung Reserve, Holroyd**
- 2. Elizabeth Street Park, Guildford**
- 3. Granville Park, Granville**
- 4. Lawson Square, Merrylands**

2. The works be incorporated into Council's 2020/2021 Capital Works Program.

REPORT

Background

At Council's meeting of 18 September 2019, Item C09/19-208, Min. 690, Council considered a Notice of Motion relating to Dog Parks in the Granville area. Council resolved the following:

"That Council:

- 1. Provide a report identifying potential locations of installing and constructing new dog parks within the current open space areas of Granville Ward.*
- 2. That the report provide detailed costings of constructing the dog parks in the selected locations."*

Desktop Study

Following receipt of Council's resolution, Council staff undertook an initial desktop study which reviewed existing open space areas to determine the initial feasibility of establishing additional Dog Off-Leash Areas in the Granville ward.

Active sportsgrounds, small parks and reserves with playgrounds have been eliminated from consideration due to potential conflicts with existing user groups and legislation that requires dogs to be a minimum of 10 metres away from play spaces. The distribution of the proposed areas within the Granville Ward were also considered against the location and the current distribution of existing Dog Off-Leash Areas.

Remaining sites were reviewed against a set of criteria to determine the overall suitability. This criteria included the size of the open space, accessibility, car parking availability, shelter and shade, infrastructure, services and the proximity of residential properties. Attachment 1 provides, in greater detail, the assessment undertaken by Council staff.

Site Assessment

Following the conclusion of the desktop study, site visits were performed to review the site conditions and the overall practicality of the sites.

Stormwater, flooding and service information was additionally sought for the shortlisted sites.

Several of the sites were eliminated due to poor natural surveillance which could result in anti-social behaviour and two further sites were considered too small. These sites are located in the Duck Creek Canal open space area in Guildford.

Proximity to residents was also a key consideration, with some of the areas bounded by many residents, which increases the opportunity for conflict and noise complaints.

Following the conclusion of the onsite assessments and subsequent review of the open space, four sites were identified as the preferred areas for a Dog Off-Leash Park. These are:

1. Kurung Reserve, Holroyd
2. Elizabeth Street Park, Guildford
3. Granville Park, Granville
4. Lawson Square, Merrylands

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community consultation will be undertaken to determine the final locations of the off leash dog areas within the identified parks, and will also identify any specific needs or requests from the community.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for Council associated with this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications for Council associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Initial cost estimates for proposed sites vary between \$32,000 and \$75,000, however it is proposed that the majority of the construction works would be undertaken utilising existing in house resources which will significantly reduce the proposed capital expenditure.

CONCLUSION

Following Council's review of the overall feasibility of implementing off leash dog areas within the Granville area, four sites have been identified that would be considered feasible to proceed with.

It is recommended that Council approve the construction of the off leash areas at the preferred locations and the works be carried out as part of Council's 2020/2021 capital works program.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Assessment of Potential Dog Park Areas within the Granville Ward