

Disclosure of Interest

Member Cr Wheatland
 Type of Interest Impartiality Interest
 Nature of Interest Working for Kim Giddens MLA Member for Bateman
 Request Stay, Discuss, Vote
 Decision Leave Stay, Discuss, Vote

CD21/8144 – FENCED DOG PLAY PARK - PETITION RESPONSE (REC) (ATTACHMENT)

Ward : All
 Category : Strategic
 Subject Index : Not Applicable
 Customer Index : Not Applicable
 Disclosure of any Interest : No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has a declarable interest in this matter.
 Previous Items : Ordinary Meeting of Council 17 July 2018 – Consideration of a Fenced Dog area.
 CD/19/8118 Ordinary Meeting of Council 20 August 2019. Ordinary Meeting of Council 8 December 2020.
 Works Programme : Not Applicable
 Funding : Capital Work Program (approved)
 Responsible Officer : Manager Neighbourhood Amenity
 Manager Natural Areas and Parks

AUTHORITY / DISCRETION

DEFINITION

<input type="checkbox"/>	Advocacy	<i>When the Council advocates on its own behalf or on behalf of its community to another level of government/body/agency.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive	<i>The substantial direction setting and oversight role of the Council. e.g. adopting plans and reports, accepting tenders, directing operations, setting and amending budgets.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Legislative	<i>Includes adopting local laws, town planning schemes & policies.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review	<i>When the Council operates as a review authority on decisions made by Officers for appeal purposes.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Quasi-Judicial	<i>When the Council determines an application/matter that directly affects a person's right and interests. The judicial character arises from the obligation to abide by the principles of natural justice. Examples of Quasi-Judicial authority include town planning applications, building licences, applications for other permits/licences (eg under Health Act, Dog Act or Local Laws) and other decisions that may be appealable to the State Administrative Tribunal.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Information	<i>For the Council/Committee to note.</i>

CD21/8144 – FENCED DOG PLAY PARK - PETITION RESPONSE (REC) (ATTACHMENT)**KEY ISSUES / SUMMARY**

- At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on the 20 August 2019 Council requested broader community consultation to ascertain whether there was in-principle support from the community for this type of facility (Fenced Dog Play Park), including costs estimates, community support for identified locations and to report back to Council.
- Stage 1 of the City's engagement process received 920 submissions with 92% of respondents supporting having one or more Fenced Dog Play Parks within the City of Melville.
- Stage 2 of the City's engagement process heard from 564 community members of whom 73% selected Piney Lakes as their preferred location for a Fenced Dog Play Park and over half of respondents ranked it as one of their top three most preferred locations.
- Officers, in line with community feedback recommended Piney Lakes as the preferred location for a Fenced Dog Play Park.
- At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 8 December 2020 Council unanimously endorsed;
 1. Piney Lakes as the preferred location for a Fenced Dog Play Park; and
 2. Directed the CEO to proceed to detailed design, obtain detailed cost estimates and include in the 2021-2022 Draft Capital Works Program for further consideration of final funding approval of the Council.
- At the Special Meeting of Council 22 June 2021 the Council approved the 2021–2022 Budget, including the Capital Works Program, which allocated \$150,000 to this project.
- On 10 September 2021 signage was placed on site informing the community of the construction of the Fenced Dog Play Park and asking for feedback on what the community would like to see within the space.
- At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on the 12 October 2021, Council acknowledged a petition and asked that a report be prepared relating to the fenced Off-Lead Dog Park at Piney Lakes.
- The community were then invited to view the concept design and provide comment via Melville Talks, with in person and over the phone communication available upon request. 107 submissions were received with 50.46% supporting the draft concept and 44.85% not supporting the draft concept design, and 4.67% that did not share a level of support
- The City's preferred option is to progress the 5,500m² concept design, in the proposed location, to detailed design stage and then construct in 2022.

CD21/8144 – FENCED DOG PLAY PARK - PETITION RESPONSE (REC) (ATTACHMENT)

BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary of Council meeting on the 20 August 2019, the findings from the community engagement regarding the suitability of Attadale Reserve, Burke Drive, Attadale was presented. In line with the community feedback received, the officer's recommendation was to not proceed.

The Council supported this recommendation and requested broader community engagement to ascertain whether there is in-principle support from the community for this type of facility, including cost estimates and community support for identified locations and report back to Council.

As a result investigations and decision of Council, Piney Lakes was selected as the preferred park for the dog play space. The City commenced concept design and as part of this process signs were erected notifying users of the park that the design process was underway. This provided users of the park an opportunity to view the design and provide feedback which could then be taken into consideration by the design team.

Size and location of proposed Fenced Dog Play Park



CD21/8144 – FENCED DOG PLAY PARK - PETITION RESPONSE (REC) (ATTACHMENT)

Currently the total off lead area for dogs at Piney Lakes is approximately 58,960m². The draft concept design is based on a 5,500m² area, equating to approximately 9.5% of the current off lead area being utilised for the fenced dog play space. Signs were installed on 10 September 2021, following which the City received a number of calls and emails from local residents concerned about the project.

A petition was presented at the Tuesday, 12 October 2021 Ordinary Meeting of Council, in relation to the proposed Fenced Dog Play Park at Piney Lakes. In response to Councils' acknowledgment of the petition this report has been prepared.

A copy of the concept design is provided in attachment – [8144 Fenced Dog Play Park Concept Plan September 2021](#)

DETAIL

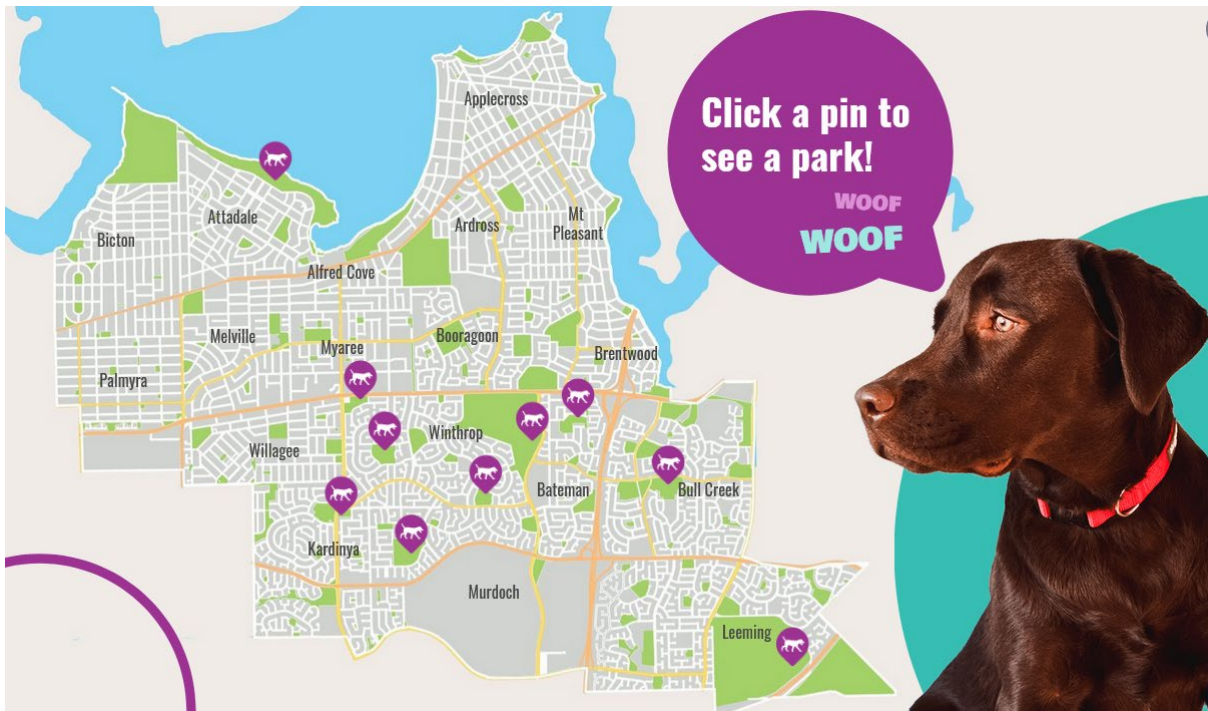
Stage 1 of the City's engagement showed strong (92%) community support for a Fenced Dog Play Park.

The City's engagement process then explored this concept further including determining possible locations and estimated costs. When considering possible locations the City used the criteria below in an attempt to lessen any impacts on residents and current users of the parks/reserves:

- Any activities that may take place within the reserve
- Proximity to schools / residential areas due to the possibility of increased noise
- Parking availability (as people will drive to the facility)
- The classification of the reserve in relation to whether dogs are permitted, restricted or prohibited
- Facilities / Events held at the reserve
- Size of the reserve, ability to accommodate a Fenced Dog Play Park

Stage 2 of the engagement process asked for the community to help to determine the best location from a shortlist of ten suitable options. The community was asked to share their preferred location via an online survey from the locations on the map below.

CD21/8144 – FENCED DOG PLAY PARK - PETITION RESPONSE (REC) (ATTACHMENT)

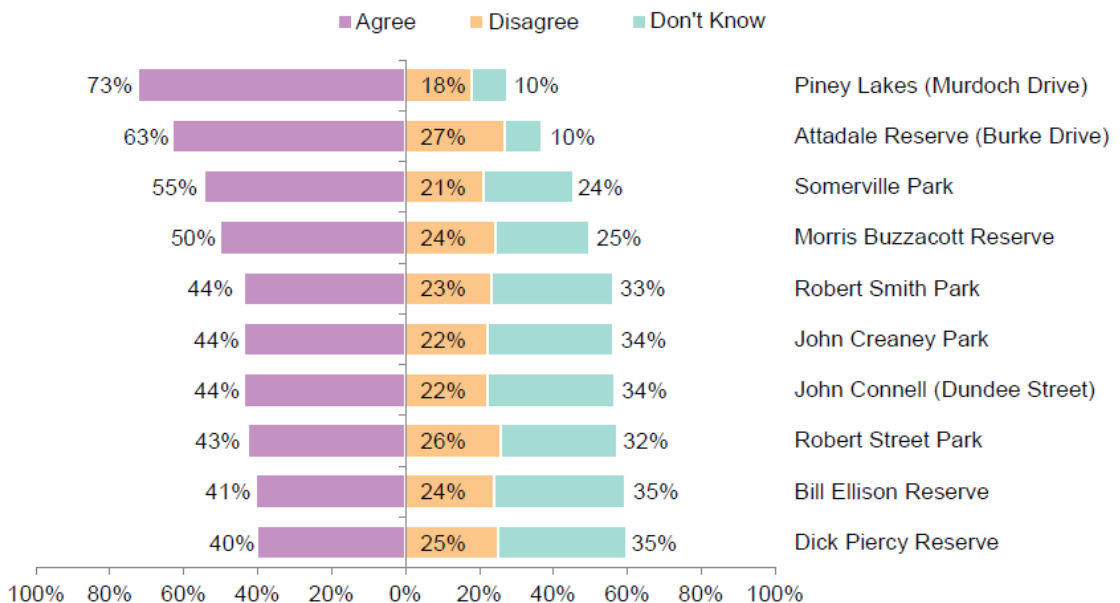


564 community members responded with Piney Lakes (Murdoch Drive) being the most supported location for Fenced Dog Play Park (73%, which was the highest percentage of respondents that agreed and least people disagreed/unsure about this location).

More than half of the respondents ranked Piney Lakes as one of their three most preferred locations for fenced Dog Play Park.

Survey Questions

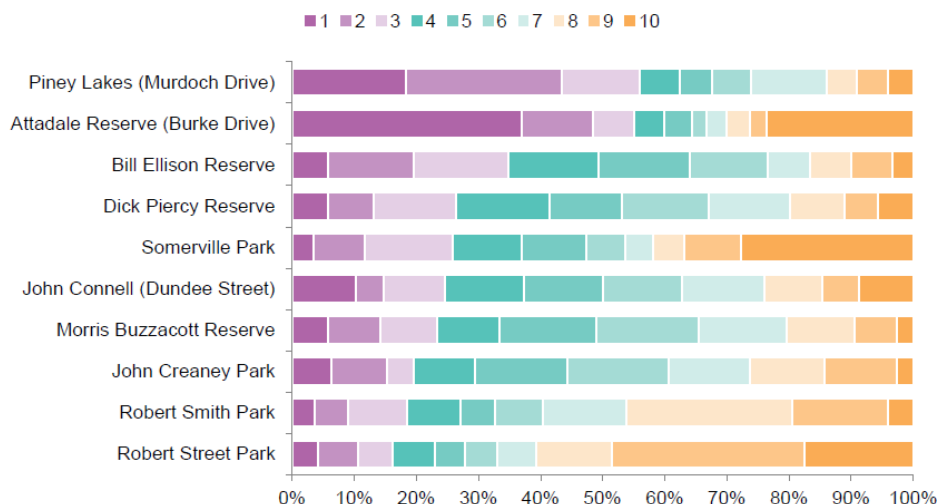
Do you agree or disagree with any of the locations listed a fenced dog play park?



CD21/8144 – FENCED DOG PLAY PARK - PETITION RESPONSE (REC) (ATTACHMENT)

Rank each location in order of preference

The possible locations are ordered according to the percentage of respondents who have given them a ranking of 1 to 3.



As part of the design process, the City reviewed existing dog exercise areas that have been constructed by other Local Governments. The main focus of the review was to gain a better understanding on size requirements and fencing specifications.

City of Cockburn – Briggs Street Enclosed Dog Park (South Lake)

- Small dogs area = 1,600m² (fence height 1200mm)
- All dogs area = 2,000m² (fence height 1600mm)
- Total area = 3,600m²

City of Armadale – John Dunn Memorial Park Off Leash Dog Park

- Total area of 5,100m² divided in 3 areas (small dogs, medium dogs and large dogs) (fence height 1600mm)

City of Mandurah – Dog Park Leslie St Reserve

- Dog Play area (small dog) = 2,100m² (fence height 1800mm)
- Dog Exercise area (All Dog) = 2,500m² (fence height 1800mm)
- Total area = 4,600m²

City of Rockingham – Seahaven Enclosed Off-Leash Dog Exercise Area

- Small dogs area = 2,000m² (fence height 1800mm)
- All dogs area = 3,000m² (fence height 1800mm)
- Total area = 5,000m²

City of Rockingham - Baldivis Enclosed Dog Park

- Total area of 3,000m² divided in 2 areas for all dogs and small dogs (fence height 1800mm)

City of Rockingham - Bayview Dog Park

- Small dogs area = 650m² (fence height 1800mm)
- All dogs area = 1420m² (fence height 1800mm)
- Total area = 2,070m²

CD21/8144 – FENCED DOG PLAY PARK - PETITION RESPONSE (REC) (ATTACHMENT)

During the original engagement, as part of the frequently asked questions, the community was informed that a fenced dog play park is an enclosed off leash dog exercise area for recreational purposes which is smaller than a standard soccer field (approximately 65m x 100m in size). The concept design the City has proposed (5,500m²) is larger than the above listed fenced dog areas, however research undertaken by the design team indicated that the larger the park the better it was for dogs as it allowed adequate space to play.

Design investigations also identified the following concerns which have been taken into consideration of part of the concept design;

- Dividing fence material: avoid colorbond fence as it gets damaged by dogs jumping on it
- Differing height of the fences, noting the 1.8m high fence was the most common and was also consistent with specification used by the South Australian government
- If seats are placed close to the 1.8m high fence, dogs may get on the seat and jump over the fence (some parks had a fence extension added where seats are located)
- Puppies and small dogs can dig and escape – fences had extra protection added to the base
- General irrigation issues and difficulties in maintaining grass cover on high traffic/speed areas
- General cleaning issues

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**I. COMMUNITY**

Stage 1 of the Community Engagement occurred from 10 August to 24 August 2020.

During Stage 1, the engagement process asked for community feedback, via an online survey, to understand if there is community support for one or more fully Fenced Dog Play Parks which include dog agility and/or exercise equipment.

During the engagement period 920 community members responded, with 92% supporting the idea.

Stage 2 of the Community Engagement occurred from 9 October to 26 October 2020.

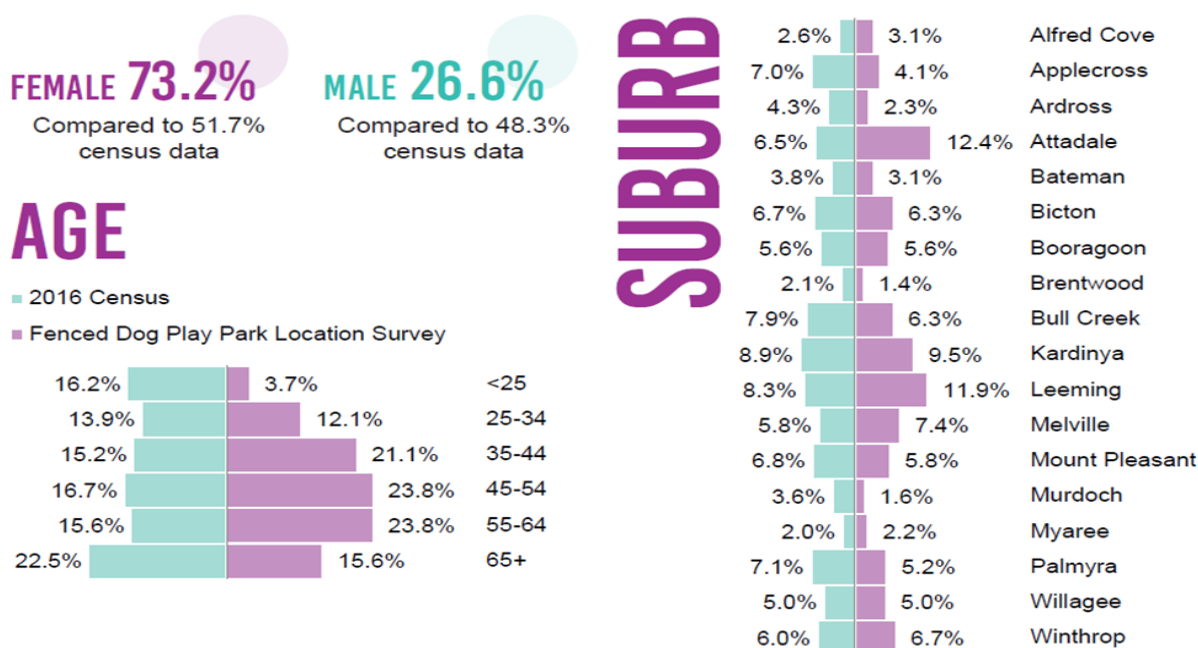
In total, 564 people responded to the survey and the majority of respondents were reached through digital media including over 90% with 31% from direct invitation and 30% from social media.

CD21/8144 – FENCED DOG PLAY PARK - PETITION RESPONSE (REC) (ATTACHMENT)



Survey profile of participants was based on an estimated population of 102, 307 in the City of Melville, the sample size collected has provided a 99% level of statistical validity.

Overall the sample of respondents reached provided a fair representation from each suburb mirroring that of the population with a slightly higher representation from Attadale at 6% higher than the population.



As a result of the petition, a third stage of engagement took place with a public comment period on the concept plan taking place until 29 October 2021. Community were invited to view the concept and provide comment via Melville Talks (in person and over the phone were available upon request). The City received 107 submissions.

- 104 City residents
- 44 of which reside in Winthrop
- Three reside outside of LGA
- 81 informed us they were dog owners
- 18 participated in previous engagement activities
- 50.46% supported the draft concept
- 44.85% did not support the draft
- 4.67% did not share a level of support

CD21/8144 – FENCED DOG PLAY PARK - PETITION RESPONSE (REC) (ATTACHMENT)

Community were informed via onsite signage, Melville Talks, eNews distribution, social media, direct email to 1km radius of the location and a project page e-blast to 303 site users.

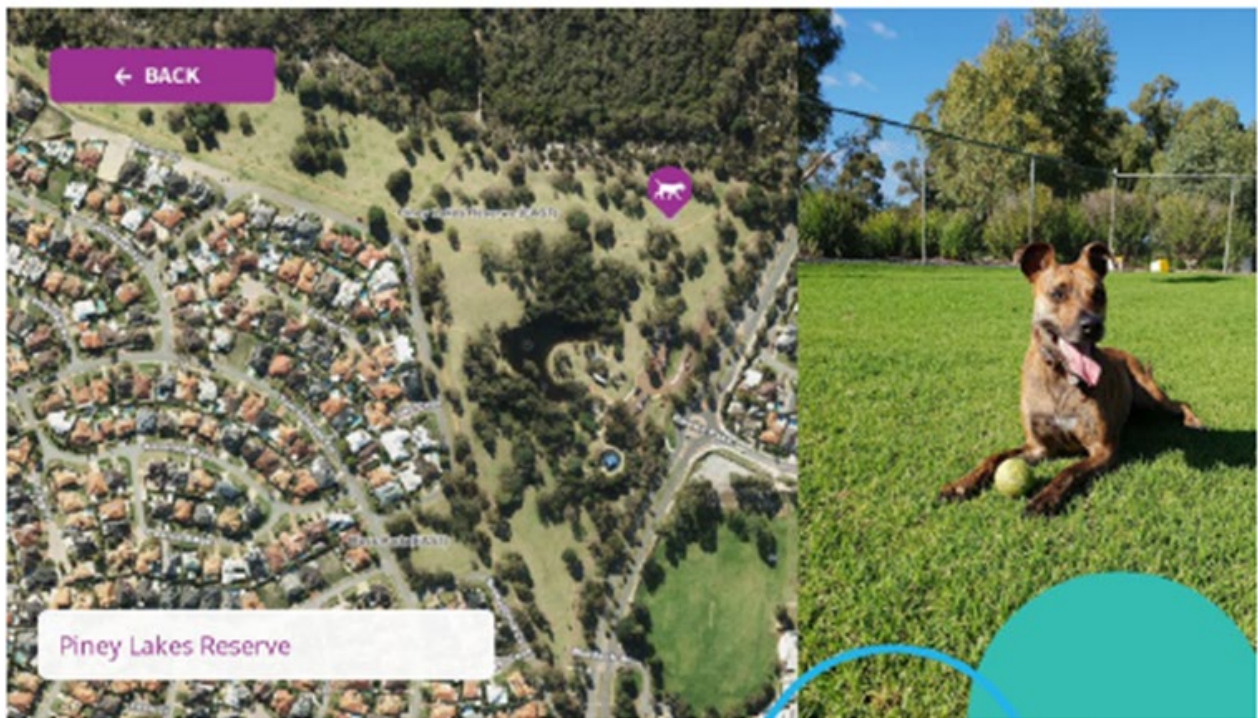
Please refer to the [8144 Piney Lakes Dog Exercise Area Engagement Snapshot](#) and the [8144 Submission Report](#) attached to this report.

II. OTHER AGENCIES / CONSULTANTS

No engagement with other agencies/consultants has been undertaken.

STATUTORY AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The location within Piney Lakes where the Fenced Dog Play Park would be located in an area designated as a permitted dog exercise area, which is a requirement for these types of facilities.



CD21/8144 – FENCED DOG PLAY PARK - PETITION RESPONSE (REC) (ATTACHMENT)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

During engagement, as part of the frequently asked questions, the community was informed that a Fenced Dog Play Park is an enclosed off leash dog exercise area for recreational purposes which is smaller than a standard soccer field (approximately 65m x 100m in size 6,500m²).

At the time, it was estimated that the fenced area of this scale would cost approximately \$158,000 depending on the location and access to existing facilities such as water supply. It was also considered appropriate to provide dog agility or exercise equipment for dogs of all sizes.

Funding was approved by Council in the 2021-2022 capital works budget.

There will be ongoing maintenance costs for a facility of this type.

STRATEGIC, RISK AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Risk Statement & Consequence	Level of Risk	Risk Treatment
If a Fenced Dog Play Park is installed there would be ongoing maintenance costs and repair expenses.	Minor consequences which are almost certain, resulting in a High level of risk	Use of materials and design such that more durable and lower maintenance materials are used. Increase operating budgets to match requirements. Facility will go into the City's asset management plan for renewal.
Community concern if dog play space is constructed at Piney Lakes		December 2020 report, as well as consideration of recent feedback since, indicating overall support for the project.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There is no Council Policy that relates to this item.

CD21/8144 – FENCED DOG PLAY PARK - PETITION RESPONSE (REC) (ATTACHMENT)

ALTERNATE OPTIONS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

Some of the feedback on the draft concept design related to the large size of the fenced area and the height of the fence. A range of alternative options were examined taking into account different sizes of the fenced area and potential locations at Piney Lakes Reserve.

Alternative Option 1: Approximately 4,800m² in area



An alternative option could be to reduce the size of the Fenced Dog Play Park and move it further towards Murdoch Drive. The advantage of this option is it would reduce the area that would be lost that is currently used as an open dog off lead area.

The disadvantages with this proposal is it would result in a reduction in the size of the Fenced Dog Play Park and the City would run the risk of building a facility that was subject to excessive wear and tear and potentially insufficient in size to accommodate dog play activities during busy periods.

Alternative Option 2: Approximately 3,500m² in area

An alternative option could be to further reduce the size of the Fenced Dog Play Park and move it further towards Murdoch Drive. The advantage of this option is it would reduce the area that would be lost that is currently used as a dog off lead area.

A disadvantage with this proposal is it would mean a reduction in the size of the Fenced Dog Play Park with higher levels of wear and tear and insufficient dog play capacity.

CD21/8144 – FENCED DOG PLAY PARK - PETITION RESPONSE (REC) (ATTACHMENT)



Alternative Option 3: Approximately 3,800m² in area

Another option could be to move the Fenced Dog Play Park to the eastern side of the path. This area is currently a dog on-lead area. To enable this area to be a dog exercise area would require consultation, analysis of feedback and a report to Council. If Council support this location to be an exercise area, then 28 days public notification needs to take place and then a further report to Council with an absolute majority decision to designate this as a dog exercise for only what would be the fenced dog play park.

Dog walkers already have over 800m in length of an dog exercise area and making another part of the reserve a fenced dog play park will somewhat limit the space for other users that are not dog owners. Also there are groups that use this space for recreational activities, which would result in them moving to other parts of the park.

This proposal would also mean a reduction in the size of the Fenced Dog Play Park and the City would run the risk of building a facility that that is insufficient in size with higher levels of wear and tear and insufficient dog play capacity.



CD21/8144 – FENCED DOG PLAY PARK - PETITION RESPONSE (REC) (ATTACHMENT)

The height of the fenced area is proposed to be 1.8m consistent with other fenced dog areas in the region, however consideration could be given to reduced fence heights, such as 1.5m to 1.6m for large dogs and 1.2m to 1.5m for small dogs. Feedback from the local governments listed with fenced dog areas recommended against reducing fence height significantly as this increased the potential for dogs to jump the fence. It is understood that some of dog owners prefer the fenced area to reduce the risk of their dogs running away and not easily retrieved when off leash, which may be compromised with reduced height fencing.

CONCLUSION

The community showed strong support for a Fenced Dog Play Park and Piney Lakes Winthrop was the community's preferred location.

Piney Lakes is central to the City, has good access, and the section of Piney Lakes identified for a Fenced Dog Play Park is currently already well utilised as a dog off lead exercise area.

The design team have spent considerable time conducting research into what the ideal Fenced Dog Play Park should be based on industry benchmarking and feedback received from those who have built such a facility previously.

There have been concerns that have been raised by community members about the loss of amenity if the park is built at the proposed location. Piney Lakes is a large park which allows dogs to be walked on lead and off lead; the proposed location does take up space however there is still considerable open space (over 600m in length) that is still an unfenced dog exercise area within this portion of the park that can be used.

Fence height consideration has been raised however the proposed 1.8m height is the recommended height at "Unleashed – A Guide to Successful Dog Parks"- Guide published by the Dog and Cat Management Board, Government of South Australia. A number of dog parks visited by the design team measured the height of the fence to be at 1.8m in height.

The location also meets a number of key criteria which was identified in the December 2020 report to Council, such as distance from residential properties, parking and classification of the reserve in relation to whether dogs are permitted, restricted or prohibited.

One particular issue that has been raised is the size of the space however the site is actually smaller than what was identified in the original December 2020 report. The design team wanted to ensure the final design is large enough to accommodate all sizes of dogs and provide them plenty of space to play.

From an environmental point of view, it is more beneficial for the larger the space to be provided further away from the bushland area. Reductions in size increase the risk of further concentrating noise and odours from the dogs and may result in sensitive species, such as Quenda, moving further into the bushland areas. Given the limited bushland available at the reserve, this would not be an ideal situation.

CD21/8144 – FENCED DOG PLAY PARK - PETITION RESPONSE (REC) (ATTACHMENT)

Another positive aspect about a larger fenced space is the ongoing maintenance requirements. The larger area is considered easier to maintain as there would be less damage to turf, whereas a smaller space would create wear issues for turf similar to what occurs in a goal square at football grounds. The larger area would also allow for maintenance of an area to take place easier if repairs were required, as the damaged area could be fenced off and repaired therefore not having to close the dog park.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION AND COUNCIL RESOLUTION (8144)**APPROVAL**

At 8:41pm Cr Robins moved, seconded Cr Mair –

That the Council endorses the concept design [8144 Fenced Dog Play Park Concept Plan September 2021](#) based on a 5,500m² dog fenced play area at Piney Lakes Reserve in the proposed location, progress to detailed design and construction in 2022.

At 8:42pm, the Mayor declared the motion

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (12/0)