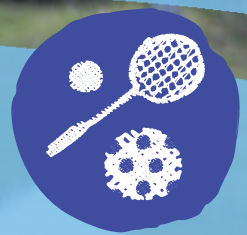




Bankstown City Council

Paws in Parks

Off Leash Dog Park Plan



Draft 2

February 2015

Draft

Cover photo: Vale of Ah, Milperra – Pets Day Out

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1

Introduction



1.1 Background

The Bankstown City Council Open Space Strategic Plan was adopted in 2014 to guide the strategic priorities to support community needs for open space recreation areas over the coming decade.

A key recommendation of this plan was to develop a “dogs in public reserves strategy” and identify two trial sites for additional dedicated off leash areas

Council currently has one dedicated off leash area at the Vale of Ah, Milperra. This site was established to meet Council’s requirement under the Companion Animals Act 1998 to provide at least one off leash area within the Local Government Area (LGA)

Permanent off leash dog areas can be defined as either;

- a dedicated controlled area enclosed by fencing to allow the exercise, training and socializing of dogs.

- a dedicated uncontrolled area usually within a larger public open space and bounded by natural or physical elements within the landscape such as creeks, paths and topography to form a definable area for the exercise, training and socializing of dogs.

Non-dedicated off leash areas permitting off leash activities at allocated times of the day and/or within allocated seasons or times of the year.

This plan will only consider options for dedicated and controlled off lead areas because the co-location of uncontrolled or undedicated off leash areas can potentially create a risk to public health and safety.

1.2 Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the “Paws in Parks” Off Leash Dog Park Plan is to support the expressed needs of non-dog owners and dog-owners to improve public safety and the recreation experience at Council parks and reserves.

The plan will assess Council land to identify the most suitable sites for additional dedicated off leash dog areas and the appropriate number of dedicated off leash dog parks within the Bankstown LGA.

The plan will recognise and consider the needs of dog owners and non-dog owners and propose balanced recommendations to improve their use of public open space.

1.3 The Benefits of Pet Ownership

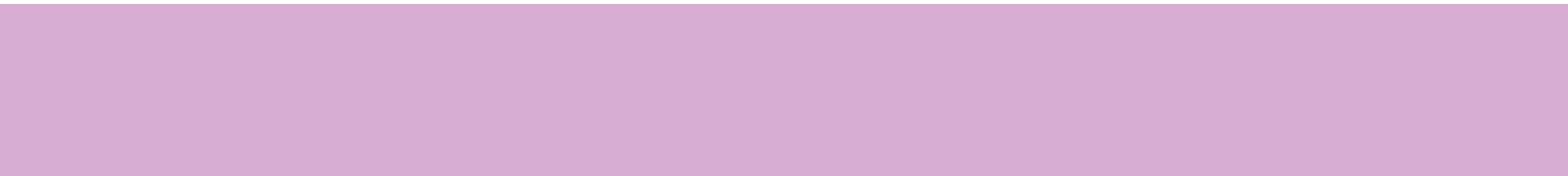
Research has shown that owning a pet has a number of physical health benefits and psychological benefits including;

Physical Health Benefits

- Increased cardiovascular health (lower blood pressure and lower cholesterol).
- Increased physical activity. Dogs especially help us get out and enjoy the outdoors while getting some regular exercise.
- They are great motivators and personal trainers, never wanting to miss a training session no matter the weather.
- Fewer visits to the doctor
- Growing up with a dog (and other pets to a lesser extent) during infancy may help to strengthen the immune system and can reduce the risk of allergies.
- Children who have pets are less likely to miss days of school due to illness. (Physical Health Benefits Source: RSPCA Australia)

Psychological Benefits

- School children who own pets are more popular with their classmates and also more empathetic.
- Children or adolescents who have a pet have higher self-esteem. Teenagers who own pets have a more positive outlook on life and report less loneliness, restlessness and boredom.
- Pet owners suffer from less depression and are able to cope with grief, stress and loss better than non-pet owners.
- Pets enhance social connectedness and social skills and are great conversation starters! (Psychological Benefits Source: RSPCA Australia)



2

The Context



2.1 Legislative and Planning Context

Council is required under Section 13(6) of the Companion Animals Act 1998 to declare at least one public place in any municipality as an off-leash area for dogs. Section 13 (6) of the Companion Animal Act 1998 states:

“A local authority can by order declare a public place to be an off-leash area. Such a declaration can be limited so as to apply during a particular period or periods of the day or to different periods of different days. However, there must at all times be at least one public place in the area of a local authority that is an off-leash area.”

Section 14 of the Companion Animals Act 1998 states, there are a number of public areas where dogs are prohibited (whether or not they are leashed or otherwise controlled) including:

- Children’s play areas
- Food preparation/ consumption areas
- Recreation areas where dogs are prohibited (meaning any public place, or part of a public place, provided or set apart by a local authority

for public recreation or the playing of organised games and in which the local authority has ordered that dogs are prohibited

- Public bathing areas where dogs are prohibited
- School grounds
- Child care centres
- Shopping areas where dogs are prohibited
- Wildlife protection areas

However, if the outdoor dining area is within a public place declared by a local authority to be an off-leash area:

- It is not necessary for the dog to be restrained by means of a chain, cord or leash, and
- The dog can be fed while the dog is on the ground, but not using any apparatus provided for the consumption of food by humans, and
- The dog can sit on a person’s lap, but must not be allowed to sit on any table or chairs or make contact with other apparatus provided for the consumption of food by humans.

This plan was developed considering the following legislation and planning recommendations:

Legislation / Strategic Planning	Planning Context
Companion Animals Act 1998	(6) A local authority can by order declare a public place to be an off-leash area. Such a declaration can be limited so as to apply during a particular period or periods of the day or to different periods of different days. However, there must at all times be at least one public place in the area of a local authority that is an off-leash area
Bankstown City Council Local Orders	Dog Order 18(3), Declared Dog Order 18(4), Greyhound Order 18(5), Static Guard Dog Order 18(6)
Bankstown City Council Open Space Strategic Plan 2014	Develop and adopt a 'Dogs In Public Reserves Policy (Paws in Parks)' and implement a trial of two additional off-lead areas (located in the north of the LGA) to respond to the identified needs of dog owners
Bankstown City Council Community Land Generic Plan of Management 2014	- Provide well-managed unleashed areas for social use (based on surveys) with signage and fencing if appropriate - Allow commercial dog walking and dog training in appropriate open spaces - Do not allow dogs within 10m of food preparation areas, playgrounds or sport fields.

2.2 Existing Facilities

Since the inception of the Companion Animals Act in 1998 Bankstown has been serviced by one dedicated off leash dog park to comply with the statutory obligations of the act.

The Vale of Ah located in the suburb of Milperra is generously large at 2.5ha and has a number of remnant trees providing shade, an all weather access path, shelter, exercise and agility equipment, a water station, flood lighting and car parking. The park is situated adjacent to the Georges River and sporting fields and has no residential neighbours.

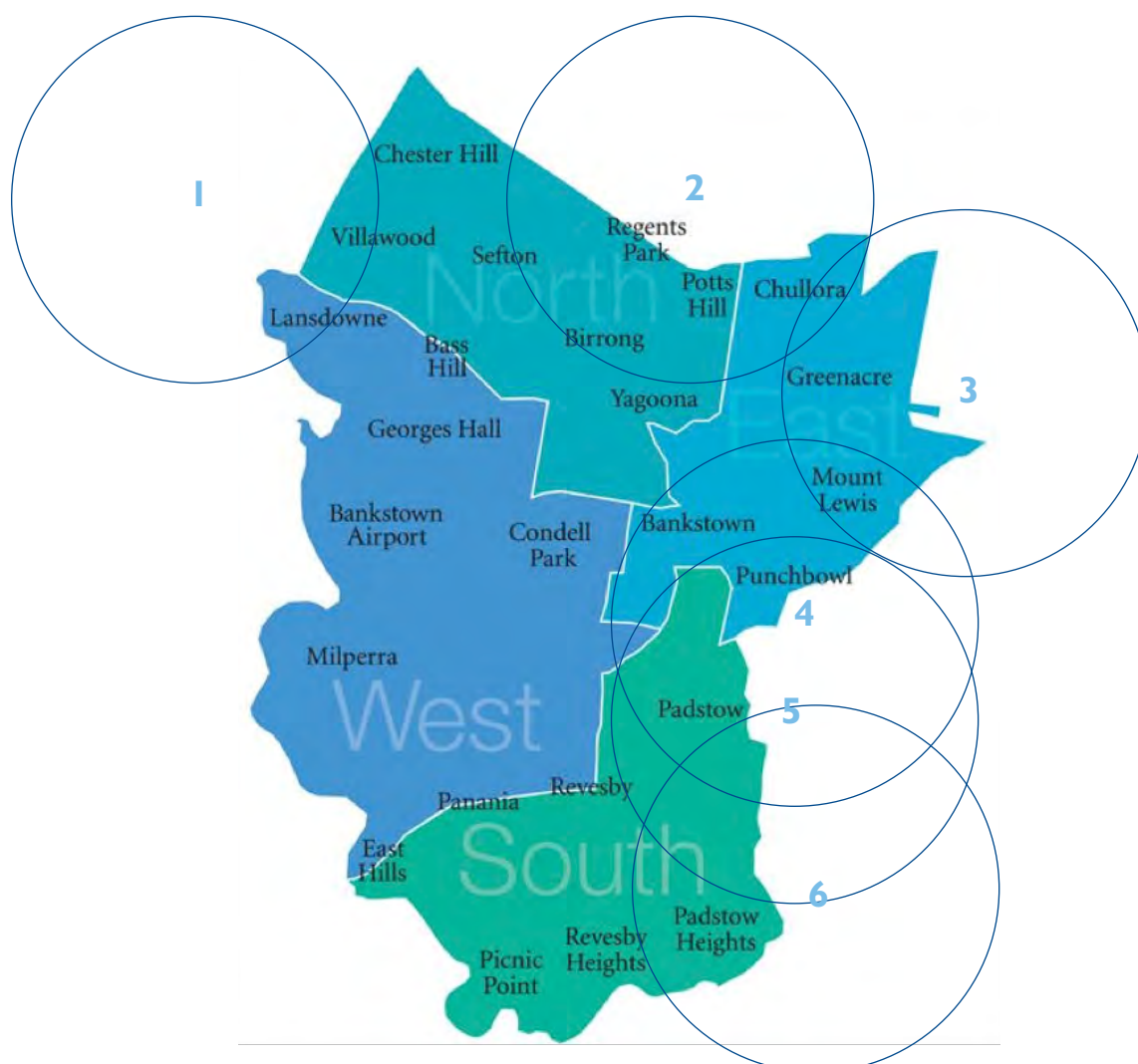
A review of surrounding Local Government Areas indicates six dedicated off leash dog parks on Bankstown's northern and eastern boundaries within a reasonable distance to service many dog owners within the Bankstown LGA.

The following table and image indicates the location of the nearest fenced off leash dog parks within neighbouring LGA's with an indicative catchment of 5km diameter.



The Vale of Ah, Auld Avenue, Milperra (off leash dog park)

Ref.	LGA	Park	Suburb	Size of leash free area	Distance from BCC boundary by road
1	Fairfield	Freeman Ave Reserve	Canley Vale	5100m ²	4.4km
2	Auburn	Coleman Park	Berala	4000m ²	1.2km
3	Strathfield	Elliott Reserve	Belfield	12000m ²	1.4km
4	Canterbury	Craig St Reserve	Punchbowl	5500m ²	970m
5	Hurstville	Riverwood Park	Riverwood	3200m ²	2.6km by road, 740m via Salt Pan Creek walkway
6	Hurstville	Gannons Park	Peakhurst	10000m ²	2.6km



2.3 Dog Ownership Statistics

The Office of Local Government maintains the Companion Animals Register that records micro chipped dogs in New South Wales.

The register indicates in 2012 there were 24,699 micro chipped dogs in Bankstown

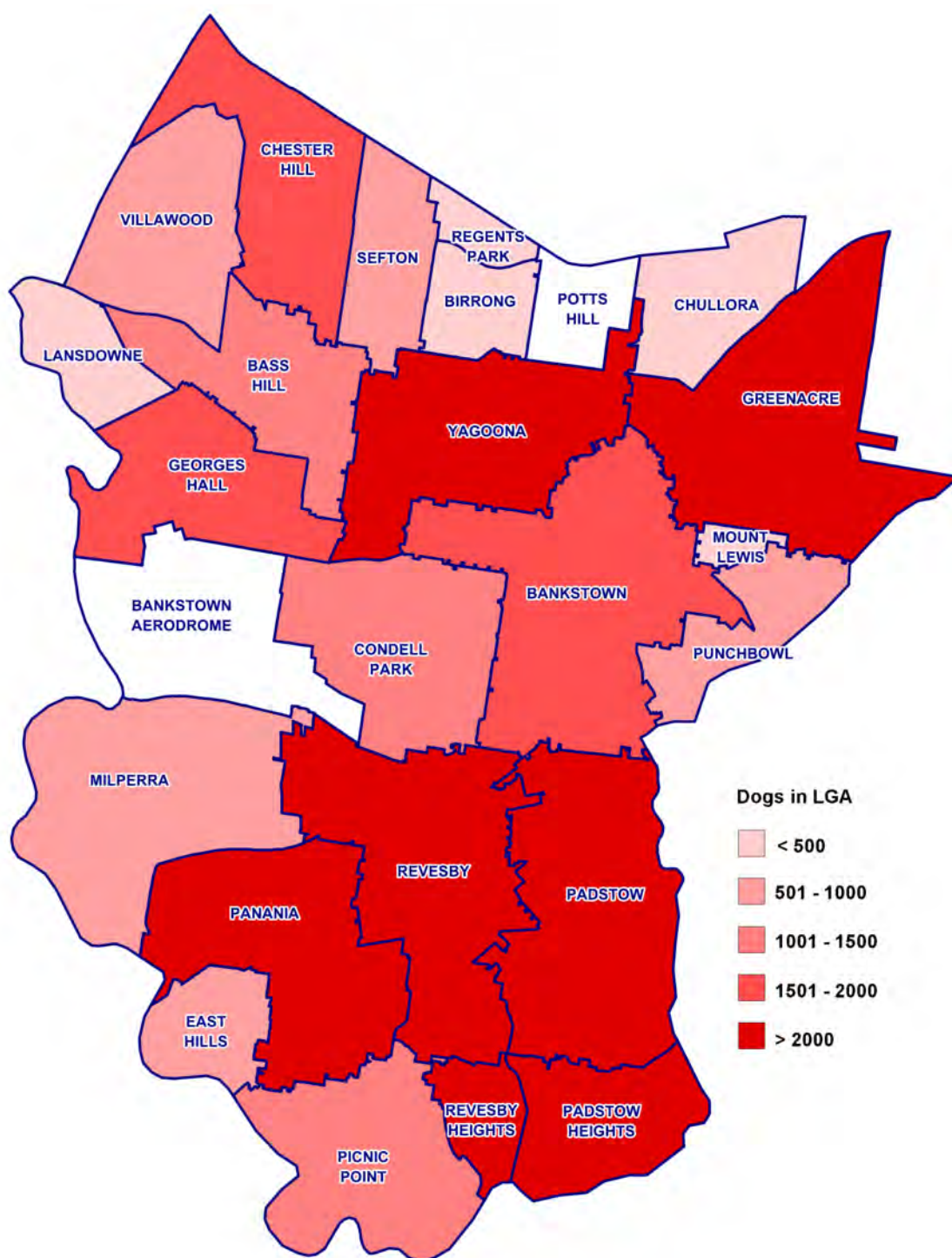
The table below shows the comparative household to dog ratio of Bankstown, surrounding LGA's (Auburn, Fairfield, Strathfield, Canterbury, Hurstville, Liverpool, Sutherland) and that of LGA's with a comparative number of residential properties as Bankstown (Hills District, Hornsby)

The register indicates that in Bankstown there is one dog for every 2.32 households while neighbouring suburbs on Bankstown's eastern and northern boundaries have significantly less dogs per household and suburbs west and south of Bankstown have significantly more.

This indicates a lower ratio of dogs associated with higher housing density and may also be indicating ethnicity as a factor in dog ownership.

Both of these factors would suggest a declining trend in dog ownership in Bankstown over time particularly in the CBD and suburbs to the east and north as these areas will increase in residential density more than others.

Local Government Area (LGA)	Ratable Properties LGA	Micro chipped Dogs per LGA	Households to Dog Ratio LGA	Off leash dog areas
Bankstown	57437	24699	2.32	1
Auburn	22512	5343	4.21	5
Canterbury	44326	12763	3.47	7
Fairfield	57750	26158	2.20	2
Strathfield	11816	3520	3.35	2
Hurstville	28331	10083	2.80	2
Liverpool	54803	36459	1.50	2
Sutherland	78536	39751	1.97	5
Hills District	55973	39134	1.43	6
Hornsby	53767	30233	1.77	6



Distribution of dogs across Bankstown suburbs (2012)

2.4 Community Survey Findings

In October 2014, 109 dog owners and 23 non-dog owners responded to an online survey to gauge the opinions of residents in relation to off-leash dog parks.

Key findings from the survey results listed below will assist in forming design criteria and guide future park location.

- The inclusion of regulatory and general information notice boards to promote responsible pet ownership, park rules and pet events is strongly supported.
- 60% of respondents are willing to travel more than 5 kilometers to access off-leash dog areas and one third also visit facilities outside of the Bankstown local government area.
- 50% of dog owners support the inclusion of separate dedicated small dog areas within off-leash dog parks
- Less than 10% of dog owners attend the Vale of Ah for periods longer than two hours however 73% of respondents support the need for public toilets at off-leash dog parks.
- Over 50% of dog owners list socializing with other dog owners as a key activity in off-leash dog parks.
- 87% of non-dog owners support the need for off-leash dog parks to be fenced and a small majority of non-dog owners would not be deterred from using a park that included a dedicated off-leash dog area.
- Less than 50% of dog owners support the need for dog exercise equipment.
- Management of dog faeces is a major concern to dog owners and non-owners and the inclusion of waste bins and bags is strongly supported.
- There was also overwhelming support for appropriate car parking, natural shade, accessible pathways, covered seating and human/dog drinking fountains.

2.5 The Purpose of Off Leash Dog Parks

Well designed off leash dog parks have the capacity to provide a number of services to the community and can form an integral part of Council's public awareness and management of domestic animals across the community.

Off leash dog parks can be suitable for dog obedience training, exercise and agility training, community events, education, free micro chipping days and demonstration such as the Bankstown Pets Day Out.

Partnerships with private commercial operators provide Council with the opportunity to broaden the range of services and activities available to pet owners and also recoup management and maintenance costs through commercial hire or sponsorship of Council events.

Dog parks can encourage responsible pet ownership and reduce the risks of uncontrolled dogs being present in general purpose parks.

Enclosed off leash areas do not negate the responsibility of owners to supervise and control their dogs. The public amenities at parks should be designed and positioned to facilitate supervision of pets rather than socializing of pet owners.

Access to dog parks encourages exercise and interaction and services a large proportion of the community with dedicated purpose built facilities such as those supplied for other sport and recreation pursuits.



3

Site Assessment



3.1 Objectives

The primary objective of the Off Leash Dog Park Plan is to recommend an appropriate number of sites for the future development of dedicated off leash dog parks to meet community demand. The plan also provides direction to ensure current and future sites fulfil the following objectives:

- Complies with Companion Animals Act 1998 and Council planning documents
- Increase the range of open space recreation experiences available to the community by providing accessible outdoor exercise areas for companion animals and pets
- Dog parks close to recreation trails to improve accessibility and add to the exercise experience of residents
- Vehicle access and parking
- Complies with stated design guidelines (ref Typical layout)
- Promote safety and education
- Promote health and physical activity
- Preserve the natural environment
- Ensure no negative impacts on existing neighbouring properties or activities
- Provide community education and information regarding responsible dog ownership

3.2 Risk Management

Off leash dog parks will provide opportunity for the promotion of responsible pet ownership. Council's ongoing role in guiding the compliant use of off leash dog parks to ensure the safety of all users will involve;

- Regulatory signage to enable prosecution of unlawful behaviour and actions
- Community education through onsite notice boards, Council's website, media releases and brochures
- Random patrols and registration (microchip scan) checks by Council Rangers
- Special events such as regular free micro chipping days, activities and demonstrations e.g. Pets Day Out

The use of sports surfaces within grounds for off leash activities will not be considered as the constant presence of dog faeces is inconsistent with the safe operation of sports facilities. However appropriate associated open space within a sports reserve may be considered in the following circumstances:

- Proximity of off leash area does not conflict with the primary sports function.
- Proximity of off leash area does not conflict with the secondary park function.
- Sports field is not enclosed by fencing as this encourages use of fields as additional controlled off leash areas.

3.3 Site Assessment Criteria

The site assessment criteria reflect the restrictions and opportunities identified within the legislative and planning framework, risk management assessment and community survey and have been developed and used to assess all community land under Council's control.

Primary assessment criteria

1. **Land** – Land is controlled by Council and is minimum 0.5ha with appropriate topography to support usability by dogs and owners. Site has capacity for serviceable buffers zones and supporting social and recreation infrastructure to support use.
2. **Safety** – Site is able to achieve suitable level of passive surveillance and to support primary function in compliance with Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
3. **Accessibility** – Site reasonably complies with the Disabilities Discrimination Act and relevant Australian Standards and is accessible to all users. Site has adequate parking to cater for anticipated user numbers

Site is preferably connected to or in proximity of a shared path network or lineal park system to maximise access and promote walking and cycling to site.

4. **Location** – Site will ideally be located in an open space setting that contributes to Council's broader open space passive recreation objectives with connectivity to surrounding public open space.
Site located to service maximum number of current and predicted users within a defined catchment area. The site location will consider proximity to neighbours and restricted uses such as playgrounds, school grounds and childcare centres.
5. **Impact** – Use of the site as an off leash area does not have negative impact on existing and future park users if any or users of surrounding areas including traffic impacts
6. **Environment** – Use of the site as an off leash area does not have negative impact on the environmental qualities or management of the site or surrounding areas
7. **Social** – Site location and use is acceptable to community and supported as a valuable community service

8. **Visual** – Site is aesthetically pleasing and appropriate and internal and external open views space are not negatively impacted
9. **Management** – Services readily available and site can be easily maintained

The following sports grounds, parks and reserve have been identified as meeting the initial criteria of: **Land is controlled by Council and is minimum 0.5ha with appropriate topography to support usability by dogs and owners**

Further assessment against the defined criteria has identified sites potentially suitable for the development of future off leash dog parks. Further assessment of the potentially suitable sites is shown in Section 3.6.

3.4 Sports Ground Assessment of Potential Suitability

Park Name	Suburb	Primary Function	Suitable for consideration
Abbott Park	Chester Hill	Sportsground	No
Allum Park	Greenacre	Sportsground	No
Amour Park	Revesby	Sportsground	No
Bankstown City Sport Complex	Bankstown	Sportsground	No
Bill Delauney Reserve	Revesby	Sportsground	No
Boggabilla Reserve	Lansdowne	Sportsground	No
Coleman Park	Bankstown	Sportsground	No
The Crest-Athletics	Bass Hill	Sportsground	No
The Crest-Hockey	Bass Hill	Sportsground	No
The Crest-Soccer	Bass Hill	Sportsground	No
The Crest-Rugby League	Bass Hill	Sportsground	No
Deverall Park	Condell Park	Sportsground	Yes
Graf/George Green Park	Yagoona	Sportsground	Yes
Gillman Reserve	Yagoona	Sportsground	No
Gordon Parker Reserve	Milperra	Sportsground	No
Gosling Park	Greenacre	Sportsground	No
Jensen Oval Reserve	Regents Park	Sportsground	No
Jim Ring Reserve	Birrong	Sportsground	No
Johnstone Reserve	Revesby	Sportsground	No
Kelso Park North Australian Rules	Panania	Sportsground	No
Kelso Park North Softball	Panania	Sportsground	No
Kelso Park North Baseball	Panania	Sportsground	No
Kelso Park South	Panania	Sportsground	No
Killara Reserve	Panania	Sportsground	Yes
Kinch Reserve	Condell Park	Sportsground	No
Lockwood Park	Greenacre	Sportsground	No
Marco Reserve	Panania	Sportsground	No
Middleton Park	Yagoona	Sportsground	No
Milperra Reserve	Milperra	Sportsground	No
Neptune Park	Revesby	Sportsground	No
O'Neill Park	Yagoona	Sportsground	Yes
Padstow Park	Padstow	Sportsground	No
Pivetta Reserve	Revesby	Sportsground	No
Playford Park	Padstow	Sportsground	No
Potts Park	Yagoona	Sportsground	No
Roberts Park	Greenacre	Sportsground	No
Ruse Park	Bankstown	Sportsground	Yes
Smith Park	East Hills	Sportsground	No
Stuart Reserve	Padstow	Sportsground	No
Thurina Park	Villawood	Sportsground	No
Walshaw Park	Bass Hill	Sportsground	No
Memorial Oval	Bankstown	Sportsground	No
Grahame Thomas Oval	Bankstown	Sportsground	No
Vale of Ah Touch Football	Milperra	Sportsground	No

3.5 Parks and Reserves Assessment of Potential Suitability

Park Name	Suburb	Primary Function	Suitable for consideration
Alder Reserve	Sefton	Park	Yes
Anne Reserve	Chester Hill	Park	No
Arthur Park	Punchbowl	Park	No
Band Hall Reserve	Birrong	Park	Yes
Bromley Reserve	Greenacre	Park	No
Camarlie Reserve	Panania	Park	No
Cutting Reserve	Padstow	Park	No
Deepwater Park	Panania	Park	No
Dorothy Park	Bankstown	Park	No
East Hills Park	East Hills	Park	No
Explorer Reserve	Georges Hall	Park	No
Flinders Slopes (Mirrambeena Res)	Lansdowne	Park	Yes
Garrison Point (Mirrambeena Res)	Georges Hall	Park	No
Gazzard Park	Yagoona	Park	No
Greenacre Heights Reserve	Greenacre	Park	No
Hillcrest Reserve	Greenacre	Park	No
Kentucky Reserve	Georges Hall	Park	No
Lake Gillawarna (Mirrambeena Res)	Georges Hall	Park	No
Lansdowne Res (Mirrambeena Res)	Lansdowne	Park	No
Lambeth Reserve	Picnic Point	Park	No
Lee Park	Greenacre	Park	No
Maluga Reserve	Sefton	Park	Yes
Marion Reserve	Yagoona	Park	No
Monash Reserve	East Hills	Park	Yes
Mount Lewis Park	Mount Lewis	Park	No
Northcote Reserve	Greenacre	Park	No
Parrievale Reserve	Greenacre	Park	No
Tracey Reserve	Revesby	Park	Yes
Thella Kenway Reserve	Bankstown	Park	No
Tucker Reserve	Bass Hill	Park	Yes
Rory Reserve	Padstow	Park	No
Rotary Reserve	Condell Park	Park	Yes
Shortland Brush (Mirrambeena Res)	Lansdowne	Park	No
Surrey Reserve	Georges Hall	Park	No
Virginus Reserve	Revesby	Park	Yes
Wattawa Reserve	Condell Park	Park	No
Whittle Reserve	Milperra	Park	No

3.6 Site Assessments



Virginius Reserve, Centaur Street, Revesby Heights (South Ward)

Positive:

Large open space with no other defined recreation use, already used by dog owners, off road parking for large number of cars, natural shade and amenity, area of high dog ownership, well located to service large catchment, very low traffic.

Negative:

Proximity to residential neighbours.



Virginius Reserve, (approx. 5,800m²)

Monash Reserve, Henry Lawson Drive, East Hills

Positive:

Large open space with natural shade, does not conflict with other users and existing associated car parking, minimal conflict with neighbouring properties.

Negative:

Site is proposed for future recreation development, too close to existing park at Vale of Ah to provide sufficient additional benefit, poor passive surveillance.



Monash Reserve, (approx. 6,500m²)



Deverall Park, Yanderra Street, Condell Park (West Ward)

Positive:

Large open space with no other defined recreation use, already used by dog owners.

Negative:

Proximity to Netball courts too close, proximity to residential neighbours, limited natural amenity, low dog ownership area, restricted access to site, and no existing services.



Deverall Park, (approx. 5,300m²)

O'Neil Park, Farnell Road, Yagoona (North Ward)

Positive:

Large open space with no defined current recreation use, natural shade, existing paths and carparking, area of high dog ownership, well located to service large catchment.

Negative:

Proximity to sports grounds, conflict with existing internal path system.



O'Neil Park, (approx. 4,600m²)



Band Hall Reserve, Ferrier Road, Birrong (North Ward)

Positive:

Very large open space with no defined current recreation use, natural shade, area of high dog ownership, well located to service large catchment, previously hired for dog obedience training school.

Negative:

Adjacent to high traffic volume road, future off line car parking options would require significant funds.



Band Hall Reserve, (approx. 9100m²)

Maluga Reserve, Woods Road, Birrong (North Ward)

Positive:

Natural shade, area of high dog ownership, well located to service large catchment, connected by recreation trail.

Negative:

Long distance from access points, limited car parking option in close proximity, adjacent to natural area classified as ecologically endangered community, proximity to playground.



Maluga Reserve, (approx. 5,500m²)



Alder Reserve, Rodd Street, Sefton (North Ward)

Positive:

Large open space with no defined current recreation use.

Negative:

Proximity to playground, close to residential neighbours, limited natural amenity, low dog ownership area.



Alder Reserve, (approx. 4,700m²)

Ruse Park, Macauley Avenue, Bankstown (South Ward)

Positive:

Very large open space with no defined current recreation use, natural shade, area of high dog ownership, well located to service large catchment, connected by recreation trail.

Negative:

Poor pedestrian access, low passive surveillance, proximity to neighbours back yards, no car parking, no existing amenity or services.



Ruse Park, (approx. 6,400m²)



Rotary Park, Allingham Street, Condell Park (West Ward)

Positive:

Very large open space with no defined current recreation use.

Negative:

High traffic volume, poor car parking, proximity to residential neighbours and playground, no existing amenity or services.



Rotary Park, Allingham Street, Condell Park (approx. 3,300m²)

Tucker Reserve, Neville Street, Bass Hill (West Ward)

Positive:

Very large open space with no defined current recreation use, natural shade.

Negative:

Low passive surveillance, proximity to neighbours back yards, limited car parking, no existing amenity, proximity to fenced sports ground.



Tucker Reserve, Neville Street, Bass Hill (approx. 9000m²)



Graf Park, Avoca Street, Yagoona (North Ward)

Positive:

Large open space with no defined current recreation use, area of high dog ownership, well located to service large.

Negative:

Low passive surveillance, proximity to neighbours back yards, limited car parking, no existing amenity, proximity to fenced sports ground.



Graf Park (approx. 5500m²)

Killara Reserve Killara Avenue, Panania (West Ward)

Positive:

Large open space with no defined current recreation use, adjacent carpark.

Negative:

Proximity to adjacent sports ground, limited natural amenity, poor location to service catchment.



Killara Reserve (approx. 5000m²)



Flinders Slopes Henry Lawson Drive, Lansdowne (West Ward)

Positive:

Large open space with no defined current recreation use, adjacent to carpark, regional trail and public toilets.

Negative:

Proximity to highly used passive recreation area and playground,

Low dog ownership area, poor location to service catchment.



Flinders Slopes (approx. 5000m²)

Tracey Reserve Tracey Avenue, Revesby (West Ward)

Positive:

Large open space with no defined current recreation use

Negative:

Proximity to playground, close to residential neighbours, limited parking available, no existing services, poor location to service catchment, poor pedestrian access.



Tracey Reserve (approx 5300m²)

4

Design Criteria



4.1. Design Criteria

The following design elements are to be in the development of off leash dog parks

This criteria has considered the current level of service provided by Council, capacity to fund development and ongoing maintenance, local government standards and community feedback.

As there will be a limited number parks servicing the local government area most users will still arrive at the park by car therefore off line parking for up to 15 cars is desirable to the success and safety of citywide off leash parks.

Lighting for after-hours use of facilities during the winter months has been highlighted by the community as an important need to meet their requirements and facilitate maximum use. Council's capacity to meet and maintain this service standard will be considered through Council's lighting strategy at a future time.

Other standard design criteria should consider;

- Minimum land size of ½ hectare
- Fencing including 1.2m high perimeter, controlled access, gates
- Water station and wash down area
- Refuse and recycling station
- Benches and tables

- Shade - through shelters and trees
- Signage – Regulatory, information, education
- Lighting - pedestrian access and safety
- Landscaping – form and vegetation

Optional feature:

- Exercise and agility course
- Flood lighting – night time use

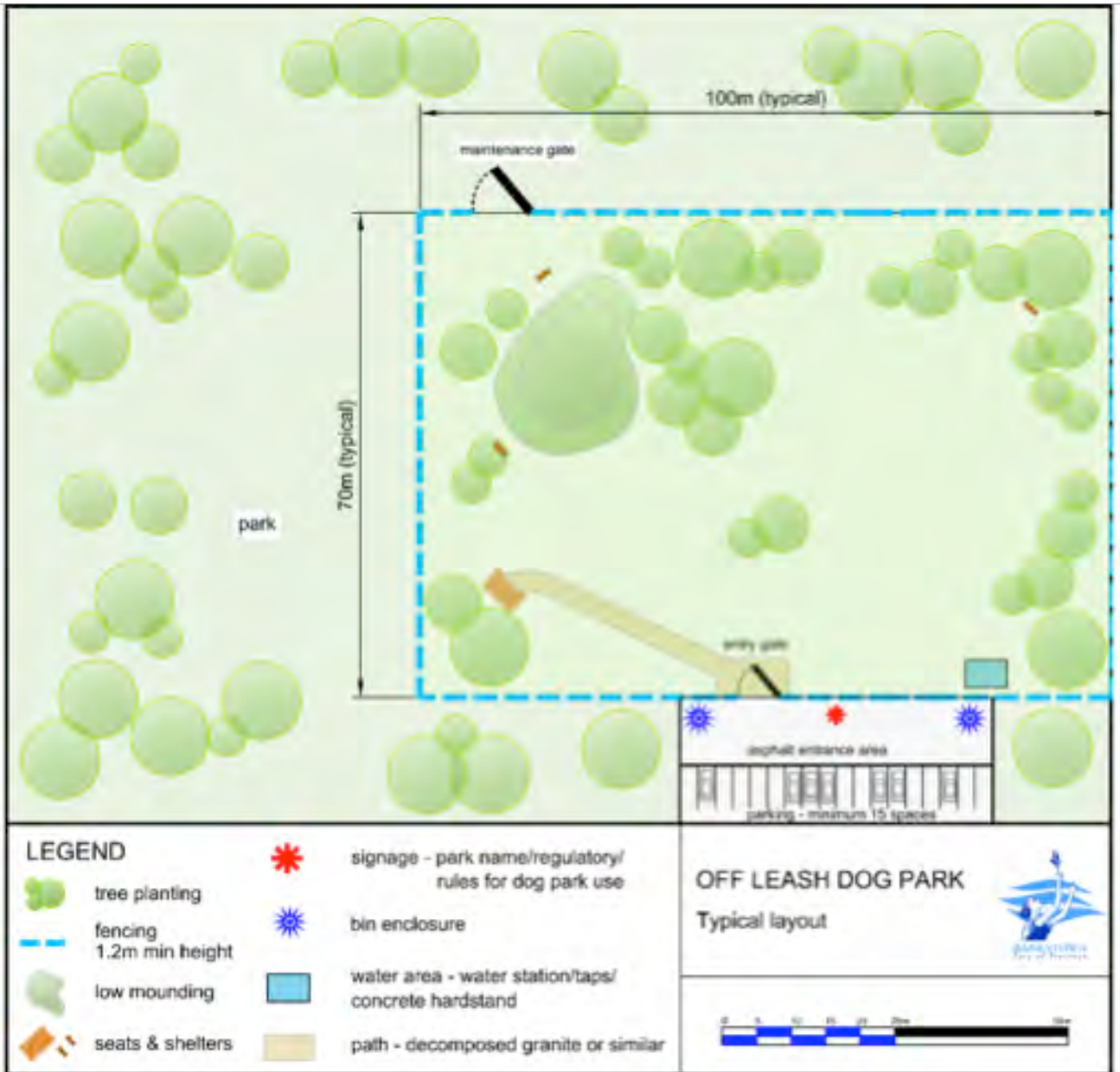
The following indicative design layout and cost estimates reflect the optimum service level and do not indicate the service level to be initially implemented at trial sites.

Future development of permanent sites will be staged and respond to customer patronage and demand within Council's financial capacity.



Existing amenity – Vale of Ah, Milperra

4.2 Suggested Typical Park Layout



5

Site Distribution



5.1 Distribution

To achieve the objective of providing appropriate access to dedicated off leash dog parks for the residents of Bankstown and particularly the northern suburbs it is critical to assess the distribution of sites.

Many sites have been assessed as having potential to be developed as off leash parks however their future success and utilisation will be determined by their location.

Council has resolved to trial two additional sites and this will guide the proposed location to provide equitable access to dog parks for all residents.

The community survey of dog owners has clearly shown that users accept that they may have to travel more than 5km to access an off leash area. It has also been shown a large portion of dog owners use facilities outside of the Bankstown LGA. Five off leash areas have been identified within 5km of the northern and eastern boundaries of Bankstown providing a range of alternate options for dog owners in these areas.

The following map show the distribution and coverage relevant to dog ownership densities across the LGA of the preferred off leash dog parks.

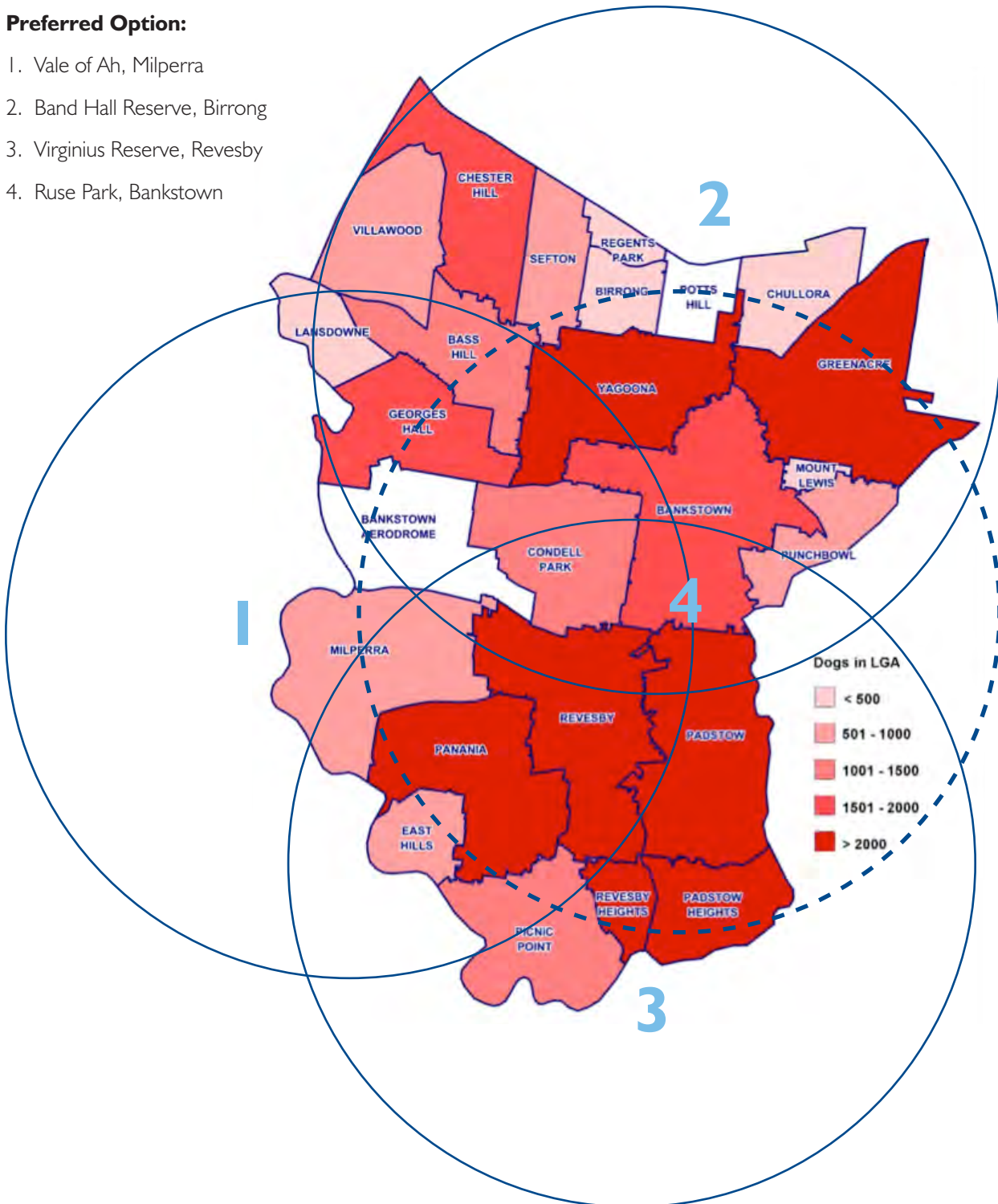
The catchment area shown indicates a 5km radius within the acceptable range for dog owners.

The sites identified as the most appropriate to meet the assessment and design criteria are:

- Vale of Ah – Milperra (existing off leash dog park)
- Band Hall Reserve – Birrong
- Virginius Reserve – Revesby Heights
- Ruse Park – Bankstown, may provide an opportunity in the future to expand the supply of off leash areas by providing a centralised location that will service a broad catchment area and importantly also meet the demands of a growing CBD population with limited access to vehicles.

Preferred Option:

1. Vale of Ah, Milperra
2. Band Hall Reserve, Birrong
3. Virginius Reserve, Revesby
4. Ruse Park, Bankstown



6 Actions



6.1 Action Table

The recommendations within the following action table are proposed for staged implementation over an extended timeframe as funding is available through Council operational plan. Components of this plan will be driven by demonstrated customer needs and may not be recommended at all off leash sites.

Under the Companion Animals Act 1998 section 85, the Companion Animals Fund is established to manage monies collected as registration fees under the act.

The majority of the registration monies (80%) are distributed to councils where the registered animals reside.

Councils may use allocated registration fees for animal management purposes including the creation and maintenance of off leash dog facilities.

This ongoing funding stream provides an opportunity for future development and maintenance of off leash facilities.



Ref.	Action	Role	Priority
DP1	Implement second off leash dog park at Band Hall Reserve by installing appropriate fencing and entry control points along Ferrier Road boundary	UPP, P&B	H
DP2	Develop media and promotion plan to inform community of available off leash dog parks within and outside the LGA	UPP, CC	H
DP3	Establish monitoring program of Band Hall Reserve and Vale of Ah to determine success of trial and gauge future demand	UPP	O
DP4	Based on findings of monitoring implement third off leash dog park at Virginius Reserve by installing appropriate fencing and entry control points.	UPP, P&B	M
DP5	Based on findings of monitoring systematically upgrade facilities at trial sites to meet adopted design criteria	UPP, P&B	M
DP6	Investigate option of incorporating off leash dog park into revised Salt Pan Creek Corridor Masterplan to be located at Ruse Park or Hoskins Reserve.	UPP	L
DP7	Include consideration of providing floodlighting that enables appropriate after hours use during certain seasons of the year to meet community demands in any future City wide open space lighting plan.		L



Bankstown City Council

PO Box 8 Bankstown NSW 1885
Phone: 02 9707 9484 Fax: 02 9707 9070
www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au