

DETAILED ACTION PLAN

# Off-Leash Dog Park Action Plan

March 2021



# 7

## destinations



### Safe & Strong

A proud inclusive community that unites, celebrates and cares

Safe & Strong documents are guided by the Social Inclusion Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as being a child friendly City, children's services, community safety and crime prevention, inclusiveness, community services, universal access, reconciliation, ageing, community harmony and youth.



### Clean & Green

A clean and sustainable city with healthy waterways and natural areas

Clean & Green documents are guided by the Environmental Sustainability Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as managing our catchments and waterways, natural resources, hazards and risks, emergency management, biodiversity and corporate sustainability.



### Prosperous & Innovative

A smart and evolving city with exciting opportunities for investment and creativity

Prosperous & Innovative documents are guided by the Prosperity and Innovation Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as revitalising our centres, employment, investment, being SMART and creative, and providing opportunities for cultural and economic growth.



### Moving & Integrated

An accessible city with great local destinations and many options to get there

Moving & Integrated documents are guided by the Transport Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as accessibility, pedestrian and cycling networks, pedestrian and road safety, transport hubs, and asset management.



### Healthy & Active

A motivated city that nurtures healthy minds and bodies

Healthy & Active documents are guided by the Health and Recreation Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as lifelong learning, active and healthy lifestyles, and providing quality sport and recreation infrastructure.



### Liveable & Distinctive

A well designed, attractive city which preserves the identity and character of local villages

Liveable & Distinctive documents are guided by the Liveable City Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as preserving the character and personality of centres, heritage, affordable housing, and well managed development.



### Leading & Engaged

A well- governed city with brave and future focused leaders who listen

Leading & Engaged documents are guided by Council's Lead Resourcing Strategies. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as open government, managing assets, improving services, long term funding, operational excellence, monitoring performance, being a good employer, civic leadership, and engaging, educating and communicating with our community.

# Strategic Planning Framework Summary

The Strategic Planning Framework (SPF) maps out the role of all current and future Council strategies and plans that work to deliver the vision for the City. The framework works from the highest level of strategic direction in the Community Strategic Plan through to more detailed plans that will eventually drive works projects and programs on the ground. The framework is comprised of the following levels:

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The **COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP)** is our highest level plan and translates the community's desired outcomes for the city into key destinations. The CSP includes community suggested actions which can be tested in the development of all other plans.

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**1** **LEAD STRATEGIES** are Council's response to the CSP and provide high level strategic direction on key challenges facing the City. They are informed by a sound evidence base that considers key trends and an understanding of the implications of key issues and opportunities on the City.

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**2** **SUPPORTING PLANS** break down broad theme areas discussed in LEAD STRATEGIES into smaller themes providing high level actions. SUPPORTING PLANS identify broad works projects and programs required to deliver on these actions. Supporting plans include indicative costing and resourcing requirements and delivery timeframes.

**3** **DETAILED ACTION PLANS** take actions from SUPPORTING PLANS and identify specific works projects and programs required to deliver on these actions. Supporting plans include detailed costing and resourcing requirements and delivery timeframes.

**4** **GUIDELINES, POLICIES AND CODES** provide detailed information, rules for activities or guidance for specific works on Council or other lands.

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The City of Canterbury Bankstown  
acknowledges the traditional  
country of the Daruk (Darag, Dharug,  
Daruk, Dharuk) and the Eora People.

We recognise and respect their  
cultural heritage, beliefs and  
relationship with the land.

We acknowledge they are of  
continuing importance to the  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander people living today.









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# Introduction

The Canterbury-Bankstown Community Strategic Plan, *CBCity 2028*, highlights the community's aspiration to be a city that is healthy and active, with accessible parks and open spaces, catering to all ages, cultures and activities. Well-designed off-leash dog parks provide space for dogs to exercise and play in a controlled environment under the supervision of their owners. They form an integral part of how Council manages domestic animal ownership across the City and helps meet our obligations under the *Companion Animals Act 1998*. A trip to the dog park is a free, outdoor activity with as many benefits for humans as there are for dogs.

The Off-Leash Dog Park Action Plan will guide the provision and ongoing management of dog off-leash areas and supporting infrastructure in the City. Off-leash dog parks are planned for and provided by Council in the same way that other dedicated purpose-built facilities are provided for other sport and recreation pursuits. With increasing housing density and population, open space within the City is at a premium. Off-leash dog parks provide a facility for people that live in apartments or homes without large yards, and are an important component of urban animal management. In addition to the dedicated off-leash facilities that Council provides, residents are able to exercise their dogs on leash utilising local footpaths and parks.

This Action Plan takes a balanced approach to address the open space requirements of all park users. The development of the Action Plan has involved a detailed analysis of the existing provision of off-leash dog parks across the City and given consideration to the expressed community demand based on community consultation. The Plan draws on the former Bankstown City Council 'Paws in the Park' Off-Leash Dog Park Plan, and has involved site visits to the existing dog parks and potential sites across the city. The Plan also aims to address the concerns of residents regarding responsible pet ownership and use of the parks.

## Vision




The vision is to provide quality, accessible off-leash dog parks which balance the needs of all open space users through provision, design and operation of dedicated facilities.

## Definition: Off-leash dog park


An off-leash dog park is a dedicated controlled area enclosed by fencing to allow the exercise, training and socialising of dogs.




# Our City




**377,917**  
Population  
(ERP 2019)




**44%**  
Born  
overseas




**60%**  
Speak a language  
other than English




**282**  
Playgrounds




**588**  
Parks



**75**  
Sporting  
Complexes



**10**  
Off-Leash  
Dog Parks



**Most popular dog breeds**  
in Canterbury-Bankstown - American Staffordshire  
Terrier Cross, French Bulldog, German Shepherd,  
Cavoodle and Toy Poodle.

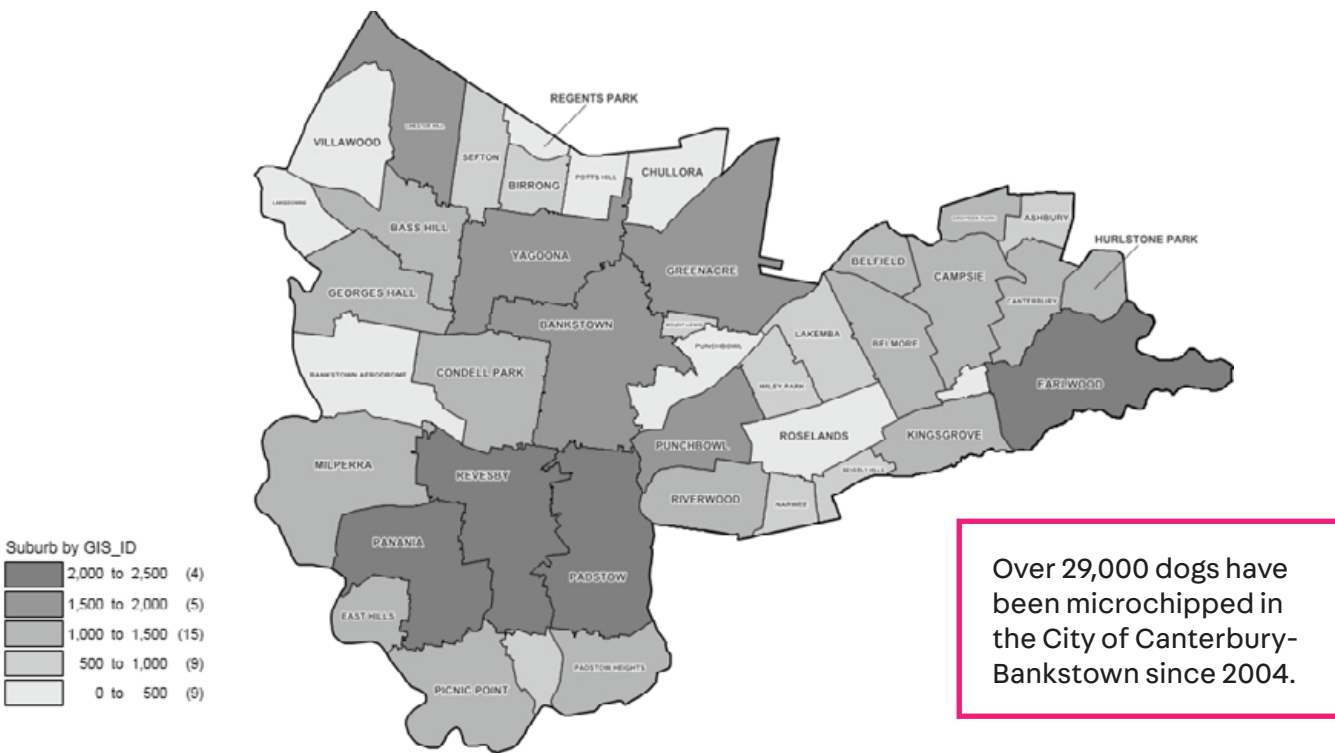


Figure 1: This image depicts the areas of Canterbury-Bankstown with the highest rates of dog ownership (based on registered dog numbers).





## The benefits of pet ownership and dog parks

Pets provide companionship, protection, emotional support and motivation for physical exercise. The Australian Companion Animal Council and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSCPA) Australia have conducted numerous research projects into the impact of pet ownership on physical and emotional health.

### Physical health benefits of pet ownership

- Increased physical activity.
- Increased cardiovascular health.
- Pet owners report fewer visits to the doctor, decreased use of medication and quicker recovery times from illness.
- 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 with pets are less likely to miss days of school due to illness or become overweight or obese.

### Psychological benefits of pet ownership

- As companions, dogs can help counter the problems of loneliness, isolation and the sense of vulnerability.
- Dogs can enhance social connectedness and social skills.
- Pets enable many to learn basic responsibilities.
- Children and adolescents with pets report having a more positive outlook on life, higher self-esteem and feel less loneliness, restlessness and boredom.

### Off-leash dog park benefits

Off-leash dog parks provide space for both dogs and their owners to socialise. They provide opportunities for dogs to exercise, interact with other dogs, enjoy the outdoors and practise training techniques. These activities are important for the physical health of dogs. They also provide essential mental stimulation and prevent the development of problem behaviours.

For dog owners, off-leash parks are a fun way to meet other dog owners, swap tips and even make new friends. The parks can benefit senior citizens and disabled citizens who cannot always walk their dog on a lead. Additionally, the parks can also provide a suitable place for community events for pet owners. This may be social activities or more focused activities providing opportunities to educate dog owners about animal health and welfare and dog park etiquette.

For the community, off-leash dog parks reduce the risk of uncontrolled dogs being present in general purpose parks. They also provide benefits for people who prefer not to interact with dogs, as a dog park provides a facility to separate people with their dogs from other park users.

# Context

## Legislative and policy framework

### ***The Companion Animals Act 1998***

Under Section 13(6) of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (the Act), Council is required to declare at least one public place an off-leash area for dogs. Section 14 of the same Act provides further detail on 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;
- Childcare centres;
- Shopping areas where dogs are prohibited; and
- Wildlife protection areas.

### **The Community and Crown Land Generic Plan of Management (draft)**

The Canterbury-Bankstown Community and Crown Land Generic Plan of Management states that appropriate spaces for dogs should be provided in open space. It allows for the provision of:

- Unleashed areas for social use with signage and fencing;
- Commercial dog walking and dog training in appropriate open spaces; and
- Restrictions for dogs within ten metres of food preparation areas, playgrounds or sports fields.

### **Canterbury-Bankstown Local Orders Policy**

The Canterbury-Bankstown Local Orders Policy provides guidance for residents on their responsibilities in keeping animals, including reasonable limits on maximum numbers and circumstances under which certain animals can be kept in the interest of amenity and public health. These orders are in place to;

- Encourage the satisfactory care and management of dogs in the City;
- Ensure that the keeping of dogs does not adversely impact on the surrounding community or the environment; and
- Ensure that all dog owners comply with all relevant government legislation and regulations.





## What you told us

In 2019, Council conducted a survey of dog park users and this is what they told us;



When visiting the dog park **84%** of people stayed for an hour or less.



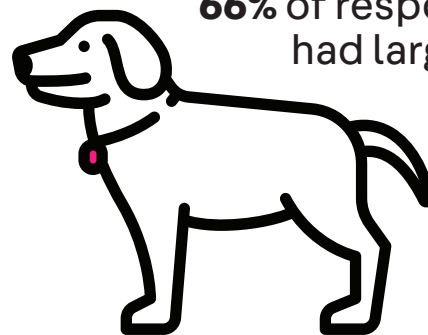
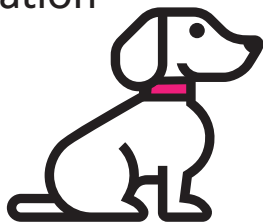
**60%** were using an off-leash facility at least once a week, **20%** attended daily.

**34%** of survey respondents used dog parks between the hours of noon and 4pm, with **26%** using between 7pm and 10pm.



**69%** of respondents had one dog and **26%** had two dogs.

**67%** of respondents thought that there should be separation between small and big dogs.



**66%** of respondents had large dogs.



**99%** thought dog parks should have shaded areas.



**96%** thought dog parks should have lighting.



"All parks should supply dog bags and have adequate seating and shading."

**"Having a fenced-in off-leash dog park closer to home would be great."**

**"THE VALE OF AH DOG PARK AT MILPERRA IS A REALLY GOOD FACILITY. OUR DOGS LOVE THE SIZE OF THE PARK TO RUN IN."**

"Dog parks need to be maintained better."

**"Seating needs to be provided in the shady areas of the park."**

**"UNCONTROLLED AGGRESSIVE DOGS CAN BE A PROBLEM."**

"I know how important recreation for the dogs is, with mental stimulation as well as physical activity."

**"SOCIALISATION OF DOGS WITH OTHER DOGS IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT FOR THEIR WELLBEING."**

**"ALL PARKS SHOULD SUPPLY DOG BAGS."**

"Add lighting to existing dog parks so there usage hours can be extended."

**"IT'S WONDERFUL TO HAVE SO MANY AREAS FOR DOGS TO PLAY. THANKS TO THE COUNCIL, MUCH APPRECIATED."**

"As a small breed dog owner i find it very difficult to socialise my dog."

**"We need more secure areas."**

# Current facilities

Canterbury-Bankstown is currently home to ten off-leash dog parks spread across the City. All of the parks are fenced and contain drinking water stations for the dogs, with most parks containing agility equipment. Due to the high demand for open space, particularly in the eastern side of the City, Council recognises that not all off-leash dog park facilities can provide the same level of amenity.

To provide a diverse range of off-leash dog park experiences across the City, Council has categorised the existing dog park facilities using a hierarchy matrix. This approach recognises that the size and experience offered at each of the off-leash dog park locations may impact the catchment of people accessing the park. As a result, Vale of Ah Reserve and Band Hall Reserve are considered regional level facilities due to their large size and the provision of lighting. Ruse Park and the off-leash dog parks located in the eastern side of the City are smaller facilities without dedicated carparking, however they service higher density areas where car ownership is potentially reduced, and have been categorised as district or neighbourhood facilities.

	Regional	District	Neighbourhood
<b>Size</b>	>5000m <sup>2</sup>	>3000m <sup>2</sup>	>1000m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Catchment</b>	3-5km	2-3km	1km
<b>Dedicated area</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Barriers - external</b>	Fencing	Fencing	Fencing
<b>Lighting</b>	Yes	No	No
<b>Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste bins</li> <li>• 2+ entry gates</li> <li>• Water stations</li> <li>• Seating and shade</li> <li>• Landscape and sensory elements</li> <li>• Agility equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste bins</li> <li>• 2 entry gates</li> <li>• Water stations</li> <li>• Seating and shade</li> <li>• Landscape and sensory elements</li> <li>• Agility equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste bins</li> <li>• 2 entry gates</li> <li>• Water stations</li> <li>• Seating and shade</li> <li>• Landscape and sensory elements</li> <li>• Agility equipment</li> </ul>



The following table lists the off-leash dog parks in the local government area along with the facilities they currently offer:

No	Location	Area (sqm)	Hierarchy	Ward	Fenced	Drinking Water	Seats	Agility equipment	Waste Bin	Bags provided	Park shade	Lighting	Signage	Parking
1	Peace Park	3,700	District	Canterbury	•	•	•		•				•	•
2	Band Hall Reserve	14,000	Regional	Bass Hill	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	
3	Richard Podmore Reserve	9,700	District	Roselands	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	
4	Cooks River Foreshore	500	Neighbourhood	Canterbury	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
5	Hughes Park	2,400	Neighbourhood	Canterbury	•	•	•	•	•	•				
6	Peter Moore Field	1,000	Neighbourhood	Roselands	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
7	Craig Street Reserve	5,500	Neighbourhood	Roselands	•	•	•	•	•		•			
8	Close Street Reserve	1,900	Neighbourhood	Canterbury	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•
9	The Vale of Ah	23,600	Regional	Revesby	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•
10	Ruse Park	7,300	Neighbourhood	Bankstown	•	•	•		•					

A review of surrounding local government areas indicates 25 dedicated off-leash dog parks are located within 5km distance to our local government area boundary that could be accessed by the many dog owners within Canterbury-Bankstown. Many of these facilities are under three kilometres from the Canterbury-Bankstown boundary.

Ref	LGA	Park	Suburb	Distance from CBCity boundary (by road)
1	Bayside Council	Kingsgrove Avenue Reserve	Kingsgrove	0.3km
2	Bayside Council	Sheppard Street Reserve	Bardwell Valley	0.5km
3	Bayside Council	Cahill Park	Wolli Creek	0.6km
4	Burwood Council	Henley Park	Enfield	0.6km
5	Burwood Council	Grant Park	Enfield	1.0km
6	Cumberland City Council	Coleman Park	Berala	1.5km
7	Cumberland City Council	Wyatt Park	Lidcombe	2.8km
8	Fairfield City Council	Canley Vale Dog Off-Leash Area	Canley Vale	3km
9	Fairfield City Council	Railway Parade	Canley Vale	5km
10	Georges River Council	Riverwood Park	Riverwood	0.8km
11	Georges River Council	H.V. Evatt Park	Lugarno	1.2km
12	Georges River Council	Gannons Park	Lugarno	3.5km
13	Inner West Council	HJ Mahoney Memorial Park	Marrickville	0.3m
14	Inner West Council	Sydenham Green	Sydenham	2km
15	Inner West Council	McNeilly Park	Marrickville	2km
16	Inner West Council	Marrickville Park	Marrickville	2.5km
17	Inner West Council	Henson Park	Marrickville	2.5km
18	Inner West Council	Cadigal Reserve	Summer Hill	3km
19	Inner West Council	Enmore TAFE Park	Enmore	4km
20	Inner West Council	Blackmore Oval	Leichhardt	4.5km
21	Inner West Council	Pioneers Memorial Park	Leichhardt	4.5km
22	Inner West Council	Balmain Road	Lilyfield	6.5km
23	Strathfield Council	Elliot Reserve	Belfield	0.35km
24	Fairfield City Council	Canley Vale Dog Off-Leash Area	Canley Vale	3km

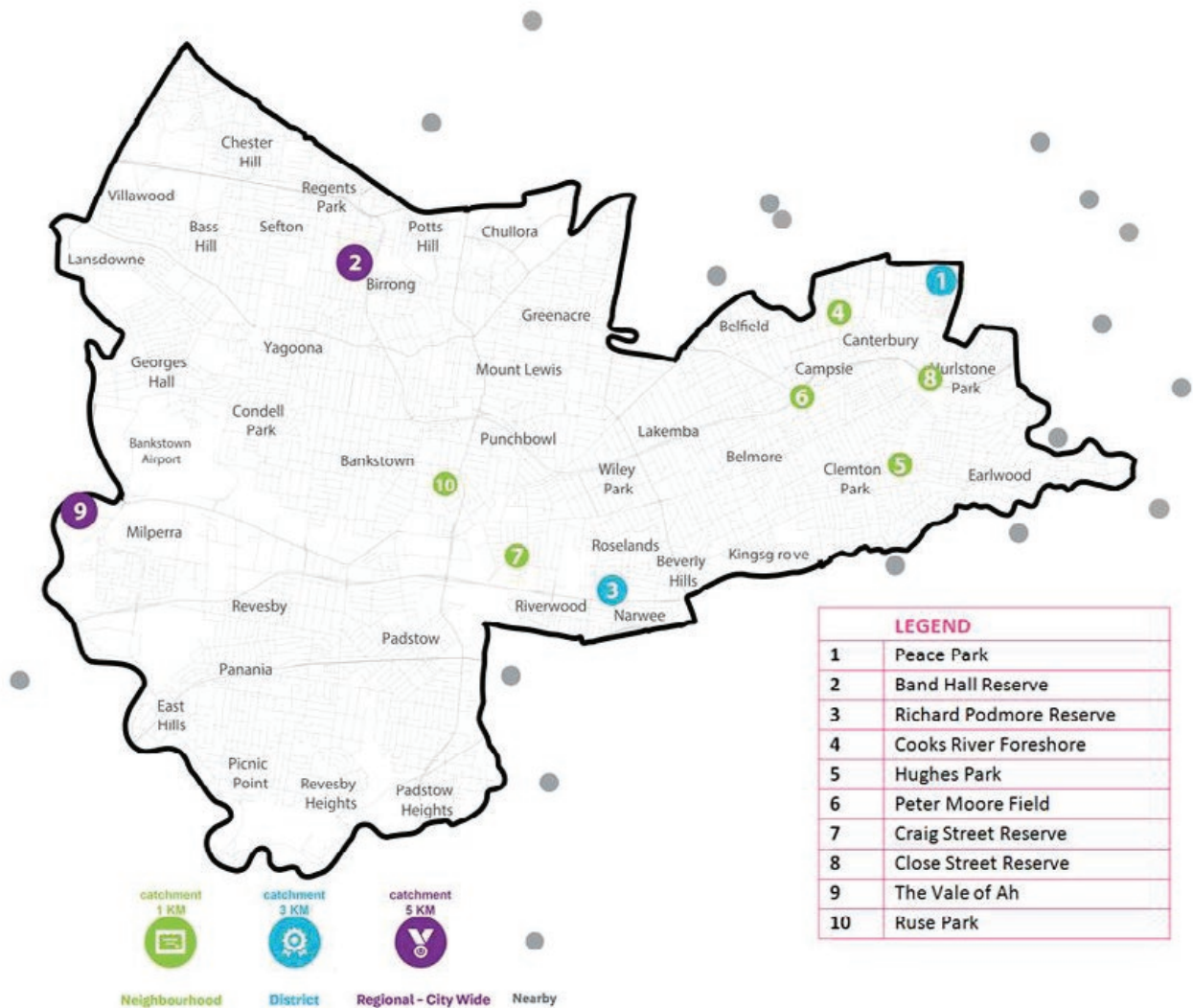


Figure 2: Current dog parks in Canterbury-Bankstown local government area and surrounding areas (within 3km from the local government area boundary)









## Priority areas

With high demand for open space in an urban environment like Canterbury-Bankstown, Council needs to consider a balanced approach in how space is allocated across the City. This Action Plan will guide the provision and ongoing management of dog off-leash areas and supporting infrastructure, while considering the open space requirements of all park users. This will be achieved through a focus on:

- **Provision:** Providing an equitable spread of off-leash dog park facilities across the City;
- **Design:** Enhancing the quality and variety of off-leash dog parks in line with the dog park design criteria; and
- **Operation:** Improving the management and maintenance of off-leash dog parks and promoting responsible pet ownership and dog park etiquette across the City.

### Vision



The vision is to provide quality, accessible off-leash dog parks which balance the needs of all open space users through provision, design and operation of dedicated facilities.

## Provision

Council has considered the current provision of facilities and conducted a gap analysis, to provide an equitable spread of off-leash dog park facilities across the City. In order to balance the needs of all park users, Council provides dedicated fenced off-leash areas rather than unfenced off-leash areas. In addition to fenced facilities, residents are able to exercise their dogs on leash utilising local footpaths and parks.

## Gap analysis

In the development of this Action Plan, Council reviewed the current provision of off-leash dog parks within the local government area and easily accessible neighbouring dog parks located within 3km from the local government area boundary to identify gaps in provision. The gap analysis identified two undersupplied areas; Belmore/ Kingsgrove (south-east) and Picnic Point/ Padstow Heights (south-west).

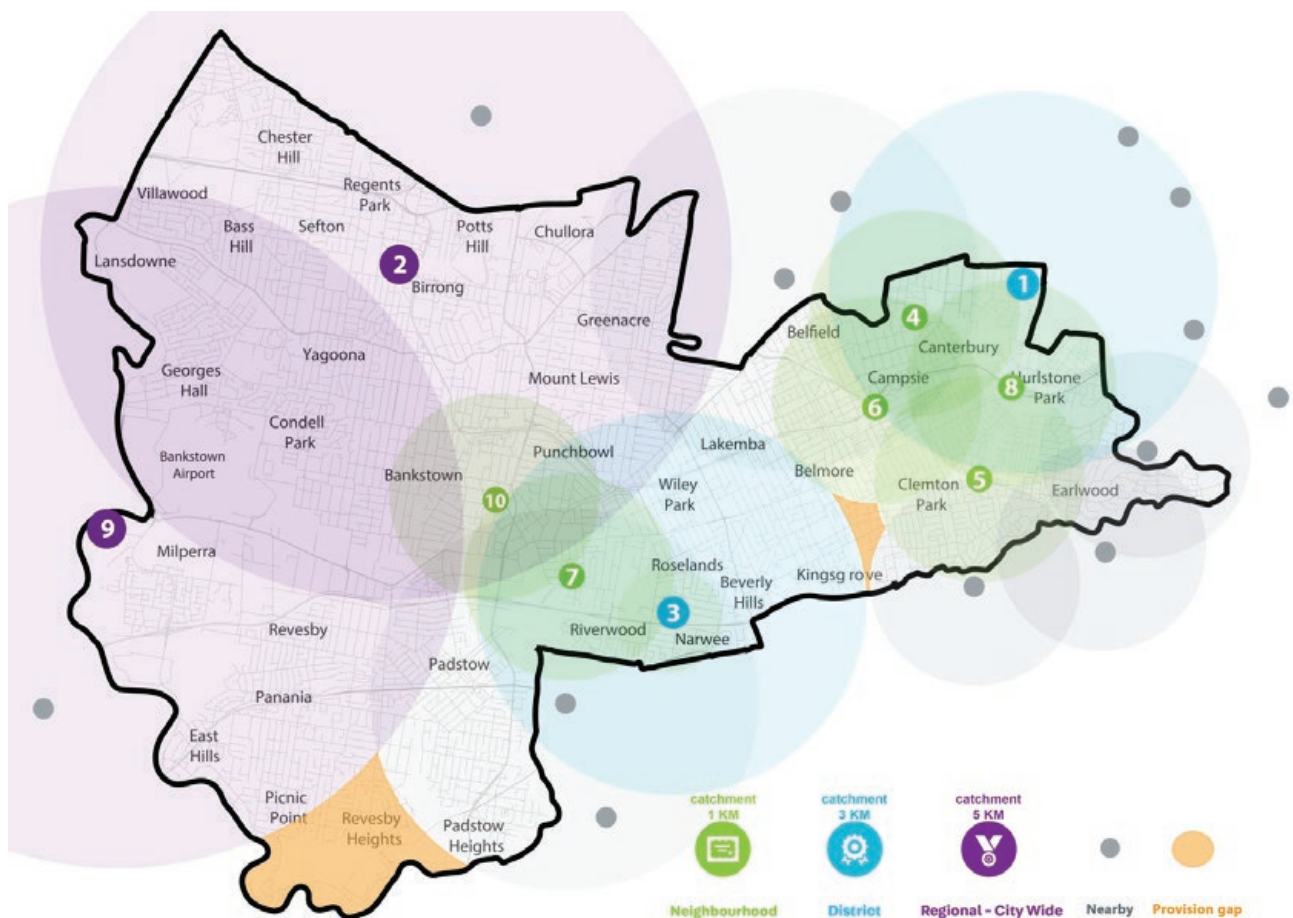


Figure 3: Analysis of dog park catchment areas across Canterbury-Bankstown and identified gaps



To address the gap in provision of off-leash facilities across the City, Council reviewed the hierarchy of the existing dog off-leash parks and parcels of open space in the gap areas for their suitability, based on the recommendations from Council's Open Space strategies, the impact on the surrounding area, current uses and amenity. The Action Plan proposes following strategies to address the gaps in dog off-leash areas:

- To address the gap in the south-east of the local government area, upgrade Hughes Park to a District Park in the future by expanding the size and improving the facilities provided.
- To address the gap in the south-west of the local government area, the Action Plan recommends identifying a suitable location for a district level off-leash dog park area in the future. Virginius Reserve, Padstow has been identified as the most suitable option for investigation.

On assessing potential locations against the above criteria for new off-leash dog parks to address the gap in the south-west of the local government area, the Action Plan identified the need to engage with the community on the inclusion of a dedicated off-leash dog area in Virginius Reserve, Padstow. In accordance with this, Council undertook targeted community engagement during the public exhibition of this Plan. There was high levels of engagement with local residents, and a suitable location within the Reserve has been identified that balances the needs of all the park users.

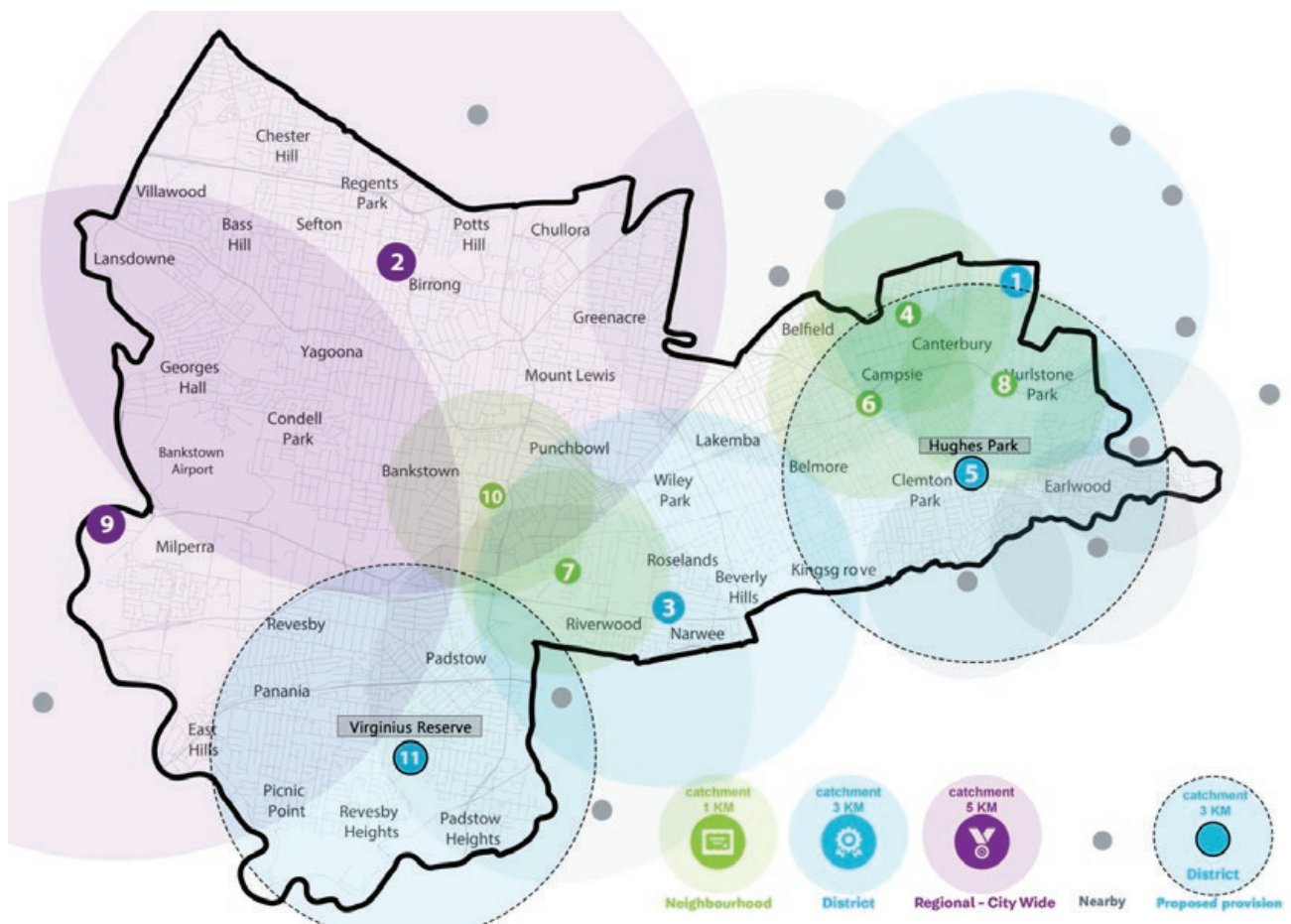


Figure 4: Proposed strategies to address provision gap

## Design

A standard dog park design criteria will act as a guide for Council in the design of new, and upgrades to existing, off-leash dog parks. The criteria has been developed with consideration of the current level of service provided by Council, the capacity to fund ongoing maintenance, local government standards and community feedback.

### Standard Design Criteria

Off-leash dog parks should include the following;

- Minimum land size of 1,500 sqm;
- Fencing provided should be at least a 1.2m high perimeter fence, with controlled access (two gates per entry), with a minimum two entry sites at each location;
- A 3 in 1 water station should be provided on a concrete pad;
- Standard bin and dog waste bags;
- Provision of shade-trees;
- Signage (including regulatory and education, and pictorial/multilingual);
- Appropriate landscaping;
- Pathways to access points;
- Exercise and agility course;
- Seating (shelters to be included in regional facilities, seating to be located in shaded positions in other parks);
- Lighting – pedestrian access and safety (where appropriate, community consultation required);
- Separate large and small dog areas (in regional facilities, and district facilities where space permits); and
- Flood lighting (in regional facilities, and district facilities where layout permits) – to allow restricted hours of night time use (where appropriate, community consultation required).

## Separated dog play areas



Throughout the community consultation process there was a consistent theme around animal safety and the need to separate large and small dogs. This Action Plan identifies the need to include separated areas in regional off-leash dog parks (Vale of Ah and Band Hall Reserve) and in district level parks where there is the space to provide facilities (Hughes Park, Peace Park and Richard Podmore Reserve to be investigated).

In the future our facilities will reflect the following hierarchy table;

	Regional	District	Neighbourhood
<b>Size</b>	>5000m <sup>2</sup>	>3000m <sup>2</sup>	>1500m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Catchment</b>	3-5km	2-3km	1km
<b>Dedicated area</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Barriers - external</b>	Fencing	Fencing	Fencing
<b>Separate large/small dog areas</b>	Yes	Yes (where space permits)	No
<b>Lighting</b>	Yes	Yes (where layout permits)	No
<b>Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste bins and bags</li> <li>• 2+ entry gates</li> <li>• Water stations</li> <li>• Seating and shade</li> <li>• Landscape and sensory elements</li> <li>• Agility equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste bins and bags</li> <li>• 2 entry gates</li> <li>• Water stations</li> <li>• Seating and shade</li> <li>• Landscape and sensory elements</li> <li>• Agility equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste bins and bags</li> <li>• 2 entry gates</li> <li>• Water stations</li> <li>• Seating and shade</li> <li>• Landscape and sensory elements</li> <li>• Agility equipment</li> </ul>

## Operation

Although timely and regular maintenance is a key factor in the successful operation of any open space, off-leash dog parks have some unique characteristics and requirements that need to be addressed to provide a positive experience for both dogs and their owners.

Regular and effective monitoring of the spaces and the elements within it is important as it helps identify existing and emerging issues associated with a dog park including:

- Deterioration of surface materials;
- Poor drainage;
- Site amenities in poor or unsafe condition; and
- Ineffective gate closures and fencing.

Throughout the community consultation process, dog park users told us that increasing the frequency of waste removal, improving mowing and weed control, and improving perimeter fencing (particularly when it borders private property) are key areas of concern for them.

## Service levels and waste bags



During the engagement on this Plan, there was clear support for the provision of dog waste bags at all Council off-leash facilities. In response to this, Council will provide a City-wide service and supply dog waste bags at all our facilities.







Off-leash dog parks are just one component of Councils approach to urban animal management. Each year Council delivers a number of programs to proactively promote responsible pet ownership within the community.

- Pets Day Out is a family and pet friendly event where residents can access microchipping services, obtain information on responsible pet ownership, watch demonstrations from trainers and other professionals and learn about Council services and facilities.
- The Community Animal Welfare Scheme (CAWS) is an initiative run in partnership with the RSPCA to provide a subsidised desexing program. The program is available to residents with a pension, health care or newstart card to provide the pet health service at a reduced rate. It not only assists in decreasing the number of abandoned and unwanted animals across the City, but the program includes microchipping and vaccinations, to reduce the likelihood of illness and disease.
- The Canterbury-Bankstown Animal Holding Facility has an in-house rehoming program that seeks to find suitable owners for unclaimed pets. This program is promoted through social media, local media and Council's website. It also has an established network with various animal rescue organisations that further assists with rehoming unclaimed animals. Over 180 animals were sold or rehomed through this program in 2019-2020.



### How can dog owners help?

Dog parks provide numerous benefits for the community and Council can mitigate some of the risks and issues through good planning, design and management. Council has established a consistent set of off-leash dog park guidelines that apply to all dog park facilities within the City and will continue to operate programs targeted at educating park users to assist with compliance. Council asks dog owners, for the safety and enjoyment of all park users, to follow the guidelines, ensure your dog is not aggressive within the off-leash area and bring a bag to clean up and properly dispose of dog faeces.

## Management is as important as provision



The community has told us that increasing the frequency of waste removal, mowing and weed control, and upgrading perimeter fencing were opportunities for Council to improve the way it manages the existing facilities.



### **Responsibilities of a pet owner**

If you are a dog owner you have a responsibility to:

- Microchip and lifetime register your dog, and attach a collar and identification tag with your contact phone number;
- Secure your dog safely on your property;
- Desex your dog;
- Provide adequate exercise, shelter, fresh clean water and food;
- Provide regular training and socialisation;
- Contact Council to update your details on the Companion Animals register when you move house or change ownership (a dog declared as Dangerous or Restricted in accordance to the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, cannot be sold or given away);
- Ensure your dog is under effective control by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash that is attached to the dog and that is being held by (or secured to) the person while in a public place;
- Ensure your dog does not become a nuisance or annoy other citizens in the community; and
- Clean up and properly dispose of your dog's faeces.

In 2019-2020 there were 75 dog attacks reported within Canterbury-Bankstown on the NSW Companion Animal Register.



# Actions

The recommendations within the following action table are proposed for staged implementation. For each action, the following has been identified:

- Delivery responsibility indicating the lead team/department who has the primary responsibility for delivering the action; and
- Time frame indicates the priority of actions. They are categorised as: Ongoing; Short term (0-24 months); medium term (2-4 years) and long term (4 years plus).

Under Section 85 of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, the Companion Animals Fund was established to manage funds collected through animal registration fees. The majority of the registration fee (80%) is distributed to the Council area where the animal is registered. Councils may use the allocated registration fees for animal management purposes, including the creation and maintenance of off-leash dog facilities.

## 1. Provision

Ref.	Action	Responsibility	Priority
1.1	Review design of Cooks River Foreshore fenced off-leash dog park and unfenced off-leash area to reduce conflict with pedestrians and cyclists by containing dogs to fenced area.	Parks	Short
1.2	Design and construct expansion of Hughes Park off-leash area to upgrade it to a district level facility.	Parks	Short
1.3	Engage with the community to design and construct a new off-leash dog park in Virginius Reserve.	City Plan	Short
1.4	Review demand and functionality of Peter Moore off-leash dog park when design/construction of Belmore Sports Masterplan work commences.	City Plan	Long
1.5	Investigate potential locations in Bass Hill, Bankstown and Revesby Wards to provide local dog park facilities.	City Plan	Long

## 2. Design

Ref.	Action	Responsibility	Priority
2.1	Implement program of works to maintain existing facilities.	Parks	Ongoing
2.2	Install directional and informational signage at Hughes Reserve dog park, Peter Moore Field dog park and Craig Street Reserve dog park.	Parks	Short
2.3	Prepare designs to trial separated small and large dog areas within Band Hall Reserve and Vale of Ah Reserve dog parks.	Parks	Short
2.4	Identify tree species and locations appropriate for planting to improve long term canopy cover within dog parks.	Parks	Short
2.5	Review the location and facilities provided at the Close Street Reserve dog park as part of the broader planning for the site.	City Plan	Long

## 3. Operation

Ref.	Action	Responsibility	Priority
3.1	Continue to run education programs targeted at responsible pet ownership.	Regulatory Services	Ongoing
3.2	Deliver maintenance program for off-leash dog parks, including waste removal and mowing.	Parks	Short
3.3	Review and upgrade bins in all off-leash areas to include waste bags.	Parks	Short

# Get involved

If you would like to provide feedback about the condition or maintenance of existing off-leash dog parks, report a dog attack, make a complaint about an animal that is excessively barking or is dangerous, this can be reported at any time through our Customer Service Team.

**Phone:** 9707 9000

**Fax:** 9707 9700

**Email:** [council@cbc.city.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cbc.city.nsw.gov.au)

**Online:** [www.cbc.city.nsw.gov.au/online-services/customer-service-request](http://www.cbc.city.nsw.gov.au/online-services/customer-service-request)

**In person:** Bankstown Customer Service Centre  
Upper Ground Floor, Bankstown Civic Tower  
66-72 Rickard Road (Corner of Jacobs Street)  
Bankstown NSW 2200  
Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm

Campsie Customer Service Centre  
137 Beamish Street  
Campsie NSW 2194  
Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm





