



Technical Services Reports

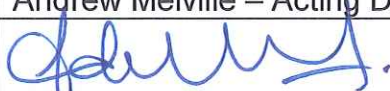
Committee Consideration – 14 August 2012
Council Resolution – 28 August 2012

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TS17.12	Investigation of Location Options for a Fenced Dog Park South of Stirling Highway
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Committee	14 August 2012
Council	28 August 2012

Applicant	City of Nedlands
Owner	City of Nedlands
Officer	Andrew Dickson – Manager Parks Services
Director	Andrew Melville – Acting Director Technical Services
Director Signature	
File ref.	CRS/011-05, CRS/011-04, C08/937, D08/15612
Previous Item No's	Item 15.2 – Council Meeting – 26 August 2008; Item 12.3 Report T1.09 – Council Meeting – 24 February 2009
Disclosure of Interest	No officer involved in the preparation of this report had any interest which required it to be declared in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Local Government Act (1995)</i> .

Purpose

To report to Council the findings of Administration's investigation into potential locations for a fenced dog park south of Stirling Highway.

Recommendation to Committee

Council:

1. **accepts D C Cruickshank Reserve, Nedlands Park and Paul Hasluck Reserve as the three (3) potential locations for investigating the establishment of a fenced dog park south of Stirling Highway;**
2. **approves the attached Survey for distribution to residents surrounding the three (3) potential locations to ascertain the level of community support for such a facility; and**
3. **requests that Administration report back to Council with the results of the survey and its investigations, together with a recommendation for the progression and location of a fenced dog park south of Stirling Highway.**

Strategic Plan

KFA 1: Infrastructure

- 1.3 Provide and maintain quality passive and active recreational and leisure facilities and open space to meet community needs.

KFA 4: Community Wellbeing

- 4.1 Provide and facilitate access to services and facilities required by the broader community, clubs and community groups.
- 4.2 Encourage, support and provide for a range of recreation and leisure opportunities, both active and passive.

Background

At the Council meeting of the 26 August 2008 a motion was carried asking Administration to investigate alternative locations south of Stirling Highway for the installation of a fenced dog park and report back to Council.

Administration submitted a report to Council Committee on 10 February 2009. The item was referred by the Council Committee to a Councillors forum.

Administration was recently requested to resume investigations in accordance with the original resolution. A Council workshop was held on 29 May 2012 in response to this. The workshop was attended by a number of Councillors and Administration staff.

Administration provided information to Councillors attending the workshop in relation to current investigations. Outcomes from the workshop included agreement on:

- three (3) preferred locations for investigating establishment of a dog park;
- the distribution of a survey to residents surrounding the preferred locations to ascertain feedback on the proposal; and
- allowance for the size of the fenced dog park to be up to 50% larger than the Carrington Park dog area.

Key Relevant Previous Decisions:

Item 15.2 – Council meeting – 26 August 2008

Council Resolved that Administration investigates alternative locations in south of Stirling Highway for the installation of a fenced dog park and reports back to a Council Committee meetings in November 2008.

Item 12.3 Report T1.09 – Council Meeting – 24 February 2009

Proposal Detail

Further to the recent Councillor workshop, it is proposed that Administration investigates community support or opposition to the establishment of a fenced dog park at three (3) agreed potential locations south of Stirling Highway. This will be achieved through

completion of community consultation that will include a survey approved by Council. On completion of the consultation process Administration will collate the responses and report back the results to Council.

Administration also proposes to investigate the financial implications, inclusive of detailed cost estimates based on site evaluation, in establishing and maintaining a fenced dog park for each agreed location. This information will be submitted in a report together with a recommendation to Council for the progression and location of a fenced dog park south of Stirling Highway.

Consultation

Required by legislation: Yes No
 Required by City of Nedlands policy: Yes No

Consultation type:

Survey approved by Council and direct consultation with residents.

Dates: September 2012 - October 2012

Legislation

- *Local Government Act 1995;*
- *Dog Act 1976;*
- *Local Law Relating to Dogs;* and
- *Local Law Relating to Reserves, Foreshore and Beaches.*

Budget/financial implications

Budget:

Within current approved budget: Yes No
 Requires further budget consideration: Yes No

Financial:

The requirement for capital expenditure and continuing maintenance costs to establish and provide a fenced dog park will require budget consideration. It is estimated that the maximum capital expenditure required in establishing a fenced dog park at any of the recommended locations would be \$45,000.

Risk Management

Risk Category	Risk Rating Prior to Controls	Risk Rating After Controls
Financial	Low	Low
Health	Low	Low
Reputation	Moderate	Low
Service Interruption	Low	Low
Environment	Low	Low
Regulatory	Moderate	Low

Risk management and control is reliant on effective consultation with stakeholders and, in particular, the effectiveness of communicating outcomes to the community.

Discussion

The City of Nedlands has twenty two recognised public reserves south of Stirling Highway that are utilised for active and passive recreation. During initial investigation of potential locations it was determined that many of these reserves could be ruled out as unsuitable. This was because they were either not of sufficient size, did not have the appropriate attributes (e.g. - parking constraints, no access to scheme water, abutting residential property) or it was considered the addition of a fenced dog exercise area would conflict with current usage.

Non-Preferred Locations

The reserves as detailed below, were acknowledged as suitable and received close consideration. After investigation these were excluded as preferred locations:

1. College Park

The City continues to experience significant pressure from sporting clubs looking for opportunities to utilise sports fields throughout the City. Currently all active reserves are receiving high usage. The only suitable areas for a fenced dog park at College Park are areas currently utilised as sporting fields. Due to this conflict, is not recommended as a preferred location.

2. Melvista Park

There are a number of formal parking areas as well as ample informal verge parking at the reserve. The most suitable area for a fenced dog exercise area is located at the north-western corner of the reserve. On weekends the park is extensively used for hockey and cricket fixtures and due to the associated parking pressures it was felt that Nedlands Park presented as a better option in this immediate area.

3. Masons Gardens

There are a number of formal parking areas as well as ample informal verge parking at the reserve. There has been a historical conflict with dog behaviour and the turtle ponds at this location. There is the potential by establishing a fenced dog exercise area in Masons Gardens it could create future conflict with the Local Law Relating to Dogs. At this time it is not recommended as a preferred location.

4. Charles Court Reserve

There is formal parking and a number of partially formalised limestone parking areas at this reserve. However due to the parking pressure on weekends associated with formal sports, and in general with the playground and skate park, this location is not recommended by administration.

5. Peace Memorial Rose Garden

There are significant parking constraints in this location with verge parking restrictions. Most parking would be required to be on-road. The only suitable location for a dog park would be at the south-eastern end of the reserve. Whilst the location would provide a picturesque and shaded area, the obstacles in this location are significant and include.

- The site only allows for a small fenced area in comparison to other sites;
- The replication of an existing facility situated 450 metres away (Carrington Park) and that falls within this catchment area; and
- Peace Memorial Rose Garden is a permanent entry on the Register of Heritage Places with the Heritage Council of Western Australia. All individual freehold lots comprising this public open space are listed on the entry. Under this listing, any new works must meet certain conditions as set out by the Heritage Council of Western Australia and must be completed in accordance with the Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter. An application would need to be made to the Heritage Council of Western Australia for the installation of the required fencing. It is envisaged that the Heritage Council would decline such an application under article 22 of the Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter.

6. Point Resolution Reserve

There are a small number of formal parking areas as well as ample informal verge parking at the reserve. There is some concern of a heightened increase of interaction with snakes with locating a fenced dog exercise area in close proximity to foreshore bushland areas. This reserve is an iconic location within the wider district and receives many wedding bookings. It was felt that establishing a fenced dog park at

Point Resolution would not be in keeping with its prominence in the community.

7. Foreshore 3 Reserve (Tawarri to Iris Avenue)

It was felt with the impending All Abilities Play Space project at Beaton Park and the Tawarri reception centre, future parking pressures in this location excluded it from consideration as a preferred location.

Preferred Locations

The below reserves were acknowledged as suitable and following investigations were identified as preferred locations:

1. David Cruickshank Reserve

There are a number of formal parking areas as well as ample informal verge parking at the reserve. This reserve is currently the subject of a master planning process and the inclusion of a fenced dog park could be included for consideration within the scope. There is currently a suitably sized area towards the south-eastern side of the park that is not fully utilised. The preferred location would be as indicated in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – David Cruickshank Reserve

2. Nedlands Park

There is a formal car parking area and ample informal verge parking along Bruce Street. There is an established drinking fountain in close proximity that would allow connection for a dog drinking fountain. The area is currently under utilised. The preferred location would be as indicated in Figure 2.



Figure 2 – Nedlands Park

3. Paul Hasluck Reserve

There is ample parking in the partially formalised limestone parking area. The site has no trees providing shade and would require a considered planting strategy. The existing sports lighting that is currently non operational could be reinstated and utilised for evening visitations until 10pm. To establish the facility in this location would need approval from the Swan River Trust. The implications to the adopted Foreshore Enhancement and Management Plan would need consideration. The proposed location would be as indicated in Figure 3.



Figure 3 – Paul Hasluck Reserve

Conclusion

Administration proposes to investigate in detail the establishment of a dog park at either David Cruickshank Reserve, Nedlands Park or Paul Hasluck Reserve. As part of the investigations, community consultation will be conducted which will include a survey of residents, as approved by Council, surrounding each location. Upon completion of investigations, Administration proposes to report to Council its findings and anticipates making a recommendation on the progression and location of a fenced dog park south of Stirling Highway.

Attachments

1. Survey – Establishing a Fenced Dog Park South of Stirling Highway



The City of Nedlands is investigating establishing a fenced dog park in one of its reserves south of Stirling Highway. The facility would be comparable to the fenced dog park (Carrington Park) north of Stirling Highway on the corner of Carrington St and Broome St, Nedlands. As part of its investigations, the City is surveying local residents living south of Stirling Highway on their level of support for such a facility. The survey has been designed to be completed within 5 minutes. Please answer the questions below by ticking one box for each question.

1. Do you own a dog?

Yes

No (go to question 4)

2. Is your dog a guide dog registered for assisting people who are blind?

Yes

No

3. Do you exercise your dog?

Yes

No (go to question 4)

4. Where do you exercise your dog?

Local Park

Local Area

Wider District

Other

5. How would you rate the need for a fenced dog park south of Stirling Highway?

Very Low

Low

Neutral

High

Very High

Unsure

6. Would you use this facility if provided or an alternative?

Yes

No

Alternative

If you wish to comment on any other aspect of the City establishing a fenced dog park within a reserve south of Stirling Highway, please do so below. Add more pages if you wish to.

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Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.
Please place and return it to the City of Nedlands in the pre-paid envelope provided.