



Kirrip Park off-leash park proposal

Engagement summary report October 2021





Contents

Executive summary	3
Introduction	4
How we engaged	4
Who we heard from.....	4
Key findings.....	5
Survey results	6
Summary of support for the proposal.....	6
Summary of survey results.....	6
Support for the proposal	8
Opposition for the proposal.....	11
Engagement experience	13
Appendix: Verbatim survey responses	17



Please consider
the environment
before printing.



Executive summary

In November 2020, Council received a petition with 417 signatures from local residents requesting Kirrip Park become an 'off-leash' dog park after 5 pm on weekdays and anytime during the weekend and/or public holidays.

In response to the petition Council agreed to undertake a site-specific review of Kirrip Park as a potential dog off leash area, with a report submitted to Council following completion of this review process. A key part of this process is consultation with community and stakeholders. This is also included as an action in Council's draft Domestic Animal Management Plan.

In August and September 2021, the City of Port Phillip undertook a targeted consultation with the local community and key stakeholders to understand the level of support / opposition to this proposal and address any concerns raised by the local community.

A total of 117 community members provided feedback through Council's Have Your Say online survey.

Survey respondents predominantly lived or worked within the area of Kirrip Park (95.7%).

The majority of survey respondents (93; 79.5%) indicated they were in support of the proposal.

Some key findings from the engagement include:

Respondents in support of the proposal

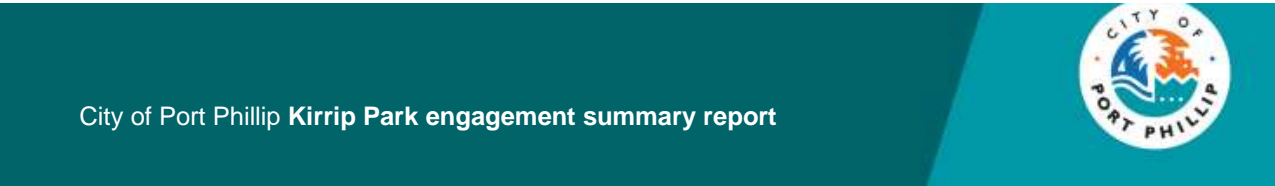
- Many respondents believed the park was a suitable facility for off-leash dogs due to its quietness and safety.
- Others referenced the lack of dog parks in the area as a reason to transition Kirrip Park into an off-leash dog park.

Respondents not in support of the proposal

- Some respondents had reservations about the proposed action because of safety concerns, especially regarding the safety of young children.
- Some respondents were concerned owners would not pick up after their dogs.

Suggestions for improvement

- Some suggested extending the off-leash times to include off-leash times in the morning, as well as extensions in the winter months.



Introduction

How we engaged

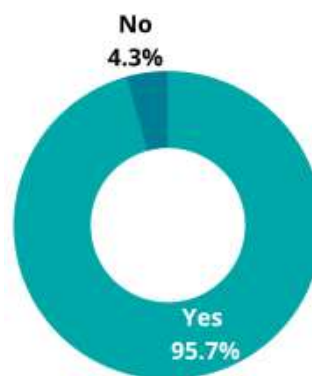
The local community and key stakeholders were invited to provide feedback through an online survey on Council’s Have Your Say Platform from August 19 to 5 September 2021. A total of 117 survey responses were received.

Targeted promotion of this consultation was undertaken using a range of online and offline channels, including corflute signage at the park’s entry points and a letterbox drop to all adjoining business owners and occupiers. An email was also sent to a database of people who had signed up for Kirrip Park updates during its construction. The adjacent South Melbourne Primary School community was also invited to provide feedback and a link to Council’s Have Your Say consultation page was shared through their monthly newsletter.

Who we heard from

Q. Do you live or work in the area?

Do you live or work in the area?	Response count	Proportion of responses
Yes	112	95.7%
No	5	4.3%
Total	117	100%



Those who did not live or work in the area were asked to indicate their connection to the City of Port Phillip. This question was answered by five respondents who indicated they were: Resident, business owner and ratepayer (2) visitor (2) and ratepayer (1).



Key findings

Park is suitable for off-leash as it is quiet and safe

A number of respondents (17) believed the park is suitable for off-leash dogs as it is generally quiet and, often unused after the proposed time of 5pm. Participants also noted the lack of heavy traffic around Kirrip Park, which they perceived as making the park safe for dogs off-leash.

Proximity of the park to high rise buildings

Some respondents (16) highlighted the importance of a dedicated dog park in a heavily urbanised area with high rise buildings in close proximity. Many of these respondents stated that dogs residing in apartment complexes need a place close by to exercise for their health and wellbeing.

Off-leash park would improve community spirit

A number of respondents (16) noted that they enjoy going to dog parks to socialise and build connections with other dog owners in the neighbourhood, as well as letting their own dogs exercise.

Safety concerns

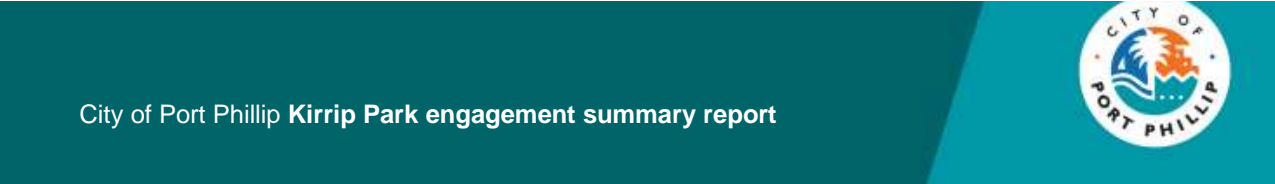
The most common reason cited by respondents opposed to this proposal was their concern for the safety of children (10). Some of these respondents stated that Kirrip Park is widely used by children, especially those from the local primary school, and therefore believed that the current restrictions should not change.

Dog parks in the area

Several respondents (7) referenced there were already dog parks close to Kirrip Park. Given there is limited open space for the community to enjoy in the area, they believed the current restrictions should remain at Kirrip Park.

Non-compliance of rules and regulations

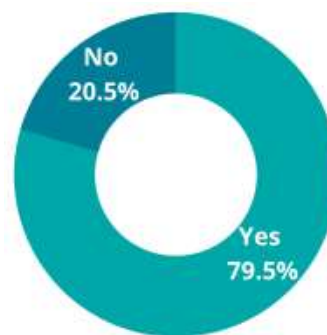
Some respondents (6) were concerned dog owners would not pick up after their dogs or adhere to the proposed off-leash times if the proposed changes are implemented, making the park an unpleasant place for children to use.



Survey results

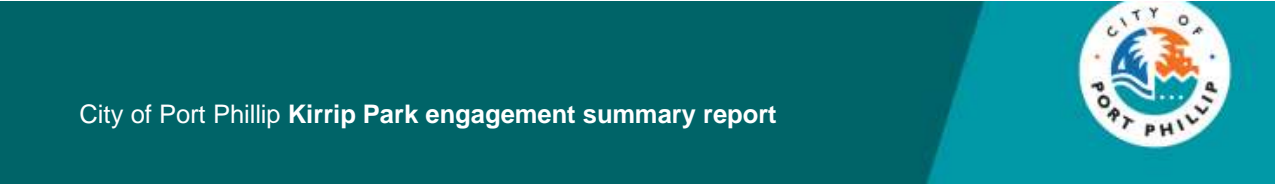
Summary of support for the proposal

Do you support Kirrip Park becoming an 'off-leash' dog area after 5 pm on weekdays and anytime during the weekend and/or public holiday?	Response count	Proportion of responses
Yes	93	79.5%
No	24	20.5%
Total	117	100%

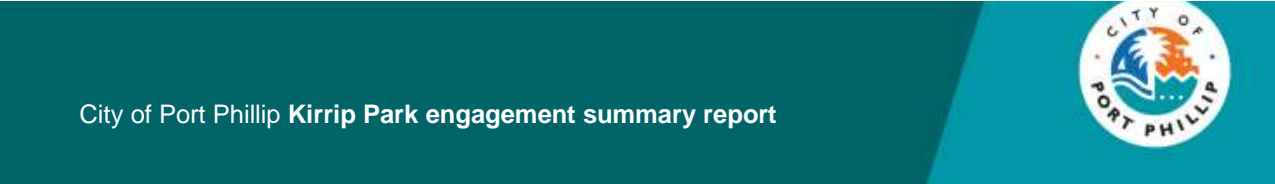


Summary of survey results

We asked	You said
Do you live or work in the area surrounding the Park?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes 95.7% (112 respondents) • No 4.3% (5 respondents)
Do you support Kirrip Park becoming an 'off-leash' dog area after 5 pm on weekdays and anytime during the weekend and/or public holiday?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes 79.5% (93 respondents) • No 20.5% (24 respondents)
If so, why? (follow-up open text question for those who answered 'Yes' to the previous question)	Top responses from 90 respondents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 respondents noted the facility was appropriate for off-leash dogs, mainly due to its quietness, safety, size and aesthetic. • 25 respondents said there is a shortage of off-leash parks in this heavily urbanised area.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 respondents indicated how an off-leash park would improve community spirit.
<p>If not, why? (follow-up open text question for those who answered 'Yes' to the previous question)</p>	<p>Top responses from 23 respondents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 respondents raised safety concerns, particularly for children, regarding having dogs off-leash. • 8 respondents said there is already limited open space for children to enjoy and making this park off-leash does not benefit the whole community. • 6 respondents were concerned that dog owners would not clean up after their dogs, making it an unpleasant place for children to play in.



Support for the proposal

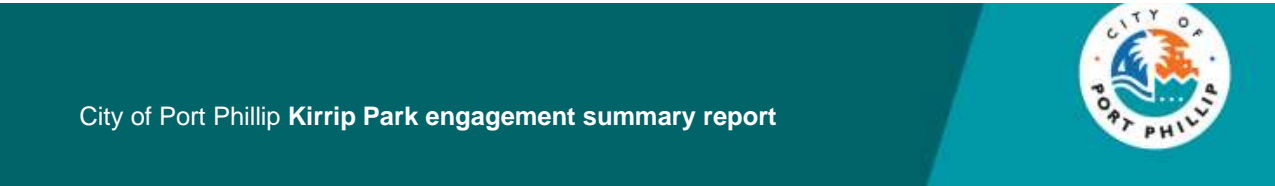


of 117 respondents support Kirrip Park becoming an 'off-leash' dog area after 5pm on weekdays and anytime during the weekend and/or public holiday.

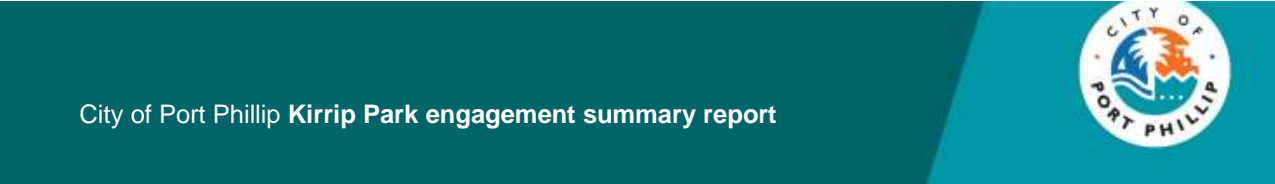
Ninety respondents provided their reasons for supporting the proposal

Top responses:

<p>Kirrip Park is a suitable facility for an off-leash park</p>	<p>Fifty respondents said that they supported the proposal because they thought Kirrip Park is an appropriate facility to enable off-leash dog activity. Some of these respondents (16) said the park was quiet and safe, making it an ideal facility for off-leash dogs.</p> <p><i>"The park itself is often quiet and is the perfect area (quiet roads etc) to have dogs off-leash."</i></p> <p>Others said the park was suitable because it is rarely being used by other community groups (like school children) after 5pm, the proposed time that the park would become off-leash (11 respondents).</p> <p><i>"...after school hours there is usually no one in the park and it makes sense to allow it's use for dogs."</i></p> <p>A further nine respondents commented that Kirrip Park was an appropriate size to transition into an off-leash dog park.</p> <p><i>"It's great for dogs - good size, not in a busy area."</i></p>
<p>Ideal location</p>	<p>Twenty-five respondents stated that Kirrip Park was in an ideal location for an off-leash dog park because the area currently lacks 'dog friendly' facilities. While the majority of these respondents (22) mentioned the area in general was in need of an off-leash park, three respondents referenced specific locations in need of an off-leash park that would be fulfilled by Kirrip Park. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Southbank (2 respondents) ● South Melbourne (1 respondent) <p><i>"There is no dog off-leash park nearby. This park is the perfect park for us to let the dogs play around after 5pm and on weekends & public holidays."</i></p>

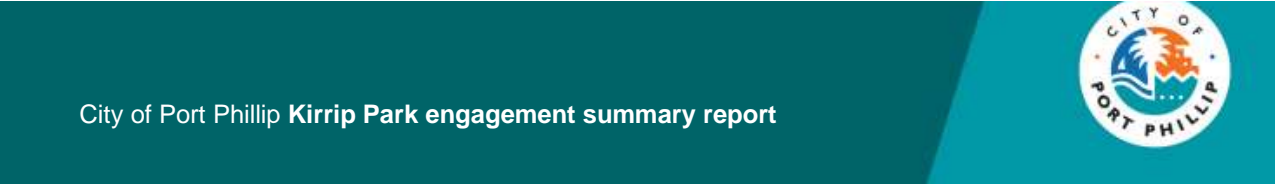


	<p>Sixteen respondents referenced the particular need for an off-leash dog park as the area is heavily urbanised. Many of these comments highlighted Kirrip Park’s proximity to a number of high-rise buildings, stating that dog owners in these complexes need somewhere close to let their dog(s) exercise.</p> <p><i>“It’s in close proximity to many apartment blocks where people own dogs and would like to exercise them appropriately without having to drive to the nearest dog park.”</i></p>
<p>Improved community feel and spirit</p>	<p>Sixteen respondents stated that making Kirrip Park off-leash at the proposed times would improve the community feel and/or community spirit of the area. Many respondents said that they enjoy going to dog parks to socialise with others in their neighbourhood, as well as letting their dog exercise.</p> <p><i>“It’s a nice area for the local dogs to run around and socialise as well as an opportunity for people to get together and socialise.”</i></p> <p><i>“This is a community asset and lots of South Melb residents have dogs and this gives the dog owners opportunities to connect with each other.”</i></p> <p>A further five respondents proposed that by creating this opportunity to socialise in making the park off-leash, the mental health of the community could be improved - with some alluding to the emotional toll lockdowns have had on people’s mental health.</p> <p><i>“...Local communities need this arrangement to be made for their physical and mental health and well-being.”</i></p> <p><i>“It’s a great park and an absolute saviour during lockdown to take my dog there.”</i></p>
<p>Dog health and wellbeing</p>	<p>Fourteen respondents highlighted the importance of regular exercise and socialisation for a dog’s health and wellbeing. Some suggested that having an off-leash park nearby would make owners more inclined to take their dog(s) for regular walks.</p> <p><i>“It is important for all the dogs in our community to have a place to run around, exercise and socialise”</i></p>

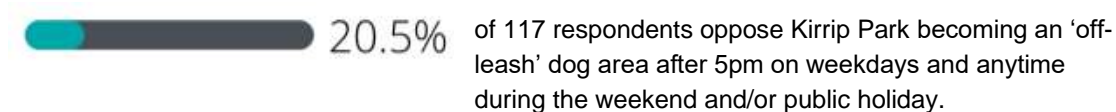


Suggestions made by those who support the proposal:

<p>More off leash time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>"Might be worth making it from 4.30 in winter though as it can be dark not long after 5pm in mid winter. Otherwise it may need better lighting."</i> ● <i>"I would support off-lead morning use too as school children don't use it before school."</i> ● <i>"Please note I also think the park should be off-leash prior to 8am on weekdays and 10am weekends"</i> ● <i>"I think that before 8am would also be good to allow nearby apartments to walk their dogs before work."</i>
<p>Partitioning of the park for multipurpose</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>"The park could easily be partitioned for mixed use."</i>
<p>Less off-leash time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>"Only weekdays, not weekends where there are a lot of kids"</i>



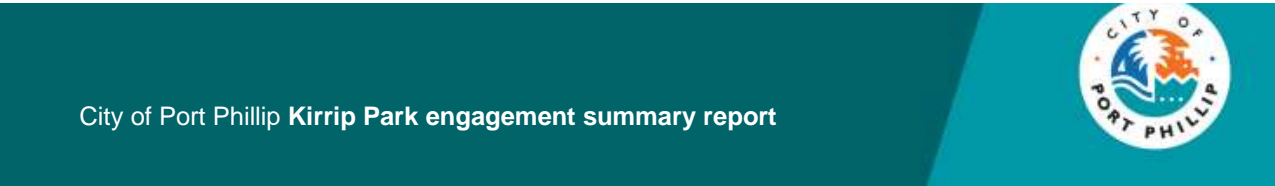
Opposition for the proposal



23 respondents provided on their reasons for not supporting the proposal

Top responses:

<p>Concern for safety</p>	<p>A major concern shared by 10 respondents who did not support the action was due to the safety of patrons, particularly children. Some respondents used anecdotal evidence to support their claim.</p> <p><i>"You would think that children are the priority over dogs - I can't have my toddler running around on weekends if dogs are off their leashes . This park was designed for children and is not only used by school children during school hours . Many families with children use this park over the weekend . You simply cannot allow dogs off leashes for the safety of children"</i></p> <p>A further two respondents extended their safety concerns to other dogs that may not be fully trained yet, or might not be very social.</p>
<p>Limited open space for other park users</p>	<p>Eight respondents mentioned that currently there is limited open space for school children to play in the area, and therefore making Kirrip Park off-leash would not be beneficial to families with children. Some respondents noted that this park was designed for children and that it should stay this way.</p> <p><i>"This is the nearest park where my child can go and play safely, especially during weekends .</i></p> <p>Seven respondents referenced there were already off-leash dog parks in the area. Given the competition for the limited open space in the area, some suggested that the current restrictions should remain at Kirrip Park.</p> <p><i>"There are already options in Port Melbourne and the new dog park in Southbank opening soon for those that want to use off-leash facilities."</i></p>



Concerns for respecting rules	<p>Six respondents were concerned some dog owners would not pick up after their dog(s) if Kirrip Park introduced off-leash times. This was of particular concern given the park is often used by children who enjoy playing on the ground.</p> <p><i>"I don't believe people would clean up after their dog, particularly when the park was intended for the children of the primary school."</i></p> <p>Four respondents thought dog owners would not adhere to the proposed off-leash of 5pm if the new rules were implemented. Four additional respondents suggested that Kirrip park was already being used as an off-leash park and that more enforcement of the current rules and restrictions is needed.</p> <p><i>"People can't be trusted to keep within the allowed times and children use the park on school days. People can't be trusted to pick up after their dogs either, will parents be cleaning poo from uniforms."</i></p> <p><i>"I didn't even know the park was not dog "on leash" until now. Every afternoon when I go there for a walk, dogs are running wild. Jumping on people's bodies, causing lots of issues."</i></p>
--------------------------------------	---

Suggestions to improve the proposal:

Only off-leash after 5pm, even on weekends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"I think it should be off leash only after 5pm every day. Weekends and public holidays shouldn't be treated differently. People who want to enjoy the park on weekends shouldn't have to contend with off leash dogs."</i>
Alternative space to Kirrip Park needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"Find a space to create a new dog park instead."</i> <i>"In lieu, the Council should consider creating a large fenced area in another park/reserve where dogs can enter and safely run free without danger to the public."</i> <i>"Create a new dog park independent of this park!"</i>
Improved amenity for other park users instead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"...Instead please prop up this park with a light touch play or sports equipment for kids."</i>

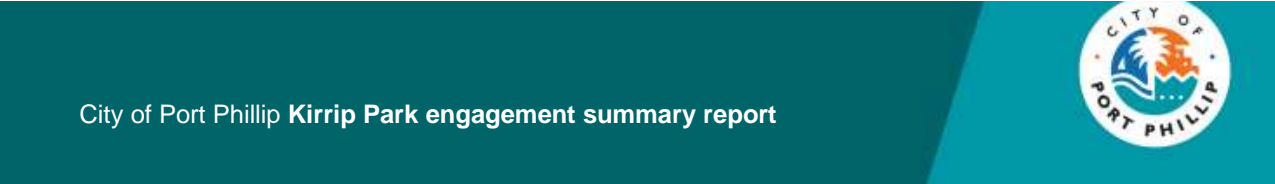


Consultation experience


Survey respondents were asked to give their feedback on the engagement experience by responding to the following prompts:

Summary of consultation experience

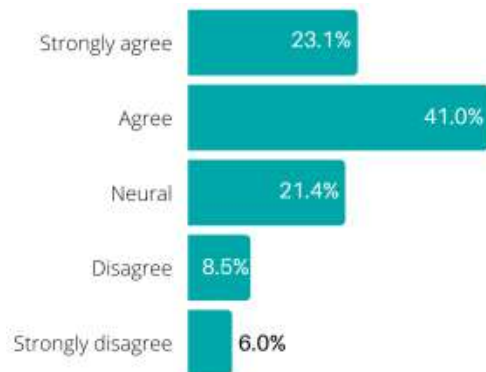
We asked	You said
<p>Do you agree with the following statement?</p> <p>Council provided me with access to information to enable me to meaningfully participate in this process.</p>	<p>64.1% strongly agree or agreed with the statement (75 respondents).</p> <p>21.4% were neutral about the statement (25 respondents).</p> <p>14.5% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement (17 respondents).</p>
<p>Do you agree with the following statement?</p> <p>Council actively supports community involvement in decision-making.</p>	<p>60.7% strongly agreed or agreed with this statement (71 respondents).</p> <p>30.8% were neutral about the statement (36 respondents).</p> <p>8.5% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement (10 respondents).</p>
<p>How could we have made your experience better?</p>	<p>Top responses (59 respondents):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 respondents expected better outreach efforts to improve survey participation. 8 respondents found the experience generally positive, not underlining any specific factors.

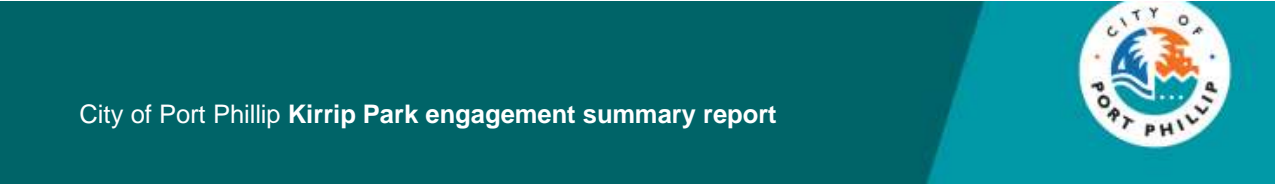


Council provided me with access to information to enable me to meaningfully participate in this process


 **64.1%** of 117 respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this statement

Level of agreement with statement	Response count	Proportion of responses
Strongly agree	27	23.1%
Agree	48	41.0%
Neutral	25	21.4%
Disagree	10	8.5%
Strongly disagree	7	6.0%
Total	117	100%

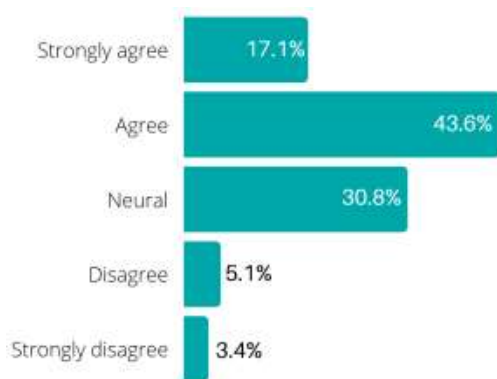




Council actively supports community involvement in decision-making

 **60.7%** of 117 respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this statement

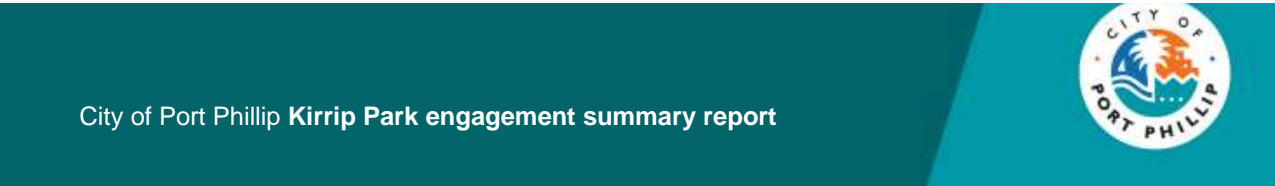
Level of agreement with statement	Response count	Proportion of responses
Strongly agree	20	17.1%
Agree	51	43.6%
Neutral	36	30.8%
Disagree	6	5.1%
Strongly disagree	4	3.4%
Total	117	



Q. How could we have made your experience better? (59 responses)

Top responses:

Better outreach	<p>When asked what could have made the experience better, the most common answer was better outreach. Fourteen respondents said they either found the survey by accident or through a friend. Some commented that they had shared their email address with Council and were surprised when they did not receive an email regarding this survey, but instead hearing about it through friends and/or neighbours.</p> <p><i>“The survey was fine but I only knew about by being notified by another local resident. Surely in this day and age of IT CoPP could notify dog owners who have paid a fee to register their pets who live in the immediate vicinity of the survey? The survey has been hidden. The response rate will no doubt be poor.”</i></p>
------------------------	--



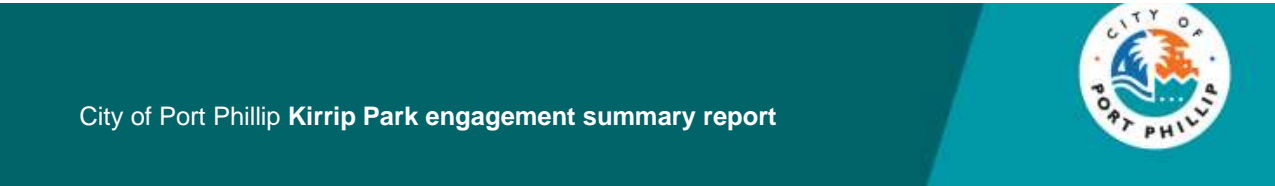
Positive experience	Eight respondents said their experience with the survey was generally a positive experience s. In particular, three respondents said the survey was quick and easy to complete and 1 respondent said it was informative.
Other responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Poor question selection (2 respondents) ● More background information needed (2 respondents) ● Earlier engagement needed (1 respondent) ● Too long (1 respondent) ● Too short (1 respondent)

Suggestions related to the survey process:

More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>“Provided more details on what is proposed. E.g. Will there be a fence?”</i> ● <i>“Perhaps details of what council will be doing to facilitate the dog park e.g. any changes to fencing, lighting etc...”</i>
Future engagement and outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>“There are community groups in the area, you could have posted on their facebook page.”</i>

Suggestions related to Kirrip Park:

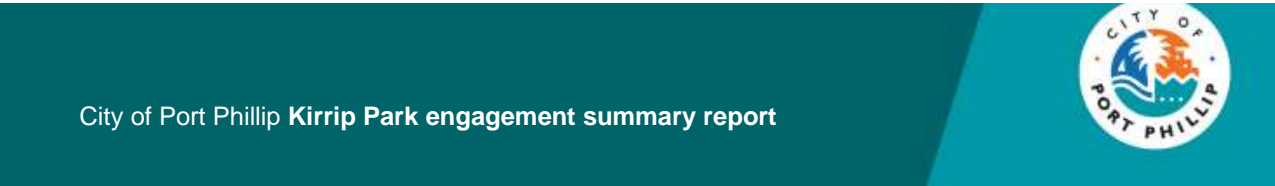
Dog friendly infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>“May I also suggest adding a water drinking fountain for dogs and humans in the park, that would be ideal.”</i> ● <i>“I think adding a water tab and plastic bag for public use help the environment clean”</i>
------------------------------------	---



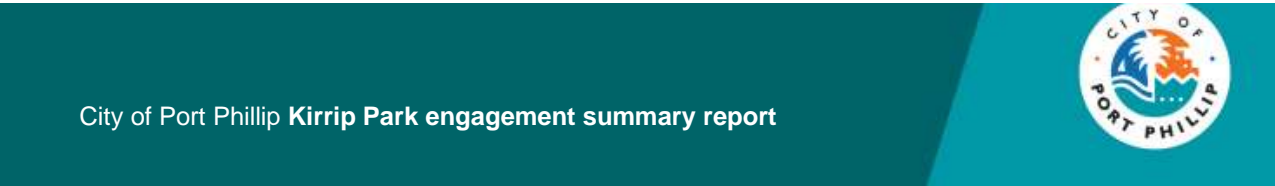
Appendix: Verbatim survey responses

Q. Please tell us why

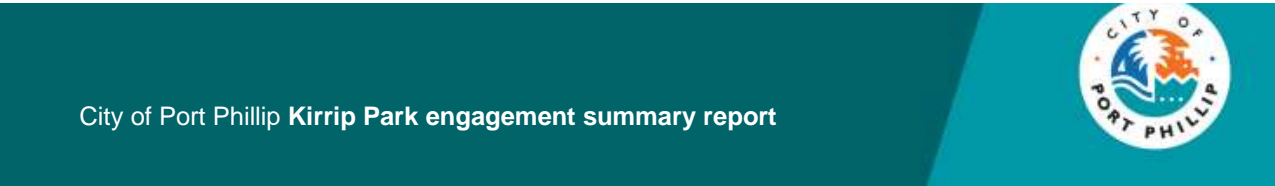
You would think that children are the priority over dogs - I can't have my toddler running around in weekends if dogs are off their leashes . This park was designed for children and is not only used by school children during school hours . Many families with children use this park over the weekend . You simply cannot allow dogs off leashes for the safety of children
It's an open venue, people don't control their dogs well and it prohibits people with dogs that can't be unleashed from using the venue
People are already treating it like one and it's a great community of people and dogs
With few off lead dog parks around, this park is located within a small community, it never seems to get overcrowded. There are few big dogs in this area. Smaller dogs love to run and play together and it has a long straight run which is particularly good for smaller dogs. Early mornings and after school, weekends and public holidays (including lockdowns) would be awesome!
The residential density of the area around Kirrip Park is increasing with the development of high rise apartment blocks. Many of these newer residents - as well as existing residents - have dogs. The dogs and their owners need places to run and play freely. Kirrip Park is surrounded on most sides with new apartment blocks - its location is ideal for a place to play when school is not in.
This is one of the very few parks in the area where kids could go and have a blast after school etc, my son had a serious accident being chased by an off leash dog
because many people do not collect dog poop and school children play in the park and are exposed to stepping on or falling on the poop
Safety of people
People can't be trusted to keep within the allowed times and children use the park on school days. People can't be trusted to pick up after their dogs either, will parents be cleaning poo from uniforms.
So the local people can enjoy the park with dogs that isn't being used for anything else during the times .
It should be nice to have a nice park walking distance from home to play with my dogs.
There isn't an off leash park anywhere near the neighborhood. It is more than adequate.
There is limited space for dogs and lots of Hugh rises going up
This is the nearest park where my child can go and play safely, especially during weekends. There were couple of times I found unleashed dogs barking and attacking my child while playing, which was very unsafe.
The park needs to be kept neat, clean and tidy and as this is the only green space for SMPS students. There are other parks in the vicinity for dogs. Many occasions and too often, when walking down Normanby Rd footpath, you will see dog poo laying around and the owners did not pick up after the dog. Presumably the same group of dog owners will use this park. So opening up the park to these dog owners will be catastrophic!



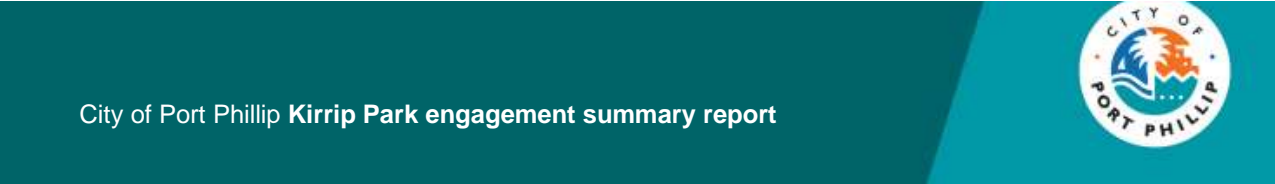
We also have other community with different background in the area who for religious purpose cannot get up close to dogs.
I have a lovely Long Haired Chihuahua who enjoys running and playing with his mates in Kirrip park. We have a great neighbourhood in that makes me almost reluctant to move out of this area.
Lots of dogs around to play
It's a large enough park and most of the time there's no one there besides other dog owners
It's a beautiful space for the dogs to run free!
There are ample off leash parks in the area. I bring my greyhound, who is not allowed off leash by law, to this park as I take him solely to on leash parks where he won't be ball roached by off leash dogs who run up to him and engage his prey drive. There are already so few places we can take him and I have found that people do not respect the on leash rules in most places anyway. It is really frustrating when trying to walk my on leash only, very timid dog as he regards approached by off leash dogs as an attack and often the off leash keepers have poor recall with their dogs and are very inattentive.
Then it effectively becomes a "no dog owners" park at all relevant times (people are working during 'non dog' times), as it won't be a pleasant place for those who do not want to interact with dogs. Nobody should be excluded from an existing park. I accept that dog parks are needed, but please don't take away an existing park. Find a space to create a new dog park instead.
It's a nice area for the local dogs to run around and socialise as well as an opportunity for people to get together and socialise.
It's a great park and an absolute saviour during lockdown to take my dog there.
It's a nice park and dogs deserve some freedom
Considering the lack of leash-free dog areas in the city and close proximity, it would be an ideal place to bring our dog for socialisation. We frequently visit the area but are thrilled of the idea of it becoming a leash-free zone.
Because there is no off leash parks around this area
There are a number of people who bring their dogs to the park. It's very social for everyone including the dogs. All dogs I've noticed are non-threatening breeds so I don't see an issue with having the dogs off lead.
Love this park and would love to bring our dog here for some off leash play.
All the people who live in apartments need a green area to take their dogs. All the dogs that live in the area know each other and are small dogs.
It's a fabulous park for the dogs and they should be able to run free!
As someone who works in the building opposite I fully support this initiative as I myself is a pet owner. As long as the clean up is done by the owner and the rules is respected I don't see any reason but have this park been a unleashed park after business hours
This little park is perfect for toddlers to little kids which is becoming popular due to a few hundred young families moving in this precinct. I have two toddlers myself and it is a Nightmare already with some dogs going wild at kids at times. Its only a matter of time a child or adult gets mauled to death and you will be adding to this problem even though its not a big problem at the moment. Instead please prop up this park with a light touch play or sports equipment for kids. The beach fronts along the foreshore are ample for dogs. Dogs without leash—over our dead bodies so to speak. Thanks
I don't have a dog, but my balcony overlooks Kirrip Park and I walk through it on a daily basis. More off leash parks are a great thing and I can't think of any reason Kirrip Park



<p>shouldn't become one, especially if it's split in 2 (e.g. easy of the footpath is for dogs and west isn't). I see plenty of people walking their dogs through there and everyone seems like a responsible owner (I.e. they pick up after their dogs). Could even be of a benefit to the kids from the primary school. I mean not too much different right? Haha.</p>
<p>There are presently no local areas where dogs can run freely. Inner city dogs are all small breeds and don't cause any trouble.</p>
<p>Dogs have to have some place where they can exercise as well. Also is a very good opportunity for locals to socialize.</p>
<p>The area requires more off-leash dog parks to support the health, social and wellbeing of the dogs who live on the area and their owners</p>
<p>I walk my dog there and the amount of space with the trams being fenced off means I am quite safe with my dog running around happy especially in autumn</p>
<p>It's a great family park and we love to take our dog there.</p>
<p>It's great for dogs - good size, not in a busy area. Close for a large number of apartments. Might be worth making it from 4.30 in winter though as it can be dark not long after 5pm in mid winter. Otherwise may need better lighting.</p>
<p>This park is very suitable for dogs - it doesn't have a playground or BBQ equipment, and it's on relatively quiet streets.</p>
<p>Not much green space for dogs in the immediate area. The lack of trees and vegetation is also great as it means there are less branches and tree drippings for dogs to eat. Lastly, the area is very quite, and safe for dogs.</p>
<p>there is no off leash area in Southbank. and this park is quite quiet most time during night time.</p>
<p>No off leash area in southbank and park is always quiet</p>
<p>I think it should be off leash only after 5pm every day. Weekends and public holidays shouldn't be treated differently. People who want to enjoy the park at weekends shouldn't have to contend with off leash dogs.</p>
<p>It is a great area for my dog to run and get the physical and social play he requires. As I live very close by this would be very much appreciated by myself and my pooch.</p>
<p>I live in Gravity tower's and I is the closest park where my small dog can get exercise</p>
<p>There is a shortage of parks in the Sth Melb area that are suitable for off leash exercise for dogs. This is a community asset and lots of South Melb residents have dogs and this gives the dog owners opportunities to connect with each other.</p>
<p>Our kids are constantly getting attacked by dogs here on weekends that are off leash, these matters will be brought to the police, this park is unsafe</p>
<p>Perfect location and quiet</p>
<p>It's crazy not to be</p>
<p>It would add a much needed park for dogs to social for people around southbank area .</p>
<p>This small area services a number of high rise apartment blocks nearby in the montague precinct and dock lands where there are no other off leash parks (the closest being across montague street to the south) after school hours there is usually no one in the park and it makes sense to allow it's use for dogs. When it first opened it was hot designates as off leash and many locals found it an extremely accessible & friendly place to bring their dogs.</p>
<p>This park is mostly used by local residents and their dogs and children. This park should be an off leash park 24/7 as this reflects local values and culture. Local community need this arrangement to be made for their physical and mental health and well-being.</p>
<p>Because my boy has be attacked twice by unleashed dogs at this park on weekends and suffered injuries .The park has now got holes all over it the dogs have dug up and making it</p>



<p>dangerous to walk on. There is a huge school for young children right next to it with many children playing in the park after school until late evenings not to mention all the new residents with young children in the area now play here all the time. DO not let this park to unleashed dogs its dangerous also for all tje young mums with babys whom come here also. If you open up park to unleashed dogs some young child is going to get killed and you will not want that responsibility City Of Port Phillip. Regards [REDACTED]</p>
<p>Dogs are a valuable member of local families and have helped people get through Covid-19. We need a local space our dogs can run.</p>
<p>I have two dogs and no licence so it's very close to where I live to have my dogs get the exercise they need. They are Jack Russells and live in an apartment,</p>
<p>I think the park has a lot of room for dogs to excercise and dog owners can mingle to ease some stress during these though times (of course by respecting the heath guidelines) . Its a win win. Not dog owners (adults&kids)have also seen to join in to interact and greet dogs. Everyone is seen happier seeing dogs playing and zooming.</p>
<p>It's mostly used for dogs. Dogs on leashes playing together act differently. It's not okay to keep so. They don't play on leashes. There needs to be more dog parks now more people have dogs due to lockdowns. The council is to represent its constitutions who are growing in number of dog owners.</p>
<p>I have a rescue dog who hasn't been socialised in his past life. He can be really fearful of other dogs running up to him. Too many times in this park, irresponsible dog owners who should have their dogs on leads have let their dogs rush mine. We live nearby to this park and won't be able to use it during our walking hours if it's turned into an off-leash park. There are already options in Port Melbourne and the new dog park in Southbank opening soon for those that want to use off-leash facilities.</p>
<p>It's the right thing to do</p>
<p>A lot of apartments here and it is good for dogs to get out.</p>
<p>Large amount of locals with dogs/ great location / safe for off leash</p>
<p>Why not? The space is big enough for the dogs to run freely. There's not many busy roads. The space is even big enough to install some sort of playground</p>
<p>It is important for all the dogs in our community to have a place to run around, exercise and socialise</p>
<p>It is a nice park, protected from traffic. Ideal for dogs. And besides during school breaks and dog owners not used</p>
<p>School finishes by 3 and most kids and child activities are complete by 4-5pm. Makes good sense fir the local community.</p>
<p>The park is used by the school during the week up until 3:30PM and the park is often empty after 4:30PM which is great for the dogs to have a run around.</p>
<p>There are so many people who have moved into the local area that have dogs particularly puppies. There are many new apartment blocks being built that inevitably will have dogs. And people from Whiteman Street in the MelbCityCouncil area also use the Park. Most people walk after business hours and on weekends. Also there have been no incidences of dog aggression and when we could walk our dogs off-leash we also would pick up litter and ensure the park was kept clean for the School use.</p>
<p>The park is only used by dog walkers and people who work out at the park. I am one of the people who regularity work out at the park. The dogs don't bother anyone. Dogs being off the leash don't bother me. While you are doing this could you please also install a pull up bar station for the people who workout in the park.</p>



I strongly object to making Kirrip Park an off-leash park.

1. There currently is an off-leash park at Page Reserve, a mere 3-minute walk from the Kirrip Park.
2. Kirrip Park is used by the school during the day and by families of the school children, people exercising and neighbourhood families on the weekend.
3. There is not room to allow the dogs to be away from the children and adults using the park. The park is too small for dogs to run free.
4. Kirrip Park is one of the only animal-free parks in the area.
5. Dog owners are currently using the park off-leash regardless of council directions. This has been happening since the park opened. The dogs run all over the park without attention as the dog owners gather and chat and watch. They do not have calling control when animals are chasing each other. I haven't seen an animal control person at the park ever. I am there nearly every day.
6. The notice asking for public input is too small and only placed in one entrance to the park. 2 other entrances do not have notices thereby limiting the response from the public.
7. Once the notice of an off-leash park is made, other dog owners will use the park resulting in the park no longer available to people who just want to enjoy some time outdoors.
8. In lieu, the Council should consider creating a large fenced area in another park/reserve where dogs can enter and safely run free without danger to the public. This is done in many cities around the world very effectively limiting accidents caused by animals. There are certainly a few reserves in Port Phillip where this could be accomplished safely and effectively.

I personally have suffered a severe injury from being pushed over by dogs at Page Reserve, Port Melbourne, one of Port Phillip Council's off-leash parks. They were not my animals, I was not engaging with them. I was walking on the footpath. The park is meant to be a shared facility. Owners of off-leash dogs are meant to be in calling control of the dogs, and the dogs are not to interfere with the public. The dogs were chasing each other and pushed me over from behind. I was totally unaware. 8 months later, 2 surgeries later and over \$30,000 out of pocket, I still do not have total use of my arm as a result of a fractured humerus. I was unable to work or perform any normal activities. The dog owners involved called an ambulance and then vanished, taking no responsibility for their actions. Not even an apology. Council wasn't much better when I reported the incident. I have spoken to others who use the park and they have experienced being bumped by dogs and having children interefered with by dogs. When I was in hospital, 7 other attendees were result of dog injury in parks. I can understand the council being concerned for dogs, but there are more people than dogs in Port Phillip. Perhaps it's time to look at the safety of the majority, not a few minority owners of animals. I am not anti-dog, merely pro safe parks for people. Thank you.

Dog owners already walk around use parks as "semi" off leash. If we allow it legally then it will bring even more people to the already small park.

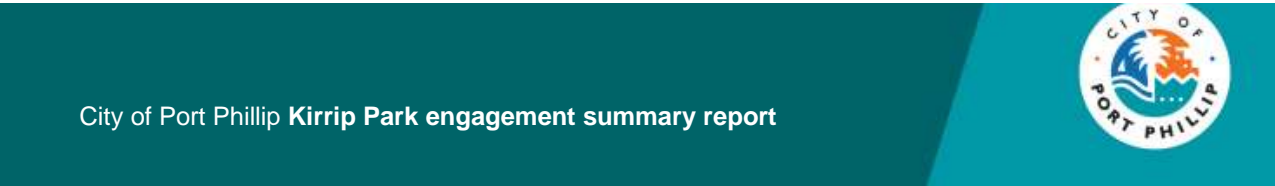
We have brought our dog there since he was 4 months old

It is a local area for many apartment dogs and they love it. There are local families whose children also benefit from playing with the dogs, especially during lockdowns.

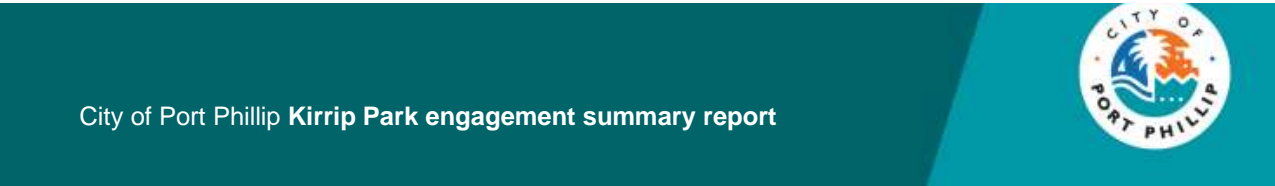
Growing need in area for off lead space

Only weekdays not weekends where there are a lot of kids

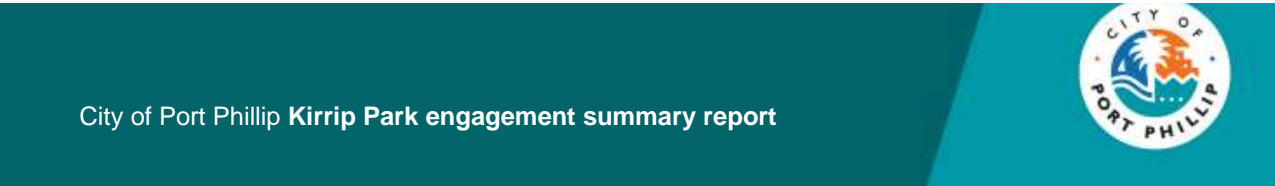
Because it's a very suitable, safe away from the road traffic location for the local doggie to play and socialize.



I have a dog and it's the closest park to where we live - other dog parks require us to drive to them
It's a safe, low traffic area close to a lot of high rise apartments with dogs. It's a perfect location
I have been jumped on and my dog is always being approached by unleashed dogs. Having a rescue dog that is highly cautious and anxious of other dogs, he needs a safe dog leashed park. There is an off leash park a short walk away. I would rather see it signposted as a non off leash park. I was unaware of its status until the signs went up asking for this input
It is quiet, essentially self contained with no children's play equipment
The area is too small for an off lead park. Dogs are already being left off lead there in spite of the fact that it is not an off lead facility. Dogs are allowed to run free including on the pedestrian paths and owners do not have control of their dogs on demand. This is happening during the week all day. This park is used by the south melbourne primary for physical education and recess. There are dogs there off lead even when the children are present . I find it hard to believe the rules of after 5:00 PM will be observed. Also the weekends sees the park full of families with young children. It isn't safe to have the dogs off lead when there are kids around. There is an off lead park not 5 minutes away. Can't we have a park that is free of dogs? What happened to the rights of people to sit in a park without being interfered with by out of control dogs?
I do not even know the park is not dog "on leash" only now. Every afternoon when I went there for a walk, dogs are running wild. Jumping on people's body, causing lots of issues. The park is near a primary school. Please think about the kids who need to use the park. Even during the current COVID restriction, e.g. last week Thursday and Friday, I saw large number of people congregating there chatting with each other while letting dogs were allowed to run everywhere... there are some people who do not wear masks. I know that this has been reported to police by some of the people I know. If it is now not off-leash dog park, everyone there running have been and are breaking the rule everyday. Can we do something about it? If I am allowed to upload some pictures, I am happy to submit pictures to show you the problem. It is really bad. I try to avoid the area now due to dogs running rampant.
Good for both residents and the fur kids!
There is no dog off-leash park nearby. This park is the perfect park for us to let the dogs playing around after 5pm and on weekends& public holiday s.
It is already being used by dog owners to gather during those times as there are no parks to run dogs nearby. The majority of dog owners live in apartments so need an outdoor area. The only other use of the park is for exercise/fitness and that is predominantly on the footpaths.
It's in close proximity to many apartment blocks where people own dogs and would like to exercise them appropriately without having to drive to the nearest dog park. The park itself is often quiet and is the perfect area (quiet roads etc) to have dogs off-leash.
It is a great space for dogs
The park could easily be partitioned for mixed use. I would support off-lead morning use too as school children don't use before school.



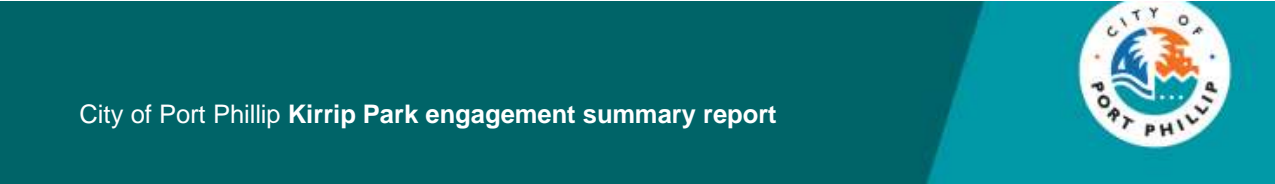
So that dogs can run free
Given the high density living arrangements around the park it is ideal to share the park with dog parents after work. This encourages puppy and human socialisation, which in turn makes puppies (incl Covid puppies) and their parents more responsible and more adept at being good and responsible high density neighbours.
I have a spoodle and live approximately 200metres from the park. It would be great to have a local park that is clean, removed from busy roads for dogs to play with each other on a daily basis. To get fresh air and excersizr and for pet owners to meet and network and discuss common interests, that being their first babies. With many people living in apartments dogs need a green space to excersizr and socialize
Such a great dog park. Dogs love it down there
There are many dogs in this precinct (and will be many more coming) with virtually nowhere to run
The park should be off leash at all times, especially with the increasing number of apartment buildings being built in the area.
The park is a great social space, important for people’s mental health & wellbeing
Please note I also think the park should be off-leash prior to 8am on weekdays and 10am weekends I walk my dog in Kirrip Park twice a day. I live in the local area and believe there is a serious lack of dog-friendly facilities in the absence of Kirrip Park. If Kirrip Park were to be strictly patrolled to ensure leash compliance I would relocate out of the area. If City of Port Phillip, Victoria State Government etc. want to genuinely promote the livability prospects of the Fishermans Bend precinct they need to make Kirrip park off-leash.
Lots of room, it’s needed, more people coming into area in future
Provides a use of the park during off peak times. I think that before 8am would also be good to allow nearby apartments to walk their dogs before work.
We own a dog and live within the area of the park. It’s a perfect environment with open space and hilly. It’s not a very busy park outside school hours and especially weekends. I don’t expect this to change in the near future
The park is not used after schools hours and there are a lot of local high rise residents with dogs
No dog park in immediate vicinity. Perfect park for this activity - good to establish community vibe in a new residential precinct.
Off lead parks help to socialise dogs. Having one within walking distance of all the apartments close by (and the many being built) will help to have happier, less reactive dogs, and people, not just at the park but also while walking on lead in busy areas
It's local to my house and it's used very little for anything else, out of school hours. It also provides good community engagement.
Not all dog owners are responsible and pick-up after their dogs and that park is the only outdoor grassed area the school children have to play in. I don’t think the children should have to navigate dog poo when they play. And there are other dog parks close by.
It’s by far my closest park for my small dog to have a quick run
This time restricted proposal helps maximise park utilisation, balancing the needs of the broad local community.
I like dogs. Plus, it's a quiet area of the city with fences/buildings on two sides.
I thought it was already an off leash dog park as I often see dogs running around without a leash.



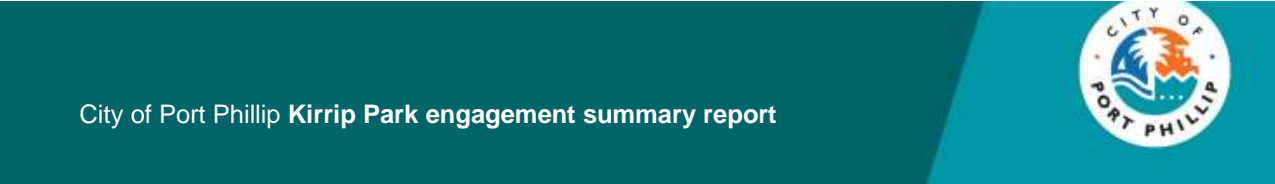
I don't believe people would clean up after their dog particularly when to park was intended for the children of the primary school. Unless there is a responsible spokesman for this group whom will be responsible for the care of the park and the behaviour of the dogs and their owners!
A nice open space for animals to run around with very little traffic on surrounding streets
I's love to take my dog there.
I believe this is a positive for local residents - however - I want them to observe the 5:00pm commencement and clean up the dog mess. There are often dogs off leash through the day and not enough residents clean up after their dog. This is an unfair situation for other users, particularly the school students.
It is a shared facility for children from the school. Dog owners can't be relied upon to pick up after their dogs. Children will be sitting on the grass where dogs would be peeing Dog poo bags will clog the public rubbish bins = smell. There is no fence to ensure dogs are contained to an area (bearing in mind this is for public safety too) Create a new dog park independent of this park!
As long as people pick up their dog poo!!! The students at SMPS playing at Kirrip Park (or other visitors) do not want to encounter dog poo. It's bad enough now when dogs are meant to be on a leash.

Q. How could we improve your experience

By starting this process earlier. It has been a long time coming.
The survey is straight forward. No improvements suggested.
Better ads
More notice to complete survey
That the council advertised this better on Facebook
Less bureaucracy
You are doing well Council
I think adding a water tab and plastic bag for public use help the environment clean
N/A
Sign the park as off leash only in all relevant parks
Provided more details on what is proposed. E.g. Will there be a fence?
N/A
N/A
Please consider suggestions made in this submission. They are very important.
This is my first time but the access to information and ease of explanation is quite good so far and I am satisfied with the layout. I'll answer more fully once I complete more of these surveys and notice more things
Perhaps details of what council will be doing to facilitate the dog park e.g. any changes to fencing, lighting etc...
Happy with experience.
I could not find the survey on the port Phillip website . I saw the sign in the park but it was torn down and on the ground . Has anyone from Port Phillip parks and recreation actually come to the park over the weekend and seen how many dog owners already break the



rules and have their dogs off lead when they are not supposed to ? Nothing is being done about this
No
Notification of the issue should be displayed at the park. I visit the park frequently and haven't seen anything about the park becoming an off leash park
The survey was fine but I only knew about by being notified by another local resident. Surely in this day and age of IT CoPP could notify dog owners who have paid a fee to register their pets who live in the immediate vicinity of the survey? The survey has been hidden. The response rate will no doubt be poor.
Dont let dogs off leash
I only found out about the survey during this lockdown when I decided to walk past Kirrip park as part of a varied exercise routine for myself & my dog. I had avoided coming here after it was designated off leash. In line with my previous experience, myself and my dog were the ONLY occupants of the park during our 15 minute visit. It would be nice to see this lovely facility better utilised.
By asking more meaningful questions
Do not allow dogs here theres too many kids playing here ,we are all in lockdown let tje children ne safe in a park
Only 1 sign at the park in a place no one would see. Signs should be at entry to the park. It's almost like they don't want this to happen.
How do you ensure constitutions are aware of this questionnaire. It's limited. Found out only by another. There could be a Facebook and Instagram group for example to reach more people.
More accessible
it is good already
Nothing.
there are community groups in the area, you could have posted on their facebook page.
While you are making it into a dog park. Could you please also put in a pull up par for the people who work out there. Thanks
I tried to access the link for comments yesterday and the link did not work. I received a message that the link could not be found. I verified I had put in the data correctly. When I tried again today, the link wwas working. It makes me wonder how many people's comments you might miss due to faulty links.
Get back to us quicker
Removed the "dogs on leash" sign until after this decision has been made, given the sign suddenly appeared during lockdown last year. I.e it wasn't always there and so with lockdown it would have been nice for the sign to be removed. As to walk to the nearest off leash area and back would have exhausted our permitted time outdoors and this sign was another negative mental impact on us.
You could email the survey to registered dog owners in the council area
The experience has been good, however if the process time seems could have shorten would have been better. May I also suggest to add a water drinking fountain for dogs and human in the park, that would be ideal.
Nothing required
I think it was great.
well done.
Email me



More signs at the park. This one was only at one entrance and if I hadn't been told about it, I wouldn't have walked by it
Survey seemed too brief
Na
N/A
Nothing. The experience was quick and painless
N/A
The survey was only positive or negative ie yes or no.
I am a yes but also have other feedback items that would also need to be considered. Such as how does the park get used during summer afternoons. I would imagine if school children are still in the park at 5pm you can't really have it as a dog park too. Maybe have winter or summer hours would be better.
We were made aware of this by a neighbour. We had signed a petition but didn't not receive any information afterwards
The people who signed the petition could have been contacted directly for comment - we heard about this survey from a neighbour not the council
I've emailed the council previously about this Park being off lead. I have not been notified of this questionnaire by council. I have been notified by another community member.
Deal with it more quickly. We've had a year in lockdown with no local off lead dog park
Nil suggestions.
Notice well and truly prior to the event.
Can't think of anything
happy with this experience
nil