



**City of
Newcastle**

Lambton Dog Park

Community engagement report

September 2020

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Executive summary

City of Newcastle (CN) carried out community engagement to explore community sentiment towards a new off-leash dog park at Lambton. This followed a Council request that community engagement be carried out on off-leash dog areas within Lambton Park, and other locations within Lambton, when the Dogs in Open Spaces Plan was adopted in 2019.

An online survey was conducted from 25 June to 10 August 2020 (49-days). In total 1,178 individuals completed the survey. The survey was promoted through a wide variety of channels, both print and digital. A localised letterbox drop occurred to inform and encourage survey participation from nearby residents, and signage was also placed at the proposed sites.

Key findings

Level of support:

- Support for a new dedicated off-leash space for dogs in the suburb of Lambton:
 - 80% supportive
 - 20% not supportive.

- Support for a new fenced off-leash space for dogs in Lambton Park, Lambton:
 - 61% supportive
 - 39% not supportive.

- Support for a new fenced off-leash space for dogs in Armstrong Park, Lambton:
 - 74% supportive
 - 26% not supportive.

Intended use of fenced off-leash dog area:

Lambton Park:

- 61% would use
- 30% would not use
- 9% Undecided/Don't Know.

Armstrong Park:

- 49% would use
- 38% would not use
- 14% Undecided/Don't Know.

Perceived benefits of a fenced off-leash dog area:

Lambton Park:

- 25% Easy access (by walking or vehicle)
- 20% A great location to exercise a dog
- 17% It's convenient for me.

Armstrong Park:

- 24% Large size of area
- 24% A great location to exercise a dog
- 20% Appropriate for the local neighbourhood.

General insights

Almost 1 in 2 survey respondents indicated living within a 5-minute walk from Lambton Park and 1 in 6 from Armstrong Park reflecting a higher level of interest in the study from individuals living within close proximity to Lambton Park.

Opinion towards a new off-leash dog park in Lambton indicates quite strong support (80%) for a new dedicated off-leash dog park in Lambton. Reasons provided by those who didn't support the location were the existence of a dedicated off-leash dog park in what was considered as close proximity at Acacia Avenue, and that other locations throughout the LGA should be prioritised over Lambton. There were also some general concerns about dogs being off-leash from a safety or waste/hygiene viewpoint.

Support was higher for Armstrong Park as a potential location for a new dedicated off-leash area in comparison to Lambton Park (74% to 61% respectively), with the concerns for Lambton Park being that it was seen as an already busy and well used park used by sporting groups, community groups and individuals for recreational purposes.

In terms of likely use of a new fenced off-leash dog area, a higher percentage indicated they would use Lambton Park (61%) over Armstrong Park (48%). The benefit to both locations was that they were considered (almost equally) as 'great' locations for exercising dogs. Parking, traffic, safety, density, and the amount of available space were all matters of consideration for respondents.

Recommendations

CN has identified the need for additional fenced dog parks across the city under the City's Dogs in Open Space Plan (DOSP). While the survey suggests a new off-leash space would be largely welcomed in the Lambton area, other potential sites for off-leash areas, including some fenced dog parks across the Newcastle LGA, could also be explored. Any decision to implement a fenced dog park, the size and design elements, in either Lambton Park or Armstrong Park, would benefit from further consultation with the community.

1. Introduction

Since adopting the Dogs in Open Spaces Plan (DOSP) in 2019, City of Newcastle (CN) created a large fenced off-leash dog park at Acacia Avenue and has also been exploring future locations.

Development of the DOSP was informed by extensive community engagement. The draft DOSP was on public exhibition in August 2018, with the final plan being adopted by Council in March 2019. At this time, a Council resolution requested engagement with stakeholders and Lambton Park users occur to explore alternative locations for an off-leash dog park in Lambton.

This report outlines the key communication and engagement activities carried out to better understand community opinion towards a new off-leash dog area in Lambton. The engagement results will be used to inform location decisions, the type of off-leash area (fenced or not fenced) and future concept designs.

Community engagement occurred between 25 June and 10 August 2020.

2. Engagement activities

Engagement for the consideration of a new off-leash dog park in Lambton was conducted through an online survey supported through a dedicated 'Have Your Say' community engagement web page hosted on CN's website. Individuals could also submit formal written submissions that are being reviewed by the CN's City Wide Services project team.

Objectives

The aim of the engagement was to target current and potential off-leash dog area users, stakeholders such as neighbouring schools and residents to better understand:

- Opinion towards a new off-leash dog park in Lambton
- Support levels for two proposed locations: Lambton Park and Armstrong Park
- Likelihood of use for both sites
- Perceived benefits and concerns in relation to the proposed locations
- Desired features for a fenced off-leash dog area.

The insights of the engagement will help to inform location and design decisions in relation to a new off-leash area for dogs in Lambton and other locations within the Newcastle LGA to be made by CN staff and Councillors.

3. Communication and promotion

A Communications and Engagement Plan was developed to confirm the type of communication channels used to promote the survey and maximise reach.

The promotional channels used are outlined below. Where available, statistics summarising the reach and engagement of that channel have been provided. Examples of the promotional collateral can be found in Appendix 1: Communication and promotions.

Online (internal platforms)

Channel	Date Published	Key statistics
CN home page tile	25 June to 10 August 2020	-
Media release	26 June 2020	Coverage: 2HD Radio News, NEWFM Radio News, Newcastle Weekly online, The Local (cover)
Have Your Say webpage (engagement open)	25 June to 10 August 2020	1,396 views
Have Your Say eDM NovoNews	29 June 2020	2,485 invited, 155 survey completions
	17 July 2020 (reminder email)	2,324 invited, 57 survey completions
	5 August 2020 (final reminder)	74 invited, 0 survey completions
Email to schools	30 June 2020	5 local public schools
Email to external stakeholders	30 June 2020	9 Associations and groups
Email to internal stakeholders	17 June 2020	15

Table 1 Communication and promotion

Social Media

Channel	Date Published	Description
CN Facebook	29-June	Invite to take survey (reaching 16,886)
Facebook Group - Have Your Say	26 June 2020	Invite to take survey and reminder posts
	17 July 2020	
	5 August 2020	

Table 2 Social media promotion

Print media

Channel	Date Published	Key statistics
The Local	25 June 2020	21,000 distribution

Table 3 Advertising promotion

Printed materials

Channel	Date Published	Key statistics
Corflutes	Distributed on 27 June 2020	A total of 9 corflutes distributed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lambton Park (n=5) • Armstrong Park (n=2) • Acacia Avenue Dog Park (n=2)
Flyers	Distributed on the 3 July 2020	840 distributed to neighbouring residents at both locations

Table 4 Print promotion

4. Engagement activities

Online survey methodology

Questionnaire

There was a total of 15 quantitative questions, 2 qualitative question and demographic questions were asked in the survey. An additional 4 open-ended 'other' fields were incorporated within the survey to allow respondents to expand upon specific quantitative questions.

The full list of survey questions can be found in Appendix 2: Online survey.

Data collection

The survey was open from 25 June to 6 August 2020.

The survey was promoted through social, digital and traditional media channels and was widely accessible through CN's website. The promotions and overall reach were outlined in section 3 of the Report. Members of the CN's community panel (Newcastle Voice) were also sent email direct invitations to take part in the survey.

Respondents

The survey was completed by 1,178 individuals.

Over half of all survey respondents were between the age group of 30 - 54yrs (63%), followed by respondents who are 55 or older (19%) or aged 30 or under (10%). More than 50% lived in the Lambton area (Lambton, New Lambton, North Lambton and Lambton Heights).

Respondents who indicated they either owned, regularly cared for, or intended to get a dog was 83%.

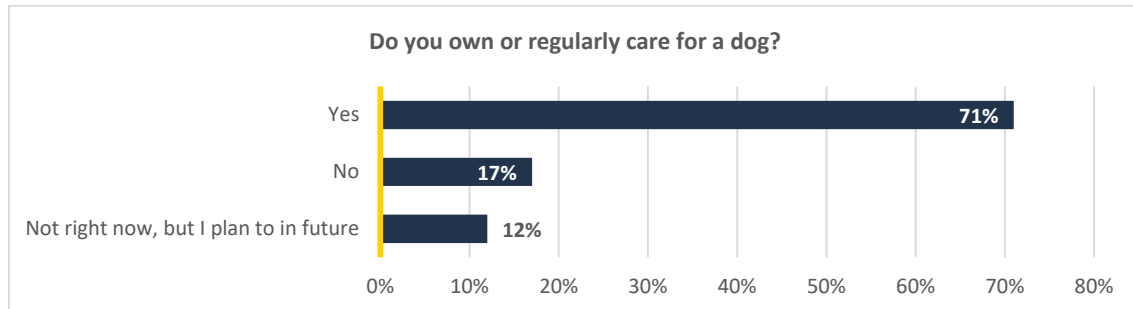


Figure 1 Dog ownership

Distance from Armstrong Park and Lambton Park (Lambton residents)

Respondents were asked to indicate how close they lived to both Lambton Park and Armstrong Parks.

From the 1,178 respondents, 477 indicated they lived within a 5-minute walk from Lambton Park and 230 indicated they lived within a 5-minute walk from Armstrong Park. More than 1 in 2 respondents lived more than a 5-minute walk from either park.

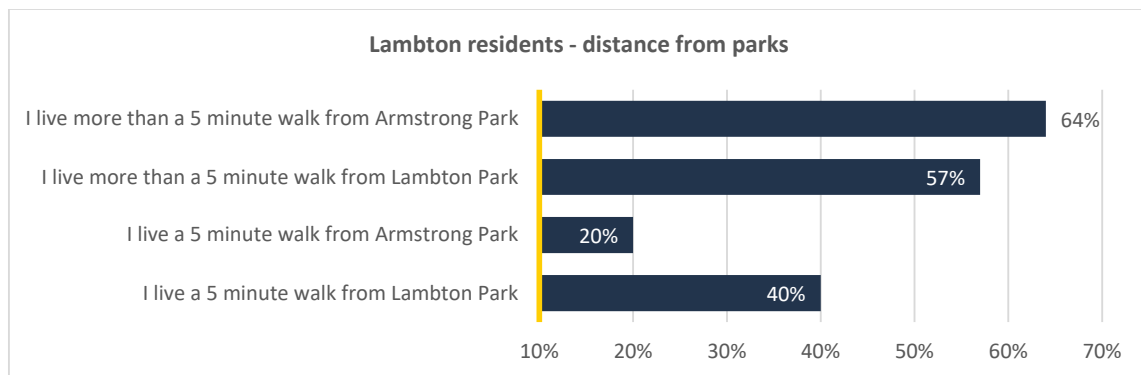


Figure 2 Survey respondents (Lambton residents) – distance from parks

Online survey findings

The following pages outline both the quantitative and qualitative findings from the online survey. All qualitative comments can be found in the Appendix 3 titled Verbatim comments, Lambton off-leash dog areas study.

Support for off-leash dog area in Lambton

Level of support and location preference

Respondents were asked to provide their level of support for 'a new dedicated off-leash space for dogs in the Lambton area?'

- Support for a new dedicated off-leash space for dogs in Lambton:
 - 80% supportive (combined levels of support)
 - 20% not supportive.

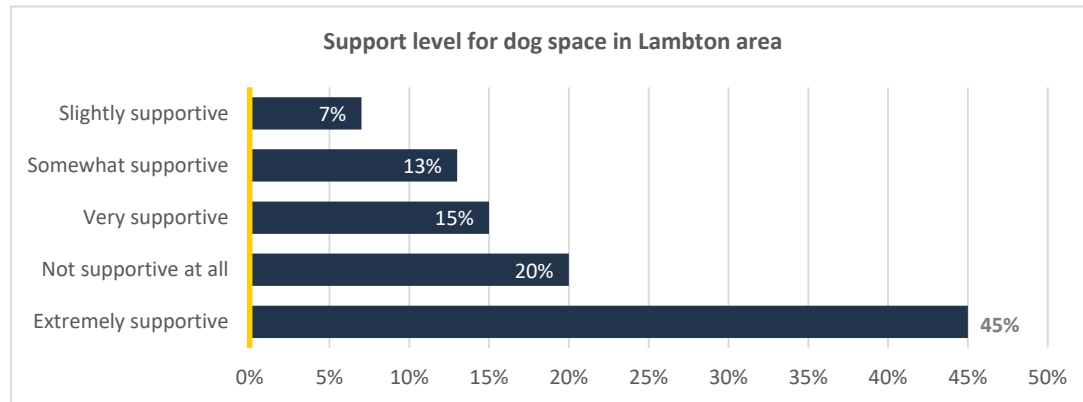


Figure 3 Support level for a new dedicated off-leash space for dogs in Lambton

Support for proposed off-leash dog area in Lambton Park

Respondents were then asked to indicate how supportive they were for a new dog off-leash area within **Lambton Park**.

- Support for a new dedicated off-leash space for dogs in Lambton Park:
 - 65% supportive (combined levels of support)
 - 35% not supportive.

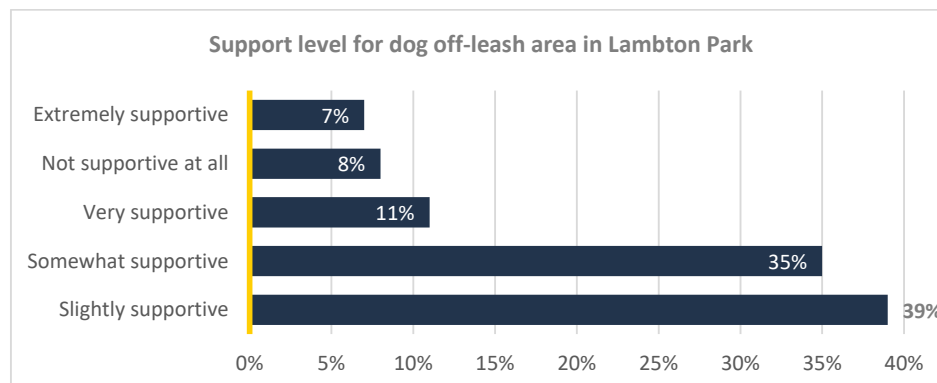


Figure 4 Support level for a new dedicated off-leash space for dogs in Lambton Park

Preference for fenced or not fenced dog area

Respondents that indicated support were then asked that if a dog off-leash area were to be created at Lambton Park, would prefer it to be either fenced or not fenced.

- 80% preference for a 'fenced off-leash dog area'
- 16% preference for a 'dedicated off-leash dog area (no fences or partially fenced)'
- 4% unsure.

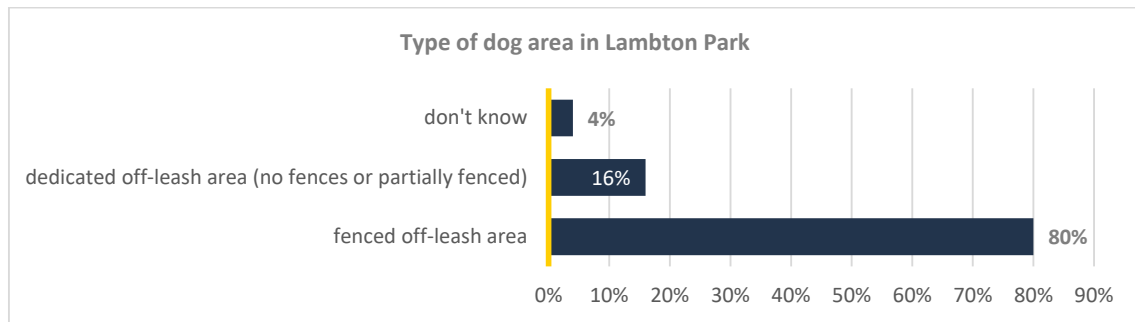


Figure 5 If a dog off-leash area were to be created at Lambton Park, what would you prefer

Support for proposed fenced off-leash location options

Respondents were presented a map of the two locations under consideration by CN for a fenced off-leash dog area. They were asked to indicate level of support for each site. 'Option A' was **Armstrong Park** and 'Option B' was **Lambton Park** – both located with Lambton.



Option A - Armstrong Park

74% (n=867) of respondents indicated support for a fenced off-leash dog area in Armstrong Park and 26 % (n=311) not at all supportive.

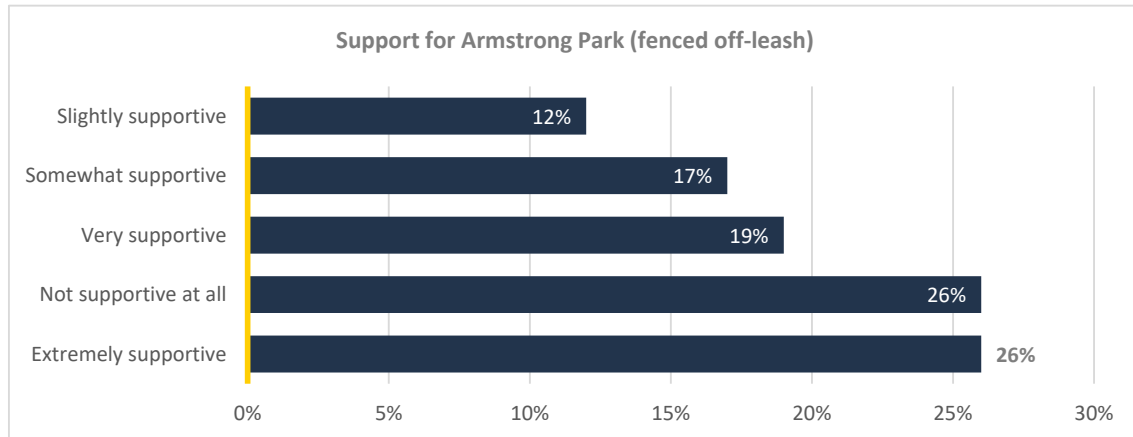


Figure 6 Level of support for fenced off-leash in Armstrong Park

Respondents were asked to provide comments on their level of support for Armstrong Park. Their responses were coded and analysed to understand why respondents were either supportive or not supportive towards a fenced off-leash dog area in Armstrong Park. There were 1,011 open-ended responses to this question.

Armstrong Park - Reasons provided for support

The main reason respondents provided as to why they supported the use of Armstrong Park was they didn't feel the area was being used or used by many people, and that it was less busy than Lambton Park (16%).

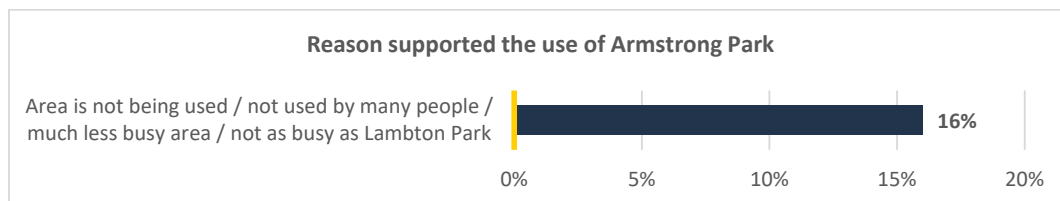


Figure 7 Main 'reason for supporting the use of Armstrong Park

The full list of 'other' responses can be found in Appendix 3: Other verbatim responses – Support for Armstrong Park.

Armstrong Park - Reasons provided for not supporting

The main reasons provided as to why they did not support the use of **Armstrong Park** were:

- Concerns for children (school children) safety and children scared of dogs (10%).
- Too close to traffics / busy roads, traffic hazards and existing traffic problems at school (11%)
- Perceived parking issues or poor parking (13%)

- Comments that the location was next or too close to a school (Lambton Public School) (16%).

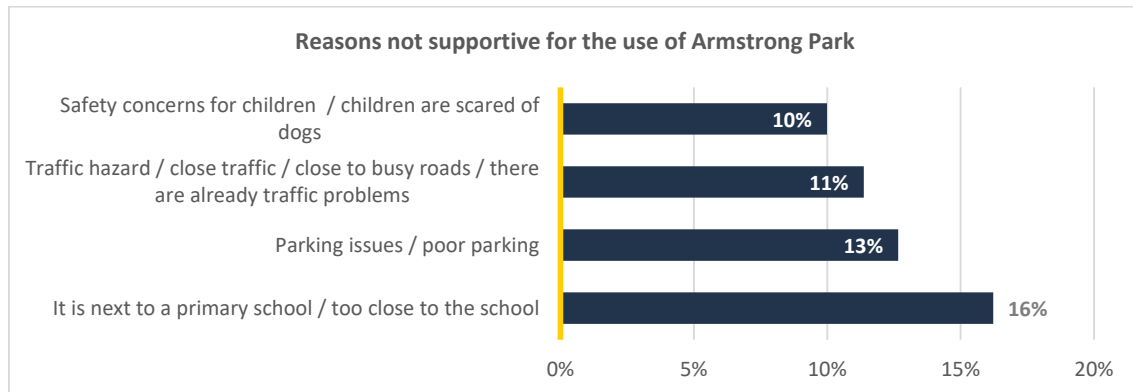


Figure 8 Main reasons for not supporting the use of Armstrong Park

The full list of ‘other’ responses can be found in Appendix 4: Other verbatim responses – Not supporting Armstrong Park.

Option B - Lambton Park

61% (n=718) of respondents indicated support for a fenced off-leash dog area in Lambton Park and 39% (n=460) not supportive at all.

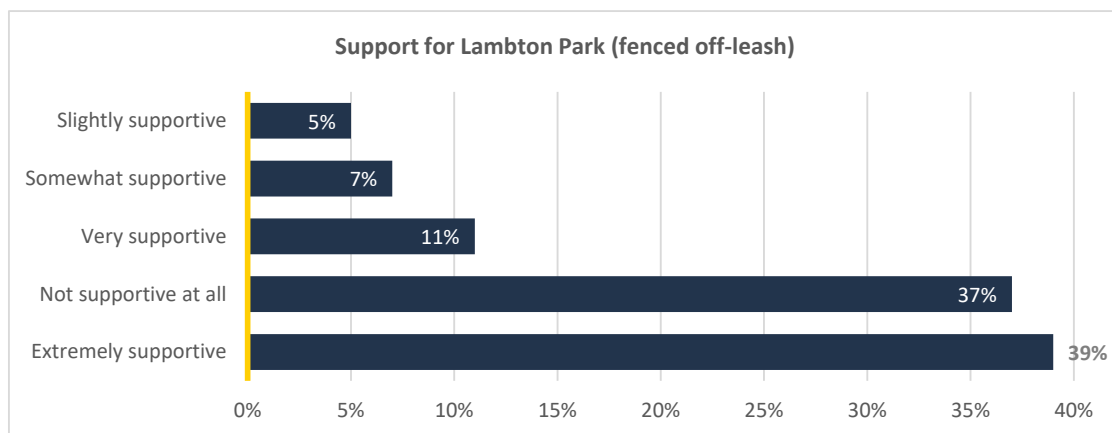


Figure 9 Level of support for fenced off-leash in Lambton Park

Respondents were asked to provide comments on their level of support for Lambton Park. There were 1,034 open-ended responses to this question. The responses were coded and analysed to understand in more detail why respondents were either supportive or not supportive towards a fenced off-leash dog area in Lambton Park.

Lambton Park - Reasons provided for support

The main reasons respondents provided as to why they supported the use of **Lambton Park** was:

- Good open space, big area / unused / plenty of space without impacting park users (10%)
- Area enjoy using, busy and well-used, already a lot of people walking dogs (some off lead) (14%)

- Good/great location, great spot for everyone (15%).

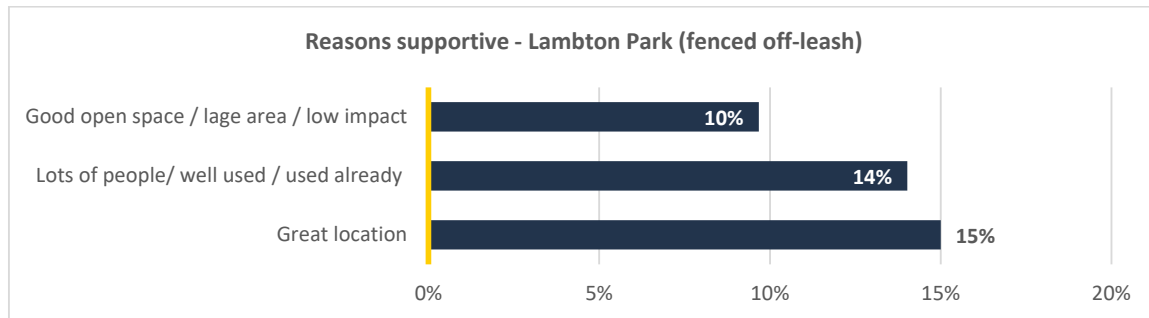


Figure 10 Main reasons for supporting the use of Lambton Park

The full list of ‘other’ responses can be found in Appendix 5: Other verbatim responses – Support for Lambton Park.

Lambton Park - Reasons provided for not supporting

The main reasons provided as to why they did not support the use of Lambton Park were:

- Regard the area as already crowded, too busy for a dog park or more of a public area (17%)
- Sports teams / families / community groups use this area (24%).

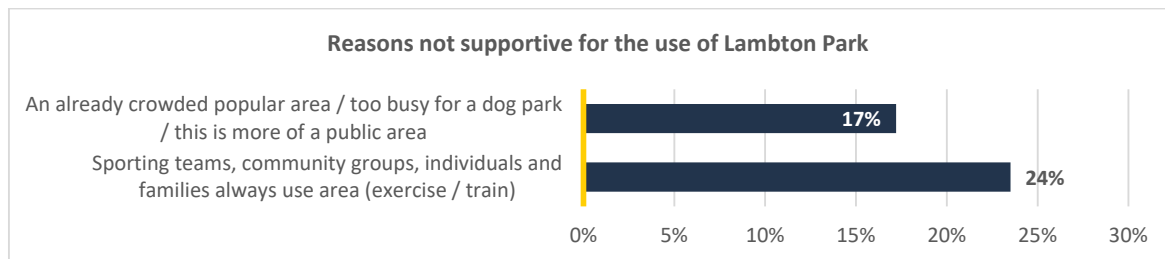


Figure 11 Main reasons for not supporting the use of Lambton Park

The full list of ‘other’ responses can be found in Appendix 6: Other verbatim responses – Not supporting Lambton Park.

Other locations

Respondents were asked to provide any other areas in Lambton that they would like CN to consider an off-leash dog area. The top 4 alternative locations mentioned were:

- Johnson Park, Lambton
- Regent Park, New Lambton
- Lewis Oval, Lambton
- Kentish Park / Kentish Oval or Ford Oval.

The full list of ‘other’ responses can be found in Appendix 7: Other verbatim responses – Additional locations within Lambton to consider.

Intended usage of proposed fenced off-leash dog areas

Respondents were then asked to indicate how likely (or not) they would be to use a fenced off-leash dog area at Armstrong Park and Lambton Park.

Location	Definitely would use	Probably would use	Undecided	Probably would not use	Definitely would not use	Don't know
Armstrong Park	26%	23%	11%	13%	24%	3%
Lambton Park	46%	15%	6%	8%	22%	3%

Table 5 Likelihood to use proposed locations for fenced off-leash dog area

The majority of respondents (61%), indicated they would either definitely or probably use Lambton Park. This was followed by a lower number of respondents (49%) stating they would likely to use Armstrong Park.

Respondents who indicated they were unlikely to use either location were then asked, what were their top 3 reasons for not wanting to use either of the proposed fenced off-leash areas.

In relation to **Armstrong Park**, the top reasons provided for not wanting to use an off-leash area at this location (n=370 respondents) included:

- 29% Preference for the space to be used for other recreational activities
- 34% Not enough parking
- 42% Not convenient.

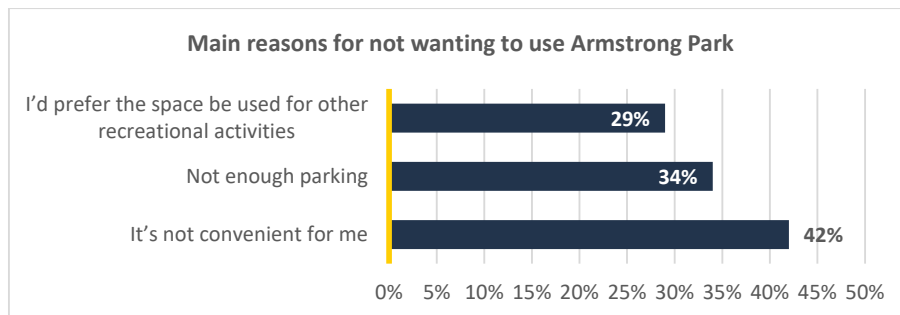


Table 6 Main reason for not wanting to use Armstrong Park

In relation to **Lambton Park**, the top reasons (n=297 respondents) provided were:

- 69% preference for the space to be used for other recreational activities
- 31% not safe for a dog to be off-leash
- 30% concern there would be too many dogs.

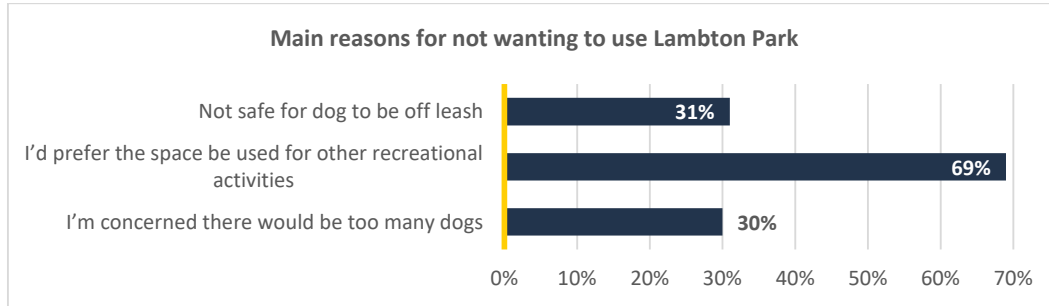


Table 7 Main reason for not wanting to use Lambton Park

Benefits and concerns with proposed fenced off-leash dog areas

Perceived benefits for proposed fenced off-leash dog areas at Lambton and Armstrong Parks

All respondents were then asked, what they believed to be the top 3 benefits for both proposed off-leash areas.

In relation to **Armstrong Park**, the top 3 perceived benefits were:

- 24% large size of area
- 24% great location to exercise a dog
- 20% appropriate for the local neighbourhood.

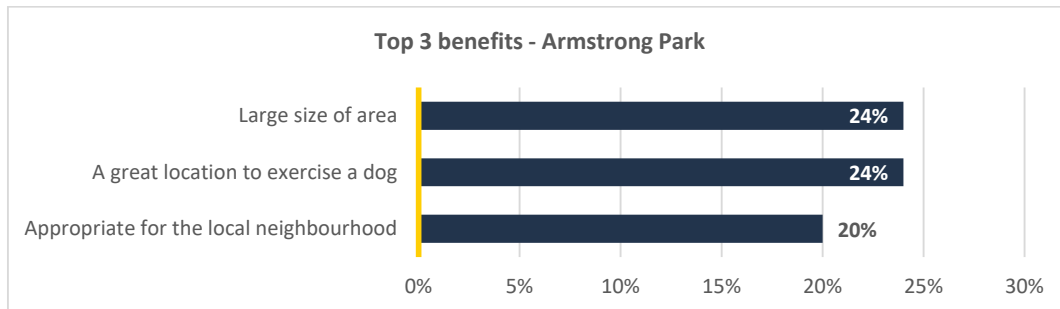


Figure 12 Main (top 3) perceived benefits for Armstrong Park

The full list of 'other' responses can be found in Appendix 8: Other verbatim responses – main benefits of Armstrong Park.

In relation to **Lambton Park**, the top 3 perceived benefits were:

- 25% easy to access (by walking or vehicle)
- 20% a great location to exercise a dog
- 17% convenience for them.

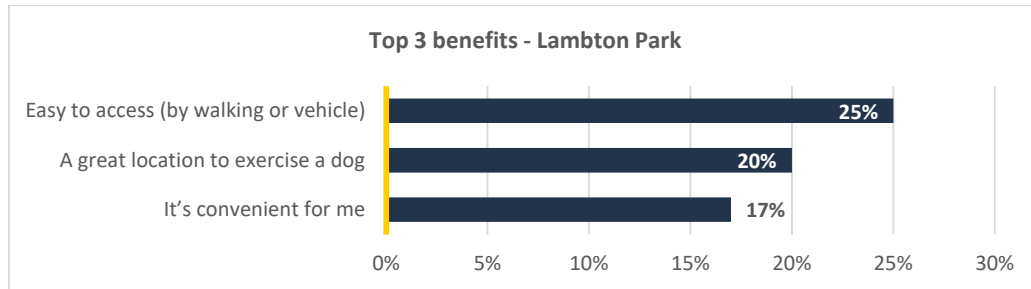


Figure 13 Main (top 3) perceived benefits for Lambton Park

The full list of ‘other’ responses can be found in Appendix 9: Other verbatim responses – main benefits of Lambton Park.

Just over 1 in 3 respondents indicated there were no benefits to either proposed fenced off-leash dog area:

- 32% no benefit – Armstrong Park
- 36% no benefit – Lambton Park .

Perceived concerns for proposed fenced off-leash dog areas at Lambton and Armstrong Parks

All respondents were then asked to select their top 3 concerns or alternatively indicate they did not have any concerns for both proposed off-leash areas.

In relation to **Armstrong Park**, the top 3 concerns were:

- 30% too close to school
- 24% safety / dog attacks on other dogs or people
- 21% smell / people not picking up after their dogs.

There were 29% whom indicated that they had no concerns around a proposed fenced off-leash dog area at Armstrong Park. From the 1,178 (n) respondents to this question, 177 (n) respondents also selected “Other”. The full list of ‘other’ responses can be found in Appendix 10: Other verbatim responses – main concerns of Armstrong Park.

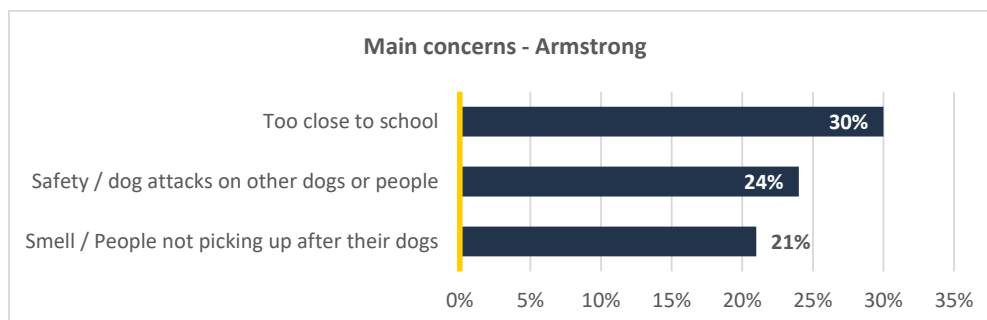


Figure 14 Main (top 3) perceived concerns for Armstrong Park

In relation to **Lambton Park**, the top 3 concerns were:

- 38% the area is used for other recreational purposes
- 25% safety / dog attacks on other dogs or people
- 22% smell / people not picking up after their dogs.

There were also 29% whom indicated that they had no concerns around a proposed fenced off-leash dog area at Lambton Park.

From the 1,178 (n) respondents to this question, 121 (n) respondents also selected “Other”. The full list of ‘other’ responses can be found in Appendix 11: Other verbatim responses – main concerns of Lambton Park.

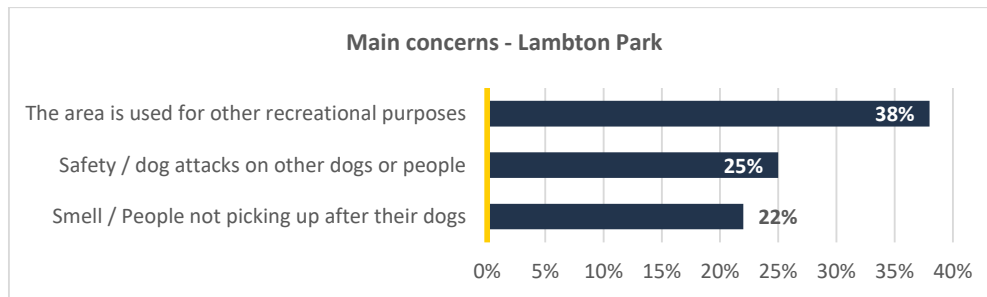


Figure 15 Main (top 3) perceived concerns for Lambton Park

Main features for fenced off-leash dog areas

Respondents were asked to select up to five design features or amenities they would like for a new dog off-leash area.

- The top 5 selected from a list of 10 were:
 - 63% drinking water for dogs
 - 54% trees and shade
 - 47% separate fenced areas for small and large dogs
 - 37% seating
 - 32% car parking.

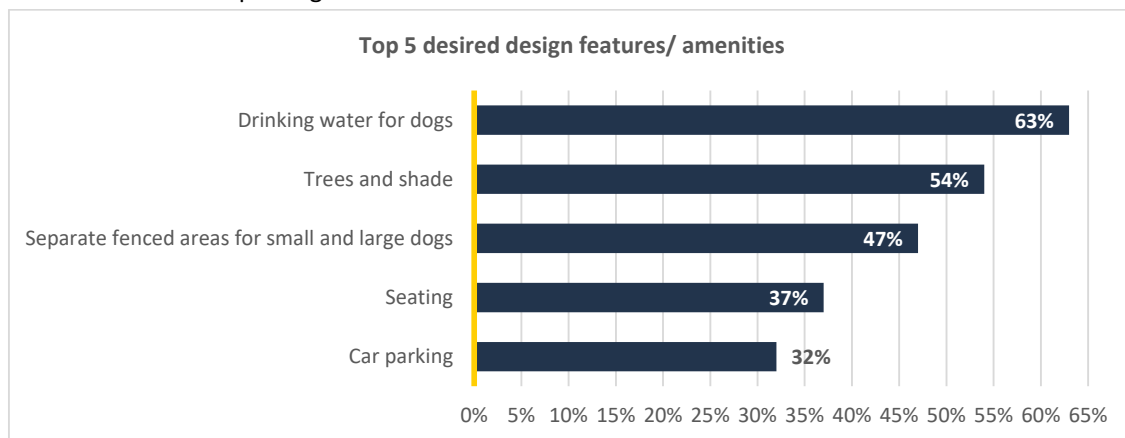


Figure 16 Top 5 design features/amenities desired for a fenced off-leash dog area

Of the 1,178 respondents to this question, 197 respondents selected 'Other'. Bins / poo bins / compost bins and related items such as bags, dispensers and biodegradable bags were mentioned. These findings are similar to the CN 'Dogs in Open Spaces' survey (2018).

The full list of 'other' responses can be found in Appendix 12: Other verbatim responses – desired features for fenced off-leash dog area.

General comments about off-leash dog areas in Lambton

To capture qualitative responses the survey asked respondents if they had any other comments about off-leash dog areas in the Lambton area before ending the survey. The views expressed ranged from support through to opposition with a summary below:

Positive comments:

- Yes please / good idea
- Love the dog park at North Lambton / the park at North Lambton is very popular
- Would be a fantastic addition to Lambton Park
- Any new fenced off area is welcome
- It would be well used
- More are needed / more is good
- Suited for Armstrong Park.

Negative comments:

- Already have one in Lambton / not needed
- Do not ruin Lambton Park with a dog park / don't want a dog park in Lambton
- Look in other suburbs / suggestions of other suburbs / Spread them across the whole LGA area
- Too much going on in in the area already
- Not enough park space already / need amenity for locals
- Location needs rethinking / needs to be in an appropriate area
- Too many dog owners are irresponsible and do not keep their dogs on a leash
- Off lease dog areas are dangerous.

A small sample is provided below from the 874 open-ended comments that were provided, illustrating a diverse range of views around the proposed locations is provided below:

While a dog park in Lambton would be my 'local', I feel that the existing fenced area at Acacia Park is close enough for Lambton residents. Consideration should be given to a fenced dog park in other areas (basically anywhere but Lambton) of the LGA before Lambton.

Fantastic resource to bring the community together! The existing dog park is great, people chat and watching their (or other peoples) dogs play makes them happy.

This area is flat and used for sports during the year - training/ frisbee/ soccer. In the soccer season, we need multiple areas for training locally.

Fully fenced areas allow for safe use by pet owners. Please ensure shade is available and seating also. Pets are a large part of the community, providing companionship for young and old.

No objection to off-leash dog areas providing they are in a suitable area and Lambton Park is not ONE of them

I think the style that is at Islington park is good where it is fenced but doesn't feel like a prison. Having adequate drinking water and bins for people to dispose of rubbish.

All qualitative comments can be found in the Appendices 13 titled Verbatim comments, Lambton Off-leash Dog Area Study – general comments.

5. Next steps

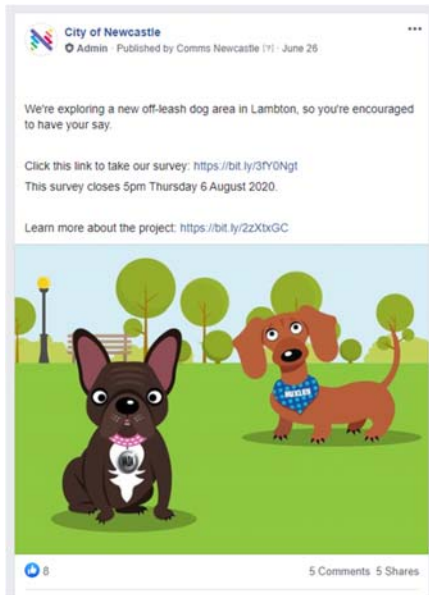
As CN has identified the need for fenced dog parks across the LGA under the City's Dogs in Open Space Plan (DOSP), any decision to implement a fenced dog park in either Lambton Park or Armstrong Park should involve further communication and consultation with the community.

Both Lambton and Armstrong Parks garnered a range of opinions from both local residents and potential users regarding any new dedicated fenced off-leash dog park in the Lambton area. The *Dog Off Leash Site Suitability Criteria* would need to be applied and factors around access, size, impacts on people, further investigated along with more community engagement prior to final site selection and progression to a detailed design.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1: Communications and promotion

Social Media



Print advertisement



Lambton

New off-leash dog park

We know the people of Newcastle are passionate about their dogs and want places for their dogs to safely run free.

Since adopting the Dogs in Open Spaces Plan in 2018, City of Newcastle created our first fenced off-leash dog park at Acacia Avenue and we'd now like to hear your thoughts about a new off-leash area in Lambton.

Let us know your views by 6 August 2020
Visit newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay

Letterboxed flyer



Lambton

New off-leash dog area

We know the people of Newcastle are passionate about their dogs and want places for their dogs to safely run free.

Now is your opportunity to have a say!

Since adopting the Dogs in Open Spaces Plan in 2018, City of Newcastle created our first fenced off-leash dog park at Acacia Avenue.

We'd now like to hear your thoughts about a new off-leash area in Lambton.

Let us know your views by 6 August 2020 by visiting newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay



For enquiries please call 4974 2000
newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay



Corflute



Have your say

Off-leash fenced dog park for Lambton

We know the people of Newcastle are passionate about their dogs and want places for their dogs to safely run free. Now is your opportunity to have a say!

Since adopting the Dogs in Open Spaces Plan in 2016, City of Newcastle created our first fenced off-leash dog park and we now want to know what you think about our proposed site options in Lambton.

View the proposal online and take our survey between 26 June to 21 July 2020 by visiting newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay

Your views will help make sure we get the location right so we can start designing a great fenced dog park.

For enquiries please call 4974 2000

Option A
Amenity Park

Option B
Lambton Park



Have Your Say engagement web

HAVE YOUR SAY
New off-leash dog area - Lambton

We're exploring a new off-leash dog area in Lambton

We know that the people of Newcastle are passionate about their dogs and want places for dogs to safely run free. Since adopting the Dogs in Open Spaces Plan (DOSP) in 2019, City of Newcastle created a large fenced off-leash dog park at Acacia Avenue and has also been exploring a new dog area in Lambton.

When the DOSP was adopted, Council requested that further community engagement on fenced off-leash areas at Lambton Park be carried out, and that alternative locations within the area be considered. We are also looking at creating new fenced off-leash dog parks as identified in the DOSP and these include several other suburbs such as Adamstown, Maryland, Carrington and Mayfield.

Thanks for taking our survey

We are now seeking your feedback on locations for a small scale off-leash dog area in Lambton. Two possible locations are Armstrong Park (Option A) or the western corner of Lambton Park (Option B). You may wish to also suggest another park within Lambton for us to investigate.

The survey and submissions period closed **5pm Monday 10 August 2020**.

Site suitability criteria

All parks are assessed against the following DOSP site suitability criteria:

- Profile and Access** - The site should be central to the population, accessible to vehicles and pedestrians and be easily seen and known by the community. However, dogs off-leash may not be appropriate at high profile sites (due to potential impacts on the site character or other users).
- Size** - The area available for fenced dogs off-leash must be at least 0.5ha in size and the whole site should be at least double this size to allow for other uses, support infrastructure and landscaping.
- Character- Suitability** - The site must be public open space with an open reserve or park character. The site must not be a sports ground or a natural area.
- Impacts on People** - Potential impacts on residents and other reserve users must be minimal, including no risk to children and adults playing sport, walking and cycling, using a play space or pursuing other recreation activities.
- Impacts on Site Character** - There should be minimal impact on the visual appeal, landscape and function of the reserve due to the dedication of an off-leash area or the inclusion of a fenced dog park. This includes ensuring any potential future enhancements to a reserve for recreation, sport or linear connections are not affected by a dog off-leash area.
- Impacts on Natural Environment** - Sensitive natural environments should not be impacted on. This includes site with high biodiversity and environmentally sensitive natural watercourses, wetlands and coastal vegetation, endangered ecological communities and threatened species habitat.

Background

- [Read Council Resolution \(May 8, March 2019\)](#)
- [Read the Council Minutes \(March 2019\)](#)
- [Read 2018 Dogs in Open Spaces community involvement update](#)

Potential site options

- [Potential site options map](#)

Project timeline

- Community engagement opens **25 June 2020**
- Community engagement closes **10 August 2020**
- Public Exhibition **10 August 2020**

[Expand timeline](#)

Contact Us

Engagement Team
 Phone: 02 4974 2000
 Email: engage@ncc.nsw.gov.au

Appendix 2: Online survey

Fenced Dog Park - Lambton Survey

We know that the people of Newcastle are passionate about their dogs and want places for dogs to safely run free. Following on the City of Newcastle's, opening Acacia Avenue Dog Park in 2019 we're looking at other places for dogs to enjoy with their people.

We want to know what you think about the possibility of a new off-leash area in Lambton. This survey will take about 5 minutes to complete.

The Dogs in Open Spaces Plan was adopted by Council in March 2019. When the plan was adopted, Council requested that further community engagement on fenced off-leash areas at Lambton Park be carried out and that alternative locations within the area be considered.

How supportive are you of a new dedicated off-leash space for dogs in the Lambton area?

Looking at the site plans, how supportive are you of each proposed location for a fenced off-leash dog area:

Extremely supportive / Very supportive / Somewhat supportive / Slightly supportive / Not supportive at all

And how supportive are you of a dog off-leash area within Lambton Park?

Extremely supportive / Very supportive / Somewhat supportive / Slightly supportive / Not supportive at all

If a dog off-leash area was created at Lambton Park, would you prefer the area to be a:

dedicated off-leash area (no fences or partially fenced)

fenced off-leash dog area

don't know

We've looked at a number of areas in Lambton as possible locations for fenced off-leash dog areas and we think we've found a couple of good places. The maps above show the location of two potential sites. The maps can also be downloaded.



Looking at the site plans, how supportive are you of a fenced off leash dog area at Armstrong Park:

extremely supportive

very supportive

somewhat supportive

slightly supportive

not supportive at all

Looking at the site plans, how supportive are you of a fenced off leash dog area at Lambton Park:

extremely supportive

very supportive

somewhat supportive

slightly supportive

not supportive at all

Q. Why do you say you are [INSERT RESPONSE] of a fenced off-leash dog area at #Lambton Park (western corner)?

(open ended)

Q. Why do you say you are [INSERT RESPONSE] of a fenced off-leash dog area at #Armstrong Park (western corner)?

(open ended)

Q. Do you own or regularly care for a dog?

Yes

Not right now, but I plan to in future

No

Q. Do you own or regularly care for a dog? : [is Yes OR Not right now, but I plan to in future]

How likely would you be to use a fenced off-leash dog area at:

#Lambton Park (western corner)

Armstrong Park

Definitely / Probably would use / Undecided / Probably not / Definitely would not use / Don't know

LOGIC: If Probably not or Definitely not to Lambton Park

Q. You said that you would NOT use off-leash fenced dog area at #Lambton Park (western corner).

What are your main reasons for not wanting to use #Lambton Park (western corner) fenced off-leash area?

Select up to three main reasons

- I don't have a dog
- Do not take dog to public places
- It's not convenient for me
- Not safe for dog to be off leash
- I'm concerned there would be too many dogs
- Not enough parking

- I'd prefer the space be used for other recreational activities
- Other (please write in)

LOGIC: If Probably not or Definitely not to Armstrong Park

Q. You said that you would NOT use off-leash fenced dog area at #Armstrong Park.

What are your main reasons for not wanting to use #Armstrong Park fenced off-leash area?

Select up to three main reasons

- I don't have a dog
- Do not take dog to public places
- It's not convenient for me
- Not safe for dog to be off leash
- I'm concerned there would be too many dogs
- Not enough parking
- I'd prefer the space be used for other recreational activities
- Other (please write in)

Multiple response

Q. In your view, what are the main benefits of a fenced off-leash dog area at **Lambton Park**?

Select up to three main benefits for Lambton Park. Alternatively, you can select that you do not believe there are any benefits.

- A great location to exercise a dog
- It's convenient for me
- Appropriate for the local neighbourhood
- Plenty of parking
- Appealing setting
- Easy to access (by walking or vehicle)
- Large size of areas
- Openness of the areas
- Irrigated grassed areas
- Other recreation activities nearby

- Path connections
- Facilities within the park (e.g. seating, tables, shelters)
- Other (please write in)
- **No benefits**

Multiple response

Q. In your view, what are the main benefits of a fenced off-leash dog area at **Armstrong Park**?

Select up to three main benefits for Armstrong Park. Alternatively, you can select that you do not believe there are any benefits.

- A great location to exercise a dog
- It's convenient for me
- Appropriate for the local neighbourhood
- Plenty of parking
- Appealing setting
- Easy to access (by walking or vehicle)
- Large size of areas
- Openness of the areas
- Irrigated grassed areas
- Other recreation activities nearby
- Path connections
- Facilities within the park (e.g. seating, tables, shelters)
- Other (please write in)
- No benefits

Multiple response

Q. **What are your main concerns with a fenced off leash dog area at Lambton Park?**

Select up to three main concerns for **Lambton Park**. Alternatively, you can select that you do not have any concerns.

- Dogs barking/noise from fenced off leash areas
- Smell / People not picking up after their dogs
- Often dogs off leash are not kept tidy
- Safety / dog attacks on other dogs or people

- Too many people would use it
- Dogs running out onto nearby roads
- Too close to playground
- Too close to sports fields and facilities
- Too close to school
- Too close to houses
- The area is used for other recreational purposes
- Other (please write in)
- No concerns

Multiple response

Q. What are your main concerns with a fenced off leash dog area at Armstrong Park?

Select up to three main concerns for **Armstrong Park**. Alternatively, you can select that you do not have any concerns.

- Dogs barking / noise from fenced off leash areas
- Smell / People not picking up after their dogs
- Often dogs off leash are not kept tidy
- Safety / dog attacks on other dogs or people
- Too many people would use it
- Dogs running out onto nearby roads
- Too close to playground
- Too close to sports fields and facilities
- Too close to school
- Too close to houses
- **The area is used for other recreational purposes**
- Other (please write in)
- No concerns

Q. Please type in any other areas in Lambton you'd like us to consider. Please be as specific as possible.

Q What features would you like to see included within a fenced dog off leash areas? Select up to five main features.

- Trees and shade

- Seating
- Picnic tables
- Shelters
- Drinking water for dogs
- Agistment equipment (for dogs to play on)
- Fenced area for dogs off leash
- Toilets
- Lighting
- Signage and information
- Car parking
- Don't know
- Other

OE Other main features at existing off leash area

Open Ended: No Validation

To help us understand a bit more about who is using these parks, please tell us about yourself.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Age

What is your age?

- 16-19
- 20-24
- 25-29
- 30-34
- 35-39
- 40-44
- 45-49
- 50-54
- 55-59
- 60-64
- 65-69
- 70-74
- 75+
- Prefer not to say

Gender

- Male
- Female
- Transgender/Intersex/Other
- Prefer not to say

Suburb

Which suburb do you live in?

- Adamstown
- Adamstown Heights
- Bar Beach
- Beresfield
- Birmingham Gardens
- Blackhill/ Lenaghan
- Broadmeadow
- Callaghan
- Carrington
- Cooks Hill
- Elermore Vale
- Fletcher
- Georgetown
- Hamilton
- Hamilton East
- Hamilton North
- Hamilton South
- Hexham
- Islington
- Jesmond
- Kooragang
- Kotara
- Lambton
- Maryland
- Maryville
- Mayfield
- Mayfield East
- Mayfield West
- Merewether
- Merewether Heights
- Minmi
- New Lambton
- New Lambton Heights
- Newcastle (CBD)
- Newcastle East
- Newcastle West
- North Lambton
- Rankin Park
- Sandgate
- Shortland
- Stockton
- Tarro
- The Hill
- The Junction
- Tighes Hill
- Wallsend
- Warabrook
- Waratah
- Waratah West
- Wickham
- Other

Distance from parks, if they live in Lambton

I live a 5 minute walk from Lambton Park

I live a 5 minute walk from Armstrong Park

I live more than a 5 minute walk from Lambton Park

I live more than a 5 minute walk from Armstrong Park

Thank you for completing this survey.