Local dog access rules 2025

WRITTEN FEEDBACK

Ōrākei parks
Volume Three

Date published: **Monday, 7 April 2025**

Sub #	Organisation Name
6493	Mission Bay Kohimarama Residents Association
6970	Dog Friends Auckland

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5568

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Kaipātiki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Why not be allowed to use a field when it’s not in use for sports?

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5572

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5575

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

There are so many well behaved dogs and humans in This area and it’s the one local place they can stretch and play. This must remain a dog safe place, with more bins

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
More bins is the majority of the problem

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5578

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

What difference does it make if the sports fields are an 'off leash area' when not in use? it is one of the joys of the park seeing dogs running freely around chasing balls and each other. Can you please explain why this change is being made.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I think the current rules and regulations are perfect just the way they are. Why is there a sudden discrimination against dogs? Just like so many council rules, changes are made without providing suitable alternatives like dedicated dog parks.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5583

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōtara-Papatoetoe

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

There is not enough room at the edge to let dogs run safely

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5584

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I do not support these proposed restrictions on dogs in parks, sports fields, playgrounds, and car parks. While I understand the need for responsible dog management, these rules seem unnecessarily strict and may negatively impact both dog owners and their pets.

Sports Surfaces & Playgrounds – A complete ban on dogs at all times, even when not in use, is excessive. Many responsible dog owners ensure their dogs do not disrupt activities or leave messes behind. A more balanced approach, such as requiring dogs to be under control during active use, would be fairer.

Leash Requirements in Vicinity – Requiring dogs to be leashed even near playgrounds and sports fields when in use seems restrictive. Many dogs are well-trained to be under voice control, and responsible owners already keep them at a respectful distance.

Car Parks – While safety is important, requiring all dogs to be leashed in car parks at all times may be impractical. Many dogs are trained to walk calmly off-leash from a vehicle to an open space without issue.

Off-Leash Areas – I appreciate that dogs are still allowed off-leash in other parts of the park, but these additional restrictions reduce the already limited spaces where dogs can exercise freely.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

If anything dog policies are far TOO restrictive and we need to provide good spaces for our dogs, the more we do this the better they will be in public. Banning and limiting spaces just causes further anti-social behaviour by dogs.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs should be allowed when sports grounds not in use. The ESAFC does not own the land and should not have complete control over it. There are completely insufficient off leash dog exercise areas and recent summer prohibitions for exercising dogs on our beaches leaves very limited options for healthy happy dog owning families. This proposed removal of freedom for play and proper socialising is extremely distressing for good dog owners

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Kohimarama beach

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Sogs should be allowed to exercise off leash but under control on the beach before 10am all year round as there are

many hours of the day available to those who do not wish to share the space with dog families. There are no bird nesting areas and the need

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Off leash exercise is important and not the same thing at all as slowly wandering along on a lead

Vast majority of dog walkers (during the week at least) pick up all faeces as well as letting each other know if an owner struggles to find theirs, we also p

Location 2

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Mission bay

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

A section of it. Please specify:Beach only

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Dogs need to be able to socialise and run, not just walked on a lead.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Needs of dog families need to be balanced against non dog people through time not blanket restrictions which are more likely to encourage complete disregard of the rules if they are too stupidly and unfairly restrictive

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5590

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Albert-Eden

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5593

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The proposal represents a SIGNIFICANT reduction in the availability of off and on leash dog walking in the eastern bays. As the number of dog owners and dogs has increased since 2020, reducing the area to exercise them is counterproductive. As sports fields have grown to cover the whole park, the ‘balance’ that this proposal seeks to address has been lost. The sports fields are never fully in use - only the front three fields are used. An appropriate compromises would be to ban dogs from the two pitches that front the club house. Please do not take away dog exercise availability just when dog numbers are increasing.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5595

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Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs need to be kept off sports fields at all times, whilst many owners are responsible in clearing their dog's faeces, some are not and even if they are removed there will be residual contamination. None of us should countenance our children playing on contaminated sports fields. Ideally dogs should be on lead in the vicinity of sports fields at all times to reduce the risk of contamination.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5608

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Do Not take this park away from the dog walking community in this suburb!

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5610

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs should allowed under control off a leash on sports surfaces (marked grass sports fields) when NOT in use or not closed. Dogs should allowed under control off a leash at any time on other parts of the Park.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Glover Park**What local board area is this location in?**Ōrākei**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**Entire location**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:credit to great responsible dog owner, dog needs their play time, free run, socialise with others.**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5611

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Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

1. Loss of Community Inclusivity

Shared spaces are meant to serve all members of the community, including dog owners. Restricting access reduces inclusivity and disproportionately affects residents who rely on these areas for pet exercise and social interaction.

2. Negative Impact on Dog Owners

Many dog owners depend on shared spaces for safe and legal exercise areas. A ban could force them to walk their dogs on streets or less suitable areas, leading to safety concerns, overcrowding of remaining dog-friendly spaces, or even non-compliance with the ban.

3. Unfair Use of Public Land

Public spaces should cater to diverse recreational activities. Prioritising only sports teams or organised activities over casual and everyday community use undermines the principle of equitable land use.

4. Potential Overuse & Wear on Sports Fields

If a space is converted to a sports-only field, it may see limited seasonal or scheduled use, leaving it empty much of the time. In contrast, a shared space with dog walkers and casual users ensures continuous community engagement.

5. Increased Conflict & Enforcement Issues

A ban could lead to disputes between residents and local authorities, increasing enforcement costs and potentially leading to confrontations or legal challenges from dog owners.

6. Impact on Mental & Physical Health

Dog walking contributes to physical activity, mental well-being, and social connections. Restricting access can negatively affect elderly, disabled, and lower-income residents who rely on free, local exercise opportunities.

7. Disruption of Established Community Norms

If the space has historically been shared, a sudden ban ignores tradition and long-standing community values. Instead of outright prohibition, better solutions—such as

designated off-leash times, dog-friendly trails, or compromise zones—could balance all users' needs.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5613

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Submission Opposing Restrictions on Dog Access at Madills Farm Reserve

I strongly oppose the proposed changes restricting dog access at Madills Farm Reserve for the following reasons:

Social and Community Benefits

As a daily user of the park, exercising and socializing my dog has been a crucial part of my routine. This space has allowed me to build strong friendships and create a sense of belonging in the community. Before getting my dog, I knew no one in the area and often felt isolated.

During COVID-19 lockdowns, the connections I formed at Madills Farm became my main source of social interaction and emotional support. Since then, I have faced personal health challenges that have temporarily prevented me from walking. The friends I made at the park have helped by visiting me, taking my dog for walks, and even accompanying me to medical appointments. This demonstrates the strong sense of community fostered by this shared space.

Accessibility and Terrain Considerations

The flat terrain of Madills Farm makes it an accessible and safe environment for me to walk. If the restrictions prevent dogs from accessing the sports fields—which remain unused for many hours of the day—it will limit my ability to use the reserve. The alternative area near the road is unsuitable due to its proximity to traffic and its tendency to become excessively muddy and waterlogged in autumn and winter.

Wellbeing of Dogs

Off-leash time at Madills Farm is vital for my dog's wellbeing. It provides him with a safe space away from traffic to exercise, socialize with other dogs, and interact with people. As a responsible dog owner registered with Auckland Council, I understand the importance of these experiences for a dog's mental and physical health.

Personal Safety Concerns

Personal safety is a significant concern, particularly as daylight hours shorten. The alternative areas proposed for dog walking are less secure due to their isolation and proximity to trees. Just this week, while having a picnic at Madills Farm, I witnessed three

youths attempting to evade a police helicopter by moving through the creek area. Had I been walking alone in that section of the park, I would have felt extremely vulnerable.

Tamaki Drive is no longer a viable option for walking due to congestion from cyclists, scooters, and pedestrians, including families with prams. Similarly, the beach is not a practical alternative, as the soft sand makes walking difficult, and the space is already heavily used by the public.

Concerns Regarding the Sports Club's Claims

I have concerns that the Eastern Suburbs Association Football Club (ESAFC) has provided misleading or exaggerated information to both its members and the Local Board. This includes:

The actual area occupied by sports fields,

The cost of repairing any alleged damage caused by dogs, and

The extent and cost of injuries to players due to dogs.

Before any decision is made, it is essential that accurate information be provided by ESAFC to both its members and Auckland Council.

Conclusion

I urge Auckland Council to maintain the current access rules at Madills Farm Reserve and preserve this space for all members of the community—both human and canine—to enjoy.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

It's a fair point that pets, especially dogs, play a huge role in reducing loneliness, so it would be concerning if the new laws made pet ownership more difficult or less enjoyable.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5619

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Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

There are several reasons why banning dogs from a shared community space in favour of sports fields is a bad idea:

1. Unfair Blame on Dogs – As you pointed out, the suggestion that dogs are responsible for field damage is weak. Poor drainage, heavy foot traffic, cleats, and seasonal weather conditions are the real culprits. Blaming dogs is an easy scapegoat rather than addressing the actual maintenance issues.

2. Loss of Shared Community Space – These spaces have traditionally been shared by the entire community, including dog owners. Excluding a significant group disrupts the balance of use and prioritises one activity (sports) over others.

3. Sports Fields Are Already Under Pressure – High-intensity sports, especially in winter, cause far more damage than occasional dog walkers. The focus should be on improving field drainage, rotating field usage, and investing in proper upkeep rather than banning dogs.

4. Community Harmony – Shared spaces work because they accommodate a variety of activities. Banning dogs creates unnecessary division in the community and prioritises one group over others, setting a precedent for further restrictions.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5621

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

When there is no sport on, there is no reason to prohibit people using the fields to exercise their dogs

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs should not be prohibited on sport surfaces as usual. They should be allowed with a leash at minimum. And they should be free to walk on the allocated pathways alongside people.

I agree dogs should not be allowed in playgrounds.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5623

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5628

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Howick

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

It is a huge area to lose and no alternative offered. There are already rules in place so sports users are not endangered and surfaces not damaged.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5638

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs should be kept away from people who are engaged in activities other than walking dogs.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

In my experience, dog owners do not like to be challenged when they have their dog off-leash in an on-leash area and some can get quite rude and aggressive. If it were a requirement that a dog's registration number had to be clearly visible on its collar or branded into its coat, then it would be possible for members of the public to lay a complaint about breaches of rules, including when an owner does not clean up a dog's excrement, which is such a disgusting thing to find in a park, on a beach or in another public open space.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5639

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

When sports fields are not in use there is no good reason why dogs should be prohibited from enjoying the area. Furthermore, once they are off leash it would be virtually impossible to stop them running into the field. These proposed restrictions are unrealistic and unfair on dog owners and their dogs. Madills Farm is a wonderful community hub for people walking their dogs and is known as such around the entire region. It is a huge asset to the community in this way. Sports and dog walking can co exist without one taking priority over the other. Most dog owners are careful and respectful and the proposed changes are unnecessary.

I am not entirely sure what is motivating the proposal to ban dogs from sports fields when they are not in use, however I would like to offer some thoughts on possible solutions which do not involve banning dogs from Madills Farm sports fields.

Firstly, keeping the dog litter bags replenished would be great, as even the most careful owner is sometimes caught short without a dog litter bag. This is a simple and inexpensive way of helping to keep things clean.

Secondly, I am not aware of any dog damage to sports fields but if there is then it is hard to understand why the local council does not see this as part of its regular maintenance in the same way that fixing the fields from players' use is regarded this way. To elevate sport above dogs is unfair. Both are recreational and both provide enjoyment in their own way to people and to the community.

Thirdly, if there are any incidents of unacceptable behaviour by dogs or their owners then sanctions for breaches can be increased/enoforced, rather than a blanket taking away of a huge asset for everyone.

I have walked in Madills Farm almost every single day for 18 years. I have never once witnessed dogs/dog owners behaving inappropriately.

On the contrary, I see a joyful community where dogs have a positive influence on people and on social connection. I see young and old enjoying dogs, people of all ethnicities enjoying dogs, and well behaved dogs loving their opportunity to run free and 'make friends' with other dogs (resulting in social connections also among their owners). This is a precious treasure for our community in a day and age where things are tough for many. It also has a positive flow-on effect for people's mental health.

I have never seen a dog interrupting a sports game or creating disruption. Most of the time sports games are not on, and frankly it is ridiculous to expect that dogs are not allowed on the fields 24/7 when those fields would for most of the time be just vacant spaces.

I would also like to note that our rates are high in this area and our dog registrations are costly. We expect to get something in return for this, and rightly so. Taking away this precious benefit will be a huge blow for many, many people and their dogs.

I saw a photo of a sign on facebook indicating that the decision to prohibit dogs from Madills farm sports fields has already been made. I do really hope that this process is genuine and not predetermined.

This proposal - banning dogs from sports fields at Madills farm - is just wrong on so many levels. Please stop it from going ahead, for our community's sake.

Some further final comments, now that I have had the opportunity to read Auckland Council's letter to Phil Mhyre dated 21 January 2025 about alleged health and safety risks being a reason for the proposal to ban dogs from sports fields.

The so-called health and safety risks appear to be based entirely on speculation. There is no evidence that dogs digging holes in the sports fields caused 27 rolled ankles by sports players at Madills Farm. There is no evidence of dogs being injured by lawn mowers or being sprayed by dangerous chemicals. I note that the Council describes them as "near misses" with no evidence of just how "near" the "misses" actually were.

Frankly, it would be a travesty of justice if the local Board takes into account so-called health and safety risks which have no evidence to back them up and appear to be completely spurious.

Are young children and old people not also at risk of incidents with lawn mowers and chemical sprays? They are not being banned from sports fields when they are not in use. Nor should dogs be based on such speculative claims.

How can the rolled ankles be blamed on dogs when they could have occurred for a multitude of other reasons? Is this driven by the sports' clubs' desires for domination over the dog-friendly parks? In all my years of walking around Madills Farm on an almost daily basis I have never once seen any dog digging a hole in a sports field.

I urge the local Board to consider countervailing health and safety risks if dogs are banned from sports fields. Madills Farm is a place of joy for our community - where young, old, and people of many diversities gather to play and enjoy their dogs. It is also a place that many dogs understand to be their recreational home, where they can run freely to 'let off steam' and they are better pets for their owners because of it. If this is taken away I am sure there will be downstream effects on the physical and mental health of members of

our community. Things are really tough for many people out in our community right now. Madills Farm is like a 'saving grace'. A place where people can go with their dogs away from the pressures of every-day life. Please do not take this away from our community.

Respectfully, common sense really is required here. The proposal should be halted immediately.

Incidentally, I was at Madills Farm tonight - what a beautiful evening, and the vast empty sports fields stretched as far as the eye could see. A few dogs were enjoying the huge empty space. This is what it is like for the majority of the time. What a waste of this community space if dogs are banned from it.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
No thank you

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5642

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I disagree with restricting access to public spaces for part of the community. Prohibiting dogs from public recreation areas, especially when they are not in use, seems an unnecessarily restrictive measure for responsible dog owners.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
I think we should allow for more off-lead areas for dog walking.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5647

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Howick

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5650

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

While dogs should absolutely be prohibited on a field while in use, or on a leash if nearby they should be allowed off leash when the fields are not in use. Dog owners in the area pay rates like any sports user of the park and deserve to utilise the park to play with and exercise their pets in a safer environment than the edges of Madills that are closer to busy roads.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5652

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

When the sports fields are not being used, dogs should be allowed to use them off lease

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Summer times are very hot for dogs - please allow some access during the day at at least some beaches so that dogs can swim. The current hours for dogs on beaches over summer are too restrictive

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5661

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Franklin

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
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3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Responsible dog owners should be able to walk their dogs here. Stop limiting the good owners and restricting them. It is not fair on them or the dogs.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5665

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs can not only be a nuisance but a health and safety issue.. All dog owners think their dogs are well behaved but in reality the vast majority have never had training and refuse to obey owners commands. Parks are for people, not animals.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Please refer my comments about my local parks. They also apply to all Auckland parks and Regional pay. Our dog bylaws are far too liberal and I support the proposed changes.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5670

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5677

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

This is a thriving community of dog walkers, may elderly people who enjoy the flat easy access and is the one place we feel safe in off leash walking in our area. The preposterous proposal ignores a the needs a of a large segment of ratepayers, many who have bought their homes nearby to be able to use this area. This is another attempt at ignoring the needs of rate payers over some ill though through ideology.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Leave the poor dog walkers alone! There are many more pressing issues to deal with and soon we will not be allowed to leave our houses with the precious pets we love and nurture.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5683

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

proposed dog bylaw rules.

Dogs have been walked in this park as long as I can remember.

Why is this particular group of the public being picked on and squeezed out. And I note it is Auckland wide. You could have chosen any one of the scores of people who use the park, cyclists, cricketers, soccer players, I am an eastern suburbs resident and live on the edge of Glover Park. I do not own a dog but am submitting in opposition to the runners, picnickers with BBQ's, etc. why this particular group.

If your argument is the damage, sports teams are far more destructive to the field than anything else.

If it's a dog poo issue then a few fines should bring them into line.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5689

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I do not support the proposed change to Madills Farm management plan to restrict access to dogs walking off-leash on the sports fields when not in use.

We regularly walk our dog off leash at Madiils Farm on the sides of the sports fields,

This park has worked well with sport, community use (e.g. picnics) and dog walking off leash for many years, since 1929. Madills Farm is a community meeting point for people both for sport and general recreation use.

Many people use it for exercise for walking on a regular basis, more so than those playing organised sport especially in winter.

Before this proposal was raised there were few fields marked at Madills Farm and this worked well with the mix of sport and dog walking. Without notice, more fields were added and marked up so now there is minimal area for people to walk and dogs to run off leash. Sport was not usually played on the marked up areas of Madills Farm.

It is important for everyone to use to continue to enjoy the park and have access to walk their dogs off leash. There are many other parks setup for sports and don't allow general recreation that could be used , e.g. Colin Maiden park and Oceania Football Confederation fields. These are very rarely busy.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Glover Park access has also had restrictions for off leash dog walking. This also should be reconsidered as there are limited areas and times that dogs can be walked off leash.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5693

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

This park (Madills Farm) is a regular spot for my elderly father-in-law and us to walk our dog. It provides much-needed exercise and socialization for the dogs, while also offering a space for dog owners to connect, benefiting everyone's mental and physical well-being. These interactions provide valuable socialization opportunities for both the dogs and their owners, fostering a sense of community and improving mental health for everyone involved.

We are mindful of park etiquette, such as avoiding the area during games, ensuring mutual respect among park users.

Auckland already has limited off-leash parks, and reducing these spaces would create frustration for responsible pet owners who rely on them.

As responsible pet owners, we contribute financially to the Auckland Council through registration fees, and it is disheartening to feel that we are not being considered when it comes to maintaining accessible off-leash spaces. The loss of this park and all the other parks would undoubtedly cause frustration for many dog owners, who rely on it for the health and happiness of their pets.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Madills Farm

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I am very concern over the potential loss of number of off-leash areas. Auckland already has limited off-leash parks and reducing these will only lead to more frustrated dog owners and stressed pets. There are plenty of on-leash areas, but spaces where dogs can freely socialise, are vital for responsible dog owners who follow the rules and contribute through registration fees. Limiting the number of off-leash spaces will only lead to more congestion at existing areas, making them less enjoyable for both pets and their owners. Additionally, it will increase travel costs—not only financially but also environmentally—if people are forced to drive further for access to off-leash areas.

It's disheartening to feel that we're not being given more consideration, and such a change would cause frustration for many in our community. I urge the council to reconsider any plans to reduce off-leash spaces.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5694

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

There’re already enough limits to avoid any possible incidents. When not used the sport grounds can be used by dogs

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5695

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I am very concern over the potential loss of number of off-leash areas. Auckland already has limited off-leash parks and reducing these will only lead to more frustrated dog owners and stressed pets. There are plenty of on-leash areas, but spaces where dogs can freely socialise, are vital for responsible dog owners who follow the rules and contribute through registration fees. Limiting the number of off-leash spaces will only lead to more congestion at existing areas, making them less enjoyable for both pets and their owners. Additionally, it will increase travel costs—not only financially but also environmentally—if people are forced to drive further for access to off-leash areas.

It's disheartening to feel that we're not being given more consideration, and such a change would cause frustration for many in our community. I urge the council to reconsider any plans to reduce off-leash spaces.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5698

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Kaipātiki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I use both Glover Park and Madills Farm.

Glover Park.: Occluding the sports area means that all is left is the grassy slopes around the centre (flat sports field). Not suitable for chasing balls and running around. I am elderly, and cannot negotiate the slopes. The corner by the playground is flat but becomes very boggy after rain and in Winter.

Madills Farm: The areas left for dogs, , Once the Sports field is occluded are alongside the roads, and is dangerous for dogs

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Marlborough Park Glenfield**What local board area is this location in?**Kaipātiki**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**A section of it. Please specify:Area under the trees, on north side.**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Area under trees not in use much by people. Area is separate from the picnic areas and playgrounds.**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**Good area for dogs to play. Separate from the picnic area, general play area, playgrounds.

Location 2

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Onepoto Domain

What local board area is this location in?

Kaipātiki

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

A section of it. Please specify:Area west of the Lake

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Area west of the Lake is hardly ever used. A large flat area is ideal for off leash dogs. Not many flat off leash areas on the North Shore. There is a separate sports ground, and a separate playground.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Area west of the Lake is hardly ever used. A large flat area is ideal for off leash dogs. Not many flat off leash areas on the North Shore. There is a separate sports ground, and a separate playground.

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5699

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I strongly oppose the proposal to prohibit dogs from the playing fields at Madills Farm at all times. This decision effectively eliminates off-leash walking opportunities, as the fields make up most of the park.

Madills Farm is a regular spot for my elderly father to walk his dog, providing much-needed exercise and socialization for both dogs and their owners. These interactions foster a sense of community and improve mental and physical well-being for many residents.

Responsible dog owners are mindful of park etiquette, avoiding the area during games and ensuring mutual respect among all park users.

It is disheartening that responsible pet owners, who contribute financially to Auckland Council through registration fees, are not being considered in maintaining accessible off-leash spaces. The loss of this park as an off-leash area would be a significant loss for many dog owners who rely on it for their pets' health and happiness.

The large off-leash area at Madills Farm is an invaluable community resource that provides:

- Accessibility for all: The flat grounds are ideal for older adults and individuals with mobility challenges, allowing them to exercise their pets and connect with others.

- Safety and security: The off-leash area is naturally shielded from traffic by a small hill, creating a safe space for dogs, particularly puppies. Additionally, on-field lighting offers a secure environment for women walking their dogs during darker winter months.

- Reduced pressure on other public spaces: This designated area helps alleviate demand on nearby locations such as Kohimarama Beach.

Madills Farm is a vibrant community hub where both dog owners and non-dog owners come together. Restricting access forces dogs and their owners into unsafe areas near roads and undermines the park's role as a shared space. These changes prioritize single-use sports activities over a balanced, inclusive approach to public space management.

I urge Auckland Council to rethink this proposal and find a fair solution that balances recreational sports with responsible dog ownership, ensuring equitable access for all park users.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5704

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Responsible dog owners will pick up

pooh and the park represents a great space for dog exercise when not in use for sport. The current rules strike a fair balance. No need for change.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5709

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

We use both Glover and Maddills to exercise our dogs off leash, and our son plays football for Eastern suburbs and he trains at both parks during the week. In the 10 years we have been using the parks I have observed dogs playing happily as the football and cricket teams play and train. There are large portions of the day when no one is using the park for sports purposes and I cannot understand why dogs would not be allowed off leash in these areas during this time. If the proposed changes come into effect this will force more dogs down to the beaches so they can run off leash which is a more challenging environment to control a dog, there are often very young children on the beach, and it is unsafe for dogs because they are very close to Tamaki drive. What we have today works so please don’t change it.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5712

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Hibiscus and Bays

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am also deeply concerned by Auckland Council’s plan to increase on-leash and dog-free areas. These restrictions further reduce dogs' access to exercise and socialisation—key factors in preventing behavioural issues. It seems clear that dog welfare is not the Council’s priority, as these proposals not only limit safe exercise spaces but also restrict access to trained professionals who can provide it.

a key factors of animal welfare are the “5 freedoms", one of these main pillars is freedom to express natural behavior. it is natural for a dog to run freely!

I think there has been an overall lack of insight from professionals in the animal welfare, medical, training and walking community.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I think it is very important to protect native wild life and especially breeding areas. but I am also deeply concerned by Auckland Council’s plan to increase on-leash and dog-free areas. These restrictions further reduce dogs' access to exercise and socialisation—key factors in preventing behavioural issues. It seems clear that dog welfare is not the Council’s priority, as these proposals not only limit safe exercise spaces but also restrict access to trained professionals who can provide it.

a key factors of animal welfare are the “5 freedoms", one of these main pillars is freedom to express natural behavior. it is natural for a dog to run freely!

I think there has been an overall lack of insight from professionals in the animal welfare, medical, training and walking community.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5716

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills park is so close to our heart. It is where we see our furbabies have fun and run free . Everyone is so lovely and helpful. It make the community nice and not only for dogs it also help us unwind and see them Run around and have fun is the most beautiful thing we can see in these times

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Please don’t take away our happiness with us .

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5719

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Kaipātiki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

Other (please explain below)

Tell us why

Madills Farm. Hardly room left for off leash dogs.

Glover Park. Only room left is very slopy.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Onepoto Domain**What local board area is this location in?**Kaipātiki**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**A section of it. Please specify:West of the Lake**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:There is a large flat area, which is hardly used, west of the Lake.**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**There is a large flat area, which is hardly used, west of the Lake.

Location 2

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Marlborough Park Glenfield

What local board area is this location in?

Kaipātiki

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

A section of it. Please specify:In the tree d area

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Not many off leash areas on the North Shore, which is flat and easily accessible. This area is separate from the picnic area, also the childrens playground, and sports area.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Not many off leash areas on the North Shore which is flat, and easily accessible. Good for elderly people.

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5725

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

As above we need somewhere to take our dogs to socialise, spend tlme with children etc. Most are responsible dog owners this is a ground fir all not just a sports field. I have had 2 generations of children playing sport at madills and dog walking with children and grandchildren over the past 35 years it is part of our life. Be tragic if future generation cannot experience the joy of doing both. Infill housing has destroyed the area and people need somewhere to take their dogs as no dog parks easily accessible and beach access so restricted over summer - we need to encourage health outdoors familt and pet time nit listen to a few anti people who are against everything anyway -

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5727

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Because the council has a far too heavy handed draconian approach to dog access to parks in general. This is yet another example of the dwindling number of parks where dogs can go. Most people are responsible and pick up their poo. This field is a regular for so many locals and their dogs. As ratepayers we have a right to have access to exercise our dogs in parks.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Okahu bay sports fields

What local board area is this location in?

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

A section of it. Please specify:Sports fields

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Too many limitations on dog access generally. Auckland Council are far too heavy handed and draconian with dog access rules and this is another example. It feels like dogs are not allowed anywhere.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Auckland council have far too many restrictions across Auckland where dogs can go.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5729

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Families with their calm dogs like to watch the games together.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5730

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Submission on Proposed Changes to Dog Access at Madills Farm

To: Auckland Council

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Restrictions on Dog Access at Madills Farm Dog

Madills Farm and Recreation Reserve is a unique and shared community space which should remain wholly accessible to all in our community as it was gifted to the community not a sports club.

This submission is made in the strongest possible opposition to the planned changes proposed by the Ōrākei Local Board which effectively ban dogs from the majority of the community space.

The first part, will highlight the significance of the Recreation Reserve to the large community of dog owners who regularly use the farm, often for more than exercise.

The submission will also strongly refute the claims that dogs have damaged the turf by digging holes which have caused soccer players to roll ankles and injury themselves. ACC figures regarding injuries to soccer players will be presented as will the findings in 2024 Ōrākei Local Board annual report re the reasons for unsatisfactory ground conditions, which are blamed on bad weather and subsequent lack of maintenance.

The magic of dogs at Madills centres around wellbeing and community.

Off leash exercise for dogs is vital for their fitness, socialisation and mental well being. It is a special place for new dog owners wanting to socialise puppies so they will be happy and well rounded dogs.

The off leash exercise is also hugely beneficial to dog owners who can freely exercise and experience the benefits exercise provides physically, mentally and emotionally.

Madills is a safe environment for women provides a safe environment for puppies to be socialised and dogs are to learn to ‘play’ together.

We have also seen a significant number of families who don’t have dogs come to the park to teach their kids how to engage correctly with dogs.

At times - holidays, mornings and on public holidays the reserve is used almost exclusively as a community space. Friendships and support groups for lonely, marginalised and neurodivergent people have formed over the years and they remain strong today. The dogs bring the groups together in a relaxed and respectful way and having them off leash on the fields is important and it seems ridiculous to suggest that when the fields are not being used, they are out of bounds to dog owners and their animals.

Angus McPhee suggested the change was to bring the OLB parks into line with other ‘sport fields’ in Auckland. Madills is a recreational reserve not a sport ground and this is not communist China - we do not need one rule for ALL! There are plenty of special spaces in Akl with unique rules and Madills should remain on of these as the original gift intended.

ACC figures show a soccer related injuries come second behind rugby- no mention of holes dug by dogs as causing this huge number of claims! It is a fallacy that dogs are digging holes that cause all the soccer injuries!

The OLB annual report tabled last year clearly blames the weather, water table and lack of maintenance for the lower than required level of satisfaction about the state of our parks from ratepayers. Again, no mention of dogs damaging the fields.

As a ratepayer with a registered dog, I have repeatedly asked Sarah Powrie for information around dog registration and revenue figures and future numbers for the OLB area. She has not provided me with this information which is disappointing. Other people have suggested 7,500 dogs are registered in the OLB - is this the highest in Akl? We are a compliant community which no doubt generates significant revenue for the council and as such expect education to be provided for dog owners who don’t follow the rules! I.e. if dogs are digging holes and owners not picking up after their dogs.

Recommendations

• Maintain Current Dog Access: Retain the existing dog access rules to preserve the balance between pet owners and other park users.

• Community consultation, celebration and education to engage the community and celebrate and education dogs and their owners.

Conclusion

Restricting dog access at Madills Farm would adversely affect the community and contradict the reserve’s original purpose. I urge Auckland Council to not support the proposed changes and prioritize the well-being of all community members, while also ensuring fair access for both sports and recreational activities. We should consider

balanced solutions that support both the care of the fields and the needs of the community.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Submission on Proposed Changes to Dog Access at Madills Farm

To: Auckland Council

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Restrictions on Dog Access at Madills Farm Dog

Madills Farm and Recreation Reserve is a unique and shared community space which should remain wholly accessible to all in our community as it was gifted to the community not a sports club.

This submission is made in the strongest possible opposition to the planned changes proposed by the Ōrākei Local Board which effectively ban dogs from the majority of the community space.

The first part, will highlight the significance of the Recreation Reserve to the large community of dog owners who regularly use the farm, often for more than exercise.

The submission will also strongly refute the claims that dogs have damaged the turf by digging holes which have caused soccer players to roll ankles and injury themselves. ACC figures regarding injuries to soccer players will be presented as will the findings in 2024 Ōrākei Local Board annual report re the reasons for unsatisfactory ground conditions, which are blamed on bad weather and subsequent lack of maintenance.

The magic of dogs at Madills centres around wellbeing and community.

Off leash exercise for dogs is vital for their fitness, socialisation and mental well being. It is a special place for new dog owners wanting to socialise puppies so they will be happy and well rounded dogs.

The off leash exercise is also hugely beneficial to dog owners who can freely exercise and experience the benefits exercise provides physically, mentally and emotionally.

Madills is a safe environment for women provides a safe environment for puppies to be socialised and dogs are to learn to ‘play’ together.

We have also seen a significant number of families who don’t have dogs come to the park to teach their kids how to engage correctly with dogs.

At times - holidays, mornings and on public holidays the reserve is used almost exclusively as a community space. Friendships and support groups for lonely, marginalised and neurodivergent people have formed over the years and they remain strong today. The dogs bring the groups together in a relaxed and respectful way and having them off leash on the fields is important and it seems ridiculous to suggest that when the fields are not being used, they are out of bounds to dog owners and their animals.

Angus McPhee suggested the change was to bring the OLB parks into line with other ‘sport fields’ in Auckland. Madills is a recreational reserve not a sport ground and this is not communist China - we do not need one rule for ALL! There are plenty of special spaces in Akl with unique rules and Madills should remain on of these as the original gift intended.

ACC figures show a soccer related injuries come second behind rugby- no mention of holes dug by dogs as causing this huge number of claims! It is a fallacy that dogs are digging holes that cause all the soccer injuries!

The OLB annual report tabled last year clearly blames the weather, water table and lack of maintenance for the lower than required level of satisfaction about the state of our parks from ratepayers. Again, no mention of dogs damaging the fields.

As a ratepayer with a registered dog, I have repeatedly asked Sarah Powrie for information around dog registration and revenue figures and future numbers for the OLB area. She has not provided me with this information which is disappointing. Other people have suggested 7,500 dogs are registered in the OLB - is this the highest in Akl? We are a compliant community which no doubt generates significant revenue for the council and as such expect education to be provided for dog owners who don't follow the rules! I.e. if dogs are digging holes and owners not picking up after their dogs.

Recommendations

• Maintain Current Dog Access: Retain the existing dog access rules to preserve the balance between pet owners and other park users.

• Community consultation, celebration and education to engage the community and celebrate and education dogs and their owners.

Conclusion

Restricting dog access at Madills Farm would adversely affect the community and contradict the reserve's original purpose. I urge Auckland Council to not support the proposed changes and prioritize the well-being of all community members, while also ensuring fair access for both sports and recreational activities. We should consider balanced solutions that support both the care of the fields and the needs of the community.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5733

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

This park is one of few in the area that it is possible to let a dog off leash in a safe environment. Especially in summer when the beach is off limits most of the day. There are so few parks in the area where dogs can be free to run around. Most dog owners who walk here are respectful, abid by the current rules and pick up after their dog.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Please don’t stop dog access to madils.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5735

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Submission on Proposed Changes to Dog Access at Madills Farm

To: Auckland Council

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Restrictions on Dog Access at Madills Farm Dog

Madills Farm and Recreation Reserve is a unique and shared community space which should remain wholly accessible to all in our community as it was gifted to the community not a sports club.

This submission is made in the strongest possible opposition to the planned changes proposed by the Ōrākei Local Board which effectively ban dogs from the majority of the community space.

The first part, will highlight the significance of the Recreation Reserve to the large community of dog owners who regularly use the farm, often for more than exercise.

The submission will also strongly refute the claims that dogs have damaged the turf by digging holes which have caused soccer players to roll ankles and injury themselves. ACC figures regarding injuries to soccer players will be presented as will the findings in 2024 Ōrākei Local Board annual report re the reasons for unsatisfactory ground conditions, which are blamed on bad weather and subsequent lack of maintenance.

The magic of dogs at Madills centres around wellbeing and community.

Off leash exercise for dogs is vital for their fitness, socialisation and mental well being. It is a special place for new dog owners wanting to socialise puppies so they will be happy and well rounded dogs.

The off leash exercise is also hugely beneficial to dog owners who can freely exercise and experience the benefits exercise provides physically, mentally and emotionally.

Madills is a safe environment for women provides a safe environment for puppies to be socialised and dogs are to learn to ‘play’ together.

We have also seen a significant number of families who don’t have dogs come to the park to teach their kids how to engage correctly with dogs.

At times - holidays, mornings and on public holidays the reserve is used almost exclusively as a community space. Friendships and support groups for lonely, marginalised and neurodivergent people have formed over the years and they remain strong today. The dogs bring the groups together in a relaxed and respectful way and having them off leash on the fields is important and it seems ridiculous to suggest that when the fields are not being used, they are out of bounds to dog owners and their animals.

Angus McPhee suggested the change was to bring the OLB parks into line with other ‘sport fields’ in Auckland. Madills is a recreational reserve not a sport ground and this is not communist China - we do not need one rule for ALL! There are plenty of special spaces in Akl with unique rules and Madills should remain on of these as the original gift intended.

ACC figures show a soccer related injuries come second behind rugby- no mention of holes dug by dogs as causing this huge number of claims! It is a fallacy that dogs are digging holes that cause all the soccer injuries!

The OLB annual report tabled last year clearly blames the weather, water table and lack of maintenance for the lower than required level of satisfaction about the state of our parks from ratepayers. Again, no mention of dogs damaging the fields.

As a ratepayer with a registered dog, I have repeatedly asked Sarah Powrie for information around dog registration and revenue figures and future numbers for the OLB area. She has not provided me with this information which is disappointing. Other people have suggested 7,500 dogs are registered in the OLB - is this the highest in Akl? We are a compliant community which no doubt generates significant revenue for the council and as such expect education to be provided for dog owners who don’t follow the rules! I.e. if dogs are digging holes and owners not picking up after their dogs.

Recommendations

• Maintain Current Dog Access: Retain the existing dog access rules to preserve the balance between pet owners and other park users.

• Community consultation, celebration and education to engage the community and celebrate and education dogs and their owners.

Conclusion

Restricting dog access at Madills Farm would adversely affect the community and contradict the reserve’s original purpose. I urge Auckland Council to not support the proposed changes and prioritize the well-being of all community members, while also ensuring fair access for both sports and recreational activities. We should consider

balanced solutions that support both the care of the fields and the needs of the community.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Submission on Proposed Changes to Dog Access at Madills Farm

To: Auckland Council

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Restrictions on Dog Access at Madills Farm Dog

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Madills is a safe environment for women provides a safe environment for puppies to be socialised and dogs are to learn to ‘play’ together.

We have also seen a significant number of families who don’t have dogs come to the park to teach their kids how to engage correctly with dogs.

At times - holidays, mornings and on public holidays the reserve is used almost exclusively as a community space. Friendships and support groups for lonely, marginalised and neurodivergent people have formed over the years and they remain strong today. The dogs bring the groups together in a relaxed and respectful way and having them off leash on the fields is important and it seems ridiculous to suggest that when the fields are not being used, they are out of bounds to dog owners and their animals.

Angus McPhee suggested the change was to bring the OLB parks into line with other ‘sport fields’ in Auckland. Madills is a recreational reserve not a sport ground and this is not communist China - we do not need one rule for ALL! There are plenty of special spaces in Akl with unique rules and Madills should remain on of these as the original gift intended.

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Recommendations

• Maintain Current Dog Access: Retain the existing dog access rules to preserve the balance between pet owners and other park users.

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Conclusion

Restricting dog access at Madills Farm would adversely affect the community and contradict the reserve's original purpose. I urge Auckland Council to not support the proposed changes and prioritize the well-being of all community members, while also ensuring fair access for both sports and recreational activities. We should consider balanced solutions that support both the care of the fields and the needs of the community.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5738

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5739

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Submission on Proposed Changes to Dog Access at Madills Farm

To: Auckland Council

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Restrictions on Dog Access at Madills Farm Dog

Madills Farm and Recreation Reserve is a unique and shared community space which should remain wholly accessible to all in our community as it was gifted to the community not a sports club.

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Madills is a safe environment for women provides a safe environment for puppies to be socialised and dogs are to learn to ‘play’ together.

We have also seen a significant number of families who don’t have dogs come to the park to teach their kids how to engage correctly with dogs.

At times - holidays, mornings and on public holidays the reserve is used almost exclusively as a community space. Friendships and support groups for lonely, marginalised and neurodivergent people have formed over the years and they remain strong today. The dogs bring the groups together in a relaxed and respectful way and having them off leash on the fields is important and it seems ridiculous to suggest that when the fields are not being used, they are out of bounds to dog owners and their animals.

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Recommendations

• Maintain Current Dog Access: Retain the existing dog access rules to preserve the balance between pet owners and other park users.

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Conclusion

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balanced solutions that support both the care of the fields and the needs of the community.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

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Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5740

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The main difference is dog owners will no longer be allowed to spectate with their dog on a leash as you're proposing that they are prohibited. It's extremely frustrating that proposing such a rule is not aligned with creating a fenced off off leash area of the park so dog walkers could safely use the same facilities.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

N/A

What local board area is this location in?

I don't know

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

I don't know

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Please consider reviewing how many dog owners you will be restricting access to. Also take the time to consider learning how other countries responsibly incorporate fenced off leash areas into their cities.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5742

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

We are so far behind the bigger country's who embrace dogs as family. Responsible dog owners respect the rules and train our dogs well. We love the freedom of these parks and need this space for our fur family. Please don't change the rules 🙏

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Just don't take it away .... we pay for the use of these areas and taking this from us is punitive. Think again please!

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5743

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

This is the only all-seasons off-lease area in the area. The last proposed rule "Dogs allowed under control off a leash on other parts of the Park" is effectively meaningless since the first two rules state "in the vicinity" which can be read as the entire park.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5746

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Organisation (if applicable):

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

We are restricted enough in the places we can walk our beloved dogs

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

It would be so frustrating if council restricts access to dog parks and beaches any more than we have already.

One thing you could do is ban certain dog types.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5747

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

This is a public park used at all times of every day to a large number of locals with their dogs. To limit it to use only when sports grounds are in use is to deprive the community from their facility. In recent times I have noted a small number of dogs wanting to dig on the playing ground but this only became noticeable after the groundskeeper added significant amounts of sand to the surface.

Having the large off lead dog area is very beneficial to the wellbeing of the community. Many people (often older people) meet and congregate on the park as their dogs play.

The vast majority of dogs are well socialised and as a regular user I rarely see dog fights or aggressive dogs.

The vast number of owners clean up after their dogs and II rarely see dog mess left on the park, a park I walk my dog on most days and have done for 10 years.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

It is very important that citizens are able to exercise their dogs regularly and both keeping pets and keeping active ought to be encouraged.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5751

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Sorry put my answer on the last one - BUT this was gifted to the community for use - NOT just for a sports club.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5752

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

For Orakei Local Board - Madills Recreation Reserve and Glover Park

I OPPOSE the proposal to PROHIBIT dogs at all times on sports surfaces at Madills Recreation Reserve and Glover Park .

I WANT TO SEE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: TO RETAIN the current rule of dogs allowed UNDER CONTROL OFF A LEASH on sports surfaces (marked grass sports fields) when not in use or not closed.

Reason: there are no other off leash areas that offer the same amount of easily accessible space for local dog owners with flat terrain. Removing this access will mean dog owners will have to drive to alternative locations that are not in their local area. Many of the areas that council are proposing as suitable are small or do not offer safe access for older people or young families with prams and some are not family friendly (Ladies Bay).

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5769

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

For Orakei Local Board - Madills Recreation Reserve and Glover Park

I OPPOSE the proposal to PROHIBIT dogs at all times on sports surfaces at Madills

Recreation Reserve and Glover Park .

I WISH TO SEE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: TO RETAIN the current rule of dogs allowed

UNDER CONTROL OFF A LEASH on sports surfaces (marked grass sports fields) when not in use or not closed.

REASON:

There are no other off leash areas that offer the same amount of easily accessible

space for local dog owners with flat terrain. Removing this access will mean dog owners will

have to drive to alternative locations that are not in their local area. Many of the areas that

council are proposing as suitable are small or do not offer safe access for older people or

young families with prams and some are not family friendly (Ladies Bay).

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5779

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

For Orakei Local Board - Madills Recreation Reserve and Glover Park

I OPPOSE the proposal to PROHIBIT dogs at all times on sports surfaces at Madills Recreation Reserve and Glover Park .

I WANT TO SEE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: TO RETAIN the current rule of dogs allowed UNDER CONTROL OFF A LEASH on sports surfaces (marked grass sports fields) when not in use or not closed.

Reason: there are no other off leash areas that offer the same amount of easily accessible space for local dog owners with flat terrain. Removing this access will mean dog owners will have to drive to alternative locations that are not in their local area. Many of the areas that council are proposing as suitable are small or do not offer safe access for older people or young families with prams and some are not family friendly (Ladies Bay).

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5786

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Howick

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Signage specifying Penalties if owner does not respect the rules. Picking up/ letting dogs run

loose in leash only areas

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Any changes to the current rules on the volcanic cones/maunga need to be notified to the public and

open to discussion.

The maunga fall under the Reserves Act as well as the Redress Act . It is clearly stated

in the Redress Act that they are to be protected and maintained for the 13 iwi and all the other people

of Auckland.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5790

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

For Orakei Local Board - Madills Recreation Reserve and Glover Park

I OPPOSE the proposal to PROHIBIT dogs at all times on sports surfaces at Madills Recreation Reserve and Glover Park .

I WANT TO SEE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: TO RETAIN the current rule of dogs allowed UNDER CONTROL OFF A LEASH on sports surfaces (marked grass sports fields) when not in use or not closed.

Reason: there are no other off leash areas that offer the same amount of easily accessible space for local dog owners with flat terrain. Removing this access will mean dog owners will have to drive to alternative locations that are not in their local area. Many of the areas that council are proposing as suitable are small or do not offer safe access for older people or young families with prams and some are not family friendly (Ladies Bay).

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5792

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs should not be prohibited from the beached and restrained to on lead play time.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
N/A

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5804

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Albert-Eden

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs need more access for better quality of life. Walking streets everyday is not good for them. They need natural areas to walk and off lead areas are even more important. Good dog owners try to vary where they walk their dogs. This limits this extremely. Off lead is especially paramount

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5819

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs can pollute sports fields at any time and this is not always cleaned up by the owner.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5821

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

It is a great place for dogs to socialise and to focus on recall/ training. There are many locals that thoroughly enjoy taking their dogs to the park and it is an integral part of the community. Banning dogs on the sports fields would take this away.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
No

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5822

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Simply astounding that dog owners are being repeatedly punushed and banned from areas because they have a dog. I'm sure many have dogs as their friend and companion. Banning them from places only causes more nental health problems. Dogs ate GOod for us, please remember that!

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5825

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm has been a playground for both sports people and dogs. Dog owners are very responsible and clean up after their dogs and respect the grounds when they are played on. It The beaches are restricted so Madills is a great place for dog to run round. I totally disagree with the changes and don't understand why things have to change.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
No

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5831

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

My dog and I walk around Madills farm every evening. It is the one place where she is able to run around and play fetch. If this was taken away from us, she would get more agitated and lose her enjoyment in life, with potential effects on us. We have never had a problem with sports games. There are many sports feilds available around Auckland but not a lot of places where we can walk our dogs. This would be a huge loss to our community., Why ruin something that is working well and is an asset to us? It is the time where we catch up with neighbours and walk our dogs together as a community. We have grown up with this park as our home. When games are on, we are respectful and make sure they are on leash. Please do not ruin Madills farm for us, which is a real gem.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Saint Heliers and Kohimarama beach

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:To allow the dogs to enjoy the local beaches as well, as they live here too.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Because there are too strict rules around dogs on beaches. We have never had a problem and have never seen a problem with it, the dogs enjoy running in the sand and playing fetch in the ocean. As long as the owners are responsible and aware of their pets,

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Please don’t ruin the community that we have worked so hard to make our home. A lot of us have grown up here freely, and our furry friends deserve so too.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5835

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The current arrangement works well although it is regrettable that so much of the area is being tied up in sports grounds with additional dog access protection. This area is extensively used and enjoyed by dog owners and dogs which may otherwise be a nuisance elsewhere. It is also an important social and meeting place for dog owners. Many are older people who rely on their pets for company and a focus of interest. These people often have limited outside social opportunities

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5837

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I have been walking my dogs at Madils for 16 years. In all that time I have only seen one dog dig and the owner quickly stopped the dog. By changing the laws you are only catering to the sports club. Madils is a council area for ALL people, not just the sports people. I strongly disagree with the proposed changes. Nicola Lincoln

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
No

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5838

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am completely against this proposal for many reasons, being a local who has had a few dogs and Walked them and let them play at Madills Farm. Over the last 40 odd years, the last 30 especially I have never seen anything bad happen regarding canine behaviour. This is a fantastic Farm for people to come together, socialise and socialise with their dogs, off leash and run and play. I am vehemently against this proposal. I am due to get a new dog as is a local friend of mine. Where we will go and how will we walk them and let them exercise/play naturally???

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I also don't think Dogs should not be allowed access to be walked in Purewa Cemetery. Again it's a wonderful and safe place where many people walk their dogs!

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5839

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I’m firmly against this proposed change because it greatly limits the space where dogs can run, play, and socialise. The narrow strips around the fields simply aren’t enough to allow for safe and enjoyable exercise without overcrowding or issues arising. Restricting off-leash activity to these areas also raises safety concerns, as dogs may be forced closer to roads and car parks, increasing risks for both pets and road users. Madills Farm is a recreational space for everyone, not just a sports facility, and any changes should reflect the needs of all users, not just one group.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
no

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5854

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dog owners with their dog off leash on the sports grounds use that area for exercise more than any sports event! No one allows their dog on the fields when a game is in action as per common courtesy.

I have been taking my 8 yr old dog to Madills Farm daily, often twice daily since he was a pup, for his exercise & mine + social contact. I am a 74 yr old widow, going to Madills Farm is very important to us both for our wellbeing.

Sport club members at Madills Farm apparently claim to have numerous "rolled ankle" injuries as a result of dogs digging holes on the playing fields, I have never witnessed any dogs digging holes on the playing fields at any time. This claim is unsubstantiated nonsense.

Sports club members are mainly FOOTBALL players, as the name suggests, running fast whilst trying to kick a ball makes one susceptible to rolling an ankle!! As did playing netball in my younger years, where an ankle roll was & still is a common injury to players.

The football club committee could tell a couple of teams to spread out & walk the fields prior to the start of sports i.e Saturday mornings, if they are so sure there might be holes in the field. If they did find a hole they could fill it with sand from a bucket kept at the sideline.

If it was a fact that the fields are a hazard to players because of holes, then the risk would also be to the dog walkers who use that area more than any sports team.

There has not been an issue or record of rolled ankle injuries amongst us dog walkers suffered on the playing fields. Given the mixed ages of dog walkers, if holes were a problem then we would likely suffer a broken ankle rather than rolled!

We are local residents, paying our high rates to council. Please let common sense prevail and not spoil for us dog walkers the use of all areas of Madills Farm & Glover Park as they were intended. The sports club only pay a nominal fee for the facilities and should not try to stop others who are entitled to use it.

I am all for sports clubs & their members enjoying their sport but see no valid, compelling reason(s)to change the status quo & stop us dog walkers using the fields when they are otherwise not in use.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5859

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I want to exercise my dog at the local reserve.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Leave them as they are.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5860

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I exercise my dog here most days. In winter or after rail the footpath around the sports field is a blessing so i do not get muddy. It is important that dogs are allowed off lead to socialise and exercise the proposed change would prohibit this. The only other off lead options have time restrictions (beaches) or are muddy (churchiill park and maskell

Dog park). The proposed change severely penalise responsible dog owners who can only exercise their dog during the day. At this time during the week the sports fields are empty so it seems very unfair for us not to have acess

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?St heliers beach**What local board area is this location in?**Ōrākei**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**Entire location**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**I would like to see beach acess off leash permitted all day during winter season. The beach is deserted and yet dog owners are not allowed dogs off leash on an empty beach. Seems ca bazzare rule. The coromandel mange this seasonal usage well

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5863

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I think the current rules for both Madills Farm and Glover Park in the Orakei Ward are fair for all users of the park. I do not think the sports fields should out of bounds for dogs when not in use.

And in the case of Madills Farm, it was gifted to all Aucklanders to use and enjoy and should not be just for the benefit of sports participants.

Most dog owners are responsible and pick up after their pets and do not allow their dogs to dig holes. I have never seen them dig holes and we walk at both parks regularly.

I do think that better signage may help remind owners to pick up after their pets and that there is $ fine if you don't. Plus have bags available near the sports fields. This could be paid out of the funds we pay the council as dog owners.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Apply a democratic view and not have a minority dictate who can and can not use public parks, reserves and beaches. Our local parks and beaches are for all to use and enjoy including pet owners and their pets. This helps makes Auckland an enjoyable place to live.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5864

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Franklin

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

people dont pick up after the dogs are pooing on sports surfaces and they are a danger to kids playing sports

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Porterfield bridleway, Whitford**What local board area is this location in?**Franklin**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to allow dogs under control on a leash**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**Entire location**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To reduce owner-related problems (e.g. owner ignoring rules, dogs not under control, dog faeces not picked up, etc). Please specify:off lead dog walkers with dogs not under control**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**We ride horses here and our kids ride bikes and off leash dog walkers make this dangerous.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5865

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dear Auckland Council.

I categorically oppose the proposal to ban dogs off leash at Glover Park and Madills Farm. These parks are important recreation areas for the entire community not just Eastern Suburbs Football Club.

A large part of the community enjoys walking their dogs at Glover Park and Madills Farm. This includes my wife and I who walk our small caboodle at Madills Farm. We will throw a ball and he will run and retrieve it. We then put him back on the lead and walk along the bays.

It is the only park in the local area where we can do this. So taking it away has a significant detrimental impact on us.

We have been doing this pretty much every weekend for four years and the occasional weekday afternoon.

I can confidently and honestly say that I have never once seen any problem at the park at all in the four years we have been taking our dog there.

There tends to be two groups of people who go to the parks - the dog walkers who would like to have their dogs off leash to let them have a run and parents playing with their children (who may also have a dog). People without dogs tend not to walk on the fields. They walk on the paths around Madills Farm. So dogs off leash have no impact on them.

These two groups I referred to earlier coexist quite happily. The dogs that tend to be at the parks are well behaved and generally small dogs like cavoodles not aggressive breeds.

So I do not see any compelling rationale to ban dogs from being off leash at Glover Park or Madills Farm.

To me this seems more like a land grab by Eastern Suburbs Football Club than a considered and justifiable change.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

They seem to be perfectly fine as they are. We walk our dog daily and frequently down at eastern bays. I have never come across any problems.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5867

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Franklin

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Responsible dog owners should have the right to exercise their dog/s as per they current bylaws.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Stop prosecuting the responsible dog owners for the minority that who are no responsible.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5869

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

My submission to keep the status quo on both Glover Park and Madills Farm

I am a local resident and owner of 2 dogs. I have lived here my whole life. I frequent Glover Park and occasionally Madills Farm and nearly always meet and socialise with other dog owners and others. I personally find the social interaction extremely rewarding. Sometimes they are the only people I converse with all day till family come home. The dogs also need this socialisation. It is well known and promoted by people like Mark Vette for good dog behaviour.

We have been doing this for years and people come and go as do the sports people. We were the sports people at one stage too. With our children playing soccer and cricket.

I believe we should keep the status quo and be tolerant and accepting.

The sports people make a mess of the ground exposing sand and creating holes. As does to a large degree the lights which are moved on and off the ground seasonally plus the water sprinklers which pop up and down in there own little hole (sometimes not so little)

Masses of non biodegradable trash is left behind as a constant, but on mass after a tournament with overflowing rubbish bins. I admit we also miss the odd dog poo but do our best to retrieve them. If the council provides bags it’s easy enough to pick them up. You might say why should you have too but that works both ways.

Sports days create major traffic and clogged roads and parking over residents drives but we manage again it’s give and take.

The parks seem to be empty 90% of the time. I know, I frequent them twice a day rain or shine and I think it’s a good thing to use them in many diverse ways.

The parks belong to the community. They are community parks. They belong to us as ratepayers. We frequent them. Our taxes/rates maintain them and we are willing to share them with sports people. However if sports people are unwilling to share them with us then maybe it’s time they acquired designated sports grounds and stop invading local parks. After all they are businesses are they not?

It seems to me there are more important things to be getting on with like roaming and dangerous dogs and maltreated dogs. Your energies and our money should be focused on these more important issues……. thank you

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5875

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

If there’s no-one playing sports and dogs aren’t worrying any people, dogs should be allowed off-leash so long as their owners keep them under control.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Well-behaved dogs who are under control of their owners should be allowed to play/exercise at local parks and beaches.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5878

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Puketāpapa

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I think all people should be able to enjoy parks. and beaches without harassment or intimidation by unleashed or unruly dogs.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5880

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Upper Harbour

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

The less access dogs have, the higher likelihood off issues. Dogs need exposure. Owners should have a licence to own a dog... the responsibility should be on the owners. Like firearms, in the wrong or uneducated hands, they can be dangerous. But with responsible owners we can live in harmony with our much loved canine Companions.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5881

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

This has taken me some time to write - I hope that you take the time to read it :-)

I dont believe this is the "balanced approach" that is being touted and I believe it will affect many groups of people in a negative way.

I know of quite a few dog owners in their 80's and 90's who have lived most of their lives in this area and enjoyed Madills farm but who can no longer walk all the way around the footpath loop and need to cut across the sportsfield to the other side (which they do past the soccer players). I also know of many dog owners who have older dogs that can no longer make it all away around the footpath loop and need to cut across the field. This is a safe environment for them all to walk and it would be awful to take this away from them.

You mention about preventing damage to the sports fields, I think it is brilliant that the lights have been put in at Madills farm but this now means that players are able to use the fields more often in the mornings and at nights - which again is brilliant - But, we have noted that the fields seem to get wrecked more quickly and I would suggest this to be because they are actually used way more now than ever before by the sports people.

I have lived in this area for huge chunks of my life and it has always been known that this area was gifted to the people for "all" to use and that "all" is people with dogs. That is why we brought back in this area. This is why Madills is special.

The fields are for "all" to use, share and enjoy. My son grew up playing both soccer and cricket on these fields. WE, and so many others would have our dogs on the fields on the sidelines (as they still do.....). I think I spent more time accommodating all the younger children who desperately wanted to pack our dog than I did watching the games. I always saw it as a great opportunity to socialise the dogs and young children.

Socialising brings another important point. AS a dog owner I have met so many people from so many different backgrounds and ages that I would never normally have contact with and would never have met, but with a dog in tow, on the fields, I have had the confidence to approach and say hello and then get to know them. One young boy is not allowed a dog and has certain difficulties and who adores dogs, comes to the park every day with his mum and asks to pat all the dogs and chats to the dogs and to people, It is very special. Many older people living alone and single parents congregate on the field in the afternoons and socialise. This is incredibly important for general mental health.

People who you dont know that well pick up when you are not yourself. Last year when my dad died, then when a niece was born on his birthday and then this year when I returned from dropping my son at uni - dog owners I see noticed I wasnt myself and asked if everything was ok and then comforted me with hugs. This is amazing! We have had adds on TV telling toy to ask people if they are ok - this happens at Maddills farm and people have more confidence with their dogs to talk, chat etc. This is priceless.

Last year I met an 89 year old lady walking alone, who gain, just loved the sight of my dog Max and she was delighted to get and give lots of cuddles to him. She told me she was turning 90 the next day but I learnt she had no family here. I asked if she was walking the next day and she said yes - so I went down at the same time that next day and walked with her - it totally made her day - and again, she couldnt walk the whole footpath - how special is this :-).

Safety also comes in to play. I often walk around the footpath, but sometimes when the light is not good I will walk down the middle of the field. When the wind is crazy I dont walk in Death row as people call it as too many trees have fallen over that path, On weekends if all the kids are out on their little bikes and scooters I will take to the fields to give them space.

Sometimes for my own mental health I need to walk on the fields to be on the green grass which is calming.

Often the people with bigger dogs will throw the ball on the fields - I Love to see this AND I feel safer with them in the wider spaces.

Some of the path goes far too close to the road for dogs when they are young.

Life is hard, we all work hard, we all do our best and Madils is like the heart of this area. It gives soooo many people pleasure. The soccer players, the mums and dads, the cricket families, the people with young children, people living on their own, dog owners, It gives so many people job - we need to keep it that way. My mornings are full of so many smiles when I am walking - watching the dogs catching balls, watching dogs sniff each other, watching the people interact with their dogs, watching the soccer teams train, having the freedom to enjoy outdoor and off leash time with my dog in a safe and happy environment. It is the best way to start the day. These fields are not just for the soccer club, who we were once apart of an...

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5882

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I do not support the proposed changes to Madills Farm. I have been a resident and Ratepayer of Kohimarama for over 30 years and the last 25 years lived next to Madills Farm. I object to any further dominance by ESAFC over Madills Farm and object to any plans of ESAFC trying to exclude the community from access to parts of our reserve.

ESAFC's submission dated 28/09/23 states "predicted usage figures indicate that improved durability surfaces and more lighting is required to meet the demand". What's to prevent ESAFC next wanting artificial turf again – which needs to be fenced off to everyone – a grandstand and more lighting towers again as they have stated in previous submissions? How has one sports club been allowed to get such a hold on a local reserve surrounded by hundreds of homes?

Where is the evidence to support claims that dogs are to blame for 27 ankle injuries from turf damage and the cause of increasing costs for turf maintenance? I walk our dog at least once per day at Madills and I run 4-5 times per week with friends through Madills. The damage is not from the dogs; it is clearly from fencing, sprinklers, goal posts, bleachers, boot sprigs, where football play is happening – specifically on the white paint lines marking all the pitch boundaries.

We happily share our reserve with everyone, but Madills Farm is not the place for a commercial sporting body with semi-professional players requiring an unreasonable level of demands from the environment, ratepayers and the community.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5886

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

These proposed changes assume that the damage to the playing fields are ONLY from dogs. This is not true - there is far more damage to the fields from the playing of sports.

These two recreation areas are important for the WHOLE community - not just those playing sport. They are fabulous areas for dogs and their owners - and let's not forget that we dog owners aside from paying rates and contributing to the maintenance and upkeep of these recreation areas, also pay a yearly dog registration fee to the council.

The proposed small strips near the road where dogs could be allowed is simply dangerous and crazy.

It is imperative to maintain the status quo and ensure EVERYONE can enjoy these shared facilities.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I believe that most dog owners are very responsible and are more than happy to allow summer hours for dog access so that families and other people can enjoy the beaches and parks free from dogs. But equally, outside of these times, dogs should be allowed to enjoy these spaces with their owners.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5891

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I don’t know

Tell us why

The new policy is to ambiguous. Very unclear

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Dogs off leash at low tide times on all beaches and on lead under control at other times.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5893

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I own a dog, who I walk in any of 3 different parks (Madills, Glover or Monte Cecelia) twice a day. My dog walks and runs off leash and does not annoy others, is not a threat to people or the environment does not dig holes and just enjoys chasing a Frisbee or ball and playing with other dogs off leash. This provides stimulation for her and for me as I get to chat with other dog owners and park users. I am respectful of other park users if they are playing games and I endeavour not to visit if organised activities are taking place, although this can be hard as in summer months we are also not allowed on the beach. My pet provides companionship to me and to my neighbours.

Allowing dogs to use local parks is beneficial because it provides them with essential exercise and mental stimulation, promotes socialization with other dogs and people, enhances the overall well-being of both the dog and its owner, and can contribute to a stronger sense of community within a neighborhood, as long as responsible dog ownership practices are followed.

Exercising a dog our side, promotes physical and mental health, for our dogs regular exercise and playtime to maintain a healthy body and mind, and parks offer a great space for them to run, play fetch, and explore.

Socialization: Dog parks allow dogs to interact with other dogs, which can help with socialization skills, reduce aggression, and build confidence.

Community building: When dog owners frequent local parks with their pets, it creates opportunities to meet and connect with other people in the neighborhood.

Increased physical activity for owners: Walking a dog in a park encourages owners to be more active, which benefits their own health.

Stress reduction: Spending time in nature with a dog can be calming and stress-reducing for both the dog and the owner.

Please don't take the space away from us to walk freely and paly respectfully.

I would also like to not that I have heard it say that dogs dig holes in the parks, my experience is that it is the sport equipment and sprinklers that do the most damage and that leave holes in the parks not the dogs. There are sometime attempts to fill them, but they are not always successful, and I would suggest those holes are the case of the sports injuries claimed under ACC rather than dog holes.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Please don't take our parks and the few beaches that are left open to us and our dogs to exercise away from us, we are rate payers too.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5894

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Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The proposed changes to dog access rules are unnecessary and unfairly restrict public use of a shared space. The current system already ensures sports teams can play without disruption while allowing the community to enjoy the park when fields aren't in use.

Public Space Should Be for All – The park isn't owned by the football team; it belongs to the community. It's unfair to ban dogs from open grass when no games are happening.

The Current Rules Work – Dogs are already required to be on a leash when games are on, ensuring safety and fairness.

Maximizing Green Space – Huge areas of grass shouldn't sit unused. Families, dog owners, and others should be able to enjoy them.

Harm to Local Businesses – The bays are a dog- and family-friendly area. If dog owners have to go elsewhere, local cafés and shops will lose business. Personally, I take my dog every weekend and visit a café—this change would push people like me away.

Where's the Justification? – If there's a problem, let's address it with sensible solutions, not a blanket ban.

A Better Approach: Keep the current system, allowing dogs off-leash when fields aren't in use. Let's ensure the park remains accessible for everyone, not just a select few.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5898

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Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

What has been put forward by the Orakei Local Board and Council, that dogs dig holes is totally misleading. The park maintenance staff have no idea of how to fix any surface damage. Purely pouring sand into a damaged area will not grow grass. The number of wholes expressed by the local board is the same wholes being counted time and time again, as per the incorrect method of fixing the damage.

It is also noted that sports groups damage the surface, also events like Around the Bays another prime example.

I recommend to no change to the current bylaw for Madills Farm.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5900

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

This will eliminate a valued shared use. Numerous local residents use Madill's Farm throughout the day and evening for dogs off-leash exercise and are respectful of the existing rules about staying away from areas where organised sport (including the many informal practise sessions)are in progress.

'See Attachment

Summary of attachment:

Support for Option 1:

Status Quo: Friends of Madill’s Farm (FoMF) support maintaining the current off-leash dog exercise policy, which has been in place for over 20 years without significant issues.

Community Value: Madill’s Farm is highly valued by the local community for its diverse recreational use, including off-leash dog walking.

Balanced Use: Option 1 aligns with the objective of balanced use of public space, supporting both active and passive recreation.

Opposition to Option 2:

Elimination of Off-Leash Areas: Option 2 would eliminate off-leash dog exercise areas, which FoMF argues is impractical and unfair.

Health and Safety Concerns: There is no evidence of health or safety issues from the current off-leash policy. Allegations of dogs causing injuries are statistically insignificant.

Enforcement Issues: Implementing Option 2 would require costly and impractical enforcement measures.

Community Impact:

Dog Walking Community: The dog walking community is a significant and longstanding user group that contributes to the park’s social and recreational value.

Opposition to Prioritization: FoMF opposes any changes that would prioritize organized sports over other community uses, disrupting the current balance.

Conclusion:

Shared Use: FoMF advocates for maintaining Madill’s Farm as a shared community asset, ensuring all user groups can continue to enjoy it

#5900

FRIENDS OF MADILL'S FARM

To:

The Chair and Board Members
Orakei Local Board
[redacted]
Auckland

orakeilocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

and to:

Dog Policy and Bylaw Review
Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300,
Victoria Street West
Auckland, 1142

akhaveyoursay.nz

20 February 2025

Submission on Dog Laws on behalf of Friends of Madill's Farm

Key Issues

Friends of Madill's Farm (FoMF) strongly **support Option 1**- maintaining the status quo for Madill's Farm and Glover Park – and **oppose Option 2** which would effectively **eliminate** off-leash dog exercise on these parks.

Option 1 has been substantially the same for over 20 years. FoMF are not aware of any significant issue arising from the current policy and no evidence of any material issue at Madill's Farm was provided in the 2024 Review Findings Report. That Report quotes thousands of incidents across the Auckland Council region but the statistics are of no value in assessing any particular Local Board or location.

The importance and value of Madill's Farm to the **local community** is clearly stated in the Orakei Local Parks Management Plan widely consulted on in 2022 and supported by FoMF.

Option 2 is incompatible with the stated objective of "balanced use of public space". It is naïve and impractical to eliminate off leash exercise on Madill's Farm sports surfaces and suggest the remaining areas (comprising narrow strips) are adequate for off leash dog exercise.

FRIENDS OF MADILL'S FARM

Why we support Option 1:

The **dog walking community** at Madill's Farm is a significant, **local**, diverse and longstanding user group. Their presence reinforces the parks vital role as an **open natural recreational space** within the Kohimarama catchment that is **accessible and available** to all; aptly described by Orakei Local Board as "**the jewel in the crown**" of Orakei recreational facilities.

FoMF **supports** the "**dogsofmadills**" submission to retain Madill's Farm as an off-leash dog exercise area and maintain the status quo for Madill's Farm. This diversity of use and balance for the local community is consistent with the 30+ years of FoMF advocacy to Auckland City Council, Auckland Council and the Orakei Local Board on various consultation and by-law changes affecting Madill's Farm management and use, including the Orakei Local Parks Management Plan.

It is clear that the **local community** in Kohimarama greatly value what Madill's Farm offers to so many users for diverse needs. **They, far more than sports players, are the voting public for Orakei Local Board and Auckland Council and the ratepayers who pay the substantial costs of maintaining Madill's Farm.** On the basis of casual observation, it is clear that there are even more dog walkers now than 20 years ago; a likely consequence of more intensive housing and smaller families (if any).

Dog walkers are not just about dogs – the informal groups of people converging and socialising in connection with exercising their dogs (and themselves!) are obvious. Off leash exercise and socialising of dogs is important in maintain healthy and well-managed dogs. A dog always constrained is a far greater risk to people and property.

In the mid 1990's FoMF successfully advocated for dogs off leash in the face of strong opposition from Auckland City Council; FoMF enjoyed the strongest level of local community support for this issue, far more than the engagement for many other issues raised.

Our community expectation is for Madill's Farm to remain as **a mixed-use community park**, catering to both active and passive recreation. We oppose any change that would **prioritise one user group at the considerable expense of others.**

Concerns about Option 2:

Option 2 is proposed in the pursuit of "**aligning the rules**" with the region-wide prohibition (Attachment B to the Statement of Proposal). The bureaucratic "logic" is supported by listing all the ten other recreational areas in Orakei Local Board area where the off-leash prohibition applies. This is about easier lives for administrators and contrary to the requirement of the Dog Control Act 1996 for relevant authorities **to adopt a policy that has regard to "the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners** (section 10 (4) (d). There is no suggestion of any "new opportunities" to "support responsible dog ownership" (ref: Report parag 16.) This contrasts with sound reasoning and judgement of the merits of off-leash exercise when the exemption was granted by Auckland City Council in 1996.

The second claimed rationale is **health and safety**. The current rules have been in place for almost 30 years with no reported health or safety issues from dogs. There is no evidence offered of any new health issues, simply allegations of **dogs digging holes** that "contributed" to 27

FRIENDS OF MADILL'S FARM

football ankle roll incidents. Even if true, given the 2,000 plus members of ESAFC and hundreds of visiting players on many weekends, 27 incidents are statistically insignificant (with all due sympathy to those injured). It seems there are no injuries to or complaints from touch rugby, cricket or families with children.

More damage to the sports ground surface is caused by over-use by footballers year-round, despite the defined winter season of end April to end August in the **Eastern Parks Masterplan – Madill's**. There is no information about the additional cost of over-use or the total cost to ratepayers of maintaining Madill's Farm football grounds.

The widely consulted **Eastern Parks Masterplan – Madill's**, lists the Strengths (Positive attributes) in order of significance as follows:

1 Size and useable open space
2 Close proximity and convenience
3 Dog walking (off leash)
4 Natural / landscape characteristics / amenity
5 Large and diverse range of recreational activities
6 Passive recreational activities
7 Pathway / walking track
8 Playground
9 Community feel / social aspects
10 Trees / vegetation

Most of these attributes would be eliminated or compromised by the proposed ban on off-leash exercise which is for many the essence of their use of Madill's and consequent enjoyment of most of the positive attributes listed. The impact is as much on people and community as it is on dog exercise.

The Report fails to consider costs of enforcement of the proposed new rules. When dogs dare to encroach on the prohibited areas, who is going to catch them and match them with the owners? Will there be expensive 24-hour surveillance? Dog walkers access Madill's Farm from before dawn until well into the evening.

Option 2 **does not provide a balanced use**. The limited remaining permitted space is totally unrealistic. Has any author of the Report ever seen a dog being exercised off-leash?

Restricting off-leash dog access would:

- **Exclude** a well-established user group, without providing a reasonable or usable alternative.
- **Unfairly favour organised sport**, despite dog walkers utilising the park year-round from dawn to dusk
- **Disrupt a balance that has worked for decades**, where off-leash exercise is already restricted when sports surfaces are in use.

Auckland City and the Orakei Local Board have invested significantly in sports fields and facilities benefiting organised sport. The dog walking community, by contrast, asks for only continued access to safe open space for responsible off-leash exercise.

It's Your local....don't lose it!

https://www.friendsofmadillsfarm.co.nz/

FRIENDS OF MADILL'S FARM

Responsible, Shared Use of the Park

It is our observation of park users that the Madill's Farm dog walkers are self -regulating and quick to address any anti-social behaviour of dogs. In contrast the football club as the main sports users, have routinely promoted their own interests above any real regard for the impact of their growing level of activity on other users, local residents and the wider community.

The proposed rule change Option 2 represents a further substantial encroachment by sports clubs into Madill's Farm at the expense of local, voting ratepayers.

Maintaining Option1 preserves Madill's Farm as a shared community asset, ensuring all user groups – not just organised sport can continue to enjoy it.

FoMF has engaged constructively and successfully with Orekei Local Board for many years, including on the development of the Eastern Parks Master Plan (2012), Madill's Farm Stream Restoration Plan (2015), Orakei Local Board Natural Environment Enhancement Plan (2019 and Orakei Local Parks Management Plan (2022).

The consistent theme and outcome of all of these has been a **fair, balanced sharing of Madill's Farm** between organised sport and local residents which has generally worked to the satisfaction and benefit of all. The proposed new rules will destroy that balance. We urge Orakei Local Board to look to your well developed and widely consulted plans and apply their principles.

Kind regards

[redacted]

For and on Behalf of

Friends of Madill's Farm

It's Your local....don't lose it!

https://www.friendsofmadillsfarm.co.nz/

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5906

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Franklin

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The rules to prevent dogs from beaches, bush walks, reserves and gardens seek only to punish good dog owners. It is roaming, unregistered, unneutered menacing dogs that are causing the problems. Please address the real problem here, and stop punishing responsible owners.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

The rules to prevent dogs from beaches, bush walks, reserves and gardens seek only to punish good dog owners. It is roaming, unregistered, unneutered menacing dogs that are causing the problems. I would love to see more rules that will keep me and my dog safe from menacing dogs.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5910

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The complete prohibition of dogs on sports fields goes against your dog access principles to provide a balanced approach to dog access in council controlled public places. There will not be enough room on flat land to exercise dogs off-leash and maintain control to keep dogs and public safe. Dogs can run out onto the road if chasing a ball on the perimeter of the area.

You acknowledge Auckland's growing population and increase in dog ownership which requires more space to exercise dogs not less.

I believe the "vicinity" of the sports fields is too open to the vagaries of interpretation especially when there is the threat of a fine as documented on the signs that were put up around the park before being taken down as not yet agreed by Council.

It is joyful watching the excitement of dogs racing onto the open space and jumping to catch a ball or frisbee. This will be severely restricted if the big dogs are pushed out to the edge of the park.

Madills Farm fosters community spirit and combats loneliness. I have been walking my dog twice a day at Madills for the past 2 years since retiring and have made social connections with local dog walkers of all ages but especially elderly people and new immigrants who speak little English. It is great to move from saying "hello" to developing a friendship.

Dog faeces on sports fields is a "nuisance" as referred to in your dog access principles but this requires enforcement of the current regulations not restricting dog access for all. I suggest large billboards reminding us all that being a good citizen means keeping the grounds clean. The players and their supporters could also "walk the field" and make sure it is clean before use. Many dog owners pick up other dogs' poo but we can't be there all the time.

I have heard that others have observed dogs digging holes in the turf but the repairs I saw recently were a joke with grass seed sprinkled on top of a sand base so that the birds, especially pigeons, had a good feed.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5913

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm has long been an off leash park. It is ridiculous to have such an off leash park where there is little to no area left where a dog can actually be off leash to run and chase after a ball. The football club has steadily expanded into taking over the entire area of the park now to the exclusion of other users and that's unacceptable. There is no trouble with dogs in this area and putting in place such oppressive rules will simply ensure that everyone ignores them.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
No

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5914

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am a local dog owner and I also play football cricket and touch. I have lived in the area my whole life. I have played a lot of sport on Madills Farm and have rolled my ankle there. The ground is in terrible condition I feel because it was built on swamp ground and the drainage now contains a lot of sand. The grass seems to breakdown easily. The dogs are being blamed but I feel it's more of a grounds man issue. I do not wish to ban the dogs. The park belongs to the community and was gifted to them stating passive recreation so I don't see why they should be banned.

Maybe a designated sports area needs to be built like the netball courts near Morrin Road. But it seems that the football club is trying to takeover Madills Farm which was in no way the original intention. ESAFC uses 4 parks already according to its website. Failing that I suggest we maintain the Status Quo.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit

[redacted]

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5917

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I write to express my strong opposition to the proposed restrictions on dog access at Madills Farm. This policy, which effectively transforms the park's large, versatile playing fields into a de facto no-dog zone, risks undermining a cherished community asset and jeopardises both public safety and community cohesion.

Madills Farm as a Vital Community Hub

Madills Farm is more than just a park—it is a vibrant space where residents, regardless of age or ability, come together to socialise, exercise, and enjoy the outdoors. The expansive off-leash area not only serves the practical need of providing dogs with safe, ample space to run and play, but it also acts as a catalyst for community interaction. By confining off-leash activities to a narrow perimeter area, the proposal effectively marginalizes a significant portion of the community that benefits from this multifunctional space.

Safety Concerns and Practical Implications

The current layout of Madills Farm offers a secure environment, with a naturally sheltered off-leash area that minimizes exposure to busy roads. This design has proven essential for ensuring the safety of our canine companions, particularly puppies, and provides peace of mind for dog owners. Restricting access to only a small, peripheral path forces both dogs and their owners dangerously close to traffic, thereby increasing the risk of accidents. It is counterintuitive to limit what has been a safe, well-managed space in favour of an area that is neither adequate nor safe for off-leash exercise.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

The park's flat, open grounds have long been accessible to all members of our community, including older adults and those with mobility challenges. This inclusivity is a cornerstone of Madills Farm's success as a public asset. Reducing the off-leash area not only diminishes this accessibility but also weakens the communal fabric that binds our diverse neighbourhood. A small perimeter path cannot substitute for the expansive, welcoming environment that the current playing fields provide.

Impact on Surrounding Areas

Limiting dog access at Madills Farm is likely to push dog owners towards other public spaces, such as Kohimarama Beach. This could lead to increased congestion and potential conflicts in areas that are not designed to accommodate the high volume of off-

leash activity. Maintaining the current off-leash area at Madills Farm would continue to alleviate pressure on neighbouring spaces and support a balanced, community-friendly urban environment.

Conclusion

In light of these considerations, I urge the Auckland Council and the Ōrākei Local Board to reconsider the proposed changes. The current off-leash area at Madills Farm is an invaluable community resource that enhances safety, accessibility, and social interaction. A more balanced approach is needed—one that addresses any concerns about the playing fields without sacrificing the benefits that dog owners and the broader community have long enjoyed.

Thank you for considering this submission. I trust that you will take the time to evaluate the broader implications of this proposal and work towards a solution that preserves the integral role of Madills Farm as a communal space.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Not at this time

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5918

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm is a shared space for the community and should not be under the control of the Eastern Suburbs Football Club. Those playing football should use the facilities provided in the OFC are at the end of Ngahue Road where the council has already invested significant resource developing the fields. There are a signifacnt number of people who rely on this area to give good exercise to their companions. This is NOT an exclusive use area for an independent football club.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

There should be less restrictions on dogs off leash and under control so that the Auckland community can provide support for our 4 footed best friends.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5922

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

To the Auckland Council and the Ōrākei Local Board,

This submission is offered in strong opposition to the proposed restrictions on dog access at Madills Farm. The proposed policy, which would effectively transform the park's extensive playing fields into a de facto no-dog zone, risks undermining a valuable community asset and compromising both public safety and community well-being.

Madills Farm as a Vital Community Asset

Madills Farm is much more than a park—it serves as a dynamic community hub where residents come together to socialize, exercise, and enjoy the outdoors. The park's large off-leash area not only provides a safe and ample space for dogs to play and run but also fosters social interaction among community members. Restricting off-leash access to a narrow perimeter area marginalizes a significant portion of the community that relies on this multifunctional space.

Safety Concerns and Practical Implications

The current layout of Madills Farm offers a secure environment, with a naturally sheltered off-leash area that minimizes exposure to busy roads. This design has proven essential for the safety of dogs, especially puppies, and provides peace of mind for dog owners. Confining off-leash activities to a limited path near busy roads would heighten the risk of traffic accidents, negating the safety benefits that have long been associated with the existing setup.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

The park's flat, open grounds are accessible to all community members, including older adults and individuals with mobility challenges. This inclusivity is a cornerstone of Madills Farm's value as a public space. Reducing the off-leash area undermines this accessibility and weakens the communal fabric that connects residents across different age groups and abilities.

Impact on Surrounding Areas

Limiting dog access at Madills Farm may lead to increased pressure on other public spaces, such as Kohimarama Beach, as dog owners search for alternative locations for off-leash activities. Such a shift could result in congestion and potential conflicts in areas

that are not designed to accommodate high volumes of off-leash activity. Maintaining the current off-leash area would help alleviate this pressure and support a balanced urban environment.

Conclusion

In light of these concerns, it is urged that the Auckland Council and the Ōrākei Local Board reconsider the proposed changes. The existing off-leash area at Madills Farm is an invaluable resource that enhances community safety, accessibility, and social interaction. A more balanced approach that addresses concerns about the playing fields without sacrificing the benefits enjoyed by dog owners and the broader community is necessary.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. It is hoped that you will carefully consider the broader implications of the proposed restrictions and work towards preserving the integral role of Madills Farm as a community space.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Not now

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5936

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I’m firmly against this proposed change because it greatly limits the space where dogs can run, play, and socialise. The narrow strips around the fields simply aren’t enough to allow for safe and enjoyable exercise without overcrowding or issues arising. Restricting off-leash activity to these areas also raises safety concerns, as dogs may be forced closer to roads and car parks, increasing risks for both pets and road users. Madills Farm is a recreational space for everyone, not just a sports facility, and any changes should reflect the needs of all users, not just one group.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
no

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5940

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

It was my understanding that Madills Farm and Glover Park are for the community to use and are maintained through rates. It seems that the sports clubs are having more and more say over how these parks are being used and by whom.

A huge amount of revenue is generated by Council every year from dog registrations and these same owners are also paying rates. I would like to see these parks still fully available to the whole community not just the sports clubs. I love the fact that my dog can run free currently at these parks and can exercise freely (under my watchful gaze)which he just doesn't get when he is restricted by a leash.

I had requested information via a Lgoima but it has not been responded to - I would like to understand, how much the sports clubs pay to maintain the spaces they are using (I had heard in the case of ESFC at Madills a minimal $1000 per year! Given how much I already pay in rates (a portion for maintaining public spaces) and dog registration I feel that dog access should not be taken away

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5942

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Such a beautiful sports ground and used so much by so many youngsters and their sport. I walk there often and no matter how many people pick up after their dog, there are many who do not even know the dog has pooped. I have called out many over the years. How can it be healthy for the youngsters and athletes playing there.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I strongly believe our beaches and parks are better suited for human use and not for dogs. I look after a reserve in GI that currently has no regulations, there is always poop on the ground and sometimes plastic bags full of poop are just chucked in the bush, which is even worse.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5943

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5947

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I don’t know

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5949

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Manila and Glover were a good space to exercise the dogs. The current rules are satisfactory.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Current rules are enough for well behaved dogs. More enforcement of the rule breakers are needed if the owners do not abide after they have been warned.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5950

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

We pay a lot to register our dogs whereas the soccer / football club pays a minimal amount to the council for use of the land. The land was given to the local community for all to use - not just for sports! Apart from all of this - Auckland Councils attitude towards dogs is appalling. Other regions have fantastic specific dog parks - all fully fenced and with even some with different areas for different energy level dogs etc. The Wellington region for example absolutely puts Auckland to shame in this respect. If Auckland Council would assign some areas for specifically dog parks and made them safe and enjoyable to use like they are elsewhere in the country - then perhaps we wouldn't be so angry about it when Auckland Council try to take away the hopelessly limited options we have!! And why are we still wasting money, resources and energy on crappy plastic registration tags every year too, when other regions have permanent tags???

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Madills Farm

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Dogs should be allowed when fields not in use

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

We pay a lot to register our dogs whereas the soccer / football club pays a minimal amount to the council for use of the land. The land was given to the local community for all to use - not just for sports! Apart from all of this - Auckland Councils attit

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Auckland Council needs to seriously think about how dogs in this community are treated. Stray dogs in Glen Innes are a much bigger problem - concentrate on dealing with bad owners rather than disadvantaging good owners. A lot of the dog walkers of Madills are very respectful responsible elderly residents who appreciate Madills as a more manageable place to exercise their dogs.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5958

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I strongly object to the proposed change. I have lived in the Kohimarama area for 22 years and in that time we have always walked our dogs at Madills Farm. Over the years we have seen a significant amount of tax payer (our) money spent on upgrades to the sports fields that have mostly benefited the Eastern Bays Football Club. There have been attempts before to take over areas of the park for the football club including a proposal to have artificial turf on two of the fields. It is obvious that the Eastern Bay Football club has outgrown the Madills Farm Reserve and the exclusion of dogs and dog owners is discrimination and prejudice which needs to be stopped. We see hundreds of dogs and their owners on a regular basis walking and socialising their their dogs at Madills Farm and the proposed area at the Southern end of the park is not suitable for dogs as it is small, adjacent to a children's playground area, close to the road, and has little to no car parking. With the intensification of Auckland City very few people have sufficient areas at they properties to adequately exercise a dog therefore pubic open spaces such as Madill Farm are required for dogs and dog owner's use. The Madills Farm Recreation Reserve should stay as it is, a shared space where everyone can use it within the current rules. Dog owners need a safe open space to walk their pets but the proposed area for this is away from the park lights, clubhouse lights obscured by trees therefore is not as safe as the current areas where dog walking and socialising is allowed, this makes no sense.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5960

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The current rules suit everyone. Keep the status quo. We have grandchildren that play soccer on the parks. We have not experienced any problems with dogs and take our dog to watch the games. We also exercise our dog everyday mainly at Madills. There is a fantastic community of dog walkers at both parks. We also agree with all the submissions presented at the meeting at St Chads Church last week.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Madills Farm and Glover Park

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to changes at location (e.g. a new playground, sports field, more people). Please specify:

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Keep the status quo it has been working fine

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5963

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I write mainly about Madills Farm as it is my local park, but my comments apply equally to Glover Park, where I have spent many mornings watching kids football and walking my dog. I have had three children play football for Eastern Suburbs so am supportive of the use of the fields for football generally. I often use the park for fitness as well as walking my dog.

Madills Farm is the only large dog walking area in the area, and is well used by dozens of dog owners at all times of the day, but particularly in early mornings and evenings. The flat central area that contains sports fields is well away from cars and provides an ideal location to let dogs run and play fetch and socialize. Owners too gather in this area and build community through their interactions as their dogs get the chance to run. This does not happen with on-leash walking areas, where owners are always moving with their dogs and not pausing to talk with neighbours, friends, and strangers enjoying the outdoors at the same time. The area at the bottom of Southern Cross Road, which is where Council proposes off-leash activity be allowed, is a small area close to roads. It is poorly drained, uneven and the grass is left to grow much longer than anywhere else in the park. In long grass it is hard to find and remove dog poo, and the proximity to traffic makes it unsafe for dogs to run. It is also at the opposite end of the park from the carpark, making it a long trek to get to an off-leash area. In winter this area is sodden and quite unpleasant. It is also adjacent to the playground, which is the precise area that dogs should be kept away from as very young kids often don't know how to react to dogs, and dogs often are over-enthusiastic when greeting children - not violent or aggressive, but may lick a kids face and scare them. There is a reason that the corner of the park is rarely used by people and dogs alike - it is exposed to the street, has poor visual amenity, has no walk paths (just an access footpath on one corner), and is too small to accommodate the number of users that would be forced to use this area if the playing fields were off limits. If you put more off leash dogs in a small space then their will be more clashes and complaints about antisocial dog behaviour. Also a high likelihood that a dog will be hit by a car, or cause an accident.

I have walked regularly in Madills with my dog for over 10 years, and have never seen a dog dig or destroy the turf - certainly not any worse than a bunch of 10 year-olds playing football. Owners are great about picking up poo, or pointing out to another owner when

their dog is leaving one. I have witnessed dog walkers pick up poo if they come across it (i.e. when not from their own dog). There is a strong community spirit and people generally respect the multi-use grounds and do not willfully let their dogs poo on the grounds. I note that the Proposal is not driven by any claim about dog poo, but highlights digging up the turf.

Over the years the number of fields and intensity of use has increased - including the addition of lights some years ago. Eastern Suburbs Football Club is known for aggressively pushing for more participants and year-round activity, but this should not be at the detriment of other users from the community. It is not necessary that all 5 fields carry the designation of "schedule 1 sports fields", when they are only used by young scruffy kids, not elite athletes. If they wish to designate their #1 turf as an elite field, I would have no objection to respecting that and keeping dogs away from this area. In fact, the club often ropes or fences off this field in preparation for big games. The rest of the fields, the rest of the time, should be free for dogs to run under the watchful eye for their owners, unless being used for soccer practice or games. It just makes sense.

The park is a lively space, used by families, fitness junkies, elderly walkers and more. It is this frequent use that makes the space feel safe, providing passive surveillance of all uses and stops out-of-control dogs being tolerated. I have been happy for my young children to walk down to Madills unaccompanied, or with our dog, as I am confident that there will be many people there and that in itself makes it safe. There is more than enough space for everyone to enjoy it. Take away the dogs, the number of people drops.

Enforcing a ban will drive more owners to take their dogs off-leash at the beach. This already has restrictions during summer. You cannot stop dogs getting the exercise they need. There is no other park nearby that provides a safe and sizeable space. I would estimate that on an average day there are easily more dog walkers at Madills than footballers. So why is a minority pushing out the majority?

Problem dog owners will continue to ignore the rules. This Proposal seeks to punish those dogs and owners that follow the rules and don't cause problems. Better ...

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Kohimarama Beach

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

Other - please specify:During summer there should still be an off-leash time period, such as before 10am.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

During summer there should still be an off-leash time period, such as before 10am. I would estimate >90% of people at the beach before 10am in summer and winter are owners walking their dog. Clearly there is a great community of people interested in

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

The vast majority of dogs in the Eastern Suburbs are small and well behaved. Aggressive and/or large breads (e.g. rottweilers, pittbulls, german shepherds, etc) are very rarely seen. Instances of antisocial behaviour are rare, and I would say are likely not going to be improved upon by maintaining the current stance.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5966

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills farm is my 'go to' with my dog for off leash exercise. There is nowhere else within walking distance that she can have a run around. I do not wish to have to use my car to get to another off leash park. Madills Farm is a dog friendly meeting place for the local community.

I do not agree that the dogs are damaging the surface. I was there today and saw many long weeds and dry surfaces certainly not damage caused by dogs. I think the majority of dogs owners are very respectful and clean up after their dogs.

I believe there is a long standing agreement that Madills Farm is a shared recreational ground and it should remain that way.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5967

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Your proposed changes are outrageous. This park was gifted to OUR COMMUNITY, not the football club. It is not theirs, it is all of ours. As OUR park, we should be allowed to do many things, such as exercise our dogs.

If you want to ban dogs at parks, good luck to all the aggressive under-socialised animals, who have no safe space to run around and play. We pay rates and tax are residents in this community to use this park for MANY purposes, not just football.

And it's sad, because your purposed changes won't stop there. There is discussion of stadiums and astroturf being laid. Imagine the about uproar you will get.

They claim it is dogs ruining the grass. I'm sure it's the big machines, the goals, the football boots... all of that really ruining the park.

Footballers have SO MANY AVAILABLE FACILITIES TO PLAY.

The football club needs to learn how to share, it is not THEIR PARK. They don't own it. We as a community do. And we have always been happy to be respectful with sports, time they learn to suck it up and share.

And for the love of God, focus on something more important that this. Is this really?!?!?! What we pay tax for? So you can come up with bull 'ideas of change' .

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5969

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills is a great community facility for us all to use. It is a community space and should stay this way.

It is great to see so many families on the weekend out playing and running with their dogs. Madills is often not being used and would be such a shame for it to be under utilised. For some of our elderly community walking their dogs and having conversations with other dog walkers is there only company. If madills is taken away the knock on effect will be a very busy dog beach at Kohimarama.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Summer rules at beaches are fine and the current rules for parks do not need to change. Don't fix something that's not broken

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5972

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

There are not enough large areas for dog off leash exercise currently in the eastern Auckland areas of St Heliers and Glendowie and Kohimarama, so I feel strongly that they should not be further restricted. The Madills Farm area is not solely intended as a sports ground but to serve as a space for enjoyment for all. To add to this I have been resident and dog owner who walks my dog daily at Madills Farm for 8 years as well as having 3 kids who play football at the Eastern Suburbs football club over many years. Not once have I seen a dog dig holes or cause any issues with other people or other dogs. It is senseless and very dictatorship telling people of NZ where and how to walk their dogs. Walking my dog is the highlight of my mornings, walking and talking with other locals freely without being told where and how to walk our dogs. It is 1% of the population that can ruin it for others so why should the majority be punished for our freedom.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5974

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Outrageous - as ratepayers of this community, we deserve to walk our dogs at our park.

Go do something serious with your lives instead of wasting money and time on this **********

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5978

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm has been a dog exercise area for generations now. Being able to throw a ball or stick is a vital part of this. We live overlooking Madills Farm and have done for 30 plus years. We exercise a dog there. To restrict dogs from playing field areas at all times is draconian and pointless. What minimal harm dogs may cause to the playing surface is de minimis. Why should large areas of the park be out of bounds for dog owners permanently so a few sports players can use it when games are occasionally played. This is grossly favouring one relatively elite group of people to the detriment of the general public. The change would be unenforceable. How can a dog owner prevent a dog chasing a ball from inadvertently entering a playing field area not in use. All the change would do is create a whole lot of "offenders" just doing what they have always done, and do good self appointed police'rs busy telling them off, and create tensions between sports people and dog owners.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5981

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5988

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am old and struggle to walk on areas that are not flat. This is one of few places I can have my dog off lead. I don’t understand why the facility can’t be shared. The park was never intended to be just a sport facility, but rather a facility for all the community, including dog walkers like me.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Facilities should be shared in an appropriate way rather than looking to remove certain users rights for the sole benefit of others

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5989

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5990

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Limiting where locals can freely walk their dogs is just stupid. I think providing healthy excersize for dogs is more important than claiming another field for sport when there are hundreds to use. Locals who pay enough in taxes and everything else should be able to use their own park as they wish. Justice for the pups.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5994

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

There have been too many incidents of owners not controlling their dogs. We have been almost knocked over by dogs jumping on us several times and we are sick of watching dogs poop and their owners not picking it up. These are not isolated incidents they happen regularly

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Kohimarama beach

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control on a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To reduce owner-related problems (e.g. owner ignoring rules, dogs not under control, dog faeces not picked up, etc). Please specify:We have been jumped on by dogs and nearly knocked us over. We have had our belongings urinated on several time while we've been swimming

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

We have been jumped on by dogs and nearly knocked us over. We have had our belongings urinated on several time while we've been swimming

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

There needs to be greater enforcement of the rules as people just ignore them and there's no consequence

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5995

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Wasn’t this land gifted to the community for use by everyone? More families have dogs now and soon there will be nowhere to walk other than on concrete paths around the streets. Did you know dogs pads burn when they walk on concrete/tarmac at this time of year with the heat. Wasn’t it a recreational park for all before it was used as sports fields? Where do you suggest we walk the dogs after 10 when we can’t be on the beach?

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
My comments on Madills Farm apply to Glover park too

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5996

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I do not support the proposed changes.

We pay rates and taxes to use our park to do many things like walk our dogs. Go do something better with your time

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#5999

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The rule change is unnecessarily broad. People should be able to walk their pets when sports fields are not in use. The fact that there are minor instances of dog waste on sports fields is not a reason to ban them from those areas. Failing to pick up dog waste is already regulated. We don’t ban people from using the footpath just because some dog owners fail to follow the rules. Sports clubs, their members and their parents are becoming far too entitled. The local residents should be able to walk their dogs in their parks. The Council should be more focussed on regulating parking and the behaviour of sport club members and their parents than placing more and unnecessary restrictions how how we use our parks.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6002

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

Other (please explain below)

Tell us why

Current rules are fine.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Current rules are ok. Back off

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6009

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

As a ratepayer and owner of a registered dog I do not support this proposed change of access to Madills Farm or Glover Park. Many of the active dog owners in this area are older because it is an expensive part of Auckland in which to live. Unable to exercise our dogs with the freedom from a leash would be an enormous disappointment and burden for the elderly who would then feel obliged to seek out an area much further away from their homes. This would lead to a more isolated form of exercise and socialisation for dog and owners. We “know”each other and their dogs, down on the parks. There is an unwritten promise and obligation to pick up any dog poo whether it’s yours or not. Please allow us to continue to enjoy our dogs while they live with the freedom that they deserve.

With thanks,

[redacted]

ratepayer and resident in this area since 1965.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
I appreciate the time allowances on Kohimarama Beach related to the seasons.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6012

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs should be allowed off leash on sport’s vicinities or whatever when not in use. Tell the Karens to keep their nutcase off spring demons on leash instead

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
All as previously said

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6017

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Albert-Eden

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6018

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6024

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The current policy is working, and the proposed changes unfairly weight towards infrequent users. The parks are used by all, and the elderly dog owners, and those who do not have access to transport should be able to walk their dogs away from hot pavements in their local parks

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

It is important for council to remember that they are there for ALL users of parks, not select groups. That creating policies that actively discriminate one set of users, contributes significantly to poor public safety and increases the already large fractures in society between groups, including socioeconomic differences.

Reactive policy making, and reactive policy review does not achieve equitably outcomes.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6030

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
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3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Westfield Animal Hospital website stated that “while a quick walk around the block may be enough to keep some dogs healthy, dogs with higher energy levels may require one hour or more of intense exercise once or twice a day. By giving your dog enough exercise every day, you are helping them stay fit and keeping them from getting bored, which could result in anxiety or destructive behaviors.” I take my dog to Madills farm for walks twice daily and he always feels refreshed and happy after a good run off leash in the field. If the sports field is no longer open for dogs to exercise even when unused, I think there will be more health risks such as obesity, behaviour problems etc. If there are concerns about dogs being out of control when off leash, I think we can introduce helpful ways to encourage dog owners to ensure their dogs are trained for off leash exercise. For example, we can offer special coloured registration tags to indicate dogs that have passed certain off leash training courses or tests. Or we can fenced up the sports field to ensure dogs won’t interfere with sports players. Or simply set a time to allow dogs to use the field (like how the beaches have set certain times of days when dogs are allowed) etc. Please consider the impact to dogs’ health before you make the big decision. Thanks.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6033

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The sport fields cover the vast majority of these parks. With the rule proposal, dogs have SUBSTANTIALLY less area to exercise, which means that families and children have less space to exercise in the open and free area. With sections getting smaller and gardens non-existent, parks are more important than ever. And Madills, in particular, is meant to be for full community use, not just sport.

When my family moved to this community, it was Madills that drew us to the area. In fact, we went on to buy a house not far away because we think of Madills as a major jewel in the community crown. It's because of Madills that we felt comfortable welcoming a dog to our family. We - like many families - rely on Madills as a third place for our family to be together, and that includes our dog.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6037

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I agree with dogs not being in playgrounds but do not support the change prohibiting having dogs off leash on sport areas

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Rather than limiting the acces, let dog walks and owners to continue having this access so they can enjoy the areas

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6040

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6041

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

What a ridiculous concept. Dogs need off leash time and to play fetch in a decent sized safe park. Health and safety? Please explain what you mean by health and safety. This has not been an issue my whole life, even when i used to play sport on these fields. Having been a user of these parks myself I've never seen a dog "damage" the area. If anything, that'll be from the sports teams and their cleets. Parks are meant to be "for all to enjoy", including pets. Very very few dogs are the problem so why punish everyone? I've walked my dogs during sports trainings and never seen an issue of dogs getting in the way or interrupting in any manner. They've always been off to the side playing fetch with their owner, under control. The council needs to stop trying to be so controlling of the public. Dogs are a gift and deserve to have a proper place to play!

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Glover Park

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

Other - please specify:Dogs who are under control should be allowed off leash anywhere in my opinion.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Because dogs deserve a place to play too, not just humans.

Location 2

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Madills Farm

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

Other - please specify:All dogs who are under control off leash should be allowed anywhere at anytime in my opinion. These rules are becoming a money making scheme for the council. It's a joke.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Parks should be for all to enjoy including animals.

Other - please specify:

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Yeah, stop being so controlling. Let owners make the decision about their dogs, after all they know them best, not you.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6044

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6045

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

I think you should fence off an area of madills near the olayground to use as an off leash dog area. My children and myself have been rushed and jumped by dogs when playing sports not to mention the dog poo on the fields where they are playing. But at the same time dogs need a place to run. Fence off a large area further down and all can enjoy the park.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6053

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

As a 75 yr old Aucklander and one of the vast majority of responsible dog owners I strongly oppose the sweeping changes to dog access laws proposed by Auckland Council and wish for the status quo to be maintained.

Dogs are and need to remain a positive part of the life of Aucklanders and regular access to their local beaches and parks for off leash exercise is a huge contributing factor in the provision of a healthy and happy life for most dogs.

The proposed law change is in fact an excessive and extreme response to issues arising from irresponsible dog ownership. These issues need to be addressed far more adequately through targeted and direct intervention, not through a cheap 'shortcut solution' like the law changes that are proposed here.

"I strongly oppose the sweeping changes to dog access laws that are being proposed by Auckland Council and wish for the status quo to be maintained.

Dogs are and need to remain a positive part of the life of Aucklanders and regular access to their own local beaches and parks for off leash exercise is a huge contributing factor in the provision of a healthy and happy life for most dogs.

The proposed law change is in fact an excessive and extreme response to issues arising from irresponsible dog ownership. These issues need to be addressed far more adequately through targeted and direct intervention not through a cheap ’shortcut solution’ such as the sweeping law changes that have been proposed."

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6054

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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1. Walking multiple dogs
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3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Its not clear why changing these rules is beneficial? If people were already following the rules then any perceived negative impacts would already be addressed.

Madills doesn't have good parking options at the end that would nominally become the dog area. It needs some fencing probably, but more parking. Maybe switch parking at that end to angled parking on the park side of the street only. Also, the dog bags stations are never refilled, and there is limited waste bins there. If this is going to be successful, it needs to be an area that people find it easy to run their dogs there.

Glover Park. People with disabilities are going to struggle with these rules, the only useable ground for them would be prohibited. If their dogs aren't an issue, then why restrict their access. If there are dogs that are an issue, deal with those owners. Don't punish the well behaved owners.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Some beaches

What local board area is this location in?

I don't know

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Why can't less utilised beaches be designated as dog accessible even during summer? Busy beaches like mission bay wouldn't be appropirate, but less populated beaches could be designated as dog friendly and allow dogs year round off-leash. People can avo

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Why can't less utilised beaches be designated as dog accessible even during summer? Busy beaches like mission bay wouldn't be appropirate, but less populated beaches could be designated as dog friendly and allow dogs year round off-leash. People can avo

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Change the rules shouldn't just be about restricting dog-owner rights, it needs to balance all users. If you're taking from dog owners, there needs to be something offered in some way to help offset the negative changes.

Target the problem owners, not the others.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6056

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I recognize the concerns clubs have about dogs being on sports fields in public spaces. However, Madills is a vast piece of land that has ample room for everyone. I would like to inquire whether an alternative space within the park for dogs and their owners has been considered. There is plenty of underutilisied land at Madills that could easily accommodate a large, dedicated fenced area for dogs and their owners to enjoy the park without interfering with other activities.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6059

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills farm has some of the most respectful and polite dog owners I've seen at the numerous off leash areas I've visited all over Auckland. Orakei board area has one of highest dog ownership rates in greater Auckland. It is a community institution and a key part of the culture. I would regularly visit before I was an owner just to walk the area and be amongst the dogs.

Owners are respectful of the play/sports areas already - staying away or leashing their dogs when sports are on, picking up after their dogs (including pointing out when an owner misses something, or picking up after a non-local dog)

Dog culture is a part of our community fabric and every proposed change here tears away at the threads that bind our community culture. I've personally made real friends through visits to this specific park and met through our dog's off leash play. And off leash play and walks are a key requirement for healthy, obedient dogs - it literally halves the time you need to exercise them - the freedom to run, the additional mental stimulation, etc.

worse still, the areas left after this proposed change would all be close to the roads, and/or creek (wet dogs are not only a hassle, but also less obedient as they hyper stimulate - the zoomies - leading to worse behaviour.

This has always been a great space for people and dogs to enjoy a wide range of activities and play. With such limited other options in the area, it should be considered an integral part of maintaining our community culture and vibe - dogs do little damage to the playing surfaces (owners don't like dirty dogs, and don't like damaging the fields) so this seems like unnecessary bureaucracy that punishes the animals and the owners. Don't take away a space of happiness and make life worse for animals.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to

change the dog access rules?Mission bay beach**What local board area is this location in?**Ōrākei**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**Entire location**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Change the morning rules whilst maintaining the evening rules over the summer period.**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**The current time and season rule makes sense in the evenings - mission bay over summer has a lot of additional visitors and tourists. But the mornings have very little difference in non-dog related activities. For true locals (those within a kilometre or

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6061

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Please don't change madills farm rules.
The dogs love it. It's a safe, contained area for them

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6062

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

This park is a community park. The studs and physical movement of players during training and games is a major cause of the surface being damaged. I go to madills a lot with my kids (I do not have a dog) and never have a I seen a dog digging or doing anything that would cause more damage than studs/sliding of players.

Dogs need a place to run. This has been a huge part of dog community for so Many years it would be damaging to change it. There are numerous places to lay sports but not numerous places to walk your dog off leash.

I agree that during sporting times dogs can be on leads. But during the day (every day during the week) they should still be able to run about on the huge area that is not being used for sports.

There are so many rescrictions already around Auckland. Please don’t damage the community by making more unneccessary ones like this.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6063

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

It’s ridiculous, how are families to play at the park with their dog with the new rules. Dogs are an important part of st part of family life and wellbeing and they should be allowed at all parks, under control and on leash. Signed should be clear that all poop be picked up and bags provided by council. Our rates should cover poop bags just like they do rubbish bins.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6065

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Removing off leash exercise in Glover Park would mean the only option for off leash walking in the near area would Churchill Park which is not an accessible walking area for many older dog owners. It would result in them going by car to Roberta Reserve or going to the beach which would add to the congestion in those areas and lead to more unnecessary traffic.

I am a responsible dog owner and walk my two small dogs at Glover Park daily as does the dog walker who comes to take them out when I am at work.

The majority of the dogs on the playing fields when there are events are the dogs that are with the supporters of people participating. I have never seen a dog disrupt anything as sports are in play.

There are rarely people just using the playing field for the exercise of their dogs at Glover in the times I walk my dogs. In my experience the majority use the path around the field and their dogs venture a limited way on to the fields. Therefore limited disruption from dogs on the field with digging or toileting. I see human debris (food, clothing, bottles) left in the area more frequently than I ever see dog faeces that has not been picked up. As a responsible owner I will pick up dog faeces that I see that is not my own animals. I will also call out those that do not pick up after their dogs if I witness it. It is not hard to remember poop bags when you walk your animals but potentially providing rolls of bags in the parks may help people who occasionally forget to bring them - but to be honest most owners would happily give bags to people who have forgotten them or been unfortunate to miscalculate the number needed on a walk.

Reminding people of the rules and potentially having some park wardens would assist in all forms of poor behaviour in our public spaces instead of punishing good, socially responsible community members and their pets.

Also stop removing bins from the community. This is counterintuitive if you want people to pick up after themselves.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

There will always be idiots, changing the rules impacts on the majority of people who are sensible and community minded. Deal with the idiots more effectively instead of a blanket approach that punishes those that do the right thing daily.

Dogs roaming and being unregistered are more of an issue in New Zealand than the occasional dog poop on the playing fields in Glover park.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6066

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Na mate. Dogs need the opportunity to be off leash in this amazing space. We are respectful of sports games and it needs to be a shared space.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6067

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6069

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Good idea to keep dogs off playing fields at all times

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Dog access rules are not really controlled at the present time.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6070

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

There are many times when the sports fields are not in use, making them ideal for a shared space. Both groups should have equal access to this space and be respectful. I notice often the fields are strewn with coffee cups, drink bottles and sports tape, especially in the winter. This is not the fault of dog owners

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6072

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

Other (please explain below)

Tell us why

There needs to be a dedicated dog area at the south end of Madill’s farm for dogs with the grass area fenced off from the road. If this happens then I agree dogs should not be allowed on sports playing areas.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6083

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

This change is unacceptable and unnecessary. The park is currently enjoyed by all users in a complementary way. You're proposing to reduce the amenity to a large proportion of the tax paying population who enjoy and respectfully exercise their dogs in this public space. The proportion of time that sports users occupy this space is disproportionate to these measures.. I would consider supporting some time or seasonal restrictions but, not these broad bans. The outcome of this consultation will be a consideration for me in board elections on 9th September. Thank you for considering my perspective.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Stop increasing the restrictions and, instead, invest in enforcing the instruments that you already have.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6088

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Franklin

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Parks provide enrichment, socialization, and stimulation, all of it contributingto a well behaved dog; council should attempt to increase dog access instead of reducing it.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Waterbodies and parks provide enrichment, socialization, and stimulation, all of it contributingto a well behaved dog; council should attempt to increase dog access instead of reducing it.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6089

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

There are less and less places to exercise dogs and dog owners make up a significant percentage of the eastern bays community. Responsible owners always look after the park so this new ruling is non sensical.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6090

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

It would become a ghost land. I was there on Thursday. There were only dog walkers. People were talking to each other and had dogs being in common. You can’t walk your dog at Point England anymore as we will get attacked. Madills should be for all and be relaxed. Change the rules and you will get those vigilantes self policing the park. You will create nasty people in the park and lose the lovely sense of community. Soccer Saturdays are fine but don’t penalise the lovely community of people who love dogs. If only dogs could talk - Archie is a different and happy dog walking Madills compared to walking GI and Point England. That can be frightening. Thank you

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

No I think council is doing a good job re dogs. 🐕 I don’t think it needs to change

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6097

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Glover Park is a park I use a lot to walk our dog. I would personally be upset if I could not use this park for this activity. The majority of time I'm there the sports fields aren't being used.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Glover Park**What local board area is this location in?**Ōrākei**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**Entire location**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:I believe dogs should be allowed off leash at all times at Glover Park**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6101

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I, [redacted] DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed change for Glover Park and Madills Farm for the following reasons:

- These parks are well utilised by the community for exercising dogs, which also aids in dog socialisation, and in my experience in fostering community social connections. I have met a lot of new neighbours this way!

- The status quo is well supported by the community, as shown in the recent public (in-person) submissions . The vast majority (all?) spoke in support of maintaining the current off-leash areas and times.

- Long standing usage as an off-leash park should be recognised and maintained. “aligning with bylaws” would be heavy-handed and deaf to local support / current usage.

- There are no biodiversity or ecological issues at Glover Park.

- There is a very low incidence of Irresponsible dog owners in these areas.

- The status-quo offers a higher aggregate level of community health and happiness with these parks .

- damage to sports surfaces is mostly from sports activities – ie turf damage and soil depressions at the mouth of the batting cage and at the mouth of the football goalposts.

- Removing/reducing local off-leash areas (schedule 1(2)) is viewed as a selfish, non-sharing takeover of SHARED PUBLIC AREAS by sports groups. It is unnecessarily divisive.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Dog access seems to be becoming increasing restrictive at a time when dog ownership is increasing. I don't like my rates supporting that.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6107

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

I think dogs have a lot of rights and access in this area. I would go so far as to ensure that dogs are not allowed on leash near the playground as people often tie their dogs to the playground fence near the gates so we have to take our children right past the dogs. People think that if their kids like dogs all kids do and it is not fair to make all children deal with other people's pets. Also kids do go in the area near playgrounds and having to navigate dog poo is not great, kids do not necessarily notice and who want so to have to clean poo of off kids' shoes all the time?

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

St Heliers Beach

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to prohibit dogs

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

A section of it. Please specify:Please section off half of the beach for no dog access at any time of the year.

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:If people are clear where dogs

can go and not go people who do not want to be around dogs can do so without questions about rules or time of year or time of day. It is very clear. Dog area and not dog area. No confusion.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Owners seem to not be able to follow the rules no matter the time of day or time of year. It would be very clear if there is part of the beach where dogs are never allowed and that can be easily enforced. People using the no dog area do not need to deal w

Location 2

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Dingle Dell Reserve and bush walks.

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to prohibit dogs

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To reduce owner-related problems (e.g. owner ignoring rules, dogs not under control, dog faeces not picked up, etc). Please specify:Owners almost never follow the rules, dog poo,

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Most often when we go here dogs are off leash. We saw a juvenile ruru one time and it was quite low and a dog could easily jump, bark and get to the bird.

This is amazing bush and we should be protecting it and encouraging more native wildlife and that i

Location 3

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Wai O Taiki Nature Reserve

What local board area is this location in?

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to prohibit dogs

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To reduce owner-related problems (e.g. owner ignoring rules, dogs not under control, dog faeces not picked up, etc). Please specify:all of the examples above

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

This area is close to Tahuna Torea where many sea shore birds live or visit. It would be great for these birds to have a larger safe area as they go there already.

I can not walk onto the reserve grass area without immediately having to watch the ground

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Overall I feel all beaches should have a section that is permanently dog free no matter the season.

Some parks can have dogs (on and off leash) but some parks should have no dogs at all.

Especially where there are play grounds dog rules should be more strict or prohibited to avoid confusion.

There are some really nice and rule-following owners but unfortunately they are a small minority in my experience so clearer rules and more no dog areas would reduce conflict, confusion and all can enjoy these spaces more.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6108

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Prohibiting dogs from the sports grounds at all times is unreasonable; the sports grounds cover a large portion of the area which is well used by the public for walking dogs, but only a small portion of this area would be available under the new rules. The sports grounds are only used for a few hours a day while the public walking dogs use the fields most of the time, so will suffer if access is prohibited over such a wide area. Owners are responsible for removing faeces from the fields and leave the fields in a clean state at all times so not causing a hazard to those playing sports.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6110

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6112

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

This is a discriminatory and unnecessary change. The fields are used for sports at the weekend only. There are many sporting areas available in the city and this is the only dog walking field in the area.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6116

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dear [Council Representative/Committee],

I am writing to urge the council to reconsider current restrictions on dog access to public parks and to advocate for policies that allow dogs to be present in all parks without limitations, provided they are on a leash, with balanced measures for off-leash times during peak usage.

As urban development increases housing density, private outdoor spaces are diminishing, placing greater importance on public recreational spaces for all residents — including dog owners. Dog ownership continues to rise, and yet, despite paying levies and registration fees, dog owners face significant restrictions on their ability to use public parks fairly and equally.

Key Reasons for Allowing Unrestricted On-Leash Dog Access to Parks

1. Equity and Fair Use of Public Spaces

Dog owners contribute to the community through fees and levies, and they should be entitled to equal access to recreational areas. Public parks are communal spaces, and no group of responsible users should be excluded. Ensuring that dogs on leashes are permitted in all parks supports equitable use.

2. Adapting to Increased Housing Density

With the city's strategic plan prioritising higher-density housing, many residents now live without access to private gardens or yards. This makes local parks vital for responsible pet ownership. Denying dog owners reasonable access forces them to travel further afield, which can be impractical and counterproductive to community goals around local engagement and sustainability.

3. Supporting Mental Health and Well-being

Dogs play a crucial role in the mental health and emotional well-being of many residents. They provide companionship, reduce loneliness, and encourage physical activity. By limiting access to parks, the council inadvertently reduces the opportunities for dog owners to benefit from these positive effects.

4. Environmental and Community Benefits

Regular use of parks by responsible dog owners can enhance community safety through passive surveillance and foster a stronger sense of community. Increased park usage also encourages better maintenance and shared stewardship.

Suggested Approach to Balance Park Use

While advocating for unrestricted on-leash access, I recognise the need to balance the needs of all park users. Here are some additional suggestions:

- Designated Off-Leash Hours

Introduce flexible off-leash hours during times of low park usage (e.g., early mornings or late evenings) to minimise conflicts with other users while still providing dogs the opportunity to exercise freely.

- Shared Use Zones

Rather than designating entire parks as off-limits to dogs, create shared-use zones where dog owners, families, and other community members can coexist, with clear signage and guidelines.

- Temporary Off-Leash Restrictions During Peak Times

In parks experiencing high foot traffic during weekends or special events, temporary restrictions on off-leash dogs could be applied, ensuring that all users can enjoy the space safely.

- Community Education and Responsible Pet Ownership

Partner with local organisations to promote responsible dog ownership, including waste management, leash etiquette, and respectful sharing of public spaces.

- Improved Facilities

Consider investing in additional waste bins, water stations, and signage to support responsible dog ownership and maintain the cleanliness of parks.

Conclusion

Parks are meant to be inclusive, accessible spaces for the entire community. By adopting policies that allow unrestricted on-leash access for dogs while implementing thoughtful guidelines for off-leash activity, the council can better support the growing number of dog owners and foster a more inclusive and vibrant community.

I appreciate your consideration of this submission and urge the council to prioritise fairness, community well-being, and practical solutions in future park planning.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I do not agree with restrictions to use. As ratepayer I should be entitled to use these areas in a respectful and responsible way alongside other users. As a responsible dog owner I find this an abhorrent dogs are no more problematic than tourists, boat owners and children. Auckland should be more dog friendly and not less.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6121

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6129

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

It’s a park. Dog owners in this park are responsible and pick up dog waste. You can’t tell a dog not to walk onto a sports field. It all looks like grass to them.

What is the actual issue you want to address? Is it dog poo, digging holes, or leaving sticks behind? Address the real issues, signs and educate local users and everyone can use a great park.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Signs with expectations displayed reinforce habits.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6130

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Disagree with needing to prohibit and manage this so strictly. The park is an accessible place for all people and their 4 legged friends that would be a waste to take it away.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6131

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

am writing to express my opposition to the proposed amendment that would prohibit dogs from all sports surfaces at all times. While I understand the need to balance public use and safety, I believe the current policy is already a fair and effective approach.

The existing rules ensure that dogs are only allowed off-leash on sports fields when they are not in use, preventing disruption to activities while still allowing responsible dog owners to exercise their pets in open spaces. Completely banning dogs from these areas, even when unused, is unnecessarily restrictive and limits accessible off-leash spaces for dog owners.

Dogs require adequate exercise and socialization, and for many residents, sports fields provide one of the few large, open areas suitable for this purpose. Removing access to these spaces could lead to overcrowding in other permitted areas, increasing the likelihood of conflicts between dogs and other park users.

A more balanced approach would be to maintain the current policy, which already prohibits dogs when sports fields are in use while allowing responsible off-leash exercise when they are vacant. If concerns exist about dog waste or damage, education and enforcement of existing rules—rather than an outright ban—would be a more reasonable solution.

I urge you to reconsider this change and support a policy that accommodates both dog owners and other park users

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

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A more balanced approach would be to maintain the current policy, which already prohibits dogs when sports fields are in use while allowing responsible off-leash exercise when they are vacant. If concerns exist about dog waste or damage, education and enforcement of existing rules—rather than an outright ban—would be a more reasonable solution.

I urge you to reconsider this change and support a policy that accommodates both dog owners and other park users

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6135

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The proposed changes greatly impact the unique character of two very important local parks. Many residents have specifically purchased or rented properties close to these reserves for ease of access to dog off-leash locations. This is a way of life for us. These two parks bring us so much joy and a chance for both owners and dogs alike to de-stress whilst throwing a ball or frisbie or playing with others dogs. There is a huge sense of belonging and community fostered amongst local dog owners who frequent these parks daily. This is vitally important for the mental health of vulnerable members of the community including senior citizens who need time outdoors, bonding with their pets and interacting with other people. Our dogs help to unite in conversation with strangers who become intergenerational friends. Madill's Farm particularly is a flat and open reserve with a safe carpark and easy access to the grass. For most of the day the marked up sports fields - which make up the majority of the safe central area of the park - lie vacant and unused by sports people. Dog owners are the only people regularly using this open space during the weekdays. Anyone who has stopped to observe the patronage of Madill's Farm for any length of time will note that the majority of users are people walking with their dogs - giving them opportunities to socialise in a safe space unhindered by leads that would create tripping hazards when dogs interact with eachother as they naturally do. It is very important for good dog behaviour that they get sufficient exercise and this requires a large open off-leash space in a safe location well away from the roadside. Owners also feel safe here as the reserve is open, well lit and with an even walking surface. During the summer months it is untenably hot for dogs to walk the paths, around the perimeter the space is extremely limited. In winter the perimeter becomes boggy and unusable.

I hope that the Board will show some insight in this matter and recognise that the reserve is not like other locations in Auckland which were purposefully designed as primarily sports fields. Madill's is a reserve for everyone.

I believe the status quo should remain at Madill's Farm and Glover Park. Dogs off leash, sports and other users can all coexist as they have done for many, many years up till now.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6137

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I have been a dog owner for the past 30 years and have enjoyed the off leash areas as they are. To restrict these areas would be extremely disappointing for dog owners who enjoy the interaction of dogs enjoying meeting other dogs in an off leash environment. Socialising dogs is extremely important to their welfare. Maddils Farm is enjoyed by many and for years, it is a great place for walking and socialising for people. To restrict this area would be extremely upsetting to our community. As it appears today it is an asset to the community.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6142

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

While there are no sports taking place on the fields, it provides a safe and happy place for local dogs to meet and play, as well as creating a strong sense of community among the dog owners themselves. We.dogs are generally speaking, all very well behaved and there have been no serious incidents of note. Please reconsider this decision.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6143

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I do not support the proposed changes because they will negatively impact the daily exercise routine for ourselves and our dog.

We have a well behaved border collie who is a very high energy dog. It would not be reasonable for us or him to be artificially denied access to such a large proportion of these recreation areas.

While I acknowledge there are issues with a minority of dog owners failing to clean up after their dogs and a lack of control, these behaviours are already handled by the existing rules.

To arbitrarily toughen the dog walking rules will act to punish the majority of dog owners who do not contribute to the problem. My strong preference would be for improved adherence to the existing rules by a combination of education and enforcement.

If these new rules are introduced, then many people will be in the situation of having to drive their dogs to alternative areas on a daily basis. This will increase both carbon emissions and congestion. Has Auckland Council factored these negatives into their thinking?

We also note the Auckland Council has contributed to the problem of owners being unable to clean up after their dogs by neglecting to replenish the dog poo bag dispensers in the parks affected by this proposal. This was raised by notification 8110729850 last year, and council appears to have ignored this request.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

If people complied with the existing rules in these parks, then I believe the proposed changes would not be required.

It is only the rule breakers who are creating this situation and I do not believe that just changing the rules will increase compliance. If anything it will increase non-compliance and normalise such non-compliant behaviour.

The existing rules in these parks cater for all users. It is only the rule breakers who are spoiling things.

It will be more cost effective to improve compliance of the existing rules than to introduce further restrictions.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6144

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Want the ability to exercise my dog off leash outside sports times. Will limit access in this area considerably removing Madill as an option

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Madills Farm**What local board area is this location in?**Ōrākei**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**A section of it. Please specify:Sports field**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To reduce owner-related problems (e.g. owner ignoring rules, dogs not under control, dog faeces not picked up, etc). Please specify:Tighten up rules when sports being played to reduce dispures**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6145

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6147

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills farm is used by hundreds of dog owners in the community. Good dog owners make well behaved dogs. People should take it upon themselves to know whether their dog needs to be on a leash or not socialising with others. This is a free country. It is a public place and it is not your place to push people and their beloved pets out of a park that has been used for as long as I can remember as a dog park. I have beloved memories of my dog and heaps of others coming to football games and being walked around Madills. It is a community. Do not do this.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6148

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

please leave these areas available for pups and there families

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
please don’t change the rules no

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6149

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6158

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am an elderly woman, and have walked each of my dogs at Madills over the last 32 years. Madills is a large green community recreation reserve space, where residents from all walks of life meet, which reduces feelings of loneliness and isolation, particularly amongst the elderly. This is a flat, and above all SAFE place for any woman to walk her dog. A psychiatrist said loneliness is as toxic to your mental health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Many older people have a dog for company, and to help to keeping fit. We dog walkers use Madills at least once a day, in all weathers. At any time, there is always someone walking a dog. We are locals who pay our rates, to live in this special part of Auckland, and without exception our dogs are all registered. 29% of our rates go to maintaining areas like Madills for everyone, dog walkers included.

During lockdown, the socially distanced dog walkers, were the only people I came in contact with. Madills fulfilled it's purpose as a COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL RESERVE. When restrictions began to ease, you will remember we were allowed to have a picnic. One of the other dog walkers suggested this to us, and the rest is history. We have become really good friends, even though the only thing we have in common is our dogs! I am the only one who is retired. We are a really mixed group, and all enjoy each other's company. For our first gathering they gave me an 80th birthday party in the park, with a cake and flowers and balloons. What a treat! My doctor was really impressed by this. We now look after each other's dogs when needed and help each other.

Why is a change being discussed for Madills as in the past it has all worked perfectly? If it ain't broke....don't fix it!

My grandson plays football at Madills, and the members of the club were all sent an explanation of the proposal changes, after saying it was nothing to do with them. This is obviously untrue, as were the blatant lies in that email. Many of the parents of players have told us how embarrassed they are by the club's actions, and the falsehoods they are spreading. Many of the families have dogs, which they bring to the children's games.

The dog walkers are more diligent in picking up rubbish, (including dog poo, and used bandage strapping which is left after each game), than anyone else. IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH DOG POO NOT BEING PICKED UP..... SEND IN A COUNCIL EMPLOYEE IN AND FINE THE INDIVIDUALS!!! The rest of us would absolutely back you. We are much more annoyed that anyone else, as it reflects on us. The proposed area the club want us

restricted to, is totally unsuitable to exercise a dog. Most importantly, it is close to the road, and is flooded every winter. It is not SAFE FOR WOMEN to walk along the tree lined part in the evening. It is dark at 5.30 in winter and there are no lights there. As for the club saying they are allowing us 50% of Madills that is another lie. The person responsible for that email should be named and shamed. They should be informed that many of your members do not agree with you, but are apprehensive about publicly saying so, as they are hoping for their children to get into rep teams. YES REALLY!!!

In conclusion, Madills is such a lovely popular green oasis in our busy suburbs, and has been enjoyed by many locals for many purposes, for many years. Please do not implement the changes just for a sports club, that has $1.5 million in the bank. Let them buy their own ground just like other sports clubs. There are many hours of many days, when no sport is being played. Why can't the rest of us who use it every day, continue to do so?

Please leave the rules where they have been, and MADILLS RECREATION RESERVE will remain as a popular place FOR EVERYONE.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
No thanks. I think you have heard enough from me

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6160

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Kaipātiki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

95% of people using these areas are using them as off leash dog parks. These are vital in any area as dogs, fir their own mental health need to be able to run and play off leash. In 30 plus years using these parks I have never seen any damaged caused by dogs. I do however see untild ribbish left behind by genersl members of the public as well as sports players and watchers which can make the areas unpleasant and even dangerous to dogs. Left over KFC bones for example can choke a dog and chip packets etc cause major issues if ingested. Perhaps spend more time and money keeping the parks clean and leave the dogs alone.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6161

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm is a great community space for that is safe and accessible to all ages and fitness levels - particularly the elderly community.

When the sports fields are not in use it is currently being well utilized by dog walkers and their families - it is very rare to see any dog mess not picked up.

Without this facility, the impact will be felt by increase of off leash dogs on Kohimarama beach.

I can't understand why after 21 years of this park being a designated off leash exercise area that works for all that there is now a change in law being proposed. Waste of time and money on a ridiculous agenda.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Don't try and fix things that are not broken.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6163

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills farm is used heavily for off leash dog walking. The dogs are well controlled and prople pick up the dog poo. The park is used every day by elderly people taking their dogs for iff leash walks. It would be impossible to let them off leash and not ontothe spirts fields. I thinknthe current law works perfectly well and it is always a joy fir us to walk our dog there snd connect with other dog owners. the playground is fenced so dogs are never in there anyway which makes it a very safe place for children to play. . I would be very sorry to see the nature of Madills farm changed. . It is a fabulous extremely well used community park. Msny people come from afar to walk their dogs there specially elderly people as the path is nice and is a circuit. It is an excellent park that works beautifully for many groups of people.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
no

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6164

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6165

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
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3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

There is very limited areas for dogs to be off leash at parks within this area. This is a great local park and accessible to anyone. The proposed area is far too small with most of it being a gated playground. The area here is too close to the roads causing issues for traffic is dogs roam too far, closer to residents that may get annoyed with dogs barking. The original area has lots of space keeps animals safe and away from cars or distracting children and parents at the park or annoy residents with barking.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Madills Farm Recreation Reserve

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

I don’t know

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

A section of it. Please specify:All adds should allow dogs not the new proposed area

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

The proposed area is too small, located too close to residential areas causing distribution with dogs barking and risk of accident being closer to the road

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

NA

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6168

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am strongly opposed to the proposed changes to dog access at Madills Farm and Glover Park.

I have been a local resident for 15 years, first in Kohimarama and then in Mission Bay and have used Madills Farm and Glover Park extensively in this time both with my dog and with my family, including for sport. These parks are the heart of our communities, helping us build connections with our neighbours while providing a pleasant, safe space to exercise and enjoy the outdoors. I have met some of my best friends while walking my dog. When health challenges have limited my exercise options, Madills and Glover Park have been the only spaces available to me being flat and open. I visit these parks multiple times a week – more so in the summer when I can't take my dog to the beach. There are no alternative flat, open, off leash parks in this area. I already drive from Mission Bay to use these parks because there are no similar off leash areas in Mission Bay. Dog owners have so few options for exercising ourselves and our dogs off lead and the Council appears to take every opportunity to reduce these options every year.

Population growth and housing intensification in our community has resulted in increased demands on our limited open spaces. It is imperative that Auckland Council recognise this demand and ensure that the whole community shares access, that the needs of all user groups are taken into account and balanced and that our open spaces are used in the most productive way for all. The current proposal would see our limited open spaces reserved for one niche user group (organised sport) at the expense of the larger community and unfairly disadvantaging older residents, a larger than average demographic in the Orakei Local Board area who make up a significant proportion of dog owners. It would also see these spaces left unused for the majority of the day when dog owners in the community have a need which can't be met elsewhere in the area.

There seems to be a misconception at Auckland Council and even within the Orakei Local Board that Madills Farm and Glover Park are primarily sports fields. They are not. They are suburban parks and reserves for the recreational use of the whole community with organised sport being one user group among many. While sport use has grown over time, Madills and Glover are and always will be community parks for the use of all.

Currently dog owners are not allowed on the marked fields when in use for organised sport but can walk their dogs off leash at all other times. The result of these rules sees

intense sports usage on the weekends and evenings when dog owners tend to stay away, instead exercising at other times when the parks would otherwise be empty, creating balance and using the space efficiently. To propose a policy that sees the park left unused for the majority of the week and during school holidays is not making best use of this limited resource.

The council has advised that the changes are being proposed for three reasons and I disagree with all three of these points:

Reason 1 - To align with Auckland Council's general policy of prohibiting dogs on sports fields at all times.

Every open space in Auckland is different. While the intent of Council in trying to apply blanket rules across the Supercity may help with clarity, this should not override the need for local communities to be able to decide what is the appropriate use for their open spaces. Applying a 'cookie cutter' approach to these scarce and valuable resources will not achieve the best outcome for our communities. We need to treat all our open spaces as individual and apply rules accordingly.

The need to adopt city wide rules for access may be useful where users regularly come from outside the area eg Cornwall Park, Auckland Domain etc but Madills and Glover are local parks used by the local community.

Reason 2 - Because maintenance costs for the park are high and are forecast to increase

While maintenance costs are cited as a concern, it is important to note that the majority of maintenance at Madills Farm and Glover Park is for the benefit of organised sports users, particularly the football club. The fields are heavily used by sports teams, leading to wear and tear that incurs significant costs to ratepayers. Council staff frequently maintain the fields by mowing, re-seeding, irrigating, spreading sand and repairing damaged turf. While some wear may occur from dog use, this is not the primary cause of field degradation or even a significant contributing factor. After observing the fields, I have found that most damage occurs in areas where sports players are most active, such as in goal areas and along the sidelines, particularly after rainy weather or heavy sports usage. In addition, these parks were once swamps, with a high water table that leads to sink holes, erosion of sand and other damage. These issues are not caused by dogs, yet the Council is wrongly attributing field damage to dog...

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Kohimarama Beach**What local board area is this location in?**Ōrākei**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**Entire location**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Currently dogs are not allowed off leash on Kohimarama beach between 1 December and 1 March in line with Auckland wide time and season rules but dog walkers are almost the only people on Kohi Beach before 10am even in summer**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**In reality, most dog walkers continue to walk their dogs off leash before 10am during the summer months without causing any problems. Allowing off leash access before 10am all year would recognise the reality of the main user group at this beach in the mo

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6174

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Objection to Changes in Dog Access Rules at Madill's Farm

To the Auckland Council:

I respectfully submit my objection to the proposed changes to dog access rules at Madill's Farm ('the Farm').

Local Context and Community Impact:

The Farm is a vital community asset, enjoyed predominantly by dog owners during the day. Restricting off-leash areas would disproportionately limit the use of this public space for a significant portion of the community. Many dog owners have purchased homes within walking distance of the Farm. Their decision to purchase has been influenced by the long - standing dog access rules at the Farm, which includes the use of the sports fields when these are not being used for games.

The Importance of Shared Spaces:

The Farm, as a public reserve, should remain accessible to all members of the community. Currently, the fields are in use for sports only a small percentage of the day, particularly during weekdays. Limiting dog access, even during times when the fields are unused, seems excessive and unnecessary.

Post-COVID, dog ownership has risen significantly, as has apartment and townhouse living in the area. Dogs, as social animals, require off-leash exercise and interaction for their well-being. Madill's Farm offers a safe and supportive environment for this.

I have observed that while there are occasional instances of dog waste not being picked up, these are

infrequent and often resolved by other responsible dog owners.

Alignment with Auckland Strategic Plans:

The Auckland Unitary Plan 2050 emphasizes ‘Belonging and Participation’, advocating for safe, shared spaces where community life can flourish. It states that the focus should be on “providing sufficient safe, shared spaces and places that are flexible in how individuals, whanau and communities can use that are easily accessible”. Reducing off-leash areas contradicts this objective by limiting accessible and inclusive spaces for dog owners.

Similarly, the Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan aims to increase physical activity among Aucklanders. Activities such as walking the dog are key forms of recreation for many residents, myself included.

Auckland Councils’ Increasing Aucklanders’ Participation in Sport Investment Plan 2019-2039 states that whilst 78% of Auckland’s Adults and 95% of young people participate in sport and recreation regularly only 1% - 2% respectively play competitive sport. One can assume that a very large percentage of Aucklanders count walking, including dog-walking at local reserves, as their active recreation given that the Plan defines Active recreation as physical activity that is informal and done for wellbeing, health and/or enjoyment. It may be participated in either individually or with a group.

Restricting off-leash areas to spaces bordering roads poses safety risks and undermines the natural, spontaneous groupings of dog owners and their pets that currently occur across the park. These interactions contribute to community cohesion and provide opportunities for both dogs and owners to socialise.

Potential Consequences of the Proposed Changes:

Limiting off-leash access to small areas could lead to overcrowding and safety concerns. Large, energetic dogs might inadvertently injure smaller dogs or people in smaller spaces. Additionally, proximity to roads increases the risk of accidents.

Without access to sufficient off-leash areas, dogs may become less exercised and

less socialised, leading to behavioural problems. As the owner of a young dog, I am particularly concerned by this.

The lack of suitable local alternatives would force dog owners to drive to other parks, contributing to traffic

congestion and reducing the accessibility of recreation for those without cars.

As noted in the Ōrākei Local Board Plan 2023, one of the challenges regarding "Community" is to find creative ways to provide the facilities and services that our community needs and look after what we have, and "ensuring that our public and green spaces maintain an ongoing sense of family friendliness and safety given the challenge of anti-social behaviour." By limiting off leash areas the Council may well polarise the community, as dog walkers will feel that their needs are not being considered.

Professional Recommendations:

The Association of Professional Dog Trainers New Zealand (APDTNZ) emphasises the importance of regular off-leash exercise and socialisation for dogs to prevent fear, stress, and anxiety. Dogs that lack these opportunities are at greater risk of developing behavioural problems, including aggression.

Conclusion:

Madill's Farm is an important community space that provides immense value to dog owners and their pets. The proposed changes to dog access rules would unfairly penalise responsible dog owners while failing to address the core issues affecting our parks.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6181

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6185

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The grounds are a shared space for all. I cannot walk my dog around the proposed area. Most of the time these proposed new areas a slippery, flooded, dark at night and closer to the road.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Please don't change what is working just fine in Orakei. These are suburb, neighboorhood parks and restricting use of dogs off leash will only increase traffic due to people trying to find a place that is off leash

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6187

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Hello, I am a resident of St Heliers and have been my entire life. We have had 3 dogs and I often walk the 2 we still have at Glover Park. I have played football at Madills Park and used to attend the athletics at Glover on a Tuesday night. I am very sorry to hear that you have intentions to ban us from the sports grounds, where will we be aloud to go off lead if not there? It's only one block from my home and I know a lot of locals. Not so much for myself but I know a lot of the older people meet there and it's a great social community for them, not to mention of course the dog socialising drummed into us by vets and dog experts alike. I don't understand why we can't carry on with the way it has been. It's just a matter of taking into account the other point of view and respecting each other. As it is we aren't allowed on the fields when in play for obvious reasons and that's fine, but when there's nobody there??? The park is for everyone and I think that's how it should stay. Why should one sector of the community take president over another?

Regards [redacted]

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6190

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Free range access for all family members is important. As long as the dogs are controlled which are the majority then there shouldn’t by any issues for anyone.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6191

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Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The current policy works well for Glover and Madills and meets the council's #1 Dog Access Principle. To change to no access on the sports fields at any time means there is no large flat area in St Heliers or Kohimarama on which to properly exercise dogs off leash, especially the larger breeds. To not provide that access would seriously affect both animal and owner welfare. There is an old saying "if it's not broke, don't fix it" and we think this applies here.

The current shared access works, with dog owners exercising their dogs when there is no active sport so please do not change .

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6192

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am a ratepayer and dog owner who regularly uses both Madills Farm and Glover Park for off-leash dog walking. I value these opportunities.

It is important that dogs get adequate exercise for their well-being, and the well-being of their owners. For many dogs, walking on a leash will not be adequate exercise. They need some off-leash exercise to blow off steam. Also consider that many dog owners in the area are elderly, and this further limits their ability to give their dog adequate exercise when it is on leash.

I do not support the proposed changes to Madills Farm and Glover Park because: the reasons given are inadequate relative to the loss of opportunity inflicted upon ratepaying dog owners; the reasons do not appear to be supported by evidence; the proposed off-leash areas are greatly reduced, and a significant amount of that reduced area is not suitable for off-leash exercise; there is a significant portion of the day where the park is not being used for sporting purposes, and as a ratepayer I would feel significantly upset if I could not use the sports field for walking my dog during those times.

Health and safety of sports users is given as a reason. Presumably this relates to 3 potential issues – hole digging, droppings, and urine. Having used the park consistently for 5 years, I have not seen any significant amount of hole digging by dogs. I simply have not seen it occur with a level of frequency that would cause me to think “this is an issue”. Regarding droppings, as a responsible dog owner, I not only collect my dog’s droppings, but on the rare occasion I see another person fail to do so, I will call their attention to it and/or pick it up myself. But regardless of that, the proposal states that the changes “are not used to address the actions of irresponsible dog owners”, so the issue of owners not picking up droppings should not be used as a basis to change the rules. The final issue could be urine. If this is being used as the basis for the rule change, it would be helpful to see evidence that it poses a significant risk. If there was a significant risk, I would expect this to be something that is more widely discussed in general society, but that is not the case. This leads me to think that it does not pose a significant risk.

Regarding protecting sports surfaces from damage, this could have two components, physical traffic over those areas, and hole digging. Physical traffic from dog walkers and their dogs is minimal. Consider the damage that would be caused by a game of soccer – with players wearing sprigs moving at speed and changing direction frequently. Relative

to that, the damage caused by dog walkers and their dogs will be inconsequential. It won't even register on the scale. As already mentioned, in 5 years I have not seen any significant amount of hole digging, in fact I have rarely ever seen hole digging. I'm sure that it happens on occasion, but not with enough frequency for it to come to my attention.

The proposed changes to Madills Farm leave a much smaller area for Informal Recreation. But worse than that, most of that area is adjacent to Baddely Avenue. This makes it unsafe as an off-leash exercise area. The area that could be suitable for off leash is a small fraction of what it currently is. As a ratepayer, if this plan was implemented, I would be unhappy to say the least.

Finally, I need to reiterate the significance of me being a ratepayer. These parks are there for the use of ratepayers. My rates are used to maintain these parks. Consequently, it is only reasonable that I should be able to use these parks. The idea that I might be able to use only a fraction of the park verges on being an insult. It is even more the case when the majority of the time when I am walking the dog at these parks, no sport usage is occurring. If it weren't for ratepayers walking their dog at these times time – nobody would be using the park. Given the fragility of the evidence being used to back up the reasons for the changes, implementing the changes would result in absurdity. An empty park for no good reason.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6195

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

SUBMISSION AGAINST THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO DOG ACCESS RULES AT MADILLS FARM RECREATION RESERVE

We strongly oppose the proposed changes to dog access rules at Madills Farm, specifically the change prohibiting dogs off-leash on the sports fields whilst they are not in use.

Our arguments against this rule change are it fundamentally goes against the intended use of Madills Farm Recreation Reserve, would be unreasonably prioritising the wishes of Eastern Suburbs Football Club/ other sports clubs and their members, weak arguments given for the basis of this 'necessary' change, and lastly the significant impact on the enjoyment and safety of all other non-football/ sports users of the park (including dog owners).

1. INTENDED USE OF MADILLS FARM RECREATION RESERVE:

As the name suggests Madills Farm is a recreation reserve not a sports/ football park. The word 'farm' suggests large open spaces with few or no restrictions, it is certainly far from the image of a sports park.

According to the Auckland Council website and the Eastern Suburbs AFC website, the history of Madills Farm is as follows: "In 1947, the Melanesian Mission Trust Board subdivided part of their land and arranged with the former Auckland City Council to set aside 26 acres for recreational purposes".

https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks-recreation/Pages/park-details.aspx?Location=188

https://easternsuburbs.org.nz/about-us/our-history/

We believe therefore that the intended use of the Madills Farm Recreation Reserve was that it would be for all of the local community to enjoy this park in whichever way suits their needs and wants, whether it be walking, running, cycling, picnicking, playing sports (organised or informal), walking/ exercising dogs, making use of the playground, and/ or appreciating the nature aspect of the environment.

The current proposal for dogs (and therefore dog owners) not being allowed on the sports fields at any time, which comprises the majority of usable dog exercise space within the

park, would be excluding a large proportion of the community from being able to use the park in the way it was intended.

2. PRIORITISING EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL CLUB/ OTHER SPORTS CLUBS/ TEAM OVER OTHER PARK USERS:

Eastern Suburbs Football Club and other sports clubs/ teams are only one of many users of Madills Farm, and this proposed change is giving them preferential consideration over other users of our local park. Furthermore, a large proportion of their club members/ their supporters, as well as their playing opponents would not even live local to Madills Farm, and it is unfair that non-locals could be prioritised over the genuine local community.

We understood, supported and abide by the previous rule change prohibiting dogs on sports fields whilst they are in use, but It is unreasonable that even when the sports fields are not in use that dogs would be singled out as not being allowed on the fields.

Additionally, for the majority of the time there is actually no sports being played (including: weekdays up until 3pm, most weekday nights, from late afternoon on weekends, school holidays/ public holidays etc), which would be unnecessarily restricting the enjoyment of the park for dogs/ dog owners.

3. WEAK ARGUMENTS FOR BANNING DOGS FROM SPORTS FIELDS WITHIN MADILLS RECREATION RESERVE:

According to the 'Paws for Thought' article on the OurAuckland website (an Auckland Council owned website), the reasons stated for this proposed change to Madills Farm/ Glover Park are:

https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/news/2025/02/paws-for-thought/

"To protect and maintain sports fields for their intended purpose we are proposing changes to two locations, specifically regarding dog access to sports fields. Dogs are still invited to enjoy other areas in these parks".

"Field surfaces have previously been damaged due to digging and use when wet, which can make them unsafe for people playing sports. Repairing this damage comes at a cost to the ratepayer. This is why we are making these recommendations."

In our opinion these are very weak arguments for excluding dogs from the sports fields permanently. In over 25 years regularly walking through Madills Farm (including the last six years exercising our dog 1-2 times daily at Madills Farm) we have never seen a dog digging on the sports fields. Dogs are interested in smelling other dogs, running after balls, walking next to their owners or sniffing out other smells. Additionally, we do not believe the terrain of the sports fields even lends itself to dog digging, and find this a questionable justification.

In relation to the second part of the argument about damage caused by dogs being on the fields when/while they are wet, this is again a flawed reason. Any damage caused when the fields are wet is far more likely from humans rather than dogs, specifically we would suggest it is soccer players with sprigs on their boots that cause the majority of any da...

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6196

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Banning dogs from a shared community space in favor of exclusive sports field use is a bad idea for several reasons:

1. The Real Cause of Field Damage

Blaming dogs for sports field damage is misleading. Poor drainage, heavy foot traffic from players and spectators, winter sports wear-and-tear, and soccer boots with sprigs are the primary causes of field degradation. There's no real evidence that responsible dog walking contributes to the damage at the same scale.

2. Unfair to Responsible Dog Owners

Auckland dog owners collectively pay over $8 million annually in dog registration fees, contributing significantly to council revenue. Despite this, they often see limited reinvestment in dog-friendly spaces. Restricting their access to long-standing shared community spaces is unfair when they are already financially supporting public amenities.

3. Loss of Community Balance

These shared spaces have always been for everyone—families, dog walkers, joggers, and sports players alike. Banning dogs tilts the balance towards one user group at the expense of another, eroding the sense of shared community ownership.

4. Limited Dog-Friendly Areas

Auckland already has a shortage of safe, accessible, and off-leash areas for dogs. Pushing dogs out of existing spaces forces more congestion in fewer areas, leading to overcrowding and potential safety concerns.

5. Alternative Solutions Exist

If the council is concerned about field conditions, they should look at better drainage, scheduled maintenance, rotation of high-use areas, and investment in artificial turf, rather than scapegoating dogs and their owners.

This proposal isn't just bad policy—it's unfair, ignores the real causes of field wear, and undermines the inclusive nature of shared community spaces.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6198

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Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6204

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

It is unnecessary and exclusive getting rid of a community

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6205

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Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

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I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

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Additionally, for the majority of the time there is actually no sports being played (including: weekdays up until 3pm, most weekday nights, from late afternoon on weekends, school holidays/ public holidays etc), which would be unnecessarily restricting the enjoyment of the park for dogs/ dog owners.

3. Weak Arguments for Banning Dogs from Sports Fields Within Madills Recreation Reserve

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"Field surfaces have previously been damaged due to digging and use when wet, which can make them unsafe for people playing sports. Repairing this damage comes at a cost to the ratepayer. This is why we are making these recommendations."

In our opinion these are very weak arguments for excluding dogs from the sports fields permanently. In over 25 years regularly walking through Madills Farm (including the last six years exercising our dog 1-2 times daily at Madills Farm) we have never seen a dog digging on the sports fields. Dogs are interested in smelling other dogs, running after balls, walking next to their owners or sniffing out other smells. Additionally, we do not believe the terrain of the sports fields even lends itself to dog digging, and find this a questionable justification.

In relation to the second part of the argument about damage caused by dogs being on the fields when/while they are wet, this is again a flawed reason. Any damage caused when the fields are wet is far more likely from humans rather than dogs, specifically we would suggest it is soccer players with sprigs on their boots that cause the majority of any damage. Our...

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6207

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills farm is the only flat accessible recreation area in Kohimarama. It is the only area in Kohimarama where people with a disability or reduced mobility can exercise their dogs off lead. There is an off street carpark that services the current recreation & exercise area, the ground is flat, open with night time lighting not obscured by trees or buildings & is a safe space for young & old to exercise a dog.

The proposed new dog exercise area is too small, often there are approx 40 dogs in the park early evenings. I know I live across the road. The proposed area has no parking & would rely on street parking on Baddely Ave adjacent to a roundabout & is also the area where people park to access the childrens play ground. The area is already dangerous & AT wanted to paint double yellow no parking lines here. The area is very close to the road and consequently dangerous that dogs would run into the trafffic & be killed or cause accidents. Its not suitable for people with disabilities & would be intimidating for children accessing the playground. Small children should not have to walk through a dog exercise area where large dogs would be chasing balls. This is very dangerous.

The park needs to be available for everyone to use. There are more people than ever & more dogs too living in Kohi. More townhouses & apartments with out gardens . People need to be able to go and play here with or without their dogs. Myself & others work from home several days a week , walking our dogs in Madills at lunchtime. Midweek, during office hours dog exercisers are often the only people using the park, and there is always several dogs playing at any time of the day. Removing the ability to walk a dog here is an enormous loss of amenity for so many people. Its a loss of personal safety , I walk here at 630 am before work. Its safe in the dark, all other parks in the area have trees & secluded areas. I have female friend that was sexually assaulted in Waiatarua. Myself & others should not have put ourselves at risk. We should be able to continue using Madills as I have done for over 20 years.

The football club needs to find its own facilities. The communities need is far greater than a football club. How many times have they tried to have the grass changed to artificial turf. Children's soccer could be coached here by contractor trainers, it does not need to fall under the umbrella of a private club. All the rate payers in the area have been paying for these facilities & they should be available for everyone. It is quite surprising that the club is still there on such prime real estate. Its a stones throw from Kohimarama beach an

important tourist destination as part of Auckland city. The club is occupying all the prime land in the only park in Kohimarama. This land belongs to the whole community.

Madills farm should stay as is with dogs banned from flat areas when sport is in play and dogs able to be exercised freely when sport is not.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6208

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

We walk our dog at Madills farm - we do not have easy access to another park and the restrictions suggested mean there is very little off lead area to allow him to exercise. Out children take him there - it is safe, and the community meet there. We put him on lead when there are sports activities but the times we use the park for dog walking rarely have sporting events on. There is sufficient space and time allocation for both sports users and dog owners to use Madills.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6211

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

With so many restrictions on dog access to beaches etc, there are very few areas in the bats when dogs can run properly. Many dogs need running, and staying on leash and at walking pace is not enough for them.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6213

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6217

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

see my word doc submitted, off leash park is a necessity to keep an alive community, to allow for all ages and origins people to meet while their dogs are playing.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

see my word document. Same applies for beaches, removing all accesses in summer does not make sense.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6218

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am speaking as the carer for an elderly gentleman with poor mobility and dementia - we attend Madills farm 3-4 days a week to walk is beloved canine companion Alfie. This is without doubt the highlight of his day - I can drive him right up to a bench where we can sit and throw the ball for Alfie. This is such a safe space - I feel happy knowing that there are always other members of the community present for assistance should we need it, there is a toilet should he need it and the path is flat making it user friendly for his wheel chair on the occasions he is dependant. I know of no other park in the area that could facilitate this experience - sitting with his dog on a leash would be a complete non starter. I hope against hope that for him these proposed changes do not progress to a reality.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Only that in my years of attending Madhills I have never seen a dog dig holes which I believe is a concern?

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6219

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

I think that’s perfect

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I don’t like dogs on beaches. People ignore the rules even in the summertime. There are dogs will have the place when they’re a little kitties playing and I know most people to pick up their dog poos but there are people that don’t. And dogs should be under control simple as that. Not everybody loves dogs and even people that do love dogs don’t want strange dogs jumping all over them or attacking their cats or children.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6220

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6224

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I use Madills almost everyday for my dog when not being used for sport. This ban would severely affect our social relationships and well being with our community. I am a responsible owner that watches his behaviour on the field to make sure the field is left the same as we found it. Please place CTV footage and penalise / fine the owners who are outstanding to this - not the majority of us who respect Madills and cherish it for the memories it gives us and our dogs.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
No

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6226

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Having twisted my ankle and also pulled a muscle while referring at Madills due to the hole created by the dogs, and seen a couple of even more serious injuries I agree. There is plenty of other space or reserves without using the fields. Dog owners even throw balls onto pitches whilst playboys going on.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6227

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

We have walked our dog here for many years and support the local businesses every time we do. There are a lack of other parks in the area it these changes go ahead. Community benefits of locals walking their dogs will be destroyed. This is a big mistake and should not proceed.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6228

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Fence off part of the field for sports and leave the rest for public to walk the dogs.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6229

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Just more complication and unnecessary government interference. Just back off and leave people be

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Orakei ward

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

I can see your strategy here. You are making the whole comment process so protracted and tedious that most people will give up. Then you will say that only a few people commented and do the nonsense stuff anyway. Well how about you just turn the whole s

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Just leave it all alone and spend resources in other areas

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6231

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Believe should still be allowed dogs under control off leash in the vicinity of the sports fields when not in use.

This is currently a great local space where Dogs can be walked daily early in the morning under control off leash and not disturbing anyone or causing disruption or havoc.

Personally my dog doesn't go on the fields but does walk off leash on the path and the grass area to the side of the fields

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Council is making it harder and harder for dog owners to exercise dogs locally under control off leash. It is such a shame for dogs and dog owners

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6232

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm and Glover Park are centrepieces of the community, beyond just sportspeople. Walking my dog there in the mornings on weekdays is a time of social connection. From our walk, we will continue to some of the local businesses for a coffee and some breakfast with a tired pup. While I cannot speak for all dogs, Madills is one of the only parks in Auckland where I can let my dog run free. This is because of the layout of the park (our play areas aren't near the road) and because the dogs who walk there are always so friendly. I worry that by decreasing the dog area, people like myself will no longer walk their dogs there for fear of the road, and will no longer frequent the local businesses.

Dogs bring people together and give strangers a reason to connect. We don't have many places to do this. Please preserve Madills and Glover Park

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6234

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Hibiscus and Bays

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I OPPOSE the proposal to PROHIBIT dogs at all times on sports surfaces at Madills Recreation Reserve and Glover Park .

I WANT TO SEE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: TO RETAIN the current rule of dogs allowed UNDER CONTROL OFF A LEASH on sports surfaces (marked grass sports fields) when not in use or not closed.

Reason: there are no other off leash areas that offer the same amount of easily accessible space for local dog owners with flat terrain. Removing this access will mean dog owners will have to drive to alternative locations that are not in their local area. Many of the areas that council are proposing as suitable are small or do not offer safe access for older people or young families with prams

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6236

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Albert-Eden

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Vital space for dog walkers in the area

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Point chevalier**What local board area is this location in?**Albert-Eden**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**Entire location**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6238

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Provides a supportive community network

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6243

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

The amount of dangerous holes that are dug by dogs on these sports fields pose a very high danger of injury to people playing organized sports or just casual users

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

There needs to be park Rangers patrolling these parks to enforce any changes that are made as currently no checks are done and not all owners are responsible

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6245

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

It is becoming more frequent that Dogs not on leashes at parks and beaches are out of control of owners or not being watched by owners, Unfortunately this can be dangerous and unsanitary when dogs poop is not picked up because the owner wasn't watching the dog or the dog pees on peoples belongings

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6248

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Local Board: Ōrākei

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am writing to express my firm opposition to the proposed limitations on dog access at Maddills Farm. As a long-time member of the community and a devoted dog owner, I am deeply concerned about the impact these changes would have on our local environment, public health, and community cohesion.

Maddills Farm has long been a haven for local residents and their dogs, offering a rare open space where dogs can roam freely and interact safely. Over the years, this area has evolved into more than just a park—it is a cherished part of our community's heritage. Limiting dog access not only threatens this tradition but also disrupts the established way of life for those of us who rely on this space for recreation and social interaction.

Instead of curtailing access, I believe efforts should be directed toward promoting responsible pet ownership. Educative initiatives and improved infrastructure—such as better signage and waste management facilities—can effectively address concerns without compromising the freedom and well-being of our dogs. This approach respects both the safety of all park users and the rights of dog owners to enjoy a well-maintained public space.

The availability of off-leash areas in our region is extremely limited. Restricting dogs from Maddills Farm would force owners to seek out other, often less suitable, locations. This shift could lead to increased congestion and potential conflicts in alternative areas, thereby affecting the broader community. Our local park currently plays an integral role in supporting not only the physical health of dogs and their owners but also the social fabric of our neighbourhood.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge you to reconsider the proposed restrictions. Rather than imposing limitations that could harm both the community and our dogs, a collaborative approach focusing on responsible usage and improved park facilities would better serve all stakeholders. I trust that our shared commitment to preserving community spaces and promoting healthy lifestyles will guide a more inclusive solution.

Thank you for considering my views.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6254

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The sports fields are used mostly on a Saturday morning and maybe one or 2 nights during the week . I can’t see why you would want to ban dogs all the time . We are all important members in this community who all pay rates . We should all get to enjoy these green spaces . This is a perfect park for people of all ages to walk their dogs including elderly people as it is flat snd safe from traffic . There are very few places that dogs can enjoy space to run and actually be a dog .. this is the perfect space. The dogs do not damage the fields and I think it’s very short sighted that you are wanting to change the rules just for soccer players on a Saturday morning . I’ve lived in this area for 30 years and always had dogs and used that park .. leave it as it is for everyone to enjoy. Once you take out the designated sports fields it hardly leaves any room or space for dogs .

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6257

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Why change what's currently working in our community? This is a shared area for the whole community & has been for decades, including dog owners. If dogs are under control off leash, there's no issue - they are under control. Also, who do you think picks up the rubbish left behind by humans playing sport at the fields?? It's dog owners - we keep the park clean including picking up rubbish & food left by 'sports ground users'. Often adults, but children too - set bad examples by adults. We shouldn't be punishing responsible dog owners. We pay registration fees & many of us hold RDOL. We're following the rules. If anything, you should be limiting 'human use' due to their poor behaviour & care for our community areas.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

If people are responsible dog owners, which council can measure from registrations & RDOL, don't punish them & restrict their access to community areas. We let people who litter & don't care for our community areas return week after week. Where's their consequences??

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6259

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dog walkers use the park a higher percentage of the time than sports players do. Madils has always been a dog park, for important exercise and socialisation - from owners to professional dog walkers. Off leash exercise is an essential part of dog exercise and ownership, and there are no immediate parks that could be used as a substitute for what it provides in terms of convenience, size, and safety.

The proposed dog area near the playground is far away from the car park - and many people, elderly and those with mobility issues included - utilise the car park to drive their dogs down for exercise. The proposed area has no such access, as the on road parking is limited and the roads far busier and not as safe.

Madils is also a safe place for walkers, where women feel safe to walk their dogs even in the dark. Aagin, there are no parks to reserves in the immediate area that provide this.

The proposed dog area is right next to the playground, where dogs are not allowed. Not only is this a significantly smaller area, but children also utilise this area (particularly older children). Having this as the only dog friendly area takes this space away from their spaces for activity.

Dog walking im Madils has also become a community. I have lived next to the park for 23 years, and myself and my family have made strong connections and a sense of community from the regular walkers - to the point where I feel safe walking my dog alone as a woman in the dark. The dog owners and sports players have always co-existed, and I see no reason why this should stop now.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6260

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6262

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I have been going to Madills Park with my dog for the past 7 years as we live a walking distance away. this is the highlight for both of our days and makes physical activity and outdoor time enjoyable, accessible and convenient for us both. We have both made friends at the park and visit them most days. It's a community we have at Madills, and community is so important. Each and every day when i take my dog to Madills I feel uplifted and improves my mood. As a Labrador, my dog needs the space to run around, chase a ball and socialise with his dog friends. This would be beyond devastating if this change was passed. Madills Park is more than a place to exercise dogs; it is where friendships form, support networks grow, and a sense of belonging is cultivated. Over the years, I have built lifelong friendships with fellow dog owners, and many others share the same experience. The park serves as an informal gathering place where people of all ages, from young families to elderly residents, come together, strengthening our local community. Allowing dogs to exercise off-leash provides significant mental and physical benefits for both dogs and their owners. Off-leash exercise is essential for a dog's socialization and well-being, reducing behavioral issues linked to pent-up energy and anxiety. For owners, these outings encourage an active lifestyle and provide an opportunity to de-stress, which is vital for mental health. Many of us rely on Madills Park as an accessible and safe space to maintain this routine. Madills Park has long been a place where responsible dog ownership is practiced. The existing off-leash setting has worked well because of the mutual respect among park users. Many dogs and owners frequent the park daily, ensuring that there is a natural community-based approach to monitoring behavior and maintaining safety. If concerns have been raised, targeted solutions—such as additional signage, designated time slots, or clear guidelines—would be far more effective than an outright ban. Rather than banning off-leash access, the Council should consider alternative approaches that balance the needs of all park users, such as:

- Time-based restrictions (e.g., off-leash hours in the morning and evening)
- Better signage and education to encourage responsible use
- Community engagement initiatives to address specific concerns

A blanket ban would take away a valued space from many responsible dog owners without addressing the root causes of any concerns. Madills Park is special to me and many

others. It has provided my dog and me with irreplaceable memories, friendships, and a sense of community that would be lost if off-leash access were removed. I urge the Council to reconsider this proposal and engage with the community to find a solution that respects the needs of all park users.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope to see a balanced and fair outcome that preserves the welcoming, inclusive nature of Madills Park.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6264

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Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

There are no parks or green spaces in the area that are suitable and safe for dogs to walk/socialise with other dogs.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Please don’t do this. Thank you

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6265

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Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

See attached

Summary of attachment:

Opposition to Proposed Restrictions:

Long-term Use: The author has enjoyed Glover Park and Madills Farm for 43 years and opposes the proposed restrictions on dog access.

Community Impact: The proposed changes would harm the harmonious sharing of these spaces and contradict Auckland Council's objectives.

Health and Well-being:

Exercise and Socialization: Dog-walking is crucial for the author's exercise and social interaction. The central areas of the parks are essential for safe dog training and social contact.

Negative Effects: Excluding dogs from central areas would reduce the ability to raise well-mannered dogs and increase isolation for both people and dogs.

Unsubstantiated Reasons:

Questionable Justifications: The reasons given for the changes, such as "Structural Change" and "Consistency," are seen as unreasonable and not supported by evidence.

Field Degradation: The author argues that sports activities, not dogs, cause field degradation and that maintenance costs should be shared more equitably.

Recommendations:

Status Quo: The author urges Auckland Council to retain the current dog access rules, which strike a fair balance for all park users.

Submission on: Proposed changes to dog access in Glover Park and Madills Farm recreation reserve.

To: Auckland Council

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Restrictions on Dog Access at Glover Park and Madills Farm

Introduction:
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes which will effectively prohibit dog access at all times to any parts of these Parks which are sometimes used by sports teams.
I have lived with my family in the Orakei Board area for 43 years enjoying these beautiful recreation spaces and for 40 of those years my family has included a dog. I am a responsible dog owner and have total respect for the current dog access rules which I believe work well in these Parks "to strike a fair balance, for everyone using these Parks" , to quote the aims of Councillor Josephine Bartley.
I believe that the proposed changes for these Parks will negatively impact our community by damaging our current harmonious sharing of these natural spaces and are in opposition to Auckland Council's own objectives, stated in their "Policy on Dogs 2019". The changes will also make it more difficult for me and fellow residents to meet our obligations as responsible dog owners as described in the "Animal Welfare Act 1999" and the "Code of Welfare for Dogs 2018."

The Proposed Changes for both Glover Park and Madills Farm:
Remove access at **anytime for** dog-owners and their dogs to the large central, level areas of these Parks that have un-impeded sight-lines.

Impact of changes:

Health and well-being of humans and dogs:
As an aging retiree with a young dog, I am currently using Kohi beach and at least one of, Glover or Madills **every day.** Dog-walking is my main form of regular exercise and my young dog needs off-leash swimming or a wide-open space where he can run freely with the dogs of friends. The spacious central areas of both parks are where it is safe for me and my dog to do regular training. Exclusion from the central areas of Glover and Madills to the perimeter areas would severely reduce my ability to raise a healthy and well mannered dog. During my 40 years of regular use of these Parks I have valued the regular contact I have with a large group of locals and the feeling of belonging in a community and environment that we love and care for. Losing this opportunity for social contact would increase the isolation of many people and dogs.

Council's unsubstantiated reasons for the proposed changes:
I have had to dig deeply into your review process documents for the reasons for these proposed changes and those given, "Structural Change" and "Consistency", do not make sense as reasons to exclude dogs and their owners from these beloved natural Parks. These reasons are **unreasonable.**
I can understand that increasing in-fill housing in Auckland will cause increasing use of all our facilities and increasing need for sports facilities. Since the up-grade of both Parks and the addition of lighting there has been far more intensive use of the sports fields at Glover and Madills by sports teams. Data from various sports management organisations, including Auckland's own Parks and Recreation departments, has shown that the intensity of use from organised sports leagues often leads to field degradation. Dogs usually use the fields in a more varied manner (walking, running and fetching), which doesn't focus heavy pressure in one spot, unlike players concentrated use during matches. The attempt to attribute soccer players' rolled ankles to dog use is highly questionable. Increased maintenance costs need to be shared more equitably by users.
Auckland Council is required to give **reasons for** proposed changes to dog regulations by the "Dog Control Act 1996" and I would suggest that if those reasons are not logical or seem **unreasonable** then compliance may be a huge issue.

Recommendations:
I urge Auckland Council to reconsider these proposed changes and adopt Option 1: Status quo.

Retaining the current dog regulation rules for dog access to Glover Park and Madills strikes a fairer balance for everyone who uses these Parks and is better aligned to Council's expressed "Policy on Dogs 2019".

Yours faithfully,

[redacted] [redacted]

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6266

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs should have access to local parks

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6269

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills farm is a great place to off leash play game and teach a dog retrieval. It is also a good place to socialise with other dogs which is best done off leash u under the watchful eye of the owner. Dogs should be not be allowed on a sports field when sport is being played but at all other times this should be allowed. For me It is safer for my dog to be walked in the middle of the field as he has severe anxiety and gets upset by the noise of cars. The law should be : Off leash when sports field not in use and all other times on leash.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Create more off leash areas that also have bush. These areas need to be fully fenced.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6271

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

For goodness sake please stop limiting areas we can access with our dogs. Countless families, with their dogs, enjoy time together at these parks. The planned dog access rules further reduce opportunities for families and dogs to enjoy each others company.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
No.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6275

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Restrictions on Dog Access at Madills Farm

Introduction

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes restricting dog access at Madills Farm. As a regular visitor and meighbour I advocate for responsible pet ownership, I believe these changes will negatively impact the community and contradict the original intent of the reserve.

Background

Madills Farm, located in Kohimarama, Auckland, has long been a cherished community space. The reserve features sports fields, playgrounds, and open areas that are integral to the local lifestyle. Currently, dogs are permitted in designated areas, fostering a harmonious environment for both pet owners and non-pet owners. Health and well being of all, including loved pets.

Proposed Changes

The proposed changes aim to prohibit dogs from the sports fields at all times. This includes areas where dogs have traditionally been allowed, potentially leading to increased congestion in other parts of the reserve. Such restrictions could diminish the quality of life for many residents (and dogs)who rely on these spaces for recreation and socialization.

Concerns

1. Community Impact: Madills Farm serves as a vital recreational area for families, individuals, and pet owners. Restricting dog access could lead to overcrowding in other areas, reducing the overall enjoyment of the reserve.

2. Health and Well-being: Regular exercise and social interaction are essential for both pets and their owners. Limiting access to suitable areas could negatively affect the health and well-being of dogs and their owners. As a responsible pet owner (which the vast magority in the area are!!!!) socialisation and exericse off leash in a wide open space without boundries such as Madills is a gift and is critical for healthy city living dogs and owners. In fill housing means less space in homes and more elderlyt have dogs for company - contributing to mental health and physical health. I note that many Madills

Farm pet owners are elderly or familieis and regularly meet at Madills for mental, social and Physicall well being of themselves and dogs to run about and socialise. This is criticial to enhance safe spaces and safe pets - a key to well behaved dog psychology. The fields are an obvious space for this and limiting the area to do this is stressful and NOT manageable. Dog registration is 8+ million max in Auckland revenue and Dogs and Owners MUST benefit in the provision for off leash areas. Our backyards are NO LONGER 1/4 acre sections. Many of the AKL citizens DO NOT have any grass of back yard. WE NEED free space and grass to run around and Madills is a gift for us. We need to learn to share spaces well and as we have always done. This proposed change and restriction is causing division and is neither healthy, fair nor warranted.

3. Original Deed Conditions: The deed of gift documentation for Madills Farm, as per the Official Information request, outlines conditions for the reserve's use. While the specific conditions are not detailed in the available documents, any changes to the reserve's usage should align with the original and conditions set forth in the deed. It is imperative to review these conditions to ensure that any proposed changes do not violate the original terms of the gift. A GIFT!!! FOR ALL including elderly, physically impared and disabled and kids and family members needing a FLAT< GRASS SPACE for us and our pets to run and socialise and enjoy one another off leash. NO OTHER OPTION. The sandy uneven Beach is NOT an appropriate alternative for LOCAL dogs and owners.

4. Counter-Argument to the Claim of Dog Damage:

The local board has suggested that dogs are damaging the fields, but this assertion must be balanced against the rea.lity of the wear and tear caused by other activities, particularly sports like football. Litter of the public

• Field Usage and Damage from Football: Football games, along with other field sports, create significant damage to sports fields over time. Data from various sports management organizations, including Auckland's own parks and recreation departments, has shown that the intensity of use from organised sports leagues often leads to field degradation. The combination of cleats, sharp turns, sliding tackles, and heavy foot traffic during games causes significant compaction and wear, which can leave fields with bare patches, uneven surfaces, and soil erosion.

• Comparison to Dog Usage: In contrast, dogs using the fields for walking or playing typically cause less compaction and no lasting damage compared to the kind of intense wear created by team sports. Dogs usually use the fields in a more varied manner (e.g., walking, running, fetching), which doesn't focus heavy pressure on one spot, unlike players' concentrated use during matches.

• Recommendation for Collaborative Field Care: Rather than restricting dogs entirely, a better solution may be to implement more focused maintenance strategies...

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Work together as a community. Stop dividing and conquer attitude - so yesterday! Aucklands now live in smaller spaces with little or no yard. We a elderly (who cannot submitt feedback as intimidated by computers and overwhelmed by accessing where to send thier "letters". We must embrace our lifestyles, mobile, immobile, young, old, and our dog pets we all have. The communicty at Madills is vast and we as local dog owners share the space on a DAILY baiss and respect eachother onad our dogs and the space we loved and hav shared for decades!!! The vast majority of pet owners love and cherish their dogs and are responsible. Like the majority of parents love and cherish their children and are responsible.Like the majority of sports people visiting Madills cherish sports and being a member of sport's team and are responsible players and respect the space. A few should not impeed the majority.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6276

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6282

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6284

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6288

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills has such a great community and works well with the sports fields when they're not in use. Auckland already has such limited off leash dog parks, this is such a special one!

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

There is already so few off leash dog parks it's such a shame that the ones we do use and love are at risk - where are we expected to go?!?!

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6293

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Kaipātiki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6294

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Tighter control of dogs is required.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Glendowie Park

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control on a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To reduce owner-related problems (e.g. owner ignoring rules, dogs not under control, dog faeces not picked up, etc). Please specify:Currently there are many dogs off leash who are not under control and the owners do not care our pay attention. The park is used a lot by children who are often intimidated by the dogs

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Currently there are many dogs off leash who are not under control and the owners do not care our pay attention. The park is used a lot by children who are often intimidated by the dogs. Our 2 children have often been intimidated by dogs and the owners jus

Location 2

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Crossfield park

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to prohibit dogs

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

A section of it. Please specify:No dogs allowed by and around playground, skatepark or basketball court

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to changes at location (e.g. a new playground, sports field, more people). Please specify:New playground therefore more users

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Dogs owners are completely ignorant about the fact it is an on leash area by the playground. When approached they get angry and state there are no signs. The area around the playground and skatepark should be completely dogs free.

To respond to changes at location (e.g. a new playground, sports field, more people). Please specify:

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

There are no parks in Glendowie that are on leash or dog free. It's really hard for kids who are scared of dogs. The number of parks that are off leash need to be reduced.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6298

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Dogs should be allowed as long as the owners pick up their poos. There should be more fines given out to owners who do not pick up their dogs poo

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6300

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

As you know, Madill's Farm has always been a space where families with pets come together as a community, providing an area where dogs can roam freely, meet other dogs, and enjoy nature without any restrictions on time or space. In the past, we have always respected the needs of sports users by limiting the dogs' activity areas only during the times when sports are being played.

However, I have recently been informed that there are plans to change this arrangement, and that sports areas may soon be restricted for pet owners around the clock. I understand that sports users may contribute fees for the use of these areas, but I would like to highlight that all members of the dog-owning community already pay an annual registration fee to use the facilities.

It seems unfair to limit the space for pet owners in favour of sports users, especially considering that the current system of temporarily adjusting dog activity areas during sports events has worked well for all parties. I strongly oppose any proposed changes to these regulations that would create an unfair imbalance, and I hope that the long-standing arrangement can be maintained.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Madills Farm

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6302

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I have lived in this area for 25 years and have always walked my two dogs at these parks. In the mornings there are no games played but many dog walkers enjoying this off lead area. I am an older woman and this exercise is very good for both my mental and physical health and I can’t see any reason why these off lead parks needs to change their rules. Dogs are good for us all!!!

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Dogs are so beneficial to us all and we all get such pleasure seeing them running around at these parks.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6305

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs and their owners have the right to use the grounds at Madills to exercise their dogs OFF lead when sports are not being played, which is generally Monday to Friday. All responsible dog owners pick up after their dogs and often, like me pick up other dogs poop. To ban dogs from Madills is a grave injustice. A lot of owners like myself are disabled and this is our excersise too. I have two small dogs and have been coming to Madills for over 15 years. I'm not able to walk on the sand, and you certainly could not use a wheel chair there. Madills is perfect, we all know each other and it's good to socialise our dogs as well as us

For a start Madills is not a sports ground full stop! Its for recreational use for anyone. The Football matches are only on the weekends, otherwise its mainly clear during the week days. It is the only area away from main roads that dogs can have a good run, and if you are a responsible owner like me you will always pick up your dogs poo and shout out to other people that have missed theirs!

To: Auckland Council

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Restrictions on Dog Access at Madills Farm

Introduction

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes restricting dog access at Madills Farm. As a regular visitor and advocate for responsible pet ownership, I believe these changes will negatively impact the community and contradict the original intent of the reserve.

Background

Madills Farm, located in Kohimarama, Auckland, has long been a cherished community space. The reserve features sports fields, playgrounds, and open areas that are integral to the local lifestyle. Currently, dogs are permitted in designated areas, fostering a harmonious environment for both pet owners and non-pet owners.

Proposed Changes

The proposed changes aim to prohibit dogs from the sports fields at all times. This includes areas where dogs have traditionally been allowed, potentially leading to increased congestion in other parts of the reserve. Such restrictions could diminish the

quality of life for many residents who rely on these spaces for recreation and socialization.

Concerns

Community Impact: Madills Farm serves as a vital recreational area for families, individuals, and pet owners. Restricting dog access could lead to overcrowding in other areas, reducing the overall enjoyment of the reserve.

Health and Well-being: Regular exercise and social interaction are essential for both pets and their owners. Limiting access to suitable areas could negatively affect the health and well-being of dogs and their owners.

Original Deed Conditions: The deed of gift documentation for Madills Farm, as per the Official Information request, outlines conditions for the reserve's use. While the specific conditions are not detailed in the available documents, any changes to the reserve's usage should align with the original intent and conditions set forth in the deed. It is imperative to review these conditions to ensure that any proposed changes do not violate the original terms of the gift.

Counter-Argument to the Claim of Dog Damage: The local board has suggested that dogs are damaging the fields, but this assertion must be balanced against the reality of the wear and tear caused by other activities, particularly sports like football.

Field Usage and Damage from Football: Football games, along with other field sports, create significant damage to sports fields over time. Data from various sports management organizations, including Auckland's own parks and recreation departments, shows that the intensity of use from organized sports leagues often leads to field degradation. The combination of cleats, sharp turns, sliding tackles, and heavy foot traffic during games causes significant compaction and wear, leading to bare patches, uneven surfaces, and soil erosion.

Comparison to Dog Usage: In contrast, dogs using the fields for walking or playing typically cause less compaction and no lasting damage compared to the intense wear created by team sports. Dogs usually use the fields in a more varied manner (e.g., walking, running, fetching), which does not focus heavy pressure on one spot, unlike players' concentrated use during matches.

Recommendation for Collaborative Field Care: Rather than restricting dogs entirely, a better solution may be to implement focused maintenance strategies, such as designated times for dogs on certain fields or the creation of specific dog-friendly areas. Investing in field management, including aerating and reseeding the fields, can ensure they remain in good condition for both sports use and recreational activities.

Recommendations

Maintain Current Dog Access: Retain the existing dog access rules to preserve the balance between pet owners and other park users.

Implement Designated Dog Areas: If concerns about specific areas arise, consider establishing designated dog-friendly zones rather than blanket restrictions.

Community Consultation: Engage in a comprehensive consultation process with the community, including pet owners, to gather diverse perspectives before implementing any changes.

Conclusion

Restricting dog access at Madills Farm would adversely affect the community and contradict the reserve's original purpose. I urge Auckland Council to reconsider these proposed changes and prioritize the well-being of all community members while ensuring fair access for both sports and recreational activities. We should consider balanced solutions that support both the care of the fields and the needs of the community.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I think by the amount of dollars Auckland council are receiving through our yearly dog fees, we should be allowed to keep walking our dogs and letting them have a run around when NO games are being played

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6310

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dog exercising is doing no harm. Need to exercise dog. Would have to drive somewhere otherwise with associated environmental and congestion consequences. Dog behavior deteriorates when dogs not exercised and this can cause problems.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6312

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madill farms is a family area and dogs are part of the family and should be allowed off leash if controlled. Also mental health is such a big issue and studies show dogs help people with mental health and if people are trying to go for a walk for their mental health with a support dog then they should be allowed to. You will be impacting people's mental health in a negative way. What proof or reason why do you show that the current way is not working? Why change it what's your reason?

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Dogs should be allowed! Why don't we focus our efforts on more important things like fixing parking and roads. Or cats who are killing native birds

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6313

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I don’t agree that dogs are causing the volume of damage outlined. I believe this rule to prohibit dogs at all times on sports fields should not be implemented just so all parks can have the same rules. Madills is unique. It is my opinion Madills is a park used for sports not a sports ground. My issue is with the inability to even walk your dog, even on leash, at all times on the so called sports grounds. I live backing onto Madills farm and there is a huge portion of the day where no sport is taking place so no dog walker will be able to access the most useable parts of the park. Watching and participating in some of the 100’s of daily non sport interactions, many with dogs in tow, It would be unnecessary community loss to stop this access. Many a social and human interactions would be lost. This can not be good for society and the dogs themselves.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
No

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6316

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Kaipātiki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6325

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Because I think dogs play an important part in the lives of so many people in Auckland that a good place where the dogs are allowed to run freely is key. The most of the owners are very conscious and are after their dogs and clean its excrement, and grab its dog if it goes away.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I would like to ask the council to let the rules stay as they are now in Madilis Farm and Glover Park, overall the owners of dog are very conscious regarding our dogs and dogs deserve to have a place where they can run freely and release its energy. Thanks a lot.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6331

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Why they are prohibited. Dogs like us need freedom. Definitely not deserved like this. This is ridiculous rule.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6332

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Glover Park and Madills Farm Dog owners are responsible and obey the rules

This is a precious open air resource that needs to be shared by ALL residents, NOT just sports people. Surely this is obvious. With the creeping intensity of housing in our area, these open air spaces are necessary for recreational purposes for ALL. Dogs need to be able to run and play off leash it is an important part of CARING owning a dog . PLEASE DO NOT allow this further restriction to proceed

Dogs are a very important part of our culture and society, providing companionship to the individual owners but also these off leash area provide community companionship and support for many many people and ... their dogs. In today's world where there is more and more screen time this is a valuable resource and facility that we should not lose to further rules... Dog owners are respectful at all times of both of these areas and the of the people that utilise these areas, be they sports people of the general public in my 14 years of utilising both of these areas regularly. Please respect us and allow us to continue to utilise these green spaces.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Please maintain access to BEACHES as THEY ARE.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6333

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Howick

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Leigh Auton park Beachlands is lively costal lication park, poluted by dog feaces and stench. No one can sit on grass or use pucnuc tables . Dogs harassong public and cyclists.

Dogs must nit be alliwed at Leigh Auton park. Another location might be used as dog park - example - Cinstellation park.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6337

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

As always, the minority ruins everything for the rest of us and councils and governments are scared to do anything and just punish everyone. No wonder people have no trust and faith in you. Why not police the area at busy times and fine the minority who are ruining it for all, that way people may start to have more faith in you and you can still get that extra bit of money from us as you love to do.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6343

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I have lived in proximity to Madill's farm since 1999 and have been a regular walker with my dog. In all of those years I have no observed any incident that has resulted in injury or harm to others as a result of shared use. It is only area within walking distance that allows for off leash walking and in my view is an amenity that should continue to be available for shared use within the constraints of the current rules.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?St Heliers Beach**What local board area is this location in?**Ōrākei**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**A section of it. Please specify:Eastern corner of St Heliers Beach which is not rarely used by the public.**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:This corner of the beach is not much used at any time of the time and with a shortage of off leash areas would be perfect to exercise off leash.**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6344

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I oppose the change

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Dogs off leash areas give the dogs a chance to play and socialise. It’s great for their wellbeing & the mental health of the owners.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6346

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

This is a very popular park used by the community of dog owners, in the local area and beyond. Dogs are already restricted in sports areas during play times. No more restrictions for dog owners!

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Madills Farm started off as fully off-leash area for dogs at all times. Gradually, the sport clubs have also increased their use and shared the park with the community of dog owners. Any attempt to oust us dog owners from the park is simply ridiculous. Sorry, no way!

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6349

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6352

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Our dogs need exercise and the best way to do that is unleashing them. I used to go to the parks early morning or after 07 pm, and nobody is playing there. I am agree if there is a schedule, but forbidden 24/7 is not healthy for them.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6353

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

A grassed area not in use should not be prohibited from use

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6356

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Puketāpapa

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs have created many problems maintaining the sportfield surface at Madills Farm - there are plenty of other parks for off leash dog walking in the area I think this is a good compromise

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Taumanu Reserve**What local board area is this location in?**Puketāpapa**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**Entire location**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To reduce owner-related problems (e.g. owner ignoring rules, dogs not under control, dog faeces not picked up, etc). Please specify:I never see dogs on leash at all this is a bird nesting area and supposed to be on leash at all times and no dogs at all in some areas Ban dogs completely during nesting season**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**See above poor compliance to existing rules - off lead dog area near by owners seem to think same rules apply.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6363

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am 22 years old. I grew up living around the corner from Madills Farm, where myself and my family walked our Springer Spaniel, Monty, for 18 years, right up until the day he passed away. It was his favourite spot. His ashes were spread there! The dog community at Madills Farm is unique, and the large majority of owners are respectable, loving dog owners who want their animals to live a happy, engaged life with other dogs - and the dogs love it. It has always been one of the more accessible park options for people who don’t want to let their dogs off at the beach, who can walk down from the surrounding hills and enjoy exercising their dog somewhere that is easy for us to get to, without trekking around the suburb. Please consider the long term community that has been built at Madills Farm - the fact there are even so many submissions to begin with should say enough.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6369

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Registered dogs and owners should have access as it currently stands , no change . Police the current rules don't change them

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

We pay registration for our dogs, we pay rates, we have the rights to use the land just like others. Police the ones that aren't doing right thing not punish everyone

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6372

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

For the past 10+ years I have enjoyed the use of Madills for sport, dog walking and general enjoyment. Throughout this time the distinct user groups have been able to coexist and self manage. I see no reason to change nor do I feel that the change is balanced and reasonable for all groups. Regarding the injuries sustained due to “dogs and rolled ankles” there is no credible evidence provided . All three of my children have sustained rolled ankles playing sport - it could have been a tuft of grass, another players foot or simply landing wrong. We cannot attribute all ankles to dogs digging at the park. I would be keen to see that data. Further, over the years Eastern Suburbs soccer has become a much bigger club taking more of the green space - while lovely to see the engagement of kids, it has crowded the rest of the public and does not allow fair use of the space. Making any additional restrictions would further disadvantage other user groups.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I can’t help but feel that a very large sport organisation has bolstered their stats to amplify a problem that doesn’t exist in order to benefit their organisation. I would like to see a balanced solution for all user groups and for now I would request that no changes are made at this time.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6373

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Opposition to Restricting Dog Access at Madills Farm

Restricting dog access due to a small minority's actions unfairly penalizes responsible owners who use the park considerately.

Park Usage & Community Impact

Madills Farm is a vital community space beyond sports use.

Dog owners actively use it, especially outside organized sports times.

Sports activities are mainly on weekends, with limited weekday use.

No data highlights the benefits of responsible dog ownership.

The impact on other areas (e.g., Kohimarama Beach) hasn't been assessed.

Data Bias

Presented data lacks rigor and credibility, appearing selective.

No clear link between field damage and dogs—wear is mostly from sports.

Auckland Council's review showed strong support for shared spaces (68% in favor).

Field Condition & Maintenance

A fenced-off section for improvements in 2024 remains unchanged, indicating maintenance issues, not dog-related damage.

Sports activities contribute significantly to field wear, yet rates should cover maintenance.

Cleaning Up After Dogs

The proposal won't fix non-compliance with waste pick-up.

Existing laws address this, but enforcement is lacking.

Safety Considerations

Restricting access shifts pressure to other limited dog-friendly areas.

Madills Farm's open space enables safe, shared use for all.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6382

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6383

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6385

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6388

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I find this punitive and restrictive approach to the significant increase in reducing safe places for dogs to be offleash in contradiction to the approach of creating rules that put responsible dog owners first. In most cases, you are punishing those that are good community members.

Where you have taken a sensible appraoch and propose to allow more shared community use (e.g. Onetangi, John Moore, Oneroa) it will benefit the community.

Right now, Auckland Council is not enforcing rules around dangerous and aggresive dogs. Example being an aggressive dog with four council documented attacks (humans and dogs) has just been released. This dog nearly killed a wonderful family pet and bite the owner as he tried to save his dog. Animal control found the dog, were wonderful at investigating and removing said agressive dog. Now we learn that, unbeknowest to the officer, the dog has been released with the owner bragging to the community and blatantly walking this dog outside the injured parties house. How can you allow this to happen and push good dog owners out of safe offleash and onleash areas - forcing them to walk on hot and unsafe footpaths and road.

Dogs that are not able to be effectively socialised and exercised can be become probelmatic. Dog owners who live alone, may have low mobility and isotation issues will no longer be able to take a short stroll to their local recreational area for community, recreation and connection.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6391

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I do not support in full the proposed change. The park has always been a community park and not just an active recreation soccer park. I would support dogs on leash on sports fields but not a total ban of dogs from sports fields as this would be impractical to enforce and place to much control of the park with the soccer club. Further soccer club is very intolerant of other users, including cricket and I can well imagine them enforcing a no dogs policy in an unpleasant manner

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6394

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I have been visiting Madills and Glover Parks for the past 3 years with my dog and I have never seen a dog digging a hole in the fields. This is a great place for dogs to socialise (the evidence shows this makes them much safer to be around) and for owners to meet each other. In an era where people often don't meet local families or neighbours, this provides a great place for this to happen. Giving dogs a place where they can run, catch balls, and burn off energy, allows them to to also live a great life.

The sports fields at both parks are only used for such a small proportion of the week, and dog owners already keep their dogs away from(or on a leash) during these times, but the rest of the time the fields (which were gifted for public use) remain empty. And what a waste of space that would then become. I have sons who play soccer and cricket, and I still have no problem with dogs being allowed to use this space.

I think you would find that the majority of holes in the fields are from goal posts, wickets etc and not from dogs. I also find the evidence of 27 rolled ankles all due to "holes caused by dogs" in sports that are well known for ankle injuries, very hard to believe.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6395

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I would like to oppose the changes proposed at Madills Farm. The proposed changes to restrict dog access and to especially remove off leach permission is excessive and unnecessary. The park should be freely used by sports AND dog users. The majority of dog owners are responsible and able to exercise their dogs without causing any problems for other park users. There are not enough free access for dogs in Auckland already and putting further restrictions is going to have a detrimental impact.

Dogs need opportunity to exercise off leach and to socialize freely with other dogs. Not allowing this will cause significant behavior issues for many dogs and impact on the health and wellbeing of dog owners.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

There are not enough free access for dogs in Auckland already and putting further restrictions is going to have a detrimental impact.

Dogs need opportunity to exercise off leach and to socialize freely with other dogs. Not allowing this will cause significant behavior issues for many dogs and impact on the health and wellbeing of dog owners. The council is not considering how important it is for dogs and owners to be able to exercise in parks. It's not possible to properly exercise a dog on its leach, it simply can't burn enough energy. These dogs will then become a bigger problem, barking and showing frustrated/nuisance behavior at home. Dogs need to socialize with other dogs especially when young, without ability to do this freely and in off leach environments there will be more problem behavior also.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6397

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Submission Opposing the Removal of Dog Walking in Glover Park & Madills Farm

To: Orakei Local Board

Subject: Submission on Proposed Dog Walking Restrictions in Glover Park & Madills Farm

Dear Council Representative,

I'm writing to strongly oppose the plan to remove dog walking access in Glover Park and Madills Farm. As a local dog owner, I know first-hand how important these spaces are—not just for our dogs, but for the whole community.

Why Dog Walking Matters

🐶 It's more than just a walk – Taking the dog out isn't just about exercise; it's a huge part of everyday life in the area. You meet great people, chat with other locals, and get to know your community better. These spaces bring people together in a really natural way.

🚴 Health & wellbeing – Dog walking gets people outside, keeping both owners and their dogs active. It's a simple but important part of mental and physical health. Removing these spaces would take away a key part of that for many locals.

🚶 More people = safer spaces – Parks with regular walkers are safer and more welcoming for everyone. The more foot traffic there is, the better it is for the whole community—not just dog owners.

There's a Better Way

I get that councils need to balance different needs, but removing dog walking altogether isn't the answer. If there are concerns, let's look at other options instead:

✅ Time-based restrictions – Certain times for off-leash walking instead of an outright ban.

✅ Better signage & education – Encouraging responsible dog ownership without punishing everyone.

✅ Upgrading facilities – More waste bins, clearer paths, designated areas—things that make the parks work better for everyone.

Final Thoughts

Glover Park and Madills Farm are a huge part of local life, and dog walking brings so many benefits beyond just the walk itself. I'd really encourage the council to rethink this decision and work with the community on a solution that keeps these spaces accessible for everyone.

Happy to discuss further if needed.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6399

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Opposition to Restricting Dog Access at Madills Farm

Restricting dog access due to the actions of a small minority unfairly penalises responsible dog owners who use the park with full consideration for other users.

Park Usage & Community Impact

- Madills Farm is a focal point for the community providing many benefits beyond sporting use.
- It is actively used by dog owners throughout the day, particularly during times when the park is not in use for organised sports.
- Sports activities are largely concentrated on weekends, with limited use during the week.
- No data has been provided on the positive contributions of responsible dog ownership to the community.
- There has been no assessment of the impact of restricting access at Madills on other areas, such as Kohimarama Beach, which would likely experience increased usage as a result.

Data bias

- The data presented to the Orakei Board is limited and appears to lack both rigour and credibility (ankle injuries, near misses with grass cutting). It is limited to justifying the proposal rather than providing an informed view for all users. Its integrity is also in question following the correspondence between Council and Phil Myhre dated 21 February.
- The is no clear correlation between field damage and dog behaviour. Damage can occur fpr a number or reasons. Recent observations indicate minimal new damage to the park. Areas with higher wear and tear—such as goal mouths and sidelines—align with sports activity rather than dog-related damage. A dog and owner walking in the park is unlikely to cause any damage, in any conditions.
- The ‘2024 Review Findings Report: Auckland Council Policy and Bylaw on Dogs 2019. July 2024, Version 1.0’ concluded there is a ‘lower agreement for right to use and

sharing spaces' within Auckland. This is despite the survey clearly showing a majority in favour of shared spaces with 68% reporting Dog owners should have the right to use public spaces, and 62% stating everyone (non-dog owners and dog owners and their dogs should share the recreational use of public spaces).

Sports Field Condition & Maintenance

- A section of the park was fenced off in 2024 for field improvements yet condition remainslargely unchanged. This suggests a missed opportunity to properly address field maintenance issues, rather than attributing damage to dogs.
- Community facilities require ongoing maintenance, which should be covered by rates. While the majority of dogs cause no damage, the same cannot be said for sports activities, which clearly contribute to recurring field deterioration.

Cleaning up after dogs

- Nothing in the proposal will effectively address the issue of owners not picking up after their dogs. Owners not cleaning up frustrates the majority of owners. Council already have the powers to address this with current legislation, however it lacks enforcement.

Safety Considerations

- Limiting access at Madills will also put additional pressure on other already limited dog-friendly areas, such as Kohimarama Beach.
- Madills Farm's large open space allows all users—dog owners, walkers, cyclists, and others—to enjoy the park safely with ample room to avoid unwanted interactions.

Conclusion

Restricting dog access at Madills Farm is an unfair response to isolated incidents. The current arrangement allows for safe, responsible use of the park by all members of the community.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6400

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Kaipātiki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6402

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The use of these areas should be for all. If necessary fine those responsible for not collecting poop. Most people in these areas do, others commonly pick up for those who may have missed it. Has the situation got worse since you took the bags away? In Warsaw the fine is huge if you don’t pick up your dog poop.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Some city beaches should be considered for rules such as will occur on Waiheke, for example St Heliers

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6403

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am asking for a status quo response to the proposed limitation of dogs off leash at Madills Farm. I understand that the reason for this proposal is pitch damage, resulting ankle injuries, and hygiene.

1: What evidence is there that pitch damage is done by dogs? To establish the actual cause of the pitch damage is there photographic or video evidence of dogs digging holes on the fields? If so this should be presented, with quantity, dates, and times. I understand that there has been people seen removing sand from holes in the fields with a bucket and spade - who would know why someone would do this, but there are multiple contributors to field damage. I personally have never seen a dog digging a hole at Madills Farm. As a comparison Vellenoweth Green where there are also plenty of dogs using the field there aren't any holes that I can see - there is also very minimal sport usage of this area would that not indicate that sport can be a contributor to the damage?

2: My children played Football for Eastern Suburbs for years and frankly by the end of a morning the high use parts of the fields were pretty messy. In fact some weekends the childrens games were cancelled to enable the adults to play later in the day so the fields had minimal use and damage. I see that there is reference to 27 ankle injuries in the document circulated regarding this issue. I would have thought that given there are 2,000 players at the club that would be expected - I also see from the ACC website that Football is the second highest contributor to claims for the 2024 year so less than 1% of the club presenting with an ankle injury wouldn't be unusual? And specifically how were these people injured was it slipping on wet grass vs stepping in a hole?

3: I understand that the area was gifted to the people of Auckland - that would be ALL people and rate payers I would have thought, why does the football club take priority for the fields? The Eastern Suburbs Football website states there are 2,000 players and the fees look to be $285 per player which is $570,000 in total, the Club seem to have plenty of resource to address pitch concerns that are likely for the most part made by their players.

4: I can walk my dog anywhere, and I do vary where I go. When I am at Madills Farm I see a huge amount of social connection with dog owners, a lot of these people live alone and this is their connection to the community which is very important I feel taking this area would be detrimental for many dog owners in our community.

I am asking for status quo, 99.9% of dog owners behave well, pick up after their animals and certainly would not let them dig holes. I would ask that you reflect on other people who use the park and their behaviour I see rubbish after Football, I see boxes of RTD cans and bottles after the weekends, but by and large I think all users of the park are responsible and care for their local environment. Of course dogs should be on leads while the fields are in high use with football, however outside of this time they should be open to anyone who wants to walk across them.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6405

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills farm was left to the community, this included dogs. If this rule comes in we will have no where to let our dogs ru.n Free.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

There are already too many rules! And where have all the dog poo bags gone?

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6406

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Objection to Changes in Dog Access Rules at Madills Farm

To the Auckland Council

I respectfully submit my objection to the proposed changes to dog access rules at Madills Farm (the Farm).

Local Context and Community Impact

Madills Farm serves a broad and diverse community, which includes many dog owners. For the past 25 years, I have visited the Farm daily to provide my dog with off-leash time. In all this time, I have not witnessed incidents warranting a change to the current rules.

Concerns about field damage caused by dogs appear exaggerated. Instances of dogs digging on the fields have been rare and usually limited to sand placed following work on irrigation systems or lighting stands, or damage caused by events such as Round the Bays. Additionally, poor field condition including divots are often caused by overuse during wet/muddy conditions. Furthermore, claims that dog activity causes injuries, such as the 27 reported ankle injuries, I suggest are unsubstantiated. According to ACC statistics, 35% of all soccer injuries are ankle-related, suggesting that such injuries are inherent to the sport itself rather than to field conditions.

The Farm is a vital community asset, enjoyed predominantly by dog owners during the day. Restricting off-leash areas would disproportionately limit the use of this public space for a significant portion of the community. Many dog owners have purchased homes within walking distance of the Farm. Their decision to purchase has been influenced by the long standing dog access rules at the Farm, which includes the use of the sports fields when not in use.

The Importance of Shared Spaces

The Farm, as a public reserve, should remain accessible to all members of the community. Currently, the fields are in use for sports only a small percentage of the day, particularly during weekdays. Limiting dog access, even during times when the fields are unused, seems excessive and unnecessary.

Post-COVID, dog ownership has risen significantly, as has apartment and townhouse living in the area. Dogs, as social animals, require off-leash exercise and interaction for their well-being. The Farm offers a safe and supportive environment for this.

Dog owners are also stewards of the park. They often pick up rubbish, including dangerous items such as glass (and for many weeks following Guy Fawkes collecting spent fireworks) ensuring the park remains clean and safe for all users. While there are occasional instances of dog waste not being picked up, these are infrequent and often resolved by other responsible dog owners. I would suggest that perpetrators of this offence are dog owners who have no regard for rules and any proposed changes will not influence their behaviour, rather it will only impact those responsible dog owners who follow rules.

Alignment with Auckland's Strategic Plans

The Auckland Unitary Plan 2050 emphasizes "Belonging and Participation," advocating for safe, shared spaces where community life can flourish. It states that focus should be on “providing sufficient safe, shared spaces and places that are flexible in how individuals, whanau and communities can use them and that are easily accessible”. Reducing off-leash areas contradicts this objective by limiting accessible and inclusive spaces for dog owners.

Similarly, the Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan aims to increase physical activity among Aucklanders. Activities such as walking the dog are key forms of recreation for many residents. My own daily routine involves walking 4-7km with my dog, which I consider an essential part of my active lifestyle. Part of this includes off leash time for my dog.

Auckland Councils’ Increasing Aucklanders’ Participation in Sport Investment Plan 2019-2039 states that whilst 78% of Auckland’s Adults and 95% of young people participate in sport and recreation regularly only 1% & 2% respectively play competitive sport. One can assume that a very large percentage of Aucklanders count walking, including dog-walking at local reserves, as their active recreation given that the Plan defines Active recreation as physical activity that is informal and done for wellbeing, health and/or enjoyment. It may be participated in either individually or with a group.

Restricting off-leash areas to spaces bordering roads poses safety risks and undermines the natural, spontaneous groupings of dog owners and their pets that currently occur across the park. These interactions contribute to community cohesion and provide opportunities for both dogs and owners to socialise.

Potential Consequences of the Proposed Changes

Limiting off-leash access to small areas could lead to overcrowding and safety concerns. Large, energetic dogs might inadvertently knock over smaller dogs or people in smaller spaces. Additionally, proximity to roads increases the risk of accidents.

Without access to sufficient off-leash areas, dogs may become less exercised and less socialised, leading to behavioural problem...

'Objection to Proposed Changes:

Long-term Use: The author has visited Madills Farm daily for 25 years and opposes the proposed changes to dog access rules.

Community Value: Madills Farm is a vital community asset, especially for dog owners, and should remain accessible to all.

Concerns About Field Damage:

Exaggerated Claims: The author argues that concerns about field damage caused by dogs are exaggerated and that sports activities are more likely to cause field degradation.

Injury Statistics: Claims of dog-related injuries are unsubstantiated, with ankle injuries more likely related to the nature of sports.

Shared Spaces and Well-being:

Exercise and Socialization: Off-leash areas are crucial for the exercise and socialization of dogs, contributing to the well-being of both dogs and their owners.

Community Stewardship: Dog owners often help maintain the park by picking up rubbish and ensuring the area remains clean and safe.

Alignment with Strategic Plans:

Auckland Unitary Plan 2050: Emphasizes the importance of shared spaces for community life.

Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan: Highlights the role of activities like dog-walking in increasing physical activity among residents.

Potential Consequences:

Safety Risks: Limiting off-leash areas could lead to overcrowding and safety concerns.

Behavioral Problems: Reduced off-leash access may lead to behavioral issues in dogs due to lack of exercise and socialization.

Professional Recommendations:

APDTNZ: Stresses the importance of regular off-leash exercise and socialization for preventing behavioral problems in dogs.

Conclusion:

Retain Current Rules: The author urges the council to retain the current off-leash rules and focus on addressing issues with unregistered and roaming dogs.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Kohimarama Beach

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Suggest changing off leash during summer months before 9am - this will not impact beach users who generally don't go to the beach till then.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Suggest changing off leash during summer months before 9am - this will not impact beach users who generally don't go to the beach till then. Especially given the reduced number of off leash areas in parks and reserves we seem to be facing.

Location 2

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

St Heliers Beach

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Suggest changing to off leash before 9am during summer months given most beach goers do not frequent the beach till then.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Suggest changing to off leash before 9am during summer months given most beach goers do not frequent the beach till then. Especially given the reduced off leash areas we are now experiencing in parks and reserves.

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

We are becoming increasingly anti dog in Auckland. We travel to Australia to visit family often and they have much greater off leash access than we do. It's becoming very noticeable and it's not great for happy well socialised dogs.

Objection to Changes in Dog Access Rules at Madills Farm

To the Auckland Council

I respectfully submit my objection to the proposed changes to dog access rules at Madills Farm (the Farm).

Local Context and Community Impact

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The Importance of Shared Spaces

The Farm, as a public reserve, should remain accessible to all members of the community. Currently, the fields are in use for sports only a small percentage of the day, particularly during weekdays. Limiting dog access, even during times when the fields are unused, seems excessive and unnecessary.

Post-COVID, dog ownership has risen significantly, as has apartment and townhouse living in the area. Dogs, as social animals, require off-leash exercise and interaction for their well-being. The Farm offers a safe and supportive environment for this.

Dog owners are also stewards of the park. They often pick up rubbish, including dangerous items such as glass (and for many weeks following Guy Fawkes collecting spent fireworks) ensuring the park remains clean and safe for all users. While there are occasional instances of dog waste not being picked up, these are infrequent and often resolved by other responsible dog owners. I would suggest that perpetrators of this offence are dog owners who have no regard for rules and any proposed changes will not

influence their behaviour, rather it will only impact those responsible dog owners who follow rules.

Alignment with Auckland's Strategic Plans

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Similarly, the *Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan* aims to increase physical activity among Aucklanders. Activities such as walking the dog are key forms of recreation for many residents. My own daily routine involves walking 4-7km with my dog, which I consider an essential part of my active lifestyle. Part of this includes off leash time for my dog.

Auckland Councils’ *Increasing Aucklanders’ Participation in Sport Investment Plan 2019-2039* states that whilst 78% of Auckland’s Adults and 95% of young people participate in sport and recreation regularly only 1% & 2% respectively play competitive sport. One can assume that a very large percentage of Aucklanders count walking, including dog-walking at local reserves, as their active recreation given that the Plan defines Active recreation as *physical activity that is informal and done for wellbeing, health and/or enjoyment. It may be participated in either individually or with a group*.

Restricting off-leash areas to spaces bordering roads poses safety risks and undermines the natural, spontaneous groupings of dog owners and their pets that currently occur across the park. These interactions contribute to community cohesion and provide opportunities for both dogs and owners to socialise.

Potential Consequences of the Proposed Changes

Limiting off-leash access to small areas could lead to overcrowding and safety concerns. Large, energetic dogs might inadvertently knock over smaller dogs or people in smaller spaces. Additionally, proximity to roads increases the risk of accidents.

Without access to sufficient off-leash areas, dogs may become less exercised and less socialised, leading to behavioural problems. The lack of suitable local alternatives would force dog owners to drive to other parks, contributing to traffic congestion and reducing the accessibility of recreation for those without cars.

As noted in the *Ōrākei Local Board Plan 2023*, one of the challenges regarding “Community” is to find creative ways to provide the facilities and services that our community needs and look after what we have, and “ensuring that our public and **green spaces maintain an ongoing sense of family friendliness** and safety given the

challenge of anti-social behaviour." By limiting off leash areas the Council may well polarise the community, as dog walkers will feel that their needs are not being looked after.

Professional Recommendations

The Association of Professional Dog Trainers New Zealand (APDTNZ) emphasises the importance of regular off-leash exercise and socialisation for dogs to prevent fear, stress, and anxiety. Dogs that lack these opportunities are at greater risk of developing behavioural problems, including aggression, which can result in their relinquishment to shelters.

Conclusion

Madills Farm is a cherished community space that provides immense value to dog owners and their pets. The proposed changes to dog access rules would unfairly penalise responsible dog owners while failing to address the core issues facing our parks.

I urge the Council to reconsider these changes, retain the current rules – ie dogs off leash on sports fields when not in use, and instead focus on addressing unregistered and roaming dogs (50 percent of the dogs that ended up in council shelters in 2023 were unregistered), which pose a greater threat to public safety and park usability. Preserving the current off-leash rules will ensure that the Farm continues to be a safe, inclusive, and vibrant space for all members of the community.

Thank you for considering my submission.

[redacted]

Ōrākei Have Your Say Event Notes (contains confidential information to be redacted if released under Local Government and Official Informational Act) **#6406**

12pm Thursday 13th February 2025

Time	Participant name	Individual or organisation	Notes
	[redacted]		Madills Farm • Against the proposal • Ankle rolls are part of the football (32% of football injuries are ankle induced). Refute dogs are the cause of ankle injuries. Instead removing light stands, and other football related equipment cause damage to the grounds • People have purchased houses based on the fact that Madills Farm is a high quality off leash option • Council would not want dog owners to drive to off leash parks • Reality is COVID changed society – a cause is dog ownership increased significantly • Increased in housing intensification with limited space at home. Council should be reducing off leash options • Removing time and season rules at beaches would reduce users of beaches in the morning significantly • The proposed changes will remove flexibility of the fields • I have met so many people during 20 years of using Madills Farm • Implementation of the proposal would polarise the community • The Orakei local board plan is to find creative ways that the community needs and look after what we have and public spaces maintain family friendliness Questions • Q: Do you think there are further need to adjust the bylaw on ensuring dog registration?

12pm Thursday 13th February 2025

			• A: No, it is not an issue in my area. But I know it's a bigger problem in places like Glen Innes. I think more resources spent on that part of enforcement • Q: do you think that the plan for consultation where there could be areas that could be looked at for on leash? • A: the status quo rules works. We question why the change is proposed. The fields are the majority of Madills farm. The creek area has berries that are poisonous to dogs and the other area is close to the road. The use of the fields are only used for a minimum time of the week – dog walkers are the main users of the park. • I question why we have to have this blanket rule across the field. • Dog owners are the stewards of the park. We clean the glass on the fields, and ensure that it is safe for everyone to use.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6408

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

These are sports and recreation facilities primarily for our young people. There are other dog parks that people can take their pets to if required.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Dogs should be prohibited from all areas which have high use by people - especially children and young people. These include playgrounds, regional parks and beaches.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6412

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Objection to Changes in Dog Access Rules at Madills Farm

To the Auckland Council

I respectfully submit my objection to the proposed changes to dog access rules at Madills Farm (the Farm).

Local Context and Community Impact

Madills Farm serves a broad and diverse community, which includes many dog owners. For the past 25 years, I have visited the Farm regularly to provide my dog with off-leash time. In all this time, I have not witnessed incidents warranting a change to the current rules.

Concerns about field damage caused by dogs appear exaggerated. I have not seen any instances of dogs digging but would suspect this would be limited to sand placed following work on irrigation systems or lighting stands, holes made by markers and goals, or damage caused by events such as Round the Bays. Additionally, poor field condition including divots are often caused by overuse during wet/muddy conditions. Furthermore, claims that dog activity causes injuries, such as the 27 reported ankle injuries, I suggest are unsubstantiated. According to ACC statistics, 35% of all soccer injuries are ankle-related, suggesting that such injuries are inherent to the sport itself rather than to field conditions.

The Farm is a vital community asset, enjoyed predominantly by dog owners during the day. Restricting off-leash areas would disproportionately limit the use of this public space for a significant portion of the community. Many dog owners have purchased homes within walking distance of the Farm. Their decision to purchase has been influenced by the long standing dog access rules at the Farm, which includes the use of the sports fields when not in use.

The Importance of Shared Spaces

The Farm, as a public reserve, should remain accessible to all members of the community. Currently, the fields are in use for sports only a small percentage of the day, particularly during weekdays. Limiting dog access, even during times when the fields are unused, seems excessive and unnecessary.

Post-COVID, dog ownership has risen significantly, as has apartment and townhouse living in the area. Dogs, as social animals, require off-leash exercise and interaction for their well-being. The Farm offers a safe and supportive environment for this.

Dog owners are also stewards of the park. They often pick up rubbish, including dangerous items such as glass (and for many weeks following Guy Fawkes collecting spent fireworks) ensuring the park remains clean and safe for all users. While there are occasional instances of dog waste not being picked up, these are infrequent and often resolved by other responsible dog owners. I would suggest that perpetrators of this offence are dog owners who have no regard for rules and any proposed changes will not influence their behaviour, rather it will only impact those responsible dog owners who follow rules.

Alignment with Auckland's Strategic Plans

The Auckland Unitary Plan 2050 emphasizes "Belonging and Participation," advocating for safe, shared spaces where community life can flourish. It states that focus should be on “providing sufficient safe, shared spaces and places that are flexible in how individuals, whanau and communities can use them and that are easily accessible”. Reducing off-leash areas contradicts this objective by limiting accessible and inclusive spaces for dog owners.

Similarly, the Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan aims to increase physical activity among Aucklanders. Activities such as walking the dog are key forms of recreation for many residents and I consider it to be an essential part of my active lifestyle. Part of my walk with my dog includes off leash time to ensure a happy and well socialised dog.

Auckland Councils’ Increasing Aucklanders’ Participation in Sport Investment Plan 2019-2039 states that whilst 78% of Auckland’s Adults and 95% of young people participate in sport and recreation regularly only 1% & 2% respectively play competitive sport. One can assume that a very large percentage of Aucklanders count walking, including dog-walking at local reserves, as their active recreation given that the Plan defines Active recreation as physical activity that is informal and done for wellbeing, health and/or enjoyment. It may be participated in either individually or with a group.

Restricting off-leash areas to spaces bordering roads poses safety risks and undermines the natural, spontaneous groupings of dog owners and their pets that currently occur across the park. These interactions contribute to community cohesion and provide opportunities for both dogs and owners to socialise.

Potential Consequences of the Proposed Changes

Limiting off-leash access to small areas could lead to overcrowding and safety concerns. Large, energetic dogs might inadvertently knock over smaller dogs or people in smaller spaces. Additionally, proximity to roads increases the risk of accidents.

Without access to sufficient off-leash areas, dogs may become less exercised and less...

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

If you compare Auckland's dog access rules to those in Australia and other countries we have become very anti-dog here. We should be encouraging well behaved, well socialised dogs to be part of Aucklanders active lifestyles and allowing them in more places.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6414

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madill's farm is a treasure for all of the community to use and enjoy. I support continued use of this as a shared space for walkers, off leash dogs and sportspeople. The majority of the park is now covered in sportsfields, but only used during games. It is important to have a local accessible space where owners can exercise dogs off leash, dogs can have space to play and run, and socialise with other dogs when the fields are not in use. 99% of dog owners are responsible. The proposed changes would only allow a very small perimeter area for walking dogs on leash at all times which is extremely restrictive, and this area would become much more congested. Locals would have to drive to get to an off leash dog park. I in no way support these proposed changes.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6419

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

We have been taking our dogs to this park for years and years.

Over time we have noticed all dog walkers have been slowly getting squeezed out due to the sports people.

Now this change to have our dogs onLeads is a real kick in the guts.

I will not be abiding by these new rules.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6420

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Anyone who has visited Madills on a weekday afternoon can see how vibrant and essential this space is as a community hub, with dogs at its heart. Restricting dog access to a small portion of the park compromises safety by forcing dogs and their owners closer to busy roads and undermines Madills Farm's role as a shared community space, reducing it to little more than a single-purpose sports facility.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
No.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6421

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Objection to Changes in Dog Access Rules at Madills Farm

To the Auckland Council

I respectfully submit my objection to the proposed changes to dog access rules at Madills Farm (the Farm).

Local Context and Community Impact

Madills Farm serves a broad and diverse community, which includes many dog owners. I regularly visit the Farm to exercise our family dog and have done so for many years. In all this time, I have not witnessed incidents warranting a change to the current rules.

Concerns about field damage caused by dogs appear exaggerated. I have not seen any instances of dogs digging but would suspect this would be limited to sand placed following work on irrigation systems or lighting stands, holes made by markers and goals, or damage caused by events such as Round the Bays. Additionally, poor field condition including divots are often caused by overuse during wet/muddy conditions. Furthermore, claims that dog activity causes injuries, such as the 27 reported ankle injuries, I suggest are unsubstantiated. According to ACC statistics, 35% of all soccer injuries are ankle-related, suggesting that such injuries are inherent to the sport itself rather than to field conditions.

The Farm is a vital community asset, enjoyed predominantly by dog owners during the day. Restricting off-leash areas would disproportionately limit the use of this public space for a significant portion of the community. Many dog owners have purchased homes within walking distance of the Farm. Their decision to purchase has been influenced by the long standing dog access rules at the Farm, which includes the use of the sports fields when not in use.

The Importance of Shared Spaces

The Farm, as a public reserve, should remain accessible to all members of the community. Currently, the fields are in use for sports only a small percentage of the day, particularly during weekdays. Limiting dog access, even during times when the fields are unused, seems excessive and unnecessary.

Post-COVID, dog ownership has risen significantly, as has apartment and townhouse living in the area. Dogs, as social animals, require off-leash exercise and interaction for their well-being. The Farm offers a safe and supportive environment for this.

Dog owners are also stewards of the park. They often pick up rubbish, including dangerous items such as glass (and for many weeks following Guy Fawkes collecting spent fireworks) ensuring the park remains clean and safe for all users. While there are occasional instances of dog waste not being picked up, these are infrequent and often resolved by other responsible dog owners. I would suggest that perpetrators of this offence are dog owners who have no regard for rules and any proposed changes will not influence their behaviour, rather it will only impact those responsible dog owners who follow rules.

Alignment with Auckland's Strategic Plans

The Auckland Unitary Plan 2050 emphasizes "Belonging and Participation," advocating for safe, shared spaces where community life can flourish. It states that focus should be on “providing sufficient safe, shared spaces and places that are flexible in how individuals, whanau and communities can use them and that are easily accessible”. Reducing off-leash areas contradicts this objective by limiting accessible and inclusive spaces for dog owners.

Similarly, the Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan aims to increase physical activity among Aucklanders. Activities such as walking the dog are key forms of recreation for many residents and I consider it to be an essential part of my active lifestyle. Part of my walk with my dog includes off leash time to ensure a happy and well socialised dog.

Auckland Councils’ Increasing Aucklanders’ Participation in Sport Investment Plan 2019-2039 states that whilst 78% of Auckland’s Adults and 95% of young people participate in sport and recreation regularly only 1% & 2% respectively play competitive sport. One can assume that a very large percentage of Aucklanders count walking, including dog-walking at local reserves, as their active recreation given that the Plan defines Active recreation as physical activity that is informal and done for wellbeing, health and/or enjoyment. It may be participated in either individually or with a group.

Restricting off-leash areas to spaces bordering roads poses safety risks and undermines the natural, spontaneous groupings of dog owners and their pets that currently occur across the park. These interactions contribute to community cohesion and provide opportunities for both dogs and owners to socialise.

Potential Consequences of the Proposed Changes

Limiting off-leash access to small areas could lead to overcrowding and safety concerns. Large, energetic dogs might inadvertently knock over smaller dogs or people in smaller spaces. Additionally, proximity to roads increases the risk of accidents.

Without access to sufficient off-leash areas, dogs may become less exercised and less socialis...

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6427

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Objection to Changes in Dog Access Rules at Madills Farm

To the Auckland Council

I respectfully submit my objection to the proposed changes to dog access rules at Madills Farm (the Farm).

Local Context and Community Impact

Madills Farm serves a broad and diverse community, which includes many dog owners. I regularly visit the Farm to exercise our family dog and have done so for many years. In all this time, I have not witnessed incidents warranting a change to the current rules. I no longer live at home, but I have had years of enjoyment with our family dog at the Farm and still regularly (2-3 times a week) take our dog for a walk around the area and this includes off leash time at the Farm.

Concerns about field damage caused by dogs appear exaggerated. I have not seen any instances of dogs digging but would suspect this would be limited to sand placed following work on irrigation systems or lighting stands, holes made by markers and goals, or damage caused by events such as Round the Bays. Additionally, poor field condition including divots are often caused by overuse during wet/muddy conditions. Furthermore, claims that dog activity causes injuries, such as the 27 reported ankle injuries, I suggest are unsubstantiated. According to ACC statistics, 35% of all soccer injuries are ankle-related, suggesting that such injuries are inherent to the sport itself rather than to field conditions.

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The Importance of Shared Spaces

The Farm, as a public reserve, should remain accessible to all members of the community. Currently, the fields are in use for sports only a small percentage of the day,

particularly during weekdays. Limiting dog access, even during times when the fields are unused, seems excessive and unnecessary.

Post-COVID, dog ownership has risen significantly, as has apartment and townhouse living in the area. Dogs, as social animals, require off-leash exercise and interaction for their well-being. The Farm offers a safe and supportive environment for this.

Dog owners are also stewards of the park. We often pick up rubbish, including dangerous items such as glass (and for many weeks following Guy Fawkes collecting spent fireworks) ensuring the park remains clean and safe for all users. While there are occasional instances of dog waste not being picked up, these are infrequent and often resolved by other responsible dog owners. I would suggest that perpetrators of this offence are dog owners who have no regard for rules and any proposed changes will not influence their behaviour, rather it will only impact those responsible dog owners who follow rules.

Alignment with Auckland's Strategic Plans

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Similarly, the Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan aims to increase physical activity among Aucklanders. Activities such as walking the dog are key forms of recreation for many residents and I consider it to be an essential part of my active lifestyle. Part of my walk with my dog includes off leash time to ensure a happy and well socialised dog.

Auckland Councils’ Increasing Aucklanders’ Participation in Sport Investment Plan 2019-2039 states that whilst 78% of Auckland’s Adults and 95% of young people participate in sport and recreation regularly only 1% & 2% respectively play competitive sport. One can assume that a very large percentage of Aucklanders count walking, including dog-walking at local reserves, as their active recreation given that the Plan defines Active recreation as physical activity that is informal and done for wellbeing, health and/or enjoyment. It may be participated in either individually or with a group.

Restricting off-leash areas to spaces bordering roads poses safety risks and undermines the natural, spontaneous groupings of dog owners and their pets that currently occur across the park. These interactions contribute to community cohesion and provide opportunities for both dogs and owners to socialise.

Potential Consequences of the Proposed Changes

Limiting off-leash access to small areas could lead to overcrowding and safety concerns. Large, energetic dogs might inadvertently knock o...

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

More off leash time on the beach in summer

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6434

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Franklin

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

As the population increases there are less with the skills and knowledge who know how to train a dog both off or on leash. As a result unless dog owners get the skills required to train dogs and understand their behaviour, more restriction for on leash is required.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6437

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes restricting dog access at Madills Farm. As a regular visitor and advocate for responsible pet ownership, I believe these changes will negatively impact the community and contradict the original intent of the reserve.

Background

Madills Farm, located in Kohimarama, Auckland, has long been a cherished community space. The reserve features sports fields, playgrounds, and open areas that are integral to the local lifestyle. Currently, dogs are permitted in designated areas, fostering a harmonious environment for both pet owners and non-pet owners.

Proposed Changes

The proposed changes aim to prohibit dogs from the sports fields at all times. This includes areas where dogs have traditionally been allowed, potentially leading to increased congestion in other parts of the reserve. Such restrictions could diminish the quality of life for many residents who rely on these spaces for recreation and socialization.

Concerns

1. Community Impact: Madills Farm serves as a vital recreational area for families, individuals, and pet owners. Restricting dog access could lead to overcrowding in other areas, reducing the overall enjoyment of the reserve.

2. Health and Well-being: Regular exercise and social interaction are essential for both pets and their owners. Limiting access to suitable areas could negatively affect the health and well-being of dogs and their owners. Additionally, Madills Farm being such a large area enables dog owners to keep their dogs a large distance from the road and other hazards. This is not possible at the nearby beaches. It's a wide open space for people to walk dogs at night with a long distance view of the surrounding area (for safety) which is not as easily done on beaches at night or dog parks such as waiatarua. i.e. Madills Farm has geographic conditions that enable safe/safer dog walking at all times of day and night.

3. Original Deed Conditions: The deed of gift documentation for Madills Farm, as per the Official Information request, outlines conditions for the reserve's use. While the specific conditions are not detailed in the available documents, any changes to the reserve's

usage should align with the original intent and conditions set forth in the deed. It is imperative to review these conditions to ensure that any proposed changes do not violate the original terms of the gift.

4. Counter-Argument to the Claim of Dog Damage:

The local board has suggested that dogs are damaging the fields, but this assertion must be balanced against the reality of the wear and tear caused by other activities, particularly sports like football.

• Field Usage and Damage from Football: Football games, along with other field sports, create significant damage to sports fields over time. Data from various sports management organizations, including Auckland's own parks and recreation departments, has shown that the intensity of use from organised sports leagues often leads to field degradation. The combination of cleats, sharp turns, sliding tackles, and heavy foot traffic during games causes significant compaction and wear, which can leave fields with bare patches, uneven surfaces, and soil erosion.

• Comparison to Dog Usage: In contrast, dogs using the fields for walking or playing typically cause less compaction and no lasting damage compared to the kind of intense wear created by team sports. Dogs usually use the fields in a more varied manner (e.g., walking, running, fetching), which doesn't focus heavy pressure on one spot, unlike players' concentrated use during matches.

5. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Madills Farm is utilised for sports in only a small percentage of time during the week. For a number of months of the year, the majority of weekdays, and a portion of weekends, zero organised sports are played there. In addition, it is council funding (taxpayer money) that pays for the maintenance and painting of the sports fields i.e. all community members contribute to the field maintenance, not only those who play sports.

To close a significant portion of this field off to dog owners who are some of the biggest utilisers of this park, and save for sports use only, when the majority of time it is unused for sports, would be a poor decision focusing on a small minority of users over the greater community and their needs.

Recommendation:

Maintain rules as they are currently. This enables the substantial dog owner community to continue the responsible use of the fields as it currently stands, and maintains that while sports are being played, dogs are kept off those fields.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6438

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Hello,

Please find additional information regarding my feedback on the proposed changes for Madills Farm dog access.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes restricting dog access at Madills Farm. As a regular visitor and advocate for responsible pet ownership, I believe these changes will negatively impact the community and contradict the original intent of the reserve.

Background

Madills Farm, located in Kohimarama, Auckland, has long been a cherished community space. The reserve features sports fields, playgrounds, and open areas that are integral to the local lifestyle. Currently, dogs are permitted in designated areas, fostering a harmonious environment for both pet owners and non-pet owners.

Proposed Changes

The proposed changes aim to prohibit dogs from the sports fields at all times. This includes areas where dogs have traditionally been allowed, potentially leading to increased congestion in other parts of the reserve. Such restrictions could diminish the quality of life for many residents who rely on these spaces for recreation and socialization.

Concerns

1. Community Impact: Madills Farm serves as a vital recreational area for families, individuals, and pet owners. Restricting dog access could lead to overcrowding in other areas, reducing the overall enjoyment of the reserve.

2. Health and Well-being: Regular exercise and social interaction are essential for both pets and their owners. Limiting access to suitable areas could negatively affect the health and well-being of dogs and their owners. Additionally, Madills Farm being such a large area enables dog owners to keep their dogs a large distance from the road and other hazards. This is not possible at the nearby beaches. It's a wide open space for people to walk dogs at night with a long distance view of the surrounding area (for safety) which is

not as easily done on beaches at night or dog parks such as waiatarua. i.e. Madills Farm has geographic conditions that enable safe/safer dog walking at all times of day and night.

3. Original Deed Conditions: The deed of gift documentation for Madills Farm, as per the Official Information request, outlines conditions for the reserve's use. While the specific conditions are not detailed in the available documents, any changes to the reserve's usage should align with the original intent and conditions set forth in the deed. It is imperative to review these conditions to ensure that any proposed changes do not violate the original terms of the gift.

4. Counter-Argument to the Claim of Dog Damage:

The local board has suggested that dogs are damaging the fields, but this assertion must be balanced against the reality of the wear and tear caused by other activities, particularly sports like football.

• Field Usage and Damage from Football: Football games, along with other field sports, create significant damage to sports fields over time. Data from various sports management organizations, including Auckland's own parks and recreation departments, has shown that the intensity of use from organised sports leagues often leads to field degradation. The combination of cleats, sharp turns, sliding tackles, and heavy foot traffic during games causes significant compaction and wear, which can leave fields with bare patches, uneven surfaces, and soil erosion.

• Comparison to Dog Usage: In contrast, dogs using the fields for walking or playing typically cause less compaction and no lasting damage compared to the kind of intense wear created by team sports. Dogs usually use the fields in a more varied manner (e.g., walking, running, fetching), which doesn't focus heavy pressure on one spot, unlike players' concentrated use during matches.

5. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Madills Farm is utilised for sports in only a small percentage of time during the week. For a number of months of the year, the majority of weekdays, and a portion of weekends, zero organised sports are played there. In addition, it is council funding (taxpayer money) that pays for the maintenance and painting of the sports fields i.e. all community members contribute to the field maintenance, not only those who play sports.

To close a significant portion of this field off to dog owners who are some of the biggest utilisers of this park, and save for sports use only, when the majority of time it is unused for sports, would be a poor decision focusing on a small minority of users over the greater community and their needs.

Recommendation:

Maintain rules as they are currently. This enables the substantial dog owner community to continue the responsible use of the fields as it currently stands, and maintains that while sports are being played, dogs are kept off those fields.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6439

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

This is a key park for dogs to spend time off leash- what is the issue if there is no sports on the field? Off leash should remain as is for this park.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6440

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm is a community park designated and gifted to the community as a shared space. The proposed change gives priority access to the football club and other sports at the expense of the community being able to enjoy the full park access (including where sport activity may take place). Over time, sports activities have taken the title of sports field. This is not a sports field. It is a community park in which a designated area facilitates the playing of sports activity. This is an important distinction. Closing off community access to this area for dog owners who also wish to enjoy and walk across the centre of this park is not acceptable. The Football club have a clear goal to control how this park operates, in time with plans to take over the building beside the car park and build a club house. That should never happen. This is community building in which the communit should be canvassed on best use of that space and with clear restrictions of turning it into a sports viewing hall and all round football centre.

With more infill housing, our green spaces are precious and there should be no restrictions on community members enjoying that full park space. We are restricted in use during sports games. We do not wish to lose that access when the park is not being used for sport, that is an utter waste of green space. If better signage is needed to encourage dog owners to pick up dog poo that should be the route taken, not prohibiting use for the multitude when dog poo being left is in the minority. Don't let a minority offence effect the majority. Dogs are therapeutic animals for humans and being able to run freely in larger open spaces is essential to better dog behaviour. To restrict dogs to being on leash curtails both the enjoyment of the dog owner and the dog. It creates more stress and tension in a dog as they attempt to play with another and curtails overall enjoyment by owner and dog.

This is our community park in which a range of activities, walking, sport, dog walking and creative activities should be part of our planning process. Finding new ways for the community to fully enjoy this park space. The simple reality is one sporting code - Football - is attempting to take over our shared community space. Were this proposed change to happen, you would play into their hands to dictate what happens in that vast space going forward, both the land and the community building alongside.

Again, this park was gifted as a shared space and with 99% of dog owners responsible, they should not be prohibited from full enjoyment of being able to cross the full park and surrounds in our beautiful green space. A change would require dog owners who live in

this community to drive to off leash locations. We do not want more cars and traffic on the road. We chose to live here because of the wonderful amenities, including off leash dog access in our local park. I vehemently oppose this change.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6441

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Good idea to keep dogs off playing fields

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

This whole change to Dog Bylaws is an exercise in bureaucratic overreach and obfuscation. The existing Bylaws are inadequately enforced, so more by laws will not change anything. Nine of these changes address the so called ‘dog problems’ discussed in the various papers to council. The evidence used is flawed. These changes will not do anything about unregistered dogs, roaming dogs and irresponsible owners. The majority of dog attacks reported are in private property and all these changes will do zero to change that.

Unnecessary and wasted effort by Council.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6444

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I do not support the proposed changes to access in Madills Farm and Glover Park for the following reasons:

Inadequate Off-Leash Area

The remaining designated off-leash area is too small, often boggy, and not a suitable or fair substitute for responsible dog owners to exercise and socialize their dogs. When I moved to Kohimarama, I specifically chose this area knowing there was a quality off-leash recreational reserve within walking distance. Removing this access represents a significant and unfair change.

Unfair Restriction of Park Space

The newly prohibited area represents a large percentage of the park, prioritizing one group's use at the expense of others who have peacefully enjoyed it for years. This is neither fair nor reasonable.

Conflict with the Purpose of a Recreational Reserve

This decision contradicts the purpose of a recreational reserve, particularly in Madills Farm and Glover Park, where a substantial portion of the space will now be off-limits to a significant part of the community. As outlined in the Reserves Act 1977:

"The purpose of recreation reserves is to provide areas for recreation and sporting activities, the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and the protection of the natural environment, with an emphasis on retaining open spaces and outdoor recreational activities."

Restricting responsible dog owners from using these spaces goes against this fundamental purpose.

Lack of Supporting Evidence

The justification for these restrictions lacks factual support. There is no evidence proving that dogs are the primary cause of damage in these parks. How does this compare to wear and tear caused by sports activities, weather events, or large-scale gatherings such as Round the Bays? A data-driven approach is necessary before making such a significant decision.

Misplaced Focus on Irresponsible Ownership

The proposed changes appear to target issues related to irresponsible dog ownership—such as uncollected waste or holes dug by dogs—rather than addressing responsible owners. These concerns could be mitigated through enforcement, increased signage, and public awareness campaigns, none of which have been meaningfully implemented.

Impact on Community Connection

Recreational spaces play a vital role in fostering social connections. For many local dog owners, Madills Farm has been instrumental in providing a safe space to connect with others. This is particularly important for those without children or who live alone, as it may be one of their primary social outlets.

Contradiction to Auckland Council's Dog Policy

With increasing dog ownership, the focus should be on maintaining—or expanding—public spaces for dogs rather than reducing them. This aligns with the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs, which aims to:

Maintain opportunities for owners to take their dogs into public spaces.

Minimize problems caused by dogs through appropriate management.

Protect dogs from harm and ensure their welfare.

I urge you to consider: If not off-leash here, then where? Any restrictions should be balanced by designating a fair and reasonable off-leash area where responsible dog owners can continue to exercise their dogs safely.

As per the Council's own policy, dogs provide companionship, emotional support, and help foster social connections. Please take these factors into account when making your decision.

Thank you.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I have recently been the victim of an aggressive dog. My dog was nearly killed by this dog at Waiataru Reserve. The attacking dog had history, no collar, no leash. During the event, it bit my husband too. This happened 10 October 2024. The dog has now been realsed from the shelter back to the owner.

My point is - let's get the problem dogs out of the community for good. The responsible dog owners and families need to be safe from these dog and NOT have unfair restrictions place on them.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6447

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Expand areas and times that dog owners can access with their companions

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

All

What local board area is this location in?

Waitākere Ranges

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

I don’t know

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

Other - please specify:Expand areas and times that dog owners can access with their companions

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

To advocate for dogs and owners

Location 2

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

All

What local board area is this location in?

Rodney

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

I don’t know

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

Other - please specify:Expand areas and times that dog owners can access with their companions

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

To allow dogs to be an accepted part of society as they have been for over at least 3000 years instead of persecuted and marginalised

Location 3

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

All

What local board area is this location in?

Waitematā

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

I don’t know

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

Other - please specify:Expand areas and times that dog owners can access with their companions

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

To advocate tolerance towards dog owners

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

You are marginalising dogs and dog owners

Human incapacity for tolerating what looks ‘other’ is a large part of what is problematic today and has resulted in catastrophic species loss worldwide

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6450

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

This is not a private park owned by the football club. It is a shared area maintained by ratepayers. Dog owners who use Madills are by and large responsible citizens who pay their dog registration and train their dogs. What not focus on areas like Glen Innes where untrained, unfixed, unregistered dogs regularly roam the streets.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6451

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed changes to dog access rules in Auckland Council parks and beached. As a responsible dog owner and member of the community who has enjoyed being part of the organised sporting teams in the area, I strongly believe that dogs should be allowed to continue using these parks and beaches for the following reasons:

Effective Existing Rules: Dogs and organised recreational users of the parks have co-existed effectively for many, many years under the current rules. Fundamentally there is no clear reason or community benefit to change the existing rules which are effective. If implemented the proposed rules will negatively impact the wider community and large number of park users who enjoy making use of these public facilities, and in particular when the marked sports fields are not in use e.g. early mornings and late evenings

Health and Wellbeing: Dogs play a crucial role in their owners' physical and mental health. Public parks are vital spaces for dogs to exercise and socialize, which is essential for their overall well-being. A ban would restrict dogs' access to these spaces, limiting opportunities for them to stay active and healthy.

Social and Community Benefits: Many Aucklanders, especially in urban areas, lack private outdoor spaces where they can exercise their dogs. Parks offer a communal area for dogs to safely interact with other dogs and with people, fostering positive social behavior for both dogs and their owners. This also helps to strengthen connections within the community. Family groups, including dog owners, regularly visit parks together, where dogs and their owners can watch and enjoy sporting events or activities. Dogs being part of these family outings helps create inclusive spaces that encourage more community participation.

Sharing Sports Fields: Many Auckland parks with sports fields are regularly used by local teams, and it is common to see families, including dogs, gathered around to watch matches. These shared spaces allow for community engagement, where dog owners can enjoy a sense of belonging alongside friends and families to support their club. Responsible dog owners manage their pets appropriately during these events, keeping dogs on-leash or in designated areas, which ensures minimal disruption to the sporting activities.

Responsible Pet Ownership: The majority of dog owners in Auckland are responsible, respectful of park rules, and clean up after their pets. Rather than implementing a blanket ban on dogs on the sports fields, the focus should be on better education through the sports clubs and enforcement of responsible dog ownership when teams are competing. We can avoid penalizing all dog owners by ensuring that park rules are visible for park users and that sports clubs work with their members and dog owners for the betterment of the facilities, teams, dogs and the community.

Inclusive and Balanced Approach: Public parks should be spaces for everyone, including dog owners, sports teams, families, and individuals who wish to engage in various activities. A balanced approach that accommodates all park users, whether they are watching a game or walking their dog, would create more harmonious and inclusive spaces for all members of the community. Dogs, as part of family groups, contribute to the enjoyment and vibrancy of these public areas. The current rules provide this balance and should not be changed.

In conclusion, the proposed changes to dog access rules at Auckland Council parks and beaches would have detrimental effects on both dogs and their responsible owners. It would also reduce the sense of community for families who visit the parks together, including to watch sports. Rather than implementing the proposed rules, I urge the council to retain the current rules which are more balanced and enable dogs and dog owners to coexist with other park users in a way that benefits everyone.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

There are far more important issues for Auckland Council to resolve than amending rules and regulations that are operating efficiently and effectively.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6452

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I strongly oppose the proposed changes for the following reasons:

1. The parks in question are already limited in size. Restricting off-leash dog access at all times would leave an extremely small area for dogs to roam freely, which is impractical and inadequate.

2. The majority of local residents do not play football. However, many people have dogs and rely on these parks to walk their dogs and engage with their neighbors, while their pets socialize with others. Groups of dog owners gather there daily for these purposes.

3. The sports clubs that use Madills and Glover Parks already have access to ample facilities where they can play football without interference from dogs. On the other hand, dogs are increasingly being left with fewer large spaces in the Eastern Bays to run freely.

4. Local parks should be accessible and enjoyable for everyone, not just a small subset of the population who play football. After all, all residents contribute to the community through their rates.

For these reasons, I believe the current arrangement should remain unchanged.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
No.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6454

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Unfortunately the proposal is another incremental step towards turning Madills Farm into a single use facility, denying the community that has been utilising the park for many years, long before the soccer club with their ambitions arrived.

Motivation for the proposal is flawed and certain parts are downright deceitful:

1) There are no compelling reasons why Madills Farm needs to be “aligned” with the rules at other parks. Madills Farm is unique because it was gifted to the council to manage on behalf of the community. The community has been very active and involved over many years.

2) There is no need for a total ban to reduce the small incidence of urine and faeces on the sports fields. Effective alternative solutions are educational campaigns, signage and enforcement.

3) The soccer club has been very helpful providing statistics such as ankle rolls. There is no causal link between this very common sports injury and holes dug by dogs.

3) Increases in cost of repair are dubiously linked to damage from dogs. No mention is made of the significant over-use of the fields, admitted by the soccer club.

4) A total ban on sports fields leaves dog walkers with a not fit for purpose facility e.g.:

- The helpful soccer club asserts that dog walkers will retain 50% use of the park. It does not take a mathematician to determine the area left to dog walkers is actually closer to 20%.

- The proposed off-leash area is close to the street which increases health and safety risks.

- Significant parts of the proposed off-leash are hilly and often not mowed, making it not suitable for elderly people (a significant part of the dog walker community)

- During the winter, significant parts of the off leash area are water logged, eliminating use by anyone.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I have lived next to Madills Farm for over twenty years and have been part of the community either playing sport, walking dogs, making friends or just improving my mental health in general by being there and watching others (including dogs) enjoying themselves. Unfortunately the community will now be denied these experiences as the council and the soccer club achieve another incremental step towards turning Madills Farm into a single use facility.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6456

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Reducing dog access to Madills farm and Glover Park is in direct contradiction to the purpose of the policy. The purpose of the Auckland Council Policy of Dogs 2019 is 1) To keep dogs as a positive part of the life of Aucklanders by maintaining opportunities for owners to take their dogs into public places 2) protecting dogs from harm and ensuring their welfare 3) adopting measures to minimise the problems caused by dogs.

These two parks are great parks particularly for those slightly older who need a flat park to walk in. No evidence to say that dogs are a hazard in either of these parks. The rules already in place are sufficient.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Let us all work together and provide safe places for everyone including resposible dog owners

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6459

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Re: Opposition to Proposed Changes to Dog Access at Madills Farm.

I am writing to formally express my opposition to the proposed changes regarding dog access restrictions at Madfills Farm. My objections are based on several key considerations:

Spatial and Usage Concerns

The existing park space is already limited in size. The proposed blanket restriction on off-leash dog access would significantly reduce the available area for dogs to exercise freely, which is essential for their wellbeing.

Community and Social Impact

The park currently serves as a vital community hub where residents regularly gather while their dogs socialize. These daily meetings foster important community connections and contribute to the physical and mental wellbeing of both residents and their pets. This social aspect represents a significant community benefit that should not be undervalued.

Public Asset Management

As a council-owned facility, the park should maintain equitable access for all community members. While I acknowledge the concerns regarding pitch maintenance, the observed wear patterns appear consistent with normal sporting use, particularly around goal areas and center spots. The attribution of damage to dog activity appears unsubstantiated by the available evidence.

Alternative Facilities

It is worth noting that this facility primarily serves junior sports, while alternative venues exist for higher-level competition. Specifically, two astroturf pitches near Stone Fields are currently underutilized and could accommodate additional sporting activities.

Inclusive Community Access

Local parks should serve the entire community rather than prioritizing any single user group. While sporting activities are important, they should not take precedence over other legitimate community uses. The current arrangement has demonstrated a successful balance of different community needs.

Recommendation

Based on these considerations, I strongly recommend maintaining the current access arrangements, which have proven effective in serving diverse community needs. The existing framework provides a fair and balanced approach to shared community space utilization.

I appreciate the Council's consideration of these points in their deliberation process.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

It is crucial to maintain the current shared access arrangements for our green spaces. As Auckland's population grows and our city becomes increasingly dense, these communal areas play a vital role in maintaining our quality of life. Our parks and reserves are essential breathing spaces that contribute to Auckland's unique character and livability.

Restricting access for any particular group would set a concerning precedent and could have far-reaching negative impacts on our community's social fabric and wellbeing. The strength of our city lies in its inclusive, shared spaces that bring people together rather than divide them.

By preserving equitable access to our green spaces, we can ensure Auckland remains the vibrant, welcoming city we all love.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6460

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

See my earlier extensive comments

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

This survey s not user friendly and unclear on which area we are to comment on - especially from a mobile phone

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6464

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Both Glover Park and Madills are great parks with a nice path to walk around but also flat which is great for the elderly and disabled. There have been a few incidents, but only because dog ownership, without any training, rules or guidance has gone up, not because dogs are bad creatures. Removing the ability to be off lead will only create more problems on streets and roads where dogs are over excited by just seeing another dog.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6471

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The parks are a shared community facility, not just for sports. Dog owners also pay rates, as well as dog registration fees to councils, and as such have as much right to use the parks in a responsible manner as anyone else, when they are not in use as sports fields.

If dog owners are not allowed to walk their dogs there the parks would be very underutilised for the majority of the week.

It is important for dogs to have access to off leash areas with other dogs to contribute to them being well adjusted and well socialised dogs. It is also important for dog owners to have safe and pleasant spaces to exercise with their dogs and socialise with others doing the same.

Dogs and their owners have minimal impact on the surface of the park, especially in comparison to the damage done by playing sports on them.

The vast majority of dog owners are responsible, and ensure their dogs are under control and not disruptive to others and keep the parks clean.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

As one of many dog owners, part of what makes Tamaki Makaurau/Auckland a great place to live is the access to some wonderful off leash areas to explore with our dogs.

My perception is that dogs and their owners vastly increase the utilisation of these areas with very little detriment to the areas.

I understand off leash restrictions on beaches when they are well populated but the parks are never as well utilised as a beach in the summer months.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6472

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Submission Against Auckland Council and Ōrākei Local Board Proposal to Limit Dog Access at Madills Farm

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to limit dog access at Madills Farm, specifically the decision to prohibit dogs from the playing fields at all times. I believe this proposal fails to consider the vital role this space plays for the local community, the negative impact on responsible dog owners, and the growing need for safe, accessible spaces for dogs and their owners to exercise.

Impact on Dog Owners and Their Pets

Madills Farm is a critical community hub for many local residents, including dog owners. The park's playing fields constitute a significant portion of the space, and restricting access to these areas means a de facto ban on off-leash walking at the park. The remaining space, the path around the perimeter, is simply not a suitable substitute for off-leash exercise. This path runs far too close to the road, creating a hazardous environment for dogs. It is unsafe for dogs to exercise freely in such close proximity to traffic, and it severely limits the amount of space available for physical activity.

The limited accessible area for dogs will also negatively affect those who rely on the park as a space for safe, off-leash recreation, especially given the area near the playground is already off-limits to dogs. This could lead to an overcrowded, less enjoyable experience for both dogs and their owners in the small remaining space.

The Community Aspect

Madills Farm is not just a park – it is a community hub, frequented by residents for various activities, not limited to sporting events, family gatherings, and recreational use. Dog owners are equally important members of the community who, like other park-goers, deserve access to these shared spaces for the benefit of their well-being and that of their pets. The proposed changes disproportionately affect dog owners, limiting their ability to responsibly use a public park that many in the community cherish.

Benefits of Dog Walking

Research consistently demonstrates the physical, mental, and social benefits of dog walking. According to the American Heart Association, dog owners who walk their pets are more likely to engage in regular physical activity, which contributes to improved cardiovascular health. Regular dog walking also reduces stress, helps manage anxiety and depression, and improves the overall quality of life for dog owners. These benefits are especially valuable for those who may not have access to other green spaces or safer alternatives for their pets.

Access to Public Spaces for Dogs: A Broader Context

The lack of dog-friendly parks and off-leash areas is a growing concern in urban environments worldwide. In Auckland, as in many other cities, the demand for off-leash dog areas is rapidly increasing. According to recent data, a minority of Auckland's parks are accessible to dogs off-leash,and is low percentage when compared to other cities such as London, where dog owners have access to a significantly higher number of parks, or Christchurch, NZ, where the percentage of dog-friendly spaces is much higher.

While Auckland is undoubtedly a beautiful city, its infrastructure needs to evolve to keep pace with the growing demand for accessible, safe spaces for dogs and their owners. The proposed limitations at Madills Farm risk reducing the available green space for dogs, further exacerbating the shortage of suitable off-leash areas in Auckland.

Conclusion

I urge the Auckland Council and Ōrākei Local Board to reconsider the proposed ban on dog access to the playing fields at Madills Farm. Instead, I ask that they explore more balanced solutions that accommodate both the needs of dog owners and other park users. This may include designated off-leash areas in the park or specific times for off-leash dog walking.

Dog owners are a valued part of our community, and it is vital that we prioritize their ability to exercise their dogs safely while also respecting the diverse needs of all park users. The benefits of responsible dog walking are clear, and it is imperative that Auckland continues to create accessible, inclusive spaces for everyone.

Thank you for considering my submission

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Generally, Auckland Council needs to think very carefully about the kind of city it wants to be: limiting any more dog walking green / beach or other open space is going to reduce appeal of the city and enjoyment of numerous residents.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6474

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6475

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

It has been the local park for dog meet ups for years on end. My dog, Lulu, loves nothing more than being let off the leash at Madills, and sprinting around, chasing a ball, playing with countless other dogs and rolling around in the dirtiest patch possible! An alternative may be the restrict access on the one football pitch EAFC first team play, I would understand that, but the whole park is ludicrous, and takes away an infamous local park for many loving, playful dogs. Furthermore, the amount of Elderly who live by the park with dogs, will now have to travel further to let their energetic dogs get rid out their energy, this is bad overall for the community.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Madills Farm**What local board area is this location in?**Ōrākei**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**A section of it. Please specify:If need be, everywhere but the first team football pitch (the only patch of grass that is actually maintained there)**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:This is THE local park for dogs, always packed with loving and energetic dogs. Great for community morale if not anything else where people chat/laugh as their dogs bond**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**See previous comments, but the proposed change is ignorant and ignoring of what the greater community wants and needs.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6478

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Franklin

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

There are very few places already where we can take our dogs; parks and waterways provide enrichment and socialization opportunities. Council should aim to increase the areas where dogs are allowed, instead of reducing them.

Council is missing on the economic opportunity dogs can be.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Just like anything else, pets can be an economic development opportunity for the beaches and cities.

This does not takes away the responsibility as owners to watch over them on DOC areas.

We want to be able oplay and visit areas with our pets as families are now changing and the cities should change and accommodate accordingly

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6479

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Franklin

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6480

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Hi Orakei Local Board,

I hope you consider the proposed changes and the impact they will have upon all users of Madills Farm and Glover Park. As a local for almost 40 years we have valued the many users of the parks, and dogs off lead on the main part of the park(s) is one of the main uses. I have been in correspondence with Eastern Suburbs and they are firm in the fact they do not want to be the sole users of the fields and encourage full community use (and are not behind the proposed rule change). This begs the question, where is this policy coming from? It appears from reading the materials presented that it is a one side interpretation of the council surveys that were conducted. Another relevant question is around enforcement if this rule change is implemented (will there be an increase in budget in dog enforcement as a result - rate payers deserve to know if so). The dog community is a positive force for good, encouraging exercise and community spirit - who else uses the park at 6am on a rainy winter morning!

I seriously hope you consider all parties when making your decisions. The current rules strike a balance for all park users and it seems like classic ‘overreach’ if they are extended as proposed.

Regards

[redacted]

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6483

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the draft Auckland City Dog Bylaws

I submit in relation Orakei Local Board and specifically, Madills Farm, and

- support Option 1- to maintain the status quo for Madills Farm (and Glover Park),
- strongly oppose Option 2 which would restrict off-leash dog exercise on these parks.

We have lived overlooking Madill's Farm for more than 20 years, and I witness daily the joy it brings to our community. Watching local dogs run freely, chase balls, do zoomies, play and socialise is an integral part of what makes Madills Farm so special.

Though I don't own a dog myself, the ability to witness this vibrant inclusive use of our park enriches our neighbourhood and the community of people who live here - in just as many ways as organised sport.

Madills Farm is Public Space for All, not just one Group.

In recent years, the increased dominance of "organised sport" on Madill's Farm has altered its shared-use nature and role in the community. The park has always been able to balance structured sport with open recreation, with mutual respect among users, but that balance is being tipped as seemingly less value is given to the role of Madill's Farm in the local community of Kohimarama.

The justification for restricting off-leash dogs is weak, and seems to be being driven by those facilitating organised sport rather that genuine community needs. If the Orakei Local Board allows these interests to be prioritised over the broader community rights to enjoy Madills Farm we risk losing an essential, inclusive space that defines our neighbourhood.

Whilst I understand the Councils desire to align dog access rules across all parks, the purpose of this consultation is to determine whether that justifies changing the status of Madill's Farm and Glovers Park. The local community has been clear for years – nothing has changed, and we have been fortunate to date to have a Local Board that listens too and supports its community. Let us hope that continues!

As for the issue of cost, attributing field "hole" maintenance solely to off-leash dogs is both unfair and misleading. Even if some wear and tear could be linked to dog behaviour,

the real question is does this minor cost outweigh the immense community benefits of an accessible, shared space? Dog owners are rate payers too, contributing through both rates and dog license fee – this is simply a fair return on their investment in public spaces, and, as a local rate payer I am happy to know that my rates are contributing to this important Madills Farm user group.

I urge the council and Orakei Local Board to retain off-leash access and uphold the balance that has long made Madill’s Farm a treasured community asset.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6488

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Use of this park by dog owners is an integral part of the community and the level of reduction in access by off leash dogs in the proposed changes is not an equitable solution or necessary for the stated reasons. Should the changes be implemented as proposed, there would no longer be suitable room in the park for proper exercise and enjoyment of the many local dogs and owners that rely on this critical open green space as part of their everyday wellbeing. In a time where green spaces are becoming more and more restricted, and people don't have their own yards, it is critical that the local government maintain access to all community members, even if this could require increased levels of control or maintenance. Dog owners in the area are extremely conscientious about droppings being picked up and there is a community focus on this, which fosters good behaviours. The suggestion that dog use of the sports fields poses a H&S risk to sports field players, is not substantiated. If the risk is associated with damage to the playing field then this is just as likely to be caused by the sports play itself, where contact with the grass and soil is significantly more impactful than that when owners are playing with off leash dogs. I would urge the local government to consider a more equitable solution and, if the changes are not completely removed from plans, at least one of the three proposed areas should be allowed off leash dog access when sport is not being played. This would at least allow the current use of the park to remain and foster the clearly needed community green space. Thank you for your consideration of the value that this park brings to dog owners in the local community.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Kohimarama Beach

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:In summer I suggest that off leash dogs should be allowed on the beach after a reasonable time - for example 7pm - to allow for use by dog owners whilst providing the rest of the day for other users without dogs present.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

In summer I suggest that off leash dogs should be allowed on the beach after a reasonable time - for example 7pm - to allow for use by dog owners whilst providing the rest of the day for other users without dogs present.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Most dog owners are extremely conscientious and do the right thing. They don't wish to negatively impact others and act to make sure this is the case. However, dog owners are also part of the community and it is equitable to at least provide some times and options for full use of local beaches and park areas.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6489

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The proposal to further restrict dogs usage on Madills park and Glover park is unnecessary and a complete overreach in terms of park usage.

I have lived by Madills farm for over 40 years and in all that time I have only seen positive benefits from dog owners and their dogs using the park. Locals get daily exercise, they communicate with other dog owners and enjoy the benefits of being out in nature and wide open spaces. The MENTAL HEALTH benefits of this interaction will be ENORMOUS.

Parks are valuable resources in so many ways for so many different groups and to limit the use for dog owners makes no practical sense.

I also understand that the sports users do not have any concerns about the current dog usage.

Please use common sense and leave the current policy in place without changes

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6490

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I've lived in the area 40 years. I've walked my dogs here almost daily the community of do owners meet here replay and some lonely Auckland residents can exercise their dog safely and not near the children's playground. Therefore I appeal the proposed changes. Leave our dogs to walk as they have the past 40 plus years.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Madills orakei ward

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Most of the locals are responsible dog owners. Extended hours and continuing the access to all parts of the park now accessible to dogs.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Don’t restrict law abiding citizens who control their dogs

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6491

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am vehemently opposed to the proposed changes restricting dog access at Madills Farm. As a regular user of Madills Farm I believe these changes will negatively impact the community and contradict the original intent of the reserve. I cannot emphasis enough how much of a negative impact this will have on my young family and the community.

BACKGROUND

Madills Farm in Kohimarama is a much-loved and well-used community space. It's at the heart of our community with its sports fields, playgrounds, and open areas which are wonderful for the dogs in Kohi and surrounding suburbs to run around off leash whilst their owners walk and their children scooter or bike ride around.

PROPOSED CHANGES

The proposed changes aim to prohibit dogs from the sports fields at all times. This includes areas where dogs have traditionally been allowed and will have a significant negative impact on our community. These include:

1. Community interaction: Madills Farm is an important recreational area for families, individuals, and pet owners. Restricting dog access could lead to overcrowding in other areas, reducing the overall enjoyment of the park for everyone. It's currently the perfect place to go for a walk whilst you can enjoy your dog being safely off leash, and your children can safely bike or scooter as there is room for everyone. It would be unfortunate for this beautiful space to predominantly become sports fields.

2. Claim of damage by dogs: given football is a sports involving kicking the ground whilst moving at pace, the argument by the local board that dogs are causing damage to the fields, resulting in ankle injuries, is weak. There are other activities and general wear and tear that may cause holes on the sports fields as well.

a. Damage from football: There is evidence that football (and similar games) create significant damage to sports fields. Data from sports management organisations, including Auckland's parks and recreation department, has shown that the intensity of use from organised sports often leads to field degradation. Features of football like cleats, sharp turns, sliding tackles, and heavy foot traffic during games results in significant compaction and wear, which can leave fields with bare patches, uneven surfaces, and soil erosion.

b. Comparison to dogs: In contrast, dogs using the fields for walking or playing typically cause less compaction and no lasting damage compared to the kind of intense wear created by team sports. Dogs usually use the fields in a more varied manner (e.g., walking, running, fetching), which doesn't focus heavy pressure on one spot, unlike players' concentrated use during matches.

3. Housing intensification reducing outdoor space: the Council has encouraged and allowed the intensification of the Eastern Bays, resulting in the majority of homes in the area having minimal outdoor space. The removal of a space where dogs can run freely and play fetch etc will cause other issues like dogs barking more causing noise complaints, more frustrated dogs trying to escape and roam the streets etc. The Council should not approve such small sections if they don't provide recreational spaces for all members of the community to enjoy freely.

4. Rates and registration fees: Most people in the Eastern Bays pay both rates and their dog registration fees. Removing areas where locals can exercise their dogs and let them run around to be dogs, makes me (and I am sure many others) question where these substantial yearly sums are going and why we should be contributing them at all.

5. Balanced use of public space: Regular exercise and social interaction are important and by restricting dogs to certain areas of the park will negatively impact health and wellbeing as people will be less inclined to go for a walk / take their children with them due to needing to navigate congested spaces. One of the arguments is there were '27 ankle rolls on the sports fields' due to the condition of the ground – arguably there will be more injuries sustained from having people, dogs on leads, kids on bikes and scooters (all with a road close by) jammed into a smaller area. Balanced use of public space, means allowing both the football club and community to enjoy Madills Farm as we currently do.

6. Alignment to parks and sports field management across Auckland: I am quite certain that there is variation across many different categories of things the Council oversees and no real reason to not allow the continued balanced use of the sports fields at Madills farm.

7. Original Deed: The deed of gift documentation for Madills Farm includes conditions for the reserve's use. Any changes to the reserve's usage should align with the original intent and conditions in the deed – and I suspect these proposed changes don't. It is imperative to review these conditions to ensure that any proposed changes do not violate the original terms of the gift.

RECCOMENDATIONS

Dog access to stay as is: Maintain the current dog access ...

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

To maintain a balanced and fair approach to all ratepayers and community members, and for Council to be acting responsibly given their desire for housing intensification, there should be parks available within communities where dogs and run around off leash.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6492

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I look after dogs in the St Heliers and Kohimarama area and often use Madill's farm to walk them. The sports fields are not that often in use and are a good safe place to walk the dogs. I have a long term foot injury/pain condition which means walking on uneven ground like at the beach is not possible. The owners of the dogs that I look after specifically don't want me to walk the dogs near roads. If the proposal included a fenced in dog park as part of the Madill's changes then I wouldn't be opposed to it.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6493

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Mission Bay Kohimarama Residents Association

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

1. The information provided for review by the public is short on details around the need to change current settings. No statistical analysis has been shared. The only thing that could be found is in an Appendix to the Agenda for the Local Board meeting on 12/12/24. This states that in the 2024 winter season, 27 rolled ankles have been associated with damage to surfaces (not strictly dog related), and a forecast of $35k for turf patching due to dog damage. No further details are provided, neither the source of this information, further breakdown, or discussion around other turf damage. This is hardly transparent and not available via the Have Your Say portal. It was only through direct engagement with OLB that this information came to light.

2. Due to the above, the proposals from Auckland Council are presented more like a predetermined outcome. There is no openness around what problems are deemed to exist, the extent of those problems, a comparison of these parks to others (both dog controlled and open-dog), and what other solutions could be considered - e.g. additional education, enforcement, or hybrid versions of dog bans, taking into account hours of use, areas that may be less used by sports activities, etc. We note that Glover is used only during Terms 2 & 3 for football (according to ESFC), yet the ban is proposed year-round.

3. There is no discussion or evidence that bans have a positive effect on outcomes to the extent that it will "solve" the problems that are deemed to exist. There is some discussion around "responsible dog owners" and that this is not meant to negatively impact those people already doing the right thing. It would follow that "responsible dog owners" are the ONLY ones going to be negatively impacted by this law, as the "irresponsible" ones are likely to ignore the changes anyway.

4. There has been no discussion around what changes would need to be made to parks to better accommodate limited off-leash restrictions, i.e. where the off-leash area is proposed to be confined to the edges of the park, near roads, in areas not drained and mowed as frequently, lacking pathways and rubbish bins, and often steep and uneven.

5. The proposals are not transparent regarding the past intensification of sporting use on the grounds, and the singular drive by one sporting body (Eastern Suburbs Football Club) to now have significant control over 4 community parks (Madills, Glover, Ngahue, Crossfields). These 4 parks are community facilities, but their use is now dictated by a minority of users. This is not representative of the rates take for these communities, nor

considerate of the multiple other users of these ground. There is no transparency around the contribution to maintenance of these parks by ESFC, which collects considerable revenue from participants.

6. The proposal focus on eliminating risk. There is no discussion on "balance of risk" and the fact that rolled ankles and turf damage will continue to occur without dogs, as turf damage comes from many sources, including football. Will other uses be on the chopping block next - such as the Round the Bays gathering? The grounds have improved dramatically over the past 20+ years, with the surface better than ever. There seems to be a drive for even better, so following the logic in the proposal the grass will at some point need to be replaced with artificial turf to provide a perfect surface. When is a "reasonable" level of risk reached?

Overall the proposal is short on actual details and statistics, lacks transparency, and provides inadequate consideration for outcomes. It is on this basis that the Mission Bay Kohimarama Residents Association supports NO CHANGE to the current policies until appropriate review and consultation is undertaken.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6495

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am strongly against the proposed changes. I own two properties in Glen Innes (I am living at one, and my ex-partner is living at the other). We greatly enjoy walking our dogs at Madills Farm (and occasionally at Glover Park).

There is a strong and vibrant community of locals who walk their dogs at these parks. It is a great way to connect with the community and socialise, for both dogs and humans, by being able to let our dogs off leash to play with each other while the humans chat. The park is very accessible, flat and perfect for all ages and fitness levels to be able to enjoy the company of others.

The proposed changes would significantly reduce the ability of dogs and their owners to enjoy this park. My dogs love chasing a ball, and there would not be space to safely throw a ball for them with the proposed changes. The sports field areas are also perfect for dogs to play without being at risk of running on to the road unlike the areas without sports fields.

I have walked my dogs there for nearly five years, and have not witnessed any inappropriate behaviour by dogs or their owners.

I note a couple of points in the paper proposing the changes:

1. The number of alleged rolled ankles. I would suggest that rolled ankles are part of life when playing in sporting events - I used to play/referee rugby/touch rugby (in Christchurch) and did roll my ankle once or twice, and that was at my local park where dogs were required to be on leash at all times (so clearly, did not contribute to digging holes). I also suspect that poor groundskeeping practice contributes to the issue, as it seems that any holes that do develop from sports being played on the fields are filled with sand, which does not seem to be a permanent solution (as sand is soft and doesn't properly fill the hole, grass cannot grow back and is at best a temporary fix). It seems to be drawing a long bow to say that every rolled ankle can be blamed on dogs allegedly digging holes, especially as no evidence of the same is presented.

2. The "health and safety" risks of dogs are mentioned. Again, if there was any evidence of dogs causing a health and safety issue (beyond the aforementioned rolled ankles), it would no doubt be mentioned. While unpleasant, and most owners are very conscious of picking up waste from dogs, at worst this is a nuisance for people playing on the field. I

also sometimes see bird faeces while out walking (from ducks or other birds). Is the council proposing that there will be a death squad to shoot birds on sight, if there is a concern about faeces on the fields? As if not, then the issue will still persist. If dogs going to the toilet was causing a health and safety issue, no doubt the number of cases would have been mentioned - the lack of any specific numbers suggests that there is not actually a real problem beyond it being unpleasant.

As with any urban planning/council decision, there will be trade-offs. I think the benefits to the physical and mental health of the many people who enjoy walking their dogs under the current settings strongly outweigh any harm that may allegedly be caused. I pay a lot of money in rates across my two properties in the area, and am more than happy for some of that to go towards the cost of maintaining the fields for all. I would also suggest that if the sports teams using the fields want them to be maintained to a standard greater than that of the usual council parks, then some of the incremental cost should be borne by those sports team. I also think that changing the rules for the sake of consistency alone is not a great argument - it provides a unique and compelling proposition for residents to enjoy this park, and that should be retained.

I also understand that the council put up new signs, allegedly by mistake, purporting to show the new rules prior to this consultation being released. I would have thought that the council is at some risk of judicial review for having predetermined the outcome if they persisted with the changes. This would be a poor use of ratepayer money to defend a flawed decision making process, so the lower risk path would be to leave the current settings in place, and if evidence emerges that actually shows dogs causing a problem (rather than anecdotal evidence or evidence of some sort of alleged correlation without showing causation) then it can be revisited in future years.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Paddington Reserve**What local board area is this location in?**Maungakiekie-Tāmaki**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**Entire location**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a

leash). Please specify:**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**Dogs should be allowed off leash at Paddington Reserve. It is an area that is away from the streets, is not heavily used for other recreation or wildlife purposes and has sufficient space for dogs to be allowed off leash under control without impacting ot

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6497

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I believe we should all have access to open spaces and it’s already limited as to where the dogs can run around freely

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6498

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The sports fields of Madill's in particular are not used during the week at off-peak times except by the dog owning community who use the space as a place to meet, socialise dogs and give them a safe environment to run around in. The space is also used heavily by some of our elderly dog owners as it is flat and easily accessible, and they can give their dogs exercise while not taxing themselves. Madill's Farm was gifted to the community for recreational purposes - not just sports but all recreation which dog walking is one of those. When the sports fields aren't being used it makes no sense to not let others use them for whatever purpose (are you also going to ban people who use the sports fields to run personal training, practise Tai Chi etc). The Madill's dog community has a real sense of belonging - everyone knows the dogs names even if they don't know the owners' ones! It's a source of advice and community. For some of our community, the Madill's catch up is the only interaction with people they may have in a day and since COVID the idea of isolation is not just an idea anymore - it's a reality. The dogs at Madill's are all friendly, well behaved and their owners are the same. Since having my pup I've been given valuable lessons and training advice from dog owners in both Madill's and Glover. If there aren't sports being played it makes absolutely no sense why others can't utilise the space - and while sports are being played the dog owners are very respectful of that.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6499

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am AGAINST the proposal to change dog access rules at Madills Farm and Glover Park.

I have been a local resident for 15 years and a regular user of Madills Farm with my family. My sons played cricket and touch, my daughter learned to ride her bike on the grass and my family regularly walks our dog there. These parks are the heart of our communities and are widely used by all. To attempt to ban dog owners for the apparent benefit of the sports clubs and particularly the football club is not fair. The current rules create no conflict. Dog owners only have access when sport is not being played. There is no valid reason to ban dogs owners when the park is not being used for sport. To do so would see these parks unused most of the time when there is no other similar space in the area for dog owners to exercise.

I was particularly concerned to read a letter from Auckland Council to a resident yesterday. This was a response to an official information request asking for evidence to support the reasons given by Auckland Council to justify the proposal to make these changes. The letter explained that the 'evidence' of injuries came from the ESAFC who are stakeholders in this consultation and have a vested interest in having dog access rules changed. The Council has advised that ESAFC reported these figures to support their demands to upgrade the surface and there is no evidence that these injuries are connected to dogs. The Council has made no attempt to verify this information which cannot be seen as independent or reliable. In addition the Council admitted that there have been no recorded incidents involving dogs and mowers and in fact the information provided is purely anecdotal. This confirms that the data that has been used to justify the Council's proposed changes is not credible and potentially flawed.

I urge the Orakei Local Board and Auckland Council to make robust inquiries of staff providing information to inform their decisions on all proposed dog access rule changes as it is clear that the information being provided in relation to Madills Farm and Glover Park is misleading, lacking in evidence and clearly biased towards a certain stakeholder and outcome.

I urge the Orakei Local Board and Auckland Council to support the best interests of our WHOLE community and adopt Option 1, no change to dog access rules at Madills Farm and Glover Park.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6501

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Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Time to Stop, Paws and Reflect?

Dear Councillors,

I am a dog owner, and my dog leads me to Madills farm every afternoon except golf days. The Farm has a special character which provides local people sustenance across all four pillars of health, physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual. It is the whenua underpinning the Māori Model of Health, Te Whare Tapa Whā.

I believe the Orakei Local Board needs to be steadfast in upholding the history of the farm as a recreation park and an off-leash dog area as it has been since 2004. It is not appropriate to the character and location of the park, for it to be progressively turned over to organized sporting activities which are increasingly bearing the character of semi-professional activities.

The Board is not obliged to follow the norms adopted elsewhere. Madills is special and different. The Board has courageously acknowledged this in the past and should do so again. It's time to stop, pause and reflect.

When I read through the documents available which pertain to the recommendation to ban dogs from sports fields on Madills Farm at all times, I see three and possibly four areas of contention:

1. Process

2. Equity

3. Assessment criteria/process

4. There is perhaps a fourth area of contention of a more conjectural nature regarding what we may not be being told about, but it touches on the role (perceived or otherwise) the ESAFC is playing in promoting their mission to upgrade all facilities on the farm including the playing surfaces allegedly being artificially turfed.

1. The issue of Process with a capital P relates to the gradual erosion of the legacy exception most recently accorded to Madills and enshrined in the 2012 Master plan. This issue has and is being well articulated by my fellow dog owners and users of the Farm

both in their verbal and written submissions. I include for emphasis the Memorandum of Transfer which took place in 1959.

2. The issue of Equity, which in this context relates to fairness in both process and proposed outcome to all users of the Farm, has also been well articulated, both objectively and emotively in the submissions made verbally at the recent Have Your Say session at St Chads. The overwhelming sentiment is, as you now know, to preserve the status quo and recognize the "special" nature of the Farm as a community park. As recognized in the Masterplan from 2012:

"The masterplan proposes no changes to the current dog exercise designations".

In this submission I am touching further on Equity in the context of the "rights" of the football Club over other users in a mixed-use area for active and passive recreation of a diverse nature. The essential questions are:

Why is the football club allowed to get bigger at the expense of all other users and specifically dog owners? Why are there now 6 fields in play when there were only 4 a short time ago ?

But mainly I want to focus on the issue of the assessment criteria and the small p process that relates to it. This will overlap with some comments and questions which I acknowledge are somewhat conjectural and/or anecdotal and relate to the fourth area of contention, what are we not being told about?

And in doing so, I want to stress and recognise the load on councillors and staff alike in dealing with any contentious issue. I assume most of your decisions have some degree of contention. It's not easy. But the golden rule is universal: sunlight is the best antiseptic. Transparency is key. Otherwise, conspiracy, or theories about such, easily take root. You're not alone, it happens in all fields of endeavour, public or private, but the comments below are made with due respect to your commitment. Consistency is key, and we all know that is not easy.

3. The assessment criteria which appear in the Board minutes of Dec 12th 2024 to support the recommendation (option 2 as opposed to option 1, which is retaining the status quo) can be summarized thus:

a) It's easier to default to the prevailing rules pertaining to dog access elsewhere in Auckland

b) Dogs are digging holes which cause or contribute to 27 ankle rolls last year and increasing maintenance costs

c) Hygiene issues from dog poo

d) Dogs are endangered by mowers with four near misses recorded last year

Note that these recommendations come from Council staff, based on “requests” which are referenced in items 9 and 10 of the minutes and referred to attachment B for details of those requests. But attachment B does not, to my eye, identify the sources of such requests, apart from council and park’s staff. Is this the case, or have there been other requests?

a) The status quo exercises our local board’s rights to make exceptions. What has changed to justify a long-established exception, enshrined in the Masterplan? What hasn’t changed, presumably, is the status of Orakei having the 6th largest number of dogs in all the local boards. Or if it has changed, it might have gone higher due to the lockdown effect on d...

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
I apologise, I seem to have uploaded my submission more than once.....

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6502

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Our family live locally to the Madills Farm park and own 1 small dog and we use Madills Park as both an exercise destination and community socialisation area for ourselves and our dog at least 3-4 times a week. The dogs frequenting Madills Park are generally well behaved and well looked after by their owners who, from my observations, largely follow the current rules. This is one of the reasons why we like to walk our dog there as it is a safe area for our dog to meet other dogs and play and get exercise, and for me to meet other dog owners and people in the community. In our 6 years of venturing to Madills Farm Park with our dog, we and our dog have not suffered any dog attacks or aggressive behaviour from other dogs. I have never noticed excrement from dogs on the soccer fields or surrounding areas. It is currently the best park in our area for walking our dog, who has a naturally timid nature and can sometimes take fright at sudden loud noises and big dogs. It is a shame to restrict access to areas of the park currently accessed (when not being used by sports teams) for my dog and us, and is akin to discrimination of us as responsible dog owners and the proposed changes would also make the park unsafe for him. It seems to me that safe places in Auckland for families to take dogs for an outing and exercise are becoming more and more restricted or banned completely by Council without consideration to the impact on local dog owners and their dogs.

Madills Farm Park is a mixed use recreational park that was gifted to the community for all to use. So I object that under the new proposal, some users (soccer / sports) will get exclusive use of certain areas of the park and dog access to those areas will be now banned, when sports teams are not using the sports field. The mixed use of the current Madills Farm park area should stay as is and proposed changes to rules restricting dog access to the sports fields abandoned.

If you visit Madills Farm Park on a weekday afternoon or early morning, you can see how vibrant and essential this space is as a community hub, with dogs at its heart. Restricting dog access to a small portion of the park compromises safety by forcing dogs and their owners closer to busy roads and undermines Madills Farm Park’s role as a shared community space, reducing it to little more than a single-purpose sports facility.

The current large off-leash area at Madills Farm (when the sports fields are not in use) is an invaluable resource for local dog owners, providing accessibility for all: the flat grounds are ideal for older adults and those with mobility challenges, enabling dog lovers of all ages to meet, socialize, and exercise their pets. Naturally shielded from the road by

a small hill and surrounding footpath, the current off-leash inner area of the park, where the sports fields reside, offers a secure space for dogs, especially puppies, to play and socialize without risk of traffic accidents. The on-field lighting also makes this a much safer space for women in the darker winter months. The current designated off-leash area helps ease demand on other public spaces, like nearby Kohimarama Beach.

Furthermore, the condensing of area where dogs can access is likely to encourage more antisocial dog behaviour in the proposed surrounding small area that can access, as there will be less area to avoid each other, should they wish to. There could be more dog attacks if the proposed changes to dog access area are approved.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Kohimarama Beach

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

A section of it. Please specify:Allow a portion or all of Kohimarama beach to be accessed by dogs for a longer time during summer period off leash

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

It would be good to have one of the eastern beaches like Kohi beach designated as a "dog beach" (or at least half of it) and allow greater access hours during the summer months...like prior to 11am and after 4:00pm or allow dogs to access 24 hours during

Location 2

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Kohimarama Beach

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

A section of it. Please specify:Dogs off leash 24 hours all year round for half the beach

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Half the beach area designated for dogs

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Dogs and families with dogs are part of the local community and there are few beaches that allow dogs off leash 24/7 all year round.

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

More parks and beaches around the Orakei ward (eastern bays area - Kohimarama, St Heliers, Glendowie) should allow for off leash dog access under control, not further restrictions limiting area or time.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6503

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6505

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Albert-Eden

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

We should be able to use the sports fields when they are not in use

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

The majority of dog owners are responsible. We do not deserve to have our ability to access our lovely parks and beaches restricted even more than they are. We don’t have the amount of dog friendly areas that we need for a city of our size so don’t restrict us for further.

We also need some property dog agility type parks which have a separate area for small dogs, we are lagging behind in providing for dog owners compared to other areas in NZ

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6507

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Our family live locally to the Madills Farm park and own 1 small dog and we use Madills Park as both an exercise destination and community socialisation area for ourselves and our dog at least 3-4 times a week. The dogs frequenting Madills Park are generally well behaved and well looked after by their owners who, from my observations, largely follow the current rules. This is one of the reasons why we like to walk our dog there as it is a safe area for our dog to meet other dogs and play and get exercise, and for me to meet other dog owners and people in the community. In our 6 years of venturing to Madills Farm Park with our dog, we and our dog have not suffered any dog attacks or aggressive behaviour from other dogs. I have never noticed excrement from dogs on the soccer fields or surrounding areas. It is currently the best park in our area for walking our dog, who has a naturally timid nature and can sometimes take fright at sudden loud noises and big dogs. It is a shame to restrict access to areas of the park currently accessed (when not being used by sports teams) for my dog and us, and is akin to discrimination of us as responsible dog owners and the proposed changes would also make the park unsafe for him. It seems to me that safe places in Auckland for families to take dogs for an outing and exercise are becoming more and more restricted or banned completely by Council without consideration to the impact on local dog owners and their dogs.

Madills Farm Park is a mixed use recreational park that was gifted to the community for all to use. So I object that under the new proposal, some users (soccer / sports) will get exclusive use of certain areas of the park and dog access to those areas will be now banned, when sports teams are not using the sports field. The mixed use of the current Madills Farm park area should stay as is and proposed changes to rules restricting dog access to the sports fields abandoned.

If you visit Madills Farm Park on a weekday afternoon or early morning, you can see how vibrant and essential this space is as a community hub, with dogs at its heart. Restricting dog access to a small portion of the park compromises safety by forcing dogs and their owners closer to busy roads and undermines Madills Farm Park’s role as a shared community space, reducing it to little more than a single-purpose sports facility.

The current large off-leash area at Madills Farm (when the sports fields are not in use) is an invaluable resource for local dog owners, providing accessibility for all: the flat grounds are ideal for older adults and those with mobility challenges, enabling dog lovers of all ages to meet, socialize, and exercise their pets. Naturally shielded from the road by

a small hill and surrounding footpath, the current off-leash inner area of the park, where the sports fields reside, offers a secure space for dogs, especially puppies, to play and socialize without risk of traffic accidents. The on-field lighting also makes this a much safer space for women in the darker winter months. The current designated off-leash area helps ease demand on other public spaces, like nearby Kohimarama Beach.

Furthermore, the condensing of area where dogs can access is likely to encourage more antisocial dog behavior in the proposed surrounding small area that can access, as there will be less area to avoid each other, should they wish to. There could be more dog attacks if the proposed changes to dog access area are approved.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Kohimarama Beach

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

A section of it. Please specify:Half of the beach for dogs off leash and dog friendly people all year round

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Half the beach accessible to dogs off leash and their dog families and owners all year round. To make more Eastern beaches like Kohimarama beach more accessible and useable for dogs and dog families at all times. Currently it is very restrictive towards

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Half the beach accessible to dogs off leash and their dog families and owners all year round. To make more Eastern beaches like Kohimarama beach more accessible and useable for dogs and dog families at all times. Currently it is very restrictive towards

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

More local parks and beaches in the Eastern Suburbs should allow dog access and off leash walking / play in order to not discriminate those responsible dog owners and families from using parks and beaches and facilities in their local areas in which they pay rates towards.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6510

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

In my opinion, if owners are not encouraging dogs to dig holes in the sports field surfaces, and the owners pick up the dog poop any dispose of the bags in a bin and the dogs are playing with each other, chasing a ball or a stick or a frisbee there is little harm that can occur to the surface of a playing field.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6512

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

How will you monitor this area for the sports fields - will this be somehow fenced off that dogs are not able to access? (similar to a playground)?

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6515

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Not fair on ratepayers. Restricts use of the land. Impacts the elderly.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6516

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

You are not taking the interests of the majority of ratepayers who deeply value Madills being an off leash dog walking park. You are putting the interests of a minority (many who will not be ratepayers) above the rest of the community. You say it has a safety aspect but what you are proposing to do is put animals and people at risk by making them walk by or under the “widow maker” trees in Madills. You have huge safety risk with those trees that you have not adequately addressed. Are you planning on doing nothing about the risk, and forcing animals and their owners into those areas where there has already been a serious incident? People know that the councillors know how dangerous those trees are and do nothing about them. You are trying to take away the community park but expressing concern about tripping on playing fields. What about being killed by a falling branch or tree.? My family has lived at our property right by Madills for 75 years. A big reason we continue to live here and pay the high rates put on us by the Council, is for suitable use of the park. You are planning on taking that away from those who pay maintain Auckland. If these proposals go ahead in Madills and Glover Park then the Council will lose a lot of its support base. You will impact the wellbeing and health of the full range of ages- young children to the elderly who use the park with their dogs for their dog’s health and wellbeing as well as their own, always there are people gathering and talking whilst exercising their dogs. It is very concerning that you even think about ripping out the green space that is heart and soul of the Kohimarama/ St Heliers community. You already overly restrict dog access on Kohimarama beach, now you are heartlessly wrecking Madills for good ratepayers and their dogs, who do not have a voice. You should spend time and money prioritising what is important at Madills - making safe the “widow maker” trees. This was quoted from a Council person.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6524

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

-Dog owners do not pick up dog excrement and therefore if our children play on these areas they put their health and the health of others in their family at risk.

- watching sport is a relaxation for the public to enjoy and not being continually worried about where doggs are and what they are doing

- do not want children frightened by dogs when out enjoying valuable time with the family

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I would like it to be compulsory for all dogs to be registered and then owners prosecuted/fined for any breaches

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6528

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to dog access at Madills Farm, which would prohibit dogs from the playing fields at all times. As a local resident and dog owner who has walked at Madills Farm almost daily for 18 years (and 7 of those as a dog owner – the other as a mum walking my kids), I am deeply concerned about the implications of this decision for our community.

Key Concerns and Opposition to Proposed Changes

1. De-Facto Ban on Off-Leash Walking

The playing fields make up the majority of Madills Farm. By prohibiting dogs from these areas, the proposed changes effectively ban off-leash walking in this park. The only remaining area would be the narrow path around the perimeter, which is far too close to the road for safe off-leash exercise and provides no room for dogs to run or play. This severely compromises the ability of dog owners to exercise their pets safely and responsibly.

2. Negative Impact on Community Wellbeing

The off-leash area at Madills Farm is an invaluable resource for local dog owners and the community as a whole. It provides:

o Accessibility for All: The flat grounds are ideal for older adults and those with mobility challenges, enabling people of all ages to meet, socialise, and exercise their dogs in a safe and inclusive environment.

o Safety and Security: Naturally shielded from the road by a small hill, the current off-leash area is a safe space for dogs to play and socialise without the risk of traffic accidents. It also offers a secure environment for women to walk their dogs in the darker winter months, thanks to on-field lighting.

o Community Connection and Mental Health Benefits: Madills Farm serves as a vibrant community hub where people of all ages and ethnicities come together, fostering social connections and promoting positive mental and physical health. This is especially important in today's society, where opportunities for social interaction are increasingly limited.

3. Increased Pressure on Other Public Spaces

By restricting access at Madills Farm, dog owners will be forced to use other public spaces such as Kohimarama Beach, increasing congestion and potentially leading to conflicts between different park users.

4. Financial Contributions from Local Residents and Dog Owners

This community pays significant rates, and as responsible dog owners, we also pay for dog registrations. It is reasonable to expect that we receive value in return, including access to safe and adequate off-leash areas. Removing this access without providing a suitable alternative is unfair and does not reflect the contributions we make to the community.

5. Unfounded Justification for Changes

In my 18 years of daily visits, I have rarely witnessed dogs or dog owners behaving inappropriately at Madills Farm. On the contrary, I have observed a joyful and harmonious community where well-behaved dogs bring people together and positively influence social interactions. If issues have been identified, targeted interventions or education campaigns would be a more balanced and fair approach than an outright ban.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Monte Cecilia Park

What local board area is this location in?

Puketāpapa

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:o Accessibility for All: The flat grounds are ideal for older adults and those with mobility challenges, enabling people of all ages to meet, socialise, and exercise their dogs in a safe and inclusive environment.

o Safety and Security: Naturally shielded

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

o Accessibility for All: The flat grounds are ideal for older adults and those with mobility challenges, enabling people of all ages to meet, socialise, and exercise their dogs in a safe and inclusive environment.

o Safety and Security: Naturally shielded

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

No

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6530

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

These changes are designed to marginalize the dog owner community and seem at odds with the council responsibilities to provide a balance of dog-friendly and dog-free spaces. There seems insufficient data to support such sweeping changes given it appears to be based on Auckland-wide complaints. What are the problems on Madills that need to be solved! If this was clear and you reach out to the dog-owning community through the database you have there can be constructive collaboration to find solutions. Consideration of off-leash/on-leash times, regular communications with the dog-owners etc. You will find the dog-owning community are self-policing, calling each other to account. Many who are not dog-owners in the park enjoy the opportunity to engage with the dogs - the elderly, those with small children - so a healthy co-existence is supremely achievable.

Kind regards

[redacted]

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6544

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6545

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The proposed changes reduce the off-lead area to a point where it would not be feasible to exercise our dogs. They would not be able to have sufficient room to run to get exercise without entering one of the prohibited areas. I believe this limitation goes against the intended purpose of Madills Farm.

Reducing the ability for residents who own dogs to use the park will also decrease the amenity value of the park to local residents. One of the reasons we purchased out property near the park was the off-lead areas.

I also dispute the evidence that the turf damage causing sports injuries is wholly the result of dogs exercising. My family and I walk through the park most days and have seen the damage caused by the local sports teams putting in temporary goals and other training aids as well as cricked teams, touch rugby tournaments and even families putting in stumps to play cricket or practicing place kicking. In my nearly a decade living near the park I would say that the sports and recreational activity has increased at a far greater rate than the number of dogs walking through the park. I understand that there is a cost to maintain the field but with the amount of sports use perhaps that cost should be borne by the clubs, schools and businesses who use it so frequently and not used as a reason to reduce the value of the park to local residents.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I believe there is a responsibility for local boards and the Council to have sufficient areas for residents to safely exercise their dogs. This means enough area and throughout Auckland - not confined to a few small locations or severely limited spaces within parks.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6550

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

As this is one of the only locations where I can run my dog around, it helps bond the community removing this is isolatong

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6552

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Do

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Madills Farm.and many others

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

Other - please specify:Leave our parks alone

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Citizens have dogs for security, combat loneliness, companionship, exercise, protection, service etc and your changes are taking away the rights of dog owners. Dogs and people need exercise for health. By reducing exercise areas you are taking away health

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Stop making life difficult for dog owners. We are a big part of the community. The health system is in strife as it is and if you take away dog exercise and walking areas you create more health risks diabetes, heart attacks, respiratory illness. Stop being so incredibly short sighted.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6553

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6554

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6559

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

These changes are designed to marginalize the dog owner community and seem not aligned with the council responsibilities to provide a balance of dog-friendly and dog-free spaces. There seems flimsy data to support such sweeping changes as it appears to be based on Auckland-wide complaints. What is the data that shows the problems on Madills that need to be solved! If this was made clear, and you leverage the database of dog-owners you have, to reach out so that there can be constructive collaboration to find solutions. I overlook the park and see the value that comes from the mixed use of the park by many different groups. We all need to make accommodations for each other and put differences aside, including the inordinately loud football training at very early hours and very late hours, the grass mowing crews very early mornings, children racing round the paths at speed on trikes, bikes and scooters. This is all the rich tapestry of the park and provides huge value to the community as a whole. And we are all very grateful that our rates and dog registrations contribute to the council maintaining the park for all.

Insufficient area to safely exercise dogs away from footpaths used by elderly and young children considering the large number of dogs that use Madills farm

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6561

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Whau

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am an older Aucklander (71)and whilst I do not have a dog myself, I regularly dog and house sit and use Madills Farm Recreation Reserve to exercise the dog and give myself some fresh air and the company of other dog owners/sitters. I am now moderately disabled and use a walker, other than around the home, so walking the dogs around the streets is no longer safe for me or the dog, if in fact it is possible. I can however, drive to the park and then walk around there. Within the park I can use my walker and the dog of the moment can run and sniff and play with other dogs. They are always, even off leash, within my control.

I ALWAYS pick up "my" dogs poo and, on the very rare occasion I see a poo by another dog, I pick that up too; just as I see almost all other dog owners/walkers do.

In the Auckland Council's feedback/comments to Official Information request 8140015334 it is mentioned that in the 2024 Winter Season "……damage to the surfaces contributed to 27 football ankle roll complaints from children and adults ……." Whilst it is not specified that the damage to surfaces is because of dog use, it seems to be implied.

In a review of ankle injuries from soccer(football) Kolokotsios et al, (https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8445148/pdf/cureus-0013-00000017228.pdf) stated that ankle injuries were amongst the most common in soccer players.

They state: "The most common mechanisms of injury in the ankle area are contact with another player, noncontact injury, contact with apparatus (ball/goal post), and while being slide tackled"

In 2018/19 the number of football injuries dealt with by ACC as claims from sport, were second only to rugby.

It seems to me that football is inherently a high risk sport for injuries and maybe especially ankle injuries and to state that the damages to surfaces contributed to the number at Madills farm needs far greater detail and may indeed be spurious.

From further reading of the literature ground damage on football fields, it seems it is mostly caused by repeated impacts from players' cleats during running, tackling and jumping leading to areas of bare patches, divots, and potential damage to the root system, especially when the ground is overly wet or dry.

It seems to me that the impact on the grounds is primarily from the football played there, not the dogs.

I have no problem with dogs not being on the playing areas when a game is being played or training is taking place. I believe that they should be kept on leash at these times too. However, I believe that is is completely unacceptable for them to have to be restricted to the very small area suggested by council, for off leash play, for those times when the areas are not being used for sport.

It is, I believe counter to the setting up of Madills Farm and Recreation for it to be left empty for the majority of the time when dogs and their walkers could be using it.

'It would be hugely beneficial if there were fenced off dog parks as in other jurisdictions eg Wellington, Rangiora.

Re Madills Recreation : I know this is about dog access primarily but I would like to also complain about the soccer club’s disposal of waste; especially medical waste as in strapping etc. This is primarily after a game but the fields are often littered with plastic drink bottles (occasionally glass) fruit waste, wrappers and strapping etc. This is neither hygienic or safe.

You mentioned safety of dogs with mowers, sprayers etc but did not mention the karaka trees whose berries are very toxic to dogs and can kill or cause significant permanent neurological damage to dogs. These trees are not labelled as dangerous and there are at least 2 which I know of at Madills.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6566

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Regular users and visitors alike are mostly respectful of the current sports ground regulations, and historically enjoy the freedom allowed to them and their dogs.

I feel that responsible dog owners should and must be allowed to exercise their common sense in public areas. Maybe responsible ‘dogs’ should be issued a different colour of council tag. Also failure to remove dog poo from public spaces should have fines enforced. Do we have to live by sanctions imposed on the lowest common denominators, ie the inconsiderate few?

,

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6567

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed amendments to the Dog Policy and Bylaw at Madills Farm (the Farm), specifically regarding the restriction of off-leash dog areas and the proposed limits on the number of dogs a person can walk. As a responsible dog owner, I believe these changes will negatively impact the well-being of both dogs and their owners and are not justified by the evidence provided, and will also undermine the principles of community recreation, access to public spaces and overall well-being that are inherent to the vision of Auckland.

- Current Benefits of Dog Ownership: The document itself acknowledges that dogs provide companionship, emotional support, and foster social connections. The current policy allows dog owners to take their dogs to public places and have them off-leash, supporting social activity and community engagement. Restricting access to off-leash areas undermines these benefits and reduces opportunities for active recreation.

- Proposed Limits on Number of Dogs: The proposal to limit the number of dogs a person can walk to a maximum of six, with no more than three off-leash, is arbitrary. This limit will particularly affect those who walk multiple dogs professionally, and limit the recreational options of responsible dog owners. A blanket limit is unnecessary when the focus should be on responsible dog ownership and effective control of dogs.

- Impact on Dog Wellbeing and Recreation: Off-leash areas are vital for dogs to exercise and socialize. Limiting these areas will have a negative impact on their physical and mental health, which is counter to goals around active living and promoting well-being. The sources acknowledge the need to maintain opportunities for owners to take dogs into public places. The proposed changes contradict this principle, potentially causing more problems due to the lack of adequate space for dogs to exercise.

- Regional Park Restrictions and Access: The proposed restrictions on specific regional parks, including prohibiting dogs from waterways and certain areas, are not sufficiently justified. While protecting wildlife is important, there should be a balance. Many dog owners are responsible and respect the environment, making these broad restrictions unnecessary. Such restrictions reduce access to public spaces for dog owners, limiting recreational opportunities and the goals of increased participation in outdoor activities that align with the Unitary Plan and other recreational strategic plans.

- Lack of Evidence and Data: The document states that the council checked its approach and identified improvements. However, the justification for many of these restrictions seems to be based on minimizing risks, rather than addressing proven problems. More data and evidence is needed to show these restrictions are necessary and will not harm responsible dog owners or reduce accessibility of public spaces.

- Alternative Solutions and Enhancement of Recreation: Instead of restricting access, the council should focus on:

o Promoting responsible dog ownership and reinforcing existing rules to ensure public safety and amenity.

o Providing more education on dog control and responsible use of shared spaces.

o Effective enforcement against irresponsible dog owners, rather than penalizing everyone.

o Investing in more designated dog-friendly areas that take into consideration the needs of both dogs and the public, to increase participation and enhance wellbeing in the community.

o Improving infrastructure and facilities at parks to better cater for a range of users including dog walkers, while safeguarding environmental values.

- Consultation Process and Public Wellbeing: This document states that the council is seeking feedback and that the changes are open for consultation. However, the proposed changes to many of the regional parks seem heavy-handed, and will restrict the freedom of many responsible dog owners. The council should seriously consider the impacts on dog owners, and ensure that the proposed restrictions do not inadvertently undermine objectives for increased participation, equity, and well-being.

In conclusion, I urge Auckland Council to reconsider these proposed amendments. I believe the current rules are generally effective at managing dogs in public spaces and that the proposed restrictions will negatively impact responsible dog owners and their dogs, as well as potentially reducing the recreational opportunities and the overall wellbeing that Auckland Council aims to enhance. I hope that through public consultation, a more reasonable approach can be adopted to ensure the well-being of dogs and all members of the community, while supporting recreational goals.

Thank you for considering my submission.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6568

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Howick

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs should be allowed & be on leash.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Dogs allowed on leash at all times. Owners to take all accountability

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6570

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am a dog ownership and parent to 3 children who have played multiple sports at Madills Farm (Football, Touch Rugby, Cross Country etc). There is no issue with the current environment where Madills Reserve is used by everyone in the Community. Madills Reserve is the heart of our Community. People of all ages and abilities utilise this park on a daily basis. It is safe. My children walk the dog at Madiils and as a parent I don't have to worry about their safety. Have you verified the allegations made by the Football Club in relation to the dogs digging, ankle rolls etc. I would expect that you have done your due diligence. What did you find? Was the hole in fact a result of goal damage or damage from sprigs? The near misses is an interesting point from council contractors. I was walking with my wife and our dog a couple of weeks ago and heard one of your contractors yell "fucken dogs " at my dog when it walked past. Again I would assume that you have done your due diligence and verified these elegations. I am genuinely very disappointed in the lack of consultation to the rate paying Community and am heavily opposed to your proposed rules.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6572

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

This is a multi use facility, and has operated this way for decades. The Eastern Suburbs Football is a commercial entity supported by Auckland Council rarepayers. There should be a way for the fields to be enjoyed by all.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6579

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The current use of madills and government park for exercising dogs is a contentious multi factor issue. I don't support changing rules. Most dog owners are respectful of looking after expensive sports fields. But. Some owners let their dogs dig holes and leave faces behind. I recommend funding from local board for more council dog handlers. Hand out fines !!!!! And much more signage. The fields and reserves should be for all aucklanders. We pay huge rates and should be able and ENCOURAGED to exercise as a family.. with our dog. Respectfully. Also . Get the over sized sports clubs to stop over using the fields. And charge them. For the use. The council don't have a bottom less bucket. They do an amazing job.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Madills Reserve

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Please charge the sports clubs to maintain their sports fields. And fine local dog owners if they are letting their dog dog holes on sports grounds.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Please leave them as they are. So everyone can exercise and get out as a family. Thr nraxh , the parks should be for everyone. And their dogs. But provide funding - throught local boards to monitor more. With dog patrols.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6581

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

we need more dog access

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

We desperately need more freedom for registered responsible dog owners

Submission to Auckland Council on Proposed changes to bylaws

We wish to submit our views on the proposed bylaws with a focus onf the welfare of both dogs, guardians and the wider public. We feel the council has duty to those relationships and not the financial goals of a small group of commentators.

The Association for Professional Dog Trainers New Zealand (APDTNZ) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Auckland City Council's proposal regarding dog control policies and leash laws. We appreciate the Council's commitment to reviewing these regulations to balance public safety with the needs of dogs and their caregivers. We fully support the implementation of limits on the number of dogs one person can walk at a time to ensure better control and safety.

The Limitations of Blanket Leash Laws

While leash laws are designed to ensure public safety and order, applying more stringent leash requirements universally may not effectively address the underlying issues related to canine behaviour and public safety. Instead of broad restrictions, a more nuanced approach is recommended, one that emphasises education, responsible dog guardianship, and community engagement.

The Ethics of Providing Freedom for Canine Welfare

Ensuring the welfare and wellbeing of dogs involves not only physical health but also ethical considerations in training and handling practices, including enrichment and agency. Research highlights several benefits of giving dogs freedom to explore:

> Physical Health: Increased physical activity, contributing to better overall health (Hurley et al., 2011), including the prevention of obesity. As outlined in New Zealand's Code of Welfare for dogs, exercise is crucial for both physical and mental health and insufficient exercise can lead to behavioural problems.
> Agency and Space: Greater sense of agency in dogs by allowing them enhanced sense of freedom to explore their environment, which significantly augments their positive welfare and reduces behavioural concerns (Blattner et al., 2020; Jones, 2024; Littlewood et al., 2023; Westgarth et al., 2010).
> Mental Stimulation: Dogs benefit from cognitive engagement and environmental enrichment, leading to reduced stress and anxiety (Kis et. al., 2015; Moesta et al., 2015).

Longer leads (at least 3m or 10 feet) and long lines have emerged as significant aids in achieving goals of greater freedom and agency (Campbell et al., 2016; Littlewood et al., 2023) while keeping dogs, wildlife, and the public safe. Longer leashes and off lead freedoms, when properly trained, promote natural behaviours such as sniffing, roaming, and interacting with their surroundings, which increases a dog's feelings of safety and satisfaction (Foltin & Ganslosser, 2021), in line with the Five Domains Model of animal welfare (Mellor et al., 2020).

Behavioural Benefits and Strengthening the Human-Dog Bond

Off-lead freedom for dogs under effective control and longer leashes help in addressing behavioural concerns by providing appropriate outlets for energy and exploration, reducing the likelihood of behavioural problems (Foltin & Ganslosser, 2021), including leash pulling, which is a notable welfare concern for dogs (Townsend et al., 2022). This increase in autonomy reduces stress and frustration, subsequently leading to a decrease in undesired behaviours like excessive barking, or aggressive/conflict behaviours. Additionally, they contribute to strengthening the bond between dogs and their caregivers (APPA, 2020), as “well-behaved” and content dogs are easier to manage and enjoy a higher quality of life (Jones, 2024; Littlewood et. al., 2023).

Dogs are highly valued in New Zealand society, both as companions and working animals. However, improper management and care can negatively impact their welfare and potentially affect other dogs, humans, animals, and the environment. In order to adhere to the guidelines set forth in the Code of Welfare for dogs, the promotion of effective off-lead freedom and the use of longer leashes will help enhance canine welfare and mitigate the risks above.

The risk of unqualified and unregistered walkers and owners will lead to more compromised welfare and or danger to the public. Bylaws simply restricting the locations will not address these concerns. Managing and restricting the number of dogs under control of single person will significantly improve outcomes for our expectations.

Limitations of Excessive Restrictions

Excessive restrictions, such as stricter leash laws, or restricted access to safe off leash areas can inadvertently exacerbate behavioural problems by limiting dogs' opportunities for exercise and mental stimulation. This may lead to increased frustration and stress, undermining the very safety these laws aim to achieve (Horwitz & Mills, 2009; Tami et al., 2008).

The Importance of Education Over Restriction

Rather than implementing more restrictive leash laws or limiting access, we advocate for prioritising educational initiatives. Educating dog guardians about humane training techniques, responsible stewardship, and the benefits of positive reinforcement can significantly reduce behavioural issues that lead to stricter regulations (AVMA, 2019). Effective education fosters a deeper understanding of dogs' needs, as well as teaching them skills needed to coexist harmoniously in public spaces, leading to better public integration and reduced conflicts.

Benefits of Integrative Approaches

We recommend a well-rounded approach that includes creating more dog-friendly spaces, such as designated off-leash areas (including shared human-dog spaces), alongside educational campaigns to address safety concerns effectively. The positive impact of such initiatives means that communities with accessible dog-friendly spaces report higher levels of social cohesion and community wellbeing (Wood et al., 2015). Engaging the community in unbiased discussions about dog policies ensures that regulations are practical and enforceable and see more compliance and fewer conflicts between dog caregivers and non-caregivers (Weiss et al., 2013). Collaborative efforts between dog caregivers, animal behaviourists, and council can result in policies that are considerate, protect public safety whilst promoting the welfare of dogs.

Conclusion

In summary, while bylaws play a role in maintaining order, unreasonable restrictions on their use is not a panacea for canine behaviour and public safety issues. We propose that a comprehensive strategy, integrating education and the use of longer leashes is a more effective and humane approach.

We agree there are concerns regarding the large numbers of dogs under the care of a single person, who may rely on the use of aversive tools which will decrease positive welfare outcomes for dogs. One effective method is creating and maintaining more off-leash areas where dogs can exist under specified conditions (example, leash when necessary, expected courtesies and particular skill sets, i.e. “under effective control”). These spaces, combined with educational programmes for dog caregivers, can mitigate the need for restrictive laws. By focusing on these strategies, we can foster a positive environment for both dogs and people.

LImiting large numbers of either leashed or unleashed dogs is ideal to ensure both the individual dogs needs are met and applying a more responsible guardianship by the walker.

We disagree with the necessity and safety for large groups of dogs being walked at once and a restriction of 4-6 dog per handler is more appropriate. We are aware of the compromised welfare that occurs in such large groups and point to the evidence of Lost dogs, Injured dogs, plus Injured members of public and their dogs when poorly managed groups are in public.

Leashed or unleashed, instead we should be focusing on the level of oversight and control of such dogs in public.

We have already witnessed significant improvement over the last few years with people using positive reinforcement training and appropriate off leash locations to reduce unwanted interactions and harm from poor training and management as seen by large group/pack walkers. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this important discussion and encourage the Auckland City Council to consider these perspectives in their review process. As the body representing ethical professional dog trainers in New Zealand, we would very much appreciate being consulted further as the review process progresses.

Sincerely,

Association for Professional Dog Trainers New Zealand

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Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6589

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I oppose the proposed changes to dog access rules at Madills Farm Recreation Reserve for several reasons. First, and most importantly, I believe these changes conflict with the original intent of the land's gift.

The Madills Farm property was gifted to the community for the use of all its members. Its use was specifically not intended to be dominated by any single group or activity. The proposed changes heavily prioritise organised sport—particularly football—even though that was not the intended use of the land. The spirit of the gift should be respected.

To be clear, my submission does not seek to limit the park's use for football, cricket, touch rugby, or any other sport. Thriving communities need sports fields, playgrounds for children, and places for dogs to run. My submission simply highlights that Madills Farm currently accommodates all these uses equitably and effectively. It is a genuine shared space that should be preserved. I believe the proposed changes would move us away from this vision and are based on several flawed arguments. These include (but are by no means exhaustive):

A claim that 27 ankle injuries among football players were caused by holes in the pitch. This argument makes the grossly simplistic leap that these holes are the result of dogs digging. I highlight several flaws in this argument:

- The 27 ankle injuries were reported by a self-interested group and have not been independently validated.
- Even if the reported injury rate is accurate, it has not been compared with robust data on ankle injuries at other facilities with a similar number of players and frequency of play.
- It is well established that the sand-based grounds at Madills Farm are ill-suited to the volume and intensity of football played there.
- No evidence has been provided that attributes the holes to dog activity. In contrast, there is ample evidence that many holes result from the installation and removal of goalposts and from excessive wear in areas of intensive play (such as immediately in front of goals).

The cost of maintaining the Madills Farm surface has been increasing. It is suggested that the additional maintenance and associated costs are due to damage caused by dogs.

However, this is a puzzling—and perhaps convenient—leap when considering that details provided by the Eastern Suburbs Football Club indicate the club itself is concerned about the growing volume of football played at Madills Farm. As a sand-based ground, the surface is inherently ill-suited to heavy football usage, and the need for increased maintenance appears directly related to that. Rather than banning dogs, two more obvious and appropriate solutions would be to cap the amount of football played on the fields or to have the Eastern Suburbs Football Club contribute to the increased maintenance costs.

It is suggested that, despite a 24/7 ban on dogs from sports fields, there will still be ample area for off-leash exercise. Aside from the factually incorrect claim that 50% of the Madills Farm area would remain available for off-leash exercise, the proposal ignores that the allocated area is predominantly adjacent to roads—rendering it neither safe nor fit for purpose as a dog exercise area.

I would also like to highlight two additional considerations that I hope will be of considerable importance to the Orakei Local Board in relation to this issue.

Dogs—and the social connections they foster—are enormously important to their owners. The physical and mental health benefits of dog ownership are numerous and well established, particularly for older community members. A visit to Madills Farm on any day reveals that a significant proportion of the dog owners gathered while their dogs play are older. This social aspect is a crucial part of community life and should be encouraged and enhanced by the Orakei Local Board, not restricted or diminished.

It is particularly disappointing to read in the assessment criteria that a key argument in support of the proposed changes is “to align the dog access rules for Madills Farm Recreation Reserve and Glover Park with the region-wide rule that prohibits dogs on any sports surface at all times.” As a member of this local community, I would like to believe that our representatives are motivated by what is best for the community—not by a desire to conform to region-wide rules. Orakei is a unique area, with attributes that many other regions of Auckland admire. As your first objective, you should retain and enhance these qualities, protecting what makes Orakei great and adding to its attractiveness. Regional alignment appears to be a lazy default. I urge you to put Orakei first.

Madills Farm Recreation Reserve is a unique asset for Orakei. Its current usage exemplifies how a shared space can benefit all members of the community. It was gifted with this goal in mind, and the proposed changes would take us significantly away from that vision. I do not support these changes and respectfully ask th...

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6595

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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1. Walking multiple dogs
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Seems sensible as long as "in the vicinity" is well defined and not excessive

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Auckland is becoming an increasingly unfriendly dog city, compared with similar cities. I do not think a strong case has been made for these changes. These restrictions will do nothing to address more serious issues of roaming dogs in urban areas. Walking the dog is an important motivation for exercise and family bonding, and dogs are often part of the family taken on outings. As Auckland intensifies spaces to do this, including off leash become even more important.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6596

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The proposal to implement a region-wide prohibition of dogs on sports surfaces at Madills Farm Recreation Reserve and Glover Park raises concerns regarding the balance and inclusivity of public spaces. While the intention to protect the health and safety of sports users, dogs, and sports surfaces is acknowledged, the current dog access policy already provides a comprehensive and effective framework that achieves these objectives without imposing unnecessary restrictions.

The existing dog access rules outlined in the 'policy-on-dogs-2019' are designed to promote responsible dog ownership and ensure the safety and enjoyment of all park visitors. These rules include:

- Dogs allowed under control off a leash on sports surfaces (marked grass sports fields) when not in use or not closed (Schedules 1(2) and 2).
- Dogs prohibited on sports surfaces when in use or closed (Schedules 1(2) and 2) and must be under control on a leash in the vicinity when in use (Schedule 1(2)).
- Dogs prohibited on playgrounds at all times and must be under control on a leash in the vicinity when in use (Schedule 1(1)).
- Dogs must be under control on a leash in car parks at all times (Schedule 1(4)).
- Dogs allowed under control off a leash at any time on other parts of the Park (Schedule 2).

The current policy is well-balanced and promotes the active use of the park by all members of the community. It ensures that dogs can enjoy off-leash exercise in designated areas while maintaining safety and minimizing conflicts between dogs and other park users. Key benefits of the current policy include:

- Flexibility: The policy allows for dogs to be off-leash on sports surfaces when not in use or closed, providing ample opportunities for exercise and socialization.
- Safety: By prohibiting dogs on sports surfaces during use or closure times and requiring leashes in car parks and playground vicinities, the policy mitigates potential safety risks.
- Responsible Ownership: The policy emphasizes the importance of supervision, proper training, and responsible behavior from dog owners.

The current dog access policy effectively balances the needs of dog owners with those of other park users, promoting a harmonious coexistence in public spaces. Implementing a region-wide prohibition of dogs on sports surfaces would undermine this balance and restrict the active use of the park. Therefore, it is recommended to retain the current policy rules, which align with the 'policy-on-dogs-2019' and continue to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all park visitors.

By maintaining the existing framework, the council can uphold its commitment to creating community-oriented spaces that cater to the diverse needs of all users, ensuring that Madills Farm Recreation Reserve and Glover Park remain welcoming and enjoyable for everyone.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6597

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I do not support the proposed changes as Madills Farm Recreation Reserve is a public recreational green space for

everyone to enjoy, including dogs - not just the sports clubs.

It is a wonderful local area for dogs to run freely off-leash for exercise and socialising. Non-socialised dogs can develop

snappy, possessive & aggressive behaviours.

In the Orakei area dog ownership is increasing and most breeds are the more gentle dog breeds - many with a poodle

cross that gives them intelligence with a gentle nature. The local dog owners don't hesitate to intervene and share dog

training contact details if they see a dog being aggressive or unsociable or clearly needing to learn new skills.

Most dog owners in the Orakei area a very responsible, exercising their dogs at least daily if not 2-3 times, they pick up the dog poo, and will

pay it forward by picking up any missed dog poo. In the 10 years I've been walking our dog daily and I seldom

dog poo left on the playing fields. What I do see is the rubbish that's left behind by players and spectators after training

and weekend matches.

The dogs are not digging the holes that the football club claims they do.

The proposed non-playing field off leash areas around the park perimeter are dangerous to both dogs and some

owners. The areas are not flat, it is not safe being around trees and dark areas in the winter months, are infrequently

mown so the grass is often long and wet so gumboots are required, plus there are 2 Karaka trees just along from the

main entrance which drop their poisonous berries in summer - which kill dogs. This also goes for the grove near the

playground which has numerous Karaka Trees there. The outer perimeter runs beside the road where cars often speed

and the inner pathway runs beside the creek which is muddy and foul in the summer months and can be quite a torrent

in the wet winter months.

The larger space between the bottom of Sprott & Southern Cross Roads is uneven, very boggy in winter and floods

from under the Oak Tree out to, and often over, the access path at the bottom of Sprott Rd. This pond attracts a

number of ducks for 3-4 months each winter.

Also in winter this area is extremely dark from 5:30 onwards. There are no street lights on the park side of this area and

with the large trees and only 1 access path (which frequently floods) I feel very uneasy and unsafe walking my dog to or

from the park via the Sprott Rd access path after 5:30pm in the dark. I also need to attach a light on my dogs collar in

order to see him at this end of the park. If I'm off the path the grass is often very long, wet and the ground uneven so it

is extremely unpleasant and unsteady underfoot.

To use another off-leash park will require me driving to is ridiculous when there is a pork in walking

distance that is used intermittently during the day (I understand the Football Club's lease

states use for 18 hours/week). I would doubt the fields have been used for 18 hours in total since Christmas.

For all the above reasons I do NOT support the proposed changes. The status quo should continue as there is a fantastic

community atmosphere at the park among dog owners and they are respectful towards the Football Club and

responsible with their dogs. The Club does not own the park or the sports fields, they only pay a nominal maintenance

charge while the local ratepayers foot the total bill. Any change is unnecessary and will be divisive in what is an

extremely happy dog owner community at the park. The alternate off leash areas are not safe or acceptable.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Kohimarama Beach - allow off leash exercise after 7pm.**What local board area is this location in?**Ōrākei**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**Entire location**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:This is a change of environment for a dog to run off leash from 7pm-10pm.**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**In summer there is no off-leash opportunity for dogs to run on Kohimarama Beach.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6603

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I do not support the proposed changes as Madills Farm Recreation Reserve is a public recreational green space for everyone to enjoy, including dogs - not just the sports clubs.

It is a wonderful local area for dogs to run freely off-leash for exercise and socialising. Non-socialised dogs can develop snappy, possessive & aggressive behaviours.

In the Orakei area dog ownership is increasing and most breeds are the more gentle dog breeds - many with a poodle cross that gives them intelligence with a gentle nature. The local dog owners don't hesitate to intervene and share dog training contact details if they see a dog being aggressive or unsociable or clearly needing to learn new skills.

Dog ownership helps relieve loneliness, supports those with depression and mental health issues, provides therapy for the sick, elderly and disabled and teaches children to care and be responsible for an animal. Most dog owners in the Orakei area a very responsible, exercising their dogs at least daily if not 2-3 times, they pick up the dog poo, and will

pay it forward by picking up any missed dog poo. In the 6.5 years I've been walking our dog daily I've seen very little dog poo left on the playing fields. What I do see is the rubbish that's left behind by players and spectators after training and weekend matches. I regularly pick up used sticking plasters, hair ties, strapping tape, cable ties, orange peel, bottle tops and chicken bones (which are lethal for dogs) etc.

The dogs are not digging the holes that the football club claims they do. These field surface "blowouts" are caused by the players boot sprigs as they slide at speed as part of the game. I note the holes have been filled with sand with grass seed sprinkled on top (which is nonsense as grass won't grow on sand that doesn't hold any moisture or nourishment at

any time let alone in the heat of the summer.

The proposed non-playing field off leash areas around the park perimeter are dangerous to both dogs and some owners. The areas are not flat, it is not safe being around trees and dark areas in the winter months, are infrequently mown so the grass is often long and wet so gumboots are required, plus there are 2 Karaka trees just along from the main entrance which drop their poisonous berries in summer - which kill dogs. This also goes for the grove near the playground which has numerous Karaka Trees there. The outer

perimeter runs beside the road where cars often speed and the inner pathway runs beside the creek which is muddy and foul in the summer months and can be quite a torrent in the wet winter months.

The larger space between the bottom of Sprott & Southern Cross Roads is uneven, very boggy in winter and floods from under the Oak Tree out to, and often over, the access path at the bottom of Sprott Rd. This pond attracts a number of ducks for 3-4 months each winter. I often see them on the road so add off-leash dogs and speeding traffic accidents will happen.

Also in winter this area is extremely dark from 5:30 onwards. There are no street lights on the park side of this area and with the large trees and only 1 access path (which frequently floods) I feel very uneasy and unsafe walking my dog to or from the park via the Sprott Rd access path after 5:30pm in the dark. I also need to attach a light on my dogs collar in

order to see him at this end of the park. If I'm off the path the grass is often very long, wet and the ground uneven so it is extremely unpleasant and unsteady underfoot.

To use another off-leash park will require me driving at peak times which I find ludicrous when there is a pork in walking distance at the bottom of our road that is used intermittently during the day (I understand the Football Club's lease states use for 18 hours/week). I would doubt the fields have been used for 18 hours in total since Christmas.

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Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

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Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Kohimarama Beach - allow off leash exercise after 7pm.

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:This is a change of environment for a dog to run off leash from 7pm -10pm.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

In summer there is no off-leash opportunity for dogs to run on Kohimarama Beach.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

No

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6605

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

* A Recreational Park is for the enjoyment of every part of society not merely the sporting public, therefore , everyone should be treated equally as regarding how they can enjoy the parks facilities.

*

* Most dog owners are responsible law abiding citizens who wish to enjoy the parks and the freedom of walking as at present.

*

* Off leash is a time when owners can safely allow their dogs to exercise and integrate with other dogs and families. Removing the ability to walk dogs in this way takes the sensible option away and restricts most dog walkers from fully exercising their dogs

* I believe the maintaining the status quo is the best policy, as it gives the non football playing ratepayer time to enjoy the park facilities with all members of their family including the beloved dog.

Regarding maintenance I believe Chemical spraying requires much clearer signage as this can affect the health of adults, children and dogs.

I do not understand how it is possible for the dog walking community to cause more damage to the grounds that the thousands of players, runners and their equipment including trucks and dragging goals across the grass.

In all my time of walking around this lovely space (since 1976) I have not seen one dog behave badly to another dog off leash.

We recognise every person has a right to enjoy the park and its amenities and we would wish that our dogs exercise abilities are not bound by harsh restrictions, in favour of the Eastern Bays football club and visiting teams.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6606

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Submission to Auckland Council & Ōrākei Local Board on Proposed Dog Access Changes at Madills Farm

[redacted]

[redacted]

Date: 23rd February 2025

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed changes to dog access at Madills Farm. I appreciate the effort Auckland Council and the Ōrākei Local Board have put into managing our public spaces. However, I strongly oppose the proposed restriction that would prohibit dogs from the playing fields at all times. This change would significantly reduce safe, accessible off-leash exercise areas for local dog owners, creating unintended negative consequences for both the community and the park's usability.

Our Position

The playing fields make up the majority of Madills Farm, meaning this proposal effectively eliminates meaningful off-leash space. While the perimeter path remains technically off-leash, it is too close to the road for safe exercise and lacks the space required for activities such as ball-throwing and social play.

I request that Auckland Council and the Ōrākei Local Board reconsider this decision and explore a more balanced solution that maintains off-leash access while addressing any concerns about shared park use.

Key Reasons for Opposition

1. Accessibility for All

Madills Farm is a rare and valuable space for dog owners, particularly older adults and those with mobility challenges. The flat, open grounds provide a safe and social environment for people of all ages to exercise their dogs and connect with other locals. Restricting dog access disproportionately affects those who rely on this space for both physical activity and community connection.

2. Safety and Security

- The current off-leash area is naturally shielded from the road by a small hill, making it one of the safest places for dogs to exercise freely.
- Removing this space forces dog owners to use the narrow perimeter path, increasing the risk of accidents near the road.
- On-field lighting provides a safer environment for women and vulnerable users in the darker winter months. Restricting access could lead to unintended safety concerns elsewhere in the neighborhood.

3. Alleviating Pressure on Other Public Spaces

- Madills Farm serves as a dedicated off-leash area, reducing strain on nearby locations such as Kohimarama Beach and smaller reserves.
- Removing off-leash access at Madills will force more dogs and owners into other shared spaces, increasing congestion and potential conflicts in areas less suited for dog exercise.

Proposed Alternative

Rather than an outright ban, I urge the Council and Local Board to consider alternative solutions, such as:

- Time-based restrictions (e.g., allowing off-leash access outside of peak sports hours).
- Seasonal adjustments to accommodate higher usage periods while maintaining access.
- Clearer signage and education to encourage responsible dog ownership and shared use of the park.

Conclusion

Madills Farm has long been a cherished space for responsible dog owners. The current proposal creates unnecessary restrictions that reduce accessibility, compromise safety, and put pressure on other public areas. A more balanced approach can ensure fair park use for all members of the community.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and would welcome the chance to present this submission in person. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further discussion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6610

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6611

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills farm was given to the area to provide a recreation space for all residents, not just the football club. Many, many people take their dogs there daily to exercise them off leash in a safe area away from the roads. If dogs are only allowed on the periphery path, there could be many car accidents. I walk my dog there regularly and have made many lovely friends. For elderly people it is a safe area where they can socialise and enjoy others company, while exercising their dogs.

It would be a crime to our citizens if this facility had restricted access! Small children also have fun while they are there with their parents and the family dog.

If the problem is, that some walkers are not vigilant in removing dog faeces, then notices, and a warning that they may be fined would take care of this. After a few weeks of surveillance, and follow up , word would get around and, problem solved!

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6617

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm has long been a vital community space where both dog owners and sports enthusiasts can coexist. Banning off-leash walking from the majority of the park would severely limit safe and accessible spaces for dogs to exercise, socialise, and play. The current off-leash area is uniquely suited for this purpose, providing a secure environment away from the road, making it especially valuable for older adults, those with mobility challenges, and anyone who relies on this space for safe and responsible pet exercise. Restricting dogs to only the perimeter path—close to busy roads and with no room for proper play—compromises safety for both pets and owners. Furthermore, this change would place undue pressure on other already crowded public spaces, like Kohimarama Beach, which are not designed to accommodate the same level of off-leash activity. Preserving Madills Farm as an inclusive, multi-use community space benefits everyone, and it is crucial that we oppose any changes that would limit access and undermine its role as a shared resource for all.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
There should be no changes. Where do you expect us to walk dogs?

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6619

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The proposed changes are an over-reaction to a minor problem which does not even appear to be directly related to shortcomings in the current dog rules

If there is a problem with dog owners not obeying the rules relating to control, or allow their dogs to cause damage then address that behaviour directly.

Adopting the proposal unchanged will ignore the needs of the many more local dog owners using the park than sport club users.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6624

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm Park has been an area for the recreational use of all for many years and it is my understanding that it was gifted to the council for this purpose. Our family has lived in the area for 26 years and seen how loved and used this area is. It was not intended for the preferential use of selective sports clubs but the restrictions on access for dogs will have this effect and the effect of large amounts of time when the sports fields will not be being used by anyone. We have already had lights introduced for sports use and a large area fenced off for regrassing. The sports club - by which I mean the soccer club should have no right to exclude other community members from accessing the fields when they are not using them.

By restricting off leash areas the available places for dogs to run free are shrinking and unfortunately as this is happening all over Auckland there are fewer and fewer alternatives.

One of the advantages of Madills Farm is that it is flat which makes it perfect for older dogs and older dog walkers. Also, by introducing such restrictive rules the areas dogs are allowed will become crowded - the paths already get busy and will become hazardous as the number of children/bikers/walkers/runners/mothers with prams/the elderly will increase exponentially leading to the possibility of accidents. Also many dog walkers have children and these will now be forced to walk and play near the very busy roads surrounding the park.

I must also mention that the current cricket practise area on the creek side of the park is so near the path that it is currently dangerous and it is a matter of time before someone is hit by a cricket ball.

The vast majority of dog walkers who use this park are extremely responsible about controlling their dogs and respecting the fields when in use.

Dog owners and sports enthusiasts should not be forced into what is likely to become a combative issue should these changes take place. There is simply no need for it. Dog owners are rate payers and also pay for their dogs to be registered annually and yet our rights are being eroded.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

It is becoming increasingly difficult to free run dogs in many places with increasing restrictions being introduced. I can't see why instead of patrolling and fining people currently not doing the right thing the council is determined to introduce rules that are draconian and they will not have a hope of enforcing, Also, perhaps the council could spend it's money on dealing with unregistered and/menacing dogs instead of harassing law abiding dog owners.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6627

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dear Auckland Council,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed changes to dog access rules at Madills Farm. As a responsible dog owner and a member of the local community, I believe reducing dog access to this area would negatively impact both dog owners and the wider public. My opposition is based on three key reasons:

1. Madills Farm is a Vital Space for Responsible Dog Exercise and Socialisation

Madills Farm is one of the few well-maintained, accessible, and safe areas where dogs can exercise and socialise off-leash. Regular exercise is essential for a dog's physical and mental well-being, helping to reduce behavioural issues. Responsible dog ownership includes providing dogs with opportunities to interact positively with other dogs and people, fostering a well-behaved pet community. Restricting access would push dog owners to less suitable areas, potentially increasing conflicts in other shared spaces.

2. Dog Owners Are Key Stakeholders in the Park's Maintenance and Safety

Dog owners are some of the most frequent users of Madills Farm and play an active role in keeping the area safe and clean. Their consistent presence discourages anti-social behaviour, and they are often the first to report hazards or damage. Many dog owners also voluntarily pick up litter beyond just pet waste, contributing to the upkeep of the space. Reducing access would lessen this positive community engagement.

3. Existing Rules and Community Cooperation Already Ensure a Balanced Use of the Space

The current dog access rules provide a fair balance between dog owners, sports teams, and other park users. Existing time-based restrictions and designated areas already mitigate potential conflicts. Further limitations would be unnecessary and unfairly penalise responsible dog owners without clear evidence of significant issues caused by current access. Instead of restricting access, better signage, education, and enforcement of existing rules would be a more constructive approach.

I urge the council to reconsider this proposal and retain the current dog access rules at Madills Farm. A collaborative approach that supports responsible dog ownership while maintaining shared community spaces is in the best interest of all park users.

Thank you for your consideration.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Madills Farm

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Maddills farm has always been a dog haven and was gifted for this purpose. It was not intended to be a sports field at the behest of the local community.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Maddills farm has always been a dog haven and was gifted for this purpose. It was not intended to be a sports field at the behest of the local community.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

No

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6629

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Albert-Eden

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Limiting areas where dogs are allowed off lead is just going to cause more issues than solutions.

Breeds like huskys need large open areas to burn off energy and taking areas like this away will just cause more issues for owners and in return animal management services.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6630

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills farm is one of the only places in the area dogs can be off leash and run around in the park

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6633

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm was generously gifted to the community with the intention that it be a place for everyone—a place to be shared, not monopolised or controlled by any one group or activity. The proposed changes, however, would come at the at the expense of this balance, placing the needs of the football club well above any other community groups. This was never the intended purpose of the land, and the spirit of that gift should be respected. By all means, the use of Madills for football should continue, an also for cricket and other sports activities, as it is currently. These activities are an essential part of any vibrant community. In the same way we need places for people to walk and be in nature, for children to have fun and for dogs to exercise and play. These are all equally important. Right now, Madills Farm provides for all of these things in a way that is fair and as intended by the original gift of the land. The proposed changes would severely restrict the activities of some in favour of others, and their rationale is based on reasons that are contentious and in many cases, simply don't stand up to scrutiny.

One key justification for these changes is the claim that 27 football players have suffered ankle injuries due to holes in the pitch, which are assumed to be caused by dogs. This claim has not been independently verified (and was made by the group who will benefit most from the proposed changes), and no comparison has been made to injury rates at similar sports grounds. More importantly, it is very well known that the sand-based surface of Madills Farm is not particularly suited to the high volume of football currently being played on it. There is also no clear substantiation that dogs are responsible for the holes—many are left behind by the installation and removal of goalposts, as well as by heavy wear in areas of intense play, such as in front of the goals.

It has also been suggested that there would still be plenty of space for off-leash exercise even with dogs banned from sports fields at all times. This is simply not the case. The claim that 50% of Madills Farm would remain available is misleading, as most of the designated areas in the proposed changes are directly adjacent to roads, making them unsafe and unsuitable for this purpose. The potential for serious injury and/or accidents on our community roads as a result of dogs playing and running too close to the traffic is surely not something that is in the interests of the community. Community safety and wellbeing should always be a top priority for our representatives.

Another argument is that the cost of maintaining the fields has been increasing, and that this is due to damage caused by dogs. This statement is somewhat baffling, particularly

when ESFC itself has acknowledged concerns about the impact of the high level of football use on the fields. Given the nature of the ground, it is far more likely that the rising maintenance costs are a direct result of the increasing amount of football being played. In this respect, the sports club should consider covering part or all of the increasing costs rather than attempting to suggest it is dogs and their owners who should be penalised.

In addition to these safety concerns is another traffic related issue. If the proposed changes go ahead, many local dog owners who walk to Madills with their pets would be forced into cars to seek out more extensive off-leash areas that are further afield. This creates increased traffic congestion and completely contradicts Auckland Council's stated mission as part of the climate action plan to reduce carbon emissions, build resilience and encourage community involvement.

It is also disheartening to see that one of the main reasons for these proposed changes is the desire to align with region-wide rules that prohibit dogs on sports fields at all times. As a local resident, I would hope that our representatives are motivated by what is best for this community, rather than simply following a blanket policy. Orakei is a special place, and the role of the local board should be to protect and enhance what makes it unique, rather than diminish it for the sake of uniformity. Part of what makes a great, thriving and vibrant city the work-over is the collection and interaction of the sum of its parts – all the different and diverse suburbs and areas that interact and interconnect. Dumbing these differences and unique characteristics down to fit an homogenised and one size fits all approach will erode the very things that make our city great.

Madills Farm is a rare and valuable example of one of those special characteristics; a shared space that can work for everyone in the community. That is what it was gifted for, and that is what it should remain. The proposed changes would take us away from this, and I strongly urge you to reject them.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6636

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Albert-Eden

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I strongly oppose the proposed changes that would restrict dog access to on-leash only in certain parks, particularly Madills Farm Recreation Reserve and Glover Park. As mentioned earlier, my dog, like many others, needs the opportunity to run freely for proper exercise and mental stimulation. Restricting off-leash access in these areas would significantly impact the health and well-being of many dogs, including my own.

This park has been a vital space for dogs to exercise off-leash, and these restrictions would take away an important outlet for dogs that require more space and freedom to stay healthy. I urge the council to reconsider these changes, as they would limit essential resources for dog owners and their pets.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6639

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The proposed changes to the dog rules at Madills Farm and glover park would deeply affect both the well-being of my dog and myself.

For many of us, off-leash areas are not just about giving our dogs the freedom to run and play; they are a lifeline. As someone with health issues, I struggle to provide my dog with the exercise she needs on a leash. Without a safe, open space for her to run freely, it becomes incredibly difficult to ensure she's getting the exercise she needs to stay healthy and happy. This isn’t just about convenience—it's about giving my dog the quality of life she deserves.

But there’s more to it. The off-leash dog park isn’t just a place for dogs to play; it's where I find the social connection. As someone who lives alone, worked remotely and has now lost my job to the cheaper labour market in India, the park is my only chance for human interaction. In a world where loneliness is becoming an increasing problem, especially for people who don’t have children or live far from family, the dog park offers a rare opportunity for meaningful connection. Without it, I would be isolated. My dog’s walks and the brief chats with fellow dog owners are sometimes the only contact I have with other people all day.

Taking away this space is not just taking away the freedom for our dogs—it’s taking away our only social outlet. For so many of us, it's our connection to the community, and without it, life feels a little lonelier. Please consider the importance of these spaces for both our pets and our mental well-being.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Auckland can do better - the lack of dog parks for a city they desires to be one of the worlds most liveable cities is disappointing. There seems to be very little going for Auckland in the 2020s.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6642

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

there is no mandate from Orakei ratepayers for the proposed changes.

all of the councils and OLB arguments are weak and are not supported by any real evidence.

there is no recorded evidence of dogs digging holes put forward by council.

there have been no near miss incidents recorded between dogs and the mowing contractor since July 2023.

any spraying of the fields with pesticides would mean notifying the public and animals to keep off regardless

maintenance of the park is poorly managed by council and many holes in the pitches and patches of bare ground are not repaired for months and in some cases years.

of the 24 ankle injurys reported on fields 3 and 4 none were recorded in eastern suburbs football clubs first aid register due to a damage playing surface

Auckland council receives over 8 million from dog registration fees with increases year on year but continues to restrict off leash areas that dogs can exercise freely.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes restricting dog access at Madills Farm. As a regular visitor and advocate for responsible pet ownership, I believe these changes will negatively impact the community and contradict the original intent of the reserve.

Madills Farm, located in Kohimarama, Auckland, has long been a cherished community space. The reserve features sports fields, playgrounds, and open areas that are integral to the local lifestyle. Currently, dogs are permitted in designated areas, fostering a harmonious environment for both pet owners and non-pet owners.

The proposed changes aim to prohibit dogs from the sports fields at all times. This includes areas where dogs have traditionally been allowed, potentially leading to increased congestion in other

parts of the reserve. Such restrictions could diminish the quality of life for many residents who rely on these spaces for recreation and socialization.

1. Community Impact: Madills Farm serves as a vital recreational area for families, individuals, and pet owners. Restricting dog access could lead to overcrowding in other areas, reducing the overall enjoyment of the reserve.

2. Health and Well-being: Regular exercise and social interaction are essential for both pets and their owners. Limiting access to suitable areas could negatively affect the health and well-being of dogs and their owners.

3. Original Deed Conditions: The deed of gift documentation for Madills Farm, as per the Official Information request, outlines conditions for the reserve's use. While the specific conditions are not detailed in the available documents, any changes to the reserve's usage should align with the original intent and conditions set forth in the deed. It is imperative to review these conditions to ensure that any proposed changes do not violate the original terms of the gift.

4. Counter-Argument to the Claim of Dog Damage:

The local board has suggested that dogs are damaging the fields, but this assertion must be balanced against the reality of the wear and tear caused by other activities, particularly sports like football.

• Field Usage and Damage from Football: Football games, along with other field sports, create significant damage to sports fields over time. Data from various sports management organizations, including Auckland's own parks and recreation departments, has shown that the intensity of use from organised sports leagues often leads to field degradation. The combination of cleats, sharp turns, sliding tackles, and heavy foot traffic during games causes significant compaction and wear, which can leave fields with bare patches, uneven surfaces, and soil erosion.

• Comparison to Dog Usage: In contrast, dogs using the fields for walking or playing typically cause less compaction and no lasting damage compared to the kind of intense wear created by team sports. Dogs usually use the fields in a more varied manner (e.g., walking, running, fetching), which doesn't focus heavy pressure on one spot, unlike players' concentrated use during matches.

• Recommendation for Collaborative Field Care: Rather than restricting dogs entirely, a better solution may be to implement more focused maintenance strategies, investing in the field management, including aerating and reseeding the fields, can ensure they remain in good condition for both sports use and recreational activities.

Recommendations

• Maintain Current Dog Access: Retain the existing dog access rules to preserve the balance between pet owners and other park users.

Conclusion

Restricting dog access at Madills Farm would adversely affect the community and contradict the reserve's original purpose. I urge Auckland Council to reconsider these proposed changes and prioritize the well-being of all community members, while also ensuring fair access for both sports and recreational activities. We should consider balanced solutions that support both the care of the fields and the needs of the community.

Sincerely, [redacted]. ratepayer

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6645

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm is a wonderful resource to the community, and it should be a place where it can be enjoyed by all. Eastern Suburbs FC are already heavy users of the park, particularly at the times of the day when its most frequented by the public. As it stands the public's access to much of the park is restricted as a result of trainings and games, and it is my view that the proposed rules changes will result in the further curtailment of that right of access. On any given evening, the park is full with people walking their dogs, and the vast majority are doing so without issue and without impacting upon the quiet enjoyment of the park by other park users. There will no doubt be rare occasions where rules are not followed or behavioural standards are not met - let's deal with those instances as they arise and primarily through education.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Kohimarama**What local board area is this location in?**Ōrākei**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**A section of it. Please specify:Eastern end of beach. A dedicated area would ensure that access is possible for all.**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Precisely. Public spaces are there to be enjoyed by all. Dog owners and non-dog owners should be able to enjoy a park or beach without unreasonably impacting upon the others rights of access.**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**Access to Kohimarama beach by dogs currently is unreasonably restrictive. I support access at all times but perhaps by limited dogs to one end of the beach ie, Eastern End.

Location 2

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

St Heliers

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

A section of it. Please specify:Western End

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To reduce owner-related problems (e.g. owner ignoring rules, dogs not under control, dog faeces not picked up, etc). Please specify:

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

A dedicated area would ensure that both dog owners and non-dog owners can both enjoy access to the beach at all times.

To reduce owner-related problems (e.g. owner ignoring rules, dogs not under control, dog faeces not picked up, etc). Please specify:

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6648

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm is first and foremost not a sporting ground - it is a shared community space for the enjoyment of all. Banning the dogs from the fields - which make up the majority of the park - is unduly favouring one user of the park (the sports clubs) over a huge host of people that walk their dogs and socialise at the park. The main proposed area that would remain available to dogs off-leash is a narrow path around the outside of the park that runs next to the road, essentially a footpath in places. This is totally inadequate for safe off-leash exercise.

As the surrounding neighbourhoods are slowly built up with denser townhouses & apartments and having a garden becomes ever rarer, parks like Madills - large off-leash green space accessible within walking distance - is increasingly important. When I first moved to the area, I lived directly opposite Madills - no dog at this stage - and saw firsthand the huge & varied dog-walking community that gathers there on a daily basis. I now have a dog in part due to seeing the happiness on display at Madills every day, and some of the friends I made here are thanks to connections made on those fields.

I believe "27 ankle rolls" at the fields has been raised as a reason to exclude dogs, the implication being that they are "digging holes". I would like to challenge this assertion, given that "ankle rolls" are one of the most prevalent injuries in youth football worldwide. Furthermore I call into question that dogs are to blame at all for the condition of the fields - the ESAFC in their 2023 submission on the Ōrākei Local Parks Management Plan admits "the surfaces are heavily used and in some months 'overused'". At the very least I ask for the community to be given additional time to bring in external turf experts to examine the grounds over some weeks, rather than blindly accepting anecdotal reports from the ESAFC.

I know that Madills is one of the few remaining parks to still allow dogs on the sports fields, but I believe this is one of it's many features that makes the park special. People travel from all over Ōrākei to socialise their dogs there, and it has become an invaluable meeting hub for the elderly & young alike. Madills Farm is the crown jewel of the parks for the residents of Kohimarama, St Heliers, and Mission Bay, and I hope to see it remain so for many years to come - open to all comers, not just a few.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Pukekawa / Auckland Domain**What local board area is this location in?**Waitematā**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**A section of it. Please specify:The centeral sports field area and the hill in the center**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:The fields at the Domain are a huge open space that are rarely all in use during the week. I would like to see them made available to dog walkers (when the fields are not in use by sport), as the existing off-leash area on the southern border of the park**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6650

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills farm is intended to be used by all members of the community, not to be dominated by an individual group or activity. The proposed changes very heavily prioritise the needs of organised sport, and particularly football. This was not the intended use of the environment and goes against the best interests of the community.

Thriving communities need third-spaces (social settings separate from home and work) where people can socialise, dogs can run and play, children can play safely, and people can play sport/excercise. Madills Farm currently allows for all of these things – equitably and effectively, and should remain this way. The changes proposed would change this space into one that prioritises the needs of some over others, which goes against the spirit of our community.

Some of the claims being made in aid of these proposed changes are also clearly biased and do not look at the full picture or make any good-faith efforts to resolve the issues that impact everyone. For example, The increasing costs of maintaining the grounds are being conveniently blamed solely on damage caused by dogs. This seems like a big claim to make with no evidence and does not take into account the full picture. The sand based grounds at Madills Farm are not suitable for the amount of football that is being played currently and the Eastern Suburbs Football Club (ESFC) themselves have expressed concerns about the increase in the amount of football being play on the grounds. If the council is concerned with the increasing costs of maintaining Madills farm, maybe they should consider limiting the amount of football to an amount the fields can handle or ask the ESFC to contribute to the costs associated with their use of the fields.

Similarly, there is the claim of 27 ankle injuries suffered by football players as a result of holes in the pitch. This claim has been made by a self-interested party and has not be validated by any third-parties, or compared to any rates of injury at other grounds. There has also not been any evidence supplied that the holes are being dug by dogs, and the impact of moving big and heavy pieces of sports equipment and the wear that is to be expected when plahying increasing amounts of football on grounds that are known not to be suitable for that level of play is being conveniently ignored.

The proposed changes also claim that 50% of the Madills Farm area would still be available for dogs to exercise off-leash. Looking at the map of the proposed banned areas anyone could see that this claim is incorrect, and that the areas that are left are not

suitable for dogs to be off-leash. These areas are almost all right next to the roads. This is obviously not a safe area for dogs to be playing, particularly young dogs who greatly benefit from the socialisation opportunities the park provides.

I would also urge the council to consider the social connection and interaction dogs can create, are enormously important to their owners. The physical and mental health benefits to dog ownership are well known, particularly for older members of our community. Visit Madills Farm on any day and you will see that a significant proportion of the dog owners gathered, connected, while their dogs play, are older. This is a hugely important part of their community and should be being encouraged and enhanced by the council, not restricted and diminished.

As a member of the community I am disappointed to see that the council is wishing ‘to align the dogs access rules for Madills Farm Recreation Reserve and Glover Park with the region-wide rule that prohibits dogs on any sports surface at all times’. Conforming to rules being adopted by others in the region and not taking into account the desires and needs of those in our community is not reflective of a council that is in touch with their constituents. I believe the councils priority should be to take into account the needs of the entire community, and that making the proposed changes in an effort to conform with the wider region and to the specific benefit of only one interested party would be a real shame. I do not support these changes, and ask, please, that they be rejected.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6651

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am vehemently opposed to the proposed changes restricting dog access at Madills Farm. As a regular user of Madills Farm I believe these changes will negatively impact the community and contradict the original intent of the reserve. I cannot emphasis enough how much of a negative impact this will have on my young family and the community.

Background

Madills Farm in Kohimarama is a much-loved and well-used community space. It's at the heart of our community with its sports fields, playgrounds, and open areas which are wonderful for the dogs in Kohi and surrounding suburbs to run around off leash whilst their owners walk and their children scooter or bike ride around.

Proposed Changes

The proposed changes aim to prohibit dogs from the sports fields at all times. This includes areas where dogs have traditionally been allowed and will have a significant negative impact on our community. These include:

Community interaction: Madills Farm is an important recreational area for families, individuals, and pet owners. Restricting dog access could lead to overcrowding in other areas, reducing the overall enjoyment of the park for everyone. It's currently the perfect place to go for a walk whilst you can enjoy your dog being safely off leash, and your children can safely bike or scooter as there is room for everyone. It would be unfortunate for this beautiful space to predominantly become sports fields

Claim of damage by dogs: given football is a sports involving kicking the ground whilst moving at pace, the argument by the local board that dogs are causing damage to the fields, resulting in ankle injuries, is weak. There are other activities and general wear and tear that may cause holes on the sports fields as well.

Damage from football: There is evidence that football (and similar games) create significant damage to sports fields. Data from sports management organisations, including Auckland's parks and recreation department, has shown that the intensity of use from organised sports often leads to field degradation. Features of football like cleats, sharp turns, sliding tackles, and heavy foot traffic during games results in significant compaction and wear, which can leave fields with bare patches, uneven surfaces, and soil erosion.

Comparison to dogs: In contrast, dogs using the fields for walking or playing typically cause less compaction and no lasting damage compared to the kind of intense wear created by team sports. Dogs usually use the fields in a more varied manner (e.g., walking, running, fetching), which doesn't focus heavy pressure on one spot, unlike players' concentrated use during matches.

Housing intensification reducing outdoor space: the Council has encouraged and allowed the intensification of the Eastern Bays, resulting in the majority of homes in the area having minimal outdoor space. The removal of a space where dogs can run freely and play fetch etc will cause other issues like dogs barking more causing noise complaints, more frustrated dogs trying to escape and roam the streets etc. The Council should not approve such small sections if they don't provide recreational spaces for all members of the community to enjoy freely.

Rates and registration fees: Most people in the Eastern Bays pay both rates and their dog registration fees. Removing areas where locals can exercise their dogs and let them run around to be dogs, makes me (and I am sure many others) question where these substantial yearly sums are going and why we should be contributing them at all.

Balanced use of public space: Regular exercise and social interaction are important and by restricting dogs to certain areas of the park will negatively impact health and wellbeing as people will be less inclined to go for a walk / take their children with them due to needing to navigate congested spaces. One of the arguments is there were '27 ankle rolls on the sports fields' due to the condition of the ground – arguably there will be more injuries sustained from having people, dogs on leads, kids on bikes and scooters (all with a road close by) jammed into a smaller area. Balanced use of public space, means allowing both the football club and community to enjoy Madills Farm as we currently do.

Alignment to parks and sports field management across Auckland: I am quite certain that there is variation across many different categories of things the Council oversees and no real reason to not allow the continued balanced use of the sports fields at Madills farm.

Original Deed: The deed of gift documentation for Madills Farm includes conditions for the reserve's use. Any changes to the reserve's usage should align with the original intent and conditions in the deed – and I suspect these proposed changes don't. It is imperative to review these conditions to ensure that any proposed changes do not violate the original terms of the gift.

Recommendations

Dog access to stay as is: Maintain the current dog access rules so there is a balance bet...

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Madills Farm**What local board area is this location in?**Ōrākei**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**Entire location**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Madills farm dog access rules should remain unchanged. Maybe better signage for lawn mowing would help ensure dog walkers know about the lawnmowing**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**I want them to stay unchanged.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6652

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

We have lived in this area since December 2017 when we moved back from overseas. It was our children's dream to own a dog and we stated when we lived back in New Zealand we would buy a dog for our family. Since we have had our dog we have enjoyed walking our local neighbourhood, promoting the outdoor lifestyle not just for our dog but for all members of our family. One of the highlights of every dog walk is the time at Madills Farm. It brings us pleasure to see not only our dog but all the neighbourhood dogs mixing which in turn promotes our community mixing and learning more about each other. Socialisation is not just for the dogs but for their owners also. By limiting the areas our dogs can be off leash will create a very different environment for the dogs and will make it very difficult for the whole community to use such a small amount of the green space for multi recreational use. In my opinion it will become unsafe for not only the dogs and dog owners but also for the many members of the community that use the park and the paths for riding bikes and scooters, including the elderly that rely on the paths to walk away from the action that most of the park enjoys.

We use Madills Farm every day with our dog. I cannot see how keeping dogs off the sports fields will realistically work as even with good recall, dogs will have a mind of their own when off leash. I do also think off leash is a necessary part of a

Dogs life to be able to run around.

One thing I would say is, after the closing off of part of the fields - for good reason - I would suggest signage saying why these types of maintenance are being carried out rather than just doing it and leaving people wondering why.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Madills Farm

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:To allow the current rules to remain allowing dogs to use the whole area, off leash but under control

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

I am of the opinion it is the sole desire of only the sports fields users who wish to limit the use of the sports fields for sports use only. I believe they have provided information that is unqualified to stop dogs being able to use the fields ie the co

Location 2

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Kohimarama Beach

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

I wish the current ruling of the ability to allow dogs under control but off leash to use the beach area during the current hours outlined

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I believe the current regulations are fair for all users of the beaches and parks

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6654

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs are part of the family life, including going to spots games. Both parks are great places to walk dogs and socialise them.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
No

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6655

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I do not support the proposed changes because the Madills Farm Recreation Reserve is a public recreational green space intended for the community , including dog owners and their pets to exercise in and enjoy , and not just for sports clubs .

I make my comments as a 75 year old regular user of the park who exercises by walking in Madills Farm park most weeks together with my families small dog and attends soccer matches of my 2 grandsons who belong to Eastern Suburbs football club and live a block away from Madills Farm. I observe how those exercising themselves and their dogs include many elderly people and young families . Most of the dog breeds I have observed there are small and sociable . I have never encountered an aggressive or out of control dog there . I have encountered aggressive and not properly controlled dogs upon the streets in other parks and suburbs and that is why Madills Farm is my choice as a safe and friendly option for someone of my age and vulnerability to walk our dog . Our family is meticulous in collecting our dogs faeces and I observe that other dog owners I have seen walking pets there also exercise the same high degree of responsibility . Many dogs such as ours attend weekend sporting events at Madills and again I observe well behaved well controlled dogs on the side lines with spectator/supporter families . The dogs presence enhances rather than detracts from the experience of attending the games . If it were otherwise I would not hesitate to object to their presence , but these dogs are clearly well loved and controlled family pets .I have seen . They do not litter the grounds or create a hazard for other users. I feel safe walking our little dog freely in this reserve including the playing fields particularly because of the presence of many mature responsible adults . The only other parks I am aware of where I could walk a dog are some driving distance away whereas this is at the foot of Sprott Rd which I can readily walk from. I would not have confidence that if there was a problem and I needed assistance the other parks would be a safe place to exercise as less people exercise there . At Madills I believe knowing what I do of the level of use of the reserve and the supportive community in Kohi that

If I or any person in my circumstances needed assistance it would be immediately available .

I have read the submission of a wonderful member of the community Sally Eustace and she conveys more fully and eloquently in her submission to you than I can but I suffice to say I agree with all her sentiments as expressed in her submission.

Please do not pass or implement your proposed changes for usage of the reserve by dogs and please let the status quo remain.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Kohimarama Beach**What local board area is this location in?**Ōrākei**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**Entire location**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Allow owner to run dog off leash from 7pm until 10 pm**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**There is currently no permission to allow dogs to run off leash between 7pm and 10pm

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6660

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Franklin

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6661

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

The sports fields are a very valuable resource to the local community and are constantly being damaged by the dogs when off leash. As the fields are maintained by the council this is costing a lot more money than would otherwise be needed if dogs were banned from the sports fields

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
No

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6669

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm is primarily a dog park with a small amount of sports on weekends. It should stay that way rather as it is a well used community park by all dog owners in the area.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6671

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6672

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The playing fields are completely respected by dog walkers during sports matches and it is great to see the parks being used so completely at other times. There is great interaction between dog owners and dogs at the parks and both parks are a great asset to the local areas.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6673

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

keeping dog faeces off the playing fields is no-brainer surely?

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I believe that owning a dog should be viewed as a privilege, and that in an urban environment all dogs should be on-leash at all times when being walked outdoors to avoid any possibility of creating health and safety hazards.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6674

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

It isn’t fair that dogs are getting less and less areas to be walked /do their exercise. If we keep banning pets what’s going to be left? A lot of houses don’t have proper front/back yards due to houses being built pretty much on top of each other, so taking away areas to walk pets is just cruel.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6677

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Albert-Eden

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

What ever changes Auckland Council make - unresponsible owners will not be impacted however as always responsible owners pay the price. Responsible owners are not the issue and neither are their dogs but by restricting further the areas that man can exercise mans best friend is penalising them. Auckland now has more dogs than ever before. These are the innocent creatures being punished. During Covid many people adopted a dog. Those dogs need exercise on and off a lead. By condensing the parks available to run dogs off a lead will only create congestion at those parks and raise the number of incidences. Sports fields are only used for a minimal number of hours each week so why at used times are they not able to be utilised by dog owners. We all pay rates for the services provided by council, so why cant ratepayers make the most of facilities. The issues are always around those unresponsible owners and that wont change just cos auckland council change the rules. Dog owners also like space. This limits confrontations. Council's proposals mean that families can't all go for a walk with their pets as the spaces their beloved pets are allowed will be severally limited. If they choose to go to a dog friendly park this will make the spaces council are allowing for dog use to be overcrowded with dogs and possibly children. A pure recipe for disaster!

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Point Chevalier

What local board area is this location in?

Albert-Eden

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:extend the hours that dogs are allowed on the beach in summer

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Under current rules this is beach can be overcrowded due to summer timeframes and restrictions. This can be threatening to the public and also when issue arise. The hours should be extended to ease the pressure. Responsible dog owners will keep their d

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

The proposals are a short sighted knee jerk reaction to something. The biggest issue around dogs in Auckland are those that are left to roam, those that are permanently changed up and unexercised and those that are unregistered. 99% of all other dogs are well looked after and owners just want to be able to walk them safely (for dogs and humans) and in peace. These proposals seek to restrict the ability of owners to do just that. Dogs need space. Who within council thinks that condensing them into smaller areas and timeframes wont result in additional issues? All you will be encouraging is for responsible owners/ratepayers to become law breakers.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6685

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6687

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills farm is a wonderful resource to the whole community. Eastern Suburbs FC along with other sports teams are already heavy users of the park, particularly at the times of the day when it's most frequented by the public. As it stands the public's access to much of the park is restricted already, as a result of scheduled trainings and games. The proposed changes is an egregious curtailment to the public's right to enjoy this facility in a manner they choose. I do not believe denying access to pretty much a big section of the park is the answer to deal with a very small minority of irresponsible dog owners. Perhaps the answer is spend the resources on educating these owners instead of ruining it for everyone?

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I believe the current rules are adequate and Council should spend their energy and resources on educating the public on what is expected of them as responsible dog owners.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6689

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

I strongly support the proposed change, as dogs off leash are a significant nuisance or hazard for young children and others using the facility. The dogs dig up the sports field which creates health and safety and injury issues for users. In my experience some owners also do not clean up after their dogs, leaving dog fasces on the sports field on occasion. I would note that dog users can use their dogs off leash in other areas, such as Waiatarua which is relatively nearby. The sports ran out of Madills Farm are significant and important community social hubs, and it is unusual for dogs to be able to roam sporting areas off-leash. I'm at the field weekly for sports, and would also observe that the majority of dog users actually walk around the field with their dogs on a leash so this is not an unreasonable expectation given that it aligns with prevailing practice anyway. They can also unleash the dogs to let them run on the large parts of the reserve which aren't used for sporting purposes.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

As a general comment, dog owners make an active choice to have a dog in a highly populated city. They should be permitted off-leash in designated areas, but not be permitted off-leash at any beaches or parks that have sporting or other non-dog uses.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6698

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Submission on Proposed Changes to Dog Access at Madill's Farm

To: Auckland Council

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Restrictions on Dog Access at Madill's Farm

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes restricting dog access at Madill's Farm. As a regular visitor both a parent of a long-term member of ESAFC and a responsible dog owner, I believe these changes will negatively impact the community and contradict the original intent of the reserve.

Madill's Farm has long been a cherished community space and features sports fields, playgrounds, as well as open areas that are integral to the local lifestyle. Currently, dogs are permitted in designated areas, fostering a harmonious environment for both pet owners and non-pet owners.

The proposed changes aim to prohibit dogs from the sports fields at all times.

Concerns

Original Deed Conditions:

The deed of gift documentation for Madill's Farm, outlines conditions for the reserve's use and any changes to the reserve's usage should align with the original intent and conditions set forth in the deed. It is imperative to review these conditions to ensure that any proposed changes do not violate the original terms of the gift.

Community Impact:

Madill's Farm serves as a vital recreational area for families, individuals, and pet owners. Restricting dog access could lead to overcrowding in other areas, reducing the overall enjoyment of the reserve.

Health and Well-being:

Regular exercise and social interaction are essential for both pets and their owners and Madill's is a joyful community where dogs have a positive influence on people and on

social connection. I see young and old enjoying dogs, people of all ethnicities enjoying dogs, and well-behaved dogs loving their opportunity to run free and 'make friends' with other dogs (resulting in social connections also among their owners). This is a precious treasure for our community in a day and age where things are tough for many. It also has a positive flow-on effect on people's mental and physical health. Limiting access to suitable areas could negatively affect the health and well-being of dogs and their owners.

The off-leash area offers a secure space for dogs, especially puppies, to play and socialize without risk of traffic accidents. The wide-open space in full view of surrounding houses (and cameras) also makes this a much safer space for women to exercise their dogs

Safety:

The 27 ankle injuries in 2024 due to dog damage of the fields as reported by the club and NOT ACC statistics, is purely club spin. As football is a lower-extremity sport, the most common injury site in a football player is the ankle. Striking a ball, changing direction, and landing while receiving body contact, are all common ways in which someone might injure their ankle.

There should be a formal comparison of ankle injuries in non-dog access parks such as Three King’s Football Club at Keith Hay Park in Mount Roskill. In addition a full independent review of all the equipment, pre-game stretch programmes should be completed to determine any deficiencies in ESAFC protocols.

Field Usage and Damage from Football:

The Orakei Local Board has suggested that dogs are damaging the fields, but this assertion must be balanced against the reality of the wear and tear caused by other activities, particularly football games, along with other field sports, create significant damage to sports fields over time. Data from sports management organisations, including Auckland’s own parks and recreation departments, has shown that the intensity of use from organised sports leagues often leads to field degradation. The combination of cleats, sharp turns, sliding tackles, and heavy foot traffic during games causes significant compaction and wear, which can leave fields with bare patches, uneven surfaces, and soil erosion.

In over 30 years as both an Eastern Suburb resident and mother of a long term ESAFC member , it is the hospitality tents at Round the Bays, and sports that are more problematic to field damage than dogs.

Community Consultation

ESAFC has agsain not consulted their club members as to whether the committee would like dogs banned 24/7 from the sports fields at both Glover and Madills. The public land was given to the people of Auckland to share. To provide unfettered access to ESAFC while expecting dog-owning ratepayers to suffer a loss of access is really unfair.

Ratepayers and Dog Registration fees:

In the Eastern Suburbs, our rates are high and our dog registrations are costly and have increased significantly over the last few years yet ESAFC only pays a peppercorn rental of $1000 per year despite having significant funds in the bank. In addition, ESAFC (one small part of the population who have yet again not consulted their club members about dog access at Madiilla and Glover) As ratepayers we have spent spend $100's of thousands a year on sports grounds maintenance that sports club...

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Council should be letting local boards decide on dog access to parks.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6700

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills farm park was donated to the community for our collective enjoyment. The current arrangement works well, I do not see a compelling case to restrict access. Both parties respecting each other. We live on the boarder of Madills and I would suggest that the number of people using the park for recreation with dogs at least matches the number of individuals playing sport.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6719

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6727

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
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3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6728

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Off leash access should continue when the sports fields are not in use.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Beach access should be extended to 10 am in summer

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6737

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Rutherford reserve park**What local board area is this location in?**I don't know**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to allow dogs under control on a leash**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**Entire location**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**Other - please specify:Little children got scared when dogs running around in the playground.**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**Little was crying when a big dog approached her. Dog owner didn’t take any action but got angry when other people tried to talk to him to put his dog on a leash.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6738

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Kia ora

We are local residents in Kohimarama.

As regular users of Madills Farm, we believe this is an asset for an our entire community to enjoy, and we believe the voices of a vocal minority are disproportionate.

We are both dog owners as well as members of the local football club. In our view both groups get great amenity and value from this community asset. We can say this with a degree of authority, as at least one member of our family visits Madills Farm every day.

A few observations from our visits

- The football club has a strong community and it's great to see people of all ages enjoying football, particularly on Saturdays.

- The dog owners group(s) also represent owners of all ages and stages. We note a number of the dog walkers are younger children or elderly, for whom the local park is considered a safe place to exercise their dogs, as opposed to the footpath or beach which has additional hazards and considerations.

- In our case, our boys now exercise our dog at the park, whereas we would have reservations about them doing this at the beach (given traffic, patronage, stimulus etc..). The off leash arrangements at the park is one of the reasons we moved into this area. We note there are a number of other families who hold the same view.

In terms of use

- The football club generally utilise the fields for a couple of hours on weekends, and during the day on Saturdays, during which time they have exclusive access. Irrespective of dog restrictions, we note the dog owners give the footballers plenty of space.

- The dog community utilise the fields from early dawn through until night time. There are a number of 'groups' of dog owners who walk and talk together, providing social connection for both their dogs as well as their owners. The more experienced owners often provide advice and support to new dog owners, and the socialisation of dogs, in a safe 'off-leash' environment assists with training and control. Ultimately this makes the community a safer place for everyone (both humans and dogs).

In terms of observations (and in response to some of the allegations on social media)

- The claims of dog poo and digging holes are overstated. In our observations dog owners are generally very responsible when it comes to picking up dog poo (including that of others). The occurrence of holes from digging is also pretty limited in our observations (and when observed, we'd note the dog community normally has a word to the owner).

I would attest that the greater damage to the fields is from wear and tear from football use (particularly when the fields are wet and footballers and/or spectators turn it into a bit of a mudbath); along with events such as 'Round the Bays'. However we welcome those uses. This is a community asset and it's great to see the community coming together.

- As a community we need to be realistic about wear and tear. Historically the area was a swamp and it remains in a flood plain (with flooding across parts of the park a few times each year). In our view, most of the work on the fields is because of their location and soil type - it's susceptible to damage from use - and ultimately it's probably an uphill and expensive battle to establish and sustain a premium playing surface.

- The comments about the 'minority of dog owners ruining it for the majority' are amusing and in our observations disproportionate. If we really wanted to go there, I note there's a minority of football club members who cause greater harm in terms of how they behave on the sidelines, or how they behave after a few beers (with examples of club members abusing dog owners and members of the sailing club). There's also the regular mess on the fields on Saturdays (i.e., tape, orange peels, lost property etc..). My point of raising this is because both groups are throwing accusations about the behaviors of a small minority. The online chats are vicious at times. I think the point here is that our community groups need to become more tolerant of each other. I worry that placing additional restrictions on one group, and providing benefit to another, exacerbates an unhelpful divide.

In our view the status quo is a good middle ground. We believe there is an appropriate balance today and the proposal would create a disproportionate bias towards a vocal minority. The issues are minor and could be easily fixed with greater education and basic enforcement.

We recommend:

- Dog access should rightly be restricted when the football fields are in use (noting this is generally 1x field on some mornings for training, and the main fields on Saturdays from 0800). A simple rule that dog access is restricted when the fields are in use for training or games would suffice.

- For the balance of the time, the fields at Madills Farm should be openly available for all users (incl. off-leash dog use).

An important consideration is the availability of alternatives.

- For dog owner...

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

In general we support the restrictions (as currently in place) at beaches; therefore we recommend the status quo for parks. We need to ensure we have appropriate places for dog owners and dogs to have 'off leash' exercise.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6741

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Objection to Changes in Dog Access Rules at Madills Farm

To the Auckland Council

I respectfully submit my objection to the proposed changes to dog access rules at Madills Farm.

The rationale for my objection

Auckland Council's stated position is "keeping dogs a positive part of the lives of Aucklanders."

Auckland Council repeatedly states that "dogs provide companionship, emotional support and help foster social connections", and "taking a dog to a local park or beach can be great for the wellbeing of the dog and their owner".

Changing the dog access rules at Madills Farm would run contrary to these held positions.

It would also run contrary to the purpose of the Madills Farm Recreational Reserve when it was first created for the benefit and wellbeing of the local community.

Sports Fields in Auckland

Over the last 24 years I have coached and played junior and adult sport in both Winter and Summer at Madills Farm, as I have done across Auckland.

The provision of sports grounds and public recreational spaces in Auckland are – in a word – a compromise for all users.

There are very few dedicated sports grounds. Those that exist on recreational reserves accessible to the public are self policing. When sport is being played, sport has a Right to use the space. When it is not, the public have the Right.

That is not ideal for anyone, but it is the compromise required in a City with too little available green space for recreational (organised sport and general public) use.

Everyone who uses such spaces has to accept that. No one has, nor should have, exclusive use of swathes of green parkland space in residential communities. That would be contrary to providing space for the wellbeing of the City's residents.

Madills Farm

The change proposed at Madills Farm would have the effect of banning off-lease access for dogs across the whole of Madills Farm, not just the sports fileds. The areas proposed to allow off-lease access are neither practical, nor large enough, nor safe for dogs or the their owners to let a dog run off-lease.

It is ironic that the change proposed for Madills Farm is predicated on supposed damage to the sports grounds being caused by dogs. That is unsubstantiated nonsense.

Any damage caused to Madills Farm sports fields is caused by (amongst other things) contractors driving onto and working on irrigation systems, lighting, and carrying out general maintenance on the fields; by kids doing what kids do and dragging football goalposts across the grass; by spectators erecting gazebos, sitting on chairs, and walking the touchline or boundary of the fields; leaking irrigation.

The irony continues when one considers that it is dog walkers who clear up the litter,, debris, and food remnants left by spectators and players of sport at Madills Farm. They do this without complaining.

I am a massive sports fan. I watch sport at Madills Farm. Sport brings vibrancy to the reserve.

However, before and after sport is played at Madills Farm, it is a haven for the essential outdoor activities of local residents. This includes the walking of dogs, fulfilling the wellbeing needs of their owners, promoting social and emotional connection of the community.

It is not the dogs or their owners who should be banned from the sports fields. It is the usage of the sports fields themselves that needs to be managed better.

The fields are already overused relative to recommended hours of play on fields of these type. Dogs and their owners traversing the fields is of negligible consequence. Sports use (football training and matches in particular) is what causes the damage and is the cause of the overuse.

I am told that there is a claim that ankle injuries to footballers caused by holes created by dogs is a problem at Madills Farm. That too is nonsense and unsubstantiated.

Firstly, dog owners don’t allow their dogs to dig holes at Madills Farm.

Secondly, if a dog does find a hole and decides to make it bigger, it is very clear that the hole should not have been there in the first place to give a dog that opportunity. That is a maintenance issue.

Conclusion

Auckland Council and its Parks and Recreations team are literally barking up the wrong tree with the proposals to changes in the rules for dog access at Madills Farm.

You have a growing population of residents who have a great resource at Madills Farm, but as I say above it is one where everyone has to accept compromise. Everyone.

If you are intent on banning dogs from sports fields when they are not in use, then you will have to ban people too. Now surely you would not consider that.

It is inconceivable that dog paws have an impact on the fields. The dogs are certainly not damaging the fields in other ways.

Finally: I am 58 years old. Until four years ago I had never owned a dog. I do now.

I have spent decades not understanding the benefits of having a dog in the family, nor knowing what benefit dogs bring to the physical and mental wellbeing of their owners.

All my...

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

This process asked me to comment on the park(s) that interest me. I have done that. I acknowledge that the Council is aiming to apply a region-wide set of policies. My comments apply region wide, not just to the park(s) local to me.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6742

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Access and Rules for Dogs at Parks and Beaches , Madills Farm Recreations Reserve and Glover Park

I wish to submit a strong objection and concern for the proposals put forward in relation to dogs at Madills Farm Recreation Reserve and Glover Park, not including the maximum of 3 dogs walking.

I specifically object to the approach, the lack of any published basis for the proposal and what I see is a misleading or disingenuous respective right from the introduction. The headline “keeping dogs a positive part of the lives of Aucklanders” followed by the statement “ sometimes however it is not appropriate to take a dog to certain places off leash at all ”in relation to Madills and Glover Park, this can only reasonably include the risk to people, habitat and property, as the other points are inconsistent with those locations. It goes on to say Auckland Council help dogs remain a positive part of the lives of Auckland as we are updating the rules that balance the needs of dogs, people etc. I am asking, concerned and wondering what the actual or evidence-based reasons are for the changes proposed. Our experience as a family is that we have not witnessed any basis at all for the changes. In this area, like in any other there will always be the occasional dog/owner who don't follow the current rules or any additional rules that might be brought in. Because of the area occupied by sports fields and borders, this is a practical or in effect a full ban on dogs off leash.

We have lived in Kohimarama for about 12 years and regularly use both Madills and Kohimarama Beach fully within the dog policies and notices published. Speaking of Madills only for the moment, we have continuously observed that the vast majority, perhaps 98% of dog owners follow the dog policies explicitly. We have found dogs are kept under appropriate control, keeping them away from sports areas while in use and not only pick up after their dogs but point out to others when they have very occasionally “ messed the occasion”.

We have consistently observed that the significant proportion of dog owners are exceptionally responsible in their behavior. At the times when the sports fields are in use, especially weekends and practice times, we have never observed dog owners being on the sports area and most significantly avoid the whole park at these times.

If a concern or basis for the proposal includes that the sports areas get fouled by errant dog owners, our own observations is that this is not the case with almost no exceptions. Should it be that sports players or their parents are sighting that this is a problem, I believe it is a baseless, speculative or only emotive argument. At best it is an emotive and emotional response to a situation that simply does not exist in reality, as described earlier. Beyond this fact, the football club members rope off their number one field and" chase people in their dogs off the area" even when it is not in use. I am particularly concerned that coinciding with this proposal, the football Club has now recently marked out a further pitch area to the south which has never been marked out before. We've only seen this area used on some occasions for cricket and in the early part of the football season by the youngest of players, and not since it has been marked out. This potential or apparent staging and any reprting from the football club of grounds being fouled is misleading or disingenuous and emotive at best. I can't say it has never ever happened …….

I am, of course, not a dog management expert from a council perspective, but I do know that if restrictive proposals like this are applied, the likely flow-on effect is that dog owners and their dogs will be restricted to even more confined areas, roads etc and is likely to push any problems that might exist on into other locations. Perhaps even leaving insufficient options for dog owners will end up with low compliance, which does not exist to any extent now.

I understand that was actually gifted originally to the public for use as a dog area or similar, so again there appears to be a substantial overreach with this proposal. How has this been taken into account?

This proposal is unwarranted, without basis or evidence and in contradiction to the council introduction.

From [redacted] a local resident, ratepayer and appalled dog owner.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Over-regulation doesn't solve the real issue of already restrictive rules and risks non-compliance in other areas where it would be a real problem.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6744

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Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

It does not make any sense that dogs should be prohibited when not in use. Most users are responsible and dogs have very few spaces in the local area where they can exercise and socialize off leash. This is a fantastic space for that. Improved monitoring and/or reporting of irresponsible owners should be a first step. This is over reaction to the problem. Safe, healthy, fun and free use of public spaces should be the primary goal. Keep public land open to as many uses as possible because it is funded by all of our rates, not just by a few.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6745

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Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills farm reserve is an extremely important daily part of my life as I take my dog there daily. This park / reserve was given to all people for their recreational use and as a sports field alone but for the safe respectful use of all people in the area. Its use should not be restricted to a few people who play football at the expense of a large group of people who have no where else to use for off leash dog walking.

I need to take my dog to madills as it has a large off leash area for me to exercise my dog. It is an area that allows both my dog and me to exercise in an appropriate and safe manner. I have diagnosed depression and part of my mental well-being is being able to take my dog off leash and walk fast around the park with my dog running and chasing the ball I toss. This will not be possible in a small confined off leash dog area, especially with multiple people trying to exercise their dog in a confined area. I would feel like I am walking in a prison yard. When I walk my dog on the leash around the streets it is a very slow non emotionally fulfilling time as she walks and sniffs everywhere.

At madills I am able to connect with other people and know I do not get this same level of social interaction walking the streets. My mental health will be negatively impacted if the off leash area is removed and/ reduced.

Another concern is my brother who has Parkinson's will also take my dog for walks here when I am away or late at work. He is unstable on his feet and can walk her safely off leash on the fields at madills. Beaches are too unstable for him and as the road is close by then our dog would need to be on a leash which is difficult for him. He feels valued and enjoys the friendships he has made whilst walking our dog off leash at madills. This reserve needs to continue to be an inclusive place to all people especially those with life challenging illnesses such as Parkinson's.

I am aware that dog owners need to be held accountable for their dogs and the safety of others and their dogs waste but do not punish or restrict the great majority for the misbehaviour of a few. There are many examples of how we could restrict or remove rights for the misbehaviour of a few but that is not the answer there or here.

I have used madills for well over 30 years, been a responsible dog owner who needs this continued access for off leash walking and running for my dog. A small restricted area is not going to work. It would force many dogs into a much smaller area which is not always good socially. With a large park to roam around I choose where to walk with my dog,

avoiding larger dogs that my dog feels scared of. This would very difficult in an off leash area and could result in injury to dogs feeling caged and threatened.

Thank you for reading my plea to not support the proposed change to dog access at Madills.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?Beaches from orakei to st heliers and beyond**What local board area is this location in?**Ōrākei**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**A section of it. Please specify:You can specify one**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in more detail:**To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:Allow dogs on one of the beaches during the day in summer. I have to drive an hour each way to take my dog to a beach that a dog can walk on during the summer..many dogs love the beach and water. Could dogs be allowed on just one of them during the day i**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**See above

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6747

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Prohibiting dogs from sports fields *at all times*, serves no cognisable purpose other than a generalised and poorly particularised *fear* that some children might *possibly* be hurt.

If the Council wishes to impinge on the rights of dog owners (actual and potential), it must do a lot more than it has to show that its fear is something more than a mere flight of fancy. It rather needs to show that the probability of serious harm is such that but for this proposed prohibition, Madills farm would be, as perhaps it always has been, a violent and desolate place; a veritable hellscape, where roving packs of aggressive dogs terrorize young and old alike.

One shred of evidence might be nice. But no. Evidence?! who ever heard of that?!

This appears for all outward appearances, to be an exercise in making law for the sake of making law.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

One trusts that the Council wants well behaved dogs. If that's what it wants, this overbearing effort to restrict the space in which dogs may exercise is flatly idiotic.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6750

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6751

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6753

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I strongly oppose the proposed restrictions on dog access at Madills Farm and Glover park. As a regular visitor and advocate for responsible pet ownership, I believe these changes will negatively impact the community and contradict the original intent of the reserve.

Background

Madills Farm, located in Kohimarama, and Glover Park, St Heliers in Auckland, are cherished community spaces. The reserves feature sports fields, playgrounds, and open areas that are integral to the local lifestyle. It is a community space where dogs have a positive influence on people and on social connection. I see young and old enjoying dogs, people of all ethnicities enjoying dogs, and well behaved dogs loving their opportunity to run free and 'make friends' with other dogs (resulting in many social connections also among their owners). This is a precious treasure for our community in a day and age where things are tough for many. It also has a positive flow-on effect for people's mental and physical health, of which I have heard many stories where people now on their own after losing their life partners, make critical connections and friendships.

Proposed Changes

The proposed changes aim to prohibit dogs from the sports fields at all times. This includes areas where dogs have traditionally been allowed, potentially leading to increased congestion in other parts of the reserve, despite the fact that the area of the reserve proposed changes is used for sport at MOST 15% of the total hours in any year. Such unreasonable restrictions would diminish the quality of life for many residents who rely on these spaces for recreation and socialization.

Key Concerns:

1) Community impact on rate payers:

Accessibility: Many residents, including the elderly and those with mobility impairments, rely on the flat and accessible nature of the park to safely exercise their dogs. Other parks in the area are too steep or unsafe for these users.

Darkness & Safety: The areas proposed for dog exercise are poorly lit, making them unsafe in the early morning and evening hours when many owners (including many elderly, children and women) walk their pets.

Dog Socialization & Behavior: Dogs need spaces to interact and socialise safely. Without safe designated off-leash areas, behavioural problems can increase, leading to a rise in conflicts in less suitable locations, such as footpaths or busy streets.

Traffic safety: The main areas utilised at Madills and Glover currently are safely away from the street, the area being proposed is unfenced right beside the road. The congestion that would result in the small area being proposed could lead to overflow, causing safety issues for both dogs and motorists.

Discrimination against ratepayers by the minority

Having lived in the area for 18 years, and having children that played football for many years, I know that a significant proportion of people take their dogs down to the park while children and adults play (all sports) – these proposed changes would prevent this.

I also know that in terms of a proportion of time that the fields are being solely used for sports is a very minor proportion of the time that the park is being shared by dog owners and the broader community enjoying time with others – I have done an estimate based on practices and games and how these vary in school terms v holidays v summer/winter and I estimate that the fields are used for sports games a mere 11% of the total time, if we are generous and said 15-20%, this leaves 80-85% of time that the fields are NOT being used for sports. To prevent the fields being used by those wishing to connect and socialise their dogs when games are not underway is a significant injustice to the rate payers of the region.

2) Original Purpose of Madills Farm

Madills Farm and Glover were set aside originally as recreational land for public use, not for the exclusive benefit of sports clubs. Restricting access to large sections of the park for only certain user groups contradicts its intended purpose as a shared community space.

3) Field Maintenance & Wear-and-Tear Arguments

- Twisted ankles occur in all sports! It does not matter the surface, there are always ankle injuries in any sport, including on flat turf grounds. There does not appear to be sufficient supporting evidence for this argument, particularly when you have no context around the number of times all children of the club play over a season (ie proportionally, this will be minimal and I suggest align with other sports).

- Natural Wear from Sports: The argument that dogs damage the fields overlooks the fact that organized sports significantly contribute to field wear and tear. Football games, in particular, cause soil compaction, bare patches, and erosion through heavy foot traffic, cleats, and tackling.

- Minimal Impact from Dogs: In contrast, dogs spread their activity across the park and do not cause concentrated wear. Regular walking, running, and playing fetch do not have the same damaging ...

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Kohimarama beach, st heliers beach

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:There will be no where to walk a dog off lead and allow them to socialise and play with other dogs safely away from the road

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

It is extremely discriminatory to prevent the local community to be on a park and playing field when there is no sport underway. On average, sport will be played 11-15% of the overall time. The proportion of taxpayers that would like to use the park and playing fields outside the hours of sports will significantly outweigh those in the sport. It will destroy the community environment and is completely against the intended use of such COMMUNITY spaces.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6754

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6756

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Subject: Strong Opposition to Proposed Dog Rule Changes - A Balanced Approach Needed

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to Auckland Council's dog rules. I agree that all Aucklanders deserve safe and convenient access to outdoor spaces, and that our natural fauna and flora need to be protected. I believe these proposed changes are detrimental, misdirected, and will ultimately fail to achieve their stated goals. They unfairly penalize responsible dog owners while neglecting the core issues that contribute to conflict in shared spaces.

Punishing the Responsible, Not Addressing the Problem

The proposed changes disproportionately impact responsible dog owners who already abide by the existing rules. Restricting access for compliant owners does not address the behavior of those who choose to ignore the rules. In fact, it removes access for those who do follow the rules, while those who don’t will have even less incentive to change their behavior. This approach is counterproductive and will likely exacerbate existing tensions.

Essential Needs of Dogs and Their Owners

Dogs, like humans, require more than just walks on a leash for their physical and mental well-being. They need opportunities to run, play fetch, and socialize with other dogs. Restricting access to off-leash areas and beaches deprives dogs of these essential activities and negatively impacts their quality of life and ours. As your documents point out, exercise is crucial for a dog’s health, and simply walking on-leash is not enough. The limitations proposed will also discourage people from owning dogs, reducing the many benefits dogs bring to communities.

Designated Dog-Friendly Zones need to have enough space for dogs to run and choose to socialise or not. As with humans they can be introverted and prefer more personal space or extroverted. Restricting the space available will exacerbate the problem.

Concerns Regarding Hot Surfaces

The proposal also fails to consider the impact of hot surfaces, such as cement, on dogs' paws. During warmer months, these surfaces can become dangerously hot, causing burns

and discomfort. Forcing dogs to walk on leash in these areas poses a significant risk to their health and safety.

Personal Impact and Examples

My dogs help me with physical activity, emotional support, companionship, security, my mental health, and bring love, hugs and laughter. As a survivor of domestic violence, they are helping me heal and feel safe.

My dog thrives on playing fetch at the parks and on the beach, even swimming with me. These activities are vital for her and my physical and mental stimulation, and they strengthen our bond. The proposed changes would take away this freedom and prevent us from enjoying an activity that is both healthy and enriching.

Alternative Solutions: A Collaborative Approach

Instead of blanket restrictions, I propose the following solutions, many of which are supported by the information in your provided documents:

Designated Dog-Friendly Zones with enough space for dogs to run.

Auckland's crescent beaches offer a unique opportunity to create designated dog-friendly zones at the edges. This allows dogs to enjoy the beach environment while minimizing potential conflicts with other users. This is a far more constructive approach than blanket bans and aligns with the concept of shared spaces.

Improved Waste Management Infrastructure: Increased provision of dog waste bins in strategic locations is essential. This encourages responsible disposal and helps keep our public spaces clean. Your documents highlight the frustration caused by a lack of bins.

Proactive Education and Training Programs: Recall refresher courses and training programs, perhaps with incentives like discounted dog licenses, can significantly improve dog control and promote responsible ownership. This proactive approach is much more effective and empowering than simply imposing restrictions.

Enhanced and Targeted Enforcement: Enforcement should be focused on problem areas and times, with a system for the public to easily report violations (including photo and video evidence). Think snap send solve so. This targeted approach, combined with increased ranger presence, is more likely to deter irresponsible behavior than indiscriminate restrictions. As your documents suggest, the current enforcement model is inadequate.

Conclusion: A Call for Reason and Balance

I urge the Auckland Council to reconsider these proposed changes and adopt a more balanced and effective approach. The current proposals will not solve the issues they are intended to address and will negatively impact responsible dog owners and their dogs. I

believe the suggested alternatives offer a more constructive path forward, one that recognizes the needs of all users of public spaces.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Glover park

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:

Subject: Strong Opposition to Proposed Dog Rule Changes - A Balanced Approach Needed

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to Auckland Council's dog rules. I agree that all Aucklanders deserve safe

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Subject: Strong Opposition to Proposed Dog Rule Changes - A Balanced Approach Needed

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to Auckland Council's dog rules. I agree that all Aucklanders deserve safe

Location 2

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Kohimarama beach

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

A section of it. Please specify:One side of the beach, so dogs and owners can enjoy swimming and playing

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Subject: Strong Opposition to Proposed Dog Rule Changes - A Balanced Approach Needed

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to Auckland Council's dog rules. I agree that all Aucklanders deserve safe

Location 3

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Waiatarua reserve

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

A section of it. Please specify:

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

A section of it. Please specify:Larger flat section than the charges allow for. The proposed area is an incline and I believe it passes health and safety risk.

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Subject: Strong Opposition to Proposed Dog Rule Changes - A Balanced Approach Needed

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to Auckland Council's dog rules. I agree that all Aucklanders deserve safe

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Please don't stop me from enjoying the local parks and beaches, with my dog who is my companion.

Designated areas allow those that don't want to be by dogs a safe space and a safe space for us to play with our dogs

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6757

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Its cruel to not let the dogs off leash at Madills Farm, it's stopping them from being free and getting sufficient exercise.

As a public park, Eastern Suburbs Football Club shouldn't be entitied to the use of almost the entire park, the plan is very excessive . It wouldn't be so much of a concern it if was just one field they wanted to preserve, its greedy to take the whole thing.

Our rates contribute to the maintenance of the field, it shouldn't be just for the sports games. The well being of the public and dogs is more important.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6760

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am opposed to the proposed changes to Madills Farm and Glover Park for dogs. My family are dog owners. I often walk our family dog at Madills.

I am surprised by the allegations from the Football club in relation to holes dug by dogs. Can you please confirm that you have done your due diligence and verified their allegations that the holes are in fact created by dogs. Please share this evidence. Can you also please confirm that you have done your due diligence and verified the alleged ankle rolls. Did they in fact occur because of stepping in a hole or just from playing football. Where is the evidence? I know people at the Eastern Suburbs club who moan about the poor effort from the Council in relation to ground maintenance. They believe the holes are created by the goal posts and from general wear and tear of people playing with sprigs on their shoes and are not repaired properly by the Council. Simply putting sand in a hole is not good enough to fix a hole.

Madills Farm is at the heart of our community where people of all ages and abilities exercise and socialize. Its also a safe place for people to be. It's a very open space. You will destroy a community if you make this a designated sports field. The main users of this Reserve are the community not the sports players. Why should the local ratepayers foot the bill for maintenance of this field and then have that taken away from them.

I also challenge your near misses with your sub contractors and dogs. Have you verified their allegations?

Have you conducted research on the number of dogs within the Orakei region? What revenue you receive from dog registrations? What are you offering in return?

Can you please confirm that there are no conflicts of interest with the current members of your Orakei Board and the Eastern Suburbs Football Club? I'm really confused as to why Eastern Suburbs Football Club are given any weighting to their unsubstantiated allegations and hoping that the Orakei Board members have nothing to hide in relation to conflicts of interest.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6768

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

This park is for the public, adding these restrictions is unfair and does not reflect the community that wishes to use it.

This park has become a hub for dog owners and walkers, creating a strong sense of community. Adding these trivial restrictions seems to neglect these community members and their needs in favour of another. This park should be a point of unity, not division.

I urge you to reconsider.

Thanks

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6771

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Ridiculous! This part of town needs safe dog walking areas for off-leash exercise. There was never a problem with the sports people when I was there with my dogs.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Keep the dog excess rules as they are. They are very restrictive already and it would be a mistake to restrict the access even more. Most dog owners are very responsible dog owners. It will be a mistake to punish everybody with their dogs for the shortcomings of a few owners of menacing dogs.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6772

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The reason that the council are using to back up this proposal are based in costs of maintenance of the grounds that should be covered by the dog registration fees that owners have to pay.

The claim that dogs digging the sports field and causing injuries are absurd. Injuries are part of playing sports and a player can roll their ankles even when playing in the Real Madrid's field. In addition, holes in the ground are common to appear when the soil is dry as result of the nature of the grounds.

If that is the case then implement times and seasons where dogs can be allowed under control off leash in all sports fields area.

FILL THE HOLES WITH A DIFFERENT KIND OF SOIL OTHER THAN SAND.

cut costs with sprinklers wetting the grounds during the day over summer only wasting water under the hot weather. Make it only in the early morning hours and late afternoon.

Monitor the contractors that take the whole entire day to mown the lawns using tractors when the job can easily done in less time

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

There is no need for change, other than implementing time and season's rules to all areas and taking careless dog owners into accountability.

It is not fair to punish dogs and owners who follow the rules and pay their taxes.

Prohibition will cause trouble such: dogs not exercising properly and getting anger issues and being harder for the owners to manage.

Dogs not being able to exercise would have to stay home and they would bark creating noise nonsense.

Dogs being dumped by irresponsible owners as it would become harder to control the dogs

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6775

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Both these are large parks& people respect / & overall manage their dogs well. Sports take preference when one but otherwise space for dogs off leash as well as on leads is important& there seems little justification for making the changes.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Current rules have been fine.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6777

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Our community feels strongly about keeping things as they are, where everyone can enjoy these parks together. After all, these aren't just sports fields; they're precious community reserves. We've certainly seen how heavy sports use can sometimes take a toll on the grounds, but there's simply no real proof that dog walking, whether on or off-leash, causes any harm. And there's definitely no reason to think that dogs being there gets in the way of the Council's plans to get more people involved in sports.

These proposed changes, cutting back on dog access at Madills Farm and Glover Park, just don't align with Auckland Council's own dog-friendly approach. While it might be simpler for the Council to have a one-size-fits-all approach across the region, that shouldn't mean taking away a vital and much-loved resource from so many of us. For many, especially our older residents, these parks are essential. They provide a safe and convenient place to stay active, both for themselves and their furry friends. They're also wonderful places to connect with others, building community and contributing to our well-being, both physically and mentally.

So, let's keep things as they are. These proposed changes should be completely rejected, and we should continue to cherish and protect this valuable shared space.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6778

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs should not be prohibited from the sports ground when not in use. These grounds make up a significant part of Madill's Farm.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Unfortunately it appears responsible dog owners / dog walking companies are being treated based on the behaviour of those who do not care for the welfare of their dogs and ensure they are able to be controlled and enjoy public areas at all times.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6781

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am submitting against changing the status of dog rules on the basis that the information provided by Council in the consultation documents was not rigorous or balanced, and that the stats behind the recommendations don’t seem to hold up to scrutiny and are lacking in evidence, or any comparative data against other fields or sports - particularly in relation to the assertion that dogs digging holes are causing high numbers of ankle sprains. Holes that I've seen in common areas on fields are frequently on the penalty and half way line on a soccer field. I'm sure you'd agree that whilst dogs are intelligent animals, they are not digging holes according to usage on a soccer field perfectly in the middle of the field or in front of goals.

In addition to the misleading information, it is outrageous that an organisation that pays a peppercorn rent to use the fields for soccer are trying to take over maddills for their own use.

Eastern Suburbs football is not a 'community first' organisation - in fact they view the community and Maddills farm as a way of funding their own professional football team by charging extortionate fees to junior players as well overcharging for uniforms. There is no 'giving back to the community' it is just a private fundraising club who care little for the community other than how much money they can extract from wallets.

Dogs and users of Madills have existed harmoniously for many years. There is no need to change. I would also like to note that our rates are high in this area and our dog registrations are costly. We expect to get something in return for this, and rightly so. Taking away this precious benefit will be a huge blow for many, many people and their dogs.

Finally, the deed of gift documentation for Madills Farm, as per the Official Information request, outlines conditions for the reserve’s use. While the specific conditions are not detailed in the available documents, any changes to the reserve’s usage should align with the original intent and conditions set forth in the deed. It is imperative to review these conditions to ensure that any proposed changes do not violate the original terms of the gift.

Council should have no ability to alter the use of the fields until the missing documents are found, as well as issuing a public apology to the community for the mismanagement of this deed.

Sincerely

[redacted]

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6783

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs do not do a lot of damage to sports surfaces, compared to humans wearing soccer boots with blades/ studs on the bottom.

Madills Farm and Glover Park are perfectly good community spaces with enough room for everyone to continue to enjoy them.

It's lovely to see people and their hounds enjoying the spaces along side each other.

Next I would like to see the removal of the Karaka tree near to the playground at Madills.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Dogs are very important. They are great companions to many people. NZ has one of the highest dog ownership rates in the world- approx 1 person in 5 has a dog.

We need to ensure that we protect our spaces so that dogs can get adequate exercise and socialising, especially as our housing becomes higher density. Apartment dwellers for example will be very dependent on access to parks so that their pup can be exercised,

Thanks for asking for our feedback.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6784

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am a resident of St Heliers and a regular user of Madills Farm. I believe the proposal that in Madills Farm Recreation Reserve dogs would be required to stay off sports fields at all times will negatively impact a large section of the local community in a number of important ways.

Madills Farm is a mixed-use recreational park and serves hundreds, if not thousands, of members of the local community for a diverse range of uses, including off leash dog activity when sport is not being played. The proposed ban on dogs on the sports fields of Madills Farm at all times, will effectively end the opportunity of dog owners to truly engage in the mixed use of this beautiful recreational park. Given the extent of coverage of the five sports fields, when combined with the children's playground, dog owners will be limited to a very small portion of the space, with many largely be restricted to the path. For young dogs in particular, the available space is simply too close to the road to for safe off-leash activity.

This area has many attributes that make it a space that enhances the mental health and well being of the community. The natural / landscape characteristics, in combination with the trees, vegetation, stream make this a unique and accessible space, that currently serves as a community space and underpins important social aspects of the surrounding community.

The shared use of the space is central to Madills Farm continuing to provide access to these key aspects of a community facility. The provision of useable off-leash space for dogs and dog owners provides a critical facility for dogs, and dog owners, and at a personal level we can attest to the enormous value this has had for our dog, who is now 11-years old. The provisions of a large safe space, for young dogs to play safely and socialise with other puppies and dogs, is critical in the development of healthy and well-behaved dogs. The benefits of a space large enough for extensive exercise in a social context is also critical for healthy dogs and enables them to thrive. There simply are not viable alternative spaces available to exercise dogs in this way in our community.

Equally important is the socialisation that occurs between dog owners, the opportunity to make connections with others. This is particularly critical for older adults, who may be experiencing limited social connections in that period of their lives for a range of reasons. As a Professor of Psychology, specialising in healthy ageing and dementia, I know the

space and interaction provided in Madills Farm is critical for many older members of our community.

Research shows that older adults who experience loneliness are at increased risk for a range of negative physical and mental health outcomes, including Alzheimer's disease and dementia, coronary heart disease, frailty and early death (Holt-Lunstad et al, 2015; Livingston et al 2024). Several studies have shown that older adults who own pets are 36%-40% less likely than non-pet owners to report loneliness (Stanly et al, 2014;). Part of the reason for this, especially amongst dog owners, is the increased social interaction that comes from being able to mingle with other dog owners in an open space (Hui Gan et al, 2020; Ikeuchi et al, 2021). The dog owners health also improves from the physical activity associated with interacting with and walking your dog (Taniguchi et al, 2024).

The sports fields are used for sport during some times of the year, and for some days of the week. However, the majority of the time they are not in use for sport. They are, however, frequently a vibrant hub for dog owners and dogs. The current “mixed use” policy enables maximum benefit to be shared across different sections of the community, in an era when open space is our city is becoming limited, and property size is now minimal for many.

Whilst some of the justification for the proposed changes has been framed around damage caused to field surface by dogs which has apparently caused a number of turned ankles during sport, there is a clear correlation between intensity and frequency of sport played on the fields and wear and tear and damage to the field’s surface. Also mentioned was the digging of holes by dogs when the fields are wet. This generally does not happen unless the fields have been torn up during their use for sport. Indeed at the moment there is little sport being played, there are many hours of dog and owner activity on the fields, and the surfaces are in pristine condition. No sign at all of dogs digging holes!

An enormous amount of money has been spent over the last 5-10 years in improving the surface and turf of the sports fields, and there must be significant costs associated with extensive ongoing watering of the turf. This improved surface will reduce the damage that will come from humans and dogs alike. It is also reasonable to consider that some money should be allocated to turf maintenance related to uses other than playing...

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6785

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Local Board: Ōrākei

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Please keep Maddill's Farm dog access as before: A time and season rule where dogs are NOT allowed on the sportsfields when the sportsfields are in use, but that they ARE allowed on the sportsfields off-leash at other times.

Reason: This reserve is popular with dog walkers and it doesn't belong to the sports clubs, it is a public park. Dog owners are rate payers as much as sports club members, so it is not fair that dog owners always have to accept restrictions in favour of other users. Maddill's farm consists mainly of sportsfields and the small strip of land around it is inadequate to exercise dogs if they are not allowed on the fields. If they are confined to just the small strip of land, this is too close to the road, meaning that the rule effectively makes the remaining park on-leash only, as dog owners will worry to have their dog play this close to the road.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

This is my submission regarding the Proposed Amended Policy on Dogs 2025

Please keep Maddill's Farm dog access as before: A time and season rule where dogs are NOT allowed on the sportsfields when the sportsfields are in use, but that they ARE allowed on the sportsfields off-leash at other times.

Reason: This reserve is popular with dog walkers and it doesn't belong to the sports clubs, it is a public park. Dog owners are rate payers as much as sports club members, so it is not fair that dog owners always have to accept restrictions in favour of other users. Maddill's farm consists mainly of sportsfields and the small strip of land around it is inadequate to exercise dogs if they are not allowed on the fields. If they are confined to just the small strip of land, this is too close to the road, meaning that the rule effectively makes the remaining park on-leash only, as dog owners will worry to have their dog play this close to the road.

Please also keep Glover Park dog access as before: A time and season rule where dogs are NOT allowed on the sportsfields when the sportsfields are in use, but that they ARE allowed on the sportsfields off-leash at other times.

Reason: This reserve is popular with dog walkers and it doesn't belong to the sports clubs, it is a public park. Dog owners are rate payers as much as sports club members, so it is not fair that dog owners always have to accept restrictions in favour of other users.

There used to be a rule that for any area that gets restricted to dog owners (ie from off- to on-leash, or from on-leash to prohibited), an equivalent size place nearby must be offered. What has happened to that rule?

Finally, I wish to point out that it was rather difficult to “Have your say”. If you can’t go back on a section and there are no links to documents or explanations, and the questions are deliberately kept vague, how can we support any of it, not knowing if we unwittingly say Yes to something we don’t actually want?

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6787

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I should not need to espouse the physical and mental health benefits of walking dogs - I'm sure this has been covered in many submissions. For the human it is daily physical activity, socialisation, companionship... not to mention the fact that a well exercised dog is a better behaved dog. So on this basis alone I cannot understand why council would propose such a massive change - my feelings on this are the same for all 64 parks in auckland, but I will focus on a few that I am familiar with 'Madills and Glover' and Monte Cecilia.

The dog policy requires there to be a 'Structural change' and/ or a 'significant risk factor' before any chanegs should be considered.

the findings for structural change were "Madills Farm Recreation Reserve sports surfaces are used for football in winter and in summer for cricket and touch rugby. Glover Park sports surfaces are used for football in winter and cricket in summer." - this is not structural and it is not even a change - it is merely stating what is currenrly happening, which has not changed'

on the question of SIGNIFICANT risk factors the findings stated "There is an increased significant risk to health and safety of sports users and dogs and of damage. • During the 2024 winter season on Madills Farm Recreation Reserve, damage to surfaces contributed to 27 football ankle roll complaints from children and adults and five reported near misses between mower operators and dogs" - a)there is no evidence that these risks have actually increased because there was no comparative measure provided, the 27 rolled ankles while not exactly a significant injury were only from a sports club first aid records that they had happened while plying sport and had absolutely no record or evidence directly attributing them to anything a dog had done (digging or otherwise), and there is no recorded evidence of said near misses with mowers! Even if all of these things had happened AND we had evidence that dogs were at fault... are we really willing to trade these few possible mior inconvenveniences for the physical and mental health benefits of the thousands of people, and sog, that exercise at Madills and glover when sport is not being played??!!

On the subject of increased costs - no cost modelling was provided that in any way links increased spend directly to dogs, or how costs are expected to reduce if the proposal was to go ahead.

On the topic of aligning to other sports fields in other parks this is not only a really ********** 'just because' reason, the second part of Dog Policy Principle 1(d) specifically provides for such exceptions: "Consider access on a comprehensive region-wide basis, as well as a place-by-place basis".

Overall there has never been any problem at madills and glover, there has been no change either structurally or in terms of significant risk factors. Dog owners are happy with sport being played when it's on, but why on earth should that preculde people with or without dogs form using the park for the vast majoroty of the week when sport is not being played!

I STRONGLY disagree with the proposal and stronly support option 1 not to change anyhting!

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I've said a fair bit already!

I would add that this whole process has been handled shockingly bad.

The Dog Policy 2019 requires there to be a ‘structural change’ or a ‘significant risk’ before any change should be considered and the evidence that has been provided is low impact and tenuous at best.

The findings of the reports have been written in a way that seems to favour a predetermined outcome to significantly reduce dog access in public places.

Further, the process to publicise this process has been severley lacking and the feedback process and timeframes significantly condensed to the point of being unreasonable.

Most people and most responsible dog owners would (and according to your survey do) support sensible changes to improve signage and more enforcement... but these proposed changes are NOT THAT! Keep it simple. Listen to your people, don't make these changes.

#6787

[redacted]

24/2/25

In Person Submission to Council regarding proposed changes to the Dog Policy 2019

First, to clarify that I do not support the vast majority of changes proposed.

There is no time today to espouse the benefits of dog ownership and exercising dogs
-no doubt covered in many submissions
-key ones are:
-physical and mental health of dogs and owners
-the importance of socialisation opportunities created while walking
-that a well-exercised dog is a better-behaved dog and therefore less likely to be a 'nuisance'

There is also no time to look into each individual park, so I want to focus on the proposed changes to the overall intent of the Policy on Dogs 2019 that sits across all the proposed access changes - if there is time I will discuss my local park.

While I strongly disagree with almost all of the proposed changes, my biggest concern is the proposed change to the overall objective of the policy, from being very supportive of dogs as a part of our society to being viewed as more of a 'nuisance'.

Key messages:

1. The changes proposed are not mere updates and clarifications, they are massive changes to the core objectives and principles that directly go against the Dog Policy 2019

2. Possibly my biggest concern is the proposed change in the main objective of the policy that shifts from being very supportive of dogs and their owners to very negative assumptions about the role of dogs in society.

3. The way the dog policy is written and is supposed to work is that Council and Dog Management support access for responsible dog owners and educate or enforce against the actions of irresponsible dog owners. The policy expressly encourages managing minor issues directly with irresponsible dog owners and expressly prohibits changes to access without clear structural change and or a significant change in risk profile …. even then there are measures to ensure balance by providing alternatives. It does not enable mass changes to access. It only encourages better education and enforcement - all the feedback from council reports, and the survey support that the current structure and rules work well and the only thing that might be useful is helping dog owners understand the existing rules better… this can be done with a few good signs and some good social media… NOT changing the vast majority of access rules

4. Underpinning all of these concerns is a consistent theme through all the documents provided that the findings are general at best, and dead wrong at worst. There is a significant lack of real evidence and at worst there are categorically incorrect interpretations of Council's only survey findings, where Council has interpreted support for change where the findings present the opposite. I will show examples below.

Proposed changes - general concerns

The proposed changes are absolutely not a simple restructure and clarification of information. The proposed wording changes are wholesale changes to the objectives and principles, and therefore intention of the Policy.

I am outraged by the extent to which the proposed changes go directly against the current objectives of the Dog Policy 2019, specifically:
"*To keep dogs as a positive part of the life of Aucklanders by:*
-maintaining opportunities for owners to take their dogs into public places
-ensuring their welfare."

The proposed changes are also directly contradictory to the core principle of the policy to *"Recognise dog owners as legitimate users of public places and that dog access is essential for dog welfare" S1(a)*
The requirement (S6) is to consider all *"practicable alternatives"* AND that '*displaced dog owners and their dogs have access to other places as part of the same decision".*

Based on the documents provided there was no clear and validatable evidence on why these changes should be adopted.
The findings of the reports have been written in a way that seems to favour a predetermined outcome to reduce dog access in public places significantly.

I STRONGLY disagree with these proposed changes on this basis.
I support Option 1 to maintain the current Policy and rules.

1. **"Update and Clarify"**

Council has introduced these changes as merely 'updating and clarifying' some rules, but what they are actually proposing are huge changes with massive new restrictions on dog walking and in particular off-leash exercise.
In most cases, the evidence provided is both weak and does not meet the threshold criteria for proposing changes, but has been worded in such a way that Council believes it has the right to propose these changes.

2. **Concern over core objective and principle changes**

The current (2019) Policy and bylaw states one of the key objectives of the policy is to: ***"maintain opportunities for owners to take their dogs to public places***".

All topics	2019 Policy and Bylaw review	2024 Policy and Bylaw review
Overall Objective	To address problems by: 1. Ensuring legislative requirements are being met under the Dog Control Act 1996 [and] Local Government Act 2002 2. Maintain opportunities for owners to take their dogs into public places 3. Minimising the harm caused by dogs. [To] increase the voluntary compliance with dog management and dog access rules.	**To minimise** the risk of danger and distress to people, stock, poultry, domestic animals and protected wildlife, nuisance to people, damage to property and environment and not meeting the needs of dogs and their owners … … **from** irresponsible dog ownership and the inherent conflict between users of shared spaces in Auckland.
1. Approach to dog management in Auckland	Not specified	… **from** irresponsible dog ownership.
2. Approach to managing dog access rules in shared spaces	Not specified	**from** the inherent conflict between users of shared spaces in Auckland.
3. Region-wide dog access rules	Not specified	
4. Regional Park dog access rules	Not specified	… **from** the inherent conflict between users of regional parks and associated beaches in Auckland.

The proposal is to change this wording to a bunch of very negative words about dogs that default to assuming that dogs are a *"danger and distress… a nuisance… cause damage*" and that there is an expected or *"inherent conflict between dog owners*" and the rest of society!

3. **My understanding of how the Policy is supposed to work:**

In principle I would absolutely support a genuine clarification of current rules to be clearer and easy to understand as this would be in line with the existing policy objective to "Educate and inform (responsible) dog owners how to take care of their dogs." (policy objective 2).

However, what Council is proposing are huge changes to the policy, and to dog access across Auckland.

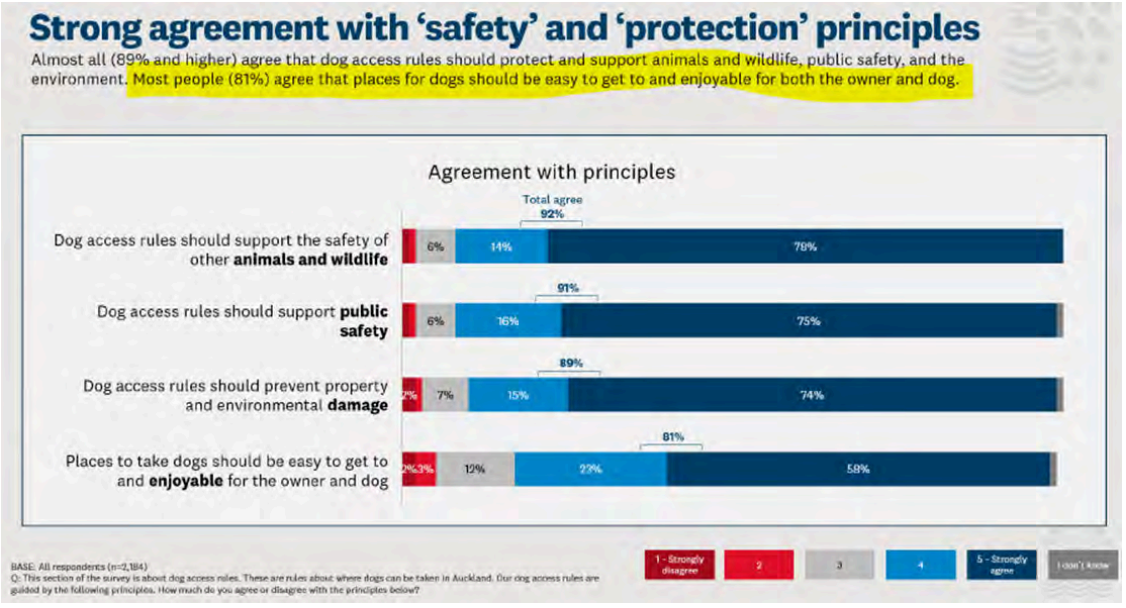
The way the policy is written and should work is that the Council and Dog Management are supposed to manage the low-impact issues from irresponsible dog owners through better education and direct intervention, not massive changes to access.

The policy is NOT designed to enable mass changes to dog access without significant reason and due consideration to alternatives and/ or providing other places – none of which are present in the proposal.
I believe that the proposed measures will only bring in the need for more enforcement of rules that are unfair to responsible dog owners and therefore counterproductive in achieving better support for managing irresponsible dog owners.

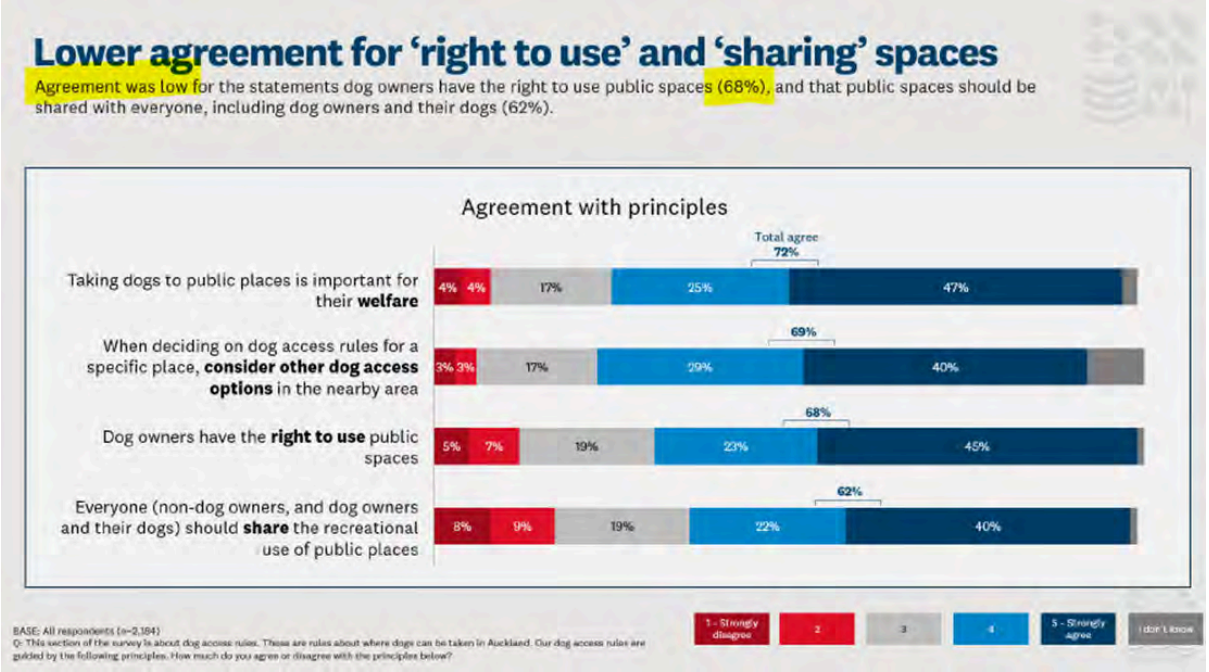
4. **Lack of evidence of significant risk or structural change in 'findings'**

The policy requires there to be a 'structural change' or a 'significant risk' before any change should be considered and the evidence that has been provided is low impact and tenuous at best.
Much of what has been suggested as 'findings' are merely statements of what is happening already and in many cases the completely wrong interpretation of Council's own survey.

For example:
Council interpreted survey results on support for the 'right to access' as being LOW: *"agreement was low for the statements dog owners have the right to use public places"* - there was in fact extremely HIGH majority support for dog access with 81% agreeing 'places for dogs should be easy to access and enjoyable'



A very high 68% majority (that Council findings said was ‘low’) believe "dog owners should have the right to use public places". Only 12% actually disagreed with that statement.
This was despite only 42% of respondents being dog owners!



Most of what has been cited as ‘structural change’ and ‘significant risk’ are minor non-structural changes, if any, and low-impact issues (by Councils' own findings).

In the case of Madills - as a proxy to all other findings:
The ‘Structural’ changes were merely a statement that there is sport at the park - this is not a change, and certainly not structural. Sport has been played at Madills for years (decades?) - that has not changed, so why is it even mentioned as a ‘structural change’?? It’s just padding findings.

The stated ‘significant risk increase’ simply doesn’t exist:
-27 rolled ankles - were club first aid records, not official and certainly NO causational link to dogs recorded.
-near misses with mowers were from anecdotal conversations with a subcontractor and had no official evidence at all (regardless ‘near misses’ by definition would be low impact)
-no cost modelling for cost increases provided, and certainly no modelling provided that showed the expected reduction in cost if the changes were to proceed.

These are all tenuous links to minor non-issues… they simply could not stand up to scrutiny against a threshold for ‘Significant’ and ‘Structural’.
Yet… even if all of these things were evidenced to be true, and directly attributable to being the fault of dogs - are we really willing to trade off a handful of rolled ankles (while playing sport) for the daily physical and mental health of the thousands of people and dogs that walk at this park, during the vast majority of the time that sport is not being played??

This same sentiment can be extrapolated to almost all of the proposed changes.

Monte Cecelia is a great example where the park is almost exclusively only used for dog walking - there is absolutely no good reason why this should change and all that will happen is a small fraction of the number of people will go and exercise there.

Summing up

This whole process has not been approached in good faith or inline with the existing Dog Policy 2019. Research, findings and documents have been vastly misrepresented.

Responsible dog owners would be fully supportive of simple changes that do genuinely clarify what is currently happening - for example better signage at dog parks and better education and even enforcement of the existing policy and laws... but these proposed changes ARE NOT that.
The changes are significant and would have a significant negative impact on dogs and their owners > therefore they do not meet the objectives of the dog policy 2019 > and therefore none of these changes should be adopted.

Question time?

What is underpinning these proposed changes?? They just don't stack up, there must be other real reasons, so let's talk about them and find solutions that would work, together!

If there are mass submissions against it, are Council bound to listen and act according to what the ratepayers have fed back? Surely there should be a ‘percentage-against’ ratio that would make this decision unequivocal?



#6787

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6788

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6790

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

All dogs should be able to walk freely in both parks off leash. the owners who are walking them are sensible, responsible and kind enough to take the time out of their own days to walk their dogs there. Meaning those dogs who are in the park would be well trained and friendly. It is important that these dogs are able to run and get there energy out properly so the limited zone of which the proposed change is considering is not suitable. It is also very important that these dogs should be able to socialize with other dogs and other people off leash in a big area as some might not feel comfortable on the leash all the time and may grow to being aggressive if they don't socialize in the parks regularly. The dogs are doing no harm to any people or the fields by playing and exercising freely. There for dogs should be able to access and run of leash at all areas when sport is not in play. I understand that madills was supposed to be left for all to enjoy particully dogs. Do not take this away from them!

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6791

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I do not have a dog and I never have. But I would like to have one and I would like to live in this area as its great for kids and families. But the houses have little to no land for dogs. The only concessions is Madills (the park i take my daughter to). Its great knowing that the park is there for everyone to enjoy (dogs too). Its great seeing them able to run off leash. This is not really possible if dogs are only able to be off leash on the path. I've seen teens play catch with their dog on the field and assume playing catch would be quite dangerous if played on the path next to the road.

Its just sad that the council doesn't keep the safety of dog walkers in mind too. From what I hear it seems as if the council has already made up its mind which is a pitty as it takes away even more trust we have in the council. Please prove me wrong and actually listen to the majority of the community.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6794

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs should be allowed free access off leash on all grounds in these area except when sport is in play. Dogs and owners should have access like every one else. We pay the same rates.

There are numerous benefits to keeping Madills and Glover how it currently is. Many people and dogs enjoy and benefit from social interaction.

It is good to encourage friendly dog behavior and good for mental well-being of people. Especially those who don't have the means to own a dog they too benefit. Often dogs on lead can become more protective of their owners not running free can contribute to poor socialization in other dogs and people alike. I understand that

Legally Madills was left for all to enjoy, particularly dogs. I find the new by laws to be discrimative to those who have dogs.

The holes dogs are supposed to be causing is from poles and boots during soccer training.

Cramping dogs in the small areas suggested in the new by laws is going to cause overcrowding and potentially unwanted behaviors.

It is going to discourage younger children access to meeting dogs and learning about them. Also sending the wrong message to our younger generation.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?St heliers**What local board area is this location in?**Ōrākei**In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?Tell us why**Change the current rule to allow dogs under control off a leash**Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?**Entire location**What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?Please explain your issue in**

more detail: To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:**Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence**Dogs should be allowed on all beaches under control at any time

Eastern and Central

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6795

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I don't mind if the sports fields are progibit however dogs should be allowed off leash in the vicinity under control. we should be allowed to walk with our dogs around the path with our dogs under control. it's possible to stay off the sports field and use the surrounding areas. it's unreasonable to have most of the park restricted just because the sports field has to be protected.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6798

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills is a city recreational asset that is used by a number of dog owners every day of the year.

Why should access to this public facility be denied to the long term daily users at the whim of the Eastern Bays Football Club who use the facility only about half the year and on only a fraction of the available days in any one year?

Local dog owners pay rates too, and are also additionally taxed (registration fees) for the privilege of having a dog in Auckland City.

How much targeted tax do soccer players have to pay to use the Rate payer funded playing fields which they seem to feel should be access denied to dog owners?

Dog owners are attacked with the spurious claims that dogs are digging up and damaging the playing surfaces necessitating expensive repairs and maintenance. If this is some justification for denying them access to the fields, consideration must also be given to the playing field surface damage caused around the goal mouths and cricket wickets caused by players exercising their rights to access the playing fields. The same logic would have all soccer and cricket players similarly banned.

Every year Auckland City uses significant ratepayers funds to repair and maintain the Madills facility due to wear and tear from public use as can reasonably be expected from any popular venue.

To proclaim that ratepayers should be obliged to subsidise the whims and damage caused by soccer players at Madills, and yet be banned from exercising their dogs at the same park, particularly after many years of precedent, would suggest a seriously prejudiced viewpoint and arrogance from local decision makers, influenced by the persistent strident claims from the local soccer club.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Yes but not enough time

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6803

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am elderly I enjoy seeing dogs enjoy the parks how they are now.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

When my daughter and Grand daughter go for a swim at the beach it's lovely that I see our dog enjoy it too and be allowed to do this any time summer or winter

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6805

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Puketāpapa

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
There should be more parks which allow dogs off-leash.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6809

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Letting dogs have a run around is just as important as people having that space too. It’s called sharing!!!

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6811

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

1. It is not legal as I understand that this land was left to ALL RESIDENTS EQUALLY, not just sports players.

2. This park forms a vital link for elderly and families to meet socially with their dogs in the centre of the park where they feel safe and in the summer when the beach is off limits to dogs. It is a critical part of the community.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6814

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

No need for change, this is not a sports field it is a mixed use space.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I enjoy all areas of Orakei and I see no issues with any dogs here. People here seem very responsible and you council should stop spending money on areas that are working. The sports teams are the ones doing turf damage and injury , not dogs.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6816

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I purchased my property [redacted] because it is an off leash dog park and shared community space. Revoking the use for dog walkers will reduce the amenity value of mine, and other properties who surround the park.

I do not believe the damage to the sports fields which have been recorded as due to dog digging holes is an accurate picture. I have lived [redacted] Madill's Farm for over 8 years, I walk through there on a daily basis and I have not seen dogs digging holes in the middle of the sports fields. I have however seen damage caused from sport club usage, such as digging for cricket stumps (by clubs and the general public) football goal posts, for utilities to be laid, and mostly by the large amount of users during times the space is used - foot traffic, vans being driven onto the pitches and the use of temporary seating stands. I do believe that there may have been a number of injuries (rolled ancles) occurring on the pitches, however the recording of all of these as due to being caused by holes dug by dogs are unsubstantiated claims.

I over eight years of looking out on to Madill's Farm and using it on a daily basis I have not seen an increase in dog usage which would support the figures which suggest an increase in the cost of maintenance due to dogs. I have however seen in increase in sports usage, which is supported by the figures supplied by the football club, which as above have caused damage to the recreational space. I suggest the football club, an other sports clubs being allowed to hold events in the area contribute to the upkeep of the recreational space to allow everyone fair and shared access to the space. This would include repairing damage caused to the shared public space by their usage, and cleaning up afterwards, for example all the litter which is left (empty coffee cups, food wrappers).

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I believe the council has a responsibility to provide sufficient off leash dog usage areas. It is important that dogs have access to areas where they can run and learn to socialise with others. By reducing the number of areas in which this can occur, the areas left will become overrun, and the number of dog behavioral issues will rise. Therefore when considering dog access in specific areas, a wider view should be taken.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6817

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm is a publicly funded facility and it should not be reserved only for the benefit of the football club. I say this as a paying member of Eastern Suburbs Football Club (and note that the club has NEVER consulted its members on the proposed bylaw changes). Madills Farm is currently a family friendly, open space where dogs, their owners, families, and sports fields users can co-exist without issue. Why change that and exclude one of the most prominent groups of users?

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6818

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Being able to exercise dogs off leash at Madills Farm is incredibly valuable to the local community. Many older and less mobile people, as well as people who do not have any exercise space in their own properties, take their dogs there to run around and chase balls. In three years of living on Allum St I have never seen a dog out of control in Madills - the dog owners who frequent the park are responsible and the dogs are well trained. Preventing dogs from being allowed on the sports fields at all, and requiring them to be on leash at all times, would severely curtail the exercise opportunities for dogs in the area as well as making the pathway around the park much busier - currently many children on bikes and walkers/runners also use this path. Dogs and their humans love Madills, please don’t change its use in this way.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

South Piha - I believe dogs should be allowed there during March-October if on leash

What local board area is this location in?

Waitākere Ranges

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control on a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to opportunities for greater dog access without impacting other users (e.g. an area to take a dog under control off a leash). Please specify:During winter I believe allowing dogs onto the beach if under control on leash would not impact other people or wildlife adversely

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

As above

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

No

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6819

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

As a responsible dog owner, ratepayer and a member of the Eastern Bays community, I believe that allowing dogs to exercise off-leash at Madills is vital not only for their well-being but also for the social fabric of our neighbourhood. Below are the key points that highlight why this is crucial:

1. Adequate Exercise for Dogs

Dogs, like all animals, need regular exercise to stay healthy and happy. For many dogs, especially active or high-energy breeds, being on a leash limits their ability to run freely and engage in the physical activity they need. Off-leash areas in parks provide dogs with the space to move at their own pace, run freely, and burn off energy in a safe and controlled environment. This is particularly important for urban areas where space for exercise can be limited.

2. Encouraging Socialisation for Dogs

Off-leash parks offer a unique opportunity for dogs to socialize with one another. This is important for their behavioral development and emotional health. Interacting with other dogs in a safe environment allows dogs to learn positive social behaviors, such as sharing space, playing appropriately, and responding to other animals. These interactions are key to creating well-adjusted, confident dogs.

3. Fostering Community Connections for Owners

Dog ownership often provides a unique opportunity for social interaction among neighbours.

4. Mental and Emotional Well-Being for Dogs and Owners - Off-leash time in parks is beneficial not only for dogs but for their owners as well. Owners are able to observe their dogs engaging in natural behaviors, which is a rewarding and fulfilling experience. Moreover, these moments of connection with our pets help to reduce stress, promote physical activity, and improve overall mental health for both the dogs and their owners. Public parks with designated off-leash areas support the well-being of the entire community.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6821

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

There needs to be a balance between all activities using this park - I agree with no dogs in the play ground, however if the fields are not being used then dogs and owners should be free to use this as an off-leash area. Due to the low traffic flow Madills is one of the safer areas for dogs off-leash.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

St Heliers

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

Other - please specify:To allow greater access for dogs and owners.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

The rules are currently poorly adhered to and there seems to be minimal issues.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I found this feedback survey very limiting. I suggest reviewing the mechanisms for consultation and feedback to ensure participants have a wide range of response options.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6822

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Albert-Eden

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

If the sports fields arent in use then I don’t see why they can be used by a dog under supervision noting good owners will pick up after their dog and bad owners won’t care about the rules anyway.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6825

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Whau

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6827

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

The supposed reason for this amended rule is illogical. In my experience, dogs rarely dig up sports grounds.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Existing off-leash dog access rules strike the right balance.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6830

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dog faeces is significant issue and in our local area (Eastern Bays/Suburbs) dog faeces is to be found every time we are out walking,. It is unacceptable to have dog faeces on sports playing surfaces and playgrounds. There are children who afraid of dogs and as very common that owners fail to keep their control or fail to prevent distress to others (either due to inattentiveness or indifference), I see that keeping dogs out of some of these spaces as a necessity.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Crossfield reserve

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to a time and season rule / Change the current time and season rule (please specify)

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To reduce owner-related problems (e.g. owner ignoring rules, dogs not under control, dog faeces not picked up, etc). Please specify:It is rare that I have gone to Crossfield Reserve

and not found the dog rules being breached. Typically dogs off leash on the sports ground, dogs on the playground and dog faeces not cleaned up.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

In addition to what has been noted above, in May 2022, a cat was mauled to death by off leash dogs at Crossfield Reserve. Two children had to assist in removing the cat for the dogs jaws. The dog owner fled. This is not a isolated incident and there are f

Location 2

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Glendowie Park

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

I don’t know

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To reduce owner-related problems (e.g. owner ignoring rules, dogs not under control, dog faeces not picked up, etc). Please specify:The main issue at this park is off leash dogs not being kept under control and and faeces not being picked up

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

The failure to keep dogs under control here is significant. I have repeatedly seen and experienced with our own child, owners letting their dogs rush up to children who are then clearly terrified and the dog owner either can't control their dog or in some

Location 3

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

.

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

I don’t know

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To reduce owner-related problems (e.g. owner ignoring rules, dogs not under control, dog faeces not picked up, etc). Please specify:.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

In general, there needs to be better enforcement regarding dogs.

Also has the council investigated the use of DNA to track dog faeces and fine owners?

I have seen various

"those in charge of a city in Italy are so disgusted by the dog mess in their streets, that they've come up with an unusual solution. Owners have been ordered to have their pets DNA tested" . My understanding is that the fines are used to pay the costs involved.

See:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/68018142

https://www.pooprints.com/how-it-works/

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6831

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

There is no harm by allowing dogs off leash on the sports area when it is not in use or closed. To close this space to dogs seems to be unjustifiable other than a 'land-grab' of public land by the well resourced Eastern Suburbs football club. Perhaps they can purchase their own sports fields if they wish to prevent access to the public.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Auckland is severely restricted in the number of fenced in dog exercise areas available. Before access to the existing areas is reduced, a reasonable number of properly fenced dog exercise areas should be made available - for example at Madill's farm a proper fenced in area could be provided, same with Waiatarua reserve. This model works well in other large cities including Buenos Aires and would demonstrate that the council actually wants to address this issue properly.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6833

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

There is enough space for off leash dog activity outside the sports field areas, in my opinion. Having specific areas of the park for dogs off leash (such as the area between the parking lot and the sports field or the entire corner near Southern Cross Rd at Madills) also makes it more enjoyable for the people who want to walk through the park without having dogs run up to them. It also seems like less chance of owners 'inadvertently' not seeing their dog poop, if there are specific areas where dogs can be off leash.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I am not sure what the rules are at Kohi beach actually. I'm a dog lover and enjoy seeing them around but I really don't like it when owners lose sight of their dogs, their dog poops and they leave it for someone else to find, especially near or on the beach.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6835

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

All dogs should be leashed in public areas especially around playing fields and playgrounds

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Michael park

What local board area is this location in?

Ōrākei

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Change the current rule to allow dogs under control on a leash

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

To respond to changes at location (e.g. a new playground, sports field, more people). Please specify:All dogs should be leashed in this public area

There is a playground, sports field and artificial turf playing ground

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Dogs are currently running off leash on playing fields, artificial turf and near the playground.

Owners are leaving dog faeces on these areas

Dogs are jumping on walkers and children

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

All dogs should be leashed at local parks and beaches at all times
There should be clear signage, regular policing and enforcement
If dogs were to be off leash, it should be an area that is enclosed and well fenced

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6836

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

When the sports fields are not in use which is most of the time my dogs love to run. I think Madills is a special place and a rare safe place to walk our dogs without leash

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6843

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm Recreation Reserve plays a vital role in the well-being of dogs and their owners within our community, particularly for vulnerable animals like rescue dogs. My dog, Bella, who is blind and experienced severe trauma before being rescued, has made significant progress in her emotional and social development thanks to the safe off-leash area at Madills Farm.

This space allows dogs like Bella to:

- Socialize with other dogs, improving their behavior and reducing anxiety.

- Experience physical activity, contributing to the overall health of the dogs and their owners.

- Build trust and confidence in a safe and open environment.

The ability for dogs to socialize in a controlled environment fosters responsible pet ownership and contributes to a harmonious community. Removing or restricting this off-leash area would significantly impact the well-being of the community.

I do not support the changes proposed by the council. I request the council maintain and protect the designated dog off-leash area at Madills Farm Recreation Reserve, as it is an essential space for us, members of the community. I agree that the council should consider implementing clear boundaries and regular maintenance to ensure the area remains safe and enjoyable for all users, especially focusing on owners picking up after their dogs. I truly believe that this space is essential for fostering a healthy and inclusive community for both residents and their canine companions.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?
Not at this time

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6844

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

There is strong community support to maintain the status quo whereby the parks operate as a resource shared between multiple groups of users. Indeed, the parks in question are reserves, not solely dedicated sports fields. And while there is ample evidence of intense sports usage causing damage to playing fields there is no credible evidence that dog walking (on or off leash) negatively affects these areas, nor does current dog access hinder the Council's sports participation strategy.

The proposed changes reducing dog access to Madills Farm and Glover Park run counter to the current objectives of Auckland Council’s own dog policy. While it may be convenient for Council to want to normalise region wide regulations, this is not sufficient justification to deprive many hundreds of residents of a vital and cherished community resource. Many older residents rely on access to these parks to exercise themselves and their canine companions in a safe, close by environment, and the parks effectively function as social hubs contributing to improved physical and mental health outcomes.

The proposed changes should be rejected in their entirety, and the status quo maintained.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6847

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6849

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

It is absolutely ridiculous that anyone thinks that dogs should never be allowed to use the sports fields, even when they are NOT IN USE! There is no legitimate reason for this. I have never once seen dogs digging up the field in the 13 years I have been walking my dogs there. If the concern is the playes might accidentally step or fall into dog poo then it's just silly at this point. I would say that bare minimum 95% of dog owners are picking up their dogs poo within a minute of it happening. I would go even further to say that the only occasions when dog poo is left on a field is when the owners don't see the dog do it!! The soccer club already tries to fence off the number one field for the entirety of the season anyway. It's a far better use of the councils time and money to supply the users of the sports fields with biodegradable bags so that they can PICK UP ANY DOG POO THEY SEE THEMSELVES. By prohibiting the dogs from ever exercising on the sports fields you are cutting their area of use in half effectively, and shunning them to the far reaches of the park without easy accessable parking, and putting the dogs at risk of being hit when being let out of a car when parking on the road. If this foolish proposed change does go through, the sports players should be banned from using any other area of the park because they might ACCIDENTALLY STAND IN DOG POO!

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

Put some time into doing something that will actually improve the area of auckland. It is a waste of time to further regulate dogs areas of exercise. The number of off-leash areas should be increased rather than reduced, as there are far too few areas for dog owners to walk their dogs in the first place.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6851

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Most dog owners are respectful of these parks. These parks are for the enjoyment for ALL the community and not just the sports community. Well exercised dogs are generally content, happy and well behaved. We need to be able to throw a ball and lets them have some vigorous exercise in open, safe spaces away from roads and with easy access for all(elderly, young , etc)

Safety is an issue. It is important to have access to open, well lit-spaces (not surrounded by trees eg Waiatarua park on abbotts way) so that all (women, young and old) can feel safe.

There are so many restrictions already on where dogs can and cant go. The majority of dog owners in this area are responsible, pick up their dog poo and are mindful of children. Its so important to keep these spaces as ‘shared’

Animals are important. They provide companionship, fun, and love. Most are beautiful additions to society who also deserve open spaces to enjoy.

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

I find the ‘no dogs’ on beaches rule rigid. I do agree that most of the time (between certain hours) they should be on leash. But why ban them altogether?. Shouldn’t on leash be sufficient?

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6852

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes restricting dog access at Madills Farm and Glover Park . As a regular visitor and advocate for responsible pet ownership over 25 years, I believe these changes will negatively impact the community and contradict the original intent of the reserve.

Background

Madills Farm, located in Kohimarama, Auckland, has long been a cherished community space. The reserve features sports fields, playgrounds, and open areas that are integral to the local lifestyle. Currently, dogs are permitted in designated areas, fostering a harmonious environment for both pet owners and non-pet owners.

Proposed Changes

The proposed changes aim to prohibit dogs from the sports fields at all times. This includes areas where dogs have traditionally been allowed, potentially leading to increased congestion in other parts of the reserve. Such restrictions could diminish the quality of life for many residents who rely on these spaces for recreation and socialization.

Concerns

1. Community Impact: Madills Farm and Glover Park serves as a vital recreational area for families, individuals, and pet owners. Restricting dog access could lead to overcrowding in other areas, reducing the overall enjoyment of the reserve.

2. Health and Well-being: Regular exercise and social interaction are essential for both pets and their owners. Limiting access to suitable areas could negatively affect the health and well-being of dogs and their owners.

3. Original Deed Conditions: The deed of gift documentation for Madills Farm, as per the Official Information request, outlines conditions for the reserveâ€™s use. While the specific conditions are not detailed in the available documents, any changes to the reserveâ€™s usage should align with the original intent and conditions set forth in the deed. It is imperative to review these conditions to ensure that any proposed changes do not violate the original terms of the gift.

4. Counter-Argument to the Claim of Dog Damage:

The local board has suggested that dogs are damaging the fields, but this assertion must be balanced against the reality of the wear and tear caused by other activities, particularly sports like football.

â€¢ Field Usage and Damage from Football: Football games, along with other field sports, create significant damage to sports fields over time. Data from various sports management organizations, including Aucklandâ€™s own parks and recreation departments, has shown that the intensity of use from organised sports leagues often leads to field degradation. The combination of cleats, sharp turns, sliding tackles, and heavy foot traffic during games causes significant compaction and wear, which can leave fields with bare patches, uneven surfaces, and soil erosion.

â€¢ Comparison to Dog Usage: In contrast, dogs using the fields for walking or playing typically cause less compaction and no lasting damage compared to the kind of intense wear created by team sports. Dogs usually use the fields in a more varied manner (e.g., walking, running, fetching), which doesnâ€™t focus heavy pressure on one spot, unlike playersâ€™ concentrated use during matches.

â€¢ Recommendation for Collaborative Field Care Investing in the field management, including aerating and reseeding the fields, can ensure they remain in good condition for both sports use and recreational activities.

Recommendations

â€¢ Maintain Current Dog Access: Retain the existing dog access rules to preserve the balance between pet owners and others.

Conclusion

Restricting dog access at Madills Farm and Glover Park would adversely affect the community and contradict the reserveâ€™s original purpose. I urge Auckland Council to reconsider these proposed changes and prioritize the well-being of all community members, while also ensuring fair access for both sports and recreational activities. We should consider balanced solutions that support both the care of the fields and the needs of the community.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6859

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

Other (please explain below)

Tell us why

I was going to speak against the freedoms for dogs. So perhaps mine could be submitted in writing please?

I grew up in the regions and even in a small town - Ohope Beach/ Whakatane we didn't have a dog. My dad would say "dogs belong on farms". It seems that there are far too many these days who believe that dogs have as many rights as people. They don't need to be trained to come to heel and can toilet anywhere.

If there's long grass at Madills, you walk through at your peril!

It's really not suitable with the number of dogs in our local board area for Madills to still be an off leash area. A lot of time folks who let their dogs off have no idea where they've left their droppings. Small children will be rushed up to by out of control dogs. The extendable leads also create a hazard for kids on bikes.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6864

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

All the local dogs of Madills Farm are all great friends & are well behaved off-leash dogs. They love to socialise together. Whenever sports or training is on the field all dogs owners are very respectful. Madills space is a lovely well known dog park.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6869

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Good afternoon

I have been a resident of the Kohimarama / St Heliers area most of my life.

I have owned dogs all my life.

I walk my little dog most days at Madills Farm and have never had a problem.

I collect up if needed and I believe as a much older Aucklander, walking with my dog at Madills is a daily delight.

Madills Farm belongs to all of us. It isn’t just for sport, which doesn’t take place all day anyway, except for a few exceptions.

If there is spot being played, then of course we all walk on the pathway around the edge.

As a rate payer of Kohimarama, I say, the park belongs to us all, it is not just a soccer and cricket park. Dogs are part of our lives, and we wish to remain walking them there.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6877

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

FYI

We have lived In Eastern Suburbs since 1962 We have walked our dogs nearly every day and then later together with our children. I met an ancestor of the family that gifted the park. IT WAS GIFTED TO THE PEOPLE includes OUR FURRY FAMILY MEMBERS IN GOOD FAITH!

We hear the council purchased this land for a pittance! This should not allow people on council, who never enjoy or understand the pleasure of watching animals amd people socialise, having a ‘safe‘ off lead play exercise, to change the use!This is premium mental and pysical good health.

Lsst Sunday the beach was hosting a sailing comp, full tide and families, w their dogs wow so crowded! What will it be like w no Madills’?

To date we have not observed visitors abuse the park, the sports teams mark their ground n peole respect this and utilise other areas of the field.

You ‘must ‘ understand the pleasure dog owners enjoy watching their dogs exercise in a safe environment.

Why did council stop providing pooh bags??? What about a dispenser w a charge if our rates do not cover this convenience?

How many dogs are owned in a five kilometre radius of the park paying dog rates?

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6878

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

There are so many dog walkers at Madills that are responsible - the majority of us so I don't think its fair we should be penalized. Its great interaction for dogs as well as adults, especially when living alone as I am

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6879

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Madills Farm & Glover Park

I am a ratepayer, resident of the Ōrākei Local Board area, dog owner, CEO, and frequent user of both Madills Farm and Glover Park. I do not support the proposed changes to dog access in these parks for the following reasons.

The history of Madills Farm is unclear—it was either gifted to the public or developed by Auckland Council for recreational purposes. Regardless, both Madills Farm and Glover Park were intended for the enjoyment of all people for recreation.

Dogs require exercise and socialisation as pack animals. Without regular social interaction, they are more likely to develop behavioural issues. Off-leash exercise is essential for their well-being. The vast majority of dog owners in these parks are responsible, not only managing their dogs but also often picking up rubbish left behind by sports teams—many of whom may not even be local.

The parks' demographics also matter. Many users are older adults who benefit from the flat, well-lit, and safe environment. Restricting off-leash access at Madills Farm and Glover Park would push dog owners toward Churchill Park, which is unsuitable for many. Churchill Park's steep terrain, gravel surfaces, lack of lighting, and presence of cattle make it an unsafe alternative, particularly for the elderly and for dogs untrained around livestock.

The board has proposed a blanket restriction that is neither practical nor justified. Sports fields are not in use 24/7, and when they are, dog owners already respect these spaces. The current system works well. At the recent St. Chad's presentation, many attendees referenced a past local board investigation that found no evidence of harm caused by off-leash dogs.

Furthermore, the council’s own website states that dog access should be restricted where there is a demonstrated risk to people, livestock, poultry, domestic animals, protected wildlife, natural habitats, or property. The onus is on the local board to provide evidence of such risk, yet no credible evidence has been presented.

In summary, the proposed changes are unnecessary and would negatively impact responsible dog owners and the wider community. I urge the board to reconsider.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6914

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Introduction

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes restricting dog access at Madills Farm. As a regular visitor and advocate for responsible pet ownership, I believe these changes will negatively impact the community and contradict the original intent of the reserve.

Background

Madills Farm, located in Kohimarama, Auckland, has long been a cherished community space. The reserve features sports fields, playgrounds, and open areas that are integral to the local lifestyle. Currently, dogs are permitted in designated areas, fostering a harmonious environment for both pet owners and non-pet owners.

Proposed Changes

The proposed changes aim to prohibit dogs from the sports fields at all times. This includes areas where dogs have traditionally been allowed, potentially leading to increased congestion in other parts of the reserve. Such restrictions could diminish the quality of life for many residents who rely on these spaces for recreation and socialization.

Concerns

1. Community Impact: Madills Farm serves as a vital recreational area for families, individuals, and pet owners. Restricting dog access could lead to overcrowding in other areas, reducing the overall enjoyment of the reserve.

2. Health and Well-being: Regular exercise and social interaction are essential for both pets and their owners. Limiting access to suitable areas could negatively affect the health and well-being of dogs and their owners.

3. Original Deed Conditions: The deed of gift documentation for Madills Farm, as per the Official Information request, outlines conditions for the reserve's use. While the specific conditions are not detailed in the available documents, any changes to the reserve's usage should align with the original intent and conditions set forth in the deed. It is imperative to review these conditions to ensure that any proposed changes do not violate the original terms of the gift.

4. Counter-Argument to the Claim of Dog Damage:

The local board has suggested that dogs are damaging the fields, but this assertion must be balanced against the reality of the wear and tear caused by other activities, particularly sports like football.

• Field Usage and Damage from Football: Football games, along with other field sports, create significant damage to sports fields over time. Data from various sports management organizations, including Auckland's own parks and recreation departments, has shown that the intensity of use from organised sports leagues often leads to field degradation. The combination of cleats, sharp turns, sliding tackles, and heavy foot traffic during games causes significant compaction and wear, which can leave fields with bare patches, uneven surfaces, and soil erosion.

• Comparison to Dog Usage: In contrast, dogs using the fields for walking or playing typically cause less compaction and no lasting damage compared to the kind of intense wear created by team sports. Dogs usually use the fields in a more varied manner (e.g., walking, running, fetching), which doesn't focus heavy pressure on one spot, unlike players' concentrated use during matches.

• Recommendation for Collaborative Field Care: Rather than restricting dogs entirely, a better solution may be to implement more focused maintenance strategies, such as designated times for dogs on certain fields or the creation of specific dog-friendly areas. Also, investing in the field management, including aerating and reseeding the fields, can ensure they remain in good condition for both sports use and recreational activities.

Recommendations

• Maintain Current Dog Access: Retain the existing dog access rules to preserve the balance between pet owners and other park users.

• Implement Designated Dog Areas: If concerns about specific areas arise, consider establishing designated dog-friendly zones rather than blanket restrictions.

• Community Consultation: Engage in a comprehensive consultation process with the community, including pet owners, to gather diverse perspectives before implementing any changes.

Conclusion

Restricting dog access at Madills Farm would adversely affect the community and contradict the reserve's original purpose. I urge Auckland Council to reconsider these proposed changes and prioritize the well-being of all community members, while also ensuring fair access for both sports and recreational activities. We should consider balanced solutions that support both the care of the fields and the needs of the community.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6922

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Please don't take the walking for dogs away. I love Madills Farm so much and I especially love seeing all the dogs run and play together. I go to the dog park a lot and I love everything about it, and it'll be very sad if the dog park restricts dogs to being on the lead. I've met lots of friends, especially dog friends, and it won't be the same if all the dogs are on the lead.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6928

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I walk my mother's dog after in Madills and have done for many tears with out dogs.

it is a safe environment - away from traffic and essential and feel for dogs well being to be allowed to run free off leash as long as they are supervised

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6939

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

See attached

Summary of Attachment

Informal Survey was Conducted on February 12, 2025, with 86 participants.

Overwhelming Support: 94% (81 out of 86) of respondents support the status quo of off-leash areas.

Safety and Enjoyment: Many respondents find Madills Park a safe and enjoyable place for walking dogs.

Concerns and Comments

Dog Feces: Some respondents mentioned the need for better enforcement and provision of plastic bags for dog waste.

Football Club’s Position: Several respondents felt the football club’s concerns about injuries and field damage were exaggerated.

Health and Safety: They disputed the football club’s claims about injury risks from dog holes, citing his extensive experience in medical and rescue services.

Additional Points

Well-Behaved Dogs: No respondents reported issues with aggressive dogs, dog fights, or dog attacks.

Community Resource: Emphasis on the importance of shared spaces for both dog owners and other park users.

Ōrākei Have Your Say Event Notes (contains confidential information to be redacted if released under Local Government and Official Informational Act) **#6939**

12pm Thursday 13th February 2025

Time	Participant name	Individual or organisation	Notes
3.20pm - 3.35pm	[redacted]	Individual	• I am a cat owner – I have been in the area for 55 years, involved in lots of urban planning, so with lots of experience • Conducted a field survey at Madills - I surveyed people 2-6.30pm yesterday at the park with around 90 responses, but I haven't seen council or the football club doing that • Around 81 or 86 people want the status quo • There were 5 – 3 Asian females who wanted to restrict dogs, 2 were overly protective parents • Note that plastic poo bags are empty and council needs to provide poo bags and needs better enforcement (with fines like with parking) • Nobody mentioned commercial dogs • So the conclusion is – there is no problem and there shouldn't be any change.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6940

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

Other (please explain below)

Tell us why

This park needs to be fully on-leash, other than a specific off-leash in one of the sports-fields

when not in use.

I have been to this park with my children, thinking this would be a safe place for them to ride

their bikes. The children themselves sadly told me we had to leave due to the off-leash dogs.

We have not been back since.

Are there any dog access rules at other local parks and beaches in Auckland that you think council should change?

Your feedback on this section will inform any future review of dog access rules. A future review has not been scheduled at this time and no changes will be made on any location you identify in this section as part of this proposal.

Only provide feedback on one location at a time.

Space is provided for three locations. If you would like to provide feedback on more than three locations, please copy the following pages or include your comments in the other feedback section.

Location 1

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Kiwi Esplanade

What local board area is this location in?

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

Protection of children and other vulnerable people.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

The beach and grass reserve areas are extremely small, confluent with each other, and immediately adjacent to the playground. It is insensible to try and implement separate rules for on and off-leash for the beach and also prohibiting dogs from the playgr

Location 2

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

What local board area is this location in?

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

Child protection and enjoyment of the recreational space.

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

Location 3

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Grey Lynn Park

What local board area is this location in?

Waitematā

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

Tell us why

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Section

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Section

What is the main reason you want to change the current dog access rule?

Please explain your issue in more detail:

Child-protection

Please explain why you want to change the dog access rule at this location, and provide any additional information or evidence

•This park requires either development of a fenced off-leash area, or making the whole park on-leash.

•Dogs should be prohibited from the paths adjacent to the skatepark.We have taken our children to Grey Lynn Park a lot over the years, as it has an amazi

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

•All beaches in the Auckland region should have the majority of the beach on-leash (or prohibited) during the non-summer months.

•Only small sections at the 'far' end of the beach (rather than the 'whole beach') should be off-leash in 'not-summer' months.

•The only time of the day that any larger sections of the beach should be off-leash is before 9am.

The status quo for all of the hundreds of beaches in Auckland should be on-leash (or prohibited) all year round.

On-leash should be the status quo and standard, and off-leash sections of the beaches could be created from there, rather than the other way around which currently exists.

Auckland's temperate climate means that families with young children like to use the beach all year round, as much as people who walk dogs. Children like to have picnics (or fish n chips on the beach) with their families, play on the beach - running ahead or playing games/tag with their families on the sand, or running in the waves at the edge of the water. Older children also have a need for independent mobility in public spaces. [1,2]

As parents ourselves, every time we try to go to a beach with our children during the nine months of the year with off-leash rules, we have to guard our children from dogs running up to them (or jumping on/chasing them). Some people also bring very large and aggressive looking dogs. We end up having to hold our children's hands, stop them playing, and continually be on the lookout for dogs, to even be on the beach. The only places we can go, where we feel safe from dogs on a beach for the vast majority of the year are Tāwharanui or Pākiri Regional Parks. Times on most beaches where families with young children are basically excluded from using (or can only use with a significant risk to the children) are:

•Nine months of the year (1st March to 1st December)

•All summer evenings (some even after 2pm)

•All mornings before 10am

Expecting small children to 'stand like a tree' to protect themselves on a beach is completely inappropriate – instead, an evidence-based approach with adequate dog-access legislation should ensure the children are protected from dogs. [3,4]

I am unable to create a list of beaches and associated reserves where young families are unsafe from off-leash dogs, as there are too many. Beaches where we ourselves have experienced issues with off-leash dogs posing a danger to our own children due to inappropriate leash-legislation, are Ōmana beach, Māngere Bridge beach and Kiwi Esplanade walk, Sunkist Bay, Shelly Bay, Maraetai Beach, Bucklands Beach, Eastern Beach, Cornwallis beach, Wattle Bay, Waiake beach, Ambury-Waikaraka pathway, Campbells bay, Browns bay, Judges Bay, evenings at Cheltenham, St Heliers and Mission Bay, and also Takapuna beach (despite being on-leash the beach is so highly populated with people walking their dogs, it's impossible to take children there).

Other reserves we have had issues with are: Onehunga Reserve and Beachlands Domain, Grey Lynn Park, Swanson Park, Māngere Domain. But there are too many for me to list here.

Description:

Dog bites and dog related claims registered with ACC between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2022 including breakdowns for registration financial year, ethnicity, age group, Read code, injury diagnosis, injury site, contact type, external agency, accident (injury) location (TA), residential location (TA), Domicile (residential), dogbiteA, dogbiteB, dog related injury, flag for accident location = Auckland City (TA), Provider Board area, Provider Domicile, Provider mesh block. (TA) = territorial area. The data are presented in order of registration year (primary) and accident location (secondary).

Notes:

- In September 2018 ACC went live with 'Claims Front End Establishment (CFEE)'. This was done as part of an effort to streamline claims registration and cover decision processes and introduced an automatic process to find keywords in the accident description and group them into categories (where previously this was done by hand). These categories include external agency which is filtered for 'Live Dog' and used in conjunction with Contact as 'Kicked/Butted/Bitten by Animal' and a diagnosis type to identify dog bites. In some cases, including the external agency category, this change led to unforeseen increases or decreases which created a break in the data over the go-live date. A partial fix has been created to align the data before and after the CFEE go-live. This has become available since the last update of this data so there will be differences in the 2018 and 2019 data provided previously. A final solution has not yet been implemented so please note that there is potential for the volumes to experience a further shift once a fix is in place.

Caveats:

- All claims are accepted for cover.
- A claim can be registered at any date after the accident date.
- Dog bites are defined as follows:

Dog_BiteA - if readcode = "TE60." then Dog_BiteA = 1; else = 0

Dog_BiteB - if (extagency1 = "Live Dog" and Contact1 = "Kicked/Butted/Bittn by Animal") AND (free text within the accident description contains the following non-case sensitive words "bite", "bit", "bitten', "biten" (a common misspell)) AND (readcode does not equal "TE60.") AND (Dog_BiteA = 0), then Dog_BiteB = 1; else =0.

DRI (dog related injuries) are defined as follows and includes both Dog_Bite A & B:

DRI - if (extagency1 = "Live Dog" OR Dog_BiteA = 1 OR Dog_BiteB = 1); then DRI = 1;

- Years are given as financial years - 1 July to 30 June at time of the claim registration.
- Age is the age of the claimant (in years) at the time of the accident.
- Ethnicity is prioritised ethnicity
- Location data. The accident location TA is provided. The domicile of the residental location is provided. Where the accident location TA is 'Auckland City' then additional columns pertaining to the provider location are provided in addition to the clients residential information.

- Lifetime cost is a modelled value. The Lifetime costs do not include PHAS related costs.

#6940

Dog bite claims by accident TLA and financial year.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	
Auckland Region Total.	3,568	3,838	3,826	4,297	4,538	-

	Claim registration financial year				
Territorial Authority	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Ashburton District	66	61	67	68	83
Auckland City	2,705	2,939	3,006	3,387	3549
Buller District	35	20	27	29	28
Carterton District	28	19	13	13	18
Central Hawke's Bay District	36	32	36	50	48
Central Otago District	69	53	59	71	69
Chatham Islands Territory		3	1	4	<4
Christchurch City	911	942	925	985	1026
Clutha District	42	36	33	33	38
Dunedin City	228	225	224	232	234
Far North District	336	436	337	409	450
Franklin District	184	170	132	144	151
Gisborne District	199	220	194	174	215
Gore District	41	49	45	42	49
Grey District	33	43	38	31	37
Hamilton City	383	423	377	467	479
Hastings District	274	270	221	234	295
Hauraki District	48	47	53	43	51
Horowhenua District	80	99	84	90	101
Hurunui District	45	39	45	36	52
Invercargill City	92	96	91	119	95
Kaikoura District	12	14	15	16	18
Kaipara District	98	87	61	88	86
Kapiti Coast District	142	117	127	124	154
Kawerau District	36	34	25	29	29
Lower Hutt City	233	246	230	205	284
Mackenzie District	20	16	11	19	15
Manawatu District	60	78	57	74	60
Manukau City	223	214	213	252	272
Marlborough District	114	126	107	82	90
Masterton District	87	77	76	96	104
Matamata-Piako District	82	75	87	81	90
Napier City	194	207	188	209	218
Nelson City	122	111	120	124	152
New Plymouth District	237	220	214	214	232
North Shore City	84	107	97	116	138
Opotiki District	72	62	68	52	55
Otorohanga District	20	21	26	22	24
Overseas etc.	84	4	5	57	120
Palmerston North City	181	208	229	260	243
Papakura District	84	87	77	74	78
Porirua City	145	159	142	163	174
Queenstown-Lakes District	72	71	93	117	113

Rangitikei District	37	50	32	43	37
Rodney District	167	196	176	208	243
Rotorua District	280	247	266	297	
Ruapehu District	48	49	38	35	52
Selwyn District	50	59	66	57	84
South Taranaki District	64	66	81	90	90
South Waikato District	73	61	71	76	99
South Wairarapa District	40	33	23	25	50
Southland District	58	47	71	63	80
Stratford District	14	10	11	17	(S)
Tararua District	30	48	44	53	39
Tasman District	94	92	92	103	93
Taupo District	114	121	111	121	148
Tauranga City	361	419	382	409	399
Thames-Coromandel District	122	106	115	118	103
Timaru District	107	125	128	130	135
Upper Hutt City	82	87	81	94	104
Waikato District	219	236	337	278	289
Waimakariri District	107	104	96	116	101
Waimate District	8	12	17	16	18
Waipa District	112	91	89	99	88
Wairoa District	42	43	31	43	38
Waitakere City	121	125	125	116	107
Waitaki District	46	51	60	59	35
Waitomo District	35	32	43	33	33
Wanganui District	183	153	157	180	161
Wellington City	234	286	293	312	302
Western Bay of Plenty District	72	89	68	87	118
Westland District	18	17	21	34	19
Whakatane District	122	138	120	140	158
Whangarei District	279	330	322	305	342
Total	11,576	12,086	11,843	12,892	13,682

All dog related injury (DRI) claims by accident TLA and financial year.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Auckland Region Total.	6,677	7,575	7,469	8,374	8,761

	Claim registration financial year				
Territorial Authority	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Ashburton District	136	131	149	149	172
Auckland City	4,839	5,481	5,463	6,091	6292
Buller District	53	53	52	63	63
Carterton District	48	37	38	42	47
Central Hawke's Bay District	86	86	92	110	111
Central Otago District	175	172	182	228	236
Chatham Islands Territory	4	6	4	6	4
Christchurch City	2,009	2,182	2,259	2,395	2480
Clutha District	75	85	80	86	87
Dunedin City	568	596	590	608	704
Far North District	549	687	592	653	732
Franklin District	347	340	306	318	325
Gisborne District	329	366	294	303	359
Gore District	81	83	80	72	93
Grey District	62	74	69	77	79
Hamilton City	743	812	732	914	915
Hastings District	542	569	519	552	633
Hauraki District	106	100	122	91	86
Horowhenua District	136	171	167	177	174
Hurunui District	75	77	82	84	104
Invercargill City	216	238	230	280	250
Kaikoura District	26	36	30	28	45
Kaipara District	163	158	135	178	180
Kapiti Coast District	306	313	322	362	371
Kawerau District	50	55	52	59	57
Lower Hutt City	393	463	409	405	488
Mackenzie District	41	30	30	29	40
Manawatu District	135	155	146	177	157
Manukau City	356	343	355	424	465
Marlborough District	232	277	236	233	228
Masterton District	176	168	177	190	219
Matamata-Piako District	151	168	150	164	189
Napier City	415	486	446	504	496
Nelson City	273	335	352	378	432
New Plymouth District	484	455	444	476	536
North Shore City	334	423	414	491	553
Opotiki District	105	92	101	77	75
Otorohanga District	33	40	43	43	44
Overseas etc.	108	6	10	86	165
Palmerston North City	370	437	477	512	493
Papakura District	128	178	128	132	149
Porirua City	225	257	244	261	303
Queenstown-Lakes District	189	234	293	311	299

Rangitikei District	57	74	61	65	66
Rodney District	413	519	505	596	653
Rotorua District	457	438	425	479	
Ruapehu District	76	83	63	71	72
Selwyn District	159	185	205	202	255
South Taranaki District	100	105	124	136	131
South Waikato District	121	102	103	116	168
South Wairarapa District	72	80	56	63	111
Southland District	115	125	146	147	173
Stratford District	33	25	22	30	27
Tararua District	73	79	75	85	61
Tasman District	193	221	225	280	259
Taupo District	243	225	228	259	286
Tauranga City	850	1,031	935	1,022	1029
Thames-Coromandel District	255	249	242	281	257
Timaru District	223	287	263	309	297
Upper Hutt City	163	191	191	210	209
Waikato District	398	473	575	550	567
Waimakariri District	269	282	269	284	317
Waimate District	16	27	31	30	34
Waipa District	231	222	213	224	232
Wairoa District	53	57	47	63	49
Waitakere City	260	291	298	322	324
Waitaki District	106	108	124	129	105
Waitomo District	61	50	58	48	49
Wanganui District	298	299	305	343	286
Wellington City	584	734	700	768	734
Western Bay of Plenty District	157	177	170	204	248
Westland District	33	37	47	64	48
Whakatane District	217	273	238	234	278
Whangarei District	534	665	626	616	714
Total	22,692	25,169	24,666	27,049	28,445

Dog bite claims by age group and financial year						% change	
Age group	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24		
00-09 years	1,588	1,563	1,457	1,411	1,432		
10-14 years	655	707	709	815	841	0	
15+ years	9,333	9,816	9,677	10,666	11,409	0	
Total	11,576	12,086	11,843	12,892	13,682	0	12,892
						#DIV/0!	
All dog related injury claims by age group and financial year						#DIV/0!	
Age group	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	#VALUE!	
00-09 years	2,028	1,967	1,865	1,815	1,810	- 0	
10-14 years	932	993	970	1,075	1,103	0	
15+ years	19,732	22,209	21,831	24,159	25,532	0	
Total	22,692	25,169	24,666	27,049	28,445	0	27049

Dog bite claims by Provider Auckland Board Area
(where accident location = Auckland City) and financial year.

	Claim registration financial year				
Auckland Board Areas	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Albert-Eden Local Board Area	110	99	86	152	151
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	312	372	376	341	333
Franklin Local Board Area	29	32	50	80	77
Great Barrier Local Board Area	6	1	9	9	4
Henderson-Massey Local Board A	177	221	192	213	234
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Ar	59	50	55	63	62
Howick Local Board Area	251	287	263	315	278
Kaipatiki Local Board Area	76	76	65	72	75
Mangere-Otahuhu Local Board Ar	315	341	308	384	422
Manurewa Local Board Area	78	76	105	102	124
Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Boar	192	196	174	249	272
Orakei Local Board Area	152	172	235	230	238
Otara-Papatoetoe Local Board Ar	196	212	271	306	329
Papakura Local Board Area	105	114	147	167	184
Puketapapa Local Board Area	79	97	112	124	114
Rodney Local Board Area	92	124	113	129	127
Upper Harbour Local Board Area	56	40	52	56	52
Waiheke Local Board Area	34	35	37	29	31
Waikato District	3	3	2	-	
Waitakere Ranges Local Board Ar	11	17	8	12	7
Waitemata Local Board Area	164	191	165	183	223
Whau Local Board Area	161	122	137	113	140
(blank)	47	61	44	58	72
Total	2,705	2,939	3,006	3,387	3,549

All dog related injury (DRI) claims by Auckland Board Area and financial year.

	Claim registration financial year				
Auckland Board Areas	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Albert-Eden Local Board Area	274	239	251	372	384
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	496	604	607	575	538
Franklin Local Board Area	90	99	112	154	161
Great Barrier Local Board Area	9	3	13	12	12
Henderson-Massey Local Board A	298	347	321	353	393
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Ar	128	129	137	167	159
Howick Local Board Area	468	546	482	562	515
Kaipatiki Local Board Area	154	213	160	205	184
Mangere-Otahuhu Local Board Ar	379	402	382	445	512
Manurewa Local Board Area	121	113	148	155	168
Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Boar	318	380	365	412	444
Orakei Local Board Area	359	419	495	492	482
Otara-Papatoetoe Local Board Ar	263	298	361	390	415
Papakura Local Board Area	171	188	235	263	272
Puketapapa Local Board Area	128	167	172	207	190
Rodney Local Board Area	188	248	220	244	236
Upper Harbour Local Board Area	129	134	145	154	152
Waiheke Local Board Area	71	78	70	65	81
Waikato District	3	6	5	-	
Waitakere Ranges Local Board Ar	35	51	34	53	56
Waitemata Local Board Area	402	449	423	434	534
Whau Local Board Area	244	243	243	266	273
unmatched meshblock	111	125	82	111	131
Total	4,839	5,481	5,463	6,091	6,292

Dog bite claims by age group and financial year										
Age group	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
00-09 yea	1495	1518	1662	1491	1535	1,588	1,563	1,457	1,411	1432
10-14 yea	590	667	646	667	530	655	707	709	815	841
15+ years	8074	8373	8539	9349	9618	9,333	9,816	9,677	10,666	11409
Total	10159	10558	10847	11507	11683	11,576	12,086	11,843	12,892	13682
All dog related injury claims by age group and financial year										
Age group	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
00-09 yea	1976	1960	2001	2000	1958	2,028	1,967	1,865	1,815	1810
10-14 yea	766	863	892	978	952	932	993	970	1,075	1103
15+ years	17190	17763	19144	19963	19918	19,732	22,209	21,831	24,159	25532
Total	19932	20586	22037	22941	22828	22,692	25,169	24,666	27,049	28445

Dog bite claims by accident TLA and financial year.

		Claim registration financial year				
	Territorial Au	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Correct Statistics	NZ	11,576	12,086	11,843	12,892	13,682
DIA Website	NZ	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

All dog related injury (DRI) claims by accident TLA and financial year.

	Claim registration financial year				
Territorial A	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
NZ	22,692	25,169	24,666	27,049	28,445
NZ	13,178	12,677	13,303	12,918	13,935

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Caregiver perspectives on the value of dogs and their effects on children in private and public spaces

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ABSTRACT

We explored the views of caregivers regarding the value of dogs and the effects of caregiver views on children in private and public spaces in New Zealand.

This was an observational study utilizing a national anonymized online survey and focus groups in Auckland and Kaikohe to explore caregiver perceptions of the value of dogs within whanau (families) or the community, experiences of dog-related harm in the context of children, and the perceived importance of education as a prevention strategy. Quantitative and qualitative data were sought, using a general inductive approach.

256 caregivers responded to the online survey, and 12 caregivers participated in focus groups. Dogs were highly valued by Maori and non-Maori, predominantly as part of family. 233 dog-related incidents were described, occurring in both public and private settings, with both bite and non-bite harm from being charged at, knocked over, jumped on or attacked, as often significantly intimidating or traumatic experiences for children and their caregivers. Key themes were the emotional effect of an attack, the perception that children could avoid harm through education, blame placed on children, minimization of the trauma a dog can cause, and owner underestimation of risk.

This study revealed a broader picture of how children are physically and emotionally affected by dogs in both private and public spaces, indicating the need for proactive approaches in both. Dogs may become activated to attack due to their nature and unpredictable tendencies in response to children's natural movements, and future strategies may need to include a focus on owner-perception of risk to children in addition to creating child-safe environments and addressing systemic issues, rather than relying on child or dog behavior to prevent harm. The finding of high value people have for dogs is important to understand as this may be a barrier to implementation of evidence-based strategies.

Introduction

While dogs are valued within many societies, dog bite and other dog-related injuries remain a cause of serious child injury internationally, with the risk of sustaining bites to the head or neck region well described, including those causing fatal injuries (Lackmann et al., 1992; Schalamon, 2006; Tsokos et al., 2007; Raghavan, 2008; Hersant et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2013; Eppley and Schleich, 2013; Mannion et al., 2015; Sarcey et al., 2017; Vučinić and Vučićević, 2019; Gaffrey et al., 2019; Abraham and Czerwinski, 2019; Barrios et al., 2019; Sarenbo and Svensson, 2021; Tulloch et al., 2021). Physical dog-related injuries can include bite or non-bite injuries such as fractures or head trauma from being knocked over by a dog (Juang et al., 2011; Duncan-Sutherland et al., 2022c). Emotional harm due to a dog-attack is also possible, even when no injury has occurred (Peters et al., 2004; Ji et al., 2010;). New Zealand (NZ) and Australian studies over the last 30 years demonstrate increasing rates of dog-related injuries in children (Langley, 1992; Marsh et al., 2004; Rajshekar et al., 2017; Mair et al.,

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2019; Duncan-Sutherland et al., 2022c). Young children are vulnerable, likely due to their small size, developing cognitive awareness and erratic movements, coupled with an inability to either defend themselves or modify their environment.

Inequities are also evident with higher rates of injury in areas of greater deprivation and among Indigenous populations (Bjork et al., 2013; West and Rouen, 2019; Daigle et al., 2022; Duncan-Sutherland et al., 2022c). Hobbs et al. (2019) describe how this inequity exists on a background of historical trauma and through the process of colonization that elicits the current state of power imbalance. To address this imbalance, health prevention and social strategies must prioritize Indigenous self-determination as paramount (New Zealand Ministry of Health, 2020; Hunt et al., 2021).

Major advances have been made in multiple areas of child injury prevention, particularly when implementing legislated environmental modifications of the injury-prevention framework of 'Engineering, Enforcement and Education' (Pless, 2005). Examples are the introduction of bicycle helmets, seatbelts, traffic calming measures, pool fencing, child-resistant caps and playground safety standards (Jullien, 2021). However, the prevention of paediatric dog-related injuries has largely focussed on child-directed education on how to behave around dogs or identify early signs of dog-aggression to prevent escalation of the dogs behavior, with uncertain effectiveness (Duperrex et al., 2009; Shen et al., 2017; Duncan-Sutherland et al., 2022b). The circumstances surrounding incidents of harm to children by dogs are not well described internationally (Patterson et al., 2022), or in the NZ context, with no rigorous systematic reviews available, and studies frequently reflecting bias in the formation of study questions (for example, asking about whether an injury was provoked). While an in-depth study exists for adult victims in NZ (Wake et al., 2009) it is unknown how harm occurs to children in either private or public spaces. Researchers internationally have also called for qualitative research that will assist in understanding underlying attitudes or beliefs contributing to harm to children by dogs, to ensure a considered approach when shaping public health strategies (Mouton and Rock, 2022).

This study sought to explore the views of Maori and non-Maori caregivers of young children regarding the value of dogs and their impact on children within public and private spaces in NZ to help inform the development of dog-related harm prevention strategies.

Materials and methods

This observational study utilised data from a nationally available, online survey (OS). In addition, focus groups (FG) and individual interviews were conducted to explore views in more depth. FGs were run in Auckland (NZ's largest city, population 1.6 million; 2018 Census (Stats NZ)), and Kaikohe a small Northland town (population 4305, predominantly Maori (Stats NZ)). These areas were felt to be representative of other cities or small rural communities in NZ.

Adult caregivers (16 years or older) of children under the age of 10 years were eligible to take part in the study. Study design was informed by Kaupapa Maori methodology, and guided by the Te Ara Tika framework for Maori responsiveness in research (Hudson et al., 2010). Maori leaders from a range of disciplines including research experts, child injury prevention specialists, and emergency physicians were consulted at all stages of study development.

Domains of interest included the significance of dogs within the whanau (family) or community; reasons for dog-ownership; the importance of children being around dogs; the extent to which caregivers feel their children are safe around dogs; the extent to which caregivers perceive that children are harmed or intimidated by dogs in public or private spaces; descriptions of dog-related incidents; and the perceived importance of education in prevention of these. Question items were developed after consultation with animal, child and Maori health experts in multiple fields, and considered previous research in the field (Westgarth and Watkins, 2015; Oxley et al., 2017; Saleem et al., 2020; Brookes et al., 2020). Open-ended questions were designed to aid caregivers to consider if/how dogs were valued and to prompt descriptions of any potential incidents where harm to children may have occurred. Specific factors relating to incidents, including dog size, breed, perceived aggression-type, the use of environmental barriers (fencing, leash-use, muzzles, separate dog-spaces), or severity of incidents were not investigated. The broad term 'incidents of harm to children' was chosen to encompass any perceptions caregivers had of harm to their children by dogs, which could be bite or non-bite injuries or emotional harm, and could occur during a range of dog-related activities incorporating aggression, play, or predatory behavior. This term could also incorporate 'near-miss' incidents, for example if a dog-attack occurred but did not result in physical injury, which could provide valuable information for the development of prevention strategies.

Online survey

A nationally available, anonymised OS was developed in Survey Monkey (Momentive Incorporated) to explore caregiver perspectives of dogs within the above domains of interest using similar question items. The survey included 13 closed and seven open-ended questions (see supplementary data). The survey was available for five weeks during September to October 2021, distributed through existing community networks: Plunket NZ (a national well-child service supporting the health and wellbeing of children under-five and their families); Playcentre Aotearoa (an organization which operates parent-led early childhood education centres throughout NZ); and Safekids Aotearoa (NZs national child injury prevention service) via their Facebook organization page: with the survey shown to Safekids Facebook followers and members, and further distributed through a paid service to 'friends' of those people. Participants were given an opportunity to read an attached participant information sheet, which included information on data privacy and anonymity, and an explanation that participation in the survey implied consent. As predominantly qualitative data was sought, the intended sample size was 150 responses. When the survey closed after five weeks there were 256 responses. As an acknowledgement of participation, survey respondents could enter the draw for a $200 shopping voucher. Names and contact details for the prize-draw were not visible to researchers.

Focus-groups

FG participants were recruited from networks of child health providers and community groups within the Auckland and Kaikohe regions, with consideration to include a range of ethnicities, gender, and dog-ownership. We aimed to conduct four FGs, each with six participants. There were no specific criteria to participate, other than being a caregiver. It was not possible to know if FG participants had also completed the on-line survey, as this was anonymous. Participants gave their written and verbal informed consent, after being emailed a participant information sheet, including information on data privacy. Sessions were informal, semi-structured, lasted approximately an hour, and were recorded. A series of 21 open-ended questions within the same domains of interest as the OS were used as prompts to facilitate the sharing of experiences and conversation (see supplementary data). Discussion could also be participant-led, and an initial open-question was used to facilitate the sharing of experiences or views that were important to participants. Groups were co-facilitated with Safekids Aotearoa Maori and Pacific staff members and lead researcher Natasha Duncan-Sutherland (NDS), and conducted in a manner informed by He awa whiria, the braided rivers approach, (Macfarlane and Macfarlane, 2019) in English, with some use of Te Reo Maori (Maori language). Participants were given a koha (gift of appreciation) as acknowledgement of their participation. Audio-recordings were transcribed by a confidential professional transcription service. Names of people or animals were anonymised with the use of unique codes.

Data analysis

The write-up of this study was guided by the STROBE guidelines for reporting observational studies (Von Elm et al., 2007). Collected demographic information included age-group, ethnicity, gender, and area of residence. Survey responses were viewed by all authors. Qualitative responses from both the survey and FG were collated in Microsoft Excel and analysed by an author (NDS) using a general inductive approach, identifying emerging themes by reading through the responses multiple times (Thomas, 2006). Using this approach and having broad objectives allowed for new findings arising directly from analysis of the data not from a priori expectations, and reduced the risk of obtaining pre-determined answers through leading questions. This is particularly important for this topic, where researchers may have a number of biases, particularly if they have an interest in dogs or little experience with child-injury prevention. To support these qualitative findings, quantitative data was provided from the OS in the form of percentages, as descriptive indicators rather than to imply exact statistical representations. Data storage and privacy was in-line with standard organisational and national policies.

Results

Study participants

Two hundred and fifty-six people completed the survey. Respondents were located across the country and were predominantly female (97%; n=247/256). Over half (56%; n=143/256) were 31–40 years of age, with 23% (n=58/256) aged 21–30 years and 16% (n=42/256) 40–50 years. Eighteen percent (n=45/256) identified as NZ Maori who make up 16% of the NZ population (Stats NZ).

Twelve caregivers participated in one of either three FGs and two interviews. Covid impacted recruitment occurring during the region's pandemic restrictions, resulting in these being held via Zoom video calls. Participants included nine females and three males aged between 30 and 50 years. One third identified as NZ Maori. Four had never owned a dog or had a dog as a child, and three were current dog owners.

Value of dogs

More than two thirds (68%; n=175/256) of survey participants were dog-owners (Table 1), with the majority (70%; n=122/175) giving their main reason for ownership as 'part of whanau' (family), or companionship (19%; n=34/175). A minority (10%; n=18/175) stated other reasons including hunting, farming, protection, service, competitions, or to rehome. For some Maori participants hunting dogs were seen as a valuable asset in acquiring food for the family, with associated pride in this.

There were shared perceptions between Maori and non-Maori within both FGs and survey, of the value of dogs, reasons for and rates of ownership (Maori ownership 29%; n=14/48, non-Maori ownership 32%; n=71/219). There were no substantial differences in the responses to the online survey question "How important do you think it is for children to be around dogs?" between Maori and non-Maori (38% cf. 40%, Table 1). However, dog owners were much more likely to think it was very important for children to be around dogs (51% cf. 15%, Table 1). Maori and non-Maori also shared values around the positive experiences dogs could provide for children, including educational experiences teaching empathy or responsibility, or as a source of emotional support.

Impact of dogs

Across the survey and FGs there were a total of 233 incidents of harm to children by dogs described. Key themes that emerged in relation to these incidents included the emotional impact of an attack, dogs as intimidating to children due to their size and unpredictability, the perception that children could avoid harm through education, victimization and blame placed on children, minimization of the trauma a dog can cause, and owner underestimation of risk.

Maori and non-Maori shared strong views regarding the value and protection of children, with similar experiences of harm to children by dogs in both private and public spaces. Many incidents described were clearly both serious and distressing for both children and caregivers, as evident from the quotes below. However, some descriptions provided in the survey were not detailed enough to make an accurate assessment of the severity of harm caused.

Dog attacks provoked strong emotions, with feelings that their life (or their child's life) was in danger being worse than the physical injury:

> *"We were just on a walk. I had L (child) in the pram and L will still tell you to this day, there was a massive dog that came running at us. And then my husband had to come and save us, because I threw L in the car….but it was just a scary experience in itself"*
>
> *(FG - female, Maori, dog owner, Auckland)*

> *"My daughter was about 18 months old when a red setter knocked her flat in the park, stood on her chest and licked her face. My son was a little over 2 years old when a Labrador did exactly the same to him. For both children it was as frightening as being charged by a horse"*
>
> *(OS - female, non-Maori, non-dog owner, Auckland)*

Caregivers described that dogs could be very intimidating to children through boisterousness, play or simply approaching a child.

> *"My children get really scared from them just coming right up into their face, they (owners) assume that 'oh it's okay, the dog's just smelling you out, they're just being friendly' but that's not how children see it"*
>
> *(FG – female, non-Maori, non-dog owner, Auckland)*

Following an incident involving a dog participants acquired an awareness of the unpredictability and danger of dogs, with subsequent increased protectiveness of their children. Those who had not had those experiences were less protective, allowing their children to play more

Table 1
Responses to the online survey question "How important do you think it is for children to be around dogs?" (n 256).

Response	Total (n=256)	Māori (17.6%; n=45/256)	Non-Māori (82.4%; n=211/256)	Owners (68.4%; n=175/256)	Non-Owners(31.6%; n=81/256)
	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)
Very important	35.9 (92/256)	37.8 (17/45)	40.3 (85/211)	51.4 (90/175)	14.8 (12/81)
Somewhat important		40.0 (18/45)	44.5 (94/211)	41.7 (73/175)	48.1 (39/81)
Not very important		22.2 (10/45)	13.7 (29/211)	6.3 (11/175)	34.6 (28/81)
It is better for children not to have contact with dogs		0	1.4 (3/211)	0.6 (1/175)	2.5 (2/81)

with dogs, have dogs jump on the children, or sleep a dog in the same room as an infant.

Public spaces

Survey participants described feeling less safe from dogs in public spaces compared to private (38%; n=96/256) cf 9%; n=23/256 "always safe from dogs", Table 2), with 100 situations described where a child or caregiver felt/was unsafe from dogs in public spaces.

Eight people described feeling a sense of unease, either due to roaming or off-leash dogs in parks, beaches or local neighborhood either approaching or near the children. "Often we drive to go for a walk in a better neighborhood instead." Six people described their children felt scared by dogs growling aggressively at them, either by roaming or off-leash dogs, or when out for a walk with children and passing properties with dogs. Six people described their children being intimidated by dogs approaching them boisterously on the beach, parks or playground, one of which was when a dog pushed its head into a child's pram.

Fourteen people described their children being charged at by a dog, usually by unleashed or roaming/escaped dogs, including a child on a bike, an incident where a dog tried to mount a child, a dog who tried to attack a one-year-old on their driveway, and a caregiver who was holding the hand of their child walking to the playground and having a loose dog jump out from behind a bush.

Twenty-two people described their children being knocked over by a dog, including two children who were on bikes, and one who was eating fish and chips on the beach with a dog trying to get to the food. Fifteen people described their children being jumped on, often scratching them, and including one description of a dog jumping up and trying to bite a child. Other incidents described were a dog scaring a four-year old by going down a slide at the same time as her, having a dog urinate on a sandcastle, eat out of children's lunchboxes, or jump onto their lap while sitting down.

Four people described their children being put in danger due to incidents of dog-dog aggression, and one further person who described an incident of her children witnessing dog-dog aggression as "devastating and scary" for them.

There were 13 dog bite incidents described. Three of these occurred on the face and two on the hands (one of which was because a child put their fingers through the fence). Three incidents were by a dog tied up outside a shop, and one was by a dog who leapt out of a car when the door was opened and attacked a child. One person described their own dog biting another child, saying this occurred because the child was teasing it.

Six other dog attacks were described. One was an adult who was attacked while swimming, one was a caregiver and her daughter being surrounded by five dogs acting as a pack in a predatory manner which traumatized her child, and one was an attack on a child in a pram by a dog that jumped on the child and scratched/mouthed her. There was a further description of an attack at a beach where a child was knocked over, and another was an attack by two roaming dogs who entered a school attacking the children, and biting ten.

Seven of these incidents involved babies in prams or a front pack, and three occurred with children on bikes. Many were 'near misses', where physical injury did not eventuate.

> *"Large dog ran at my when I had a toddler and carrying baby in front pack. Dog knocked me and baby over and I had to protect toddler. Another time a dog came and started eating my kids lunch out of their lunchbox. We've had dogs wee on the sandcastle our kids are building. I've been yelled at by a dog owner for pushing her out of control dog off my lap. All of this has happened in a section of the beach that's supposed to have dogs on a lead"*
>
> *(OS - female, non-Maori, non-dog owner, Tauranga)*

Where described, the location of incidents in public spaces were diverse (Table 3). Public incidents predominantly arose from dogs escaping neighbouring properties or being walked off-leash, including within areas supposed to be on-leash, and effects on caregiver and children's use of public resources. Incidents occurred across the country, with beaches, local streets and playgrounds of particular concern.

> *"Where our local skate park is, it's actually on like, on a walking path. Quite often the dogs will run over to us, and you know, they (children) are zooming around on their bikes and their skateboards when there's dogs running around chasing them"*
>
> *(FG – female, non-Maori, non-dog owner, Auckland)*
>
> *"Dog running all over playground and went down slide at same time as four-year-old, scaring her terribly. Owner just said the dog loves the playground. We will leave areas if there are unleashed dogs as our kids are scared and won't play"*
>
> *(OS - female, non-Maori, non-dog owner, New Plymouth)*

Within areas of greater socioeconomic deprivation, stray dogs, or dogs escaping from neighbouring properties were of significant concern. Participants in these areas described being unable to walk with their children and/or dogs in their local area or needing to walk with a stick to fend off stray dogs.

> *"There's a lot of stray dogs. I used to walk to the shops before, but ah, I just take the car now. But even if I have to walk I take an umbrella or even a stick with me because it's just that bad"*
>
> *(FG – male, non-Maori, non-dog owner, Auckland)*

Caregivers described needing to go to great lengths to keep their children safe in public spaces particularly, teaching them caution in approaching unfamiliar dogs, and keeping their children close when

Table 2
Responses to the online survey question "How safe do you feel you and your child/children are around dogs in public/private spaces" (n 256).

	Always safe	Safe most of the time	Unsafe most of the time	Always unsafe
	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)
In Public SpacesIn Private Spaces	9% (n=23/256)38% (n=96/256)	76% (n=195/256)59% (n=149/256)	14% (n=36/256)4% (n=10/256)	<1% (n=2/256)<1% (n=1/256)

Table 3
Location of incidents involving dogs in public spaces.

Local Streets	Beaches	Parks	Dog-parks	Shops	Playgrounds
% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)
30% (n=21/70)	27% (n=19/70)	17% (n=12/70)	11% (n=8/70)	9% (n=6/70)	6% (n=4/70)

seeing an off-leash dog. Many expressed anger at owners who showed no or little concern for their child's safety even when injured, ignored on-leash requirements, or minimized the issue. It was clear that many owners felt their own dog was safe, with little awareness that children may be intimidated or unsafe around the dog.

> *"Child approached by off-leash dog in parks, beaches, playgrounds. I tend to only go to on-leash public spaces & this still happens. Owners often say "oh the dog is fiiiine" and not make any effort to intervene"*
>
> *(OS - female, non-Maori, non-dog owner, Auckland)*

> *"I don't appreciate when owners say "it's okay, he won't bite" etc. It invalidates the feelings of the child or the adult that is uncomfortable with the behavior of the dog. Our 1 yr cannot protect himself from dog jumping up & pushing him over. Owners need to not invalidate the feelings of others just because they believe their dog would never hurt anyone"*
>
> *(OS - female, Maori, non-dog owner, Rotorua)*

Private spaces

Nearly half (48%; n=133/268) of survey and FG participants described situations where they felt their child was not safe within private spaces. Of these, 26% (n=35/133) involved a child being attacked, bitten or scratched; 23% (n=30/133) were knocked over, jumped on or chased; 26% (n=35/133) involved being barked at or aggressive behavior directed toward them, including infants; 17% (n=22/133) described other situations where either they or their child felt fear/apprehension around dogs; 6% (n=8/133) had aggressive dogs coming onto their property (roaming); and one person described being scratched and nearly knocked over while holding a baby.

> *"Family member had left dog at a shared family home. Dog has attacked children before but family has chosen to keep dog. Dog went for children and an adult. Knocked all three over trying to bite them"*
>
> *(OS - female, non-Maori, non-dog owner, Canterbury)*

> *"Neighbours have 5 aggressive dogs. My son went over there one day and the largest broke it's chain and lunged at him. Only quick thinking by the son of the household stopped him being hurt"*
>
> *(OS - female, Maori, dog-owner, Far North)*

In the 74% (n=98/133) of incidents where the relationship to the dog was described, 83% (n=81/98) belonged to a friend, neighbour, or extended family, and 17% (n=17/98) were the families own dog. Most caregivers demonstrated awareness of safety when owning dogs, for example implementing safety barriers at home to create safe spaces for children or putting the dog away when unable to supervise. In the 74% (90/121) where dog-ownership and visiting status were clear, the vast majority of people (74%, n=67/90) were visiting a friend/relative who owned a dog, ten were dogs who had intruded their property after escaping from a neighboring property (including one description of a Staffordshire Bull Terrier chasing children who were playing in their own yard), one was an aggressive dog at the gate of a whare (home), eight incidents occurred within their own home, and four when the dog-owner was visiting the victim.

There were frequent descriptions of feeling pressured into placing children in unsafe situations with dogs when visiting friends and family in particular, with a perceived lack of concern by the owners making it difficult to advocate for their child's safety.

Cause attribution

Caregivers described how dogs (as often large animals in comparison to a child) frequently invade children's space, and compromised their real or perceived sense of safety, in both public and private spaces. There were very few mentions where issues were caused by children approaching and interacting with dogs. Causal attribution as a theme was described as creating significant conflict between people, at times resulting in loss of relationship or visiting friends/family. Caregivers in this study frequently described frustration and anger that despite their attempts to keep their child safe, in both public and private spaces some owners did not appear to perceive the potential risk or show remorse when incidents occurred, and children were often blamed for incidents occurring. Respondents specifically highlighted that incidents were unprovoked by children, and described feeling angry that their children were being blamed by others, often the owner of the dog. Their perception was that this was because the owner had a high value for their dog, and was not putting the children's needs above those of the dog. There were also references to a reluctance to acknowledge dog aggression, instead attributing the cause to 'bad owners' who did not provide adequate dog care or training.

> *"My daughter actually got bitten by his dog, my brother's dog. My daughter was traumatized. After that me and my wife spoke about it and we saw that my brother and his wife kind of blamed it on the kids"*
>
> *(FG – male, Maori, non-dog owner, Auckland)*

This triad of cause attribution, directed toward either victims (often children), owners, or the dog, with less awareness of the impacts of policy, resourcing or the socio-political environment in which injuries occur is illustrated in Figure 1.

Education

A high proportion of survey respondents felt that education of children (84%; n=216/256), dog-owners (93%; n=238/256) and caregivers (76%; n=194/256) was 'very important'. Differing views on this became more apparent in the FGs, with conversations relating to issues of 'who is responsible' or 'who is to blame'.

Child directed education programs with messages about how to behave around dogs, including how to stand still when a dog approaches or attacks, were perceived as helpful. Challenges were described, particularly with younger children who are unlikely to follow these instructions in practice. Paradoxically, views on the importance of child education at times followed descriptions of attacks that occurred without warning. Others felt education would be better directed to owners, but pointed out that many do not pay attention to current safety messages, and that enforcement would be required, with current requirements for being 'in-control' of a dog without a lead not providing adequate protection of children. There was a suggestion for discreet public reporting of issues, which could be difficult within small communities. There was also an understanding by some participants of issues such as cost, time and access to resources as a barrier to safety from dogs, including lack of adequate property fencing or gates.

Discussion

The aim of this study was to explore the value of dogs and their impact on children in private and public spaces. Study findings highlight the substantial dog-related physical and emotional harm children experience throughout NZ in both public and private spaces, indicating the need for proactive approaches in both.

Participants highlighted the unpredictability of dog behavior, including aggressive barking or knocking children over as part of an

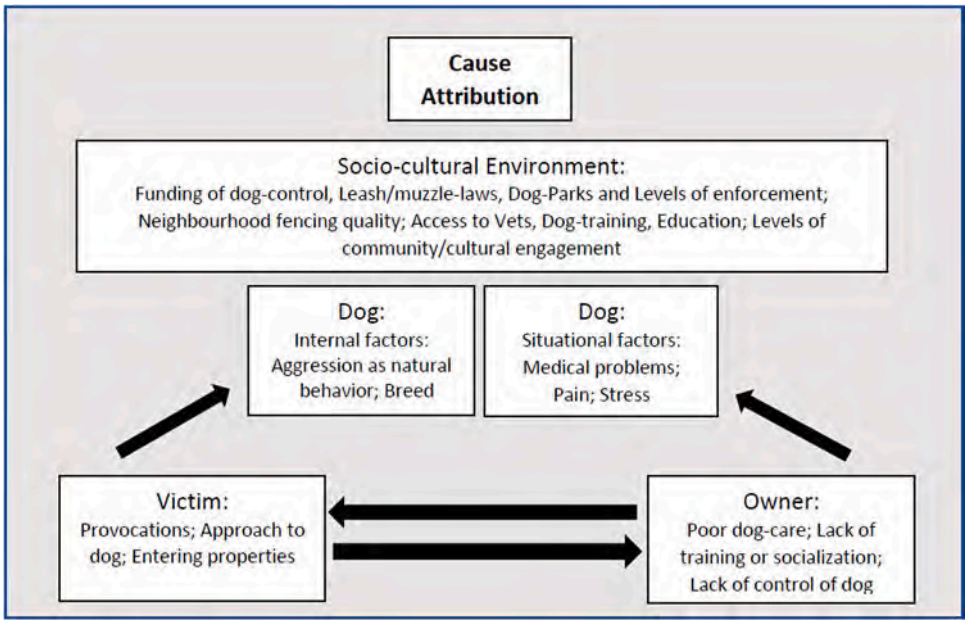


Figure 1. Cause attribution.

overtly threatening event or play, as frightening experiences for children. This differs to previous studies which focus on bite or non-bite injuries (Juang et al., 2011; Duncan-Sutherland et al., 2022c), and is unsurprising considering the size and strength of many dogs relative to children, and the considerable distances dogs rapidly cover, potentially causing harm or intimidation before a caregiver can intervene. The emotionally traumatic event of dog aggression has been described in previous studies (Peters et al., 2004; Ji et al., 2010), and may distinguish dog-related injuries from many other kinds of unintentional injuries.

Context and education

The findings of this study suggest that many dog-related injuries are frequently not preceded by an interaction with or approach to a dog, as caregivers clearly described how dogs frequently invaded children's space, and compromised their real or perceived sense of safety, in both public and private spaces. This is consistent with studies showing that dogs may be activated into attacking children in a variety of situations, including when guarding properties or food; predatory behaviour as part of a group of dogs; when children are walking to or from school; or after minor interactions such as walking, running or cycling past a dog, or patting a dog (Borchelt et al., 1974; Reisner et al., 2007, 2011; Shen et al., 2014; Notari et al., 2020; Gobbo and Zupan Šemrov, 2022).

Given it is now recognized dogs may attack children simply due to normal child movements or minor interactions, the question is which strategy will be most effective. Should we aim to teach children to change their behavior; increase training or socialization for dogs; or ensure that children are separated from dogs when unable to very closely supervised? Child-directed education programmes aim to change child behavior around dogs, including promotion of standing still around dogs, or ways to approach a dog. Several such educational programs are available in NZ, including information available in both English and Te Reo Maori (Carter et al., 2008; Carter and Swain, 2008). While it has been shown that these programs can improve short-term knowledge retention about how to behave around dogs, it is unclear if they change behavior or prevent injuries in the long term (Shen et al., 2017; Duperrex et al., 2009; Duncan-Sutherland et al., 2022b). It may be an unrealistic expectation that children consistently modify their natural behavior, particularly given the number of varying hazards that exist in both private and public spaces. Two systematic reviews also found a lack of good quality evidence on whether dog training or early socialization reduce injuries, and this is an area for future research (Newman, 2012; Duncan-Sutherland et al., 2022b). Maintaining a child-centric view, educational strategies to decrease injury rates in children may require re-direction toward improved dog-owner recognition of the risk, promoting collective responsibility for child-safety, and creating safe spaces for children to be in, with separation of dogs and children unless they can be closely supervised (within arms-reach), rather than primarily relying on changes to child behavior. It is also important to note that parent-directed education may not be effective in the indigenous environment, where child-care responsibilities are often shared with the wider family.

Cause attribution

Anger from caregivers due to the perception that owners did not see the risk a dog posed to children, and that children were frequently blamed with little remorse from the owner when incidents occurred was a significant theme of this study. Other studies have likewise found that safety issues may not be recognized by some dog owners, thus they may not acknowledge risks associated with normal canine behavior when the potential for aggressive behavior arises (Westgarth and Watkins, 2015; Arhant et al., 2016; Westgarth et al., 2019; Owczarczak-Garstecka.., 2020; Saleem et al., 2020; Náhlík et al., 2022), and this needs consideration when shaping public health strategies.

The triad of cause attribution illustrated in Figure 1, suggests there is value in taking a root cause analysis approach to dog-related injuries to identify where systemic changes are needed to prevent these events in the future. For example, policy to mandate and enforce leash and muzzle use in public spaces to create safe environments where injuries are less likely to occur; or sterilization or breeding policies, with associated funding to keep the dog population under control. Some studies have also suggested greater responsibility may need to be taken by health professionals and veterinarians, who may know about issues but for various reasons not make a notification to animal management (Harisberger et al., 2012; Duncan-Sutherland et al., 2022a).

Socio-economic barriers to injury prevention

Some participants felt that prevention was unlikely to be effective through education alone, and that governance of regulations would be required. They described, however, that reporting of dog-related issues

was difficult when incidents occurred within a community of people who knew each other. The same issue has been identified in studies within communities including indigenous groups in NZ, Australia and Canada (Dhillon et al., 2016; Brookes et al., 2020; Duncan-Sutherland et al., 2022a). Economic barriers to implementing safety measures were also highlighted by participants, and as with other injuries, the reduced ability to modify housing due to living in rental or social housing may be a contributing factor (Smithson et al., 2011; Kendrick et al., 2013; Growing Up in New Zealand, 2014; Hayward et al., 2017). Likewise a deficiency of Indigenous-led strategies that resonate with these groups is potentially a reason behind the inequities (Hunt et al., 2021).

Public spaces

In public spaces, incidents of dog-related harm to children in this study arose primarily through off-leash dogs, or those escaping neighbouring properties/strays. These occurred across the country irrespective of socioeconomic area, including places children frequently use, such as beaches, parks, local streets, shops or playgrounds, impacting on their use of these valuable public resources, including walking to school. Consistent with these findings, an Australian study by Howell et al. (2016) found that 26% of owners allowed their dogs to roam free when outside the home. Other studies also support the finding that dog bite injuries commonly occur in public spaces, and highlight the need for strategies to address this (Wake et al., 2009; Oxley et al., 2017; Mair et al., 2019; Jakeman et al., 2020; Duncan-Sutherland et al., 2022c). The importance of safety for children to independently mobilize within public spaces has likewise been addressed in studies internationally (Senda, 2015; Chaudhury, 2017). While parental concerns about strangers or road traffic are described as deterrents to children's use of these spaces, safety from dogs is not well investigated (Riazi et al., 2022). Other studies actively promote children walking dogs (Christian et al., 2016, 2022). However, given the concerning descriptions in this study for dog-dog attacks occurring while walking a dog, this could be placing children in potentially dangerous situations.

Modifications to the physical environment to protect young children are thought to be the most effective measure for prevention of child injuries (Craig et al., 2010; Morrongiello, 2018). This is further supported by studies where severe or fatal dog attacks have occurred in children despite adults being nearby (Patronek et al., 2013; Kumar et al., 2017). Legislated engineering barriers for all dogs such as leash and muzzle use and requirements for adequate fencing of properties, schools and dog-parks, may be effective strategies to prevent injuries in many contexts (Shen et al., 2014; Jakeman et al., 2020; Duperrex et al., 2009; Duncan-Sutherland et al., 2022b).

Private

Incidents on private property in the current study occurred more commonly when visiting friends or family, or by neighbouring dogs escaping/strays, with few incidents occurring with a dog they owned. Previous research has also shown high rates of injury occurring by dogs belonging to neighbours, friends or relatives, or in public (Schalamon, 2006; Chen et al., 2013; Shen et al., 2014; Hasselt et al., 2015; Oxley et al., 2017; Westgarth et al., 2018; Mair et al., 2019; Abraham and Czerwinski, 2019; Reese and Vertalka, 2020; Duncan-Sutherland et al., 2022a). This research is further supported by a study of 256 fatalities in the US, of which nearly half (n=116/256) were in children under the age of five years, showing that while 74% (n=190/256) occurred on the owners property, the vast majority of victims (85%; n=218/256) had only an incidental or no relationship to the dog (Patronek et al., 2013). Awareness of this common context may be important for providers of dog-safety information to understand, in order to promote safety for visiting children.

Strengths and limitations

Strengths of this study include the broad reach of the online survey in terms of regional coverage; Maori representation in study conceptualisation, design and participation; the use of participant-led discussions during FGs; and the qualitative exploration of issues impacting on injury prevention efforts. However, the findings need to be considered in light of several limitations. The low response rate of non-dog owners in the online survey created an owner-weighted bias; the use of closed-ended questions in the OS resulted in limited information given; responses may not be statistically representative of the NZ population given the sample size; and there was potential for researchers to inadvertently influence FG discussions, which had a predominance of Auckland participants. Different results may have been obtained from FGs if participants were selected from other regions in NZ. Study findings are also specific to NZ, and may not be generalizable to countries with different living situations or dog-husbandry practices, including those with a prevalence of free-roaming dogs. Furthermore, this study did not collect data on type of dog (size or breed), confinement strategies, or how training and other historical factors, or dog owner attitudes might affect perceptions dangerousness of dogs to children or the attitude towards dog-related incidents.

Further analysis of the situational/circumstantial factors involved in incidents of dog-related harm, using one-on-one interview methods, including more specific details about: location of incidents; dog size and breed; social and physical situations during which the aggression occurred, whether appropriate environmental barriers were in place (leash-use, fencing, muzzles or a separate dog-space), damage assessments, and perceived severity is required. Future investigation should focus on adult actions to prevent harm, more than child behavior.

Conclusions

This study revealed a broader picture of how children are physically and emotionally affected by dogs in both private and public spaces, indicating the need for proactive approaches in both. Dogs may become activated to attack due to their nature and unpredictable tendencies in response to children's natural movements, and future strategies may need to include a focus on owner-perception of risk to children in addition to creating child-safe environments and addressing systemic issues, rather than relying on child or dog behavior to prevent harm. The finding of high value people have for dogs is important to understand as this may be a barrier to implementation of evidence-based strategies.

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CRediT authorship contribution statement

Bridget Kool: Conceptualization, Formal analysis, Funding acquisition, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Resources, Supervision, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **Michael Shepherd:** Conceptualization, Formal analysis, Funding acquisition, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Software, Supervision, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **Mareta Hunt:** Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal analysis, Funding acquisition, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Software, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **Natasha Duncan-Sutherland:** Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal analysis, Funding acquisition, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Software, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing.

Conflict of Interest

All authors have nothing to declare.

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Ethics approval

Ethics approval from the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee was obtained (AHREC: AH22562).

Contributors

The design of this study was developed by all authors. The online survey and focus groups were conducted by Natasha Duncan-Sutherland (NDS), Mareta Hunt (MH) and Moses Alatini (MA). The body of the article was composed by NDS, with ongoing review, feedback and input from all other authors.

Registration

The protocol for this study is held at the Starship Foundation. This study was not registered.

Appendix A. Supporting information

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at doi:10.1016/j.jveb.2025.01.002.

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Attachment: Locations requesting change to Dog-Access rules:

Location 1:

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

All Auckland beaches

What local board or suburb is this location in?

All local boards

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

- **All** beaches in the Auckland region should have the majority of the beach **on-leash (or prohibited)** during the **non**-summer months.
- Only small sections at the 'far' end of the beach (rather than the 'whole beach') should be off-leash in 'not-summer' months.
- The only time of the day that any larger sections of the beach should be off-leash is before 9am.

The status quo for ***all*** of the hundreds of beaches in Auckland should be on-leash (or prohibited) all year round.

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire locations

What is the main reason you want to change the dog access rules? (list)

Child-protection.

Please explain your issue in more detail.

On-leash should be the status quo and standard, and off-leash sections of the beaches could be created from there, rather than the other way around which currently exists.

Auckland's temperate climate means that families with young children like to use the beach all year round, as much as people who walk dogs. Children like to have picnics (or fish n chips on the beach) with their families, play on the beach - running ahead or playing games/tag with their families on the sand, or running in the waves at the edge of the water. Older children also have a need for independent mobility in public spaces. [1,2]

As parents ourselves, every time we try to go to a beach with our children during the nine months of the year with off-leash rules, we have to guard our children from dogs running up to them (or jumping on/chasing them). Some people also bring very large and aggressive looking dogs. We end up having to hold our children's hands, stop them playing, and continually be on the lookout for dogs, to even be on the beach. The only places we can go, where we feel safe from dogs on a beach for the ***vast*** majority of the year are Tāwharanui or Pākiri Regional Parks. Times on most beaches where families with young children are basically excluded from using (or can only use with a significant risk to the children) are:

- Nine months of the year (1st March to 1st December)
- All summer evenings (some even after 2pm)
- All mornings before 10am

[redacted]

Expecting small children to 'stand like a tree' to protect themselves on a beach is completely inappropriate – instead, an evidence-based approach with **adequate dog-access legislation should ensure the children are protected from dogs**. [3,4]

Please explain why you want to change dog access at this location and provide any additional information or evidence.

I am unable to create a list of beaches and associated reserves where young families are unsafe from off-leash dogs, as there are too many. Beaches where we ourselves have experienced issues with off-leash dogs posing a danger to our own children **due to inappropriate leash-legislation**, are Ōmana beach, Māngere Bridge beach and Kiwi Esplanade walk, Sunkist Bay, Shelly Bay, Maraetai Beach, Bucklands Beach, Eastern Beach, Cornwallis beach, Wattle Bay, Waiake beach, Ambury-Waikaraka pathway, Campbells bay, Browns bay, Judges Bay, evenings at Cheltenham, St Heliers and Mission Bay, and also Takapuna beach (despite being on-leash the beach is so highly populated with people walking their dogs, it's impossible to take children there).

Other reserves we have had issues with are: Onehunga Reserve and Beachlands Domain, Grey Lynn Park, Swanson Park, Māngere Domain. But there are too many for me to list here.

References:

1 Duncan-Sutherland N, Hunt M, Shepherd M, *et al.* Caregiver perspectives on the value of dogs and their effects on children in private and public spaces. *J Vet Behav*. 2025;78:36–44. doi: 10.1016/j.jveb.2025.01.002

2 Chaudhury M. Public open space attribute's in relation to children's independent mobility experience in urban neighbourhoods in Auckland, New Zealand. PhD Thesis. 2017.

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4 Duncan-Sutherland N, Hunt M, Alatini M, *et al.* Study of dog control strategies. *Inj Prev*. 2022;ip–2022–044686. doi: 10.1136/ip-2022-044686

5 Duncan-Sutherland N, Moaveni Z, Exeter D, *et al.* Epidemiology of dog related injuries in New Zealand. *N Z Med J*. 2022;135.

6 Accident Corporation Company. ACC Claims for Dog-Related Injuries by financial year and age-group. 2024.

[redacted]

Location 2:

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Ōmana Regional Park and Ōmana beach and esplanade

What local board or suburb is this location in?

Rodney.

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

- The whole park should be on-leash, other than the perimeter walk which can be off-leash
    - However, the perimeter walk starts right by the picnic/beach area used by children and families, so the off-leash area of the perimeter walk should be 100m after the start of the walk.
    - Current rules that dogs can be off-leash on the 'foreshore and park' (excluding Omana beach) are unclear and confusing, as it sounds like the whole park is off-leash, but then there is a rule that says in all other areas of the park dogs are prohibited.
- Ōmana reserve should be on-leash the whole year.
- Dogs should be prohibited from the beach the whole year.
- Current rules for prohibiting dogs from the playground should remain.

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

The entire location.

What is the main reason you want to change the dog access rules? (list)

Other: To protect children.

Please explain your issue in more detail.

Please explain why you want to change dog access at this location and provide any additional information or evidence.

This is an important area to our whānau, as it is where we grew up. I have tried to return to have picnics on the beach, walk in the park or visit the playgrounds in both 'winter' and 'summer' months, with my own children and wider family. Unfortunately, off-leash dogs prohibit us from doing this, and we have had to stop going there. For example, as we were walking back from a picnic one time a large off-leash dog jumped out of the bushes, scared the pre-school children, and started to circle them which was intimidating and unsafe.

Many children and families use the beach, the playground and the reserve, in all months of the year, and all of which are closely connected. This is too small an area (considering how fast dogs move) for any off-leash areas to be so close to any on-leash/prohibited sections.

[redacted]

Location 3:

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Māngere Domain (also known as Māngere Mountain Education Centre)

Te Pane o Mataoho / Te Ara Pueru / Māngere Mountain (including the playground)

What local board or suburb is this location in?

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

- It is unclear what is defined as Māngere Mountain versus Māngere Domain. Dog rules are inconsistent and hard to follow, as there are two different rules for what is essentially the same space and playground (see below). This needs clarification.

Rule for Māngere domain:



Rule for Māngere mountain:



- The whole mountain (and 'domain') should be on-leash at all times of the year
- Dogs should be prohibited from the playground and entire whānau ātea space (including toilets, the grass area, basketball court, hāngī pit, skatepark, surrounding pathway, slides and stairs).
- Dogs should be prohibited from the sports ground (and club-rooms) and within 100m of this
- Dogs should be prohibited from the Māngere mountain education centre and within 100m of this.
- Dogs should be prohibited from the Māngere bridge tennis club and Scout Hall, and the grass reserve area between the tennis club and playcentre/road.
- A good space for an off-leash area would be at the base on the mountain on the north side, from the top of Scott Ave to the top of Matchett Way (dogs can run up the side of the mountain for exercise and it is a well demarcated area). The base of the south side of the mountain could also potentially be used.

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

The entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the dog access rules? (list)

Protection of children and other vulnerable people.

[redacted]

Please explain your issue in more detail.

Māngere mountain is well utilised by children in the community. Children walk around the maunga with their whānau, use the sports grounds, football club rooms, footpaths, Playcentre, Plunket, Māngere mountain education centre, tennis club reserve and club-rooms/courts, and Scouts Hall.

Recent developments on Māngere mountain have been very positive, and resulted in a large number of people in the surrounding community now using the playground, whānau ātea space, and associated paths and stairs. The whānau ātea space is also used by holiday programmes with groups of children, and the local playcentre which sits directly on the maunga.

The education centre frequently has groups of both pre-school and primary school visiting, sometimes with walks up onto the associated paths of the mountain.

Over the years however, it has been very difficult to take the children to use the maunga, in particular for walks up and around the mountain, due to off-leash dogs. I also have ongoing concerns about dogs being allowed into the playground and whānau ātea area (even on-leash), where there are a large number of young children playing, running and biking in close proximity.

Māngere has one of the highest rates of dog-related injuries in Auckland, due to wider social factors related to deprivation and historical discrimination.[5,6] Dog-access legislation needs to account for this, and be more strict than other regions.

Please explain why you want to change dog access at this location and provide any additional information or evidence.

[redacted]

Location 4:

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Swanson Park

What local board or suburb is this location in?

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board

Current rules:



In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

- Dogs should be prohibited from this park.
- An off-leash dog-training area could potentially be developed at the back of the park, which is a space that is not well used, if funding was provided for fencing from the rest of the park and library driveway, and for neighbouring properties.

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the dog access rules? (list)

Child protection and enjoyment of the recreational space.

Please explain your issue in more detail.

The park is predominantly a large sports-ground, and there are almost always people including children on the grounds either playing or practicing. The majority of the remainder of the park consists of the Playground, Boxing club, Library and areas connecting these to the shops.

There are frequently people with off-leash dogs, which then run into the playground because while the overall rule is that the park is 'off-leash', the space is too small and contiguous for there to be separate on/off and prohibited areas as per current rules.

I would also like to allow my older children to independently go down to this park to practice football, but am unable to due to the off-leash dogs.

Please explain why you want to change dog access at this location and provide any additional information or evidence.

[redacted]

Location 5:

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

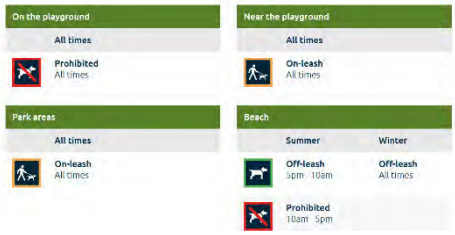
Kiwi Esplanade

What local board or suburb is this location in?

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board

Current rules:

This covers Shelly Bay Beach and Kiwi Esplanade between Mangere Boat Club and Shortt Ave.



In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

- Dogs should be prohibited from the playground, beach and surrounding grass reserve at all times of the year.
- Dogs should be on-leash in all other areas around Kiwi Esplanade at all times of the year. This includes other grass areas, parking areas, boat clubs, and pathways (including that which runs from Ambury Farm to Mangere Bridge shops).

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Entire location

What is the main reason you want to change the dog access rules? (list)

Protection of children and other vulnerable people.

Please explain your issue in more detail.

The beach and grass reserve areas are extremely small, confluent with each other, and immediately adjacent to the playground. It is insensible to try and implement separate rules for on and off-leash for the beach and also prohibiting dogs from the playground, as an off-leash dog only needs to take a few steps and they will be on the playground.

This is a very busy area, and there are large numbers of children and whānau who use the reserve, walkways and beach, at all times of the year. We have stopped using the beach and nearby playground in the winter with our children due to worries about off-leash dogs, and I have significant concerns about off-leash dogs when my children ride their bikes along the path, which they like to do. The beach is so small, it is also not an appropriate place for dogs to play.

I also think that the reserve itself should be dog-free, to allow families to safely picnic.

Of note, dog-walkers do not comply with current rules, and frequently walk their dogs along the path off-leash. A friend of mine on a bike was bitten by a dog on an extended leash while riding along the footpath.

[redacted]

Location 6:

What is the full name of the location where you want to change the dog access rules?

Grey Lynn Park

What local board or suburb is this location in?

Waitematā Local Board area.

In general, how would you like dog access at this location to change?

- This park requires either development of a fenced off-leash area, or making the whole park on-leash.
- Dogs should be prohibited from the paths adjacent to the skatepark

Do you want the change to apply to the entire location or a section of it?

Section

What is the main reason you want to change the dog access rules? (list)

Child-protection.

Please explain your issue in more detail.

We have taken our children to Grey Lynn Park a lot over the years, as it has an amazing bike park. However, I notice that dogs are off-leash a lot, and often very near the Playground and Skatepark. I think this is such a busy and well-used recreational area, that any off-leash dogs should be in very well-defined and fenced off areas, ideally with their own dog-training equipment.

It is frightening having children on bikes when people walk nearby with their dogs off-leash, as dogs can become activated by bikes into attacking or chasing.

Patrolling in this park may also help owners to comply with rules, in particular children.

Please explain why you want to change dog access at this location and provide any additional information or evidence.

[redacted]

#6940



Dr [redacted]
(FACEM, FRNZCUC, MBChB, BA.BMus)
Emergency Physician
Adult Emergency Department
Te Toka Tumai, Auckland

To: Auckland Council

21st February, 2025

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to give feedback on the proposed changes to the Auckland Council Proposed Updates to the Dog Policy, Bylaw, Regional and Local Dog Access Rules.

Beaches and parks are of very high value and cultural importance to all New Zealanders and should be protected spaces for all to enjoy, at all times of the year, including children. Whilst dogs are also valued by some people as part of a family or for specific purposes, the wider context of the value beaches and parks give for everyone needs to be prioritised.

I would like to bring to your attention the rising number of dog-related injuries in Auckland, particularly among children, and have made suggestions for policy change aimed at protecting vulnerable populations, underpinned by both statistical evidence and real-world incidents.

Statistics:

Tāmaki Makaurau has seen increasing numbers of dog-related injuries over the last five years in particular, as evidenced by published ACC statistics (Table 1 and 2) [1,2], and recent media reports *(https://www.stuff.co.nz/nz-news/360554509/traumatised-mum-bitten-while-saving-child-aggressive-dog-loose).* These statistics represent only a very small proportion of incidents of harm that occur to people by dogs, as many significant incidents result in either no injury or an injury where the person does not seek medical attention.[1] Of note, the vast majority of incidents are not reported in the media.

Table 1: Dog bite ACC claims by financial year.[2]

2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
3,568	3,838	3,826	4,297	4,538

Table 2: All dog related injury (DRI) ACC claims by financial year.[2]

2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
6,677	7,575	7,469	8,374	8,761

Tamariki

While children are equally as likely as adults to be bitten by a dog,[1] they are particularly at risk of serious injuries to the head/neck/face area, which can require multiple surgeries with the potential for life-long disfigurement.[1] Incidents of both physical and psychological harm to children by dogs in Aotearoa occur equally in public and private spaces, as highlighted in a recently published study of caregiver's perspectives.[3]

This study highlights the impact of off-leash or roaming dogs on children in public spaces, and their ability to utilise and independently mobilise, particularly in parks and beaches (*"Often we drive to go for a walk in a better neighborhood instead*"), with multiple incidents described.[3]

> *"Where our local skate park is, it's actually on like, on a walking path. Quite often the dogs will run over to us, and you know, they (children) are zooming around on their bikes and their skateboards when there's dogs running around chasing them"*
>
> *(FG – female, non-Māori, non-dog owner, Auckland)*[3]

Many caregivers expressed anger at owners who showed no or little concern for their child's safety even when following an injury, ignored leash requirements, or minimised the issue. The study highlighted how the high value owners have for their dogs can result in an under-estimation of the risk, with little awareness that children may feel intimidated or be physically unsafe around the dog.[3]

"Child approached by off-leash dog in parks, beaches, playgrounds. I tend to only go to on-leash public spaces & this still happens. Owners often say "oh the dog is fiiiine" and not make any effort to intervene"

(OS - female, non-Māori, non-dog owner, Auckland) [3]

"I don't appreciate when owners say "it's okay, he won't bite" etc. It invalidates the feelings of the child or the adult that is uncomfortable with the behavior of the dog. Our 1yr cannot protect himself from dog jumping up & pushing him over. Owners need to not invalidate the feelings of others just because they believe their dog would never hurt anyone"

(OS - female, Māori, non-dog owner, Rotorua) [3]

Assumptions

Preventing these serious incidents is challenged by incorrect assumptions made about the root causes of dog-attacks, which I have described below.

1. **Children:**
    a. Dogs, due to their size and unpredictability, can be activated to attack or harm a child simply by normal child movements such as running, playing or biking, or may harm or intimidate children through boisterousness or play.[3]
2. **Aggressive breeds or dogs:**
    a. Larger/stronger dogs (including German Shepherds and Labradors) are more likely to cause more serious injuries, as found in a NZ study on ACC Claims for dog-bite injuries.[4]
    b. One good quality study of 10,000 dogs found no breed differences in tendency to aggressiveness[5]
    c. I commend the Auckland Council campaign that ***'Any Dog Can Bite',*** paralleling a South Australian campaign that ***'Good Dogs Have Bad Days'***.[6]

*Photo used with permission from the child's parent

3. **Owners:**
    a. Anger and frustration is often directed at 'irresponsible' owners not paying attention to leash-rules or allowing dogs to roam as being the cause of injuries.[3]
    b. However, many dogs are off-leash/roaming due to a lack of appropriate leash/fencing-policy and financial investment in enforcing these rules.
4. **Legislation and Enforcement:**
    a. Lack of leash policy and enforcement is one of the most important root causes of injuries, yet often the least considered.[3]
    b. Similar to reducing road-traffic injuries with the use of traffic-calming measures,[7] legislation of leashes and muzzles, limiting dog-access, fencing and sterilisation are the most effective ways to reduce harm to people from dogs in public.
    c. True preventive efforts require application of these engineering strategies to *all* dogs, rather than based on either breed or past behaviour.[8] Of note, there were continuing increases in the number of serious injuries from dogs, with a lack of action taken in the previous review of Auckland's dog-access legislation in 2019.

Policy Change

I have made some important suggestions for evidence-based policy-change below.[8] When considering these I strongly encourage the council to refrain from attempting to 'balance' the needs of children against the needs of dogs**.** Child-protection is non-negotiable, and should ***always*** remain paramount over the needs of dogs and owners. The council should consider what their approach would be if this were adults going around and attacking, intimidating and biting children on their faces. Also of importance, inequity exists with a greater number of injuries occurring in the South Auckland region, and this area requires focused attention and partnership with Māori when reviewing dog-access legislation.[1]

The protection of tamariki (children) must remain paramount and beyond reproach when considering strategies for prevention of harm to children from dogs.

Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi through tino rangatiratanga with, by and for Māori in the development of strategies and research into the prevention of harm to people from dogs is required.

1. **Policy Purpose**
    - The Purpose of the Bylaw is to protect people from dogs, in particular children and other vulnerable populations such as the elderly, those with disabilities or mental health conditions, or other animals (including dogs themselves and wildlife).
    - The Dog-Control Act and Bylaws were not implemented to 'keep dogs a positive part of people's lives'. This statement demonstrates a bias for dog-welfare over than protection of vulnerable people, including children.
    - Dogs cause serious harm, rather than being an 'annoyance' and this needs to be reflected in policy wording.
2. **Dogs in Parks and Beaches**
    - Beaches and parks are of very high value and cultural importance to all New Zealanders and should be protected spaces for all to enjoy, at all times of the year, including children.
    - Any off-leash space is not a safe space to be in for anyone – in particular vulnerable children, families, elderly, those with disabilities, smaller dogs and wildlife.

- **Off-leash areas should *only* be specific small sections of all parks and beaches (rather than the *whole* Park/Beach, as currently exists), at all times of the year.**
- The *status quo* should be that dog are on-leash in **all** parks and beaches at all times of the year (with specific designated 'off-leash' areas).

3. **Children do not only play in playgrounds**
    - Of importance, children may be **anywhere** within a Parks and Beaches, and need protection well beyond only 'playgrounds and sports-grounds'. Children also walk or ride bikes along paths, build sandcastles and run along beaches, have picnics on grass areas, like to kick balls around, and have a right to protection and to safely enjoy these recreational spaces at all times.
    - Groups such as Forest Kindy's, School and pre-school trips out, and holidays programmes are also using these recreational areas, with groups of children at risk.
    - Due to nearly all parks and beaches being predominantly off-leash spaces, children remain unprotected, and are currently chased, jumped on, knocked over, bitten, intimidated and prevented from playing and independently mobilizing in those spaces.[3]
    - Many dog breeds can run at a speed of 25-30km/hr (7-8 metres per second).[9] Even a 'well-controlled' off-leash dog is clearly a risk if it is nearby a busy area such as a club, or around children/elderly walking along a beach, path or car-park. Having an on-leash rule when 'near' the playground needs to be better defined as at least 100m away from a playground or children.
    - When creating specific off-leash areas, these should be designed to be at least **100m away from any busy area, including playgrounds, car-parks, sports-grounds and clubs, or children**. This would allow time for a caregiver to react and protect their child, who also may not be directly next to them. Off-leash areas should not directly adjoin playgrounds, sports-grounds or frequently used paths.
4. **Winter Rules**
    - Current dog-access legislation is based on UK legislation, where winters are extremely cold and beaches in particular are not well used by other people.
    - This philosophy does not work in the Auckland context, where our winters are mild and our beaches and parks are often used by many people, including children, all year round.
    - Current legislation with off-leash 'winter' rules are preventing children and families from using these extremely culturally important recreational spaces.
    - The same dog-access rules should apply all year round.

Off-leash areas should only be specific small sections of all parks and beaches, at least 100m away from all busy areas, at all times of the year, to place the protection of vulnerable people and animals first, whilst also meeting the needs of dogs and their owners.

5. **Child-protection Policy:**
    - Children are even more important to protect than wildlife, yet are not appropriately represented in the policy. The policy currently protects 'Kiwi', our native bird. We need to even more strongly protect 'Kiwi' - our children.
    - To highlight the importance of child protection as paramount and non-negotiable, a specific infringement for a child being harmed by a dog in a public space should be developed.

- Web-based information and signage for every beach and park should specifically state that children are protected in all areas, at all times.
- Policy should reflect the importance of child-protection by stating that off-leash dogs should be at least 100m away from children that are not their own.

6. **Breed-specific leash-legislation:**
    - Dog-access, Leash and Muzzle legislation needs application to all dogs.
    - Current separate leash legislation for 'dangerous' versus other dogs is ineffective for a number of reasons:
        i. Waiting for incidents to occur and then applying rules is not a proactive approach to prevention. It is too late to apply leash and muzzle rules once a severe injury has occurred.
        ii. All dog-breeds are potentially dangerous: particularly larger dogs which can include breeds such as German Shepherds,[4] mixed breeds which make up a large proportion of the dog population, or the large number of unregistered (and therefore uncategorized) dogs that exist.[10]
        iii. There is a lack of enforcement of leash/muzzle laws for dogs considered 'dangerous', which is unable to be easily rectified due to a current lack of funding and large geographical region covered by Animal Management.[11]
        iv. Owners of dangerous dogs (whether due to breed or past complaints) do not adhere to the rules, potentially due to the stigma of having what is perceived to be an aggressive dog, and not wanting their dog to appear 'different' to other dogs.
7. **Muzzle-use**
    - Reducing the stigma of muzzles should be done through the introduction of policy regarding muzzle use in busy or high-risk areas.[12]
    - Humane basket-muzzles should be mandatory for all dogs when in these higher risk situations. Potential situations could include: visits to veterinarians; public transport and taxis; walking larger/stronger dogs in public spaces; if leaving a dog tied up in a public area; busy shopping areas; schools; or sports grounds.
8. **Patrols**
    - Provision of funding for patrolling of recreational spaces, prioritising low-income areas is required.
    - As a parent myself, I frequently attend sports, and there are almost always dogs on the sports-grounds, despite them being prohibited. Just a few weeks ago an off-leash dog ran into the sandpit as the five-year olds were trying to practice long-jump. Owners can also get very aggressive in all public spaces if politely requested to keep dogs away from the children, despite the rules.
9. **Children holding leashes**
    - Local bylaws also need to reflect that children may not be able to control dogs on-leash, and that adult owners are ultimately responsible.
    - This was evidenced by a recent well-publicised incident in the media, where a veterinarian was attacked by a dog being held on-leash by a child. The owners were charged and dog was euthanised, but the council was not made accountable for the lack of legislation regarding children being in control of a dog in a public space.
10. **Equity:**
    - Beaches and parks in South Auckland need a particular focus and review of dog-access policy. For example, dogs are currently allowed off-leash within the new playground on Māngere Domain (see current rules below).



- Current proposed changes have excluded the highest areas of need, with little reviews of beaches or parks in the Māngere-Otahuhu, Manurewa, Otara-Papatoetoe, Papakura, and Howick regions, as well as southern sections of Franklin including Beachlands and Te Puna.

11. Walking Multiple Dogs:

i. The main issue surrounding professional dog-walkers is not only the number of dogs walked, but the expansive area within of parks and beaches that are off-leash the majority of the year/day.

ii. However, I support the introduction of restrictions on walking multiple dogs, noting that companies set up for this have a financial conflict of interest and are not considering the safety of children. I myself have had to leave a recreational reserve where I was playing with my children, after the arrival of a dog walker with off-leash dogs.

iii. The number of dogs being walked should be limited to three, and they should all be on-leash unless in specific off-leash areas as described above.

12. Education Centres

- Currently schools can choose to have dogs within the school. This results in parents entering some schools full of children running around at the before/after school time, with large dogs who are not muzzled, creating an obvious risk. They can also leave dogs unattended outside classrooms at times (in spite of school policy about this).
- Unfortunately, school boards may not perceive the risk, and continue to allow dogs to enter despite the obvious danger.
- Reducing dog-related injuries to children also requires introduction of legislation that all early childhood, primary and intermediate education centres are dog-free (with the exception of reading therapy or guide-dogs, who should obtain individual permission from the school board).

Further strategies

Reducing dog-related injuries requires a multi-pronged approach utilising an established Injury-Prevention framework, including owner-directed education and the following further legislative changes:

Sterilisation:

- Introduction of mandatory sterilisation of all dogs by the age of six months unless owned by a registered breeder or veterinary approval for exemption. This legislation has been introduced in South Australia, Western Australia and Australian Capital Territory.
- Associated long-term increase in funding for reduced rates for registration and sterilisation for low-income regions, and improved access to services as led by communities.

Clear child-protection legislation:

- This is required allowing Animal Management Officers to ***promptly*** intervene, with the support of Police in any situation where they have concern a dog poses a risk to any children within the wider community. Currently the public informs Animal Management of safety issues (for example a repeatedly roaming dog), but officers are powerless to go onto the property or remove the dog, even when the risk is known and real.

Mandatory notification of dog-attacks:

- Introduction of legal responsibilities for health professionals and veterinarians and the public to notify incidents of dog-aggression, roaming dogs, or dog-related injuries to Animal Management and/or Social work, Police or Oranga Tamariki.[13]

Change in classification system: • Category names should also be altered to less stigmatising nomenclature, to particularly encourage safety-precautions for higher-risk dogs: o From 'Menacing Dogs' to 'High-Risk Kurī': inclusive of all large-dogs o From 'Dangerous Dogs' to 'Very High-Risk Kurī': for dogs with a history of aggression
Legislated fencing/gate requirements: • Should be established for all private properties where dogs reside, and may be linked to other fencing initiatives including driveway-safety.[14] This strategy must only be introduced with provision of funding for low-income owners.[15] Fencing of schools aligns with the prevention of other injuries relating to children in schools.[16]

The Auckland Council has an ethical and legal obligation to ensure that public spaces, including parks, beaches, and education centres, are safe for all users, and that children in particular are protected. Injuries and harm are occurring due to a lack of adequate legislation, and it is crucial the Council urgently addresses this gap.

Ngā mihi nui,

[redacted]

*Please note: I would also like to endorse the submission made by the **Safety Collective Tāmaki Makaurau.***

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1 Duncan-Sutherland N, Moaveni Z, Exeter D, *et al.* Epidemiology of dog related injuries in New Zealand. *N Z Med J*. 2022;135.

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15 Duncan-Sutherland N, Hunt M, Alatini M, *et al.* Study of dog control strategies. *Inj Prev*. 2022;ip–2022–044686. doi: 10.1136/ip-2022-044686

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Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6946

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Leave the rules for Madills as they are, the councils suggestion for Madill's is financially influenced the E. Suburbs soccer club. The parks financial function is as a recreational reserve - not a sports field. The council is heavily influenced by the soccer club and is using highly questionable tactics to bring about their aim. ie 27 Rollenkles etc. This is a preposterous allegation that is the result damage to the dogs and their owners and is unsupported by any evidence

Ōrākei Have Your Say Event Notes (contains confidential information to be redacted if released under Local Government and Official Informational Act) **#6946**

12pm Thursday 13th February 2025

Time	Participant name	Individual or organisation	Notes
2.20pm - 2.35pm	[redacted]	Individual	• I agree with everything that has been said • Have never seen dogs dig up sports fields • A large section of the report seems to be about risk factors • Ankle role complaints and reported near misses with a mower, wrote to council about these on 30th January and was told I would get a response 3 days after the end of consultation (28th February) • My question to council was about how the status quo poses a risk to dogs and can you advise the details of the ankle role injuries • I would have thought that ankle injuries couldn't be very serious • Give the significance of this data in being used to ban people I would have thought that council would have had people down there taking pictures. • Under health and safety operations mower operators would need to report incidents, has this been reported? • This data is important to the proposal, the integrity of the council is at stake here.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6947

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Introduction

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed restrictions on dog access at Madills Farm and Glover park. As a regular visitor and advocate for responsible pet ownership, I believe these changes will negatively impact the community and contradict the original intent of the reserve.

Background

Madills Farm, located in Kohimarama, and Glover Park, St Heliers in Auckland, are cherished community spaces. The reserves feature sports fields, playgrounds, and open areas that are integral to the local lifestyle. It is a community space where dogs have a positive influence on people and on social connection. I see young and old enjoying dogs, people of all ethnicities enjoying dogs, and well behaved dogs loving their opportunity to run free and 'make friends' with other dogs (resulting in many social connections also among their owners). This is a precious treasure for our community in a day and age where things are tough for many. It also has a positive flow-on effect for people's mental and physical health, of which I have heard many stories where people now on their own after losing their life partners, make critical connections and friendships.

Proposed Changes

The proposed changes aim to prohibit dogs from the sports fields at all times. This includes areas where dogs have traditionally been allowed, potentially leading to increased congestion in other parts of the reserve, despite the fact that the area of the reserve proposed changes is used for sport at MOST 15% of the total hours in any year. Such unreasonable restrictions would diminish the quality of life for many residents who rely on these spaces for recreation and socialization.

Key Concerns:

1) Community impact on rate payers:

Accessibility: Many residents, including the elderly and those with mobility impairments, rely on the flat and accessible nature of the park to safely exercise their dogs. Other parks in the area are too steep or unsafe for these users.

Darkness & Safety: The areas proposed for dog exercise are poorly lit, making them unsafe in the early morning and evening hours when many owners (including many elderly, children and women) walk their pets.

Dog Socialization & Behavior: Dogs need spaces to interact and socialise safely. Without safe designated off-leash areas, behavioural problems can increase, leading to a rise in conflicts in less suitable locations, such as footpaths or busy streets.

Traffic safety: The main areas utilised at Madills and Glover currently are safely away from the street, the area being proposed is unfenced right beside the road. The congestion that would result in the small area being proposed could lead to overflow, causing safety issues for both dogs and motorists.

Discrimination against ratepayers by the minority

Having lived in the area for 18 years, and having children that played football for many years, I know that a significant proportion of people take their dogs down to the park while children and adults play (all sports) – these proposed changes would prevent this.

I also know that in terms of a proportion of time that the fields are being solely used for sports is a very minor proportion of the time that the park is being shared by dog owners and the broader community enjoying time with others. I have done an estimate based on practices and games and how these vary in school terms v holidays v summer/winter and I estimate that the fields are used for sports games a mere 11% of the total time, if we are generous and said 15-20%, this leaves 80-85% of time that the fields are NOT being used for sports. To prevent the fields being used by those wishing to connect and socialise their dogs when games are not underway is a significant injustice to the rate payers of the region.

2) Original Purpose of Madills Farm

Madills Farm and Glover were set aside originally as recreational land for public use, not for the exclusive benefit of sports clubs. Restricting access to large sections of the park for only certain user groups contradicts its intended purpose as a shared community space.

3) Field Maintenance & Wear-and-Tear Arguments

Twisted ankles occur in all sports! It does not matter the surface, there are always ankle injuries in any sport, including on flat turf grounds. There does not appear to be sufficient supporting evidence for this argument, particularly when you have no context around the number of times all children of the club play over a season (ie proportionally, this will be minimal and I suggest align with other sports).

Natural Wear from Sports: The argument that dogs damage the fields overlooks the fact that organized sports significantly contribute to field wear and tear. Football games, in

particular, cause soil compaction, bare patches, and erosion through heavy foot traffic, cleats, and tackling.

Minimal Impact from Dogs: In contrast, dogs spread their activity across the park and do not cause concentrated wear. Regular walking, runni...

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6953

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I support the proposed change

Tell us why

Dogs can be particularly menacing when people are active, chasing after both adults and children. I have seen it happen and scare children, nip at legs etc. Unfortunately many dog owners think this is harmless fun that everyone likes which it is not

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6956

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

Restricting dog owners to use the whole park is unfair and unreasonable. Families, the elderly have used the park for many year. It is a reason people live in kohi not to play soccer . THere are other fields in close proximity. Dogs do not damage the fields-soccer boots do!

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6963

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

see attached

Summary of Attachment:

Original Deed Conditions:

Changes should align with the original deed of gift for Madill's Farm to ensure compliance with its terms.

Community Impact:

Madill's Farm is a vital recreational area for families and pet owners. Restricting dog access could lead to overcrowding in other areas and reduce overall enjoyment.

Health and Well-being:

Regular exercise and social interaction at Madill's Farm benefit both pets and their owners, contributing to mental and physical health.

Safety Concerns:

The reported ankle injuries due to dog damage are disputed, suggesting a need for a formal comparison with non-dog access parks.

Field Usage and Damage:

The wear and tear from football and other sports are significant contributors to field damage, not just dogs.

Community Consultation:

There has been insufficient consultation with the community and club members regarding the proposed changes.

Ratepayers and Fees:

Dog owners pay high rates and registration fees, while the sports club pays minimal rent despite significant funds.

Chemical Spraying Risks:

Concerns about the risk to dogs from chemical spraying on fields, which should be publicly notified.

Recommendations:

Maintain current dog access rules, enforce leash rules during sports matches, reinstate dog poo bags, invest in field management, and engage in comprehensive community consultation

Submission on Proposed Changes to Dog Access at Madill's Farm

#6963

To: Auckland Council

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Restrictions on Dog Access at Madill's Farm

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes restricting dog access at Madill's Farm. As a regular visitor both a parent of a long-term member of ESAFC and a responsible dog owner, I believe these changes will negatively impact the community and contradict the original intent of the reserve.

Madill's Farm has long been a cherished community space and features sports fields, playgrounds, as well as open areas that are integral to the local lifestyle. Currently, dogs are permitted in designated areas, fostering a harmonious environment for both pet owners and non-pet owners.

The proposed changes aim to prohibit dogs from the sports fields at all times.

Concerns

1. **Original Deed Conditions:**
   The deed of gift documentation for Madill's Farm, outlines conditions for the reserve's use and any changes to the reserve's usage should align with the original intent and conditions set forth in the deed. It is imperative to review these conditions to ensure that any proposed changes do not violate the original terms of the gift.

2. **Community Impact:**
   Madill's Farm serves as a vital recreational area for families, individuals, and pet owners. Restricting dog access could lead to overcrowding in other areas, reducing the overall enjoyment of the reserve.

3. **Health and Well-being:**
   Regular exercise and social interaction are essential for both pets and their owners and Madill's is a joyful community where dogs have a positive influence on people and on social connection. I see young and old enjoying dogs, people of all ethnicities enjoying dogs, and well-behaved dogs loving their opportunity to run free and 'make friends' with other dogs (resulting in social connections also among their owners). This is a precious treasure for our community in a day and age where things are tough for many. It also has a positive flow-on effect on people's mental and physical health. Limiting access to suitable areas could negatively affect the health and well-being of dogs and their owners.
   The off-leash area offers a secure space for dogs, especially puppies, to play and socialize without risk of traffic accidents. The wide-open space in full view of surrounding houses (and cameras) also makes this a much safer space for women to exercise their dogs

4. **Safety:**

   The 27 ankle injuries in 2024 due to dog damage of the fields as reported by the club and **NOT** ACC statistics, is purely club spin. As football is a lower-extremity sport, the most common injury site in a football player is the ankle. Striking a ball, changing direction, and landing while receiving body contact, are all common ways in which someone might injure their ankle.

   There should be a formal comparison of ankle injuries in non-dog access parks such as Three King's Football Club at Keith Hay Park in Mount Roskill. In addition a full independent review of all the equipment, pre-game stretch programmes should be completed to determine any deficiencies in ESAFC protocols.

5. **Field Usage and Damage from Football:**

   The Orakei Local Board has suggested that dogs are damaging the fields, but this assertion must be balanced against the reality of the wear and tear caused by other activities, particularly football games, along with other field sports, create significant damage to sports fields over time. Data from sports management organisations, including Auckland's own parks and recreation departments, has shown that the intensity of use from organised sports leagues often leads to field degradation. The combination of cleats, sharp turns, sliding tackles, and heavy foot traffic during games causes significant compaction and wear, which can leave fields with bare patches, uneven surfaces, and soil erosion.

   In over 30 years as both an Eastern Suburb resident and mother of a long term ESAFC member , it is the hospitality tents at *Round the Bays*, and sports that are more problematic to field damage than dogs.

6. **Community Consultation**

ESAFC has agsain not consulted their club members as to whether the committee would like dogs banned 24/7 from the sports fields at both Glover and Madills. The public land was given to the people of Auckland to share. To provide unfettered access to ESAFC while expecting dog-owning ratepayers to suffer a loss of access is really unfair.

7. **Ratepayers and Dog Registration fees:**
   In the Eastern Suburbs, our rates are high and our dog registrations are costly and have increased significantly over the last few years yet ESAFC only pays a peppercorn rental of $1000 per year despite having significant funds in the bank. In addition, ESAFC (one small part of the population who have yet again not consulted their club members about dog access at Madiilla and Glover) As ratepayers we have spent spend $100's of thousands a year on sports grounds maintenance that sports clubs pay nothing towards.

8. **Risk to dogs from spraying:**

   ESAFC claims there is a risk to dogs relating to chemical spraying – surely the same chemicals affect the children playing on the fields? I've not seen any public notification of what is applied to the fields at any time. If the club is concerned then they or the council should start notification. Are the chemicals in sprays widely used in all Council parks, or is their use specific to Madills and Glover? If only used at Madills and Glover then surely Council has been negligent and should have disclosed this health and safety issue to all users of the parks.

9. **Sport Field usage in comparison to Dog Usage:**

   Dogs using the fields for walking or playing typically cause less compaction and no lasting damage compared to the kind of intense wear created by team sports. Dogs usually use the fields in a more varied manner (e.g., walking, running, fetching), which doesn't focus heavy pressure on one spot, unlike players' concentrated use during matches.

Recommendations

- Maintain Current Dog Access: Retain the existing dog access rules to preserve the balance between pet owners and other park users.
- Enforce dogs to be on a lead when the sports fields are in match use, particularly on the weekends
- Reinstate dog Poo bags in the parks.
- Field management: investment required in this heavily used park, including aerating and reseeding the fields, can ensure they remain in good condition for both sports use and recreational activities.
- Community Consultation: Engage in a comprehensive consultation process with the community, including pet owners, to gather diverse perspectives before implementing any changes.

Conclusion

The public land was given to the people of Auckland to share. Restricting dog access at Madill's Farm would adversely affect the community and contradict the reserve's original purpose. To provide unfettered sportsfield access to ESAFC (one small part of the community) while expecting dog-owning ratepayers to suffer a loss of access is really unfair. Taking away this precious benefit will be a huge blow for many, many people and their dogs.

I urge Auckland Council to reconsider these proposed changes and prioritise the well-being of all community members, while also ensuring fair access for both sports and recreational activities. We should consider balanced solutions that support both the care of the fields and the needs of the community.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Ōrākei Have Your Say Event Notes (contains confidential information to be redacted if released under Local Government and Official Informational Act) **#6963**

12pm Thursday 13th February 2025

Time	Participant name	Individual or organisation	Notes
12.41pm - 12.48pm	[redacted]	Individual	• I am disappointed that dogs at Madills and Glover are considered mild • The parks are mixed community use and are meant to be used for recreation when not used by sport • Walking dogs off leash and dog owners socialising is a free activity • Madills and Glover are the only disabled friendly parks in the area and are a safe place for females to walk their dogs alone • Eastern Suburbs Football Club are trying to monopolise football at the expense of other users • Eastern Suburbs Football Club have not surveyed members about prohibiting dogs on the sports fields • Have seen damage from studs and tackles on the grass, but not from dogs • Would be keen to see how 27 ankle roles improved from 2014 after the grounds were improved • Auckland has a shortage of off-leash areas and the proposed changes make it harder for responsible dog owners • Need to preserve the balance of users Bring back poo bags and more enforcement of leads during sports

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#6970

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, name, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Dog Friends Auckland

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

See attached

Summary of Attachment:

Loss of Access for Dogs

- Impact on Daily Routines: Changes to access can significantly alter local people's daily routines, limiting dog exercise opportunities and requiring dog owners to drive to other locations.
- Shift Workers: Close-to-home access is crucial for shift workers.
- Overcrowding: More dogs in fewer spaces can lead to overcrowding, especially during summer and bird breeding seasons.
- Safety and Accessibility: Open, flat areas with good sight lines are important for young families, older people, and women.

Madills Farm

- No Alternative Access: No alternative off-leash access is offered in lieu of removal.
- Inconsistent Rules: Orakei has other dog access rules that are inconsistent with regional rules, such as winter restrictions on beaches.
- Lack of Analysis: No analysis from the Council on the impact on dog owners or alternative off-leash areas.

Analysis of Alternative Off-Leash Areas

- St Heliers and Kohimarama Beach: Subject to time and season rules, with no off-leash access during summer and restrictions during winter.
- Dingle Dell Bush Reserve: Not suitable for open space exercise, terrain not suitable for older owners or pram access.
- Maskell Park: Small area, probably smaller than one sports field.
- Ladies Bay/Gentlemen's Bay: Access issues and not family-friendly.
- Karaka Bay: Access issues.
- Mary Atkin Reserve: Small area, about the size of one sports field.

- Churchill Reserve: Likely to see increased use due to limited off-leash options.

Gaps in Rationale for Changes

- Inconsistencies: Orakei has other dog access rules that are not proposed to be removed, such as winter restrictions on beaches.
- Comparison with Franklin LB: Franklin LB has 15 sportsgrounds that allow dog access when not in use, highlighting inconsistencies.

Request to Orakei Local Board

- Maintain Current Access: Request to keep the current access rules for Madills and Glover, allowing off-leash dog access when the sportsgrounds are not in use or closed

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

See attached

Summary of Attachment:

Proposed Changes

- Dog Access Changes: Around 60 changes proposed, including prohibiting dogs in 31 areas, changing access from off-leash to on-leash in 19 areas, and providing new off-leash access in 10 areas.
- Lack of Analysis: Many changes are proposed for consistency across Auckland without analyzing current usage or alternative access areas.

Impact on Daily Routines

- Routine Disruption: Changes can significantly alter daily routines, requiring dog owners to drive to other locations.
- Overcrowding: More dogs in fewer spaces can lead to overcrowding, especially during summer and bird breeding seasons.

Regional Comparisons

- Wellington and Whangarei: Both regions have expanded off-leash areas and made their cities more dog-friendly, unlike Auckland.

Specific Concerns

- Desktop Research: Proposals are based on desktop research rather than local knowledge and site visits.
- Alternative Areas: Identified alternatives are often unsuitable due to size, terrain, or accessibility issues.

Requests to the Council

- Public Input: Request for more public input before finalizing changes.
- Maintain Current Access: Request to keep current off-leash areas and consider new off-leash areas in growing suburbs

#6970

Submission to the Franklin Local Board

By Dog Friends Auckland February 2025

Overview

#6970

- Since the last Dog bylaw review there are over 10,000 more registered dogs (113,343 dogs YE June 2024) in Auckland.
  - In 2018 Franklin had the 2nd highest number of dogs amongst the LB's with 9.5% of all dogs in Auckland

- Since the last Policy & Bylaw of 2019 Dog owners have paid Council approx **$50 MILLION** in registrations & fines etc.* (YE 2019 - 2024).

- Overall there are approx 60 changes proposed for dog access around Auckland
  - 31 are to prohibit dogs from areas
  - 19 change access from off leash to on
  - 10 give new off leash access.

- Many of the proposed changes that remove access are being proposed simply to have the same rules throughout Auckland.
  - No analysis has been done on how many dog owners currently use these areas as they are now or where the next area they could obtain the same access would be located.

* Based on 113,343 dog registrations at average $79.57 per dog and $1.1M in infringements etc - $10 M per anum

Loss of access for Dogs

#6970

- It is worth highlighting that changes to access can change many local people's daily routine. Removing or restricting access to local dog owners means that somewhere they go daily with their dog is suddenly not available or limits their dog's exercise opportunity - sometimes just to meet a region wide rule.
    - As part of your HYS event this came through strongly from the Dog owners who attended. The locations that they frequent daily with their dogs are extremely important to them. Any changes can make a big difference to their daily lives. And in same cases alternative areas are not suitable due to terrain, ground condition, or safety.

- There are more subdivisions in Franklin that are on smaller sites. People who live in these homes do not have the room to exercise a dog on their property and rely on their LB to provide access. At the rate of development that is currently happening the need from these homeowners will increase.

- Any changes Council makes can have a massive impact on dog owners. It might mean having to drive to another location rather than walking to their local park or beach. For shift workers, having close to home access is important.

- More dogs in less spaces means that you can have issues with too many dogs in the same spots - especially during the summer season restrictions. (Time & season and bird breeding seasons).

Franklin Dog Access

#6970

Pre 2019 Most of Auckland was OFF LEASH by default

As part of the 2019 Dog Bylaw council moved the default rule across Auckland to be 'on leash'. Franklin previously had 'off leash' as it's default rule.

Changing to 'ON LEASH' default and moving the responsibility to Local Boards for access changes has meant no new off leash areas since 2019.

Regulatory staff have told us that "LB's were initially contacted in Dec 2023 where the process to request additional dog access rules for review was outlined."

So our question is why isn't there any new off leash areas put forward for Franklin as part of this review?



#6970

Clevedon Showgrounds - a bit more detail

Looking into this situation after hearing submitters at the HYS event it seems as though Council left this off leash area out of the list of areas when they finalised the 2019 Dog Bylaw Policy update. As was stated in the SOP for the 2019 Dog Bylaw review that went out for public consultation:

Proposal 2:

All local board dog access rules within Schedule 2 of the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs will be presented in the same way. The rules will now list designated dog exercise areas, off leash areas, areas where a time and season rule is applied, and prohibited areas. Public spaces not listed in Schedule 2 have the default rule of dogs on leash.

This will not change local dog access rules that are currently applied in any local beach, park or reserve, only the way the rules are presented.

So they told dog owners that the switch to on leash as a default will not change any local dog access rules that were currently applied in any local beach, park or reserve. That's not what they are saying about Clevedon Showgrounds. They are presenting ON LEASH as the current rules, but it should be OFF LEASH.

What staff presented to the LB

#6970

Options assessment – Clevedon Showgrounds Reserve		
Note: The effectiveness and efficiency assessment is in relation to the Policy on Dog Access Principles (to "provide a balanced use of public places for dogs and their owners that is safe for everyone"), consideration of Policy criteria for changes to dog access rules and has regard to the matters in s10(4) of the Dog Control Act 1996 (DCA).		
Option 1 (Status quo)	**Option 2A (Amend rule)**	**Option 2B (Amend rule) (Recommended)**
Formerly adopt the under control on a leash error on areas of the showgrounds not otherwise prohibited (Schedule 1). Dogs continue to be **prohibited** on sports surfaces and areas not under council control (e.g. leased areas) (Schedule 1).	Reinstate the intended 2012 Policy **under control off a leash** on areas of the showgrounds not otherwise prohibited (Schedule 2). Dogs continue to be **prohibited** on sports surfaces and areas not under council control (e.g. leased areas), and under control on a leash in vicinity of sports surfaces when in use and on parking areas (Schedule 1).	Dogs allowed **under control off a leash** on grass areas south of the area used as sports fields and west and north of equestrian areas (See Location Map) (Schedule 2), except during events where temporary dog access rules may apply (Bylaw clause 10). Dogs allowed under control on a leash on all other areas of the showgrounds not otherwise prohibited (Schedule 1) Dogs continue to be **prohibited** on sports surfaces and areas not under council control (e.g. leased areas) (Schedule 1).

OPTION 1 isn't the Status Quo - it's a mistake that council made in 2019 it should be OFF not on leash

OPTION 2A is what the access should be now.

OPTION 2B is what dog owners at the HYS said makes no sense and seems to have been dreamed up by someone who has never been to the showgrounds.

2012 Dog Bylaw - Franklin District

The following pages are from the 2012 Dog Bylaw which shows that there were no restrictions on Dog access at the Clevedon Showgrounds other than those standard for Auckland which do not need to be laid out - playgrounds etc.

This means that Council did not identify it as an off leash area in the 2019 review - which they should have done. This was what they promised to do as part of the SOP that they put out for consultation in 2019..

This is why the maps in the current piece of consultation are so confusing to people. What they are showing as the current access is wrong - it should have been off leash and that is how the community is still using it.

Franklin Local Board Area

(1) **Dogs are allowed under control off a leash** in the following areas – (a) On all parks, beaches or foreshores in the former Manukau City not specifically identified as a prohibited or under control on a leash area. (b) All beaches in the former Franklin District not specifically identified as a prohibited, under control on a leash area, or dog exercise area. (c) Tawhitokino Regional Park and associated beach. *Explanatory Note: Dogs prohibited in campgrounds under Schedule 1* (d) Orere Point Regional Park and associated beach. *Explanatory Note: Dogs prohibited in campgrounds under Schedule 1.*
(2) **Dogs are allowed under control off a leash** in the following dog exercise areas**, *** –

2012 Dog Bylaw - Franklin District

#6970

Franklin Local Board Area

(a) Rooseville Reserve, Totara Avenue and Ngahere Road, Pukekohe, excluding the fenced grazed area.
(b) Hickeys Reserve, Pukekohe, from Paerata Road to Childs Avenue.
(c) Cape Hill Reserve, Brownlee Place, Pukekohe, excluding the fenced grazed area.
(d) The catchment reserve between Jackson Place and Ward Street, Pukekohe.
(e) Reserve area along estuary access from Edgewater parade and Riverside Drive, Waiuku.
(f) Esplanade reserve from Huia Street to Totara Street, with access from Rata Street, Waiuku.
(g) Karioitahi Beach, Waiuku, south of a line extending east/west from the southern wall of the Karioitahi Beach Lifesaving Clubrooms and north of a line extending east/west from the northern wall of the Public Toilet Block facility.
(h) Orua Bay, from the Orua Bay creek to Mako Point.
(i) Patumahoe Recreation Reserve, Clive Howe Road, Patumahoe, in the signposted area at the north/western corner.
(j) East Coast Rd Reserves, foreshore only, Waharau North.

(3) **Dogs are allowed under control off a leash** on the following beaches and adjoining parks before 9.00am and after 7.00pm during daylight saving, and are allowed under control off a leash at all times outside of daylight saving. **Dogs are prohibited** from 9.00am to 7.00pm during daylight saving.

(a) Kawakawa Bay Beach
(b) Maraetai Beach
(c) Magazine Bay
(d) Omana Beach
(e) Orare Beach
(f) Sunkist Bay Beach
(g) Waiomanu Beach
(h) Waiti Beach

(4) **Dogs are allowed under control off a leash** on Karioitahi Beach, Waiuku (within an area bounded by two lines extending east/west from the southern wall of the Karioitahi Beach Lifesaving Clubrooms and the northern wall of the public toilet block facility) and adjoining park –
(a) Before 10.00am and after 6.00pm on weekends, public holidays and school holidays between the Saturday of Labour Weekend and 31 March;
(b) At all times on days that are not a weekend, public holiday and school holiday between the Saturday of Labour Weekend and 31 March; and
(c) At all times between 1 April and Friday before Labour Weekend.

Dogs are prohibited from 10.00am to 6.00pm during daylight saving on weekends, public holidays and school holidays between the Saturday of Labour Weekend and 31 March.

(5) **Dogs are allowed under control off a leash** on the following beaches –
(a) Before 10.00am and after 6.00pm on weekends, public holidays and school holidays between the Saturday of Labour Weekend and 31 March;
(b) At all times on days that are not a weekend, public holiday and school holiday between the Saturday of Labour Weekend and 31 March; and
(c) At all times between 1 April and Friday before Labour Weekend.

Dogs are allowed under control on a leash from 10.00am to 6.00pm during daylight saving on weekends, public holidays and school holidays between the Saturday of Labour Weekend and 31 March.

(a) Clarks Beach – from (and including) the beach frontage at Camp Morley and all adjoining beach and access way reserves west of Camp Morley.
(b) Glenbrook Beach and Glenbrook Landing Reserve.
(h) Big Bay.
(i) Wattle Bay.
(j) Hamiltons Gap, within 250m either side of the creek mouth at the end of West Coast Road.

2012 Dog Bylaw - Franklin District

#6970

Franklin Local Board Area

(c) Te Toro.
(d) Pollok Wharf.
(e) Matakawau Point, Matakawau Beach and Sergeants Beach.
(f) Hudsons Beach, between the boat ramp at the end of Hudsons Beach Road and the boat ramp at Grahams Beach.
(g) Orua Bay, west of the Orua Bay creek.
(k) Waiau Beach
(l) All those beaches and adjoining parks from the south east boundary of Auckland (north of Wharekawa) northwards to and including Lot 1 2 DP 12729 (north of Matingarahi), except those areas identified as a dog exercise area.
(m) Esplanade Reserve at the end of Brook Road, Awhitu.

(6) In the area of **Omana Regional Park** –
(a) **Dogs are allowed under control off a leash** on the perimeter walk and associated foreshore (excluding Omana Beach) at all times
(b) **Dogs are allowed under control on a leash** in the arrival area, and on the Beachlands to Maraetai walk/cycle way.
(c) **Dogs are prohibited** in all other areas of the park.
Explanatory Note: Temporary restrictions may apply during seasonal farming operations (lambing and calving) under Clause 10 of Dog Management Bylaw.

(7) In the area of **Tapapakanga Regional Park** -
(a) **Dogs are allowed under control off a leash** on the associated beach.
(b) **Dogs are allowed under control on a leash** on the park between 1 December and 30 June.
(c) **Dogs are prohibited** on the park between 1 July and 30 November (lambing and calving).

(8) In the area of **Waitawa Regional Park** -
(a) **Dogs are allowed under control off a leash** on the associated beach.
(b) **Dogs are allowed under control on a leash** on the park. *Explanatory Note: Dogs prohibited in camping areas under Schedule 1 and restrictions may apply to protect nesting areas and during seasonal farming operations (lambing and calving) under Clause 10 of Dog Management Bylaw.*

(9) **Dogs are allowed under control on a leash** in the following areas –
(a) All farm paddocks in a park in the former Manukau City occupied by stock.
(b) All bush walks in Clevedon Conservation Area and Dr Platt-Mills Reserve.
(c) Esplanade reserves adjacent to Papepapa Marginal Strip Foreshore, Waikopua Creek Conservation Area Foreshore, Wairoa River Estuary Bay Foreshore.
(d) All parks, beaches and foreshores in the former Papakura District not specifically identified as a prohibited or off-leash area.
(e) On all recreational walkways in the former Papakura District.
(f) All areas developed or marked out as a public garden in the former Papakura District.
(g) All sportsparks** in the former Papakura District.
(h) Any area in the former Papakura and Franklin Districts that is developed or marked out as a picnic area (not specifically identified as a prohibited area) or fitness apparatus area.
(i) All parks and foreshores in the former Franklin District not specifically identified as a prohibited, off-leash or dog exercise area.
(j) Any area developed or marked out as a grass sports surface (sports field) in the former Franklin District when not used for sporting events.

(10) In the area of **Awhitu Regional Park**, dogs are allowed under control on a leash on the Esplanade Reserve area of the park at the end of Brook

2012 Dog Bylaw - Franklin District

#6970

Franklin Local Board Area

Road, and dogs are prohibited on all other areas of the park and on the associated beaches.

(11) In the area of **Hunua Ranges Regional Park**, dogs are allowed under control on a leash in areas not specifically identified as being prohibited. Dogs are prohibited in picnic areas, exclusive areas around and including the water supply dams and on the Kohukohunui Track. *Explanatory Note: Dogs prohibited in camping areas under Schedule 1 and temporary restrictions may apply during seasonal farming operations (lambing and calving) under Clause 10 of the Dog Management Bylaw.*

(12) **Dogs are prohibited** in the following areas –

(a) Duder Regional Park and associated foreshore.
(b) In the protected wildlife areas of the George Kern Nature Reserve (Kern Road, Pukekohe East) and Harris Nature Reserve (Rutherford Road, Pukekohe East).
(c) *Clarks Beach Marginal Strip and adjacent Crown foreshore[1,4] (DOC Maps 5.7, 6.5).*
(d) *Clifton Bay Marginal Strip and Crown foreshore[1,2] (DOC Maps 5.8, 6.6).*
(e) *Crown foreshore of Rangiri Creek and surrounds[2] (DOC Map 6.43)*
(f) *Papepape Marginal Strip and Crown foreshore[1,2] (DOC Map 5.39, 6.39).*
(g) *Turanga Creek Conservation Area and Crown foreshore[1,2] (DOC Maps 5.55, 6.59).*
(h) *Waikopua Creek Conservation Area Crown foreshore[1,2] (DOC Maps 5.56, 6.61).*
(i) *Waipipi Creek Crown foreshore[2] (DOC Map 6.63).*
(j) *Wairoa Estuary and Bay Crown foreshore[2] (DOC Map 6.64).*

Reasons for Department of Conservation dog access rule:–

1 High population of protected wildlife vulnerable to dogs
2 Inter-tidal areas with various species vulnerable to dogs
3 Potential conflict with other users (members of the public)
4 Vulnerable wildlife present

Department of Conservation conditions of entry –

5 Faeces to be removed
6 Leash rule does not apply to hunting dogs.

* Time restriction. Dogs are only allowed under control off-leash before 8am and after 7pm between the Saturday of Labour Weekend and Easter Monday (summer), and before 8am and after 5pm between the Tuesday after Easter Monday and the Friday before Labour Weekend (winter).

** *Explanatory Note: The region-wide rule that prohibits dogs on any sports surface (unless exceptions are stated) and that requires dogs to be kept under control on a leash in the vicinity of any sports surface when in use as stated in Schedule 1, Rule 1(2) continues to apply. This note is specified in relation to particular parks where a sportsfield is known to exist to assist readers.*

Franklin Dog Access

#6970

- Changes proposed by Council to dog access in Franklin
  - 19 areas that dogs had access to are to be PROHIBITED
  - Kawakawa bay - changes to access.
    - From time & season to prohibited during bird breeding season and some off leash at all times.
- No new off leash areas in Franklin since 2019, despite new home subdivisions
- Proposal to remove access from 15 sports grounds.
  - As part of council's own policy, it stated they should consider 'before making any change to a dog access rule that will provide less dog access; that to the extent that is practicable, that displaced dog owners have access to other places, or that such access is provided as part of the same decision."
  - In all the documents about the analysis of this decision I cannot find anywhere where council has identified other locations that dog owners using these spaces can go.
  - All I do find is that in these parks pretty much 80-90% of the park area that dog owners had access to is proposed to be removed…. The exceptions being Glenbrook Road Recreation reserve and Puni Recreation Reserve. See maps of these 15 sports grounds on following pages

#6970



Bledisloe Park - Franklin



Clive Howe Rd Recreation Reserve



ative only and all rerified on site before Council. Land Parcel wn Copyright. laken, Auckland. ourtesy and plan ys map/plan and ition or use of the 1946.

Colin Lawrie Fields

Dat
20/



Franklin A&P Showgrounds (Leased)

Date Up
20/06/20

#6970



Glenbrook Road Recreation Reserve

Date Updat
20/06/2023



Hamilton Estate Recreation Reserve

Date Updat
20/06/2023

#6970



Karaka Sports Park

Date Updated:
20/06/2023

#6970



Massey Park - Waiuku

Date Updated:
20/06/2023

#6970



Matakawau Recreation Reserve

Date Updat
20/06/2023



Patumahoe Recreation Reserve

Date Updated



Puni Recreation Reserve

Date Updat
20/06/2023



Rosa Birch Park

Date
20/06

#6970



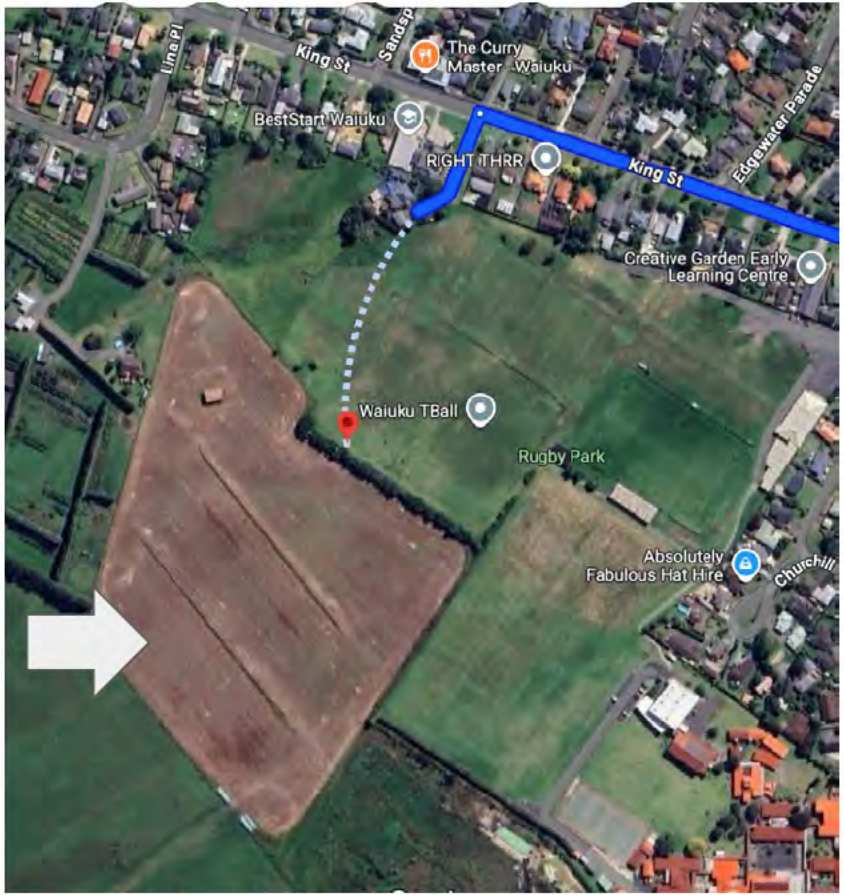
Waiau Pa Domain

Date U
20/06/

Waiuku Sports park - back area looks like it's not a usable part of the park.

#6970





Southern Areas - proposed Access Changes - Franklin

#6970

Sports fields in former Franklin District

Proposed sports field changes are for the following parks:

Bledisloe Park, Clive How Road Recreation Reserve, Colin Lawrie Fields, Franklin A&P Showgrounds, Glenbrook Road Recreation Reserve, Hamilton Estate Recreation Reserve, Karaka Sports Park, Massey Park, Matakawau Recreation Reserve, Navigation Homes Stadium, Patumahoe Recreation Reserve, Puni Recreation Reserve, Rosa Birch Park, Waiau Pa Domain, Waiuku Sports Park.

We are proposing to better protect sports users from nuisance and sports surfaces from damage while still providing for on-leash dog access in other areas of the park that is consistent with dog access rules on all other parks in the local board area and Auckland region by applying the default region-wide prohibition of dogs on sports surfaces.

Current Policy rules

On sports surfaces (marked grass sports fields):

- Dogs allowed **under control on a leash** when not in use or closed (Schedule 1(2) and 2)
- Dogs are **prohibited** when in use or closed (Schedule 1(2) and 2).

Current dog access rules in other park areas (for example on any playgrounds or carparks) would continue to apply (Schedule 1).

Proposed amended Policy rules

On sports surfaces (marked grass sports fields):

- Dogs are **prohibited** at all times (Schedule 1(2)).
- Current dog access rules in other park areas (for example on any playgrounds or carparks) would continue to apply (Schedule 1).

CHANGE: From On leash to PROHIBITED

Loss of ON leash access at 15 locations simply to have a city wide rule be the same.

Dogs are not allowed on sports surfaces when in use or closed. So sports users are not endangered and surfaces are not damaged. There is no alternative access offered in lieu of removal of this access.

How many of these areas have somewhere else of a similar size that dog owners can exercise their dogs?

Option analysis summary

#6970

Sports fields in former Franklin District Council	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Validity
Option 1 (Status quo) – Retain Dogs allowed under control on a leash when not in use or closed	x	x	x
Option 2 (Amend rule) (Recommended) – Revoke exemption and apply region-wide prohibition on sports fields.	✓	✓	✓

Recommended option:

- will better protect sports users from nuisance and sports surfaces from damage while still providing for on-leash dog access in other areas of the 15 sports parks in this request.
- will apply a consistent rule on all sports fields in the Franklin Local Board area and align with the region-wide rule
- is authorised under s10(3)(a-e) and has regard to the matters in s10(4) of the DCA, is consistent with the Policy's Dog Access Principles and considers the Policy criteria for changes to dog access rules.

The trade-off with Option 1 of reduced dog access on sports fields (when not in use or closed) and the additional cost to implement, is to better protect sports users from nuisance and sports surfaces from damage while still providing for on-leash dog access in other areas of the park that is consistent with dog access rules on all other parks in the local board area and Auckland region.

The implementation cost is approximately $700. This covers 30 dog access signs and courier costs.

Part 2: Detailed Assessment

Sports fields in former Franklin District Council

Location – Sports fields in former Franklin District Council

Former Franklin District Council sports parks (Bledisloe Park, Clive How Road Recreation Reserve, Colin Lawrie Fields, Franklin A&P Showgrounds*, Glenbrook Road Recreation Reserve, Hamilton Estate Recreation Reserve, Karaka Sports Park, Massey Park, Matakawau Recreation Reserve, Navigation Homes Stadium, Paturmahoe Recreation Reserve, Puni Recreation Reserve, Rosa Birch Park, Waiau Pa Domain, Waiuku Sports Park*).

- There are 13 council-owned sports parks and two council-leased* sports parks used for sports purposes including football (soccer), rugby league and union, softball, and touch rugby.

  NOTE: there is also one privately owned park (Bombay Rugby Club) and two schools (Waiuku Primary and College) to which this request does not apply.
- The parks vary in size and the allocation of training and competition capacity for each parks varies as well (for example, Bledisloe Park, has seven sports fields in the winter and Navigation Homes Stadium only one).

Map below shows council-owned and leased sports parks in the former Franklin District Council area:



Current dog access rule

- Default dog access rules currently apply on the parks in this request, except for the region-wide rule that prohibits dogs on sports surfaces at all times.
- This means for example, that dogs are allowed on-leash on sports fields at Bledisloe Park and Massey Park when not in use or closed.
- This is a legacy exemption of the former Franklin District that the local board can retain without change or revoke to apply the region-wide prohibition of dogs. The prohibition would not apply to other areas of the parks in this request where for example at Bledisloe Park and Massey Park, dogs would continue to be allowed under control on a leash on grass areas outside of marked sports fields.
- Note: The region-wide prohibition currently applies to five other sports parks in the Franklin Local Board area - Beachlands Domain, Clevedon Showgrounds Reserve, Te Puru Park, Whitford Memorial Domain (former Manukau City Council) and Bell Field (former Papakura District Council).

Franklin Local Board sports park dog access rules in Schedule 2 of Policy on Dogs 2019

Dogs are allowed under control on-leash on all local beaches and foreshore areas, local parks and reserves not specifically listed below.

NOTE: None of the parks in this request are specifically listed in Schedule 2 of the Policy.

Part 2: Detailed Assessment

#6970

The prohibition on any sports surface does not apply when the sports surface is not in use or closed in any areas developed or marked out as a grass sports surface (sports field) in the former Franklin District.

Change request

- **Requester:** Parks and Community Facilities
- **Request:** To align the dog access rule for the sports fields at 15 sports parks in the Franklin Local Board area with the region-wide rule that prohibits dogs on any sports surface at all times.
- **NOTE:** This assessment also addresses updating the web pages for all sports parks in the Franklin Local Board area which contains errors. This includes correcting errors in current rules as identified below:
  - **Bell Field** (former Papakura District Council), incorrectly stated as on-leash all areas. Correct rule is prohibited on sports fields at all times, on-leash all other areas.
  - **Te Puru Park** (former Manukau City Council), include stated as off-leash on sports fields. Correct rule is prohibited on sports fields at all times, on-leash other sports fields when in use.

Planning assessment

Is there a structural change in the nature of the area?

- Yes. Since 2019, there has been an increase in investment in the development and maintenance of parks and sports fields in the Franklin Local Board area and an increase in usage.
- The fields are utilised for a variety of sports, and in the summer months usage on the parks generally increases due to the weather and the division of playing surfaces (for example, one rugby field in the winter caters for two touch rugby fields in the summer).

Are there any significant risk factors at location as a result of the change in the nature of the area?

- Yes. The increase in investment and usage increases the significant risk of nuisance and damage (for example from ripping or residual dog faeces) on sports surfaces.
- In general council complaints data indicates that between 2019 and 2024 there have been 13 incidents about dogs being aggressive or attacking an animal or person on Franklin sports parks. However, it is unclear whether the incidents occurred on a sports field with the dog on a leash.

Is there a structural problem with the current dog access rules that requires an options analysis?

- ✓ Yes. Since 2019, an increased investment and usage of sports parks in the former Franklin District Council area has increased the significant risk of nuisance to people and damage to sports surfaces.

Options assessment

Note: The effectiveness and efficiency assessment is in relation to the Policy on Dog Access Principles (to "provide a balanced use of public places for dogs and their owners that is safe for everyone"), consideration of Policy criteria for changes to dog access rules and has regard to the matters in s10(4) of the Dog Control Act 1996 (DCA).

Option 1: Status quo	Option 2: Amend rule (Recommended)
This option would mean – On sports surfaces (marked grass sports fields): • Dogs allowed [illegible] when not in use or closed (Schedule 1(2) and 2) • Dogs are **prohibited** when in use or closed (Schedule 1(2) and 2). Current dog access rules in other park areas (for example on any playgrounds or carparks) would continue to apply (Schedule 1).	This option would mean – On sports surfaces (marked grass sports fields): • Dogs are **prohibited** at all times (Schedule 1(2)). Current dog access rules in other park areas (for example on any playgrounds or carparks) would continue to apply (Schedule 1).

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the analysis against the criteria above, Option 2 (Revoke exemption and apply region-wide prohibition on sports fields) is the most appropriate way to address the structural problem and achieve the objective of providing a balanced use of public places for dogs and their owners that is safe for everyone. Taking this approach:

- will better protect sports users from nuisance and sports surfaces from damage while still providing for on-leash dog access in other areas of the 15 sports parks in this request
- will apply a consistent rule on all sports fields in the Franklin Local Board area and align with the region-wide rule.
- is authorised under s10(3)(a-e) and has regard to the matters in s10(4) of the DCA, is consistent with the Policy's Dog Access Principles and considers the Policy criteria for changes to dog access rules.

The trade-off with Option 1 of reduced dog access on sports fields (when not in use or closed) and the additional cost to implement, is to better protect sports users from nuisance and sports surfaces from damage while still providing for on-leash dog access in other areas of the park that is consistent with dog access rules on all other parks in the local board area and Auckland region.

Implementation	
Decision-making process • No additional costs to local board. • No requirement to use Special Consultative Procedure (SCP) and no change to signage. **Administration** • Animal Management staff continue (as a prioritised resource allows) to patrol locations to educate dog owners and where appropriate to issue infringements. • Staff to correct errors and update information on the Where you can walk your dog webpage and signage.	**Decision-making process** • Requires use of the SCP. • Local board adopts proposed changes for public consultation. • Governing Body funds generic SCP process (public notice for feedback and decision, co-ordinates 'have your say events' and deliberations and updates Where you can walk your dog and Policy information. • Local Board funds cost of any bespoke SCP initiatives and new signage (estimated at $700 for 30 signs) and local board time and resource for 'have your say events' and deliberations (for example access to local board libraries and offices). **Administration** • Same as Option 1.
Effectiveness	
✗ Least effective option. Retains increased significant risks of nuisance to sports users and damage to sports surfaces (although less than if dogs were allowed off-leash).	✓ More effective than Option 1. Would better protect sports users from nuisance and sports surfaces from damage while still providing for dogs on-leash in other areas of the parks.
Efficiency	
✗ While no cost in the short-term (no SCP required), the current rules are inconsistent with the region-wide prohibition elsewhere in the local board area and the Auckland region which can lead to confusion.	✓ More efficient than Option 1. While more costly in short-term (SCP plus signage costs), alignment with the region-wide prohibition at all times rule will be easier to understand and administer in terms of consistency.
Validity	
✓ Inclusion of dog access rules in the Policy is authorised by s10(3a-e) of the DCA, the DCA is the primary legislation to manage dog access, and the option has regard to matters in section 10(4) of DCA.	
✗ Less reasonable option. Fails to balance the needs of dog owners and their dogs and the increased significant risks of nuisance to sports users and damage to property.	✓ More reasonable than Option 1. Applies a consistent region-wide rule that protects sports users and sports surfaces while still allowing dog access in other areas of the parks.
Risk and mitigation	
Risk: IF the current rules are retained, THEN there is a low reputational risk of retaining a rule that creates increased significant risks of damage and nuisance due to increased investment and usage and is inconsistent with the region-wide rule. **Mitigation:** Communication that the local board consider the legacy exemption to still be appropriate in this more rural area of Auckland.	**Risk:** IF rules are amended, THEN there is a medium risk that dog owners may perceive the change as unreasonable. **Mitigation:** Communication that public feedback will be sought before making a final decision.

No part of this assessment identifies where else dog owners can go when this access is removed. There is no new access as part of the proposed change.

Kawakawa Bay - proposed reduced dog access

#6970

From this

Kawakawa Bay Beach – Current dog access rules



To this

Kawakawa Bay Beach – Proposed dog access rules



Key:

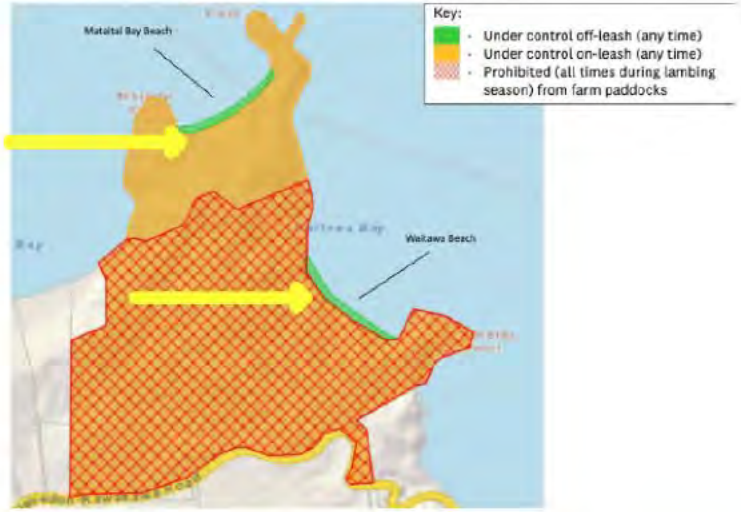
- Under control off-leash (any time)
- Under control on-leash (all times)
- Prohibited (at all times)
- Under control on-leash (when used as a carpark)
- Time and season
- Bird breeding season

#6970

Waitawa Regional Park - more restrictions on dog access

From this

Waitawa Regional Park – Current dog access rules



To this

Waitawa Regional Park – Proposed dog access rules



MAIN CHANGES:

- Removing most of the off leash access and moving to on leash. There seems to be only a ¼ of the off leash area proposed to be remaining as off leash

Kawakawa Bay

#6970

As we are not locals it is hard to state any local facts on the proposals for Kawakawa Bay - but we do note that what has triggered this proposed change to dog access has come from one member of the public.

We also note that council is proposing to reduce dog access at the neighbouring Waitawa Regional Park and at the Clevedon Showgrounds reserve.

At neighbouring Waitawa Regional Park the proposal there is to reduce off leash access by about 75% (what was previously off leash is moving to on leash). This could mean more dog owners wanting to access the off leash areas of Kawakawa Bay.

As there is a large swath of the beach that is in the middle of the two proposed off leash areas of this beach proposed to have dogs prohibited for 7 months during the bird breeding season, we would ask could ON LEASH during the bird breeding season work instead? To go straight from OFF leash during time and season to PROHIBITED for 7 months of the year is a big reduction in access.

If the Franklin Local board plan to go ahead with the prohibiting of dogs during a bird breeding season we would then ask that they do so once they have reviewed the physical access that is available for dog owners to the off leash at all time zones of the beach - are dog owners able to practically get to these areas? Is there car parking?

- Is there safe access for families with prams and dogs, or elderly people with dogs? (I.E - no banks to clamber over or down, safe steps etc).
- Can dog owners walk from one end of the beach to the other around the bird breeding zone? Is there a pathway off the beach they can go along? Or is there a roadside pavement they can follow?

Dogs on lead don't have a massive impact on breeding dotterel vs people #6970

Auckland Council Staff have referenced the following study in Dotterel proposals regarding Dogs;

A. Lord et al. / Biological Conservation 98 (2001)

Effects of Human Approaches to nests of Dotterel
As part of the field survey sites were rated as receiving high levels of activity if they received between 7-20 visitors per hour - these were identified as busy beaches.

Scenarios tested were; Lone person walking, lone person running, lone person walking a leashed dog. Off leash dog walking was not tested. All of the testing started at 200m out from the nest. All participants walked to within 5 metres of the nest.

Flush distances were observed.
For those deemed to be a busy beach the mean result showed;

- A lone walker would flush a bird off the nest at approx 20m
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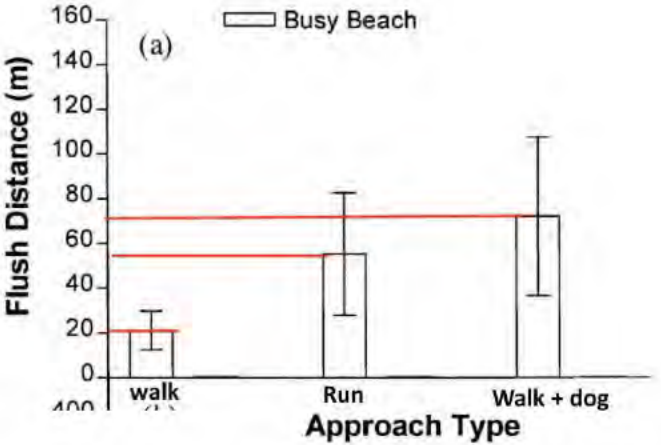


Fig. 2. Effect of beach activity level on (a) flush distance and (b) time spent off nest (back transformed means and standard errors).

Making dogs the bad guy means people think we are the only problem #6970

After having someone (+dog) come within 5m of the nest & standing there for 1 minute the time spent off the nest on a busy beach was:

- A lone walker kept the birds off the nest for approx 2.5 minutes (150 seconds)
- A lone runner kept the birds off the nest for approx 3 minutes (180 seconds)
- A lone walk with a leashed dog kept the birds off the nest for approx 3.7 minutes (210 seconds). ***Only 40 seconds approx longer than a runner.***

The impact of a dog on leash vs a runner is only 40 seconds. A walker will still mean that the birds will be off the nest for approx 2.5 minutes.

In the assessment for the Kawakawa Bay changes it states that 'dotterels and oystercatchers can be easily spooked & are significantly impacted by dogs - even on a lead.' But we question the 'significantly' statement for dogs on lead based on this study when comparing to human only impact. We don't doubt that the birds need help - but dogs are the only ones restricted - not people, or vehicles, or cats or other predators - just dogs are the ones that council keep prohibiting and restricting. The public then see us, not human activity as a whole as the issue.

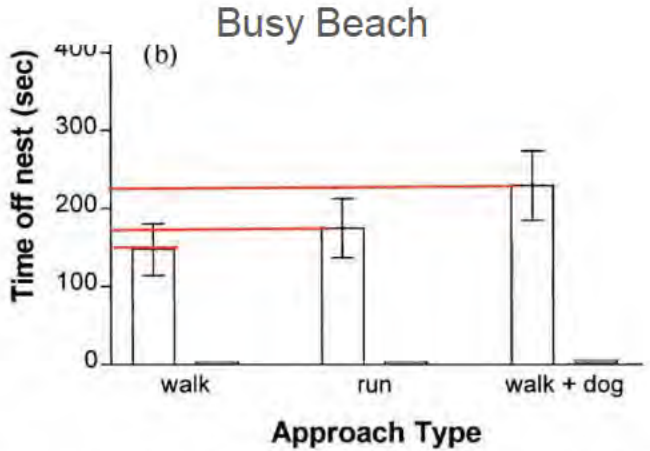


Fig. 2. Effect of beach activity level on (a) flush distance and (b) time spent off nest (back transformed means and standard errors).

HYS events

- What came through strongly from the dog owners present at the HYS was that for Clevedon what was provided for dogs owners to give feedback as part of this was not fit for purpose. Regular users of this area felt that what was proposed was done by someone who had no knowledge of the space and it's current usage and would not work.

- The same for those who frequented the Colin Lawrie park who felt that the other areas available were unsuitable due to terrain, ground conditions and safety. They felt strongly that no one had actually visited the area in making these recommendations and that it was proposed 'on paper', with no local input or knowledge.

#6970

We would ask that:

- The proposed restrictions of PROHIBITING Dogs from Sports fields not go ahead and the current access rules remain.

- That the Local board plan new off leash areas for dog owners in the new subdivisions that are already in place and for the planned Growth areas within Franklin.

- And upon hearing the local support at the HYS event we request that the off leash access to remain as it was pre 2019 at the Clevedon Showgrounds Reserve.

Dogs aren't the only threat to Dotterels…

…but because the council has a bylaw in place to control dog access they are always the ones to be restricted.

Cats are proving a huge issue at the Dotterel population at Omaha and locals are crying out for council to do something.

People running, kids playing can also cause the dotterels to move off their nest. Kite surfing has been shown to affect breeding dotterel in Auckland.

But the only ones who have any infringements on their movements are dog owners.

#6970

Threats to Dotterels are not limited to Dogs

Kite Surfing - risk to breeding;

Council's own expert witness in a Council Environment Court action1 - Dr Lovegrove (Auckland Council) - said that an increase in kite-surfing at the Karaka shell banks in the South Manukau harbour had been found to be disturbing migratory species such as godwits and preventing breeding of New Zealand dotterel for whom this was an important site. In addition another expert witness who was supporting Council's position in this action cited "an evaluation of 17 studies from five countries, including New Zealand, Mr Don said that birds perceive kite surfers as large predators and avoid them by taking long flights or leaving a site altogether. In his view, unregulated kite-surfing had the potential to "*significantly degrade the existing habitats of coastal birds as a result of continual disturbance*".

Snells beach is one of the most popular kite/foil surfing areas of Auckland

#6970

Threats to Dotterels are not just from dogs

Predators - cats. Cats have been a major problem for Dotterel breeding sites in the north auckland area but council has no plan in place to limit or control cats



Cat attacks dotterels at Snells

0:12 MON, 24 OCT

Snells Beach cat owners are being asked to keep an eye on their pets, after dotterels were attacked early last Wednesday morning, October 19, forcing...



Omaha dotterel team mourns cat attack

0:13 SUN, 13 DEC

Night photos at the sanctuary, taken after the dotterel died, clearly show a cat on the prowl. A domestic cat is believed to have killed...



Tragic end for dotterel egg

10:10 TUE, 19 NOV

The sole dotterel (tūturiwhatu) egg remaining at Tindalls Bay disappeared overnight on Friday, November 8. Forest and Bir volunteer Derek Kelsey discovered the empty nest...



Council's dithering on dotterels criticised

8:08 TUE, 19 MAR

Auckland Council has been urged to do its job in protecting the seabirds and their chicks on Omaha Spit, which are being decimated by cats...



Council pussyfoots over dotterel destruction

14:02 FRI, 16 FEB

A refusal by Auckland Council to seriously address the cat problem on the Omaha Spit could sound the death knell for the area as a...



Community groups seek more cat control

13:01 TUE, 23 MAR

When cats were first captured on camera on the chenier (shell bank) in the Weiti River, last October, environmental group Friends of Okura Bush (FOOB)...



Stop pussyfooting around – keep cats indoors, pet owners urged

8:08 MON, 22 FEB

Cat burglar – this pet stole several eggs and wrecked dotterel nests this season at Snells Beach. Though their owners might not realise it, pet...

#6970

Threats to Dotterels are not just from dogs

Predators - black back gulls

Case study; Matakana Island

DOC began to worry about the apparent failure of New Zealand dotterel chicks to fledge on Matakana Island and set video cameras to monitor dotterel nests.

Surprise, the cameras revealed that predation by black-backed gulls was the main cause of mortality among dotterel chicks.

An eradication was successful, and there are now no black-backed gulls nesting on Matakana Island. .Dotterels have since made a huge comeback on Matakana Island, now the most successful nesting area for the waders in the country. During the 2004–05 breeding season 30 chicks were raised from 42 pairs of New Zealand dotterels, and banded dotterels from previous broods are turning up all round the Bay of Plenty and nesting in new areas. Other birds, such as variable oystercatchers, are also benefiting from the absence of the predatory gulls

https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/black-backed-gulls/

#6970

Submission to the Hibiscus & Bays Local Board

Dog Friends Auckland
February 2025

Overview

#6970

- Since the last Dog bylaw review there are over 10,000 more registered dogs (113,343 dogs YE June 2024) in Auckland.
  - H&B Local board had the 3rd highest number of dog registrations in 2018 & 36% of dog owners were RDOL holders.

- Since the last Policy & Bylaw of 2019 Dog owners have paid Council approx **$50 MILLION** in registrations & fines etc.* (YE 2019 - 2024).

- Overall there are approx 60 changes proposed for dog access around Auckland
  - 31 are to prohibit dogs from areas
  - 19 change access from off leash to on
  - 10 give new off leash access.

- Many of the proposed changes that remove access are being proposed simply to have the same rules throughout Auckland.
  - No analysis has been done on how many dog owners currently use these areas as they are now or where the next area they could obtain the same access would be located.

* Based on 113,343 dog registrations at average $79.57 per dog and $1.1M in infringements etc - $10 M per anum

Hibiscus & Bays

#6970

- It is worth highlighting that changes to access can change many local people's daily routine. Removing or restricting access to local dog owners means that somewhere they go daily with their dog is suddenly not available or limits their dog's exercise opportunity - sometimes just to meet a region wide rule.

- Any changes Council makes can have a massive impact on dog owners. It might mean having to drive to another location rather than walking to their local park or beach. For shift workers, having close to home access is important.

- More dogs in less spaces means that you can have issues with too many dogs in the same spots - especially during the summer season restrictions. (Time & season and bird breeding seasons).

Hibiscus & Bays

#6970

- Within the H&B Local board are two Regional Parks, but these are located within urban suburbs of Auckland. Shakespear & Long Bay - both of these have local households that treat these as their local parks/beaches.

- Council is proposing the following;
  - To apply the regional time and season rule of Dogs on leash on the grass areas next to Okoromai and Army Bay. This would mean current OFF leash access would become ON leash during summer hours restrictions (between 10am and 5pm).
  - To PROHIBIT dogs from east of the Army Bay boat ramp.
  - To PROHIBIT dogs from the eastern end of Okoromai Bay

Northern Areas - proposed Access Changes - Hibiscus & Bays - Shakespear Regional Park #6970

Current



Proposed



This map isn't showing the prohibited beach area of Army Bay

Hibiscus & Bays - Shakespear Regional Park

#6970

Prohibiting Dogs from East of the Army Bay boat ramp. The reason given is to stop dogs from accessing the sanctuary area. But there are cliffs here and no access to the park. There is no need to prohibit dogs from the east of the boat ramp at Army Bay beach. These photos clearly demonstrate the lack of access to the Sanctuary in this area of the beach.





Hibiscus & Bays - Shakespear

#6970

Prohibiting Dogs from the Eastern end of Okoromai Bay as there is a chance they might access the sanctuary area. There is signposting saying 'no dogs' beyond X point to stop this. There is no actual issue to address, just a risk. Unlike cats, dogs are accompanied by an owner & can be stopped from entering. Access is only available at low tide so it is not a hugely used area, but for people with reactive dogs it's a good place to be away from other dogs. The photos below show the area in question.





Hibiscus & Bays - Big Manly & Tindalls Beaches

#6970

COUNCIL PROPOSED CHANGE

We are proposing to protect dotterels that nest near the headland of Big Manly Beach and Tindalls beach from being disturbed, harmed or killed by dogs by requiring dogs to be on-leash (currently a time and season rule applies).

HOW THE PUBLIC SEES THE OPTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL ON COUNCIL FEEDBACK FORM

A. What do you think of this proposed change?

- ☐ I support the proposed change
- ☐ I do not support the proposed change
- ☐ I don't know

B. If you do not support the proposed change, would you support one of the alternative options presented to decision-makers in December 2024?

- ☐ No change to current Policy (dog access) rules

Doesn't state time & season

- ☐ Apply a bird breeding season rule (Schedule 2).

Bird Breeding Season (1 September to 31 March)	Out of Bird Breeding Season
Big Manly Beach between Cross Street to the headland connecting to Tindalls Beach	
At all times Prohibited	At all times Under control on leash

NOW PROHIBITED IS AN OPTION AS WELL

Apply the current time and season restrictions on remaining areas of the beach.

- ☐ Other (please explain below)

#6970

Hibiscus & Bays - Manly & Tindalls Beach

Map showing approx area of proposed council access restrictions;



#6970

Manly/Tindalls and surrounding beaches are Urban Beaches

As part of an urban environment are activities and human interactions that are detrimental to the Dotterels, including;

- Walking and running
- Dog walking
- Family days at the beach with kids playing
- Water sports - jet skis, boats, sailing, and especially at Manly - foiling and kite surfing.
- Drone activity
- Vehicles being driven and parked on the beach - including at speed.

Byproducts of an urban environment also include predators - cats, hedgehogs, rats, stoats, black back gulls etc.

With Penlink underway the resident population and day tripping population will only increase at Manly & Tindalls.

#6970

Manly/Tindalls and surrounding beaches are Urban Beaches

As far as we are aware, some of issues that have caused breeding failure over the years (approx 2019 onwards) for the Manly/Tindalls Dotterels include; nests being washed away by the tide, using a nesting spot that had had been poisoned prior to their arrival, hedgehogs predating the eggs, a builder removing eggs & stopping the birds from returning to the nest and a probable dog attack on an adult bird.

Most local dog owners actively avoid the nests and put their dogs on lead when they are nearby.

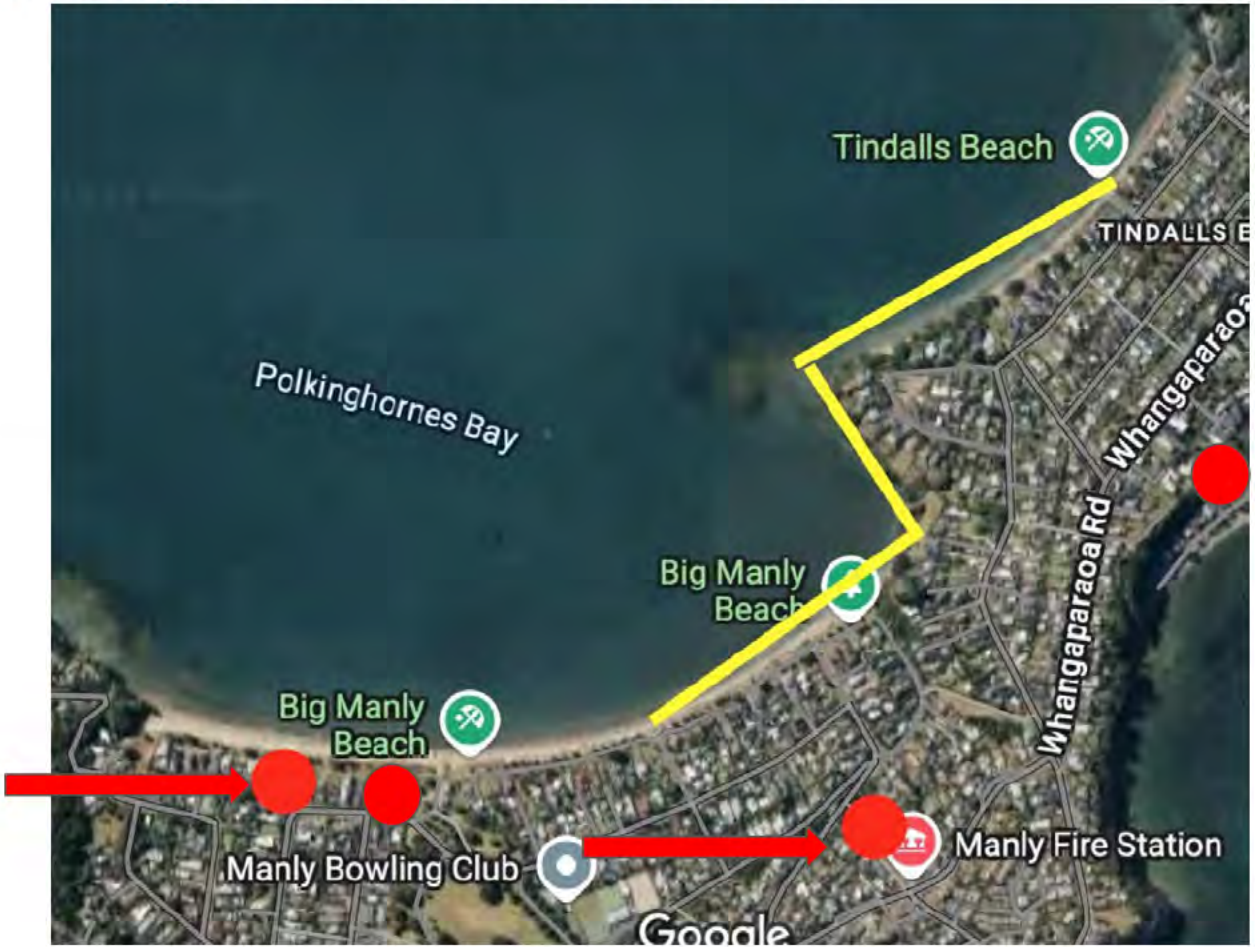
We believe that if the council proposal goes through it is likely they will want to, eventually, prohibit dogs from this area during the 7 month bird breeding season. (This is an option that is available to submitters on the council 'have your say' website when they complete the Council form online).

Manly/Tindalls and surrounding beaches are Urban Beaches

#6970

The very real risk to Council is it could end up with restrictions and no nests in that area of restrictions.

These birds have nested at multiple locations, including those outside of the proposed area as shown by the red dots.



Why can't we have a local solution?

#6970

THE CRUX OF OUR PROPOSAL FOR TINDALLS BEACH & MANLY BEACHES IS:
That on leash restrictions apply within 200m of a marked dotterel nest & dogs are prohibited within a marked 50m zone of a nest.

We have worked with Hibiscus Coast Forest & Bird to hopefully reach a solution that works for the birds & for dog owners. This will mean that where a dotterel is nesting has protection. It also means that the protection is there for the time that the nest is active (approximately two months) rather than 7 months of the breeding season.

Our submission forms state the following;

I OPPOSE the proposed Dog access rule change on BIG MANLY BEACH & TINDALLS BEACH to restrict dogs to being UNDER CONTROL ON A LEASH AT ALL TIMES from Cross Street to Hardley Avenue (including the headland between) (Schedule 1(4)(a)).

I WISH TO SEE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: I strongly request that on BIG MANLY BEACH & TINDALLS BEACH the current time and season rule remains but that, where a Dotterel nest is identified and marked, dogs must be on a lead within 200 metres of the nest and prohibited from entering a 50 metre zone, to be cordoned off around the nest itself during the nesting season.

How we got to this proposal?

#6970

Auckland Council Staff have referenced the following study in other Dotterel proposals regarding Dogs;

A. Lord et al. / Biological Conservation 98 (2001)

Effects of Human Approaches to nests of Dotterel
As part of the field survey sites were rated as receiving high levels of activity if they received between 7-20 visitors per hour - these were identified as busy beaches.

Scenarios tested were; Lone person walking, lone person running, lone person walking a leashed dog. Off leash dog walking was not tested. All of the testing started at 200m out from the nest. All participants walked to within 5 metres of the nest.

Flush distances were observed.
For those deemed to be a busy beach the mean result showed;

- A lone walker would flush a bird off the nest at approx 20m
- A lone runner would flush a bird off the nest at approx 50m
- A lone walker with a leashed dog would flush a bird off the nest at approx 70m

You can see that at the lower end of the scale a dog on leash would flush a bird off the next at under 40m. Given how busy Manly and Tindalls are and that the birds remain rather than giving up and moving to another Beach altogether their tolerance to people and dogs could be at this lower end. By having a 50 metre cordon area it would help the dotterels have space from people and dogs.

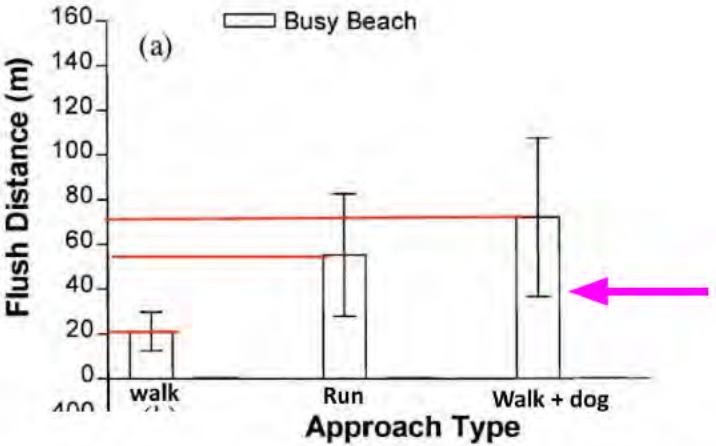


Fig. 2. Effect of beach activity level on (a) flush distance and (b) time spent off nest (back transformed means and standard errors).

Making dogs the bad guy means people think we are the only problem

#6970

Having a 50m cordon around the nest would give the birds the best chance of being undisturbed. Much is made of prohibiting dogs from bird breeding areas - but as you can see from the previous page people walking or running are also an issue. And they are also an issue in keeping birds OFF the nest.

<u>After having someone (+dog) come within 5m of the nest & standing there for 1 minute the time spent off the nest on a busy beach was;</u>

- A lone walker kept the birds off the nest for approx 2.5 minutes (150 seconds)
- A lone runner kept the birds off the nest for approx 3 minutes (180 seconds)
- A lone walk with a leashed dog kept the birds off the nest for approx 3.7 minutes (210 seconds). ***Only 40 seconds approx longer than a runner.***

Often the gist from Council staff is that the Dotterel spent more time off their nest when approached by a walker with a dog.
The impact of a dog on leash vs a runner is only 40 seconds. A walker will still mean that the birds will be off the nest for approx 2.5 minutes.

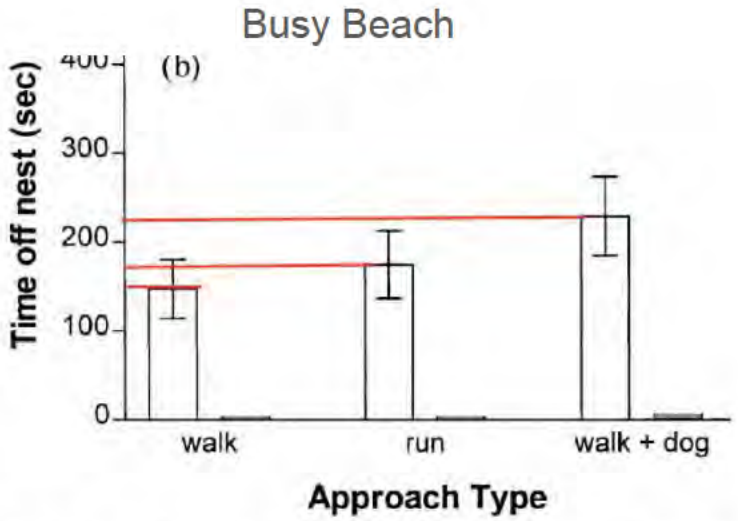


Fig. 2. Effect of beach activity level on (a) flush distance and (b) time spent off nest (back transformed means and standard errors).

A. Lord et al - Effects of Human Approaches to Nests of Northern NZ Dotterel

What council need to do to help the Dotterels and dog owners

#6970

What the local community and the Dotterels need from council is;

- A local mindset
- Good & LARGE signage ready to go (like the old Rodney Council signs we used to have)
  - that clearly states that there are active Dotterel nest zones on this beach that require dogs to be on lead within 200m & where they are.
  - that clearly states that within the nest cordon dogs are prohibited (50m).
  - that from this point (at 200m from the nest) your dog needs to be on a lead (facing the beach as well as access points) .
- A local PR campaign and info sent to locally registered dog owners (not just Tindalls/Manly but the whole Peninsula) when nesting season commences so that people are on the look out for updates.
- A plan for enforcement of the rule to be stepped up. Primarily in the first two weeks of the signage going up and if needed - over the school holiday period to help with non local dog owners. Most dog owners walk either mornings or afternoon/evenings so a focus on those times would reach the most people so they know that it is being policed.

#6970

We need council to be flexible

This is a solution that both Forest & Bird and Dog Friends are proposing. We don't want our community to be against one another.

As a dog owner it often feels like all Council ever wants to do is remove and restrict access. The dotterels are facing many threats because of where they are choosing to be, this proposal seeks to help mitigate one of them, but many others are not being addressed as there is no bylaw to curtail them.

#6970

Supplementary information;

The following is from our presentation to the LB in December so it is on record as part of our submission to Council as part of the Dog Bylaw Review.

Dogs aren't the only threat to Dotterels…

…but because the council has a bylaw in place to control dog access they are always the ones to be restricted.

Cats are proving a huge issue at the Dotterel population at Omaha and locals are crying out for council to do something.

People running, kids playing can also cause the dotterels to move off their nest. Kite surfing has been shown to affect breeding dotterel in Auckland.

But the only ones who have any infringements on their movements are dog owners.

#6970

Threats to Dotterels are not limited to Dogs

Kite Surfing - risk to breeding;

Council's own expert witness in a Council Environment Court action1 - Dr Lovegrove (Auckland Council) - said that an increase in kite-surfing at the Karaka shell banks in the South Manukau harbour had been found to be disturbing migratory species such as godwits and preventing breeding of New Zealand dotterel for whom this was an important site. In addition another expert witness who was supporting Council's position in this action cited "an evaluation of 17 studies from five countries, including New Zealand, Mr Don said that birds perceive kite surfers as large predators and avoid them by taking long flights or leaving a site altogether. In his view, unregulated kite-surfing had the potential to "*significantly degrade the existing habitats of coastal birds as a result of continual disturbance*".

Manly beach is the most popular kite surfing location on the Peninsula as well as for wing foilers.

On Sunday 8th December around 3.30pm 10 kite surfers and wing foilers were visible on the water from Tindalls.



#6970

Threats to Dotterels are not limited to Dogs

Vehicles on beaches

Manly, in particular, has multiple vehicle access points along the beach - 5 provide access.

When the Dotterels were first nesting at the Browns Road end of Manly a vehicle narrowly missed driving over their nest. Vehicles on beaches, especially during summer have been an ongoing, and unenforced, issue on beaches. Including driving at speed.

One boat ramp access point is near to the current Dotterel nest area at the eastern end.



Vehicles parked on Manly Beach 7th December 7pm



Go Kart hooning on Stanmore Bay beach - headed towards a flock of seagulls 6th December 7pm

#6970

Threats to Dotterels are not just from dogs

Predators - cats. Cats have been a major problem for Dotterel breeding sites in the north auckland area but council has no plan in place to limit or control cats



Cat attacks dotterels at Snells

0:12 MON, 24 OCT

Snells Beach cat owners are being asked to keep an eye on their pets, after dotterels were attacked early last Wednesday morning, October 19, forcing...



Omaha dotterel team mourns cat attack

0:13 SUN, 13 DEC

Night photos at the sanctuary, taken after the dotterel died, clearly show a cat on the prowl. A domestic cat is believed to have killed...



Tragic end for dotterel egg

10:10 TUE, 19 NOV

The sole dotterel (tūturiwhatu) egg remaining at Tindalls Bay disappeared overnight on Friday, November 8. Forest and Bir volunteer Derek Kelsey discovered the empty nest...



Council's dithering on dotterels criticised

8:08 TUE, 19 MAR

Auckland Council has been urged to do its job in protecting the seabirds and their chicks on Omaha Spit, which are being decimated by cats...



Council pussyfoots over dotterel destruction

14:02 FRI, 16 FEB

A refusal by Auckland Council to seriously address the cat problem on the Omaha Spit could sound the death knell for the area as a...



Community groups seek more cat control

13:01 TUE, 23 MAR

When cats were first captured on camera on the chenier (shell bank) in the Weiti River, last October, environmental group Friends of Okura Bush (FOOB)...



Stop pussyfooting around – keep cats indoors, pet owners urged

8:08 MON, 22 FEB

Cat burglar – this pet stole several eggs and wrecked dotterel nests this season at Snells Beach. Though their owners might not realise it, pet...

Threats to Dotterels are not just from dogs

#6970

Predators - black back gulls

November 2024 - Tindalls Bay Nest egg lost…… *"closer inspection revealed no sign of egg shells, which could have indicated the nest was predated by a black-backed gull, cat or hedgehog."* Hibiscus Matters 19th Nov 2024

Case study: Matakana Island

DOC began to worry about the apparent failure of New Zealand dotterel chicks to fledge on Matakana Island and set video cameras to monitor dotterel nests.

Surprise, the cameras revealed that predation by black-backed gulls was the main cause of mortality among dotterel chicks.

An eradication was successful, and there are now no black-backed gulls nesting on Matakana Island. .Dotterels have since made a huge comeback on Matakana Island, now the most successful nesting area for the waders in the country. During the 2004–05 breeding season 30 chicks were raised from 42 pairs of New Zealand dotterels, and banded dotterels from previous broods are turning up all round the Bay of Plenty and nesting in new areas. Other birds, such as variable oystercatchers, are also benefiting from the absence of the predatory gulls

https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/black-backed-gulls/

Threats to Dotterels are not just from dogs

Predators - Hedgehogs

2022 - a hedgehog ate 3 eggs in a Manly dotterels nest. It was later discovered in a nearby trap. (https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/prickly-problem)

#6970

Submission to the Orakei Local Board

Dog Friends Auckland Submission
February 2025

Overview

#6970

- Since the last Dog bylaw review there are over 10,000 more registered dogs (113,343 dogs YE June 2024) in Auckland.
  - In 2018 the Orakei LB had the 6th highest number of registered dogs in Auckland and 25% of Orakei dog owners were RDOL holders.

- Since the last Policy & Bylaw of 2019 Dog owners have paid Council approx **$50 MILLION** in registrations & fines etc.* (YE 2019 - 2024).

- Overall there are approx 60 changes proposed for dog access around Auckland
  - 31 are to prohibit dogs from areas
  - 19 change access from off leash to on
  - 10 give new off leash access.

- Many of the proposed changes that remove access are being proposed simply to have the same rules throughout Auckland.
  - No analysis has been done on how many dog owners currently use these areas as they are now or where the next area they could obtain the same access would be located.

* Based on 113,343 dog registrations at average $79.57 per dog and $1.1M in infringements etc - $10 M per anum

Loss of access for Dogs

#6970

- It is worth highlighting that changes to access can change many local people's daily routine. Removing or restricting access to local dog owners means that somewhere they go daily with their dog is suddenly not available or limits their dog's exercise opportunity - sometimes just to meet a region wide rule.

- Any changes Council makes can have a massive impact on dog owners. It might mean having to drive to another location rather than walking to their local park or beach. For shift workers, having close to home access is important.

- More dogs in less spaces means that you can have issues with too many dogs in the same spots - especially during the summer season restrictions. (Time & season and bird breeding seasons).

- Removal of access to an area which is open, flat, with good sight lines and in a safe area cannot be underestimated. Dog owners are young families, older people and women, all of these factors are important when considering access for dog owners when exercising their dogs…. And often themselves too.

Central Areas - proposed Access Changes - Orakei Local Board

#6970

Madills Farm Recreation Reserve and Glover Park

We are proposing to better protect the health and safety of sports users and dogs and sports surfaces from damage, while still providing off-leash dog access on other areas of the parks that is consistent with dog access rules on all other parks in the local board area and Auckland region by applying the default region-wide prohibition of dogs on sports surfaces.

Current Policy rules
Dogs allowed **under control off a leash** on sports surfaces (marked grass sports fields) when not in use or not closed (Schedules 1(2) and 2).
Dogs **prohibited** on sports surfaces when in use or closed (Schedules 1(2) and 2) and must be **under control on a leash** in the vicinity when in use (Schedule 1(2)).
Dogs **prohibited** on playgrounds at all times and must be **under control on a leash** in the vicinity when in use (Schedule 1(1)).
Dogs must be **under control on a leash** in car parks at all times (Schedule 1(4)).
Dogs allowed **under control off a leash** at any time on other parts of the Park (Schedule 2).
Proposed amended Policy rules
Dogs **prohibited** at all times on sports surfaces and must be **under control on a leash** in the vicinity when in use (Schedule 1(2)).
Dogs **prohibited** on playgrounds at all times and must be **under control on a leash** in the vicinity when in use (Schedule 1(1)).
Dogs must be **under control on a leash** in car parks at all times (Schedule 1(4)).
Dogs allowed **under control off a leash** on other parts of the Park (Schedule 2).

See map in Appendix B of "Proposed updates to dog access rules at local parks and beaches".

CHANGE: Loss of off leash access simply to have a city wide rule be the same. It's a big area to lose access to.

Dogs are not allowed on sports surfaces when in use or closed. So sports users are not endangered and surfaces are not damaged. There is no alternative off leash access offered in lieu of removal of this access.

Orakei has other dog access rules that are inconsistent with the regional rule - winter restrictions on beaches. These are not proposed to be changed. So why do they stay and this access go?

NOTE this loss of off leash access is on top of off leash access already lost at Shore Road & Thomas Bloodworth sports fields in previous bylaw reviews.

See maps on next page

Central Areas - proposed Access Changes - Orakei Local Board

#6970

Glover Park - Current rule (when sports fields not in use)



Glover Park - Proposed rule (when sports fields not in use)



CURRENTLY: On the left when the fields aren't in use the whole park is off leash,
PROPOSED: on the right dogs will be prohibited from the sports fields at all times - even if not in use.

Central Areas - proposed Access Changes - Orakei Local Board

#6970

Madills Farm Recreation Reserve – Current rules (when sports fields not in use)



Madills Farm Recreation Reserve – Proposed rules (when sports fields not in use)



CURRENTLY: On the left when the fields aren't in use the whole park is off leash, PROPOSED: on the right dogs will be prohibited from the sports fields at all times - even if not in use.

Orakei Dog Access

#6970

- Prior to 2012 Orakei Dog owners had similar access to sports fields at Thomas Bloodworth Park and Shore Road Reserve but this was removed in the 2012 Bylaw review.

> Sports surfaces under council control. Prohibition of dogs on sports surfaces at all times and under control on a leash in the vicinity of sports surfaces when in use. This rule would revoke current rules that allow dogs on marked fields in Shore Road Reserve (Orakei) and Thomas Bloodworth Park (Orakei),



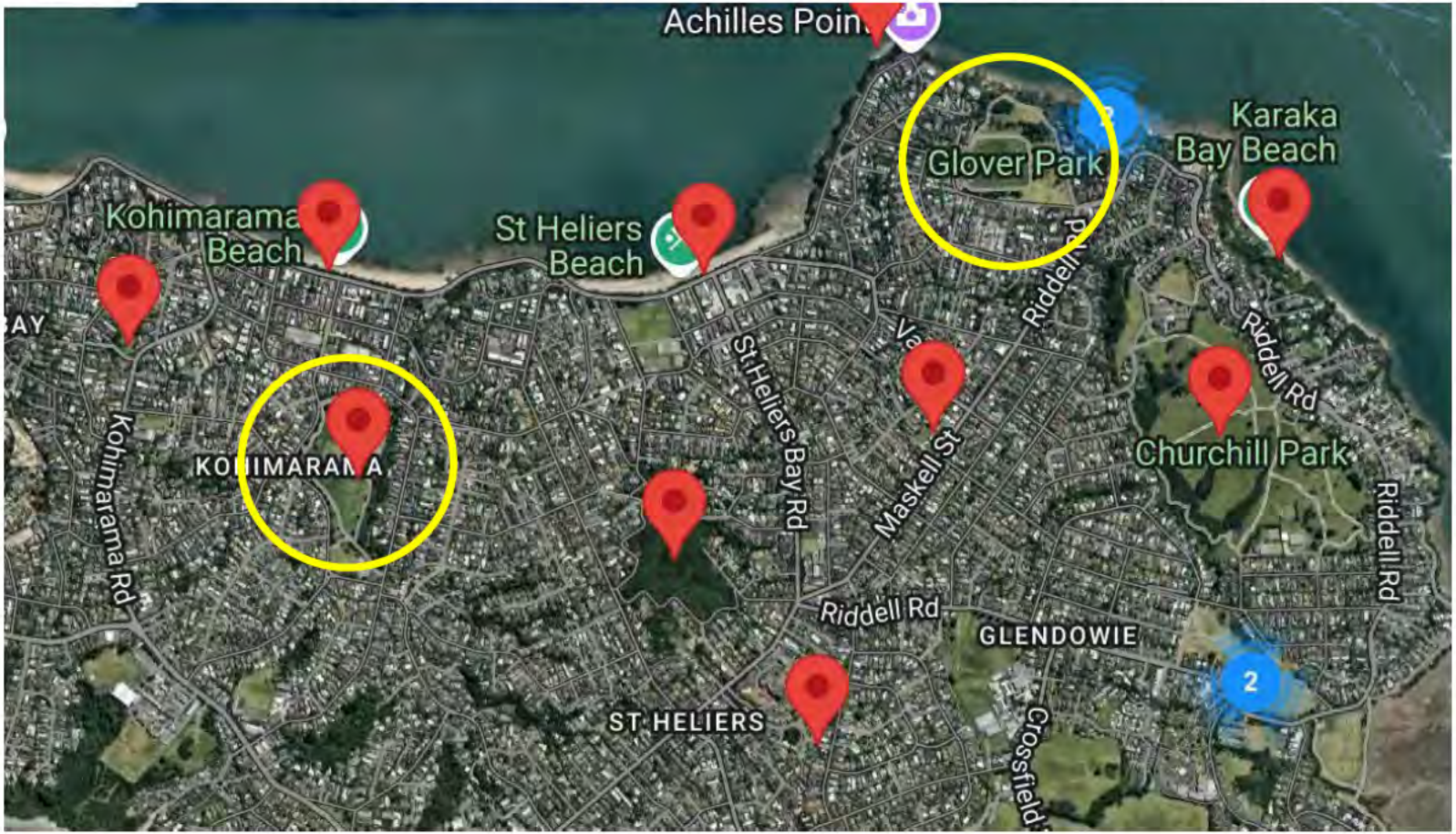
Orakei Dog Access Proposed removal of off leash to prohibited

#6970

- No analysis from Council as to how many dog owners this will affect. No understanding of dog usage of these areas.

- No analysis of where else dog owners in the local areas can go for off leash access and what that will mean just a plan to remove access. Are any other locations going to offer the same space, terrain, accessibility etc?

Where else can local dog owners go for off leash access? #6970



Alternative off leash areas in nearby locale

#6970

- St Heliers and Kohi beach - subject to time and season rules for both Summer & winter. No off leash access during summer - on leash or prohibited. Restrictions during winter - on leash between 10am and 4pm.
- Dingle Dell bush reserve - not an open space to exercise your dog, terrain not suitable for older owners or pram access for young families.
- Maskell park - small area probably smaller than one sportsfield.
- Ladies Bay/Gentlemens Bay - access issues for many (and dogs) and not family friendly
- Karaka Bay - access issues
- Mary Atkin reserve - small area about the size of one sportsfield

- So that leaves only Churchill Reserve in Glendowie, so more dogs coming into this space to get off leash access.
- Then no decent off leash dog walking parks for Kohimarama and St Helier's Dog owners simply to have a consistent rule.

Rationale given for change is to have a consistent rule #6970

- The Orakei LB is not the only board with dog access on Sportsgrounds - so does the Franklin LB - they have 15 that give access to dog owners when sportsgrounds are not in use.
- The Orakei LB is an outlier with another dog access rule that is NOT proposed to be removed. It has winter restrictions on beaches - one of only 6 LB's that have this and yet there is no proposal to remove this rule to achieve consistency.
- The Orakei LB access rules during summer are some of the most restrictive - with both MORNING and EVENING as being ON LEASH.

- Summary of Ōrākei local dog access rules on beaches

Time and season rule applies to the following areas

Summer (1 December to 1 March)**	Out of Summer Season
Morning (Before 10am) Under control on leash*	Before 10am Under control off leash
Daytime (10am to 5pm) Prohibited	10am to 4pm Under control on leash*
Evening (After 5pm) Under control on leash*	After 4pm Under control off leash

* Dogs are allowed under control off leash when swimming or walking in the water.
** Summer defined in Dog Access Principles "4. Apply the following time and season."

Most other Auckland Beaches

Summer	Out of Summer Season
Morning Under control off leash	All times Under control off leash
Daytime Under control on leash	
Evening Under control off leash	

Orakei Local Board

We request that the Orakei Local board keep the current access rules for dogs for Madills & Glover as they are; allowing off leash dog access when the sportsgrounds are not in use or closed.

It makes sense that when there is no sport activities on these sports grounds or when they are closed that other park users can use them, including dog owners.

#6970

Submission to the Puketapapa Local Board

Dog Friends Auckland Submission
February 2025

Overview

#6970

- Since the last Dog bylaw review there are over 10,000 more registered dogs (113,343 dogs YE June 2024) in Auckland.

- Since the last Policy & Bylaw of 2019 Dog owners have paid Council approx **$50 MILLION** in registrations & fines etc.* (YE 2019 - 2024).

- Overall there are approx 60 changes proposed for dog access around Auckland
  - 31 are to prohibit dogs from areas
  - 19 change access from off leash to on
  - 10 give new off leash access.

- Many of the proposed changes that remove access are being proposed simply to have the same rules throughout Auckland.
  - No analysis has been done on how many dog owners currently use these areas as they are now or where the next area they could obtain the same access would be located.

* Based on 113,343 dog registrations at average $79.57 per dog and $1.1M in infringements etc - $10 M per anum

Loss of access for Dogs

#6970

- It is worth highlighting that changes to access can change many local people's daily routine. Removing or restricting access to local dog owners means that somewhere they go daily with their dog is suddenly not available or limits their dog's exercise opportunity - sometimes just to meet a region wide rule.

- Any changes Council makes can have a massive impact on dog owners. It might mean having to drive to another location rather than walking to their local park or beach. For shift workers, having close to home access is important.

- More dogs in less spaces means that you can have issues with too many dogs in the same spots - especially during the summer season restrictions. (Time & season and bird breeding seasons).

- Removal of access to an area which is open, flat, with good sight lines and in a safe area cannot be underestimated. Dog owners are young families, older people and women, all of these factors are important when considering access for dog owners when exercising their dogs…. And often themselves too.

#6970

Puketapapa - proposed access changes

From OFF leash to ON leash

- Freeland Reserve
- Underwood Park
- Walmsley Park
- The off leash area of Monte Cecilia

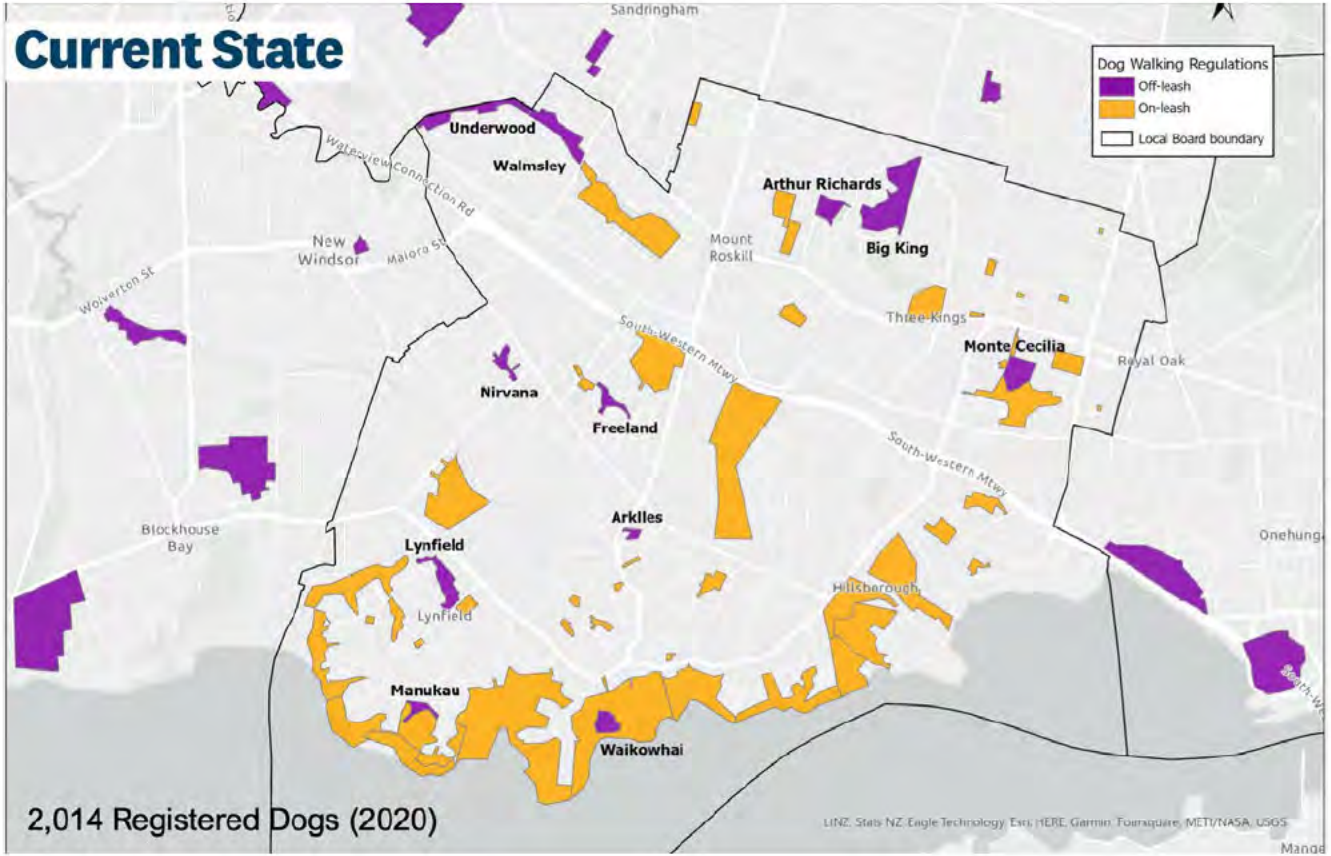
From ON leash to OFF leash

- John Moore Reserve
- Smallfield Reserve

(two small reserves)

Prior to these proposed changes the Puketapapa LB had very few off leash areas already. This will reduce it even more.

#6979



Central Areas - proposed Access Changes - Puketapapa Local Board

#6970

Monte Cecilia Park

We are proposing to protect the users of the park as the current off-leash rule in the bowl area creates a significant risk to people by changing the rule from off-leash to on-leash.

Current Policy rules
Dogs allowed **control off a leash** at all times (Schedule 2) in the naturally formed bowl on the north-eastern side of the park between Pah Homestead and the Knoll.
Proposed amended Policy rules
Dogs allowed **under control on a leash** at all times (Schedule 1(4)(a)).

Puketapapa Dog Access Proposed removal of off leash - Monte Cecilia

#6970

- No analysis from Council as to how many dog owners this will affect. No understanding of dog usage of these areas.
- No analysis of where else dog owners in the local areas can go for off leash access and what that will mean just a plan to remove access.
- In 2015 this off leash area was developed within the park as there were limited off leash areas and the majority of the park would remain on leash - this was seen as both dog owners and non dog owners being able to enjoy the park as there were separate spaces for each.
- In 2015 it was noted that Big King Reserve, Onehunga Bay Reserve, Waikowhai Park and Walmsley/Underwood Park offer off-leash areas and are all heavily used.
- As part of this review the LB are also proposing to remove off leash access at Walmsley and Underwood parks due to the changes that have been made in them. So the LB are wanting to remove more off leash access. This will just put more pressure on the remaining off leash spaces which is not a good situation.

Puketapapa Dog Access Proposed removal of off leash - Monte Cecilia

#6970

- Council's own research showed that "Dog walking is one of the top 5 things done in Auckland parks."
- From the LB's own Dog Walking Assessment site visit for Monte Cecilia showed;
- Monte Cecilia (45 mins in morning)
  42 Dogs
  10 people in park with no dogs(20%)
  2 commercial dog walkers
  Lots of infrastructure toe nable
  Possibly more conflicting uses
  Everyone seemed well behaved during visit

Council's own Dog walking assessment presented to this LB #6970

Research

Chen et al. Benefits and Conflicts: A Systematic Review of Dog Park Design and Management Strategies. *Animals* **2022**, 12, 2251.

- "Dog parks contribute physical and social benefits for both canines and their owners. This has increased during and since the COVID-19 pandemic."
- "A sustainable and healthy coexistence of canines and residents of built environments through appropriate design and management strategies is possible."

Brown. B, Jensen, W. Dog Ownership and Walking: Perceived and Audited Walkability and Activity Correlates. *Int. J. Environmental Research and Public Health* **2020**, 17, 1385.

- "Increased densities of housing may negatively affect dog ownership levels unless compensating supports for dog ownership and walking are created by public health messaging, dog-friendly policies, and dog-friendly housing and community design.

#6970

In making decisions to reduce dog access LB's should....

Council's own policy states that

6. **Consider the following before making any change to a dog access rule on parks and beaches that would provide less dog access:**
   (a) Consider whether there are practicable alternative solutions to address the conflict between uses of the place[3]
   (b) Ensure, to the extent that is practicable, that displaced dog owners and their dogs have access to other places or that such access is provided as part of the same decision.

of nuisance to people.

[3] Design and management solutions include fencing, different zones in one place, time-share arrangements, and under control on a leash dog access in relation to considering a change to prohibited dog access.

#6970

Puketapapa Local Board

We request that the Puketapapa Local board keep the current access rules for dogs for the off leash area at Monte Cecilia as they are.

Surely through signage, or other park design elements, any possible straying of off leash dogs into on leash areas could be managed.

#6970

Submission to the Rodney Local Board

Dog Friends Auckland Submission
February 2025

Overview

#6970

- Since the last Dog bylaw review there are over 10,000 more registered dogs (113,343 dogs YE June 2024) in Auckland.
  - In 2018 Rodney LB had the largest number of registered Dogs in Auckland, and one of the highest numbers of RDOL holders with 38% of Rodney dog owners having an RDOL

- Since the last Policy & Bylaw of 2019 Dog owners have paid Council approx **$50 MILLION** in registrations & fines etc.* (YE 2019 - 2024).

- Overall there are approx 60 changes proposed for dog access around Auckland
  - 31 are to prohibit dogs from areas
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- Many of the proposed changes that remove access are being proposed simply to have the same rules throughout Auckland.
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Loss of access for Dogs

#6970

- It is worth highlighting that changes to access can change many local people's daily routine. Removing or restricting access to local dog owners means that somewhere they go daily with their dog is suddenly not available or limits their dog's exercise opportunity - sometimes just to meet a region wide rule.

- Any changes Council makes can have a massive impact on dog owners. It might mean having to drive to another location rather than walking to their local park or beach. For shift workers, having close to home access is important.

- More dogs in less spaces means that you can have issues with too many dogs in the same spots - especially during the summer season restrictions. (Time & season and bird breeding seasons).

- Removing Dog access as proposed in the Te Arai and Pakiri Regional parks means over 24KM of Rodney beaches would be off limits to dog families and more pressure on the Rodney LB to create off leash areas for dog owners in these areas. Growth of residential development and on smaller plots is likely to increase, especially with the planned Northern Motorway extension.

Rodney Dog Access

#6970

- Changes proposed by Council to dog access in Rodney
  - 4 areas that dogs had access to are to be PROHIBITED
  - 6 areas that were OFF leash become ON leash
  - 1 area moves from time & season restrictions to OFF leash at all times

- No new off leash areas in Rodney since 2019, despite new home subdivisions
  - Milldale - 4,500 homes, no new off leash areas
  - Kumeu/Huapai - new subdivisions - no new off leash areas
  - Warkworth - new subdivisions - no new off leash areas

- Proposed REMOVAL of dog access around Te Arai/Pakiri. If residents in this area have dogs where can they exercise them?

Rodney Dog Access

#6970

Pre 2019 Most of Auckland was OFF LEASH by default

As part of the 2019 Dog Bylaw council moved the default rule across Auckland to be 'on leash'. Rodney previously had 'off leash' as it's default rule.

Changing to 'ON LEASH' default and moving the responsibility to Local Boards for access changes has meant no new off leash areas since 2019.

Regulatory staff have told us that "LB's were initially contacted in Dec 2023 where the process to request additional dog access rules for review was outlined."

So our question is why isn't there any new off leash areas put forward for Rodney as part of this review?



Northern Areas - proposed Access Changes - Rodney Local Board

#6970

Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road, Baddeleys Creek Reserve and Pigeon Place Accessway

We are proposing to protect kiwi dispersing from Tāwharanui Regional Park into the three associated reserves where they are vulnerable to being disturbed, harmed or killed by dogs by changing the rule from off-leash to on-leash.

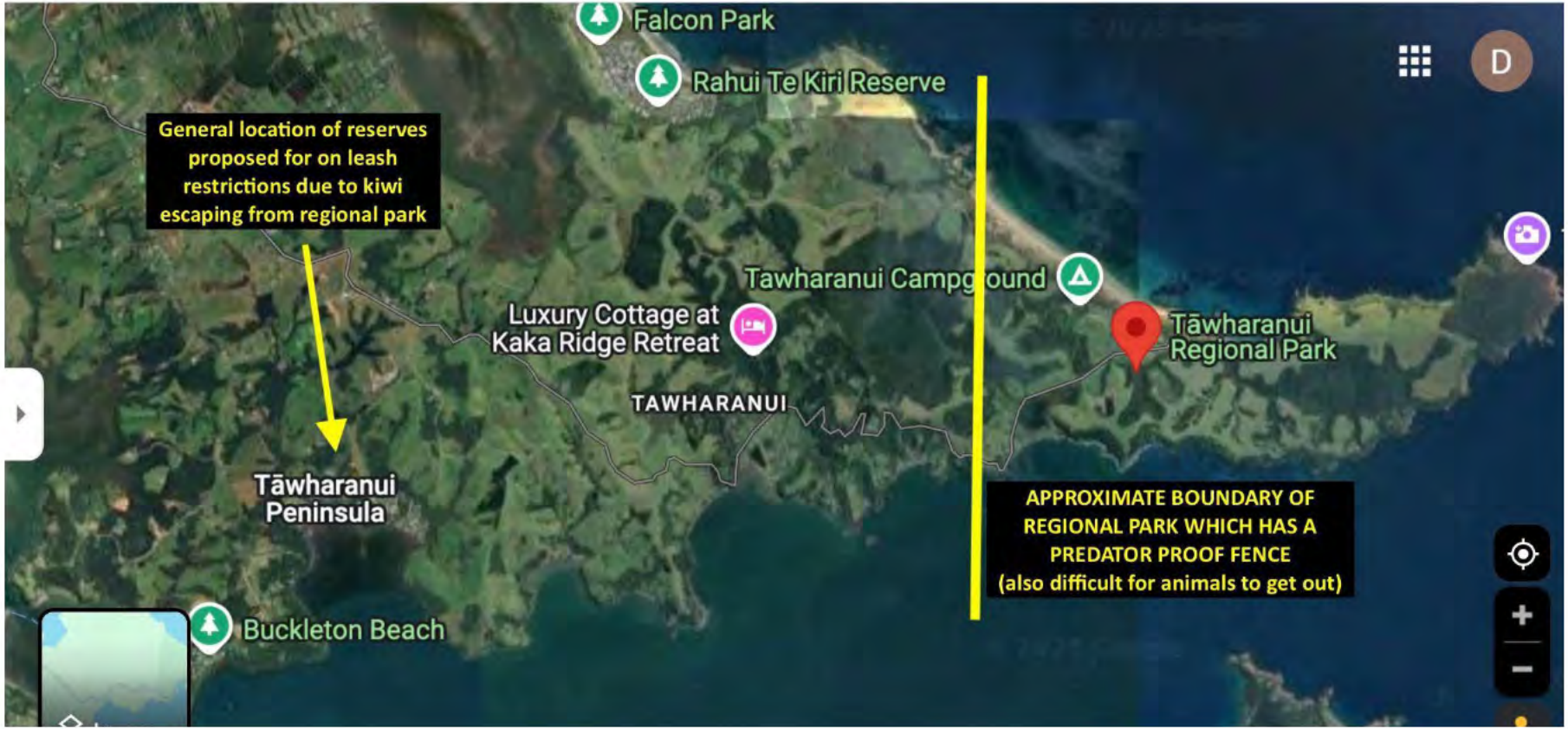
Current Policy rules
Dogs allowed **under control off a leash** at any time (Schedule 2).
Proposed amended Policy rules
Dogs allowed **under control on a leash** at all times (Schedule 1(4)(a)).

This proposal makes no sense.
These reserves are not associated to Tawharanui Regional park. They are miles away.
There is no need to restrict access in these reserves due to kiwi dispersing from the Regional park. The number of far worse dangers they would need to navigate to get to these areas and then remain there would be huge.

See maps on following pages.

Northern Areas - proposed Access Changes - Rodney Local Board

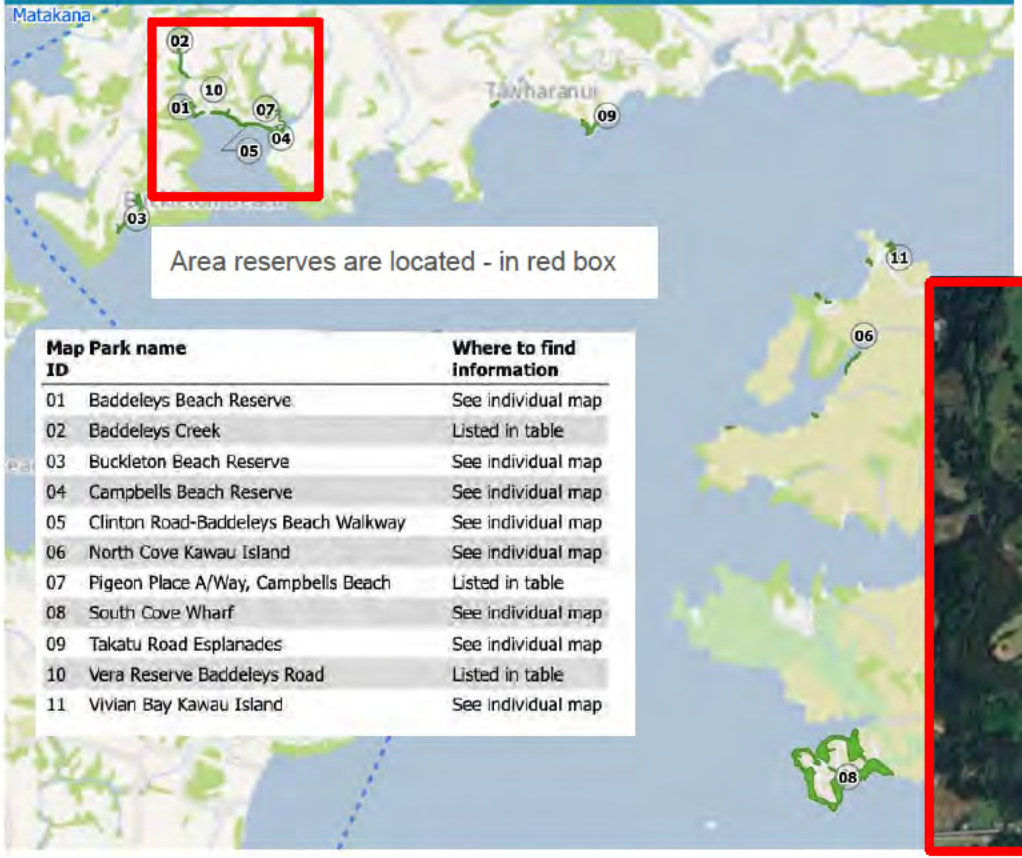
#6970



Northern Areas - proposed Access Changes - Rodney Local Board

#6970

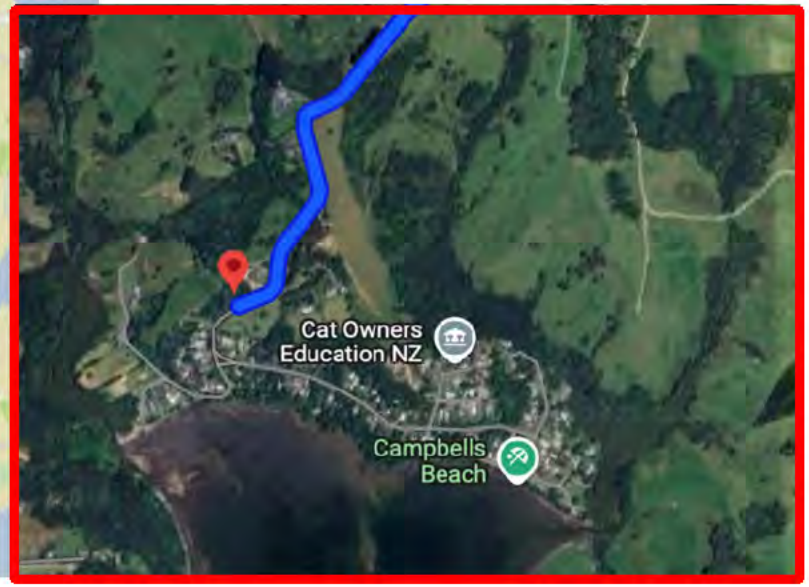
Kawau Bay



Area reserves are located - in red box

Map ID	Park name	Where to find information
01	Baddeleys Beach Reserve	See individual map
02	Baddeleys Creek	Listed in table
03	Buckleton Beach Reserve	See individual map
04	Campbells Beach Reserve	See individual map
05	Clinton Road-Baddeleys Beach Walkway	See individual map
06	North Cove Kawau Island	See individual map
07	Pigeon Place A/Way, Campbells Beach	Listed in table
08	South Cove Wharf	See individual map
09	Takatu Road Esplanades	See individual map
10	Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road	Listed in table
11	Vivian Bay Kawau Island	See individual map

Below is a satellite view of area reserves are in. More danger from cats & cars than dogs.



Rodney - Snells Beach

#6970

- For the last 5 years a ‘temporary’ restriction on Dogs has been in place at Snells Beach. Council stated that this protection was required “When shorebirds are breeding and roosting, they are vulnerable to disturbance and predation.”
- This restriction of Dog’s being prohibited was during the 7 month breeding and resting season.
- Council is now proposing to prohibit dogs outside of this breeding and resting season in this area so dog owners will lose access to this area of the beach even when walking dogs on lead which is currently permissible outside of the breeding season and has been in place for 5 years.
- As has been the restriction for 5 years, Council has stated that protection has been required during the breeding season.

Dogs on lead don't have a massive impact on breeding dotterel vs people #6970

Auckland Council Staff have referenced the following study in Dotterel proposals regarding Dogs;

A. Lord et al. / Biological Conservation 98 (2001)

Effects of Human Approaches to nests of Dotterel
As part of the field survey sites were rated as receiving high levels of activity if they received between 7-20 visitors per hour - these were identified as busy beaches.

Scenarios tested were; Lone person walking, lone person running, lone person walking a leashed dog. Off leash dog walking was not tested. All of the testing started at 200m out from the nest. All participants walked to within 5 metres of the nest.

Flush distances were observed.
For those deemed to be a busy beach the mean result showed;

- A lone walker would flush a bird off the nest at approx 20m
- A lone runner would flush a bird off the nest at approx 50m
- A lone walker with a leashed dog would flush a bird off the nest at approx 70m

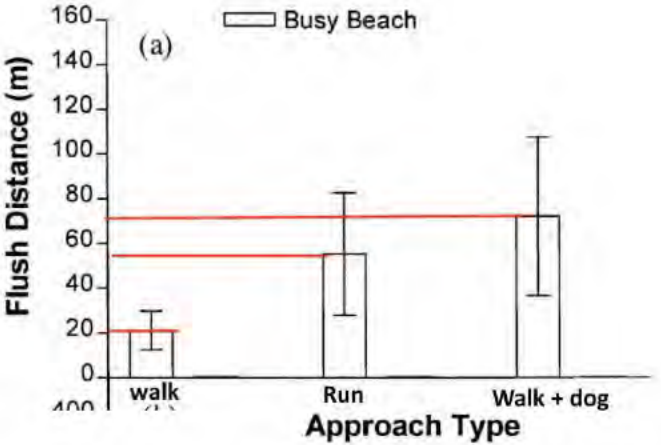


Fig. 2. Effect of beach activity level on (a) flush distance and (b) time spent off nest (back transformed means and standard errors).

#6970

Making dogs the bad guy means people think we are the only problem

<u>After having someone (+dog) come within 5m of the nest & standing there for 1 minute the time spent off the nest on a busy beach was:</u>

- A lone walker kept the birds off the nest for approx 2.5 minutes (150 seconds)
- A lone runner kept the birds off the nest for approx 3 minutes (180 seconds)
- A lone walk with a leashed dog kept the birds off the nest for approx 3.7 minutes (210 seconds). ***Only 40 seconds approx longer than a runner.***

Often the gist from Council staff is that the Dotterel spent more time off their nest when approached by a walker with a dog.
The impact of a dog on leash vs a runner is only 40 seconds. A walker will still mean that the birds will be off the nest for approx 2.5 minutes.

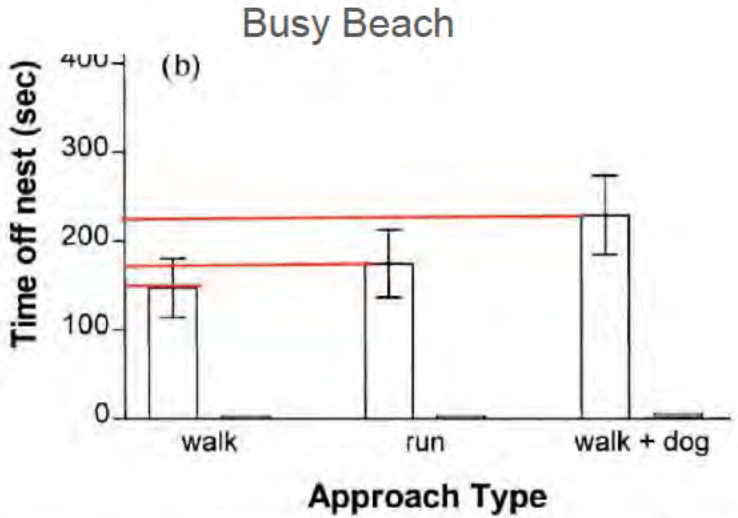


Fig. 2. Effect of beach activity level on (a) flush distance and (b) time spent off nest (back transformed means and standard errors).

A. Lord et al - Effects of Human Approaches to Nests of Northern NZ Dotterel

Dogs aren't the only threat to Dotterels…

…but because the council has a bylaw in place to control dog access they are always the ones to be restricted.

Cats are proving a huge issue at the Dotterel population at Omaha and locals are crying out for council to do something.

People running, kids playing can also cause the dotterels to move off their nest. Kite surfing has been shown to affect breeding dotterel in Auckland.

But the only ones who have any infringements on their movements are dog owners.

#6970

Threats to Dotterels are not limited to Dogs

Kite Surfing - risk to breeding;

Council's own expert witness in a Council Environment Court action1 - Dr Lovegrove (Auckland Council) - said that an increase in kite-surfing at the Karaka shell banks in the South Manukau harbour had been found to be disturbing migratory species such as godwits and preventing breeding of New Zealand dotterel for whom this was an important site. In addition another expert witness who was supporting Council's position in this action cited "an evaluation of 17 studies from five countries, including New Zealand, Mr Don said that birds perceive kite surfers as large predators and avoid them by taking long flights or leaving a site altogether. In his view, unregulated kite-surfing had the potential to "*significantly degrade the existing habitats of coastal birds as a result of continual disturbance*".

Snells beach is one of the most popular kite/foil surfing areas of Auckland

#6970

Threats to Dotterels are not just from dogs

Predators - cats. Cats have been a major problem for Dotterel breeding sites in the north auckland area but council has no plan in place to limit or control cats



Cat attacks dotterels at Snells

0:12 MON, 24 OCT

Snells Beach cat owners are being asked to keep an eye on their pets, after dotterels were attacked early last Wednesday morning, October 19, forcing...



Omaha dotterel team mourns cat attack

0:13 SUN, 13 DEC

Night photos at the sanctuary, taken after the dotterel died, clearly show a cat on the prowl. A domestic cat is believed to have killed...



Tragic end for dotterel egg

10:10 TUE, 19 NOV

The sole dotterel (tūturiwhatu) egg remaining at Tindalls Bay disappeared overnight on Friday, November 8. Forest and Bir volunteer Derek Kelsey discovered the empty nest...



Council's dithering on dotterels criticised

8:08 TUE, 19 MAR

Auckland Council has been urged to do its job in protecting the seabirds and their chicks on Omaha Spit, which are being decimated by cats...



Council pussyfoots over dotterel destruction

14:02 FRI, 16 FEB

A refusal by Auckland Council to seriously address the cat problem on the Omaha Spit could sound the death knell for the area as a...



Community groups seek more cat control

13:01 TUE, 23 MAR

When cats were first captured on camera on the chenier (shell bank) in the Weiti River, last October, environmental group Friends of Okura Bush (FOOB)...



Stop pussyfooting around – keep cats indoors, pet owners urged

8:08 MON, 22 FEB

Cat burglar – this pet stole several eggs and wrecked dotterel nests this season at Snells Beach. Though their owners might not realise it, pet...

#6970

Threats to Dotterels are not just from dogs

Predators - black back gulls

Case study; Matakana Island

DOC began to worry about the apparent failure of New Zealand dotterel chicks to fledge on Matakana Island and set video cameras to monitor dotterel nests.

Surprise, the cameras revealed that predation by black-backed gulls was the main cause of mortality among dotterel chicks.

An eradication was successful, and there are now no black-backed gulls nesting on Matakana Island. .Dotterels have since made a huge comeback on Matakana Island, now the most successful nesting area for the waders in the country. During the 2004–05 breeding season 30 chicks were raised from 42 pairs of New Zealand dotterels, and banded dotterels from previous broods are turning up all round the Bay of Plenty and nesting in new areas. Other birds, such as variable oystercatchers, are also benefiting from the absence of the predatory gulls

https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/black-backed-gulls/

These researched impacts on disturbance are during nesting season #6970

So outside of nesting season surely dogs on lead, which has been in place for 5 years, is workable. Otherwise a third of the beach becomes permanently off limits all year round.

In other areas of Auckland when council has proposed to remove access altogether there has at least been some attempt to mitigate this by having some of the area as 'off leash at all times' rather than having time and season rules. EG - Onetangi at Waiheke

Onetangi Beach – Current dog access rules



Onetangi Beach – Proposed dog access rules



Key:

- Under control off-leash (any time)
- Time and season rule
- Prohibited (all times)

Forestry Beach

#6970

With the gifting of land to Auckland Council through the Te Arai South development council has moved to enlarge the park land of the Te Arai Regional Park area - creating Te Arai North and Te Arai South park - land.

However Forestry Beach was not part of this gift and as such remained a beach within the Rodney local board area. It was not identified as an off leash area as part of the 2019 Dog Bylaw review as we believe it should have and has ended up in a grey area with council now wanting to review the rules around dog access and make it part of the Te Arai regional park.

It is the biggest, and main area of dog access for locals & visitors. If council goes ahead with prohibiting dogs from as proposed in this review at Pakiri Beach (adjacent to the Regional Park) and Forestry Beach that will mean that 24km of Rodney coastline will be prohibited to dog families.

Given the plans to tar seal to Te Arai South/Forestry beach from SH1 and the relative quick drive (25 mins currently), it is likely that Te Arai Regional park will get greater numbers of visitors in the coming year, along with locals with the approved 60 home subdivision at Te Arai South and the recent submission by Te Arai South Holdings & Darby Partners for an additional 180 visitor accommodation units and 420 residential and retirement living units at Te Arai South along with sand mining activity..

According to Council's own data, there were 165,000 visitors to Te Arai in 2020 and 130,000 in 2021. The planned northern motorway extension and northern growth and development is likely to increase these numbers.

Te Arai South and Forestry Beach are the logical areas along this 24KM coastline to have dog access as it is also likely to be where more people will be visiting.

#6970

We would ask that:

- The Local board do not approve the proposed restrictions of ON LEASH for Vera Reserve, Baddelys Creek Reserve and Pigeon Place Accessway. That you decide that they remain OFF LEASH at all times.

- The Local Board keep ON LEASH access outside of Bird breeding season for on the northern end of Snells Beach. (North of Sunburst Avenue)

- That the local board recommend to the GB hearing panel that dog access remain at Forestry Beach.

- That the Local board plan new off leash areas for dog owners in the new subdivisions that are already in place and for the planned Northern Growth areas within Rodney.

Submission to GB Hearing Panel

#6970

Dog Friends Auckland & Hibiscus Coast Dog Training Club - February 2025
We are here representing these dogs & their families, plus many more

Zara, Rusty, Toffee, Shadow, Fluffy, Maia, Banksy, Bruce, Harriet, Max, Billy, Tilly, Millie, Buddy, Lily, Freddie, Raffy, Willow, Bonnie, Holly, Scottie, Chloe, Molly, Lottie, Tyson, Poppy, Monty, Benny, Jet, Maddie, Bella, Rosie, Archie, Lacey, Young Lily, Spike, Chico, Gracie, Alice, Rio, Poodle Molly, Ollie, Rocky, Indie, Kobe, Bear, Bailey, Jack, Billie, Spotty, Shade, Daisy, Mia, Lola, Lucy, Jack, Leo, Floki, Ruby…. Etc etc











Overview

- Since the last Dog bylaw review there are **over 10,000 more registered dogs** (113,343 dogs YE June 2024) in Auckland.

- Since the last Policy & Bylaw of 2019 Dog owners have paid Council approx **$50 MILLION** in registrations & fines etc.* (YE 2019 - 2024).

* Based on 113,343 dog registrations at average $79.57 per dog and $1.1M in infringements etc - $10 M per anum

Dog Access in Auckland

#6970

- Another Dog Bylaw review, another fight to **keep the access we already have** around Auckland for Dog Families even though there are more dogs.

- Overall there are approx 60 changes proposed for dog access around Auckland
  - 31 are to prohibit dogs from areas
  - 19 change access from off leash to on
  - 10 give new off leash access.

Dog Access in Auckland

#6970

- Many of the proposed changes that remove access are being proposed simply to have the same rules throughout Auckland.
  - No analysis has been done on how many dog owners currently use these areas as they are now or where the next area they could obtain the same access would be located.

- **Most of the proposals for change are to remove or restrict dog access**
  - 50 proposals to do this across Auckland.

- Of the 10 proposals to give OFF leash at all times; in most cases they are allowing OFF leash when they had been **previously ON leash or subject to a time & season rule** and the majority are being offered as a part of another proposal to restrict access. So you lose access, or access is restricted here, but over here (usually a smaller area) you can have off leash at all times.
  - From what we can see these areas are mostly relatively small.

So what does that mean?

#6970

NO **NEW** OFF LEASH AREAS in the entire Auckland Region of any decent size for Dog Families since 2019. By the time this review is completed that's a 6 year period.

So all that is happening is more dogs in the same areas.

The need is there. From Council's own 'Dog Walking Assessment' in 2023 for a Local Board it states that ***"Dog Walking is one of the top 5 things done in Auckland parks."***

34% of New Zealand households report having at least one dog, up from 28% in 2015*

* Companion Animals in NZ report 2020 (Companion Animals NZ)

Compare Auckland to the WDC and the Wellington City Council Animal/Dog Bylaw recent reviews.

#6970

Council leads the way so dogs can have a ball

Wellington City Council's Kōrau Mātinitini | Social, Cultural, and Economic Committee adopted the proposed Animal Bylaw, Domestic Animal and Dog Policy today.



There'll be more spaces for dogs to exercise and socialise in Wellington, including the smaller end of Ori Bay Beach during the warmer months – but due to popular demand, Island Bay keeps its status quo.

April 2024 - Wellington City Council - Animal Bylaw, Domestic Animal and Dog Policy

Key changes adopted include:

- Stick with status quo on Island Bay Beach where **dogs are allowed off-leash at all times** in the area from the pier to the western end of the beach.
- **Expand off-leash access** in the CBD by allowing dogs to take a splash on the righthand side of the Band Rotunda in Oriental Bay during off-peak hours in the warmer months. Dogs remain prohibited from the longer section of the beach and Freyberg Beach for people wanting a dog-free experience.
- **Expand off-leash provision across nine suburbs** in Wellington.
- Require the mandatory desexing of cats, which supports Predator Free initiatives and the efforts of local rescues to reduce the stray cat population.

Compare Auckland to the WDC and the Wellington City Council #6970 Animal/Dog Bylaw recent reviews.

October 2024 - Whangarei District Councl

Parts of Whangārei are now more dog friendly as new dog rules have come in today, Monday 28 October 2024:

Dogs are now allowed on-leash in Whangārei's city centre and **off-leash year-round at nine beach locations:**

- Whananaki North (foreshore between boat ramps)
- Tūtūkākā Marina beach
- Between Kauakarangi Bay sandspit (Ngunguru) and Whangaumu Bay
- Ngunguru estuary foreshore (village side)
- Waikaraka Beach
- One Tree Point (northeastern side)
- Ruakākā Beach north (between Mair Road and Taotahi Walk)
- Ruakākā Beach south (between surf club and campground)
- Uretiti Beach (Tip Road northwards).

The Whangarei Mayor says **one common theme was a shortage of places to take dogs off-leash in summer.** Another was that the 'no dog' rule in the city centre meant fewer customers visiting the centre of town.

#6970

Changes to dog access impact dog families daily lives

- Changes to access can impact many local people's daily routine negatively. Removing or restricting access to local dog owners means that somewhere they go daily with their dog is suddenly not available or limits their dog's exercise opportunity - sometimes just to meet a region wide rule.

- Any changes Council makes can have a massive impact on dog owners. It might mean having to drive to another location rather than walking to their local park or beach. For shift workers, having close to home access is important.

- More dogs in less spaces means that you can have issues with too many dogs in the same spots - especially during the summer season restrictions. (Time & season and bird breeding seasons).

#6970

Auckland Council dog bylaw review is ‘in house’

- For this Dog Bylaw review Auckland Council, from what we can find in documents, focused on ‘in house’ inputs with a limited number of external stakeholders which we understand to be;
    - SPCA, Chained Dog Rehabilitation & Homing, 4 Commercial Dog Walkers, Friends of Regional Parks, Forest & Bird and Pest Free Kaipatiki.

- In a business environment that approach is called ‘navel gazing’ & it’s not recommended. Especially when it comes to engagement or connecting with an affected audience outside of the business.
    - ‘Navel gazing’ - Looking inwards, instead of outwards for direction and inputs.

#6970

Compare to the WDC approach for their bylaw review

“In 2023 we asked (the public) what we should change in our dog rules and more than 600 people gave us their ideas,” says Mayor Vince Cocurullo.

“Our teams drafted up changes to our Dog Policy and Bylaw and consulted again. We received more than 800 submissions and then held hearings in July this year (2024).”

He says one common theme was a shortage of places to take dogs off-leash in summer. Another was that the ‘no dog’ rule in the city centre meant fewer customers visiting the centre of town. People also said providing places for dogs to go needed to be balanced against the need to protect the health and safety of people, especially children, as well as wildlife.

https://www.wdc.govt.nz/Whats-new/News-and-notices/Changes-to-dog-bylaws-20241016

Whereas Auckland Council isn’t getting any public input until they have already put the proposed Bylaw and Policy changes together, meaning there is no room for any change outside of what they have put together. Any possible changes that aren’t in this SOP will have to wait another 5 years or more.

It doesn’t seem as though Auckland Council staff have a desire to get input from the public to help with developing a policy and looking for opportunities or issues.

We ask that the Governing Body/Regulatory Committee instruct staff to change the process to mirror that of WDC for the next review & go out asking for suggestions BEFORE the review starts. Engage with those like ourselves & others who can activate the dog owning community.

A focus on desktop research rather than local knowledge #6970

- An outcome from an inward approach is ‘desktop research’. Where analysis is done by looking on a google map, or a council ‘where to walk your dog’ map. It isn’t involving site visits or locals who are regular users of locations.
- An example of this is with the proposal to move from off leash access to prohibited on dogs in the Orakei area at Madills & Glover Parks Sports Surfaces.
- There was no understanding of how many dog owners are using these two parks currently.
- ‘Desktop research’ was done in identifying alternative areas;
    - This did not capture the accessibility of the local alternatives.
    - It did not identify how many dog owners are already going to these areas and whether a new population of dogs and their owners would put pressure on these alternatives.
    - It did not review the size, terrain, user safety (something women and older people are concerned with) or ground conditions of the alternatives.
    - No analysis of the distance from Glover or Madills and the time it would take users of Madills or Glover to drive to these alternatives during morning or evening ‘rush’ hour traffic during the week (when most people are walking their dogs).

#6970

From Council documents to Orakei Local Board as part of analysis supporting an access rule change to prohibited from off leash.

Part 3: Additional information

- Maps and lists of off leash areas in Ōrākei Local Board area



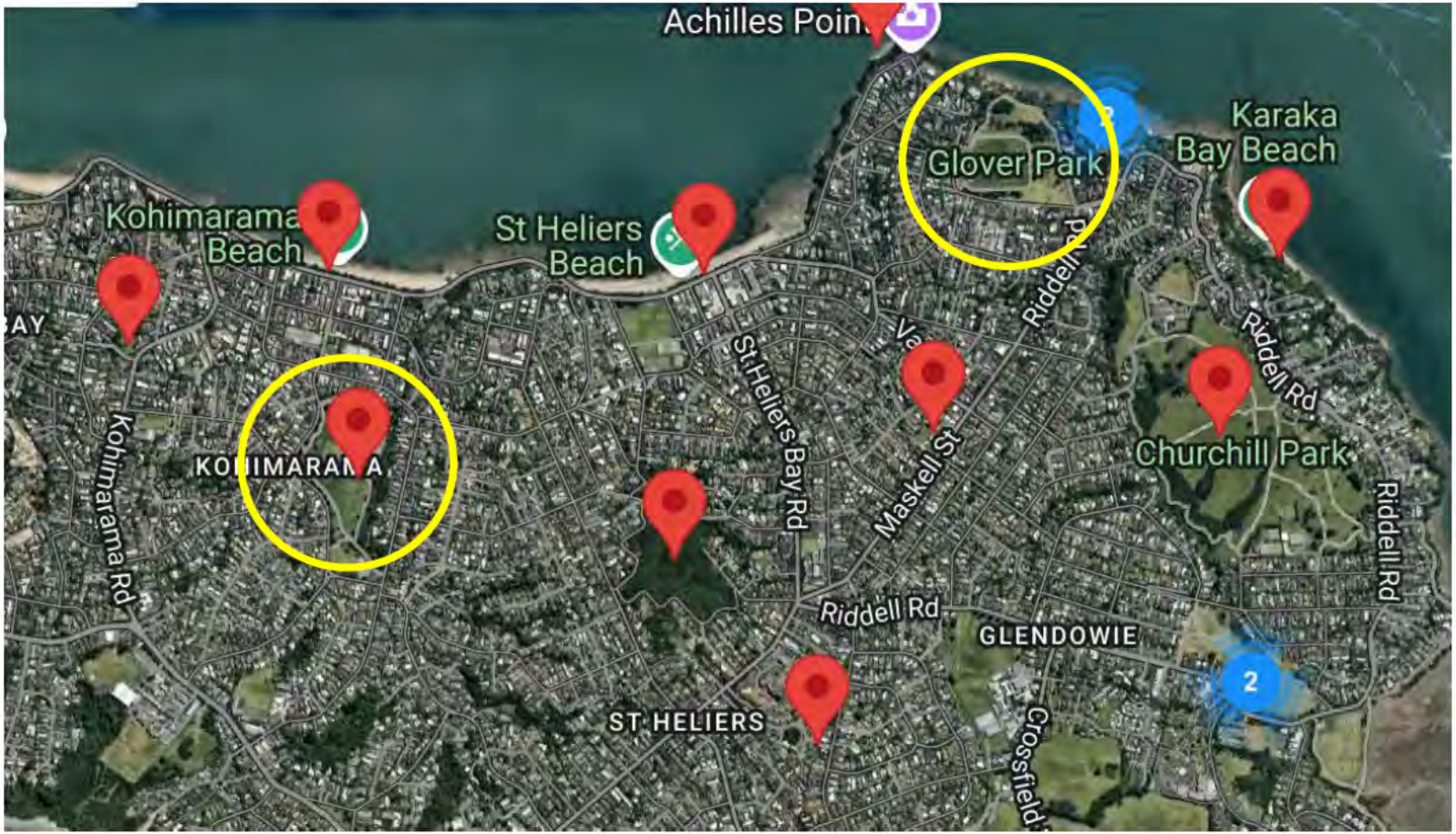
List of off-leash parks (refer to yellow highlighted number):

1. Allen Johnston Reserve
2. Aotea Reserve
3. Atkin Reserve (see note below)
4. Canon Park also known as Kenneth Small Reserve
5. Cawley Street Reserve
6. Churchill Park: excluding the area on eastern side of Churchill Park School from the Riddell Road entrance to 366B Riddell Road
7. Derby Downs Domain
8. Dingle Dell Reserve: restricted to the flat grassed areas only. The paths are for dogs on leashes only
9. Fancourt Reserve
10. Gentleman's Bay
11. Glendowie Park
12. Glover Park: including on marked sports field when not in use
13. Kelvin Reserve
14. Koraha Reserve
15. Ladies Bay
16. Lingarth Reserve
17. Madills Farm: including on marked sports field when not in use
18. Mary Atkin Reserve
19. Maskell Street Reserve
20. Merton Road Reserve
21. Michaels Avenue Reserve: southern end of the reserve only
22. Morrin Road Reserve
23. Norman Lesser Reserve/Pyatt Reserve
24. Orākei Basin West and East Reserve from the car park from Orākei Road and from the pathway from Upland Road to the bottom of the Lucerne Road access way
25. Patteson Reserve
26. Regents Park

Note: Atkin Reserve stated in 2019 Policy, does not show in map.

Our analysis of where else local dog owners could go for off leash access in their local area.

#6970



Alternative off leash areas in nearby locale

#6970

- St Heliers and Kohi beach - subject to time and season rules for both Summer & winter. No off leash access during summer - on leash or prohibited. Restrictions during winter - on leash between 10am and 4pm.
- Dingle Dell bush reserve - not an open space to exercise your dog, terrain not suitable for older owners or pram access for young families.
- Maskell park - small area probably smaller than one sportsfield.
- Ladies Bay/Gentlemens Bay - access issues for many (and dogs) and not family friendly
- Karaka Bay - access issues
- Mary Atkin reserve - small area about the size of one sportsfield

- So that leaves only Churchill Park in Glendowie, so more dogs coming into this space to get off leash access.

Some proposals for access change don’t make sense

It’s concerning that there are proposals to restrict and reduce dog access that don’t seem to stack up when looked at in detail. (3 reserves in Rodney & Shakespear Regional Park).

If we weren’t flagging this would anyone notice?

Northern Areas - proposed Access Changes - Rodney Local Board

#6970

Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road, Baddeleys Creek Reserve and Pigeon Place Accessway

We are proposing to protect kiwi dispersing from Tāwharanui Regional Park into the three associated reserves where they are vulnerable to being disturbed, harmed or killed by dogs by changing the rule from off-leash to on-leash.

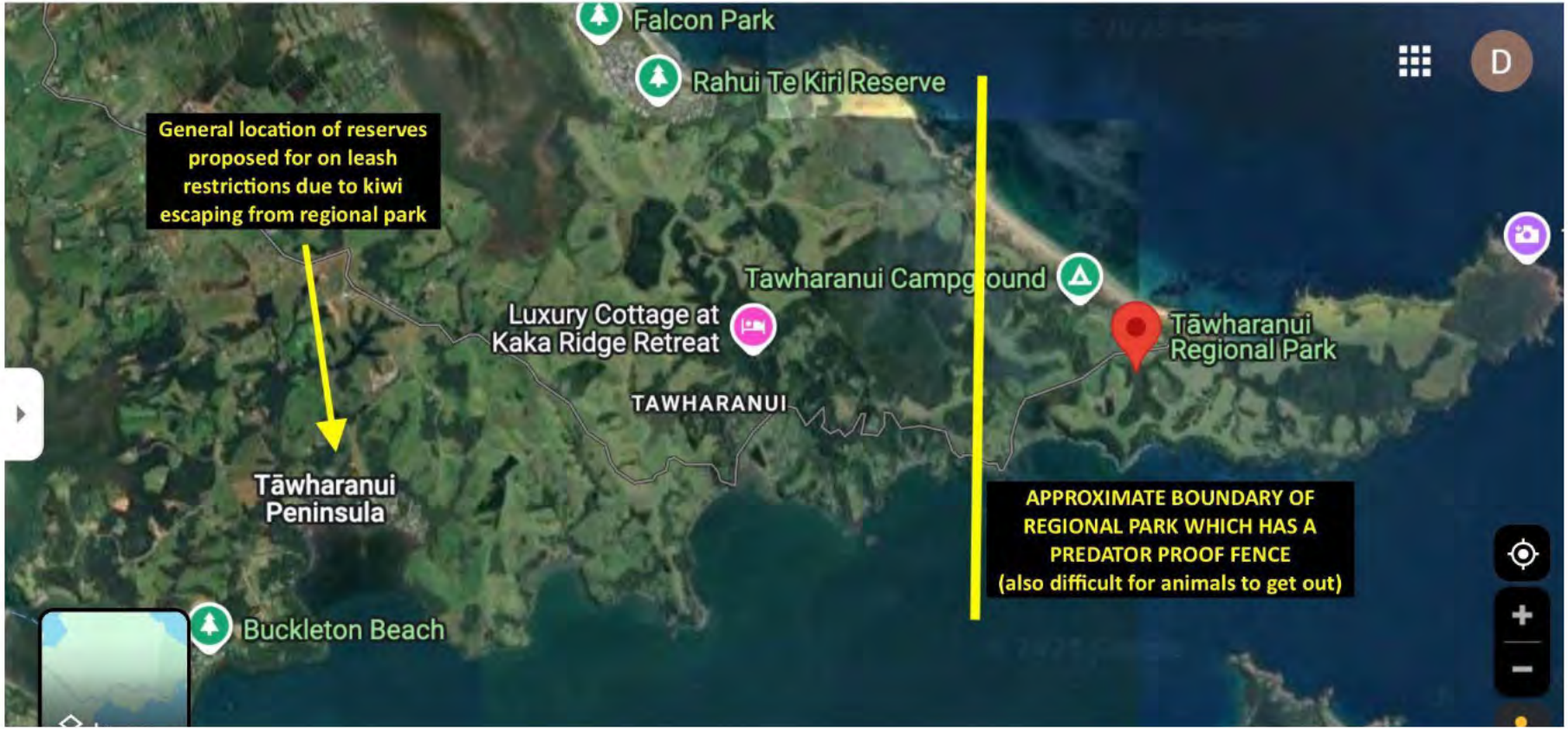
Current Policy rules
Dogs allowed **under control off a leash** at any time (Schedule 2).
Proposed amended Policy rules
Dogs allowed **under control on a leash** at all times (Schedule 1(4)(a)).

This proposal makes no sense. These reserves are not associated to Tawharanui Regional park. They are miles away. (8 kms by road)
There is no need to restrict access in these reserves due to kiwi dispersing from the Regional park. The number of far worse dangers they would need to navigate to get to these areas and then remain there would be huge.

See maps on following pages.

Northern Areas - proposed Access Changes - Rodney Local Board

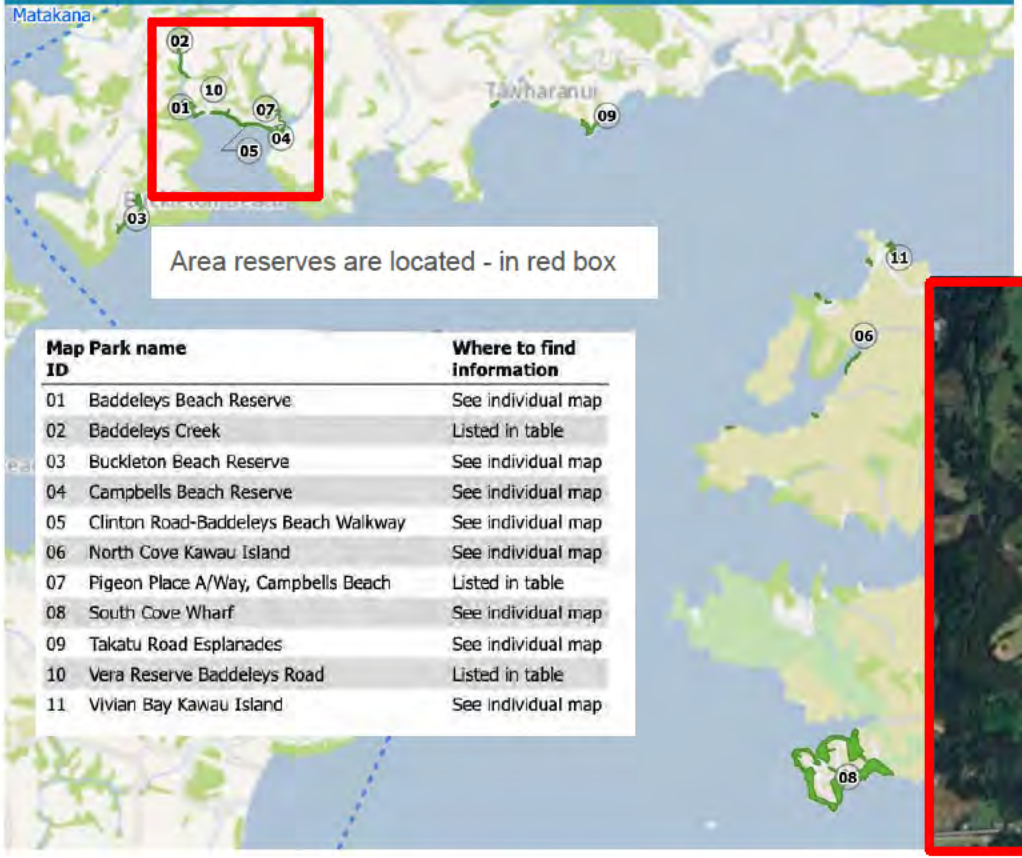
#6970



Northern Areas - proposed Access Changes - Rodney Local Board

#6970

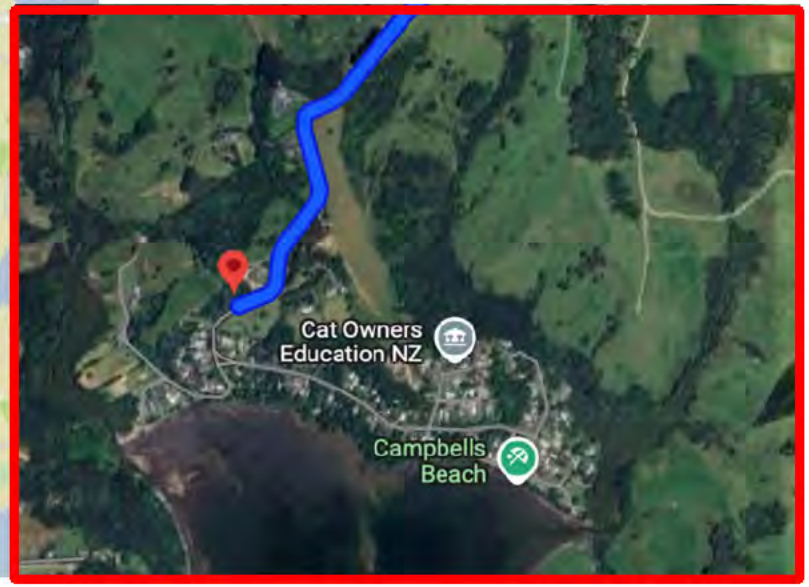
Kawau Bay



Area reserves are located - in red box

Map ID	Park name	Where to find information
01	Baddeleys Beach Reserve	See individual map
02	Baddeleys Creek	Listed in table
03	Buckleton Beach Reserve	See individual map
04	Campbells Beach Reserve	See individual map
05	Clinton Road-Baddeleys Beach Walkway	See individual map
06	North Cove Kawau Island	See individual map
07	Pigeon Place A/Way, Campbells Beach	Listed in table
08	South Cove Wharf	See individual map
09	Takatu Road Esplanades	See individual map
10	Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road	Listed in table
11	Vivian Bay Kawau Island	See individual map

Below is a satellite view of area reserves are in. More danger from cats & cars than dogs.



How Dog Policy is presented

#6970

We showed a number of dog owners the way the 2019 Dog Policy was laid out for dog owners vs the proposed 2025 Dog Policy and not one of them thought the new proposal was delivering on “more clearly showing its goal, focus areas, council actions, and rules.”

The restructure of the new policy certainly isn’t laid out in a user friendly way.

It has also removed the sections within each policy theme of “What does Auckland Council expect of dog owners?” Which was a good way to show responsible dog owners what was expected of them. We don’t understand why this has been done?

For a lay person the proposed new layout is not making it better for people to understand council policy.

We DO NOT support the proposed change & would like the 2019 layout to remain.

2019 Dog Policy was laid out in easy user friendly themes - we ask for this to remain

#6970



Registration and Classification

All dogs in Auckland, including dangerous and menacing dogs, will be registered with council

What will Auckland Council do?

1. Provide registration administration services including:
   (a) maintain a record of all dogs registered in Auckland, including those classified as dangerous and menacing
   (b) maintain a record of probationary and disqualified owners
   (c) inform and educate dog owners through the registration process
   (d) set fees to cover costs of essential services to support dog management activities to achieve this policy
   (e) provide incentives to promote responsible dog ownership
   (f) follow up on non-registered dogs and non-compliance with local authority bylaws.
2. Provide incentives, information, education and services
3. Maintain dog compliance and enforcement best-practice that proactively uses Auckland Council's powers[1] to:
   (a) enforce registration (including through the use of seizure powers) and microchipping of dogs
   (b) enforce the de-sexing of uncontrolled dogs
   (c) seize and hold dogs that are a threat to public safety
   (d) classify certain dogs identified in the Dog Control Act 1996, as dangerous or menacing based on the behaviour of the dogs, or the dogs' breed or type
   (e) ensure compliance with classification requirements.

Council must classify a dog as dangerous where:

- the owner of the dog has been convicted of an offence because:
  (a) the dog has attacked a person, stock poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife, and the court has not made a destruction order on the dog
  (b) the dog rushed at any person, animal or vehicle in a manner that was likely to cause a vehicle accident or to endanger, injure or kill a person
- the dog is considered a threat to the safety of any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife, based on sworn evidence of aggressive behaviour.
- The owner admits in writing the dog poses a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife

[1] powers include issuing warnings and infringement fines (infringement notices), powers to seize, destroy, or take custody of dogs and to classify dogs, and to the classify, prosecute and recover costs from owners.



Responsible Dog Ownership

Dog owners will care for their dogs and control them around people to protect wildlife, other animals, property and natural habitats

What will Auckland Council do?

1. Provide services that support promoting responsible dog management, including:
   (a) 24-hour dog management service
   (b) dog education community events and the production of supporting publications
   (c) advice on dog related problems
   (d) emergency assistance with dogs involved in accidents or police operations
   (e) street patrols
   (f) investigation and resolution of incidents of:
      i. wandering, barking, fouling, aggressive, and menacing or dangerous dogs
      ii. impounding and kennel maintenance
      iii. proceedings against dog owners for offences where all other means have failed
      iv. livestock concerns
      v. abandoned dogs.
2. Proactively promote the welfare of dogs, as stated in the Code of Welfare for Dogs, Animal Welfare Act 1999. This includes, but not limited to, providing sufficient food, water, shelter and care.
3. Reduce the danger and nuisance caused by dogs by:
   (a) receiving, investigating and resolving dog complaints
   (b) providing community education to increase public awareness on how to be safe around dogs (target children, families and people working in the community)
   (c) promoting dog safe communities through encouraging compliance and undertaking enforcement
   (d) ensuring public safety and comfort, working to change attitudes and behaviours of irresponsible dog owners, and where appropriate penalising irresponsible dog owners.

What does Auckland Council expect of dog owners?

1. Know and comply with the laws concerning the management of your dog
2. To be responsible for your dog's behaviour
3. Provide proper care and attention to your dog, including providing sufficient food, water, shelter and adequate exercise, as defined by the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and Dog Control Act 1996
4. Consider neutering your dog at an early age
5. Microchip your dog
6. Take all reasonable steps to ensure your dog does not cause a nuisance to any other person. Be particularly vigilant near children and closely supervise interaction
7. Keep your dog under control at all times, this may include putting your dog on a leash, or a shortened leash in areas where your dog is likely to ignore commands (even if it is an off-leash or designated dog exercise area)
8. Respect other people's personal space. Public places are for everyone's enjoyment and not everyone is fond of dogs
9. Ensure your dog cannot leave your property by itself



Dog Access Principles

Provide a balanced use of public places for dogs and their owners that is safe for everyone

What will Auckland Council do?

1. Provide dog access rules that are comprehensive, consistent and easy to understand and comply with the following approaches:
   (a) Recognise dog owners as legitimate users of public places and dog access is essential for dog welfare
   (b) Integrate, where practicable, dog owners and their dogs with other users of public places
   (c) Provide opportunities for dog owners to take their dog to public places that are accessible, desirable, and provide diversity of experience for both the dog and owner
   (d) Consider access on a comprehensive region-wide basis, as well as a place-by-place basis
   (e) Promote safe interaction between dogs and people using public places and private ways to ensure that dogs do not injure, endanger, intimidate or otherwise cause distress to any person, in particular, children and vulnerable adults
   (f) Manage the conflict between dogs and protected wildlife, stock, poultry, domestic animals, property and natural habitat.
2. Maintain rules on dog access in public places and private ways (see Schedule 1 and 2)
   The types of dog access rules are:
   (a) *prohibited area* – a place where dogs are not permitted to be, and other users have absolute priority
   (b) *on-leash area* – a place shared with other users, where dogs must be on a leash and under control at all times
   (c) *off-leash area* – a place shared with other users, where dogs may be off a leash but must still be under control at all times
   (d) *designated dog exercise area* – a place where dog owners are the priority user. Dog owners may take their dogs off a leash (including Dangerous Dogs) but they must be under control at all times
   (e) *time and season areas* – a place shared with other users, where the dog access rules will be different depending on the time of day during the summer season. This is to minimise the conflict between dogs and other users of the space during peak hours.
3. Apply default dog access rules to ensure that there is a rule applied to all public places in Auckland
   (a) Dogs must be under control on-leash in council-controlled public places unless otherwise stated in Schedule 1 and 2. This includes:
      i. all formed public roads (including any street, highway, access way, service lane, and any footpath, cycle track, bus stop and berm within the boundaries of the road)
      ii. private ways
      iii. council-controlled car parks

Council's NEW proposal 2025 - doesn't seem to have ease of use for general public & has nothing about what is expected of dog owners.

#6970

3 Our actions

3.1 Provide services and incentives that promote responsible dog ownership

This includes –

(a) issuing a licence that rewards owners with a discounted dog registration fee
(b) rewarding dog owners of neutered dogs with a discounted dog registration fee
(c) advice and events to help and encourage dog owners meet their responsibilities to their dog, neighbours and when in public places
(d) advice about the welfare of dogs, including their obligations in the Dog Control Act 1996, Code of Welfare for Dogs, Animal Welfare Act 1999.

3.2 Provide community education services

This includes to increase public awareness on how to be safe around dogs and advice on dog related problems.

3.3 Provide registration administration services

This includes to –

(a) maintain a record of all dogs registered in Auckland
(b) inform and educate dog owners through the registration process
(c) set fees to cover costs of essential services to support dog management activities to achieve this policy
(d) enforce registration (including through the use of seizure powers) and microchipping of dogs
(e) follow up on non-registered dogs.

3.4 Provide classification administration services

This includes to –

(a) classify dogs identified in the Dog Control Act 1996, as dangerous or menacing based on the dogs' breed or type, or the behaviour of the dogs
(b) maintain a record of dogs classified as dangerous and menacing under the Dog Control Act 1996
(c) maintain a record of probationary and disqualified owners
(d) ensure compliance with classification requirements, including that –
(i) owners of dogs classified as dangerous or menacing meet the expectations under the Dog Control Act 1996 (section 32 and section 33E)
(ii) dogs classified as dangerous or menacing are neutered
For the purposes of the Dog Control Act 1996 (section 70(3)(ea) and (ca)) the requirement to neuter dogs classified as menacing applies to all dogs classified as menacing by Auckland Council or by any other territorial authority and relocated to Auckland (even if the other authority that classified the dog did not require it to be neutered),
(iii) owners of dogs classified as probationary or disqualified meet the requirements under the Dog Control Act 1996 (sections 23, 23A, 24, and 26).
(e) allow the owner of a dog classified as menacing due to its behaviour under section 33A of the Dog Control Act 1996, to request a review of the classification after 12 months if –
(i) the owner provides (at their cost) a dog behavioural assessment report that –
- is conducted by an assessor approved by council
- contains the assessor's professional opinion on whether the dog's classification should be maintained, revised, or removed
- contains an evaluation of the dog's behaviour in various settings
- recommends any conditions under which the dog's classification might be reconsidered (for example training programmes or a regular assessment), and
- recommends any for further trainings or strategies, if necessary
(ii) the owner has not obtained any infringements in relation to the dog within the preceding 12-month period, and
(iii) the owner has obtained a responsible dog ownership licence.

Removing the classification of the dog is at the council's discretion

3.5 Provide services that reduce and respond to problems caused by dogs

This includes –

(a) a 24-hour dog management service
(b) shelter services, for example safe custody and re-homing
(c) patrols of public places, for example streets, parks and beaches
(d) issuing licenses to keep more than two dogs on a property under council bylaws
(e) emergency assistance with dogs involved in accidents or police operations
(f) investigation and resolution of incidents, for example dog attacks on people or animals, roaming, barking, fouling, aggressive dog behaviour, abandoned dogs, or dog welfare concerns
(g) seizing and holding dogs, including dogs that are a threat to public safety
(h) working to change attitudes and behaviours of irresponsible dog owners and where appropriate, proactively using powers to ensure public safety and comfort and penalise irresponsible dog owners
(i) issuing warnings, abatement notices and infringement notices (where appropriate)
(j) requiring the neutering of uncontrolled dogs under council bylaws (where appropriate)
(k) classifying dogs and dog owners (where appropriate)
(l) court proceedings against dog owners for offences (where appropriate).

3.6 Provide dog access rules in public places and private ways

3.6.1 Apply the following principles to ensure dog access rules balance the needs of people, dogs, animals, environment and property

(a) recognise responsible dog owners as legitimate users of public places and that dog access is essential for dog welfare
(b) integrate, where practicable, dog owners and their dogs with other users of public places (for example public roads, parks and beaches)
(c) provide opportunities for dog owners to take their dog to public places that are accessible, desirable, and provide diversity of experience for both the dog and owner
(d) promote safe interaction between dogs and people using public places and private ways to ensure that dogs do not injure, endanger, intimidate or otherwise cause distress to any person, in particular, children and vulnerable adults
(e) manage the conflict between dogs and protected wildlife and environment (natural habitat)
(f) manage the conflict between dogs and stock, poultry, domestic animals and property.

3.6.2 Consider dog access on a comprehensive region-wide basis, as well as place-by-place basis

(a) apply default and general rules in Schedule 1 that apply Auckland-wide to ensure there is a rule for every public place and private way in Auckland
(b) apply rules for specific places in Auckland in Schedule 2
(c) apply the following terms and definitions when setting dog access rules –
(i) **under control off a leash** (off-leash) area – a place shared with other users, where dogs may be off a leash but must still be under control at all times
(ii) **under control on a leash** (on-leash) area – a place shared with other users, where dogs must be on a leash and under control at all times
(iii) **prohibited** area – a place where dogs are not permitted to be, and other users have absolute priority
(iv) **designated dog exercise** area – a place where dog owners are the priority user. Dog owners may take their dogs off a leash (including dogs classified as dangerous) but they must be under control at all times
(v) **time and season** area – a place shared with other users, where the dog access rules will be different depending on the time of day and year. This is to minimise the conflict between dogs and other users of the space during peak times.
(d) use the following time and season definition when restricting dog access to ensure the safe interaction between people and dogs at popular locations:

10.00am to 5.00pm between 1 December to 1 March, inclusive (summer)

Related information about time and season rules

- different time and season definitions may apply to manage conflict between dogs and animals or natural habitat (for example lambing season).
- The relevant authority (local boards or delegated council committee) will decide:
  - a. where a time and season rule applies (location)
  - b. the type of dog access (prohibited, on-leash, off-leash or designated dog exercise area)
  - c. what the rule outside of the summer season access will be (including any times).

For example, a local board may decide that a beach is off-leash before 10am, prohibited between 10.00am and 5.00pm and off-leash after 5.00pm in summer, and off-leash at any time of the year.

3.6.3 Consider the following before making any change to a dog access rule on a park or beach that would provide more dog access

(a) the current and future usage patterns and behaviours
(b) the potential conflicts between dogs and people, animals, environment and property

Dog Access principles changes - Time & season #6970

During deliberations, the 2019 Hearing Panel wanted to remove the 'winter' time and season restrictions that were in place and varied amongst each other across 6 LB's (Devonport-Takapuna, Waitemata, Albert-Eden, Orakei, Maungakiekie-Tamaki and Manger-Otahuhu).

Staff advised that they could not do this as the removal had not been consulted on. The Reg chair at the time was noticeably frustrated at this as the panel felt that it had been shown there was no need and the community didn't want it during the consultation process.

The 2019 Hearing panel then deliberated at length to develop an information note for local boards when changing a 'out of summer season' rule that "The policy intends that the outside of summer rule provides more access than the summer season rule that applies in the same area."

This information has been removed from the proposed Dog Policy. **We ask for it to remain to give Local Boards guidance.**

2019 (Current)

4. Apply the following time and season definition
   (a) 10.00am to 5.00pm between the 1 December and 1 March (summer)

Explanatory Note:
The relevant authority (local boards or delegated council committee) will decide:

- where a time and season rule applies (location)
- the type of dog access (i.e. prohibited, on-leash, off-leash or designated dog exercise area)
- what the outside of summer season access rule will be.

For example, a local board may decide that a beach is off-leash before 10am, prohibited between 10.00am and 5.00pm and off-leash after 5.00pm.

Information Note:
The Policy intends that the outside of summer rule provides more access than the summer season rule that applies in the same area.

2025 (Proposed)

(d) use the following time and season definition when restricting dog access to ensure the safe interaction between people and dogs at popular locations:

10.00am to 5.00pm between 1 December to 1 March, inclusive (summer)

Related information about time and season rules

- Different time and season definitions may apply to manage conflict between dogs and animals or natural habitat (for example lambing season).
- The relevant authority (local boards or delegated council committee) will decide:
  - where a time and season rule applies(location)
  - the type of dog access (prohibited, on-leash, off-leash or designated dog exercise area)
  - what the rule outside of the summer season access will be (including any times).

For example, a local board may decide that a beach is off-leash before 10am, prohibited between 10.00am and 5.00pm and off-leash after 5.00pm in summer, and off-leash at any time of the year.

Dog Access principles changes -

#6970

Council's proposed access principle change around when a rule change is proposed that would provide less dog access is now proposed to have an additional element to it;

- that a 'catchment approach' to consider any gaps in dog access provision that may arise.

We can't find any reference or explanation as to what this 'catchment approach' is and how it works? We can't give any view on whether we think this is a good addition towards dog access evaluation or a hindrance. We would like to get clarification around this and we suspect that local boards may need that too?

2019 (Current)

6. **Consider the following before making any change to a dog access rule on parks and beaches that would provide less dog access:**
   (a) Consider whether there are practicable alternative solutions to address the conflict between uses of the place[3]
   (b) Ensure, to the extent that is practicable, that displaced dog owners and their dogs have access to other places or that such access is provided as part of the same decision.

2025 (Proposed)

3.6.4 Consider the following before making any change to a dog access rule on a park or beach that would provide less dog access

(a) evidence of a significant rsk of conflict between responsible dog owners and their dogs and other people, animals, environment or property

(b) whether there are practicable alternative solutions to address the conflict, such as ways to enable better sharing of the public place.[2]

(c) the need to ensure, to the extent that is practicable, that displaced dog owners and their dogs have access to other places or that such access is provided as part of the same decision, including a catchment approach to consider any gaps in dog access provision that may arise.

Proposed 2025 Dog Access Policy still lacks details -

#6970

Normally for Dog access rules the areas/place that the rule applies to is listed - example shown

This means that;

- signage of the access rules for off leash, prohibited, time and season or for environmental rules can be erected at the location they apply to.
- The 'where to walk your dog' website lists the location and the rules that apply to it
- That dog owners know the rules for a space

But **there are still issues with location identification that we raised in 2019** that remain in the proposed 2025 policy.

3 Dogs are allowed in the following areas during the following times and seasons -

(1) Arkles Bay: headland to headland
(2) Big Manly Beach: headland to headland
(3) Browns Bay Beach
(4) Campbells Bay Beach: including grass area at end of The Esplanade, parts of Campbells Bay Esplanade Reserve adjacent to the beach and wastewater pipeline to Mairangi Bay Beach
(5) Fisherman's Rock
(6) Hatfields Beach: headland to headland
(7) Little Manly Beach: headland to headland
(8) Mairangi Bay Beach: including wastewater pipeline to Mairangi Bay Beach
(9) Matakatia Bay: headland to headland
(10) Murrays Bay Beach: including wastewater pipeline to Campbells Bay Beach
(11) Orewa Beach: north headland to estuary bridge southern end
(12) Red Beach: headland to headland
(13) Rothesay Bay Beach
(14) Stanmore Bay: headland to headland
(15) Swann Beach: headland to headland
(16) Tindalls Beach: headland to headland
(17) Waiake Beach: including Rock Isle Beach
(18) Waiwera Beach: from The Strand roundabout to southern headland.
(19) Winstones Cove: beach and reserve.

Summer (1 December to 1 March)	Other seasons
Under control off leash Morning (Before 10am)	Under control off leash All times
Prohibited Daytime (10am to 5pm)	
Under control off leash Evening (After 5pm)	

Proposed 2025 Dog Access Policy still lacks details -

#6970

For the 2025 Proposed Dog Policy **Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board** area is still showing a completely vague description of where dogs are allowed during the Summer and Winter time restrictions **which we raised in 2019.**

We don't see how this can be signposted at the relevant beaches if they aren't named in the policy and we can't see how Council is identifying them on their 'where to walk your dog' website.

Fundamentally, if council can't identify or name them, how are dog owners meant to?

If no beaches can be identified for the rule to apply to then surely the rule should be removed for this LB area?

3 Dogs are allowed in the following areas during the following times and seasons –

All beaches excluding Onehunga foreshore on the southern side of Orpheus Drive between the coastline below 54A Seacliffe Road and the Manukau Cruising Club.

Summer (1 December to 1 March)	Other seasons
Under control on leash* Morning (Before 10am)	**Under control off leash** Before 10am
Prohibited Daytime (10am to 5pm)	**Under control on leash*** 10am to 4pm
Under control on leash* Evening (After 5pm)	**Under control off leash** After 4pm
Prohibited At all times from safe swimming areas or lanes marked out by council	**Prohibited** At all times from safe swimming areas or lanes marked out by council

* Except in the water where dogs are allowed under control off a leash.

Proposed 2025 Dog Access Policy still lacks details -

#6970

For the 2025 Proposed Dog Policy **Mangere-Otahuhu Local Board** area is still showing a completely vague description of where dogs are allowed during the Summer and Winter time restrictions which **we raised in 2019.**

"ON BEACHES IN THE FORMER AUCKLAND CITY AREA" - who would know this? This is from 15 years ago!

We don't see how this can be signposted at the relevant beaches if they aren't named in the policy and we can't see how Council is identifying them on their 'where to walk your dog' website.

Fundamentally, if council can't identify or name them, how are dog owners meant to?

If no beaches can be identified for the rule to apply to then surely the rule should be removed for this LB area?

9 Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area

(2) On beaches in the former Auckland City area:

Summer (1 December to 1 March)	Other seasons
Under control on leash* Morning (Before 10am)	Under control off leash Before 10am
Prohibited Daytime (10am to 5pm)	Under control on leash 10am to 4pm
Under control on leash* Evening (After 5pm)	Under control off leash After 4pm
Prohibited At all times from safe swimming areas or lanes marked out or identified by council	Prohibited At all times from safe swimming areas or lanes marked out or identified by council

* Except in the water where dogs are allowed under control off a leash.

4 **There are no areas where dogs are prohibited in the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area.**

Regional Park proposals - overwhelmingly increasing restrictions and reducing access.

#6970

North:
Mahurangi Regional Park;
- **lose** all access to a track, go **from on to off** at another location
Pakiri Regional Park;
- **lose all off leash access**, **move to prohibited**
Te Arai Regional Park;
- **lose off leash access** on Forestry Beach, **move to prohibited**
Shakespear Regional Park
- l**ose off leash access, move to prohibited** on part of Army Bay and Okoromai Bay
- summer time & season rule on park, **off leash to on leash**
Long Bay Regional Park;
- **lose on leash access** during summer, **move to prohibited**
Whakanewha (Waiheke)
- **gain on leash access** on tracks to access existing on leash area
- Waitawa
- **Lose 75% of current off leash access**, **move to on leash**

Muriwai, Tawharanui, Wenderholm - no change to access

Regional Park proposals - overwhelmingly increasing restrictions and reducing access.

#6970

South:
Auckland Botanic Gardens
- **lose off leash**, area reduced
Hunua Ranges
- **lose access** from **on leash to prohibited** on named tracks and roads
Tapapakanga
- **gain** on leash **in a carpark** during lambing season

Ambury - no change to access

Regional Parks - Shakespear

#6970

- Council is proposing the following;
  - To apply the regional time and season rule of Dogs on leash on the grass areas next to Okoromai and Army Bay. This would mean current OFF leash access would become ON leash during summer hours restrictions (between 10am and 5pm).
  - To PROHIBIT dogs from east of the Army Bay boat ramp.
  - To PROHIBIT dogs from the eastern end of Okoromai Bay

Northern Areas - proposed Access Changes - Hibiscus & Bays - Shakespear Regional Park #6970

Current



Proposed



This map isn't showing the prohibited beach area of Army Bay

It seems as though desktop research has brought this up as an issue

#6970

Looking on google maps you might think that dogs could access the Sanctuary area from the eastern end of the beach



Shakespear Regional Park

#6970

Proposed



Prohibiting Dogs from East of the Army Bay boat ramp. The reason given is to stop dogs from accessing the sanctuary area. But there are cliffs here and no access to the park. There is no need to prohibit dogs from the east of the boat ramp at Army Bay beach. These photos clearly demonstrate the lack of access to the Sanctuary in this area of the beach.

This proposal SHOULD NOT go ahead as dogs cannot physically access the Sanctuary.





Hibiscus & Bays - Shakespear

#6970

Prohibiting Dogs from the Eastern end of Okoromai Bay as there is a chance they might access the sanctuary area. There is signposting saying 'no dogs' beyond X point to stop this. From the findings report it doesn't seem like an actual issue to address, just a risk. Unlike cats, dogs are accompanied by an owner & can be stopped from entering. Access to this area of the beach is only available at low tide so it is not a hugely used area, but for people with reactive dogs it's a good place to be away from other dogs. The photos below show the area in question in both high & low tide

Low Tide



High Tide



Te Arai Regional Park - Forestry Beach

#6970

Te Arai Regional Park was originally the Park land and beach north of Te Arai Point

With the gifting of land to Auckland Council through the Te Arai South development council has moved to enlarge the park land of the Te Arai Regional Park area - creating Te Arai North and Te Arai South park - land.

However Forestry Beach, south of Te Arai Point, was not part of this gift and, we believe, remained a beach within the Rodney local board area. It was not identified as an off leash area as part of the 2019 Dog Bylaw review as we believe it should have and has ended up in a grey area with council now wanting to review the rules around dog access and make it part of the Te Arai regional park.

It is the biggest, and main area of dog access for locals & visitors. If council goes ahead with prohibiting dogs from as proposed in this review at Pakiri Beach (adjacent to the Regional Park) and Forestry Beach that will mean that 24km of Rodney coastline will be prohibited to dog families.

Given the plans to tar seal to Te Arai South/Forestry beach from SH1 and the relative quick drive (25 mins currently), it is likely that Te Arai Regional park will get greater numbers of visitors in the coming years, along with locals with the approved 60 home subdivision at Te Arai South and the recent submission by Te Arai South Holdings & Darby Partners for an additional 180 visitor accommodation units and 420 residential and retirement living units at Te Arai South along with sand mining activity..

According to Council's own data, there were 165,000 visitors to Te Arai in 2020 and 130,000 in 2021. The planned northern motorway extension and northern growth and development is likely to increase these numbers.

Te Arai South and Forestry Beach are the logical areas along this 24KM coastline to have dog access as it is also likely to be where more people will be visiting. There is no other area along this coastline that will have intensive development next to it. In fact I can't think of any other regional park beach that has/will have such intensive development fronting it.

#6970

Coastline -
Goat Island to Te Arai

Removing Dog access as proposed on the beaches bordering the Te Arai South and Pakiri Regional parks means over 24KM of Rodney beaches would be off limits to dog families.



Forestry Beach January 2024



This is likely to be more the norm over summer in coming years

Te Arai Regional Park - Forestry Beach

#6970

Council states protection of Sand dunes is a reason to keep dogs off Forestry Beach. However signage, education and maps can achieve this. But people can do more damage. Horse riding on the beach is still allowed & seem to be on the dunes?.



Te Arai Lodge Walks image



Pakiri Beach horse riding on dunes





Forestry Beach

#6970

Te Arai Links golf course has helicopters coming and going from the beach side - something that will disturb shorebirds. Visitors to the golf course and beach users also use drones.







#6970

Dotterel

DOC guidelines for nesting Dotterel.

Surely there can be a compromise rather than simply prohibiting dogs and their families



#6970

Making dogs the bad guy means people think we are the only problem

Auckland Council Staff have referenced the following study in other Dotterel proposals regarding Dogs;

A. Lord et al. / Biological Conservation 98 (2001)

New Zealand dotterels leave their nests if potential **predators (including humans) approach.** It is desirable, although often not practical, to prohibit human access from breeding areas occupied by threatened or endangered species.

Effects of Human Approaches to nests of Dotterel

As part of the field survey sites were rated as receiving high levels of activity if they received between 7-20 visitors per hour (popular beaches with easy access and near housing settlements) - these were identified as busy beaches.

Scenarios tested were; Lone person walking, lone person running, lone person walking a leashed dog. Off leash dog walking was not tested. All of the testing started at 200m out from the nest. All participants walked to within 5 metres of the nest.

Flush distances were observed.

For those deemed to be a busy beach the mean result showed;

- A lone walker would flush a bird off the nest at approx 20m
- A lone runner would flush a bird off the nest at approx 50m
- A lone walker with a leashed dog would flush a bird off the nest at approx 70m

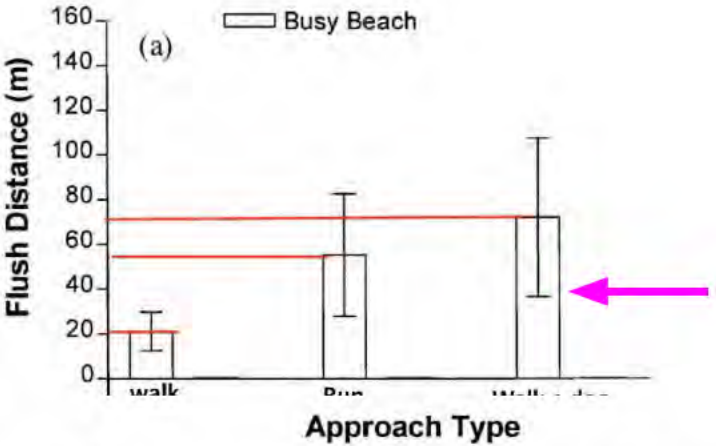


Fig. 2. Effect of beach activity level on (a) flush distance and (b) time spent off nest (back transformed means and standard errors).

#6970

Making dogs the bad guy means people think we are the only problem

<u>After having someone (+dog) come within 5m of the nest & standing there for 1 minute the time spent off the nest on a busy beach was:</u>

- A lone walker kept the birds off the nest for approx 2.5 minutes (150 seconds)
- A lone runner kept the birds off the nest for approx 3 minutes (180 seconds)
- A lone walk with a leashed dog kept the birds off the nest for approx 3.7 minutes (210 seconds). ***Only 40 seconds approx longer than a runner.***

Often the gist from Council staff is that the Dotterel spent more time off their nest when approached by a walker with a dog.
The impact of a dog on leash vs a runner is only 40 seconds. A walker will still mean that the birds will be off the nest for approx 2.5 minutes.

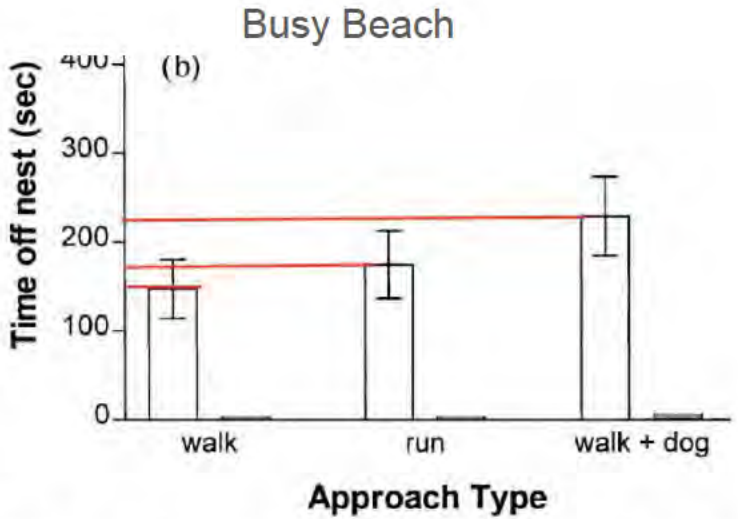


Fig. 2. Effect of beach activity level on (a) flush distance and (b) time spent off nest (back transformed means and standard errors).

A. Lord et al - Effects of Human Approaches to Nests of Northern NZ Dotterel

Dogs aren't the only threat to Dotterels…

…but because the council has a bylaw in place to control dog access they are always the ones to be restricted.

Cats are proving a huge issue at the Dotterel population at Omaha and locals are crying out for council to do something.

People running, kids playing can also cause the dotterels to move off their nest. Kite surfing has been shown to affect breeding dotterel in Auckland.

Manly Dotterel minder group report drones and golf balls are also a disturbance to nesting birds.

But the only ones who have any infringements on their movements are dog owners.

#6970

Threats to Dotterels are not limited to Dogs

Kite Surfing - risk to breeding;

Council's own expert witness in a Council Environment Court action1 - Dr Lovegrove (Auckland Council) - said that an increase in kite-surfing at the Karaka shell banks in the South Manukau harbour had been found to be disturbing migratory species such as godwits and preventing breeding of New Zealand dotterel for whom this was an important site. In addition another expert witness who was supporting Council's position in this action cited "an evaluation of 17 studies from five countries, including New Zealand, Mr Don said that birds perceive kite surfers as large predators and avoid them by taking long flights or leaving a site altogether. In his view, unregulated kite-surfing had the potential to "*significantly degrade the existing habitats of coastal birds as a result of continual disturbance.*"

Vehicles on beaches

This has been identified as an issue at Te Arai regional park

#6970

Threats to Dotterels are not just from dogs

Predators - cats. Cats have been a major problem for Dotterel breeding sites in the north auckland area but council has no plan in place to limit or control cats



Cat attacks dotterels at Snells

0:12 MON, 24 OCT

Snells Beach cat owners are being asked to keep an eye on their pets, after dotterels were attacked early last Wednesday morning, October 19, forcing...



Omaha dotterel team mourns cat attack

0:13 SUN, 13 DEC

Night photos at the sanctuary, taken after the dotterel died, clearly show a cat on the prowl. A domestic cat is believed to have killed...



Tragic end for dotterel egg

10:10 TUE, 19 NOV

The sole dotterel (tūturiwhatu) egg remaining at Tindalls Bay disappeared overnight on Friday, November 8. Forest and Bir volunteer Derek Kelsey discovered the empty nest...



Council's dithering on dotterels criticised

8:08 TUE, 19 MAR

Auckland Council has been urged to do its job in protecting the seabirds and their chicks on Omaha Spit, which are being decimated by cats...



Council pussyfoots over dotterel destruction

14:02 FRI, 16 FEB

A refusal by Auckland Council to seriously address the cat problem on the Omaha Spit could sound the death knell for the area as a...



Community groups seek more cat control

13:01 TUE, 23 MAR

When cats were first captured on camera on the chenier (shell bank) in the Weiti River, last October, environmental group Friends of Okura Bush (FOOB)...



Stop pussyfooting around – keep cats indoors, pet owners urged

8:08 MON, 22 FEB

Cat burglar – this pet stole several eggs and wrecked dotterel nests this season at Snells Beach. Though their owners might not realise it, pet...

Threats to Dotterels are not just from dogs

#6970

Predators - black back gulls

November 2024 - Tindalls Bay Nest egg lost…… *"closer inspection revealed no sign of egg shells, which could have indicated the nest was predated by a black-backed gull, cat or hedgehog."* Hibiscus Matters 19th Nov 2024

Case study: Matakana Island

DOC began to worry about the apparent failure of New Zealand dotterel chicks to fledge on Matakana Island and set video cameras to monitor dotterel nests.

Surprise, the cameras revealed that predation by black-backed gulls was the main cause of mortality among dotterel chicks.

An eradication was successful, and there are now no black-backed gulls nesting on Matakana Island. .Dotterels have since made a huge comeback on Matakana Island, now the most successful nesting area for the waders in the country. During the 2004–05 breeding season 30 chicks were raised from 42 pairs of New Zealand dotterels, and banded dotterels from previous broods are turning up all round the Bay of Plenty and nesting in new areas. Other birds, such as variable oystercatchers, are also benefiting from the absence of the predatory gulls

https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/black-backed-gulls/

Threats to Dotterels are not just from dogs

Predators - Hedgehogs

2022 - a hedgehog ate 3 eggs in a Manly dotterels nest. It was later discovered in a nearby trap. (https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/prickly-problem)

Submission to GB Hearing Panel

#6970

Dog Friends Auckland & Hibiscus Coast Dog Training Club - February 2025
We are here representing these dogs & their families, plus many more

Zara, Rusty, Toffee, Shadow, Fluffy, Maia, Banksy, Bruce, Harriet, Max, Billy, Tilly, Millie, Buddy, Lily, Freddie, Raffy, Willow, Bonnie, Holly, Scottie, Chloe, Molly, Lottie, Tyson, Poppy, Monty, Benny, Jet, Maddie, Bella, Rosie, Archie, Lacey, Young Lily, Spike, Chico, Gracie, Alice, Rio, Poodle Molly, Ollie, Rocky, Indie, Kobe, Bear, Bailey, Jack, Billie, Spotty, Shade, Daisy, Mia, Lola, Lucy, Jack, Leo, Floki, Ruby…. Etc etc











Overview

#6970

- Since the last Dog bylaw review there are **over 10,000 more registered dogs** (113,343 dogs YE June 2024) in Auckland.

- Since the last Policy & Bylaw of 2019 Dog owners have paid Council approx **$50 MILLION** in registrations & fines etc.* (YE 2019 - 2024).

* Based on 113,343 dog registrations at average $79.57 per dog and $1.1M in infringements etc - $10 M per anum

Dog Access in Auckland

#6970

- Another Dog Bylaw review, another fight to **keep the access we already have** around Auckland for Dog Families even though there are more dogs.

- Overall there are approx 60 changes proposed for dog access around Auckland
  - 31 are to prohibit dogs from areas
  - 19 change access from off leash to on
  - 10 give new off leash access.

Dog Access in Auckland

#6970

- Many of the proposed changes that remove access are being proposed simply to have the same rules throughout Auckland.
  - No analysis has been done on how many dog owners currently use these areas as they are now or where the next area they could obtain the same access would be located.

- **Most of the proposals for change are to remove or restrict dog access**
  - 50 proposals to do this across Auckland.

- Of the 10 proposals to give OFF leash at all times; in most cases they are allowing OFF leash when they had been **previously ON leash or subject to a time & season rule** and the majority are being offered as a part of another proposal to restrict access. So you lose access, or access is restricted here, but over here (usually a smaller area) you can have off leash at all times.
  - From what we can see these areas are mostly relatively small.

So what does that mean?

#6970

NO **NEW** OFF LEASH AREAS in the entire Auckland Region of any decent size for Dog Families since 2019. By the time this review is completed that's a 6 year period.

So all that is happening is more dogs in the same areas.

The need is there. From Council's own 'Dog Walking Assessment' in 2023 for a Local Board it states that ***"Dog Walking is one of the top 5 things done in Auckland parks."***

34% of New Zealand households report having at least one dog, up from 28% in 2015*

* Companion Animals in NZ report 2020 (Companion Animals NZ)

Compare Auckland to the WDC and the Wellington City Council #6970 Animal/Dog Bylaw recent reviews.

Council leads the way so dogs can have a ball

Wellington City Council's Kōrau Mātinitini | Social, Cultural, and Economic Committee adopted the proposed Animal Bylaw, Domestic Animal and Dog Policy today.



There'll be more spaces for dogs to exercise and socialise in Wellington, including the smaller end of Ori Bay Beach during the warmer months – but due to popular demand, Island Bay keeps its status quo.

April 2024 - Wellington City Council - Animal Bylaw, Domestic Animal and Dog Policy

Key changes adopted include:

- Stick with status quo on Island Bay Beach where **dogs are allowed off-leash at all times** in the area from the pier to the western end of the beach.
- **Expand off-leash access** in the CBD by allowing dogs to take a splash on the righthand side of the Band Rotunda in Oriental Bay during off-peak hours in the warmer months. Dogs remain prohibited from the longer section of the beach and Freyberg Beach for people wanting a dog-free experience.
- **Expand off-leash provision across nine suburbs** in Wellington.
- Require the mandatory desexing of cats, which supports Predator Free initiatives and the efforts of local rescues to reduce the stray cat population.

Compare Auckland to the WDC and the Wellington City Council Animal/Dog Bylaw recent reviews. #6970

October 2024 - Whangarei District Councl

Parts of Whangārei are now more dog friendly as new dog rules have come in today, Monday 28 October 2024:

Dogs are now allowed on-leash in Whangārei's city centre and **off-leash year-round at nine beach locations:**

- Whananaki North (foreshore between boat ramps)
- Tūtūkākā Marina beach
- Between Kauakarangi Bay sandspit (Ngunguru) and Whangaumu Bay
- Ngunguru estuary foreshore (village side)
- Waikaraka Beach
- One Tree Point (northeastern side)
- Ruakākā Beach north (between Mair Road and Taotahi Walk)
- Ruakākā Beach south (between surf club and campground)
- Uretiti Beach (Tip Road northwards).

The Whangarei Mayor says **one common theme was a shortage of places to take dogs off-leash in summer.** Another was that the 'no dog' rule in the city centre meant fewer customers visiting the centre of town.

Changes to dog access impact dog families daily lives #6970

- Changes to access can impact many local people's daily routine negatively. Removing or restricting access to local dog owners means that somewhere they go daily with their dog is suddenly not available or limits their dog's exercise opportunity - sometimes just to meet a region wide rule.

- Any changes Council makes can have a massive impact on dog owners. It might mean having to drive to another location rather than walking to their local park or beach. For shift workers, having close to home access is important.

- More dogs in less spaces means that you can have issues with too many dogs in the same spots - especially during the summer season restrictions. (Time & season and bird breeding seasons).

Auckland Council dog bylaw review is ‘in house’ #6970

- For this Dog Bylaw review Auckland Council, from what we can find in documents, focused on ‘in house’ inputs with a limited number of external stakeholders which we understand to be;
    - SPCA, Chained Dog Rehabilitation & Homing, 4 Commercial Dog Walkers, Friends of Regional Parks, Forest & Bird and Pest Free Kaipatiki.

- In a business environment that approach is called ‘navel gazing’ & it’s not recommended. Especially when it comes to engagement or connecting with an affected audience outside of the business.
    - ‘Navel gazing’ - Looking inwards, instead of outwards for direction and inputs.

Compare to the WDC approach for their bylaw review

#6970

“In 2023 we asked (the public) what we should change in our dog rules and more than 600 people gave us their ideas,” says Mayor Vince Cocurullo.

“Our teams drafted up changes to our Dog Policy and Bylaw and consulted again. We received more than 800 submissions and then held hearings in July this year (2024).”

He says one common theme was a shortage of places to take dogs off-leash in summer. Another was that the ‘no dog’ rule in the city centre meant fewer customers visiting the centre of town. People also said providing places for dogs to go needed to be balanced against the need to protect the health and safety of people, especially children, as well as wildlife.

https://www.wdc.govt.nz/Whats-new/News-and-notices/Changes-to-dog-bylaws-20241016

Whereas Auckland Council isn’t getting any public input until they have already put the proposed Bylaw and Policy changes together, meaning there is no room for any change outside of what they have put together. Any possible changes that aren’t in this SOP will have to wait another 5 years or more.

It doesn’t seem as though Auckland Council staff have a desire to get input from the public to help with developing a policy and looking for opportunities or issues.

We ask that the Governing Body/Regulatory Committee instruct staff to change the process to mirror that of WDC for the next review & go out asking for suggestions BEFORE the review starts. Engage with those like ourselves & others who can activate the dog owning community.

A focus on desktop research rather than local knowledge #6970

- An outcome from an inward approach is ‘desktop research’. Where analysis is done by looking on a google map, or a council ‘where to walk your dog’ map. It isn’t involving site visits or locals who are regular users of locations.
- An example of this is with the proposal to move from off leash access to prohibited on dogs in the Orakei area at Madills & Glover Parks Sports Surfaces.
- There was no understanding of how many dog owners are using these two parks currently.
- ‘Desktop research’ was done in identifying alternative areas;
    - This did not capture the accessibility of the local alternatives.
    - It did not identify how many dog owners are already going to these areas and whether a new population of dogs and their owners would put pressure on these alternatives.
    - It did not review the size, terrain, user safety (something women and older people are concerned with) or ground conditions of the alternatives.
    - No analysis of the distance from Glover or Madills and the time it would take users of Madills or Glover to drive to these alternatives during morning or evening ‘rush’ hour traffic during the week (when most people are walking their dogs).

From Council documents to Orakei Local Board as part of analysis supporting an access rule change to prohibited from off leash.

#6970

Part 3: Additional information

- Maps and lists of off leash areas in Ōrākei Local Board area



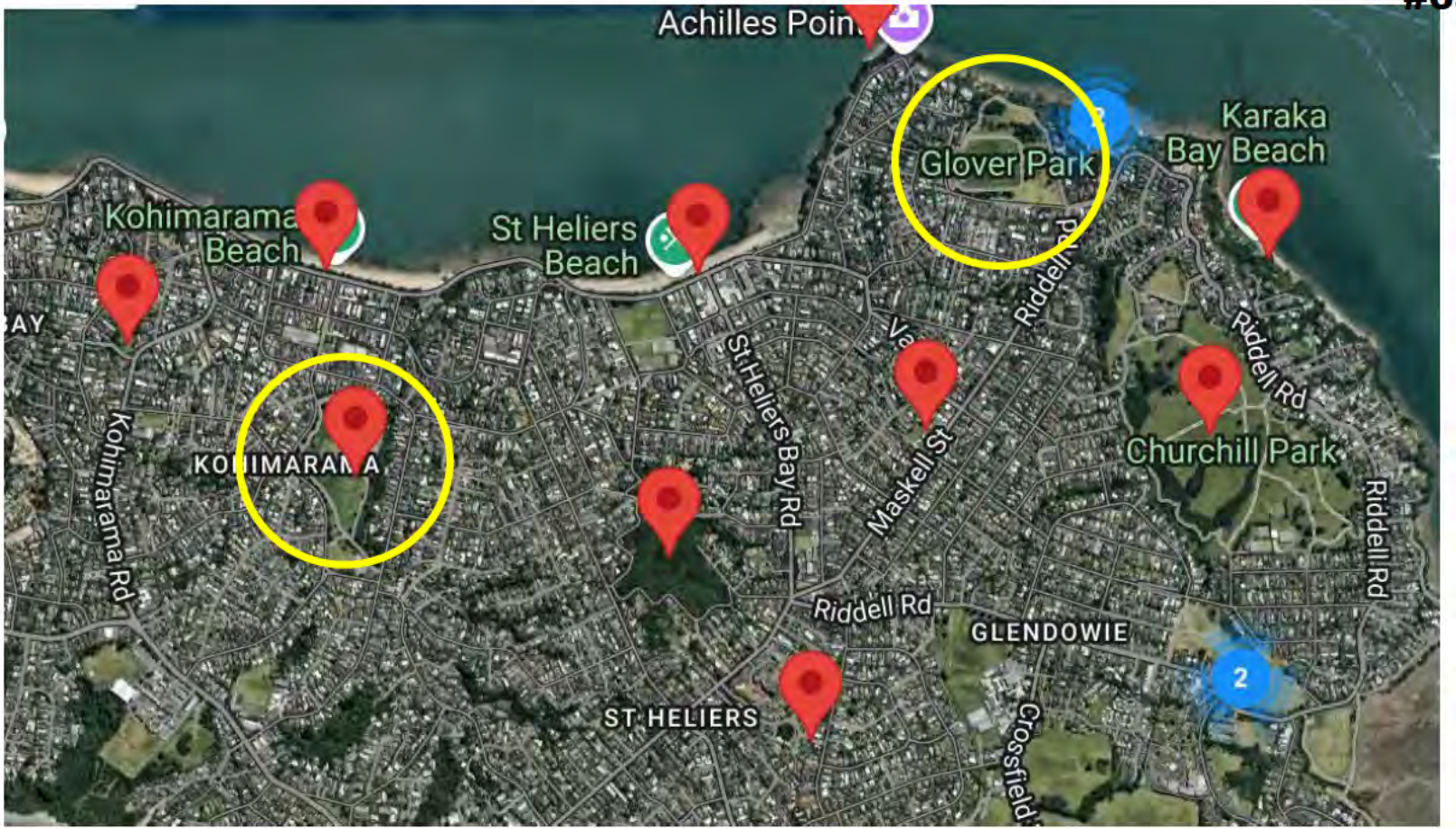
List of off-leash parks (refer to yellow highlighted number):

1. Allen Johnston Reserve
2. Aotea Reserve
3. Atkin Reserve (see note below)
4. Canon Park also known as Kenneth Small Reserve
5. Cawley Street Reserve
6. Churchill Park: excluding the area on eastern side of Churchill Park School from the Riddell Road entrance to 366B Riddell Road
7. Derby Downs Domain
8. Dingle Dell Reserve: restricted to the flat grassed areas only. The paths are for dogs on leashes only
9. Fancourt Reserve
10. Gentleman's Bay
11. Glendowie Park
12. Glover Park: including on marked sports field when not in use
13. Kelvin Reserve
14. Koraha Reserve
15. Ladies Bay
16. Lingarth Reserve
17. Madills Farm: including on marked sports field when not in use
18. Mary Atkin Reserve
19. Maskell Street Reserve
20. Merton Road Reserve
21. Michaels Avenue Reserve: southern end of the reserve only
22. Morrin Road Reserve
23. Norman Lesser Reserve/Pyatt Reserve
24. Orākei Basin West and East Reserve from the car park from Orākei Road and from the pathway from Upland Road to the bottom of the Lucerne Road access way
25. Patteson Reserve
26. Regents Park

Note: Atkin Reserve stated in 2019 Policy, does not show in map.

Our analysis of where else local dog owners could go for off leash access in their local area.

#6970



Alternative off leash areas in nearby locale

#6970

- St Heliers and Kohi beach - subject to time and season rules for both Summer & winter. No off leash access during summer - on leash or prohibited. Restrictions during winter - on leash between 10am and 4pm.
- Dingle Dell bush reserve - not an open space to exercise your dog, terrain not suitable for older owners or pram access for young families.
- Maskell park - small area probably smaller than one sportsfield.
- Ladies Bay/Gentlemens Bay - access issues for many (and dogs) and not family friendly
- Karaka Bay - access issues
- Mary Atkin reserve - small area about the size of one sportsfield

- So that leaves only Churchill Park in Glendowie, so more dogs coming into this space to get off leash access.

#6970

Some proposals for access change don’t make sense

It’s concerning that there are proposals to restrict and reduce dog access that don’t seem to stack up when looked at in detail. (3 reserves in Rodney & Shakespear Regional Park).

If we weren’t flagging this would anyone notice?

Northern Areas - proposed Access Changes - Rodney Local Board

#6970

Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road, Baddeleys Creek Reserve and Pigeon Place Accessway

We are proposing to protect kiwi dispersing from Tāwharanui Regional Park into the three associated reserves where they are vulnerable to being disturbed, harmed or killed by dogs by changing the rule from off-leash to on-leash.

Current Policy rules
Dogs allowed **under control off a leash** at any time (Schedule 2).
Proposed amended Policy rules
Dogs allowed **under control on a leash** at all times (Schedule 1(4)(a)).

This proposal makes no sense. These reserves are not associated to Tawharanui Regional park. They are miles away. (8 kms by road)
There is no need to restrict access in these reserves due to kiwi dispersing from the Regional park. The number of far worse dangers they would need to navigate to get to these areas and then remain there would be huge.

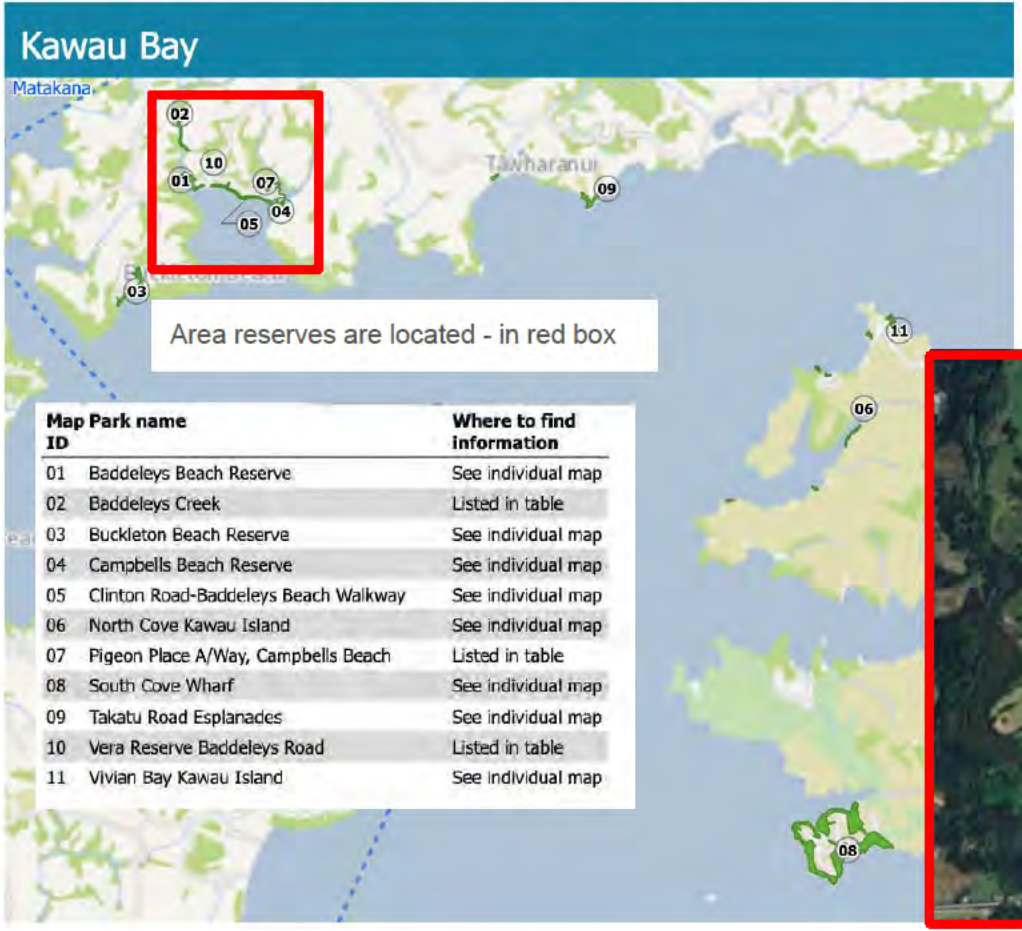
See maps on following pages.

Northern Areas - proposed Access Changes - Rodney Local Board



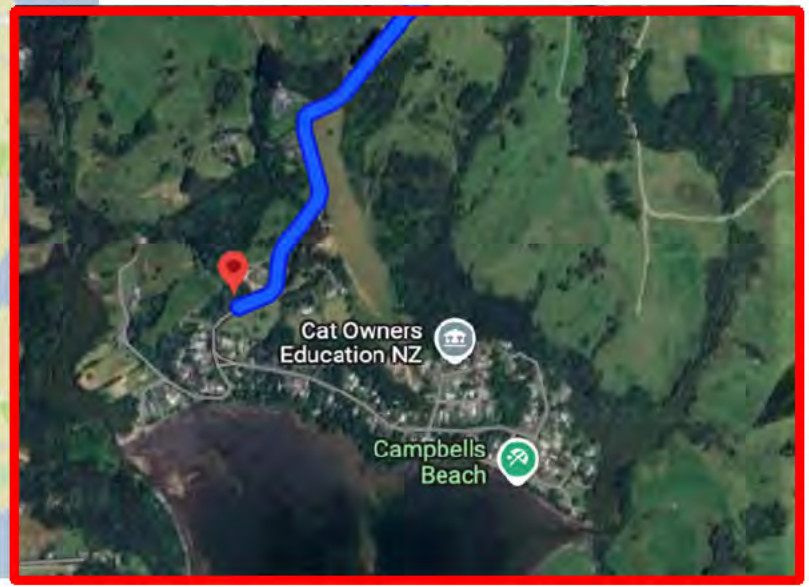
Northern Areas - proposed Access Changes - Rodney Local Board

#6970



Map ID	Park name	Where to find information
01	Baddeleys Beach Reserve	See individual map
02	Baddeleys Creek	Listed in table
03	Buckleton Beach Reserve	See individual map
04	Campbells Beach Reserve	See individual map
05	Clinton Road-Baddeleys Beach Walkway	See individual map
06	North Cove Kawau Island	See individual map
07	Pigeon Place A/Way, Campbells Beach	Listed in table
08	South Cove Wharf	See individual map
09	Takatu Road Esplanades	See individual map
10	Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road	Listed in table
11	Vivian Bay Kawau Island	See individual map

Below is a satellite view of area reserves are in. More danger from cats & cars than dogs.



How Dog Policy is presented

#6970

We showed a number of dog owners the way the 2019 Dog Policy was laid out for dog owners vs the proposed 2025 Dog Policy and not one of them thought the new proposal was delivering on “more clearly showing its goal, focus areas, council actions, and rules.”

The restructure of the new policy certainly isn’t laid out in a user friendly way.

It has also removed the sections within each policy theme of “What does Auckland Council expect of dog owners?” Which was a good way to show responsible dog owners what was expected of them. We don’t understand why this has been done?

For a lay person the proposed new layout is not making it better for people to understand council policy.

We DO NOT support the proposed change & would like the 2019 layout to remain.

2019 Dog Policy was laid out in easy user friendly themes - we ask for this to remain

#6970



Registration and Classification

All dogs in Auckland, including dangerous and menacing dogs, will be registered with council

What will Auckland Council do?

1. Provide registration administration services including:
   (a) maintain a record of all dogs registered in Auckland, including those classified as dangerous and menacing
   (b) maintain a record of probationary and disqualified owners
   (c) inform and educate dog owners through the registration process
   (d) set fees to cover costs of essential services to support dog management activities to achieve this policy
   (e) provide incentives to promote responsible dog ownership
   (f) follow up on non-registered dogs and non-compliance with local authority bylaws.
2. Provide incentives, information, education and services
3. Maintain dog compliance and enforcement best-practise that proactively uses Auckland Council's powers[1] to:
   (a) enforce registration (including through the use of seizure powers) and microchipping of dogs
   (b) enforce the de-sexing of uncontrolled dogs
   (c) seize and hold dogs that are a threat to public safety
   (d) classify certain dogs identified in the Dog Control Act 1996, as dangerous or menacing based on the behaviour of the dogs, or the dogs' breed or type
   (e) ensure compliance with classification requirements.

Council must classify a dog as dangerous where:

- the owner of the dog has been convicted of an offence because:
  (a) the dog has attacked a person, stock poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife, and the court has not made a destruction order on the dog
  (b) the dog rushed at any person, animal or vehicle in a manner that was likely to cause a vehicle accident or to endanger, injure or kill a person
- the dog is considered a threat to the safety of any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife, based on sworn evidence of aggressive behaviour.
- The owner admits in writing the dog poses a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife

[1] powers include issuing warnings and infringement fines (infringement notices), powers to seize, destroy, or take custody of dogs and to classify dogs, and to the classify, prosecute and recover costs from owners.



Responsible Dog Ownership

Dog owners will care for their dogs and control them around people to protect wildlife, other animals, property and natural habitats

What will Auckland Council do?

1. Provide services that support promoting responsible dog management, including:
   (a) 24-hour dog management service
   (b) dog education community events and the production of supporting publications
   (c) advice on dog related problems
   (d) emergency assistance with dogs involved in accidents or police operations
   (e) street patrols
   (f) investigation and resolution of incidents of:
      i. wandering, barking, fouling, aggressive, and menacing or dangerous dogs
      ii. impounding and kennel maintenance
      iii. proceedings against dog owners for offences where all other means have failed
      iv. livestock concerns
      v. abandoned dogs.
2. Proactively promote the welfare of dogs, as stated in the Code of Welfare for Dogs, Animal Welfare Act 1999. This includes, but not limited to, providing sufficient food, water, shelter and care.
3. Reduce the danger and nuisance caused by dogs by:
   (a) receiving, investigating and resolving dog complaints
   (b) providing community education to increase public awareness on how to be safe around dogs (target children, families and people working in the community)
   (c) promoting dog safe communities through encouraging compliance and undertaking enforcement
   (d) ensuring public safety and comfort, working to change attitudes and behaviours of irresponsible dog owners, and where appropriate penalising irresponsible dog owners.

What does Auckland Council expect of dog owners?

1. Know and comply with the laws concerning the management of your dog
2. To be responsible for your dog's behaviour
3. Provide proper care and attention to your dog, including providing sufficient food, water, shelter and adequate exercise, as defined by the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and Dog Control Act 1996
4. Consider neutering your dog at an early age
5. Microchip your dog
6. Take all reasonable steps to ensure your dog does not cause a nuisance to any other person. Be particularly vigilant near children and closely supervise interaction
7. Keep your dog under control at all times, this may include putting your dog on a leash, or a shortened leash in areas where your dog is likely to ignore commands (even if it is an off-leash or designated dog exercise area)
8. Respect other people's personal space. Public places are for everyone's enjoyment and not everyone is fond of dogs
9. Ensure your dog cannot leave your property by itself



Dog Access Principles

Provide a balanced use of public places for dogs and their owners that is safe for everyone

What will Auckland Council do?

1. Provide dog access rules that are comprehensive, consistent and easy to understand and comply with the following approaches:
   (a) Recognise dog owners as legitimate users of public places and dog access is essential for dog welfare
   (b) Integrate, where practicable, dog owners and their dogs with other users of public places
   (c) Provide opportunities for dog owners to take their dog to public places that are accessible, desirable, and provide diversity of experience for both the dog and owner
   (d) Consider access on a comprehensive region-wide basis, as well as a place-by-place basis
   (e) Promote safe interaction between dogs and people using public places and private ways to ensure that dogs do not injure, endanger, intimidate or otherwise cause distress to any person, in particular, children and vulnerable adults
   (f) Manage the conflict between dogs and protected wildlife, stock, poultry, domestic animals, property and natural habitat.
2. Maintain rules on dog access in public places and private ways (see Schedule 1 and 2)
   The types of dog access rules are:
   (a) *prohibited area* – a place where dogs are not permitted to be, and other users have absolute priority
   (b) *on-leash area* – a place shared with other users, where dogs must be on a leash and under control at all times
   (c) *off-leash area* – a place shared with other users, where dogs may be off a leash but must still be under control at all times
   (d) *designated dog exercise area* – a place where dog owners are the priority user. Dog owners may take their dogs off a leash (including Dangerous Dogs) but they must be under control at all times
   (e) *time and season areas* – a place shared with other users, where the dog access rules will be different depending on the time of day during the summer season. This is to minimise the conflict between dogs and other users of the space during peak hours.
3. Apply default dog access rules to ensure that there is a rule applied to all public places in Auckland
   (a) Dogs must be under control on-leash in council-controlled public places unless otherwise stated in Schedule 1 and 2. This includes:
      i. all formed public roads (including any street, highway, access way, service lane, and any footpath, cycle track, bus stop and berm within the boundaries of the road)
      ii. private ways
      iii. council-controlled car parks

Council's NEW proposal 2025 - doesn't seem to have ease of use for general public & has nothing about what is expected of dog owners.

#6970

3 Our actions

3.1 Provide services and incentives that promote responsible dog ownership

This includes –

(a) issuing a licence that rewards owners with a discounted dog registration fee
(b) rewarding dog owners of neutered dogs with a discounted dog registration fee
(c) advice and events to help and encourage dog owners meet their responsibilities to their dog, neighbours and when in public places
(n) advice about the welfare of dogs, including their obligations in the Dog Control Act 1996, Code of Welfare for Dogs, Animal Welfare Act 1999.

3.2 Provide community education services

This includes to increase public awareness on how to be safe around dogs and advice on dog related problems.

3.3 Provide registration administration services

This includes to –

(a) maintain a record of all dogs registered in Auckland
(b) inform and educate dog owners through the registration process
(c) set fees to cover costs of essential services to support dog management activities to achieve this policy
(d) enforce registration (including through the use of seizure powers) and microchipping of dogs
(e) follow up on non-registered dogs.

3.4 Provide classification administration services

This includes to –

(a) classify dogs identified in the Dog Control Act 1996, as dangerous or menacing based on the dogs' breed or type, or the behaviour of the dogs
(b) maintain a record of dogs classified as dangerous and menacing under the Dog Control Act 1996
(c) maintain a record of probationary and disqualified owners
(d) ensure compliance with classification requirements, including that –
(i) owners of dogs classified as dangerous or menacing meet the expectations under the Dog Control Act 1996 (section 32 and section 33E)
(ii) dogs classified as dangerous or menacing are neutered
For the purposes of the Dog Control Act 1996 (section 70(3)(ea) and (ec)) the requirement to neuter dogs classified as menacing applies to all dogs classified as menacing by Auckland Council or by any other territorial authority and relocated to Auckland (even if the other authority that classified the dog did not require it to be neutered),
(iii) owners of dogs classified as probationary or disqualified meet the requirements under the Dog Control Act 1996 (sections 23, 23A, 24, and 26).
(e) allow the owner of a dog classified as menacing due to its behaviour under section 33A of the Dog Control Act 1996, to request a review of the classification after 12 months if –
(i) the owner provides (at their cost) a dog behavioural assessment report that –
- is conducted by an assessor approved by council
- contains the assessor's professional opinion on whether the dog's classification should be maintained, revised, or removed
- contains an evaluation of the dog's behaviour in various settings
- recommends any conditions under which the dog's classification might be reconsidered (for example training programmes or a regular assessment), and
- recommends any for further trainings or strategies, if necessary
(ii) the owner has not obtained any infringements in relation to the dog within the preceding 12-month period; and
(iii) the owner has obtained a responsible dog ownership licence.

Removing the classification of the dog is at the council's discretion

3.5 Provide services that reduce and respond to problems caused by dogs

This includes –

(a) a 24-hour dog management service
(b) shelter services, for example safe custody and re-homing
(c) patrols of public places, for example streets, parks and beaches
(d) issuing licenses to keep more than two dogs on a property under council bylaws
(e) emergency assistance with dogs involved in accidents or police operations
(f) investigation and resolution of incidents, for example dog attacks on people or animals, roaming, barking, fouling, aggressive dog behaviour, abandoned dogs, or dog welfare concerns
(g) seizing and holding dogs, including dogs that are a threat to public safety
(h) working to change attitudes and behaviours of irresponsible dog owners and where appropriate, proactively using powers to ensure public safety and comfort and penalise irresponsible dog owners
(i) issuing warnings, abatement notices and infringement notices (where appropriate)
(j) requiring the neutering of uncontrolled dogs under council bylaws (where appropriate)
(k) classifying dogs and dog owners (where appropriate)
(l) court proceedings against dog owners for offences (where appropriate).

3.6 Provide dog access rules in public places and private ways

3.6.1 Apply the following principles to ensure dog access rules balance the needs of people, dogs, animals, environment and property

(a) recognise responsible dog owners as legitimate users of public places and that dog access is essential for dog welfare
(b) integrate, where practicable, dog owners and their dogs with other users of public places (for example public roads, parks and beaches)
(c) provide opportunities for dog owners to take their dog to public places that are accessible, desirable, and provide diversity of experience for both the dog and owner
(d) promote safe interaction between dogs and people using public places and private ways to ensure that dogs do not injure, endanger, intimidate or otherwise cause distress to any person, in particular, children and vulnerable adults
(e) manage the conflict between dogs and protected wildlife and environment (natural habitat)
(f) manage the conflict between dogs and stock, poultry, domestic animals and property.

3.6.2 Consider dog access on a comprehensive region-wide basis, as well as place-by-place basis

(a) apply default and general rules in Schedule 1 that apply Auckland-wide to ensure there is a rule for every public place and private way in Auckland
(b) apply rules for specific places in Auckland in Schedule 2
(c) apply the following terms and definitions when setting dog access rules –
(i) **under control off a leash** (off-leash) area – a place shared with other users, where dogs may be off a leash but must still be under control at all times
(ii) **under control on a leash** (on-leash) area – a place shared with other users, where dogs must be on a leash and under control at all times
(iii) **prohibited** area – a place where dogs are not permitted to be, and other users have absolute priority
(iv) **designated dog exercise** area – a place where dog owners are the priority user. Dog owners may take their dogs off a leash (including dogs classified as dangerous) but they must be under control at all times
(v) **time and season** area – a place shared with other users, where the dog access rules will be different depending on the time of day and year. This is to minimise the conflict between dogs and other users of the space during peak times.
(d) use the following time and season definition when restricting dog access to ensure the safe interaction between people and dogs at popular locations:

10.00am to 5.00pm between 1 December to 1 March, inclusive (summer)

Related information about time and season rules

- Different time and season definitions may apply to manage conflict between dogs and animals or natural habitat (for example nesting season).
- The relevant authority (local boards or delegated council committee) will decide:
  - a. where a time and season rule applies (location)
  - b. the type of dog access (prohibited, on-leash, off-leash or designated dog exercise area)
  - c. what the rule outside of the summer season access will be (including any times).

For example, a local board may decide that a beach is off-leash before 10am, prohibited between 10.00am and 5.00pm and off-leash after 5.00pm in summer, and off-leash at any time of the year.

3.6.3 Consider the following before making any change to a dog access rule on a park or beach that would provide more dog access

(a) the current and future usage patterns and behaviours
(b) the potential conflicts between dogs and people, animals, environment and property

Dog Access principles changes - Time & season

#6970

During deliberations, the 2019 Hearing Panel wanted to remove the 'winter' time and season restrictions that were in place and varied amongst each other across 6 LB's (Devonport-Takapuna, Waitemata, Albert-Eden, Orakei, Maungakiekie-Tamaki and Manger-Otahuhu).

Staff advised that they could not do this as the removal had not been consulted on. The Reg chair at the time was noticeably frustrated at this as the panel felt that it had been shown there was no need and the community didn't want it during the consultation process.

The 2019 Hearing panel then deliberated at length to develop an information note for local boards when changing a 'out of summer season' rule that "The policy intends that the outside of summer rule provides more access than the summer season rule that applies in the same area."

This information has been removed from the proposed Dog Policy. **We ask for it to remain to give Local Boards guidance.**

2019 (Current)

4. Apply the following time and season definition
   (a) 10.00am to 5.00pm between the 1 December and 1 March (summer)

Explanatory Note:
The relevant authority (local boards or delegated council committee) will decide:

- where a time and season rule applies (location)
- the type of dog access (i.e. prohibited, on-leash, off-leash or designated dog exercise area)
- what the outside of summer season access rule will be.

For example, a local board may decide that a beach is off-leash before 10am, prohibited between 10.00am and 5.00pm and off-leash after 5.00pm.

Information Note:
The Policy intends that the outside of summer rule provides more access than the summer season rule that applies in the same area.

2025 (Proposed)

(d) use the following time and season definition when restricting dog access to ensure the safe interaction between people and dogs at popular locations:

10.00am to 5.00pm between 1 December to 1 March, inclusive (summer)

Related information about time and season rules

- Different time and season definitions may apply to manage conflict between dogs and animals or natural habitat (for example lambing season).
- The relevant authority (local boards or delegated council committee) will decide:
  - where a time and season rule applies(location)
  - the type of dog access (prohibited, on-leash, off-leash or designated dog exercise area)
  - what the rule outside of the summer season access will be (including any times).

For example, a local board may decide that a beach is off-leash before 10am, prohibited between 10.00am and 5.00pm and off-leash after 5.00pm in summer, and off-leash at any time of the year.

Dog Access principles changes -

#6970

Council's proposed access principle change around when a rule change is proposed that would provide less dog access is now proposed to have an additional element to it;

- that a 'catchment approach' to consider any gaps in dog access provision that may arise.

We can't find any reference or explanation as to what this 'catchment approach' is and how it works? We can't give any view on whether we think this is a good addition towards dog access evaluation or a hindrance. We would like to get clarification around this and we suspect that local boards may need that too?

2019 (Current)

6. Consider the following before making any change to a dog access rule on parks and beaches that would provide less dog access:

(a) Consider whether there are practicable alternative solutions to address the conflict between uses of the place[3]

(b) Ensure, to the extent that is practicable, that displaced dog owners and their dogs have access to other places or that such access is provided as part of the same decision.

2025 (Proposed)

3.6.4 Consider the following before making any change to a dog access rule on a park or beach that would provide less dog access

(a) evidence of a significant rsk of conflict between responsible dog owners and their dogs and other people, animals, environment or property

(b) whether there are practicable alternative solutions to address the conflict, such as ways to enable better sharing of the public place.[2]

(c) the need to ensure, to the extent that is practicable, that displaced dog owners and their dogs have access to other places or that such access is provided as part of the same decision, including a catchment approach to consider any gaps in dog access provision that may arise.

Proposed 2025 Dog Access Policy still lacks details -

#6970

Normally for Dog access rules the areas/place that the rule applies to is listed - example shown

This means that;

- signage of the access rules for off leash, prohibited, time and season or for environmental rules can be erected at the location they apply to.
- The 'where to walk your dog' website lists the location and the rules that apply to it
- That dog owners know the rules for a space

But **there are still issues with location identification that we raised in 2019** that remain in the proposed 2025 policy.

3 Dogs are allowed in the following areas during the following times and seasons -

(1) Arkles Bay: headland to headland
(2) Big Manly Beach: headland to headland
(3) Browns Bay Beach
(4) Campbells Bay Beach: including grass area at end of The Esplanade, parts of Campbells Bay Esplanade Reserve adjacent to the beach and wastewater pipeline to Mairangi Bay Beach
(5) Fisherman's Rock
(6) Hatfields Beach: headland to headland
(7) Little Manly Beach: headland to headland
(8) Mairangi Bay Beach: including wastewater pipeline to Mairangi Bay Beach
(9) Matakatia Bay: headland to headland
(10) Murrays Bay Beach: including wastewater pipeline to Campbells Bay Beach
(11) Orewa Beach: north headland to estuary bridge southern end
(12) Red Beach: headland to headland
(13) Rothesay Bay Beach
(14) Stanmore Bay: headland to headland
(15) Swann Beach: headland to headland
(16) Tindalls Beach: headland to headland
(17) Waiake Beach: including Rock Isle Beach
(18) Waiwera Beach: from The Strand roundabout to southern headland.
(19) Winstones Cove: beach and reserve.

Summer (1 December to 1 March)	Other seasons
Under control off leash Morning (Before 10am)	Under control off leash All times
Prohibited Daytime (10am to 5pm)	
Under control off leash Evening (After 5pm)	

Proposed 2025 Dog Access Policy still lacks details -

#6970

For the 2025 Proposed Dog Policy **Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board** area is still showing a completely vague description of where dogs are allowed during the Summer and Winter time restrictions **which we raised in 2019.**

We don't see how this can be signposted at the relevant beaches if they aren't named in the policy and we can't see how Council is identifying them on their 'where to walk your dog' website.

Fundamentally, if council can't identify or name them, how are dog owners meant to?

If no beaches can be identified for the rule to apply to then surely the rule should be removed for this LB area?

3 Dogs are allowed in the following areas during the following times and seasons –

All beaches excluding Onehunga foreshore on the southern side of Orpheus Drive between the coastline below 54A Seacliffe Road and the Manukau Cruising Club.

Summer (1 December to 1 March)	Other seasons
Under control on leash* Morning (Before 10am)	**Under control off leash** Before 10am
Prohibited Daytime (10am to 5pm)	**Under control on leash*** 10am to 4pm
Under control on leash* Evening (After 5pm)	**Under control off leash** After 4pm
Prohibited At all times from safe swimming areas or lanes marked out by council	**Prohibited** At all times from safe swimming areas or lanes marked out by council

* Except in the water where dogs are allowed under control off a leash.

Proposed 2025 Dog Access Policy still lacks details -

#6970

For the 2025 Proposed Dog Policy **Mangere-Otahuhu Local Board** area is still showing a completely vague description of where dogs are allowed during the Summer and Winter time restrictions which **we raised in 2019.**

"ON BEACHES IN THE FORMER AUCKLAND CITY AREA" - who would know this? This is from 15 years ago!

We don't see how this can be signposted at the relevant beaches if they aren't named in the policy and we can't see how Council is identifying them on their 'where to walk your dog' website.

Fundamentally, if council can't identify or name them, how are dog owners meant to?

If no beaches can be identified for the rule to apply to then surely the rule should be removed for this LB area?

9 Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area

(2) On beaches in the former Auckland City area:

Summer (1 December to 1 March)	Other seasons
Under control on leash* Morning (Before 10am)	Under control off leash Before 10am
Prohibited Daytime (10am to 5pm)	Under control on leash 10am to 4pm
Under control on leash* Evening (After 5pm)	Under control off leash After 4pm
Prohibited At all times from safe swimming areas or lanes marked out or identified by council	Prohibited At all times from safe swimming areas or lanes marked out or identified by council

* Except in the water where dogs are allowed under control off a leash.

4 **There are no areas where dogs are prohibited in the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area.**

Regional Park proposals - overwhelmingly increasing restrictions and reducing access.

#6970

North:
Mahurangi Regional Park;
- **lose** all access to a track, go **from on to off** at another location
Pakiri Regional Park;
- **lose all off leash access**, **move to prohibited**
Te Arai Regional Park;
- **lose off leash access** on Forestry Beach, **move to prohibited**
Shakespear Regional Park
- l**ose off leash access, move to prohibited** on part of Army Bay and Okoromai Bay
- summer time & season rule on park, **off leash to on leash**
Long Bay Regional Park;
- **lose on leash access** during summer, **move to prohibited**
Whakanewha (Waiheke)
- **gain on leash access** on tracks to access existing on leash area
- Waitawa
- **Lose 75% of current off leash access**, **move to on leash**

Muriwai, Tawharanui, Wenderholm - no change to access

Regional Park proposals - overwhelmingly increasing restrictions and reducing access.

#6970

South:
Auckland Botanic Gardens
- **lose off leash**, area reduced
Hunua Ranges
- **lose access** from **on leash to prohibited** on named tracks and roads
Tapapakanga
- **gain** on leash **in a carpark** during lambing season

Ambury - no change to access

Regional Parks - Shakespear

#6970

- Council is proposing the following;
  - To apply the regional time and season rule of Dogs on leash on the grass areas next to Okoromai and Army Bay. This would mean current OFF leash access would become ON leash during summer hours restrictions (between 10am and 5pm).
  - To PROHIBIT dogs from east of the Army Bay boat ramp.
  - To PROHIBIT dogs from the eastern end of Okoromai Bay

Northern Areas - proposed Access Changes - Hibiscus & Bays - Shakespear Regional Park

#6970

Current



Proposed



This map isn't showing the prohibited beach area of Army Bay

It seems as though desktop research has brought this up as an issue

#6970

Looking on google maps you might think that dogs could access the Sanctuary area from the eastern end of the beach



Shakespear Regional Park



Prohibiting Dogs from East of the Army Bay boat ramp. The reason given is to stop dogs from accessing the sanctuary area. But there are cliffs here and no access to the park. There is no need to prohibit dogs from the east of the boat ramp at Army Bay beach. These photos clearly demonstrate the lack of access to the Sanctuary in this area of the beach.

This proposal SHOULD NOT go ahead as dogs cannot physically access the Sanctuary.





Hibiscus & Bays - Shakespear

#6970

Prohibiting Dogs from the Eastern end of Okoromai Bay as there is a chance they might access the sanctuary area. There is signposting saying 'no dogs' beyond X point to stop this. From the findings report it doesn't seem like an actual issue to address, just a risk. Unlike cats, dogs are accompanied by an owner & can be stopped from entering. Access to this area of the beach is only available at low tide so it is not a hugely used area, but for people with reactive dogs it's a good place to be away from other dogs. The photos below show the area in question in both high & low tide

Low Tide



High Tide



Te Arai Regional Park - Forestry Beach

#6970

Te Arai Regional Park was originally the Park land and beach north of Te Arai Point

With the gifting of land to Auckland Council through the Te Arai South development council has moved to enlarge the park land of the Te Arai Regional Park area - creating Te Arai North and Te Arai South park - land.

However Forestry Beach, south of Te Arai Point, was not part of this gift and, we believe, remained a beach within the Rodney local board area. It was not identified as an off leash area as part of the 2019 Dog Bylaw review as we believe it should have and has ended up in a grey area with council now wanting to review the rules around dog access and make it part of the Te Arai regional park.

It is the biggest, and main area of dog access for locals & visitors. If council goes ahead with prohibiting dogs from as proposed in this review at Pakiri Beach (adjacent to the Regional Park) and Forestry Beach that will mean that 24km of Rodney coastline will be prohibited to dog families.

Given the plans to tar seal to Te Arai South/Forestry beach from SH1 and the relative quick drive (25 mins currently), it is likely that Te Arai Regional park will get greater numbers of visitors in the coming years, along with locals with the approved 60 home subdivision at Te Arai South and the recent submission by Te Arai South Holdings & Darby Partners for an additional 180 visitor accommodation units and 420 residential and retirement living units at Te Arai South along with sand mining activity..

According to Council's own data, there were 165,000 visitors to Te Arai in 2020 and 130,000 in 2021. The planned northern motorway extension and northern growth and development is likely to increase these numbers.

Te Arai South and Forestry Beach are the logical areas along this 24KM coastline to have dog access as it is also likely to be where more people will be visiting. There is no other area along this coastline that will have intensive development next to it. In fact I can't think of any other regional park beach that has/will have such intensive development fronting it.

Coastline -
Goat Island to Te Arai

Removing Dog access as proposed on the beaches bordering the Te Arai South and Pakiri Regional parks means over 24KM of Rodney beaches would be off limits to dog families.



Forestry Beach January 2024

#6970



This is likely to be more the norm over summer in coming years

Te Arai Regional Park - Forestry Beach

#6970

Council states protection of Sand dunes is a reason to keep dogs off Forestry Beach. However signage, education and maps can achieve this. But people can do more damage. Horse riding on the beach is still allowed & seem to be on the dunes?.



Te Arai Lodge Walks image



Pakiri Beach horse riding on dunes





Forestry Beach

#6970

Te Arai Links golf course has helicopters coming and going from the beach side - something that will disturb shorebirds. Visitors to the golf course and beach users also use drones.







#6970

Dotterel

DOC guidelines for nesting Dotterel.

Surely there can be a compromise rather than simply prohibiting dogs and their families



Making dogs the bad guy means people think we are the only problem #6970

Auckland Council Staff have referenced the following study in other Dotterel proposals regarding Dogs;

A. Lord et al. / Biological Conservation 98 (2001)

New Zealand dotterels leave their nests if potential **predators (including humans) approach.** It is desirable, although often not practical, to prohibit human access from breeding areas occupied by threatened or endangered species.

Effects of Human Approaches to nests of Dotterel

As part of the field survey sites were rated as receiving high levels of activity if they received between 7-20 visitors per hour (popular beaches with easy access and near housing settlements) - these were identified as busy beaches.

Scenarios tested were; Lone person walking, lone person running, lone person walking a leashed dog. Off leash dog walking was not tested. All of the testing started at 200m out from the nest. All participants walked to within 5 metres of the nest.

Flush distances were observed.

For those deemed to be a busy beach the mean result showed;

- A lone walker would flush a bird off the nest at approx 20m
- A lone runner would flush a bird off the nest at approx 50m
- A lone walker with a leashed dog would flush a bird off the nest at approx 70m

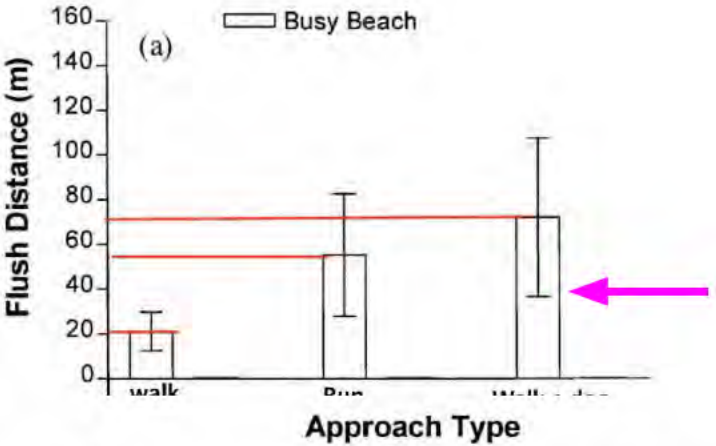


Fig. 2. Effect of beach activity level on (a) flush distance and (b) time spent off nest (back transformed means and standard errors).

Making dogs the bad guy means people think we are the only problem #6970

<u>After having someone (+dog) come within 5m of the nest & standing there for 1 minute the time spent off the nest on a busy beach was:</u>

- A lone walker kept the birds off the nest for approx 2.5 minutes (150 seconds)
- A lone runner kept the birds off the nest for approx 3 minutes (180 seconds)
- A lone walk with a leashed dog kept the birds off the nest for approx 3.7 minutes (210 seconds). ***Only 40 seconds approx longer than a runner.***

Often the gist from Council staff is that the Dotterel spent more time off their nest when approached by a walker with a dog.
The impact of a dog on leash vs a runner is only 40 seconds. A walker will still mean that the birds will be off the nest for approx 2.5 minutes.

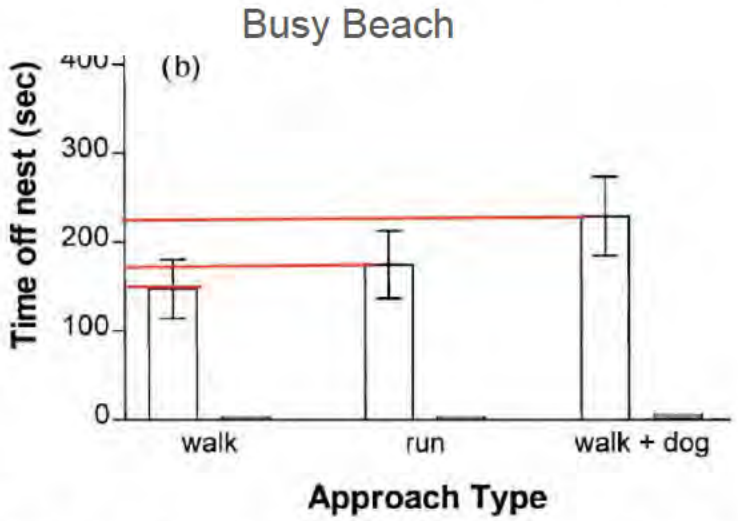


Fig. 2. Effect of beach activity level on (a) flush distance and (b) time spent off nest (back transformed means and standard errors).

A. Lord et al - Effects of Human Approaches to Nests of Northern NZ Dotterel

#6970

Dogs aren't the only threat to Dotterels…

…but because the council has a bylaw in place to control dog access they are always the ones to be restricted.

Cats are proving a huge issue at the Dotterel population at Omaha and locals are crying out for council to do something.

People running, kids playing can also cause the dotterels to move off their nest. Kite surfing has been shown to affect breeding dotterel in Auckland.

Manly Dotterel minder group report drones and golf balls are also a disturbance to nesting birds.

But the only ones who have any infringements on their movements are dog owners.

Threats to Dotterels are not limited to Dogs

#6970

Kite Surfing - risk to breeding;

Council's own expert witness in a Council Environment Court action1 - Dr Lovegrove (Auckland Council) - said that an increase in kite-surfing at the Karaka shell banks in the South Manukau harbour had been found to be disturbing migratory species such as godwits and preventing breeding of New Zealand dotterel for whom this was an important site. In addition another expert witness who was supporting Council's position in this action cited "an evaluation of 17 studies from five countries, including New Zealand, Mr Don said that birds perceive kite surfers as large predators and avoid them by taking long flights or leaving a site altogether. In his view, unregulated kite-surfing had the potential to "*significantly degrade the existing habitats of coastal birds as a result of continual disturbance.*"

Vehicles on beaches

This has been identified as an issue at Te Arai regional park

Threats to Dotterels are not just from dogs

#6970

Predators - cats. Cats have been a major problem for Dotterel breeding sites in the north auckland area but council has no plan in place to limit or control cats



Cat attacks dotterels at Snells

0:12 MON, 24 OCT

Snells Beach cat owners are being asked to keep an eye on their pets, after dotterels were attacked early last Wednesday morning, October 19, forcing...



Omaha dotterel team mourns cat attack

0:13 SUN, 13 DEC

Night photos at the sanctuary, taken after the dotterel died, clearly show a cat on the prowl. A domestic cat is believed to have killed...



Tragic end for dotterel egg

10:10 TUE, 19 NOV

The sole dotterel (tūturiwhatu) egg remaining at Tindalls Bay disappeared overnight on Friday, November 8. Forest and Bir volunteer Derek Kelsey discovered the empty nest...



Council's dithering on dotterels criticised

8:08 TUE, 19 MAR

Auckland Council has been urged to do its job in protecting the seabirds and their chicks on Omaha Spit, which are being decimated by cats...



Council pussyfoots over dotterel destruction

14:02 FRI, 16 FEB

A refusal by Auckland Council to seriously address the cat problem on the Omaha Spit could sound the death knell for the area as a...



Community groups seek more cat control

13:01 TUE, 23 MAR

When cats were first captured on camera on the chenier (shell bank) in the Weiti River, last October, environmental group Friends of Okura Bush (FOOB)...



Stop pussyfooting around – keep cats indoors, pet owners urged

8:08 MON, 22 FEB

Cat burglar – this pet stole several eggs and wrecked dotterel nests this season at Snells Beach. Though their owners might not realise it, pet...

Threats to Dotterels are not just from dogs

#6970

Predators - black back gulls

November 2024 - Tindalls Bay Nest egg lost…… *"closer inspection revealed no sign of egg shells, which could have indicated the nest was predated by a black-backed gull, cat or hedgehog."* Hibiscus Matters 19th Nov 2024

Case study: Matakana Island

DOC began to worry about the apparent failure of New Zealand dotterel chicks to fledge on Matakana Island and set video cameras to monitor dotterel nests.

Surprise, the cameras revealed that predation by black-backed gulls was the main cause of mortality among dotterel chicks.

An eradication was successful, and there are now no black-backed gulls nesting on Matakana Island. .Dotterels have since made a huge comeback on Matakana Island, now the most successful nesting area for the waders in the country. During the 2004–05 breeding season 30 chicks were raised from 42 pairs of New Zealand dotterels, and banded dotterels from previous broods are turning up all round the Bay of Plenty and nesting in new areas. Other birds, such as variable oystercatchers, are also benefiting from the absence of the predatory gulls

https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/black-backed-gulls/

Threats to Dotterels are not just from dogs

#6970

Predators - Hedgehogs

2022 - a hedgehog ate 3 eggs in a Manly dotterels nest. It was later discovered in a nearby trap. (https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/prickly-problem)

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7250

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Hibiscus and Bays

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

The public feedback form was separated into four sections:

1. Walking multiple dogs
2. General policy and bylaw matters (for example clarifying existing rules and reformatting to make the documents more user-friendly)
3. Changes to dog access rules at Regional Parks
4. Changes to dog access rules at local parks and beaches.

This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Submitters were able to select from a list of parks with proposed local dog access rules changes to provide feedback.

Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

I WISH TO SEE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: TO RETAIN the current rule of dogs allowed UNDER CONTROL OFF A LEASH on sports surfaces (marked grass sports fields) when not in use or not closed.

Reason: There are no other off leash areas that offer the same amount of easily accessible space for local dog owners with flat terrain. Removing this access will mean dog owners will have to drive to alternative locations that are not in their local area. Many of the areas that council are proposing as suitable are small or do not offer safe access for older people or young families with prams and some are not family friendly (Ladies Bay).

Do you have any further comments about dog access rules at local parks or beaches?

The suggestions I have given above for each point are based on careful research, visits to the beaches concerned and speaking with local dog owners. It is VERY IMPORTANT that dog owners and bird lovers are not seen as opponents. For that reason I have been involved with others in discussions with local Forest & Bird and Dotterel minders and we all agree with these suggestions.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7262

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Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7263

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

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Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7264

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Local Board: Hibiscus and Bays

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Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7265

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Hibiscus and Bays

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Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7268

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

- Another 10k dogs were registered since the last review by council are constantly reducing off-leash areas in Auckland, we keep seeing erosion of access
- Ōrākei has a high dog ownership rate
- Already have winter restrictions on beaches which is an outlier across other local boards, if you want to get rid of Madills to make it consistent then you should get rid of winter rules
- No suitable off-leash areas nearby. Where else can dog owners go? St Heliers Beach and others are not all family friendly or have a time and season rule, which only leaves Churchill and Glendowie which aren't local parks
- None of the analysis looks at how many people are using the space as dog owners
- I have a feeling that the original reason why Madills Farm and Glover were made off-leash spaces were because of restrictions on beaches (if you are taking access away, what are you giving back in return?)
- Other off-leash areas were removed in previous bylaw reviews
- The amount of people who showed up together tells you how important this is for dog owners
- You taking away access can change a person's daily routine quite substantially
- Local parks have huge value for dog owners
- Ōrākei is 6th in dog registration numbers in Auckland, and they are also high in resopnsible dog ownership rates
- Question from LB: have you gone to other local boards and advocated that they do this for their sports parks?
- I don't know why this isn't in place elsewhere? No body else has got Ōrākei's rule

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7270

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

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4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

- Would be a tragedy if we can’t take our dogs to Madills
- Ōrākei has the largest dog ownership among the Auckland boards
- To take this away is taking away the character of the community.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7276

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

- Express support for maintaining existing dog access rules at Madills Farm
- Have experienced numerous benefits in using this area
- Moved into the area recently and being able to have access to a dog walking area was a huge factor in choosing where we were going to live, Madills Farm was a big deciding point and felt like home
- Madills Farm area is very safe and a controlled environment and is really safe for the older generation, my older father was able to go out with a dog easily
- Off-leash access in the park plays an important role in seeing that other areas of the suburb aren't overused like Kohimarama Beach
- Want to stress the community spirit around dog owners and the fact that we are quite responsible
- Often I will reprimand other dog owners for not picking up after a dog
- We always respect each other's space and pick up after other dog owners
- I have researched incidents reported to dog management, looking at the Animal Management report last year Kohimarama doesn't even feature which suggested really low number of dog incidents
- This is a very dog responsible area so please give us a chance

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7277

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Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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This submission only contains submission content for sections 4 (local park access).

4. Dog access rules at local parks and beaches

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Feedback is only included for the parks chosen to respond to.

Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

Other (please explain below)

Tell us why

- Seen the benefits of dog ownership, my daughter had issues with behaviour and isolation at school and as a child she was in the dog park making friends with people
- My daughter met people of all ages including an 80 year old women who she remained friends with until she died
- Dogs being off leash on the flat part of the park enables a range of people to come together where they have safe, easy access to the park
- Pushing people to the edges of the park will encroach on children's use of the paths on their bicycles, if you push everyone to the edges it would make the edges more congested
- As you get older it is harder to make new friends and the park is one way of doing this
- There is more housing and no spaces for people to go, we can't underestimate the importance of this kind of place for developing communities
- Every user of the park takes a toll, the cricketers urinate under the tree, the football players leave rubbish, the dog owners aren't perfect but we are like a big family and all take part in looking after the space
- If we could all use the space harmoniously.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7279

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

Other (please explain below)

Tell us why

- Sense of community with other users, I would never talk to a stranger without my dogs but I feel comfortable talking with other dog owners at Madills
- Madills is really relaxing, if you put us by the road there is no way that it will be relaxing, I would not take my dog to this area as it is dangerous
- The smell of the edges of Madills when the storm water isn't working in foul and I would not take my dog there
- It helps new immigrants too. I have talked to new immigrants I have met at Madills and made connections with them.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7281

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

- I am 70 and have a heart condition, Madills is important to me because it is flat
- People will come up and make sure I pick up after my dog, people are almost religious about this
- It is a precious resource for the community
- I can’t have my dog near the road and I can’t explain to my dog that that white line is as far as you can go
- You are effectively removing off-leash access all together
- When it rains it is the only place you can take your dog that is not a bog

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7283

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Ōrākei

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

- Walk every day at Madills
- Pick up his poo and others
- The biggest thing for me is the consultation process, we pay thousands in rates and dog registration, bins are taken away and dog bags and now dog access
- All of these things are just being taken, teaching our kids that it is just okay for council to take those away without consultation
- My four kids have all rolled ankles in other places at Madills, unfair to take other people's rights away for something that just happens to a few people.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7284

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

- Eastern Suburb Football Club sent out email saying ‘our understanding is that Madills Farm and Glover Park are the only off-leash sports fields left in Auckland’
- These sports fields are our neighbourhood parks
- Are we that insensitive to our dog owners that we are going to prohibit them?
- There will be more cars on the road if we have to drive to other parks – at least 500 more cars on the road a day
- I do not support the change and the Eastern Suburbs Football Club website says they have 6 fields on Madills Farm, not 5.
- The proposal is pulling the community apart
- Dogs of Madills really do celebrate sports users of the park.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7285

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

- Not once felt that their health and safety were compromised ever
- Recommend status quo and coexisting together

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7287

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Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: I don't know

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

- Express support for maintaining existing dog access rules at Madills Farm
- Have experienced numerous benefits in using this area
- Moved into the area recently and being able to have access to a dog walking area was a huge factor in choosing where we were going to live, Madills Farm was a big deciding point and felt like home
- Madills Farm area is very safe and a controlled environment and is really safe for the older generation, my older father was able to go out with a dog easily
- Off-leash access in the park plays an important role in seeing that other areas of the suburb aren't overused like Kohimarama Beach
- Want to stress the community spirit around dog owners and the fact that we are quite responsible
- Often I will reprimand other dog owners for not picking up after a dog
- We always respect each other's space and pick up after other dog owners
- I have researched incidents reported to dog management, looking at the Animal Management report last year Kohimarama doesn't even feature which suggested really low number of dog incidents
- This is a very dog responsible area so please give us a chance

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7288

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Organisation (if applicable):

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

- Strongly opposed
- It is a community centre for everyone
- No evidence of dog poo or dogs digging
- Madills is built on a swamp, the whole land moves across the year
- The holes are blowholes caused by a very high water table
- The repairs are expensive but us ratepayers are paying for it
- No one lets their dog misbehave down there, dog owners in the morning are the first people to pick up rubbish in the morning
- There is an amazing atmosphere there
- You need time to wind down after work which this park is great for
- Lots of disabled and elderly people there, this proposal would severely affect them
- Old lady comes there every day at 7am
- Why are we changing something that works in harmony?
- I appreciate that a blanket rule is easy to implement but we are robbing a whole community
- It will impact the harmony of the balance of the area
- I urge you to go there and have a look at how well the community connects there

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7289

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Local Board: I don't know

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

- Was a previous elected member of former Eastern Bays Community Board (EBCB) and used to be Trees, Parks and Reserves Representative for the EBCB
- Previous advice from Auckland City Council tried to ban dogs at Madills with no evidence to support argument that people might get infections from dog faeces. Medical experts did not support council's views
- At that time our recommendation to the Eastern Bays Community Board was to not ban dogs on Madills and Glover and this was endorsed by the ECBC
- Possible human injuries from sport – medical exports do not support Auckland Council evidence
- It would be a massive disservice to the community to reduce dogs
- The current rule has endured the test of time and changing it would have a tremendous negative impact on the community
- Current bylaws should be retained in their present form
- Final recommendation is that members of the local board should observe the behaviour of dogs and owners at Madills Farm before making a decision.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7290

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Local Board: I don't know

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

- My submission echoed what Shelly said (supportive of status quo)
- Sports fields are not commonly used fully so they are sitting empty

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7292

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

Other (please explain below)

Tell us why

- Feels safe at Madills Farm no matter what time of the day as the park is overlooked by so many homes
- Wouldn’t feel safe walking dog near the road
- Supportive of option one.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7293

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

I do not support the proposed change

Tell us why

- It is beneficial to children to be involved with pets
- Have been walking my dog 7 days a week twice a day at Madills and Glover – around 700 hours a year
- Dog owners are respectful and children learn from dogs in the park
- All users of the park are cooperating in this space
- Madills was given as a shared space and it is living up to it.
- There are lots of us elderly people living alone and the benefit of walking dogs is that it helps you socialise with the community and prevent dementia.

Proposed updates to the council's local park dog access rules

#7295

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Q4 OR-A

Madills Farm

What do you think of this proposed change?

Other (please explain below)

Tell us why

- What happens every four years? When this park was made there was no buildings or sports fields on the park, every four years we get pushed to less park space for people and more park space for sports users
- We are taking 80% of park users and giving them 20% of the park
- We behave well, the soccer players do not. I pick up rubbish from soccer players all the time
- Think about the users of the park and not taking up the whole park exclusively.