

Wire Mill Park Dog Park Proposal

Community Consultation Report

May 2021

Contents

Background	2
Consultation methods	2
Notification methods	2
Consultation summary	2
Collaborate reach	2
Social media reach.....	2
Results	3
Community survey.....	3
Drop-in session	7
Feedback via phone/email	7
Conclusion	7
Appendices	9

BACKGROUND

In February 2021, Council received a petition from residents in Chiswick requesting that Wire Mill Park be investigated as a potential off-leash dog park. In response to this petition, Council undertook community consultation from 12 April to 5 May 2021 to understand the sentiment of residents.

This report outlines the findings from the community consultation which will assist Council to reach a decision regarding the future of the space.

CONSULTATION METHODS

- Collaborate survey
- Feedback via paper forms at drop-in session
- Feedback via phone and email

NOTIFICATION METHODS

The following methods were implemented to notify the community of this consultation:

- Notification letter delivered to 2,641 residents (see appendix A)
- 3 x site posters (see appendix A)
- Collaborate project page:
<https://collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/wiremillpark>
- Social media posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- City of Canada Bay April enewsletter
- Direct email to building management and strata for the Riviera Apartments
- Drop-in feedback session in Wire Mill Park



CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Collaborate reach

- 708 page views
- 523 unique site visitors
- 40 people following the project for updates

Social media reach

This consultation was promoted via the following Council social media channels:

- 2 x Facebook posts
- 1 x Instagram post
- 1 x Instagram story
- 1 x Twitter post

Collectively, these social posts reached 6,649 people and achieved 516 engagements (post likes, comments and shares). See appendix B for more details.

RESULTS

Community survey

The community survey received 289 responses and aimed to answer the following questions:

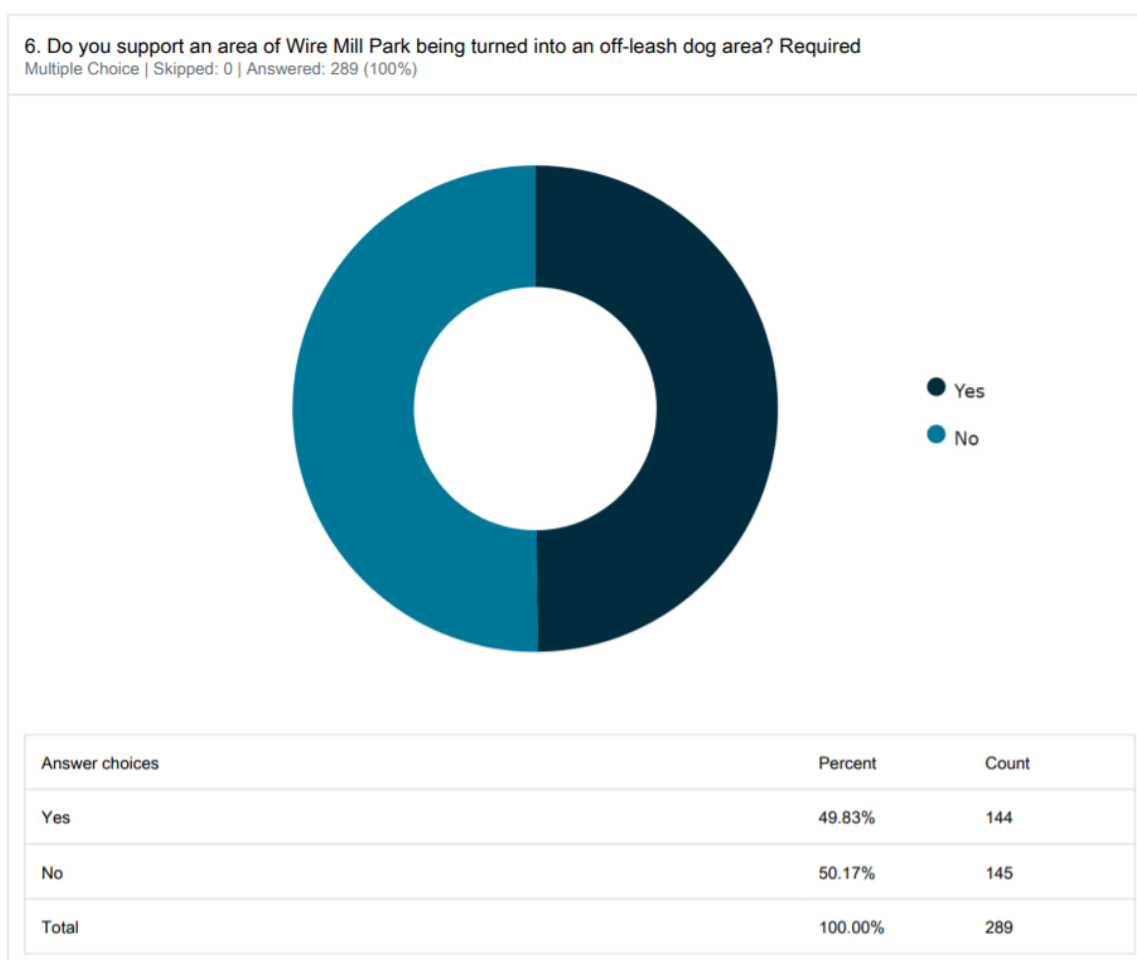
- Does the community support this proposal? (why/why not)
- What are the main concerns?
- Do dog owners make use of the off-leash area at Lysaght Park? (why/why not)

Respondent demographics

- 47% live in the Riviera apartments or another apartment overlooking the park
- 30% live in the Canada Bay area
- 66% visit the park to exercise/walk
- 56% visit the park to walk their dog

Support for proposal

- Yes – 49.83%
- No – 50.17%



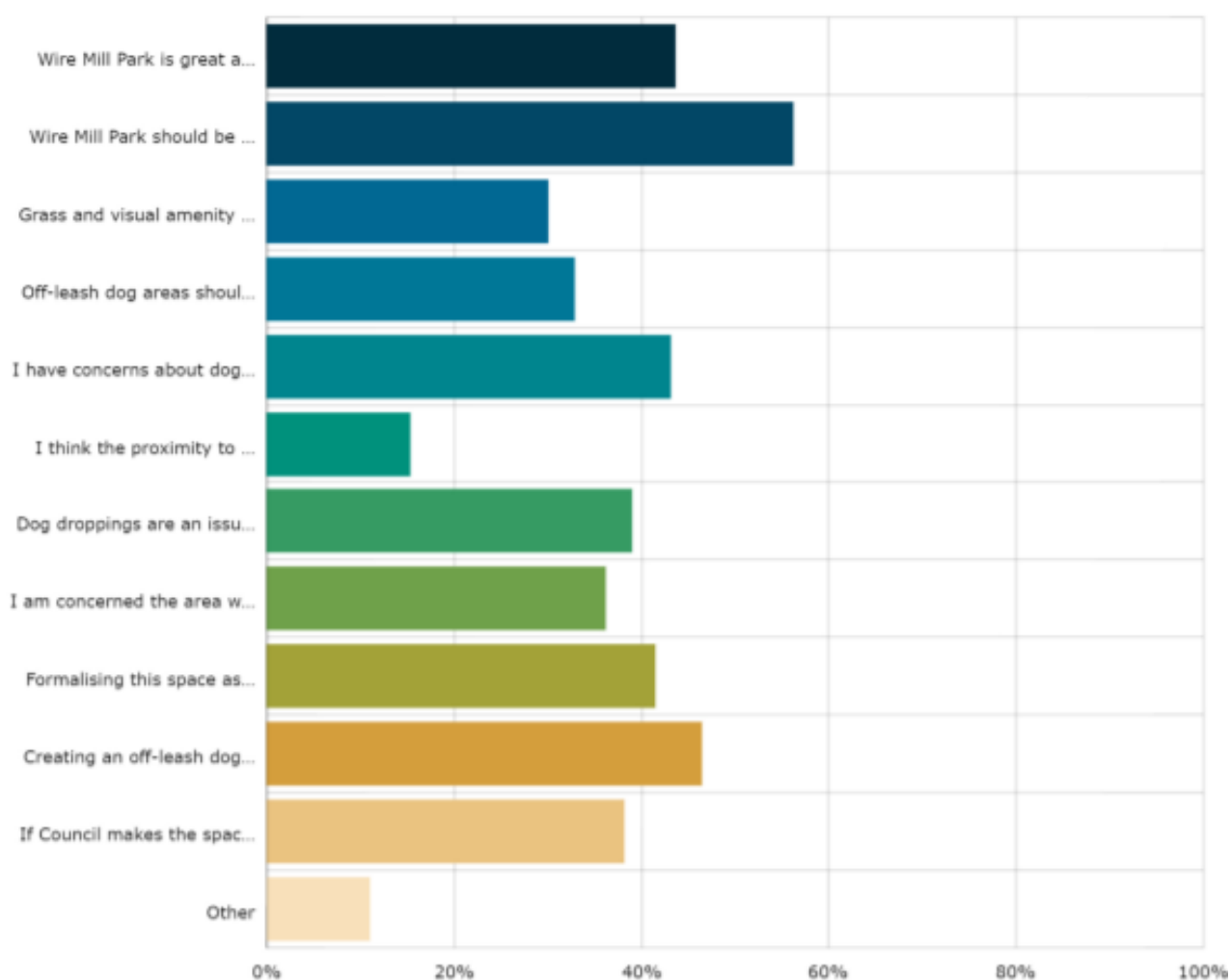
Reasons for/against

Respondents were presented with a list of statements and asked to select all statements they agree with. More than 40% of respondents selected the following options:

- “Wire Mill Park should be available for everyone to use” (56%)
- “Creating an off-leash area will activate the site and increase exercise and socialising opportunities for dogs and people alike” (46%)
- “Wire Mill Park is great as it is, it doesn’t need to change” (43%)
- “I have concerns about dogs being off-leash around children” (43%)
- “Formalising this space as an off-leash dog area just makes sense, as it’s already being used as one” (41%)

7. Select the following statements you agree with: Required

Multiple Choice | Skipped: 6 | Answered: 283 (97.9%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Wire Mill Park is great as it is, it doesn't need to change	46.84%	37
Wire Mill Park should be available for everyone to use	51.90%	41
Grass and visual amenity could be compromised if a section of Wire Mill Park is made into an off-leash dog park	30.38%	24
Off-leash dog areas should be fenced in	35.44%	28
I have concerns about dogs being off-leash around children	40.51%	32
I think the proximity to the water makes this area unsafe for dogs	11.39%	9
Dog droppings are an issue in this area already	43.04%	34
I am concerned the area will become too busy if it is made into an off-leash dog area	39.24%	31
Formalising this space as an off-leash dog area just makes sense, as it's already being used as one	36.71%	29
Creating an off-leash dog area will activate the site and increase exercise and socialising opportunities for dogs and people alike	37.97%	30
If Council makes the space an off-leash dog area, I am committed to working with my neighbours to make sure the space is maintained to a good standard for the whole community	37.97%	30
Other	7.59%	6
Total	100.00%	79

Use of Lysaght Park

132 responses answered this question, 62% of which stated they don't take their dog to the off-leash area at Lysaght Park. The main reasons sighted were:

- The area is not safe for dogs as it is unfenced and there is passing traffic (35%)
- Too far to walk compared to Wire Mill Park (8%)
- Didn't know Lysaght Park was an off-leash dog park (4%)

4. Do you take your dog to the off-leash area at Lysaght Park? Required

Multiple Choice | Skipped: 157 | Answered: 132 (45.7%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	37.88%	50
No	62.12%	82
Total	100.00%	132

Additional feedback

Respondents were asked to provide any additional feedback or comments on the proposal. 161 respondents answered this question and results are summarised below.

For:

- An off-leash area would foster a greater sense of community (7%)
- Wire Mill Park is a safe area for dogs to be off-leash as it is isolated and the water creates a natural barrier (4%)
- Dog owners in this area are responsible, they clean up after their dogs and won't take them off-leash if it's not safe for other dogs or people (5%)
- Dogs in the area live in apartments and need to socialise (2%)

Against:

- It is not safe for children and elderly residents to have dogs off-leash (16%)
- Dogs off-leash harass people walking/running along in the park (14%)
- The park will become too busy (12%)
- Cleanliness (10%)
- The park should remain as is (7%)
- Some dogs are scared/intimidated by dogs off-leash (2%)
- The area is not suitable and other locations in the vicinity should be considered (2%)

Other feedback:

- If made an off-leash area, it needs to be fenced (7%)
- Designated off-leash hours should be introduced (4%)
- Fencing will ruin the visual amenity of the park (3%)
- If made an off-leash area, more facilities are needed such as bins and taps (2%)
- Other locations in the vicinity should be considered as they are more appropriate for an off-leash area (2%)

Drop-in session

Council officers were at Wire Mill Park on Wednesday 21 April from 5-6:30pm to talk to residents about this consultation and gather further feedback. Approximately 40 members of the community were present at the park during this time period.

Feedback collected was input into the online survey to collate results:

- Two pieces of written feedback submitted
- 9 hard copy surveys completed

Feedback via phone/email

Council officers received 17 emails providing feedback on this proposal. Of these:

- Two were in support of the proposal
- 15 were against

The main reasons noted for opposing the proposal were:

- Safety concerns for children and elderly residents who walk along the foreshore and/or have picnics in the park (10)
- The park will become too crowded (3)

Other feedback included:

- An off-leash area would disturb the tranquillity of the park
- The off-leash area at Lysaght Park is close by
- The number of dogs in the park increased greatly due to COVID-19 and there has been a reduction in numbers this year. Council should delay this proposal by 12 months to see if things settle.
- The area should be trialled as an off-leash area and closely monitored

CONCLUSION

This consultation did not yield clear results. The community is divided as to whether Wire Mill Park should become a designated off-leash area and there are strong views for and against.

Those in support of the proposal believe Council should formalise the space as an off-leash area as it is already being used as one regularly and it would activate the site and foster a greater sense of community. Those opposed to the proposal have concerns about the safety risk of having dogs off-

leash in an area that is frequented by children and residents of a nearby nursing home. While some residents believe establishing a fenced off-leash area may mitigate this risk, it has also been raised that fencing will ruin the visual amenity of the area.

It is important to note that the off-leash area at Lysaght Park (500m from Wire Mill Park) is not frequented by many dog owners in the area, in large part due to safety concerns as it is not fenced and there is regular passing traffic.

APPENDICES

A. Communication materials



12 April 2021
The Resident

Off-leash dog area consultation — Wire Mill Park, Chiswick

The City of Canada Bay is seeking feedback on a proposal to establish a new dog off-leash exercise area in a portion of Wire Mill Park (as shown on overleaf).

Our process for considering proposals for new dog off-leash exercise areas is listed in our Dogs in Public Places Strategy (available at canadabay.nsw.gov.au). Such proposals will be assessed against a number of criteria including feedback from residents, proximity to existing dog parks, and environmental considerations.

We are now inviting you to have your say so that all views can be considered prior to any decisions being made.

You are invited to provide feedback via either of the methods below:

- Online survey on collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/wiremillpark
- Email feedback to openspace@canadabay.nsw.gov.au

The consultation period runs from 12 April until 5 May 2021.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Council's Parks Planner, Robert Marshall, on 9911 6329.

Kind regards,

Russell Wolfe
Manager Parks and Recreation



Proposed off-leash area

Canada Bay Civic Centre Drummoyne
1a Marlborough Street Drummoyne NSW 2047
Locked Bag 1470 Drummoyne NSW 1470
ABN 79 130 029 350

Tel 9911 6555
council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au
www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au

Wire Mill Park

Off-leash dog area consultation

The City of Canada Bay has received resident requests to establish an off-leash dog area here at Wire Mill Park, adjacent to Fig Tree Bay Reserve.

Tell us what you think about the proposal.

All feedback will be considered before a decision is made about the future of this space.



Have your say

collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/wiremillpark

openspace@canadabay.nsw.gov.au

9911 6555

Drop-in session onsite: Wednesday, 21 April 5-6:30pm



B. Social media reach

Platform	Live date	Reach	Engagements	Link clicks	Engagement results
Facebook	12/04/2021	2172	159	45	21 reactions 5 comments 2 shares 131 clicks
Facebook	26/04/2021	2772	310	63	35 reactions 7 comments 7 shares 193 clicks
Instagram	16/04/2021	995	33	12	21 likes 12 clicks
Instagram story	26/04/2021	367	11	11	11 clicks
Twitter	14/04/2021	343	3	3	3 clicks

C. Collaborate reach

Performance Summary

Information regarding key visitation and utilisation metrics for your Site or projects.

