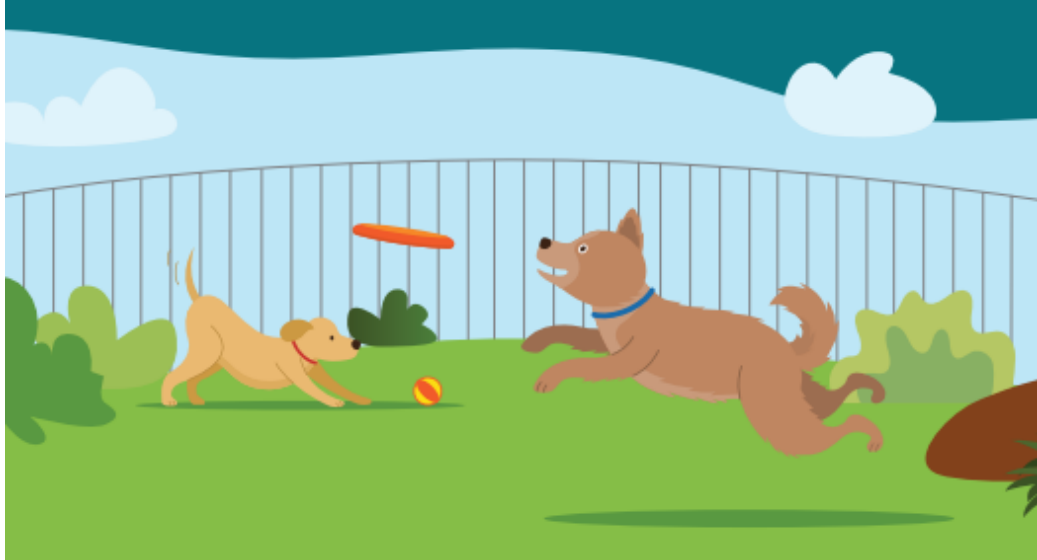


Have your say on dogs in Heritage Park Mullumbimby



We are asking for your input on options for the off-leash dog area at Heritage Park Mullumbimby.

Should there be an off-leash dog area in Heritage Park?

It's great for animals, people, children and wildlife to mix :-)

Off leash dogs are not compatible with family and individual enjoyment the quiet park environment. There are other options.

We have insufficient areas for people to safely exercise their dogs. Your map does not indicate where the children's playground is located. Options to fence an off leash area would be preferred. If the off leash area can be relocated to a sufficiently large area nearby, that would also be good. Definitely need to keep the playground separated, both for the dogs as well as children

Heritage Park is beautiful to walk in & should be enjoyed for everybody. The off leash community gardens area is quite stark in comparison.

For those in this part of town who can't walk to the other end of town.

Its needed just because we have a dog park now doesnt mean we need to reduce the offlead areas

dogs off leash should be restricted in this big park, for safety especially of elderly, disability and children,

Dogs need to exercise. It has been an off lead area for years. Dogs and kids get on. There are up to 5 campers there daily and the people do not collect their excrement. Dog walkers do. We do not need a path through the dog area

It is hard for dog owners with limited mobility to get all the way to the other end of town.

People and their dogs deserve a bit of free range space that doesn't impact other park users

It is too far, especially for elderly residents and this with mobility issues, who currently use Heritage Park, to always get to the new off-leash area.

We have 2 dogs and use Heritage Park at least twice a day. No real point in taking dogs to the park if they have to be on a lead. They need to RUN!!

Some children are terrified of dogs and there are so many irresponsible dog owners in Mullum

Maybe a larger area is needed, and definitely dogs should be nowhere near the children's playground

Our dog is a kelpie and you simply cannot exercise a kelpie in an enclosed area - there isn't enough stimulus for them. Please please please don't take away one of the few open off-leash areas we have left in the region! Our dog loves going to the river and running around the park smelling everything. I want to be able to have my kids and my dog with me together - otherwise I have to take the kids out once in the day and the dog out separately.

Dogs are companion animals important for the health and wellbeing of their owners. It is important their owners exercise them and allow their dogs to also have some fun. As Heritage Park is really the only Park in Mullum we need to find a way to have multiple uses. I have seen sections of parks allocated for dog walking/playing according to established timetables. I will attempt to get additional information regarding this if Council is interested in this approach.

I don't have a dog, so it's not really a concern for me.

There are off-leash dog areas, built specifically for dogs, large and small, already in Mullumbimby. Off-leash dog areas in Heritage park encourages dogs to run down fragile, eroded river banks, creating further erosion. During the recent "clean-up Australia day event I picked up approximately 30 "dog" balls from the mangroves (at low tide) along the Brunswick River in Mullumbimby. Having off-leash dog areas beside the Brunswick River encourages the unintentional littering of dog - play equipment, like balls, to be lost and left in the river, thus adding to the litter in our precious water ways.

"As a local who is a daily visitor to the park, I have seen dogs run through the children's playground without concern for small children, dogs urinating on playground equipment, and defecating on and around the playground.

It is also next to the Maslen Arboretum, which has been lovingly restored by locals and Brunswick Valley Landcare. This an important regeneration site bringing back native flora and fauna with a recent upgrade and installation of bird nesting platforms for endangered parrots and eagles. I have seen dogs chase wildlife and mark their scent and defecate in and around the beautiful native plants that people come out of their way to visit.

Not all dogs are friendly, and some can be very intimidating, unpredictable and uncontrollable in a shared public place where families and people come to spend time enjoying this unique environment."

I am a local resident and the barking dogs in the park are really noisy especially when they all congregate at the corner of Mill St and Gordon St.

It's too far to the new fenced dog exercise area near Mullum Community Gardens for a run-around for dogs.

For the large population of dogs and dog owners in the shire, there is extremely limited off leash area.

For the elderly without transport living near Heritage Park. This dog exercise area is closer and an easy walk for them. There are many dog owners in Mullumbimby, the dog park at the skate area can become congested at peak times.

"Convenient location.

The new park has no shade and is always boggy. My dog shakes in fear when she arrives. "

This is a Heritage Park and many of us locals have been scared by some off leash dogs and disturbed by the dogs sniffing around the delicate native bird and other wildlife breeding areas.

"I enjoy walking in Heritage Park and ,as an older person, would appreciate not being accosted by unleashed dogs particularly on the narrow path through the Maslen Aoretum .

I enjoy walking in heritage Park and, as an older resident, I would appreciate not being accosted by dogs particularly on the narrow path through the Maslen Aoretum.

I have two well behaved dogs who love the freedom to stretch their legs and run while off leash. There are not many available options like this in Mullum, I do NOT want to lose another one.

It gives dog owners options of different areas where they can exercise their dogs. The new park near the skate park is often very wet and not suitable during wet weather so another area would be a big advantage.

It is an important communal hubs for nearby resident dog owners

It is in a beautiful natural parkland , a pleasure for both humans and dogs to walk, away from cars and buildings, a quiet and tranquil haven. Also the other side of town from the new off leach area, allowing access to well separated dog choice walking off lead and on lead areas .

Lots of dogs in the area.

As a dog owner who lives in Dalley street. We need an area this side of town to exercise our dogs.

Do you support fencing a relocated dog off-leash area?

But it comes at a cost to ratepayers

The issue of fencing is only an issue if people do not monitor their dog's behaviour. Not all dogs are comfortable in public. But a secure area is needed if properly used

It needs to be fenced to allow dogs to run. Although I fully support an area where dogs can walk on a lead also.

Up the Stuart street end of the park where the boat ramp is, fenced up to the undercover picnic table adjoining to children's playground.

Safety

Fencing would ruin the natural feel of the area and my experience is that fenced exercise areas encourage aggressive behavior on the part of poorly trained dogs.

Most dog owners are responsible, fencing is for a minority who present a small risk ..

I have selected option B due to it being larger size. It is not possible to use much of that space currently as there are usually people camping there, often with unrestrained dogs. I think that the car park in this section (end of Stuart St) is being removed as part of the improvements, but if not, then I change my answer above to option A.

As above. Why can't dogs be allowed to run free? Have there been any negative incidents?

Rate payers money wasted for a few people

Dogs off lead should not be free to roam near the public including the children's playground, as dogs are unpredictable and from my experience many dog owners are irresponsible and do not care if their dog does leave a designated area, or may not be diligent enough to prevent it happening

I don't think the reduced sizes are big enough, and as I have a dog that requires large open spaces to run (a Kelpie) they won't be big enough. I was so excited for the fenced areas near the netball courts but they're so small and there's nothing for the dogs to sniff or of interest there. And with the soccer fields at Pine Ave closed to dogs we're running out of spaces to take large dogs for an off-leash run in mullumbimby. Please keep the whole space open for off-leash dogs! And add more off-leash dog spaces that are LARGE! and interesting - for canines and humans alike!

I don't support any off-leash dog area anywhere along the river here for the reasons stated above...dog balls, poo-bags can end up in the river, being accumulated as litter in our water system. and the erosion along the Brunswick river down near the playground and existing dog area is not good. This riverbank should be protected from further erosion. Dog play creates further erosion of this part of the river bank. Also, DO NOT FENCE any part of this park. This will look ugly and is not in keeping with the Heritage Park nature walk. Fences are not visually pleasing, especially in a setting like Heritage Park, where a wander in amongst native gardens is so beautiful.

"If there is to be a dog area, it needs to be at the Stuart Street end. Gordon and Mill street is a sweeping corner, whereby on coming cars don't have a clear view of what is around the corner. Dogs can run up the slope and are then straight on the road. Because cars don't have a clear straight ahead view their reaction time is greatly reduced, unlike the Stuart street end.

Also, Gordon and Mill street corner is directly in the middle of the park, making the dog park a central feature will impose on those without dogs. If the dog park was on the Stuart street end, this would be a more controlled environment for dogs away from both the children's playground and the Maslen Arboretum. "

Please no dogs on the corner of Mill and Gordon st. It's too close to houses, it's dangerous on the corner and the constant barking is really disruptive. A fenced area would look unsightly and break up what could be a lovely place to quietly picnic away from the children's playground.

It keeps everyone happy if it's fenced - parents, residents who don't want to be bothered by roaming dogs, dog owners - they have somewhere to exercise their dogs, and dogs! They'll be happy running around sniffing, meeting their peeps!

There is a clear agenda against dogs and dog owners from this council that has been running for many years. While a very small number of dogs can be problematic, the responsibility of owners and the behaviour of dogs is actually very good compared to most locations. How about we start introducing fences play areas and leashes for children? The answers for a healthy community are tolerance and education on both sides. By continuing to demonize dogs and dog owners in this shire, Byron council will fast track a toxic and divided community culture. We have high rates of dog ownership here - how about you acknowledge support and celebrate that, instead of supporting the agendas of a few individuals within council who have a personal dislike for dogs? You are and have been failing dog owners in this shire for years Byron council - do better

Thank you for our consideration. I feel a fenced area is not maintained as well for grass cutting. This happens at the skate park dog area. It is bumpy, and hard to find balls in the rough ground. An unfenced area is easier to maintain for grass cutting.

Respect for native fauna is important to me.

Please, can we enjoy this peaceful beautiful park without dogs.?

Why waste money on a fence. Fenced off leash areas are not nice and they feel constrained

A fenced area ensures safety for both dogs when let off leash so they are contained in a secure area, and the general public who may not be comfortable sharing a park space with off leash dogs no matter how well behaved they may be.

The offleash area provided near the skate park is too small for my medium sized dog. If fencing is the only option, it's better than the option of not permitting dogs there at all

The dog exercise areas in the Shire are rapidly shrinking, while the population of dogs has increased; It is joint community responsibility to share our community spaces, and Option A is just untenable due to the above statement.

Because the caters of these dogs do not control them and they run and poop in the playground area all the time.

Dogs are currently banned from the Maslen Arboretum. Would you support people being allowed to walk their dogs on a lead, on the path through the Arboretum?

On leash is not so intrusive, but can it be policed?

Proper control of dogs ANYWHERE in public is necessary. Access on lead would allow greater access allowing dog owners full enjoyment of our area.

All people need to be able to enjoy the park. Some people can't, or don't want to, let their dogs run off lead.

Because everyone does even off lead dogs, maybe if they were allowed to on lead it would work better.

More area to walk with my dog safely

dog owners are responsible. Its the illegal campers who spoil it for everyone

As long as they are on a lead I don't see a problem with it

This amazing arboretum deserves more visitors and dog walkers bring others

People already walk their dogs through the Arboretum, at least try and enforce them being on leads.

Living directly opposite we often walk through the park including the Arboretum. This makes a round trip which is obviously the best option for us.

Because it is a beautiful green area, most likely full of native wildlife. Again, from experience dog owners cannot be trusted to keep their dogs on lead. I am sure that area was not designed for dogs to be present. Even if dogs are on lead their scent spreading will deter native wildlife, also potentially endangering wildlife if dogs have access to hunt, whether on lead or not. For instance lizards and frogs.

Yes please allow dogs in the arboretum, having to circumnavigate that beautiful path when I'm out with dogs is so frustrating, especially as it's usually empty of people. I also support being able to walk with dogs off lead in the arboretum.

I have walked my dog through the Maslen Arboretum, on a lead, not realising that was banned! I don't use the park any longer as an old person I find the whole area rather unsafe for walking. I look forward to it all being improved.

No, because dogs may defecate in the Arboretum and dog owners cannot all be trusted to pick up after them.

"Dogs are always running through Maslen Arboretum. I think it's impossible to stop people taking dogs anywhere these days so to ask people to respect the wildlife that uses Maslen Arboretum to rest, feed and breed (Brush Turkeys, Wonga Pigeons, Galahs, Water dragons, Tawny Frogmouth, and many more native birds), and keep their dogs on leash at all times while in Heritage Park and Maslen Arboretum would be a great move.

I walk through Heritage Park and Maslen Arboretum daily. I have watched the riverbank in the dog off-leash area of Heritage Park become more and more eroded since the 2022 floods when so much topsoil was lost from that part of the park. It is taking so long to regenerate due to the heavy pedestrian/dog play traffic. Dogs are digging holes and running up and down the riverbank, causing further damage. Dogs are also often seen off leash, chasing wonga pigeons, brush turkeys through the Maslen Arboretum. Most people ignore the no dog sign and are not respecting the local wildlife here or the work of a dedicated crew of volunteers who work hard to create the gardens in Maslen Arboretum."

Maslen Arboretum is a rehabilitated native environment supporting the development of native flora and fauna. Native animals are being actively encouraged to nest in the native trees and dogs are apex creatures that hunt and stress native animals.

This is a place for wildlife not dogs.

Happy for people to have extended areas for dog-walking particularly when its an attractive area to walk in - it gets us all out, & keeping healthy!

Dogs on leash (except in playgrounds) should be fine in all areas - banning leashes dogs from public areas is impractical and frankly vindictive

Yes it is a beautiful area to stroll through. With dogs on a lead they are under control, and everyone is happy.

I don't visit often enough cos I have my dog with me.

It's precious place for native animal lovers to walk without dog leash owners to have to also be seen in this very small forest

People already walk their dogs unleashed in this area in my experience.

Dogs ideally should be allowed to walk anywhere outdoors on a leash

I see no problem as long as they are kept on a lead and on the path as a means to access the further end of the park. It would be hoped that dog owners would be responsible in complying with this for everyone's benefit.

Definitely! The route through there, then past the tennis courts and continuing alongside the river is very pleasant, and to access that without going through the arboretum involves walking along streets, which is fine, but more circuitous. Also it would help bring life to the arboretum, it's currently very staid

It is a beautiful shaded walk through nature for both dogs on lead and humans, the only real slice of real natural walk for dogs in Mullumbimby , and possibly the shire.

as cited earlier, shared amenities for families which should include pets managed appropriately, means retaining a minimum of space. Leased pets should not pose a problem; parents who allow free ranging children could also be held accountable.

Only in a lead, but good luck with that most people think their dogs have free reign.