

Appendix 5

Response to Petition - Brooklyn Dog Park

HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

Dog Park Trial Evaluation Report

4/6/2017

This report was written by the Property, Sport and Recreation Officer following the dog park trial January to March 2017.

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Dog Park Evaluation Report

1. Introduction

A temporary dog park was trialled in Brooklyn Reserve as part of the Neighbourhood Project and enabled council to better understand whether a dog park in that specific location.

The temporary dog park fence was installed in mid January and ran for 8 weeks, until 20th March 2017. The costs, such as the dog fence, were covered by the Neighbourhood Project and the participants of the Project took responsibility for maintaining the area.

Council provided support by advising on the fence height, providing dog litter bags and lending trees and bins for the duration of the trial.

This evaluation report aims to discuss

- Who the users were, where they came from and their ages
- When was the dog park used
- How respondents used the dog park
- Whether users had seen a change in the community connectedness as a result of the dog park
- What other activities people did at Brooklyn Reserve
- What users liked and disliked about the dog park
- Whether having a dog park in Brooklyn influenced users in using other dog off leash areas in the municipality.

A survey, the use of social media and other information was used to evaluate the above.

2. Background

The dog park trial was one of three community-led placemaking projects implemented as part of the Neighbourhood Project. The Neighbourhood Project enabled Council to play a facilitation role in allowing the community to run projects in Brooklyn that would beautify underutilised spaces. The other two projects were a *Brooklyn Festive Movie Night* in December 2016 at Brooklyn Reserve and painting one of the laneways in January 2017.

A location for a dog park in Brooklyn has been a contentious issue for the Brooklyn community for several years. In 2014, Council first conducted a dog park trial at Lynch Road Reserve. This was followed by consultation on two other potential sites – Pipeline Reserve and Brooklyn Reserve in 2015. A report summarising all findings was presented to at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 9 February 2016. The outcome was that Council would investigate a suitable site for the dog park in 2016-17. The temporary dog park trial in early 2017 formed part of Council's commitment to investigate an appropriate site for use by dog owners in Brooklyn.

3. The evaluation process

Several methods were used to evaluate the temporary dog park at the west end of Brooklyn Reserve, including a survey, the use of social media and other media and correspondence to Council.

- Council undertook an evaluation using a survey (online and paper) over the eight week period. Twenty-two surveys were completed on paper and 26 were completed online.
- The Facebook page set up by the community specifically about the dog park was reviewed to better understand what people liked and did not like about the space and activities they and their dogs did there.

- A newspaper article was organised by the community which gained exposure for the project.
- Emails to the CEO and others on what they liked or did not like about the dog park were also reviewed.

4. Results

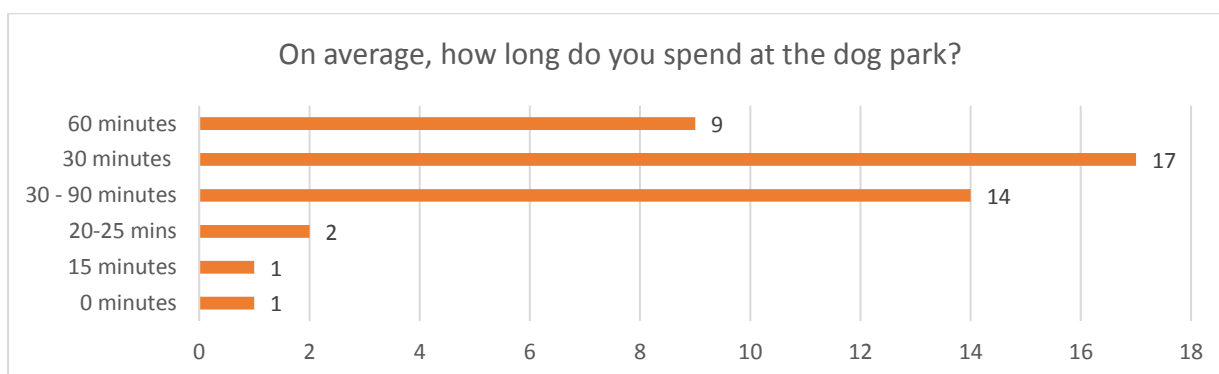
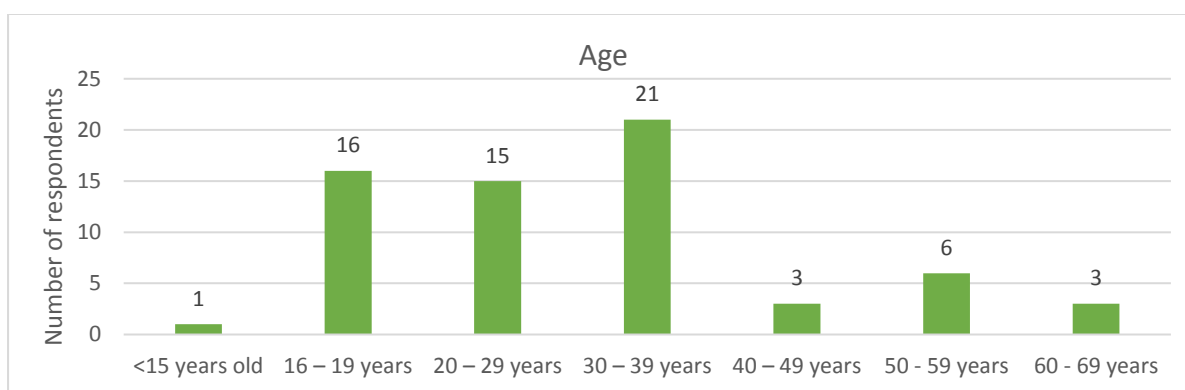
4.1 Survey

4.1.1 About the respondents

Suburb respondents live	Number of responses
Brooklyn	39
Altona North	4
Altona	1
Yarraville	1

Council received 49 responses to the survey. Most (80%) said they were residents of Brooklyn and were aged between 30 and 39 years.

The responses in terms of the use of the dog park was varied, with most people attending quite regularly. Thirty-eight respondents (80%) said they spent between 30 minutes and 90 minutes at the dog park.

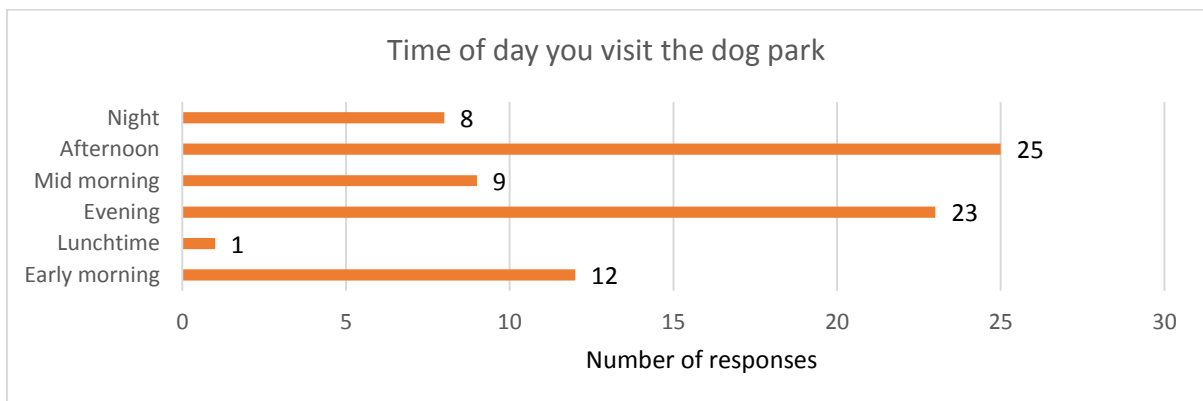
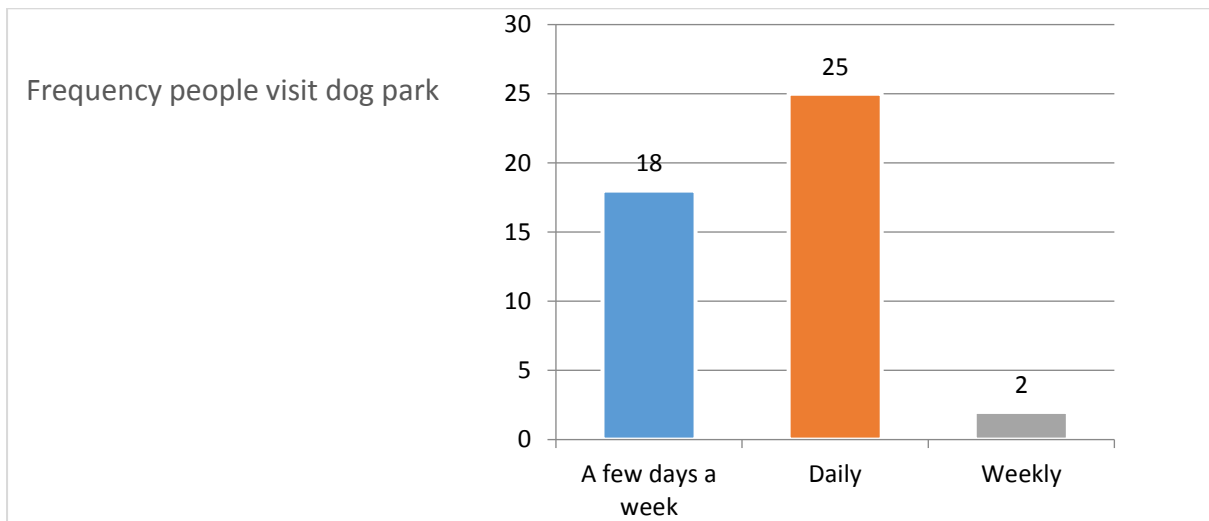
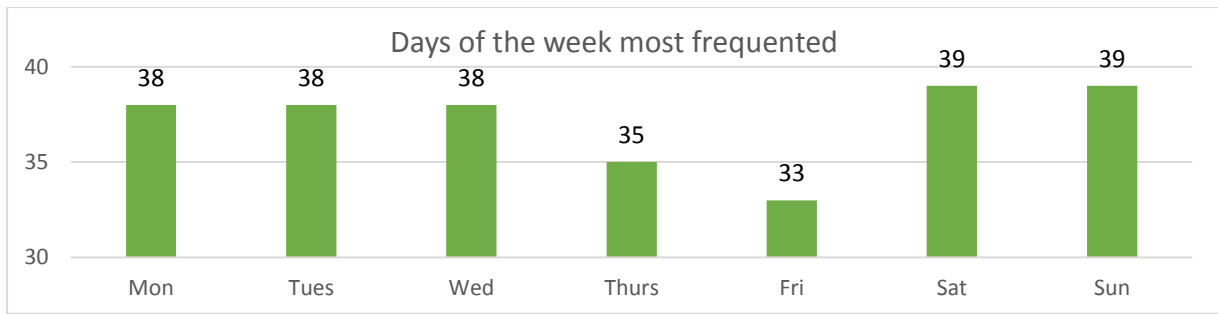


4.1.2 Attendance at the dog park

Most people said they attended the dog park by themselves or with another person. When asked what days of the week they attended, the most popular days were weekends and on a Monday. Less attended on Thursdays and Fridays. Most people said they attended daily, in the afternoons and evenings, with the second most common response being a few days per week. Only two people said they attended weekly.

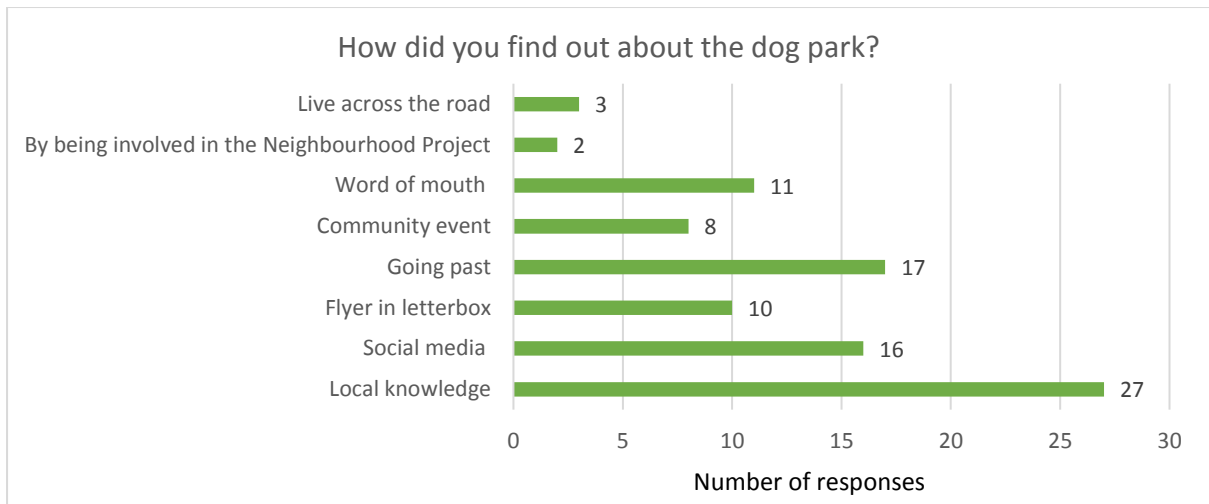
Who do you attend the dog park with?	Number of respondents
With another person	33
By myself	25
In a group of 3 – 5 people	4

Most (53%) of respondents said they attended the dog park with someone else.



4.1.3 How people found out about the dog park

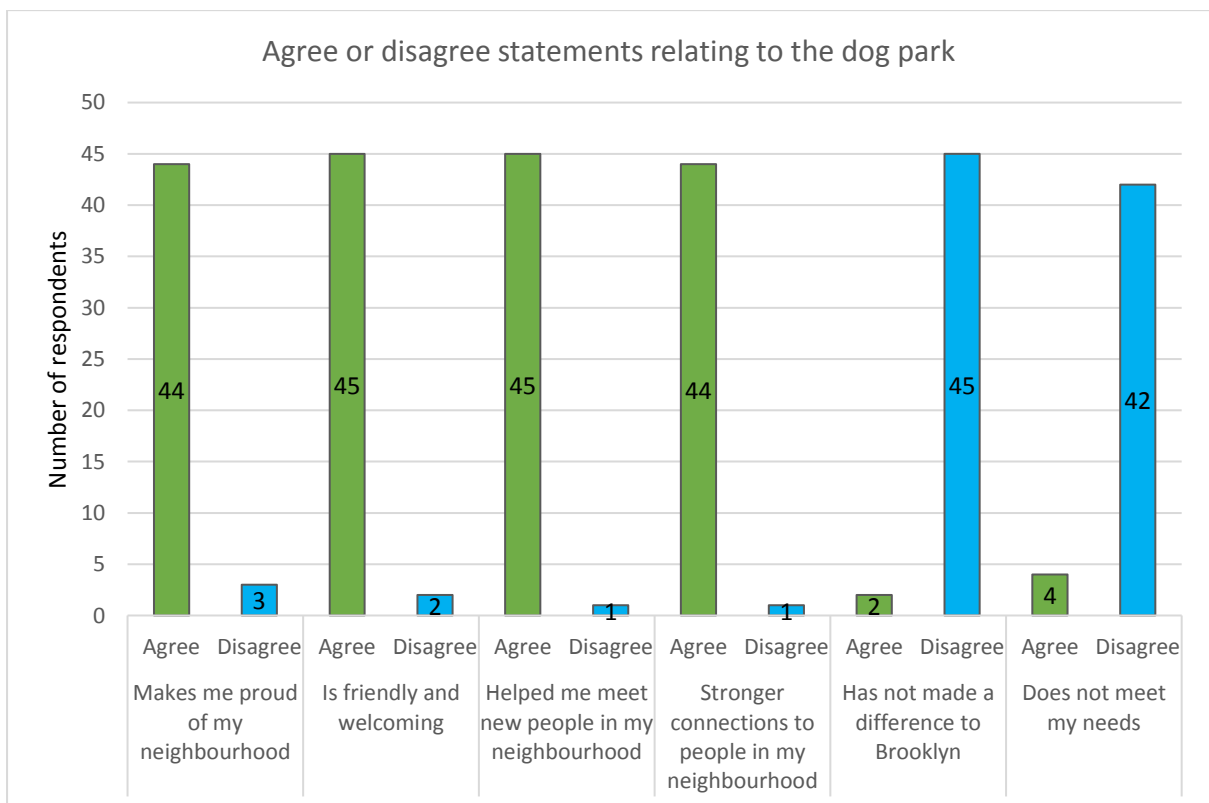
Most respondents found out about the project through 'local knowledge' and 'going past'. Given that other options such as word of mouth or a flyer in the letterbox, it is not clear what types of other avenues people use to learn about what is happening in Brooklyn. Signs were placed at the Reserve before it went up as well as for the duration of the dog park.



4.1.4 How Brooklyn changed as a result of the dog park

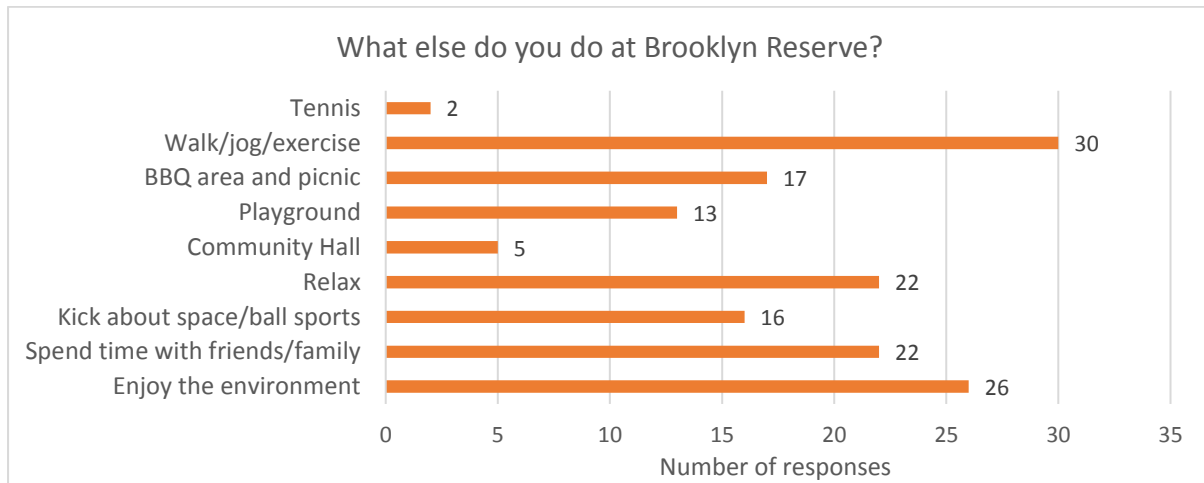
In terms of the respondents' perception of the dog park and how it influenced their neighbourhood,

It is evident that the dog park had a positive influence in pride, community connectedness and that the dog park did make a difference in Brooklyn and met the community needs.

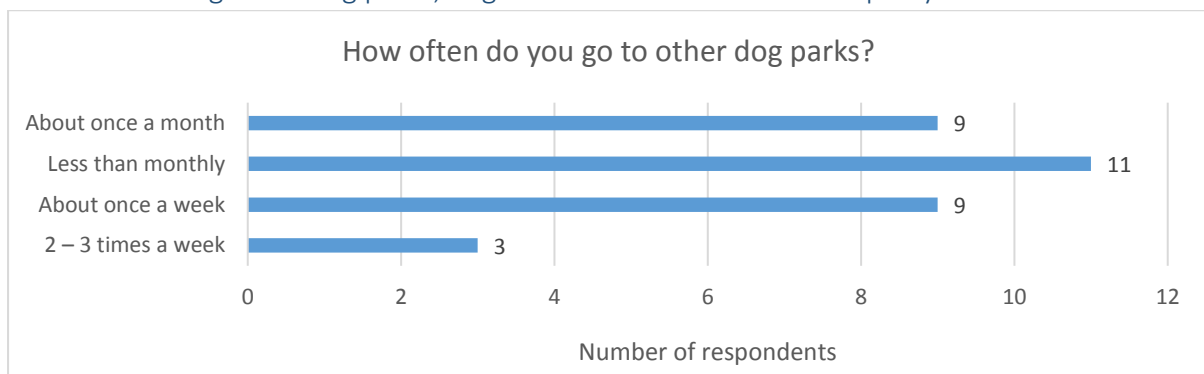


4.1.5 Other activities at Brooklyn Reserve

Most respondents said they used the Reserve to walk, jog and exercise and generally enjoy the environment. The activity that the respondents were least likely to do was tennis and use the Community Hall. This is fairly consistent with anecdotal information received as part of the Neighbourhood Project that the residents felt the tennis courts and the Hall are mostly used by non residents.



4.1.6 Using other dog parks, dog off leash areas in the municipality



Have you visited other dog parks?	Number of responses
Yes	24
No	17
If yes, which dog Parks have you attended?	Number of responses
Altona dog beach	17
Apex Park	1
Newport Lakes	4
Williamstown Oval	1
Other, Yarraville (Francis	2

In terms of whether the dog park changed people's behaviour in using other dog parks in the municipality, most (24) respondents have used other dog parks, the most likely place they attend is Altona Dog Beach. It appears that since the trial began, less respondents visited other dog parks. The most common reason for attending dog park was to cool down at the Altona dog park and meeting friends. For not attending other dog parks, the proximity of the Brooklyn dog park was the main reason respondents did not attend the others again.

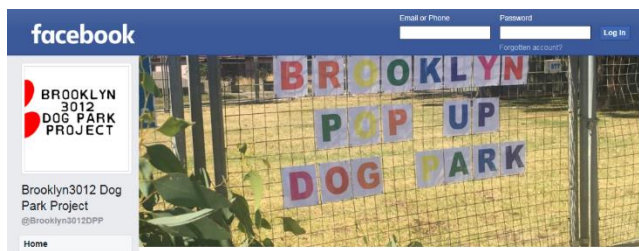
Do you still attend other dog off leash areas?	
No	22
Yes	13

4.1.7 Reasons respondents gave for attending or not attending other dog parks

If you do still attend other dog parks, why?	If you don't attend other dog parks, why?
Yes in addition to taking our dog to Altona beach 2-3 times a week we go to Cruickshank's Park in Yarraville weekly because it is a much larger space for her to run around.	Having found a spot so close by, so safe and so enjoyable for my dogs and I, I've had no need to venture elsewhere
They are not fenced, bigger and less restricted for all dogs	In the time it's been open! It's one of the best off lead dog park experiences I've shared with my dogs!
meet friends	Distance makes it harder
I meet different friends depending on which park I go to.	we do not, there isn't a need when we have one so convenient and close to home
only on really hot days we went to the beach	having pop up so close, support the community where we live
only on really hot days we went to the beach	Because this one is close and fenced off. Never any trouble
Dog beach on hot days. Dog park in Yarraville as it has more dogs	We like to walk the dog to the park, and walking to the other parks is far too far to walk from home.
only on really hot days we went to the beach	As our dog runs off & doesn't come back, or take us a long time to catch him.
meet friends	I prefer the one at Brooklyn Reserve.
there is more room for dogs	I don't it's closer than the other parks
more room for dogs	Because this one is close
my dogs like to meet other dogs and they like to smell new places -'not same place all the time it's too boring for them	I haven't had to
We visited the dog beach on a couple of occasions on the really hot days. However the Brooklyn reserve we now visit daily	it suits our needs and is close enough
	No need I live in Brooklyn
	because it meets my needs
	drive to get there
	don't feel need to
	because I like to stick local
	I don't because this one is easiest to get to
	dog park close by
	Because I don't know of any others.
	No need with one of our own so close.

See Appendix 1 for survey results on what respondents liked and disliked about the dog park.

4.2 Social media



A Facebook page moderated by two participants from the Neighbourhood Project.

The page was used as a tool used to communicate events, such as dog birthday parties, and capture the photos of the families, dogs and people attending the dog park. The page was liked by 122 people.



The Facebook page helped neighbours get to know each other as well their pets. Social media in this case, played an important part in the community forming a connection not only with the space, but with each other. The Facebook page was continuously updated with photos such as dogs playing, dogs that were unwell and even one which was having a birthday party.

People also commented on Council's Facebook page about the dog park being built permanently, as shown in image. See Appendix 2 for a selection of posts from the Facebook page.

4.3 Complaints and support letters

Council staff received a variety of emails in support of the dog park. They were very positive, highlighting the connectedness people felt and them meeting new neighbours. They also praised Council staff for their commitment in supporting the neighbours to trial the dog park.

Council staff also received several emails which commented on the noise of the gates, dogs barking, and the general appearance of the fence. The preferred locations appeared to be in the Kororoit Creek Trail, however due to land ownership and other issues, this place is not considered a suitable site for a dog park or dog off leash area. See appendix 3 for examples of support letters and complaints received by Council.

5. Conclusion

The dog park trial was an effective way to test a concept in a Reserve. There were some clear benefits to having the participants as part of The Neighbourhood Project involved as they helped maintain the area and have a good reach with the residents of Brooklyn. In addition, they were able to provide playing equipment, undertake the evaluation surveys and monitor the Facebook page which gave people the opportunity to ask questions.

The trial, as expected, was controversial. While a higher proportion of residents enjoyed the social aspect of the dog park, the community connectedness and the general fun space the area provided, others were not supportive of the park. It is important for Council to determine how, if a dog park is installed in this location, it will address the issues of concern.

Appendix 1 – Survey results: what respondents liked and disliked about the dog park

Liked

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shades and sitting boxes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing - it is way to small and the space should never have been considered given the amount of new developments going up. People with very little outdoor space need access to parks and recreational spaces within walking distance to their homes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> nothing it's very small and too confined for dogs to exercise.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> great to have off lead area so close. Dogs all friendly. Meet others in community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the entire lot - great place to socialise with our neighbours and let the dogs run free.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I love the fact that we have been able to make new friends! both myself, my partner and our dog have made new friends.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> having a place that you can take your dog that is local to play and be off leash and socialise with other dogs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it's a great way to get to know other members of the community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that is close to us and it brings together the community. Myself and my partner have gotten to know many other people and it's great to get along with others with similar interests and also to see our pets find other friends to play with daily :)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> an opportunity for locals to come together, it has honestly been so very refreshing to meet so many like minded and lovely locals.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think it's great for the community to get out and socialise and most importantly get dogs to socialise in a controllable manner off lead, not only that but it gets dog owners to get there dogs out more which is great especially if you don't have a big yard!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meeting like minded animal lovers! Socialising the dogs and meeting new people!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> brings the community together makes Brooklyn feel safer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> great community atmosphere. My dog gets to have a run without scaring birds and i get to exercise in a friendly environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> having somewhere you can let your dog off the leash and play with other dogs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it is a great area to get together with people in our community and socialize our pets.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I like that it's a smaller area so you can keep an eye out on your dog. Other off-lead dog parks are rather large which mean you can't always see what's coming or what dogs are around. I also like that it has areas for people to sit and chat and it's great as a social hang out with friends and their dogs. I also like the idea that you bring toys etc and leave them for others to enjoy. We've also met lots of people in the area and some as far away as Werribee make the trek, proving that it's really one of a kind for the west.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the security, meeting new people and my dog like the social interaction.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> safe place for my dog to run around. We have met so many locals since it was set up. There's always someone there to talk to. Walking distance to my home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> its great to have a safe space for my dog to run around within walking distance of my home. we have met so many lovely Brooklyn residents for the first time. Great place to have a nice chat with the neighbours. we have made lots of new local friends because of the dog park. it encourages locals to get out and exercise.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it brings the neighbourhood together and you meet new people.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> socializing and meeting new people.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it gives us peace of mind that it's enclosed as our dog runs off if he is ever off the leash.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the security of the entry and the dog socialisation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the location. the setup of the car, I like that it's open area. - the sitting area - the two stage gates.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brooklyn needs it.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> close to home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> convenience, meeting new people.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> size, convenience, seating.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> socialising, meeting residents, getting out and about.

• social activity.
• toys for dogs to play with.
• community feel.
• bringing community together.
• met more people in Brooklyn here than in 8 years.
• safety, sense of community.
• fencing, talking to neighbours.
• love the space for the dog.
• community get together with other dogs.
• meeting people.
• meeting neighbours, dogs happy, friendly environment, safe for dog.
• location, dog supplies (water, toy, fences).
• communal area for dogs.
• take our dogs to run around as we have a small courtyard and we are new to Melbourne so great to meet new people that have also mutual interest (dogs)
• I really like the community spirit and friendly faces

Disliked

• no water fountains
• It's far too small to exercise dogs, it's noisy due to barking dogs, and it looks like a construction zone. Immediate residents should have been consulted before the pop up dog park was erected and this did not happen. This survey is totally biased towards people who want a dog park on Brooklyn reserve. There is nothing impartial about this survey and a complaint has been made about this to the council. The home owners & residents, particularly the older people, knew nothing about the survey and do not want a dog park on the Brooklyn reserve. They have signed petitions in the past to stop a dog park going up and will do it again. I have now met and spoken to almost all the home owners & residents in the immediate vicinity and we will not be steam rolled by people who want the dog park but do not live in front of it and it does not impact them directly. No respect or consideration has been given to us at all and council have been duly informed of this. The attempt to steam roll home owners and residents via the survey on Facebook & social media to obtain signatures in favour of the dog park is unfair because it prejudices people who don't use social media or the dog park. More respect & consideration of home owners is warranted and my neighbours and I will be making sure this happens in future. Please note I speak on behalf of around 25 owners & residents who do not want the dog park and knew nothing about the survey until I told them and obtained signatures from them. Final note: many of us have dogs and walk our dogs daily on Federation Trail in addition to taking them to the off leash parks at Altona beach & Cruickshank's Park. We are not opposed to dog parks of an appropriate size in an appropriate space as long as they do not impact the views and quiet & peaceful enjoyment of neighbouring properties. Location and size. Noisy, kids – wants to socialise with dogs (home office disturbance) windy – door banging – at odd hours.
• everything, there is no privacy at the park or at home the fence is ugly and an eye sore and it's tiny you can't throw a ball in the space it's too small.
• I would like it to be bigger.
• nothing.
• that it will be temporary...
• having for areas for people to sit.
• nothing at all!
• the only thing I don't like is that it isn't permanent and I really it does become something long term because it's great!
• that it's only temporary! Otherwise, not one. It's 100% what I could expect and experience at a dog park!
• the fact that it is only temporary, and would be awesome if there was a dog drinking fountain of some sort.
• best thing ever!
• that it's temporary.
• no water tap.

• that it is only temporary.
• nothing! I think it's a great idea and wouldn't change a thing.
• nothing. (unless we could make it bigger!)
• it would be great if there was a bigger space so larger and smaller dogs could play in different areas. however I would rather have the current park than no dog park at all.
• that it was only temporary. our dogs will now have no off leash park.
• nothing.
• lack of artificial lighting means we can't go at night-time
• small area, high fence.
• too small.
• Nothing.
• barking, door hinge loud, location. I think the location needs to be changed.
• tap needs to be bigger.
• sad to see it go.
• negative responses from ill informed members of the community
• it's temporary.
• needs more space.
• nothing.
• too small.
• bigger, un-neutered dogs should be banned.
• activities for dogs.

Appendix - Selection of posts from the Facebook page

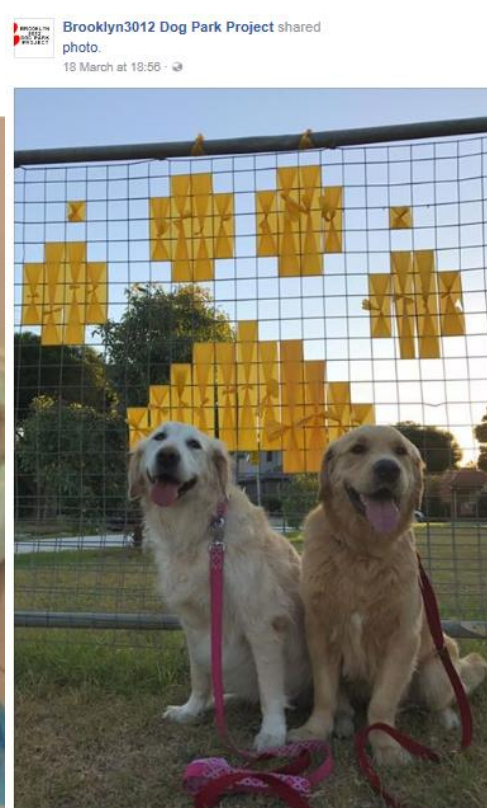
Brooklyn3012 Dog Park Project shared photo.
14 March at 04:05 · 🌐

Congratulations to our prize winners. Enjoy your new toys!!



Brooklyn3012 Dog Park Project
14 March at 03:15 · 🌐

Couple of happy little Puggies after getting their prizes !!



Brooklyn3012 Dog Park Project
18 March at 02:00 · 🌐

Looking super happy, but inside we're very sad. Our last evening spent at our favourite dog park ever! 🥰

Brooklyn3012 Dog Park Project shared a photo.
4 March at 01:15 · 🌐



Brooklyn3012 Dog Park Project
3 March at 23:44 · Melbourne, VIC · 🌐

Frank lovin the dawg park! He wants it to stay!

Brooklyn3012 Dog Park Project shared a photo.
1 March at 19:22 · 🌐

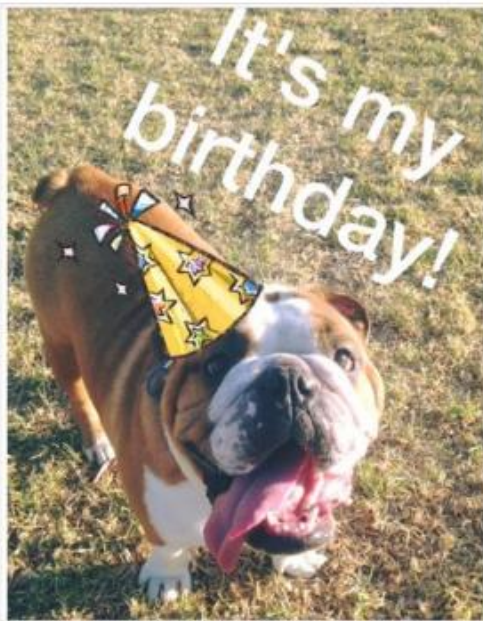


added a new photo to Brooklyn3012 Dog Park Project's Timeline — at
Brooklyn 3012 Pop Up Dog Park
1 March at 13:29 · Melbourne, VIC · 🌐

Ball check! Positive attitude check! Loving the dog park -100%... Just waiting for a few furry mates to come down for a run and chase!

Brooklyn3012 Dog Park Project shared a photo.
29 January · 🌐

Happy Birthday Donut!



Brooklyn3012 Dog Park Project
29 January · 🌐

Donut turns 1 this week!
We are having a little birthday party for him this weekend and he asked me to invite his fur friends down to the pop up dog park this Saturday starting around 2 for a run in the sun 🌞❤️🐾

Brooklyn3012 Dog Park Project shared a photo.
16 February · 🌐



Brooklyn3012 Dog Park Project
15 February · Melbourne, VIC · 🌐

Thirsty work 🐾 #brooklyn3012dogparkproject

Brooklyn3012 Dog Park Project shared a photo.
30 January · 🌐

Brooklyn3012 Dog Park Project shared a post.
9 February · 🌐



Lost Pets in the West (Melbourne, Australia)

9 February · 🌐
HAPPY UPDATE! Dog has been reunited with his owner! ❤️ He was picked up yesterday from LDH. 🐾
Update!! DOG IS NOW AT LOST DOGS HOME.
Found this dog at 3am this morning in Burgess St, Brooklyn. No collar, very skittish and took a while to build trust, encouraged with a couple of sachets of cat food. Home now with me in West Footscray. I will take to the vet this morning to check for microchip. Please share. Thank You.

Brooklyn3012 Dog Park Project shared Jayden Plowman's photo.
30 January · 🌐



Like Comment



Brooklyn3012 Dog Park Project

29 January · 🌐

Bobby and Motley spending time with each other, this is so cute!! Dog 🐾🐾🐾

Appendix – Media and other communication

NEWS STARWEEKLY.COM.AU



Anne Scott's toy poodles Bobbie and Tazzy will soon get to play in the pop-up park. (Dennis Manktelow)

Kinder than the kennel

Brooklyn residents and their pooches are celebrating a pop-up dog park under a project aimed at revitalising the suburb.

The \$60,000 Brooklyn Neighbourhood Project is a joint initiative of Hobsons Bay council and CoDesign Studio to establish three community-led initiatives that transform underutilised land and bring the community together.

Under the project, a temporary off-leash dog park has been established at Brooklyn Reserve. Public artwork has also been installed in the lane way at 31A Cypress Avenue.

Both initiatives will be in place until the end of next month.

Brooklyn resident Karen Thistlethwaite said

the project gave local residents the opportunity to contribute to projects they wanted to see happen in their area.

"The pop-up dog park has been particularly important for Brooklyn," she said.

"Being such an industrial suburb, there are few green spaces. It has been wonderful to see this park activated in a way that brings local residents together."

The council is continuing to work with residents on more ideas.

To get involved, call the community development team on 9932 1000 or visit <http://theneighbourhoodproject.org/brooklyn/>

Goya Dmytryshchak



Open Spaces in Brooklyn



Proposed BBQ and picnic shelter

New tree planting - possible inclusion of:

Key - Trees



10 x 4m timber and steel frame



Hobsons Bay picnic table and park bench



Deciduous shade trees around the picnic and play spaces. Interesting and playful foliage and flower



A mix of evergreen natives and exotic around the perimeter path network



- Large deciduous shade trees
- Large evergreen shade trees
- Native evergreen trees
- Feature planting
- Orchard trees (Olive)

Draft Masterplan Brooklyn Reserve 2010



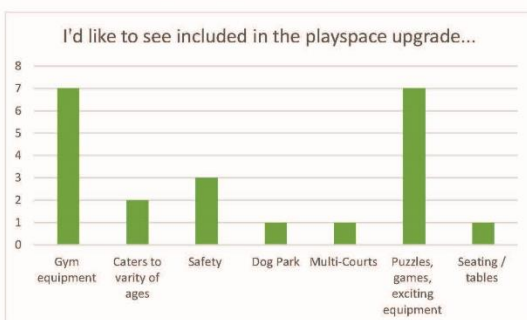
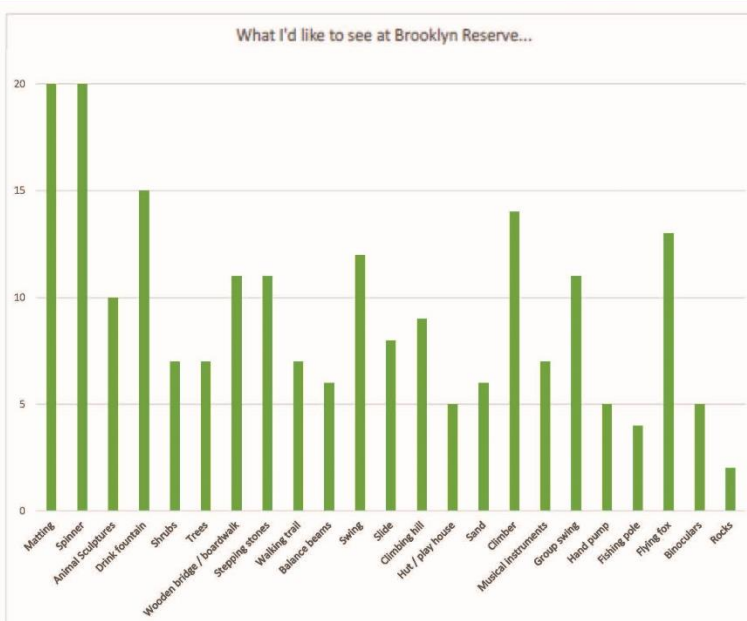
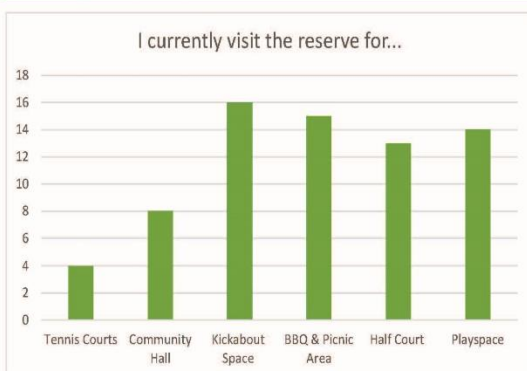
YOUR BROOKLYN RESERVE

WHAT WE HEARD:
Consultation Session Results

HOBSONSBAY CITY COUNCIL



Thanks to all residents and community members who participated in the Brooklyn Reserve consultation earlier this year. All feedback received via emails, post, over the phone or from our Official Playspace Testers, has been collated. Below is a snap shot of what we heard:



This information is representative of 37 session attendees, 35 surveys, 20 playspace testers and much more..

