

DOGS IN OPEN SPACE PLAN

Draft 2026



Yulendj ngurrak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recognition

Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, as the Traditional Owners of this land. Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders past, present and future

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Appendices

Appendices are provided in separate documents

Appendix A: Dog Off-leash Provision Methodology

Appendix B: Spatial Analysis by Precinct

Appendix C: Site-specific dog controls by precinct

Appendix D: Proposed Dog Control Maps

Supporting Documents

Report: What We've Previously Heard From Our Community

A review of previous community consultation feedback and service requests to inform Council's Draft Dogs in Open Space Plan 2026

Report: What the Research Tells Us

An overview of research on dog ownership and management to inform Hume's Dogs in Open Space Draft Plan

Glossary and Abbreviations

DAMP

Domestic Animal Management Plan. All Councils are required to prepare a DAMP every four years.

FOLA - Fenced Off-leash Area

Formerly named dog parks, Fenced Off-leash Areas are fully fenced areas which may include ball play areas and rummaging environments. They provide a fenced separation from the general public and due to the number of dogs in a contained space require greater maintenance support and close dog supervision by their owners.

OLA - Off-leash Area

Off-leash Areas are large open areas in which off-leash play and exercise is permitted. These are unfenced or not fully fenced, and located away from busy picnic, play and gathering places. They are located to minimise disruptive impacts to nearby housing. Some off-leash dog areas are shared open spaces such as sports ovals and are subject to time restrictions for dog use. Signage showing boundaries and dog owner responsibilities is at all off-leash areas.

Dog Prohibited Areas

These are areas where dogs are not permitted, typically due to environmental or cultural reasons, or for protection of sensitive sports playing surfaces. They may be a whole open space or a portion; they may be fenced or unfenced. Where public access is otherwise permitted in these areas, service dogs on-leash are accepted.

Levels of Service

The Open Space Strategy 2025 contains Infrastructure Levels of Service which set out the type and number of assets required in open space and is dependent on the reserve's hierarchy and primary function.

Open Space

Public open space' in this strategy adopts Victoria's 'Open Space for Everyone' definition: Public land and waters that provide for one or more of these purposes: outdoor recreation; leisure; environmental and cultural benefits; visual amenity; off-road active transport. 'Public open space' is abbreviated to 'open space'.

Precincts

Hume uses 13 areas called precincts to deepen its analysis and planning. These align with the Community Infrastructure Plan 2023.



1.0 Setting the Scene

1.1 Introduction

Why do we need a Dogs in Open Space Plan?

Dog ownership is one of the most popular recreational activities in Australia. Nearly 17,000 dogs are registered in Hume and they all need space to exercise and play.

Council currently provides 48 dog off-leash areas, including 24 ovals and 6 fenced off-leash areas. When compared to other Melbourne Councils, Hume already provides well above the average number of both fenced and unfenced off-leash areas.

The community periodically request additional off-leash and fenced off-leash areas. Council also receives complaints about dogs off-leash where they shouldn't, and other reports of irresponsible behaviour by dog owners.

Council appreciates the importance of pets including the health and wellbeing benefits they bring to their owners. In recognition of these benefits Council supports opportunities to embrace pets as part of the community.

Hume City Council is committed to supporting people and dogs to responsibly socialise and exercise within an open space setting.

1.2 Purpose and Objectives

The Hume Dogs in Open Space Plan sets out how dogs and dog owners can safely and responsibly use public open space, while balancing the needs of other park users and the environment.

It provides:

- a ten year plan for provision and management of dogs in open space
- Guiding principles that balance the needs of dog owners

and other open space users

- decision criteria to inform the provision and delivery of on and off-leash spaces, and spaces where dogs should be prohibited
- design criteria for new and upgraded dog off-leash spaces
- priority locations for new and emerging dog off-leash areas to address gaps in provisions
- the rationale and evidence that underpin the guiding principles

Additional objectives include to:

- plan for future urban growth and respond to community needs
- protect conservation and cultural values
- minimise conflicts and safety risks related to dogs
- provide consistent and fair rules across all open spaces
- support Hume's Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) and facilitate consideration of changes to dog controls via Section 26 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994

This project was identified as a priority in Council's 2025-26 Annual Action Plan (CAAP 7) under the strategic objective of 'Liveable places that are inclusive and accessible.'

1.3 Planning and Policy

This section highlights how relevant Victorian State Government legislation, council plans and policy relate to this plan.

The Victorian Domestic Animals Act 1994 details regulations relating to the keeping and management of cats and dogs and local government responsibilities to enforce these regulations. Section 26 of the Act requires all Councils to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years. It also allows Councils to make orders on a range of matters, including to make public places on-leash areas, designated off-leash areas and designated dogs prohibited areas.

Hume's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 (DAMP) outlines Hume's animal management service priorities including animal welfare and law enforcement, and actions to support and encourage responsible pet care and behaviour from dog owners including programs and education.

The Hume Open Space Strategy 2025 (OSS) sets out strategic priorities for open space planning to:

- improve environmental, health and wellbeing outcomes across Hume
- protect and enhance biodiversity and other natural environmental values
- provide for a diverse range of sport and recreation opportunities
- optimise use and access for different age groups and abilities
- provide and manage assets in a fiscally responsible manner

The following points following points in the OSS are particularly relevant to this plan:

- acknowledgement that:
 - dogs are important companions for many resident.
 - dog and dog owner behaviour continues to require education and enforcement to ensure that all safety and dog-litter concerns are addressed
- notes the classification of sites where OLAs and FOLAs may be considered
- recommends to deliver new outdoor gathering spaces and new dog off-leash spaces

The Hume Active Living Plan 2026 (ALP) outlines strategies and priorities to encourage and support active lifestyle choices through appropriately planned and designed spaces and facilities; and optimising age, ability and gender equitable access to facilities.

The following points in the ALP are particularly relevant to this plan:

- recognises that dog walking as is a physical recreational activity undertaken by 5%-10% of survey respondents
- notes the new FOLA on Dwyer Street Reserve, Kalkallo
- notes the realignment of the FOLA at the John Ilhan Memorial Reserve, Meadow Heights
- The ALP's guiding principles include flexibility, connection and wellbeing

The Hume Council Plan, 2025-2029 articulates objectives this plan must align with and actively address. These objectives



focus on:

- creating a well-connected and serviced city
- protection and enhancement of the environment
- engendering equality, equity, inclusion and connection
- responsible and good governance

This Plan is also informed by several previous Hume projects and studies, especially:

- **Feasibility Study - Dog Parks in Hume 2012**
- **The Dogs in Public Places Review 2018**
- **Review Fenced Off-Leash Areas 2021-2022**

Dog control regulations are detailed in section 2.2 below.



1.4 What we've heard from our Community - Community Engagement

The 'What We've Heard From Our Community' Report (**refer Supporting Document**) summarises feedback from more than 2,300 community members over a 10-year period about dogs in Hume, including feedback relating to:

- fenced off-leash areas
- off-leash access across parks and reserves
- where dogs should be on-leash, off-leash or prohibited
- environmental protection and dog access
- responsible dog ownership, safety and compliance
- dog-related complaints, service requests and reported incidents

The following pages further summarise the main takeaways from all this feedback, and list the resulting considerations for this draft Plan.

Key takeaways

1. Provide for dogs, but not everywhere and not without rules

Previous community feedback pointed to broad support for a structured network of dog spaces rather than ad hoc access. Previous consultation showed strong support for:

- dogs as legitimate users of public places
- a mix of on-leash, off-leash and dog-prohibited areas
- restrictions near play spaces, schools, organised sport, car parks, picnic areas and other sensitive uses

- protection of wildlife, natural areas and cultural values

Key considerations for the draft Plan

The draft plan could support a clear and balanced network of dog spaces across Hume, recognising dogs as legitimate users of public open space while maintaining appropriate restrictions and protections in sensitive or high-conflict areas.

2. Fenced off-leash areas are popular, but they are not a universal solution

Previous feedback showed strong support for fenced off-leash areas (FOLA's) because they help keep dogs away from other park activities and they provide a sense of safety for dog owners.

However, there was also concern expressed about these spaces including:

- lack of space for dogs to run and overcrowding
- aggressive or poorly controlled dogs
- dog owners being distracted and not actively supervising their dogs or picking up dog litter
- noise
- parking impacts
- surface deterioration
- impact to nearby neighbours

In addition, feedback from some dog owners showed a preference towards unfenced off-leash areas (OLA's) because they:

- offer more room to spread out

- have fewer dogs
- allow dogs to remain calmer
- make it easier to avoid poorly controlled dogs
- are closer to home
- sometimes give access to other amenities like seating, toilets, drink taps etc

Key considerations for the draft Plan

The success of an off-leash area may depend less on whether it is fenced or unfenced, and more on its location, size, design, maintenance and management. The draft plan could consider how design, education, maintenance, enforcement and responsible dog ownership could support safer and more positive experiences within off-leash areas.

3. The real issue is owner behaviour, not dogs

Across the feedback, the most persistent issue was not the mere presence of dogs. It was owner behaviour and lack of compliance. Repeated concerns included:

- dogs not under effective control
- poor recall
- owners not actively supervising
- dog litter not being picked up
- dogs left unattended
- poor respect for other users
- lack of monitoring and enforcement

Key considerations for the draft Plan

The draft plan could consider how education, awareness, clear expectations and targeted enforcement could support responsible dog ownership across Hume. The draft plan could have a focus on:

- *behaviour expectations*
- *clear and visible rules*
- *targeted education and campaigns*
- *materials that are easy to understand and in other languages*
- *signage and site maps*
- *Council officer presence and enforcement*
- *consistent messaging across the municipality*

4. Sports fields and shared-use reserves require careful planning and management

Previous community feedback generally showed support for dogs being excluded from sports fields unless the field is specifically designated for off-leash use and organised sport or training is not occurring.

Feedback highlighted that sporting clubs and reserve users place a high value on:

- protecting playing surfaces
- maintaining safe and reliable access for organised sport
- reducing conflict between different user groups

- ensuring clear expectations about when and where dogs are permitted.

Key considerations for the draft Plan

When considering dog access to sports reserves, the draft plan may need to consider:

- *whether reserves are single-field or multi-field sites*
- *the level of sporting use and programming*
- *field surface type and maintenance requirements*
- *timing and conditions of access*
- *signage, communication and enforcement requirements*
- *how to minimise impacts on sporting clubs, other reserve users and nearby residents*
- *the importance of early engagement with sporting clubs and reserve user groups*

5. Open space needs to work for many different users

Previous community feedback showed strong support for dogs having access to public open space, but also highlighted the need to balance this with the needs of:

- children and families
- sporting clubs
- walkers and recreational users
- nearby residents
- people who are fearful of dogs

- environmental and conservation outcomes

Feedback suggested many community concerns relate less to dogs themselves and more to how shared spaces are managed, designed and used respectfully by everyone.

Key considerations for the draft Plan

The draft plan could support shared and respectful use of public open space by clearly defining where different activities can occur, reducing avoidable conflict and balancing access, safety, recreation and environmental outcomes.

6. Well-designed off-leash areas are highly valued by the community

Previous community feedback showed strong support for improving the quality, comfort and functionality of off-leash areas across Hume.

Regardless of whether spaces were fenced or unfenced, people consistently identified the importance of practical features that support safe, comfortable and enjoyable use for both dogs and owners.

The most commonly requested features included:

- grass and shade
- drinking water and taps

Key considerations for the draft Plan

The draft plan could consider how practical infrastructure and supporting amenities can improve the safety, comfort and usability of off-leash areas across Hume.

7. Environmental protection remains an important community expectation

Previous feedback supported protecting waterways, native vegetation, wildlife habitat and conservation areas from impacts associated with dog access.

Community feedback particularly highlighted concerns about:

- dogs near waterways and wetlands
- impacts on wildlife and bird nesting areas
- protection of sensitive conservation sites
- balancing recreation with biodiversity outcomes.

Key considerations for the draft Plan

The draft plan could consider where environmental values require greater protection, while still providing appropriate alternative dog walking and exercise opportunities nearby where possible.



2.0 Dogs in Hume Today

2.1 Dog Ownership in Hume

Dogs are the most popular pet in Australia: nation-wide 49.3% of households have at least one dog, or typically one in two households.

Dog ownership in Australia experienced a rapid 15.5% increase during COVID to what is now considered a 'new normal' at 49.3% of households. The majority of households have one dog, 23% two dogs, and 6% three or more dogs.

Households that own dogs typically:

- include children under 18 years of age (66%)
- be multi-person households (75%)
- home owning households as opposed to rental households (72%)
- have higher than average income (62%)
- be non-CALD households (73%)

Dogs are the most popular pet in Hume with over 16,700 registered dogs, but the Hume average is well below the national average, with 19% of households or one in 5 households owning a registered dog. The DAMP estimates a further 22,000 unregistered dogs.

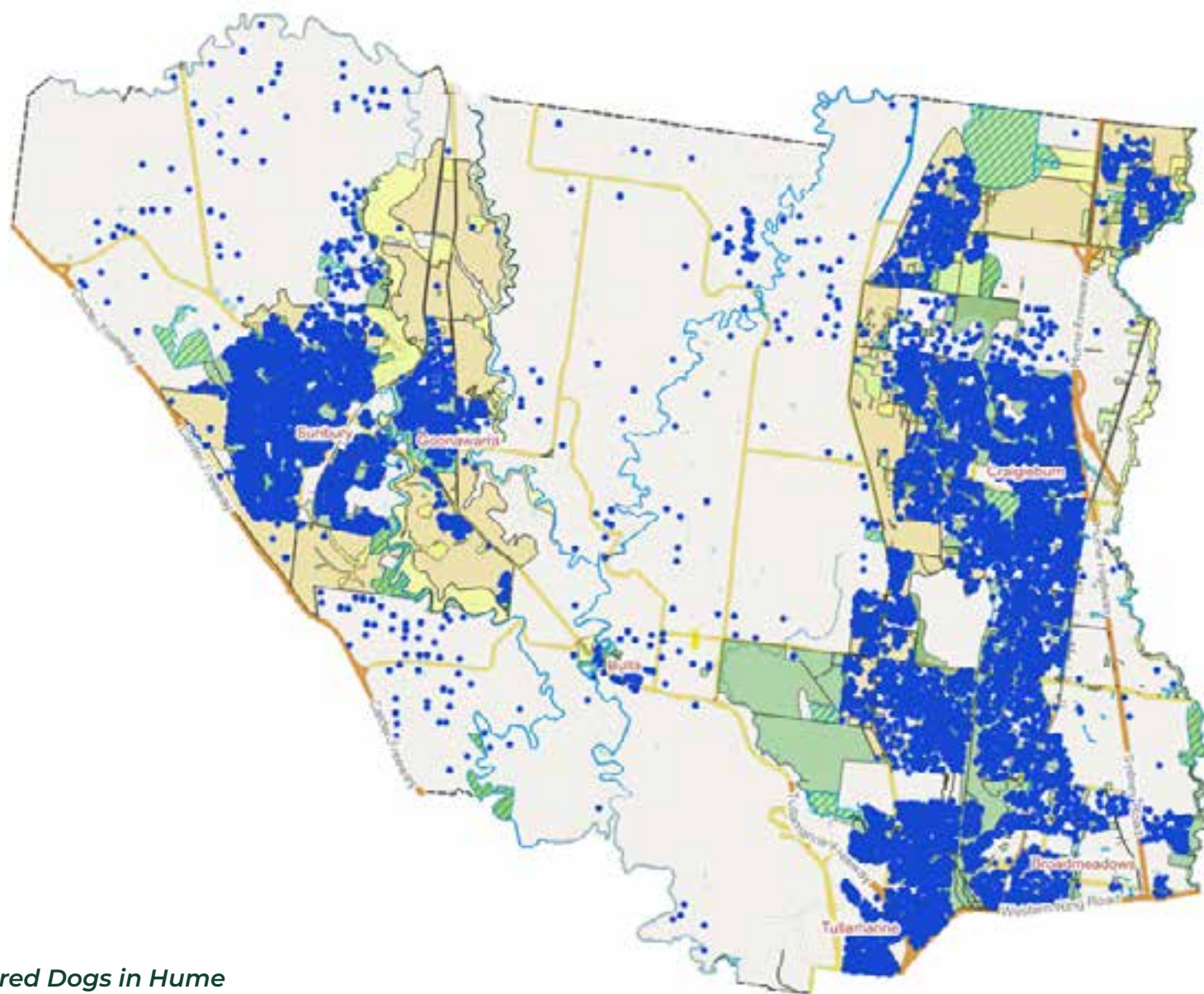
Dog ownership rates vary considerably across Hume.

Sunbury, Bulla and Atwood are the suburbs with the highest dog ownership.

The established suburbs in the south have lower rates with Dallas having the least with registered dogs in 7% of households.

The growth areas such as Kalkallo, Mickleham and Craigieburn also have low dog numbers.

Registered dog population in Hume			
Suburb	Registered Dogs	Population (ABS 2024)	No. dogs per 100 residents
Atwood	414	3,422	12
Broadmeadows	427	13,325	3
Bulla/Clarkefield/Diggers Rest/Keilor/Wildwood	237	1,548	15
Campbellfield/Somerton/Fawkner	183	5,333	3
Coolaroo	153	3,299	5
Craigieburn	2,978	71,553	4
Dallas	164	6,954	2
Gladstone Park	678	8,271	8
Greenvale/Yuroke/Oaklands Junction	1,644	25,443	6
Jacana	132	2,313	6
Kalkallo	372	9,204	4
Meadow Heights	505	14,960	3
Mickleham	1,027	25,582	4
Roxburgh Park	830	25,152	3
Sunbury	5,881	42,080	14
Tullamarine/Melb Airport	542	6,843	8
Westmeadows	571	6,571	9
TOTAL	16,738	271,853	Ave: 6



Map 1: Registered Dogs in Hume

2.2 Existing Dog Control Regulations

The following are the existing regulations around dog off-leash in Hume.

On 13 November 2023, Hume City Council (Council) made an Order under section 26(2) of the **Domestic Animals Act 1994**.

1. Revocation of previous Orders

All previous Orders made by Council under section 26(2) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 are revoked.

2. Dogs must be on-leash

The person in apparent control of a dog must keep the dog attached to a leash held by means of a chain, cord or lead, in any public place within the Council's municipal boundaries, unless the dog is in a designated off-leash area or Council has granted permission for an off-leash activity to take place, such as for dog obedience club activities, dog show or the like.

2.1. Dog owners must adhere to the following:

- 2.1.1. dog off-leash areas adjacent to schools will revert to dog on-leash areas during the hours of 8.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday on school days;
- 2.1.2. dogs must not be tied up within 10 metres of a school or preschool entry;
- 2.1.3. dogs must not be tied up near a pathway such that they can encroach onto the pathway;
- 2.1.4. dog owners to carry a receptacle for the effective removal of any excrement left by their dog and pickup and appropriately dispose of any excrement left by their dog;
- 2.1.5. authorised officers must be trained and competent to use procedures that support the Order in Council.

3. Dogs in Off-leash Areas

3.1. Subject to Clauses 3.2 and 3.3 of this Order, a dog may be exercised off a leash in a designated off-leash area provided the person in apparent control of the dog:

- 3.1.1. carries a leash, one for each dog, sufficient to bring the dog under effective control;
- 3.1.2. complies with any site-specific rules or regulations, including but not limited to time restrictions and regulations associated with fenced off-leash areas;
- 3.1.3. remains in effective voice control or hand control and within consistent sight of the dog at all times;
- 3.1.4. does not allow the dog to worry, cause a nuisance or threaten any person or animal.

3.2. If a dog is off-leash in a designated off-leash area, the dog must be brought under effective control by means of a leash if the dog is within 10 metres of:

- 3.2.1. a car park or roadway;
- 3.2.2. outdoor exercise equipment;
- 3.2.3. formal picnic facilities, including BBQ facilities or a permanent picnic shelter, even if these facilities are in a designated dog off-leash area;
- 3.2.4. formal sporting competition or training events;
- 3.2.5. a shared footpath or trail, nor impede other people

- 3.2.6. a school or preschool boundary;
- 3.2.7. wetlands or a water body;
- 3.2.8. a market or community event e.g. festival, fun run;
- 3.2.9. if a dog is in a designated off-leash area, the dog must be brought under effective control by means of a leash within 50 metres of a playspace, playground, BMX/skate facility or similar.

4. Dog Prohibited Areas

4.1. Dogs are not allowed:

- 4.1.1. in 'dogs prohibited' areas;
- 4.1.2. on sportsfields unless the sportsfield is a designated dog off-leash area;

- 4.1.3. to enter any water body;
- 4.1.4. within the boundary of a playspace, BMX/skate facility, or similar facility;
- 4.1.5. to rush at, attack, bite, worry or chase wildlife.

Hume Local Law No.1 (2023)

Clause 41. Dog waste on Roads and Municipal Places requires

- A person in charge of a dog on any road or municipal place must carry a facility for the effective removal of dog waste that may be deposited by that dog and must produce them on the request of an Authorised Officer.
- A person in charge of a dog must not allow any part of dog waste generated by that dog to remain on any road or municipal place and must immediately collect and dispose of the dog waste.



2.3 Current provision for dogs in Hume

Council may define public places as on lead areas, designated off lead areas or designated dogs prohibited areas through a gazettal process in accordance with Section 26 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994. These designations may apply to a whole park or a portion.

Unless otherwise designated in the following tables, public open space in Hume is available to exercise dogs on-leash.

Further details on controls is listed in section 1.5 above, including additional settings where dogs are prohibited or must be on-leash.

This information was current in June 2026; refer to Council's website in future for up-to date-listings.

Fenced Off-leash Areas (FOLAs)			
	Name	Suburb	Precinct
1	Sunbury Park	Sunbury	3
2	Elmhurst Drive Reserve*	Gladstone Park	7
3	Broadmeadows Valley Park	Broadmeadows	8
4	Craigieburn Gardens	Craigieburn	11
5	Mickleham Recreation Reserve*	Mickleham	12
6	Dwyer St Recreation Reserve#	Kalkallo	13

* Not yet gazetted

Opening 2027

Off-leash Areas (OLAs)			
	Name	Suburb	Precinct
1	Emu Bottom Wetlands	Sunbury	1
2	The Nook	Sunbury	2
3	Eric Boardman Reserve -	Sunbury	3
4	Heysen Drive Reserve	Sunbury	3
5	Langama Park	Sunbury	3
6	Spavin Drive Lake	Sunbury	3
7	Stewarts Ln Nature Reserve	Sunbury	3
8	Sunbury Park	Sunbury	3
9	Sunbury Recreation Reserve - Clarke Oval	Sunbury	3
10	Bulla Recreation Reserve	Bulla	5
11	Bradford Avenue Reserve	Greenvale	6
12	Drummond Street Reserve	Greenvale	6
13	Greenvale Recreation Reserve - Oval	Greenvale	6
14	Carrick Drive Reserve	Gladstone Park	7
15	John Coutts Reserve	Gladstone Park	7
16	Ginifer Reserve - Oval	Gladstone Park	7
17	Leo Dineen Reserve - Oval	Tullamarine	7
18	Trade Park	Tullamarine	7
19	Tullamarine Reserve - Ovals	Tullamarine	7

20	Westmeadows Reserve - Oval	Westmeadows	7
21	Willowbrook Reserve - Oval	Westmeadows	7
22	Jacana Reserve - Ovals	Jacana	7
23	Jacana Valley	Jacana	8
24	Anderson Reserve - Oval	Broadmeadows	8
25	Broadmeadows Valley Park	Broadmeadows	8
26	Broadmeadows Valley Park - Ripplebrook Reserve	Broadmeadows	8
27	Seabrook Reserve	Broadmeadows	8
28	Will Will Rook Pioneer Cemetery	Broadmeadows	8
29	Gibb Reserve - Oval	Dallas	8
30	Laura Douglas Reserve - Oval	Dallas	8
31	Broadmeadows Valley Park - Northern Reach	Meadow Heights	8
32	Lakeside Drive Reserve - Ovals	Roxburgh Park	9
33	Bolinda Road	Campbellfield	10
34	Seth Raistrick Reserve - Oval	Campbellfield	10
35	Progress Reserve - Oval	Coolaroo	
36	Aitken Creek - between Hothlyn Drive and the railway	Craigieburn	11
37	D.S. Aitken Reserve - Oval	Craigieburn	11
38	Hothlyn Drive Reserve - Oval	Craigieburn	11

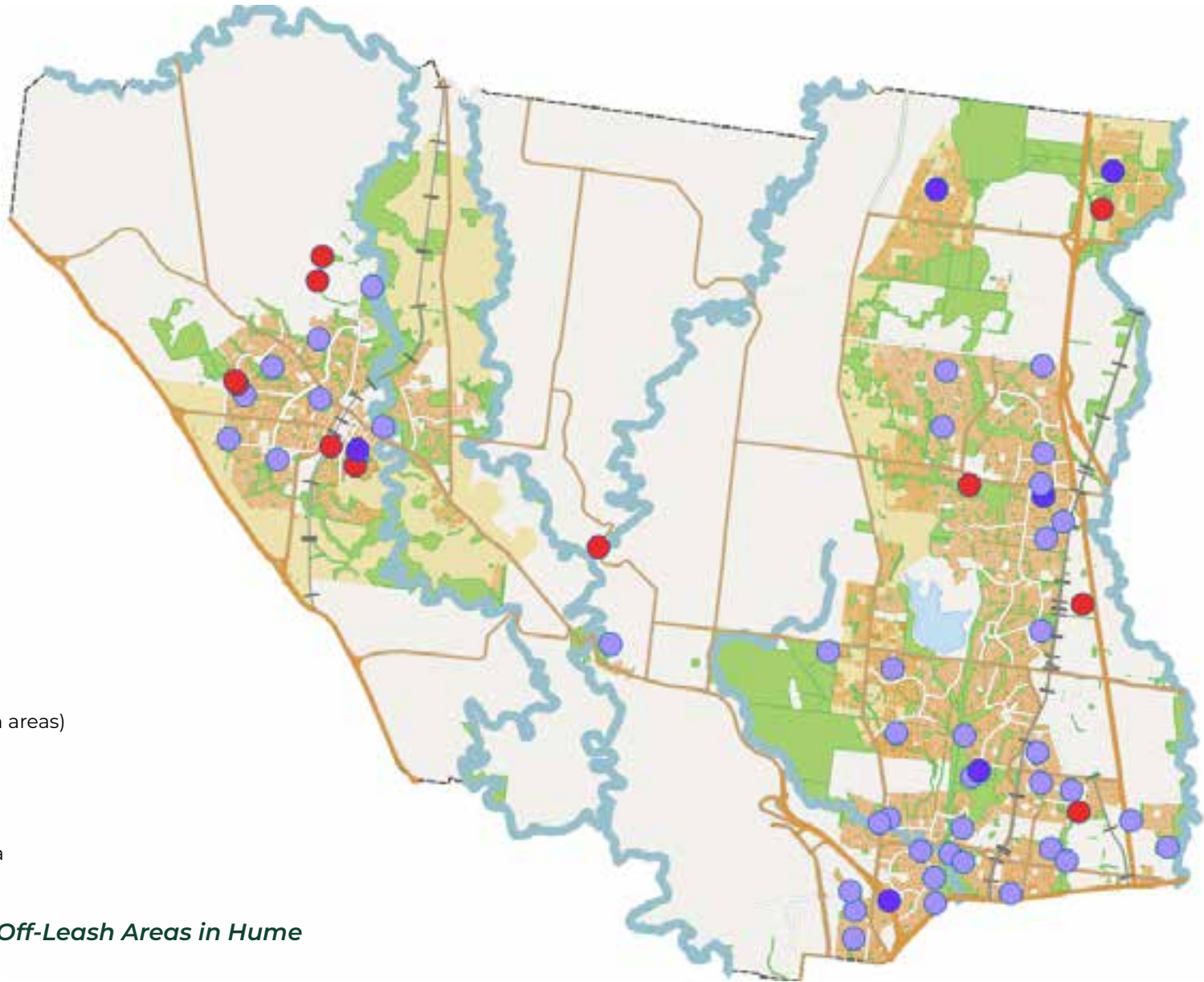
39	Hume Tennis and Community Centre	Craigieburn	11
40	Mt Ridley Conservation Reserve	Craigieburn	11
41	Newbury Park	Craigieburn	11
42	Victor Foster Reserve - Oval	Craigieburn	11

Dog Prohibited areas			
	Name	Suburb	Precinct
1	Maygar Grasslands	Broadmeadows	8
2	Amberfield Grasslands	Craigieburn	11
3	Kalkallo Commons	Kalkallo	13
4	Somerton Red Gum Reserve	Somerton	10
5	Albert Road Nature Reserve	Sunbury	1
6	Evans Street Grasslands	Sunbury	3
7	Fullwood Drive Ceremonial Ring (Mumilam Korobine Nature Reserve)	Sunbury	TBC
8	Sunbury Cemetery	Sunbury	4
9	Tandara Reserve (Mumilam Korobine Nature Reserve - east)	Sunbury	TBC
10	The Parkway Reserve	Sunbury	1
11	Martin Dillon Reserve	Wildwood	5

*Yet to be gazetted

Legend

- Public Open Space (on-leash areas)
- Off-leash Area
- Fenced Off-leash Area
- Existing Dog Prohibited Area



Map 2: Fenced and Unfenced Off-Leash Areas in Hume

2.4 How does Hume compare?

Benchmarking

Hume already provides well above the average number of FOLAs, OLAs and the average total number of off-leash spaces.

Most Councils provide a mixture of fenced and unfenced off-leash spaces. The vast majority of the 20 similar Local Government Areas surveyed for the Plan have provided significantly more unfenced OLAs than fenced OLAs.

The average ratio of FOLAs to OLAs is 1:10. If the two LGAs that vary significantly from common policy / practice in the industry (Whittlesea and Melton) are removed from the comparison, then the ratio of FOLAs to OLAs drops to 1:15.

Hume's ratio of FOLAs to OLAs is approximately 1:7, which in comparison is significantly higher than comparable LGAs.

Only three Councils provide more fenced off-leash areas than Hume, but of these, two provide no unfenced off-leash areas.

This report notes that benchmarking is only a comparison. It does not necessarily represent provision based on good practice and supporting research relating to:

- dog health and wellbeing needs
- risk management considerations
- advice from reputable dog/owner educators
- dog and human behaviour in FOLA environments

Past provision has also often been influenced by historical trends, estate developers, misunderstandings as to the benefit of fenced and unfenced OLAs, community requests or perceived need, and trends being followed by other LGAs.

Fenced Off-leash Area (FOLA) Provision		Unfenced Off-leash Area (OLA) Provision	
Whittlesea	13	Knox	146
Melton	9	Manningham	87
Kingston	9	Maroondah	57
Hume	6	Boroondara	54
Nillumbik	4	Merri-bek	48
Brimbank	4	Monash	47
Merri-bek	4	Hume	42
Knox	4	Darebin	32
Casey	3	Whitehorse	31
Moonee Valley	2	Yarra	30
Yarra	2	Glen Eira	29
Darebin	2	Stonnington	25
Maroondah	2	Kingston	24
Manningham	2	Yarra Ranges	22
Cardinia	1	Brimbank	19
Yarra Ranges	1	Nillumbik	15
Stonnington	1	Moonee Valley	9
Glen Eira	1	Cardinia	8
Boroondara	1	Casey	8
Whitehorse	0	Melton	0
Monash	0	Whittlesea	0

3.0 Planning for the Future

3.1 Off-Leash Provision Considerations

Fenced Off-leash Areas

Fenced off-leash areas are a relatively new recreational offering and generally supported in response to:

- demand from dog owners who won't or cannot control their dogs in line with dog control orders
- demand from other park users frustrated by uncontrolled dogs imposing on their use of public open space
- without an understanding of and consideration of likely dog and human behaviour in these environments
- based on trends occurring in other LGAs as opposed to good practice based on science-based research
- because of an incorrect belief that:
 - they will reduce the number of dog attacks occurring in public places
 - they are an appropriate facility for reactive, timid and unsocialised dogs and for the training of puppies
 - there is minimal risk associated with them

Dog owners who use, or have used fenced off-leash areas in the past cite the following as their benefits:

- lessens their fear of their dog running, not responding to recall, or annoying other park users
- enables them to socialise more with other dog owners
- means they don't have to actively supervise their dog

These perceived benefits are among the issues that give rise to the most complaints from dog owners about fenced off-leash

areas. They are also the reasons cited by many dog owners for never having used them, having ceased using them or use them conditionally. That is, when no other dogs are present and/or when specific dogs and/or owners are present. Dog owner respondents to research indicate a significant level of frustration about other dog owners not actively supervising their dog (84%), and owners letting their dogs annoy other dogs and/or people (78%) in FOLAs.

Most of the benefits associated with FOLAs can be achieved in unfenced off-leash areas. Good practice recommends that fencing only be considered if it is proposed to provide a FOLA in close proximity to incompatible parkland activity, such as a play-space or commuter bicycle trail, a road, or a protected wetland/wildlife areas.

Even then, consideration should be given to partial/barrier fencing or landscape features as a preference because this will provide a visual barrier, but still require owners to be attentive to their dog.

The following are challenges associated with all off-leash areas. However, they are more problematic in fenced off-leash areas because of the concentration of multiple dogs, of different size, temperament, and training are confined in a small space:

- **Fights and injuries.** Risk of injuries to dogs and humans associated dog aggression and anti-social behaviour, poorly controlled and fast-paced dogs knocking people and dogs over, and injuries associated with attending to dog-on-dog incidents.
- **High excitement environment.** The high-energy environment can quickly escalate playful activity into aggressive activity

- **Distracted Owners.** Owners are less likely to actively supervise their dogs and monitor their dogs' behaviour and comfort level in these environments. Instead, owners are frequently preoccupied with social engagement or devices.
- **Use by irresponsible dog owners.** Risk associated with owners taking young, elderly, poorly socialised, overly boisterous, unexercised and/or reactive dogs into a FOLA; or dogs that will jump a barrier fence.
- **Disease Transmission.** Risks include Parvovirus, Kennel Cough, Canine Influenza, and Distemper, which spread through air or contact with faeces for which dogs may not be vaccinated.
- **Capital and management costs.** Costs associated with and design inclusions necessary to manage dog behaviour; maintenance requirements associated with deterioration of surfaces, vegetation replenishment, dog litter cleanup; and compliance monitoring.
- **Competing Community Needs.** Potential for disturbance to adjoining residential properties if planning has not correctly assessed neighbourhood amenity issues, particularly regarding noise, intimidation, traffic and parking.

The primary disadvantage associated with fencing an area for off-leash activity is that it effectively prevents the space from being used for any other purpose.



Unfenced Off-leash Areas

Unfenced off-leash areas provide owners with access to leash-free activity but minimises the risks associated with the confined area of a FOLA, which requires owners to actively supervise their dog.

Unfenced off-leash areas will be designated areas that may be located:

- in part of a park
- comprise an entire park, or
- be on a sports ground

Unfenced off-leash areas:

- optimise the use of public open space for a range of activities
- encourage owners to exercise/walk the perimeter of the site, which has the added advantage of keeping dogs on the move and less focused on dog-on-dog activity
- allow owners to easily relocate their activity away from overly energetic activity associated with multiple dogs
- reduce risk management issues associated with fenced off-leash areas
- allow for ball throwing and retrieval activities

Off-leash activity on sportsfields can be problematic because of:

- the degradation that can occur from fast paced activities including ball retrieval and dog-on-dog activity
- owners letting dogs defecate and urinate on the surface

- owners letting dogs interfere with people using the space for other recreational activity including family play and social sport
- gates that can be closed which that allows owners to leave dogs unattended and encourages use by commercial dog owners with multiple dog

This plan proposes that some sportsfields will be unsuitable for dog off-leash activity.



Unfenced Off-leash Areas on Sports Fields

Dogs are already permitted off-leash in 42 locations across Hume which includes 24 ovals/other sports fields. Benefits of unfenced off-leash spaces on ovals include:

- Sports fields are typically underutilised outside of evenings and weekends
- 3-4 times larger than existing fenced off-leash areas, allowing visitors to spread out as required for safe play and exercise
- Additional length allows for ball retrieval
- The space encourages human exercise/lap walking with dogs and associated health and dog supervision benefits
- Most have pre-existing supporting infrastructure including carparking, lighting, bins, toilets
- Level site provides inclusive access to all areas for people of all abilities and for dog litter collection
- Improved safety through good passive surveillance and site activation

Sports fields are popular with dog owners are ore often observed to be used even in reserves where FOLAs are provided. Hume Council supports shared use of public open space, and this plan proposes a generous provision of sports fields for use as OLAs in preference to single use FOLAs. Where possible, more than one sports field will be made available for off-leash use to:

- Maximise the available space for all users of sports fields at a given time

- Minimise heavy wear in high usage locations
- Enable alternative spaces when there are scheduled sports events occupying a space
- Avoid perceived favouritism towards one sports club over another

Problems and conflict on sports fields can arise when dog owners:

- Permit dog to dig
- Fail to collect and dispose of dog litter responsibly
- Fail to have effective control including reliable recall and keeping dogs away from other park users
- Fail to move off fields for scheduled events such as sports training and competitions
- Otherwise fail to follow rules or show consideration for other users

Some playing surfaces are problematic for dog use:

- Some sports/fields require a sand base which has been regularly impacted by digging
- Synthetic fields are also problematic in terms of heat and bacterial issues

On fields with these conditions dog prohibition is proposed; but alternative fields on the same reserve will be provided.

On-leash Areas

Unless designated dog off-leash or dog prohibited areas, all public open space in Hume available for dogs to be walked on-leash. Dogs are also required to be on-leash in proximity to some activities such as playspaces, picnics and paths - refer section 2.2 for details.

There is a great diversity of environments that owners can enjoy with their dogs on-leash across the city. These include trails, footpaths, and parkland other than in areas where dogs are prohibited.

In addition, on-leash walking can strengthen the bond between owner and dog by maximising the focus on the owner and minimising environmental distractions.

The benefits of off-leash areas that accrue to the wider community, including dog owners, include assurance that

- social and recreation activities and environments are protected
- flora and fauna environments are protected
- provides assurance to people who have a negative predisposition towards dogs based on their social or cultural background, a fear or dislike of dogs, or an adverse past experience with dogs.

Dog Prohibited Areas

Dog prohibited areas are only provided where required, due to:

- **Cultural sensitivity.** This includes both pre and post European arrival cultural significance. Examples may include sites of archeological significance and cemeteries. Some

of these are subject to legal protection and management requirements

- **Environmental sensitivity.** Examples include include waterways and water bodies, habitat patches and corridors, remnant vegetation or revegetation areas

While additional sites are proposed to be designated as dog prohibited areas these are typically not publically accessible areas, where human access is already prevented due to the same sensitivities.



3.2 Compliance and Education

Dog Waste

To support compliance Council provides litterbag dispensers and rubbish bins at designated off-leash areas. Servicing schedules will be reviewed and adjusted where required. Existing dispensers will be retained, with additional dispensers considered at high-use on-leash locations.

Council will support dog waste compliance through a combination of regulation, infrastructure, education and targeted enforcement. Litter bag dispensers and bins will be provided and maintained at priority locations, supported by clear signage and community education. Provision and servicing levels will be monitored and adjusted in response to usage, complaints and operational data.

Dispensers do not remove the Local Law obligation on all owners to carry a litter bag at all times while walking dogs.

Monitoring, Education and Training

Grassroots initiatives are required to improve dog control and owner etiquette, as current behaviours are often not meeting community expectations.

Reports consistently identify inadequate supervision, nuisance behaviour, aggressive interactions, unattended dogs, and multiple-dog use in both fenced and unfenced off-leash areas. Many users avoid fenced off-leash areas when boisterous or poorly controlled dogs or owners unwilling to manage them, present.

Dog training participation remains low. Nationally, 75–85% of dog owners have not completed adult dog training. While puppy training participation is higher (66%), this declines to 24% for adult dogs, with only 11% of Hume respondents attending

adult training. Evidence shows dogs without early socialisation are three times more likely to display aggression, non-social fear, touch sensitivity and reduced trainability.

Stakeholder interviews undertaken as part of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029 identified a strong need for increased education, awareness, and accessible resources to support responsible pet ownership, including information delivered in languages other than English commonly spoken in the community. In response, the DAMP includes an action to engage diverse stakeholders to co-design and deliver a culturally inclusive pet ownership education campaign.

All City Laws Officers are appointed as Authorised Officers under relevant legislation, with designated officers prioritising animal management duties to ensure consistent and timely responses. Regular park patrols, including at fenced off-leash areas and on weekends, are undertaken. Council also responds to dog-related nuisance and attack incidents at any time, informed by ongoing community feedback.

Council is also committed to supporting sports clubs through the transition to additional off-leash controls on sports fields, through education, signage, and processes to manage any impacts to sports surfaces or events.

3.3 Dog Off-leash Planning Process

The planning process and associated tools which have been used to determine this plan’s recommendations are detailed in **Appendix A**. Maps showing key gaps determined via Tool A are provided in the following pages.

Stage	Relevant Tools (refer Appendix A)	
Planning and Analysis 1. Determine need – Is there a need for additional off-leash areas in this part of Hume? Tool A 2. Determine capacity - Does a potential site exist? Tool B 3. Determine site feasibility – Has the site met its evaluation criteria? Tool C 4. Determine if/any appropriate sites = Draft Plan recommendations	Tool A Tool B Tool C	Apply Guiding Principles throughout
Community Engagement 5. Seek community feedback via Draft Dogs in Open Space Plan - Is there community support? 6. Review feedback, revise document 7. Council approval of final Dogs in Open Space Plan		
Delivery and ongoing management 8. Gazettal and Signage 9. Upgrades for new Infrastructure Levels of Service – Tool D 10. Ongoing: site maintenance and local laws compliance	Tool D	

Existing off-leash Provision Analysis by Precinct						
Precinct	OLAs	FOLAs	Sports Field OLAs	Future Urban Growth requiring OLA	OLA provision analysis	FOLA provision analysis
1. Sunbury Rural	1				Not required for larger rural properties.	Not required for larger rural properties.
2. Lancefield Road	1			Yes	No off-leash areas yet.	Well serviced: Very few residences are beyond a 10min drive to a FOLA.
3. Sunbury Central	7	1	3	Yes	Well serviced: All residences are within 1500m walk of an off-leash area.	Well serviced: Very few residences are beyond a 10min drive to a FOLA.
4. Redstone Hill				Yes	No off-leash areas yet.	Well serviced: This precinct is directly adjacent to a FOLA. Very few residences are beyond a 10min drive.
5. Rural	1		1		Only Bulla township requires off-leash provision and is served by the Bulla Recreation Reserve oval.	Bulla residences are within a 15min drive of Sunbury FOLA.
6. Greenvale	3		3		Residences west and north of the reservoir in this precinct are more than 1500m walking distance of an off-leash area.	Underserved: Most residences in this precinct are further than a 10min drive to a FOLA.
7. Valley	11	1	6		Well serviced: most residences are within 800m of an off-leash area.	Well serviced: Most residences are within a 5min drive of a FOLA.
8. Broadmeadows	8	1	5		Well serviced: All residences are within an 1500m walk of an off-leash area.	Well serviced: Almost every residence is within a 10min drive of a FOLA.
9. Roxburgh Park	1		1		Most residences are within 1500m of an off-leash area; there is a gap near Greenvale Reservoir.	Well serviced: All residences are within a 10min drive of Broadmeadows FOLA.
10. Somerton	2		1		Most residences are within 1500m except the far southern boundary.	The eastern edge of Campbellfield is beyond a 10min drive.
11. Craigieburn	7	1	4	Yes	Underserved: large areas to the southwest are underserved.	Well serviced: All residences are within a 10min drive of Craigieburn FOLA.
12. Mickleham		1		Yes	Underserved: Most residences south of Donnybrook Road are beyond 1500m walk.	Well serviced: almost all residents are within 5min drive of the Mickleham FOLA
13. Kalkallo		1		Yes	Most residences are within 1500m of an off-leash area except those adjoining Merri ck.	Well serviced: All residences are within a 5min of a FOLA.

Tool A: Determining Need

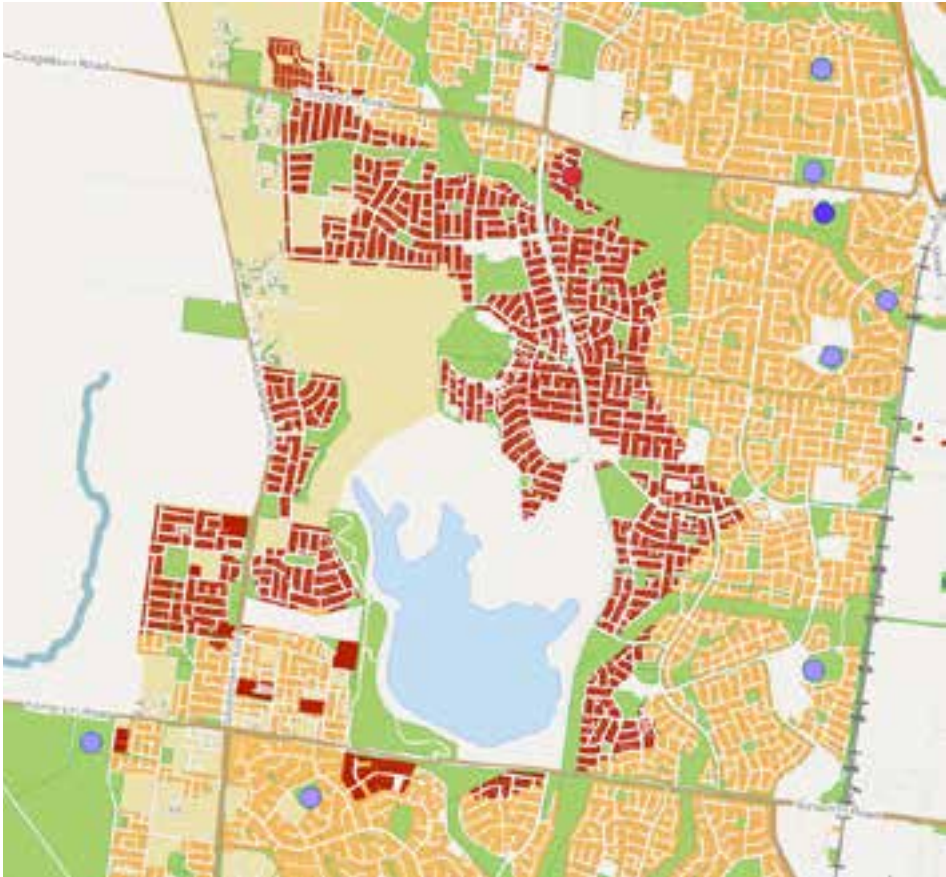
Are there gaps in provision across Hume?

This section applies and analyses Tool A in the process above (refer also Appendix A), and tests the existing provision against guiding principle 4: walking distance to any off-leash space, and driving distance to a fully fenced off-leash area.

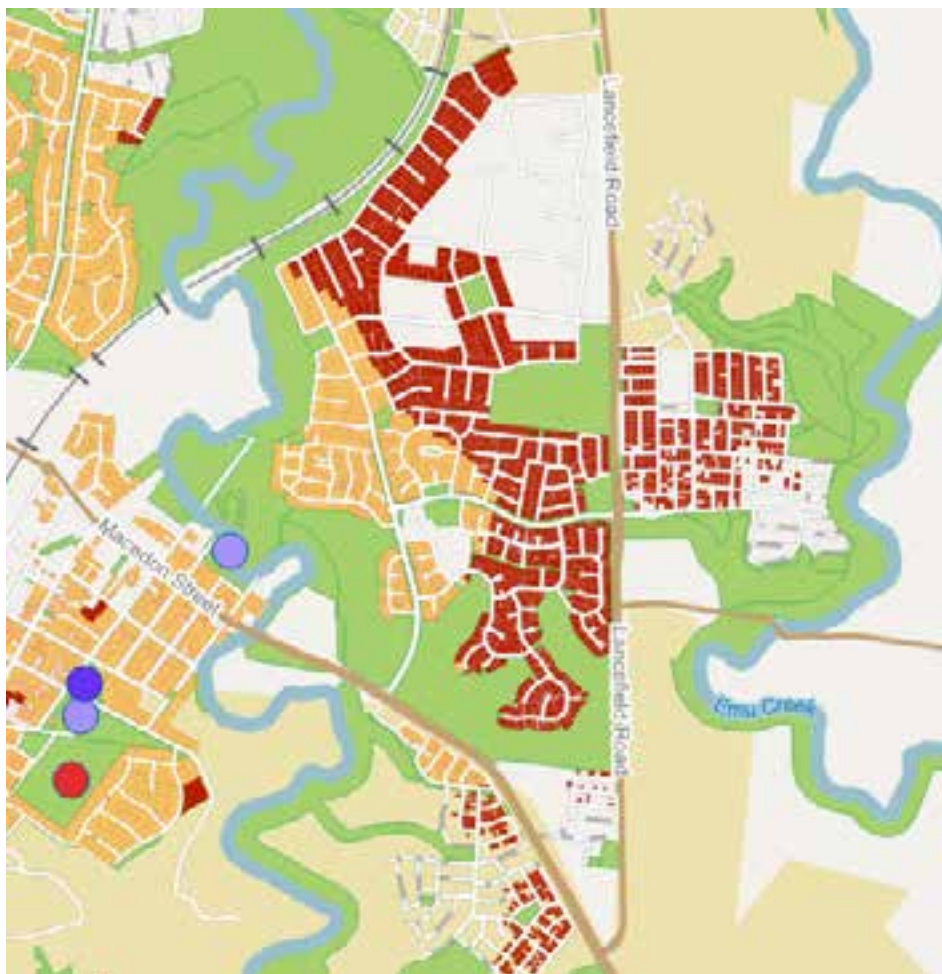
Examples of key existing gaps in provision are shown in red in the maps below. Further spatial analysis mapping for all precincts is provided in Appendix B.

Legend

- Public Open Space
- Existing Off-leash Area
- Existing Fenced Off-leash Area
- Existing Dog Prohibited Area
- Residential areas well serviced for OLAs/FOLAs
- Residential areas beyond the target distance for OLAs/FOLAs
- Future urban growth areas



Map 3: OLA provision gaps around Greenvale Reservoir



Map 4: OLA provision gaps around Lancefield Road Precinct



Map 5: OLA provision gaps around Redstone Hill Precinct

Craigieburn and Roxburgh Park Precincts

Craigieburn currently shows a number of substantial gaps in OLA provision along with the northwestern portion of Roxburgh Park precinct. These can be resolved through the provision of off-leash areas on existing sports fields.

Greenvale Precinct

Greenvale is a challenging area for dog off-leash provision. Due to the reservoir and road connectivity, this precinct has the most significant gap in provision of both FOLAs and OLAs. This is an ongoing issue which Council has previously sought to address, and has investigated again as part of the development of this plan.

Barrymore Recreation Reserve and Drummond Street Recreation Reserve will provide new reserves for off-leash exercise and substantially address the existing gap, and three additional off-leash ovals at Greenvale Recreation Reserve will provide additional opportunities.

There are no reserves north of Somerton Road which could provide OLAs or FOLAs. Greenvale Gardens Reserve meets step 2 of the methodology, but the sports field is sand based surface which attracts dog digging, so cannot be provided as an OLA. There are no sites with sufficient space for a FOLA in Council ownership or management.

Council has also investigated land managed by Melbourne Water in this area and sought support for public access. Due to water supply security and resilience, and catchment protection requirements, Melbourne Water has advised that no additional land is available for public access.

Growth areas

Growth areas in Hume include Lancefield Road, Redstone Hill, Mickleham and Kalkallo precincts. Planned open space for sports will provide off-leash opportunities in future and will be able to meet the principles set out in this plan.

In Kalkallo, a FOLA is currently being constructed as part of Dwyer Street Recreation Reserve. This will replace the temporary FOLA on the corner of Donnybrook Road and Dwyer Street which is on developer-owned land.



Sunbury FOLA – possible relocation

This project has also responded to community requests to move the Sunbury FOLA to a different location. Current users of the existing FOLA have reported that the sloping site is causing issues of accessibility and erosion, with a new location proposed within Mary Wicks Park (formerly Sunbury Park).

The alternative approximate location is shown in the plan adjacent, and is informed by an ecological investigation to determine areas of least environmental sensitivity.

Benefits of the alternative location include:

- Better access for people of all abilities
- Improved access to the public toilet
- Additional parking opportunities on Harker Street
- Larger area for running and ball play
- Potential space for a separate small dog area

Disadvantages of the alternative location include:

- Time and cost involved to relocate the FOLA and restore the existing location to parkland
- Environmental impacts to remnant vegetation in Mary Wicks Park
- Central location in Mary Wicks Park will break up the large open expanse of the park
- Larger fenced off-leash area means less area for other shared uses of unfenced space

Prior to confirmation that relocation is possible, further planning and investigation would be required: a planning permit application, additional targeted surveys for threatened species, and cultural heritage assessment due to the proximity to Jacksons Creek.

This draft presents the proposal for community consideration, and the feedback on the draft will inform Council's decision as to whether to proceed with relocation planning and delivery.



Map 6: Proposed relocation of Sunbury Fenced Off-Leash Area

4.0 The Way Forward

4.1 Guiding Principles

01

Provision is made for dog owners and dogs in public places because of the health, wellbeing and social benefits.

02

Provision for dogs will be carefully balanced with other park users, uses and ecological and cultural values.

03

Provision of off-leash areas will align with Council's capacity to maintain and monitor them.

04

Where possible, Council will provide access to off-leash areas as follows:

- a. Off-leash areas within 1.5 km walking distance of most residential properties under 4000m²
- b. Fenced off-leash areas within a 10-minute drive of most residential properties under 4000m²

05

Most reserves with sports fields will share field/s for off-leash dog use.

06

Where sports fields are available within 10 min drive, fenced off-leash areas are not required.



4.2 Recommendations

Council-wide dog on-leash area controls

- **Council-wide** unless otherwise gazetted or signed by Council
- **Within 50 metres of playspaces**
- **Within 10m of paths**

Note that these on leash controls are already in place.

Additional Council-wide dog prohibited area controls

Dogs to be prohibited:

- **Within 10m of waterways.** Most waterways have adjacent open space which can be used as an alternative dog walking space. Waterways and their immediate surrounds are critical habitat corridors for native fauna.
 - 10 metres is to be measured from the top of the waterway bank
 - Connecting sealed pathways within this area are exceptions; here dogs are permitted on-leash while passing through.
- **In fenced conservation areas.** Note that these areas are already restricted from public access. This control will formalise this regulation and enable future conservation land or works to be fenced and protected as required.

Summary of proposed off-leash changes

A detailed list of existing and proposed changes to dog controls including new and amended off-leash areas can be found in Appendix C.

1. Amend existing off-leash areas:

- i. Emu Bottom Wetlands – reduce the off-leash area as endorsed in the 2025 Masterplan
- ii. Spavin Lake Reserve - reduce off-leash area to below the dam wall only
- iii. Stewarts Lane Nature Reserve – reduce off-leash to the open grassed area only
- iv. Seabrook Reserve – limit the off-leash zone to the southern rectangular field
- v. The Nook- Reduce off-leash areas to support picnicking and prevent dog access to Jacksons Creek
- vi. Drummond Street Reserve - reduce off -leash area to oval only

2. Remove existing off-leash areas:

- i. Will Will Rook cemetery will become an on-leash zone for cultural reasons
- ii. Newbury Park will become a prohibited zone when synthetic pitches are constructed, commencing 2026

3. New dog prohibited areas due to environmental or cultural sensitivity

- In fenced conservation areas
- Within 10 metres of waterways (constructed paths

excepted)

- In the following unfenced reserve areas due to environmental or cultural sensitivity
 - i. Greenvale Recreation Reserve (northwestern and southeastern corner)
 - ii. Merri Creek marram baba Regional Parklands (in sections where paths are yet to be constructed)
 - iii. Northpark Nature Reserve, Somerton (excludes path adjacent to Northpark Drive)
 - iv. Mount Holden Nature Reserve (summit)
 - v. Mount Ridley Nature Reserve (south and west of path)
 - vi. Nook to Skyline Reserve (steep slopes to Jacksons Creek)

4. Dogs prohibited on the following sports fields (All reserves have off-leash areas elsewhere)

- i. Eric Boardman Memorial Reserve – 1 athletics infield (obedience club bookings excepted)
- ii. Langama Park – northern rectangular field
- iii. John McMahon Reserve – 2 softball diamonds
- iv. Gibb Reserve – 1 rectangular field
- v. Highgate Recreation Reserve – 1 northwestern oval
- vi. John Ilhan Memorial Reserve – 2 southern and eastern rectangular fields
- vii. Rhyolite Drive Recreation Reserve – 2 softball diamonds
- viii. Vantage Boulevard Recreation Reserve – 1 rectangular field

5. New OLAs on sports fields

- i. Arena Recreation Reserve – 2 ovals
- ii. Barrymore Road Recreation Reserve – 1 new oval/field
- iii. Dwyer Street Recreation Reserve – 2 ovals (under construction)
- iv. Gladstone Park Reserve – 1 field
- v. Greenvale Recreation Reserve – 3 additional ovals
- vi. Hanson Road Reserve – 1 oval
- vii. Highgate Recreation Reserve – 2 fields
- viii. Highlander Drive Recreation Reserve – 2 fields
- ix. Jack Roper Reserve – 1 field
- x. John Ilhan Reserve – 1 oval
- xi. John McMahon Reserve, Sunbury – 2 ovals
- xii. Kalkallo Recreation Reserve – 2 ovals
- xiii. Laura Douglas Reserve – 1 additional field
- xiv. McEwan Drive Reserve – 1 oval
- xv. Mickleham Recreation Reserve – 2 ovals
- xvi. Patullos Lane Reserve – 1 oval
- xvii. Rhyolite Drive Recreation Reserve – 1 field
- xviii. Tulsa Drive Reserve – 1 oval
- xix. Vantage Boulevard Recreation Reserve – 1 oval

6. New OLAs in parkland

- i. Nook to Skyline Reserve (part)



7. New FOLA

- i. Dwyer Street Recreation Reserve (under construction)

8. Possible renewed/relocated FOLA

- i. Sunbury FOLA (to Mary Wicks Reserve)

9. Additional OLA provision in future active open space

Precinct 2 – Lancefield Road

- i. Yellow Gum Recreation Reserve
- ii. Lancefield Road Recreation Reserve
- iii. Emu Creek Recreation Reserve

Precinct 4 – Sunbury Central

- iv. Grisa Street Recreation Reserve
- v. Emu Creek South Recreation Reserve
- vi. Buckland Way Recreation Reserve
- vii. Redstone Hill Recreation Reserve

Precinct 11 – Craigieburn

- viii. Dryland Boulevard Recreation Reserve (Highlands West)
- ix. Melliodora Road Recreation Reserve (Digtree Recreation Reserve)

Precinct 12 - Mickleham

- x. Merrifield City Centre Recreation Reserve
- xi. Elscott Boulevard Recreation Reserve
- xii. Alexo Road Recreation Reserve
- xiii. Merrifield Regional Reserve

Precinct 13 – Kalkallo

- xiv. Cloverton CBD Regional Reserve

10. Known Future Changes to dog controls. Timing is not yet confirmed, but the sites below will have paths, sports fields or other community infrastructure constructed which will impact on off-leash controls.

- i. Aitken Creek eastern end – will default on-leash once a trail is constructed, due to on-leash requirement within 10m of paths
- ii. Hume Tennis and Community Centre – future development stages would require loss of the off-leash area

On leash controls will continue as existing where not otherwise signed:

- On leash where not otherwise signed or gazetted
- within 10m of paths
- within 50m of playspaces

4.3 Actions

	Action	Priority	Budget
Planning			
Planning and Due Diligence			
1	Gazettal of approved dog controls and associated legal advice	Very high	\$8,000
2	Investigate Greenvale OLA opportunities in partnership/agreement with other land managers	very high	operational budget
	Planning Total		\$8,000
Capital Works			
Priority Off-Leash Provision in gap areas			
3	Prioritise signage and related infrastructure at the following new OLA locations: 1. Precinct 2: John McMahon Reserve, Sunbury 2. Precinct 6: Barrymore Road Recreation Reserve, Greenvale 3. Precinct 6: Greenvale Recreation Reserve, Greenvale 4. Precinct 9: Arena Recreation Reserve, Roxburgh Park 5. Precinct 9: Patullos Lane Reserve, Roxburgh Park 6. Precinct 11: Hanson Road Reserve, Craigieburn 7. Precinct 11: Highgate Recreation Reserve, Craigieburn 8. Precinct 11: Highlander Drive Recreation Reserve, Craigieburn 9. Precinct 11: Rhyolite Drive Recreation Reserve, Craigieburn 10. Precinct 11: Vantage Boulevard Recreation Reserve, Craigieburn 11. Precinct 13: Kalkallo Recreation Reserve, Kalkallo		
3a	Signage	high	\$80,000
3b	furniture and other infrastructure	medium	\$200,000
Signage			
4	Update and amend signage at existing off-leash areas	high	\$12,000
5	Update/renew on-leash signage on paths	medium	\$200,000

Priority

Very high	1-2 years
High	1-3 years
Medium	4-6 years
Low	7-9 years

6	Provide signage to all other new off-leash areas	medium	\$80,000
7	Provide dog prohibited signage to fenced nature reserves (38)	high	\$15,000
8	Provide dog prohibited signage to unfenced nature reserves (7)	high	\$5,000
9	Provide dog prohibited signage to required sporting fields (11)	high	\$6,600
10	Provide interpretive signage on platypus at key locations on Jacksons Creek including Emu Bottom Wetlands and The Nook, Sunbury	high	\$18,000
Provide infrastructure in accordance with Levels of Service (Appendix D)			
11	Planting program to provide shade - in or near off-leash areas as appropriate	high	\$90,000
12	Additional seating, bins, litter bag dispensers, paths as required	medium	\$195,000
13	Additional drinking fountains to new off-leash areas (allowed for 14)	low	\$350,000
Fenced Off-Leash Areas			
14	Design and deliver relocation of fenced off-leash area to Mary Wicks Park (Subject to draft consultation finding to determine community support)		
14a	Design and documentation for existing and proposed location	medium	\$150,000
14b	Construction across existing and proposed location	medium	\$450,000
	See also Action 2		
	Capital Works Total		\$1,851,600
Education, Programming and Maintenance			
Community awareness program:			
15	Social media/promotion of waterway values and platypus habitat to support waterway prohibition	high	operational budget
16	Flyers on Dogs in Waterways for use at key sites including Emu Bottom Wetlands and The Nook, Sunbury	high	\$8,000

17	Flyers on Dog exercise areas in Hume - map and responsibilities information	high	\$18,000
18	Support responsible dog ownership through webpage links to dog training opportunities in Hume	medium	operational budget
	<i>See also interpretive signage</i>		
Encouraging Active Living			
19	Trial programming of sports lighting for dog exercise on winter evenings.	low	operational budget
20	Consider delivering/supporting dog obedience and training opportunities	medium	operational budget
Monitoring and compliance - annual costs			
21	Provide additional City Laws resourcing for evening and weekend patrols	high	\$52,000
Waste and Maintenance - annual costs			
22	Additional Sports and Recreational operational budget for oval maintenance and sports club support	high	\$20,000
23	Waste operational budget increase to reflect increased service areas	medium	\$20,000
	Educational Materials Cost Total		\$36,000
	TOTAL implementation costs - excluding annual costs		\$1,899,600
	Additional Operational Costs (annually)		\$92,000



