

7.10 Dedicated Dog Park

Abstract

The purpose of this report is to update Councillors on the revised dedicated dog park assessment process, and to identify a preferred location for Council to test community support for a Dedicated Dog Park in Boroondara.

Following Council's decision to abandon the dedicated dog park pilot at Fritsch Holzer Park, Council resolved to utilise learnings from the pilot to review and update the site suitability criteria, and undertake a further assessment process to shortlist other potential sites for Council's consideration.

This review has now been completed and important learnings from the Fritsch Holzer Park pilot have helped inform the revised assessment process.

Reduced set-backs from sensitive interfaces and consideration of people's ability to walk dogs safely off-leash within 500m of the subject site are important changes to the assessment criteria.

Extending the assessment process to include dog on-leash as well as off-leash sites is intended to open up more potentially suitable sites, and potentially appeal to more users who want to be able to walk their dogs safely off-leash in an area where they are unable to do so now (ie value adding versus taking something away).

A site tour provided invaluable context, local information and insights that has helped inform and shape officers' recommendations. This goes beyond selecting a preferred location, and includes guidance on looking at other opportunities in future. In particular, the opportunity to introduce more 'dog friendly play areas' (including some limited fencing) within existing dog off-leash reserves has been suggested, in lieu of looking for more sites for the formal fully fenced dedicated dog park option.

Unless there is clear demonstrated demand for the fully fenced option, there remains a risk of significant community opposition. Testing community support early in the process not only minimises this risk, it demonstrates Council's genuine willingness to test ideas and respond to community views.

Finally, it is important to be mindful some community members may resist change, particularly change in what they perceive as 'their' local park. The consultation process proposed is designed to balance consideration of the needs and aspirations of both local and broader community members. Providing local residents with more targeted consultation material and personal briefings will help us to better communicate, and ultimately better understand and respond to local resident concerns, as well as those of the broader community.

Officers' recommendation

That Council resolve to

1. Commence consultation to test community support for the development of a dedicated dog park at Gordon Barnard Reserve (Site 2) as shown on **Attachment 2**, and annexed to the minutes.
2. Investigate the opportunity to introduce more 'dog friendly play areas' (including some limited fencing) within existing dog off-leash reserves, in lieu of looking for more sites for the formal fully fenced dedicated dog park option.
3. Following the above investigations, officers will prepare a report for Council's consideration in April 2020.

Responsible director: **Daniel Freer**
Director Environment and Infrastructure

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Councillors on the revised dedicated dog park assessment process, and to identify a preferred location for Council to test community support for a dedicated dog park in Boroondara.

2. Policy implications and relevance to community plan and council plan

Boroondara Community Plan (BCP)

The Boroondara Community Plan identified parks and green spaces as highly important, and highlighted the increasing use of parks by dog walkers as both an opportunity and an issue needing careful planning and management.

A total of 184 of the 7,183 responses related to dogs in open spaces. These responses are broadly summarised below:

- (More) dog off lead areas are important (75 people said this).
- Dog walking is important (26 people said this).
- Dog "friendly" spaces are important (23 people said this).
- (More) fenced dog off lead areas are important (21 people said this).
- More dog poo disposal facilities are important (20 people said this).
- Irresponsible dog ownership is a problem in parks (14 people said this).
- Fewer off lead areas/more dog free areas are important (7 people said this).
- More drinking bowls in parks are important (2 people said this).

Council Plan 2017-2021

Catering for dog owners and their pets in our parks, opens spaces and reserves is consistent with following themes and strategies in the Council Plan 2017-2021:

- Theme 1: Your Community, Services and Facilities
 - Strategy 1.11 Ensure Council's assets are suitable for community use through proactive asset inspections, maintenance of asset data in the corporate asset system and development of Asset Management Plans
- Theme 2: Your Parks and Green Spaces
 - Strategy 2.1 Sustainably design, manage and utilise parks and green spaces to foster a connected and healthy community for all ages and abilities.
 - Strategy 2.4 Activate existing green spaces and build social connection through the delivery of additional Council and community services and programs in our parks and gardens.
 - Strategy 2.5 Increase and improve public amenities and facilities in open spaces to enhance functionality for a wider range of uses

Boroondara Open Space Strategy (BOSS)

The purpose of this strategy is to provide a strategic direction for the future planning, provision, design and management of open space in Boroondara to 2026. This includes understanding and addressing existing community open space needs and planning ahead to anticipate and meet the open space needs of the forecast future population.

Dedicated dog parks are consistent with the following BOSS principles:

- **Accessible** - The open space network is accessible to the Boroondara community including people of all ages, abilities, health, gender and cultural background.
- **Adaptable** - Open space and its facilities are flexible to adapt to changing environmental, recreational and social needs and expectations.
- **Diverse** - The open space network provides a diversity of places for the community to visit and habitats for native flora and fauna.
- **Recreational** - Open space encourages the community to be outside, play sport, exercise and/or keep fit to improve their health and wellbeing.
- **Shared** - The open space network will continue to embrace a variety of values and uses encouraging respect and consideration of all in sharing the space.
- **Social** - Open space provides opportunities for the Boroondara community to meet, socialise and participate in a variety of activities so it is accessible and safe for all

3. Background

Council has previously stated a clear preference for the creation of a dedicated dog park in Boroondara. Criteria and possible sites which responded to criteria supported by Council resulted in an agreement to consider a dedicated dog park at Fritsch Holzer Park. In response to community concerns, Council resolved to not proceed with this option and directed officers to consider alternative locations.

4. Outline of key issues/options

What we've done since last meeting to shortlist potential sites

- Refined the assessment criteria. Key refinements include:
 - Set-backs from sensitive interfaces have been reduced from 50m to 25m as the original 50m set-back was considered too restrictive.
 - Priority has been given to those sites exhibiting physical characteristics (ie topography, vegetation buffers, existing view-lines etc) minimising exposure and impact on existing residential development. This has been determined through field investigation and goes beyond simple set-back criteria.
 - Ability to walk dogs safely off-leash within 500m of the subject site has also been considered in the assessment process, although this has not been considered a 'knock out' criteria.
- Extended the assessment process to include dog on-leash sites as well as dog off-leash sites.

- Undertaken initial desktop assessment and subsequent workshops with key staff to further shortlist sites based on the revised assessment criteria, as well as consideration of any other local knowledge considered pertinent to the site's suitability as a dedicated dog park.
- Undertaken field investigations and established the top four preferred sites for further investigation (including both on and off-leash sites).
- Arranged a site tour with Councillors to seek their preliminary feedback and comments to help inform officers' recommendation of the preferred location.

Site tour

A number of Councillors attended a tour of potential dog park sites on Saturday 9 November, 2019. The purpose of the tour was to visit the shortlisted sites, discuss the relative pros and cons of each location, and to hear any feedback from Councillors to help inform officers' recommendation of a preferred site. Refer to **Attachment 1** for a summary of officers' assessment of the shortlisted sites. These include:

- Markham Victory Reserve (two locations)
- Gordon Barnard Reserve (two locations)
- Hays Paddock
- Brinsley Road Reserve

The key themes from the feedback received on the tour are summarised below.

- There was general consensus amongst attendees that Gordon Barnard Reserve (Site 2) offered the best location for a dedicated dog park in Boroondara, noting this is currently a dog on-leash reserve.
- Beyond Gordon Barnard Reserve, there was little support for the development of dedicated dog park's at the remaining short-listed sites. This was largely due to the fact that (with the exception of Brinsley Road Reserve), dogs can already be walked off-leash in these locations relatively safely, and the provision of a fenced enclosure may be perceived as 'taking something away' as opposed to 'providing a new service or activity'.
- Instead, there was support for providing additional 'dog friendly' infrastructure (including some limited fencing) at other dog off-leash reserves across the municipality, but not providing a 'dedicated (fully fenced) facility' at these locations. This was considered preferable as it would enable more dog friendly facilities to be spread across the municipality, offer less direct impact on any single location, minimise negative impacts associated with fully fenced enclosures and will provide an improved user experience within existing dog off-leash reserves.
- There was also support for moving away from the term 'dedicated dog park' in lieu of 'dog friendly play areas'. This is considered to more accurately reflect what Council is trying to achieve, and this should be highlighted in any future consultation material.
- There was support for consulting the community regarding any fully fenced facility (possibly Gordon Barnard Reserve) via a public consultation process and simple survey before making any decision.

- There was support for lower level consultation for the provision of additional 'dog friendly' infrastructure being installed within existing dog off-leash reserves. Given the low key nature of these initiatives and the expectation they will complement the existing dog off-leash designation and use of the park, an informing approach to consultation for these elements is generally considered appropriate.
- There was also support for further consideration being given to identifying opportunities to convert underutilised land to public open space for use as dog parks and/or other public purposes. Opportunities include potential State Government owned land, and underutilised roads adjacent to existing parks (ie Wandin Road/Brinsley Park Reserve). This was considered a longer term aspiration and will require further investigation beyond the scope of this project.
- There was support for prioritising locations with good public transport.
- A second potential site was also suggested in the northern section of Hays Paddock. Following further investigation, this site is not supported as it exhibits similar constraints to the other Hays Paddock site, and is located adjacent to the existing archery club which is likely to present additional safety concerns.

Preferred location

Gordon Barnard Reserve (Site 2) has been identified as the preferred location to test community support for a dedicated dog park in Boroondara.

This site has been selected as it performs well against the revised selection criteria in relation to its location and amenity, existing infrastructure and proximity to sensitive interfaces. A summary of the key opportunities and constraints of this site is included below.

Opportunities

- The site has physical characteristics which minimise exposure and impact on existing residential development including:
 - meets the minimum 25m set-back criteria to existing housing,
 - has minimal existing overlooking potential from adjacent residential properties,
 - adjoins residential properties along only one boundary (Jacka Street), and includes a total of only 13 properties abutting the proposed dedicated dog park site and entry road, only 5 of which abut the actual dedicated dog park site.
- Includes an existing separate underutilised entry road and car park (east of Site 2) and has good access to other existing car parking opportunities within the park.
- The site is an existing dog on-leash reserve and dogs cannot be walked safely off-leash in this location now. This may assist the community to view the proposal as providing a 'new service or activity' in the park, rather than the perception that we are 'taking something away'.
- Has good access to power and water.
- Has potential for a dual use shelter that could service both the dedicated dog park and sports oval.
- Includes an existing grass embankment which will assist with sound attenuation to the adjacent Boroondara Sports Complex.

- The area is currently underutilised, has excellent natural shade, character and visual amenity.
- The site may help address unauthorised off-leash use of the existing sporting fields.
- Includes good public transport options (ie two public bus routes).

Constraints

- Errant balls from the sports ovals may enter the dedicated dog park area.
- Proximity to Boroondara Sports Complex, existing shared path, native flora and fauna and adjacent residential properties.
- Limited existing amenities (shelter, drinking taps).
- No train access to the site.
- Parking capacity.

While these constraints will need to be further investigated and addressed through careful design, they are not considered overly restrictive to either the performance of the site as a dedicated dog park, nor are they expected to significantly impact the function of the park or local amenity.

Process to change site designation from on-leash to off-leash.

As Gordon Barnard Reserve is currently designated on-leash, should this proposal proceed, the area shown as Site 2 on **Attachment 2** will need to be changed from on-leash to off-leash.

To achieve this, the relevant Local Laws officers will need to undertake a statutory process to amend the Council Order (that designates dog off-leash areas) made under the Domestic Animals Act 1994. The process to amend Council's Order will involve:

- a report to CB&D,
- a 28 day public consultation period,
- a report to Services Special Committee Meeting to present the submissions from the public consultation process, and
- a report to Council for consideration of adoption of the proposed amendment.

The overall timeframe to complete the required statutory process to amend the Council Order would be in the vicinity of 4-6 months. Costs to amend the Order can be accommodated through Local Law's operational budget.

It should be noted that all of our current dog off-leash reserves have been designated as the entire area of each respective reserve/park. We have no reserves that have been partially designated as a dog off-leash reserve, as proposed under this model. That is not to say it cannot be done, but will take some thinking through how we define the designated area to make it enforceable.

Potential locations for the introduction of 'dog friendly play areas'

The following sites are recommended for further investigation to install additional dog friendly infrastructure and limited fencing (where required):

- Koonung Creek Reserve
- Hays Paddock
- Fairview Park
- Frog Hollow Reserve
- Markham Victory Reserve

These sites performed well in the site suitability assessment, are large enough to absorb the additional infrastructure without unduly impacting the existing park character and amenity, and provide a good geographic spread of more dog friendly areas across the municipality.

Other progress updates

Fritsch Holzer Park improvements

Following the last meeting, Council agreed to proceed with a number of park improvements the community told us they would like to see at Fritsch Holzer Park including:

- Installation of an additional drinking fountain with dog bowl.
- Replace the existing drinking tap adjacent to the bbq area with an accessible drinking fountain with a bottle refill tap.
- Investigate options for new tree and shrub planting noting the requirement to maintain the existing clay capping.
- Upgrade the central blue gravel circulation/maintenance access path with a cement stabilised gravel path.
- Implement the 'missing link' from the existing path network to Camberwell Road, via an unsealed cement stabilised gravel path extension.

Planning and design of these items is complete and, pending Department of Education and Training approval for works on their land, are scheduled for implementation commencing April 2020.

Applied for grant funding under the Local Parks Program

Earlier this year the Victorian Government's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) announced a funding initiative to deliver 16 new dog parks across metropolitan Melbourne as part of their Local Parks Program. Each of the 16 new dog parks has been allocated to a specific local council area, including one park within Boroondara.

Since the announcement officers have attended a number of information sessions to learn more about the program. Of particular interest is a 'Technical Manual - Planning, Design and Management of Off-Leash Areas' that is expected to be released by the Victorian Government in February 2020. This manual is intended to assist local governments to plan, design and manage dog off-leash parks funded under the Local Parks Program.

The first round of funding opened in October 2019, and officers have submitted a grant application for \$275,000 to assist with the development of a dedicated dog park in Boroondara. The grant application is consistent with the guidelines specified by DELWP. While no specific location was submitted in the application, if successful, the grant funding may be directed to this project, pending the outcome of the community consultation process.

Announcement of successful applications is expected in early 2020.

5. Consultation/communication

Internal consultation has been undertaken with the following Council departments:

- Parks and Infrastructure
- Traffic and Transport
- Local Laws
- Environment and Sustainable Living
- Recreation and Wellbeing
- Strategic Communications

Pending Council's decision to proceed with the consultation process, a consultation strategy will be prepared focusing on the provision of a fenced 'dog friendly play area' within Gordon Barnard Reserve.

Information will be sent to residents within 500m of the proposed site, and the project will be promoted via Council's website, social media, Bulletin and ward newsletters (as appropriate). This approach is intended to reach both immediately affected residents, as well as the broader community who may wish to travel to the facility from further afield.

An additional mail out and invitation to attend an information session(s) will also be sent to residents immediately abutting the proposed site. This will provide local residents with more targeted consultation material and personal briefings, intended to help them to better understand what is proposed, and help us to better understand and respond to any specific local concerns.

This approach is intended to enable both immediately affected residents, as well as the broader community to have their say before Council makes any decision whether to proceed with the proposal at this location or not.

6. Financial and resource implications

The 2019/2020 September Amended Budget includes an allocation of \$182,000 to implement the nominated improvements at Fritsch Holzer Park, and to part fund the further investigation, design and delivery of a dedicated dog park in Boroondara. Funding in the order of \$350,000 is expected to be required to deliver a dedicated dog park, pending the size of the facility and desired level of infrastructure provision.

Pending the outcome of the Local Parks Program grant application process, any additional funding requirement will be referred to Council via the budget process.

There is additional funding foreshadowed in the 2019/2020 adopted Budget for the investigation, design and development of additional dog parks in Boroondara. Pending Council's feedback, this funding could be redirected to investigate the opportunity to introduce more 'dog friendly play areas' (including some limited fencing) within existing dog off-leash reserves, in lieu of looking for more sites for additional fully fenced dedicated dog park's.

7. Governance issues

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest. The list of prescribed human rights contained in the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities has been reviewed in accordance with Council's Human Rights Compatibility Assessment Tool and it is considered that the proposed actions contained in this report represent no breaches of, or infringements upon, those prescribed rights.

8. Social and environmental issues

Consideration of 'location and amenity', 'infrastructure' and 'sensitive interface' criteria in the site suitability assessment process is intended to ensure key social and environmental issues are properly considered prior to any decision being made to develop a dedicated dog park in an existing park or reserve.

9. Evaluation and review

It is expected that the community will be passionate about this issue. Regardless of the careful assessment process used to inform officers' recommendation, there remains a risk that some local residents may rally to object to this proposal because Council is proposing to turn an area that is relatively underutilised by dog owners (due to its current dog on-leash status), into a higher activity dog assembly area, with more intensive use and associated impacts.

Should the project proceed, a robust monitoring and review process is recommended post implementation. This approach will provide the best path for success by enabling any issues to be identified and rectified quickly and efficiently, reduce Council's exposure to safety concerns and help minimise any negative impacts of these projects on our community. This approach will also help inform decisions about future dedicated dog park sites.

10. Conclusion

Reduced set-backs from sensitive interfaces and consideration of people's ability to walk dogs safely off-leash within 500m of the subject site are important changes to the assessment criteria.

Extending the assessment process to include dog on-leash as well as dog off-leash sites is intended to open up more potentially suitable sites, and potentially appeal to more users who want to be able to walk their dogs safely off-leash in an area where they are unable to do so now (ie value adding versus taking something away).

The site tour provided invaluable context, local information and insights that has helped inform and shape officers' recommendations. This goes beyond selecting a preferred location, and includes guidance on looking at other opportunities in future. In particular, the opportunity to introduce more 'dog friendly play areas' (including some limited fencing) within existing dog off-leash reserves has been suggested, in lieu of looking for more sites for the formal fully fenced dedicated dog park option.

Unless there is clear demonstrated demand for this type of facility, there remains a risk of significant community opposition. Testing community support early in the process not only minimises this risk, it demonstrates Council's genuine willingness to test ideas and respond to community views.

Finally, it is important to be mindful some community members may resist change, particularly change in what they perceive as 'their' local park. The consultation process proposed is designed to balance consideration of the needs and aspirations of both local and broader community members. Providing local residents with more targeted consultation material and personal briefings will help us to better communicate, and ultimately better understand and respond to local resident concerns, as well as those of the broader community.

On this basis, officers seek Council approval to commence consultation to test community support for the development of a dedicated dog park at Gordon Barnard Reserve (Site 2), as shown on **Attachment 2**.

Manager: Adam Hall, Environment & Sustainable Living

Report officer: Adam Hall, Manager Environment and Sustainable Living

SITE ASSESSMENT | BOROONDARA DOG PARK ASSESSMENT

MARKHAM RESERVE

LOCATION:

80 Victory Boulevard, Ashburton

SIZE OF POTENTIAL DOG PARK SITE:

Potential site 1: 8,000m²

Potential site 2: 7,900m²

SPATIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The park is relatively flat with wide expanses of underutilised grass areas and perimeter tree planting, with heavily vegetated areas and dense tree canopy along the southern boundary with Gardiners Creek. There is a well maintained gravel path circumventing the park, which connects to Gardiners Creek Trail along the northern boundary. There is a regional play ground located within the centre of the park.

ADJACENT USES:

A significant linear car park and road reserve provide a barrier between the park and the residential area to the north. South of the park is Gardiners Creek which is heavily vegetated. Medium density housing is proposed in the vicinity of the reserve.

PLANNING:

Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)

Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO)

The park is within an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.

The *Markham Victory Reserve Revised Concept Master Plan (2008)* provides direction to increase the diversity and range of recreational opportunities in this reserve, along with protecting and improving the biodiversity values of the riparian corridor.

POTENTIAL SITE 1

OPPORTUNITIES

- Moderate set-back from housing;
- Natural vegetated buffer along the creek line;
- Existing solar lighting, potential to extend;
- Multi-use space (re shared path, open space, playground, oval etc).
- Adjacent open space increases set back to housing;

- Only one residential interface;
- Existing parking along Victory Boulevard and Markham Avenue;

CONSTRAINTS

- Land Fill Site and potential time and cost impacts;
- Some isolated debris found at surface;
- Proximity to, and need to cross shared path;

OTHER COMMENTS

- Existing dog-off leash staus may lead to perception that proposal is "taking something away" as opposed to "providing a new service or activity";
- People can already walk their dogs safely in this park;
- Potential reputational risk due to potential environmental impacts;
- Dog equipment not supported at Reserve;

POTENTIAL SITE 2

- Natural vegetated buffer along the creek line;
- Existing solar lighting, potential to extend;
- Potential to include additional parking;
- Requires further on-site assessment by Traffic and Transport;
- Only one residential interface

CONSTRAINTS

- Poor set-back from housing
- No shelter or drink fountain in close proximity;
- Requires further on-site assessment by Traffic and Transport;
- Overhead high voltage electricity;
- Narrower compared to Site 1;
- Electricity is further away relative to potential Site 2;
- Closer to houses with potential overlooking issues;

OTHER COMMENTS

- Existing dog-off leash staus may lead to perception that proposal is 'taking something away' as opposed to "providing" a new service or 'activity';
- People can already walk their dogs safely in this park;



Site 1 Westward view from playground towards potential site 1



Site 1 Southward view to Gardiners Creek from potential site 1



Site 2 Eastward view from playground towards potential site 2

SITE ASSESSMENT | BOROONDARA DOG PARK ASSESSMENT



SITE ASSESSMENT | BOROONDARA DOG PARK ASSESSMENT

GORDON BARNARD RESERVE 1

LOCATION:

230 Balwyn Road, Balwyn North

SIZE OF POTENTIAL DOG PARK SITE:

Potential site 1: 3600m²

Spatial Characteristics

Moderate expanse of grass areas. Slightly undulating topography across the site, with a significant grade change at the northern end leading up to Tuxen and Tovey Streets.

Grass mounds with native tree planting flank the north and south sides of the site. Directly east of the site is a sports oval and play area within the reserve. South of the site is the temporary Balwyn Library site.

ADJACENT USES

The north and east boundaries comprise of low density residential development (NRZ3). West of the site across Balwyn Road is Hislop Reserve (additional public park and recreation area) comprised of three small spoorts grounds and grass open space.

PLANNING

Public park and recreation Zone (PPRZ)

The Gordon Barnard Reserve Masterplan (2001) has been widely implemented, with the remaining relevant actions addressing upgrades to access to and within the reserve.

POTENTIAL SITE 1

OPPORTUNITIES

- Good set-back to housing;
- Existing adjacent sport lighting could supply power for future lighting;
- High use site by dog owners (on-leash);
- Some natural shade;
- Existing car park;
- Existing mound and vegetation buffer;
- Reduce conflict with use of sports oval;

CONSTRAINTS

- Errant balls from sports ovals would need to be managed through design;
- Some low spots that would need to be adjusted to improve drainage;
- Proximity to native flora and fauna;
- Limited existing amenities (shelter, water).

OTHER COMMENTS

- Central location within the City of Boroondara;
- Facility would be visible from the road;
- Proximity to the road makes the site unsuitable for other uses;
- Offset loss open space through demolition of Balwyn Community Centre building;
- Existing on-leash status may lead to perception of "providing new service" as opposed to "taking something away";
- Can't walk dog safely in this location now.



Site 1 Northward view towards potential site

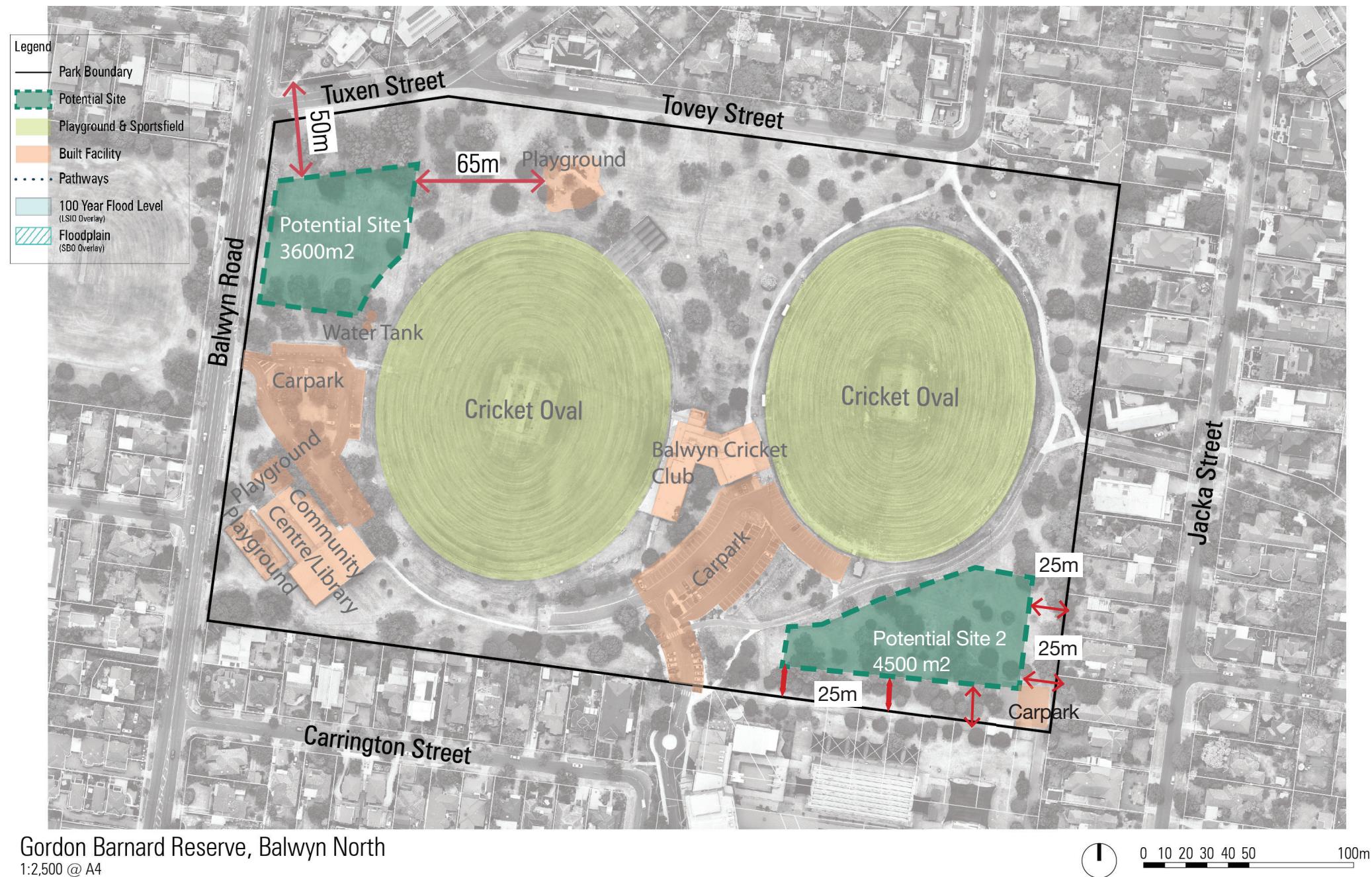


Site 1 Southward view from potential site towards carpark



Site 1. Northward view from Balwyn Road. An open space defined by good tree cover

SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT | BOROONDARA DOG PARK ASSESSMENT



SITE ASSESSMENT | BOROONDARA DOG PARK ASSESSMENT

GORDON BARNARD RESERVE 2

LOCATION:

230 Balwyn Road, Balwyn North

SIZE OF POTENTIAL DOG PARK SITE:

- Potential site 2: 4500 m²

Spatial Characteristics

A pocket of lightly treed open space defined by adjacent pool, residences and open space adjoining the cricket oval. Access to carparking and a clearly defined edge along two boundaries. The site includes good tree cover and excellent visibility.

ADJACENT USES

The north and east boundaries comprise of low density residential development (NRZ3). West of the site across Balwyn Road is Hislop Reserve (additional public park and recreation area) comprised of three small sports grounds and grass open space.

PLANNING

Public park and recreation Zone (PPRZ)

The Gordon Barnard Reserve Masterplan (2001) has been widely implemented, with the remaining relevant actions addressing upgrades to access to and within the reserve.

POTENTIAL SITE 2 OPPORTUNITIES

- Moderate set-back to housing, minimal overlooking, low numbers of properties abut site;*
- Has good access to power and water*
- Potential for dual use shelter - dedicated dog park and spectator sport use;*
- Potential to utilise grass embankment for sound attenuation to Boroondara Sports Complex;*
- The area is currently under-utilised, has excellent natural shade, character and visual amenity;*
- Good access to car parks on either side, eastern car park is underutilised;*
- Includes a separate entry road;*
- Includes good public transport options (ie two public bus routes)*

CONSTRAINTS

- Errant balls from the sports ovals may enter the dedicated dog park areas*
- Proximity to Boroondara Sports Complex, existing shared path, native flora and fauna and adjacent residential properties;*
- Limited existing amenities (shelter, water)*
- No train access to site;*
- Parking capacity;*

OTHER COMMENTS

- The site is an existing dog on- leash reserve and dogs cannot be walked safely off- leash in this location now may lead to perception of providing a "new service or activity" in the park, rather than the perception that we are "taking something away"*
- The site may help address unauthorised off- leash use of the existing sporting fields;*

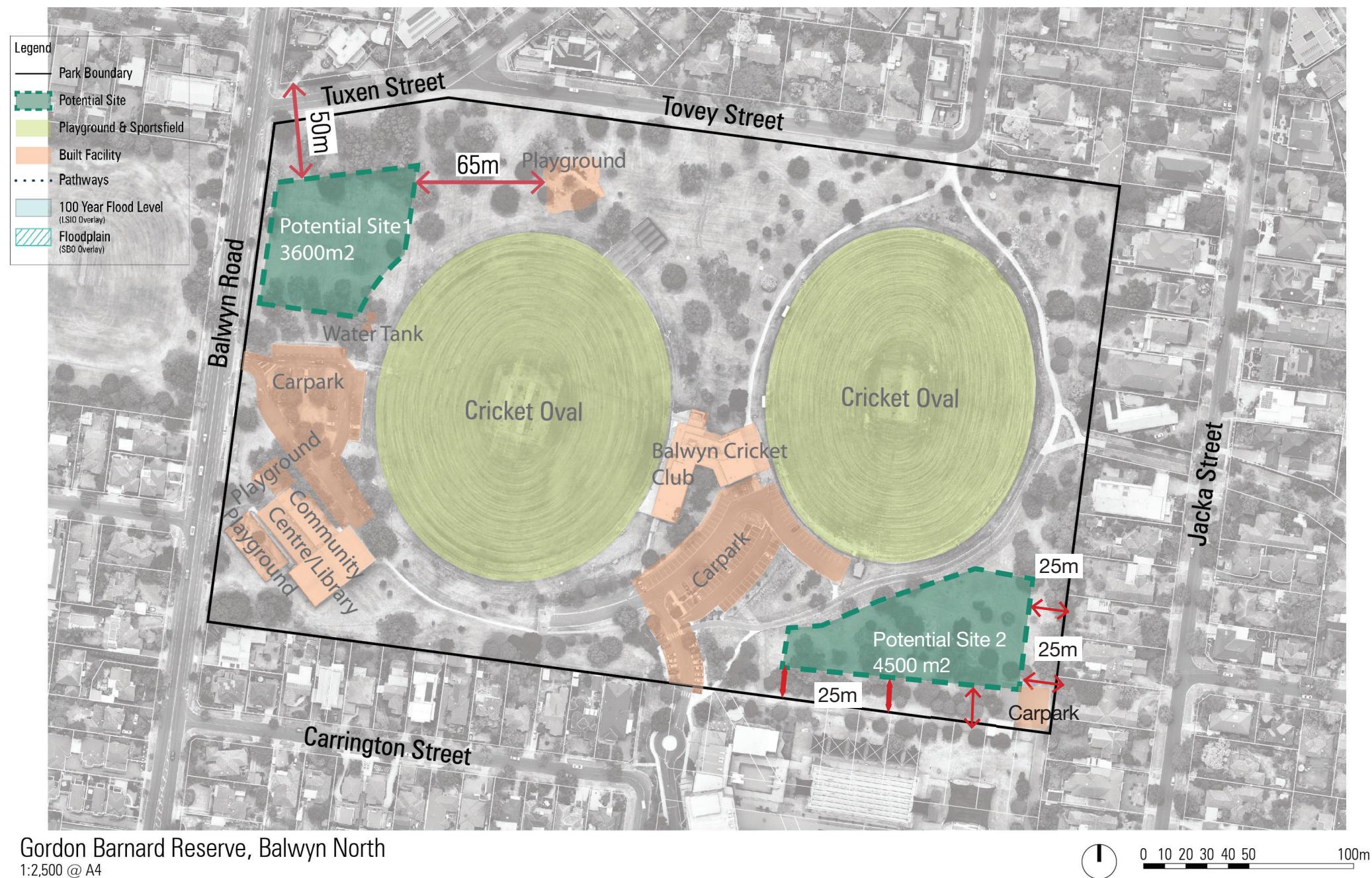


Site 2 Northward view towards potential site



Site 2 Southward view from potential site towards carpark

SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT | BOROONDARA DOG PARK ASSESSMENT



SITE ASSESSMENT | BOROONDARA DOG PARK ASSESSMENT

HAYS PADDOCK

LOCATION:

27 Longstaff Street, Kew East

SIZE OF POTENTIAL DOG PARK SITE:

Potential site: 6,200m²

Spatial Characteristics

The park is a flat, wide expanse of grassed area. Street trees can be found along the western boundary driveway and along Longstaff Street offering dappled shade. The park has a car park and playground with two cricket ovals. The northern section of the park includes a regional play ground and relatively flat grass area used as an archery range.

ADJACENT USES:

The northern boundary of the park abuts a Category 1 Road with the east and south of the park comprising of low density residential. The western boundary of the park borders an Urban Floodway.

PLANNING:

Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)

The park is subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) and Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO).

The Boroondara Open Space Strategy (2012) acknowledges Hays Paddock as being the most visited of the regional open spaces in the municipality due largely to the presence of the regional playground. The Strategy also identifies the implementation of a Hays Paddock Master Plan (2011) as a high priority, which includes resolution of car parking, improved access and facilities that complement the playground.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Excellent set-back from housing;
- Existing use by Boroondara Dog Training Club;
- High use site for dog owners;
- Potential to reduce conflict between the sports oval users, archery club and dog users;
- Existing car park;
- Currently underutilised land;
- Relatively flat topography;
- Good shade, ambience, nearby shelter and picnic table;
- The creek is a good natural edge;

CONSTRAINTS

- Biodiversity corridor, proximity to Glass Creek and native flora and fauna including snakes;
- Prone to flooding;

OTHER COMMENTS

- People are already walking their dog safely, and appear happy with the existing arrangement;
- Existing 'Friends Group' have strong environmental focus and may not support proposal;
- Potential reputational risk due to potential environmental impacts;
- Existing dog off-leash status may lead to perception that proposal is 'taking something away' as opposed to 'providing' new service or activity;



View towards potential site from park driveway

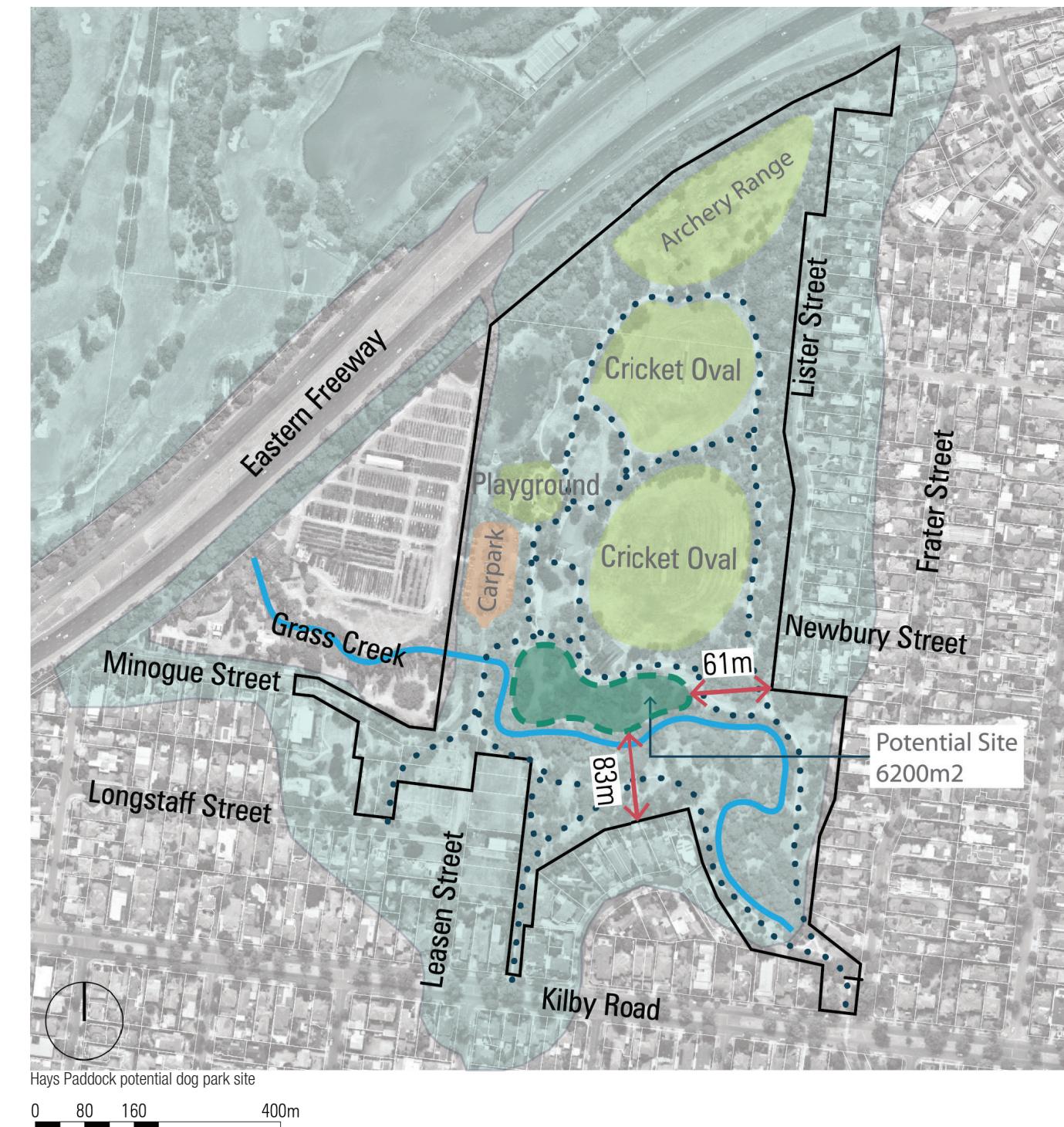
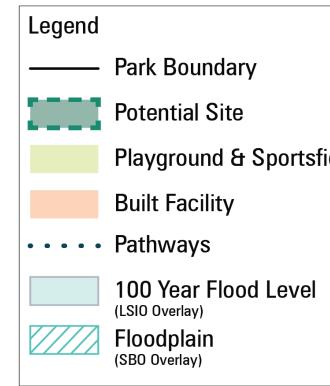


Westward view towards potential site



Eastward view towards potential site

SITE ASSESSMENT | BOROONDARA DOG PARK ASSESSMENT



SITE ASSESSMENT | BOROONDARA DOG PARK ASSESSMENT

BRINSLEY PARK RESERVE

LOCATION:

Brinsley Road Camberwell

SIZE OF POTENTIAL DOG PARK SITE:

Potential site: 3610 m²

Spatial Characteristics

The park is a gently undulating, meadow of trees and mown grass. The northern axis is defined by the Wandin Road rail reserve, which presents opportunities for future access and parking. The park has a mature tree canopy, with widely spaced trees and open grassland between.

ADJACENT USES:

North, South and West of the reserve is comprised of low density residential. The northern edge abuts an un-made road and the railway line.

PLANNING:

Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)

OPPORTUNITIES

- Good natural shade;
- Good set-back to housing;
- Opportunity to better utilise unmade road as POS;
- Park is currently under-utilised;
- Rail corridor provides good buffer to adjacent housing;

CONSTRAINTS

- Limited existing parking;
- Increased cost to demolish the gravel road and install car park;
- Local complaint 'hot spot';
- Some overlooking potential;

OTHER COMMENTS

- Previous request to discontinue the road; (tbc)
- Innovative response that reduces impact on existing POS;
- Existing dog on-leash status may lead to perception of "providing new service" as opposed to taking "something away";
- Can't walk dog safely in this location now.



Brinsley Park. View from Brinsley Rd



Brinsley Park. View towards easement



Brinsley Park. View west across open space

SITE ASSESSMENT | BOROONDARA DOG PARK ASSESSMENT





Dedicated Dog Park- Preferred Location - Site 2