

## Mapleton Dog Off-leash Area

### Project summary

In response to community requests in 2019 for a dog off-leash area in the Mapleton area, Council consulted with the community about potential sites. Based on this community input, three sites and concept designs were proposed for further community feedback in 2021:

- Mapleton Lilyponds Park - Fenced area
- Mapleton Lilyponds Park - Unfenced, off-leash area at specified times
- Mapleton Fire Brigade Park - Fenced area.

### How the community was consulted

A survey was broadly distributed and promoted to residents in the Mapleton area between 3 and 24 March, 2021.

Overall, 291 surveys were completed and 19 letters were received from residents and stakeholders. This provided a good overall number of responses to identify the favoured design.

### Overall survey findings

Residents were asked to rate each location in order of preference from high to low and describe why this rating was selected.

The survey feedback identified several design features that are of importance to Mapleton residents across all of the proposed dog off-leash sites:

1. In general, the area needs to be fenced. Residents were in strong support of a design incorporating fencing for an off-leash dog area for reasons benefiting both dog owners, dogs, other park users and wildlife.

Residents said:

- Dogs can be kept safe – they can't run on road and are able to be kept away from the water.
  - Residents, families and children that do not wish to interact with dogs can feel comfortable knowing dogs are contained in a separate area.
  - The wildlife is able to be protected from off-leash dogs.
2. Any off-leash area should make sure noise impacts to adjacent residences and other uses are considered.
  3. Adequate shade and seating is important.
  4. The size of the area needs to be adequate for dogs to run and play. Some respondents requested consideration of separate areas for large and small dogs. Past experience has demonstrated that this type of segregation creates a host of new problems mainly from people that allow their large dog into the small dog area and vice versa. It also requires duplication of facilities like fencing and furniture.
  5. Adequate parking needs to be provided.
  6. The overall design and, in particular, any fencing should minimise the visual impact and maintain the visual amenity of the park area.

### What was the preferred dog off-leash site and concept?

Table 1 shows the percentage of residents who rated each of the three dog off-leash sites and concepts high, medium or low preference. Each column adds up to 100%.

**Table 1: Percentage of residents marking each preference option for each site/concept**

Preference rating	Mapleton Lilyponds Park - Fenced area	Mapleton Fire Brigade Park - Fenced Area	Mapleton Lilyponds Park - Unfenced, off-leash area at specified times
1 - High	45%	41%	26%
2 - Middle	47%	32%	14%
3 - Low	8%	27%	60%
	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

The key results show that:

- The Mapleton Lilyponds Park - Fenced area is the preferred option with 92 percent of residents rating this site in one of their top two preferences.
- The Mapleton Fire Brigade Park - Fenced area was the second preferred option, with 73 percent of residents rating this in one of their top two preferences. However, a relatively large group of residents rated this as their least preferred site (27 percent of residents).
- Residents generally rejected the Mapleton Lilyponds Park - Unfenced, off-leash area at specified times with 60 percent of residents rating this as their least preferred option.

## Mapleton Lilyponds Park Summary

### Positives:

- A good overall layout and central location, close to shops. It would also encourage better use of this section of the Lilyponds Park.
- A pleasant area, well-located and away from other park users, thereby creating less impact on other park users.
- No access time restrictions.
- Access to existing toilet facilities and recreational areas.
- Good access for all, with ramps and rails and good proximity to car parking whilst being away from the main road and vehicular traffic.
- This is a drier site than the other Lilyponds site option.

### Considerations:

- Distance from existing residences.
- The location's slope and incline.
- Size of overall area for dog exercise.
- Buffer planting to existing residences.

## Summary and next steps

Council has heard that, of the three options, the community prefers the Mapleton Lilyponds Park fenced dog off-leash area.

Council will use the community feedback to further refine the site and design concept.

Next steps will include a final design and a proposal to include the construction in the forthcoming budget.

### Further information

If you require further information about the Mapleton Dog Off-leash Area project, please contact Council's project team via [LandscapeDesignandPlanning@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:LandscapeDesignandPlanning@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

Or contact Council's customer service via the details below (please quote Mapleton Dog Off-leash Area).

### A note from your local councillor

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Mapleton Dog Off-leash consultation. Based on your feedback Council has a clear direction for the preferred Mapleton Lilyponds Park - fenced dog off-leash area. The design concept will be refined to better meet the needs of all park users and nearby residents.

I look forward to seeing the final designs and sharing those with you.

Cr David Law







#### LEGEND

- Boundary of fenced dog off leash area
- 01 Proposed shelter and picnic setting
- 02 Proposed seating
- 03 Proposed vehicle maintenance gate

