



# Dogs in Public Places:

## Off-leash Opportunities

Rural City of Murray Bridge  
April 2022



## Acknowledgement of Country

The Rural City of Murray Bridge acknowledges that we are on the traditional Country of the Ngarrindjeri people and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Ngarrindjeri people living today.



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# Executive Summary

This study is about dogs and their accessibility to public places, in particular off-leash areas within the Rural City of Murray Bridge. At present, dogs can only be taken to a designated fenced dog park to exercise off-leash. Currently there are four designated fenced dog parks, all within the urban area of Murray Bridge.

This means that dog owners are restricted in the choice of places they can take their dog(s). The current situation does not cater for the differing needs of dog owners and fails to consider that some dogs are not suitable for a fenced dog park experience. This can include dogs who are fearful or nervous around other dogs, dogs that are under socialised, and dogs that may be easily aroused.

This report recommends the provision of other types of off-leash opportunities to overcome the limited choice of off-leash areas within the Council area, such as time-share arrangements at nominated sites along the river front, and on Council sporting reserves and ovals. This approach will build on the benefits of integrating dogs into the community and better serve dog ownership.

The existing four fenced dog parks and proposed new off-leash areas will provide a good start in developing a network of off-leash areas across the Rural City of Murray Bridge. A combination of off-leash options will provide a better balance to satisfy the needs of different users (i.e., humans and dogs).

The recommendations contained in this report focus on the existing designated fenced dog parks and additional off-leash opportunities such as time-share arrangements along the river front and on Council sporting reserves and ovals:

## Existing designated fenced dog parks

- The existing designated fenced parks are to be upgraded or improved before the development of any additional fenced dog parks. It's recommended Johnstone Park be upgraded first, followed by Tim Overall Reserve, White Park and Kuchel Park.
- The key areas in most parks for improvement include the installation of new drinking water stations, double gating system, fencing, planting of trees for shade, and new signage. Some parks would also benefit from a redesign of the park layout to create different activity zones.

## Time-share arrangements

- The study also proposes the introduction of time-share arrangements along the river front and on Council sporting reserves and ovals. It is recommended that the time-share arrangements along the river front be trialled to sort out any issues before rolling out the new provisions permanently.

Refer to pages 20 -23 for a list of recommendations and pages 41-43 for examples of fenced dog park amenities.

# 1. Introduction

Companion animals or pets such as dogs can play a significant role in the lives of many Australians. They can provide companionship, physical and mental health benefits and facilitate social interactions within the community (Animal Medicines Australia, 2019). In short, dogs are an important part of a healthy and socially connected community.

In 2021, the Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB) had 4,806 registered dogs, and as the population grows it's important for Council to plan to meet the changing needs of the community (including both human and companion animals). Access to public places is also beneficial to dogs, providing exercise, enrichment, and opportunities for them to socialise and to minimise 'nuisance' behaviours such as barking.

## Purpose

This study is about dogs and their accessibility to public places, in particular off-leash areas within the Rural City of Murray Bridge. This focus on off-leash areas was in response to a specific action in the current Animal Management Plan 2020-2025:

Action	Dogs in Council Reserves and other Public Places
Action Plan 8	>> Investigate the creation of two additional dog parks in the RCMB, including one in Murray Bridge East (p. 23).

While the action in the Animal Management Plan centres on dog parks (fenced), this study has adopted a broader approach to examine other off-leash opportunities for dogs. This offers a more holistic and coordinated method to the provision of off-leash options and upgrade of existing fenced dog parks.

This study provides Council with an opportunity to address dog off-leash planning at a broader scale and contribute to the Rural City of Murray Bridge's Community Plan 2016-2032 and Animal Management Plan 2020-2015.

This study was undertaken with Council staff, and the wider community via an online survey. You can read more about the community consultation in Section 5.

## Approach

This study employed the following steps:

- Overview of the benefits of pets and importance of planning for dogs
- Identification of Council strategic plans relevant to the study
- Understanding of the study area including dog registrations and existing off-leash provisions
- Community consultation via an online survey (Off-Leash Opportunities for Dogs Survey, 2021)
- Review of existing designated fenced dog parks.

## What is an off-leash area?

The main types of off-leash areas include:

- **Designated fenced dog park** – this is a fully fenced area which has been set aside specifically for dog owners/guardians to legally exercise their dogs off-leash (24/7).
- **Time-share arrangements** – this is where dogs can be off-leash at specific times of the day (e.g., 6am – 10 am). This is typically used by other Councils for sporting reserves and beach foreshores.
- **Off-leash 24/7 but not a designated fenced dog park**– This area could be partially or fully fenced or have no fencing.

In off-leash areas, dog owners/guardians must always have their dog(s) under effective control or supervision.

## 2. Setting the Scene

*“Two in every three homes in Australia have at least one pet. When you consider that lot sizes are getting smaller and census data shows an increase in apartment living, pets need to be catered for in parks and other public spaces.” (Planning Institute of Australia, 2012: n.p.).*

Australia has a high rate of pet ownership with around 62% of households owning a pet with 38% owning a dog and 29% owning a cat (Pet Industry Association of Australia, 2018).

Research (Stanley et al. 2014; Wood et al. 2015) shows that pets can bring a range of health and wellbeing benefits to individual pet owners/guardians such as providing companionship, boosting activity levels, facilitating social interactions with other people and connecting with the broader community.

### Australia

- Estimated 5.1 million pet dogs in Australia
- 25 million people<sup>1</sup>
- 20 dogs per 100 people

### Rural City of Murray Bridge

- 4,806 registered dogs (2020/21)
- Estimated resident population 22,847 (2020)<sup>2</sup>
- 21 dogs per 100 people

### **Benefits of pets**

The benefits of pet ownership include:

#### **Pets are good for our general health and well-being**

- People with pets make fewer visits to the doctor
- People with pets are at lower risk of cardiovascular disease than non-pet owners

#### **Pets are good for an ageing population**

- Pets can boost activity levels in older people, helping to improve overall health
- Pets provide companionship for older adults living alone

#### **Pets are good for children**

- Young children with pets are more likely to exercise
- Children or adolescents with pets have shown to have higher self-esteem

#### **Pets are good for the community**

- Pets can help people build social bridges in communities
- People with pets are more likely to have conversations with other people.

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<sup>1</sup> Animal Medicines Australia, 2019. (p. 6)

<sup>2</sup> [Profile id community, Rural City of Murray Bridge, Community Profile](#)



## Planning for pets

Almost a quarter of Australians live in medium to high-density housing (PIAS, 2010: 5). As block sizes get smaller, and dwellings extend closer to fence lines and property boundaries, this can lead to less private outdoor space for dogs, and a greater demand for public spaces including off-leash areas.

As these trends grow, it's important for Councils to consider the needs of dogs and their owners/guardians in the planning and design of public places.

As our population ages and older couples and singles start downsizing, many Australians look to maintaining their lifestyle when moving from the family home into a retirement village with their companion animals (e.g., dogs). This could place a greater demand for off-leash areas.

The planning and design of off-leash and on-leash areas such as walking trails, streetscapes and other public places can provide enriching areas for both dogs and their owners/guardians and encourage people to 'get out and about' in the community. A mix of off-leash and on-leash areas provide a good network of public places for dogs and their owners/guardians.



### 3. Strategic Context

This study will contribute to achieving strategies in the Rural City of Murray Bridge’s Community Plan 2016-2032, Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2013, and Animal Management Plan 2020-2025.

#### Community Plan 2016 – 2032

This is the main plan that determines the key priorities and commitments for the Rural City of Murray Bridge. The themes that are relevant to this study are ‘*Valued Environment*’ and ‘*Great People and Lifestyle*’.

Themes	Strategic Objectives
<b><i>Valued Environment</i></b>	>> Great places for people >> Activate the river >> Clean environmentally sustainable communities
<b><i>Great People and Lifestyle</i></b>	>> A safe, healthy and active community >> Plan liveable, connected and accessible places >> Our history, diversity and culture is treasured

#### Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2013 (Volume 3)

The Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2013 refers to the establishment of off-leash areas:

##### *Dog Parks*

*“Establish a network of open spaces as suitable locations for dog exercising, including provision of off-leash dog parks where dogs can be exercised without a leash, thereby improving the health and fitness of both dog and owner and increasing opportunities for dog socialisation. Reference should be made to the SA Guidelines for Dog Parks (Dog & Cat Management Board)” (see S7, p. 38)<sup>3</sup>.*

#### Animal Management Plan 2020-2025

As shown in the introduction, this study was in response to a specific action in the current Animal Management Plan (*Action Plan 8: Dogs in Council Reserves and other Public Places*):

*“Investigate the creation of two additional dog parks in the RCMB, including one in Murray Bridge East” (see p. 23).*

#### Other Council Plans and By-Laws relevant to Dogs in Public Places:

- Water Based Recreation Plan, 2021
- Dogs By-Law 2016.

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<sup>3</sup> Additional trees to provide shade during summer was noted (Volume 2, p. 29)

## 4. Study Area

The Rural City of Murray Bridge is about 75 kilometres south-east of Adelaide, South Australia. It takes about 60 minutes to travel by car between Murray Bridge and Adelaide via the south-eastern freeway which makes it possible to commute to the city for work, and day trippers to visit Murray Bridge.

The Council area has a mix of urban, natural, and rural land uses covering an area of 1,832 square kilometres and includes the urban area of Murray Bridge, and outlying townships of Callington, Monarto, Jervois, Mypolonga, Wellington, Woodlane and Woods Point.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge has an estimated resident population of 22,847 (2020 ABS ERP)<sup>4</sup> and the bulk of the population live in Murray Bridge. The population is expected to increase from the current population of 22,847 to 28,143 by 2041 (which is approximately an increase of 5,296 or 23% over 20 years).<sup>5</sup> The highest growth areas will occur in Newbridge and Hindmarsh Road<sup>6</sup> (which are currently under construction). Growth in Murray Bridge East is expected to be minimal.<sup>7</sup>

### Dog population

The Rural City of Murray Bridge has 4,806 dogs listed as registered (June 2020/21). However, this may be higher due to dogs being unregistered. The suburbs and townships with higher numbers of registered dogs are below. Refer to **Appendix A** for a full list of dog registrations by suburbs/ townships.

Suburb/ Township	No. of registered dogs
Murray Bridge	2,685
Murray Bridge East	329
Riverglades	214
Callington	199
Mypolonga	133
Gifford Hill	94

There is clearly a higher registered dog population in the urban area of Murray Bridge, and with construction of additional, new residential developments (i.e., Newbridge and Hindmarsh Estate), this is likely to lead to a greater demand for public open space for dogs. These developments are within a short drive to the existing designated fenced dog parks.

The other type of housing development that may add additional pressure on public open space is 'dog-friendly' retirement villages, and the provision of 'dog-friendly' open spaces near these developments is a consideration (Refer to Section 7, Retirement villages and dogs).

### Existing off-leash provisions

Under Council's current provisions, dogs can only be off-leash in a designated fenced dog park. This means dogs must be on-leash at all other times in a public place or prohibited in areas such as children's playgrounds.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Rural City of Murray Bridge Community Profile <https://profile.id.com.au/murray-bridge/population>

<sup>5</sup> Information provided by Council staff via email

<sup>6</sup> The residential development is known as Hindmarsh Estate

<sup>7</sup> Information provided by Council staff

<sup>8</sup> Refer to Dogs By-Law 2016

## 5. Community Consultation

An important part of this study was to hear the voices of the local community, their ideas, and preferences for off-leash opportunities within the Council area. An online survey was available to the community from 1st November to 26th November 2021 on Council's website under 'Let's Talk Murray Bridge'.

A total of 110 people responded to the survey. Here are some highlights below.

### Summary of survey findings

#### General

- Over 75% of respondents lived in the Murray Bridge area (includes Murray Bridge, Murray Bridge South, East and West)
- 95% of respondents were dog owners/guardians

#### Existing designated fenced dog parks

- Most survey respondents use the existing fenced dog parks
- Some reasons for not using the fenced dog parks included:

*"Not attractive to me to visit on a regular basis"*

*"One of the parks has gaps and my dog can escape ..."*

*"I am not sure how secure they are"*

*"We don't have an off-leash dog park at Wellington"*

*"Too far to walk to on a regular basis"*

*"We like to walk and explore, and you can't do that in a small, fenced dog park"*

*(survey respondents)*

- Johnstone Park is the most utilised fenced dog park in the Council area, followed by White Park, Tim Overall and Kuchel Park.
- Top five (5) concerns with the existing fenced dog parks (in order of priority) include:
  - Dog conflicts
  - Shade
  - General maintenance
  - Cleanliness
  - Safety.
- Some people (48 respondents) **support the establishment of additional fenced dog parks**. Suggested locations included:
  - Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge East/Riverglades, and Newbridge.
- Features identified as '**very important**' in fenced dog parks (in order of priority) included:
  - Bins and dog bag dispensers (92)
  - Fully fenced (90)
  - Drinking fountain availability for dogs and people i.e., dual purpose (72)
  - Double entry/exit gates (67)
  - Variety of activity zones or spaces (67)
  - Shade (65)
  - Separate areas for dogs (60).

### Other off-leash opportunities

- Most respondents (83%) were **supportive of other off-leash options** (i.e., more than designated fenced dog parks). There was a high preference for **off-leash options along the riverfront**, followed by council reserves and parks. Suggested locations included:
  - Sturt Reserve
  - Avoca Dell
  - Rural Avenue Park
  - Thiele Reserve
  - Long Island
  - Township of Wellington.

### Time-share off leash areas

- The majority (71%) of respondents supported the provision of time-share off-leash areas
- Most respondents (84%) supported a time-share arrangement along parts of the river frontage
- There was a higher preference for dogs off-leash between 0600am-10 am & 4.00pm-6.00 pm.

### Additional feedback

Other ideas from survey respondents included:

*“Current dog parks ... do not provide a lot of enrichment for the dogs”*

*“... love a place for dogs to swim”*

*“Drinking fountains for the humans would be rather nice”*

*“Places for greyhounds to run”*

*“People won’t respect the time zone...”*

*“The Johnstone Park is the centre dog park in Murray Bridge. It's the most accessible, has the greatest parking opportunities and is accessible to tourists and travellers coming through. We would love to have some shade in the centre, water features, more benches, paths, dog water features, and a Cafe next door would be amazing!”*

*“I like the idea of it being next to or incorporated as part of a bar or cafe!! Incorporated to the new Riverfront could be great”*

*“The Murray Bridge area has a good amount but not a lot of facilities within the area. Dog parks near RV stops is extremely useful for travellers.”*

*“I would like to suggest that you have a look at the Hazelmere Dog Park at Oakland's Park in Adelaide they have some fantastic features, e.g., a generous path all the way around the park (great for wheelchairs, prams, walkers etc).*

*“Effective educational signage to assist dog owners on dog behaviours, lots of seating options, "air-locks" at every entry point, high fencing ...”*

The Consultant has prepared a separate report detailing the survey findings (dated 14 December 2021).

Feedback from the **Animal Management Plan Survey 2019** is summarised in **Appendix D**.

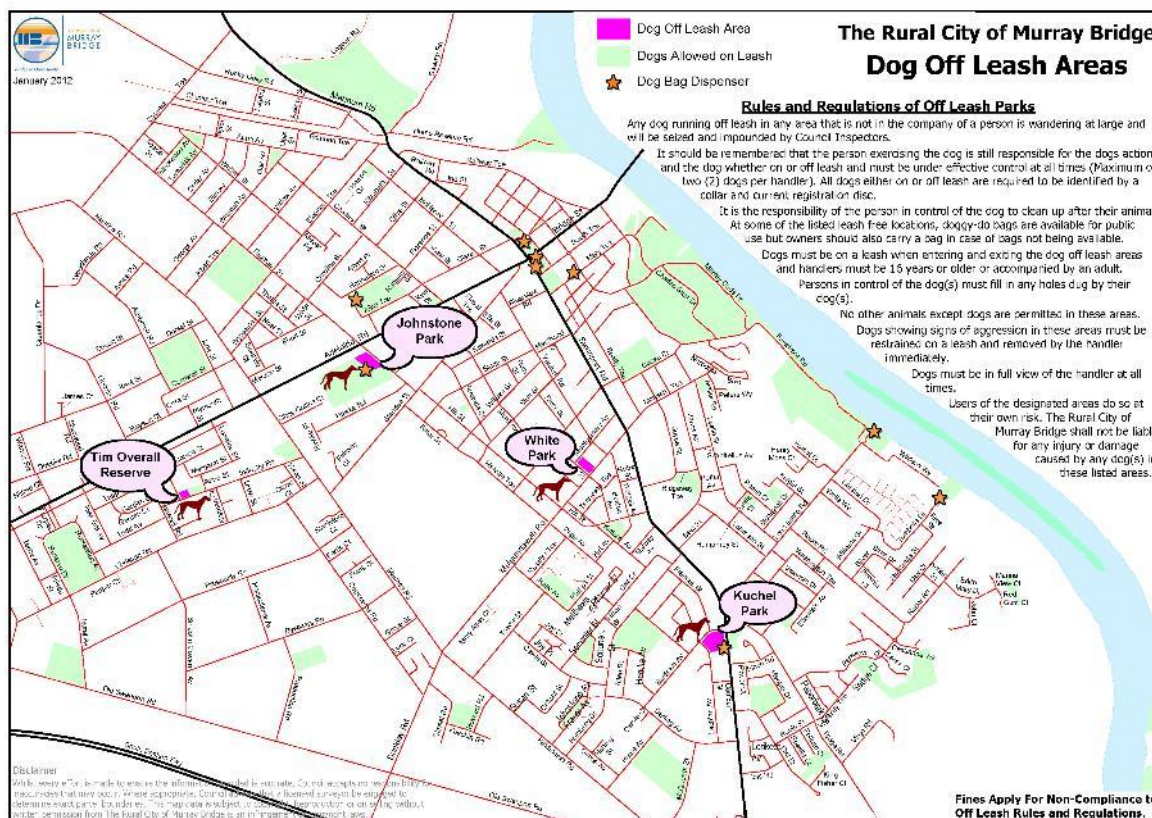
## 6. Existing Fenced Dog Parks

There are currently four designated fenced dog parks in the Rural City of Murray Bridge:

- Johnstone Park (Adelaide Road)
- Tim Overall Reserve (Industry Road)
- White Park (Montgomery Ave)
- Kuchel Park (Corner of Swanport Road and Burdekin Avenue).

The fenced dog parks are all located within the central area of Murray Bridge, South of Adelaide Road (Map 1).

**Map 1: Location of existing designated fenced dog parks**



The fenced dog parks vary in size ranging from approximately 1,400 to 10,400 sq metres and were constructed over 11 years ago.

Kuchel Park, Tim Overall Reserve and White Park are single purpose parks. They all back onto residential properties and users are expected to park on the surrounding local streets. Johnstone Dog Park is co-located in a multipurpose facility with a football oval, netball courts, cricket nets, public amenities, and has off-street parking.

See **Table 1** for a summary of the existing fenced dog parks.

### Review of existing fenced dog parks

A review of the existing fenced dog parks was undertaken by the consultant in October–November 2021. The review comprised of a series of site visits, and an audit of the facilities and general amenity of the parks. See **Appendix B** for the audit sheets and supporting photographs.

There are good park features, and several areas for improvement.

### Good Park features

- All parks were fully fenced with Johnstone Park and Tim Overall Reserve having separate areas for dogs
- Double gates with 'doggie airlock' were present at Johnstone Park, White Park and Kuchel Park. However, they were not at all entry/exit points
- Kuchel Park embraced a stormwater detention basin with trees providing plenty of natural shade and a walking path around the basin
- White Park and Tim Overall Reserve both had shelters. The shelter at Tim Overall Reserve straddles the fence of the two (2) separate areas which is a clever cost saving measure
- Johnstone Park has lighting. However, it's unclear if this is programmed for certain times of the day or manually activated.

### Areas for improvement

In general, there were common issues across all the parks including:

- Inadequate drinking water stations
- Double gating system with small 'doggie airlock'
- Insecure fencing (gaps underneath and low fence height).

The areas for improvement are detailed below.

#### Replace the drinking water stations for dogs

Three of the fenced dog parks (excluding Kuchel Park<sup>9</sup>) use stock troughs for drinking water stations. This type of water station poses some accessibility and maintenance challenges for dogs, their owners/guardians and maintenance for staff such as:

- Smaller dogs may not be able to access the trough to drink because it's too high
- The design of the station does not allow owners/guardians to tip out dirty or stagnant water and refill the trough with fresh water
- Water sitting in the troughs appears to be of poor quality
- Poor drainage around the troughs leaving muddy pools and a big 'mess'.

#### *Suggested improvements*

- The existing water troughs should be replaced with a more suitable drinking water fountain that include 'dog-friendly' options such as a round, tiltable dog bowl that is easy to empty and with good drainage.
- Council may also like to consider a dual water station that caters for both dogs and people (See survey findings).

#### Perimeter fencing

- Although the parks are fully fenced, the perimeter fencing was generally low (approx. 1.2 m) and poorly maintained with gaps underneath.
- All fences need to be a sufficient height (approx. 1.7m) to deter dogs jumping over and escaping. The height of the fencing is particularly important for those fenced dog parks close to busy roads. It is ideal to have the perimeter fence extend to the ground with a bottom rail or plinth to prevent dogs going under the fence and escaping.
- At Johnstone Park accessibility to the fenced dog park from Thomas Street is closed during football games.

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<sup>9</sup> Kuchel Park has a foot activated bubbler.

### *Suggested improvements*

- Extend the height of the perimeter fence, particularly for those fenced dog parks facing roads with high traffic volumes.
- Assess the condition of the fencing in all parks and determine if repair, or new fencing would be more cost effective.
- Construct a new double entry/exit gating system (approx. 2.5 x 2.5m airlock with hard surface) from Thomas Street to allow access to Johnstone Dog Park during football matches.
- Keep the swing on gates consistent in all the fenced dog parks, i.e. gate swings ‘away’ on entry and is pulled towards user on exit.

### Double gating system (‘doggie airlock’)

- The double gates (doggie airlock) were present in some fenced dog parks, but not present at all entry/exit points. They were quite small, and this can be difficult (‘a tight squeeze’) for dog owners with mobility aides such as scooters or people with pushers for their dogs (e.g., old dogs in pushers).

### *Suggested improvements*

- Increase the size of the ‘doggie airlocks’ to approx. 2.5 x 2.5 m. As a minimum have one entry/exit point with a double gating system and ‘doggie airlock’.
- New entry/exit point (with double gates) at Johnstone Park to allow access from Thomas Street during football matches.

### Activity zones or areas

- Three of the fenced dog parks (except Kuchel Park) have grass, but there is little in the way for dogs to explore including enrichment activities.
- Some survey respondents (Dogs off-leash Survey 2021 and Animal Management Plan Survey 2019) expressed similar concerns regarding the lack of areas for dogs to explore.

*“Sight breaks/points of interest for dogs-shrubs-sensory gardens”*

*“Instead of a large green grass area, have some areas screened off so the dogs can explore and play in bushes, screening plants” (survey respondents)*

### *Suggested improvements*

- Different zones should be provided within the fenced dog parks to create distinct activity spaces & sensory nooks where dogs can sniff, and explore rather than have one large, open area.
- These different activity zones could be created by using mass plantings, mounding, coarse mulch and large rocks, and logs.

### Shade

- All parks except Kuchel Park had little in the way of natural shade (i.e., trees). Additional trees for shade were also raised in the Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2013 (Vol. 2, p. 29).

### *Suggested improvements*

- Plant trees for shade in existing fenced dog parks i.e., Johnstone, White and Tim Overall Dog Parks.

### Agility equipment

- Agility equipment is used in Johnstone Park, Tim Overall Reserve and White Park. Experience has shown that this sort of equipment is rarely used.<sup>10</sup> Survey respondents also raised the issue of agility equipment.

*“If you have exercise equipment have it blend into the environment not sticking out as a ‘look at me”*

*“Exercise equipment looks so ‘boring’ ... never seen any dog use”. (Refers to Johnstone Park) (survey respondents)*

- Agility equipment can pose a risk to dogs and their owners/guardians that are inexperienced in its use. It would be better to spend money on getting the basic infrastructure ‘up to scratch’.

### *Suggested improvements*

- It’s preferable to have natural enrichment for dogs e.g., logs, and rocks rather than ‘formal’ agility equipment.

### Park signage

- Information signage for the existing fenced dog parks is inconsistent, unclear or missing.
- Not all parks have signs indicating the type of park or that they are a designated fenced dog park.
- Signs that include park rules are important and the existing signs are text based and in small font which makes it hard for the user to read and understand.
- Although the provision of separate areas for large/small dogs or active/passive areas is a good feature there is no signage explaining the purpose of the separate areas in Johnstone Park and Tim Overall Reserve.

*“I live near one ... never knew it was a dog park” Make it know that these are actual dog parks. I’ve lived in Murray Bridge for 25 years and didn’t know we had one let alone four”*

*“Bigger signage stating they are dog parks.” (Please note that new signage has been installed at all fenced dog parks including a QR code linking the Council’s website.*

*“Education around how to use dog parks and dog park etiquette” (survey respondents).*

### *Suggested improvements*

- Develop a consistent signage format and strategy
- Erect signage to indicate its’ a designated fenced dog park
- Erect signage indicating the purpose of the separate dog areas (e.g., large/small dogs or active/passive areas)
- Develop dog park rules that are easy to read and understand
- Investigate using a combination of text and graphics for information signage and park rules.

### Wayfinding

- There is no wayfinding signage to direct potential users to the fenced dog parks. Signage is particularly relevant for Johnstone Dog Park which is located off Adelaide Road. This would be useful for travellers with dogs who are unfamiliar with the area such as day trippers, and travellers with RV’s and caravans.

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<sup>10</sup> Experience of the consultant.



### *Suggested improvements*

- Install wayfinding or directional signage to Johnstone Dog Park, and review wayfinding signage to the other parks.

### **Summary**

Given the inconsistencies of the facilities and amenities across the fenced dog parks, it is suggested that a list of minimum standards or guidelines be developed to guide the upgrades of the existing fenced dog parks and any future parks (see **Table 2** for an example of minimal standards).

- Guidelines should have a consistent approach to the infrastructure and amenities of fenced dog parks including fencing and double gating systems
- Guidelines may also include a preferred suite of park furniture including drinking fountains and signage.



**Table 1: Summary of existing fenced dog parks**

Dog Park	Size (m2)	Separate dog areas	Multi or single use park	Entry/ Exit gates	Dog water station	Shelter	Seating	Shade trees	Turf with irrigation	Fencing	Agility equipment
<b>Johnstone Park<sup>11</sup></b> Primary dog park	7,100	Yes	Multi-purpose facility (co-located)	Multiple	Yes (Stock trough)	No (Club room veranda only)	No	Limited	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Tim Overall Reserve<sup>12</sup></b> Secondary dog park	2,500	Yes	Single	Multiple (Not all gates have air locks)	Yes (Stock trough)	Yes	Yes	Limited	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>White Park<sup>13</sup></b> Secondary dog park	1,400	No	Single	Multiple (Not all gates have airlocks)	Yes (Stock trough)	Yes	Yes	Limited	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Kuchel Park<sup>14</sup></b> Secondary dog park	10,400	No	Single	Multiple (Not all gates have airlocks)	Yes (Foot-activated bubbler)	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

<sup>11</sup> Johnstone Park - large 5,800 m2 (70x95m approx), small - 1,300m2 (60x23 m approx)

<sup>12</sup> Tim Overall Reserve - large 1,500 m2 (35x45m approx) small - 1,000m2 (35x28m approx.)

<sup>13</sup> White Park - 1,400 m2 (30x45m approx.)

<sup>14</sup> Kuchel Park - 10,400 m2 (105x80m approx.).

**Table 2: Minimum Dog Park Standards (guide only)<sup>15</sup>**

	Elements	Standard
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Perimeter fencing	Chain mesh or /weld fencing, approx. 1.7m high with top and bottom rail, and with 50mm (nominal) mesh aperture
	Double gating system (doggie airlock)	Double-gating system at entry/exit points 1.7m high, 50mm (nominal) aperture with self-closing gates, child safety latch, and hard surface (e.g., concrete surface base) in airlock (approx. 2.5 x 2.5m) Airlock needs to be accessible to all (DDA compliant)
	Maintenance gates	Approx. 4m wide gates for light trucks/ lawn mowers and with secure padlock
	Surface materials	Combination of surfaces such as irrigated turf, high grade organic mulch (no string, plastic, rubbish), well drained sand for sand pits
	Internal pathway	Concrete path, cement stabilised compacted rubble DDA compliant
<b>Amenities</b>	Dual drinking fountain	1 dual water fountain per park with good drainage Preference for a round, tilt-able dog bowl to minimise mould build up around the edges
	Dog bag dispenser	1 per dog park
	Rubbish bin	1 per dog park
	Seating	Seating with back on a concrete pad
	Vegetation	Trees for shade
	Dog enrichment	Natural enrichment preferred over agility equipment. Different activity zones rather than one open area e.g., sensory nooks (plantings, rocks, logs)
<b>Signage</b>	Various signage	Dog park etiquette/rules Signs erected to indicate large/small dog areas or other variations e.g., passive and active dog areas Signs to indicate it's a designated fenced dog park Wayfinding

<sup>15</sup> The standard/guidelines have been tailored for the Rural City of Murray Bridge. For more information refer to the Dog and Cat Management Board (SA) Dog Park guidelines, Unleashed: a guide to successful dog parks.

## 7. Discussion & recommendations

Drawing on the background information, survey findings, review of the existing fenced dog parks, staff feedback and consultant's experience the following key themes have been identified.

### Limited choice & diversity

As discussed in Section 4, dogs are only allowed off-leash (24/7) in a designated fenced dog park within the Council area. This means that dog owners/guardians are quite restricted in the choice of places they can take their dog(s) off-leash. This off-leash position does not cater for the differing needs of dog owners/guardians and fails to consider that some dogs are not suitable for a dog park experience. This includes dogs who are fearful or nervous around other dogs, dogs that are under socialised, and dogs that may be easily aroused.

A range of off-leash opportunities should be considered to cater for the differing needs of dogs and their owners/guardians and to provide greater choice in the variety of off-leash experiences. Other off-leash options could include walking trails, time-share arrangements for sporting reserves/ovals and sites along the riverfront.

This study proposes to consider other off-leash opportunities (more than fenced dog parks) that offer greater choice and diverse experiences for both dogs and their owners/guardians. Different off-leash opportunities would build on the benefits of integrating dogs into the community and better serve dog ownership (see Section 2).

### Existing fenced dog parks

As discussed in Section 6, all the existing fenced dog parks require improvements to infrastructure including the installation of new drinking water stations, better gating systems, more secure fencing, planting of trees for shade, and new signage.

Some parks would benefit from a redesign of the layout to create different activity zones that cater for dogs with different needs. When planning and undertaking the park upgrades, it's important to maintain consistency of style across all parks with basic infrastructure such as gating, fencing, and park furniture.

After the review, it is suggested that the improvement or upgrade program be implemented in the following order:

- 1) Johnstone Park
- 2) Tim Overall Reserve
- 3) White Park
- 4) Kuchel Park.

It makes sense to start with the most visited park, and one that is co-located in a multipurpose park (regional park) serving both locals and visitors (including the pet-friendly traveller).

### Other off-leash opportunities – more than fenced dog parks!

This study proposes additional off-leash opportunities such as time-share arrangements along the river front, and on Council sporting reserves and ovals. These new off-leash options would be in addition to the existing provision of fenced dog parks. Providing a combination of different off-leash options is an effective way to balance the interests and needs of different users (i.e., humans and their dogs).

The development of any new fenced dog parks should be reassessed after the recommendations in this study have been budgeted for and programmed for construction. It is further suggested that any new fenced dog parks be co-located with other facilities.

### Time-share arrangements, river frontage

This study recommends time-share arrangements (0600 am -10 am & 4.00 pm - 6.00 pm) along sections of the riverfront where there is minimal conflict with other users. It is suggested the key steps in planning for time-share options should include:

- **Selection of three (3) trial sites (6-12 months trial including summer) that have low usage**, such as:
  - Hume Reserve
  - Swanport Reserve
  - Tumbella Drive.

(Refer to **Appendix C** for further information).

- **Provision of supporting infrastructure** such as doggy bags, dispensers and bins, and signage showing the boundaries of the trial site and the expectations of dog owners/guardians.
- **Evaluation** of trial sites including successes, challenges and lessons learnt.

### Sporting reserves & ovals

This study recommends time-share arrangements (0600 am -10 am & 4.00 pm - 6.00 pm) at the following ovals:

- Murray Bridge Showgrounds Oval
- Monarto Oval (Monarto Sporting Complex).

The Showgrounds Oval would provide off-leash opportunities for dog owners/guardians on the eastern side of the river such as Murray Bridge East and Riverglades. The Monarto Sporting Complex, on the road to Mannum offers public amenities, BBQ's, showers for travellers. This option would require negotiations with the primary users of the park.

### **Other considerations**

Other ideas and issues raised in this study included:

#### Other off-leash areas

- **Swimming spots for dogs:** Survey respondents (2021) identified they would like dog swimming areas (e.g. river). Potential sites would need to be fully assessed for hazards including the slope of the bank, the speed of moving water, and the slope of the river bottom and whether it's clear or has snags.
- **Other considerations for the off-leash network:** Investigate areas around Sturt Reserve and North of Adelaide Road (i.e., urban areas).

#### Off-leash areas for Greyhounds

- Identify a suitable fenced dog park for potential **greyhound off-leash opportunities** in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management Board, Off-leash Greyhound Events: Guidelines for Councils in South Australia (2020). The most suitable fenced dog park option at this stage for a supervised greyhound event is Johnstone Park.

#### Retirements villages & dogs

- Encourage retirement villages to include off-leash areas that cater for their residents with dogs. For example, [ACH, Perry Park](#) Retirement village and [Stockland, Lightsview](#) Retirement Village have fenced dog parks within their retirement village facilities.

## Maintenance

- Survey respondents identified maintenance and cleanliness as a top issue for the existing fenced dog parks. It is suggested to review the maintenance program in terms of frequency and scope.

## Recommendations

### 1.0 UPGRADE EXISTING FENCED DOG PARKS (PRIORITY: HIGH)

1.1 Develop **fenced dog parks standards** and a **preferred suite of park furniture** to have a consistent approach to the infrastructure and amenities across all parks (see Table 2 for an example of Minimum Standards).

1.2 **Review maintenance program** in terms of **frequency and scope**.

1.3 Johnstone Dog Park (Primary fenced dog park)

**Upgrade parks** in order of Johnstone Dog Park, followed by Tim Overall Reserve, White Park and Kuchel Park.

Key elements for upgrade:

- Drinking water: Replace existing stock trough with a dual-purpose drinking fountain with a round dog bowl that can tilt to empty and ensure good drainage. Investigate the retention and use of stock troughs as cooling off areas for dogs including the turnover of fresh water to ensure acceptable water quality.
- Double gating system: Replace the existing double gates on both sides of the park with a new system that includes a larger airlock (approx. 2.5 x 2.5m). This is to accommodate park access for all (DDA compliant).
- Install new double entry/exit gates with 2.5 x 2.5m airlock to allow access during football matches (i.e., access from eastern side).
- Park layout: Create activity spaces with plantings, rocks and logs i.e. sensory nooks, passive areas.
- Shade: Plant trees for shade.
- Signage: Develop signage suite for wayfinding, to indicate it's a designated fenced dog park, purpose of the different dog areas (e.g. small/large dogs or passive/active areas) and dog park rules/etiquette.

### 1.4 Upgrade Tim Overall Reserve & White Park (Secondary fenced dog parks)

Key elements for upgrade:

- Drinking water: Replace existing stock trough with a dual-purpose drinking fountain with a round dog bowl that can tilt to empty and ensure good drainage. Investigate the retention and use of stock troughs as cooling off areas for dogs including the turnover of fresh water to ensure acceptable water quality.
- Double gating system: Replace the existing gates with a new system that includes a larger airlock (approx. 2.5 x 2.5m). This is to accommodate park access for all.
- Perimeter fencing: Replace/repair fencing (gaps at bottom) at Tim Overall Reserve.
- Park layout: Create activity spaces with plantings, rocks and logs at Tim Overall Reserve.
- Shade: Plant trees for shade (Tim Overall Reserve)
- Signage: see as above for Johnstone Dog Park.

### 1.5 Kuchel Park (Secondary fenced dog park)

Key elements for upgrade:

- Double gating system: Replace the existing double gates with a new system that includes a larger airlock (approx. 2.5 x 2.5m).

- Perimeter fencing: Install new fencing (approx. 1.7m high) along Swanport Road and Burdekin Avenue.

## **2.0 TIME-SHARE ARRANGEMENTS (PRIORITY: HIGH)**

- ### **2.1**
- Undertake three (3) trials sites for **time-share arrangements along the riverfront** in areas that are safe for dogs and with low usage.

Key elements for time share arrangements:

- Provision of supporting infrastructure such as signage, bins, bag dispensers and doggie bags
- Promotion of trial sites
- Evaluation of trial sites.

- ### **2.2**
- Negotiate time-share arrangements** with the primary users of the Showgrounds and Monarto Ovals.

Key elements for time share arrangements include:

- Provision of supporting infrastructure such as signage, bins, bag dispensers and doggie bags
- Promotion of trial sites.

## **3.0 OFF-LEASH NETWORK, FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

- Investigate off-leash options (e.g., fully fenced, partially fenced, or no fencing) around Sturt Reserve and links with Sturt Reserve redevelopment.
- Investigate sites North of Adelaide Road (urban areas)

# 8. Resources

Here is some information (downloads, posters, and handouts) to help with educating the community about dog park manners/etiquette and dog behaviour in public places.

## Dog Park Etiquette: Rules to help dogs get along

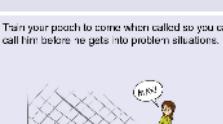





Blue Cattle Dog Productions

www. <http://info.drSophiaYin.com/dog-park-etiquette-poster>

This is a free poster which can be downloaded from Dr Sophia Yin's website. It outlines basic rules to keep your dog out of trouble in a fenced dog park.

## Dog Park Etiquette

### Rules to Help Dogs Get Along

You Wouldn't Want Kids To:	You Wouldn't Want Dogs To:	What Your Dog Should Do:
<p>You wouldn't want one or more unfamiliar people running up to you.</p> 	<p>Dogs don't like groups or individual dogs rushing up.</p> 	<p>Train your dog to focus on and interact in games with you instead of getting into trouble with dogs or people at the park.</p> 
<p>It's not right to let kids steal toys.</p> 	<p>Stealing toys is also improper at the dog park.</p> 	<p>Train your pouch to come when called so you can call him before he gets into problem situations.</p> 
<p>It's not right to harass others into letting you play.</p> 	<p>Dogs get irritated with this pushy behavior too.</p> 	<p>Train your dog to come when called so you can call him before he gets into problem situations.</p> 
<p>Sometimes kids can play too roughly.</p> 	<p>And so can dogs.</p> 	<p>Once your dog is with you, keep him engaged with you, then release him to play again.</p> 
<p>You wouldn't want others to interfere with your play.</p> 	<p>Some dogs like to have their own space when playing too.</p> 	<p>Your dog should learn that it's fun to focus on you and play with you, instead of needing to always play with other dogs. But it is also OK to play with other dogs, as long as both dogs are relaxed and having fun.</p> 
<p>You wouldn't want your kid to get into everyone's personal space.</p> 	<p>So you shouldn't let your dog jump on or body slam people at the park.</p> 	<p>OK</p> 
<p>You wouldn't ignore your kid at the park.</p> 	<p>You shouldn't ignore your dog either.</p> 	

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*The Art and Science of Animal Behavior*  
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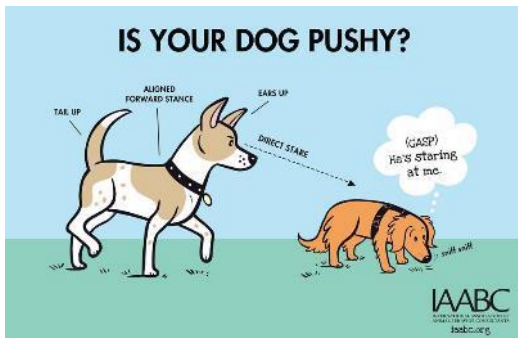


## Dog Park Safety Project

### The International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC)

www. [https://www.facebook.com/iaabcorg/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=10154607479924126](https://www.facebook.com/iaabcorg/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10154607479924126)

The Dog Park Safety Project provides a series of posters to promote safety in dog parks and in dog play. The posters (JPEG format) can be download for free from the IAABC Facebook site.



# DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"  
look away/head turn



STRESSED  
yawn



STRESSED  
nose lick



"PEACE!"  
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"  
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"  
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED  
scratching



STRESS RELEASE  
shake off



RELAXED  
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"  
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE  
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"  
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"  
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"  
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"  
play bow



"READY!"  
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS  
head tilt



HAPPY  
(or hot)



OVERJOYED  
wiggly



"MMMM..."



"I LOVE YOU,  
DON'T STOP"

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# Appendix A:

## Registered Dogs by Suburb/Township

Registered dogs by area, Rural City of Murray Bridge<sup>16</sup>

	Suburb	2019 -2020	2020 -2021	Change
1	Langhorne Creek	13	26	100.00%
2	Woodlane	21	31	47.62%
3	Gifford Hill	77	94	22.08%
4	Kepa	14	17	21.43%
5	Swanport	35	40	14.29%
6	Mypolonga	119	133	11.76%
7	Northern Heights	65	71	9.23%
8	Monarto	65	71	9.23%
9	Murray Bridge East	308	329	6.82%
10	Murray Bridge	2526	2685	6.29%
11	Rockleigh	71	75	5.63%
12	White Hill	29	30	3.45%
13	White Sands	32	33	3.13%
14	Wellington	59	60	1.69%
15	Murray Bridge South	67	68	1.49%
16	Riverglades	211	214	1.42%
17	Callington	119	119	0.00%
18	Avoca Dell	21	21	0.00%
19	Woods Point	50	49	-2.00%
20	Burdett	24	23	-4.17%
21	Murray Bridge North	47	45	-4.26%
22	Sunnyside	31	29	-6.45%
23	Mulgundawa	15	14	-6.67%
24	Jervois	82	76	-7.32%

<sup>16</sup> Areas and dog population provided by Council. ERP from id community.

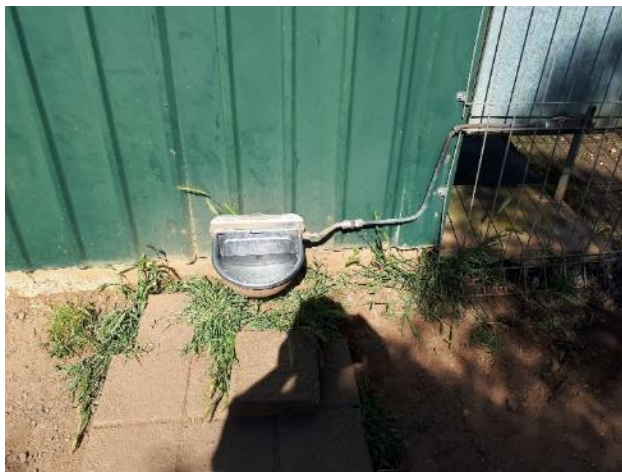
25	Rocky Gully	24	22	-8.33%
26	Toora	11	10	-9.09%
27	Long Flat	27	24	-11.11%
28	Brinkley	45	40	-11.11%
29	Monarto South	69	61	-11.59%
30	Pallamana	27	23	-14.81%
31	Monteith	26	22	-15.38%
32	Ettrick	24	15	-37.50%
33	Mannum	13	6	-53.85%
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,703</b>	<b>4,806</b>	<b>2.19%</b>

# Appendix B: Audit sheets of fenced dog parks

## Johnstone Park, Adelaide Road, Murray Bridge

Overall	Co-located in a regional park. Dog park has areas.
Site visit observations	1 dog owner using the park with her dog (large area). Indicated that a group meets daily at 4.30 pm (for larger dogs) and the smaller area is for 'naughty' dogs
Fencing	Perimeter fencing (weld and chainmesh) Central fence line between separate areas (large & small area)
Gates	Large area has 1 entry/exit point with double gating system with concrete footing (small airlock) Small area has double gating system with concrete footing Central fence has two gate openings Double maintenance gates with secure padlock (locked)
Ground surfaces	Grassed area (reticulated)
Water station	Two types of drinking water vessels for dogs: bowl and stock trough for drinking Noted that both water vessels <u>can't</u> be emptied and refilled with freshwater by dog owners. The quality of water in the trough was very poor (see photos).
Seating	Large area - formal seating (x2) on concrete pad Small area – formal seating (x1) on concrete pad
Shelter	Large area - shelter under old clubrooms Small area – no shelter structure
Plantings	Established trees around perimeter of fence. No trees in the centre of the park <sup>17</sup> (hot in middle of park during site visit)
Waste bin	Large area – bin outside main entry/exit gate (sulo bin)
Signage	Dog park rules located on fence near main gates
Dog bag dispenser	Large area - dispenser located inside of park near entry/exit gates attached to free standing pole. Smaller area bags near entry/exit gates
Walking path	No internal paths (formal or informal)
Carparking	Off-street parking, ample space for cars, RV's, caravans etc
Lighting	Lighting in the large area (x1)
Dog equipment	Agility equipment (x4) in large area
Wayfinding	No wayfinding signage off Adelaide Road

<sup>17</sup> report open space



**Tim Overall Reserve, Industry Road**

Overall	<p>Park on a corner block in residential area and next to BMX track</p> <p>Backs onto residential fencing</p> <p>Two dog areas</p>
Site visit observations	No users in the park. Rubbish in stock trough (old toilet seat in trough, poor water quality)
Fencing	Chainmesh perimeter fencing with top and bottom rail. Low fencing height and gaps at bottom (attempts have been made to fix the gap with mesh).
Gates	<p>Large area has 1 entry/exit point with a single gating system (same on smaller side)</p> <p>Central fence with one opening (solid materials on gate)</p> <p>Double maintenance gates with secure padlock (locked) x 1</p>
Ground surfaces	Grassed area (reticulated)
Water station	<p>Stock trough for dog drinking water on western side only</p> <p>Trough with rubbish (wooden toilet seat). I cleared the rubbish from trough, but still there on second visit, some weeks later)</p> <p>Drainage issues around the trough (muddy)</p>
Seating	Bench under shelter (and table) in both sides of park
Shelter	Shelter straddles both dog areas
Plantings	Established trees around perimeter of fence
Waste bin	Small area – bin near entry/exit gate
Signage	<p>Large sign near gate (western side) indicating it's an off-leash area</p> <p>No dog rules</p>
Dog bag dispenser	Bin, dispenser, and bags located at entry/exit to smaller area
Walking path	No internal paths (formal or informal)
Carparking	On street parking
Lighting	None
Dog equipment	No formal or informal items





**Kuchel Park, Corner of Swanport Road & Burdekin Avenue**

Overall	<p>Located on a corner site in a residential area, and on Swanport Road</p> <p>Natural setting, undulating land and stormwater drainage site.</p> <p>Backs onto residential property</p> <p>One large dog area</p>
Site visit observations	<p>One small dog (terrier) was in the park with no owner. Dog could easily jump the fence to exit the park (driving back I saw the terrier a few houses down in his/her front yard). One person jumped the fenced to access the bus stop.</p>
Fencing	<p>Chainmesh with top and bottom rail on three sides (remaining side backs onto a residential property). Fence height low (approx. 1.2m).</p> <p>Bottom rail does not extend to ground (thus gaps under fence)</p>
Gates	<p>Three (3) entry/exit points with double gated system</p> <p>Small airlocks with ground surface of compacted dirt)</p> <p>Double maintenance gates with a secure padlock (locked) x 2</p>
Ground surfaces	<p>Compacted earth, loose gravel</p> <p>Grassed areas (reticulated)</p> <p>Water body when stormwater flowing (2 concrete pipes with mesh)</p>
Water station	<p>Drinking water fountain located near entry/exit gates near main road on concrete pad.</p> <p>Drinking water bubbler (press with foot to dispense water) is not accessible by all dogs. Not all dogs will drink out of a bubbler. The dog has to rely on the owner to access the water</p>
Seating	<p>No formal seating, but several logs for informal seating</p>
Shelter	<p>No shelter structure, but lots of trees for shade</p>
Plantings	<p>Established trees in the park (nice feel to park)</p>
Waste bin	<p>Waste bin outside of park (eastern side)</p>
Signage	<p>Dog park rules located on fence (a lot of text and small font)</p> <p>No signage indicating it's a fence dog park</p> <p>No wayfinding signage off Swanport Road</p>
Dog bag dispenser	<p>1 x dispenser located near entry/exit gates (main roadside)</p>
Walking path	<p>Internal walking path of loose gravel</p>
Carparking	<p>On-street parking in residential area</p>
Lighting	<p>None</p>
Dog equipment	<p>No formal equipment (natural enrichment)</p>



**White Park Reserve, Corner of Montgomery Ave & Gladstone Street**

Overall	<p>Located on a corner site in a residential area, and adjacent to Lions community building and car park. Remains of old cricket pitch and wall (?)</p> <p>Flat site with large gum tree for shade</p>
Site visit observations	No visitors in the park during site visit. Spoke to older women who lives nearby, and indicated she goes to park with her grandchildren for lunch (under shelter)
Fencing	<p>Weld mesh fencing and posts on three sides of perimeter fence. Fence height low (around 1.2 m) and gaps under fence</p> <p>Backs onto resident's fencing (good condition)</p>
Gates	<p>2 entry/exit points:</p> <p>1 double gated system (small airlock)</p> <p>single gate and double maintenance gates with secure padlock (locked) x 1</p>
Ground surfaces	<p>Compacted earth, loose gravel in doggie airlock</p> <p>Grassed area (reticulated) reasonable condition, wear and tear around shelter</p>
Water station	Stock trough for drinking water for dogs and tap. Drainage issues
Seating	Formal seating (x2) on concrete pads
Shelter	Shelter structure with table and benches on concrete pad
Plantings	Established trees in park (x2). Provides good shade, no other plantings
Waste bin	Waste bin located outside of the park on concrete pad
Signage	<p>Signage showing it's an off-leash area</p> <p>No wayfinding signage off main road, no signage showing it's a fenced dog park</p>
Dog bag dispenser	Dispenser located near entry/exit gates on bin and attached to fence (x2)
Walking path	No defined circulation path
Carparking	On-street parking
Lighting	None
Dog equipment	Formal agility equipment



## Appendix C: Suggested areas & sites

Suggested off-leash areas & sites identified via the online survey (2021), Council staff members & Council reports<sup>18</sup>

Sites	Comments
<b>Parks/ Reserves/Ovals</b>	
Sturt Reserve (Murray Bridge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behind the playground/skate park, along Jaensch Rd</li> <li>• Unused land, opposite the car park, near playground</li> <li>• Back of Sturt Reserve</li> <li>• Cnr. of Murray Cod Drive &amp; Jaensch Road</li> <li>• Downstream from the Bunyip, east of the pump track</li> </ul> <p><u>Further investigation</u></p> <p>An off-leash area (fenced or partially fenced) could be investigated within the overall development of Sturt River.</p>
Near Charles St & McHenry St	Northern side of Adelaide Road (urban area)
Christian Reserve (Murray Bridge)	<p><u>Further investigation</u></p> <p>Large multi-purpose park with tennis courts, playground, toilet, and off-street parking</p>
Near community garden	
North of Adelaide Road	<p><u>Further investigation</u></p> <p>What reserves/parks are in this area?</p>
Rural Ave Park (Murray Bridge)	<p>Already a fenced, on-leash area</p> <p><u>Further investigation</u></p> <p>Check habitat issues, nesting sites, environmental significance, biodiversity</p>
Murray Bridge Showgrounds Oval (MB East)	<p>Staff report, possible unfenced/timeshare</p> <p>(See Staff report, Off-leash time share)</p>
MB Showgrounds Old Pony Club (MB East)	<p>Staff report possible fenced dog park</p> <p>Appears to be too small for a designated fenced dog park</p>

<sup>18</sup> Community surveys (2021, 2019), staff report (dated 23 February 2021) and AMP Dog Park Identification Meeting.

<b>Riverfront Reserves</b>	
Avoca Dell (riverfront reserve) (MB East)	High levels of utilisation (see Water-based Recreation Management Plan 2021)
Hume Reserve (Murray Bridge) North of bridge	Low levels of utilisation see Water-based Recreation Management Plan 2021)
Long Island (riverfront reserve) (MB)	High levels of utilisation (see report) (See Water-based Recreation Management Plan 2021)
Swanport Reserve ( <b>riverfront reserve</b> )	Low levels of utilisation (See Water-based Recreation Management Plan 2021)
Swanport Wetlands	Low levels of utilisation This is considered a wildlife area and not suitable as an off-leash area (See Water-based Recreation Management Plan 2021)
Thiele Reserve (riverfront reserve) (MB East)	High levels of utilisation (See Water-based Recreation Management Plan 2021)
Toora Reserve (non-urban area)	Marshland off Toora Road Toora Reserve low levels of utilisation (See Water-based Recreation Management Plan 2021)
<b>Tumbella Drive Reserve</b> (riverfront reserve) (Murray Bridge)	Rear of Waterford Estate, Retirement Village, 'pet-friendly' Low levels of utilisation (See Water-based Recreation Management Plan 2021) & staff report, identified as possible dog swimming spot
Levee bank walking trails (general comment)	
<b>Areas/ &amp; townships outside Murray Bridge</b>	
Eastside (general comment)	Murray Bridge East and Riverglades
Wellington	
Monarto Recreation Reserve	Staff report, possible unfenced/timeshare

## Appendix D: Summary of survey findings (2019) Animal Management Plan 2020-2015

Fenced dog parks	Comments
Layout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divided spaces and activity area</li> <li>• Sight breaks/points of interest for dogs-shrubs-sensory gardens</li> <li>• Section for one dog only at a time; areas for large and small dogs; play equipment for dogs, poles to weave in/out, obstacles course; drinking water for dogs; shaded area; good heavy turf, non-toxic plants</li> <li>• Instead of a large green grass area, have some areas screened off so the dogs can explore and play in bushes, screening plants</li> <li>• More shade and seating</li> </ul>
Drinking water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add a pool of water with a drinking fountain</li> </ul>
Agility equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have exercise equipment have it blend into the environment not sticking out as a 'look at me'"</li> <li>• Exercise equipment looks so 'boring' ... never seen any dog use". (Refers to Johnstone Park</li> </ul>
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area should be well grassed and kept green and free from grass seeds and other skin penetrating weeds</li> <li>• Why not use some sort of access gate that requires a small fee to open which would contribute to the maintenance of the park?</li> <li>• It's a nice area, but mud in wet weather and snake hazard in summer" (Refers to Kuchel Park)</li> </ul>
Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I live near one ... never knew it was a dog park</li> <li>• Make it know that these are actual dog parks. I've lived in Murray Bridge for 25 years and didn't know we had one let alone four</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education around how to use dog parks and dog park etiquette</li> </ul>
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bigger signage stating they are dog parks</li> </ul>
<b>Dog swimming areas</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water for them to swim in ... and not near people not liking dogs</li> <li>• Dogs access to river for dogs to swim</li> <li>• Dog swimming area, but within a confined space</li> <li>• Add a pool of water with a drinking fountain</li> </ul>



## Appendix E: Examples of fenced dog park amenities







Photos: Examples of mounding, artwork, drinking fountain, signage, double gating, shelter, rocks & logs, and water dog park, docking station.