

ITEM 3.9 ELLIOTT PARK - COMPANION ANIMAL REVIEW REQUEST

Division	Environment and Community Management
Author	Senior Parks and Open Space Planner
Meeting date	12 April 2016 Policy Meeting
Strategic Plan Key Service Area	Community well-being Accessibility Place where we live and work A sustainable environment

SUMMARY AND ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Purpose of Report	To present and seek direction from Council on a petition which has been received from local residents for a full review of Companion Animal Access conditions at Elliott Park, Rozelle.
Background	Council completed its strategic review of companion animal access to open space in November 2013. This review took a full two years to complete and involved extensive community consultation, public submissions, Council reporting and the implementation of a \$40,000 signage strategy across the Leichhardt LGA. Implementation of the signage strategy was completed in 2015.
Current Status	Elliott Park is a small neighbourhood park which is currently designated as on leash. The park consists of an area of approximately 8500m and provides for passive and informal recreation opportunities.
Relationship to existing policy	Companion Animal Access to Open Space Review (Completed November 2013)
Financial and Resources Implications	A review will cost in the region of \$6135.00. Funding is currently unbudgeted. A cost breakdown is provided in the body of this report.
Recommendation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council note that a number of existing priority projects will be delayed should a review of companion animal access conditions at Elliot Park be supported by Council. 2. In the event that Council supports a review to proceed, Council note the strategic projects in the Parks Planning work programme (Table 1.0) detailed in the report, which will be delayed to allow the review to be commenced. 3. That should a review be supported by Council, funding will need to be identified to initiate the review in the next quarterly budget review.

Notifications	Park users, Rozelle residents located in Balmain Shores complex, Balmain Cove complex, the new ANKA Development site and the local Precinct.
Attachments	Nil

Purpose of Report

To present and seek direction from Council on a petition which has been received from local residents for a full review of Companion Animal Access conditions at Elliott Park, Rozelle.

Recommendation

1. That Council note that a number of existing priority projects will be delayed should a review of companion animal access conditions at Elliot Park be supported by Council.
2. In the event that Council supports a review to proceed, Council note the strategic projects in the Parks Planning work programme (Table 1.0) detailed in the report, which will be delayed to allow the review to be commenced.
3. That should a review be supported by Council, funding will need to be identified to initiate the review in the next quarterly budget review.

Background

Council completed its strategic review of companion animal access to open space in November 2013. This review took a full two years to complete and involved extensive community consultation, public submissions, Council reporting and the implementation of a \$40,000 signage strategy across the Leichhardt LGA. Implementation of the signage strategy was completed in 2015.

Report

A petition consisting of nine signatures has been received by Council requesting for a formalised review of Companion animal access conditions within Elliott Park Balmain. The petition requests that Council review the current on leash status of the park with a view of making it an off leash park.

Strategic Direction

A full review of companion animal access conditions for all open space areas within the Leichhardt Local government area (LGA) was undertaken as part of an approved work programme for the parks planning unit in 2012/13.

The scope of 2012/13 review was large, encompassing all open space areas and involving extensive community consultation. This included holding public meetings, public submission analysis, Councillor briefings and reporting.

Elliott Park was included as part of the review process and this part of the review process was considered and finalised by Council in November 2013. Signage implementation works across the Leichhardt LGA have taken two years to complete with the final works being completed in 2015. Recently residents in the Balmain Cove area have requested further path stencil marking works be undertaken along the extended section of the Iron Cove Bay Run, denoting this area as on leash.

The next formal review of companion animal access to open space is planned for mid 2017. This is aligned with other significant service reviews.

Notwithstanding the preference to commence the work in 2017, the steps required to initiate a standalone review for Elliott Park include:

Step 1

Reporting to Council on the request for a review and identifying which current projects will be impacted on by undertaking the additional works (*this report*).

Step 2

If Council agrees on the review:-

1. Advise the review
2. Call for submissions
3. Hold 1st public meeting (Leichhardt Town Hall)
4. Analyse Submissions (Council officer comments)
5. Report to Council on findings-recommend draft for exhibition
6. Hold a further public meeting to present the draft (Leichhardt Town Hall during exhibition period)
7. Call for submissions on the draft plans
8. Analyse submissions (Council officer comments)
9. Report back to Council on preferred position.
10. Undertake signage review based on Council determination
11. Implement new signage if supported through the review.

The time line for completing a full review is 6 months.

Impacts on the Parks Planning Work Program

The Parks Planning work program is a diverse and complex. The Parks Planning team consists of two full time staff, the Senior Parks and Open Space Planner and the Open Space Planner.

Work programming consists of strategic planning in the area of open space provision, development, community engagement and open space management. The team also is responsible for the development and assessment of open space policy and its implementation in terms of park access, community use and enjoyment.

On a day to day basis the parks planning team is responsible for administration and liaison with the public in relation to park booking inquiries, seasonal sporting ground access for sporting clubs and public and private school access, commercial fitness trainer use, private and public access to open space. The parks planning unit is responsible for responding to residential inquiries as well as the assessment and approval of community events on open space areas. Key Strategic Projects for the Planning Team in 2016 are highlighted in Table 1.0 below:-

Table 1.0 Key Strategic Priority Projects 2016/17

No index entries found.

Key Projects to be Considered for Deferment by Council

The key projects which would be impacted on in terms of timing delays should Council support a review of Elliott Park companion animal access conditions include:

- The Recreation and Needs Study 2016.
- The Bay Street Lookout design works and community consultation at Mort Bay Park
- Fitness Stations in Parks-Assessment design options and costing reporting to Council.

Significant commitments have been made by Council to deliver or investigate the delivery of these projects. The latter project, Fitness Stations in parks is already behind schedule due to delivery works with the Chester Street Neighborhood Park Project and Council's recent determination to expand the War Memorial Park Playground upgrade.

LCAMP Review Cost Factors

There are cost implications associated with any review of this nature. No budgetary funding is set aside for a formal LCAMP review. Budgetary implications to undertake the review are outlined in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Unbudgeted Cost Implications

Item	Cost
Mail out x 2	\$3135.00
Council Officer time	N/A
Signage Implementation (should the park change from off leash to on leash)	\$3,000.00
Total Cost	\$6135.00

Key Review Considerations

In terms of undertaking the review community consultation would need to be extensive. Consultation would also include notifying and informing new residents in the newly constructed Union Place Apartments (Terry Street Rozelle of which there are 202 new apartments in total as well as existing Balmain Shore and Balmain Cove residents. Strategically the review would so need to consider the current use of the existing parkland which lies to the west of Elliott Park, this being, Bridgewater Park. This park is a large neighborhood park and currently fully zoned as an off leash park (refer to Fig 1.0). Previous Council reports have highlighted the need to provide a range of diverse park settings for park users. This includes retaining or providing areas of on leash parks to acknowledge the recreation needs of non-dog walkers. This will need to be an important consideration for any adopted review process.



Fig 1.0 Bridgewater Park and Elliott Park

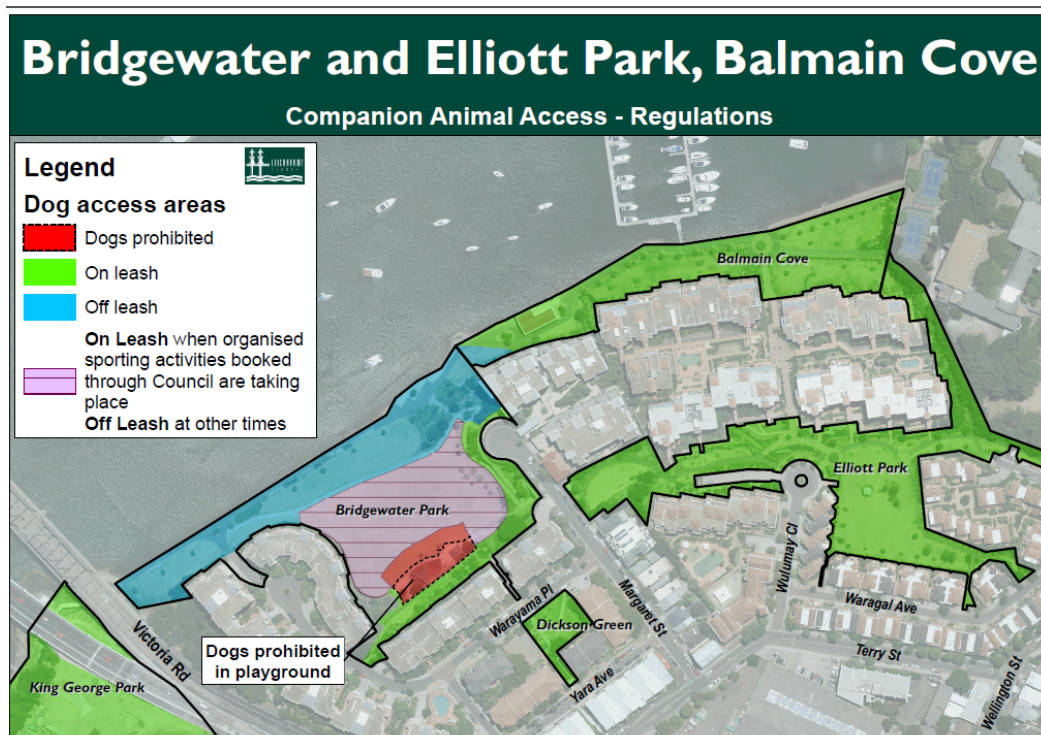


Fig 1.1 Current Companion Animal Access Regulations

Summary/Conclusions

Council needs to determine whether a review for Elliott Park is a high priority given that the most recent review was completed in 2013 and a formal review is planned for 2017 to cover the entire LGA. The current work program for the Parks Planning unit is fully committed and any review of companion animal access conditions at Elliott Park will have negative impacts on the delivery of the committed strategic projects outlined in this report.