





HUME
CITY COUNCIL

CRAIGIEBURN
GARDENS
DOG PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN
AND
MANAGEMENT
PLAN

prepared by



www.paws4play.com.au



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GLOSSARY OF TERMS			
Term	Definition	Term	Definition
Dog park	A dog off leash area that is fully enclosed or fenced	Parks / reserves	Areas that include open parkland, play spaces, sporting areas, trails, natural environments
Dog owner	The person responsible for the overall care and wellbeing of a dog	Dog walker	Refers to anyone responsible for the actions of a dog when it is in a park, reserve or other public place
Off leash area	Areas where dogs are permitted off leash but only if they are under effective control of their owner / walker	On leash area	Areas where dogs have to be on a leash at all times
Responsible pet owners	People who care for pets responsibly e.g. register their pets, confine their pets, proactively attend to their pets' health needs etc.	Local Laws	Regulations (state govt. or council) that are developed and/or regulated by council
Dog litter	Dog droppings or excrement		

1. Introduction

In 2011 Council adopted the Hume Dog Parks Planning Framework to guide the planning of dog parks (fenced dog off leash areas) in the City of Hume. At the same time Council also gave approval to commence the planning for a trial dog park at Craigieburn Gardens reserve.

Council determined to proceed with trialing the city's first dog park at Craigieburn Gardens because it was one of three reserves in the city identified as most appropriate for the development of a dog park. In addition, the Craigieburn Gardens Master Plan, which was adopted by council following extensive community consultation, recommended the provision of a dog exercise area at the reserve.

In the 2012/13 budget council allocated \$150,000 for the development of a dog park at Craigieburn Gardens. The dog park would be developed following the preparation of on a concept design and management plan and following favourable consultation with the community.

2. Background information

2.1 Dog Parks Planning Framework

In 2011 council undertook an extensive examination of a number of parks and reserves that had potential to accommodate a dog park. The project identified three sites that had particularly favourable opportunity for the inclusion of a dog park. These sites are Craigieburn Gardens (Craigieburn), Sunbury Park (Sunbury), and Broadmeadows Valley Park (Westmeadows).

Further site master planning is required in relation to the Sunbury Park and Broadmeadows Valley Park sites to determine how a dog park may be appropriately incorporated.

Council will commence the master planning of Sunbury Park early in 2013. As part of the project consideration will be given to opportunities to incorporate a dog park.

Council determined to proceed with further planning of a dog park at Craigieburn Gardens because the community had already endorsed the concept of a dog park through the Craigieburn Gardens master planning process.

The Craigieburn Gardens Master Plan recommends that council consider the construction of a dog exercise area as part of stage 1 of development of the site.

The Dog Parks Planning Framework also outlines:

- council's rationale for investing in dog parks
- the possible challenges associated with dog parks
- dog park design considerations
- dog park management considerations.

2.2 Craigieburn Gardens

Craigieburn Gardens is located at 153 Craigieburn Road, Craigieburn and is owned and managed by Hume City Council. The park occupies a total area of 11.27 hectares and consists a number of buildings including the Craigieburn Leisure Centre, the Early Childhood facility and Council and emergency service depots.

In 2012 Council adopted the Craigieburn Gardens Master Plan to guide the development of site over the next 7 to 10 years.

The vision is for Craigieburn Gardens¹ to be a vibrant and attractive hub that provides a range of recreation, social and fitness opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.

To ensure the outdoor areas of the reserve achieve this vision the master plan has a focus on:

- creating a welcoming environment that encourages greater use of the reserve and people to meet
- creating different activity spaces for different age groups
- footpath or trail linkages to different sections of the reserve

¹ Craigieburn Gardens Master Plan, Hume City Council, 2011

- preserving existing bushland areas and new landscaping and tree planting that greens the site
- social amenities such as seating, water and shade

3. Craigieburn Gardens Dog Park

This section provides an understanding of the different zones proposed for the Craigieburn Gardens Dog Park.

The rationale for providing different zones in the dog park is to:

- provide a range of environments that encourage physical, social, intellectual, and sensory development of dogs
- enable owners to train/play with their dogs using different environments and stimuli away from other people/dogs
- allow the opportunity for separation from other dogs

Dogs that are exposed to stimulating and challenging environments are more likely to adapt to changing/different social environments around them, be more confident and therefore less prone to anti-social behaviours.

As a result they are able to adapt more easily to different social and physical environments and be more sociable members of the community.

The following provides an overview of the different zones proposed for the Craigieburn Dog Park:

3.1 Activity zones

3.1.1 Play / Runabout Zone (including shelter area)

The purpose is to create spaces within the zone where:

- dogs can run free
- there are stimulating environments to explore e.g. sensory vegetation, 'hidden areas
- there are separate (vegetation dividers) but open spaces where owners can play with their dogs

Breaking the area up using vegetation breaks allows small groups of dogs to form if they do not want to be part of a larger group, or if owners want to run dogs separately. It also allows play in and around obstacles (vegetation plantings, logs etc.), which provides a more stimulating environment with more play/exercise options and spaces.

3.1.2 Education / Training Zone

3.1.3 Small Dog / Time Out Zone

3.1.4 Rock / Scramble Zone

3.2 Craigieburn Gardens Dog Park concept plan

Please refer to the following page for the site concept plan.

4. Design Notes

4.1 Fencing

Barrier (perimeter) fencing - The purpose of fencing is to provide a significant barrier to prevent dogs from running out of the area. It is not the intention that fencing be of a height to prevent dogs prone to jumping over fences from escaping. These dogs should be discouraged from using the dog park.

Fencing should be to the ground to prevent/minimise dogs digging under fences.

Corners – Fences should be installed so there are no right-angled corners. Dogs may get trapped in corners by other dogs, which may encourage fearful/defensive behaviour e.g. snarling, biting. Similar may happen to people in the dog park.

The aim is to eliminate any features that may result in the dog park being a negative experience for dogs.

4.2 Entries

General – Minimise opportunity for congestion around entries/exits as much as possible by locating installations such as bins, drinking stations, shelters, seating, equipment away from entry/exit areas.

Double gated entries

Location of gates –

Single gated entries –

Accessible entries – All entries should be accessible for people with restricted mobility, including latches at a suitable height, and of a width to allow easy access for wheelchairs.

4.3 Under surfacing

The purpose of providing different surfaces within the dog park is to give dogs exposure to different tactile/sensory experiences (confidence development).

Appropriate surfaces will also:

- minimise maintenance requirements
- prevent dust/mud forming in high traffic areas resulting in a less attractive and appealing environment
- ensure easy access to shelters for people in wheelchairs and minimise trip hazards e.g. between concrete surrounds of the shelter or equipment and surrounding area
- improve the general aesthetics of the dog park

Surface treatments are particularly important in high wear areas including entries/exits, around seating, around shelters, at points where people congregate e.g. near/under trees, and around vegetation and obstacles where dogs play/clamber. A surface other than grass is recommended in these areas e.g. granitic sand or mulch as appropriate.

Surface options:

- Entries/exits –

- Around installations e.g.

4.4 Infrastructure that enhances accessibility and sociability of the dog park

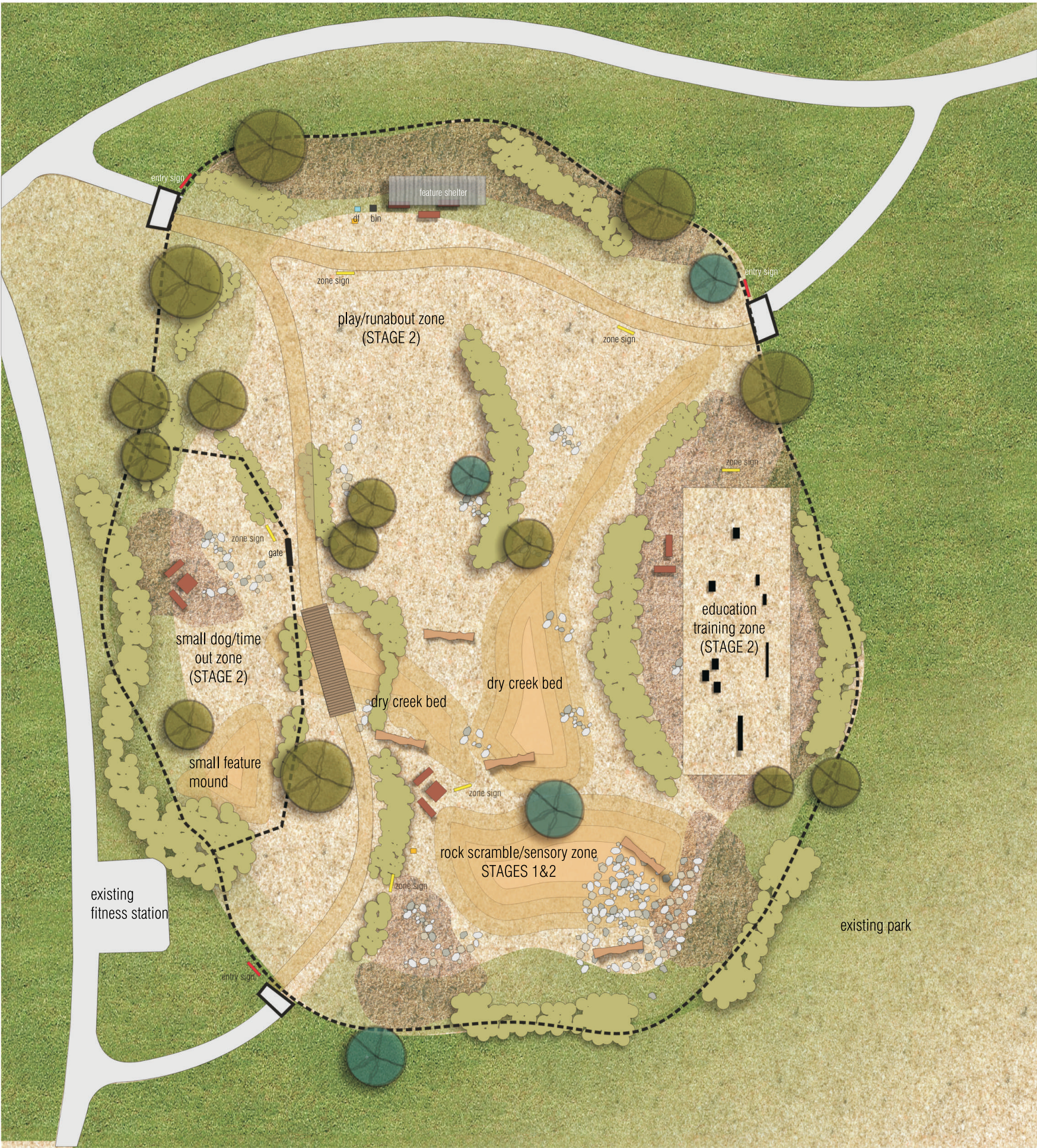
All infrastructure should be designed to optimise opportunities for people with restricted mobility. Particular note should be provided to:

4.5 Pathways

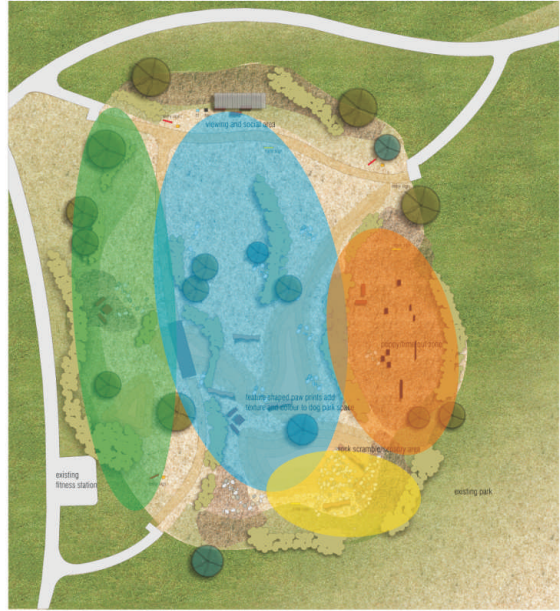
Approach pathways

Internal pathways

Adjoining parkland pathway



zones plan



- small dog time out zone (STAGE 2)
- play/run about zone (STAGE 1)
- rock scramble/sensory zone (STAGE 1&2)
- education/training (equipment) zone (STAGE 2)

legend

- compacted granitic sand dog park main surface
- feature dry river bed and mounds for textural diversity
- feature timber bridge/dog training obstacle
- feature shelter
- black pvc coated 1m high chain mesh boundary fencing with double gates at all entrances
- 1.5m wide concrete access paths into & through dog park for universal access
- feature timber logs provide dog obstacle
- entry and conditions of use sign at all entrances to park
- dog clean up bag dispensers/bins
- mulched garden/surface for added texture & smell
- feature basalt rocks to provide dog obstacles
- timber high back seating/'sit & stay' platforms
- steel/recycled plastic modular dog obstacles for training & education purposes
- proposed indigenous eucalypt shade tree
- existing tree to be protected & retained
- proposed local indigenous grass/garden areas to provide texture and form for dog play
- signage at each of the park zones to assist with education & appropriate use
- rubbish bin
- drinking fountain & water for dogs

context plan



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5. Dog park rules

6. Information requirements

The following information should be considered to ensure users of the dog park are aware of their responsibilities when using the dog park and to communicate to users of the dog park the other information.

- (1) On site information
 - Entry signage that communicates:
 - Welcome
 - Rules/regulations users must abide by when using the dog park. Refer to section 7 for details.
 - Council and police contact information for the reporting of inappropriate use or damage to the dog park
 - Emergency contact information
 - A link on council's website local dog obedience clubs, dog trainers etc.
- (2) Web site information
 - Location of the dog park. Possible incorporated with other dog off leash area information
 - Flyer with the following information:
 - Rules and regulations
 - Tips for introducing your dog to the dog park
 - Local community contacts
 - Council contacts
 - Flyer with the following information:
 - how to use the education/training equipment
 - Local community contacts
 - Council contacts
- (3) Hard copy flyers based on web site flyers outlined in (2) above

7. Management of the Craigieburn Gardens Dog Park facility

The following outlines the management protocols for fenced dog park facilities in order to achieve the social, physical and educational outcomes for dog owners and their dogs

Legend: A=Asset Management, CR=Community Renewal (until 2013), F=Family & Children's Services, L= Local Laws, LC=Leisure Centre, LY=Leisure & Youth Services, M=Marketing & Communications, I=Information Services, P=Parks & Open Space, R=Risk Management. NOTE: Lead department is highlighted in bold				
	UNDERSTANDING	MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS	FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE DEPTS
1.0 USE OF THE FACILITY				
1.1 Who can use the dog park? * These are requirements that cannot be easily monitored by council staff or members of the public and are generally requirements that responsible pet owners automatically comply with e.g. vaccinating of dogs	The facility is for casual/recreational use by anyone who wants to socialise with dogs and/or people Dogs using the park must be: - registered with council or another council - wearing a current registration tag - be desexed Dogs showing aggressive or persistently annoying behaviours cannot use the dog park The dog park is not for use by commercial dog walkers and trainers unless prior authorisation has been given by council * Dog owners/carers will be asked to comply with a number of other requirements in line with dog park etiquette code of conduct	1.1.1 Regular (random) weekly patrols for first 3 months	✓ Twice weekly for 1 st 3 months	L
		1.1.2 Regular (random) patrols after first 3 months regular	✓ At least fortnightly	L
		1.1.3 Reinforce appropriate/allowed use on signage, on Council's website, and on promotional material	✓ Ongoing	L, LY, M, I, R
		1.1.4 Targeted monitoring and/or education initiatives to be put in place in response to persistent transgressions and/or inappropriate behaviour or complaints	✓ As required	L, LY
1.2 Age / ability of users	People in charge of a dog must be 13 years or over and able to control their dog appropriately (local laws) User guidelines recommend that children be supervised by an adult and that young children/toddlers	1.2.1 Casual observation/random patrols by outdoor staff undertaking routine maintenance works at the reserve and reporting of inappropriate use	✓ Casual/ongoing	P, L
		1.2.2 Casual observation/random patrols by leisure centre staff as part of (occasional) programs	✓ Casual/ongoing	LC

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	UNDERSTANDING	MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS	FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE DEPTS
	and babies in prams not be taken into the dog park	occurring in the park and reporting of inappropriate use		
		1.2.3 Targeted monitoring and/or education initiatives to be put in place in response to persistent inappropriate behaviour or complaints.	✓ As required	L , LY, LC
1.3 Hours of use	The facility will be available for use during 'daylight hours' only	1.3.1 Reinforce appropriate/allowed use on signage, on Council's website, and on promotional material	✓ Ongoing	L, LY, R , M, I
		1.3.2 Liaise with police to encourage casual observation of the facility	✓ Quarterly	LY, LC , P
		1.3.3 Monitor the need to lock the gates to minimise inappropriate access	✓ Ongoing	L, R , LY, P,
		1.3.4 Targeted liaison, monitoring and/or education initiatives to be put in place in response to persistent inappropriate behaviour or complaints. This may include: - Meetings with adjoining residents/park users - Liaison/meetings with facility users and carers - Formation of dog owners/dog park users/park liaison group - Increased monitoring	✓ As required	L, LY , CR, LY, LC (Police)
1.4 Lighting				
1.5 Weather				
1.6 Noise				
1.7 Drugs and alcohol				
2.0 MANAGEMENT OF INCIDENTS AND POTENTIAL HAZARDS				
2.1 Management of 'dog play' incident				

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	UNDERSTANDING	MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS	FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE DEPTS
reporting				
2.2 Inappropriate dog behaviour Dog bites and rushes				
2.3 Signage				
2.4 Risk identification				
2.5 Incident management				
2.6 Emergency services/authorities				
2.7 Reporting of incidents				
3.0 MAINTENANCE				
3.1 Landscape / vegetation / trees				
3.2 Equipment				
3.3 Waste management				

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	UNDERSTANDING	MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS	FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE DEPTS
3.4 Graffiti / vandalism including inspection for broken glass, inappropriate objects				
4.0 CUSTOMER RELATIONS				
4.1 Community satisfaction				
4.2 Community relations				
5.0 INFORMATION AND SIGNAGE				
5.1 Signage				
5.2 Educational information				
6.0 EVENTS AND PROGRAMS				
6.1 Community programs				