**Rodney Local Board**

**OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS**

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**Note:** The attachments contained within this document are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Councillors require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.
HELP SHAPE TOMORROW’S PARK

Submission to Auckland Council Rodney Local Board
On the Green Road Reserve, Dairy Flat

Submission prepared by Hibiscus Coast Dog Training Club
21st September 2018
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Provided in a separate file in support of this submission
HBCDTC Online Petition for Green Road Reserve Dog park downloaded 21
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Written Paper Petition .............................................................................................
Scanned and provided in a separate file in support of this submission
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Who we are:

Hibiscus Coast Dog Training Club has been established for over 30 years - since 1987. We provide a range of dog training classes including obedience and agility to Hibiscus Coast, wider Rodney and North Shore residents and their dogs. We are a Dogs New Zealand Associated, Affiliated, and Recognised Club.

Our aim is to help dog owners train their dog to become a well mannered member of their family.

During each year we hold 4 terms of Dog Obedience Training which is given by our volunteer instructors. Each term we have, at least, 1 Puppy class and 1 Basic Obedience class of a maximum of 10 dogs per class for an 8 week term, this is in addition to our intermediate and advanced dog obedience classes which are mainly attended by club members (88 paid members as at November 2017).

That is at least 80 new dogs per year that undergo initial obedience training via our club. We know from our club members and those that undergo basic puppy and obedience classes that there is a need in the community for dog exercise areas and dog parks.

We believe that dogs, and their households, are important members of our communities and it is important that space is allocated for them to be exercised and trained in so that they have the best chance to succeed as canine good citizens within our community.

On behalf of the Hibiscus Coast Dog Training Club,
Wendy Atkinson
President
09 420 3215

Hibiscus Coast Dog Training Club
PO Box 254
Whangaparaoa 0934
09 424 4103
secretary.hbcdtc@gmail.com
20 September 2018

To whom it may concern,

I wish to support The Hibiscus Coast Dog Training Club and their submission.

The submission proposes a large off leash dog exercise area and a fenced off dog park to be situated at the Green Road Reserve in Dairy Flat.

Rodney is one of the fastest growing areas in Auckland with the highest levels of dog ownership. Similar dedicated parks and spaces around New Zealand have proven to be very popular and well used.

I strongly support this submission and appreciate your consideration in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Mitchell
Green Road Reserve, Dairy Flat needs assessment
Submission from Hibiscus Coast Dog Training Club

The Rodney Local Board have asked communities “if you were building a new park the size of Auckland’s Cornwall Park, what would you put in it?”

The Hibiscus Coast Dog Training Club submits to the Rodney Local Board that there should be a large off leash dog exercise area and a fenced dog park included in the Green Road Reserve at Dairy Flat.

Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2012 aims to keep dogs as a positive part of Auckland life; a dog park in this reserve will help to make this happen.

Support for an off leash dog exercise area and a fenced dog park is high as shown by our petition with 1,705 signatures gathered in only 16 days (that is an average of 106 signatures per day). The need for one is high, both now and in the near future with planned development both around the reserve area and it’s surrounding communities.

Why is a large off leash dog exercise area and a fenced dog park needed at Green Road Reserve?

- Dog walking and gardening are the two biggest activities people do.¹
- Of the over 100,000 dogs registered in Auckland 33% of them live north of the Harbour bridge* (*In the local board areas of Takapuna/Devonport, Kaipatiki, Upper Harbour, Hibiscus & Bays and Rodney) (Auckland Council FY 2017/2018)
- The Rodney Local Board area has the largest number of registered dogs in Auckland by board - 11,547 dogs (they represent 34% of dogs north of the Harbour Bridge) (Auckland Council FY 2017/2018)
- Neighbouring Board area Hibiscus and Bays has the 3rd largest number of registered dogs in Auckland - 9,315 dogs (together with Rodney, these two boards have 60% of all the registered dogs north of the Harbour Bridge* in their board area). (Auckland Council FY 2017/2018) (*In the local board areas of Takapuna/Devonport, Kaipatiki, Upper Harbour, Hibiscus & Bays and Rodney)
- As a combined area the local boards of Devonport - Takapuna, Upper Harbour and Kaipatiki have 13,495 registered dogs (Auckland Council FY 2017/2018)
- Under the dog control act 1996 all dog owners are required to ensure their dog receives adequate exercise.
- Regular exercise is key to ensuring that dogs are well looked after and are socialised. The importance of dog exercise is recognised by Auckland Council and is part of their ‘Being a responsible dog owner’ material. Within Council RDOL brochure it states that “the council has set aside a number of reserves and open spaces for the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners. Dogs can be exercised in these areas off leash if kept under control by their owners.”
- Currently there is no area in Dairy Flat to exercise your dog outside of private spaces. While the council website shows Dairy Flat Reserve as a place to walk your dog the reserve is not functional for this purpose. This reserve is where the Tennis Club, Dairy Flat Hall and carpark are located. There is less than a hectare of land and the green space available is about the size of most Dairy Flat properties own gardens. (Source Auckland Council Website search – find places to walk your dog). See appendix for details.

¹ Linwood-Central-Heathcote Community Board Chairwomen Sally Buck
• Auckland currently has 41 specifically designated dog exercise areas, which are all located within eight of the twenty one local boards – that only covers 38% of local board areas leaving thirteen local boards (62% of local boards) without one (these include Hibiscus & Bays – the local board with the 3rd highest number of registered dogs). The current distribution of designated dog exercise parks indicates there are several areas that do not have easy access to designated parks.

• Looking at the areas shown in the report (see Figure 11 below) there are only 3 north of the Harbour Bridge* – 1 in Paremoremo – Sanders Reserve (in the Upper Harbour Local Board area), 1 at Muriwai Regional Park (in the western boundary of Rodney Local Board area) and another at Te Ariai (in the North Eastern Boundary of the Rodney Local Board) which seems to be incorrectly identified in the council map below as a designated dog exercise area. Te Ariai has no off leash area for dogs and dogs are banned from the majority of the beach area. (*In the local board areas of Takapuna/Devonport, Kaipatiki, Upper Harbour, Hibiscus & Bays and Rodney)

• This means that the majority of the 34,057 dogs north of the Harbour Bridge* (33% of all Auckland Dogs) do not have access to designated dog exercise areas. This lack of area is all the more important given that dogs are restricted from most northern beaches for 4-5 months of the year for most of the day (from 10am to 5.00pm/6.30pm). (*In the local board areas of Takapuna/Devonport, Kaipatiki, Upper Harbour, Hibiscus & Bays and Rodney) (Source: Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2012 and Dog Management Bylaw 2012 – 2018 Findings Report)

Figure 11 Current distribution of designated dog exercise areas across Auckland Region

Figure 11 above is from Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2012 and Dog Management Bylaw 2012 – 2018 Findings Report
**Why dogs are important:**

New Zealand is a nation of animal lovers. With well over 4.6 million companion animals in New Zealand, they outnumber people.

As Council has a legal obligation under the Local Government Act (2002) to take account of the community, and the community’s interest, in it’s decision making, it needs to take account of the owners of the 102,808 registered dogs in Auckland, along with the needs of the community living around those dogs.

Research indicates that there are numerous positive benefits to dog ownership for members of our community\(^2\). In addition to the long-recognised companionship, caring, sharing and security aspects of having a dog, pet ownership has multiple positive physical and mental health benefits for owners.

Dogs are popular in NZ and are the second most popular companion animal in New Zealand with 28% of homes having an average of 1.4 dogs. 28% of Auckland Households have a dog. Of the 568,511 dogs registered in NZ 18% are within the Auckland region. (Source: National Dog Database, DIA).

The main reason for people getting a dog is for companionship and Kiwi Dog owners overwhelmingly consider their dogs to be members of their family (77%).

In addition, well over half (58%) of all people who do not have a companion animal would like to get one. With dogs being the top pick - 67% want to own a dog. The main reason why those who want one don’t have one is that their home or lifestyle is not suitable (48%). The main barriers to ownership were landlords not allowing pets (34%), the cost (32%) and responsibility (23%)

At a national level households with children aged 9-17 years are most likely to have dogs accounting for 36% of dog owning households. (Source: Companion animals in NZ 2016 report – NZ Animal Companion Animal Council)

**Health benefits from walking your dog are both physical and mental:**

As noted in the US, a huge majority of dog owners actually walk their dog in order to socialise with others. According to a 2011 report, on average, dog owners walk about 8 hours and 54 minutes per week. That means that the average dog owner will be walking about 58 kilometers a week if they walked at a normal speed. In addition, according to researchers at the Michigan State University, their studies found that dog owners are 34% more likely to fit in 150 minutes of walking in a week compared to non-dog owners, they walked 22 more minutes per day compared to non-owners on average and a dog owner has more motivation to walk due to them needing to keep their pet satisfied. Non-dog owners do not have such a motivation and instead will rely on more self-motivation in order to get themselves moving. Another positive for dog walkers is that exercise scientist Cindy Letino found that they have 68% less chance of getting diabetes compared to non-dog walkers.


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\(^2\) Local Government Act (2002) S 14 (1) (c) (1)

\(^3\) www.petpositives.com.au/pets-improve-lives/
**Green Road Reserve is more than a normal local park:**

- With over 150 hectares of land, **Green Road Reserve will be one of the biggest parks in the Auckland Region** and its location within the Rodney Board area puts it close to current large suburban populations.

![Green Road Reserve location map](attachment:Green_Road_Reserve(map).png)

- The location of the reserve (near to the boundaries of the Albany ward made up of the local boards of Hibiscus and Bays and Upper Harbour) puts **Green Road Reserve nearer to the Albany Ward 2017 population** of 169,800 people than it does to most of the Rodney ward population of 64,300 where only 7,500 are currently in the Dairy Flat subdivision. (*NZ Dept of Statistics Population Estimate 2017*).
- Both of these areas have shown strong population growth. In 2017 Rodney Ward population increased 17% vs 2013 and the Albany Ward increased 18% in the same time period (*NZ Dept of Statistics*).
- By comparison, 76% of the Rodney Ward live in Warkworth or Kumeu areas* - 29,700 people are in the Kumeu subdivision and 20,700 are in the Warkworth. (*NZ Dept of Statistics Population Estimate 2017*).
- In addition to the Albany Ward population proximity, it is worth noting, that in terms of distance to **Green Road Reserve that the large suburban and urban populations of Takapuna Central is 18km away, and Auckland City CBD is 25km away.** These are both comparable distances to Kumeu (17.5km) and Warkworth (36km) from **Green Road Reserve.**

(Source: AA Time and Distance Calculator)
The below Ward and Local Board boundary maps show the location of current populations in these areas in relation to where Green Road Reserve is.

Approximate location of 134 Green Road, Dairy Flat in relation to council local board areas

* NZ Dept of Statistics Population Estimates

Albany Board area population
2017* 169,800 – over 2 ½ times more people than whole of the Rodney area
Albany Board = Hibiscus & Bays and Upper Harbour areas

Approximate location of 124 Green Road, Dairy Flat in relation to council local board areas

* NZ Dept of Statistics Population Estimates
Dog owners are willing to travel to a chosen destination to exercise their dogs. In fact, Research commissioned by Auckland Council showed that the majority of Auckland Dog Owners are willing to travel 20 minutes or more to exercise their dog. (Source Auckland Council IPSOS Research 2018) which puts Green Road Reserve as a location that will appeal to dog owners from outside the immediate area.

Travel Times to Green Road Reserve via vehicle on current roads during off peak traffic – according to AA Time and Distance Calculator.

- From Orewa 14 minutes (15km)
- From Browns Bay 15 minutes (13.4km)
- From Kumeu 19 minutes (17.5km)
- From Takapuna 21 minutes (18.2km)
- From City CBD 28 minutes (25.3km)
- From Warkworth 29 minutes (38km)

This location and current travel time means that the vast majority of the 34,057 registered dogs north of the Harbour Bridge will live within 30 minutes drive of Green Road Reserve. (This is prior to any new motorway interchange in Dairy Flat off the Northern Motorway which would reduce travel time.) *(in the local board areas of Takapuna/Devonport, Kaipatiki, Upper Harbour, Hibiscus & Bays and Rodney)*

Where are the people who are most likely to use this reserve - future:

- Auckland Council has earmarked the Dairy Flat area as a growth area and there are plans for 30,000 new homes to be developed over the next 30 years. That is approximately the size of the number of households in the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area (2013 Census = 32,697 Households). Many of these homes are likely to have dogs and will need an area they can exercise and socialise their dogs, currently there is no area in Dairy Flat to do this. (Hibiscus & Bays Local Board area has 9,015 registered dogs Auckland Council FY 2017/2018)

- In addition, the following areas in the current Hibiscus & Bays and Rodney Local Board areas are expected to be development ready by 2022:
  - Upper Orewa (Resource Consent Area) - pending outcome of the resource consent process
  - Wainui East (live zoned area only) (4,500 dwellings proposed)
  - Silverdale West / Dairy Flat (business land only)

These areas will collectively provide round 5,000 dwellings and 617 hectares of business land. (Auckland Council Draft Unitary Plan)

- The Hibiscus & Bays area will continue to show future growth with subdivisions in Millwater, Red Beach, Gulf Harbour, Fairway Bay, Long Bay and Wettu Bay all at various stages of development and not completed.

- Planned Auckland Transport Motorway corridor access improvements including possible motorway interchanges for Penlink and Wilks Road will see the Green Road Reserve only minutes away from the Northern Motorway and improve the previously quoted travel times. (see appendix)
Where are people going to be able to exercise their dogs – future?

- Auckland Council’s policy and bylaw ensure that dogs are integrated into the region and have adequate space to be exercised while minimising the problems caused by dogs. (Dog Management Bylaw 2012 and Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2012).
- In a recent review of the 2012 Dog Bylaw it was asked “How does the dog policy relate to the current and future state of Auckland?” It was identified that over the next 10 years public spaces will be in higher demand. This will increase the likelihood of dogs and other users being in conflict in these spaces.

Stakeholders and Aucklanders have expressed that there is a shortage of designated dog exercise parks throughout most of Auckland.

Some of the existing designated dog exercise areas are becoming over-populated and causing strain on these environments.

Council staff identified that fencing around designated dog exercise areas would protect the public from dangerous dogs which are also allowed to be exercised in these spaces. (Source Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2012 and Dog Management Bylaw 2012 – 2018 Findings Report).

Why should dog exercise areas or parks matter to Auckland Council?

- Council has a legal obligation to care about dogs and exercise. Territorial Authorities are required under S10 (4)(d) of the Dog Control Act (1996) “to have regard to (Dogs) Code of Welfare 2010 which derives from the Animal Welfare Act (1999). That Code states in Minimum Standard 13 “that dogs must receive daily exercise sufficient to maintain their health and wellbeing”. This obligation means that dogs in every area of the Auckland Region need to have places that they can be walked on the leash, as well as places they can safely run off leash.
- Council also has a legal obligation under the Dog Control Act (1998) to minimise danger from dogs, to children, wildlife, and the public in general. Minimising danger from dogs does not mean they need to be banned, or locked behind fences and never brought out in public. To the contrary, dogs need to learn acceptable behaviour when in public and need to be socialised properly to prevent aggression. This is achievable by owners training their dog while out of the home (Hart 1990) and through play with the owner and other dogs (Bradshaw and Brown 1990). Dogs need more than just initial socialisation; they need ongoing exposure to people, and to other dogs, to be genuinely safe.
- Also within the Dog Control Act the functions, duties and powers of territorial authorities include that they may undertake, promote, and encourage the development of services and programmes it considers desirable to promote responsible dog ownership and the welfare of dogs and that this can be done with any other organisation, group or body.

5 See Dog Control Act S 10 (4) (a-c) and S 57-59, and S71
There are a number of reasons why Council-supported dog exercise parks are of benefit to the community, including:

- Dog exercise parks can act as a focal point for encouraging change in the community, and for encouraging community participation in that change. These can provide a place for Animal Control and Welfare Officers, and/or local community groups, to run programmes which encourage dog microchipping, de-sexing, dog obedience, agility training, and a range of owner education programmes.\(^8\) This is particularly useful in areas where there are high numbers of complaints about dogs, wandering dogs, or dog attacks on humans or wildlife, all of which can be mitigated by the efficient use of a dedicated dog park.

- Animal Control is often a thankless job, and Animal Control Officers can face both resistance and aggression from locals. A Dog Exercise Park can be a ‘giving back’ to the community, somewhere that Council can be seen to provide something positive for dog owners, and a way to break down barriers. This in itself can encourage behaviour change for dog owners, which is critical to controlling dog behaviour.\(^9\)

\(^8\) In this Perth, Australia study, a behavioural management programme run by Council which included a dog park, educational materials and other initiatives, led to a 50% reduction in offences [https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/images/stories/committess/SCEJ/Dogs_Inquiry/Subs/Submission_177c_-_Diana_Rayment.pdf](https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/images/stories/committess/SCEJ/Dogs_Inquiry/Subs/Submission_177c_-_Diana_Rayment.pdf)

\(^9\) This is seen as so important that the New Zealand Companion Animal Council’s September 2018 conference is centred entirely on human behaviour change as the key to making change in animal behaviour, and for improvement in animal welfare, see [www.nzcac.org.nz](http://www.nzcac.org.nz/conference/images/nzcac_conference_brochure.pdf)

“I think the benefits of the Whangarei Public Dog Park are so important to the whole community. Would like more fenced areas. Lights and cameras for safety. However our dogs love to play with the other dogs and if you know our dog she loves the water hose. THANKS Team and the Council.” – Facebook rating of the Whangarei Dog Park.

“Every time I step into one of the city’s many dog exercise areas, unclip my dog’s leash and watch him race off to make friends, I appreciate the opportunity. There are many things I resent paying rates for – don’t get me started – but when it comes to dog parks, at least I know my money is going somewhere useful.” – Opinion Article in The Press. Full article in appendix.

This will lead to voluntary compliance with the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy, which is critical to its success.

- Dog exercise parks tend to have positive effects for dog owners, including encouraging social connections.\(^10\) A dog park promotes friendships and a feeling of belonging to a community.

- People walk their dogs more often when they live near a dog park,\(^11\) which in turn leads to health benefits for the dog walker, and health and safety benefits for the community in terms of the dog’s behaviour.

- Dog exercise parks are common overseas and becoming more so in New Zealand. They are a proactive, common sense way to solve a number of problems that can arise with dog ownership, and they tend to promote responsible dog ownership.\(^12\)
In designated dog exercise areas dog owners are the priority user of the area. This is a place for dog owners to take their dogs off leash (including known dangerous dogs). Dogs must be kept under control. This type of designation is different from an off-leash area, where dogs may be under control off leash and share the space with other users. Under the policy a designated dog exercise area has clearly visible boundaries on the ground to dog owners and people without dogs. (Source Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2012)

It also means that non dog people who do not want to be around dogs can actively avoid the designated dog park.

During the end of spring and throughout summer the beaches in the areas nearest Green Road reserve have dog access restrictions throughout most of the day.
- Hibiscus & Bays beaches dogs are prohibited from 10am to 5pm for 4 months
- Rodney beaches dogs are prohibited from 10am to 6.30pm for 4 months
- Takapuna/Devonport beaches dogs are prohibited from 10am to 6.30pm for 5 months

During these times dogs are prohibited from most beaches in these areas. Many of the beaches north of the Harbour Bridge* available for year round access do not have either safe access for all (St Leonards Beach, Takapuna is only accessible via a steep staircase) or they are not suitable for families to swim at (Muriwai, Amorino Reserve, Orewa is on the mouth of Orewa Estuary) or just not suitable for families due to public decency issues (St Leonards Beach is known and used as a nudist beach). As a result their families are restricted in where they can take their dogs, both to exercise the dog and to include the dog in family outings. During these months it is likely that a dog park would have far greater patronage. (*In the local board areas of Takapuna/Devonport, Kaipatiki, Upper Harbour, Hibiscus & Bays and Rodney)
According to the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2012 and Dog Management Bylaw 2012 – 2018 Findings Report the following was identified:

- As the population grows and changes in composition, there will be increased competition for parks and open spaces and designated dog exercise areas will become more important for dog owners.

- A recent survey indicated that dog owners generally prefer to exercise their dogs in areas with open terrain, reserves, parks (64 per cent) and beaches (62 per cent) ( Ipsos, 2018). These preferences vary by age and gender. For example, women are more likely to prefer open terrain areas, reserves, parks and walkways, whereas young adults (18-29 years) will also access beaches and local streets to exercise their dogs.

- The survey also indicated that a third of dog owners use designated dog exercise parks, however a quarter do not know about them at all ( Ipsos, 2018). Dog owners are willing to travel up to 20 minutes to exercise their dog. 14 per cent are dissatisfied with the location of their dog exercise area ( Ipsos, 2018).

  “...we need to have areas to exercise our dogs to ensure our dogs stay healthy, just like humans!”

- Designated dog exercise areas are a valued resource for dog owners. A regional approach should be considered when identifying areas with local boards to ensure that they are equally accessible.

- Increasing the number of designated dog exercise areas would lessen the demand on the existing spaces.

- As a dog training club, one of the key things that most owners who come to beginning and puppy classes struggle with is recall (getting their dog to come to them on verbal command). And this is one of the things that many non dog people complain about and say that dog owners are not able to control their dogs. When you have just got a dog, whether it is new to you, or as a puppy, it's working on recall training that is the hardest.

  Working on recall training so that your dog is under control off a leash is also difficult to do in areas with no boundary or fence as the dog cannot be limited. Often this means that beaches and their dunes/banks are the places that provide the only barrier between your dog and a road or playground. They also help to focus the dogs sightable area as the beach level which is a relatively safe place to be. Many areas or parks that dogs can be ‘off leash’ in are not safe or suitable for use when dog owners are training on recall.

- There are no fenced dog exercise areas within the Rodney Area or the Hibiscus and Bays subdivision (of which there are 20,562 registered dogs) which help dog owners to work on dog recall in a safe, 100% dog friendly environment (IE: away from people enjoying non dog activities – sportsgrounds, picnic areas, roads, beaches, playgrounds, roads and traffic etc).
- Unlike many other companion animal owners, dog owners pay their way, of the 110,103 dogs in Auckland 102,808 are registered (93%). In the last financial year dog registration revenue to Auckland Council totalled $8.2m, of which council estimate $2.73m was paid by dog owners north of the Harbour Bridge*. *(Auckland Council FY 2017/2018) *(in the local board areas of Takapuna/Devonport, Kaipariki, Upper Harbour, Hibiscus & Bays and Rodney)*

- However, that $8.2m in dog registration fees goes solely to Auckland Council Animal Management – see figure below.

**What your dog registration pays for**

Dog registration fees benefit all dog owners and the public.

Dog registration fees help us:
- ensure all dogs are registered
- respond to reports of dog attacks and complaints about barking and stray animals
- provide shelter services: impoundment, care for strays and reuniting dogs with their owners
- rehome dogs through our adoption programmes
- provide dog safety education for dog owners, schools and the public
- enforce compliance, issue infringements and patrol beaches and parks
- prosecute serious dog related offences (under the Dog Control Act).*

Figure above is from Auckland Council Website.

- Based on their experience, council stakeholders revealed that dog owners may not always register their dog. One of the reasons for this is that individuals do not see the benefit of registration. *(Source Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2012 and Dog Management Bylaw 2012 – 2018 Findings Report)*

- This is also echoed in Auckland research conducted by The Department of Internal Affairs in 2016. One of the three main reasons why dog owners have not registered their dogs is that they do not see the benefit in registration.

- Many owners who pay their dog registration and are good dog owners see very little benefit from paying their dog registration fees. As an example, someone with a de-sexed dog who doesn’t have a RDOL, which is the norm (only a quarter of Auckland dog owners do have a RDOL), and who pays their registration on time each year will pay $103.00 per year (2018 fee) to register their dog. Assuming the dog lives for 10 years that is $1,030. Yet they themselves will see very little benefit from that $1,030.

**Thanks for the dog parks, Christchurch Council**

OPINION Article featured in The Press

“Every time I step into one of the city’s many dog exercise areas, unclip my dog’s leash and watch him race off to make friends, I appreciate the opportunity. There are many things I resent paying rates for – don’t get me started – but when it comes to dog parks, at least I know my money is going somewhere useful.”
Christchurch dog owners are so lucky to have dedicated spaces for dogs to exercise. Any owner of a high activity dog will tell you, on-leash walking is often not enough to properly tire out their pooch. The kind of play found at a dog park makes for a full body work out – not to mention the benefits to be had when it comes to socialising and playing well with others.”

The full article is featured in the appendix of this submission.

Possible benefits for Auckland Council Animal Management in having a dog park

A dog park would allow animal management a location by which to interact with a large number of dog owners to help them achieve the following animal management services:

1. Promoting the responsible dog owner licence
   The dog park can be used to have community events for dogs and their families where animal management staff can have a presence to promote and educate RDOL.

2. Promote the welfare of dogs to dog owners
   Shelter staff can bring shelter dogs to dog park to socialize and interact with other dogs and promote adoption. De-sexing programmes can be promoted.

3. Community Education.
   Develop a community education hub. Somewhere that is manned by animal management staff when dog park is open. Help with dog registrations, good socialization, enforcement of bylaws. Could be used as a satellite hub for animal management staff. Possibility to hire out designated areas of dog park to local and commercial entities for activities. Become a hub for dogs and dog activities north of the Harbour Bridge and bring dog owners and their families to the reserve.

4. Dog safety access
   “Provide dog owners with reasonable access to public places in a way that is safe to everyone.”

5. Identify the owner of every dog (dog registration)
   Animal management could carry out spot checks of those dog owners entering dog park and exercise area to ensure registration of dogs.

6. Dog Safe Communities – Through encouragement and enforcement
   To change the attitude and behaviours of irresponsible dog owners. Focusing a presence at the dog park and exercise area animal management can work proactively to make it a dog safe environment.

These 6 services are identified by Auckland Council Animal Management as helping them to achieve their goals – Auckland Council Animal Management Annual Report 2016/2017
What should the dog park and dog off leash exercise areas look like?

Dog parks are new and evolving and it is important that they are developed to provide a safe space for exercising and socialising dogs in a controlled environment for the benefit of both owners and their dogs. Overseas, dog park design is a field of study which attracts the interest of engineers and architects and animal welfare advocates.

If planned well, a dog exercise park is located centrally to dog owners, provides a path through which dogs can walk with their owners, has water available, plants and landscaping suited to dogs, bins for disposal of dog faeces, and entry and exit gates which allow for dogs to enter and leave safely.

If planned badly, a dog exercise park can be dangerous for dogs and humans, encourage too many dogs to congregate in one area of the park which can lead to aggression, and be a liability in terms of infectious disease.

As noted previously a recent survey indicated that dog owners generally prefer to exercise their dogs in areas with open terrain, reserves, parks (64 per cent) and beaches (62 per cent) (Ipsos, 2018). These preferences vary by age and gender. For example, women are more likely to prefer open terrain areas, reserves, parks and walkways.

Given that Green Road is over 150 hectares in size there will be other recreational activities within the reserve. The dog park should be situated and planned in such a way to minimize interaction with non dog activities for safety and to encourage good dog behaviour within the dog park. Green Road Reserve was described as “the shape of the land being such that separate activities should not conflict” (Rodney Times article 27/11/2012)

http://www.gooddgosga.com/media/W1siZlsljwMTUvMDMvMDMvOWM2b3hhZGlyZ19vbmxlYXNoZWREe2dQYXJrcy5wZGYiXVJ/UnleashedDogParks.pdf

At a national level households with children aged 9-17 years are most likely to have dogs accounting for 36% of dog owning households. (Source: Companion animals in NZ 2016 report – NZ Animal Companion Animal Council). It should be designed to be somewhere the family can go and spend some time on the weekend.

In New Zealand it has been proved that well designed and large dog parks are well patronised, The Greynes Dog Park in Christchurch has 4000 to 5000 weekly visitors (Source - Fendall-Waimairi-Harewood Community Board member Aaron Campbell)

What are other councils doing?
Firstly, rather than reinvent the wheel we would submit that the Rodney Local Board look to other councils in New Zealand who have created dedicated dog parks.

However, if there is an agility area planned to be part of a dog park at Green Road Reserve please do not replicate what Auckland Council has done at Manuka Park in Kaipatiki as this is nowhere near as good as what Christchurch Council has done at the Groynes.

We believe that dedicated dog parks is something that Christchurch Council does exceptionally well with 6 dedicated dog parks which are fenced plus, many have water access areas for dogs and agility areas within them, this in a city with 30,504 registered dogs² (Fewer dogs than what is north of the Harbour Bridge in Auckland). https://www.ccc.govt.nz/services/dogs-and-animals/dogs-in-parks/dedicated-dog-parks.

Christchurch’s 6 dedicated fenced dog parks:

- The Groynes
- Horseshoe Lake Reserve Dog Park
- Bexley Reserve Dog Park
- Rawhiti Domain Dog Park
- Styx Mill Reserve Dog Park
- Victoria Park Dog Park
The Groynes Dog Park - Christchurch
As a basic guide we would advocate for something modeled in a similar way to the Groynes Dog Park in Christchurch but in a bigger area. The Groynes as noted above has 4000 to 5000 weekly visitors, currently there is a push to increase the dog park size of the Groynes as “community board members in Christchurch say dogs need “more park to bark.”” One of the The Linwood-Central-Heathcote Community Board’s eight priorities for this term was to promote new dog parks within its three ward boundaries.

The Groynes
150 John's Rd, Northwood

The Groynes Dog Park consists of large open spaces with plenty of trees and two spring-led streams for your dog to swim in.

Facilities
- Eight fenced areas with three agility/obstacle courses, including one for small dogs
- A dog memorial park
- Picnic and BBQ area
- Fresh drinking water
- Wash down area for dogs
- Doggy poo dispensers and rubbish bins.
The Groynes picnic area – dog friendly

One of The Groynes Agility areas
There are 58 google reviews of the Groynes Dog park giving it a 4.7 out of 5 rating. Below are a selection of them, more are included in the Appendix:

“Absolutely awesome dog park! It takes quite awhile to walk around the whole park, but it is a great walk! There are lots of huge open spaces for your dog to chase balls or sticks, and there is even several tricky obstacle courses scattered around for super adventurous (obedient) dogs to try and master lol. There’s also a river for your dog to go for a swim in. What more could a dog possibly need?! I highly recommend it.”

“Great place for your dog to exercise.. And for carer of dog to run as well :-(

“A fantastic area for your dog. Choice of small walks or long walks.”

“Best dog park in the city. Its worth driving across town to take dogs to.”

Marlborough District Council
With only 10,281 registered dogs (less than Rodney, and about the same number as Hibiscus and Bays local boards), the Marlborough District Council is planning three dog parks with special play equipment and separate areas for large and small dogs in its environs.

The council has set aside $200,000 for this work, 80% of which is funded by dog fees with the remainder coming from rates.

www.stuff.co.nz/national/102076813/purpose-built-pooch-parks-for-big-and-small

Selwyn District Council
The Selwyn District Council has 13,520 registered dogs to 31 May 2018 and has two Dog Exercise Parks.

Foster Park, Dog Exercise Area allows dog owners to exercise their dogs off-leash in a safe and secure environment. The park is 2 hectares, fully fenced with double-gates, and contains carparking, dog wash facilities, seating and picnic facilities, three dog agility equipment areas, water play, and a secure area for small, young, or nervous dogs.

Foster Park – Dog Park from above
Attachment A

Item 7.1

Dog Wash Area

Watercourse

Dog Wash Down Area
Leeston Park. The 1.8 hectare dog park is fully fenced and features dog exercise equipment such as hurdles, jumps, a balance beam, pole weave, ramps, a tunnel and more. It also features a small pond and a grooming table.

**Whangarei District Council**

The Whangarei District Council has 10,706 registered dogs to 31 May 2018 and has a much loved dog park. It even has its own facebook page and a 5 star rating. Here's what visitors to the park have to say with their ratings:

"We came here for the first time this weekend just gone and it's such an awesome place to take your dog. I loved the ramps and agility equipment (the dog, not so much). It seems very well taken care of. We only managed to find one ball that hadn't been ruined so will see if I can muster some and bring them with me next time I come up. I only wish we had something similar in Auckland!"
Our Petition:

We were unaware of the call for public feedback from Rodney Local Board on the reserve until over half of consultation period had already gone.
- The consultation period ran from 10th August to 21st September (42 days)
- Our online petition was live from 5 September to 21st September (16 days)
- Our written petition was in public from 7 September to 20th September (13 days)

In total our petition received 1,705 signatures in 16 days (that's 106 signatures a day in support of an off leash exercise area and a fenced dog park in Green Road Reserve).

Our online petition was hosted on https://our.actionstation.org.nz/ and was live for 16 days, it garnered 565 signatures.

Our written paper petition was in public for 13 days and received 1,120 signatures.

The vast majority of people who signed the petition were unaware that there is a 150+ hectare reserve area planned to be developed in Dairy Flat and that council were calling for feedback on what should be included in the park.

Many people loved the idea of a petition as it was easy to show your support and what you want from council. A lot of people said thank you to us for doing it.

Our online petition was promoted within the Auckland area via local social media posts, an interview on More FM Rodney and to local dog club members. We also promoted the council online survey in our communications promoting the online petition.

On a side note, while council would prefer that people completed their online feedback survey we encountered a lot of fatigue around council surveys. Many expressed a lack of desire to participate as they felt that a) council didn’t listen and council would just proceed with what they planned anyway regardless of feedback and b) people were annoyed that they would complete council surveys and yet never receive any further updates or communications on progress relating to the survey topic.
Reasons people gave for signing our online petition:

“Be great for the puppies to be able run free and be happy, they make me happy and they don’t ask for a lot in return” Renae W.

“Would love to have another off leash park - especially if it had some agility gear!” Shannon H.

“Currently north shore based and am looking for more places to for daily exercise for our dog.” Logan W.

“I don’t currently have a furbaby-puppo but I know it is increasingly hard to find decent places to let our furry friends play - especially with summer coming having another pet friendly spot would bring a relief to lots of families.” Jenn R.

“I signed because the more off leash dog parks the better!” Maria D.

“The more dog parks we have the better for all dog owners and their dogs summer is really hard to find a good park rather than beaches. Should it be a well drained park for winter all the better!” Faye M.

“There are too many access restrictions in Auckland for dogs. They are becoming unsocialised and wellbeing is compromised for dog and human. Rego fees are annual in NZ! Time to give back. This area needs something.” Stephanie W.

Reference material of our online and written petition is contained within the appendix of this document.

Summary:

We think that what we have submitted to the Rodney Local Board, and Auckland Council as a whole, more than demonstrates that there is a) a high level of need for a large off leash dog exercise area and a fenced dog park in the Green Road reserve and b) that there is a high level of support from within the local communities for this to happen.

We look forward to seeing the initial masterplan that Council prepare for Green Road Reserve and we are happy to offer assistance or an opportunity for sounding ideas or seeking of feedback from the dog community should it be desired.
Figure 1 – Aerial view of Dairy Flat reserve which is listed as the only dog walking area in Dairy Flat.

4 Postman Road,
Dairy Flat, 0794
Rating Valuation (RV) $1,550,000
01 July 2017

Building type: Other-Assembly (balls, etc)
Land area: 0.9030 Ha

Figure 2 – AT Possible State Highway Access

STATE HIGHWAY: ACCESS

Options for upgraded or potential new interchanges are being considered to provide the north growth areas with improved access to and from the Northern Motorway (SH1). Safety, the environment and overall regional transport network performance are all important factors when weighing up what investments are required.
The Groynes dog park: freedom and fun
Press Release: Christchurch City Council
22 November 2007

The Groynes dog park: freedom and fun
The new dog park at The Groynes offers an unprecedented level of freedom for dogs in Christchurch.

Mohammad Toubat putting Storm through her paces at the Agility Park.

Eight fenced-in areas, about 15 times larger than the old park, can offer all the delights of training, bush tramping and swimming for dogs, and all of it off-leash.

The Christchurch City Council, working with the Shirley/Papanui Community Board, has developed the park over the past two years, with stage one of the development opening in March.

The Groynes Dog Park stage two will officially open from the end of this month. But dogs and dog owners are already having a great time with the stage two facilities at Johns Road.

Fadi Alseenawi, of Bishopdale, makes the 10 minute trip to the park almost every day to exercise his huskies, Simba and Storm. "This is very good," says Mr Alseenawi as he rollicked with an evidently happy Simba in the river. Later he put the more demure Storm through her paces in the agility park. "We try to do something different everyday," says Mr Alseenawi, adding that the range of activities kept the dogs occupied and panting for more.

The choices are many: two agility parks (one for small dogs and the other for larger dogs), a river park, a water park, an exercise park, a cross-country park and a picnic area. Ranger Arthur Adcock says up to 500 dogs per day are using the new facilities with apparent satisfaction. "We have developed four gravel beaches along
the river that are awesome and the large cross-country patch is definitely a hit with larger dogs," says Ranger Adcock.

An innovative idea is the planned dog memorial park where owners can buy a plot for the ashes of their cremated pets. A $50 fee will see a native tree planted on the plot and tended by the Council for two years. "A dog is like family and the memorial park will allow those who are renting or those who prefer not to have pets buried on their property a chance to have a memorial to their pet," says Ranger Adcock.

Also in the mix is a walking track along the Otukaiikino River for dogs on leads. "This allows for people to enjoy themselves without the unease associated with having overly active dogs crossing their paths," says Ranger Adcock. "It's brilliant," says Mark Vincent, Team Leader of the Animal Control, Inspections and Enforcement Unit, of the new park. The Unit was instrumental in funding the picnic tables, seating facilities and other facilities for the dog park. Other amenities come courtesy of the Shirley/Papanui Community Board, which had originated the idea of Christchurch's first dog park in 1990.

Mr Vincent says that the implementation and development of The Groynes Dog Park is another demonstration of the Council staff working together to achieve the best outcome for the city's residents. "Animal control staff have a vision to provide the best recreational facilities for both dogs and their owners, and as the team leader, my drive is to ensure that the community is safe from dogs, that dogs are well provided for and that we offer the best facilities that stimulate both dogs and owners in these areas," he says.

The general exercise of a dog is critical for its well being and prevents behaviour problems like barking, chasing and wandering, he added. "Most dogs at the park are not aggressive because they are not in their own territory and those dogs who have been brought up socially are going to enjoy these facilities the most," says Ranger Adcock.

A lot of thought went into designing the park: fenced-off areas for dogs of different temperaments and sizes, access to cleaning facilities and keeping apart dogs on leads and free-running dogs. "It is rather an exceptional level of freedom that dogs have here but with the right attitude, everyone can enjoy the facilities," says Ranger Adcock.

Dog park canine heaven
Jan 31 2009
The Press, Dean Kozaric

See-saws, tractor tyres, a picnic area and climbing frames. A child's playground? Nope. Dog park.

Christchurch's 4 hectare (and growing) dog park at the Groynes, near Belfast, has had dog lovers panting with superlatives since its revamp by the Christchurch City Council.

About 30,000 dogs are registered through the council and while some owners pound local pavements for shorter weekday walks, a roomier timetable allows for a visit to the Groynes dog park with its eight fenced-in areas and social opportunities to meet like-minded canine coppers.

It is one year since stage two of the park's facelift and within six months a memorial park will be added. The idea for the memorial park came from former animal control officer Leonie Harrington who died of breast cancer in April. Her partner was council animal control team leader Mark Vincent, who led plans for the dog park. "It's a shame she won't be able to see it completed," he said. "The memorial park was her idea. It's meant to be a place where people can sit and reflect on their lost pets any pets, not just dogs."

Park ranger Arthur Adcock said owners could spread their pet's ashes or bury them with a sponsored tree for $70. Though pets cannot be buried in the memorial park, plaques can be laid. Adcock said more than 200 dogs a day visit during weekdays and the number rises to 500 at weekends.

A flash of morning showers had not deterred a crowd of dog owners when The Press visited. Rangiora couple Mervyn and Pam Hunt described the arena as incomparable but confessed they were outside the rate-paying district so had not contributed towards the park, which has cost more than $100,000. Funding has come from the council's dog control and greenspaces budgets, and the Shirley/Papanui Community board, with many materials recycled from the former dog park.

The Hunts were hoping to tire both their dog and grandchildren in an agility section. "The day will have done its job if they all fall into bed tonight," Mervyn Hunt said. "We think it's an absolutely brilliant facility. We've never seen a dog fight yet but the type of people who bother to pack up their dogs and bring them out here love their dogs. You can come on a really rotten day and there'll still be a crowd."

As The Press headed towards a fenced river section, the Hunts provided sage advice. "With wet dogs, stand at the north or south end. Stand west or east and you'll be in trouble." The metre of shingle surrounding the river's edge is wet with dog-shake as Rebeckah Allen's pooches, Gloria and Falkor, emerge from the flow like conjoined twins, jaws clamped on a shared stick.

Gloria, a black labradoodle crossed with miniature poodle, is practically airborne as Falkor, the taller Afghan-poodle cross, controls the all-important job of returning the stick to their owner. As good weather becomes more reliable, Allen uses her day off to burn pent up poodle-cross energy and organise a family get-together. "I call them my oodles," she says. "I've got lots of oodles."
"Falkor was named after the luck dragon in the Neverending Story (a movie) because he's always got a smile. He's not the brightest dog that's the Afghan bit but he's so lovable."

Despite living on the other side of town, Allen travels to the dog park because it is the only stretch of river she trusts as clean enough for her dogs to swim safely. The world of dogs is an alliance. Allen once spent a couple of dogless months in New York and found herself chatting to other dog owners, even being invited to dinner by fellow dog lovers. The park beats anything she saw in New York, Allen says. In the agility park, dogs leap and bound. At the entrance, they lap at water fountains. They walk their owners through the cross country section, daisy-chain the bum-sniff greeting and keep barking levels surprisingly low.

Three Vesey sisters, a fiancé, and their pack of various terriers sit on a picnic bench commenting on their dogs' antics. "We come here every weekend," Susannah Vesey said. "It's good for them to get a run-around and for the dogs to socialise and you meet other doggy people too. "Some people just come to catch up on their own gossip as much as the dogs."
Plant a native tree in honour of your dog's memory

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL MEDIA RELEASE
14 August 2006

Christchurch City Council is offering dog owners a place to create a special tribute to their departed pets by establishing a pet memorial park at the Groynes Recreational Reserve.

Presently 60 plots have been sectioned off and marked on a map to be sold to owners of pets who want to plant a native tree in memory of their beloved furry family member and best friend.

Plot owners choose a native tree from a selection from the Council for planting at their plots and a ground marker may be placed near the tree to provide a base for an engraved plaque. A plot and tree package costs $75. For an additional $25 pet owners can include the concrete ground marker at their plot. Steel plaques for the monument are available from a provider at $10. The plot and tree selection can be done at any Council Service Centre.

“The memorial park allows owners to share the cherished memories of their pets alongside other pet owners and creates a special place they can return to visit again and again,” says Gary Lennan, Manager Inspections & Enforcement with the Council. “This meaningful gesture will keep the spirit of a lost loved one alive.” Plot owners can inter the ashes of their departed pets at or near the tree. The memorial park is not a cemetery for pets but rather a tribute to a cherished pet, says Mr Lennan.

The Memorial Park is part of the Groynes Dog Park at Johns Road. The areas surrounding the memorial park will be landscaped with paths and low-growing grass plants. The memorial park officially opens on Sunday 6 September with a planting ceremony at the site at 2pm.

A selection of several native tree species, at approximately 1.8 metres in height, are available to choose from. Owners may choose to plant their trees themselves or have the grounds staff do that for them.

Planting days will be held each month on set days. Plot owners will need to bring their pets ashes and the ground staff will arrange for the tree, monument and plaque to be present at their plot.
Thanks for the dog parks, Christchurch City Council

July 31 2015 – The Press
Abbie Napier

OPINION: Thanks for the dog parks.

Every time I step into one of the city's many dog exercise areas, unclip my dog's leash and watch him race off to make friends, I appreciate the opportunity. There are many things I resent paying rates for – don't get me started – but when it comes to dog parks, at least I know my money is going somewhere useful.

Christchurch dog owners are so lucky to have dedicated spaces for dogs to exercise. Any owner of a high activity dog will tell you, on-leash walking is often not enough to properly tire out their pooch. The kind of play found at a dog park makes for a full body work out – not to mention the benefits to be had when it comes to socialising and playing well with others.

We have been visiting dog parks for about the last four months. I haven't been to every one but of those we have been to, Halswell Quarry is my favourite.

The quarry provides a huge open green space for dogs to run and come complete with perimeter walking track for owners to amble on, and spectacular views of the mountains. There is a dog water fountain, poop-bag bins that are regularly emptied and a general aura of happiness.

Dogs that love sprinting rocket back and forth across the open fields and those happiest with a slow walk and plenty of smells scope the bush-lined perimeter. I am yet to spot an uncollected poo or witness an serious altercation.

Before we got our puppy, I heard horror stories from seasoned dog owners about the perils of dog parks, of out-of-control dog attacks and lazy owners. Apparently, they were riddled with poo and aggressive, unsupervised attack dogs waiting to pounce. I feel fortunate to have experienced the opposite. If anything, most dogs visiting the parks seem to be happy, carefree and grateful for the chance to wrestle their peers and sprint into the little lakes and frozen bushes. Their owners stop for a chat and most are watching their charge with one eye at all times.

In fact, we bump into the same people – and dogs – a lot. Kevin, our 6-month-old puppy, is always happy to see Murphy the vizsla, and Bria the rescue dog. He beelines for the familiar dogs and barrels into group wrestling matches like he never did when we first started these cuttings.

Do you ever notice how people at the dog park know all the dogs' names but not often the names of their owners? Funny that. Most times I recognise the dog before the person calling them.

On the way home, Kevin foops into the back seat of the car and closes his eyes. The peace and quiet of a tired puppy renews my enthusiasm and spurs the next drive across town.

Perhaps, if you haven't been, now's the time to give them a go. You can find a list of parks and their hours [here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/christchurch-life/69642865/thanks-for-the-dog-parks-christchurch-city-council).
Google reviews on The Groynes Dog Park Christchurch – as at 20 September 2018

Rating of 4.7 out of 5
58 reviews posted

Reece Godinet
a week ago
This place is amazing and I don't even have a dog yet. I try to come along when I can when friends take their dogs there. It's a good walk for both dog and human.

Matthew Hamer
2 months ago-
Absolutely awesome dog park! It takes quite awhile to walk around the whole park, but it is a great walk! There are lots of huge open spaces for your dog to chase balls or sticks, and there is even several tricky obstacle courses scattered around for super adventurous (obedient) dogs to try and master lol. There's also a river for your dog to go for a swim in. What more could a dog possibly need?! I highly recommend it.

Phil Washbourn
a month ago-
Great spot by the river to walk the dog. Multiple fenced areas, play park, trees and water. A great park for dogs who love a lope and an exploration.

Andrea Wingham
a month ago- Our dogs LOVE the river section of the park, they don't leave willingly

David Anderson
5 days ago-
Great place for walk with the dogs and for them to have a swim.

Norm Bowden
2 months ago- Great place for your dog to exercise.. And for carer of dog to run as well :-)

David Richards
4 months ago-
Swimming, walking, agility etc.
A pub for dogs. :-) 
A place for humans to relax, before & after. 
A good dog is a tired dog.

Emma Warren
4 months ago 
A fantastic area for your dog. Choice of small walks or long walks.

Dave Taylor
4 months ago-
Best dog park in the city. Its worth driving across town to take dogs too.
Purpose-built pooch parks for big and small

ANAN ZAKI
https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/102076133/purpose-built-pooch-parks-for-big-and-small

March 8, 2018

A purpose-built dog park in Marlborough, with special play equipment for its canine customers, could be just a year away.

The Marlborough District Council has set aside close to $200,000 for three dog parks - two former landfill sites and a yet-to-be-decided site in Picton. The parks, mostly paid for by dog fees, would be segregated, with areas for large dogs and small dogs. Council animal control contract manager Jane Robertson said while there would be play equipment, the items had not yet been finalised.

Marlborough District Council animal control sub-committee chairman Jamie Arbuckle said a park at the former Foxes Island landfill site, in Renwick, could be open next year. "I'm confident now that within the next 12 months we should be physically seeing a dog park at Foxes Island," Arbuckle said.

But councillor Michael Fitzpatrick said at a full council meeting on Monday he was against the idea of having dog parks. "I'm not in favour of this, I believe we've got one of the biggest dog parks in Marlborough, and New Zealand, and it's the Taylor River, I walk it twice a day, hundreds of dogs walk that river everyday," he said. Arbuckle said on Thursday establishing dog parks had been on the council's agenda since a petition to establish dog parks was submitted seven years ago.

"There are a lot of people with small areas of land and they want to take their dogs to a place where they can let the dog go but still be confined into a fenced area.
"Also if you look at places like Christchurch and The Groynes is a really good example, when people travel through the district it's a great place for people to stop and if they have dogs on board they'll be able to run their dogs," Arbuckle said.

Arbuckle was pleased to see the project get funding following a number of hurdles due to two of the sites being former landfill sites. They had to be capped with clay to be made safe, he said. "We looked at the Foxes Island site [in Renwick], a former landfill site, what's held us up there is we had to get tests to see if the land was OK and that took nearly 18 months and the tests showed it was safe to use."
A proposed park on George Conroy Dr, in Blenheim, on a former landfill site, had similar problems getting the go-ahead. "Blenheim was exactly the same and we had to go through the same process making sure we can use the site," Arbuckle said.
Marlborough had 10,281 registered dogs. The parks would be 80 per cent funded by dog fees, with the remainder coming from rates.
Feedback reviews on Whangarei Public Dog Park

5 star rating

Jess Thornton reviewed Whangarei Public Dog Park – 5 star
16 April
We came here for the first time this weekend just gone and it’s such an awesome place to take your dog. I loved the ramps and agility equipment (the dog, not so much). It seems very well taken care of. We only managed to find one ball that hadn’t been mixed so will see if I can master some and bring them with me next time I come up. I only wish we had something similar in Auckland!

Tony Gill reviewed Whangarei Public Dog Park – 5 star
19 June
I think the benefits of the Whangarei Public Dog Park are so important to the whole community. Would like more fenced areas, lights and cameras for safety in However our dogs love to play with the other dogs and if you know our dog she loves the water hose. THANKS Team and the Council

Bethan Jeannen reviewed Whangarei Public Dog Park – 5 star
13 February
So glad we have this park here, great for our dogs and people too, it’s only due to the dedication and massive commitment of the volunteers that make it the awesome place it is today.

Nicki Cherrington reviewed Whangarei Public Dog Park – 5 star
12 July
I love it! Such a fantastic idea! I wish we had one in our town!
Figure 3 – Written Petition Cover page and blank petition form

Help us get a dog park at the new Green Road Reserve, Dairy Flat

Sign the petition today!!!

“If you were building a new park the size of Cornwall Park, what would you put in it?”

That’s the question the Rodney Local Board is asking about a 154-hectare park proposed for Dairy Flat’s Green Road. We think that a large off-leash dog exercise area and a fenced dog park should be included as part of the reserve.

Support the creation of an off-leash dog exercise area and a fenced dog park please sign our petition today!!

WE HAVE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 21ST!!

This petition is organised by the Hibiscus Coast Dog Training Club
Personal information on this petition will be presented to Auckland Council and not used for any other purpose

I support the creation of an off-leash dog exercise area and a fenced dog park in the planned Green Road Reserve, Dairy Flat, Auckland.

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This petition is organised by the Hibiscus Coast Dog Training Club
Personal information on this petition will be presented to Auckland Council and not used for any other purpose
Figure 4 – Online Petition Page

To: Rodney Local Board - Auckland Council

Let's get a dog park at the new Green Road Reserve in Auckland

Campaign created by Claire Tiner

We ask that the Rodney Local Board and Auckland Council create a large dedicated dog exercise area and dog park within the new 150 hectare Green Road Reserve that they are planning to develop in Dairy Flat, Auckland.

Why is this important?

Rodney Local board are currently asking "If you were building a new park the size of Auckland's Cornwall Park, what would you put in it?" They are currently seeking feedback until 21st September 2018.

There are over 100,000 registered dogs in Auckland and 33% of them are located north of the Harbour Bridge. One of the key elements of animal welfare for dogs is regular exercise so having dedicated dog areas is important to give dogs the best chance of being well behaved.

Also important is to have off leash exercise areas as this helps to have good dog social encounters (this does not always happen if dogs are on lead) and for dogs to have maximum enrichment opportunities while being exercised. Having a fenced dog park within the dog exercise area would also help those with young or new dogs in developing recall when off lead.

Also important is to have of leash exercise areas as this helps to have good dog social encounters (this does not always happen if dogs are on lead) and for dogs to have maximum enrichment opportunities while being exercised. Having a fenced dog park within the dog exercise area would also help those with young or new dogs in developing recall when off lead and allow you to train your dog in a safe environment.

We believe that Christchurch has great dog parks and dog exercise areas including The Goyene, Victoria Park and Biddle Lake Forest Park. Many are fenced and feature agility equipment. It would be fantastic to get something similar for Auckland dogs and their families to use.

In the last year Auckland dog owners paid Auckland Council over $8 Million dollars in dog registration fees. It would be encouraging and positive for those who pay their dog registration fees to see their money being invested in an asset that they can use with their dogs.

If you’d like to find out more, or to complete council’s feedback survey on what should be part of this reserve, then just click on this link below: http://oursauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/articles/news/30169/help-shape-the-new-s-park/
Cr Greg Sayers: Accountability Report
August/September/October

This is a voluntary report initiated monthly by the Councillor to keep the Rodney Local Board, its staff and the residents and ratepayers of Rodney updated on activities and duties he has participated in. It is a summary of highlights only.

1. Committee Meetings

Finance and Performance
(Tuesday 21 Aug) decision making

Governing Body
(Thursday 23 Aug) decision making
Te Ākitea Waiohua – Wiri Lava Cave Scientific Reserve, Appointment to the Youth Advisory Panel, Accelerating housing delivery in Waimau Confidential Te Ākitea Waiohua – Wiri Lava Cave Scientific Reserve, Appointment to the Youth Advisory Panel, Accelerating housing delivery in Waimau

Planning Committee
(Tuesday 4 Sept) decision making
Public Input - Vector - impact of the April 2018 storm, learnings and future planning, Request to make Plan Change 4: Administrative Plan Change, operative in part, Road safety in Auckland, Strategic approach to marinas, Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan, Update on the Auckland Unitary Plan Monitoring Project

Rural Advisory Panel Meeting
(Friday 7 Sept)
This was a meeting to update and collect feedback from members on the Auckland Plan and the 10 Year budget.

Finance and Performance Committee Workshop
(Monday 10 Sept)
Development Contributions Policy proposed changes and improvements discussed.

Environment and Community Committee
(Tuesday 11 Sept) decision making
Local Board Input - Dual naming - Whau Local Board, Te Kete Rukuruku and the Māori naming of parks and places, Submission on proposed phase out of plastic shopping bags, Proposal to expand and broaden the regional Mobile Library & Access service, Reserve Revocation Report - Properties Cleared for Disposal, ICLEI conference - Cr Wayne Walker, Land acquisition for St Mary’s Bay and Masefield Beach improvement project Confidential Land acquisition for St Mary’s Bay and Masefield Beach improvement project, Acquisition and exchange of open space land – Northcote, Acquisition of Open Space – Massey, Acquisition of Open Space – Red Beach

Finance and Performance
(Tuesday 18 Sept) decision making
Public Input - David Boersen, Empire Capital Limited related to council’s strategic approach to marinas, Local Board Input - Hibiscus and Bays Local Board a proposed disposal of 8 Hiwi Crescent, Stanmore Bay, Disposal Recommendation Report Confidential Approval of and recommendation for adoption of the 2017/2018 Annual Report for Auckland Council and Group, Auckland waste services.
Wastewater Bylaw Hearing
(Monday 24 Sept) decision making
Public deliberations session. Resolved to revoke the legacy bylaws effective 1 November 2018.

Governing Body and Watercare Governance Workshop
(Tuesday 25 Sept)
Workshop on the general performance of Watercare and the future of the three waters within the Auckland Council Group.

Governing Body
(Thursday 27 Sept) decision making

Planning Committee
(Tuesday 2 Oct) decision making

Governing Body Workshop
(Tuesday 2 Oct)
Shareholder approval sought for Wynyard Quarter leasing agreement for future development by leasee.

Community Development and Safety Committee
(Tuesday 2 Oct) decision making
Arts, Community and Events Homelessness update, New Zealand Police – Update, Libraries update, Kia Whai Kainga Talou Katua - the regional cross-sectoral homelessness plan, Regional Arts and Culture Grant Allocation: Round One 2018/2019, Forward work programme

Planning Committee Workshop
(Monday 15 Oct)
City centre and waterfront development multi-million dollar proposed plans for the next 10 years.

Governing Body Workshop
(Monday 15 Oct)
Continued discussions on the proposed changes to the development contributions policy. Will go to public consultation and all Local Boards will be briefed and consulted in advance. Northern cluster meeting end of October.

Environment and Community Committee
(Tuesday 16 Oct) decision making

Governing Body Workshop
(Tuesday 16 Oct)
Auckland Cultural Heritage Section Review, Representation Review and Code of Conduct review.
2. Other meetings/events of interest:

Transport Forum
(Friday 24 Aug)
Public stakeholder meeting at the Workworth RSA. A regular forum. Topic of interest was the Matakana Link Road and a desire to understand from Auckland Transport why a 2 lane initial build was now favoured over a 4 lane proposal originally publically consulted on.

Mahurangi River Dredging Opening
(Friday 24 Aug)
Official event in recognition of the Rodney Local Board’s funding of the Mahurangi River project hosted by the Mahurangi River Restoration Trust and held aboard the Jane Gifford. Attending along with Rodney Local Board members.

HYS Onsite Wastewater Hearing
(Sat 25 Aug)
Held at Pihia to listen to verbal submissions about the proposed changes to the wastewater bylaws and septic tank regulations.

Lawrie Rd Transfer Station
(Monday 10 Sept)
Chair Beth Houlbrooke and myself called an emergency meeting with Cr Hulse, the Community Facilities leasing team and the waste management team to find options to retain the transfer stations at Wellsford and Workworth open until alternatives could be identified along with a communications program from Auckland Council.

Site Visit Gerontius Lane, Snells Beach
(Wednesday 12 Sept)
An on going issue with a retaining fences and ownership between Auckland Transport and the private land owner.

Clinic Workworth
(Friday 14 Sept)
Open day session (morning) with Councillor Sayers for constituents to discuss concerns, issues or suggestions.

Clinic Kumeu
(Friday 14 Sept)
Open day session (afternoon) with Councillor Sayers for constituents to discuss concerns, issues or suggestions.

Workworth Bus Service Opening
(Sunday 30 Sept)
Attended with Rodney Local Board members the inaugural trip of the Workworth to Hibiscus Coast Station bus service.

Rodney Local Board CatchUp
(Monday 1 Oct)
Monthly opportunity for Rodney Local Board members or staff to engage directly with the Councillor around any issues, opportunities, forward planning or assistance required.

Cr Sayers willing to meet with any individual member of the Rodney Local Board, or the full Local Board, or with any of its Committees as invited and maintains an open door policy.

Rodney Local Board communications meeting
(Monday 1 Oct)
Meeting with the communications staff and the Rodney Local Board Chair to identify news stories, achievements and plans to update the public on.

Clinic Workworth
(Friday 12 Oct)
Open day session (morning) with Councillor Sayers for constituents to discuss concerns, issues or suggestions.

Clinic Kumeu
(Friday 12 Oct)
Open day session (afternoon) with Councillor Sayers for constituents to discuss concerns, issues or suggestions.
Omaha Set Nets
(Monday 15 Oct)
Facilitated a meeting with representatives from the Omaha ratepayers group and the Team Manager Compliance Response about the process of extending the existing seasonal set net bylaw to a year round ban, as well as prohibiting certain crab potting practices that are a safety issue and a nuisance to the public. The Team Manager Policies and Bylaws along with the Team Manager Compliance Response will outline an appropriate set of options to bring this to Auckland Council for official consideration.

3. Ratepayer meetings attended:

Sandspit Residents & Ratepayers
(Monday 10 Sept)
Update delivered on the Auckland Plan and the 10 Year Budget, along with answering questions from the committee members.

Kumeu Ratepayers & NZTA
(Monday 1 Oct)
Discussion meeting and briefing from NZTA about the future growth alliance and its associated projects.

Matakana Community Group
(Wednesday 4 Oct)
Update delivered on the Auckland Plan, the 10 Year Budget and the status of the Matakana Link Road, along with answering questions from the committee members.

4. Constituent Queries:

Schoolhouse Bay Road, Rubbish Collection Brookdale Road, Rates Valuation, Kaipara Hills Road Maintenance, Peak Road Waimauku culvert discharging onto property, Civil Defence.

Greg Sayers
Auckland Councillor
Rodney ward