

Dogs in the park trial - frequently asked questions

Why might dogs be permitted in the park?

The council is seeking residents' views on whether a trial permitting dogs in the park should be introduced.

One of the reasons for considering a trial is that increased use by responsible residents and families may help create a more welcoming environment, improve natural surveillance, and discourage anti-social behaviour.

Any trial will be monitored and reviewed before any permanent decision is made.

Would dogs be permitted everywhere in the park?

No.

If a trial were introduced there would be restrictions on certain areas of the park. To ensure the park remains safe and enjoyable for all users:

- Dogs would not be permitted within the children's play area. To help achieve this, fencing would be installed around the play area.
- Dogs would be required to remain on a lead at all times.
- Clear signage would be installed throughout the park showing where dogs are permitted and where restrictions apply.

I'm concerned about dog fouling. How would this be managed?

We recognise that dog fouling is one of the main concerns raised by residents.

If a trial were introduced:

- Dedicated dog waste bins would be installed.
- Dog owners would be required to clean up after their pets.
- Clear signage would remind owners of their responsibilities.
- Council operatives would inspect and clear the park every morning and report any issues requiring attention.
- The situation would be closely monitored throughout the trial period.

What about aggressive or uncontrolled dogs?

If a trial were introduced, dogs would be required to remain on a lead at all times.

This would help:

- Improve safety for all park users.
- Ensure dogs remain under control.
- Provide reassurance to residents who may feel uncomfortable around dogs.

Any reported incidents would be investigated and taken into account when reviewing the trial.

What impact would this have on wildlife and the environment?

Protecting the park's environment remains an important priority.

If a trial were introduced, measures could include:

- Keeping dogs on leads at all times.
- Restricting access to sensitive areas where necessary.
- Monitoring the park throughout the trial period.
- Promoting responsible dog ownership through signage and communication.

Any environmental impacts would be considered as part of the review process.

How will the council know if the trial is successful?

If a trial were introduced, the council would monitor a range of factors, including:

- Feedback from residents and park users.
- Park cleanliness.
- Reports of dog fouling.
- Dog-related incidents or complaints.
- Levels of anti-social behaviour.
- Overall park usage.

The findings would help determine whether the arrangements should continue, be amended, or be removed.

If the trial goes ahead, what should I do if I see a problem?

Park users are encouraged to report concerns such as:

- Dog fouling.
- Dogs not being kept on leads.
- Dogs entering prohibited areas.
- Aggressive behaviour or other safety concerns (concerns such as these should be reported to the police)

Feedback from residents will play an important role in assessing the success of the trial.

I still have a question not covered in the FAQs, or about my survey response?

You can contact our public realm team at public.realm@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Our commitment

We recognise that residents and park users have differing views on whether dogs should be permitted in the park.

This is why we are currently seeking feedback from the local community regarding a trial, before any decisions are made.

Your survey responses will help inform whether a trial should proceed and how it could be managed to ensure the park remains clean, safe and welcoming for everyone.