

CASE STUDY

Dog Park on a shoestring

Client
Mid Murray
Council

Location
Mannum

Size
1000sq.
metres

Budget
\$35-40K/
3years

Getting started

In 2013, the Mid Murray Council secured funding from the Dog and Cat Management Board of SA to develop an enclosed dog park for both local residents and pet-friendly travelers.

Council selected a site for the dog park at the Mannum Oval Grounds. This multi-purpose park accommodates a range of activities including: a football oval, showground facilities, skate park, enclosed children's playground, tennis courts, horse adjustment area, toilets and a water refill station for tourists in caravans and RV's.

In June 2014, the Mid Murray Council engaged Balancing Act Adelaide to provide advice on the location and design of the dog park. One of the challenges of the project was to provide ideas on how to develop a park over a three-year period.

Assessment and design

Balancing Act Adelaide visited Mannum to assess the opportunities and constraints of the site. They then provided options and concepts to increase the size of the park over 3 years.

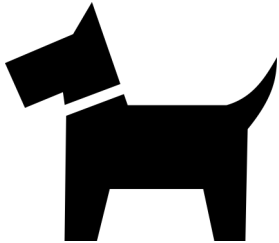
"It was important that the first year incorporate the basic infrastructure, layout and essential amenities of a dog park".

With this advice, Council interpreted the design concepts and constructed a dog park with the following features:

- perimeter fencing and maintenance gates
- 2 entry-exit gates with double gating system
- variety of different ground surfaces such as reticulated grass, bark chips and crushed granite
- internal circulation path
- retention of existing mature trees and provision of 2 shelters for shade
- drinking water for dogs
- directional signage and park rules
- community noticeboard inside the park to promote community events and dog park etiquette.

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NOTICE TO DOGS

Dress for the occasion – wear your trendiest collar, ID and current registration disk; it impresses other dogs and the Council.

Don't forget to bring a doggy-do-bag ... there is nothing worse than stuff stuck in your paws!

A twist on park rules

Council developed a set of dog park rules written from a dog's perspective. Refer to *Notice to dogs* (left).

Bringing community together

The dog park is a way of bringing community together. When Balancing Act Adelaide visited the dog park, they noticed both local residents and tourists using the park. One local resident commented:

"My wife is always at the park with our dog. I thought it was a mothers club, but now realise other men go. I want to help out. I want to bring my broom to sweep the paths."

The construction of the park also involved participants from the Work for the Dole Program who were responsible for erecting the shelters.

Insights

Balancing Act Adelaide's report provided Council with independent advice on what they could do with the site and how to stage it according to the budget. Rocky Warren, Manager Regulatory Services, commented:

"The report was the best thing. It gave weight to the argument for a dog park. It provided independent advice, a breakdown of costs and outlined development options as additional funding became available. It gave Council the opportunity to plan and develop the park in a way that allowed for the best use of the local resources and materials. It really helped us get good bang for our buck."

The dog park has been a great catalyst for bringing together a broad cross section of the community.

The dog park caters for a new type of user, the pet-friendly traveller. Council is now promoting their first dog park in Mannum via the tourist information office and in the local *Mannum Mag*.



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