

Submissions received on Proposal for the Little River Waiwera dog exercise area, June 2023

Organisations / Businesses

ID	Do you have any feedback or comments?	Name - Organisation
49710	Excellent facility! Would benefit from a water source and agility obstacles. Happy to lend a hand building these.	Joe Brazier - Peninsula Flowers, Director

Individuals

ID	Do you have any feedback or comments?	Name
49536	<p>Thanks for opening up this facility. It's great to finally have a designated area for dogs to exercise in.</p> <p>We look forward to it remaining in the area and developing even more.</p> <p>Thanks</p>	Alex Simpson
49539	Love the new dog park. The long-seeded grass too high to walk in though and no bins at the gate for the doggy pooh. Owners would be more responsible if there was somewhere to put the pooh.	Nikki Adams
49540	<p>Brilliant idea and area need some bins but part from that all good.</p> <p>Bit rough and ready but dogs don't mind.</p> <p>Great idea for locals and people travelling to use for dogs as is nowhere else really safe and secure</p>	Caroline Walmsley
49541	It's a great idea and very handy, we use it every time we come to little river, a couple of bench chairs, rubbish bin and trough for dogs would be great.	Leigh Hampton
49543	<p>Great facility! Bumped into a few other local dog owners who both praised the facility, as there's no other safe area to let your dog's off-lead in Little River. And it's difficult to safely socialise dogs in a rural community.</p> <p>Would love to see some signage at the entrance indicating which area was for large and small dogs respectively, a bin for poo bags, and perhaps some basic bench seating scattered around the areas to sit and watch our dogs frolic.</p> <p>I also noticed some gaps in the fencing around the stream which would've been large enough for a "small" dog to easily get through, especially to the east end with the temptation of the nearby horse paddock.</p>	Anthony Rohan
49545	I love the dog exercise area & hope it remains after the trial. Would love to see a bench seat & maybe a bin & also water for the dogs if possible- it was very hot when we were there in the weekend.	Jackie Hampton
49546	Nice area to run our dog (staying at the campground). Water and seats would be nice.	Alice Hout
49549	<p>It's fantastic having somewhere secure to let dogs off to play and socialise!</p> <p>Having a bin handy for poo bags would be a great addition though</p>	Freja Hudspith

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ID	Do you have any feedback or comments?	Name
49550	<p>Thank you Thank you Thank you. I am a long-term resident of Little River, (34yrs), a Veterinary nurse and canine trainer. This exercising area is so desperately needed in our community. With the increasing population of both people and their dog companions we are truly in need of a suitable area in which both canines and residents can come together.</p> <p>Not only will this give our dogs an environment in which they can exercise/socialise freely, it also is building a stronger community connection with dog owners and without.</p> <p>I think the trial area is very generous in size allowing adequate space for dogs to run and also allows room for those who prefer a gentle stroll. It is very nice to see there is a small dog/puppy area as well.</p> <p>I would like to see the fencing between the two sides increased in height for safety, so a large dog would not be able to jump over. I would also like you to consider the south fence in the large area be increased as the neighbouring homes have chickens so that might be a concern for a reactive large dog. A water feature, climbing frame, agility activities equipment, tunnels and shade would be great, some seating, and a doggie do rubbish bin is a must! i see dog dirt already in the trial area which has not been removed, I'm guessing this will happen but having somewhere to put it will deter folks leaving it behind.</p> <p>I like the idea of a walking track around the perimeter of the area so it can be used cleanly even on the wetter days. water feature, double gates for the entrance and exit and also hitching posts. I have so many ideas.</p> <p>Thank you again for listening to the people of Little River. This will bring in so much to our small community, having a suitable area will make visitors want to stop and take a break, this of course will benefit our small businesses as well.</p>	Sue Grahame
49552	<p>My family live in Little River (Western Valley Road), and it continues to grow year-upon-year as both a stopping destination for visitors to Banks Peninsula, as well as a destination in itself, with a number of unique accommodations, cafe's art galleries, tramps, and day-walks.</p> <p>It's hard to see how all of that growing ecosystem could do anything but be supported by a dog exercise area.</p> <p>The day-trippers need a spot to stop off and stretch their legs, and it provides an active area in/around the main township. Kids can play on the playground while the dogs have a run-around, whether they are staying for a few days, or just an hour over lunch. The location is away from traffic, but still close to all amenities.</p> <p>In short, I think it's a great idea.</p>	Joshua Wharton
49587	<p>Great to have a dog park. It will be a real asset for locals and visitors, but I do have large amounts of feedback:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The grass needs to be properly mowed and raked - it's no fun taking dogs home full of long grass clippings 2. Wire embedded in the tree and ground in the large dog's area - very dangerous. A dog got cut. 3. Large gap under small dog gate means that small dogs can just walk through. Pretty pointless having a gate when a dog can just walk under. 4. Seating needs to be provided for humans. 5. Water access is needed for dogs. 6. Poop bags and rubbish bins need to be provided - people are inherently lazy and won't bother cleaning up if you don't make it easy for them. 	Tina Johnson
49588	<p>Could there be a map of where it is</p>	Sharon Chapman

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49617	This is a great facility to give your dog a run on the long journey between Chch and Akaroa. We visited end of Jan and grass had been mown maybe two weeks ago and the clippings were like hay all over the paddocks. Dogs don't like running around in hay. Keep the fenced area by maintain to the same level of other CCC dog parks.	Paula Lorgelly
49722	<p>I live near LR and use the exercise area on occasion. I have a 15-month-old pup so still socializing etc. I've used it twice and have the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * the grass is not super dog or human friendly. It's better today but is still quite hard with thick sharp stalks in places where thick, long grass has been recently cut. I'm thinking this will change over time if it gets mowed often enough to create more grass blades than stalks. * There is a large patch of prickles in the eastern side of the paddock - again not dog or human friendly. * There is no rubbish bin for poop bags. Also some people are not cleaning up after their dog hopefully this too would improve overtime. * The shade provided by the large willow trees is fabulous 	Penelope Goldstone
49781	<p>We visited the Little River Dog Park yesterday, 11 February 2023. It was a welcome break for our dog as there are no other dog parks in between Christchurch and Akaroa, our dog could run around freely and use the toilet which made the trip a lot more enjoyable not just for our dog but also for us.</p> <p>We used the enclosed area on the left as it seemed more suitable for large dogs and the one on the right appeared to have grass seeds on a part where the mower couldn't get to, grass seeds are a real hazard for dogs as they slowly dig into their skin and get infected, needing surgery or worse they travel into their bloodstream and get stuck in their organs.</p> <p>Did notice there were a lot of prickly weeds around which isn't great for dogs' paws.</p>	Bob Van Hout
49789	We loved it! Great area to exercise your dog, especially for those passing through who are traveling with dogs! Can grab a coffee from the local store and take your dog for some exercise at the same time	Sheryl Smith
49811	Great area. Just need to get rid of the thistles in the grass and have more signage.	Lyn Leslie
50470	Really pleased to see this facility at Little River. I use it regularly now. Pleased to see it now has mown paths, that was needed to make it easier (and drier) for folk to wander around while their dog's play. Important that the whole area is also mown reasonably regularly to ensure barley grass can't set seed. It's become quite the community socialisation point, with friends and neighbours meeting for a chat and doggie play dates. I've also noticed Christchurch visitors bringing their dogs to the park. This should be encouraged with signage out on the main road pointing to the park. You often see dogs in visitors' cars while they stop at the cafe. It would be great to encourage people to get their dogs out of the car and have a play. To that end some picnic tables within the dog park would be really good. Longer term, if the park is retained, more dog-proof fencing is required, smaller dogs can easily get through the current fencing. It would also be good if the thistles growing thickly along the drain are sprayed out. All in all a great initiative and I think adds a lot of value to the village for locals and visitors alike.	Stephen Attwood
50567	Hi, love the large area. just think it would be good to get rid of prickles there's seems to be quite a lot on bank where ditch is.... and debris under tree. so nice to have area for our dogs. thanks	Sharon Chapman
50569	This is a great space to socialise our fur babies. They're absolutely loving it and I have to admit it's a great social space for their owners too. Coffee in hand, a walk and catch up as dogs play and run around happily. I would suggest a doggy doo bin and spring-loaded gate.	Corey Blackburn
50652	<p>This is a great asset to our community. It is well used by me and many others. I always get great feedback when talking to other users.</p> <p>It could do with a couple of things. First being a bin for the dog poo, and second being a spring-loaded gate.</p>	Mario Downes

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50730	<p>Love having an area where my dog can go in Little River. Thanks for that and please keep!</p> <p>There are some thistles that we have to avoid.</p> <p>You could add a poop back dispenser and bin.</p>	Eileen Charman
50856	<p>Absolutely love the idea of a dog park especially for travellers with pets wanting to stop and have a look around.</p>	Vanessa Townsend-Paley
50979	<p>I meet up with other local dog owners on set days during the week for a get together here. it has fast become a local hub with community making it their own with the addition of water bowls and a 20lt water container for use. I myself have added a doggie do bags for whoever needs them.</p> <p>Personally this place has helping me with my mental health, having somewhere to go to with my dogs gives me a purpose to get out of the house, it is saving me from being alone and house bound because now i have a safe place to be and to be with other dog loving folks. through the park i have managed to make connection with people i would never have had.</p>	Sue Grahame
51043	<p>It is a great asset. We pass through and it is a great time on our way to Akaroa and on the way back to allow our dog freedom to run around safely. It can be such a busy spot it is good to have that bit of safety for our fur friends</p>	Lyndsay Parry-Griffiths
51059	<p>Great area to exercise our little dog and able to have a run without a lead on. However there is too big a gap by the gates so a little dogs could go under it. Bin for poo bags would be helpful also drinking water in the small dog area. Just great to have these areas for dogs.</p>	Christine Dixon
51088	<p>We have used the exercise area twice with our dogs when visiting the area. The area had a lot of prickly weeds, and the grass was quite long both times which made it difficult for walking with open shoes but could be a great area if it is clear of nasty weeds.</p>	Melissa Neuhoff
51101	<p>Pretty good for our community. It would be fantastic if all the thistles could be removed, particularly in the small dog area. The thistles prevent the dogs from accessing many parts of the designated area. Some other stimulation activities such as big rocks or logs for the dogs to engage with would be a bonus.</p>	Brendan Leslie
51102	<p>I think in general the dog park is great. We used it every day in the summer, and it was so nice to have a secure place for dogs to play together close to where we live. Unfortunately, as soon as it started to rain for a couple of days, it flooded. There wasn't a single area you could walk without it being waterlogged. In addition to this, the 'creek' obviously started filling with water which I believe also includes run-off from nearby farms? This obviously won't get better now for quite some time, coming into winter...</p> <p>I have a water dog who loves to get in water any chance she gets, including getting her head under. Consequently, in line with this, she started vomiting daily. Of course, it could be argued that it was unrelated, but it only happened when we went in the park and stopped instantly when we stopped taking her in there ... for her own sake, after multiple days of this happening, I haven't tested that theory again!</p> <p>I miss taking them in there, but I can't risk it while there is water present. What a shame!</p> <p>My thoughts would be to fence off the 'creek' area. It isn't reasonable to expect to keep the dogs on a lead in their else what is the point in having a place to run free? Another issue a fence would fix is the farmers concerns, with the sheep on the far border of the park. Some netting was put up to prevent the sheep getting a fright, but the farmer would prefer no dogs to be near there (even if they are not showing an interest in the sheep) because it disturbs her working dog. Again, seems a bit silly not being able to let the dogs run free in a dog park but I can also understand her frustration.</p> <p>I have very, very rarely seen the small dog area being used- Even though I was there at least twice a day in the summer. Having spoken to some small dog owners using the large dog area, some of it is because their dogs can get through the fencing and under the gate so there is no point in trying to keep them separate. Therefore, would it make sense to just join the two areas and fence off the creek on the upper side so there is a large area but without the access to the run-off creek area? I have been told there is some drainage potentially going in for the rest of the area that is prone to flooding... Hopefully if this is the case, it will help but it won't change the creek situation. Since it has been so wet, I very rarely see anyone in there. Seems crazy to only be able to use the park for maybe a third of the year when otherwise, I believe the park has been very gratefully received by locals with dogs.</p>	Danielle Crosbie

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	<p>Other improvements would be a water station of sorts and maybe some agility obstacles. I'm thinking these could be recycled products to help with cost, the environment, and a bit of variety for the dogs.</p> <p>I think overall, the dog park is great, and I would like to see it stay. However, there are definitely a few things that need improvement, for sure.</p>	
51131	It's great to have somewhere for dogs to run around off leash - there are almost no walks or parks on the peninsula where that's allowed. This exercise area is in a good spot, accessible to visitors to Wairewa/Little River passing through as well as central for locals, and with easy parking. it's getting lots of use already, even as a trial and before there's proper signage.	Donald Matheson
51141	<p>The dog exercise area is FANTASTIC!!! Very well fenced area, great area for dogs to play!! Great community space where lots of people can chat and exercise their dogs!! We love it.</p> <p>Just needs a rubbish bin for dog poo picked up to be put in AND a signpost out of the main road to show visitors to the area that there is a space just for them to run their dogs around.</p>	Vanessa Mitchell
51191	This has been a fantastic and well-loved area. We have used the space most days and we have often met people traveling to or from Akaroa that have called in along the way to let their dogs out for a run. More recently my dog has found the back fence is easy to go under as it is not secure. If going forward the fences could be secured that would be better for all including the property owners and their stock/privacy. Ps it would be great if a doggie do bin could be provided as it would save people having to carry to the play area.	Victoria Peden
51196	<p>Little river dog park has been amazing for my 2 lab pups since it opened in December. Previously we have nowhere to take them, and most people walked their dogs in the domain which is actually not allowed.</p> <p>Great that there is a small and large area to keep them separated as even though mine are pups there are so boisterous.</p> <p>I appreciate you setting it up and hope it continues.</p> <p>From Nicky, Annie, and Teddy!</p>	Nicky Geddes
51295	Hello there, been in both areas with my dogs couple of times. Unfortunately on most of our visits, nearly whole area was very wet almost boggy. Drain which runs through middle was also very wet and few times full of water. This makes this area unsuitable for dog exercise at autumn and winter times. In summer, grass was too high, that my smaller dog has disappeared in it. If these issues could be look at, I'll gladly use this area for exercising and socializing my pooches with others. Thank you, Radek Piskula	Radek Piskula
51311	It was a very pleasant surprise to find the dog play area at Little River on a recent visit. It was quite busy with people so was good to have a dedicated space to let our dog have a run around in a safe area. Well done.	Toni Bull
51315	<p>I am strongly in favour of separated dog exercise areas, and support this project.</p> <p>I would also however be keen on increased enforcement of dog control bylaws in park areas which are not designated for dogs to be allowed off leashes. Particularly in parks where dogs are required to be on leashes on pathways in the park, this bylaw is followed by probably only around 50% of dog owners in Christchurch proper. Pairing such measures with improvements to infrastructure for dog owners (to the extent that this would work) enables us to send a clear message that we want to create safe and enjoyable spaces for both dog owners and people who are less comfortable around dogs.</p>	Richard Abey-Nesbit
51319	This is a fantastic idea and will bring more people to this small community. Gives us a great reason to go there because we can bring our wee dog on the adventure now	Kelly Davies

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51322	<p>Just make sure there are some cycle parks for larger cargo style bikes. While the majority of people will drive there, I see more and more people transporting their pets via cargo bike or even on the racks of normal bikes. I envisage this is going to become more and more popular to do, especially since a lot of dogs can fit on bike easily.</p> <p>Also if it's not clear think this is a great idea to have a dog park for people to take their pets and let them run around for exercise without worrying about going to a park and disturbing others.</p>	George Laxton
51329	Really happy with this dog exercise area and would love to see more in Christchurch and the Banks Peninsula. It helps to give people options so they can exercise their dogs properly without bothering other people. Separate small dog areas are great too.	Joseph Wynn
51331	Great idea	Justin Boswell
51336	Thank you for installing this. We have added a stop for an off lead run on our round the village loop and used it almost every day.	Joe Shabashow
51337	I really appreciate that there are separate areas for small dogs and big dogs. The only problem is there is not enough room under the gates for my small dog to get out of the exercise area, or into the big dog exercise area. Maybe a piece of rubber or something at the bottom of the gate would prevent this?	Amanda Stuart