

Dog Park Funding Survey Results February 2024

At the last Council meeting in 2023, councillors were expected to approve the construction of dog parks at Omokoroa, Katikati and Waihi Beach without knowing their construction and maintenance costs and without any consultation with the local communities on their desirability, funding and ongoing costs.

This survey was undertaken to provide councillors with objective data on how ratepayer's opinion on the proposed council expenditure on dog parks in Omokoroa, Katikati and Waihi Beach.

Of the 185 submissions received during this survey 73% were from people who did not own dogs, 22% were from urban dog owners and 5% were from rural dog owners.

Council proposes to allocate \$30,000 of urban rates for the construction of each of the proposed dog parks in Te Puke (already constructed), Omokoroa, Katikati and Waihi Beach (\$120,000 in total). The estimated total cost of constructing these dog parks is \$591,186. The difference between the total construction cost and the \$30,000 of urban rates for each of the dog parks is proposed to be obtained from other sources.

On overwhelming majority of the respondents (71%) disagreed with the use of urban rates to fund the construction dog parks, with 63% of respondents disagreeing with the use of community board funds for the construction of dog parks.

If sufficient external funding is not available to fully fund the construction of the proposed dog parks, the large majority of respondents (72%) indicated that the balance of the construction cost should not be borne by urban ratepayers but be fully funded by urban dog owners through their annual dog licencing fee.

A large majority of respondents (74%) indicated that the maintenance cost for dog parks should be borne by urban dog owners through their annual dog licencing fee.

Based on this survey, it is clear that majority of urban ratepayers have indicated that:

- They do not support the use of rates or community board funds for their construction,
- dog park maintenance costs should be funded through the annual dog licencing fee for urban dogs,
- any dog park construction should be funded from external sources with any deficit between external funding and actual construction cost being met by urban dog owners through a levy in their annual dog licencing fee, and
- should the above criteria not be met, the proposed construction of the proposed dog parks should not proceed.

The survey data and the projected construction costs for the dog parks are provided below.

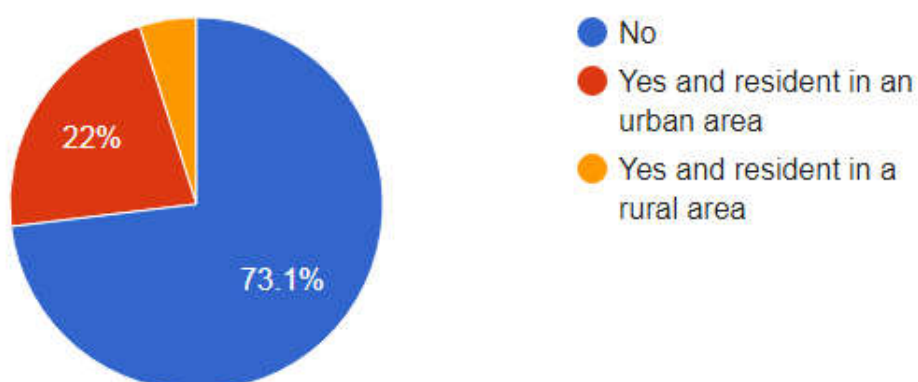
Cost Estimates

This table below provides early estimates for each of the Council's proposed dog exercise areas.

	Te Puke	Ōmokoroa	Katikati	Waihi Beach
Dog Drinking Fountains with bowl	8,410	8,410	8,410	8,410
Dog Pool Bag Dispensers with bin	2,502	2,502	2,502	2,502
Seating	5,000	10,880	16,760	14,800
Waterline install	2,359	10,000	15,000	12,000
Pathway	54,400	60,000	60,000	60,000
Dog Mounds	13,048	6,524	6,524	13,048
Fencing	40,000	27,000	40,000	45,000
Gates	2,304	4,608	2,304	2,304
Large tree planting	2,125	2,500	2,500	2,500
Shrubbery area planting	1,039	3,000	3,000	3,000
Signage	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Project total	132,198	136,424	158,000	164,564
Maintenance Estimate	7,416	7,416	8,856	7,416

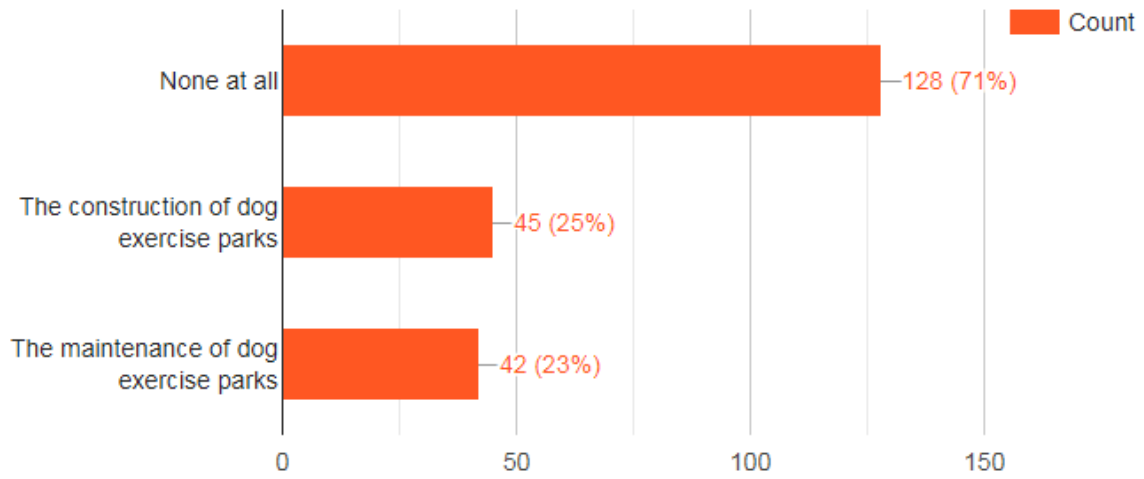
Are you a dog owner?

182 submissions



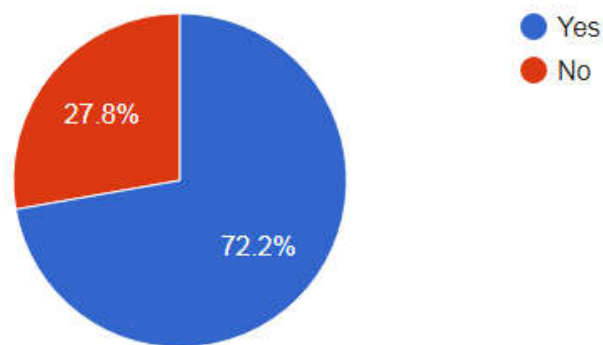
Should all residential ratepayers be funding the dog parks

181 submissions



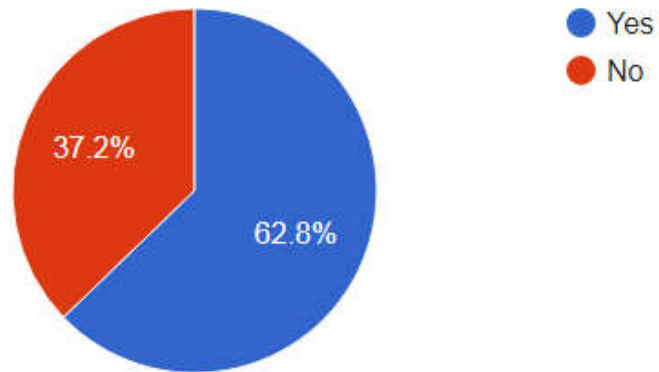
Where there is a shortfall in the external funding for dog park construction, should the balance of the construction cost be fully funded by urban dog owners through their annual dog licensing fee?

180 submissions



Should Community Board funds be excluded as a source of funding for the construction of dog exercise parks?

180 submissions



Should the annual maintenance cost for dog exercise parks be funded from the annual dog licencing fee for dogs registered on urban areas?

179 submissions

