

Off-leash dog exercise areas



There are seven off-leash areas in Ballina Shire.

Council recognises the importance of dogs being allowed time to exercise unrestrained and there are seven off-leash areas in the shire. Dogs can exercise, roam freely and socialise under the supervision of their owner or person in charge at the following designated off-leash areas:



- 1. BICENTENNIAL GARDENS**
Ballina (Northern area of the reserve)
- 2. COMPTON DRIVE** East Ballina + agility equipment
- 3. GAP ROAD** Alstonville +agility equipment
- 4. SEVEN MILE BEACH**
Lennox Head (North of Surf Club)

- 5. BALLINA HEIGHTS ESTATE**
Ballina Heights (Eastern Reserve)
- 6. HEADLANDS DRIVE DRAINAGE RESERVE** Skennars Head
- 7. THE SPIT**
Ballina

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Your dog must always be under effective control and never be left unattended. **Effective control** means your dog responds to your command and remains close to you.
- You must immediately remove your dog from the area if it shows any signs of anti-social or aggressive behaviour.
- Pick up after your dog. Bag the poo, put it in the bin or take it with you.
- Always be considerate of others in the area.
- Ensure your dog does not chase or harm wildlife.

Fines apply for non-compliance.

Don't forget

Dogs not being managed responsibly in these areas may be seized by Council Rangers. Thank you for your cooperation.



WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO LEASH UP

Our coastal walkways and reserves are stunning locations to walk your dog, but it's important to remember that on-leash rules are there for a reason.

Of course, the first thing you should do is check signage onsite to see whether the area you are visiting is a dog prohibited area.

In most public areas you must keep your dog on a leash at all times. You risk a fine of up to **\$330** for having your dog off leash in an area that requires your pet to be on leash and/or being in a dog prohibited area.

Regardless of how well behaved or trained your dog is, there are a few key points to remember:

OTHER PEOPLE MAY BE SCARED

They don't know your dog and may be frightened or have had adverse encounters before.

DOG ATTACKS

You don't know how other dogs have been trained or whether they could be aggressive. Other dogs may not like your dog coming up to them and may react by biting, or worse. If your dog and another dog is off leash, there is potential for a serious dog fight to occur.

EASIER POO PICK UP

When you have control of your dog you know where it does its 'business' and you can pick up after your pet.

DOGS CAN BE UNPREDICTABLE

Your dog may react to its environment and become spooked. If you have control, you can protect your pet.

PROTECT WILDLIFE

This includes protecting your pet from injury, such as snake bite.

LOSE YOUR PET

Keeping your dog on leash will prevent the possibility of it running away. When a pet goes missing it is very emotional for the owner and distressing for the pet.

ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN

When walking your dog there are often others walking, running, and cycling, which can lead to accidents when a dog is not properly controlled. Road traffic is also a big concern. Having your dog on leash is the best way to keep it safe from being hit or injured by a vehicle.



be as
awesome as
your dog
thinks you
are!



Responsible dog owners help protect our shorebirds.

During spring and summer, Pied Oystercatchers, Little Terns and Beach Stone-curlews nest and roost on our beautiful beaches. You can have a huge impact on the survival of these unique and highly threatened birds by keeping your dog on leash when at the beach.

Nests of shorebirds are usually located above the high-tide mark and are very well camouflaged against the sand. Once a dog detects a nesting bird, its natural curiosity can lead it straight to the vulnerable eggs and chicks. No matter how well trained your dog is, accidental crushing of eggs and chicks can occur when a dog runs around on the beach.

It is critical that nesting birds are left to sit on their eggs and that their chicks are able to feed on the beach. If nests are disturbed and left for long periods, eggs and chicks can overheat, overcool or be eaten by predators. Roosting birds need time to rest, feed and save energy for their long migrations.

Small changes in your behaviour can have a huge impact on the survival of beach-nesting birds:

- Take note of onsite signage about dog rules
- Use a leash when at one of our four dog-friendly beaches during nesting season
- Keep your dog well away from shorebirds
- Walk near the water's edge rather than above the high-tide mark
- Keep your dog out of prohibited areas.