

Ranger Observation Data Summary

Recreation Ground Oval Off-Leash Dog Exercise Trial

Purpose

This attachment provides a summary of Ranger observations undertaken during the Recreation Ground Oval off-leash dog exercise trial.

Observations were collected between September 2025 and July 2026 and are intended to provide an indication of usage patterns and compliance trends. The observations represent point-in-time inspections and should not be interpreted as a formal compliance audit.

Observation Period

10th April 2026 to 9th May 2026

Key Findings

Community Demand

Observation data demonstrates strong and consistent community use of the Recreation Ground Oval during the approved off-leash period of 5:30am to 10:00am.

Several observation days recorded significant numbers of dogs using the reserve during morning periods, indicating ongoing demand for accessible dog exercise opportunities within the central Geraldton area.

Compliance Trends

Observations also identified:

- Repeated dog activity occurring after 10:00am.
- Multiple instances where dogs were observed without a lead outside approved off-leash periods.
- Continued usage during times where dogs were required to be on-leash.

These findings support concerns raised by sporting user groups that compliance with the trial conditions has been inconsistent.

Observation Summary

Observation Measure	Recorded Number
Dogs observed during permitted 5:30am–10:00am period	484+
Dogs observed after 10:00am	223+
Observation period	10 th April 2026 to 9 th May 2026

Daily Observation Snapshot

Selected observations recorded during April and May 2026 identified:

- High levels of usage during approved morning periods.
- Ongoing dog activity after 10:00am.
- Multiple observations of off-leash dogs outside permitted hours.
- Reduced dog activity during organised sporting activities where monitoring or controls were present.

Compliance Implications

The observation data suggests that:

1. The oval is a well-used dog exercise location and continues to meet a demonstrated community need.
2. Existing signage and operating conditions alone have not achieved full compliance.
3. Future management of the site should place greater emphasis on education, monitoring and targeted Ranger attendance.
4. Continued data collection would assist Council in evaluating the effectiveness of any future compliance measures.