

Commercial Fitness Training Activities on Community Land Policy - Frequently Asked Questions

This information is subject to change, and Council will advise those trainers who have provided their contact details of any changes. Trainers and participants are encouraged to check this information regularly for any changes.

1. Why have a policy?

Personal fitness training is one of the strongest growth segments in the fitness industry. An increase in the number of commercial fitness trainers using public reserves has raised various issues including:

- Potential conflict between general park users and commercial fitness groups
- The level of demand of a particular location
- Increased wear and tear on Council's parks, reserves, and facilities
- Public liability concerns (some trainers having insufficient or no insurance to cover client injuries)

Council also has a requirement to approve any business use of community land, in accordance with section 200 of the Local Government Act 1999.

2. Are all parks and reserves in the City of Unley covered in this policy?

Yes. All parks and reserves in the City of Unley are categorized as community land under the Local Government Act 1999, and are therefore covered in this policy.

There are some parks, and some areas within parks that are not suitable for fitness training activities, and are therefore not available for this activity.

Note: The Royal Showgrounds (Wayville) and the South Park Lands are not owned and/or managed by the City of Unley.

3. Who does this policy apply to?

- Groups that are involved in personal fitness training, including yoga, pilates, and similar activities.
- The policy specifically applies to commercial groups, but non-commercial groups are encouraged to book a park and adhere to the guidelines.

4. Who does this policy not apply to?

- Groups that are not involved with fitness training, yoga, pilates, and similar activities.
- Groups/individuals who hire Council's parks and reserves on a one-off or on-going basis for organised sport, on a non-commercial basis
- Clubs who have a lease with Council to use community land for their activities

5. What are the conditions that I must abide by under this policy?

For a list of conditions, please refer to the policy, on Council's website, at www.unley.sa.gov.au

6. How do I apply for a permit?

Follow these steps:

- a) Read the Commercial Fitness Training Activities on Community Land Policy
- b) Contact Council on 8372 5111 or visit the Civic Centre at 181 Unley Road, Unley, to receive advice on which locations are currently available
- c) Complete an application form and attach copies of the essential documents listed below:
 - Current senior first aid certificate
 - Public Liability insurance certificate (minimum \$10 million)
 - Minimum Certificate 4 in Fitness (and electives where required)
- d) Attach any other supporting documentation as required in the hire permit.
- e) Submit the application and pay the hire and bond fee.

Payment may be made by cash, eftpos, or cheque at the City of Unley Civic Centre, 181 Unley Road, Unley (from 8.30am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday).

7. How is my application assessed?

Your application will be assessed by Council staff in accordance with the policy, and once approved, the booking is entered into the system, and a signed copy of the booking form, and receipt of payment is issued.

8. Do I need to pay a fee for the hire permit?

Yes. Once the application is assessed and approved, an annual hire fee will apply.

The fee amounts can be found in the City of Unley's annual 'Fees and Charges Register', and are subject to annual review as part of Council's budget process.

9. Can I pay for a shorter time than 1 year?

Yes, but the fee is set out in the Fees and Charges Register under "casual user". The fee is charged on an hourly basis and your booking will be recorded in Council's system. This applies to commercial groups only, and a permit will not be issued.

10. What can I do if I'm not happy with the outcome of the approval and/or the hire permit conditions?

You must put your concerns in writing to the Recreation & Open Space Coordinator, addressed to 181 Unley Road, Unley SA 5061, or email pobox1@unley.sa.gov.au. You will then be contacted regarding your concerns, and a suitable outcome will be negotiated in accordance with the policy.

11. What if I am a commercial group and conduct fitness training activities without a permit?

Authorised Council staff will verbally ask you to apply for a permit.

12. What if I don't comply with the conditions of use?

In the first instance, Council staff will verbally ask you to comply with conditions. In the second instance, a letter will be issued outlining the specific issues and expectations.

13. Can dogs access the park during my training session?

No. Fitness training is an organised sporting activity, and dogs are not permitted off-leash when this activity occurs in a park.

This restriction applies to specific parks only, and there are many locations where dogs may be exercised where sporting activities do not occur. Council will consider this when assessing applications and booking locations for fitness training activities.

14. Can someone fill in for me if I am unable to run a training session?

Yes. Under the approved permit, a trainer may nominate other trainers to fill in, or assist with training sessions. Secondary or assistant trainers must be appropriately qualified and insured, and provide evidence of this to Council.

15. How do I show that I have made a booking and paid the required fee?

You will not be required to carry any evidence of your booking with you, and Council will issue you with an approved (signed and stamped) copy of the booking form for your records.

Council staff will have a list of park bookings, and will monitor this regularly.

16. How will Council assess who is allocated where, and how will this be managed each year?

As the policy is implemented, existing groups will have priority be allocated to the area they are currently using. This will continue after 1 year, and any new groups will be allocated available locations.

Council will negotiate with existing users if there are booking clashes or other requests. Priority will be given to trainers based in Unley and/or to trainers offering services primarily to Unley residents.

17. Can I book more than one park?

Yes, however the permit booking and fee will apply to one park only. If a trainer wishes to use another park, they must book and pay for that park.

18. Do I need to book a park if I only lead a small group or only train occasionally?

All commercial groups must book, and all other groups are encouraged to book, particularly if your group is over five people. Booking a park gives you security over a specific location, and allows Council to contact you required (i.e. if maintenance works are being undertaken).

19. Is there a time limit on training sessions?

In general, sessions will not be permitted to last for more than 1.5 hours, but this is dependent on the park, environmental conditions, and other bookings/users.

20. Is there a limit on the number of training sessions per week?

Yes. Trainers will be able to book no more than 12 sessions per week, however; this will be dependent on the park and location, and will be at the discretion of Council.

21. Is the permit refundable?

Yes. If you no longer require the permit, simply contact Council to cancel the booking. The refund will be calculated on a weekly basis.

22. Will toilet facilities be available during my training session?

Council cannot guarantee toilet facilities will be available before 7.00am. The permit holder is to advise participants, and schedule training sessions accordingly.