



# LANYON DOG PARK

## REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

**Canberra has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the country and the ACT Government is committed to providing places for locals to exercise and socialise their four-legged friends off-leash.**

Feedback was sought on the draft concept plans for two new fenced suburban style dog parks in the Lanyon Valley and Franklin, with the community invited to have their say from 28 September to 9 November 2022.

The Lanyon dog park will be located on the corner of Jim Pike Avenue and Woodcock Drive in Gordon. This location was deemed suitable for the dog park as it met specific criteria including appropriate block size and landform, suitable land zoning, parking opportunities, proximity to services and sufficient distance to residential dwellings.

A concept plan was developed to show the possibilities of how a suburban dog park may work on the site. The final design will be informed by community feedback. The features of the dog park as shown in the concept plan include parking, access gates, a grass play and dog agility area, paths, trees, water stations and waste bins as well as recreational infrastructure such as shade structures and seating.

## THE CONVERSATION

### Online survey

An online survey, via the YourSay website, was open during the consultation period for the community to have their say on a new Lanyon dog park. A total of 190 surveys were completed. The community was also invited to provide feedback via email and Facebook.

### Community pop-ups

A pop-up session was held at the Lanyon Marketplace on Thursday 20 October 2022 to promote the consultation and meet with members of the community face-to-face to hear their thoughts. The team spoke to approximately 20 people during the pop-up.

## WHO WE ENGAGED

**The consultation targeted Lanyon Valley locals and residents from the broader Tuggeranong region.**

We promoted the consultation via the Tuggeranong Our Canberra newsletter; signage at Point Hut Pond District Park, the Gordon dog off-leash area and Tuggeranong dog park; a pop-up at Lanyon Marketplace; ACT Government Facebook and Twitter; City Services website; an email to key stakeholders and a presentation for the Tuggeranong Community Council on 1 November 2022.

The majority of survey respondents were from the Lanyon Valley, including 35% from Gordon, 20% from Conder and 11% from Banks. Residents in neighbouring Tuggeranong suburbs also had their say as well as some residents of Woden.

The survey also asked the community about dog ownership. Over 90% of survey respondents own a dog, with 33% owning more than one dog and 7% of respondents not currently owning a dog.

A written submission was also received from the Tuggeranong Community Council.



## WHAT WE HEARD

The key insights below represent the most common themes raised across all feedback channels.

### Key insights from the community

#### Support for the draft design

- There is a high level of overall support for the new Lanyon dog park, with 81% of survey respondents supporting the draft design.
- The most popular features of the draft design are the native trees for canopy cover (45%), car parking facilities (39.5%), grass play area (39%), dog agility area (37%), and picnic shelter, seating and drinking fountain (34%).

#### Dog park facilities

- The most popular request was to have separate, well-sized play areas for smaller dogs and larger dogs.
- We also heard it's important to provide more seating, shade and drinking fountains for people and dogs at the future dog park as well as bins, dog poo bags and information signage.
- Popular suggestions for doggie play included space for dogs to run free and a water play area. A sand play area, tunnel and shower for dogs at the exit were also suggested by a small number of people.
- Some people would also like irrigated grass and toilets in the future Lanyon dog park as well as play equipment for children.
- You told us lighting would support greater use of the new dog park, especially in the winter.

#### Parking and access

- Ensuring the future Lanyon dog park is accessible for people of all abilities is a priority for the community.
- We heard you'd like to see more car parking spaces, including disabled parking, to accommodate visitors to the site, particularly during peak times. A few people also suggested a sealed car park and entrance ramp.
- Careful consideration needs to be given to managing the potential impact on traffic flow in the area with a slip lane and turning area suggested.
- You told us you'd like to be able to easily access the dog park on foot from surrounding areas including Point Hut Pond District Park. Suggestions for improving pedestrian access included a crossing on Jim Pike Avenue.
- We also heard it's important to maintain access to the Bicentennial National Trail, including for equestrian use and to connect the new dog park to the adjacent off leash dog exercise area.

#### Maintenance and safety

- You told us drainage needs to be carefully considered at the site to ensure dogs and their owners can still use the space after heavy rainfall.
- Snakes were a concern for some people at this location and snake deterrents were recommended.
- We also heard some of you are concerned about grass seeds in this location with regular maintenance of grassed areas a priority.
- A couple of people raised concerns about the potential for diseases to be spread at dog parks and for dog fights to occur. Attendance by rangers was suggested for when the dog park is open to help educate dog owners on their responsibilities.

#### Nature and wildlife

- Protecting the local wildlife is important to the community, in particular the wombats and kangaroos that call the adjacent reserve home. Suitable fencing to keep out wildlife is important at this site.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

Feedback from this engagement will help shape the final design for the new Lanyon dog park. We look forward to the start of construction in 2023.

Updates will continue to be provided via the YourSay page. If you have any questions about this project or would like to be kept updated on its progress, please email [communityengagement@act.gov.au](mailto:communityengagement@act.gov.au).

### Key Timings

**28 September 2022:** Community consultation starts on a new Lanyon dog park

**20 October 2022:** Pop-up at Lanyon Marketplace

**1 November 2022:** Presentation to Tuggeranong Community Council

**9 November 2022:** Community consultation closes

**February 2023:** What We Heard report released [**we are here**]

**2023:** Final design released and construction of the new Lanyon dog park commences

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

**264**

we received 264 items of feedback in total via YourSay, Facebook and email

**190**

a total of 190 people completed the YourSay survey

**20+**

we spoke to more than 20 people at our pop-up at Lanyon Marketplace

**7**

we received seven submissions via email

**1,770+**

we received 1,771 page views on YourSay

**640**

a total of 640 people visited the YourSay page

**17,500+**

we reached 17,576 people via ACT Gov Facebook and received 67 comments

**84%**

the majority of survey respondents (84%) were satisfied with the engagement experience