



FRANKLIN 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 dog parks in the Lanyon Valley and Franklin, with the community invited to have their say from 28 September to 9 November 2022.

The Franklin dog park will be located in the open space bound by Nullarbor Avenue and Oodgeroo Avenue. This location in Franklin was found 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 a gravel car park, access gates, a welcoming 'bark and play' sign, an irrigated grass and frisbee play area, a dog agility area, an accessible loop path, trees, drinking fountain and waste bins as well as recreational infrastructure such as a small picnic area 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 Franklin dog park. A total of 157 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 Franklin shops on Thursday 20 October 2022 to promote the consultation and meet with members of the community face-to-face to hear their thoughts.

WHO WE ENGAGED

The consultation targeted Franklin residents as well as people from the broader Gungahlin region.

We promoted the consultation via the Gungahlin Our Canberra newsletter; signage at the Forde and Casey dog parks; a pop-up and posters at Franklin shops; ACT Government Facebook and Twitter; City Services website and email to key stakeholders including the Gungahlin Community Council.

Half of survey respondents live in Franklin. Residents from other suburbs in Gungahlin also had their say as well as some residents from Belconnen and central Canberra.

The survey asked the community about dog ownership. Over 92% of survey respondents own a dog, with 27% owning more than one dog and 7.5% of respondents not currently owning a dog.



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 Franklin dog park, with 81% of survey respondents supporting the draft design.
- The most popular features of the design are the deciduous shade trees (43%), irrigated grass area (43%), agility area (37.5%), and an area with a 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.
- You also wanted to see more seating, shade, drinking fountains for people and dogs, bins and access to dog poo bags in the future dog park. A small number of you suggested including toilet facilities.
- Many people highlighted the importance of signage on dog park etiquette. A noticeboard was also suggested to provide information on dog related information and services.
- Popular suggestions for doggie play included space for dogs to run free, not impeded by boulders, and providing a variety of terrains for dogs to explore and opportunities for dogs to use their sense of smell.
- You also suggested a water play area, music play, sand play and a dog washing station. You did not support a stick library.
- A few people had concerns about a picnic shelter being located in the dog park and there was a recommendation that it be moved so visitors do not need to walk through it to get to the main play area.
- Some also thought space for a coffee van was not necessary and space for the dogs should be prioritised.
- You told us lighting would allow greater use of the new dog park at all times of the day and night.

Traffic and noise impacts

- Comments on the available parking were mixed. Some people thought more parking would be necessary, while others thought the parking provided would be sufficient.
- Concerns were raised about the impact on traffic in the area as well as the safety of pedestrians walking to the dog park. Pedestrian crossings on Oodgeroo Avenue and Nullarbor Avenue were suggested.
- Some concerns were raised about the potential noise impacts on nearby residents.

Maintenance and safety

- Drainage needs to be carefully considered to ensure the area does not become too muddy.
- Snakes were a concern for some people, and it was suggested that shrubs and bushes planted in the park be carefully considered for that reason.
- 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 to help educate dog owners on their responsibilities was suggested for when the dog park is open.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Feedback from this engagement will help shape the final design for the new Franklin 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.

Key Timings

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

20 October 2022: Pop-up at Franklin shops

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 Franklin dog park commences

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

185

we received 185 items of feedback in total via YourSay, Facebook and email

157

a total of 157 people completed the YourSay survey

26

we received 26 comments on social media

2

we received two submissions via email

1,690+

we received 1,691 page views on YourSay

702

a total of 702 people visited the YourSay page

12,900+

we reached 12,905 people via ACT Gov Facebook

86%

the majority of survey respondents (86%) were satisfied with the engagement experience