

Fenced Dog Parks in the North



Moreland
City Council

Consultation summary report

Prepared by

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Open Space Design & Development Unit

March 2023



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Following a council resolution in 2021 to provide two dog parks in the north in Glenroy and Fawkner, Council asked residents in these areas to vote for their preferred location out of three choices for Glenroy and three choices for Fawkner.

This report provides a summary of the Glenroy dog park consultation.

1. Background

Council's Open Space Design and Development unit are conducting three consultation phases with the local community for a new dog park in Glenroy. Additional to this, in the previous three rounds of consultation for Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve facility upgrades, this location was flagged as a possible site for a future fenced dog area. This included an on-site meeting with approx. 40 local residents in which the dog park was specifically discussed. The three consultation rounds for this project are;

- **Voting exercise**

Council have asked the Merri-Bek community in which of the three possible locations would they like their new dog park. An information postcard was sent to residents in the surrounding 500m. Registered dog owners with email addresses were emailed and those without were notified by mail. Council also posted on Facebook and other websites to direct people to the Conversations Moreland voting page. Posted were erected on site (however these were quickly damaged or removed).

- **Draft Concept Plan Consultation**

Having determined the location from the voting exercise, Council developed a draft concept plan for this new dog park. A coloured and annotated version of the plan has been posted to the Conversations Moreland website with supporting information including a copy of the draft summary report. Registered followers of the project were automatically emailed to notify of updates. Council again posted on Facebook and other websites to direct people to the Conversations Moreland voting page. Posters were erected on site and remained there for the response period.

- **Final Concept Plan Consultation**

This final concept plan will reflect changes from the draft concept plan, incorporating the community's feedback and direction from a specialist consultant on the design, maintenance and management of the space. This final concept plan will close the consultation process, unless a significant number of relevant objections are received. Council will then proceed to detailed design and construction.

Consultation timings:

Voting exercise: 6 November – 9 December 2022

Draft concept plan consultation: 2 March – 17 March 2023

Final concept plan issued: May 2023.

For the voting exercise, postcards were distributed to households within 500m of each of the three possible locations, inviting them to vote. Letters were also emailed and posted to all registered dog owners in the north of Merri-Bek municipality, providing the same information.

For the draft concept plan consultation, postcards were distributed to the same list of households within 500m of the Kingsford Smith Ulm, advising residents that they can provide feedback on Council's website at <https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fenced-dog-parks-north>. Posters were also displayed at the selected location, showing the draft concept plan and inviting people's responses. The final concept plan will be displayed on site following completion of feedback on the draft concept plan. Thereafter the Open Space Design and Development team can proceed to detailed design.

2. Voting Exercise Feedback Findings

Council proposed three possible locations in Glenroy for a new dog park: Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve, Electric Street Reserve and Sewell Reserve.

Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve was the preferred choice from the voting exercise, gaining 195 votes or 43%.

Sewell Reserve was also highly favoured receiving 182 votes or 40%. There were 8 votes for other locations in Glenroy.

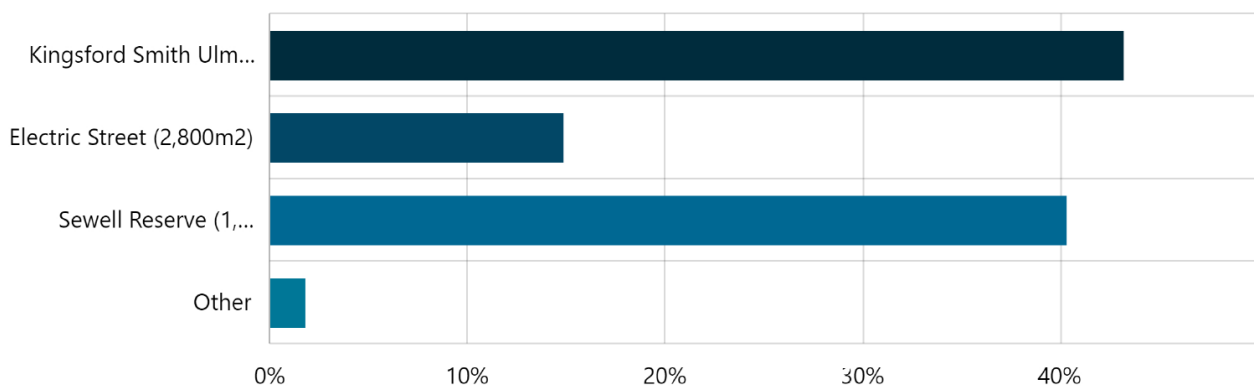


Figure 1: Graph of voting results

In addition to the voting exercise, we also asked additional questions about the reasons for voting for each of the possible locations, which have helped us shape the draft concept plan. Below is a chart showing results for Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve:

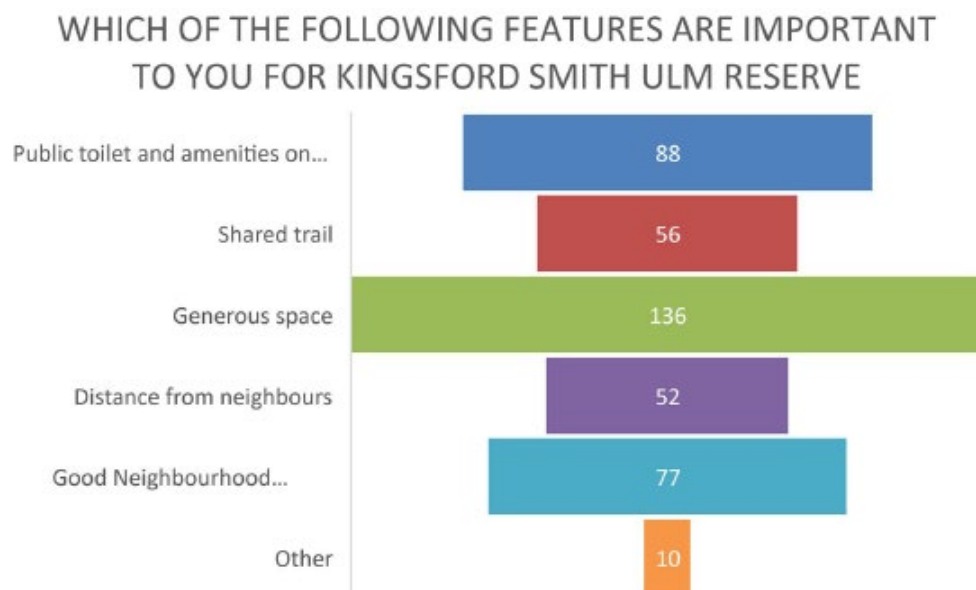


Figure 2: Graph showing importance of given features at Kingsford Smith Ulm

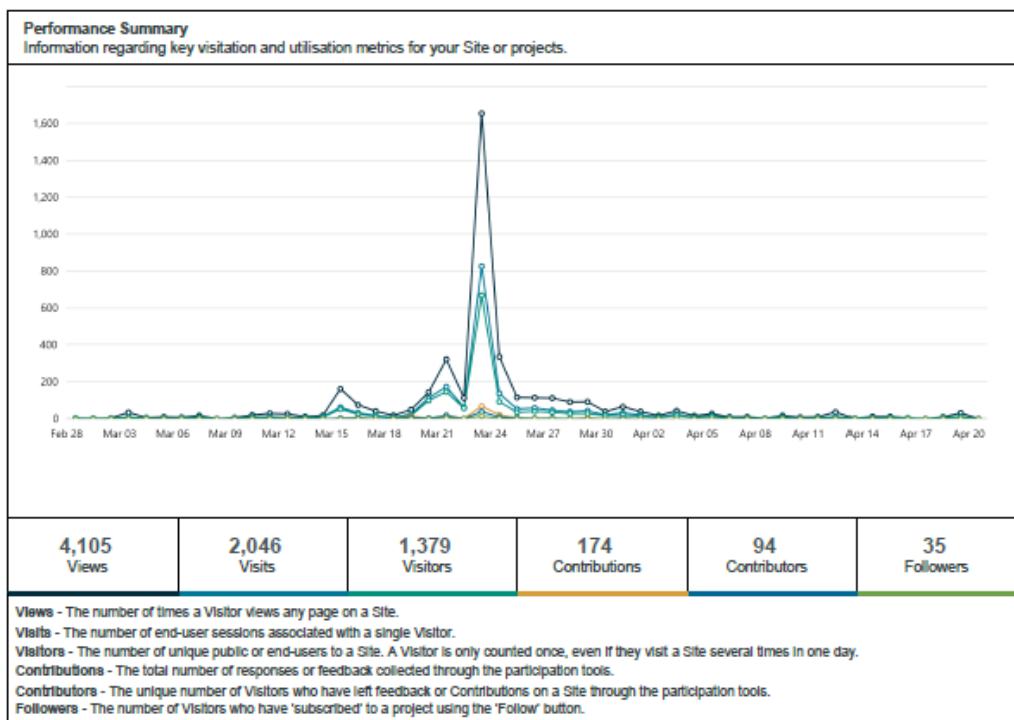
This shows us that having a public toilet and amenities is the most important for this site, followed by having a generous amount of space available for the dog park.

Other requirements that residents provided include the following:

- Include a segregated area for small dogs
- Provide drinking fountains with dog bowls
- Provide shade for humans (and dogs)
- Provide sufficient seating, dog bags and bins
- Include signage showing dog park etiquette
- Consider a segregated area for small or nervous dogs
- Provide a larger space for bigger dogs to run around in
- Consider agility equipment and also land-forms (mounds etc) to provide interest
- Provide a double gate entry system to prevent dogs escaping
- Consider safety for women using the dog parks
- Include trees for shade (and interest)
- Keep grass cut low to reduce allergies for dogs (and humans).

3. Draft Concept Plan Consultation Feedback Findings

Engagement with the draft concept plan was strong. Some figures are shown in the table below;



74 comments were left in response to the draft plan. Several of these were questions which I can only assume were rhetorical as the format did not allow for dialogue. These questions will be addressed on the Conversations page in the final plan round.

Almost half of the comments could be categorised as being opposed to the park going ahead in this location. They could be summarised as one of the following;

- Opposed to fenced dog parks in general
- Adverse impacts on adjacent residents

- Inadequate parking
- Unsuitability of the site
- Preference for Sewell Reserve
- Lack of consultation

Opposition to dog parks

The proposal does not affect the current use of the site as an off-lead area. Dog owners who do not wish to use the fenced area will not be required to. Local laws require all dog owners to have effective control of their dog however, the reality is that many owners do not and this can impact other public space users. There are many other reasons for using a fenced dog area – owners are not confident in controlling their dog or are exercising someone else's dog, dogs that are deaf, old or frail, dogs that are still in training, rescue dogs that are not able to be trained to recall.

Impact on adjacent residents

Council has designed the park to reduce impact on adjacent residents by locating the small dog area closest to the car park and residents where 10m of offset is possible. A 20m offset is provided to rear fences from the large dog area and a dense planting buffer provided. Based on feedback from the specialist consultant multiple exit/entrances have been provided in case of any conflict between dogs. The park itself has been broken up into a series of 'rooms' providing engagement with different textural environments and reducing opportunities for dogs to 'run wild' in groups or congregate in a central area. The shelter is located further into the site drawing both owners and their dogs away from residences. Lighting and parking will be restricted to 10pm and the toilet to daylight hours only. The gates to the park are now closed in the evening between 10pm and 7am to reduce nighttime activity in the space.

Inadequate parking

This assumes high use of the park coinciding with use of the playground and scout hall. Whilst there may be some peak usage times eg. Saturday morning, the previous park upgrade project has allowed for a new dedicated car park with 12 formalised spaces. The Council access road also allows for approximately 15 more spaces. The surrounding neighbourhood consists of low-density housing with off street parking allowing for a large degree of overflow parking without adversely impacting local residents. Council will continue to monitor the effects of the development and respond with timed parking restrictions if parking did become a problem.



Unsuitability of the site

Recommendations for dog parks suggest a minimum area of 4000m². Merri-bek has a limited number of unprogrammed spaces available for an area of this size, all of which are at the periphery of the municipality. Ideally the space would also have toilets, water, lighting and a car park. Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve meets all these requirements with additional facilities already being funded by Council as a response to increased use during Covid restrictions. One of the issues raised in the consultation process for the current upgrade works was the anti-social behaviour in the site. Increased programmed activation of public space has been proven to reduce anti-social behaviour and create a safe and more positive environment for the community. It is hoped that the facilities and the restriction of vehicle access

Preference for Sewell Reserve

Sewell Reserve is a highly suitable site and received a large amount of support in the polling. Council has agreed on this basis to provide a fenced dog area in Sewell Reserve as part of upgrades flagged for next financial year. However, the space available only allows for 1000m² at most which is insufficient to address the need for a full-sized facility.

Lack of consultation

The extent of consultation has been addressed above. The consultation was conducted with support of Council's engagement team and was intentionally broad understanding that the facility would be of interest to a wide section of the community. The proposal was flagged with the local community during consultation for the current works in the park to allow ample time to respond. The current consultation was conducted in association with the proposed Fawkner dog park to capture as broad an audience as possible and ensure that both parks were regarded as municipality-wide facilities. It is considered that all efforts were made to engage the community and that the feedback provided has been considered in the design response.

The conversations page engagement summary report is attached as an addendum to this report.

4. Final Concept Plan

The final concept plan will be uploaded to Conversations with a summary of changes once it has been completed.

5. Next Steps

The Open Space Design and Development team will progress plans for tender and construction with the intention of completing works before end June 2023.

6. Further information

Any questions can be directed to Council's Open Space Design & Development Unit via email openspace@moreland.vic.gov.au or by phoning 9240 111.

7. Appendix

Below are all feedback received from the community for each stage of consultation for the Glenroy Dog Park and images of the posters and postcards issued.

7a Voting exercise



Figure 3: Postcards issued to households within 500m of each of the three possible locations.

7b Voting Exercise Consultation Responses

The following are responses to the voting exercise for the Glenroy dog park from 6th November – 9th December 2022:

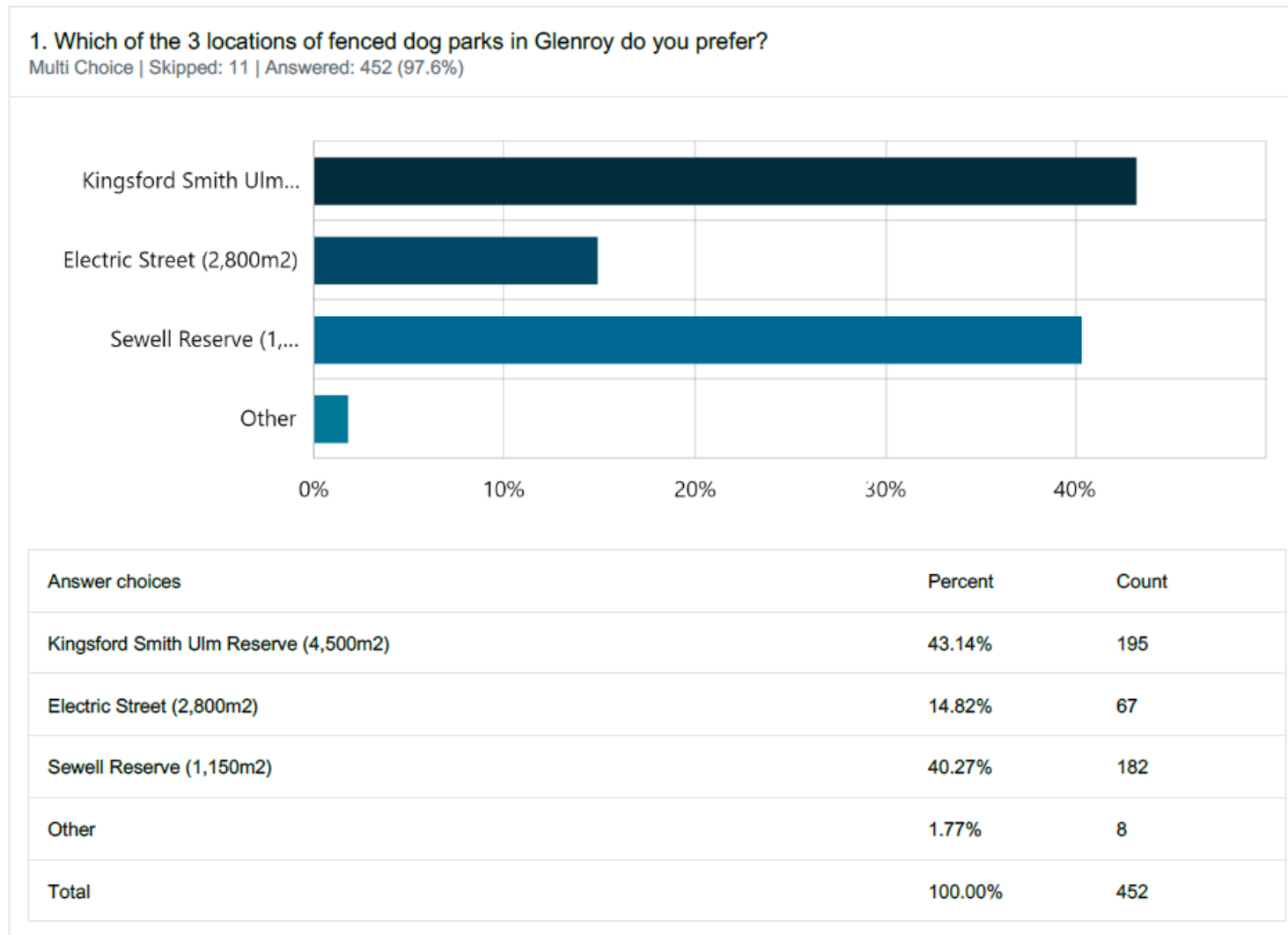


Figure 4: Graph showing votes for each of the three possible locations.

Feedback
It allows the whole family, including our dog, to enjoy a trip to the park with something for everyone to do.
Must have 2 separate parks one for small & one for bigger dogs like in Strathmore. Less problems between the dogs.. More grass would be wonderful also, the area I believe is much safer as it has more people around & houses & cafes to have a coffee in West St.. This area is a WINNER 🏆
Water for dogs
A lot of the community walk their dogs around the golf course block. It would be great to have a dog park as well for the dogs to socialise as well as meeting other dog owners.
This is a perfect location as it has a growing community happening already
Doggy bags and bins. Also drinking taps with a drinking bowl for dogs. Thus location is ideal as it has many people who bring dogs to the oval and play but it becomes a hassle for newer dogs with no fence to teach them in
I think option 3 is the best option out of all 3 proposed. Sewell reserve in my mind checks all of the positives off. While smaller than the others, I think that is wholly offset by all the other positives. I think key to this one is its location in Glenroy (easy to access), additionally, the amount of parking is really good. I think the last thing I'd want to do as a dog owner is impose my animals on residents and the potential noise they could make playing/barking with other dogs. I think options 1 and 2 would be bad for those residents given the proximity the park would have to them. Additionally, both option 1 and 2 are located in very tight residential streets which may make traffic an issue for those streets. I think Sewell is very easy to access with the car and is also close to the great council amenities already in place such as the new community hub in Wheat Sheaf Road. This will really make central Glenroy a destination.
Great community hub in this space and would have plenty of foot traffic and dogs already in the area that frequent the football oval so a great suggestion.
Should include some bench seats. Either Kingsford Smith or Sewell Reserve are my preferred options
Parking and Also close to cafes to get coffee while dog plays
Please also consider GE Clark reserve behind the playground in Kalang Rd
The location of the park meets all the boxes. Additionally, it will reduce local traffic and parking on streets such as Loongana Ave (Kingsford Smith) and Electric Street. Furthermore, the dog park won't be located near any residents. I think it will be unfair to place an active dog park right behind housing that the other two options propose. Sewell Reserve has everything that would be needed such as ample parking, passive surveillance and great additional amenity. Makes sense to place the park here.
This dog park appeals to me as I live East of Pascoe Vale Road, have a dog and our closest fenced dog park means a tedious drive. I also think it would be a great use of the space available at the reserve, it's unlikely that anything else practical could go in this space at the reserve. I also think that day to day use of the sporting grounds would improve as when there is sports happening there is nowhere close to run your dog without traffic.
Good community area already used by many dogs and owners. Convenient
🐾 water for the dogs 🐾 is the most important thing. Thanks
Sewell Rd is my preference

I have chosen Sewell Reserve for many reasons.
Closest to me
it'd be such a slay
I have previously recommended this site to the council. Having a designated off lead area at Sewell reserve will reduce conflict between dogs and sporting events. It's also a great location for a range of family activities at the one site.
Kids can also play at the basketball courts or playground.
More dog parks need to be set up so that all residents of Merri-bek can access them easily.
Kingsford Smith Ulm is a beautiful space for families but it does get crowded when people drive to the park, not much parking making it congested in our side streets. There are currently many irresponsible dog owners that frequent this park, with many attacks reported. I fear what a dog park may bring and fear for the safety of the many kids and families that use the park. I certainly won't be taking my dog there for fear of an attack. Hence the reason I've chosen another local park as the preferred option, with more open public space, I'll feel safer taking my dog to Sewell Reserve.
Close to sports park for kids to play as well. Netball and basketball courts.
Sewell Reserve...or even better Kalang Rd Glenroy Reserve doesn't get used for anything.. that would be the best.
Some drinking water access / pet water bowls and litter bags / bins
It's in the middle of the three suburbs plus easy access and parking
Local and in the ideal spot next to the footy oval skate park and golf course. Great vibe and safe off the road
Good location walking distance to shops
Location is good. Thank you for considering a dog park in Glenroy.
While smaller this is the superior site.
Glenroy is so big ... it actually should have two, on each side of Pascoe Vale Rd to provide for its community.
Poo bag station and drinking fountain
I live at 85 Loongana Ave, Glenroy VIC 3046 backs onto Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve and the designed park is along our back fences. The noise is a big concern for me if you chose that option. Poor maintenance is also a big concern as things don't get maintained very well in our area I would much prefer it to be at I would much prefer it to be Sewell Reserve.
Option 2 is too close to the railway and ringroad. It is not pleasant to bring dogs there
Tap & water bowl, good fencing & gates, sufficient bins
It would be nice to have a dog park that is in the centre of Glenroy and not all the way down the west side of Glenroy, I'm in Hadfield so I definitely wouldn't use it if it's that far away.
Water tap/bowl with good drainage around. Some other dog parks get muddy puddles due to lack of drainage. A good amount of seating/benches for owners. Secure fencing all around. Dog poo bags at the gates (so that it gives dog owners no excuse to pick up after their pets). Good lighting at night/after dark. (My current dog park has no lighting, very inconvenient for those who can only take their pets out in the evening/after sunset)

It's very close to amenities and doctors and doctors
Shaded area is important, most people will bring their dogs out in nicer weather which will inevitably mean sunny / bright or clear days where UV is high.
We would prefer the Sewell Reserve option , it would benefit the current family friendly ammenities and also hopefully restrict the amount of loose dogs on the actual playing oval . We take our family onto the oval and we are always hindered by loose dogs and droppings . By having this area for dogs it would also provide an area for those that also use the playing oval with no respect for others .
Good grass is important for any dog park! As dirt can easily become muddy, and dogs can get very dirty and this may deter people bringing their dogs to the park!
This seems a more central location even if the space available is smaller.
Fenced in dog parks with separate areas for small and large dogs. The two gate entry to ensure that dogs do not escape. Away from play equipment to ensure children do not get too close to fencing and facilities to dispose of dog refuse. More green spaces with off leash for dogs are needed around the Hadfield area.
Sewell Reserve offers good shade, is in a relatively built up area and has a community feel to it. Areas with no or little natural shade are inappropriate, as dogs get easily overheated when playing and the sandy ground becomes boiling hot in summer (I won't take my dog to Alf Pearce Reserve in Strathmore anymore because the ground gets so hot it strips her paw pads). Also, dog parks can get very creepy when you're a woman. I would be less inclined to attend the other two locations because they feel very isolated.
I think this is a great spot for the dog park for multiple reasons. A number of people walk their dog around the Golf Course (Glenroy Road, Cardinal, Pascoe St & West St), this dog park would be on that route and allow for people to take their dogs to this section. Given it is close to already established sporting facilities, families can enjoy these facilities together, while bringing their dog along to enjoy the fenced off area. The footy oval itself is a great area, however when footy training is on, it is unusable for dog walkers. This would allow people to still use this park with their dogs. It may even encourage more local support for the footy team.
Centrally located to service the hadfield area.
Would help to keep dogs and sports people separated and help to keep dog droppings off the ground. Also less arguments with people re dogs of leash during training times
Sewell Reserve makes complete sense as a dog park. For starters, it will take dogs off the football field leaving the field clean of dog faeces which will improve hygiene and safety for children and players using the field, as it will encourage people to use the dog park located adjacent to the field. Sewell Reserve also makes sense given its central access being located on Glenroy Road and very good parking capacity. Its location means that it is under very good passive surveillance when compared to the other options. Council's preferred option of Kingsford Smith doesnt make a lot of sense. It is located next door to residents, its more difficult to get to given the narrow roads that lead to it and lack of parking capacity. Furthermore, Kingsford Smith is a lot more quieter and doesnt really have the safety aspect that Sewell Reserve offers. All in all, I believe Sewell Reserve gives the possible outcome. While I acknowledge its smaller when compared to the other options, the benefits of locating the park here far outweigh that smaller size. Its location should be the preferred option. Having it located nearby to Council Library on Wheatsheaf Rd will really make this central part of Glenroy the leisure centre for the suburb in my view. Will mean that families can bring the dog, the kids can use the skatepark/basketball fields etc.

This fenced in dog park would almost complete the fantastic hub that has become that area. It makes me smile when I drive past and see so many different people until using that area!
A good space there already for this next to the Glenroy football club. It could even extend a bit further to the big grass space in front of the netball courts or a 1/3 of that space also?
I think Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve would be the wrong choice. Not located on a main road, behind peoples houses and accessibility isnt good. It is a very suburban location which have houses backing right onto the park. Whereas Sewell ticks all the boxes and wont be a hinderance to people who live there. Additionally, good accesability being on Glenroy Rd and ample parking. Additionally, a multitude of facilities for families to enjoy ie. Dog park as well as basketball courts etc. It would make Sewell Reserve the go to place for families in Glenroy.
Behind the wil wil rook pre-school and adjacent to the Glenroy special school would be my preference due to size and area already fenced off. Shaded because of existing trees. 2nd option would be Sewell reserve, although small, i don't particularity want a dog park next to the highway
the others are too far away
Kalang Rd, Glenroy GE Clarke Reserve would be a better option for a fenced dog park. It already has an existing playground and water fountain. Many locals already meet here with their dogs and a more formal space would be of great benefit to families to include the playground with the safety of a fenced off dog area. With the addition of a toilet block and some shade this would be the perfect location that can service Glenroy and Oak Park.
As long as it's accessible and have heaps of space for big dogs to run around. Needs to have doggy poo bags and bins all around.
Shared trail is around and massive space for walking around. There is also car packing next to it and a park near by, which is convenient from walking distance. Thank you very much !
Gervase Ave reserve!!!
High fences 1.8m with gate so it is secure. Water fountain and poop bag dispenser. This location already has carparking with the station so close and the walking track adjacent.
First one is not even on a flat. Second is near the highway. Third is too small.
Sewell Reserve is closest to me
Option 3
I prefer Option 2, It is away from playgrounds and children areas. It does not interfere with birds habitat and is easy to access.
This area needs something like this, the other site in Glenroy is already well developed with things for people. It is the perfect place right near the creek and with the re development of the reserve will have great amenities

7c Draft Concept Plan Consultation

KINGSFORD SMITH ULM RESERVE DOG PARK New fenced dog park

Council has prepared a draft plan for a new fenced dog park in Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve to support the growing demand for dog parks in the north of Merri-Bek.

Please provide your feedback on the draft design for Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve, Glenroy Reserve.

Join
the
conversation!

Feedback closes: FRIDAY 31 MARCH 2023

Have your say at:

<https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fenced-dog-parks-north>
or phone Council on 9240 1111



For more information contact Council's Open Space team:

<https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fenced-dog-parks-north>

Email: openspace@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Phone: 9240 1111

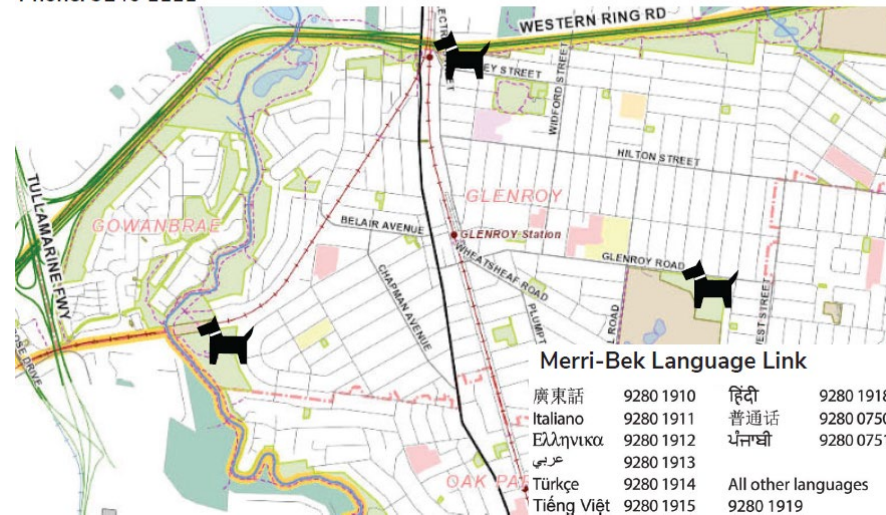


Figure 4: Postcards issued to households within 500m of the selected location.

Dog Parks in the North Glenroy



Council is currently seeking your feedback on the draft design for the proposed dog park in Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve. Voting was undertaken to determine the preferred site in Glenroy for a dog park and this area was chosen. We would now like to hear what you think about the design. Use the QR code or go to <https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/dog-parks-north> for more information and to provide your comments.

Dog Agility Equipment



Landscaping and Planting



Ephemeral Creek Bed



Figure 5: Posters displayed on site in 3 locations at Kingsford Smith Ulm play space

7d Draft Concept Plan Consultation Response

How is voting carried out for this project?
Based on the number of dogs around the West street and Glenroy road area it would only be practical to have it in this area.
<p>There are several reasons why Kingsford Smith should not go ahead.</p> <p>Having a dog park located behind people's houses can create a nuisance for residents. Dogs can be loud and boisterous when playing which can disrupt the entitled peace people are allowed to have in their own homes. Furthermore, dogs may bark excessively and a 10 metre offset doesnt compensate for this at all. All this is going to do is lead to conflicts between dog owners and residents. There is a good balance at the moment in the park, so why add a dog park here to begin with?</p> <p>Additionally, Kingsford Smith doesn't lend itself to good accessibility. This means there is an absence of proper parking, amenity and likely to divert traffic into already crowded narrow streets.</p> <p>All of this is detrimental to the livability that people are actually entitled to have. Therefore, it is important for Council to carefully reconsider the location of this dog park and ensure that it is in a suitable location, which Kingsford Smith is not.</p>
<p>Its become evident that Kingsford Smith has become an issue that needs great scrutiny and reevaluation. When you compare this to Fawkner's dog park and the comments received there it is evident that Kingsford Smith doesnt stack up. If Council believed that they have mitigated the issues effectively than why is Kingsford Smith receiving so much blow back?</p>
<p>Thank you to all those who have already commented, and stood up for residents who will be affected considerably by this decision. I take great comfort in seeing our community stand up against and push back on the destruction of livability for a large cohort of residents who will be profoundly impacted by this dog park. Placing something like this behind peoples homes is really unfair.</p> <p>The Council has an option still available to them (Sewell Reserve) that wont impact residents. I wait with abated breath that someone at Council comes to their senses and acknowledges that Kingsford Smith is not a good idea and instead they reverse their decision and go with Sewell Reserve.</p> <p>Lets pray the Council sees this.</p>
<p>Kingsford Smith should have never been proposed as an option to vote on to begin with. Especially after the feedback session with Council at the reserve. Council acknowledged that there was a very mixed response to the dog park and none of the concerns raised have been alleviated in this proposal.</p> <p>There is no way the Council is able to effectively mitigate the impact this will have on residents. Placing a dog park right behind peoples homes is unfair and unjust. People are entitled to peace of their home, and this unwinds that completely.</p> <p>The Council acknowledged that Kingsford Smith had multiple negative attributes associated with it. Sewell Reserve there was only one, its size. Yet most importantly, Sewell Reserve would NOT have impacted residents at all.</p> <p>Additionally, Council has not provided any usage, traffic, parking and noise statistics or data. This is fundamentally going to draw people from other suburbs forcing them into a small suburban street with limited parking. The solution is not to add parking restrictions to Loongana Ave. Sewell is located on a main road with ample parking (mitigating both those issues).</p>

<p>The Council cannot say they have mitigated the impact to residents when there are clearly a number of issues that are fundamentally going to impact people who live here.</p> <p>Given there was almost no difference with the vote. I cannot understand how Council cannot select Sewell Reserve as the option to go ahead with and scrap Kingsford Smith. No one is going to be upset if the Council takes a step back and says "after consulting the residents this option was not feasible". Otherwise, installing a dog park at Kingsford Smith is permanently going to impact a residential population of our community. Which is just not right or fair.</p>
<p>Am a little confused why the two healthy trees behind 83 Loongana have already been removed if a decision has not yet been made. Short on fire wood?? Dog park already approved??</p>
<p>It is clear that the council had already made their mind up on the location prior to any neighborhood consultation when hosting the meeting with draft plans.</p> <p>Most attendees raised concerns which have been totally ignored and this is extremely disappointing being one of the residents this will affect the most. I am all for dog parks, however a fenced dog park 10m from my back fence is a joke! The design team need to ask themselves how they would like a dog park 10m from their back fence (ie. noise, odour, mess, privacy).</p> <p>The other raised points of parking and congestion are again oversights of the council and a point not yet raised is who will be responsible for ensuring the car parked is locked at the end of each day and the start of a morning. With the proposal is security checks enforced as of now the gate is left open all the time. The gate was raised at the site meeting as insufficient but still we cannot see any change with the design proposal.</p> <p>Has consultation been put into the plan for extra maintenance on the reserve as we struggle to have the space mowed/ maintained at the best of times. Other people have raised clear points that better spaces of Glenroy have not been utilised and it is absolutely correct we border, Strathmore, Oak Park and Gowanbrae. How is this fair for the majority of the Merri-bek residents.</p> <p>Sewell Reserve would be a far better alternative for the entire community. It is already an established community park which will have no direct impact on residents as it does not back onto housing. We really hope they reconsider!</p>
<p>Tried giving feedback to the Council representative (Phil) when he came to Kingsford Smith and it appears nothing that was said has been even remotely reflected in this draft. Residents told him that this location is really poor for a dog park. The Council talks about minimizing impact to residents with any proposal and yet, they had Sewell Reserve which would have not impacted any residents and any way shape or form whatsoever. This was not taken into consideration. A 10 metre set back doesnt achieve anything. Super disappointing and almost laughable to suggest that this solves the impact on residents. Also, they talk about minimizing impact on residents and include only 12 car spots!!? Do they realise that this is going to attract traffic outside of Glenroy? If their solution is parking restrictions on Loongana then that is just lazy planning. They know its going to have lots of visitors so why not accommodate additional parking in the design. ie. shift the dog park further around and include more parking? Or make some of the dog park smaller to accommodate additional parking?</p> <p>Overall, I cannot put into words the level of disappointment I have in this Council. Dont listen to residents, and then when they do their own thing they cant even get that right. Planning at its absolute worst.</p>
<p>What a way to ruin a nice peaceful park. 4000sq/mtrs of noise. All within 10 meters of neighbours back fence. I can't comprehend this proposal. The carpark will be insufficient to accommodate all the cars. the spillover will be into Loongana ave. As it is, at times i have to park the rubbish bins on my driveway. I cannot think of a sound reason for having the dog park in that location. Another location please further away from houses.</p>
<p>If anyone thought this Inept council was going to take anyone's input into consideration is kidding themselves.</p> <p>The decision was make before anyone got a say. Just like the change of name. More corrupt that Casey council is Moreland.</p>

Needs more parking to be included in the design. Ample space to include more than the 12 spots being allocated. This is going to get very busy very quick. Last thing you want is to come here and there be no parking. That would be my suggestion.
Great to see more dog parks being created in the Merri-bek Council area. Two suggestions for improvement on this design: 1) add a small amount of disabled parking/parking for people with small children/prams closer to the larger park. At the moment it looks like community members who are older, have a disability or other access requirements need to pass through the small dog park & agility area to reach the large park. 2) Could the agility area be fenced in, so dog owners and their pets have to come in via a gate to access the area from either the small or large park? This helps minimise dogs coming up to play when owners are training their dog on the agility course.
We have plenty of locations that could suit a dog park perfectly in Hadfield; Glenroy Lyons and Martin Reserve have plenty of space but to name a few.
Please go back to the drawing board re: Glenroy fenced dog park. This area is already off leash with such a huge open space and perfect for a walk/run with your dogs with the safety of no proximity to car and busy roads, it doesn't need a fenced area. I understand the need of some owners to have fenced area for their dogs, but this is not the space for it. Please choose another site for Glenroy.
It's always the way Hadfield is never considered, Glenroy is quite a large suburb and Hadfield is on the outskirts closer to Pascoe Vale and Coburg North which is nowhere near the proposed dog park in Glenroy or Fawkner for that matter. So in future it would be nice to consider future projects to be a little more central of the suburb.
What was the point of sending a member of the open space team to talk to the community if none of the feedback was taken onboard? Feels like we have been taken for granted. Really frustrating
Realistically our choice was meaningless as the other two locations are next to communities/clubs leasing council property and actively hassle or abuse you for using the clearly signed areas. This abuse extends to public community platforms like Facebook. Build your park but can we stop pretending that there was a choice. I will go to another dog park with parking and amenities, and the local clubs can continue to abuse dog owners as encouraged by admins of community platforms. I have been personally threatened by an Auskick coach at the off lead area Sewell reserve. Do us a favor though and take down the off leash signs at Sewell reserve and tell the clubs to grow up.
I suggest people reach out to your local Councillors and also the executive team at Merri-bek. Its complete farce that this process has been run this way. Firstly, Council should have never had a draft plan ready to go without consulting on location first. It meant that Council would do everything in its power to ensure that its choice succeeded because they had spent time and money drafting it. Secondly, to send a representative to chat to residents and not take that feedback onboard is even more of a disgrace. It was clear that many residents were opposed to this and yet nothing has changed since that conversation. Additionally, my understanding was that the representative never went to chat to the community at Sewell Reserve? How does that make any sense for a consultation process? Thirdly, the Council has provided no indication of the impact that this will have on residents. Traffic, parking, noise and proximity to residents seem to be totally discounted. They also seem to think that this wont attract people outside of the suburb to this area. These are very narrow streets (which

<p>overdevelopment hasn't helped) and were not designed to divert additional traffic and parking down it.</p> <p>Fourthly, a location has been selected that is not even for Glenroy. It is so far out of Glenroy you might as well say it's Strathmore or Gowanbrae. Way to spend locals rates.</p> <p>Last point I want to make and probably most important. Is that this was done in a matter that felt rushed, excluded a lot of the community and resulted in only a select group of people having knowledge that a vote or consultation process was occurring. It's time Council actually took this matter seriously.</p>
<p>Voting last time was. 714 votes</p> <p>Kingsford Smith 195</p> <p>Sewell. 182</p> <p>Electric st. 67</p> <p>Others. 8</p> <p>Where did the other 262 votes go?</p>
<p>Looks like Council has already cut down trees and begun works. Can someone explain what the purpose of this exercise was if Council already begun without waiting for community feedback?</p> <p>This project has been rife with mismanagement. I would have thought consultation is front and centre. Seems like Council just doing what they want!</p>
<p>Council didn't even consult us that Sewell Reserve was a potential option. I definitely didn't get notified about a Council representative attending Sewell Reserve to discuss it? Unless they only did this for Kingsford Smith and not Sewell? Bit unfair if that was the case.</p>
<p>I attended the onsite meeting at Kingsford Smith with the Council representative. Feels like everything discussed regarding the poor location behind people's houses, the increased traffic issues that pushing traffic down Loongana poses etc. Has all been ignored. Council had a draft plan ready to go for Kingsford Smith. Which means they spent money and effort already on it. Can't accept that it's a poor choice now because it means they have to start again. I suggest Council go back to the drawing board on this one. It is very apparent that not enough consideration was given to residents who will massively be impacted by this.</p>
<p>Nice park for Strathmore and Gowanbrae. What about Glenroy? Couldn't have picked a worse location if you tried. Westest point of Glenroy in an isolated park with poor road connectivity. Not sure if Council is being serious or not?</p>
<p>Make sure there is separate areas for large and small dogs to avoid issues.</p>
<p>This is a great location - should divert dogs from being off leash in the general park area and provide an option for the many dog owners who come from both sides of the Moonee Ponds Creek.</p>
<p>Quite noticeable that something has gone astray in the process for this dog park. Suggests that this process wasn't very well thought out and rushed. Probably leaving the voting option open for such a limited time didn't help. Or the lack of consultation with residents.</p>
<p>Why put a dog park with no amenity around it, behind residents, in very suburban streets, limited parking, away from central Glenroy, and a very secluded park? Has Council lost the plot?</p>
<p>Please put the dog park in Kingsford Smith ULM. There are so many dogs that will enjoy that dog park.</p>
<p>Overall well designed, with good facilities. I particularly like the small and large separate areas. I've previously been reluctant to take my 2 small dogs to a dog park due to some of the larger and more energetic dogs. The limited car parking may be an issue during peak times, and if there is added restricted parking on Loongana Avenue this may become an issue. Overall thumbs up.</p>

I am happy with the location, this area already has a lot dogs present (on and off lead) whether they are allowed to or not. I agree that more shade is required and think the lack of parking may be a problem for some. I myself being a local would walk my dog to the dog park as opposed to driving. I would also like the small dog area to be for older or more timid dogs
The design looks ok except the design lacks adequate shade in Small Dog area and the Agility Play area. As the proposed dog park and car park is behind residential houses hope Council checks in with impacted residents to answer any concerns about the change.
<p>I believe this is a great place for a dog park.</p> <p>Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hidden away off the main road - Sectioned off areas for large and small breeds - Will not affect local residents <p>Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not enough parking
<p>If a dog agility area is included please consult someone that does dog agility. Many of the outdoor agility areas are poorly designed and basically useless. Please don't use square bollards as weave poles and ensure spacing is correct.</p> <p>Make sure equipment you heights suit dogs of all sizes including smaller breeds.</p> <p>Ozone Reserve dog agility park in East Perth, WA is a good example of an agility area. Alf Pearce Reserve in Strathmore is a terribly designed agility area. Love the separate area for smaller dogs. Please don't reduce the size any further - the little dog area in Gilpin is way too small.</p> <p>Please incorporate lots of shade.</p>
<p>Its very clear that this has missed the mark with a number of local residents and does not bode well for a consultation process that should be factoring that those that will be impacted. You have one option that disproportionally affects locals and another option that was voted very highly which wont affect residents.</p> <p>Council needs to produce a design for Sewell Reserve and retract Kingsford Smtih. Council needs to start again and run a process that isnt rushed but is far more considered.</p>
Good idea. Wrong location. No parking, no amenity, secluded area, behind residents. How many more negatives does the Council want?
This is going to divert traffic into small suburban streets. Council needs to go back to drawing board regarding location.
Would be ridiculous if this dog park went ahead. It is very clear that this is a controversial choice should the Council proceed. The impact it will have on local residents, local streets and the park itself far outweighs any positive. The Council should revisit this given Sewell Reserve had only one negative attribute and seems like it would have had the least impact on residents. To stick a dog park behind people's houses is ridiculous.
<p>Suggested reading re dog parks from a dog trainer</p> <p>PositiveK9Training</p>

<p>I am supportive of the proposed design of the dog park. I like that there are two areas for dogs of different sizes and temperaments. The shaded area looks quite small though but the idea is that ppl are IN the fenced off area WITH their dogs so not a biggie.</p> <p>I'm also interested in whether the surrounding off-lead area will change as a result of the dog park, IMO leads must be used in the vicinity of dog park (as park will result in more dogs in area, and the last thing we need is ppl not putting a lead on dog when entering/exiting park).</p> <p>Merri-Bek does not have a good history of community education and follow-through. Good signage with rules/guidelines, a high level of monitoring in the early stages, bins that get emptied regularly, and free doggy bags has worked well in other council areas. I love the idea of a dog park, but this can't be a build and forget it park.</p> <p>For people saying that there will be a lot of barking and noise for local residents, in other areas they are no more noisy than a regular park or playground.</p>
<p>The idea of a fenced dog park in Glenroy is great - our closest one is in Essendon and it's a bit far to get to. Not all dogs can be on an unfenced off-leash area (eg deaf, learning recall) so this is a safe space for them to be exercising.</p> <p>I'd suggest the inclusion of a couple of small, private spaces for dogs who are anxious so they can get a bit of respite, or for dogs to practice recall without getting too many distractions in the main dog area.</p> <p>Can you also include the variety of landscaping options as described in the Fawkner dog park?</p> <p>Love the Agility area by the way. Great idea!</p>
<p>I'm happy with the location and the proposed design. That area is currently wasted space, so I think a dog park will be well utilised. I expect though that the council will ensure that the park is well cared for, rubbish is collected and vegetation areas are maintained? I know the skate park on Glenroy Rd is a filthy mess every time I go there, so I hope maintenance is kept up? I also would suggest a locked gate in the evening to discourage illegal activity in the car park at night.</p>
<p>Hi. Does this mean this will be the only place that dogs can be off lead in the area. Can a controlled dog be let off in other areas?? Because people that use these areas usually have no control of their dogs so they use them to exercise the dog. So if you are doing exercises or obedience with a controlled dog other uncontrolled dogs don't help. It is good to see things happening. Thankyou.</p>
<p>This is well needed and the concept looks fantastic.</p> <p>It is good to have somewhere safe to take our dogs and get involved with our community.</p> <p>As a ratepayer I am fully supportive of this park, its location and design.</p> <p>Well done Merri-bek you listened to us.</p>
<p>We would absolutely use this space. This is our preferred walking path and we often take our pup off the leash here but for short periods only as we're nervous about what might happen if a larger dog comes in sight.</p>
<p>The location of Kingsford Smith may as well be Strathmore! Which is NOT part of our Council area at all and is already serviced by numerous dog parks already.</p> <p>Central Glenroy and more importantly, it's often viewed poorer cousin, Hadfield, has been ignored, with little to no consultative process before the voting period. I was only notified today after voting had taken place and after the plan for Kingsfords Smith decided on.</p> <p>Again, a clear example of Council servicing the more affluent Council areas. Yet, has not issue with raising rates and/or dog ownership fees/reg across all areas under its care.</p> <p>At the very least, install and construct both Kingsford Smith and Sewell Reserve with an option for the Hadfield area in the 2023/24FY.</p>
<p>Looks good design</p>

<p>We walk by this site during our long weekend walks and would use the park. Great that the park will be fenced as we tend not to take our dog off the lead in open off-lead parks. We currently make good use of the fenced dog park in West Brunswick, but having a park that is walking distance for us in Glenroy/Oak Park would be especially nice. For me, my concern will be around the maintenance of the park, which hasn't been a particularly strong suit of Merri-Bek of late.</p>
<p>Council will need to consider creating ample areas for shade for both dogs and people taking into account the increased temperatures in Australia as a whole. The proposed plan for shade is not adequate, given there is already a lack of shade in the area.</p> <p>How many waste and rubbish bins will be provided. Currently there is only one which is already not enough and the park is filled with dog waste to begin with. The plan also has too few car spaces in an area where there is already a lack of on street parking, therefore creating unneeded traffic in an area with already high residential traffic.</p> <p>These are issues solely on the design - there are many other flaws in creating a dog park in this area in general that council seems to have ignored when choosing this location.</p>
<p>I believe it's a great idea. We need a park for dogs. It will be a great community get together for both dogs and their owners. The only thing I don't agree with are the sizes for the 2 areas for different sized dogs. The small dog area leaves insufficient room for small dogs which I expect would out number large dogs. The area allotted for small dogs is only the size of a normal house block and is less than a quarter of the size of the land area allotted for large dogs. I believe 1400 sq metres for the small dog area and 2300sq metres for the large dog area would be a better fit</p>
<p>Great design and use of space. As a large dog owner I support the separate spaces for small/timid/frail and large dogs, my dog is fine with small dogs but smaller dogs do get scared. It's far enough away from current playground to not interfere with families and their picnics but close enough if you have a family and dog you can utilise both areas.</p>
<p>Think park is well utilised by kids, families and people with dogs already.</p> <p>Kids often ride their bikes /scooters to access tge park and creek. Having a dog park with a large carpark here would pose a significant safety risk for children accessing this space.</p> <p>People with dogs already access this space. A dog park here is not required</p>
<p>There is no need for a fenced dog park there. Also with the steep slop to one side and train to the other. I don't find it ideal. But hey, they'll do it either way. Who came up with the three initial locations anyway?</p>
<p>When you had the public consultation on site, no one wanted the car park and the dog park. I am at that playground everyday and everyday and there are near misses of cars and children on the playground.</p> <p>All the parents I speak to say they hate cars coming into the area.</p> <p>I have photos of the near misses and have forwarded them to the council for no reply.</p> <p>It was also asked for the follow up on why the gate wasn't locked. Nothing happened.</p> <p>This is not a good investment</p> <p>People don't want to put their dog in an environment with other dogs.</p>
<p>This a great use of an under-utilised space. Great to have a space for smaller dogs, keeping them away from the people who have aggressive untrained off-leash dogs.</p> <p>Currently we travel to Strathmore to have a safe space for our dog.</p> <p>It would be good to include lighting and maybe some additional car parking as I think it will be busy.</p>

<p>This is a nice design but this is already a secluded park with off leash dog areas. There are so many other under-utilised open spaces in the north part of Glenroy. Dogs here have nowhere to run around and this location is not walkable for those of us near the ring road. Please consider Rupert Wallace Reserve (currently inundated with sports in evenings leaving dogs with nowhere to be off leash) or the open space between John Street and the Ring road for future dog parks.</p>
<p>Makes no sense to stick a dog park in Kingsford Smith when it is already off lead. Why would Council destroy one of the last natural reserves in Glenroy and place a 4000sqm dog park in it? Its such a beautiful reserve which dogs already enjoy. It seems like a complete waste of rate payers money. Sewell Reserve solves so many things including taking dogs off the local sports ground. Please leave Kingsford Smith alone!!</p>
<p>Absolutely ridiculous place for a dog park. It's already well utilised by those Merribek locals who are nearby, but it's not very accessible to the majority of Merribek residents. The consultation on this dog park was clearly not thorough enough judging by the feedback provided below. Go back to the drawing board and consult properly with your residents.</p>
<p>This area is already an off leash dog area. It is huge. A fenced dog park would be better placed somewhere that dogs could run out on the road. This is not that place. Also if you fence in a dog park, does that mean that dog owners would lose off leash rights to the rest of the area? One of the other 2 options would better serve the community as they are flanked by roads.</p> <p>Also not sure who was consulted? I would like to see some clarity around this.</p>
<p>Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve is such a beautiful place which is currently underutilized in my opinion. The addition of the dog park will hopefully bring more people and create a lovely vibe and dog community. However, having only 12 car spaces will likely discourage people from attending and disrupt/annoy the residents of Loongana Ave. It's such a huge park, why not use more space for parking?</p>
<p>To only have postcards issued to households within 500m of each of the three possible locations for the voting exercise was completely ridiculous. Saying this dog park is for all of Glenroy and you survey a select bunch of households? Also how does the Council select a preferred location when it has more negatives and will impact local residents far more than the other option?</p> <p>This Council has no idea how to run a consultation process. It is clearly evident by the comments in this that not enough has been done to satisfy concerned residents.</p>
<p>It is quite clear when comparing the comments from the option for Glenroy to that of Fawkner that there is a major disconnect in the consultation process for Glenroy.</p> <p>If the Council were to proceed with Glenroy it is really an injustice to the community consultation progress. Its been very clear that not enough has been done to notify residents that this was even occurring or that this page is open for comments.</p> <p>Sticking a dog park in a beautiful reserve (which the dogs already enjoy) is a waste of money. On top of that, sticking it behind residents in a small suburban location with no amenity around it is even more bizarre. Way to force traffic down in overdeveloped local streets.</p>
<p>Also this is another project which is clear that requires more discussion. Council has done such a poor job of consultation on this. They intially scheduled this conversations page to end on the 17th! Giving the community no time to actually comment on this. Im not sure how many people even know about this. Trying to rush this through without proper consultation is really really poor form.</p>
<p>Why would Council ruin the perfectly good Kingsford Smith Reserve by placing a dog park in it? There is something so nice about having the park in a fairly untouched state and can be enjoyed as is. Sticking in a 4000sqm dog park really ruins the appeal of it. If its a dog issue well the dogs Ive seen there seem to have fun and enjoyment as it is.</p>

<p>The results of the survey indicated 195 vs 182 in favour for KSU Reserve. Was the 13 votes by councillors? Swell reserve already has a car park, BBQ area, toilet and other necessary amenities. What a waste of rate payer \$\$\$\$ to build a dog park on KSU Reserve. Keep it as it is. Cuurently, such a wonderful space for dogs to run around and for children to kick a ball or throw a bat. Unwise choice MerriBek</p>
<p>I certainly wasn't given the option to vote? What was the process for this, not the day that some fella tried to offer free coffee to folks at the park? If so then I would say the process for democracy has also been missed, I have no idea as to when and how I could vote.</p>
<p>Kingsford Smith is a gem in Glenroy . Why would Council even consider putting a dog park there when it's such a great space already to walk your dog as so many people do.</p> <p>Additionally dog parks are full of owners on their phones while their dogs run wild .</p> <p>It's a lazy way of exercising a dog that's not trained. Talk to vets and dog trainers they will tell you of the health risks for dogs at these parks.</p> <p>And it's for this that Council wants to destroy this wonderful area</p>
<p>When the area has several hundred dogs walking almost everyday, with the vast majority already happy to run around the fields without the prison fencing in place, it strikes me as a questionable area for a fenced dog park.</p> <p>I would have thought that placing a dog park in an area with unlimited exercise abilities makes no sense when most users of this park would come form other areas where there are limited exercise locations would be a far more logical location.</p> <p>There are significant issues with this location:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Already plenty of space for dogs to run around and socialise 2. Right next to a railway line, one of the significant issues with this is the distraction and risk of dogs becoming either frightened or inclined to to to chase the trains 3. This will run right along the fence line of numerous houses, I would expect these residents should receive a weighted voting right when considering placing this behind their homes 4. Ridiculous over development of Loongana Ave with now around 1 in 6 blocks having units, the traffic on this street has become dangerous. Cars are parked at all times on both sides of the street making passing difficult quite often, this location will have significant impact on residents of this street by forcing more traffic
<p>Agree with Joe's comment. Would be much wiser of Merribek to have released a draft of Sewell Reserve too before asking people to vote.</p> <p>Sewell Reserve was always destined to fail without a draft plan. Ive read the submissions report now and at a loss at the disconnect between the votes and community feedback.</p> <p>Perhaps Council should have not suggested their "preferred" option which may have inadvertently influenced people. Instead of voting done on the merits of the options presented.</p>
<p>I don't think it would be possible to find a more out of the way location in Glenroy even if you were trying. It is much closer to Strathmore Heights and Gowanbrae</p> <p>Way to make it inaccessible to 90% of the suburb unless we drive, and then place it in a location - where there is no parking.</p> <p>What a waste of money.</p>
<p>The comments in the submissions report pretty much all read as if Sewell Reserve was the preferred option. Yet here we are again with Merri-bek Council ignoring all these valuable community insights.</p> <p>Council had a pre-made design for Kingsford Smith and got too lazy to redo another one for Sewell even after all the community feedback. Poor effort!</p>

Has the Council done any usage studies on this proposed park? And what impact this will have on local residents?

This park will likely bring people outside of Glenroy to use it. Impacting local residents. The streets in ANA estate were not designed for this traffic.

Additionally, the Council has made these streets narrow as it is be the overdevelopment they have allowed. They should focus on getting this right before adding traffic into these streets.

Lighting for evening access should be discouraged. We are entitled to safety and enjoyment of one's home. It wont be peaceful or enjoyable having dogs barking behind our fence into the evening as well.

Additional car spots are needed. 12 spots (and one of those is disabled) is not enough when you consider all the additional amenity that is being added in. It is already a burden placing a dog park like this behind residents and also also directing traffic down narrow streets to this park. The least the council can do now is have proper parking to cater for it so it doesnt ruin Loongana Ave further.

7e Final Concept Plan

Final Concept Design for Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve



Figure 6: Final Concept Plan as displayed on the project Conversations Moreland web page