

Fawkner Dog Park

New dog park



Merri-bek
City Council

Consultation summary report

Prepared by

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Open Space Design & Development Unit

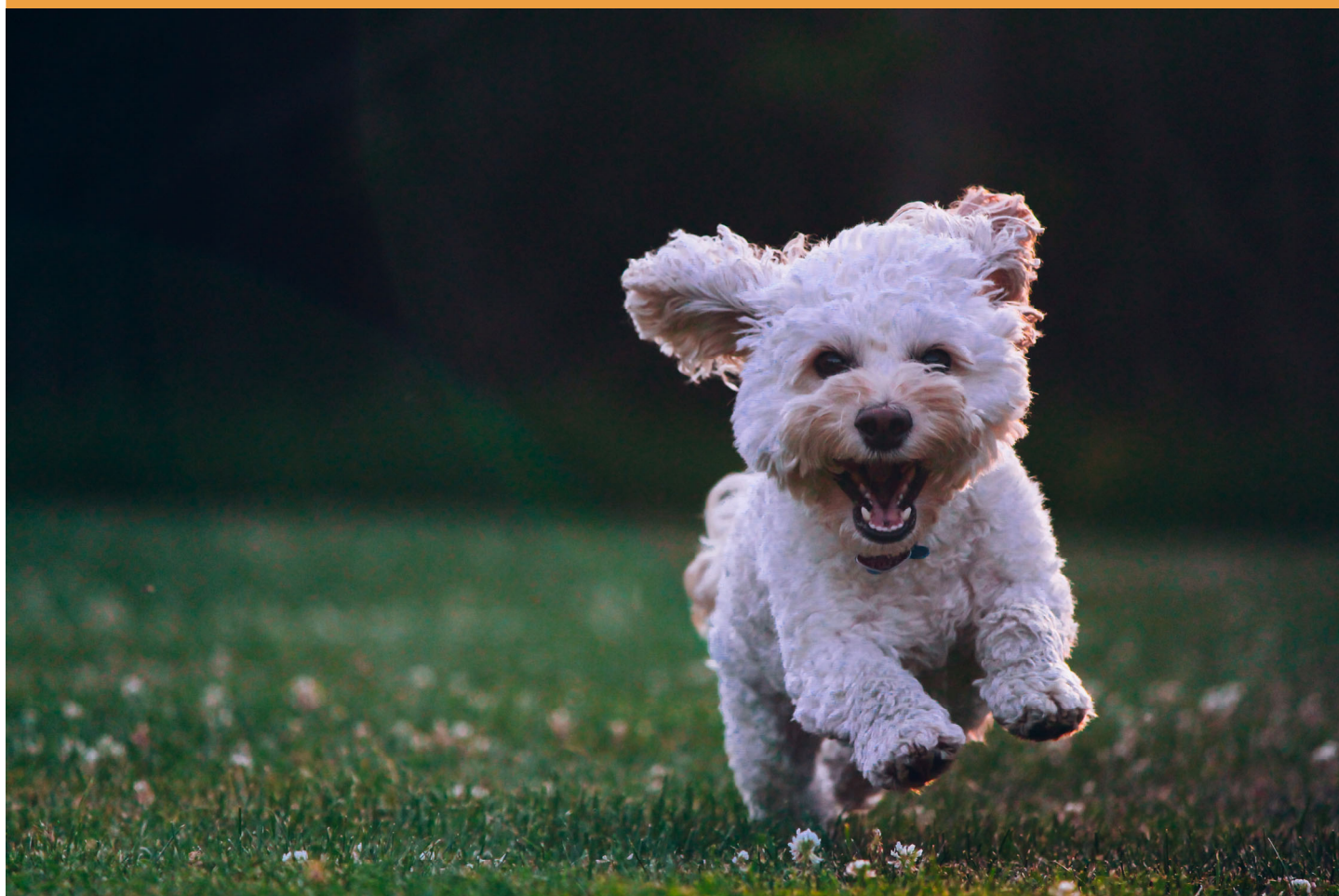
April 2023

Revision B

Revision A: voting exercise: November 2022

Revision B: draft concept plan: April 2023

Revision C: final concept plan



Fawkner Dog Park – new dog park

Consultation summary report

April 2023

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 Fawkner dog park consultation.

1. Background

Council's Open Space Design and Development unit are conducting two consultation phases with the local community for a new dog park in Fawkner, these being:

- Voting exercise

Council have asked the community in Fawkner in which of the three possible locations would they like their new dog park. This has been completed in December 2022

- Draft Concept Plan Consultation

Having determined the location from the voting exercise, Council will develop a draft concept plan for this new dog park. This has just closed

- Final Concept Plan Consultation

This final concept plan will reflect changes from the draft concept plan, incorporating the community's feedback where possible. This final concept plan will close the consultation process, prior to the team proceeding to detailed design.

Consultation timings

Voting exercise: 6 November – 9 December 2022

Draft concept plan consultation: 27 February – 31 March 2023

Final concept plan issued: April 2023 (date to be confirmed).

For the voting exercise, postcards were distributed to households within 1km 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 households within 1km of the selected location, advising residents that they can provide feedback on Council's website <https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fenced-dog-parks-north>. Posters were also be 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 Fawkner for a new dog park, these being: Moomba Park, Lorne Street and Jukes Road.

Moomba Park was the overwhelming choice from the voting exercise, gaining 126 points.

Lorne Street received 75 points and Jukes Road 39 points. There were 4 votes for other locations in Fawkner.

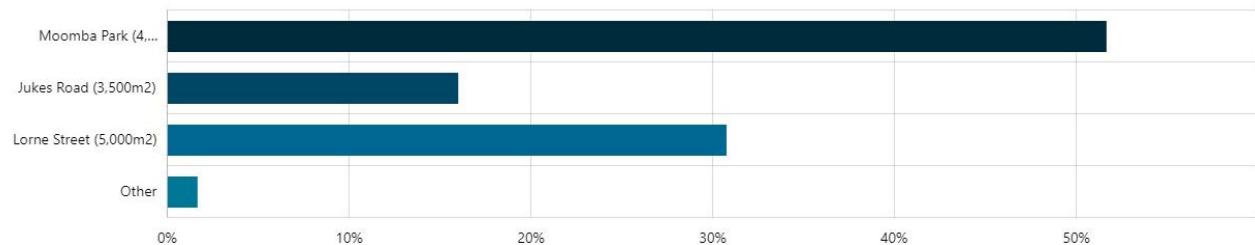


Figure 1: Graph showing voting results.

In addition to the voting exercise we also asked additional questions for each of the possible locations, which will help us shape the draft concept plan. Below is a chart showing results for Moomba Park:

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FEATURES ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU FOR MOOMBA PARK?

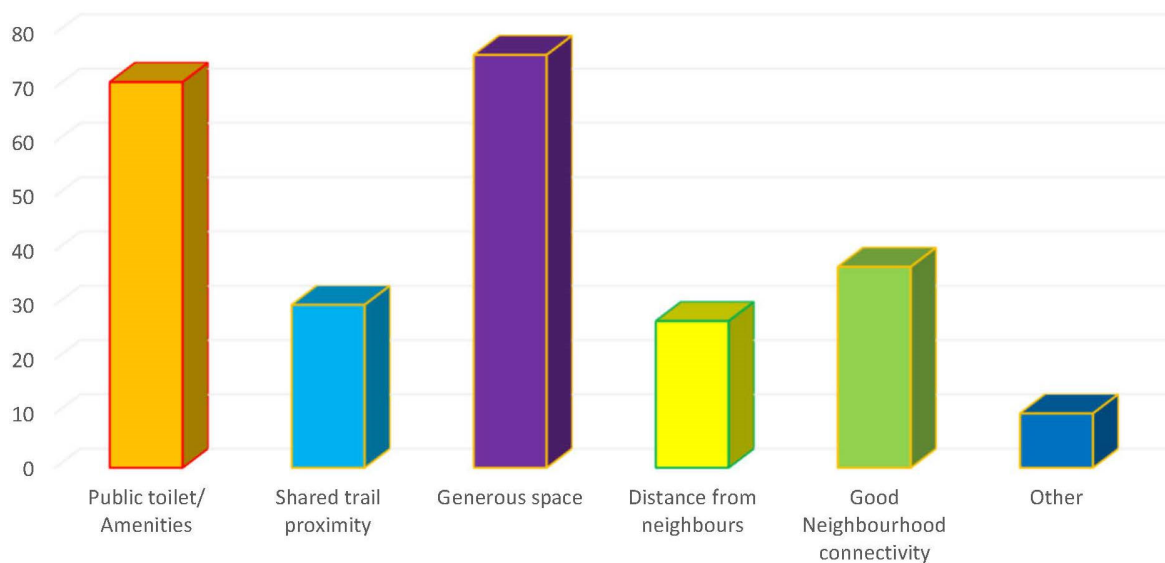


Figure 2: Graph showing importance of given features at Moomba Park.

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 local 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 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).

We will endeavour to address as many of these requirements as possible in the Fawkner dog park design.

3. Draft Concept Plan Consultation Feedback Findings

35 responses were received to the draft concept plan consultation and all were positive about the design. Many were happy with the dog park location, seating options and the amount of shade from trees, the shelter being provided and the agility equipment.

One individual asked that there is an area available for smaller or more nervous dogs. The quiet dog zone is also intended for these type of dogs.

A few respondents asked for further bins to be included. Council are planning to provide the two bins at the entry and see how their usage goes, once the dog park is opened. If this proves to be insufficient we can consider providing more bins.

Provision of dog bags need to be in line with council policy. This states that council does not generally provide plastic bags for removal of dog waste. Some parks have dispensers though we ask people to bring their own bags for this purpose. Similar to the consideration on further bins council can assess if this is required or not following opening of the new dog park, depending on feedback from Local Laws and Open Space teams.

One individual suggested that any narrow areas within the dog park be widened to restrict possibility of bringing dogs in conflict with each other. This is a useful consideration which we will apply to the design as much as possible.

A few people mentioned how important it was for the ground to be resistant to localised flooding or muddy areas in wet weather. We are considering using a mixture of different surface materials, partially to make the space more interesting for dogs to explore but also to assist with managing wet conditions. We are also thinking about using a turf grid product to better support the lawn areas both in wet and dry conditions.

One individual expressed concerns over safety, especially for lone women using the dog park. Through the design we will endeavour to address safety by ensuring that the entries are close to the path and car park and main areas are visible across the dog park.

One respondent asked if lighting can be provided. Unfortunately there is not sufficient budget to include lighting near the adjacent footpath towards the dog park, other than the existing lighting in the car park which will provide some light pooling in the dog park.

A few people asked that the fencing extends to the ground so dogs cannot get underneath the fencing and escape. This is a useful consideration and will be applied to the fencing specification.

One individual asked that the pedestrian gate latches are accessible by those with a disability. This can be looked into further with fencing contractors as part of the design. It looks like the example provided of Lake Edwardes dog park uses lift-up gates which are similar to gates we typically provide in playspaces.

A few individuals asked for the sandpit to not be included. This can be done, with this area turned into an open lawn area.

One person asked for an accessible toilet nearby. Council is planning to include a toilet in Moomba Park near the car park and other facilities within the next year or two. This will be managed as a separate project to the dog park.

A few individuals asked for an additional drinking fountain inside the dog park. We will endeavour to include a second dog park in the main dog park. The intention for the drinking fountain outside was to enable it to be used by others walking along the path as well.

A few people questioned the selection of Moomba Park for a dog park location over other more centrally positioned reserves. The voting exercise undertaken as an earlier stage of consultation covered the site selection and the majority voted for Moomba Park.

The Friends of Merri Creek group highlighted that planting in the dog park should be indigenous species, owing to the proximity of the Merri Creek. This can be addressed as part of detailed design.

4. Final Concept Plan

A summary of the final concept plan will be added once it has been completed.

5. Next Steps

The Open Space Design and Development team are revising the design to a Final Concept Plan, using feedback received from the draft concept plan consultation. Once ready this final plan will be displayed to the community on posters at site and on council's Conversations Merri-bek webpage, before proceeding to detailed design, procurement and construction with intention of completing works in September 2023.

6. Further information

Any questions can be directed to Council's Open Space Design & Development Unit via email openspace@merri-bek.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 Fawkner Dog Park and images of the posters and postcards issued.

7a Voting Exercise



FAWKNER DOG PARK

New fenced dog park

Community consultation

Council is planning to build a new fenced dog park in Fawkner to support the growing demand for dog parks in the north of Merri-Bek.

Please vote for your preferred location out of three identified sites in Fawkner: Moomba Park, Jukes Road or Lorne Street.

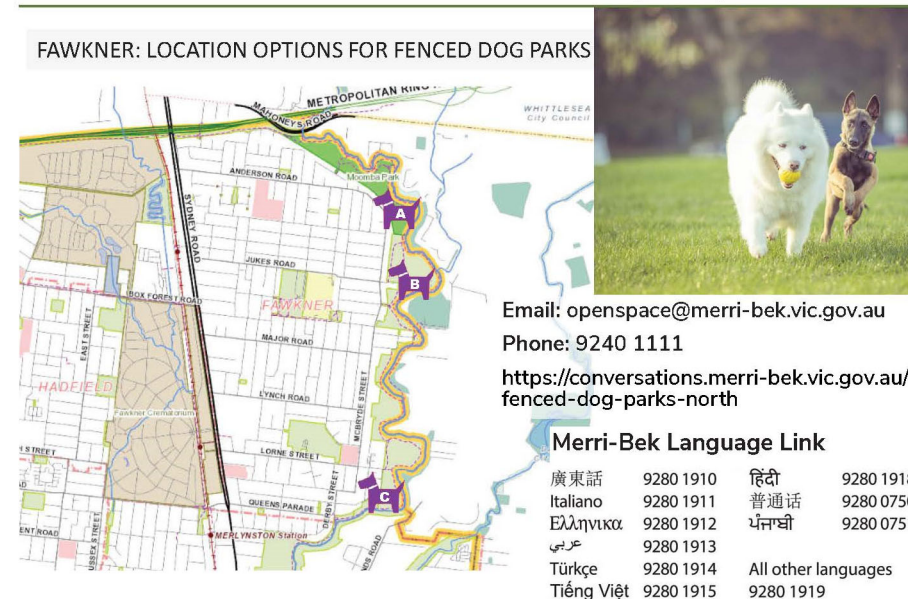
Have your say at:
<https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fenced-dog-parks-north>

Join the conversation!

or phone Council on 9240 1111

Feedback closes **FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2022**

For more information contact Council's Open Space team:



FAWKNER: LOCATION OPTIONS FOR FENCED DOG PARKS

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

Phone: 9240 1111

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

Merri-Bek Language Link

廣東話	9280 1910	हिंदी	9280 1918
Italiano	9280 1911	普通话	9280 0750
Ελληνικά	9280 1912	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	9280 0751
عربي	9280 1913		
Türkçe	9280 1914	All other languages	
Tiếng Việt	9280 1915	9280 1919	

Figure 3: Postcards issued to households within 1km of each of the three possible locations.

Voting Exercise Consultation Responses

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

Moomba Park: 126 points

Lorne Street: 75 points

Jukes Road 39 points

Other: 4 points.

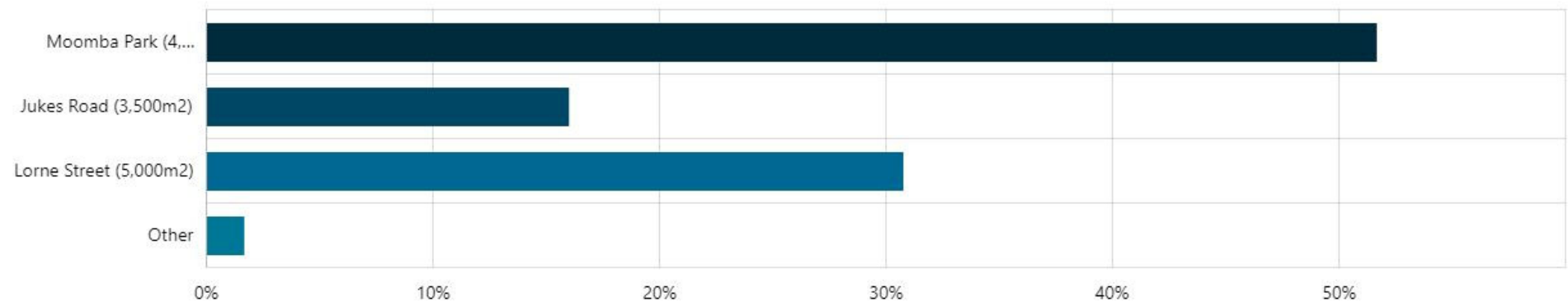


Figure 4: Graph showing votes for each of the three possible locations.

Below are other feedback received for the new dog park:

Voting Feedback
While I think Jukes Road is better position for closer access to more people to walk to in Fawkner with their dogs, Moomba Park has a car park and better facilities. Close to popular picnic area and children's playground.
Lorne Street location is close to where I saw a swamp wallaby (and I think this was where a wallaby was chased by dogs and mauled)
Please include a segregated area for small dogs.
This area can become quite muddy, please ensure it has appropriate drainage.

Voting Feedback
In regards to shade you could build some small shelters with bench seats underneath. Craigieburn dog park has this and it works well.
I don't have any particular preference so will not vote but please have plenty of parking because all sites will need to be driven to.
<p>Thanks for your options but none of your options are acceptable!!! You have provided no safety options for women who need to walking their dogs!!! So basic!! It'd be very easy to allow people who are responsible pet owners to exercise their pets (necessary for their needs) within a safe environment.... Instead you go to extremes to counter that option !!! You're very misinformed and underestimate the problem!!!</p> <p>While Jukes Road is my preferred option, one of the problems with all three options is 'poor passive surveillance' - in other words poor safety for women. Several middle aged women, including myself feel too unsafe to use the current Moomba Park space after being intimidated by men on dirt bikes, and this area isn't any better. We would like 2 hours per day (preferably 6-8am) of the fenced second oval at CB Smith reserve to be made available to dog walkers, especially women dog walkers. I know you will say that you think dog poo is an issue, but this group of middle aged women were using this soccer space for a long time, and picking up our dog's poo for a long time before the recent new signs went up. This allowed us to socialise as well as our dogs. Now we are missing those community connections and you are pushing us to unsafe areas. You are laying the groundwork for another attack like the one near CERES market garden a couple of years ago.</p>
MOOMBA PARK IS PERFECT LOCATION
<p>I am a dog owner who would use this park regularly and do not want it at Lorne St. Even though this location is the closest to my house, there is not enough parking as the streets are all cul-de-sacs. We already have a major problem with traffic and off-lead dogs. As a resident, I do not want the traffic or mess associated with the dog park. Moomba Park is the best option because it's larger, has better parking availability, and will have the toilet facilities.</p> <p>I think it's important to have public toilet and parking .. the imaroo st is a tiny street and this site is not good as there is no parking and that area is prone to flooding (the bin chickens love to congregate in the field)</p>
Dogs are perceived as predators by many species of wildlife. Attracting more dogs to the Merri Creek Parklands and Trail by constructing a fenced dog park would negatively impact on this important wildlife habitat and movement corridor. The Jukes Rd option is least preferable in this regard because it is a significant bird habitat area. Charles Mutton Reserve, an existing off leash park, is closer to more residents than the Lorne St option and would have minimal wildlife impacts.
A large space for small and shy dogs and not just a little pen for those and a huge area for big dogs. The new dog park at Edwards Lake in Reservoir is a Great example on what a fantastic dog park looks like and gives space for all dogs to have fun
Trees planted to provide shade
This site (and option 2) is more centrally located for everyone to access by walking there. Moomba Park is already a designated off leash area. Shade, access to water and an area that feels safe for owners is important. This area is the most open to visually see across and assess the space.
Car park space for driving, close to the creek for walking there/back, already a dog drinking station, close to playground for kids, nice area of the creek
I know funds would be limited but I feel as though option 1 and 3 would both be well utilised and appreciated but the community

Voting Feedback
Enough bench seats for owners. Grass so the dogs don't get too dirty when it has rained. Water fountain w dog bowl.
Dog poo bags to be readily available and good fencing around dog area
Toilets are the main thing space as well as an owner of dog myself they need space to run around so my preference is Moomba park
Some signage about good shared behaviour, gates that close properly so there are no escapees. Maybe a coffee cart on weekends to celebrate when it opens so humans can socialize too, activating the park will make it feel safer because there is not much passive surveillance from the residential area. I'm moving to Fawkner soon, and chose my new home because of its location to Moomba park. My doggo and I are so excited it will be a dog park! Thankyou Merri bek Xx"
Some sort of water fountain/tap so that the dogs can have water to drink please.
Divide the area into two sections - a smaller section for small dogs, and a larger section for large dogs. Refer to Alf Pearce Dog Park in Strathmore.
A lot of dog owners in Fawkner are selfish. This combined with the number of people obtaining lockdown dogs has resulted in an increase in dog attacks, dog rushes, and dogs off lead on the shared Merri creek path. The Jukes road site should not be used as it is too close to the shared path and dog owners don't do the right thing as it is already. Council needs to increase the number of patrols on the Merri creek trail and fine the selfish people with their dogs off lead, those dogs are often breeds which are more likely to attack people.
Will there be any water stations for people/dogs? Can we have 2 sections, one for smaller dogs and one for bigger dogs? Will this park be regularly patrolled by council park ranger?
Water as a must with drains for the water to drain into
Please consider install benches for dog owners to use. Thanks xx
We actually need more available off lead open dog parks. Please stop over allocating to formal team sport already existing of-lead reserves such as at Hosken Reserve. Fenced in dog parks attract poorly behaved and poorly controlled dogs. What you are doing is adding to a problem instead of resolving it through fair allocations, etc.
My dog is often uncomfortable in fenced dog parks. unless they are HUGE. when she's uncomfortable around another dog, she puts space between them - this is more easily accomplished in unfenced off lead areas. Her recall is excellent - I think in general councils should focus on teaching people how to train their dogs, and not on restricting dogs. if more dogs are properly trained and cared for, we can utilise many shared unfenced areas (like a lot of other councils do in Melbourne).

Voting Feedback
Public toilets would be great since there's a children's playground. Could also have some BBQ added.
Possibility to have 2 sections of the dog park: one for small/sensitive dogs and one for all other dogs
Having the fenced off-leash dog area in this spot will be great, however we hope the surrounding areas continue to be off-leash. Fenced areas have the potential to become quite intense when there are lots of dogs so having quieter off-leash areas are important to us!
Considering the area and there are not great surveillance in any location I believe the council should install cameras there to make people feel safe. Also can there be 2 sections to the dog park, one for both big and small dogs separately.
I've never used a public toilet while walking my dog! So that's a lower priority IMO. Most important issues for me relate to the dogs: Is there plenty of space to run around? Are there drinking fountains for the dogs? Are there council bins for the poo bags and will they be emptied regularly? Is there parking nearby so it's easy to access by those who live further away? Is there shade so it will be used in the summer? Will it be maintained by the council?
For dog parks to thrive it is important there is a strong residential community nearby with dogs. E.g. Alf Pierce in Strathmore is great, while the one in Pascoe Vale is an absolute failure.
So my answer is - whichever location already has a strong dog community visiting to build on (e.g. Cole reserve in Pascoe Vale). It would also be good to make sure it's a really large area with trees etc to explore. Shade is essential.
Tap & bowl, good fencing & gates, provide some shade/cover
Needs drinking water for dogs and poo bags. Large space for large dogs for playing fetch games.
Despite the rules that this is an on-leash area only, this park is currently used as an 'unofficial' off-leash area, including by large uncontrolled dogs, especially in the afternoons. My hope would be that by creating an official off-leash fenced area, people could be encouraged to leash their dogs in the rest of the space.
2 spaces: one space for the confident dog and one space for the puppy or non-confident or elderly dog to be able to be a part of the experience
Maybe some obstacles course

Voting Feedback
I am a dog owner who backs onto Moomba park. I know about 10 other dog owners who use the soccer oval as a dog off leash play area. The oval is great but has the drawback of not being enclosed (open fence) and when our large dogs are running around it can be intimidating for other park users. This will solve both problems meaning we are not using communal space for our dogs and they are safe and enclosed. Thanks very much!
Can you please make sure that the public toilets (hope there's none than one for this busy park) are regularly maintained. The ones at Mutton Reserve (unisex toilets) were disgustingly dirty last time I went.
Water fountain for dogs and no mud!!
A separate fenced area for small dogs or more timid puppies which is separate from the larger dog area is important so all breeds can safely enjoy the space and interact with breeds of a similar size and energy level.
A small dog area and larger dog area is really important, water for dogs and shade. Be awesome to have some dog agility equipment too.
Some kind of landscaping - not all grass, all dirt or all gravel.
The dog parks must have shade (same can be said for the Glenroy options), otherwise the spaces cannot be used in summer. If the locations chosen in Fawkner and Glenroy don't have shade at them, the park design must include ample shade (trees, shelter etc) so dogs (and their humans) don't over heat in summer. Access to water is also critical. Preferably the parks would include separate fenced areas for big and small dogs with access to water in both parts of the park (Moonee Valley City Council didn't think of this when designing the Alf Pearce Reserve dog park in Strathmore). Seating would also be helpful, as would double fencing entrances to prevent dogs escaping.
Agility / equipment in area for dogs use
Access to water, seating, waste disposal, shade, parking as well as some sort of agility stations to make it more interesting for the dogs...
Please make sure that you install covered bicycle parking with space for cargo bikes to that are used to bring dogs to the park.
It would be great to have water taps for the dogs and signage to ensure that people don't enter the park with more dogs than they can reasonably care for (i.e. max of 2 dogs at a time per person).
Brilliant location for a dog park. The existing open space in Moomba Park is currently unutilised and I believe a dog park in this location would also help to prevent the motorcycles and hooning which happen in this area.

Voting Feedback
<p>1. Surveillance - install camera asap. No visual security and cameras. Before having a dog I was followed twice around this area, to later find out after reporting this to the police, that this person had tried it on others. We have a lot of strange people around that just show up randomly.</p> <p>2. Seating - park benches would help near the enclosure</p> <p>3. Fawkner overall has no shade .. with kids shade is important for hot and cold days so seating with shade?</p> <p>4. Even with so much rain, park grounds are not kept short, this would be good if this could be kept short</p>
Water stations more than one please
My dog suffers from allergies and her vet maintenance is expensive and always going to Moomba park she is allergic to a plant along the trail and it would be worthwhile to make sure lawns are kept short to avoid issues I know a lot of doggy friends have the same issues with rashes, yeast infections etc
There are too many aggressive off lead dogs on the Merri Creek trail and down by the Merri Creek itself. One runner was bitten recently. Council needs to enforce fines.
I'm not sure a toilet is that necessary for a dog park as visits tend to be short. No other dog parks we visit have a toilet.
Bin with dog poo bags
Can you please ensure that additional bins are provided at all entry/exit points of the fenced dog park, and, that dog poo bags are also provided. There is often a lot of litter in and around Moomba Park, and bins have often been overflowing. There is also a lot of dog poo not picked up along the trail, and general street footpaths. It's important to get this right from day 1 and ensure this is managed properly to make it successful. It would also be great to have at least one of the dog drink fountains within the area too. Great initiative - thanks!!
We need much more rubbish bins, seats with tables, shade, taps
<p>Please ensure there are big signs in different languages (to make sure everyone understands) explaining important rules (Dog Park Etiquette) such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dogs must wear collar - Be up to date on registration, vaccinations, and parasite control - Arrive on-leash - Take off their leash to play - Stick to designated size areas - Ask before sharing treats - Keep your eyes on your pet - Leave favourite toys at home - Don't bring a dog with behavioural/social/aggression issues/no recall control, or who is unwell - Do pick up your dog's poop - Don't get distracted

Voting Feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dogs must be fully supervised - NO children inside the dog park <p>Thank you for considering my feedback.</p>
<p>It needs seating, agility course, either plant trees/gardens or put up shade sails, make it interactive and interesting. Not just a fenced off area.</p>
<p>I would love to see a site with mains water (with a drinking bowl), shade and seating.</p>
<p>All options proposed seem to be at high risk of snakes (as they are in the Merri ck corridor). What is planned to manage this?</p>
<p>Secure area, toilets are important. Bins available for disposing of dog poo. Easy access. Thank you.</p>
<p>Water tap, obstacle courses, doggy bags available, seating throughout, native plants (where appropriate), large log, area for smaller or old dogs</p>
<p>I find it disappointing that the Council has put forward three options that fail to address security concerns of residents. While you may consider distance from neighbours as a positive, for dog owners who are concerned about their safety and the safety of their dog, this is worrying.</p>
<p>I think Jukes Rd is the best location as Moomba Park and Mutton Reserve already accommodate people wishing to have their dogs off lead. It's great the council is doing this as there is certainly demand for it. I would add that it's important to have a dedicated area in the dog park for small/shy dogs, as well as tough plants so the space isn't so barren (Lalor dog park is an example of a space that gets very dusty or muddy at different times of year). Contours in the space can also be great to make it enriching for dogs - my dog loves the skate park at CB Smith Reserve as she can get a lot of exercise running up and down the ramps, so a similar thing custom made for dogs would be great.</p>

7b Draft Concept Plan Consultation

Below shows the draft concept plan poster and postcards issued.



For more information contact Council's Open Space team:

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

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

Phone: 9240 1111



Merri-Bek Language Link

廣東話	9280 1910	हिंदी	9280 1918
Italiano	9280 1911	普通话	9280 0750
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عربي	9280 1913		
Türkçe	9280 1914	All other languages	
Tiếng Việt	9280 1915		

Figure 5: Postcards issued to households within 1km

7c Draft Concept Plan Consultation Responses

Below shows all feedback received from the community for the Draft Concept Plan consultation.

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
31/03/2023	EA	Looking forward to seeing my dog use the agility area
25/03/2023	PhoebeR	Exciting to see the plan for this dog park, thanks Merri-bek. Two pieces of additional feedback: - is there lighting here? This is important for safety and use of the park in the winter months. - the section of path stretching from the agility course towards the centre of the dog park looks quite narrow - if it is, could be good to widen this or create a path around the edges of the park so that dogs aren't pushed into a narrow space which can result in conflict.

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
		I second comments here from other community members around: - adding more bins (three would be ideal, 1 per entrance) - ensuring ground cover and design is resistant to wet weather so the park isn't an overly muddy space in winter (Gilpin Park in Brunswick is an clear example of this - great in summer, but mud bath then it rains!)
24/03/2023	SG	I think the idea of a fenced dog park is great, and the plans look really good. I love the idea of big trees for shade, a separate area for small dogs, dog poo bags and bins, water bowls etc. I am worried though about safety - this is an area which is often frequented by hoons on dirt bikes - and as a woman who walks her dogs alone (not in a group), I am worried about not being able to be seen or call out for help. Other women in our community feel this way too. Remember the attack on the woman walking along the creek near CERES Joes Market Garden. Many of us are concerned that this provides an opportunity for the same kind of incident. I also think that a park in central Fawkner is likely to be better used. Moomba Park is a long way for some dogs and owners, particularly elderly versions of both! I know that there are many who will continue to use CB Smith reserve for the reasons outlined above.
23/03/2023	KC	I think it is really great that Fawkner is getting a dog park but I don't think the location is central to all of Fawkner's residents and their dogs. Great for the people who live at that end of Fawkner. In saying that, one dog park is better than no dog park at all!
23/03/2023	FL	Looks great so far, but I think more than one bin is required. Given the frequency of bin collections in Merri-bek, particularly in the North of Merri-Bek, there are nearly always overflowing bins at frequently used parks in the area, I don't think one set of bins is enough, particularly if there are three exits to the park.
23/03/2023	MS	Plans look great and I'm excited to have a proper fenced dog park in Fawkner. Definitely agree with others that a separate fenced area for nervous/elderly/very small dogs would be a very positive addition.
23/03/2023	Kat	I live cross the road and I am excited for this dog park. Can we please make sure we notify residents of work in advance as we have young families and it can be very disruptive. Thank you.
23/03/2023	DogWalker	It is vital that fencing goes right down to the ground and is secure. My dog is an escape artist and can crawl under the fencing at several dog parks we have tried.
23/03/2023	LH	I love the design but agree with other residents that the sandpit will be used by the feral cats around the area. I would prefer not to encourage that. Also agree about a separate area for small dogs.
23/03/2023	WD	Please include more bins and dog poo bags at every entrance/exit to the area and to the reserve, if you walk from the south, as would be encouraged, there is no bins from Lorne street to the north entrance to the park which does not encourage people to pick up after their dog. As far as I'm aware there is not one location in Fawkner with poo bags as provided in other areas of Merri Bek. This is provided in dog parks and general parks in other areas of Merri Bek, one example, Gilpin park off-lead area has bins/ poo bags at every entrance and exit to the off-lead area and bins at every entrance/exit to the park.
23/03/2023	LM	Very happy with the location and it looks like it will be huge which is great. Strongly suggest having large and small dog areas, and just echoing other comments around ensuring good drainage so it doesn't become a mud pit in winter.
23/03/2023	M.D.	I wouldn't bother with the sandpit, lots of feral cats on the area will make it become the local kitty litter. Also a bin and dog poo bags at both entrances will hopefully encourage people to keep the park clean.
23/03/2023	Murray_Jake	This design and concept looks excellent! Can't wait to see it at Moomba Park. All positive feedback from me :)
22/03/2023	Celeste	Looks great! The only constructive feedback is similar to below - to be wary of drainage & surface cover. Many dog parks I've been to can just turn into mud pits. We can't wait for this addition to Fawkner 😊

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
21/03/2023	Zwartze	So rapt I'll no longer need to drive to Richards reserve in North Coburg or Edwards lake off leash parks! Definitely separate area for small & shy dogs. Also, particular attention should be paid to the surfaces used to avoid a mud pit in winter or dust bath in summer. Adequate drainage.
21/03/2023	Jack.	Moomba park has a vast and wonderful community of dog lovers who mainly have to use the soccer field for fenced off doggy social time. The difficulty we face is having to share this area with people who need to use the soccer field for it's obvious intended purpose. The other current problem is the confusion and chaos caused by the overlap of "off lead areas", small children playing, cars/dirt bikes driving, and people trying to use the bike path. It seems to be the cause of a lot of safety related issues between local residents. It would be incredibly beneficial (for all local residents) if there was an official dog park area with accessible toilets in Moomba Park. Great work! And fantastic idea.
21/03/2023	Georgia	A welcomed addition to North Fawkner as so many local residents already meet up in this area with their furry friends. It will also be wonderful to have some public toilets to accommodate both the dog park and the children's playground adjacent. Bravo!
21/03/2023	Big sweet puppy	Seconding what others have said, a separate gated area for small, timid or reactive dogs is so important. I have a larger dog and we really struggle when there is no separate area for smaller or elderly dogs. There definitely needs to be somewhere in the dog park for the dogs to have a drink, the design at Richards reserve works well. I also really wish there was a park at the end of Lorne, I will still need to drive to this park rather than being able to walk, like I would be able to do if there was one at Lorne, hopefully we will eventually have both spots!!!
21/03/2023	Dan	Little furry friend of Fawkner will be delighted by the design & layout of the proposed dog park. The agility section will a real hit - we do suggest to have a small/shy dog sectioned off area similar to the Reservoir dog park, next to Edwards Lake. Can we suggest a location more central to Fawkner to cater for all areas of Fawkner & Coburg North?
21/03/2023	Dale	This sounds fantastic - I think it's important to have a separate section for small / shy dogs. I don't believe the sand pit is really needed as this will become a toilet for local pests. Less small, loose gravel and more space to run. I am also mindful that whilst small shrubby areas are beautiful, however, unfortunately it leaves an inconspicuous location for baiters to harm our furry friends. I am of the opinion, open spaces are a bit safer for monitoring. Love the idea though!
21/03/2023	Emma	The design looks good for Moomba park. I still vote for Lorne street and would rather have more than one park, even if they are less elaborate in design. End of Lorne street is crying out for a dog park.
21/03/2023	Anonymous	I find the Moomba Park choice interesting. I would have thought a central park would make more sense as it will be more accessible for all people in Fawkner. Being up in the north might mean that more people would drive there, which contributes to traffic and climate warming.
21/03/2023	Bec	Think the design is great. Could consider a space for smaller or nervous dogs. Not so sure about the sandpit - concept great but seems more likely to encourage feral cats to go to the toilet there than anything else.
20/03/2023	Jay	Please include dog poo bags to promote responsible dog ownership and to ensure the cleanliness of the park, water taps for dogs and humans as well as accessible entries. Love the two door entry points and seating around the park.
20/03/2023	GE	Please plant plenty of shade trees and keep them consistent with the native trees already in the area (i.e. eucalypts, she oaks), consider indigenous grasses and shrubs for the under-storey planting.
20/03/2023	Elisha	Love the plans. Perfect use of that space that is currently desolate. This will attract all the good dog lovers of Fawkner as well as families. Public toilet and amenities would not go astray at Moomba Park in general.
19/03/2023	Claire	Love the plans. Would be great to see some decent size trees planted so there is shade opportunities for kids and adults in the dog park area. So much beautiful bird life in the area already so great to expand that with more trees.
19/03/2023	Fawkner Local	We frequent the park having moved to Fawkner. The dogs have no place to enjoy themselves in a safe environment and to allow them to socialise properly. The space where the proposed dog park will be is so under-utilised and this design looked amazing. The only feedback to provide is whether an option for a small dog and large dog section is needed?

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
19/03/2023	john_englart	The simple latches presently on Merri-bek dog parks can be improved upon for accessibility. Present latches involve a high degree of dexterity to operate from the side outside the mechanism, are poor for disability access. The latches at Lake Edwardes dog park (see photo) are more accessible, providing relatively easy access from either side of the gate, including for those who may have a disability. I suggest improved gate mechanism s are used at Fawkner and Glenroy dog parks with a view to update existing dog park gates as part of the maintenance program.
16/03/2023	Mcguirka	As I've stated in previous responses, dogs need plenty of shade and water. The new water fountains for dogs at Charles Mutton Reserve are very strange — the taps overshoots the water bowls. Toilets for humans aren't important. I've never gone to the toilet while walking my dog. (Where would I put my dog)? It's such a shame there won't be a fenced area at the end of Lorne Street as well, even though we lost the vote. I thought there were plans for 2-3 dog parks in Fawkner? There are hundreds of dog owners near Lorne Street — see the FAWKNER DOG TALK group on Facebook. Especially in summer, it's too far to walk our dogs over to Moomba Park, so we'll have to drive there (which defeats the purpose somewhat). Charles Mutton Reserve is often occupied with sports, so the places to have dogs off-lead are limited in the area. I had hoped the area behind the Charles Mutton Reserve netball courts (on the old running track) could be turned into a small dog park. It's ideal with most of the fencing already in place and away from the sports areas. But now the council is digging up this area for "renovations". If the renovated area is unsuitable for dogs, then we'll be even more limited than we were previously.
15/03/2023	john_englart	Some suggested improvements: * There should be drinking water fountain and dog drinking bowl in both enclosures. Dogs get thirsty running around, playing and doing peemails. So do humans. * Bev makes a good point that little dogs need room to run around too. Don't make the small dog enclosure too small. * Fencing: Needs to be to the ground with minimal gap. Richards Reserve fencing has major gaps between the two dog areas, and the entrance lock gates to the big dogs area is too high, with one of my dogs going under to follow a dog and its human leaving. Fences and gates to both areas need to be Chihuahua (or small dog) proof as a minimum standard! * Passage lock gates between the two fenced areas is useful (Lake Edwardes has this) * Canopy shade important, but I realise new plantings may be needed to achieve necessary shade. * Like the seating. Dog parks are areas where people socialise too. * Disability friendly gate mechanism. I find the gate mechanisms at Coburg under Skyrail and Richards Reserve a little clunky. The mechanism at Lake Edwardes dog park is easier to use. I access the dog parks with one hand operating the gate mechanism while my other is balancing a bicycle with two squirming dogs on board, so this is an accessibility issue for me. Gate mechanism needs to be as disability friendly as possible. Looking forward to Fawkner dog Park.
15/03/2023	Bev	Drinking fountains and access to bins in both areas. The small dog area needs to be a good size as often big and rough playing dogs are in the large area. But the small and shy dogs still want to run . The park at Edwards Lake in Reservoir has a perfect ratio of both areas.
15/03/2023	Sarah B	Looks good - but there must be dog and human friendly water fountains inside the fenced area. There should also be seating inside the fenced area.
15/03/2023	CB	Really happy there will be seating and plenty of shade options. Happy to see that there is a drinking fountain, although ideally would have been located inside the fenced area for dogs to use whilst running around.
31/03/2023	N/A - letter	From Friends of Merri Creek requesting indigenous planting in the dog park owing to proximity of Merri Creek

7d Final Concept Plan

An image of the final concept plan will be added here when the final concept plan has been developed.