

Gowanbrae Dog Park Elm's Court Reserve



Moreland
City Council

Park infrastructure upgrade 2024-25

Consultation summary report

Prepared by

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Open Space Design & Development Unit

January 2025



Gowanbrae Dog Park

Consultation summary report

August 2024

Council has been successful in a bid for funding via a DEECA grant program to design and construct a fenced dog park in Gowanbrae at Elm's Court Reserve. This area was identified in a strategic review of available areas for large dog parks. There have been requests from the Gowanbrae community for a dog park for several years now. In 2022 a similar park was constructed across the Moonee Ponds Ck in Glenroy which has been well received by the community.

1. Background

Council's Open Space Design and Development unit will be conducting three consultation phases with the local community for Gowanbrae Dog Park, these being:

- **Initial Consultation**

Council asked the community whether they would support the proposed dog park in the proposed location (existing kickabout space). A mailout was sent to all houses in Gowanbrae with reference to the Conversations Moreland website. A problem occurred in the delivery of the postcards due to the printer incorrectly labelling the boxes and postcards for Gowanbrae were sent to McCleery Reserve, Coburg and vice versa. The cards were reprinted and re-distributed with the feedback period extended on the website to 8th Aug.

There were 14 contributions, all but one was supportive of the upgrades. A site meeting was conducted on 20th July to discuss site issues with the community. Approx. 20 people attended over 2 hours and feedback was recorded in the next section of this report.

- **Draft Concept Plan Consultation**

Council has developed a draft concept plan and costing from the initial feedback. A mailout has been sent to all residents in Gowanbrae informing them of the new plan with links to the Conversations Moreland website where the draft plan has been posted to seek further feedback.

- **Final Draft Plan**

The final plan will be presented to the community via the Conversations Moreland website before construction begins

Consultation timings:

Initial consultation: 1st July – 8th Aug 2024

On-site community meeting: 20th July 2024

Draft concept plan consultation: 1 Nov – 29 Nov 2024

Final concept plan issued: 13th Jan 2025

Consultation postcards advised residents of the onsite meeting and the link to provide feedback on Council's Conversations website. A QR code and text were provided for the park improvements webpage -<https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/parkupgrades>. Posters with the same information were also displayed at site.

2. Initial Consultation Feedback Findings

Council received 14 feedback responses to the initial consultation through Conversations Moreland. All comments were in support of the proposal. Comments are summarised as follows;

Include agility equipment – 4

Shade/trees – 4

Don't impact existing cricket nets / skate park - 3

Include sandpit – 2

Drinking fountains – 2

Provide bins and regular collection – 1

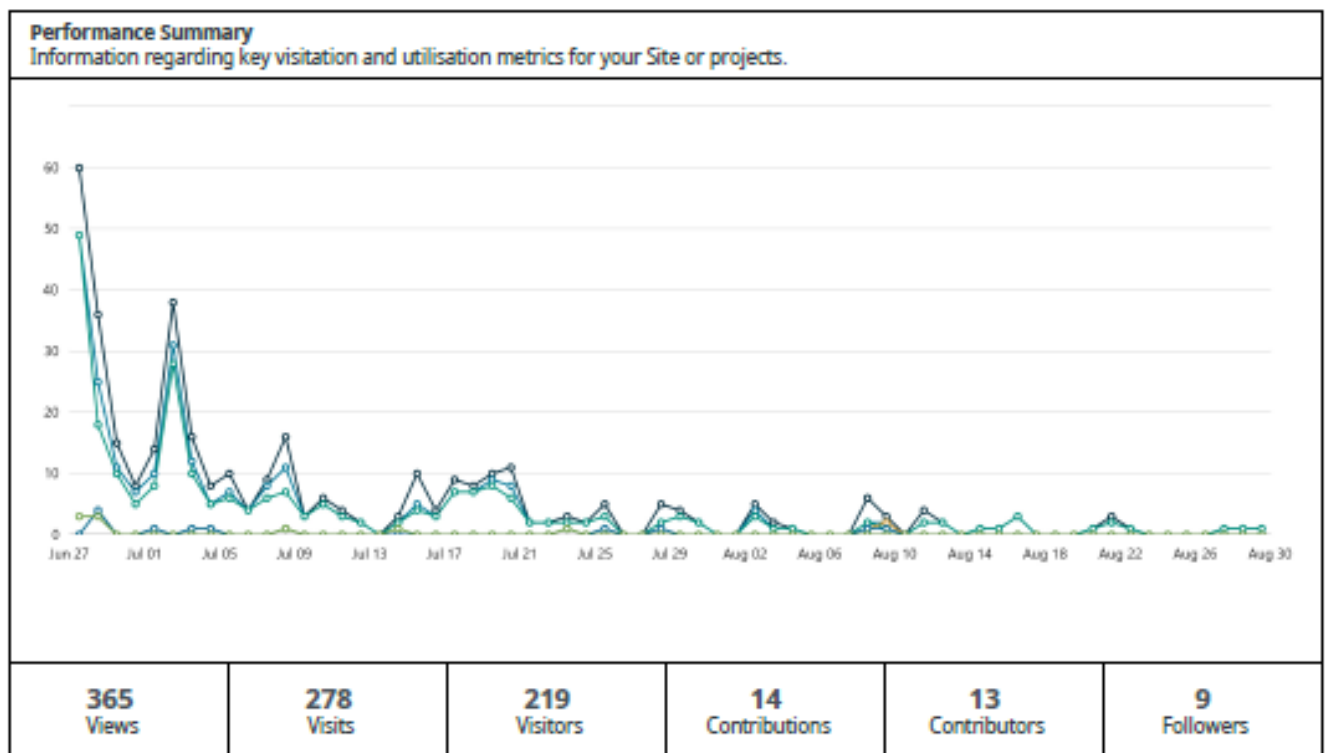
Lighting – 1

Fencing – 1

Full comments can be seen below in appendix 7b.

Approximately 20 local residents attended the onsite consultation. Comments noted from this meeting were;

- Lights for dog park. Winter time is dark and the area is not useable before/after work.
- Lights for skate park requested
- If rotated would kickabout affect houses?
- Expand kick-about space area if moved
- Poo bags supplied?
- Location behind the skate park supported by all
- Zoning for small and big dogs requested
- Safety lighting on footpath to car park requested



3. Draft Concept Plan Consultation Feedback Findings

Council received 8 feedback responses to the second round of consultation through Conversations Moreland. All comments were generally in support of the proposal. Comments are summarised as follows;

Maintain space for ball play – 2

Signage around play space – 1

Soft/warm lighting – 1

Ensure disability access – 1

Secure fences – 1

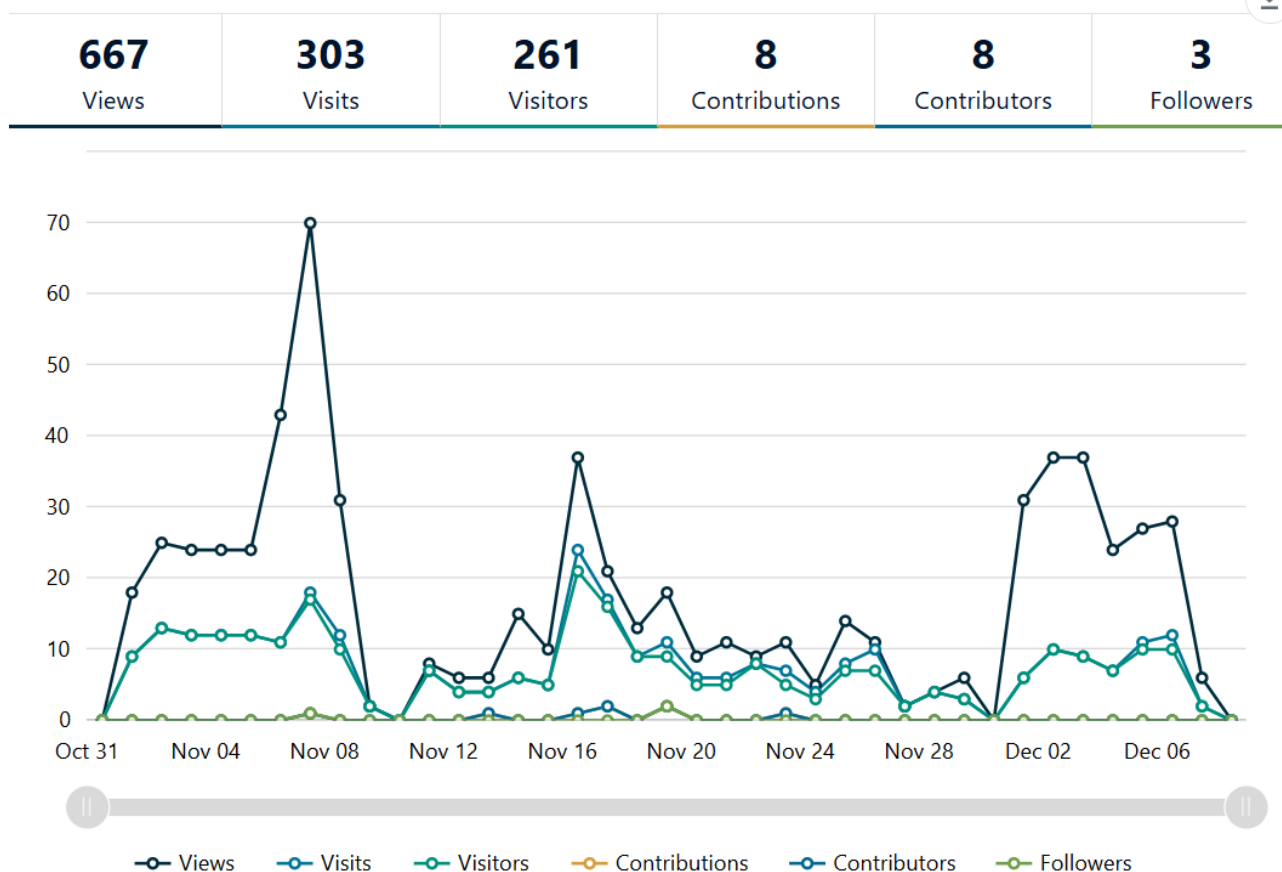
Bins and poo bags – 1

Car park closure at night - 1

Full comments can be seen below in appendix 7d.

The final plan addresses all of these concerns except for car park closure which is out of the remit of this project. This will be referred to our facilities team who manage park opening and closing contracts.

Performance Summary



4. Final Concept Plan

The final concept plan will be made available to the community in January 2025

5. Next Steps

Unless any major objections are received to the final plan, we will proceed to construction drawings, procurement and construction by June 2025.

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.



Figure 1: Mailout area - all households in Gowanbrae.

7. Appendix

Below shows all mailout, posters and feedback received from the community for each stage of consultation for Gowanbrae Dog Park.

7a Initial Consultation mailout



We are constructing a new fenced dog park in Elms Court Reserve, Gowanbrae in 2024-2025. This project is supported by the Victorian Government as part of investment into New and Upgraded Dog Parks across Victoria.

What would you like to see included in this upgrade?
Your ideas can help shape our plans. Submissions close 9th Aug, 2024
Site consultation with **free coffee** Sat 20 July, 10am.



Stiamo migliorando un parco vicino a te. Facci sapere cosa vorresti vedere.

نقوم بتحسين المنتزه القريب منك. أخبرنا بما تود رؤيته.

हम आपके नजदीक स्थिति एक पार्क को बेहतर बना रहे हैं। हमें बताएं कि आप क्या देखना चाहते/ती हैं।

Speak with us in your language  For more information visit merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language

Per maggiori informazioni nella tua lingua, chiama il numero 9280 1911	اپنی زبان میں مزید جاننے کے لیے پر کال کریں۔ 9280 1917	如需了解更多语言版本的信息，请致电 9280 0750	अपनी भाषा में अधिक जानने के लिए 9280 1918 पर कॉल करें
Για να μάθετε περισσότερα στη γλώσσα σας, καλέστε το 9280 1912	तपाईंको भाषामा थप जान्नको लागि, 9280 1910 मा कल गर्नुहोस्	Para saber más en tu idioma llama al 9280 1916	To speak with us in a language not listed here, please call 9280 1919
لمعرفة المزيد بلغتك، اتصل بالرقم 9280 1913	Kendi dilinizde daha fazla bilgi edinmek için 9280 1914 'ü arayın	Để tìm hiểu thêm bằng ngôn ngữ của bạn, hãy gọi 9280 1915	

Figure 2: Initial Consultation postcard issued to all households in Gowanbrae.

7b Initial Consultation Responses

The following are responses to the initial consultation from 1st July – 8th Aug 2024

Title/Question:		
Tool Type:	Gather	
Report Date Range:		28 Jun 2024 - 12 Aug 2024
Date Exported:	28 Aug 2024 11:14 am	
	Title	Description
	Area for senior dogs and puppies	Within the fenced off leash park, it would be helpful if there was an additional fenced off section for senior dogs, puppies and other dogs who may not be able to play in the main area for various reasons. Thank you!
	Dog park	Copy the same as Glenroy dog park add lights for winter months and more shade for summer months. Doesn't matter how close to other facilities as long as it's accessible via the bitumen path.
	Good in theory	So the size and location of the dog park can't be changed, and you're just asking us for design suggestions? The bins and more importantly, the frequency they are emptied needs to be increased as the bins at elms court are regularly overflowing and rubbish is often strewn across the playground and lawns. The new expensive toilet is always broken and in dire need of cleaning. These problems are only going to get worse with the increase in traffic to the area I'm not sure how the cricket nets and oval will be affected, I'd certainly like some more information about that. As a dog owner who walks the dog once or twice a day, I avoid dog parks
	Can't wait	Please include trees and or shade cloths, for shade for both dogs and their owners particularly for the summer month's, ramps and obstacles, water fountains and sandpits.
	Great idea	A lot of people use the skate park and cricket nets. Does it nee to impact those ur utilities? There is a big open space near the retirement village that is under utilised. Could it go there? Or what about the hill next to the oval area? Please also put in Ramps and obstacles for the doggies. Rocks trees and a sandpit for them to dig. It would need to be a big space simile or if not larger than the one recently put in at glenroy.
	Dog park	Fenced area- play equipment - ie ramps for the dogs and poles they can jump over. Rocks to sit on.

	Elm street dog park	We use the park for the playground and the oval for our dogs. How much will the dog park affect the cricket nets and oval space once finished? Surely there is enough space to have minimal effect on both spaces. I realise some of the oval space needs to be used but it shouldn't impact the existing cricket nets. I would upgrade the other end of the oval forth goals and soccer goals for kick around.
	Community	A dog park would be great to seperate children and the elderly from dog owners and dogs who'd like to socialise, this has became more popular recently and I can understand the potential hazards that this may cause without fencing and separation. Dogs/ Dog Owners in the area has created a sense of community in Gowanbrae and makes day to day life more enjoyable and people look forward to evenings out with their furry buddies. Coming onto this website and seeing the negative comments about this new sense of community forming surrounding dogs is truly heart breaking as it's truly a beautiful thing. Although I think I read somewhere about water features? I think these should be fenced off or not around dirt as this will make dirty puddles and dogs love those... whereas the owners don't love those dirty dogs!
	More shade and vegetation	This area is in dire need of more shade and vegetation through native plants, shrubbery. The area is large enough that water features/water play would be a drawcard. Consider some dry creekbeds, flying foxes, ground level trampolines. For the dog park, consider areas for the dogs to cool down and get some water and an obstacle course. More shrubbery for the dogs to be able to explore and plants that drop sticks. More tanbark in the area to compliment native plants and bushes and to encourage play by the dogs.
	Separate walkway, fenced playground and signage	Dogs off leash are already a huge problem around Gowanbrae play areas. Please consider fencing the child play area also to keep dogs out and have clearly visible signage notifying owners that dogs must be on leads in all other areas. Please also have special signage noting pets are not allowed on the tennis courts at any time. (Also already a problem in this particular park.)
	Safety of children using skatepark and playground	Please consider how the safety of children using the skatepark and playground will be maintained while dogs move between the carpark and the dog park entry. There is already a problem in the area of dogs being off leash, so it's fair to assume some dogs may be on leads but many won't be, regardless of leash laws. With this development encouraging more dogs to use the area, perhaps a fence around the playground and skatepark areas could be a solution to avoid children being knocked over or attacked by loose dogs. Thank you.

7c On-site Community Consultation

Below is the poster displayed on site and the postcards sent out to the local community;



We're building a fenced dog park!
Elm's Court Reserve, Gowanbrae

We are constructing a new fenced dog park in Elms Court Reserve, Gowanbrae in 2024-2025. This project is supported by the Victorian Government as part of investment into New and Upgraded Dog Parks across Victoria.

This park will include:

- Separate areas for large and small or frail dogs
- Picnic shelters and water fountains
- Landscaping and drainage
- Planting and shade trees

Please let us know how you use Elm's Court Reserve, what you think works and what needs improvement?

Join the conversation

Online
<https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/parkupgrades>



More information
Phone: 9240 1111
Email: openspace@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

VICTORIA

Speak with us in your language

Per maggiori informazioni nella tua lingua, chiama il numero 9280 1911	بہسی زبان میں مزید جاننے کے لیے 9280 1917 پر کال کریں۔	如需了解更多您語言版本的訊息，請致電 9280 0750	असली भाषा में अधिक जानने के लिए 9280 1918 पर कॉल करें
Για περισσότερα λεπτομέρεια στην ελληνική σου, καλέσε το 9280 1912	तपाईंको भाषामा थप जानकारी लागि 9280 1910 मा कल गर्नुहोस्	Pa ra saber más en tu idioma llama al 9280 1916	To speak with us in a language not listed here, please call 9280 1919
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For more information visit merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language

Figure 3: Posters displayed at site.

7d Concept Plan Consultation mailout

We're building a fenced dog park near you!

Tell us what you would like to see in the upgrade



→ conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/parkupgrades



We are constructing a new fenced dog park in Elms Court Reserve, Gowanbrae in 2024-2025. This project is supported by the Victorian Government as part of investment into New and Upgraded Dog Parks across Victoria.

Council has prepared a draft plan for your feedback. Review the plans and respond to our online survey by 29th November.

Stiamo migliorando un parco vicino a te. Facci sapere cosa vorresti vedere.



نقوم بتحسين المنتزه القريب منك. أخبرنا بما تود رؤيته.



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Figure 4: Postcard sent out in second round consultation.

7e Concept Plan Consultation responses

The following are responses to the initial consultation from 1st November – 29th November 2024

Gowanbrae Dog Park Draft Concept Plan	
Title/Question:	Share your thoughts
Tool Type:	Form
Report Date Range:	7 Nov 2024 - 23 Nov 2024
Date Exported:	13 Feb 2025 05:05 pm
Exported By:	PhilSmith
What do you think of the draft concept plan?	
I think this design will work. It is well away from the playground/picnic areas. Sufficient fencing & gating around it. The entry points do not face directly towards the play areas which is great. Please make sure there are sufficient dog bags dispensers and bins to dispose dog poo.	
To whom it may concern. I have lived for several years on Elms Court, & Love the idea for fenced dog area. Off the subject, what needs to be in place asap, the gates at Elms Court Park should be closed at 10pm and re-opened at 6am like it is at the Community Centre. Now that warmer weather is approaching, young kids come in their cars, burning wheelies, especially the young girls screaming and carrying on, this goes on well after midnight to about 2am week nights. Police have been several times also due to drugs. I have never complained in the time I have lived here, but now I'm truly over it. I pay my rates like everyone else, and I stress tremendously to shut those gates like the hours of Community Centre. I must also stress the Tennis Courts as well, playing well after midnight on weeknights, its appalling! Please close the gates!	
1. Ensure fences go right to the ground. Ensure minimum gap under entrance gates. Any toy chihuahua or other small breed should not be able to escape. 2. Ensure water fountain for animals in each enclosure 3. Ensure that public seating has canopy tree planting to the north and west to provide shade where people will sit or gather 4. Use a disability friendly latch on entrance gates that is easily accessible from both sides for a person in a wheel chair. Check out the latch mechanism at Lake Edwardes Dog Park. The current latches on all existing Merribek dog parks are not accessibility friendly. Ideally a hard packed gravel or concrete path should go up to the entrance gate which makes easier access to wheelchair dog owners. 5. Add all the above to a Dog Park Design Technical standards document. I would appreciate being informed of the standards being developed at johnenglart@takver.com Chihuahuas Juliet and Indiana Jones and I will look forward to paying a visit when complete	
I hope that the inclusion of the dog park within this open space area does not limit the football and soccer goals that are currently there and frequently used. I would have thought that locating fenced dog park between the landscaped mounds further to the east would have been more suitable, there is plenty of space that is under utilised as it is just grass between a few hills.	

Please ensure that that there is still a sufficient amount of area for families to kick a soccer or football around that is properly turfed.	
The dog parks look fantastic! Can't wait. When will the development begin?	
Looks good. Looks like it will be possible to walk past without going through the fenced off dog areas, which is important to me with young kids. More tree planting and landscaping is very welcome. Signage to discourage dog owners from bringing them into the playground would be helpful. I would prefer soft warm white or orange lights. Most of the walking tracks are not lit up and preserving night vision is important.	
It is good but it is a must that it has a grass floor because chip bark floors can hurt dogs which is what has happened to my dogs at the other new dog park in Glenroy near the train bridge another must is a long area without rocks or logs for dogs to run into for dogs to chase balls	

8e Final Concept Plan

The Final concept Plan to be displayed on Conversations Moreland

