What We Heard Report Pop-Up Dog Park Program -Phase 2

City of Edmonton Parks and Road Services edmonton.ca/**popupdogparks**

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Edmonton

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION: PROJECT OVERVIEW	2
Public Engagement Approach	4
How We Engaged	
What We Asked	5
WHAT WE HEARD	6
Summary	
Detailed Findings	7
Allard	8
Ambleside	9
Belmead	10
Britannia Youngstown	11
Bulyea Heights	12
Carlton	13
Charlesworth	14
Glastonbury	15
Glenridding Heights	16
Granville	17
Jamieson Place	18
Matt Berry	19
Meadowlark Park	20
Secord	21
South Terwillegar	22
Summerside	23
Trumpeter	
Webber Greens	25
Windermere	26
GBA+ Spotlight	27
DECISION-MAKING	28

INTRODUCTION: PROJECT OVERVIEW

The City of Edmonton announced a new Pop-up Dog Park initiative in spring 2023, considering up to 30 temporary locations in neighbourhoods identified as having a high need for an off-leash area. These neighbourhoods were selected based on proximity to existing off-leash areas, guidelines in the <u>Dogs in Open</u> <u>Spaces Strategy</u>, the number of licensed dogs, and requests for off-leash areas to City Councillors and Administration since 2016.

During <u>Phase 1</u> of public engagement, the City gathered insights from external and internal stakeholders to help understand preferences for the proposed Pop-up Dog Park locations. An online survey was available on <u>edmonton.ca/PopupDogParks</u> for residents and park users in neighbourhoods with proposed Pop-up Dog Parks. Locations proposed during Phase 1 engagement were evaluated and finalized based on resident feedback, operational considerations, site accessibility and equitable access to off-leash area opportunities. The selected <u>19 Pop-up Dog Parks</u> were installed in May and remained open until the end of October.

Pop-up Dog Park location options were based on:

- Availability and zoning of parkland, adjacent land uses and setbacks
- Fit within the overall park site and ability to be serviced by operations crews
- Accessibility factors
- Sightlines
- Availability of active transportation options and parking
- Pedestrian/vehicle traffic volumes
- Feedback from the Phase 1 survey

Accessibility factors were a key consideration in the design and selection process. These accessibility factors include: terrain and park surfacing, proximity to paved trails and sidewalks with curb cuts, availability of nearby parking, lighting and proximity to seating areas. During the installation of the Pop-up Dog Parks, accessible design focused on the location and path to garbage cans, positioning of dog waste bag dispensers, design and placement of signage, and barrier-free entry and gate systems.

Once the sites were operational, the Phase 2 survey was available to capture the lived experiences of the dog park users and general park visitors at the sites as well as feedback from local residents and other interested citizens. The technical data and feedback gathered throughout Phase 2 will be used to make final recommendations for future off-leash areas. A thorough review and analysis of the program, including costs, is required before further decisions are made to transition these areas to permanent dog parks or continuing as temporary pop-up dog parks or discontinuing them.

Decisions about Pop-up Dog Parks, both to individual sites and overall, will be based on existing City Policies and Standards and take into account both public input and technical requirements, including costs.



Public Engagement Approach

The City of Edmonton's public engagement spectrum defines the public's level of influence in engagement processes. **The role of the public during this engagement was at the ADVISE level on the City of Edmonton's Public Engagement Spectrum** as the public was invited to share their feedback and perspectives on the installed temporary locations. Visit <u>edmonton.ca/publicengagement</u> for more information on the City's public engagement process. 5 City of Edmonton



How We Engaged

Online engagement opportunities were provided to ensure a broad reach and diversity of voices in the engagement process. An open link to the Phase 2 online survey was available on edmonton.ca/PopupDogParks from May 15 to October 1, 2023. Each of the 19 sites that were selected for Pop-up Parks had temporary signage with a QR code to access the survey as well as hard copies of the survey. The survey was open to all members of the public, however, the temporary Pop-up Dog Park location was used to sort responses for a targeted analysis of the results.

From the ADVISE timeframe for public engagement through the removal of the Pop-up Dog Parks in October, administration received 18 Councillor Inquiries and 160 direct inquiries through email and 311 public notifications. Of these notifications and inquiries, 62% were neutral, 33% were negative, 2% were positive and 2% were balanced with both positive and negative elements.

In addition to the Phase 2 Survey, 100 in-person feedback sessions occurred across all Pop-up Dog Park locations sites from the time of park installation in May until the end of September. Park users were encouraged to share their feedback about their experiences with the Pop-up Dog Parks, thoughts about the location selected, any challenges that they have encountered as well as any positive benefits to themselves or the neighbourhood that they had observed.

Who Was Engaged

- Park users and neighbourhood residents were invited to share their feedback through an online or paper survey. Any resident city-wide was also welcome to participate.
- Internal and external stakeholders were consulted for any potential concerns or conflicts with future projects or land use, and were also given the opportunity to provide feedback on temporary infrastructure and seasonal operational impacts.

What We Asked

The goal of the survey was to provide feedback for the Pop-up Dog Park program as well as for individual locations, including the overall satisfaction level with the Pop-up Dog Park location within the neighbourhood. Further feedback was gathered on how park users commute to the dog park, and satisfaction with the amenities, accessibility and size of the Pop-up Dog Parks.

Administration considered the proximity of the locations whether adjacent, within one block, within 15 minutes of walking distance and more than 15 minutes from the temporary Pop-up Dog Park location. Travel time to park location was used to determine differences in user sentiments based on proximity to the site.

WHAT WE HEARD

Summary

- A total of 2,872 responses were received in either digital or paper form.
- Ambleside, Summerside, Bulyea Heights, Granville, and South Terwillegar neighbourhoods had the highest response rate to the survey. These same neighbourhoods also had the highest response rate for the Phase 1 survey.
- 78% of the respondents had a dog in their household, 70% of the respondents used the Pop-up Dog
 Park in their neighbourhoods and 39% of park users visited the park 1-2 times a day. The majority of
 the Pop-up Dog Park users (61%) usually used the park in the afternoon between 4-10 p.m.
- Visitors mainly access Pop-up dog parks by walking (80%), with 100% reported walking in Britannia Youngstown and the lowest walking reported was in Belmead (66%).

- Among the respondents, 44% live within 15 minutes of walking distance to the location, 28% live within one block of the location, 17% live adjacent to the location and 10% live more than 15 minutes walking distance.
- Survey respondents were asked to share how satisfied they are with different aspects of the Pop-up
 Dog Parks overall. In general, respondents were very satisfied with the accessibility of the locations,
 while showing lower satisfaction with the seating and surfacing of the park. More detailed findings
 are as follows:
 - The Pop-Up Dog Park location itself (78%)
 - Accessibility of the route to the location (78%)
 - Green space in surrounding areas (71%)
 - Interactions with other Pop-up Dog Park users (67%)
 - Dog waste pickup by owners (66%)
 - Interactions with adjacent uses such as playgrounds and sports fields (62%)
 - Amenities such as signage, fencing and waste bag dispensers (61%)
 - Parking availability (52%)
 - Size of the Pop-up Dog Park (48%)
 - Features such as seating and surfacing within the Pop-up Dog Park (30%)
- Overall, 60% of survey respondents would like to have the park in the same location, 14% would like to have it in a different location, 20% would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood and 6% would not like to have any Pop-up Dog Park in the city.

Detailed Findings

Public feedback was analyzed for each Pop-up Dog Park location and summarized below.

129	
80%	
84%	
83% Walking, Biking or Rolling	
Overall, 70% of people would like to have the park in the same location in the future and 8% would not like to have a pop-up dog park in the neighbourhood in the future.	
 Green Space Location Accessibility 	
 Parking availability Location Size of Pop-up Dog Park 	

• Moving forward people think the size of the pop-up dog park will impact their satisfaction with the future park

Ambleside	
Number of responses	253
Respondents own dog(s)	87%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	48%
Type of commute to the park	80% Walking, Biking or Rolling

Overall 45% of people would like to have the park in the same location in the future and 34% would not like to have a pop-up dog park in the neighbourhood in the future

Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	LocationAccessibilityGreen Space
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	CleanlinessLocationGreen Space

- The pop-up dog parks are mostly beneficial during winter time that people can not access larger dog parks outside the neighbourhoods
- Consider moving the current park farther away (10-15 ft) from the adjacent properties
- Consider design features to coordinate with the surrounding environment (e.g. fence color)

Belmead	
Number of responses	212
Respondent own dog(s)	68%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	58%
Type of commute to the park	71% Walking, Biking or Rolling

Overall 47% of people would like to have the park in the same location in the future and 25% would not like to have a pop-up dog park in the neighbourhood in the future

Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	AmenitiesAccessibilityLocation
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	LocationGreen SpaceAccessibility

- Double-gate entry system would enhance experience of the users and the safety for non-users
- Neighbourhoods with higher density of condos and apartments should be considered for the community need assessment in the future
- Consider designs such as 'man-trap' style gates for smaller dogs

Britannia Youngstown		
Number of responses	15	
Respondents own dog(s)	80%	
	67% of owners with private green space still visiting the park	
	100% of owners without private green space visiting the park	
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	60%	
Type of commute to the park	100% Walking, Biking or Rolling	
Overall 73% of people would like to have the park in the same location, 13% would like to have the park in a different location in the neighbourhood and 13% would not like to have any pop-up dog park in the city of Edmonton in the future		
Priorities of respondents Note: There were no respondents living further than 15 minutes walking distance of the current Pop-up Dog Park location	 Location Accessibility Cleanliness 	
 Additional comments: There should be further evaluation to the hours of operation and noise for the adjacent properties Community's use is impacted by the overall safety concerns in the neighbourhood Consideration of law enforcement for future use of the park (e.g. hours of operation, illegal usage of the space) 		

Bulyea Heights	
Number of responses	242
Respondents own dog(s)	78%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	81%
Type of commute to the park	81% Walking, Biking or Rolling
Overall 73% of people would like to have the park in the same location, 8% would like to have the park in a different location in the neighbourhood, 12% would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood and 6% would not like to have any pop-up dog park in the city of Edmonton in the future	
Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	 Location Accessibility Cleanliness Quality of Interactions between Dogs
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from	 Accessibility Cleanliness Quality of Interactions between Dogs

• There is an off leash area (Terwillegar Park) in close proximity to the community and the current pop-up dog park is unnecessary

Carlton	
Number of responses	75
Respondents own dog(s)	55%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	63%
Type of commute to the park	96% Walking, Biking or Rolling

Overall 43% of people would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood, 37% would like to have the park in the same location, 17% would like to have the park in a different location in the neighbourhood and 3% would not like to have any pop-up dog park in the city of Edmonton in the future

Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	LocationAccessibilityCleanliness
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	 Accessibility Location Size of Park

- The number of dog owners in the neighbourhood may not justify the need for the park
- Cultural and religious considerations are required for future planning
- Noise and disruption level is not fair for people without dogs in the neighbourhood

Charlesworth	
Number of responses	94
Respondents own dog(s)	83%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	85%
Type of commute to the park	84% Walking, Biking and Rolling

Overall 72% would like to have the park in the same location, 17% would like to have the park in a different location in the neighbourhood, and 11% would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood in the future.

Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	AmenitiesLocationAccessibility
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	 Parking Availability Features Accessibility
 Additional comments: Since the park is close to a main street, fencing is important Make the pop-up dog park permanent for the year round 	

• Double entry gate system make it safer for dogs

Glastonbury	
Number of responses	151
Respondents own dog(s)	88%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	85%
Type of commute to the park	75% Walking, Biking or Rolling

79% would like to have the park in the same location, 8% would like to see the park in a different location, 3% would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood, and 10% would not like to have any pop-up dog park in the city of Edmonton in the future.

Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	Green SpaceLocationAccessibility
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	 Green Space Location Cleanliness

- There are other preferences on locations for the pop-up dog park in the neighbourhood
- There seems to be more visits from outside the neighbourhood. This may be better for communities with higher number of dogs
- The size it too small to accommodate many dogs at the same time which impacts their behaviour

Glenridding Heights	
Number of responses	76
Respondents own dog(s)	82%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	79%
Type of commute to the park	92% Walking, Biking or Rolling

71% would like to have the park in the same location, 13% would like to see the park in a different location, 15% would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood, and 1% would not like to have any pop-up dog park in the city of Edmonton in the future.

Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	LocationAccessibilitySize of Park
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	 Green Space Location Parking Availability

- The design should be changed to increase safety such as locating the entry from across the field
- The utilization and community need should be considered for future planning
- Closer to trees would provide shading and better usage of the space

Granville	
Number of responses	219
Respondents own dog(s)	49%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	16%
Type of commute to the park	80% Walking, Biking or Rolling

10% would like to have the park in the same location, 10% would like to see the park in a different location, 69% would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood, and 11% would not like to have any pop-up dog park in the city of Edmonton in the future.

Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	CleanlinessAccessibilityGreen Space
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	CleanlinessAmenitiesParking Availability

- There are other alternate locations in the neighbourhood with better access
- Maintenance (grass cutting) and aesthetics of the park should be considered for future planning
- Volunteer ambassadors from neighbourhood can help law enforcements

Jamieson Place	
Number of responses	113
Respondents own dog(s)	81%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	70%
Type of commute to the park	89% Walking, Biking or Rolling

57% would like to have the park in the same location, 25% would like to see the park in a different location, 13% would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood, and 5% would not like to have any pop-up dog park in the city of Edmonton in the future.

Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	LocationAccessibilityAdjacent Uses
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	 Green Space Location Cleanliness
Additional comments:	

- Ravines are the perfect place for further off-leash parks in the city
- Place the current location further back to the green space to make it safer
- The space requires better design from fencing to appealing color and features

Matt Berry	
Number of responses	109
Respondents own dog(s)	64%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	57%
Type of commute to the park	82% Walking, Biking or Rolling

31% would like to have the park in the same location, 31% would like to see the park in a different location, 27% would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood, and 11% would not like to have any pop-up dog park in the city of Edmonton in the future.

Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	Green SpaceAccessibilityLocation
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	LocationCleanlinessSize of Park

- The current location is too close to a busy intersection and certainly needs fencing
- Rules and regulations of using the pop-up dog parks are not clear. Is it an off-leash area?
- The size of the park is too small without a full fence. People do not feel comfortable unleashing their dogs

Meadowlark Park	
Number of responses	91
Respondents own dog(s)	91%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	88%
Type of commute to the park	80% Walking, Biking or Rolling

80% would like to have the park in the same location, 8% would like to see the park in a different location, 9% would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood, and 3% would not like to have any pop-up dog park in the city of Edmonton in the future.

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Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	LocationCleanlinessAccessibility
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	CleanlinessAccessibilityGreenspace

- Every neighbourhood in the city needs one for accessibility and equity
- Move the current location to the west side, so the park becomes bigger with trees
- This is a good use for an unused space that can be used permanently and for year-round

Secord	
Number of responses	163
Respondents own dog(s)	93%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	96%
Type of commute to the park	83% Walking, Biking and Rolling

85% would like to have the park in the same location, 8% would like to see the park in a different location, 5% would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood, and 2% would not like to have any pop-up dog park in the city of Edmonton in the future.

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Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	LocationInteractionsCleanliness
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	CleanlinessAmenitiesGreen Space

- It can be adjacent to trees to provide much needed shade for pop-up dog park users
- Repurpose the ball diamond for dog park as it is under-utilized and already fenced off
- Noise and constant dog barking is bothering homeowners living near the dog park

South Terwillegar	
Number of responses	238
Respondents own dog(s)	81%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	74%
Type of commute to the park	90% Walking, Biking or Rolling

65% would like to have the park in the same location, 12% would like to see the park in a different location, 17% would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood, and 6% would not like to have any pop-up dog park in the city of Edmonton in the future.

Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	Green SpaceAccessibilityLocation
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	Size of ParkGreen SpaceAccessibility

- Alternate the location to different spaces within the neighbourhood so the grass does not die
- Enforce leashing of dogs outside the pop-up dog park to prevent issues
- Add covered garbage cans to avoid smells to adjacent homes
- Signage to keep children out of the pop-up dog parks

Summerside	
Number of responses	261
Respondents own dog(s)	88%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	85%
Type of commute to the park	87% Walking, Biking or Rolling

79% would like to have the park in the same location, 13% would like to see the park in a different location, 6% would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood, and 2% would not like to have any pop-up dog park in the city of Edmonton in the future.

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Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	 Amenities Location Accessibility
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	 Adjacent Uses Location Green Space

- Due to population, number and size of the park in the neighbourhood is insufficient
- Requires small and large dogs sections, larger with safer design and double gate entry system
- Signage should encourage dog owners to be more responsible for their dogs' behaviour and waste

Trumpeter	
Number of responses	85
Respondents own dog(s)	76%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	54%
Type of commute to the park	83% Walking, Biking or Rolling

38% would like to have the park in the same location, 34% would like to see the park in a different location, 23% would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood, and 5% would not like to have any pop-up dog park in the city of Edmonton in the future.

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Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	CleanlinessAccessibilityGreen Space
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	AmenitiesGreen SpaceAdjacent Uses

- The design and fencing are too easy for smaller dogs to escape
- The space is too small leading to some dog fights within the fenced off area
- Adding benches in the space makes the park more inclusive for seniors and people with physical limitations

Webber Greens	
Number of responses	96
Respondents own dog(s)	93%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	94%
Type of commute to the park	77% Walking, Biking or Rolling

79% would like to have the park in the same location, 16% would like to see the park in a different location, 4% would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood, and 1% would not like to have any pop-up dog park in the city of Edmonton in the future.

Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	CleanlinessAmenitiesAccessibility
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	CleanlinessLocationGreen Space

- The parks should separate large/small dogs due to small size of the dog, it may not be safe
- Provides great opportunity for dogs and their owners to socialize and enjoy their time
- There needs to be more information advertised about the location and rules to use the park

Windermere	
Number of responses	121
Respondents own dog(s)	74%
Respondents using the pop-up dog park	74%
Type of commute to the park	77% Walking, Biking or Rolling

63% would like to have the park in the same location, 17% would like to see the park in a different location, 13% would not like to have the park in the neighbourhood, and 7% would not like to have any pop-up dog park in the city of Edmonton in the future.

Priorities of respondents who live within 15 minutes walking of the Pop-up Dog Park (including those who live adjacent to the park as well as within one block)	AccessibilityGreen SpaceAmenities
Priorities of respondents who live more than 15 minutes walking distance away from the current location	LocationAccessibilityGreen Space

- There should be clear report on how much pop-up dog parks cost and how it impacts property taxes
- Relocate the park to the open area beside Washburn Drive SW for a more spacious space
- Fence design from height to color need to better coordinate with the surrounding environment

GBA+ Spotlight

The City of Edmonton has adopted a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) process to consider more equitable access to programs and services. The survey was open to residents of the proposed Pop-up Dog Park locations and completed by 2872 respondents. The tables below show the diversity of survey respondents.

GBA+ table of survey respondents	N=2872 ¹
Gender	
Woman	57%
Man	27%
Non-binary/Trans/Two-Spirit/Other	0%
Prefer Not To Answer	16%
Identity	
Racialized/visible minority	14%
Persons with disabilities	4%
Indigenous	3%
New to Canada	1%
LGBTQ2S+	4%
Other	2%
None of the above	50%
Prefer Not to Answer	25%
Age	
Under 18	2%
18-34	25%
35-54	43%
55+	17%
Prefer Not to Answer	13%

¹ Demographic questions are optional and non-exclusionary with multiple choice answers. As a result, the total might not add up to 100%.

DECISION-MAKING

Pop-up Dog Parks were evaluated using public input and technical requirements gained from feedback with internal stakeholders, site evaluations and count data from random in-person counts and video monitoring at a selection of sites. A Final Evaluation Report for Pop-up Dog Parks will be created before the end of 2023 to summarize the evaluation results. This summary will be available to the public at edmonton.ca/offleash.

For next steps, Administration will present a report to the Community and Public Services Committee in February 2024. This report will include recommendations and associated costs for establishing additional permanent off-leash areas and/or the potential continuation of Pop-up Dog Parks as an ongoing program.