

Robinvale Dog Park Project - Community Engagement Outcomes Report



Community Consultation period: 4 - 23 September 2025

Engagement tool: Let's Talk online survey and in-person

Total online contributions: 25

Purpose

Council invited the Robinvale community to provide input on potential locations and features for a proposed dog park. The survey sought to understand community preferences, priorities, and current dog ownership and exercise habits to inform decision-making on the project.

Summary of Findings

Preferred Location

Participants were asked which of the proposed locations they preferred for the Robinvale Dog Park.

Top preference: *Option 2 – Centenary Park* received the majority of support (56%).

Option	%	Count
Option 1 – Centenary Park	16%	4
Option 2 – Centenary Park	56%	14
Option 3 – Riverfront East Reserve	4%	1
Option 4 – Former Basketball Courts (behind Leisure Centre)	4%	1
Do not build a dog park (return funding)	12%	3
Other	8%	2

Key insight:

Centenary Park (particularly Option 2) was overwhelmingly the preferred site, with limited support for alternative locations.

Dog Ownership and Exercise Habits

Question	Result
Do you own a dog?	84% said Yes
How are you exercising your dog now?	Most walk on a leash (43%) or exercise in their backyard (38%)

Notably:

- 10% of respondents said there is nowhere safe to exercise their dogs.
- 19% would visit a dog park daily, and nearly half (48%) often.

This indicates strong community interest in a secure, purpose-built dog recreation space.

Desired Features in the Dog Park

Respondents identified several key design priorities:

Feature	% Support
Drinking fountain for dogs	83%
Self-closing gate	74%
Bench seats	74%
Trees for shade	74%
Separate area for small/quiet dogs	70%
Grassed areas	65%
Obstacle course	61%
Weather protection shelter	57%
Drinking fountain for humans	57%
Walking circuit	52%

Common themes:

Shade, safety, comfort, and inclusive spaces for small dogs were the most valued features.

Important Location Factors

When selecting a location, the following factors were identified as most important:

Factor	% Support
Close to toilets	64%
Close to CBD	55%
Close to children's play area	41%
Ample parking	36%

Key takeaway:

Accessibility and proximity to amenities were prioritised by respondents.

Additional Comments

- 40% of respondents shared further suggestions or feedback.
- Common sentiments included support for a central, shaded, and safe space for both dogs and owners, and ensuring the park complements nearby recreational areas.

Conclusion

Community feedback shows strong support for establishing a dog park in Robinvale, with Option 2 - Centenary Park emerging as the preferred location.

The community prioritises safety features, shade, seating, and water access, alongside proximity to toilets and the town centre.