

## What We Learned Report - Richmond Village Fenced Off-Leash Dog Area

May 2026

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on the proposed fenced off-leash dog park for the Village of Richmond. We heard from many of you, and most were in strong support of the park. Over the three-week engagement period, the Engage Ottawa project page was visited nearly 700 times with 42 comments submitted online. The City was seeking general feedback on the proposed facility and concept plan. You told us this kind of space is much needed, especially with so many dogs and dog owners in the area. Over 30 comments expressed support for a dog facility in the community. We have reviewed all the comments and suggestions provided. The feedback received is summarized in this table.

**Figure 1:** Summary of comments, concerns, suggestions and response

Topic	# of Mentions	Response
<b>Split Areas (Large vs. Small Dogs)</b> Creates safer, more inclusive space for timid/small dogs	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The fenced space for the dog park is as large as it can be, based on the land available, floodplain limits, and budget.</li><li>Some people asked for separate areas for large and small dogs. We agree this is an important feature. The available space and budget may limit this, but the option will be investigated by the project team.</li></ul>
<b>Size of Park</b>  Some feel it's too small; suggest expansion to ditch or nearby areas	3	
<b>Shade, Trees &amp; Cool Areas</b>  Protection from sun; lean-to or tree cover requested	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>We're planning to plant many trees to give dogs and people some shade. We'll also look into adding even more trees if possible.</li><li>A permanent shade shelter or water fountain can't be added because the site doesn't have water service and there's not enough budget.</li></ul>
<b>Water Access</b>  Add water tap or fountain for dogs	2	
<b>Waste Management</b>  Poop stations, bins, and regular pickup important	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A large underground bin will be installed to collect dog waste. It's designed to stop bad smells, be easy to empty, and stay safe even if there's flooding.</li></ul>

<b>Winter Access / Year-Round Use</b>  Maintain pathways and parking in winter	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The facility would only be maintained three-season. Winter use of the site is not recommended for environmental reasons related to seasonal flooding.</li> </ul>
<b>Parking / Traffic / Access</b>  Overflow parking, congestion, pedestrian crossing concerns	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety for residents is a priority, and access to the park will be reviewed by Transportation Engineering Service Branch</li> <li>By connecting the park through the accessible stone dust path to the existing pathway network, many residents will be able to walk or cycle to the park.</li> <li>Pedestrians can cross Perth Street safely at the roundabout at Meynell Rd.</li> </ul>
<b>Pedestrian Safety (Crossing / Sidewalk)</b>  Left turns, crosswalks, and sidewalk access to be addressed	2	
<b>Wildlife Protection</b>  Concerns about dogs affecting birds (e.g. herons)	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We're working closely with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to make sure the nearby rivers and natural areas are protected during and after the park is built.</li> <li>Contractors will work within designated fenced areas and follow all relevant City and Provincial standards</li> </ul>
<b>Path Conditions / Mud / Ticks / Invasive Plants</b>  Limit mud, mow grass to reduce ticks & wild parsnip	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The grass used in the park will be chosen to handle heavy dog use and possible seasonal flooding.</li> <li>We'll also make sure to mow the fenced and some of the surrounding area to manage weeds and harmful plants like wild parsnip.</li> </ul>
<b>Noise</b>  Nearby residents concerned about noise (dogs barking), and spending on dogs instead of children	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We understand that some residents may be impacted by the new dog park</li> <li>By placing the park within unused public space and setting it back approximately 50 metres from homes, this should reduce the impact.</li> <li>Additional tree plantings can be provided to reduce noise and provide a natural visual and noise buffer.</li> </ul>

We appreciate all of your feedback, and we'll use your ideas to help shape a dog park that works for everyone in Richmond Village. Next steps for the project will be posted to Engage Ottawa as they become available. Thanks again to all those who provided their feedback on this project.