

Local Parks Program Guidelines



New Dog Parks – Round 2

The \$5 million New Dog Parks Program is part of the Victorian Government's commitment to create more than 6,500 hectares of parklands and trails across Melbourne. Good quality and well-maintained suburban parks are important for local communities. This Program will establish 16 new off-leash dog parks in built-up urban areas across metropolitan Melbourne.

It is part of a broader \$154 million Suburban Parks Program investment in new and upgraded parks and trails. The Suburban Parks Program also includes a \$50 million Local Parks Program, which will create 25 new pocket parks and upgrade and improve existing parks in Melbourne's built-up urban areas.

The Program aims to:

- create new green spaces to improve the health and wellbeing of communities in built-up urban areas;
- provide dedicated, local areas for Melburnians to connect with and exercise their dogs.

Funding has already been allocated for nine projects via Round 1. Funding is now available for seven more dog parks via Round 2.

Eligibility

The following Local Government Areas (LGAs) are eligible for Round 2:

- Boroondara
- Darebin
- Glen Eira
- Maroondah
- Moonee Valley
- Port Phillip
- Whitehorse

Councils may nominate up to two (2) projects per LGA.

Ideally the project site will be publicly owned (either by local government and/or another public land manager). If council does not own the land, evidence of a legally binding land use, community access agreement or lease is required.

Available funding

To ensure fairness and equity across the Program, the indicative maximum funding available for individual projects is \$275,000 per dog park.

Co-investment from council and/or other contributors is encouraged to include a variety of zones and features. Co-investment may include land purchase, which is not covered by the program.

**Projects must be completed by 30 June 2022.
Applications open at 9am Monday 1 June and
close at 5pm Monday 10 August 2020.**

Applications are submitted online.

Guidelines

The following Guidelines will be used to assess project nominations within the eligible LGAs:

- Project site is at least 0.5 hectares/5,000 square metres in size (preferred, but smaller sites will be considered if designed appropriately).
- Park is located in an area of underutilised open space and suitable for an off-leash dog park (e.g. does not unreasonably impact on the space available for existing park activities or park amenity, enables a buffer between adjoining properties, roads and potential conflicting activities, does not significantly impact wildlife or vegetation).
- Project site is identified in an approved open space plan, structure plan or recreation plan that has undergone community engagement.
- Project site is located in an area of high community need.
- Project site is safe for users (e.g. good visibility across the site and proximity to other users, visitors, activity centres).
- Project site is easily accessible via road, public transport or well linked to bike or walking trails.

- Project site is already supported by or in proximity to services/amenities.
- Located in an area currently designated as dog off-leash (while the upgrade of existing off-leash enclosed dog parks are not covered by the Program, there is scope to renew and enclose areas currently operating as informal off-leash areas).

Contaminated land

An assessment of the project area for contaminated or potentially contaminated land is required. For the nominated project site, councils will be required to demonstrate:

- Site is not contaminated – evidence of the site history.
- Site is contaminated or potentially contaminated – how this will be assessed, addressed and managed to ensure the site is suitable for inclusion in the program, and will not pose a risk to human health or the environment.

More information

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Local Parks Program team to discuss project proposals at Local.Parks@delwp.vic.gov.au



Example: Eastfield Fenced Dog Park, Croydon

This off-leash enclosed dog park is approximately 0.72 hectares or 7200 square metres and is located at the southern end of Eastfield Park in the City of Maroondah. The park is divided into three zones – a freeplay zone, a timeout zone, and a small-dog zone. It is designed for dogs of all ages and abilities. It was opened in May 2017.