

Snider Park Off-Leash Dog Park Proposal

Public engagement

The City of Kingston received a resident request to establish an off-leash dog park in Snider Park. Potential development of an off-leash dog park at this location would include a fenced off-leash dog park area with a double gate entry, parking consideration for the amenity, and relocating the existing playground area. Further details would be determined later if approved.

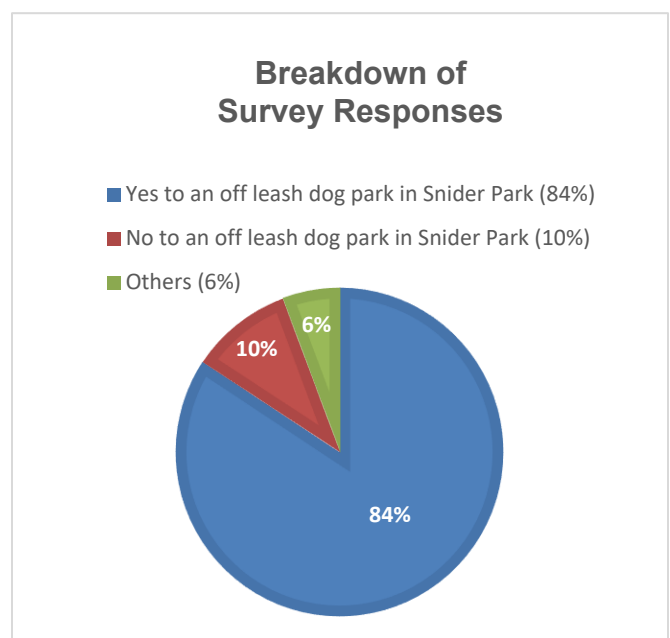
Staff hosted an open house at Rideau Heights Community Centre and an [online engagement session](#) on February 22, 2023. Residents were invited to complete a paper survey at the open house or an online survey on Get Involved Kingston from February 22 to March 15, 2023. A total of 184 residents participated in the public engagement.

Summary of response

Many respondents were in support of an off-leash dog park in Snider Park. However, there was not a strong consensus for the project.

Comments and suggestions:

- A new off leash dog area would make it more accessible for people, especially for seniors who cannot walk their dogs for long periods.
- A great place to meet neighbours and exercise dogs.
- Based on how close the site is to Highway 401, additional barriers are suggested in case dogs escape.
- Buses do not allow big dogs, only small dogs in crates. Being within walking distance is great, especially for the Rideau Heights area.
- Already lots of dogs using the area as an off-leash area. Fencing the existing activity would help keep others in the park safe.
- Ensure the new location of the playground is not at the bottom of the hill, which is used informally for sledding.
- Suggest providing alternative accessible access to the park such as from the west side.
- Suggest creating an alternative operational model for an off-leash dog park such as, volunteer run, pay per use, etc. It could cater to responsible dog owners.



- Can traffic noise from Highway 401 be attenuated for the enjoyment of sensitive dogs, owners, and other park patrons?
- Provide more trails, shade, and water in the off-leash dog park.
- Provide signage of what to do when a dog is attacked.
- Develop the Snider Park off-leash dog park within 2 years as it is an aging community.
- Speed up the development of the off-leash dog park in Belle Park to provide more dog parks in the area.

Concerns:

- Less green space for children and others to share. There are enough streets with sidewalks to walk dogs.
- The noise of Highway 401 may frighten certain dogs or limit activities they can enjoy.
- Concern the project would attract more untrained, aggressive (pack mentality) or unvaccinated dogs to the park. Concern over unlicensed pets in the area.
- Children's safety at the playground or near an off-leash dog area.
- Injuries to dogs and owners, especially between small and large dogs
- More dog waste in the park in addition to current waste issue despite there being a waste bin at the park entrance.
- Generating more noise and traffic to the neighbourhood.
- Impact on animals and natural areas.