

FEATURED

Green Valley's first county dog park nears completion

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County contractors install fencing Friday around the entry to the first county dog park in Green Valley, under construction at Canoa Preserve Park.

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Pima County parks and rec expects to open its first dog park in Green Valley just in time for summer, after a February survey found strong support.

Parks and rec spokeswoman Anissa Ramirez said the survey feedback "was overwhelmingly positive," snagging 82% support for the plan. She said the county expects to complete construction by late May or early June.

"The negative remarks primarily expressed concerns related to the proposed location or requests for alternative amenities that were outside of the department's purview," Ramirez said.

The dog park, which the county has already started building, will be on the southeastern corner of Canoa Preserve Park, 3500 S. Camino De La Canoa. The park is south of the GVR pickleball center.

The dog park will have two fenced areas separated by dog size. The small-dog area would be on one-third acre and the large-dog area would sit on a half-acre.

"The planned surface area will remain natural landscape using existing earth materials, similar to other Pima County dog parks such as Manzanita, George Mehl, Ann Day and Brandi Fenton," Ramirez said.



Parks and rec plans to add seating, picnic tables, agility features, water stations for dogs and humans and native trees. The dog park will also have an eight-car gravel lot with future expansion possible based on usage.

The county constructed a short trail taking visitors from the main parking lot and park entrance to the dog park's access gates.

Canoa Preserve would mark the 10th dog park in the county's inventory. The dog park also adds to Canoa Preserve's amenities, which includes the Chuck Catino Softball Complex, trail access and recently added horseshoe pits.

The dog park's hours would be from sunrise to sunset.

Feedback collected while the county developed its Parks & Recreation Master Plan provided the inspiration for the dog park at Canoa Preserve.

The master plan, which received county supervisor approval in December, reported community engagement found Green Valley residents felt "underprioritized" when it came to allocating county resources. The plan noted there was a "high frustration over lack of dog parks" and added a dog park with shade was among the needs in Green Valley.

The master plan also found Green Valley was in need of passive recreation space, shaded trails, weekend access to the Historic Canoa Ranch and equitable park access.

But the master plan found Green Valley residents benefited from Green Valley Recreation and Canoa Preserve Park when identifying Vail as the area with the most significant gap, saying there are "no regional-scale or comparable public park facilities nearby. Green Valley also has the 130-acre Canoa Hills Trails Park and the Historic Canoa Ranch, with both leaving the parks and rec inventory after the county created the Conservation Lands & Resource Department in July 2024.

Parks and rec Director Victor Pereira said in February, when the county opened the survey, that the dog park would fill a gap for Green Valley residents driving to dog parks in Sahuarita, which has one at Quail Creek-Veterans Municipal Park and another at Anamax Park.

"This is our first new amenity on the heels of completing our Parks and Recreation Master Plan," Pereira said.

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