

GJ HOSKEN RESERVE

OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION PLAN

Background to the project

Council is developing an Open Space Development and Conservation Plan for GJ Hosken Reserve. Building on the draft master plan, and incorporating previous research and recommendations, this plan is designed to consolidate the infrastructure that is already onsite, as well as guide the future development of the reserve.

GJ Hosken Reserve is located on Blackshaws Road and runs alongside Kororoit Creek. The Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy classifies GJ Hosken Reserve as a 'neighbourhood park'.

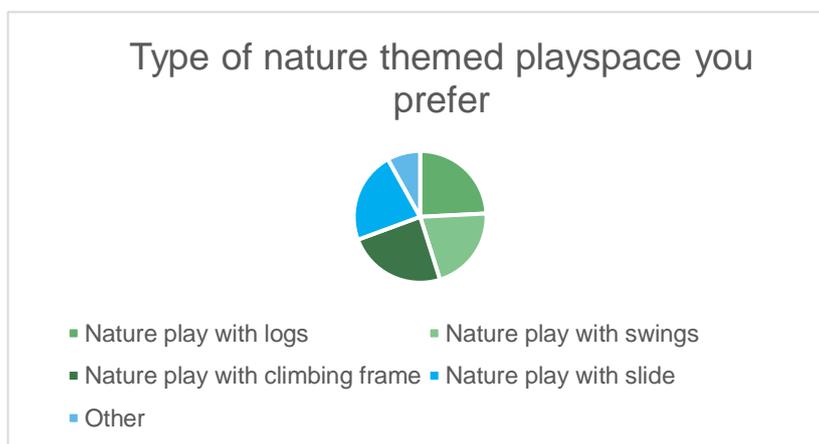
In undertaking the Open Space Development and Conservation Plan for GJ Hosken Reserve, Council was interested in hearing the community's thoughts on improvements along the GJ Hosken Reserve section of the Kororoit Creek, including a new nature play space and picnic facilities. The reserve is already a dog off-leash area and some new fencing and associated infrastructure is proposed.

The engagement process

The community was invited to provide feedback on the draft plan for GJ Hosken Reserve using a survey on Council's online engagement portal – Participate Hobsons Bay. The online engagement generated 452 views and received 24 contributions. In addition, 40 people also attended a community drop-in session onsite on Saturday 8 May 2021. The session also included consultation for the nearby WLJ Crofts Reserve open space improvements.

The project was also released on Council's social media outlets. Two Twitter posts were issued with a reach of 5,970 and five Facebook posts reached 9,332 people.

What we heard from the community



Suggestions provided by those who responded with 'other' included:

- flying fox (two respondents)
- significant water play (one respondent)
- additional swings with safety belt/fastening for infants and toddlers (one respondent)
- nature maze (one respondent)

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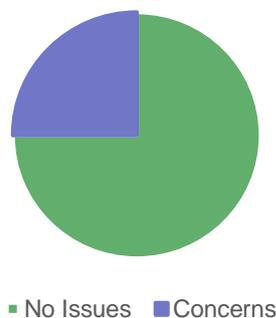
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Are there any pieces of equipment you would like to see in the nature themed playspace:

- undercover area (four respondents)
- fresh water (three respondents)
- toilets (three respondents)
- bins (two respondents)
- BBQ (two respondents)
- seats (two respondents)
- flying fox (two respondents)
- water play (two respondents)
- dog poo bag dispenser (one respondent)
- swings (one respondent)
- climbing wall (one respondent)
- equipment for older kids (one respondent)
- bird baths and bird boxes (one respondent)
- colourful native landscaping to attract birds (one respondent)
- pump track (one respondent)
- equipment for preschoolers and toddlers (one respondent)
- cubby house (one respondent)
- rope webb/rope ladder (one respondent)

Do you have any objections to the creation of a dog off-leash area in this space?

Objections to the creation of a dog off leash area



Of the people who registered their concerns to a dog off-leash area, their comments included:

- I regularly run/walk my dog along the river (on-leash), having an off-leash area would mean I have an off-leash area (for larger dogs) within walking distance.



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- I think a dog off-leash area would be problematic for a number of reasons:
 - 1) The main activity in the area is bike riding, typically bikes and dogs don't mix well. I would be concerned for children on bikes
 - 2) parking in the area is limited and that section of Blackshaws Road is quite busy, again not well suited
- The area is next to a high traffic area (foot and bicycle) and dog owners often do not put their dog back on the leash after the off-leash area. We already have problems with dogs off-leash all throughout the walking trail which is hard for cyclists and young kids. Also a lot of dog owners will drive to the reserve to walk their dogs and the car park is very limited.
- Would prefer it over near the toilet blocks - such a big beautiful open space for dogs to run, just needs to be made safer with fencing.
- The fenced off-leash dog area creates a conflict between people using the shared path/bikeway. Dog off-lead and shared paths don't mix. The fenced off-lead dog area should be located across the road at Croft Reserve or at an alternative location that does not conflict with the shared path. The area could remain informal off-lead, but once you construct a formal fenced off-lead area you will attract a lot of people who can't control their dogs. I also don't believe the car parking would be adequate. People who use these fenced areas invariably drive to them, an example being the fenced off-lead dog area near the Newport Power Station. People drive to these areas to let their dogs exercise because they are time poor and invariably have insufficient control over their dogs to use informal off-lead area. This reinforces the argument that dog off-lead areas and bike paths are not a sensible mix. Relocating the formal fenced off-lead dog area would enable adequate car parking to be provided also at the site that is chosen.
- I don't like the dog off-leash area. We have young kids we would lose this area.

Dog off-leash area

Drinking fountain included in the dog off
leash area



■ Yes ■ No

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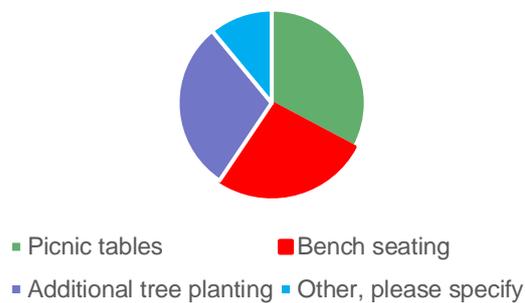
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If a fenced dog off-leash area is constructed, would you like a water/drinking fountain located here. If there any other pieces of infrastructure you think should be included?

- drinking fountain (20 respondents)
- bins (10 respondents)
- poo bags (four respondents)
- dog agility equipment (three respondents)
- bench seating (three respondents)
- covered seating (two respondents)
- greyhound running facilities (one respondent)
- small dog / big dog enclosures (one respondents)
- double entrance gates (one respondent)

Lower picnic area

What would you like to see in the lower picnic area?



Other items specified include:

- barbecue and toilet facilities
- plant more trees and replace the existing picnic tables
- rubbish bins and water

Other comments

- great reserve (eight respondents)
- more trees/planting (two respondents)
- playspace too close to barbecue area (two respondents)
- clean the creek (one respondent)
- link to the Federation Trail (one respondent)
- more picnic seating (one respondent)
- rubbish bins (one respondent)
- rename the reserve (one respondent)
- stop the dirt bikes (one respondent)

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Next steps

Council would like to thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback into the GJ Hosken Reserve Open Space Development and Conservation Plan. The feedback given has been assessed by the project team and, where possible, incorporated into the final concept plan. A rationale will be provided for suggestions that were not accepted either because the suggestions were beyond the scope of the project or not appropriate for the site. Once the evaluation of the information is complete, we will proceed into the detailed design phase.

Construction is expected to begin in late 2021.

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