

DONALD MCLEAN RESERVE

PLAYGROUNDS AND OPEN SPACES – WHAT WE HEARD

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the playgrounds and open spaces round of consultation for Donald McLean Reserve.

Whether you submitted a survey, emailed or called to share your feedback, all feedback has been collated and below is a summary of what we heard along with the next steps for this project.



Figure 1. Draft concept plan for Donald McLean Reserve (August 2020)

The community engagement process

Community consultation on the improvement plan continues to be an ongoing process to ensure the project outcomes meet the current needs and aspirations for the reserve.

The community shared a lot of feedback on Donald McLean Reserve and its facilities as part of the 2013 Master Plan and 2019 Improvement Plan discussions.

Council sought to build on the discussions regarding the upgrade of the two playgrounds at the reserve and the design of the open spaces surrounding the facilities and ovals during this community engagement period (24 August to 17 September 2020).

A draft concept plan was developed, informed by previous community engagement, as a starting point for generating feedback and comments.

At the time of this project, face-to-face consultations were unable to proceed due to COVID-19 restrictions. As an alternative, online engagement tools were used including:

- **an online survey** to capture the community's feedback and ideas on the design of the playgrounds and the various open space elements within the reserve
- **an image sharing tool** to understand what makes Spotswood special to members of the community
- **emails and phone calls** to the Project Team to accept any additional feedback or answer queries

Who got involved

The project's webpage on Participate Hobsons Bay received 521 site visitors during the engagement period between 24 August and 17 September 2020. An additional 25 site users chose to 'follow' the project and receive ongoing project news and updates.

21 online survey submissions were received with the majority of respondents from Spotswood. Participants aged 35 to 44 years represented over 40% of survey responses, followed by those aged 25 to 34 years (28%).

One email submission was received during the consultation period, and no contributions were shared using the image sharing tool on the project page.

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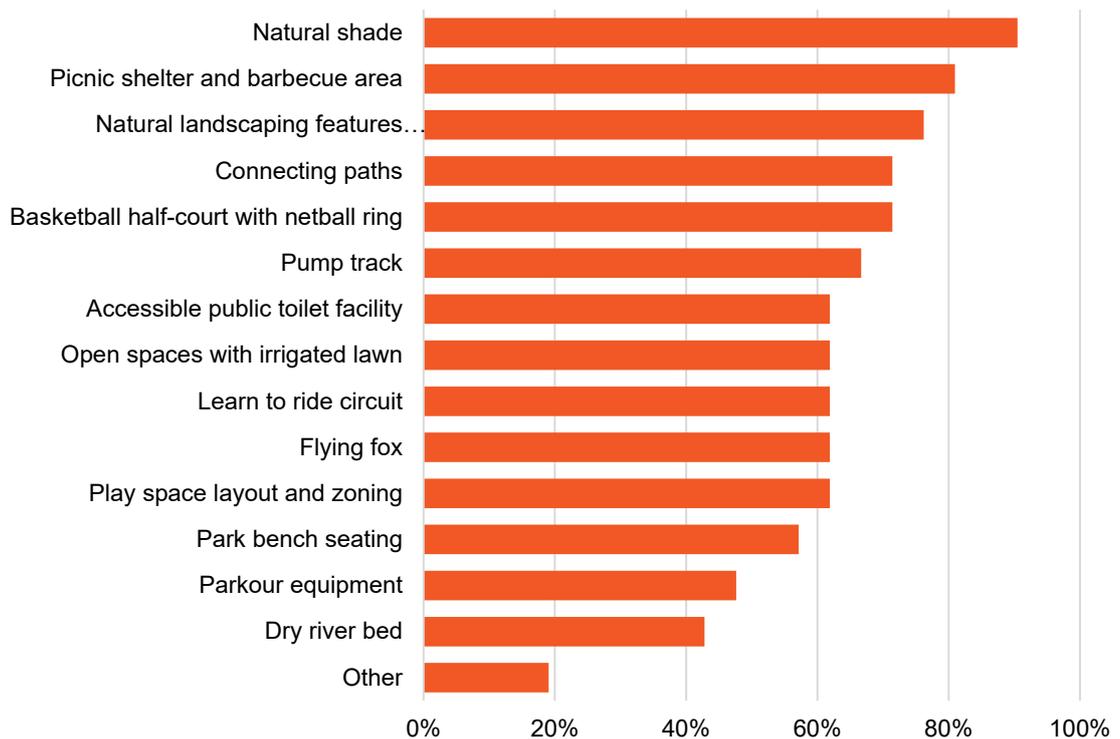
What we heard – larger playground

When asked what features and equipment within the draft concept plan that participants liked in relation to the larger play space, the top five responses included:

- Natural shade (90%)
- Picnic shelter and barbecue area (81%)
- Natural landscaping features, including mounds for nature play (76%)
- Connecting paths (71%)
- Basketball half-court with netball ring (71%)

A summary of all responses is presented below.

What features and equipment do you like about the draft concept plan relating to the larger play space?



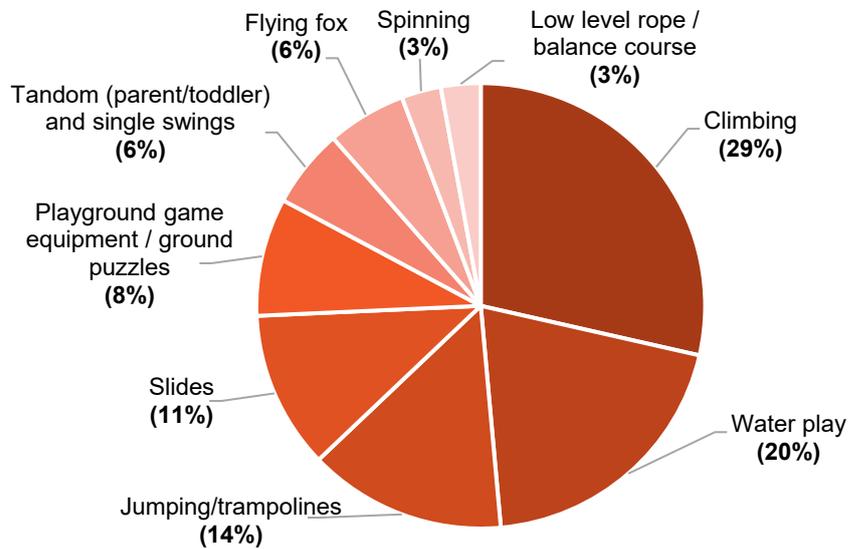
Participants were asked what type of equipment they would like to see in the upgraded larger play space.

The majority of requests were for climbing equipment, followed by requests for water play features and jumping or trampoline equipment.

A summary of all responses is presented on the following page.

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Playground Equipment and Features



Nature play elements

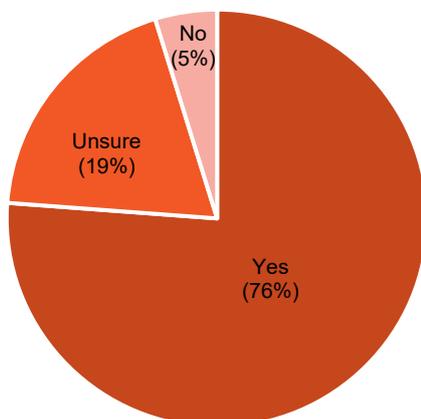
The community has previously told us that they would like nature play elements included in the upgraded play space. When asked for some specific examples of what is nature play, the most common responses were trees, rocks and logs to climb and water play opportunities.

Suggested improvements to draft concept plans

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide comments on areas of the draft concept plans that they disagreed with or that they would like to see changed or included within the plans.

Comments received related to inclusion of play equipment suitable for older teenagers and child safety design provisions for the larger playground.

Are you supportive of the small play space upgrade?



What we heard – smaller playground

Over 75% of respondents were supportive of the small play space upgrade. Comments received indicated that the new equipment proposed would encourage children to play for a longer period of time at the play space.

Support was received for the proposed cubby, additional slides, and swings and rocks/logs to climb and jump from. There were additional requests for monkey bars, adventure play elements and soft fall material.

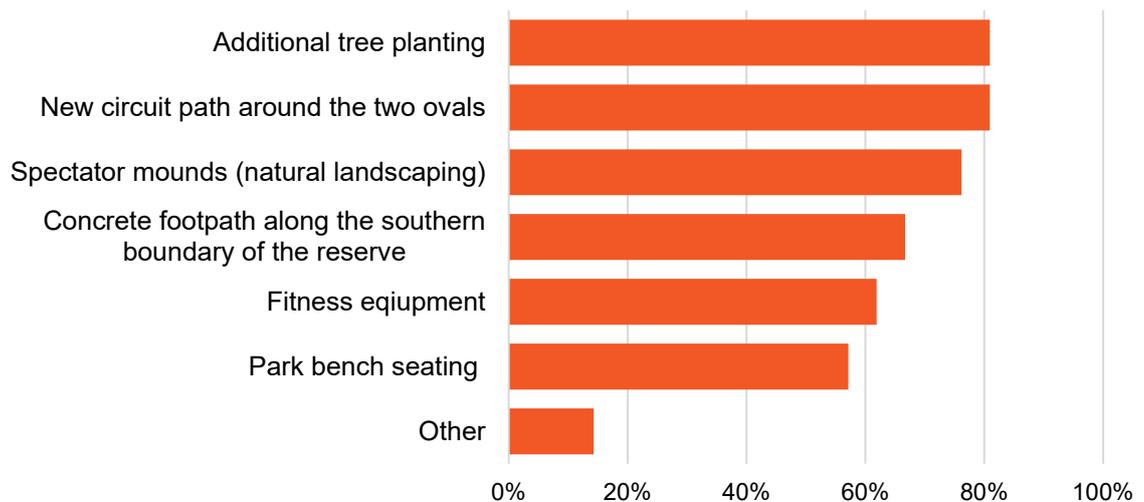
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What we heard – open space elements

Respondents particularly liked the additional tree planting, new circuit path around the two ovals, and the spectator mounds (natural landscaping) proposed for the upgrade of the open spaces in Donald McLean Reserve.

What do you like about the draft concept plan relating to the upgrade of the open spaces?



Suggested improvements to draft concept plans

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide comments on the open space elements of the draft concept plans that they disagreed with or that they would like to see changed or included within the plans.

Comments received related to additional tree planting to the west of the reserve, additional spectator seating around the ovals, fencing of oval 2 and pathway lighting and materials.

Other feedback received related to other projects at Donald McLean Reserve including the new cricket nets and car park upgrade works. Council officers will review these suggestions and respond to any queries.

Next steps

Thank you to all community members and stakeholders for their contributions to the development of the open spaces and ideas for the playground upgrades at Donald McLean Reserve.

Council will assess this valuable feedback as we make further changes to the draft concept plan before presenting this back to the community to understand if we heard you correctly and call for any additional feedback.

To keep informed on this project, visit Participate Hobsons Bay.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact 1300 179 944 or email projects@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au and ask to speak with a member of the Donald McLean Reserve Project Team.