

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY – INITIAL FEEDBACK

This report is an updated version that provides an overview of feedback received from Phase 1 of the project up until end July 2021, which is hearing people's stories and ideas. This leads into preparation of a Draft Concept Plan, when we'll be looking for responses on the proposals being put forward for people to consider. Feedback already posted on the website during the initial phase, is included as appendix in this report.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Following on from the first round of feedback, consultation for Phase 2 of the project will again be conducted via the Conversations Moreland website and centred around receiving feedback on the draft concept plan for park and play space upgrading. Separate email messages can still be sent for those preferring to do so. Depending on the level of Covid-19 restrictions still in place, we may hold face-to-face sessions at the park itself or at an indoor venue, where council staff will be in attendance to talk about what's been proposed for the upgrading to come.

ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Feedback from the initial consultation has been categorised into four areas of interest:

- > Things people like about the park
- > Things that can be improved
- > Things people want included in an upgrade
- > Additional insights and queries

In general, the feedback received brought up a lot of similar issues including improved levels of maintenance and waste management, for clearing litter and dog mess. Many shared their appreciation for the park's qualities, such as the open space of Anderson Park providing a green oasis in a busy Brunswick location, while also hoping to see more lush planting and colour in garden beds, with a strong preference for native trees and plants.

Calls for a better surface than the uneven Bluestone path have been common, as well as concerns expressed about lighting and safety, with alcohol and drug use mentioned in this context. Suggestions for better placement of seating and a greater range of furniture in the park, including replacement of the old pergola, are also noted. Naturally we have seen support for installation of BBQ and toilets, but those might not be achievable within the scope for upgrading a small local park such as this and would require at least a doubling of the present budget for this project. There is a lot of interest in seeing a playspace that is more engaging, with provision of "nature play" and activities for a wide range of ages and abilities. Support for providing dedicated space and power for food vans was also expressed.

Things people like:

- > Generous lawn area; green grass good for sitting, reading, chatting with friends
- > Plenty of trees for foliage and shade; habitat for birds and other wildlife
- > Generous provision of seating for rest, reading, lunch breaks
- > Bluestone footpath, shortcut from adjoining roads
- > Playground well located, set back from roads; swings are good
- > Great for families to visit
- > Good for toddlers to play
- > Good place to walk with the dog

Things that can be improved:

- > Make park more appealing and inviting – improve entries, increase sense of separation from traffic, make more restful
- > Screening – denser planting to create screening effect from roads; also screening of apartment block on southern edge
- > Garden plantings – make more dense and green, less mulch and “greyness”; increase colour, include more flowering plants
- > Native plantings - native tree and groundcovers preferred to European/exotic
- > Lawn – freshen up the grass, reduce weediness, make better for sitting/lying down/picnics
- > Landform – create rises and mounding for relief from flatness, provide visual interest and play value; create a natural amphitheatre, quiet secluded spaces
- > Paths – repair/replace existing cobbled path; retain some Bluestone but make more walkable and safe
- > Furniture – more seats under shade, have some seats face into the park, not the street; provide picnic settings with tables
- > Shelter – replace worn out pergola with a park shelter
- > Playground – make more interesting and engaging, more “fun” for kids, attractive to a broader age group; update with contemporary play equipment

Things that could be included:

- > Fencing – a fence on the perimeter to keep children in and safe from the traffic, as well as providing a sense of separation from the roads and traffic
- > Access – install a path to the playground
- > Toilets – some suggest a toilet in this park space is highly desirable
- > BBQ – similar level of support as for toilets
- > Variety of spaces – create spaces for gathering away from the road: for things like chess, ping-pong, or just to hang out; as well as separate spaces for solitude
- > Playground – include nature play, imaginative play or adventure play; incorporate natural materials
- > Play equipment – provide more challenging play, monkey bars, climbing equipment
- > Other play facilities – a circuit path for scooters; a BMX or “pump” track

- > Water – water harvesting (WSUD); have a water feature/fountain, including access path
- > Plant a food forest
- > Food trucks – provide parking space and access to power for food/coffee vans

Additional insights and queries:

- > Safety – some concerns the park attracts undesirable activities, particularly after dark; also, potential safety hazard with raised edges to playground
- > Lighting – some calls for additional lighting for the path, or to light dark corners
- > Community planting – arrange an event, foster sense of “ownership”
- > Bring more artistic flourish into the mix, through imaginative paving design, street art, also sculpture or water feature

NEXT STEPS

Feedback from the initial phase of consultation indicates how much people appreciate Anderson Park for what it now offers, while also providing clear messaging on a range of things that could be improved or added to the reserve as part of this upgrade project.

A Draft Concept Plan will be prepared in the coming months, which will be made available on the web page in Conversations Moreland for feedback. There will be explanation, both for what is proposed and the decision-making around items that may or may not be included in the Draft Concept Plan.

All feedback received in that next phase will be considered in a review of draft proposals, before releasing the Final Concept Plan for this conversation to continue as we prepare for upgrading works to be carried out at Anderson Park.