



Merri-bek
City Council

CB Smith Reserve

Playspace/Gathering Space Upgrade

Consultation summary report

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CB Smith Reserve at Jukes Road, Fawkner is an existing large reserve comprising a number of council facilities, active sports and open space areas. We are undertaking a program of works that will make the CB Smith Reserve and Fawkner Community Hub precinct a safer, more active, and more engaging space for the community. One of these projects is the upgrade of the large playspace and gathering space near the Jukes Street frontage.

1. Background

Council's Open Space Design and Development unit are conducting three consultation phases with the local community for CB Smith Reserve playspace/gathering space upgrade, these being:

- **Initial Consultation**

Council have asked the community what they would like to see in the upgrade of the playspace/gathering space which can be used as input in developing the draft concept plan.

- **Draft Concept Plan Consultation**

Using results from the initial consultation, Council have developed a draft concept plan based on the community's initial input.

- **Revised Concept Plan Consultation**

The revised concept plan will reflect changes to the draft concept plan, incorporating further feedback where possible. After receiving feedback, a final concept plan will be produced, closing the consultation and informing the community, prior to the team proceeding to detailed design.

Consultation timings

Initial consultation: 14 September – 14 October 2022

Draft concept plan consultation: October – November 2022 (dates to be confirmed)

Revised concept plan consultation: November – December 2022 (dates to be confirmed)

Final concept plan issued: December 2022 (dates to be confirmed).

For both the initial consultation, postcards were distributed to households within 1km of CB Smith Reserve, advising residents that they can provide feedback on Council's website, <https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/improving-cb-smith-reserve>. Posters were also displayed on notice boards at various council facility buildings in CB Smith Reserve and a poster displayed near the playspace. A similar approach will be undertaken for the draft and revised concept plans.

A session has also been held with an after-hours school group at the CB Smith Reserve Neighbourhood House for their design ideas on 6 October 2022. The draft concept plan will also be included for review at the upcoming Fawkner Festival on 23 October 2022.

The final concept plan will be displayed on site following completion of feedback on the revised concept plan. Thereafter the Open Space Design and Development team can proceed to detailed design.

2. Initial Consultation Feedback Findings

Council received 38 feedback responses to the initial consultation for the playspace/gathering space and 10 responses covering overall improvements in the reserve.

Many respondents highlighted the need for shade in the playspace, both through a shade sail and from trees. Several highlighted drainage issues that occur to the southern corner of the playspace which will be addressed through the works. Many also asked for additional seating which will be provided.

A gathering space will also be included on this concept plan, including a BBQ, various picnic settings, a shelter and an accessible drinking fountain. This will satisfy many requests for these elements.

One respondent asked for a number of play items to be included in the playspace upgrade. Some of these elements can be considered where space allows. We are keen to include a taller unit to create some impact as there are no adjacent private properties close by. It will not be possible to include water play as this would require further budget and space than is available. We intend to provide a mixture of play equipment that will support both younger children as well as older children (7+) as requested. We are considering retaining the existing tall climbing net unit and adding additional low climbing elements to it to make it more challenging for older children but also provide elements for younger children to enjoy.

A few respondents asked for some accessible play. We acknowledge the need for such elements in this reserve and have included several accessible play items on draft concept plan. This includes a textured rubber surface area, linked by new concrete paths to link this space with existing adjacent paths and the leisure centre.

Many asked for a shade sail in the playspace. To satisfy this request the Open Space team have included a shade sail over the accessible play area. Additional shade trees will also be installed around the periphery of the playspace to provide further shade. In agreement with many who requested garden beds and a nature based play area, we will be including these as part of the design, to be developed through ensuing consultation stages.

A reading circle has been included in the design for the side of the library building. This is intended as an informal seating area for families and library staff conducting reading group sessions.

A half basketball area was requested by a few respondents. This has been discussed with the team managing the leisure centre upgrade as it is possible this could be accommodated in an open space area at the rear of the new building.

Several respondents mentioned that the bocce court is never used and takes up space. We agree with these comments and are proposing to remove it to allow for additional space for the gathering space area and tree planting.

Other feedback received that does not impact the playspace/gathering space but is relevant to other areas of the reserve will be reviewed in line with other planned improvements for CB Smith Reserve. This includes comments on the car park and existing gravel maintenance entry which will be addressed as separate projects. The car park is currently under detailed design by engineers with the intention of being upgraded in early 2023 to improve pedestrian safety. This will include additional lighting. Information regarding the car park upgrade will be provided separately from the playspace/gathering space consultation process.

Whilst we agree that there are inadequate toilet facilities in the reserve, it is not within the scope of works to provide additional toilets. That said the Open Space team is discussing this shortfall with other council departments to determine how this issue can be addressed separately from this consultation on the playspace/gathering space.

Some comments received concerned provision of a dog park in Fawkner which falls under a different project. Comments received will be provided to that project and local residents will be consulted on this topic separately.

3. Draft Concept Plan Consultation Feedback Findings

Feedback for this consultation stage will be added once it has completed.

4. Revised Concept Plan

Feedback for this consultation stage will be added once it has completed.

5. Final Concept Plan

A summary of the final concept plan will be added once it has been completed.

6. Next Steps

The Open Space Design and Development team have developed a draft concept plan, using feedback received from the initial consultation stage and neighbourhood house after school session. This draft plan is being displayed to the community including alerts by postcard and on posters, inviting review responses. It will also be presented at the upcoming Fawkner Festival on Sunday 23 October.

Intention is to complete all consultation by early December 2022 to allow for sufficient time for detailed design and procurement prior to construction commencing in the new calendar year (early 2023).

7. Further information

Any questions can be directed to Council's Open Space Design & Development Unit via email openspace@merri-bek.vic.gov.au or by phoning 9240 111.

8. Appendix

Below are all feedback received from the community for each stage of consultation for CB Smith Reserve and images of the posters and postcards issued.

8a Initial Consultation



Figure 1: Poster displayed at site.



Figure 2: Postcards issued to households within 1km of site.

Initial Consultation Responses

The following are responses to the initial consultation for the playspace/gathering space from 14 September – 14 October 2022.

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
October 13 2022	Sam	The soccer oval to be a shared space including allowing dogs for an hour or so each morning when oval not used.
October 6 2022	Amina	Have: a big long swirly slide, big long flying fox, in-ground trampolines, -big pirate ship, more picnic tables, more greenery/plants
October 2 2022	Rebecca	The park needs much better drainage - there are sections of path (between the playground and the health centre) that are puddles all winter
September 29 2022	GWadd	It would be good to have an enclosed dog park to enjoy the space more. Furniture and more garden planting would great.
September 25 2022	Local Parent	Something like the new playspace at Penders Park in Thornbury would be fantastic!
September 21 2022	danc	Greatest need is some shade over the playground and better drainage so lawn isn't a swamp.
September 22 2022	TK	Having some basketball rings is a great idea. I also know many people, kids and adults, in the area who would play bball regularly
September 21 2022	DR	Keep established trees. A more challenging playground for older kids. A basketball ring for adults & older kids can play near the playground
September 19 2022	Eleanor	Accessible playground equipment, sandpit, water play area, trampolines, more swings, better drainage, flying fox, undercover picnic area.
September 19 2022	KirstyPoly	Waterplay and trampolines would also be fun! Shade for the picnic tables and benches is a must please.
September 18 2022	Jemma	It would be great to have a off-lead secure dog park area.
September 17 2022	Raelene	We need extra exercise equipment as what is there is not enough as it is used regularly. Also better drainage of grass area

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
September 15 2022	Ruth	Great ideas proposed. Please account for extra usage of these new facilities by ensuring there are adequate rubbish AND recycling bins! Thx
September 15 2022	SK	Shaded playground with plenty of swings for kids. Lush green grass. Colorful pathways. Some area around the side to celebrate birthdays
September 15 2022	Dean	Very exciting! Basketball ring, remove bocce court (never used), spinning cup / stick / anything spinning really, nature play.
September 14 2022	Karen	Fence around playground
September 14 2022	Gigi	More challenging play equipment for older kids (7+), more native planting and shade for play areas.
September 14 2022	Kelly S	Seal the car park & place barriers in front of trees bordering the fenceline of private properties to halt dust and noise to neighbours
September 14 2022	Magdalena	It would be great to upgrade the playground to include: shaded areas, water play, nature play, native plants Thank you!
September 14 2022	Dhiraj	There are no trees providing canopy over the playground. This makes it impractical to use for kids on hot days and when it rains.
September 14 2022	FawknerLucy	Upgraded, safe playground equipment under a large shelter for sun safety. Waterplay/nature play would also be well utilised.
September 14 2022	Cina	An update of play equipment that doesn't get too hot to play on- Eg. metal slides, and some shade for various ages. Undercover bbq facility
September 14 2022	Debbie Lever	please include shade cover for the junior playground! not a single playground in Fawkner has sun protection for children.
September 13 2022	Ben	More bbq area and shaded seats. Water fountain would be good too

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
September 13 2022	Jenny	Why can't more public toilets be added? Better play equipment is urgent and more trees/landscaping to improve shade and aesthetic/area usage
September 13 2022	Berry	More picnic seating under trees for shade. Nature play areas and more low native garden areas.
September 13 2022	Sandra	Upgrade to play equipment to provide a better experience and better pathways to the park It's atrocious right now flooding, poorly lit etc
September 13 2022	Faye	Please add some shade to the playground.there are barely any shaded play spaces in fawkner, the equipment is so hot in summer
September 13 2022	KG	Shade. More plantings to help soften and cool the area and give kids some nature play areas. Facilities for pop-up events or gatherings.
September 13 2022	Obaid	Bbq facilities including picnic tables, covered sitting area
September 13 2022	Laila	Better connectivity to adjacent community hall and library (pedestrian use the street), improve drainage, better amenity for play & leisure
September 11 2022	Kezza	Please give us some fenced in dog areas. Preferably in this reserve #wepayratestoo
September 10 2022	Campo	Awesome space with great potential for summer picnics, the unattractive look of the pool frontage, and poor grass don't help.
September 8 2022	James	I would like an off lead fenced in dog park as I'm not allowed to use the soccer pitch anymore.
September 8 2022	Marj Gibson	You asked and here it is : "More leash free dog exercise areas within walking distance from residence homes" we feel unheard and disrespected
October 19 2022	Jade8079	<p>After spending some time recently in the precinct - I noticed a number of staff navigating children and young people through the precinct with wheelchairs. I couldn't help but notice their limitations in accessing CB Smith reserve. It is impossible for them to enjoy the park and all of the possibilities it offers, right at their doorstep.</p> <p>We spend a lot of time talking about; equality, access, inclusion, etc. Here we have a group of extremely vulnerable Merri-bek citizens - not being able to access their physical environment.</p>

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
		<p>I would say the space requires concrete pathways across the reserve, shade - etc.</p> <p>The car park that is marked with disability access, also has gravel - which is in need of immediate attention (in my opinion).</p> <p>Thank you for your time. This space has so much rich potential. It's a wonderful community precinct. I myself have fond childhood memories of the fawkner pools! Thankfully they are still accessible to the community today.</p>

The following are responses to improvements across the reserve overall using an aerial of the reserve from 14 September – 14 October 2022.

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
October 12 2022	CB	This area could be better utilised. Given there is ample parking in the area, this space could be turned into a fenced dog park or something for families.
September 25 2022	danc	Public toilet needs soap, toilet paper and regular cleaning. Pretty gross taking kids in here.
September 16 2022	Re	A large undercover area for large groups/extended families to gather in all weather. The current seating is inadequate for large families and groups. An excellent example is the shelter at Harmony Park, 187-191 Gaffney Street, Coburg (picture attached)
September 15 2022	Aah	The gravel paths are particularly uninviting when wet, given the formation of large puddles. Perhaps paved paths would fix this (and make it easier for those with prams!)
September 14 2022	Elain	A place where people can come together and tell stories and play.
September 13 2022	SoniaMc	<p>Love to see a 'story walk' around the path. 16-18 permanent display structures that allow display of picturebook pages so that families walk around the path and do an literacy activity and be active together. Displays to be changed regularly and can be maintained by the libraries. Also can be made available to organizations such as Merri Creek Management committee to education community about the creek.</p> <p>Love to see a small amphitheater/meeting area that community groups, library and secondary college could use.</p>
September 13 2022	RCowley	Some shade for the play space so that it is cool and safe in summer would be great, for e.g. a shade sail
September 10 2022	Campo	I think CB reserve really has the potential to be something like an Edinburgh gardens, of the north, with bonwick street so close, but the poor quality grass, poor connection to main shops and cycling paths, doesn't make it very attractive. Donno what could be done but I think it has awesome potential!

The following is a photograph taken of ideas children provided at the after school hours conducted at the CB Smith Reserve Neighbourhood House during this consultation:

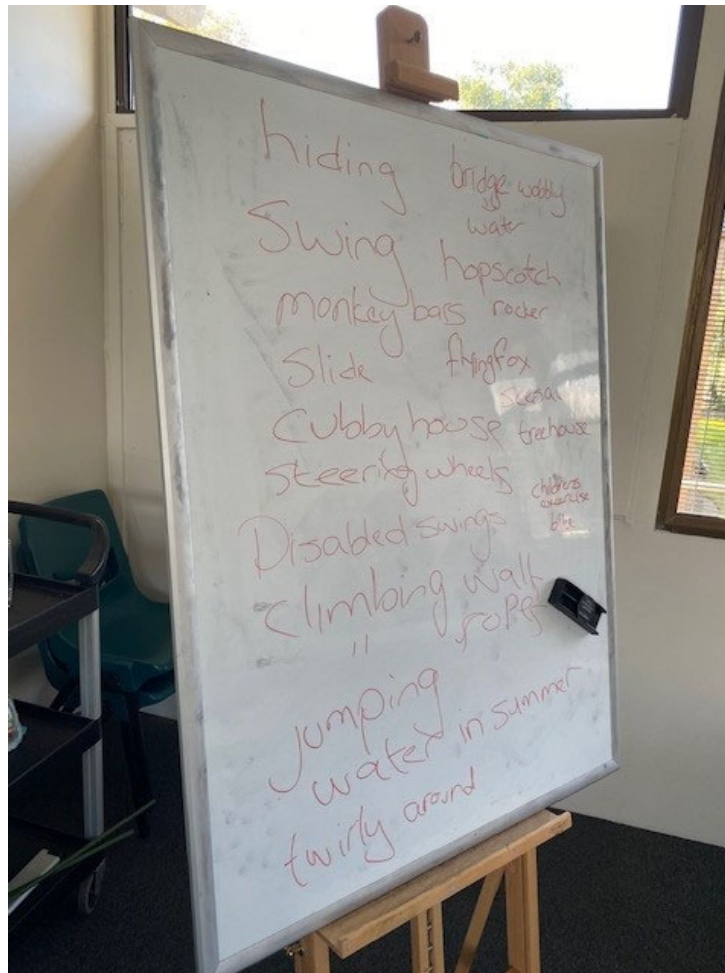


Figure 3: ideas from children at Neighbourhood House after school session.

8b Draft Concept Plan Consultation



Figure 4: Posters displayed at site and on Conversations webpage.

CB SMITH RESERVE

playspace/gathering space upgrade

Draft concept consultation

Council is upgrading the playspace & gathering space area at CB Smith Reserve, Fawkner.

We would like your feedback on the draft concept plan.

Have your say at:

<https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/improving-cb-smith-reserve>

or phone Council on 9240 1111

Feedback closes **FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2022**

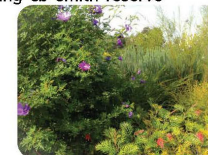


For more information contact Council's Open Space team:

Email: openspace@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Phone: 9240 1111

<https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/improving-cb-smith-reserve>



Merri-Bek Language Link

廣東話	9280 1910	हिंदी	9280 1918
Italiano	9280 1911	普通话	9280 0750
Ελληνικά	9280 1912	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	9280 0751
عربي	9280 1913		
Türkçe	9280 1914	All other languages	
Tiếng Việt	9280 1915		9280 1919

Figure 5: Postcards issued to households within 1km of site.

Draft Concept Plan Consultation Responses

Consultation feedback will be added here when the draft concept plan consultation has closed.

8c Revised Concept Plan Consultation

An image of the posters will be added here when the revised concept plan is ready.

Revised Concept Plan Consultation Responses

Consultation feedback will be added here when the revised concept plan consultation has closed.

8d Final Concept Plan

An image of the final concept plan will be added here when the final concept plan has been developed.