

# CB Smith Reserve

## Playspace/Gathering Space Upgrade



**Merri-bek**  
City Council

### Consultation summary report

Prepared by

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Open Space Design & Development Unit

January 2023

#### Revision D

Revision A initial consultation: October 2022

Revision B draft concept plan: November 2022

Revision C revised concept plan: December 2022

Revision D final concept plan: January 2023



# CB Smith Reserve – Playspace/Gathering Space Upgrade

## Consultation summary report

January 2023

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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.

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### 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: 21 October – 25 November 2022

Revised concept plan consultation: 21 December 2022 – 20 January 2023

Final concept plan issued: 30 January 2023.

For both the initial and draft consultations, 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 was also included for review at the Fawkner Festival on Sunday 23 October 2022.

The revised concept plan was provided on the Conversations webpage along with posters displayed at site and at various facility buildings/noticeboards in CB Smith Reserve.

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**

Council received 15 feedback responses to the draft concept plan, mostly through Conversations webpage, some from email. This excludes numbers of those who reviewed the plans at the Fawkner Festival.

Several respondents asked for additional seating, especially in shady locations. These can be reflected on the revised concept plan, with as many as possible under shade sails/shelters or under shade trees. A few responses asked for more shade through shade sails and shelters. We can look at increasing the size of both. We can also look at positioning of shade trees to maximize shade across the playspace as much as possible.

Regarding the BBQs and bins, we can't increase the size of the proposed large BBQ but are planning to retain the existing BBQ which will provide additional cooking locations. There will be a waste bin placed near the gathering space and we will assess how full it gets to determine if a second one is also needed over time.

A few respondents asked for play equipment which suits a wider range of ages (including 10 years+) and to be varied and interesting. We are endeavouring to include play equipment that covers a wide range of ages as well as abilities. It is not possible to extend the shade sail over the sand pit owing to needing to keep structures away from the power pole.

One respondent said that the design was too simplistic and needed more creativity. We can look at including some art elements in the playspace. We will also look at painting the power pole in the proposed sand pit to provide interest. One respondent asked for water play; however it is not possible to include this owing to budget limitations. There are other playspaces in Merri-Bek which include water play (which had larger budgets) including Cardinal Road Reserve in Glenroy which is not far away.

One respondent asked for fencing around the playspace. We typically only include fencing where a playspace is abutting a road. As this playspace footprint is set a long way back from Jukes Road, we will not be including fencing. Instead we will provide additional trees/garden beds and other elements to create landscape barriers.

A few respondents asked for native planting, which we agree with and are planning to include in the proposed garden beds and selection of shade trees.

One respondent highlighted the need for improved accessibility in the reserve. We agree with this and have included sections of concrete paths to reach the gathering space and accessible play area. The car park upgrade will also be addressing improved accessibility.

A request for an additional diagonal concrete path that crosses the reserve is not possible, owing to not damaging the rootzone of existing trees or impacting the number of proposed trees.

A few asked for additional lighting in other areas of the reserve. We agree that this would be a benefit though are unsure at this stage if there will be sufficient funding remaining for this, following the car park upgrade (which includes lighting) and the playspace/gathering space upgrade.

Requests for an additional toilet was also covered in the initial consultation findings. It is not within the scope of works for the playspace/gathering space to provide toilets which will need to be addressed under council's toilet strategy. We are aware of this need and have flagged this with the relevant department.

Requests on additional car parking spaces is not part of the playspace/gathering space upgrade project. However the car park is being upgraded in early 2023 to be made more pedestrian friendly with more accessible parking spaces.

It is not possible to include additional fitness equipment as part of this playspace/gathering space upgrade. One of the existing fitness stations near the leisure centre will be relocated as part of these works, prior to the leisure centre upgrade as its footprint is larger. We will discuss with the leisure centre upgrade team if further outdoor fitness equipment can be included as part of their works.

Requests for dog bag dispensers cannot be addressed as part of this project as these are covered by council policies on dog waste.

#### **4. Revised Concept Plan**

Council received 2 feedback responses to the revised concept plan for the playspace/gathering space.

One of these responses was supportive of the revised concept plan. They asked whether further targeted engagement with the community could be provided. Extensive consultation has already been undertaken through the Merri Parklands (which included the CB Smith Reserve area) prior to consultation on overall improvements and playspace/gathering space in CB Smith Reserve. An earlier stage of this consultation for the playspace/gathering space also included a session with children from the Fawkner Neighbourhood House.

The other response was advocating for outdoor fitness equipment. Although we are not able to include additional fitness equipment as part of this playspace/gathering space, we have been discussing with the leisure centre upgrade team if further outdoor fitness equipment can be included as part of their works, together with the relocation of the existing fitness station near the leisure centre.

The Open Space team will now issue the concept plan as a final version before proceeding to detailed design.

#### **5. Final Concept Plan**

A summary of the final concept plan can be viewed in the appendix below.

#### **6. Next Steps**

The Open Space Design and Development team have now completed the consultation process and will be proceeding to detailed design. Thanks to everyone for their feedback.

#### **7. Further information**

Any questions can be directed to Council's Open Space Design & Development Unit via email [openspace@merri-bek.vic.gov.au](mailto: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



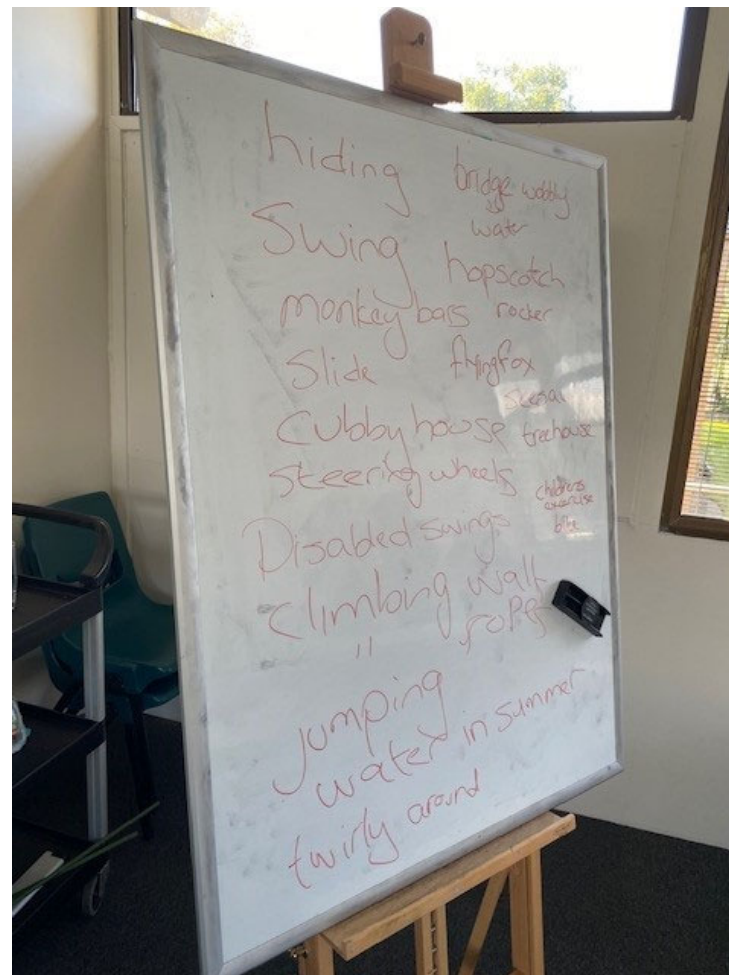
Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
September 13 2022	Jenny	Why can't more public toilets be added? Better play equipment is urgent and more trees/landscaping to improve shade and aesthetic/area usage
September 13 2022	Berry	More picnic seating under trees for shade. Nature play areas and more low 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**

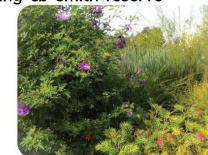


#### For more information contact Council's Open Space team:

Email: [openspace@merri-bek.vic.gov.au](mailto: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

The following are responses to the draft consultation for the playspace/gathering space from 21 October – 25 November 2022.

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
November 17 2022	Ren	I'm regards to upgrading CB smith reserve I propose the following - additional bins - dog bag dispenser as the fenced off grass area is usually polluted with dog droppings - more seating areas with shade -adequate signs or poles to keep out dirt bikes that damage the grass and surrounding area.
November 12 2022	resident	Please put shade sales over all seating areas. They will be useless without shade.
November 11 2022	V	The play equipment is in serious need of an upgrade and needs to be suitable for a wider age range. The new equipment needs to be varied and interesting, not just standard swings and slides which seems to be the common theme around the Fawkner playgrounds. Why is it that all the playgrounds in Coburg and Brunswick are so much better???? At the moment it's just depressing to look at. It would be great if some parking for Mothers with prams could be assigned closer to the pool entrance where the disabled parks currently are. That whole area could be paved and have increased parking. Having the whole lot as a no parking zone apart from 3 disabled parks is a complete waste of space



Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
November 11 2022	LF	Please consider installing child safe gate/fence as park is mostly surrounded by cars driving in/out and jukes rd is a busy rd. Include sunshade to cover sandpit as children often sit there for extended time engaged. Large sandpit to accommodate at least more than 5 chldn at a time. Add a small sprinkler/fountain area to cool off on hot days during summer months (just like the one at Pentridge in Coburg!)
November 11 2022	Gigi	More challenging play equipment for kids 10+ would be excellent. Good to see native planting, shade and covered BBQ areas. Lots of big families who will make good use of it.
November 6 2022	AaH	Solar lighting appears to have been installed from the car park along the path between the soccer fields, but not along the path to William Street. I'd suggest such lighting be installed along each path through the reserve to allow safe passage for all who pass through the park.
November 4 2022	John	Needs more creativity, the design is too simplistic
November 2 2022	Celine	I love the undercover areas. It would be nice to upgrade the public toilets too. Stretch goal: night lights at the skatepark.
November 2 2022	Chris Brendon	We will suggest the outdoor area of gym fitness equipment to enable individuals of all ages, abilities and fitness levels achieve greater wellbeing to cater residents for your local communities in north west suburbs of Melbourne from Victoria as well.
November 1 2022	Raelene	While the extra seating, shade and walkways are great, CB Smith is short on exercise equipment, which was not mentioned except where I sent in this request. Unfortunately many older residents who use this equipment are not on social media so may not have been able to access this draft to comment. Better drainage I hope is going to be fixed as well. While I am hopeful of this improvement being better for younger families I feel it is still lacking for older residents. Also, make mention the high school allows access to their basketball court out of hours, so another basketball ring within the reserve is not really needed. Better lighting could have been amazing, and hopefully the better car park especially the still unmade section to the west of the playground that has looked so dismal for many years. I am disappointed that not many residents have responded to this conversation, maybe as part of this, council could better communicate with the residents with widespread consultation in the future by asking schools to use their newsletters, contacting local community groups to spread the word, then maybe disgruntled residents would feel the word was getting out about these types of things. But I am pleased something is being done
October 31 2022	Kathleen	Hi, there are large groups of people who meet regularly in this park, please expand the sheltered seating area to cater for large groups on rainy days
October 29 2022	Karyn	In addition to the proposed improvements I would suggest the installation of multiple BBQs so that more than one group can be catered to at a time. If not already included I would make the path that diagonally crosses the reserve concrete with lighting along the pathway. Several bins throughout the area so that people aren't dropping their rubbish all over the place as is the current practice throughout Fawkner. Include dedicated bins for the recycling of take away coffee cups. Drinking fountains. Water play feature for hot days. A fully fence play area so toddlers cannot wander off and suitable for all ages and abilities. Get local artists to create some sculptures, mosaics or other forms of artwork to integrate with the native shrubs and trees to be planted.
October 27 2022	Brendon Jemma	In time for today's Fawkner Festa 2022, Our local community from Melbourne to provide the outdoor park & gym fitness equipment had been improved from its located at Fawkner in Victoria has inclusive and community focused outdoor fun and fitness that is accessible for all, you can meet the needs of all fitness levels and age groups, look up the outdoor space for a hub of each activity, and finally, repairs and install new Outdoor Fitness Equipment with new technology of fitness levels and built the refurbishment of outdoor exercise and equipment for all ages and the fitness levels achieve greater wellbeing as well.



Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
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 speak of; equality, access, inclusion, etc. Here we have a group of extremely vulnerable Merri-bek citizens - not being able to access their physical environment.</p> <p>I would say this space requires concrete pathways across the reserve, shade - etc. The car park that is marked with disability access, also has gravel - which is in need of immediate attention (in my opinion). Although budgetary constraints always need consideration. I firmly believe that - it is not ok for children/young people to have to look out at other children/young people enjoying a park only to watch from a distance themselves.</p> <p>This space has so much rich potential for all citizens to enjoy. It really is a wonderful community precinct.</p>

## 8c Revised Concept Plan Consultation

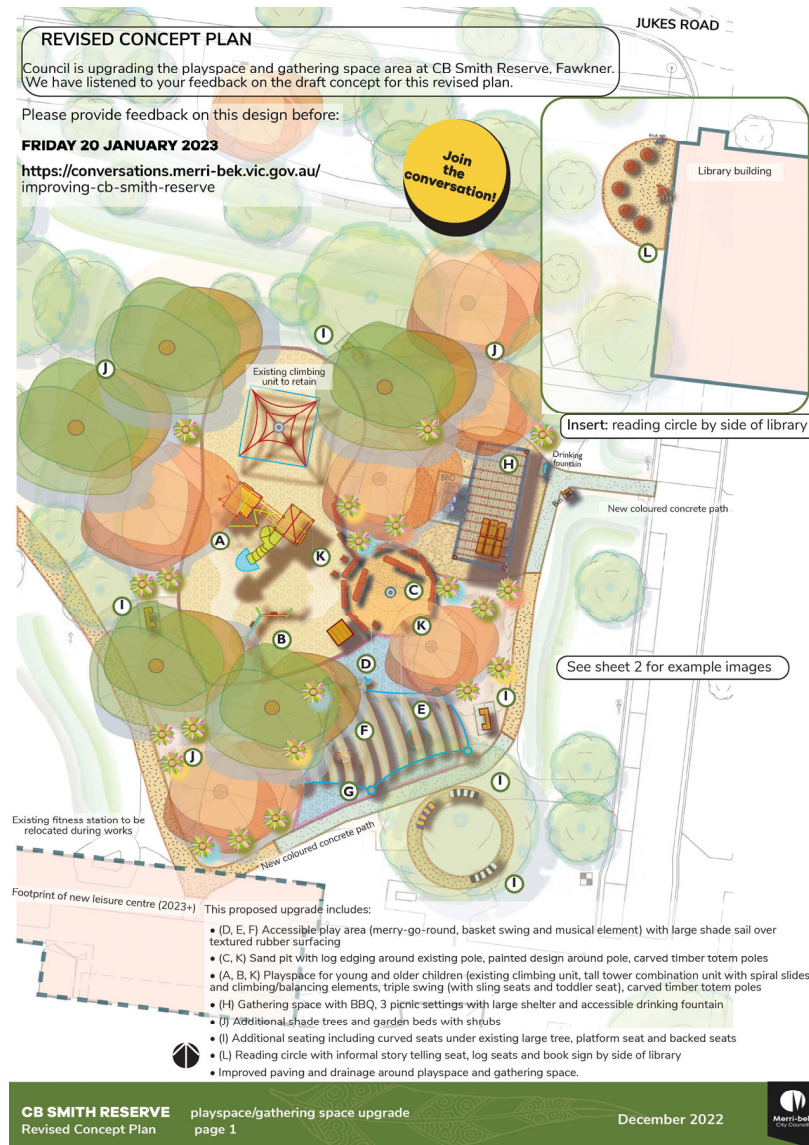


Figure 6: Posters displayed at site and on Conversations webpage

## Revised Concept Plan Consultation Responses

The following are responses to the revised consultation for the playspace/gathering space from 21 December – 20 January 2023.

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
January 11 2023	florienne_loder	This looks great, I love all the ideas for a reading circle, benches, undercover picnic area, more connecting paths, more plantings for shade and nature and art. I think the space is ideal for families with younger kids, but might also appeal to teenage girls, as with extra lighting it will feel safer for them. Have you thought of engaging with this group in our community about the space? They are often forgotten and unlikely to fill out a survey like this. If time allows, it might be worth engaging with girls at the local high schools, John Fawkner College and Mercy College about what they think of the space design and what would make it more appealing to them to use as well. Here is some inspiration from a UK research project that consulted girls about spaces in their community: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGY0arU-U2U">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGY0arU-U2U</a>
December 31 2022		First look, so we got the new look and improved outdoor area of gym fitness equipment to enable individuals of all ages, abilities and fitness levels achieve greater wellbeing are located in this precinct as well, because of Merri-bek city council worked with Federal and Victorian state governments to provide improving fitness equipment in the park and leisure centre from Fawkner in Melbourne, Victoria.



## 8d Final Concept Plan

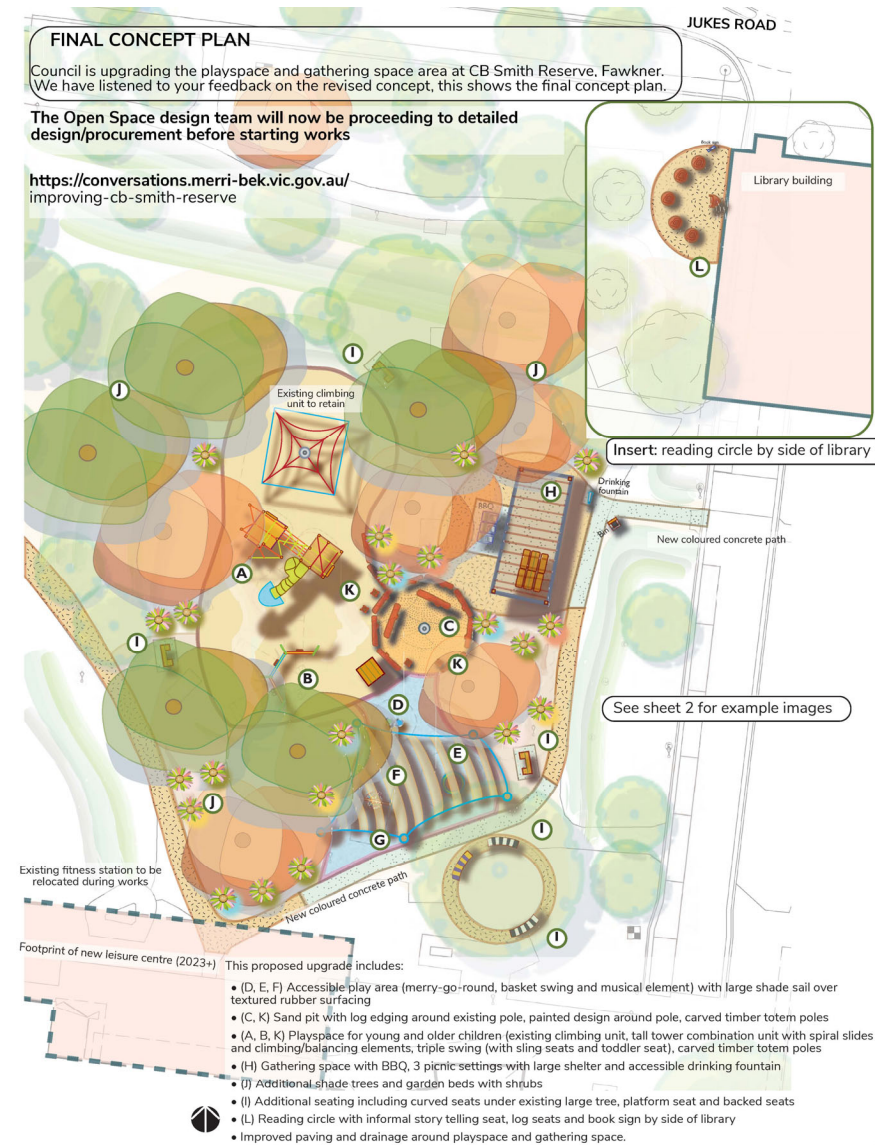


Figure 7: Posters displayed at site and on Conversations webpage