

Small Parks Improvements Program 2022

Community Engagement Analysis – Initial Feedback

October 2022

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Background

City of Ballarat has identified twelve small open spaces across the municipality for upgrade as part of the 2022-2023 Small Parks Improvements Program. Works are intended to improve amenity, attractiveness, usability, provide natural shade and habitat as well as increase pedestrian access and connections.

Most of the identified reserves are classed in Ballarat's Open Space Strategy (2008) as either a Local or Neighbourhood Recreation Parkland and are intentionally distributed across the municipality. The Small Parks Improvements Program is supported by a budget derived from open space contributions collected as part of the planning process from development. The improvements to these small reserves are intended to increase the amenity, quality and usability for the increased populations.

Strategic Direction

The Small Parks Improvements Program is intended to implement improvements local and neighbourhood parks. As identified in Ballarat's Open Space Strategy (2008), these categories of parks represent Ballarat's smallest open spaces suitable for short interval, regular use by the residents living within a 500-metre catchment. Two parks – Hermitage Avenue and Orchard Estate Reserves - are not classified as they are new parks.

Local and neighbourhood parks are the smallest category of park being typically less than 1 ha (10,000m²) in size with a minimum width in any direction of not less than 50m. Improvements consider the character of the neighbourhood including connections to the broader open space network where possible. A neighbourhood park should have a small playspace catering to frequent, short duration visits from those living close by while providing an area for safe play where children are under surveillance by adults.

Design Direction

For local and neighbourhood parks, improvements are to be light touch, intended for short but frequent use with a minimum of infrastructure to maintain an open and naturalised feel. Small parks generally contain a minimum of formal infrastructure and, as a general rule, do not contain BBQs, toilets, rubbish bins, recycle bins, dog poo bags, signage or complex play equipment like a flying fox large climbing frame. Park furniture is part of the standard suite and play equipment is off the shelf

or generic. Nature play is a feature as it is cost effective and supports the natural, bushland feel. When selecting play equipment, the focal age group should be toddlers up to 10 years old. Simple infrastructure for older children to support active sport like footy goals, basketball hoop and paved area or soccer goals should be considered where appropriate.

Tree planting for shade and habitat, improving accessibility and provision of habitat should be considered at a minimum for each upgrade. Native and hardy plantings should be the default planting palette unless neighbourhood character indicates otherwise.

Executive Summary

Based on the degree of community support for the proposed upgrades to the twelve parks in the Small Parks Improvements Program 2022-2023, there is a clear direction from the community for the next steps of this program with some reserves progressing to implementation in the current financial year and others requiring additional revision and engagement.

In total, five reserves are ready to progress with minimal or no change given the high level of support for the proposed changes. An additional five have changes for consideration based on consensus requests from the engagement feedback. Following a design review, these ten reserves will be ready to progress to detailed design, tender and implementation following an additional two weeks of feedback to provide the community time to digest how their feedback has been integrated into the design outcome. This can take place within the current financial year.

Based on the low level of support for the proposed changes, the remaining two reserves require additional engagement and design progression. Implementation of the changes to these two reserves may need to be deferred to the next financial year.

All changes will be considered pending availability of budget.

Reserve	Recommendation
College Street Reserve	Engagement Type One – No change. 2 wks engagement. Implementation.
Cuthberts Road Reserve	Engagement Type One – No change. 2 wks engagement. Implementation.
Hearn Reserve	Engagement Type One – No change. 2 wks engagement. Implementation.
Horsham Reserve	Engagement Type One – No change. 2 wks engagement. Implementation.
Vale St Reserve	Engagement Type One – No change. 2 wks engagement. Implementation.
Inkerman Gully Reserve	Engagement Type Two – Revise, 2 wks engagement. Implementation.
Glenvale Road Reserve	Engagement Type Two– Revise, 2 wks engagement. Implementation.
Peel Street Reserve	Engagement Type Two– Revise, 2 wks engagement. Implementation.
Webb St Reserve	Engagement Type Two– Revise, 2 wks engagement. Implementation.
Shaw St Reserve	Engagement Type Two– Revise, 2 wks engagement. Implementation.
Orchard Estate Reserve	Engagement Type Three – Co Design. Engagement. Implementation.
Hermitage Reserve	Engagement Type Three – Co Design. Engagement. Implementation.

Community Engagement

Community engagement took place for the Small Parks Improvements Program 2022-2023 across 6 September 2022 through 10 October 2022 and centred around a MySay Ballarat open call for feedback. Responses collected through direct email and phone conversations were input into MySay Ballarat for continuity.

The purpose of the Small Parks Improvements Program community engagement is to:

- Provide the community with the opportunity to provide feedback on the designs
- Understand the needs and expectations of the community for their local open space
- Upgrade small open spaces to be in line with the needs of a changing community.
- Promote Council's investment in community open space.

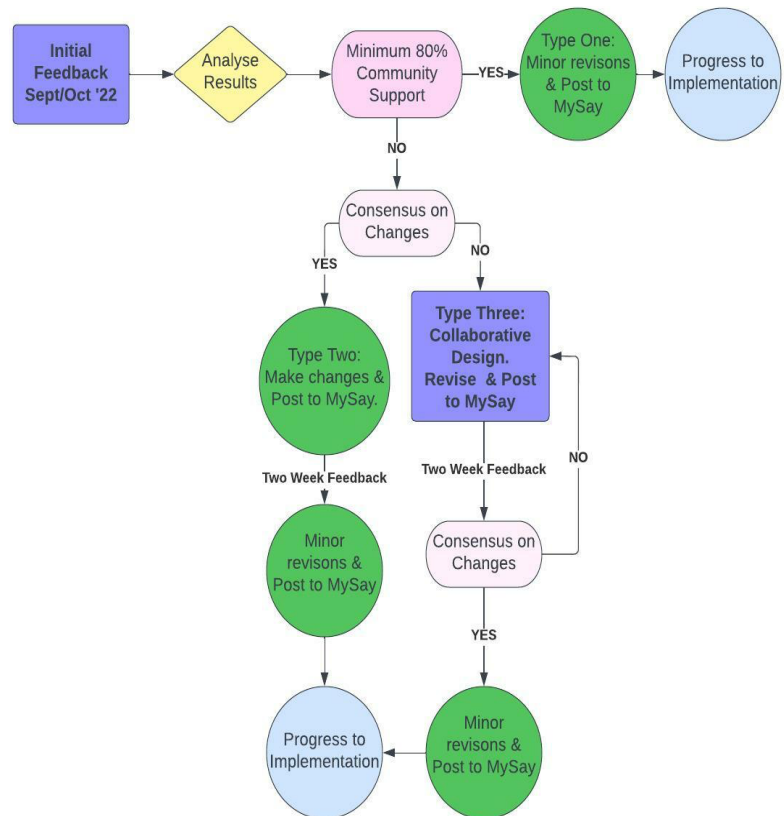


Figure 1 : Engagement Process Diagram

Engagement Process

The engagement follows a two fold path with community support for the proposed improvements driving the process (Figure 1). Analysis of the outcomes of the initial feedback period, has identified reserves there is a high degree (80%+) of community consensus supporting the proposed changes and those where there is not. Where there is support, the reserves will progress to implementation with no or minimal change. This phase aligns with the IAP2 style of *Consult* and is Type One and Two engagement. In each case, the community will be provided with a two week feedback period to offer their feedback on the final outcome and to observe how their input has been used to makes changes to the designs.

Where there is divided opinion or a low level of support on the proposed changes, a second feedback period in the IAP2 *Involve* style will be undertaken. In this round the community will be invited to a collaborative design workshop with the goal of reaching consensus on changes to the design within the budget and project scope. Engaging with children will be a focus of this engagement phase.

Following the collaborative workshop, the designs will be revised incorporating the community's feedback. The outcomes will be posted to MySay with a two feedback period offered. If the level of support has reached 80% or more, the reserves will progress to implementation with the final outcome posted to MySay. This is Type Three engagement.

Engagement Methods

The following methods will be used as part of this engagement:

Engagement Method	Initial Feedback	No / Minor Change	Consensus Changes	Collaborative Design
My Say	✓	✓	✓	✓
Letter Drop	✓		✓	✓
Press Release	✓			
Radio	✓			
Social Media	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corporate Website	✓		✓	✓
Email			✓	✓

Engagement Statistics – Initial Feedback on 12 Small Parks

The engagement process directed respondents to the MySay page through a variety of engagement methods. The MySay page contained downloadable design documents for each reserve, precedent images as well as key dates and information.

During the engagement period the following outcomes were achieved:

- Letters sent out – 1000
- Onsite Meetings – one meeting at Webb Street Reserve
- Press Releases – 1 on 12 September 2022
- Radio spot – 1 on 20 September 2022 (Voice FM)
- Social Media posts – 1
- Corporate Promotion – Mayor’s Message City of Ballarat 15 September 2022
- Article Ballarat Times – 15 September 2022.

Website analytics show three major spikes in visitation of the site that correspond to the delivery of the letters on 7 September, press release on 12 September and the mention in the Ballarat Courier also on 15 September.

Visitors Summary

MySay - City of Ballarat from 12 Feb'15 to 16 Oct'22

[DAILY](#) [MONTHLY](#)

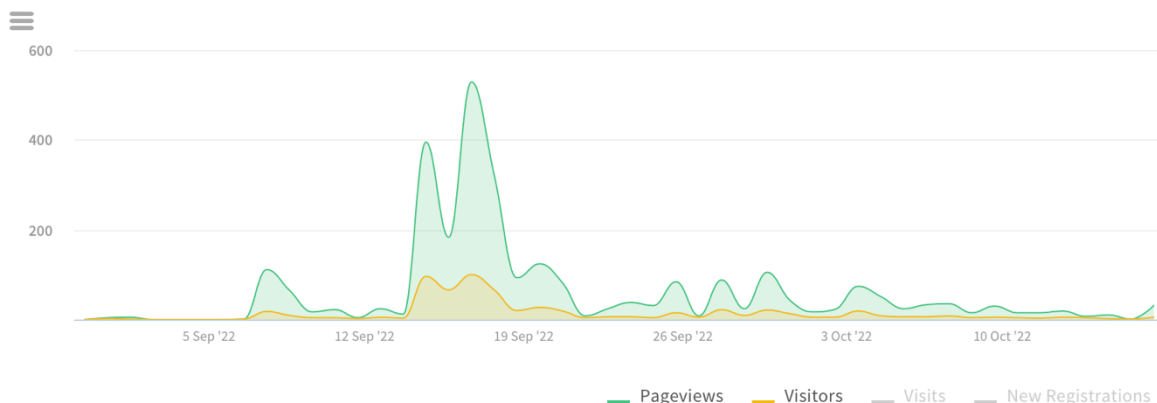


Figure 2: Graph showing visitation to the MySay website for the Small Parks Program

Outgoing communication generated a reasonable degree of interest in the project with:

- Total MySay page visits – 675
- New MySay Registrations – 3
- Participants visiting at least one page – 556 page views
- Participants visiting multiple project pages - 252 individuals
- Surveys completed – 148 by 165 people (some completed a survey for multiple locations)
- Documents Available – 13 (one for each reserve and one of precedent images)
- Document downloads – 301 downloads
- Most popular downloads – Hermitage Avenue Design (109), Orchard Estate Reserve Design (81) and Cuthberts Road Reserve (52)
- Participated in surveys – 148 individuals.

Interaction

The most popular way to access the MySay page was through Facebook with 57% of the traffic filtered to the site through the Ballarat Facebook page. The majority of individuals chose to provide feedback anonymously with only 18% of responses coming through registered accounts.

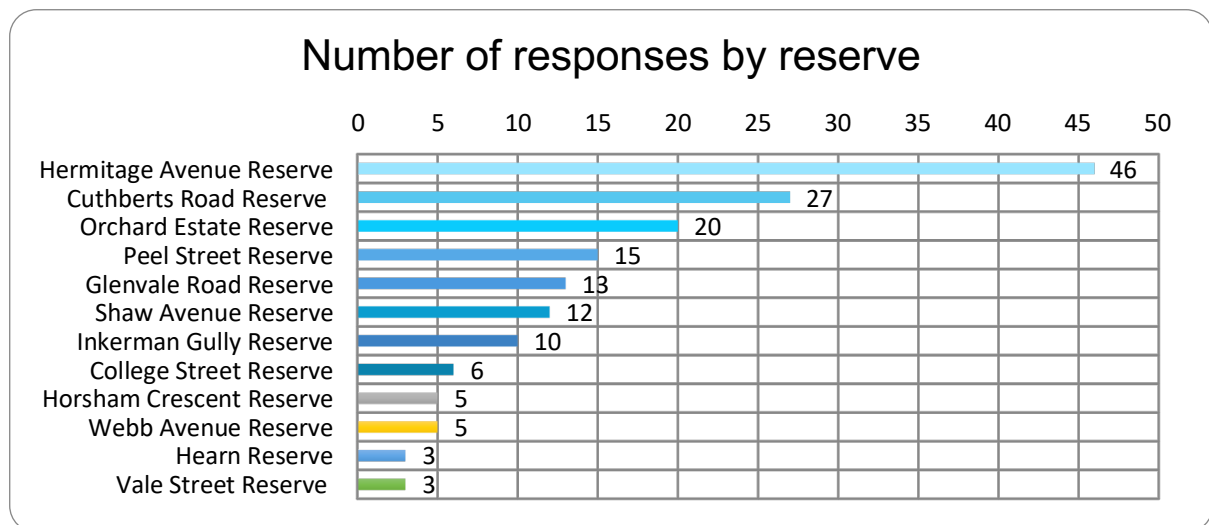
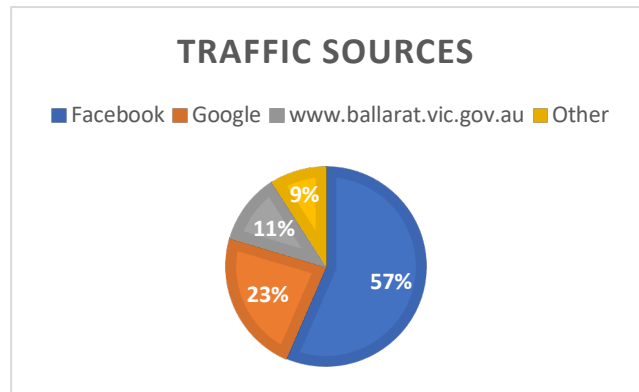
There was diversity in which reserves garnered the most interest from the community with Hermitage Avenue (46 surveys), Cuthberts Road (27 surveys) and Orchard Estate (20 surveys) Reserves receiving the most responses. The fewest responses were received regarding Vale Street and Hearn Reserves with only 3 surveys completed for each.

Individual Reserves Feedback

The survey requested that respondents answer three questions about each reserve:

- Please describe how you currently use the reserve.
- How do you feel about the proposed upgrades to this reserve?
- What would you like to see changed about the proposed upgrades for this reserve?

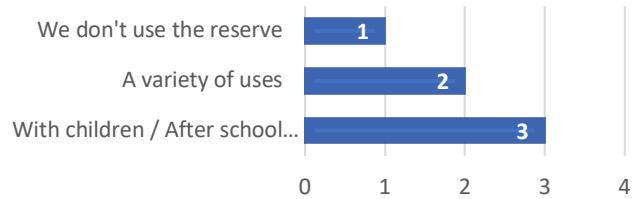
Each survey was restricted to one location per response. Respondents could fill in as many surveys as they liked for as many reserves as they liked.



College Street Reserve

Six surveys were completed for College Street Reserve with the majority of people identifying that they used the reserve mostly with children or as part of a school pick up routine. One hundred percent of the feedback was in support of the proposed changes.

HOW DO YOU CURRENTLY USE COLLEGE ST RESERVE?



Proposed Changes

The engagement did not reveal a strong preference for a particular change however feedback identified some changes that are easily incorporated into the final outcome.

Proposed Changes College St Reserve	Support	Action / Comment
Community Garden	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Improve access for prams	1	Incorporate into final design.
Keep trees trimmed to allow views into the park for surveillance	1	Incorporate into final design.
More play and more shade	1	Outside of project scope/budget.
More seating closer to play area	1	Add 1-2 additional benches with backs to the final outcome.
Add second picnic table	1	Outside of project scope/budget.
Toilets	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.

Recommendation College Street Reserve

The following changes are recommended for College Street based on the community feedback:

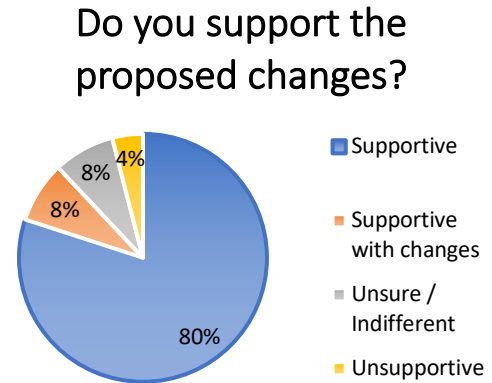
- Improve access for prams into the reserve and to the playspace
- Add 1-2 additional benches with armrests/back around the new playspace
- Uplift and prune existing trees for health and amenity
- Consider second picnic set if budget allows.

Actions

- Make minor changes in line with recommendations as budget allows.
- Post final design outcome to MySay.
- Proceed to tender and implementation.

Cuthberts Road Reserve

Twenty -seven surveys were completed for Cuthberts Road Reserve with the majority of people identifying that they use the reserve with children and for walking the dog. There was a high level of support for the proposed changes with 80% of respondents voicing positive opinion.



Proposed Changes

Of those expressing a preference, there was support for a better sealed or circuit path as the reserve gets very muddy, additional play equipment and a basketball/netball court with pavement.

Requested Changes Cuthberts Rd Reserve	Support	Action / Comment
Infrastructure		
Better paths/Sealed circuit cycle/pedestrian path	11	Consider changing proposed path surface to concrete, budget permitting.
Dog tether point near playspace / Fenced dog park	5	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Paved area for prams near play area	1	Incorporate into final design
Add water fountain	4	Outside of project scope/budget.
Add bins/ Dog poo bags(poo compost bin, Cuthberts Rd end)	10	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Add seating around park/play area	2	Incorporate into final design
Add solar BBQ	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Toilets	2	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Picnic table with shelter	1	Incorporate into final design
Ensure perimeter fencing keeps out vehicles	1	New fence is included in the design.
Suburban work hub	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.

Play		
Flying fox	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
More and better play equipment	5	New play equipment is included in the final design.
Splash park	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Soccer goals	1	Basketball will be provided as active sport.
Basketball/Netball area with paved area	6	Incorporate into final design
Footy goals	1	Basketball will be provided as active sport.
Tennis area	1	Basketball will be provided as active sport.
Hockey area with wall to keep balls in	1	Basketball will be provided as active sport.
Paved/Astroturf area for hardball sports to replace grass area	1	Basketball will be provided as active sport.
Vegetation		
Add trees/vegetation around picnic table (trees, shrubs etc)	2	Outside of project scope/budget.
Add street tree planting across Parkview Drive frontage	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Refer to street tree planting team.
Make 'the basin' into a naturalised water feature	1	Outside of project scope/budget.
General tidy up and pruning vegetation	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Refer to Parks Maintenance.
Remove/trim trees from boundary.	1	Incorporate tree trimming into final design.
Reseed grass to repair barren patches	1	Outside of project scope/budget.
Windbreak west side	1	Outside of project scope/budget.
Remove plovers	1	City of Ballarat supports biodiversity in open spaces. The plovers contribute to this biodiversity.
Naturalised planting for wildlife	1	Trees and vegetation will be native/indigenous where possible.
Signage highlighting native birds and their behaviour	1	Outside of project scope/budget.

Recommendation Cuthberts Road Reserve

While there was a high level of support for the proposed changes, the community made several requests or suggestions for consideration. Some items are outside of the scope of the project or are not appropriate for a neighbourhood park as described in the Open Space Strategy (2008).

Some suggestions may be possible within the scope and budget of the Small Parks Improvements Program. They include:

- Paved area for prams near children's play area
- Improvements to the path network to include a sealed (concrete) circuit path to allow park users to navigate the sometimes muddy surface

- Add seating around park/play area
- Add picnic table with shelter
- Include a paved active sport area (Basketball/Netball)
- Trees and vegetation will be native/indigenous where possible.
- Complete a general tidy up and pruning of trees.

Actions

- Refer street tree planting along Parkview Drive to appropriate Department.
- Refer request for a general tidy up of the reserve to Parks Maintenance.
- Make minor changes to the design and post to MySay.
- Proceed to tender and implementation.

Glenvale Road Reserve

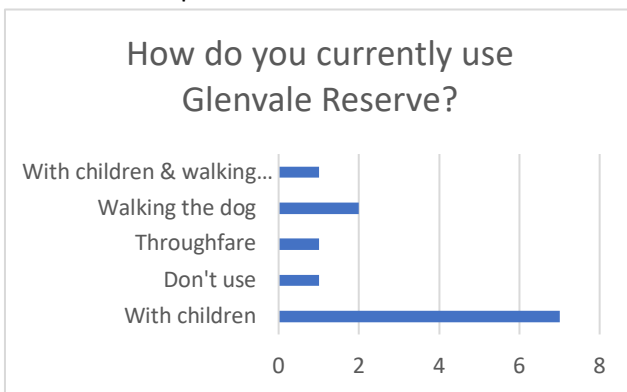
There were 13 survey responses regarding changes to Glenvale Road with 77% of residents expressing support and another 8% supportive with some changes. Most respondents reported using the reserve with children.

Proposed Changes

Glenvale Road Reserve is a small open space and care must be given to balance the provision of formal infrastructure and retaining flexible, unplanned green space in line with the recommendations of the Open Space Strategy (2008).

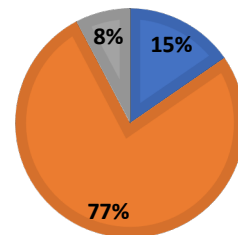
There was a reasonable degree of support for increasing the provision of seating near the playspace and increasing the size of the playspace.

A detailed request proposed that the new basketball area be expanded to FIBA standards of 15 m wide by 11 m long. (length). Expansion of this size to the basketball area would formalise a large section of the small reserve and is not appropriate for this space. A paved basketball/netball hoop area will be provided.



ARE YOU SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES?

■ Not Supportive ■ Supportive ■ Supportive but with changes



Proposed changes Glenvale Rd Reserve	Support	Action / Comment
Infrastructure		
Add bin	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Dog poo bag dispenser	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
outdoor exercise equipment	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Improve footpaths in Mt Clear	4	Outside of project scope/budget. Refer to Infrastructure Team for consideration.
Drinking fountain	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Lighting	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
BBQ	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.

Additional seating / picnic tables with shade	10	Add two additional seats near playspace under shade trees.
Play Equipment		
Better/More play equipment	2	Expand existing play area.
Flying fox	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Footy area	1	Active sport is provided through basketball court.
Bigger/Better basketball court (FIBA 3x3)	3	Basketball area will include dual use basketball/netball hoop and paved surface. Not enough space in a small reserve to expand court to FIBA standards while still allowing sufficient open, flexible space. No change.
Inground trampoline	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Landscaping for imaginative play (rocks/logs)	1	Incorporate into final design
Sandpit	1	Outside of project scope/budget.
Skate/bike path	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not enough space in a small reserve while still allowing sufficient open, flexible space.

Recommendations for Glenvale Road Reserve

Some requests can be considered as part of the improvements including:

- Referring provision of footpaths throughout Mt Clear to the Infrastructure Team for consideration
- Adding two additional seats near playspace under the trees or in shade
- Expand the playspace by adding 1-2 new play pieces
- Incorporate nature play.

Actions

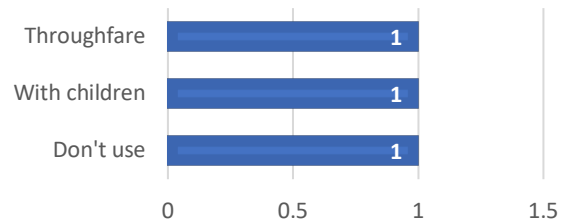
- Make changes in line with recommendations as budget allows.
- Conduct a second round of engagement focusing on the expansion of the children's playspace by posting changes to design and specific examples of formal and nature play to MySay and allowing an additional two-week feedback period.
- Residents will be notified of this timeframe by letter drop. Letter and second feedback timeframe shall be geared toward asking children to select which new pieces of play equipment they prefer from a set group through MySay survey response. Review feedback with the goal of achieving 80% support. Post final design outcome to MySay.
- Proceed to tender and implementation.

Hearn Reserve

Hearn Reserve received a low response rate with only three surveys completed. There was 100% support for the proposed changes with some suggestions for improvements.

There was an even split of how the reserve was used with one individual reporting that they did not use the reserve.

HOW DO YOU CURRENTLY USE HEARN RESERVE?



Proposed Changes

There was not a high degree of consistency in the requests for change in Hearn Reserve with some requests being out of scope for a small park.

Recommendation College Street Reserve

Of those expressing a preference, there was support for some minor changes that can be accommodated within the project's scope including the following:

- Including fruit trees as part of the planting palette.

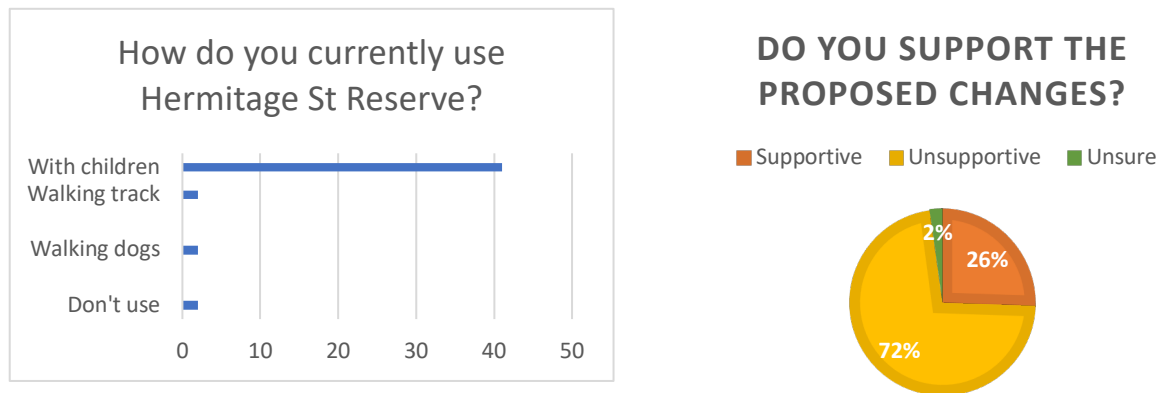
Proposed Changes Hearn Reserve	Support	Action / Comment
Toilet	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Include fruit trees	1	Incorporate into final design
Concrete paths are unnecessary and would look silly/no one would use it	1	Concrete paths will remain as others expressed support.
BBQ	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Community planting boxes	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.

Actions

- Make minor changes in line with recommendations as budget allows.
- Post final design outcome to MySay.
- Proceed to tender and implementation.

Hermitage Reserve

Hermitage reserve received the most feedback of all of the twelve subject parks with 46 survey responses – nearly double that of the next most popular reserve. The reserve is used most heavily by children and their carers with 87% of the respondents reporting this usage pattern.



There was a high degree of support for the improvements initiative, but a very low level of support for the proposed changes with 72% reporting that they were *dissatisfied* with the proposed outcome.

There was divided opinion on several key issues including:

- Removal of the existing play equipment.
- Moving the playspace from its current location (proximity to the road)
- Adding perimeter fences to the playspace or using barriers (planting, partial fencing etc).

There was concern expressed around:

- removing existing swings
- lack of sufficient swings and sliding activities
- lack of activities for a diverse age group of users
- lack of activities for older children.
- removing the playspace before a new one could be installed (down time)
- the appropriateness of nature play only for this location (nearby one on Hocking Ave is not well used)

Many expressed a desire for more information around:

- what new equipment/nature play was proposed
- safety of users given proximity of playspace to the road
- accessibility of play equipment proposed.

Proposed changes

There are many changes proposed for the design outcome for Hermitage Street Reserve with the following receiving the most support:

- More and better play equipment
- Including formal equipment as well as nature play
- Including sliding and swinging
- Including activities for a varied age group and older children
- More seating
- More shade
- Provision of a toilet.

Proposed Change Hermitage Reserve	Support	Action / Comment
Play		
Accessible/all abilities play must be included	1	Through design review, co-design and additional engagement recommended.
Active play / Specific piece of equipment *	9	
Barrier/Fence btwn playspace and road should be included	7	
More and better play equipment	43	
Nature play alone is not sufficient	16	
Retain existing play equipment	20	
Include something for older kids	10	
Swings and slides must be included	8	
Infrastructure		
Better Vegetation Maintenance	1	
Bridge over the creek on south side of Hocking Ave	1	
Dog park	1	
Drainage should be included	1	
More infrastructure (BBQ, bins)	2	
More seating / picnic table / shelter	6	
Outdoor exercise	1	
Toilet / Eco Toilet	6	
Upgraded walking track	1	

*Ga Ga Ball pit, Pump Track, Rock Wall, Sand Pit, Zip Line, Basketball

Recommendations for Hermitage Avenue Reserve

Hermitage Avenue Reserve is a new reserve created as part of new housing development in the area. Community feedback strongly indicates that there is a greater need present than the proposed upgrades will address. Pressure on this reserve is generated through development and increased population that comes with it, it is appropriate to increase the budget from this reserve from the Open Space Contribution fund provided by developers as part of the planning process.

Given the usage of the reserve is heavily weighted toward children and the high degree of dissatisfaction with the proposed changes, the design of this reserve will be reviewed and additional engagement undertaken.

Therefore, it is recommended that before proceeding to implementation, Council:

- Abandon the proposed design for Hermitage Avenue Reserve
- Increase the implementation budget using Open Space Contributions
- Revise the delivery timeline for Hermitage Avenue Reserve
- Review classification of the park as local or neighbourhood
- Consider acquisition of additional open space in the area to service the need

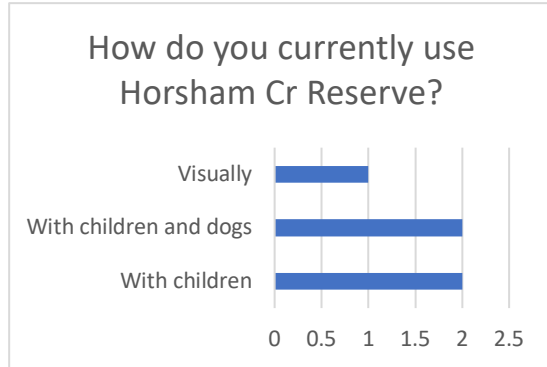
- Undertake a collaborative design process for the reserve with a focus on increasing provision of amenity, play offerings, active play, habitat, shade and accessibility
- Using MySay and letter drops, invite the community to a collaborative design workshop. In this workshop be very clear what the scope of works is and identify clear negotiable and non-negotiable outcomes (what types of infrastructure is possible, what can't change etc)
- Redesign the reserve in line with community engagement where possible
- Undertake a second formal round of feedback on the new design using MySay with the goal of obtaining 80% support for the changes
- Proceed to tender and implementation.

Actions

- Progress to a collaborative design process focusing on improvements to play, accessibility and amenity.
- Throughout engagement, be very transparent about the scale and scope of improvements possible.
- Undertake a second formal round of feedback on the new design using MySay with the goal of obtaining 80% support for the changes.
- Proceed to tender and implementation.

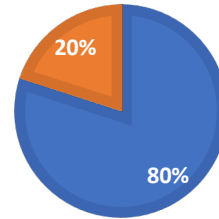
Horsham Crescent Reserve

Horsham Crescent Reserve received a low level of survey response with 5 individuals providing feedback. There was equal preference for using the reserve with children and with children and dogs. There was a high degree of support for the proposed changes with 80% of respondents supportive of the design outcome.



ARE YOU SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES?

Supportive Unsuportive



Proposed Changes

Of those expressing a preference, there was not clear consensus on preferred changes.

Proposed changes Horsham Cr	Support	Action / Comment
Picnic table	2	Incorporate into final design
BBQ	2	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Park is used by families with young children, sport goals not appropriate	1	Remove sports goals from design.
More shade needed	1	Planting of shade trees are included in upgrades.
Perimeter fence requires replacement	1	This will be addressed as part of the upgrades.
Trim trees away from street light to improve visibility	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Refer to Parks Maintenance.

Recommendations Horsham Crescent Reserve

The following changes are recommended for Horsham Crescent Reserve based on the community feedback:

- Add a picnic setting near playground
- Delete sports goals from the final design.
- Refer trimming trees away from existing lights to Parks Maintenance.

Actions

- Make minor changes in line with recommendations as budget allows.
- Post final design outcome to MySay.
- Proceed to tender and implementation.

Inkerman Gully Reserve

There was a low level of response to the proposed design for Inkerman Gully reserve with ten individuals responding to the survey. The most popular use for the open space was with children.

Amongst these respondents, there was a moderate to low level of support for the proposed changes with 60% expressing satisfaction.

Proposed Changes

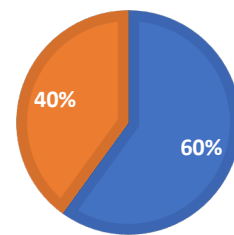
Of those expressing a preference, there was support for:

- an all weather path extending through the reserve
- Addressing/Improving site drainage
- Removing the picnic area
- Increasing the play offerings
- Increasing well maintained, naturalised planting.



ARE YOU SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES?

Supportive Unsupportive



Proposed Change Inkerman Gully	Support	Action / Comment
All weather path from one end to the other / Extend to Sherrard St	5	Implement a sealed, concrete path through reserve.
Drainage / Leaking water main should be addressed	2	Noted.
Improved maintenance	2	Outside of project scope/budget. Refer to Parks Maintenance Team.
Increase habitat planting provided it is maintained	1	Include additional, low maintenance naturalised plantings.
More diversity of play	2	Add 1-2 pieces of new play equipment and nature play
More seating near play area	1	Add additional bench seat next to proposed near playspace.
Outdoor gym equipment	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Picnic area is not needed / can be simpler	2	Simple shelter and picnic setting will be provided.
Planting trees along path is not a good idea	1	Trees will be offset from path to minimise root impact to path.

Signs to pick up after your dog	1	Signage reminding park users to pick up after their dogs is not effective in creating behaviour changes. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Toilet somewhere in the area	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.

Recommendation Inkerman Gully Reserve

The following changes are recommended for Inkerman Gully Reserve based on the community feedback:

- Refer increased maintenance request to Parks Maintenance
- Include additional bench seat near playspace
- Include additional 1-2 new pieces of play equipment and nature play.

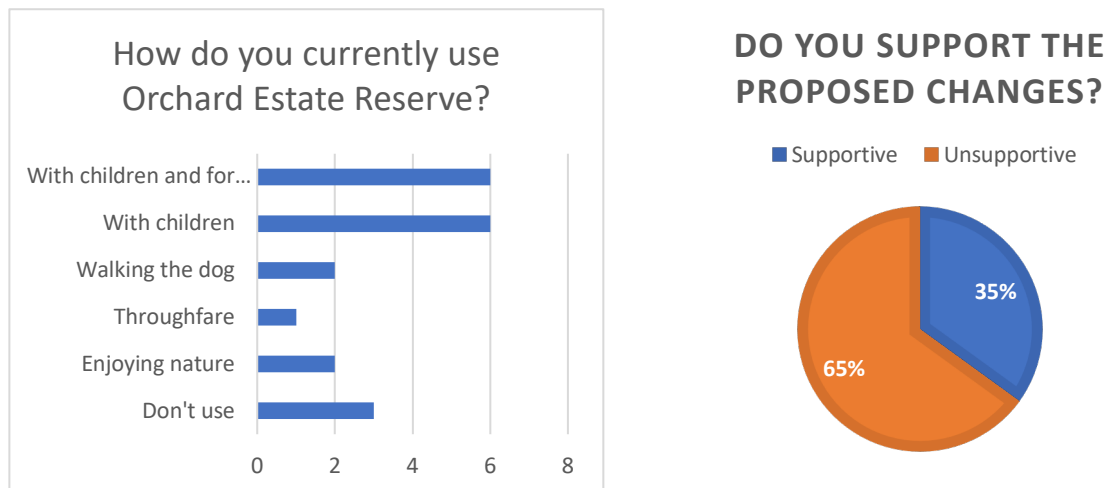
Actions

- Make changes in line with recommendations as budget allows.
- Conduct a second round of engagement focusing on the expansion of the children's playspace allowing an additional two-week feedback period.
- Residents will be notified of this timeframe by letter drop. Letter and second feedback timeframe shall be geared toward asking children to select which new pieces of play equipment they prefer from a set group through MySay survey response. Specific examples of formal and nature play will be included to assist engagement.
- Review feedback with the goal of achieving 80% support. Post final design outcome to MySay.
- Proceed to tender and implementation

Orchard Estate Reserve

Orchard Estate Reserve received a moderate response to the survey with 20 surveys completed. The most popular uses for the reserve are with children and for exercise.

There was a low level of support for the proposed changes with only 65% reporting that they were satisfied with the outcome. Similar to Heritage Avenue Reserve, this is a new reserve created as part of development in the area. Community feedback indicates that there is a greater need present than the proposed upgrades will address, particularly in activities for older children/teens. Pressure on this reserve is generated through development and increased population that comes with it, it is appropriate to increase the budget from this reserve from the Open Space Contribution fund provided by developers as part of the planning process.



Proposed Changes

Of those expressing a preference, there was strong support for active sport infrastructure and activities for older children/teens.

Proposed Change Orchard Estate Reserve	Support	
Active sport infrastructure (footy, basketball. Pump track, or soccer)	19	Through design review, co-design and additional engagement recommended.
More amenities (BBQ, bin, seats)	3	
More and better play equipment	5	
More trees	1	
Nature play alone is not sufficient	1	
Remove the proposed footpath at the southern bank of the dam	1	
Something for older kids /teens	10	
Toilet	1	

Recommendation Orchard Estate Reserve

Given the usage of the reserve is heavily weighted toward older children and the high degree of dissatisfaction with the proposed changes, the design of this reserve will be reviewed and additional engagement undertaken.

Therefore, it is recommended that before proceeding to implementation, Council:

- Abandon the proposed design for Orchard Estate Reserve
- Increase the implementation budget using Open Space Contributions

- Revise the delivery timeline for Orchard Estate Reserve
- Consider acquisition of additional open space in the area to service the need
- Undertake a collaborative design process for the reserve with a focus on increasing provision of amenity, activities for older children, active play, habitat, shade and accessibility
- Using MySay and letter drops, invite the community to a collaborative design workshop. In this workshop be very clear what the scope of works is and identify clear negotiable and non-negotiable outcomes (what types of infrastructure is possible, what can't change etc)
- Redesign the reserve in line with community engagement where possible
- Undertake a second formal round of feedback on the new design using MySay with the goal of obtaining 80% support for the changes
- Proceed to tender and implementation.

Actions

- Progress to a collaborative design process focusing on improvements to active play, accessibility and amenity.
- Throughout engagement, be very transparent about the scale and scope of improvements possible.
- Undertake a second formal round of feedback on the new design using MySay with the goal of obtaining 80% support for the changes.
- Proceed to tender and implementation.

Peel Street Reserve

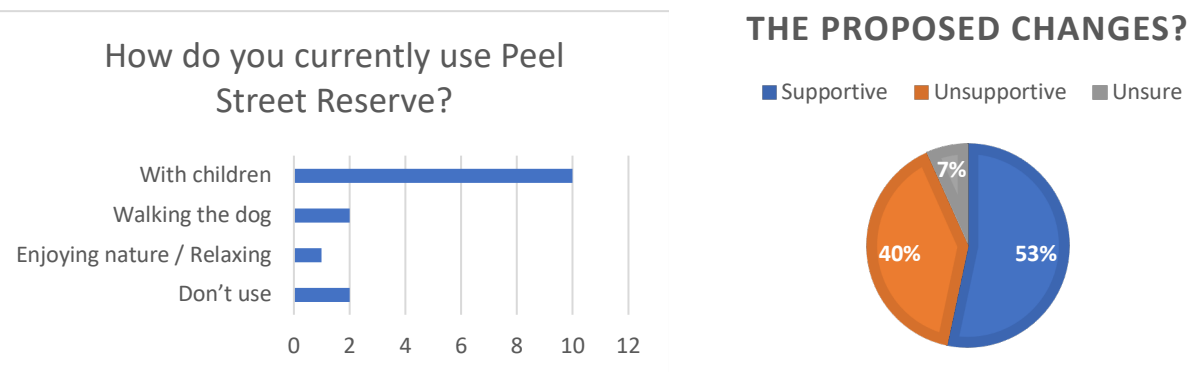
Peel Street Reserve had low to moderate response rate with 15 surveys completed regarding the proposed changes to the reserve.

Of these respondents, the majority reported using the reserve with children. There was a low level of support for the proposed changes with 53% commenting that they were satisfied with the outcome.

Proposed Changes

Of those expressing a preference, there was support for:

- Improvements to the playspace
- Fencing around the reserve or playspace
- More infrastructure (bins, seats etc)
- Picnic/BBQ area.



Proposed Change Peel Street Reserve	Support	Action / Comment
Community Garden	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park
Do not include sports area	1	Consider as part of the redesign
Fenced dog area	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park
Fencing around the reserve/playground	3	Consider as part of the redesign
Improve drainage	1	Consider as part of the redesign
More and better equipment for toddlers	2	Consider as part of the redesign
More and better play for older kids (climbing, Slides)	2	Consider as part of the redesign
More infrastructure (bin, drinking fountain, seating, poo bags,	6	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park
More native vegetation on the embankment	1	Consider as part of the redesign
Nest boxes for wildlife	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park
Picnic area (tables, BBQ, shade/shelter)	5	Consider as part of the redesign

Recommendation Peel Street Reserve

The community feedback for Peel Street is reasonably straight forward with the following changes are recommended for Peel Street Reserve based on the community feedback:

- Provide increased clarity on the specific type of play equipment proposed for Peel Street Reserve making sure there is sufficient diversity for toddlers and older children
- Add a small covered picnic area with a picnic setting, small shelter and mid level planting
- Add standard park fencing to design.

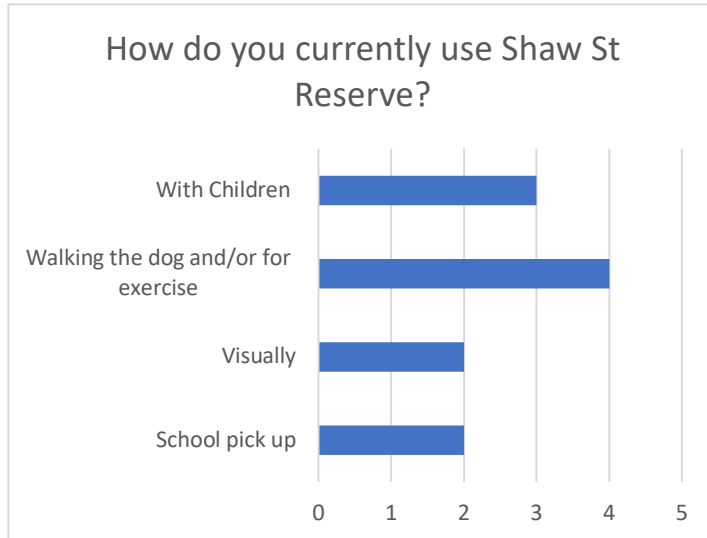
Actions

- Make changes in line with recommendations as budget allows.
- Conduct a second round of engagement focusing on the expansion of the children's playspace add adding a small picnic area by posting changes to design and specific examples of formal and nature play to MySay and allowing an additional two-week feedback period.
- Residents will be notified of this timeframe by letter drop. Letter and second feedback timeframe shall be geared toward asking children to select which new pieces of play equipment they prefer from a set group through MySay survey response.
- Review feedback with the goal of achieving 80% support. Post final design outcome to MySay.
- Proceed to tender and implementation.

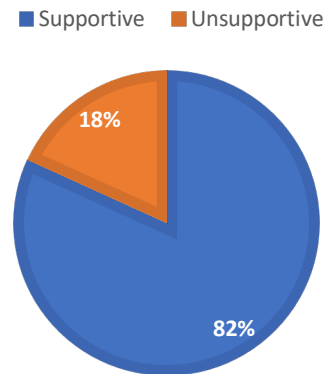
Shaw Street Reserve

Shaw Street Reserve received a low to moderate response rate with 12 survey responses.

Most respondents reported using the reserve with children or for exercise and walking the dog. There was a high level of support for the improvements with 82% reporting they were satisfied with the outcome. Analysis of the comments revealed that there were some concerns, questions and suggestions for the proposed design outcome.



ARE YOU SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES?



Proposed Changes

Of those expressing a preference, there was support for:

- Additional seating and tables
- Basket swing
- Consideration of the type of active sports infrastructure proposed
- Increased naturalised tree planting.

Proposed Changes Shaw Street Reserve	Support
Questions	
Basketball hoop seems unsafe as it is close to the road. Will there be barriers?	1
Will increased use of the park make it unsafe for homes/increase risk of break ins?	1
Will access to the rear of homes be impacted? The trees as proposed make access challenging.	1
More information required about playspace / Not sure what is proposed.	3
What material will be used for the paths? Prefer concrete (bitumen is sticky)	1
Will the basketball hoop be suitably fixed so it is not a hazard if children climb on it?	
What type of trees are proposed?	1
Homes are close. Having a basketball hoop feels like a safety risk and will make lots of noise.	1
Will the new shade structure be solid or shade sails (nor preferred)	1

Proposed Changes Shaw Street Reserve	Support	
Do not plant trees in the middle as it is nice to have open area.	1	A significant area of unprogrammed open space is proposed.
Extend pavement on the other side of Shaw Ave	1	Outside of project scope/budget.
Include diagonal path between Cromwell and Shaw St	1	A path crossing the reserve is proposed.
Additional seating and tables	4	Consider as part of design review.
Add bins	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Add circuit path (gravel ok)	1	Not recommended to retain naturalised feel.
Add dog poo bag dispenser	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Add parking	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Add water bubbler / tap	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
BBQ undercover	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
No bins. Signage encouraging people to take rubbish with them	1	Bins are not proposed.
No lighting.	1	No lighting is proposed.
Sign for the reserve	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Increase maintenance on existing play equipment	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Refer to Parks Maintenance.
Remove graffiti	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Refer to Parks Maintenance.
No rocks along playspace edge as these can be a hazard for small children	2	Rocks and logs are part of standard nature play offerings. They will be installed adjacent to soft fall mulch.
Add basket swing	1	Consider as part of design review.
Add volleyball	1	Outside of project scope/budget.

		Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Basketball court is a bad idea. Do not proceed.	1	Consider as part of design review.
No musical instruments in the play space. This would be too loud.	1	Consider as part of design review.
No sports goals – families bring their own	1	Consider as part of design review.
Shade cloth for the play area	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Hedges around boundary to hide fences	1	Outside of project scope/budget.
Improve garden beds	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Refer to parks Maintenance.
Increase the number of trees planted along edges.	1	Consider as part of design review.

Recommendation Shaw Street Reserve

Given that there are some unresolved concerns regarding the use and function of the reserve, an onsite community meeting is indicated. The focus of the meeting will be a revised design outcome and providing detail on the following matters:

- Clarity around what specific pieces of play equipment are proposed
- Legality of the rear access into homes through the reserve
- Discussion regarding concerns about safety and noise relating to the proposed upgrades
- Discussion regarding location of playspace and provision of basketball court.

Changes may be indicated based on the outcome of the meeting.

The following changes are recommended for Shaw Street Reserve based on the community feedback:

- Make revisions in line with community feedback and recommendations as budget allows.
- Conduct a site meeting focusing on responding to questions and providing more clarity around what is proposed. Ensure that the design response provides specific examples of formal and nature play to MySay and allowing an additional two-week feedback period.
- Residents will be notified of this timeframe by letter drop. Letter and second feedback timeframe shall be geared toward asking children to select which new pieces of play equipment they prefer from a set group through MySay survey response.
- Review feedback with the goal of achieving 80% support. Post final design outcome to MySay.
- Proceed to tender and implementation.

Actions

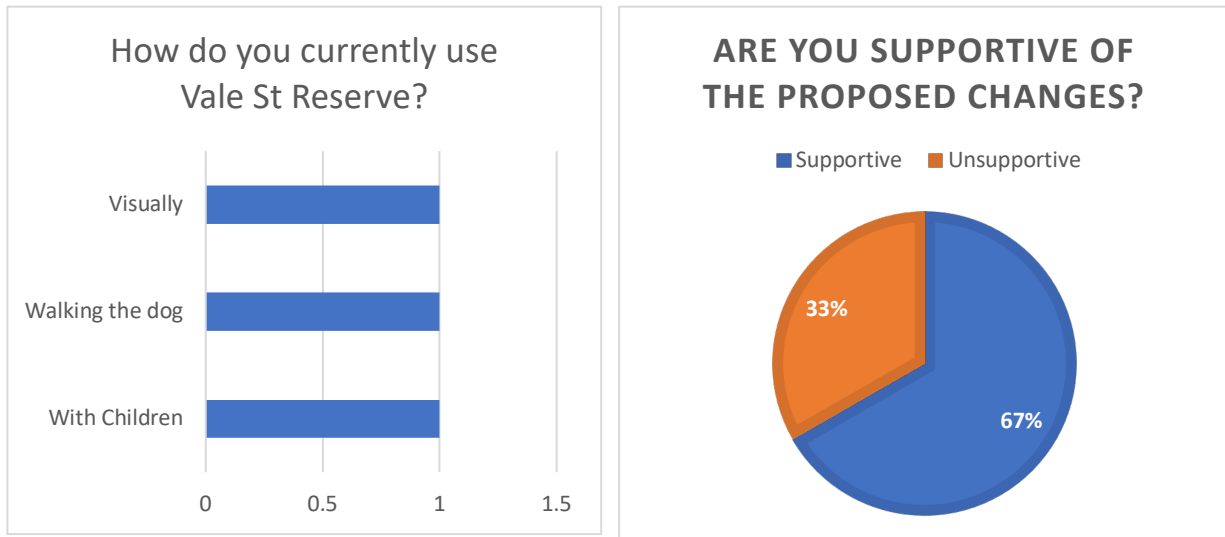
- Revise the current proposed design for Shaw Street Reserve.
- Progress to a site meeting focusing on responding to community questions.

- Throughout engagement, be very transparent about the scale and scope of improvements possible.
- Post the revised design to MySay.
- Provide a two week feedback period and collect responses with the goal of obtaining 80% support for the changes.
- Proceed to tender and implementation.

Vale Street Reserve

Vale Street Reserve had a low level response with three surveys completed regarding the proposed improvements. Use of the park was evenly split amongst those who visit with children, to walk the dog and visually to observe nature.

Support was moderate to low with 67% of the respondents indicating they were satisfied with the outcome.



Proposed Changes

Of those expressing a preference, there was support for :

- Indigenous tree planting
- Increased play opportunities either formal or nature based.

Proposed Changes Vale Street Reserve	Support	Action / Comment
Couldn't see the design	1	Please refer to MySay Ballarat where the designs are reproduced digitally and can be enlarged.
What trees will be planted?	1	Clarify in final design outcome.
Use the land for social housing with a cycling path on one side.	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Many people have backyards so public play is not necessary.	1	City of Ballarat has made a commitment to providing recreation facilities within 500 m of homes.
Path connecting Arthur Street to playground is necessary.	1	This is provided in the design outcome.
Footpath (concrete) required on western side of Vale Street	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park..
Add bin	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Not appropriate for a local/neighbourhood park.
Include more nature based or formal play elements in planted out areas	1	Incorporate into final design outcome.
Additional play offerings are required.	1	This will be provided through nature play.

Ensure habitat is left for wildlife	1	Noted. Habitat provision will remain a part of the final design outcome.
Preference for indigenous trees.	1	Noted. Thank you.
Instead of native planting in splitter island, use indigenous.	1	Noted. Thank you.
Add ground cover/mid story plantings to increase biodiversity.	1	Mid story planting can obscure sight lines and must be carefully considered in small parks due to the need to retain clear lines of sight for safety and passive surveillance.

Recommendation Vale Street Reserve

The following changes are recommended for Vale Street Reserve are:

- Review the design including additional nature based play outcomes
- Include a tree planting palette of indigenous trees and low planting for habitat provision where possible.

Actions

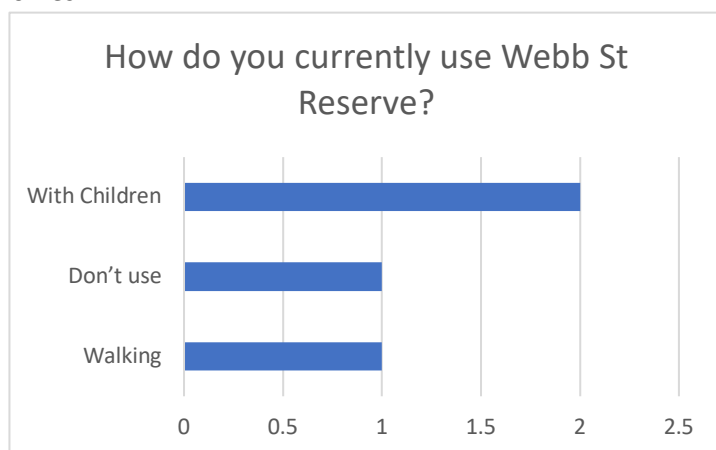
- Make minor changes in line with recommendations as budget allows.
- Post final design outcome to MySay.
- Proceed to tender and implementation.

Webb St Reserve

Response to the engagement for Webb Street Reserve was low, with five respondents to the online survey. As part of the feedback period, a resident contracted Council requesting an onsite meeting with a group of concerned residents. This meeting was held on 20 September 2022 and was attended by five residents. The online survey reported a satisfaction rating of 60%.

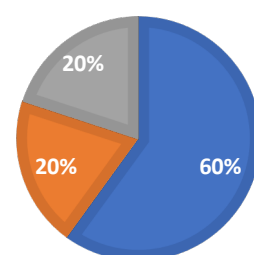
The conversation at the onsite meeting was productive and there was general consensus for the changes proposed on the day making the response rate higher.

Most individuals reported using the reserve with children, as a throughfare or visually from their homes.



ARE YOU SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES?

■ Supportive ■ Supportive with reservations ■ Unsupportive



Proposed Changes

Of those expressing a preference online there was support for:

- Removal of the mulched nature strip
- Improvements to onsite drainage
- Remove the basketball area in favour of improving the existing play space
- Include monkey bars.

At the onsite meeting, there was support for the following changes:

- Rename the reserve
- Use granitic sand for path wearing course instead of concrete
- Remove proposed understory planting in favour of mulching trees
- Remove proposed basketball court and instead improve existing playspace
- Consider interpretation for onsite mine shaft
- Ensure that any planting of trees maintains views into reserve
- Strengthen connection to easement through planting, signage and maintenance
- opportunity for community planting in the easement
- maintain diagonal desire line from east to west as clear and walkable
- Remove proposal for timber entry fencing instead widen entrance to park at Morres St (south entry) to allow for greater pedestrian permeability
- Address boggiess at Morres St entrance at eastern end of reserve
- Replace/repair timber fence as required
- Add picnic table.

Proposed Change	Support	Action / Comment
Smooth out or level reserve	1	Outside of project scope/budget.
Greater consideration should be given to how it is	1	Noted. Thank you.

currently used especially how people move		
Create a new name for the reserve referencing local history.	1	Outside of project scope/budget.
Design elements should reflect 1950s style	1	Noted. Thank you.
Delete mulched nature strip with native trees as it restricts pedestrian movements	1	Consider as part of revisions.
Drainage needs to be addressed	1	Consider as part of revisions.
Better maintenance – no spraying!	1	Outside of project scope/budget. Refer to Parks Maintenance.
Concerns that the changes are too big for a small park	1	Noted. Thank you.
No basketball area, instead invest more in play area		Consider as part of revisions.
Add monkey bars		Consider as part of revisions.
Include interpretation of Victoria United No11 Shaft		Outside of project scope/budget.

Recommendation Webb Street Reserve

The following changes are recommended for Webb Street Reserve based on the community feedback:

- Use granitic sand for path wearing course instead of concrete
- Delete proposed understory and mulch instead
- Delete basket ball
- Improve playspace including a climbing frame
- Use a native planting palette
- Investigate community planting in easement
- Remove proposal for timber entry fencing instead widen entrance to park at Morres St (south entry) to allow for greater pedestrian permeability
- Address bogginess at Morres St entrance at eastern end of reserve
- Replace/repair timber fence as required
- Add small picnic table with natural shade.

Actions

- Revise the current proposed design for Webb Street Reserve in line with recommendations.
- Post revised design to MySay and notify residents through letter drop and email providing two weeks for feedback.
- Make minor changes if required and proceed to tender and implementation.

