

Victoria Park, Ballarat



Victoria Park Visioning

Spaceshaper Report

May 2012

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Background to Victoria Park

Victoria Park is a 130ha park of tree lined avenues and large open spaces located just to the west of central Ballarat and is bounded by Gillies Street, Sturt Street, Russell Street and Winter Street.

Victoria Park is an important open space asset for the community now and for future generations being one of the best examples of large, European style parkland in Australia. The City of Ballarat is planning for projected population growth of 45,000 people by 2050, and Victoria Park is a significant asset to contribute towards Ballarat's liveability into the future.



Victoria Park consists of:

- 13 sporting ovals, 5 soccer pitches and 2 cricket practice nets
- 1 clubroom building shared by cricket, soccer and the dog obedience club
- 2 ornamental lakes
- a 5km shared walking & cycling trail
- 2 playground / picnic areas, one with a public toilet
- an equestrian precinct

The landscape of Victoria Park comprises areas of significant volcanic grassland plant species as well as seasonal displays of native orchids and lilies. A pine plantation in the south eastern corner provides a contrast to the structured avenue and perimeter tree plantings. A network of meandering tree lined roads provides separation between the various zones of the park. A giant mullock heap (Mt Holled – Smith) reminds us of the park's former mining activities.

- Victoria Park is used for a vast range of activities that include:

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking • Cycling • Cycle Racing • Equestrian Activities • Soccer • Cricket • Enjoying Nature • Fitness Activities • Cycling Through | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running • Race Walking • Angling and Fly Fishing • Football Training • Cross Country • Picnicking / BBQs • Playing • School Sports • Driving Through | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog Walking • Dog Exercising • Dog Obedience • Triathlon • Meeting Friends • Orienteering • Casual Ball Games • School Classes • Quiet Reflection |
|--|--|---|



Background to the Use of Spaceshaper

Spaceshaper is a consultation tool that was developed in the United Kingdom with funding and support from the British Government and a number of professional associations. It is a practical toolkit that measures the quality of a public space before investing time and money in improving it. Spaceshaper captures the views of professionals who are running the space as well as those of the people that use it. Facilitated workshops discuss the results, various aspects about quality and design and how the space works for different people. At the conclusion of a Spaceshaper workshop, a number of thoughts have been recorded about how that space can be improved to be of greater value and benefit to the community.



When Spaceshaper was first developed it was primarily a tool that would be used with adult stakeholders and it was soon realised that its application for young people was limited. The professionals who developed Spaceshaper then came up with an additional tool – Spaceshaper 9-14, that uses more practical activities and interactive methods to effectively engage with children and young people.

By using both Spaceshaper and Spaceshaper 9-14 for young people as well as adults, feedback on the same eight key themes that are embedded in the Spaceshaper tool can be recorded and compared across the age groups. In this way, the input and contributions made by children are more valuable than other isolated methods that might be used.

For the application of Spaceshaper to the Victoria Park, the workshops were designed to:

- engage with a range of adults and young people who have an interest in Victoria Park;
- identify how the feedback provided by young people might have differed to that provided by the adults;
- understand how Victoria Park currently performs to meet a wide range of community expectations;
- facilitate a greater understanding between key stakeholders about opinions and priorities; and
- examine how this important public open space can be improved.

How the Spaceshaper Workshops were run

Spaceshaper (9-14)

Spaceshaper sessions were conducted at Loreto College and Urquhart Park Primary School to provide an opportunity for children in the age range of 9-14 years, to have input into the visioning process for the future of Victoria Park.

The planning of this session involved the City of Ballarat making contact with key teachers / Principals of the two Schools and seeking agreement to visit a class of students at each school during a normal school day. The classroom teacher was consulted prior to the workshop to plan for the session and was briefed about the format and role they could play.

Workshop Wednesday 2nd May, 2012

The first Spaceshaper (9-14) session was conducted at Loreto College in a Year 7 classroom on Wednesday 2nd May from 9.50am until 12.50pm. 24 year 7 students were present for the workshop and the group of young people comprised all girls aged 12 years (17) and 13 years (7). The workshop was conducted by a trained facilitator with assistance from six year 9 students at the College, a staff member from the City of Ballarat and two classroom teachers. (The students and teachers rotated throughout the workshop.) The school day format was used to plan the activities with morning recess being used to input the data into the Spaceshaper software and lunchtime being the completion time of the session.

When asked about their familiarity with Victoria Park, the young people responded to the following frequency of visiting this park:

In the summer:

- 4 people come to this park every day;
- 8 people come to this park once per week;
- 4 people come to the park once per month;
- 4 people come to the park less than once per month; and
- 4 people have never visited the park in summer.

In winter:

- 5 people visit this park every day;
- 3 people visit this park once per week; and
- 6 people visit the park less than once per month; and
- 9 people never visit the park in winter.



Workshop Thursday 3rd May, 2012

The second Spaceshaper (9-14) session was conducted at the Urquhart Park Primary School in the grade 6 classroom on Thursday 3rd May from 10.00am until 1.20pm. 30 grade 6 students were present for the workshop and the group of young people comprised 11 year olds (8 boys and 10 girls) and 12 year olds (4 boys and 8 girls). The workshop was conducted by a trained facilitator with assistance from four clients (staff from the City of Ballarat) and the classroom teacher. The school day format was used to plan the activities with morning recess being used to give the children some free time in Victoria Park and lunchtime being the completion time of the session.



When asked about their familiarity with Victoria Park, the children responded to the following frequency of visiting this park:

In the summer:

- no one comes to this park every day;
- 7 people come to this park once per week;
- 6 people come to the park once per month; and
- 17 people come to the park less than once per month

In winter:

- no one visits this park every day;
- no one visits this park once per week; and
- 6 people visit the park once per month;
- 21 people visit the park less than once per month; and
- 2 people never visit the park in winter.

The format for the two workshops was as follows:

- Welcome and introductions
- Explanation about the workshop, why it is being held and a brief introduction about Victoria Park
- Completion of initial activity: who I am (age/gender) and a Bingo Activity as an ice breaker and to start children talking about the park
- Site visit to Victoria Park, involving a short walk each way and group discussions at the park.
- Voting on the 8 questions that respond to the themes of the Spaceshaper program
- Activities in groups with students rotating around the tables:
 - Who Am I and Describe It Activity, commenting about who uses the park and how well cared for it is;
 - Rate this Space, commenting on photographs of the park and other places
 - Write a postcard activity – children writing to a friend inviting them to the park and describing why they would like to share a visit / Activity spotter - children used dots to show the activities they might engage in when visiting the park
- Discussion about the results and drawing a vision for the park and/or how the park could be improved to achieve a higher result for the specific questions
- Activity to vote on the importance of some of the initiatives that emerged from the vision activity
- Evaluation activity, thank you and close

The feedback from all students about the workshop was generally very positive with:

- 8 Students from Loreto College saying they 'loved' the workshop (32%);
- 13 enjoying the workshop (50%); and
- 5 saying that is was 'OK' (18%).

The activities that the students from Loreto College enjoyed the most (in order of the most popular) were:

- Giving opinions about the park;
- Walking to and visiting the park;
- Activities that required rotating around the tables;
- Everything!; and
- Looking at the photos.

The activities that some of the students from Loreto College enjoyed the least included:

- Looking around the park because it was so cold;
- The writing activities;
- Good space/Bad space;
- Bingo;
- Activity Spotter;
- Who am I?; and
- Watching the computer.

When the students from Loreto College asked if they felt that they were listened to:

- 20 said 'Yes' (77%); and
- 6 said 'Maybe' (23%).

The students from Loreto College were then asked if they felt that their views would make a difference to what happens in Victoria Park, they responded:

- 12 said 'Yes definitely' (46%);
- 13 said 'Maybe' (50%); and
- 1 said 'Not sure' (4%).

Finally, when the students from Loreto College were asked if they learnt anything new during the workshop, the following responses were given:

- I learnt how big Victoria Park actually is and some things I didn't know about it, like it has a lake and a velodrome and is larger than Lake Wendouree (13 responses)
- I learnt the long grass around the park is native grass (3 responses)
- I learnt that there is a lot to change from the past (1 responses)
- I learnt that our actions can affect the future generations of Ballarat and Victoria Park (1 response)
- I learnt what a great place Victoria Park will be when it is done (1 response)
- I learnt that Victoria Park is important (1 response)
- I learnt that Victoria Park needs more stuff (1 response)
- I learnt about important things we need in our park (1 response)
- I learnt that community is important (1 response)
- I learnt about other people's opinions (1 response)
- I did not learn anything new today because I am very familiar with the park (1 response)

The students at Urquhart Park Primary School were also asked the same set of questions and responded as follows: The feedback from the children about the workshop was generally very positive with:

- 17 saying they 'loved' the workshop (57%);
- 12 enjoying the workshop (40%); and
- 1 saying that is was 'OK' (3%).

The activities that the children at Urquhart Park Primary School enjoyed the most (in order of the most popular) were:

- Walking to and visiting the park;
- Everything!;
- Giving opinions about the park;
- Activities; and
- Writing a postcard.

The activities that some of the children at Urquhart Park Primary School enjoyed the least included:

- The 'ideas' sheet.
- Voting;
- Writing the letter;
- The worksheets; and
- The surveys.

When asked if they felt that they were listened to:

- 23 said 'Yes' (77%);
- 6 said 'Maybe' (20%); and
- 1 said 'Not sure' (3%).

The children at Urquhart Park Primary School were then asked if they felt that their views would make a difference to what happens – they responded:

- 15 said 'Yes definitely' (50%);
- 12 said 'Maybe' (40%);
- 2 said 'Not sure' (6%); and
- 1 said 'Don't think so' (3%).

Finally, when asked if they learnt anything new during the workshop, the following responses were given:

- How we can make Victoria Park a better place x3
- Victoria Park is 300-400 acres x2
- That what we think, helps Victoria Park x2
- There used to be squirrels at Victoria Park
- All about Victoria Park
- We should keep parks clean
- To help the community
- Victoria Park does not need much change
- Victoria Park is not so bad after all and I think I will go there more often
- How Victoria Park runs in different ways
- Victoria Park is going to be improved
- Victoria Park needs improvement
- Names of trees
- Nature-life is awesome
- Nothing really



Spaceshaper (Senior)

A Spaceshaper session was held with a range of adult stakeholders with the primary reason of seeking input into the visioning process for Victoria Park. This workshop also provided an opportunity to utilise the same themes that were used for the Spaceshaper 9-14 workshops so that there could be a comparison of the results.

Workshop Thursday 10th May, 2012

The Spaceshaper workshop was conducted at the Robert Clark Centre in the Botanic Gardens, Ballarat. Due to the diminishing daylight at 5.30pm and large size of Victoria Park, it was decided not to walk to or drive around the site. Because most workshop participants were very familiar with Victoria Park, a number of photos of the site were used for a 'virtual' site tour.

25 adults attended the workshop from a range of organisations and as general residents. Representation from groups such as Sporting Clubs, Schools, Dog Obedience, Council, Environmental Groups, National Trust and a Developer provided an excellent range of opinion.

The format for the Spaceshaper session was as follows:

- Arrival, welcome and introductions.
- Introduction to the Workshop.
- Ice breaker 'Bingo' activity was conducted.
- Virtual site visit and discussion using photographs
- Completion of Spaceshaper Questionnaires.
- Activities to provide further thoughts about the performance of Victoria Park, how the park is valued by the community and what the attributes of good and bad open spaces are.
- A personal reflection / letter to someone about Victoria Park in 20 years from now.
- Presentation of questionnaire results.
- Discussion about the data and results.
- Conversation about a Vision and Priorities for improving Victoria Park.
- Voting on the suggestions for the park: Very Important / Not so Important
- Thank you, Close and Departure

Spaceshaper responses are grouped under eight key headings that reflect three themes:

How well the space works:

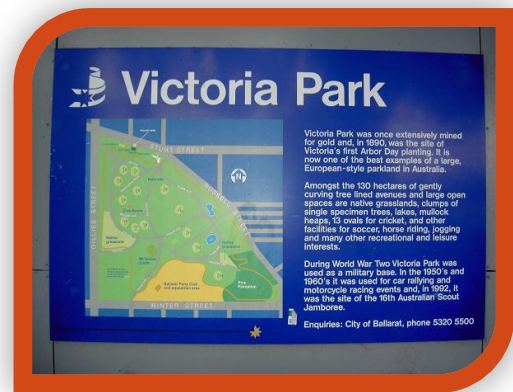
1. Access
2. Use
3. Other People

The space itself:

4. Maintenance
5. Environment
6. Design and Appearance

The difference the space makes:

7. Community
8. You



The following table defines the eight key headings that were used to conduct the Spaceshaper questionnaire and consultation.

| Theme / Heading | Definition |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| How well the space works | |
| Access | Finding your way to the space – how do you get here? |
| Use | Getting about the space once you are here – how accessible is it? |
| Other People | The activities that are offered by the space – what do you do here? The opportunities the space has to offer – what can you do here? How the space caters for different needs of different people – is the space popular and do people get along easily in the space? |
| The space itself | |
| Maintenance | How clean the space is – does it meet your expectations of 'clean'? |
| Environment | How cared for the space is – do you see the people who look after the space? How safe the space is – do you feel safe when you are in the space? |
| Design and Appearance | How comfortable the facilities are – Is there sufficient lighting and shelter that you need and is the size of the space good enough that you feel comfortable? What the space looks like – Does the space improve the look of the local area and is it beautiful and inspiring? What materials it uses – has the space been made well? |
| The difference the space makes | |
| Community | How the space is valued by local people – Is this space important and do people in the area value this space? |
| You | How the space makes me feel – Do I enjoy the space, how do I feel when I am here? |



Key Results and Discussion

Spaceshaper 9-14: Loreto College

Spaceshaper utilises a resource kit to run a hands-on workshop of fun activities for children that prompts their responses to the same set of questions that Spaceshaper (Senior) is based on. However, instead of a 41 question survey, participants in Spaceshaper 9-14 vote on each of the eight questions after participating in a range of activities that raise awareness about the site.

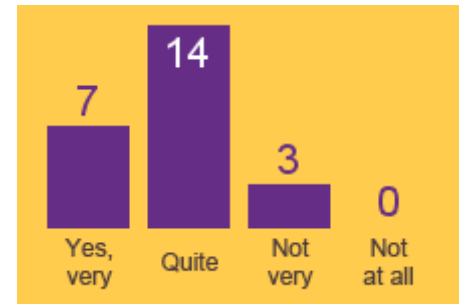
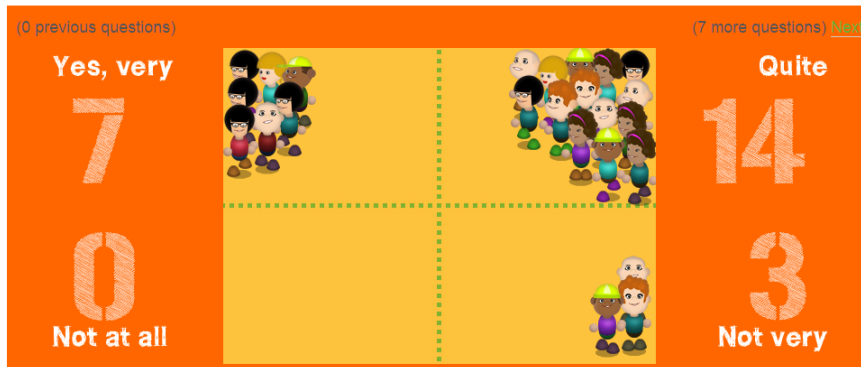
The following is taken directly from the software results and shows the questions that were asked of the students and the responses they provided. The results were presented in two different ways, firstly as a bar chart summarising all questions and responses (below) and secondly as scattergrams with individual bar charts that pictorially reflect the voting process.

| Label | Question | Response |
|-----------------------|--|----------|
| Access | <u>Is this space easy to get around?</u> | |
| Environment | <u>Is this space safe and comfortable in the day and night, in all weathers?</u> | |
| Maintenance | <u>Is this space clean and well looked after?</u> | |
| Design and appearance | <u>Has this space been well designed and made?</u> | |
| You | <u>Is this place a really nice place to be?</u> | |
| Use | <u>Are there are lots of things to do here?</u> | |
| Other people | <u>Is this space popular with lots of different people?</u> | |
| Community | <u>Is this space really important to the local community?</u> | |

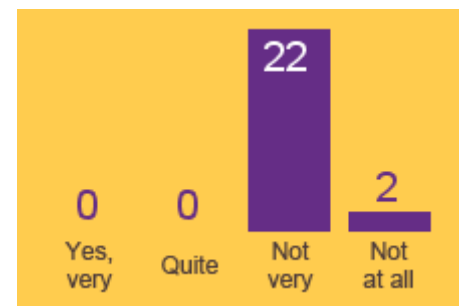
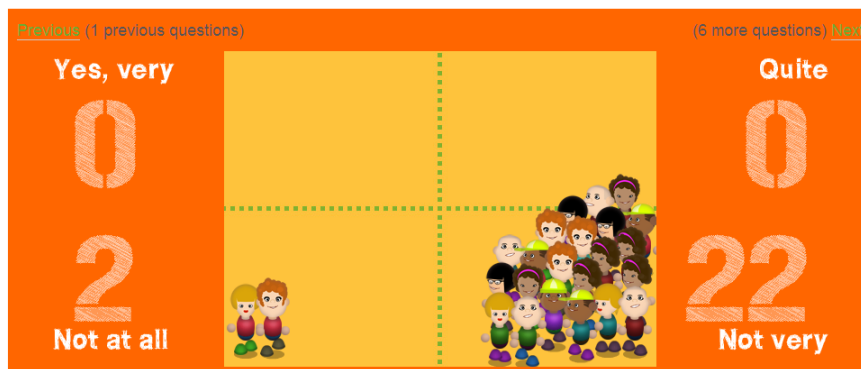
It is evident from the bar chart above that Victoria Park being important to the local community was more significant than any other question asked, followed closely by the park being easy to get around and being a really nice place to be. Victoria Park performed the lowest in response to the question about the park being comfortable in day and night and in all weathers.

Scattergrams for each individual question are:

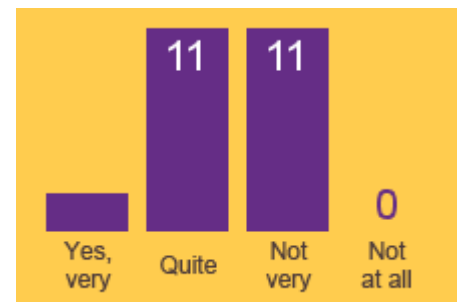
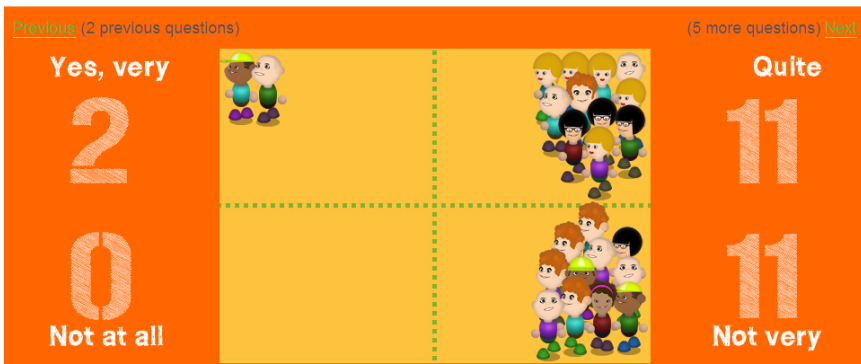
Victoria Park: Access: Is this space easy to get around?



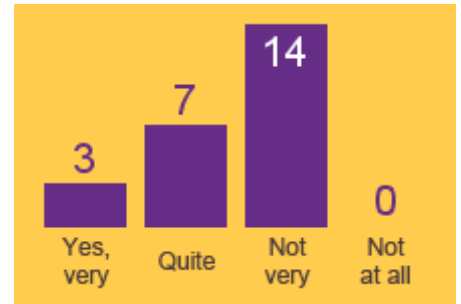
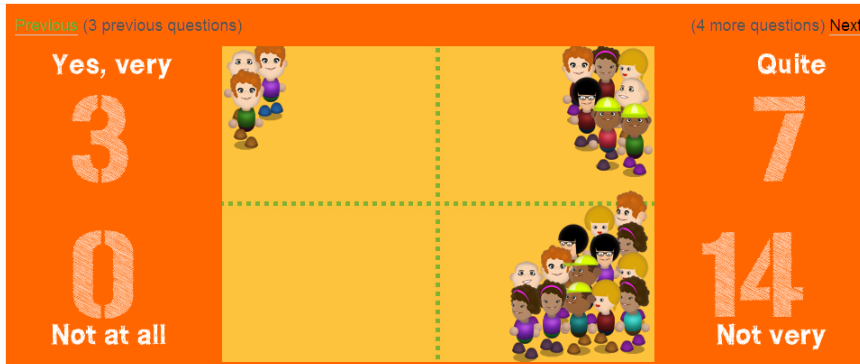
Victoria Park: Environment: Is this space safe and comfortable in the day and night, in all weathers?



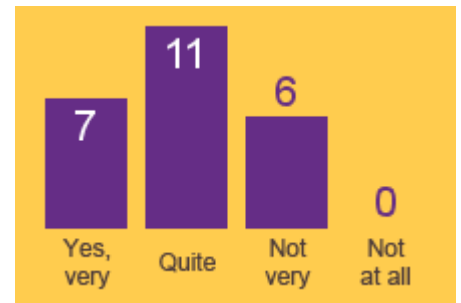
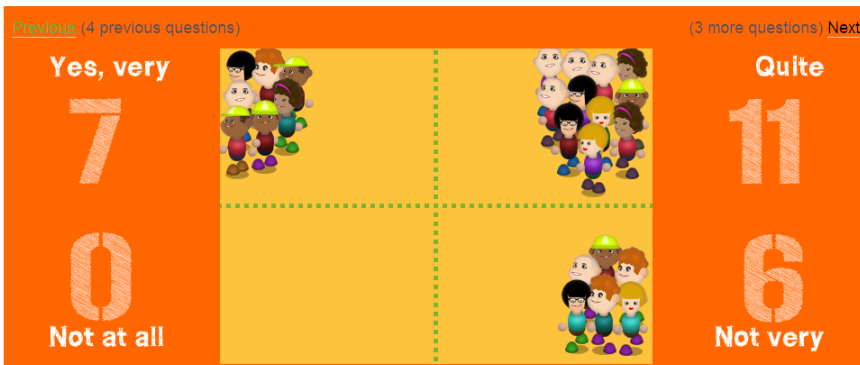
Victoria Park: Maintenance: Is this space clean and well looked after?



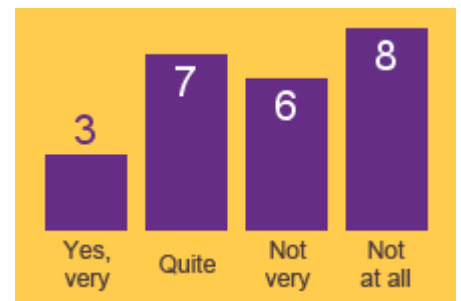
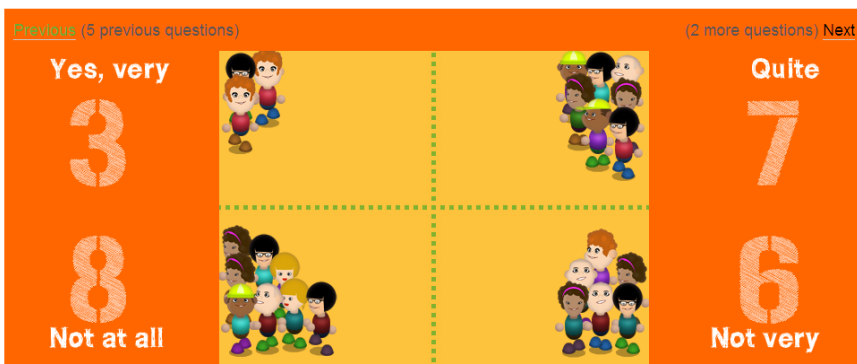
Victoria Park: Design and appearance: Has this space been well designed and made?



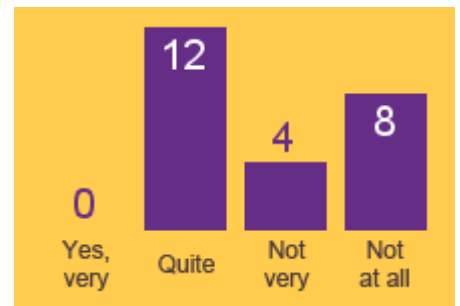
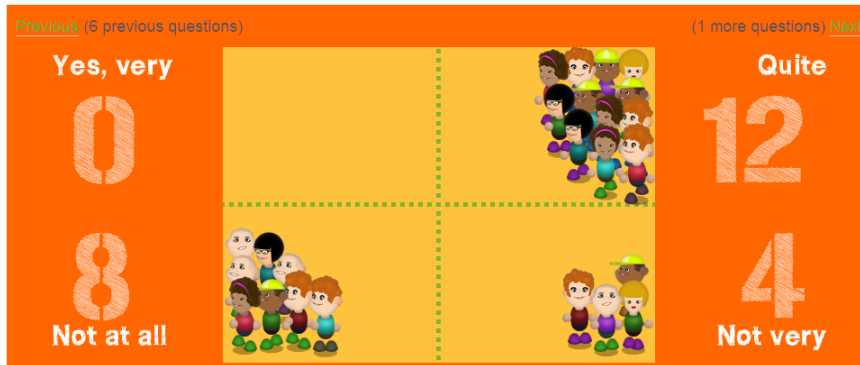
Victoria Park: You: Is this place a really nice place to be?



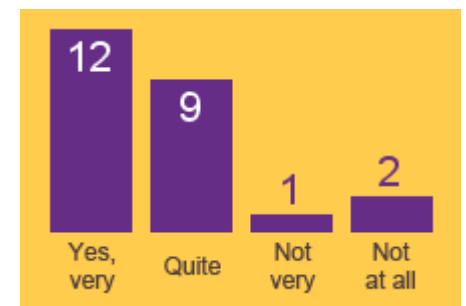
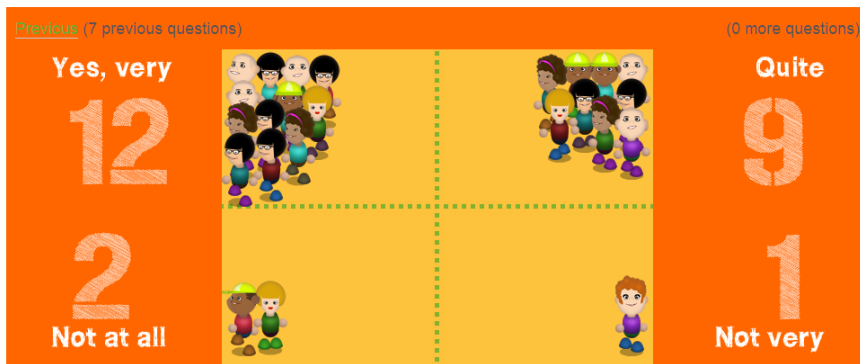
Victoria Park: Use: Are there are lots of things to do here?



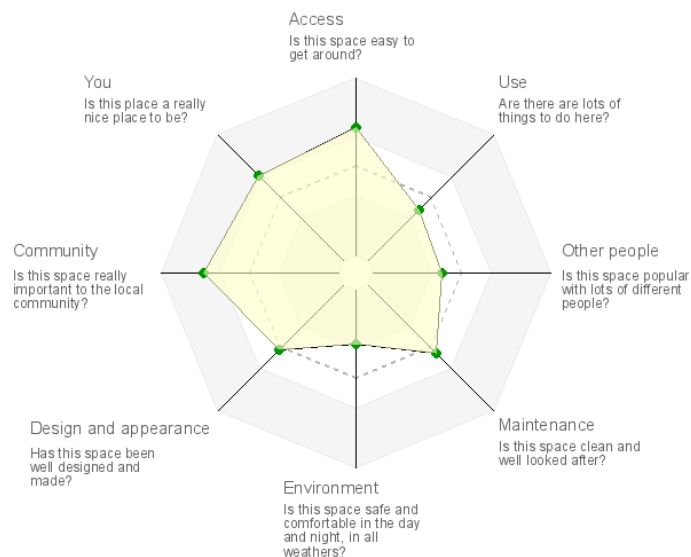
Victoria Park: Other people: Is this space popular with lots of different people?



Victoria Park: Community: Is this space really important to the local community?



For the purpose of analysis of the questions and direct comparison to the other Spaceshaper 9-14 and Senior workshops, the Loreto College Spaceshaper 9-14 results are also reflected as a sider diagram, shown below.



From the spider diagram, the issue of 'Access' scores quite well:

The students' voting revealed general agreement that Victoria Park is easy to get to and get around. This aspect of the park received the second highest rating of all the eight questions. The park is relatively flat with roadways and pathways entering from most directions and with road frontages on basically all sides was identified by the students as relatively easy to access. These students considered the park to be more accessible than the students at Urquhart Park Primary School and very similar to the response given at the senior Spaceshaper workshop.

From the spider diagram, the issue of 'Community' scores very well:

The students' voting revealed that they believe that Victoria Park is important to the local community. This aspect received the highest rating of all the eight questions. This achieved similar results to the primary school students and the senior Spaceshaper program and seemed to reflect that the students understand the value of public space for themselves and for the broader community.

From the spider diagram, the issue of 'Other People' scores low:

While half of the student group thought that Victoria Park is popular with lots of different people, the other half considered it not to be popular. This is a different result to the responses from the children at Urquhart Park Primary School who responded more positively to this question, as also did the senior Spaceshaper workshop.

From the spider diagram, the issue of 'You' scores quite well:

Victoria Park was identified by the students as a space that they largely felt was a nice place to be. They generally liked the openness, amount of shade, range of facilities and pathways in the park. This question scored almost as high as the primary school children and similar to the senior Spaceshaper participants.

From the spider diagram, the issue of 'Use' scores low:

There were mixed responses to the question of 'lots to do here', with a majority responding that there are not many things to do in the park. It is interesting that the girls thought the park was generally a nice place to be but the range of activities does not match this response. Combined with the value placed on the park, an emerging trend is that young people would use the park more if they felt that there was more for them to do. This trend is similar to the primary school students as well even though their general response to this question was a little more positive. The senior spaceshaper workshop rated this aspect of the park quite a bit higher which may be a reflection of adults' views of the suitability of Victoria Park for various types of activities.

From the spider diagram, the issue of 'Maintenance' scores average:

The student group was divided on the question of maintenance of Victoria Park. Anecdotal comments during the site visit suggested that the park was poorly maintained – it is possible that discussion about the park may have prompted thinking about natural and bushland environments. This result is similar to the primary school students whereas the senior spaceshaper workshop revealed a lower rating for maintenance.

From the spider diagram, the issue of 'Environment' scores very low:

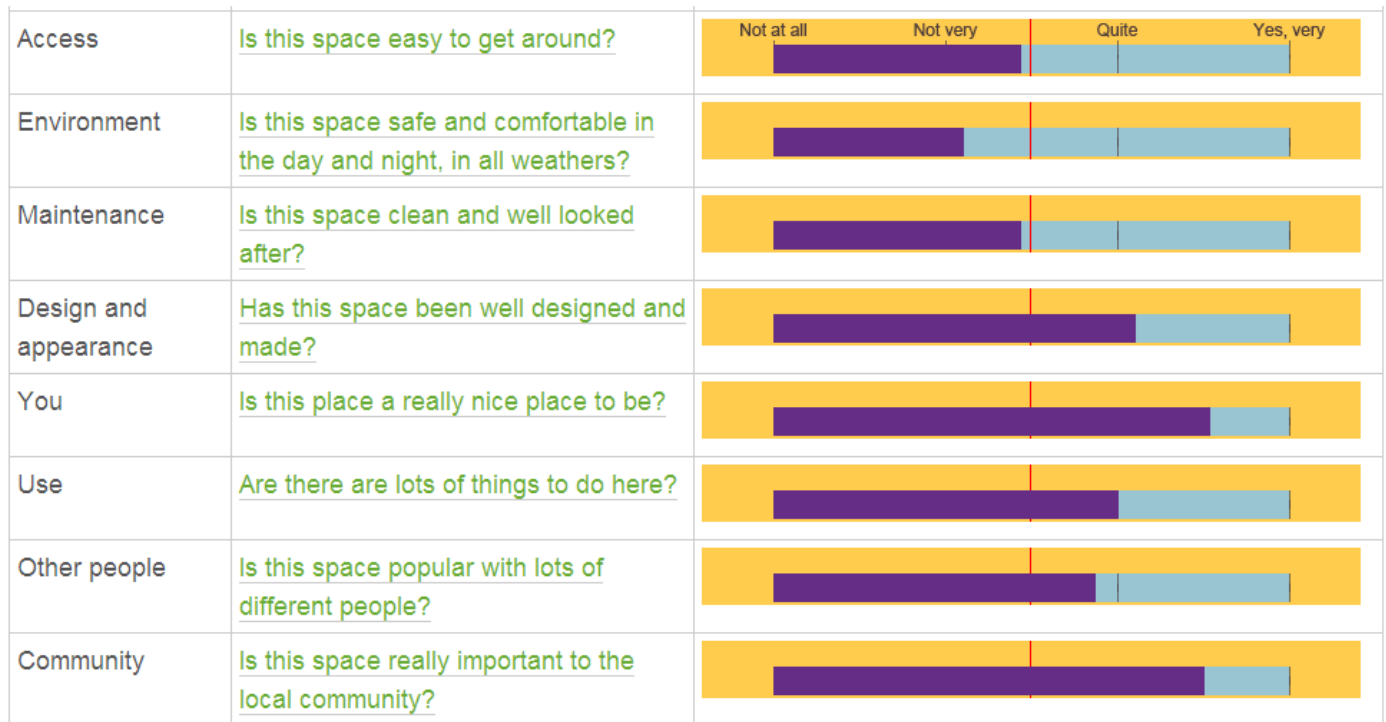
The students' voting and discussion revealed that the park is safer and more comfortable in daylight hours and when the weather is pleasant. This question received the lowest rating of all eight questions and was similar to the primary school children, while the senior spaceshaper workshop rated environment slightly higher.

From the spider diagram, the issue of 'Design and Appearance' scores average:

The students' voting in response to the question: "Has this space been well designed and made?" was average and the observations were that the park has magnificent trees and shade, but falls short in aspects like facilities and shelter. The primary school children rated this aspect quite a bit higher, as did the adults in the senior Spaceshaper workshop.

Spaceshaper 9-14: Urquhart Park Primary School

The same process was used with the students at Urquhart Park Primary School with the following summary outlining the results when the same eight questions were asked following a visit to Victoria Park.

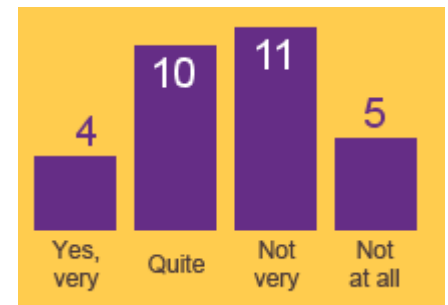
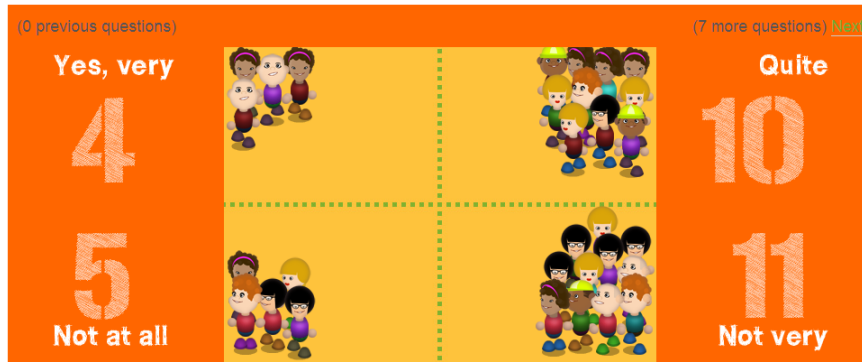


It is evident from the bar chart above that Victoria Park being important to the local community and being a really nice place to be were equally the highest rating factors of Victoria Park for the children. Victoria Park performed the lowest in response to the question about being comfortable in day and night and in all weathers.

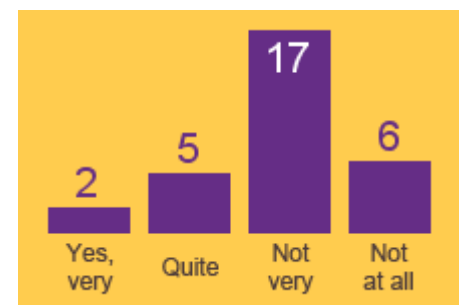
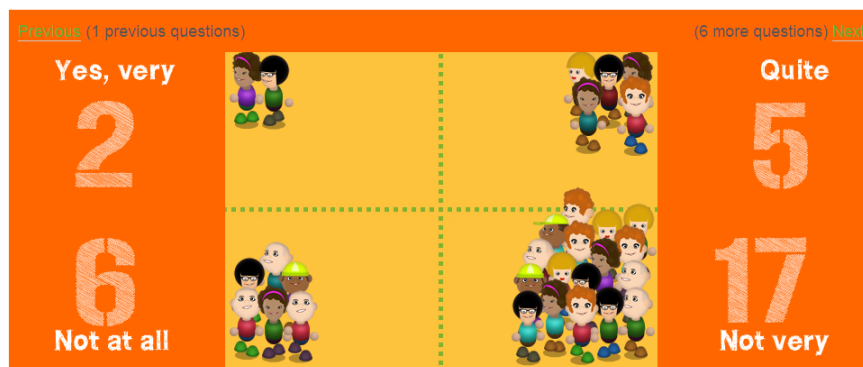


Scattergrams for each of the questions are:

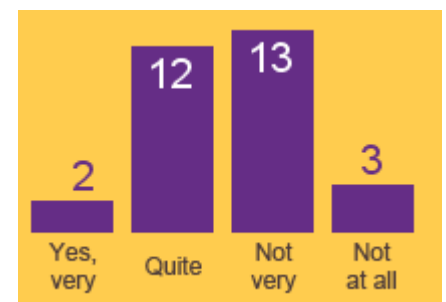
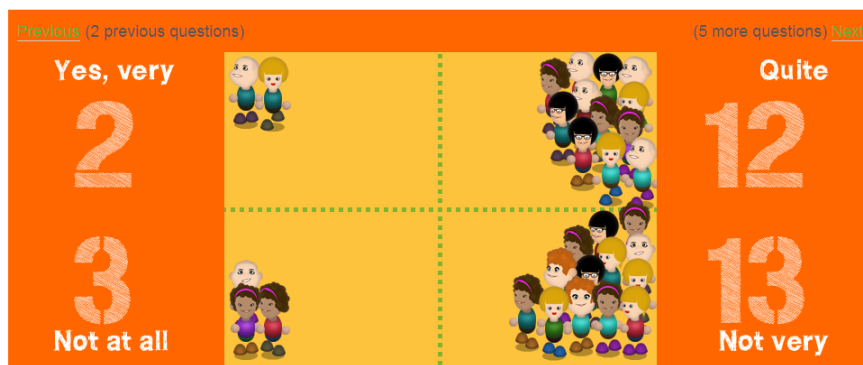
Victoria Park: Access: Is this space easy to get around?



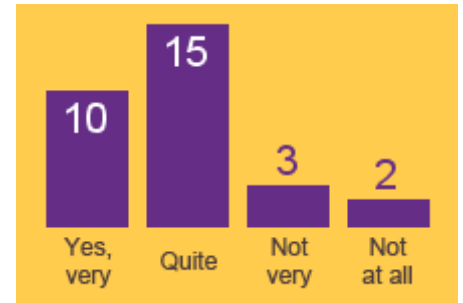
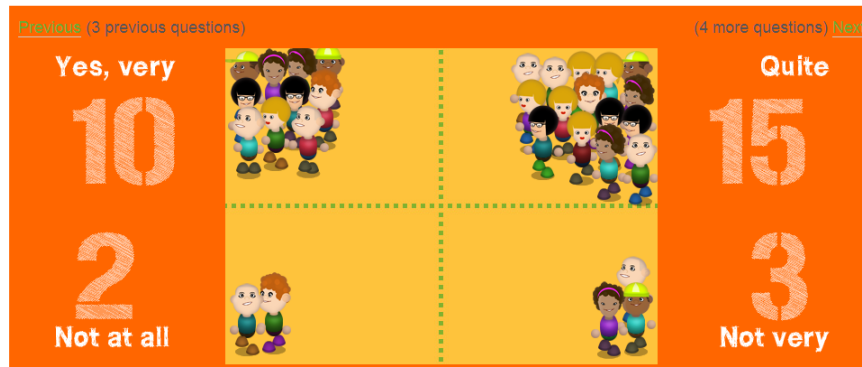
Victoria Park: Environment: Is this space safe and comfortable in the day and night, in all weathers?



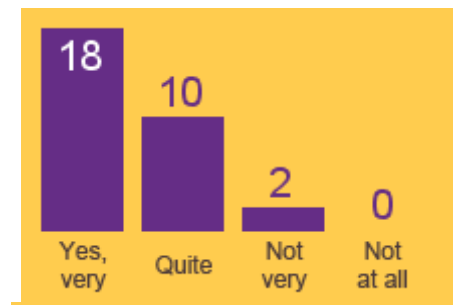
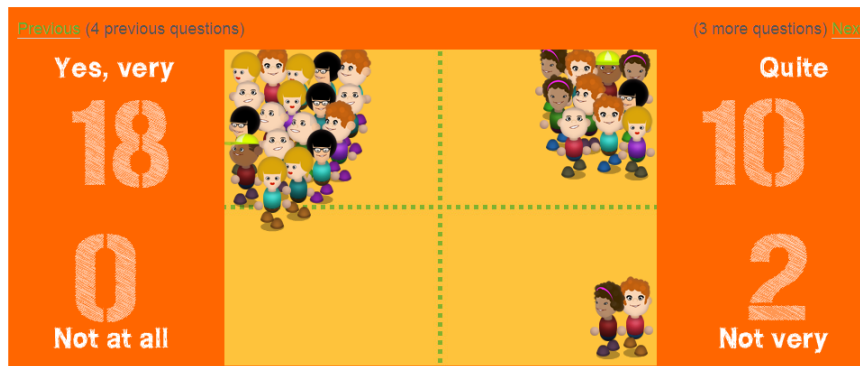
Victoria Park: Maintenance: Is this space clean and well looked after?



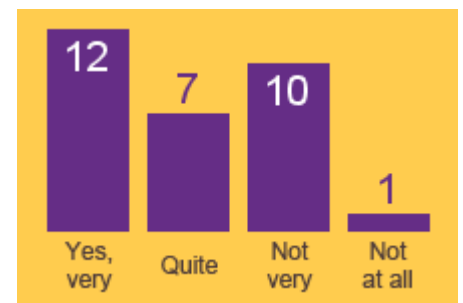
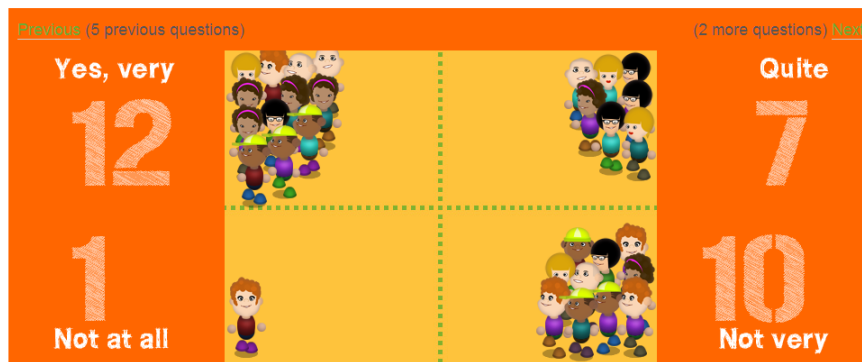
Victoria Park: Design and appearance: Has this space been well designed and made?



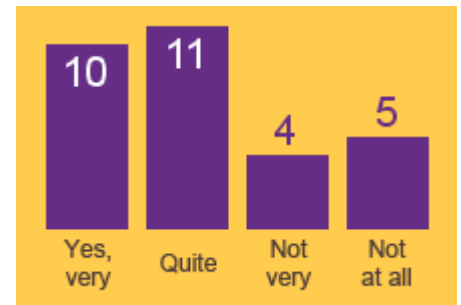
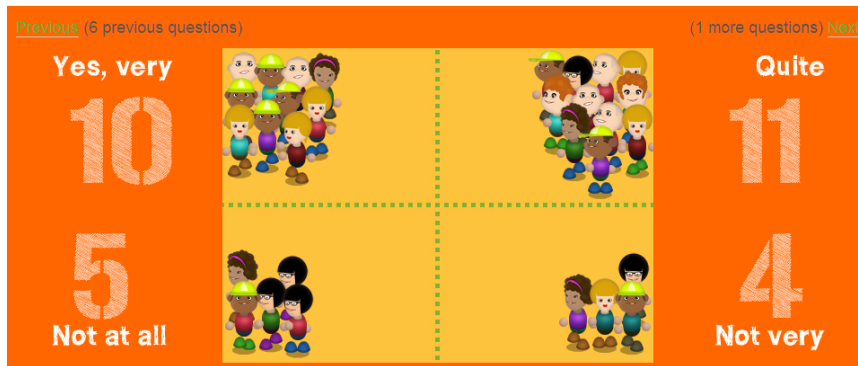
Victoria Park: You: Is this place a really nice place to be?



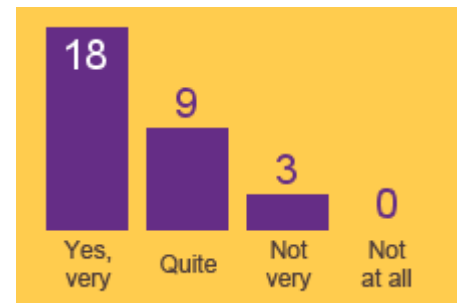
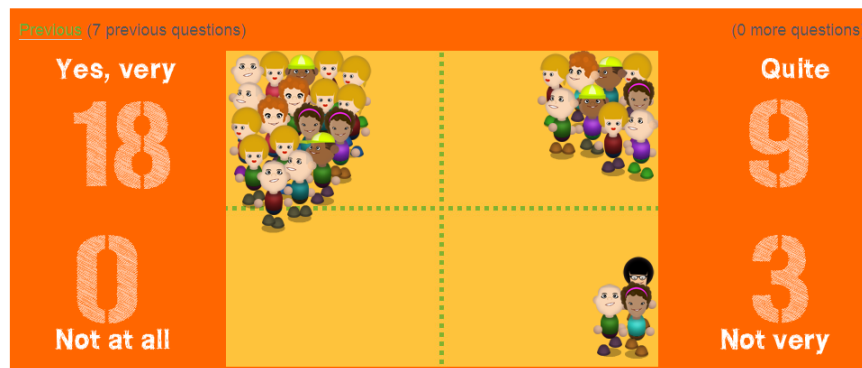
Victoria Park: Use: Are there are lots of things to do here?



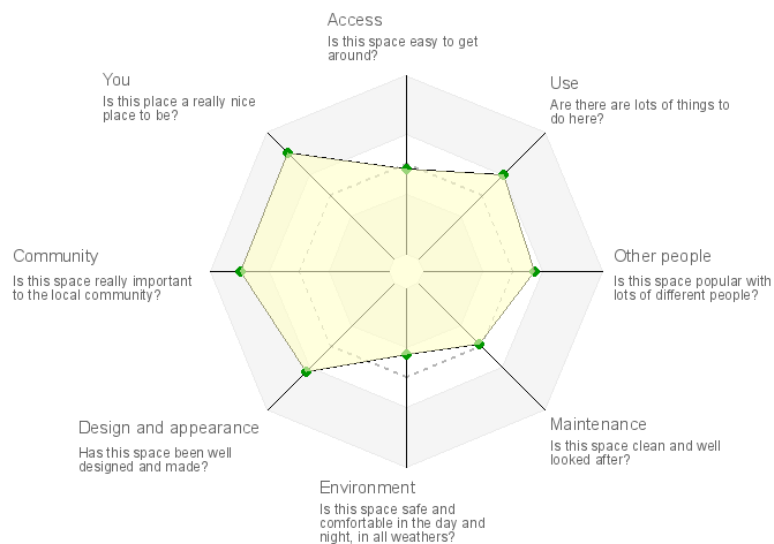
Victoria Park: Other people: Is this space popular with lots of different people?



Victoria Park: Community: Is this space really important to the local community?



For the purpose of analysis of the questions and direct comparison to the other Spaceshaper 9-14 and Senior workshops, the primary school Spaceshaper 9-14 results are also reflected as a sider diagram, shown below.



From the spider diagram, the issue of 'Access' scores low:

The children's voting revealed general indecision about whether Victoria Park easy to get to and get around. The class were virtually divided in their voting. This is reflected in the bar chart with this question being one of three that scored low. This response is also significantly lower than the results from the other two spaceshaper sessions and could reflect the location of the school being towards the southern and less developed end of the park. The site visit to Victoria Park focused on the ponds, playground and open areas where infrastructure provision is more sparse and maybe a lower standard.

From the spider diagram, the issue of 'Community' scores very well:

The students' voting revealed that they believe that Victoria Park is important to the local community. This aspect received the equal highest rating of all the eight questions. This achieved similar results to the Loreto College students and the senior Spaceshaper program and seemed to reflect that the children understand the value of public space for themselves, their families and for the broader community.

From the spider diagram, the issue of 'Other People' scores relatively well:

The children generally thought that Victoria Park would be popular for lots of different people. This result was higher than the Loreto College students and a little lower than for the senior Spaceshaper workshop. During the site visit, the children saw people walking dogs and using the park and discussed the range of people that they thought would use the park – general positive responses were recorded (anecdotally).

From the spider diagram, the issue of 'You' scores very well:

The students voting revealed that they think that Victoria Park is a really nice place to be. This aspect received the equal highest rating of all the eight questions and scored higher than both the Loreto College students and the senior Space shaper workshop. It was clear as the site visit proceeded, that the children were very positive about the ponds, the green and open qualities of the park and the playground.

From the spider diagram, the issue of 'Use' scores quite well:

The children's voting results indicated that even though they agreed that Victoria Park is a nice place to be, they were not so positive about the range of things that they could do in the park. The children were a little more positive about the park than the students from Loreto College and their response was similar to the senior Spaceshaper workshop. During the activities they came up with a range of ideas about how the park could provide more things for them to do.

From the spider diagram, the issue of 'Maintenance' scores low:

Questions concerning maintenance and presentation of Victoria Park received a mixed response from the children with the group being divided on this question. The result is similar to the students from Loreto College and higher than the feedback from the senior Spaceshaper workshop and possibly reveals some different expectations about how Victoria Park should be maintained.

From the spider diagram, the issue of 'Environment' scores low:

The students' voting and discussion revealed that the park is safer and more comfortable in daylight hours and when the weather is pleasant. This question received the lowest rating of all eight questions and was similar to the students from Loreto College, while the senior spaceshaper workshop rated environment slightly higher.

From the spider diagram, the issue of 'Design and Appearance' scores well:

The children's response to the question of design and appearance generally received a positive result, possibly reflecting an appreciation of the natural qualities of Victoria Park given that the site visit focused on the southern area of the park. This result was higher than the Loreto College students and similar to the result from the senior Spaceshaper workshop.

Key Results and Discussion – Spaceshaper (Senior)

The results from the senior Spaceshaper workshop sessions have been collated in this section.

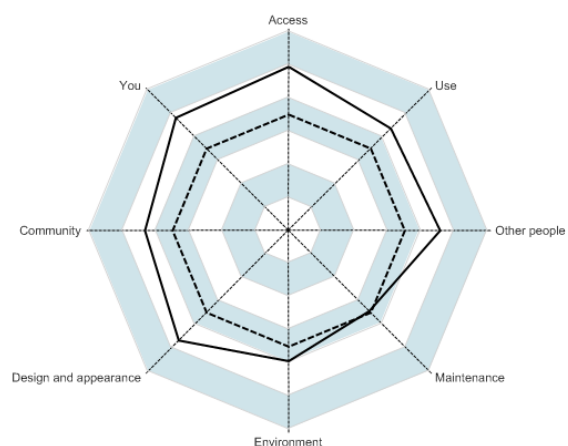
Participants were firstly asked to list the things they like most about Victoria Park and the things that they dislike about the park. At the end of the questionnaire, the same questions were asked again, to give respondents the opportunity to add to these lists having considered all aspects of the park in responding to the questionnaire. The following is a summary of these responses:



| Likes | Dislikes |
|--|---|
| Size / largeness of the park (x10) Open space (x16) Openness/very few boundaries (x2) Unencumbered open space European parkland feel / its design (x2) Green Trees (x8) Trees and avenues (x4) Great old / mature trees (x5) Native grassland flora (x4) Native trees and the wildlife they attract Plants, bird and animal interactions Inherent beauty Parklike vistas Haven for flora and fauna Serenity and quiet/place to relax (x2) Multi-use park (x4) Sporting fields / Ovals (x11) Recreational use / Community Use (x11) Opportunity for increased use Opportunity to develop something great (x2) Great elements on which to develop Availability (x2) Diversity/variety (x6) Wildness of space People / availability to everyone (x3) Environment, history and heritage (x4) Ponds and lakes (x4) Lakes and peaceful water activities Ponds and the potential for more Picnic areas near the lake Seeing the park while passing by Walking/running tracks (5km) Cycling tracks (x5) The ability to use the park for major events Proximity to centre of Ballarat (x2) Accessibility to residents in Ballarat Semi regulated area It's friendly - sense of community Dog off-lead areas The old velodrome The relative lack of built structures (x2) Excellent and safe equestrian facility Trees trimmed to allow better visibility (x2) | Vehicle control / traffic impacts in the park (x4) Lack of speed restriction techniques Unstructured/poorly formed/maintained roads (x6) Through roads, dangerous crossroads/used for speeding/honing/as a thoroughfare (x9) Poor car access/access to Gillies Street (x2) Lack of designated parking (x4) Unsafe - pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles (x3) Lack of smaller/shorter walk/cycle routes (x2) Southern section is isolated with no access (x4) Western and southern boundaries Lack of maintenance (x7) Poor tree maintenance/ trees fallen/in decline (x2) Tracks in poor condition Poor management of the native grasslands Lack of clear signage / information (x3) Lack of interpretation about history, environment, flora and fauna Poor amenities/lack of toilets/seating/shelters /shade/food outlet, ugly playgrounds (x5) Inadequate lighting/clubrooms for sport (x2) Location of community facility - isolated and not catering for wider community benefit (x2) The rotunda - the enclosed rock sides Buildings Formal sporting fields Lack of irrigation to grounds (x2) Rubbish/dumping/littering/lack of bins(x8) Lack of planning Minimal implementation of the 2007 plan Lack of connection of lake Not enough ponds Vandalism Feeling unsafe/night/ Undesirable activities (x5) Lakeweed dump (x2) Mix of old and new Not enough events / people using it regularly (x3) Unappreciated by large parts of community (x2) Vast open space and 'lack of place' Vandalism Perception of being remote and unsafe (x3) Feels 'unloved' / Very tired (x2) People not cleaning up after their dogs (x3) Lack of dog litter bins on paths |

The results of the 41 questions in the questionnaire are shown in the spider's web diagram on the right. The solid black line shows the results for Victoria Park. The dashed line shows how each of the eight issues would be rated in an average space. Results better than average are outside the dotted line and results less than average are inside it.

Overall Victoria Park scores just on average for Maintenance and above average for Other People, Use, Access, You, Environment, Community and Design and Appearance. The results shown to the right are for the whole group of participants at the workshop, whereas below, the two spider diagrams show results for two different groups.



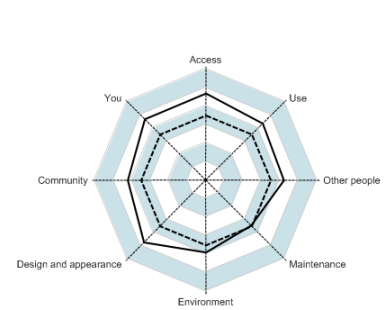
Results of feedback from different stakeholder groups:



The results above show the spider diagram again but this time with the participants divided into those who responded that they feel that they have a say in how the park is run as those that don't feel that they have a say. From the groups of Residents, Park Users and Council representatives, the following numbers comprise these two responses:

| Group | "I feel that I have a say" | "I feel that I have no say" |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Residents | 2 | 4 |
| Park Users | 5 | 5 |
| Council | 9 | 0 |
| Total | 16 | 9 |

The participants who feel that they have a say in Victoria Park were more critical of Access and Maintenance and scored Use a little lower to the other group (who have no say in the park). Other results were quite similar between the two groups. The following split of results three ways shows the different stakeholder groups and how they responded to the survey questions.

Users of the Park**Residents****Council**

From the three spider diagrams above, the following brief observations are made:

- Access is rated slightly higher by park users and residents than the Council representatives.
- Use is rated highest by park users (predictably) and lowest by residents.
- The theme of Other People in Victoria Park received the highest result from park users (again predictably) and the lowest response by Council.
- Maintenance was scored lowest by residents and similar by the other groups with park users rating it just slightly higher.
- Design and appearance and the environment of the park was rated virtually the same by all three groups.
- The value of Victoria Park to the community was rated slightly higher by park users and the same by residents and the Council representatives.
- The value of Victoria Park for individuals was rated very similar for both residents and park users and slightly lower for Council representatives, although the results are all still very positive.

From the questionnaire results, the following statements received the most positive responses, in order of popularity:

1. This is an important place to the local area
2. The place is easy to find
3. I can get here easily
4. This place is in a good spot
5. I enjoy being in this place

As a contrast, the following statements received the least positive responses, in order of lowest results:

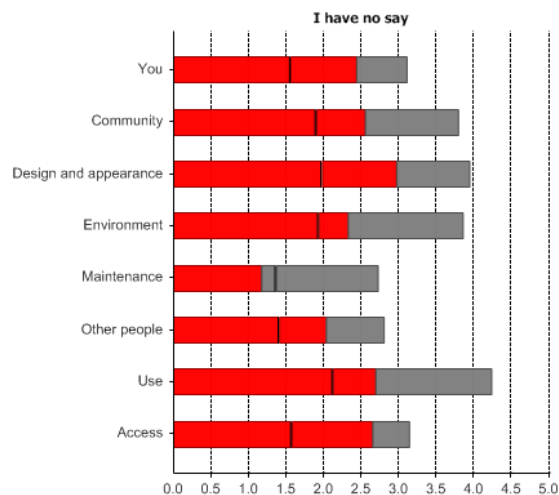
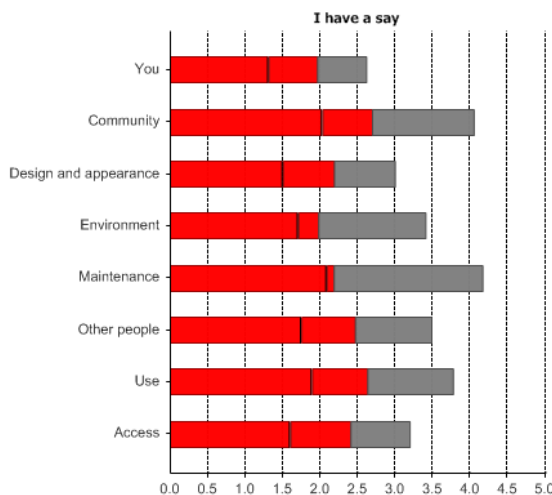
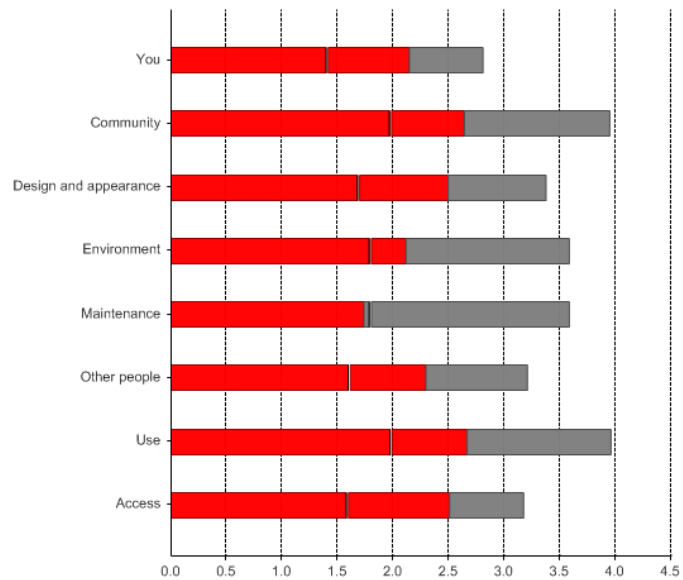
1. This place has good lighting (lowest score)
2. There is shelter from the weather
3. I can learn new things here
4. The people who look after this place are around a lot
5. This place is good for local shops and businesses

The highest scoring statements sit in the themes of Community, You and Access, that all received relatively good results overall. By comparison, the lowest scoring statements sit in the themes of Environment, Maintenance and Use, that all showed lower overall results. The comment about local shops and businesses in part of the Community theme and may reflect some difference of views among the participants and might explain the slightly lower result for Community compared to Access and You.

Level of importance and performance of Victoria Park in meeting expectations

The bar chart above shows the same eight headings as in the spider diagram, but this time as a reflection of the level of importance that each theme has compared with how the space is performing. The grey bar indicates how important everyone thinks the theme is (with the small black line indicating the 50% mark of the grey bar). The red bar indicates how everyone feels Victoria Park is performing, allowing for a comparison between these factors.

The same results are shown in the following bar charts to compare results for the people who feel they have a say in the park and those who don't.



The three charts that discuss importance and performance of Victoria Park reveal the following key observations:

Overall:

Victoria Park falls short of meeting expectations in all of the factors that were the subject of questions and discussion. This result suggests that there is quite a bit of room for improvement particularly in the area of maintenance where overall performance was equal to or less than half the rating of expectation.

You:

This theme rated quite well when the expectation was compared to the level of satisfaction. The people who feel that they don't have a say have a higher expectation of Victoria Park in this area, but all respondents are generally in agreement about Victoria Park performing quite well.

Community:

Equal highest level of importance overall, this theme received a higher level of importance from the people who have a say in the park than the people who don't. However, it is interesting to note that Victoria Park is performing about the same in meeting expectations for both groups, above 50% but still falling well short of optimum performance.

Design and Appearance:

Design and appearance received an average rating for expectation overall and this rating was significantly higher for the people who have no say in the park than the people who do have a say. Victoria Park is meeting about 75% of its expectation in this area, which is one of the higher results. While there is room for improvement it appears that the residents and users that comprise the group who feel they have no say in the park are generally more satisfied with the design and appearance of Victoria Park than the other mixed group (with higher representation from Council).

Environment:

Environment rated reasonably high in expectation for all respondents (and higher for the group that felt they had no say in the park) with results indicating that it falls reasonably short of stated expectations. It is important to note that the questions about Environment asked about shelter, times of year to use the park, lighting, clean air, noise, feeling safe and the size of the space. The results recorded in this workshop were higher than the Spaceshaper 9-14 and it is noted that the students were questioned mainly about visiting the park at different times of day and night and in all weather, which was more limiting than the senior session. It is reasonable then that for a space like Victoria Park, the adult respondents would rate Victoria Park higher.

Maintenance:

Park maintenance rated high in importance and the lowest in performance with the people having no say being significantly more critical and with lower expectations than the group that have a say in the park. It was unanimous that maintenance is a key issue that needs to be addressed in any future planning and decision making.

Other People:

How Victoria Park caters for the needs of different people rated similar in performance by both groups however the people that have a say in the park have higher expectations about how the park caters for various users and uses. This was considered a reasonably important factor overall with performance sitting just under 75% of expectations.

Use:

The equal highest result for importance overall, the benefits and activities offered by Victoria Park were rated higher by people who have no say in the park with actual performance falling shorter than the group who have a say in the park. These results were similar to the primary school children and higher than the students from Loreto College.

Access:

Access to and through Victoria Park rated average compared with the other factors and had the equal highest level of satisfaction compared to expectation (as the You theme). The difference between importance and expectation was the closest for the people who have no say in the park of any other theme. This suggests that Victoria Park is performing reasonably well in the area of access, although some improvements are still expected.

Activities

In addition to the questionnaire and data entry, a number of activities were conducted to seek a range of comments and feedback from participants about Victoria Park.

Activity 1: What people think about Victoria Park (Senior Spaceshaper)

For this activity participants were asked to jot down their thoughts about how they currently use Victoria Park and what they might like to do in the park in the future. The responses are summarised as follows:

What I like to do here

- Plan enhancement of the natural environment
- Enjoy open space
- Savor the trees
- Play soccer
- Walk
- Walk the dog
- Cycle
- Enhance equestrian precinct further
- Ride horses
- Observe natural flora and fauna
- Fish with the grandchildren

What I would like to do here

- Eat from an edible forest
- Community vegie garden
- Outdoor cinema (temporary)
- Music festival (portaloos – no infrastructure needed)
- Arts festival
- Enjoy open space
- Savor the trees
- Various cycle routes
- Play soccer with better facilities
- Learn about native grassland vegetation
- Run around a restored velodrome



Activity 2: A Future Vision for Victoria Park – A Personal Reflection (Senior Spaceshaper)

This activity asked the participants to write a postcard that would be opened by their 'grandchildren' or someone in 50 years' time. This is a reflection of what one would wish the park to be for the people who will use it in the future. The following table outlines these reflections:

| |
|--|
| "I would like to see the park left essentially as it is with a few more upgrades of play areas and buildings. I would also like to see an area in which the public could walk their dogs off-lead – maybe fenced (this would need to be very large so that the public feels safe and the dogs do not interfere with each other)." |
| "To look at – not too much different to Victoria Park as it is today – maybe more ponds, rotundas, less cars. Used more – temporary events e.g. festivals and more people walking in it and playing in it year round." |
| "Still a public open space with open park-like vistas. A wide variety of spaces for a range of community activities – sport, passive recreation, walking, nature observation. A variety of different environments – introduced trees, native-indigenous vegetation, wetlands. A habitat for native fauna." |
| "Please don't change it too much. Let's keep the open spaces and its semi regulated nature e.g. an English common, not an overdeveloped park." |
| "A place of tranquility, open spaces, trees, sport, wetlands with water birds, <u>NO</u> commercial developments, some food/drinks available at Sturt Street side, better access to park at Gillies Street i.e. near Leopold Street, more diverse 'off-road' walking/cycling tracks." |
| "The park should stay as is, but with an upgrade to building (existing) to more suit the existing user groups." |
| "A more balanced use of the park, meaning better sporting facilities for structured sports such as soccer, cricket and other sporting clubs." |
| "No further permanent commitments (buildings, car parks, roads). The park should look much the same as now, but with enhanced natural environment." |
| "For my grandchildren I would like the open spaces to remain large without built boundaries. The tree park and ponds will provide easy access to nature and natural environs. Victoria Park will remain a place for free play – balls, bikes, running and self-expression. Informality is essential to maintain a free feel." |
| "My vision for Victoria Park for the next 50 years – to maintain the 1880's vision and to not decrease the area size. Very important to maintain native grasslands. As much multi-use as possible." |
| "I would like Victoria Park to be a place where there are still avenues of mature trees, areas where the current sports (50 years on) can be played by organized groups and spontaneously, where all ages can interact with nature/environment e.g. walk, run, dig, hide, built with natural materials e.g. tree houses, where the original vegetation is visible and still an area that has less than 0.1% covered in building." |
| "Dear Future Resident (50 years' time, 2062) – I would like to see Victoria Park as a widely acknowledged regional park which is utilised by all ages and cultural groups. The park provides a variety of quality, well maintained, active and passive recreation precincts, with examples of nature and European flora representing the history of the region before and after settlement. The park has some leading edge landscape treatments and world best practice in sustainable park management." |
| "Victoria Park in the future, an inner city park in the centre of the city, used by a range of community groups, a site for events and community activities." |
| "A safe space, with obvious places – each with their own unique character – but one united space. A well designed park that changes with the seasons, where plants that are selected won't struggle with current/future conditions. Has the facilities required to meet peoples' needs." |

"To keep improving facilities for families to run wild. Keep caring for and planting more beautiful trees. To continue to make equestrian precinct one of Victoria's finest."

"Vast open spaces, well maintained, with strong community participation and ownership. A place to feel safe, have a strong community spirit through activation of unique and diverse spaces. A place with a proud history and a secure future."

"In 50 years I would like to see the park develop into areas for sporting commitments, and more native plants to encourage native flora and fauna."

"Victoria Park linked with Lake Wendouree via a park e.g. land swap Loreto oval with Parks in VICPARK. Major sports precinct both outdoor and indoor with indoor sports to be located on sale yards and outdoor sports built in southwest corner e.g. new ovals, skate park, tennis courts, BMX track, triathlete bike track, etc, etc."



Activity 3: A Collective Vision for the Future (Senior Spaceshaper)

Once the personal reflection had been written by individuals, they were asked to share their thoughts with their group so that each of the five groups developed a 'collective' vision for the future of Victoria Park and what improvements might be required. The groups developed the following 'visions':

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Multiple uses integrated into whole |
| | World best practice in sustainable park management |
| | A park for all ages and cultures |
| | Informal space spaces within the natural environment |
| | Avenues of suitable trees – large canopies |
| | Fantastic entrance treatments |
| 2 | Wild open space |
| | Whole integrity of space |
| | People, plants and animals sharing/together |
| | Diverse use and appreciation |
| | Improve interpretation |
| | Improve maintenance |
| | Add attractors |
| These things will improve use and appreciation by community | |
| 3 | Maintain open park |
| | Use the community – wide range of activities |
| | Facilities to encourage family use and attract people to underutilized areas – short and long, shorter walking tracks, seating |
| | Is there space for community garden? (not in native grass area though) Would bring in people who would be around most of the day (c/w Boston – community gardens adjacent park) |
| | Roads need improvement – undefined tracks |
| 4 | Kiosk at Sturt Street end |
| | Separate cycling track |
| | Half way track |
| | Better clubrooms to service main user groups (modern upgrade) |
| | Close Sturt and Gillies Streets entrance and move to Leopold Street |
| | Improve wetlands to south |

| | |
|--|---|
| 5 | Must continue to have large open spaces (i.e. English common) |
| | Maintaining original design elements -> (replacement schedule) |
| | Well maintained and education on native grass areas |
| | Uninterrupted links between lake and Victoria Park |
| | Activation of southwest corner i.e. skate park, sports precinct |
| | Strong interface between Latrobe Street and the park |
| 6 Other comments noted on aerial photos | Under cover shelter for spectators (with clubroom upgrade) |
| | Wetlands – southwest corner |
| | Shelter along track in southern area of park |
| | Interpretative signs and low key access to native grasslands |
| | Picnic facilities to attract families |
| | Wetlands in southwest corner, at the site of the old velodrome and west of the pine trees |
| | Uncontrolled access by vehicles |
| | Redevelop main pavilion |
| | Additional vehicle entry/access at eastern end of Winter Street, both sides of pine plantation (extension to Quercus Avenue, also cycle/pedestrian entrance). Gillies Street as an extension to Military Avenue and Caretakers Drive. |
| | Improve interpretation of history and environment |
| | Integrate southwest corner into reserve |
| | Develop avenue of trees along Pine Avenue |
| | Improve entrances on southern and western boundaries along Winter Street and southern end of Gillies Street |
| | Dedicated entry/exit roads rather than through traffic |
| | Develop another pond where ovals 1, 2 and 3 are currently situated |
| | Service road along Gillies Street to allow passive vehicle entrance into the park |
| | Better utilised community facility |
| | Sale yard site – development of indoor sports/aquatics facilities |
| | Consider skate park, BMX track, tennis courts on southwest corner |
| | Dedicated bike track circuit around park boundary |
| | Additional bus stop at southern end of Gillies Street |

Activity 4: Timeline (Senior Spaceshaper)

This activity involved people thinking back to when they first had contact with the park – what they did, what their key memories are when they might have used this space. The table below summarises these memories starting from 1888.

| Timeframe | Comments |
|-------------|--|
| 1888 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassland • Scattered native trees • Military history • Heritage trees (stories) • Plant nursery (date unknown) • Planning and vision for the first arbor day |
| 1930's | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World War II • Military camp |
| 1950's-60's | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motorbike races |
| 1970's | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halfway stopover for KFC dinner! Melbourne - Donald |
| 1978 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined Ballarat Pony Club – still there! |
| 1983 (?) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two ponds built in northeast side and stocked with fish |
| 1986 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My first game of soccer for Victoria Park Football Club |
| 1987 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballarat Dog Obedience clubrooms finalised and opened by Mayor Wanda Chapman |
| 1990's | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scouts – Jamboree, orienteering |
| 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My boys sliding down the mullock heap, bikies settled in for awhile |



Activity 5: If I had \$10,000 to Spend on Victoria Park (Senior Spaceshaper)

For this activity participants were asked to jot down their thoughts about how they would spend \$10,000 to improve Victoria Park. The responses are summarised as follows:

| If I had \$10,000 to spend on Victoria Park, I would... |
|---|
| • Build an undercover area for spectators at the clubrooms area |
| • A wetland area and velodrome |
| • Public art competition |
| • Fix what is broken |
| • Establish a 'Friends Of' group |
| • Develop plan for vehicle control |
| • Prepare tree management plan |
| • Events to promote Victoria Park |
| • Incorporate critical elements of the vision into the planning scheme |
| • Alternative unstructured play spaces e.g. logs for climbing, boulders, etc. |
| • Seats and bins |
| • Interpretive signage for native grasslands and history |

Activity 6: Important/Not so important (Senior Spaceshaper)

A small number of improvements that were discussed in previous activities were raised to consider. This activity asked them to vote on what they thought was important for Victoria Park.

| Ideas | Very Important | Not so Important |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Play experiences – natural | 20 | 1 |
| Dedicated vehicle access (restricted) | 19 | 2 |
| Best practice park management | 19 | 2 |
| More pathways/tracks (cycling, short circuits) | 17 | 4 |
| Wetlands | 15 | 6 |
| Signage – Interpretive | 14 | 7 |
| More ponds | 14 | 7 |
| Keep park open | 13 | 1 |
| Active informal sport | 13 | 8 |
| Shelters throughout park | 12 | 9 |
| 'Friends of' group | 8 | 13 |
| Kiosk/café | 6 | 15 |
| Dedicated vehicle access (controlled) | 5 | 16 |
| Community garden | 4 | 17 |
| Indoor sports buildings | 1 | 20 |

Activity 7a: Activity Spotter (Urquhart Park Primary School)

This activity involved asking the children to look at some posters and choose how they use or would use Victoria Park. They were asked to select up to five activities. The results in the following table have been ordered from the most popular at the top through to the least popular activities.

| Activity | Number of Participants |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Playing | 15 |
| Eating and drinking | 14 |
| Dog walking | 13 |
| Riding a bike | 13 |
| Sports / games | 11 |
| Going to an event | 10 |
| Relaxing and thinking | 10 |
| Skateboarding or rollerblading | 10 |
| Enjoying nature | 9 |
| Going for a walk | 9 |
| Doing healthy stuff | 7 |
| Meeting friends | 7 |
| Passing through | 4 |
| Taking a shortcut | 4 |
| Drawing | 2 |
| Learning new stuff | 2 |
| Running around and having fun | 2 |
| Flying kites | 1 |
| Hiking | 1 |
| Reading a book | 1 |
| Singing | 1 |

The most popular activity that the children selected was 'playing' with 15 out of the group of 30 selecting this activity. The next most popular was 'eating and drinking' (14 selected this one). This was closely followed by 'dog walking' and 'riding a bike', both selected by 13 children. Other popular activities were 'sports and games', 'going to an event', 'relaxing and thinking' and 'skateboarding or rollerblading'.

Activity 7b: Activity Spotter (Loreto College)

This activity involved asking the children to look at some posters and choose how they use or would use Victoria Park. They were asked to select up to five activities. The results in the following table have been ordered from the most popular at the top through to the least popular activities.

| Activity | Number of Participants |
|---|------------------------|
| Sports / games | 16 |
| Taking a shortcut | 14 |
| Dog walking | 13 |
| Going to an event | 11 |
| Meeting friends | 10 |
| Passing through | 9 |
| Riding a bike | 8 |
| Playing | 8 |
| Going for a walk | 8 |
| Enjoying nature | 8 |
| Eating and drinking | 6 |
| Doing healthy stuff | 4 |
| Relaxing and thinking | 3 |
| Drive through | 2 |
| Skateboarding or rollerblading | 1 |
| Learning new stuff | 1 |
| Fishing | 1 |
| Dog school | 1 |
| Climbing the trees and lying on the grass | 1 |

The most popular activity that the children selected was 'sports and games' with 16 out of the group of 25 selecting this activity. The next most popular was 'taking a shortcut' (14 selected this one). This was closely followed by 'dog walking', selected by 13 children. Other popular activities were 'going to an event', 'meeting friends' and 'passing through'.

Activity 8a: Describe It (Urquhart Park Primary School)

In this activity the children were asked for their thoughts on how well Victoria Park is cared for and what could be improved. The results are in order from the most frequently mentioned to the least.

| I think Victoria Park is/has: | No. of responses | | I think Victoria Park is/has: | No. of responses |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------|
| It can be muddy | 24 | | It is dusty | 8 |
| It is dirty | 21 | | Things are broken | 7 |
| The park is old | 19 | | It looks run down | 7 |
| The park feels fresh | 18 | | The park is smelly | 7 |
| It has quality materials | 12 | | The park is tidy | 6 |
| Litterbins are present in the park | 9 | | It has good lighting | 5 |
| The park feels secure | 9 | | Has good signage | 5 |
| It is clean | 9 | | Not enough litterbins | 1 |

Activity 8b: Describe It (Loreto College)

In this activity the children were asked for their thoughts on how well Victoria Park is cared for and what could be improved. The results are in order from the most frequently mentioned to the least.

| I think Victoria Park is/has: | No. of responses | | I think Victoria Park is/has: | No. of responses |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--|---------------------------------|------------------|
| The park is old | 22 | | Not enough litterbins | 8 |
| It is dirty | 18 | | It is dusty | 7 |
| It can be muddy | 17 | | It has quality materials | 7 |
| The park is tidy | 16 | | Needs more signage | 5 |
| The park feels fresh | 13 | | It has good lighting | 5 |
| Litterbins are present in the park | 12 | | Has good signage | 2 |
| It looks run down | 12 | | There is not enough lighting | 2 |
| The park is smelly | 11 | | I don't feel secure in the park | 1 |
| The park feels secure | 11 | | Needs flowers | 1 |
| It is clean | 11 | | It is not clean | 1 |
| Things are broken | 8 | | Need to check tree branches | 1 |

Activity9: Who Am I? (Loreto College)

In this activity the students were asked to select from cards which contained a variety of people and age groups and talk about how these people would use Victoria Park and the problems they might have. The following table summarises the comments that were made by the children during this activity.

| |
|---|
| Teenage 'gang' |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking • Good meeting |
| Elderly person |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking/hard to walk • Safe sometimes • Not good paths for walking frames • Seating around tracks |
| Mother with child |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking • Good for getting outdoors • Need a change room |
| Lady walking dog |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog obedience • Walk • Meeting friends • Exercise • More paths • Dog playground • Place to take it off the lead • Bags for dog poo |
| A cleaner |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good job • Too many leaves • Barbecue areas clean • Could clean up the grass • A lot to do • Need a buggy to travel on • Flowers more welcoming |
| Toddler |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good playground • Dangerous at night • Happy play on playground • Too cold and windy • Very quiet • More shelter to be protected from wind |
| Grandpa/Father and son |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy moments • Walking • Tourist |
| Older people talking |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk at tables • Have a café for coffee • Picnic • Not safe at night • Had chairs and tables • Playgrounds |

Activity 10 – Imagine (Urquhart Park Primary School)

This activity involved asking the children to consider Victoria Park in different weather conditions, seasons throughout the year and at different times of day and night. The following table summarises reactions and comments to these various conditions in Victoria Park.

| Weather/Season/Time of Day | Reactions / Activities suited to the conditions / Comments | |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Sunny and hot | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic Buy and ice-cream Put your feet in the dam Fishing Sit back and relax under a tree Swim in the dam x2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play soccer and footy x2 Sing somewhere Draw a picture Play in the playground Relax at the pond Feed the ducks |
| Daytime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play in the playground x2 Walk x2 Play sport Have a BBQ Take in the scenery Take the dog x2 Make posters out of leaves Play tennis – ‘free’ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have fun Sit in the shade Relax under a tree Read or draw Run Ride a bike Picnic |
| Windy and overcast | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly a kite x2 Ride a bike Walk Be active and get warm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wouldn’t go Jump in puddles Hot drink and huddle up |
| With friends | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ride Skate Have a BBQ Play in the trees Sit on the playground and talk x3 Kick a footy Draw pictures of friends x2 Fish | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throw a Frisbee Play sports x2 Badminton Run around Play leapfrog Eat Swim Bike jumps |
| Heavy rain | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sit under a shelter Kick a ball in the rain Skid in the mud in old clothes Run around | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk around Have an umbrella Wouldn’t go |
| Foggy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk or ride Play hide and seek/spotlight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take photos Sit with boyfriend |
| On my own | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wouldn’t go on my own Run Quiet time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoy scenery Read a book Take dog for a walk |
| Night time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at the stars / lay on the grass x2 Go fishing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a BBQ Eat fish and chips Watch an outdoor movie |
| Ice and snow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a snowman x2 Snowball fight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make snow angels Wouldn’t go |

Activity 11a: Good space/Bad space (Urquhart Park Primary School)

Having considered many questions about Victoria Park and reviewed photographs of the park and other places, this activity involved children considering what they feel a good space and a bad space would be like. The following summarises their thoughts about the features that make spaces good and bad:

| |
|--|
| A good space is: |
| Clean, safe, short grass, more toilets, a few more playgrounds |
| Tidy, clean, fun |
| Clean, dry short grass, cut trees, playgrounds |
| More paths going into the space |
| Playground, undercover area, lake, running tracks, clean |
| Nice and clean with no rubbish |
| Clean, has toilets, activities, a way past wet grass, no ditches, more playgrounds, easy to get around |
| Has shelter, playgrounds, tracks, more equipment, has signs |
| A place with a bit of trees, shade, seats and nature |
| Enough shade and sun |
| Activities, more ovals and fun stuff |
| Having somewhere to run and have fun x2 |
| Somewhere there's something to play on or use where there's shade |
| Playgrounds, places to run, ovals |
| A place to run and shade to cool down |
| Open, safe and fenced place that has nice green grass |
| Nice green grass, trees, walking tracks, playgrounds, dams, birds, slides, spiny things |
| Playgrounds (swings) football and soccer goals |
| Nice and green, full of nature, seats and birds |
| Somewhere clean, full of nature, not much danger, and a place not trying to be modern |
| Where there is a little shade area, bins, small oval and picnic tables |
| Lots of green healthy grass and heaps of nature |
| Clean, short grass, seats under shade and easy to get to |
| A safe place |
| Lots of trees and cut grass for kids to play on |
| More playgrounds for children to play on, lots more BBQ areas, fence around the ducks |
| A lake with a family of ducks and wildlife |
| Somewhere that has lots of trees and animals, short grass and pathways |

| |
|---|
| A bad space is: |
| Long grass, not enough nature |
| A messy space, rocky paths, dangerous x2 |
| Messy, really long grass, hard to reach |
| Somewhere that hasn't been kept in good condition |
| Long grass and weeds with dog poo and stuff like that |
| Rocky paths, long grass and no trees |
| Ugly, dry, not pleasant, uninviting, dirty |
| Sticks, glass, rocks |
| Plain and boring |
| Rubbish, dead grass, dead trees, dog poo |
| Rubbish everywhere and dry grass |
| Rubbish, muddy, run down, bits of old metal, cracked asphalt, ditches |
| Glass, rubbish and anything dangerous lying around |
| Broken glass and rubbish |

| |
|--|
| Crowded and not enough shade |
| Falling in holes and stepping in dog poo |
| Trees that can fall down and broken branches on the ground |
| No shade, nowhere to run, no bins, no toilets, no playgrounds |
| Broken glass, no shade and nothing to do |
| A small space with ditches and rocks |
| Dirty with long grass |
| Overgrown trees, no playground, wet and long grass, dirty |
| Long grass, dog poo, chewy on tables, ditches, sticks and logs everywhere, dry spots/muddy spots |
| Too many playgrounds, too much litter, too many holes |
| Dirty surroundings, gum on tables, rubbish |
| No toilets, wild animals, bad maps, hard rocks and long grass |
| Messy, too many ditches |
| Messy, ditches, not easy to get around |
| Wet grass |
| Messy, fire, dog poo, no playground |

Activity 11b: Good space/Bad space (Loreto College)

Having considered many questions about Victoria Park and reviewed photographs of the park and other places, this activity involved students considering what they feel a good space and a bad space would be like. The following summarises their thoughts about the features that make spaces good and bad:

| |
|---|
| A good space is: |
| Shade, pretty, use of the space, trees |
| Shade, light, green grass, flowers, trees, safety x2 |
| The playground is really good and fun to be on, good oval |
| Grass, really tall trees and nature everywhere |
| Good oval |
| Somewhere you feel safe |
| Open environment, clean, lots of plants |
| Oval, grass free playground, fun to play activities |
| Somewhere you can go in any weather, day or night, with other people or by yourself |
| Fishing |
| Water for a nice view, lots of shade in summer |
| Have fun, laugh, clean and pretty |
| Lovely green grass and a café |
| Playground because little kids have fun and people have BBQs, has lots of colour |
| Take your dog and have fun with your dog |
| Walk through, relax, calm |
| No broken glass, no rubbish, no hard grass/ground |
| Clean oval to play on, playgrounds |
| Green and fresh |
| Big space with lots of trees |

One small group at Loreto College made general comments about photos of Victoria Park – positive observations were:

- Cut grass is good
- Playground bigger with more colour / Playground good space
- BBQ area good
- Pony Club is a good space

| |
|---|
| A bad space is: |
| No trees or shade, lots of rubbish |
| Yellow grass, old, dirty, dead trees and flowers |
| Old, dirty and a dangerous place |
| Not enough drinking taps for people and dogs |
| Vandalism, litter, weeds, feel unsafe, weirdoes, stalkers |
| Just dirt with no grass or shade, rubbish everywhere, no use of space |
| Old playground |
| Mud everywhere |
| Somewhere you feel scared |
| Can't get warm in winter and can't see at night |
| Sports facilities are terrible, no chairs or benches |
| No shade, no trees, no water, no fun activities |
| Toilets are gross and have drawings in them, broken glass |
| Disabled people can't get in |
| Dark and you can't see |
| Lots of dangerous things and places where you can fall |
| Dark at night |

One small group at Loreto College made general comments about photos of Victoria Park – negative observations were:

- No lights
- Lake weed – yuck!
- More signs, make it look nice / More signage for Pony Club (make it stand out)
- Not enough bins
- Pony Club looks like a jail space
- Flowers at entry
- Roads need lights
- Dog Club – dead grass
- Dog Club – needs a car park
- Dog Club is ugly – run down
- Don't like gravel
- Pine tree area



Activity 12a: Draw a Vision in groups (Urquhart Park Primary School)

In this activity the children were shown the results of the voting on the eight key Spaceshaper questions, and were asked to work in groups with a map of Victoria Park to list any ideas on how the park could be improved. The following table summarises the improvements that were suggested during this activity:

| | |
|---|--|
| Less footy ovals and cricket | More drainage |
| More soccer ovals x2 | More lighting x4 |
| Open equestrian area | More trees/plants/flowers x9 |
| Flying fox x16 / More activity play areas | More playgrounds x14 |
| Graffiti wall x4 | More buildings x2 |
| Better entrance x2 | More toilets x21 |
| More dams/lakes x6 | More things to do |
| Farm attraction x3 | More road surface/Speed restriction signs x3 |
| More/better/smoothier walking tracks/paths x18 | Fireplace |
| More bubble taps x7 | Look better |
| Lines in the middle of the paths | Trams x5 |
| Ice cream / donut trailer/van x3 | More shelters x13 |
| Security guards x3 | Green grass |
| Doggy doo doo bags and bins x9 / Dog show area | Food and drinks |
| All grass cut to same length to look neat x9 | Market area x2 |
| More things not involving modernising | Security cameras x8 |
| More interactive activities | Tennis court (free) x2 |
| A small stage for dances or concerts | Dog play area x7 / Dog obedience school |
| Move acorns away from the footpath | Gazebo |
| Café/milk bar/kiosk x9 | More seats x3 |
| More accessible areas into and around the park x3 | More fences x4 |
| Sports equipment at the kiosk | Less fences |
| Quiet areas | A big space for kites |
| Fundraisers | More sponsors for sporting clubs |
| Pool x3 | More/bigger signs/maps x12 |
| Basketball court x2 | More/bigger bins x11 |
| Better cricket nets | Skate park x2 |
| Better foods | Lay down chairs |
| A football oval x2 | Book hire x2 |
| Less trees | Kite hire |
| Tree house x3 | Little kids playground |
| Get rid of potholes/ditches x3 / Fix the gravel | Bigger playground / Giant slide |
| Look like a rainforest/forest areas x3 | Disability swing |
| Space for nature/wildlife x2 / Protect birds | Swan and duck feeding |
| Bike paths x2 | Tennis court |
| Bike racks / BMX track x5 | Netball court |
| Arrow/information signs x2 | More picnic areas x5 |
| Running track | More BBQs x8 |
| Extra bus stops x2 | Make a roundabout in the park |
| Car parks x2 | More community events x3 |
| Exercise equipment | Day camp for schools / Camping ground |
| Paintball x3 | Bridges x5 |
| Foam pit x2 | Tour discovery area x2 |
| Underground play track/tunnels x3 / Huge trampolines x2 | Bird observation tower |
| Pavilions | Drive-in theatre |
| More swings | Lollypop ladies x2 |

Activity 12b: Draw a Vision in groups (Loreto College)

In this activity the children were shown the results of the voting on the eight key Spaceshaper questions, and were asked to work in groups with a map of Victoria Park to list any ideas on how the park could be improved. The following table summarises the improvements that were suggested during this activity:

| | |
|--|---|
| More tracks for disabled/elderly people and parents with prams/kids with penny boards and ripsticks x9 | More bins for pathways, playgrounds, BBQs, oval and other important areas x14 |
| Make it like Central Park NY or Hyde Park London with roller coasters – a theme park! x4 | Playground like Adventure Playground at Wendouree Lake |
| Open space for kids and dogs to run around (fenced off and separated) | Café/canteen near playground – kids get hungry and thirsty! x19 |
| Advertising - available activities need to be more noticeable i.e. pony club, dog obedience, cycling club x3 | Circle work where you have games around the oval |
| Bright colours for signs – maybe glow in the dark green x2 | Lighting for night time x14 |
| Not a lot to do (x5) | More lights near BBQ area x2 |
| Netball court x10 | Some areas need more light x2 |
| Basketball court x9 | Not safe at night time |
| Tennis court x5 | Not very clean x2 |
| Make courts gravel | Not well designed |
| Lots of flowers and plants x11 | Not a really nice place to be |
| Indoor swimming pool x4 | Well looked after |
| Shading over playground x4 | Information centre x2 |
| More undercover/enclosed areas x16 | Better/more sports equipment/facilities x4 |
| Open fireplace | Bus shelter outside park x2 |
| More BBQs x6 | A running track x3 |
| Big kid playground – 13 years and up x4 | Doggie bags x7 |
| More/better signs/maps x14 | A cleaner (hired) x2 |
| Possum boxes x2 | More trees in open spaces x3 |
| Bird boxes/feeders x3 | Exercise equipment |
| Painted colourful benches | Less trees |
| Outdoor eating area | Less cricket pitches x2 |
| More/better/bigger playgrounds x7 | Better cricket/soccer pitches |
| Butterfly enclosure | Too many grassed areas |
| Skate park | Markets/festivals/carnivals x6 |
| More tables and chairs x4 | A big, big river/lake for kayaking |
| Better clubrooms/change rooms x2 | Fenced-in dog run/area x2 |
| Smoother/concrete paths x3 | Native grassland |
| Less graffiti/vandalism x6 | Clean the lakes |
| Flying fox | Greener grass x2 |
| Drive-in cinema x3 | Cut grass x2 |
| More/cleaner toilets x7 | Water fountains |
| Nice water/drinking/bubble taps x7 | A supermarket |
| Gymnastics room (like the YMCA) | Horse riding trails |
| More facilities for animals | More facilities for horses |
| A waterslide/waterpark x2 | New velodrome |
| Ice-cream van x2 | |

Activity 12c: Draw a Vision (Loreto College)

The Year 9 girls who volunteered as leaders for the Year 7, 9-14 workshop contributed the following observations and ideas to improve Victoria Park.

Victoria Park is valued for:

- *Sport*
- *School activities*
- *Family activities*
- *Being part of community “part of us”*

Challenges:

- *Disrespected*
- *Not cared for*
- *Older people care more than younger people (more time) (less activity there)*
- *Lake Wendouree better respected, more used, more play and cafés*

Ideas for improvement:

- More bins
- Water taps
- Improve roads
- Improve playgrounds
- More/clean toilets
- Lighting – solar
- More eating space
- More shelter
- Windbreaks
- Indoor BBQ area
- Signs for directions within park
- Fitness track – stations for fitness area



Activity 13a: Wish you were here (Urquhart Park Primary School)

For this activity the children were asked to write a postcard to a friend who has not been to Victoria Park inviting them to visit. They were asked to write about what they thought of the park and what they could do together.

| |
|--|
| "Dear Michael, you should come to Victoria Park because we could run through the long grass. We could walk our dogs around and play some cricket. You might want to watch out for the tracks though." |
| "To Brent, you should come to Vic Park with me so we can play soccer or cricket. P.S. Watch out for POO!" |
| "Dear Nana Cooper, you should go to Victoria Park because we could have family fun days to raise for cancer. P.S. Careful of dog poo when you're walking in long grass. Saige Taylor." |
| "Dear Jude, did you or have you ever played sport there. You should come and play football and go fishing. Vic Park is a good place. Nick." |
| "To Steve Moner, I hope you could come to Vic Park and run with me and hopefully we don't stand in dog poo! And I'll race you. I'll win. Sakye." |
| "Dear Shania, I hope you can come with me to Vic Park to have fun with me. What is your fav thing about Vic Park? From Jaz." |
| "Dear Dad, have you ever been to Vic Park? Well, if you haven't, I would love you to come. It is very exciting, here are some reasons. A) You can do some walking B) Cool playgrounds C) Watch ducks swim. P.S. Watch out for dog poo. Love Shania." |
| "Dear Jordie, Next time you're in Ballarat a must go place is the Victoria Park! We can go for a bike ride or go bike-skating. Sincerely Carly. P.S. It rocks!" |
| "Dear Dad, come to Vic Park so we can sketch nature and fly our kites and ride our bikes and play on the playground." |
| "I don't like Vic Park, it sucks." |
| "Dear O'Keefe family (also John and his kids), I would like to hang out with you. I would also like you to come to Vic Park with us. From Kyle." |
| "Dear Papa, when you come up to Vic Park, because it is a great place to walk and talk, we could also take the dog. And there is a great playground and a picnic. From Kate." |
| "Dear Hilltop Hoods, I think you should come to Vic Park in October (when it is warm) and do a live concert!!" |
| "Dear Mum, I would like to go to Victoria Park when the weather gets better to play cricket or on the playground. From Jack." |
| "Dear Your Majesty, you should come to Vic Park to play with your dogs." |
| "Dear Caitlyn, next time you come to Ballarat I will have to take you to Vic Park, it's great. I think it needs a tennis court or something else. See you soon. From Grace." |
| "To Brookside Laboratories, you should come to Victoria Park to do some soil tests. Maybe you could improve the soil. From Karissa." |
| "Dear Bring Me The Horizon, you should come to Vic Park and see how nice it is. It is very colourful. From Josh McIntosh 6M." |
| "Dear One Direction, you should come to Vic Park and have a picnic with all your fans. You will like it because it has birds and we can hang. It is in Ballarat. From your fan, Caitlyn. P.S. I love you." |
| "Dear Mum, today we learnt about nature and we saw a rabbit. We went on the playground and had fun. I will love to have a BBQ there and see the nature. It will be great to have a BBQ and go fishing there so we can get fish. It will be cool. Nykkita." |

| |
|---|
| "Dear Mum, today we learnt about Vic Park, so I was wondering if we could go, because we can go on the playgrounds and climb trees, have a picnic or do something else. It will be fun! From Aleisha." |
| "To Dad, we need to go ride our bike soon. We need to go fishing and play football. BBQ too." |
| "Dear Mum, today our class has been exploring Victoria Park. I have noticed its better than I thought. Maybe when it's warm, we should go and have a play, kick the footy and maybe have a BBQ with the family! Love from Georgia xx ☺" |
| "Dear Grandma and Grandpa, this weekend I would like to go to Vic Park so I can climb trees, go fishing, relax, read a book, have a BBQ or even take the dogs. Yours sincerely, Alysha." |
| "To Jake, I would love for you to come to Vic Park so we could catch lizards, ride the bike and play on the playgrounds." |
| "Dear Bianca, see, I think we should go to Victoria Park and find a private part of it and sing and relax. Anyway, bye-bye. From Tara! ☺" |
| "Hey Janie, you should really come to Vic Park! You can play, walk or relax! But just be careful about dog poo, long grass and holes in the ground. And don't go in the night because you might trip! But anyway, I hope we will go there soon! From Ella." |
| "Dear Maddie, next time you come to Ballarat we need to go to Vic Park because we can take my dog, play on the playground and ride our scooters and ripsticks and fly kites. It will be awesome. I love Vic Park." |
| "Dear Caterina, you should come down to Ballarat and draw the pond and explore, while looking at all the trees and imagine what animals live there. See you soon." |

Activity 13b: Wish you were here (Loreto College)

For this activity the children were asked to write a postcard to a friend who has not been to Victoria Park inviting them to visit. They were asked to write about what they thought of the park and what they could do together.

| |
|--|
| "Dear Daisy, don't go to Victoria Park at night because it could be very scary! I have heard a lot of bad stories about that place!!!" |
| "To Gemma, if you come to this park you may need to bring a pair of gumboots or spare socks because it is very muddy. But it is still a good place to play and have a good time." |
| "Dear Ellen, can you come to Vic Park with me so we can hang around there and maybe have lunch there. And maybe you could walk your dog too!!! From Clare" |
| "Dear Ally and Lewis, Victoria Park is a great place for you two to play around and swim in ponds. There are lots of wide open spaces and we should go there even more often! Lots of love, Sienna" |
| "Dear Jim, we could go to Vic Park and play on the playground, have a BBQ, go for a walk, go fishing and go down that massive hill on our bikes. We could play soccer together and have a family gathering. But not in winter because it's too cold and wet. Love Olivia" |
| "To Hannah, I think we should go to Vic Park to meet up or go to the park at 4:00 after school in the daylight because it's not safe at night." |
| "Dear Hollie, can you please come to Vic Park with me! We can go for a walk around and then we can meet up with Shanae at the Pony Club! Hope to see you soon. Eliza!" |
| "Dear Santa, Thank you for Christmas. I went to Vic Park last week, it was great. I played on the swings and had a great time. I wouldn't come here without someone else though. I like Vic Park just the way it is except there could be more safety involved especially on the playground because I fell off. Love Hollie. P.S. Can I have an iPad?" |

| |
|--|
| "Dear Shanae, you should go to Vic Park. Vic Park is good but needs improving. It has lots of area to do lots of your fav stuff. P.S. See you at school. Love you lots (cous) Eme" |
| "Dear Brianna, when you come over to my place, mum said we can go to the Pony Club in Vic Park, so bring your horse. It has great horse facilities. Can't wait. From Shanae" |
| "Dear Emily, Vic Park is really fun and loads of events are always held there. But it needs heaps more playgrounds with covers so when it rains the playgrounds don't get wet. And the BBQ area needs a BIG upgrade. But overall, Victoria Park is an amazing place and the citizens of Ballarat don't know what to do without it. Bye. Love Nala" |
| "Dear to Nancy, I recently visited Victoria Park in Ballarat. I noticed there were a lot of wonderful native trees but also uneven grounds and no lighting. I probably would have loved a café to grab something to eat and drink. I don't feel safe there during the night but overall it was okay. Chris" |
| "Dear Hala Ajang, Victoria Park is a good place for us to meet each other and we can go crazy because there is sooo much space. There is a local soccer team that have lots of pitches. There is dog obedience to teach your dog. The thing is, though, I wouldn't go there at nights as the ground is unsafe and very dark. See you ☺" |
| "Dear Derik, if we went to Vic Park together we would get quite bored very quickly because there is not much to do. No café whatsoever and when its night we would lose each other because there is no lights. Also they need to put in a good running track. Actually if they just made Vic Park exactly like Hyde Park in London it would be AMAZING! From Lucy" |
| "Dear Dad, if I were to go to Victoria Park with you I would take a ball and go to an oval and have a kick around with you! I would also bring a picnic, lie down and watch the clouds with you while eating. From Alex" |
| "Dear Charlie, I would like to go to Vic Park because there is a playground and a BBQ. It would also be a good place to come together and relax. From Eliza" |
| "Dear Brittany, did you have fun today? I did. I will go there again because it's relaxing and I LOVE climbing trees, but I wish there was a big kid playground. Daisyboo out. PEACE!. Tee hee. ILY" |
| "Dear Louis, hi, come to Vic Park to watch me play soccer, but the facilities aren't really good and has no chairs so bring some. To be honest I think they need to upgrade the sport facilities, not very good. Love from Me" |
| "Dear Molly, I would rid my penny board with you around Vic Park and eat fish and chips, Saturday? From your bestie ☺" |
| "Dear Jing and Zoe, <u>PLEASE</u> come to the park because... my favourite place is in the forest looking part! And we could play games on the oval and maybe ride bikes together! ☺ or even play on the playground! I think it's the best place to catch up! From your buddy Annie" |
| "To Zoe, I think you should go to Victoria Park to play sports and games. It is easy to go to and you can take shortcuts through it. There are lots of events going on there. You can also walk your dog ☺" |
| "Dear Briely, if we go to the park bring a blanket because the grass hurts and is wet because there is no shelters. Also bring containers because there is not a lot of bins. Kks ILY xx" |
| "To Annie, you should come to Victoria Park and play sport games with me or go for a walk and eat. I would go to the park because it's spaced out and fun to play games in." |
| "Dear Rachael, I think we should go to Victoria Park today! To go for a run and walk and have lunch and maybe go on the playground and run our dogs. From Samara!" |
| "Dear Dad, I think we should go to Vic Park because it is a relaxing place and it is just so nice to walk through and we can run around it too. By Hannah" |

Activity 14a: Important/Not so important (Urquhart Park Primary School)

A small number of improvements that were discussed in previous activities were raised for the children to consider. This activity asked them to vote on what they thought was important for Victoria Park.

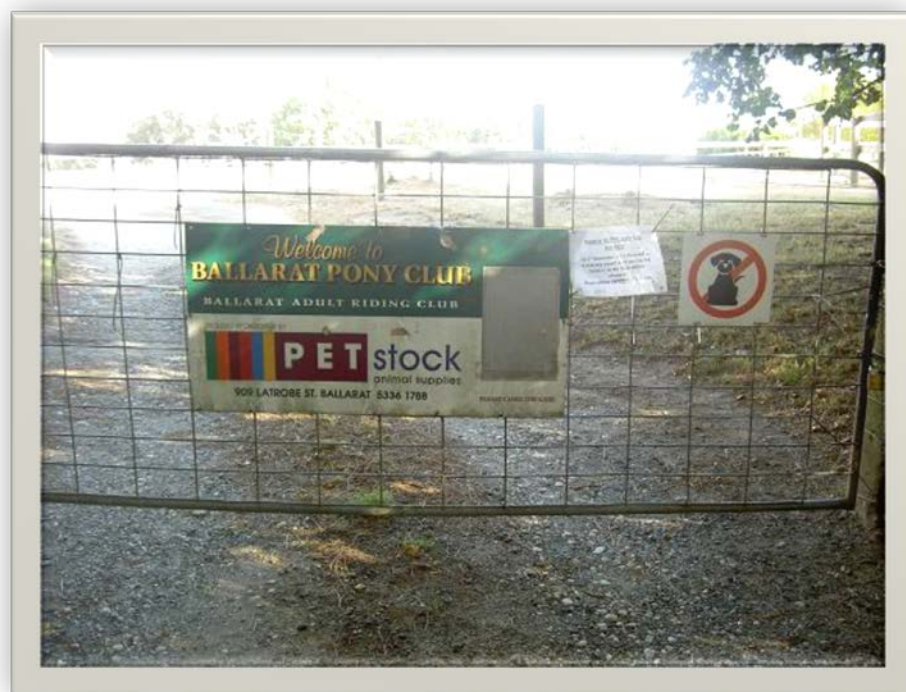
| Ideas | Very Important | Not so Important |
|--|----------------|------------------|
| Open space | 28 | 2 |
| Dog facilities/areas | 28 | 2 |
| More bins | 28 | 2 |
| Lights | 27 | 3 |
| More/better paths | 27 | 3 |
| Picnic/BBQ facilities/drinking fountains | 27 | 3 |
| Security (cameras/patrols) | 27 | 3 |
| Toilets | 26 | 4 |
| Signs/maps | 26 | 4 |
| Events | 25 | 5 |
| Sheltered areas | 23 | 7 |
| Public art | 20 | 10 |
| Seats | 20 | 10 |
| Restrict cars/speed of cars | 20 | 10 |
| Play areas – better | 19 | 11 |
| More sports facilities | 19 | 11 |
| Café/food and drink | 17 | 13 |
| Buildings | 8 | 22 |




Activity 14b: Important/Not so important (Loreto College)


A small number of improvements that were discussed in previous activities were raised for the children to consider. This activity asked them to vote on what they thought was important for Victoria Park.


| Ideas | Very Important | Not so Important |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Play areas | 26 | 0 |
| Sheltered areas | 26 | 0 |
| Lighting | 26 | 0 |
| More flowers/trees | 26 | 0 |
| More bins | 25 | 1 |
| More for dogs | 25 | 1 |
| More sporting areas | 25 | 1 |
| Café | 24 | 2 |
| More paths | 17 | 7 |
| More signs/promotion | 17 | 7 |





Activity 15: Review of Photos: Good or Bad because...**Results of Activity conducted across all workshops - Part 1: Victoria Park Photos**


| | |
|---|--|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and tidy • Good space – wide open • Cut grass • Shady – large trees • Safe <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pile of grass <p>Unsure because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry grass • Another path |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nice – but difficult to see due to shadow |


| | |
|---|--|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looks good • Clean • Trees • Natural • Shady <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carved in • Path – no grass |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone welcome – gate to keep horses in safely <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep park open to all the public • No more areas for single group use • The emphasis should be on people, not cars |


| | |
|---|---|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nice trees • Shady and attractive • Open, fences, landscape • Clean • Looks good <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter in space |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pretty park |


| | |
|--|---|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shade <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark • No grass • Looks scary • Might be muddy with no grass • Rough underneath – tree roots • No seats |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shady <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock |

| | |
|---|--|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nice space • Play area • Seating • Open • Paths • Fences |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a better option than the treated pine? |

| | |
|--|---|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play area • Nice path <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dull, needs trees • Path poor • Need bigger play area • Dead trees • Dry grass • Logs • Access poor |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In over two years of daily visits, I have only seen a handful of children try and figure out how to use these things! |

| | |
|---|---|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | Bad because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead grass • Dry, high grass • Long grass – snakes and spiders • Needs to be used |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | Good because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural look encourages peacefulness • Not all areas need to be mowed regularly Bad because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The uncut areas can come closer to the road |

| | |
|---|---|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | Bad because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not inviting • Not green • Wasted space • Not much in the space • Dry • No paths • No trees/shade • Nothing |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | Good because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very good native grassland, just needs good management (burning periodically, not mowing) Bad because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much space – no personality • Looks ordinary • Could be anywhere |


| | |
|---|--|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gates are good for events and signage • Looks good • Safe • Traffic central • Map • Big <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More and clearer information needed on signs • Needs more in the middle • Poor concrete • Paths |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |

Good because:

- Fits in well
- Can close park to traffic for events
- Compatible uses/access
- Signage is very nice
- Great signage!

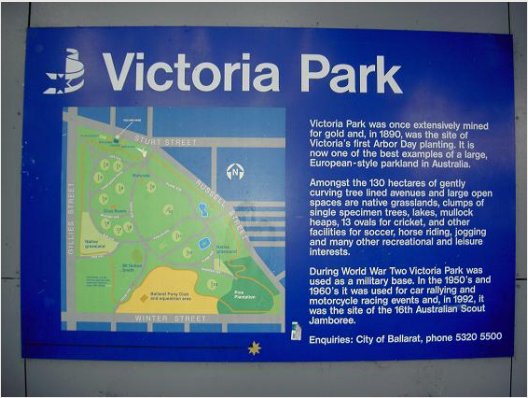
Bad because:


- Concrete base imposing


| | |
|---|--|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nice entry sign • Name is good • Good entrance <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign should be bigger and bolder • Needs lights • Could be more inviting |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |

Bad because:


- A weak 'gateway'
- There are so many entrances to Vic Park, hard to choose 'one' to sign


| | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No key – could not understand the map |

| | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
|--|--|
|  | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good design Clean <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toilets not clean Have no locks |
| Senior Spaceshaper | |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looks neat <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only toilet block in the area Need more toilets |

| | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dull, needs more colours Needs to be bigger More swings Metal and plastic get hot |
| Senior Spaceshaper | |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nice play area <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play area too cluttered Edges around playground may need levelling |

| | |
|---|---|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubrooms are good • Clean and open <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need specific parking spaces • Controlled parking |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ugly • Unattractive • Tired looking • Outdated • Undefined car parks – spread • Need trees throughout • Keep building to a minimum • Perhaps user groups could use temporary shelter – keep it simple • Only one sports pavilion for the park • Need to upgrade/redevelop – higher demand due to population growth |


| | |
|---|--|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like bird habitat type trees |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great outlook to the park • Great grassed area • Great – but may need interpretive signs • Great – but need a separate path for riders and walkers |


| | |
|---|--|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More spaces like this – good for family <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need wind shelter and bins near BBQ |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |


- Good because:
- Good, clean picnic space
 - Shelters to be aesthetically pleasing, but low key
- Bad because:
- More facilities needed in different areas of the park
 - Needs an upgrade
 - Need coffee/sandwich facility in Sturt Street


| | |
|--|--|
|  | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smells really bad! • Move this stuff away • A side road to provide a buffer between Gillies Street and the park • I don't feel invited/welcome into the park • Need access from Leopold Street • No waste/re-use dump in park |


| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to develop this area as native grassland and woodland with indigenous vegetation and wetlands • Need a dissecting 'off-road' path to shorten the distance to approximately half the length! |
|---|--|


| | |
|--|---|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This south-west corner should be developed – why not some gums and wetlands? |
|--|---|

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|---|--|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyesore and poor use • Dump is on top of native grassland – all must go including the large gravel pad |
|---|--|


| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As long as you keep the perimeter neat and tidy |
|---|---|


| | |
|--|--|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone and everyone most welcome – we need a gate – access along Winter Street <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access elsewhere Closed off Not accessible to public – not to be a precedent Ugly gate and signs – Vic Park should not be involved in advertising Inappropriate way to stop people entering |
|--|--|

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lovely avenue Trees great – road verges must be safe Keep the designed aspects of plantings – no random scatterings of trees <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road verges distract from avenue Formed road edges would improve look |
|---|---|


| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of lighting in park • Need more lights for winter sports |
|---|---|


| | |
|--|--|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop the through roads • Barren – hard surface • Traffic needs to be controlled |
|--|--|


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|---|---|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop through traffic • The barriers prevent others using the park |
|---|---|


| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unattractive parking area and site • Improve facilities • Upgrade and enlarge facilities |
|---|---|


| | |
|--|---|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good wandering path |
|--|---|


| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very nice <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are the native trees? |
|---|---|


| | Senior Spaceshaper |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the purpose of the random blocks? |

| | Senior Spaceshaper |
|--|--|
|  | <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign could have more flair More signs to inform users |

| | Senior Spaceshaper |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bin spoils the vista Wide dirt roads are unattractive Rubbish bin as focal point is not doing the park justice If bins continue to be provided then recycling bins are a must |

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unstructured access • More ponds – include some for designated activities e.g. model boats, kids fishing • Need to address undefined parking areas • Poor maintenance or use of space |
|---|---|


| | |
|--|--|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another spot for a pond? – water birds, fish, yabbies, people • Allow to grow into natural grassland and burn occasionally |
|--|--|


| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous intersection – roundabout or close through access • Should close through traffic – how busy will this be in 5-10 years with population growth |
|---|---|


| | |
|--|---|
|  | Senior Spaceshaper Bad because: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eyesore!! |
|  | Senior Spaceshaper Bad because: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poor signage in park• Not enough signage in the park• Better signage required |


Part 2: Photo examples of public spaces in other areas (Local and International)


For this activity, participants in all workshops were asked to write down their reactions, comments and thoughts about these images of examples of other spaces.


| | |
|---|--|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | Good because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's green |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | Good because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How good does it get |

| | |
|--|---|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | Good because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees Activity Bad because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport takes over open space to the detriment of the homes behind |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | Good because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There would probably be a strong sense of community ownership to this park |


| | |
|---|--|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | Good because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball Activity Bad because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No natural stuff It looks like a school |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | Good because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern looking facility - <u>good</u> |


| | |
|---|--|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People socialise <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great idea = compost – community garden <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hate it |


| | |
|--|---|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shade |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nice tree canopy • Reminds me of a beautiful memorial garden in England <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautiful, but would need heaps of upkeep |


| | |
|---|---|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too rocky |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looks great • Peaceful place • A nice example of water sensitive urban design drainage |


| | |
|---|--|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | Bad because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not in Victoria Park |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good spaces for sculptures and natural arbors • A natural shade canopy • Install a variety of landscape treatments—create interest <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nice in a formal setting – not in an open park |


| | |
|--|--|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | Bad because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long grass |
| | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good look • Great • Yes, more seats in good spots • Create spaces to attract all age groups • Lovely park <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hate the buildings • Need slightly better paths e.g. around ponds to provide wheelchair access |

| | |
|---|---|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | Good because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looks good |
| | Senior Spaceshaper Good because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nice area • Multi use • Great activation of spaces • Nooks and crannies, vegetation, delineates spaces • Good sightlines • Great. Some areas (not sports fields) should be maintained to a high level also for general community e.g. around picnic areas |

| | |
|--|---|
|  | Spaceshaper 9-14 |
| | Bad because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No shade |
| | Senior Spaceshaper Good because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colourful playground • Good/great artificial play area Bad because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more natural play activities rather than commercial 'off the shelf' style • May not be suitable for Victoria Park |


| | |
|---|--|
|  | Senior Spaceshaper |
| | Bad because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No vegetation in the waterways – the water may not be clear |

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands attract people of all ages • Fantastic engagement • Need wetlands at the western 'Gillies Street' side • Wetland to attract birds and grogs would complement Victoria Park • More ponds and wetlands • Wetlands are great |
|---|---|

| | |
|--|--|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Park needs more wetlands e.g. velodrome water is available, flood retention is valuable |
|--|--|


| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great climber – friendly indestructible public art • Great children's play equipment • A really fun environment for kids of all ages – reminds me of Edward Scissorhands • Encourages free play – great • Great opportunity for large public art pieces/areas |
|---|---|

| | |
|---|---|
|  | Senior Spaceshaper Good because: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Better roads |
|---|---|

| | |
|--|---|
|  | Senior Spaceshaper Good because: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Just needs a tidy, not a manicure Bad because: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not maintained• Rubbish• Suckers not controlled |
|--|---|

| | |
|---|---|
|  | Senior Spaceshaper Good because: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very welcoming |
|---|---|

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The space needs trees or greenery of some sort |
|---|---|

| | |
|--|---|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good idea to encourage community gardens • Appreciating where food comes from – Victoria Park could contain the next 'CERES' • Yay to community gardens – also edible forests • Community gardens are very positive spaces • Vegie plots are very good – western Ballarat could have several • Space is available at west end of sale yards and on the Rail Reserve there • Not in a park – would have to be fenced <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hate it |
|--|---|

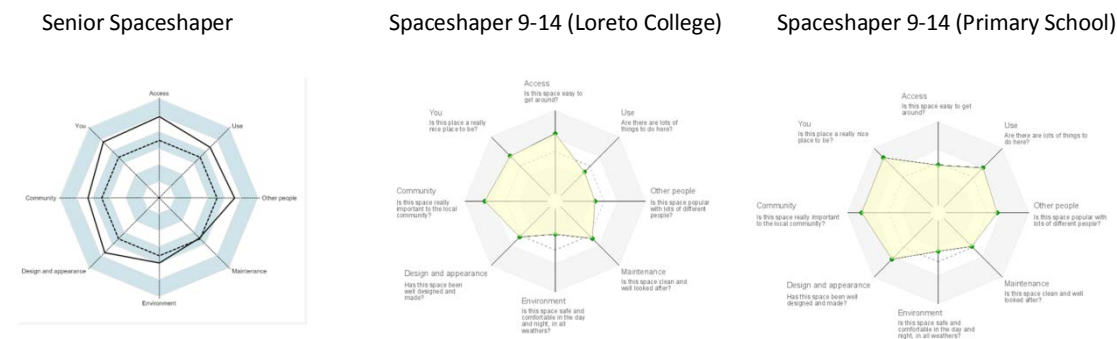
| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Senior Spaceshaper</p> <p>Good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Looks very inviting for children• An Adventure Playground would be awesome• Same design with living trees would be great• Small clusters of challenges to complement free play would be good <p>Bad because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not suitable for Victoria Park |
|---|--|



Key Outcomes

The consultation process revealed many views and ideas about the future potential of the Victoria Park.

While the overall results for each of the groups (senior Spaceshaper and Spaceshaper 9-14) differed, there were some common themes as indicated by the spider diagrams (below) that summarise the key responses to the eight themes that Spaceshaper is based on.



Generally Victoria Park is rated highly for its value to the community and to individuals and it is considered reasonably well designed and made. Young people are more critical of its environment and comfort at different times of day and year than adults and children find the park more difficult to access than teenagers and adults.

There are mixed views about the range of activities that Victoria Park offers and how valuable the park is for various people.

There is general agreement that maintenance is an issue in Victoria Park and improved maintenance may result in greater use from a community that highly values the spaces within the park.

Victoria Park is popular for a range of formal and casual recreation activities and most suggested improvements recognise the values of the park in its current layout. Minimal change to the design of the park is desired, with some improved infrastructure and management strategies to enhance the recreation experience for park users. Interpretive signage and installations that reflect the rich history of Victoria Park were suggested with a general consensus about preserving and improving trees and landscape throughout the park.

Overall these Spaceshaper sessions raised many comments and opinions about how Victoria Park could be improved so that it is a significant open space parkland for future generations to enjoy. The suggestions contained within this report will be combined with feedback gathered from surveys, interviews, workshops and submissions to develop a vision for the future of Victoria Park.