

Community Consultation Report

Aberfeldie Park

June 2024



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1 Summary

Aberfeldie Park, located alongside the Maribyrnong River, is a hub for diverse community activities. From sports clubs to avid runners, walkers, and even dog training enthusiasts, the park accommodates a range of interests. Its draw extends to those seeking moments of quiet contemplation in its tranquil corners, as well as to children and adults revelling in playful adventures.

The Aberfeldie Park Master Plan 2013 was prepared to ensure the appropriate and coordinated future development and management of Aberfeldie Park for the benefit of future generations. The Master Plan continues to be progressively implemented.

Throughout 2020 local riders created bike jumps in the park. These community-built jumps are well loved, but they were not planned. As they were not built with professional consultation they may not be safe. Additionally, the jumps are built on a flood-prone site that is proposed for a wetland. With these reasons in mind and following a Council resolution in 2021, Council has undertaken background investigations which identified Aberfeldie Park as a possible location for a mountain bike nature trail in Moonee Valley.

To understand community sentiment about the inclusion of bike facilities in Aberfeldie Park, Council ran a consultation from 6 May 2024 – 27 May 2024. Community members were able to contribute to the consultation through an online survey, email, phone calls, voice recordings (via a SpeakPipe tool embedded into the Your Say website), and by attending a pop-up event held at Aberfeldie Park on 19 May. Community members were asked to comment on four concept designs for mountain bike trails developed by Common Ground Trails. In addition to the questions relating to the inclusion of bike facilities, Council also asked if community supported the removal of the current, community-built bike jumps.

The consultation was promoted via a direct letterbox drop of an information flyer, a poster erected on site, social media and an email campaign through Council's Your Say website.

Any future decision will be made at a meeting of Councillors, after considering a wide variety of information including Council and Victorian Government reports, community consultation processes, Council policies and guiding principles (such as the MV2040 strategy).

2 Introduction

2.1 Key decisions and questions for engagement

The survey asked respondents the following key questions:

- To what extent do you oppose or support the addition of formal bike facilities in Aberfeldie Park?
- To what extent do you oppose or support the removal of the current bike jumps?
- To what extent do you oppose or support the new bike facilities to be constructed on the Northern Embankment?
- If you do not support the Northern Embankment where would you prefer the bike facilities to be located?
- What is most important for Council to understand about bikes in Aberfeldie Park?

Community members who supported the addition of formal bike facilities in Aberfeldie Park were then asked a series of questions about four concept designs that had been developed by Common Ground Trails, a mountain bike trail and pump track design organisation. Responses to these questions, specific to the trail, are included in section 4.1.5.

3 Methodology

3.1 Theming Framework

Respondents were provided with opportunities to respond using open text to some prompts in the survey. A sample of 100 these open text responses were used to develop a theming framework with themes determined as follows:

Open text comments theming
Current jumps should remain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests for the current jumps to remain
Safety Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety of bike riders, pedestrians, and dogs • Specific issues include fast bike speeds, interactions with walkers and dogs, and potential hazards created by the bike jumps and proposed track.
Healthy activity for children and families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes that the proposal would provide an activity for people to enjoy together.
Environmental Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about the environmental impact and degradation caused by formal bike facilities.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential loss of natural habitats
<p>Aesthetic impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of maintaining the park's natural beauty.
<p>Youth Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive aspects of bike jumps as a source of pride, community engagement, and a safe outlet for youth. • The importance of providing activities that keep youth active and engaged outdoors.
<p>Need for Professional Facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The necessity for professionally designed and built bike tracks to ensure safety and longevity. • Comparison to successful projects in other areas, advocating for well-maintained, high-standard facilities.
<p>Space Allocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate over the allocation of space in the park, balancing the needs of different user groups (bikers, dog walkers, pedestrians, sports teams). •
<p>Usage conflicts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific mention of congestion and potential conflicts between different park users.
<p>Conflicts with dogs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific comments about the potential for conflicts with dogs
<p>Maintenance and Upkeep:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of regular maintenance for bike trails to prevent deterioration and ensure safety. • Concerns about litter and upkeep, especially if facilities are not professionally managed.
<p>Accessibility for all ages, genders and abilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring facilities cater to all ages and skill levels, including both children and adults. • Calls for inclusivity in the design of bike tracks to cater to diverse biking interests and abilities.
<p>Concerns usage may be low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions that demand is not there to necessitate the tracks
<p>Community Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for broad community consultation before making decisions. • Importance of considering the voices of those who use the park regularly and those directly affected by any changes.

3.2 Participation

The table below provides information about consultation participation.

Consultation	Engagement Type	Participation
Your Say website	Page visits	1,877
	Unique visitors	1,574
	Project followers	14
Survey Responses	Online survey	585
	Hard-copy survey received by post ¹	18
	Hard-copy survey completed at pop-up event	33
Emails	Sent to the project team and Your Say email	18
Voice recording responses	Submitted via SpeakPipe tool on Your Say	2
Total respondents: 656		

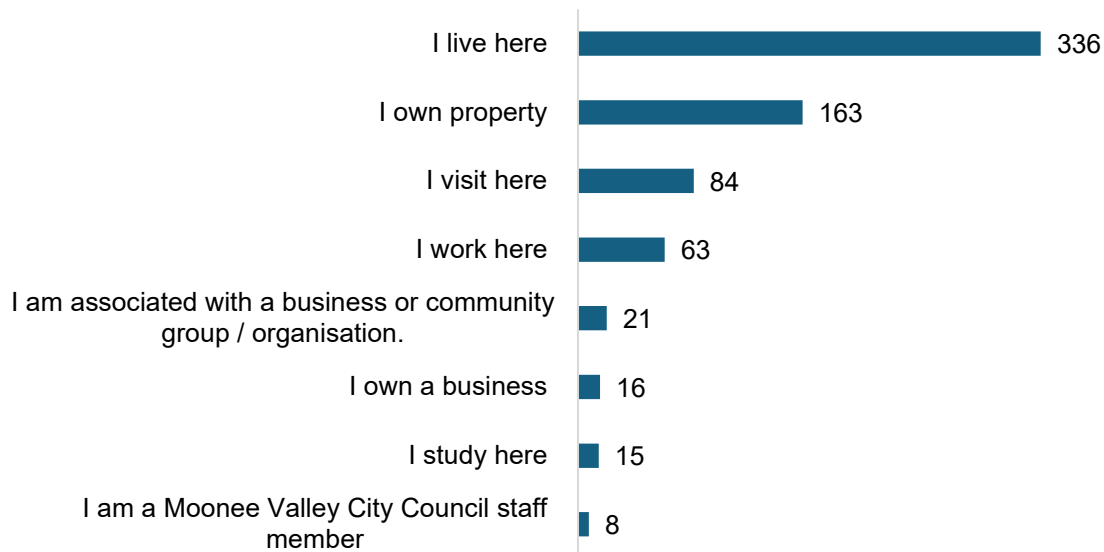
¹ Council received a bundle of 18 hard copy surveys by post objecting to the bike facilities, all exhibiting identical handwriting but containing different free text responses and demographics. For the sake of transparency, we have decided to include these surveys in the count while noting this observation.

3.3 Survey respondent demographics

3.3.1 Connection to Moonee Valley

Respondents were asked to identify their connection to Moonee Valley. Respondents were able to select more than one option in this question. The majority of respondents (n=336) indicated that they live in Moonee Valley and 163 indicated that they owned property.

Figure 1. Connection to Moonee Valley



Respondents who were associated with a business or community group/organisation were asked to identify the name of the business or community group/organisation. The following groups were named:

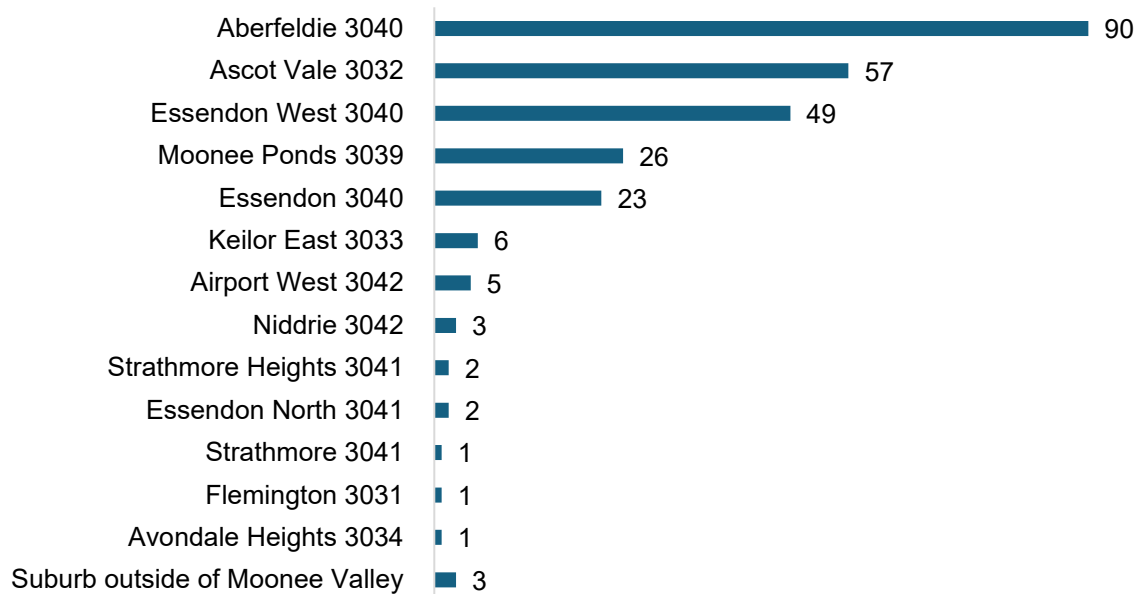
- Northern Obedience Dog Club (6)
- Aberfeldie Sports Club (2)
- Aberfeldie Masters
- Athletics Essendon
- Essendon Hockey Club
- Flemington Cricket Club
- Essendon Little Athletics Club
- I pay rates

- MV Beekeepers Club
- Members of Friends of Steele Creek
- Moonee Valley Sustainability
- Essendon Historical Society
- St Bernard’s College
- St Bernard’s Football Club
- Strathmore Netball Club
- Windy Hill Aphasia Group
- Running Group

3.3.2 Suburb of residence

Respondents were asked which suburb they lived in. Of those who chose to respond (n=269), the majority of respondents resided in Aberfeldie (n=90). 3 respondents noted that they resided in a suburb outside of Moonee Valley.

Figure 2. Suburb of residence

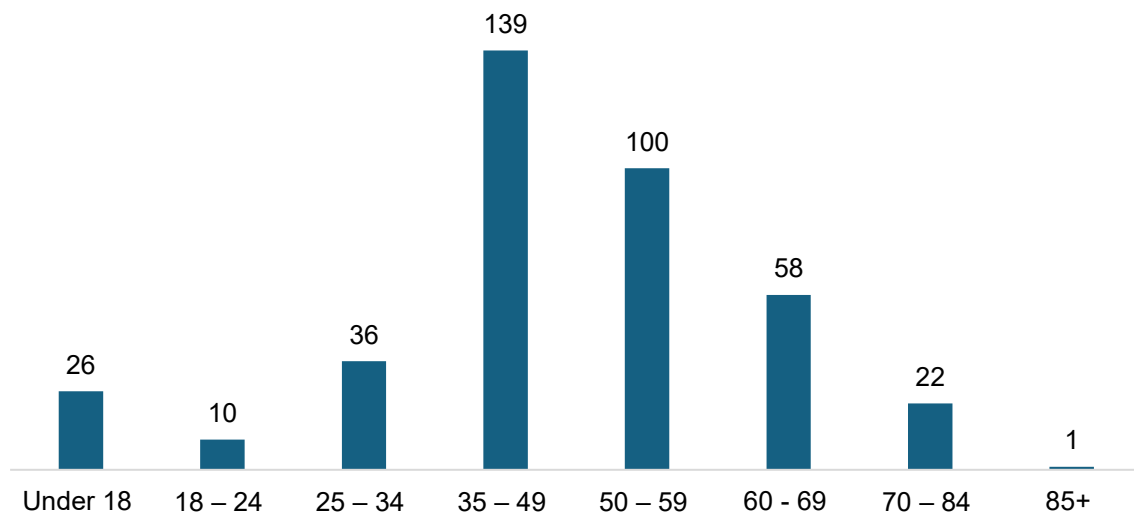


3.3.3 Demographics

Respondents were asked a series of standard questions on their demographic data including age, gender and language spoken at home.

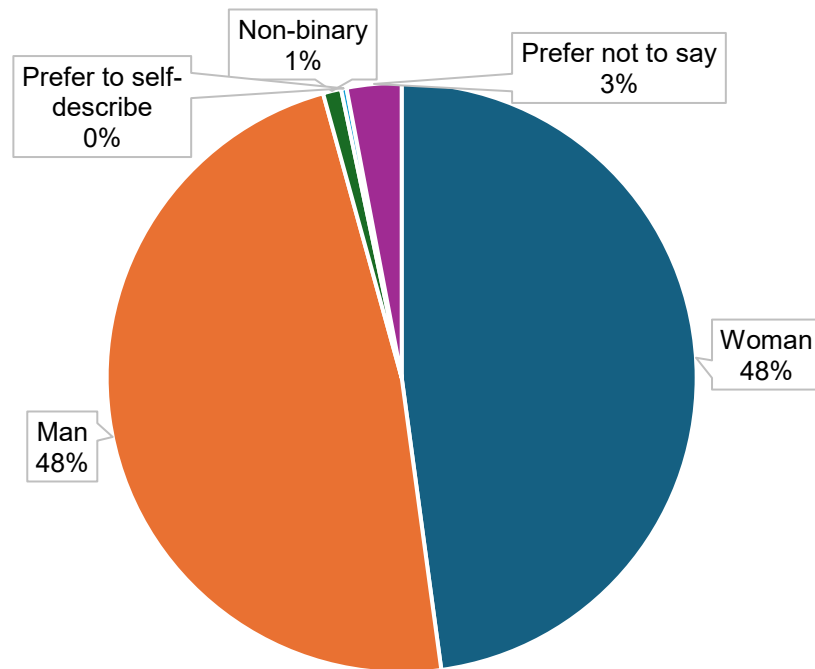
Respondents who chose to disclose their age (n=392) had ages that ranged across all age brackets, with the majority (n=139), being 35-49 years. 26 respondents were aged under 18 years.

Figure 3. Age group



Of respondents who chose to identify their gender (n=397) there was an equal amount who identified as men and women.

Figure 4. Gender identity



3.3.4 Identity

Respondents were asked a series of standard questions on their identity including, LGBTQIA+ identity, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity and disability identity.

Of respondents who chose to respond to a question of their LGBTQIA+ identity (n=349), the majority of respondents (n=299) did not identify as LGBTQIA+, 26 preferred not to say and 24 did identify.

Of respondents who chose to respond to a question of their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (n=330), the majority of respondents (n=319) did not identify, 3 identified as Aboriginal and 8 preferred not to say.

Of respondents who chose to respond to a question of whether they identify as having a disability (n=346), 297 responded no, 26 responded yes, and 23 preferred not to say.

Of respondents who chose to respond to a question asking if they identify as a carer (n=344), 292 responded no, 34 identified as a carer and 18 preferred not to say.

Respondents who chose to respond to a question asking if they identify as a disability ally (n=343) were given the following description of what a disability ally is:

- *A disability ally is someone who supports and amplifies the cause of people with disabilities.*

With this description available 106 identified as disability allies.

3.3.5 Assistance needed

Respondents were asked three questions on their needs for external assistance, with the majority of those who chose to respond not requiring additional assistance in various activities.

Question	Yes	No	Unsure	Prefer not to say	Total
Do you ever need someone to help with, or be with you, for self-care activities?	3	99	1	17	120
Do you ever need someone to help with, or be with you, for body movement activities?	-	103	-	18	121
Do you ever need someone to help with, or be with you, for communication activities?	-	103	-	16	119

4 Findings

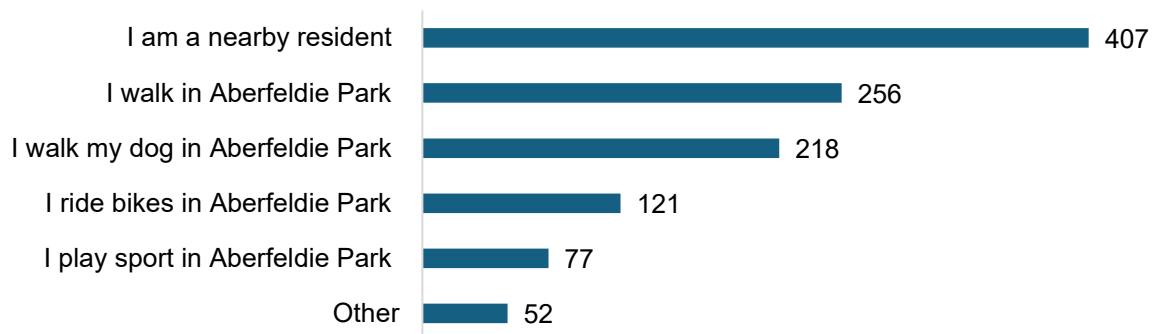
4.1 Survey findings

There were 585 responses to the Aberfeldie Park survey

4.1.1 Connection to Aberfeldie Park

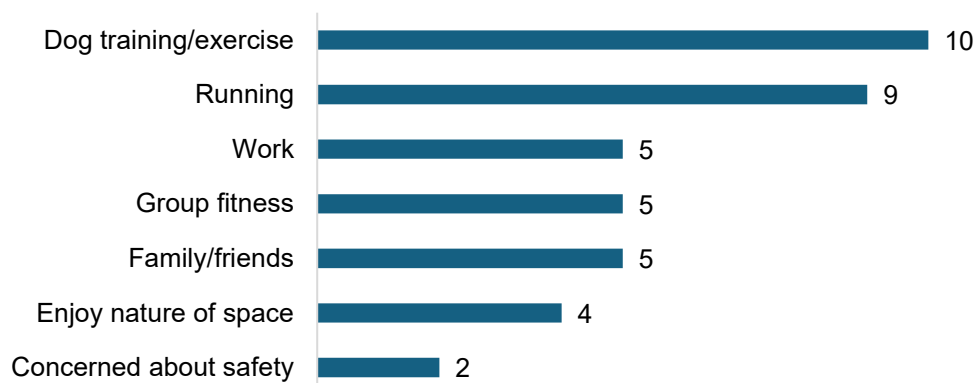
Respondents were asked to identify their connection to Aberfeldie Park and could choose more than one response to this question. The highest response was received for those who indicated they were a nearby resident (n=407), followed by 256 who indicated they walk in Aberfeldie Park and 218 noting they walk their dog in Aberfeldie Park.

Figure 5. Connection to Aberfeldie Park



Of those who selected 'other' (n=52), the most popular comments related to using Aberfeldie Park for dog training/exercise (n=10), running (n=9), followed by work, group fitness and time spent with family and friends (each with 5 responses).

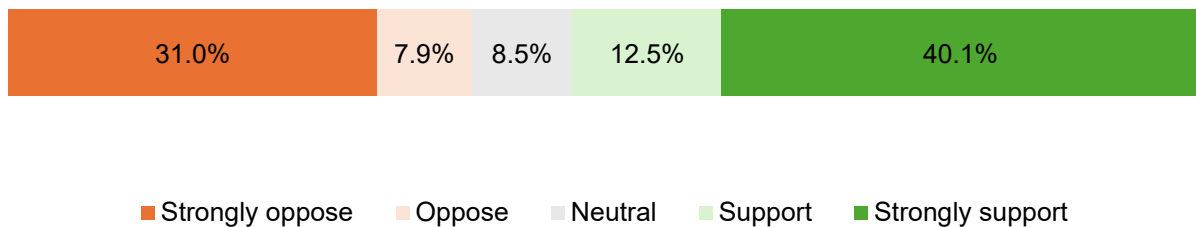
Figure 6. Themed comments for other connection to Aberfeldie Park



4.1.2 Level of support for addition of formal bike facilities in Aberfeldie Park

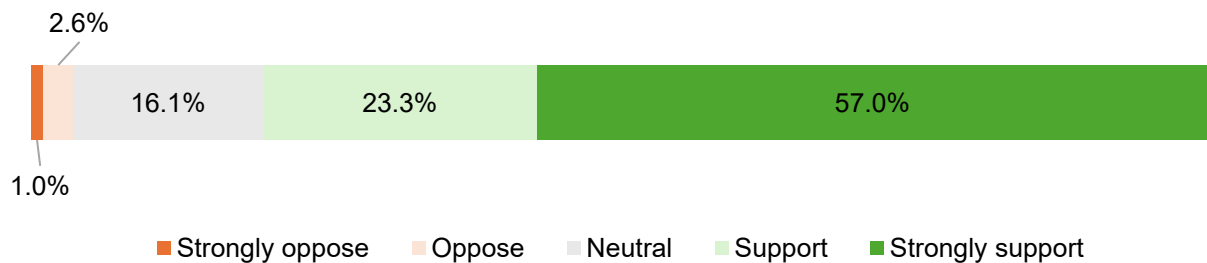
Respondents were asked to what extent they opposed or supported the addition of formal bike facilities in Aberfeldie Park. 504 people chose to respond to this question, with just over 52% of respondents supporting (n=63) or strongly supporting (n=202) the addition of formal bike facilities. Just under 39% of respondents opposed (n=40) or strongly opposed (n=156) the addition of formal bike facilities, with 8.5% (n=43) responding neutrally.

Figure 7. Level of support for addition of formal bike facilities in Aberfeldie Park



Respondents who supported the addition of bike facilities in Aberfeldie Park were then asked if they supported the bike facilities to be constructed on the Northern Embankment of Aberfeldie Park. 305 people chose to respond to this question, with just over 80% of respondents supporting (n=71) or strongly supporting (n=174) this, 16.1% (n=49) responding neutrally and 3.6% opposing (n=8) or strongly opposing (n=3).

Figure 8. Level of support for construction of bike facilities on the Northern Embankment



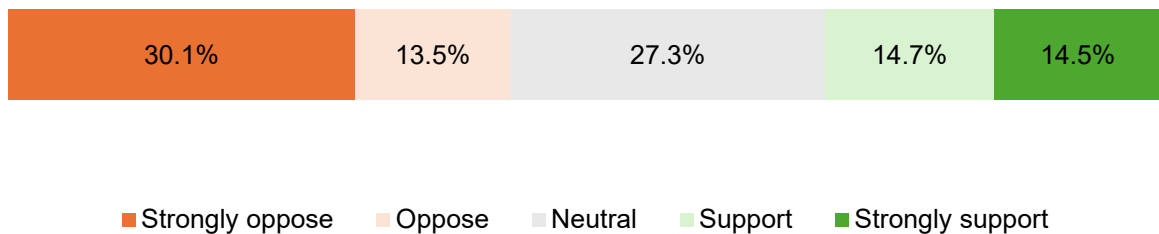
Those who supported bikes in Aberfeldie Park but did not support the construction of facilities on the Northern Embankment were then asked where they would prefer to see bike facilities constructed instead. 11 people chose to leave a comment. The majority of comments noted they would prefer the current bike jumps to stay, or have the new facilities built closer to them (5). All comments have been copied below for reference:

- *I support a purpose built facility for young people. Have a look at what the City of Fremantle did on the esplanade for kids of all ages. I don't support a bike track. There are too many riders (especially with motorised bikes) going across the ovals and along the paths at speed. Bikes and walkers/dogs don't mix.*
- *The demand has significantly decreased since the lockdowns. During the lockdowns there would be 30 bmx riders at the park every day, now there would be lucky to be 5 every third day.*
- *I quite like having the bike facilities at Aberfeldie park and would like to see them stay. It brings me joy seeing the youth get out locally and do something good for their lives.*
- *Not sure*
- *Where they are currently*
- *Main concern is not where but how the bike tracks start & end on walking tracks. Risk to walkers & dogs. Nearly been run down by some riders not considering the walkers*
- *Where the kids have built their jumps*
- *More trees more plants more trees Stop removing and cutting down and start planting providing shade cleaner air and habitat*
- *Where they are now. I enjoy that the kids can upgrade the bike jumps to fit the way that they want them to be.*
- *Near the existing bike jumps that were created by kids in the local community*
- *Would like it contained to a different part of the park.*

4.1.3 Level of support for removal of current bike jumps in Aberfeldie Park

Respondents were asked to what extent they opposed or supported the removal of the current bike jumps in Aberfeldie Park. 505 people chose to respond to this question. Just over 43% of respondents voiced opposition with respondents strongly opposed (n=152) or opposed (n=68) the removal of the jumps, 27.3% (n=138) responded neutrally and just under 30% of respondents voicing support (n=74) or strong support (n=73) for the removal.

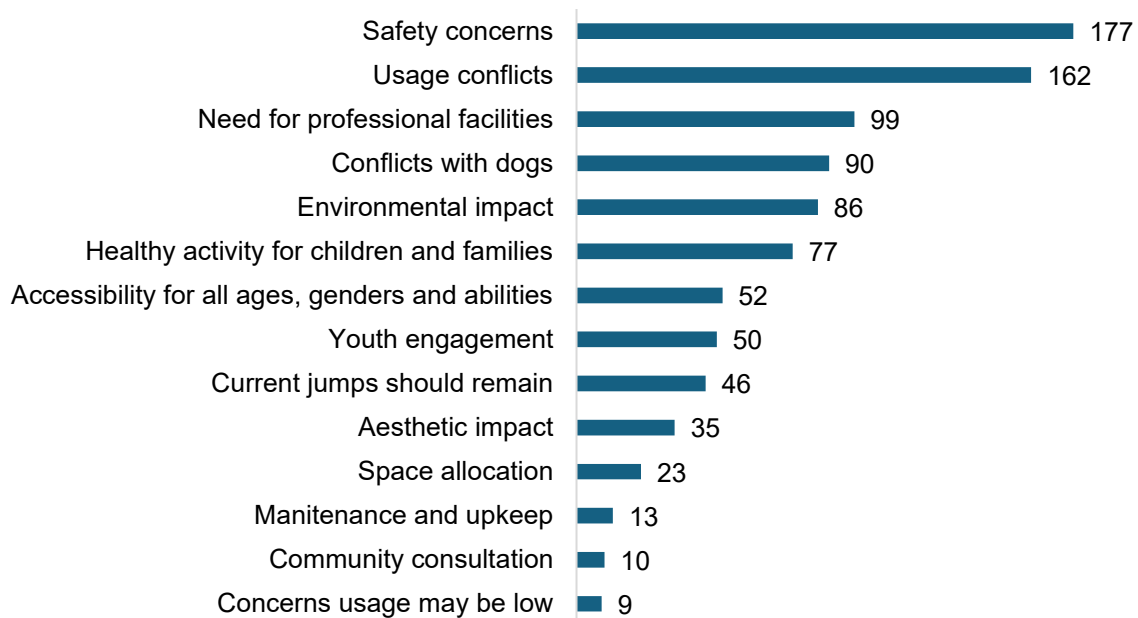
Figure 9. Level of support for removal of current jumps



4.1.4 What else should Council understand about bikes in Aberfeldie Park

Respondents were invited to leave a free text comment about what was most important for Council to understand about bikes in Aberfeldie Park. 442 people chose to leave a comment in relation to this question. All comments were themed, with the Safety Concerns (177) and Usage Conflicts (162) the most prominent concerns in the comments. A number of comments (46) also requested that the current jumps remain.

Figure 10. Themed free text comments - what is important for Council to understand about bikes in Aberfeldie Park



Sample comments which reflect the above themes have been copied below:

- *If there was to be a bike track, it would need to be completely separate to any existing walking paths and tracks that are used for walking and running.*

Intersections where the bike track meets the walking/running paths would be extremely dangerous. There are children who train for Athletics in and around Aberfeldie on the current walking paths and the thought of a bike track intersecting at all would mean it's not safe anymore for children to do their running on those paths as mountain bikers/pump track bikers ride at speed. A sign saying slow down would not stop them riding fast at all.

- *Elderly residents and families use the park. Walking along the Maribyrno g River is a health hazard because of the number of bikes using the resource making it unsafe for people wanting a bit of exercise to use the paths. Why does the Council support another area to be used the same way.? It will impact on both the flora and fauna and ruin yet another spot in the region. People need spaces free of fear of being knocked over. Totally oppose - leave this natural resource alone.*
- *Everyone walks but not everyone rides a bike. Paths should be reserved for people walking and running for safety and enjoyment. If bike areas are allowed or built, they should not reduce the safety and walkability of the current paths. Any bike areas should not share or cross walking paths or it is inevitable that bikes will be ridden at speed on walking paths potentially endangering other park users.*
- *The park is being used by many people who play sport. Walk and walk their dogs. There are no alternate places nearby to walk dogs without leads. Adding a bike track will limit the ability for people and dogs to walk around. Possibly look at alternate place like Afton street to add bike tracks.*
- *I think the way to combat illegal trail building, which generally involves the removal of native negotiation, is to build proper and adequate infrastructure. Interest in Mountain Biking increased dramatically during covid, so infesting in new trails - in a suburban setting - would be welcomed enthusiastically.*

4.1.5 Preferred trail option

Respondents who indicated that they supported a trail within Aberfeldie Park were presented with options about what this type of trail could look like. Respondents were then asked to rank these options in order of preference. *Common Ground*, the consultant who had developed the trail designs analysed this data and presented the following findings.

Preferred trail design

The preferred trail designs were ranked in the following order:

1. Example 3 – Whole site
2. Example 1 – In the trees
3. Example 2 – In the open
4. Example 4 – Walk and MTB

Feedback on each trail

Respondents were also asked to provide comments on specific features within the concepts. Specific feedback for each option is summarised in the table below.

	Most liked aspect	Least liked aspect
Example 1 – In the trees	'Closer to nature' feeling Less visual impact Shelter from wind	Fewer Trails Potential damage to vegetation Perception of being hidden
Example 2 – In the open	Less impact on natural areas Good visibility Good surveillance Separation between walkers and riders	Unsightly visual impact Fewer Trails Wind impacts on park users
Example 3 – Whole site	More trails Better use of the area Less intensification Longer trails	Potential for conflict with walkers Impact on dog off-leash area
Example 4 – Walk and MTB	Inclusivity Additional walking trails	Potential for user conflict Fewer MTB trails

Feedback on trail elements

Respondents were also asked to provide comments on specific features proposed within the concepts feedback is summarised below.

Gathering Space

Overall, respondents were supportive of this feature, with a strong attachment to the idea and a desire to improve on its application. Many of the positive respondents were non-riders, which included parents, walkers and dog owners.

Many suggestions were made for the installation of shade shelters and drinking water at the gathering area. Suggestions were also made to incorporate 2 gathering areas, one at the top and another at the bottom of the embankment.

Trail features

Most respondents were in favour of a broad range of trail features to cover all skill levels and allow for adequate skill progression. Generally, these respondents were proponents of having exclusive, advanced features. Noting that another recently built bike park was unable to provide any intermediate to advanced jumps or features. These respondents were also in favour of having constructed features and elevated sections.

Suggestions were also made for optional features on the trails to allow for greater inclusivity across all abilities and staged skill advancements within each trail.

Several respondents referred to the existing informal dirt jumps and suggested that if this group was not catered for in the final construction, they would be likely to rebuild trails and jumps without appropriate approval.

The timber features were well accepted by those who responded positively and those with a neutral disposition.

The overwhelming feedback from those with a neutral disposition was that appropriate signage is of utmost importance.

Surface

Respondents were generally not in favour for asphalt as the preferred surface for the entire facility.

Interestingly the more neutral respondents suggested that a variety of surfaces should be incorporated into the final design. Many also noting that the desire for “dirt” needed to be balanced with the sustainability and maintenance costs for the site.

Most of the negative respondents were clearly mountain bike riders with a desire to ride on natural earth surface for authenticity.

In response to the question regarding potential barriers to participation the following were the key points raised:

- Insufficient car parking on the site

- Fear of collision between riders & walkers
- Fear of collision between riders & off leash dogs
- Lack of public toilet facilities
- Fear of intimidation from predominately young male user groups

4.2 Emails

Council received 19 email responses for this consultation, with 18 included in this report. One respondent redacted their email post clarification on the style of bike that the proposed concepts would service. Of the 18 respondents, three (n=3) identified that they had also completed the survey but wished to provide more detailed feedback. As a result, the emails received were in depth and comprehensively reflected each respondents specific view point on the concept plans. One respondent provided a video walk through of their reactions to the concept plans on the Your Say website.

Each email response was coded to the same themes as the open text comments section on the survey with the sentiment reflected as follows:

Theme	Number of corresponding comments
Current jumps should remain	6
Safety Concerns	10
Healthy activity for children and families	7
Environmental Impact	8
Aesthetic impact	3
Youth Engagement	7
Need for Professional Facilities	8
Space Allocation	7
Usage conflicts	5
Conflicts with dogs	6
Maintenance and Upkeep	5
Accessibility for all ages, genders and abilities	4

Concerns usage may be low	3
Community Consultation	4

In addition to the themes, several respondents (n=4) suggested alternative additional amenities that they believed would be useful in the area.

A selection of comments are included below that are reflective of the overall feedback in emails.

- *“I wholeheartedly support council creating a permanent mountain bike track in the vicinity of the existing bike track. I read in the FAQ that the proposed track...will be a fully integrated into the planted embankment with low visual impact ensuring minimal change to the look of the park. While that would be a good outcome, I think the look of the park changed when council decided to relocate the cricket nets to the middle of the park, effectively creating a visual barrier. I also think that this present a great opportunity to go a lot further than just adding a mountain bike track. I think council should seriously consider adding in the same vicinity a permanent skateboard track, 2 half size basketball court similar to those of the other side of the Maribyrnong River and a rock climbing wall similar to one under a bridge that crosses the Maribyrnong River at Footscray”.*
- *“I would like to say that in principle I think this is a great initiative. While the local kids may have been a bit destructive or misguided at times in how and where they might have positioned their tracks and jumps prior to building the more permanent jumps currently in the park, I think that the sheer numbers of kids that sometimes gather around these jumps shows the need. ... My feeling is that the kids have shown council what they want just replicate that in a way that is safe and aesthetically pleasing to others using the area.”*
- *“I strongly oppose the proposal by Council to turn the northern embankment of Aberfeldie Park into a mountain bike trail, for the following reasons.*
 - *loss to community of the last piece of parkland residents can enjoy and realise health and wellbeing benefits*
 - *existing negative impacts to community with current bike jumps*
 - *further destruction of parkland habitat, both plant and wildlife*
 - *increased threat of danger for people and their dogs*
 - *lack of engagement and consultation with the whole community*
 - *catering to small group at expense of others who wish to use park for recreation’*

4.3 SpeakPipe Responses

Council received 2 voice recording responses via the SpeakPipe tool for this consultation. The first recording requested that Council proceed with bike facilities in Aberfeldie Park, “*Um, yeah, can you please do it*”, whilst the second recording provided a preference for trail examples that were shown on the website, “*Example 3*”.

5 Conclusion

The community had a passionate response to the proposed development of mountain bike trails in Aberfeldie Park. While the majority of respondents recognised the need for access to facilities for bike users, there was some division on whether these facilities should be an improvement on the existing jumps made by young people, one or a combination of the concept plans or something new that was not represented in the concept plans or existing site. A major factor in detractors for the plans was the perceived damage that could occur for native flora and fauna.

Community members were also passionate about the opportunity to upgrade facilities used by all park users at the same time as improving facilities for bike riders, including adding toilets, water fountains and better waste disposal options.

6 Appendices


6.1 Your Say pages

6.1.1 Primary page

Aberfeldie Park

We're seeking feedback from our community on possibilities for Aberfeldie Park. Have your say today!

+ Follow



Home / Aberfeldie Park

Thank you to everyone who submitted feedback for this consultation. The consultation has now closed has now closed while we consider feedback received.

Any future decision will be made at a meeting of Councillors, after considering a wide variety of information including Council and Victorian Government reports, community consultation processes, Council policies and guiding principles (such as the MV2040 strategy). Follow this page to keep up to date with future decisions.

Thank you to everyone who provided their valuable feedback during the community consultation period, through online surveys, emails and face-to-face at the pop-up we held on 19 May in Aberfeldie Park. Your views are invaluable for us when planning for future facilities and resources in Moonee Valley.

Please note that the final decision will not be based solely on a vote, or preference that may have arisen through this consultation process, but will consider a wide range of information and factors. It is also important to note that the decision making authority sits with Council and will be made at a Council Meeting. All Council decisions are made using a wide range of information including Council and State reports, community consultation processes, Council policies and guiding principles (such as the MV2040 strategy). The input of community is an important part of this comprehensive decision-making process.

Aberfeldie Park, located alongside the Maribyrnong River, is a hub for diverse community activities. From sports clubs to avid runners, walkers, and even dog training enthusiasts, the park accommodates a range of interests. Its draw extends to those seeking moments of quiet contemplation in its tranquil corners, as well as to children and adults reveling in playful adventures.

The Aberfeldie Park Master Plan 2013 was prepared to ensure the appropriate and coordinated future development and management of Aberfeldie Park for the benefit of future generations. The Master Plan continues to be progressively implemented.

Throughout 2020 local riders created bike jumps in the park. These jumps that people have built are cool, but they weren't planned, so they might not be safe and are built on a flood-prone site that is proposed for a wetland. Those are a few reasons why it's important for us to plan properly for biking areas in our parks.

Following a Council resolution in 2021, Council has undertaken background investigations which identified Aberfeldie Park as a possible location for a mountain bike nature trail in Moonee Valley.

We're keen to understand from our community if you support the inclusion of bike facilities in Aberfeldie Park and if you have any feedback about what these bike facilities may look like.

FAQ

- [? Why Aberfeldie Park?](#)
- [? What have we heard from community about bikes?](#)
- [? What are possible benefits of a mountain bike nature trail?](#)

Would you like to see what a mountain bike nature trail could look like in Aberfeldie Park?

Click here to find out more!

Links

- [Aberfeldie Park Master Plan](#)
- [Young People Outdoors](#)

Related Projects


- [Rotating pop-up pump track](#)

Timeline


- ✔ **Consultation open for feedback**
6 May 2024
- ✔ **On site consultation**
9am - 12pm, 19 May 2024
- ✔ **Consultation closes**
27 May 2024
- ★ **Consideration of community feedback received**
June 2024

[See less](#)

Who's Listening




Jess Buchanan
Engagement Senior Advisor
Phone: 9243 8888
Email: parkimprovements@mvcc.vic.gov.au




Attend a pop-up

Sunday 19 May, 9am - 12pm, Park Crescent Playground (Northern Playground), Aberfeldie Park




Complete a survey

Survey closed.




Email us

Email your feedback to parkimprovements@mvcc.vic.gov.au



Phone us

Prefer to speak with someone?
Call us
9243 8888



Write to us

Aberfeldie Park - MTB Opportunities
Engagement Team, Moonee Valley
City Council
PO Box 976
Moonee Ponds VIC 3039

6.1.2 Mountain Bike Nature Trail Opportunities Secondary Page



Home / Aberfeldie Park / Mountain Bike Opportunities

In response to consistent demand for enhanced bike facilities from various consultations, we've taken proactive steps. We have enlisted the expertise of specialist bike trail expert to explore possibilities within Moonee Valley.

Following background investigations, it became evident that the northern embankment of Aberfeldie Park could be a suitable location for a mountain bike nature trail. This location not only offers a suitable terrain but also presents fewer conflicts with existing or planned environmental features.

To gauge community interest in bike activities in Aberfeldie Park, and how this might look, we want your feedback.

A bike trail expert has developed examples of how a mountain bike nature trail could harmoniously integrate into the natural parkland setting of Aberfeldie Park, while providing an exhilarating biking experience for enthusiasts of all skill levels.

[Read the detailed design report here](#)



What a mountain bike trail could look like in Aberfeldie Park



Example 1 - in the trees

This example trail network alignment seeks to position the trails and the riders in amongst the vegetated areas. This will result in lower visual impact from surrounding residential areas and from other areas within the Park.

Links

- [Aberfeldie Park Master Plan](#)
- [Young People Outdoors](#)

Timeline

- Consultation open for feedback
4 May 2024
 - On site consultation
8am - 12pm, 19 May 2024
 - Consultation closes
27 May 2024
 - Consideration of community feedback received
June 2024
- [See less](#)

Who's Listening



City Design Team
9743 0000
parkimprovements@mvcc.vic.gov.au

Potential features

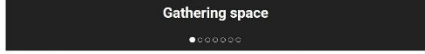
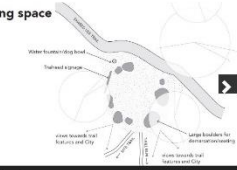
Scroll through to view the potential features that could be included in a mountain bike nature trail. If you'd like further detail we recommend you review the full design paper at the top of the screen.

Preliminary Concept - gathering space


Indicative layout

The proposed trailhead and gathering space will provide opportunities for all park users to meet, relax and enjoy the natural environment. This space is intended to be designed to allow for a range of activities, including:

- A gathering space for families and groups to meet and enjoy the natural environment.
- A gathering space for all park users to enjoy the natural environment.




Possible benefits of a mountain bike nature trail




Fully integrated in nature

A mountain bike nature trail that is fully integrated into the planted environment will have low visual impact ensuring minimal change to the look of the park space.




Inclusive

A trail that is purpose built and well-designed to create more unity between riders and other park users to exercise, connect with nature and socialise. Carefully managed infrastructure creating gathering, viewing spaces, creating an inviting and welcoming trail for all ages, genders and skills.




Minimal footprint

A narrow trail designed to avoid impact on vegetation with no tree removal encouraging additional planting and improved regeneration.



Embankment improvements

Using the trail to improve erosion and drainage issues, and improve infrastructure through careful design of trail surface.



People connecting with nature

A unique recreational experience for riders to exercise in nature in a local context, with opportunities for riders to participate in recreational activities.

6.2 Survey tool

1) Please indicate your connection with Aberfeldie Park. Select all that apply.

I am a nearby resident

I play sport in Aberfeldie Park

I walk in Aberfeldie Park

I walk my dog in Aberfeldie Park

I ride bikes in Aberfeldie Park

Other - Write In: _____

2) To what extent do you oppose or support the addition of formal bike facilities in Aberfeldie Park?

3) To what extent do you oppose or support the removal of the current bike jumps?

4) To what extent do you oppose or support new bike facilities to be constructed on the Northern Embankment?

5) If you do not support the Northern Embankment, where would you prefer the bike facilities to be located?

6) What is most important for Council to understand about bikes in Aberfeldie Park?

A consultant has identified four concepts for a mountain bike nature trail in Aberfeldie Park:

- In the trees
- In the open
- Whole site
- Walk and MTB

We're keen to understand your preferred concept. Review the concepts here.

7) Please rank the four concepts in order of preference.

_____ Example 1 - In the trees

_____ Example 2 - In the open

_____ Example 3 - Whole site

_____ Example 4 - Walk and MTB

8) Please let us know your overall level of opposition or support for each concept. Feel free to leave a comment to explain your rating. What aspects do you like most? What aspects do you like least?

Example 1 - In the trees

Example 2 - In the open

Example 3 - Whole site

Example 4 - Walk and MTB

9) Do you have any feedback on the following features outlined in the design package?

- Gathering space

- Trail features (signage, elevated timber features etc.)
- Surface treatments (asphalt)
- Walk and MTB

10) Do you foresee any barriers in relation to yourself or others using the bike facilities outlined in the examples?

11) What is your connection to Moonee Valley?

I live here

I work here

I study here

I visit here

I own property

I own a business

I am associated with a business or community group / organisation

I am a Moonee Valley City Council staff member

12) Suburb you live in

13) Which suburb do you live in?

14) To which of the following age groups do you belong?

15) Do you identify as:

16) Do you usually speak a language other than English at home?

17) The main language I speak at home is:

18) Do you identify as LGBTQIA+?

19) Do you identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander?

20) Do you identify as having a disability?

21) Do you identify as a carer?

22) Do you identify as a disability ally? (A disability ally is someone who supports and amplifies the cause of people with disabilities.)


23) Do you ever need someone to help with, or be with you, for self-care activities?

24) Do you ever need someone to help with, or be with you, for body movement activities?


25) Do you ever need someone to help with, or be with you, for communication activities?

6.3 Social media posts

Post: 6 May

graphic	Facebook		Instagram	
 <p>Have your say!</p> <p>Aberfeldie Park</p>	Clicks	2,572	Impressions	2,316
	Comments	38	Likes	29
	Impressions	27,237	Reach	2,258
	Link Clicks	620		
	Reach	17,888		
	Reactions	23		
	Shares			

Post: 23 May

graphic	Facebook		Instagram	
 <p>Have your say!</p> <p>Aberfeldie Park</p>	Clicks	420	Impressions	884
	Comments	23	Likes	7
	Impressions	7,700	Reach	861
	Link Clicks	52		
	Reach	4,880		
	Reactions	14		
	Shares	2		