

‘Young People Outdoors’ Community Engagement Report



Document type	Supporting document – Community Engagement Report
Classification	Public use
Status	Approved
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Approved by	Coordinator City Design
Date approved	March 1 2021
Version number	Version 1

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1. Introduction

Council has observed a significant spike in unplanned community created BMX and Mountain Bike (MTB) tracks throughout numerous parks and open space reserves in Moonee Valley in 2020, corresponding with the Covid-19 pandemic lock downs.

The unplanned tracks have created problems in terms of risk to users, and damage to conservation and cultural heritage sites. Conversely, they have provided an opportunity for people to engage in physical activity and social interaction in the outdoors, close to home, particularly when many other sport and recreation opportunities were not available. Council is interested in identifying how to develop options for BMX and MTB activities to occur in a planned manner, so that the risks can be better managed.

Community consultation has been undertaken to identify appropriate sites and activities and to better understand the interests of people in relation to the use of unplanned tracks. In particular Council sought to engage young people, given a majority of the correspondence about the use of unplanned BMX/MTB facilities appeared to be mainly coming from young people or from parents of young children and teenagers.

An online survey was established, and this did not exclusively target BMX/MTB users, but also other community members and other young people with other broader interests in other outdoor recreational activities.

This Community Engagement Report provides information about the approach to the consultation and outlines the findings.

2. Background

a. Community Engagement Activities

Youth workers and Parks staff from Moonee Valley City Council engaged with young people at unplanned tracks over the second half of 2020, to better understand the demand and age groups of those involved, as well as discuss safety and risk issues with them in person.

Face to face consultation was only possible during small periods of the year, due to pandemic restrictions. In addition, formal online consultation could not occur in most of October and November due to local council election guidelines. As a result, a municipal wide online survey was held after elections towards the end of the year.

This survey was conducted via Council's "Your Say" webpage from Wednesday 18 November 2020 until Friday 1 January 2021.

Other formal engagement activities included:

- Council staff from the Parks and Youth teams attended the Aberfeldie Park jumps site, Glenbervie Reserve site, and the Moonee Ponds Creek / Brunswick Rd exit ramp jumps site (behind Ormond Park) to have informal discussions with young people, in September and December.
- An online workshop via zoom was conducted on the 15 December 2020.

The online survey was advertised via posters at the sites of some unplanned tracks, social media posts (via Council's Facebook page; Youth page; and Active You page); email to interested local community groups, local schools and also to those who had previously contacted Council about the matter.

b. Online survey

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- Identify interests and gaps in recreation and open space provisions for young people
- Gauge level of support and interest in specific options
- Seek input on locations that people were interested in for BMX and mountain biking
- Determine demographics and interests of respondents
- Provide opportunity for people to indicate interest in further participation/input
- Understand influences and potential mentors
- Confirm if skate demands align with previously proposed projects
- Provide opportunity to hear the voices of others, including those concerned about unplanned tracks, and parents of children using unplanned tracks.

There were four separate categories for respondents to pick from:

- I am interested in BMX/Mountain Bike riding
- I am a parent/caregiver/guardian
- I am interested in other outdoor recreational activities
- I am an interested community member

Online survey questions included the following (noting that depending on how the respondent identified themselves, some questions were skipped):

Survey Questions:

1. How many years have you been biking for?
2. What kind of biking do you enjoy?
3. Do you use unplanned tracks in Moonee Valley? What do you like about them?
4. What do you get out of using the dirt tracks/jumps? e.g. socialising, exercise
5. Once COVID-19 lock down restrictions ease will you continue to use these sites in Moonee Valley for biking or will you be going elsewhere?
6. Who are your biking heroes?
7. Are you supportive of a facility that could be designed for skating, BMX and Mountain Bike riding combined together?
8. Tell us about any outdoor interests you may have (e.g. skateboarding, rollerblading, frisbee, outdoor performance, art, disc golf, etc)
9. What motivates/inspires you to get outside and spend time outdoors?
10. Which park/s in Moonee Valley do you frequently use and why?
11. How do you get to your favourite parks?
12. Select any of the following recreation opportunities you would like Council to investigate further for our parks (refer document library for more detail):
 - a. Permanent/semi-permanent BMX/MTB track
 - b. Ninja warrior course
 - c. Pop-up pump track
 - d. Bouldering structure
13. Do you have any other ideas for recreation opportunities for young people?
14. Select any of the following skate and youth space project/s you would like Council to investigate further, if any to show us what the current level of community support is:
 - a. Potential new district skate facility/youth space at Airport West
 - b. Potential new centralised skate facility/youth space in Moonee Ponds
 - c. Redevelopment of the Boeing Reserve Skate facility in Strathmore
 - d. Potential new skate space at Windy Hill in Essendon
15. Let us know how you would like to be involved in the next stages of this project:
 - a. This survey is enough input, thanks
 - b. I'd like to be kept in the loop via updates on this page
 - c. I'd like to be more involved and participate in future youth workshops.

It is essential that any proposal for planned activities (to replace the unplanned tracks) must match the age, skills and interests of those using it. The consultation results will help to ensure the design for future facilities is age appropriate and suits the community's needs.

The "Your Say" page also included information on:

1. Where there is a formal BMX and Mountain bike track in Moonee Valley
2. The environmental impact of the unplanned BMX/Mountain Bike tracks (those constructed without consent) in parks and open space reserves
3. Why we can't keep the unplanned BMX/Mountain Bike tracks in our parks and open space reserves
4. What has been considered as part of proposing locations for BMX and Mountain Bike tracks
5. Link to BMX Victoria for more information about local activities
6. Update on skating projects listed in the Feasibility Study in 2009

A visual snapshot of survey results is shown in Appendix 1.

More information and images of the online survey are in Appendix 2.

3. How far did we reach?

Input was received via:

- 313 survey respondents via Council's "Your Say" page
- 21 responding on the same "Your Say" page on the separate map (likely to have been a subset of the 313 respondents)
- 9 written submissions to the survey were received via Council's 'Park Improvements' email
- 3 young people attended an online workshop via zoom
- Over 20 young people engaged in informal conversations with Council staff on sites with unplanned BMX activity.

There was a significant amount of interest in the online survey:

- Awareness of the survey reached around 8,500 people through Council's Corporate social media accounts.
- 1,400 total page visits to Council's "Your Say" page
- 1,100 different people looked at the survey
- 575 people downloaded the attached information about the project
- 30% of the Your Say visits were a result of a social media post on Council's Facebook page.

4. Site visit results

Glenbervie

- ~ 30 young people (ranging in age from 12 – 17), and 1 older person, interested in what Council youth workers had to say
- They were also concerned for their own safety and understood why the park had to be temporarily closed to assess the trees further and to decide if the space could be made safe for them to continue to use the space
- All young people were keen to assist in the design or installation of a revised track at Fanny Street, none of them seemed phased about the extra ride.
- The ones that had been to Fanny Street before stated that they hadn't been back because they didn't think it was good.
- They were keen to use Fanny Street and clearly understood that they would have to work with Council to make sure that the jumps were safe

Aberfeldie

- ~50 young people in attendance (ranging in age from 4 – 18 years) and 2 parents
- Negative attitude to Council youth workers from young people and parents
- Some tension between different groups of young people
- Extreme risk taking behaviour from a group of 3-4 males aged 15-17
- Young people were using shovels and making jumps alongside others doing jumps at the same time
- Most of the young people on site confirmed they had contributed to the Young People Outdoors survey and have Valley Youth contact details to follow up if necessary
- They indicated they were willing to reduce the height of the main jump and increase landing size to improve safety and agreed to keep tools and bikes away from jumps when in use.

Moonee Ponds Creek / Brunswick Rd exit ramp site (officially known as Wykrook-nguluk Darrang)

- Officers were advised approximately 20 young people use the site each day
- They would like to keep the site and be involved in the building of jumps and spoke about the satisfaction they get from designing and building their own jumps
- They confirmed they would update the 'save our bike jumps' petition to include a link to the Young People Outdoors survey and encourage people to complete the survey
- They indicated they were keen to be involved in conversations about where another site could be located if this one is removed
- They were less interested in a pump track than jumps
- They were receptive to working with the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and interested in understanding how to reduce risks and reduce impact on the environment

5. Zoom workshop results

- 2 attendees between 12 -15 years of age and 1 between 16 - 18 years of age from Moonee Ponds, Essendon West and Avondale Heights
- Interests include MTB riding, playgrounds, being outdoors and seeing friends
- All 3 attendees voted for a permanent/semi-permanent bike track
- It was noted that BMX stands for bicycle motorcross which is where it started but most people think of street BMX like skate parks and typically uses flat areas, whereas MTB is associated with ski mountains and alpine areas and hills
- Other ideas suggested include tree tops ropes course, zip lines, playgrounds for teens, and a publicly open facility for people under 10 years old to ride scooters and bikes (similar to Essendon traffic school)
- Other comments mentioned were that Quarry Park is a good example (whilst ensuring there is community input similar to the Rosehill park upgrade), a multi use polished concrete square would be good, combining a pump track with skate areas would be good so long as you avoid clashes between different disciplines
- Attendees expressed interest in being more involved in further discussions and ideas.

6. Online survey results

Survey results include feedback from Your Say, the interactive map and email submissions.

a. Respondents

The numbers of each type of respondent were:

- I am interested in BMX/Mountain Bike riding: **98 respondents**
- I am a parent/caregiver/guardian: **86 respondents**
- I am interested in other outdoor recreational activities: **78 respondents**
- I am an interested community member: **51 respondents**

b. Demographics

Overall, across all four categories, of the 313 survey submissions, there was a higher number of adults who completed the survey (153 overall). However, of the 86 respondents in the parent/guardian category, 66 were guardians completing the survey on behalf of a child who did not specify the child's age, and 34 respondents overall did not nominate an age.

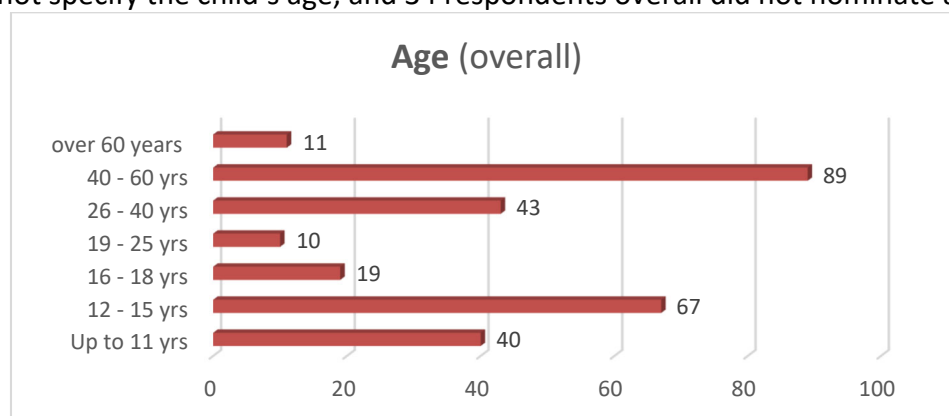


Figure 01: Number of responses for age groups across all categories

When separating out the respondents interested in BMX/MTB, it is evident that most respondents are young people (typically referring to those between 12-25 years of age).

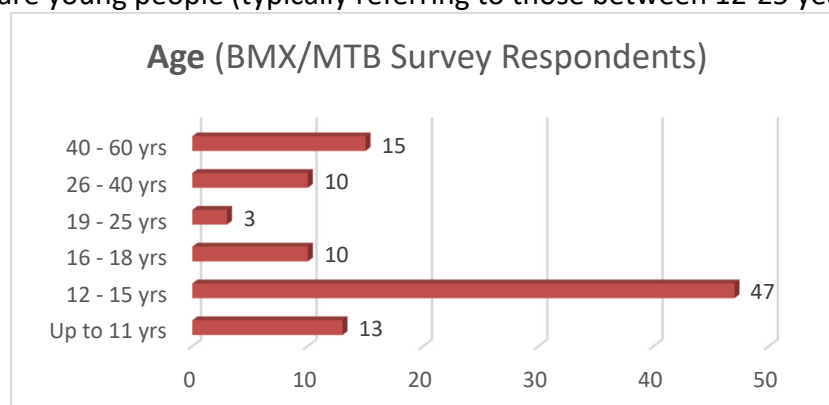


Figure 02: Number of responses for age groups in BMX/MTB category

The highest number of respondents overall appear to be from Strathmore and Essendon – with over 40 respondents from each of these suburbs (Figure 03). This is similarly reflected by the BMX/MTB category respondents, with about 20 respondents in each (Figure 04).

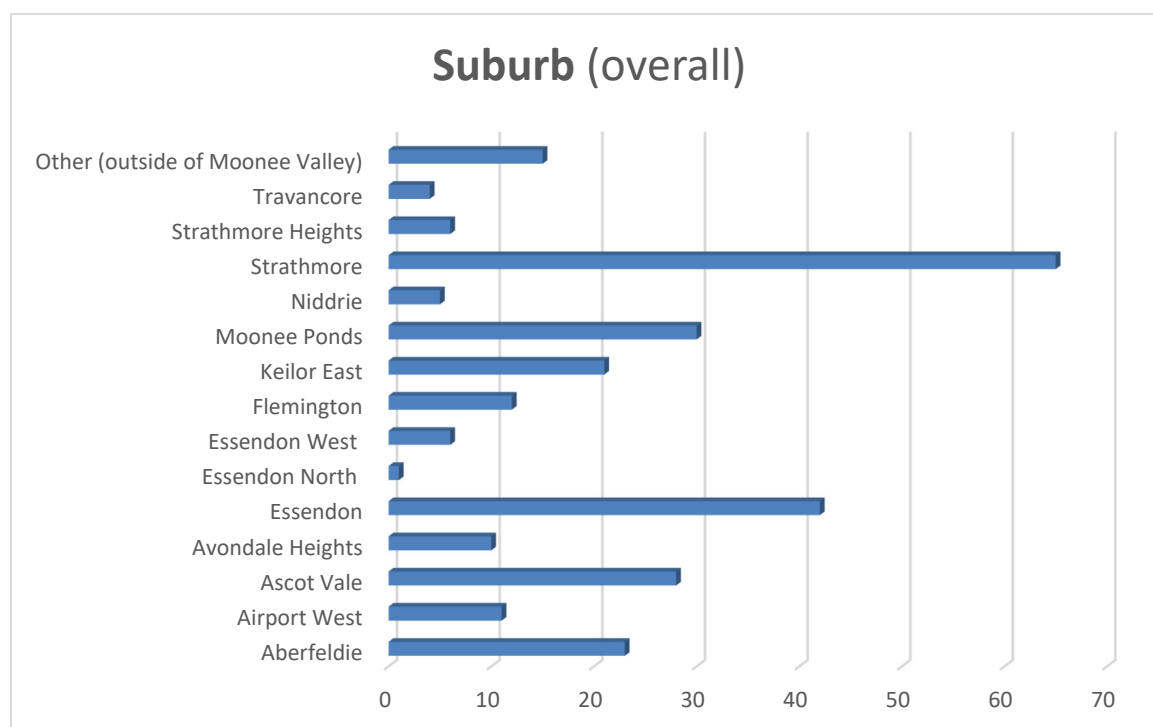


Figure 03: Number of people from various suburbs

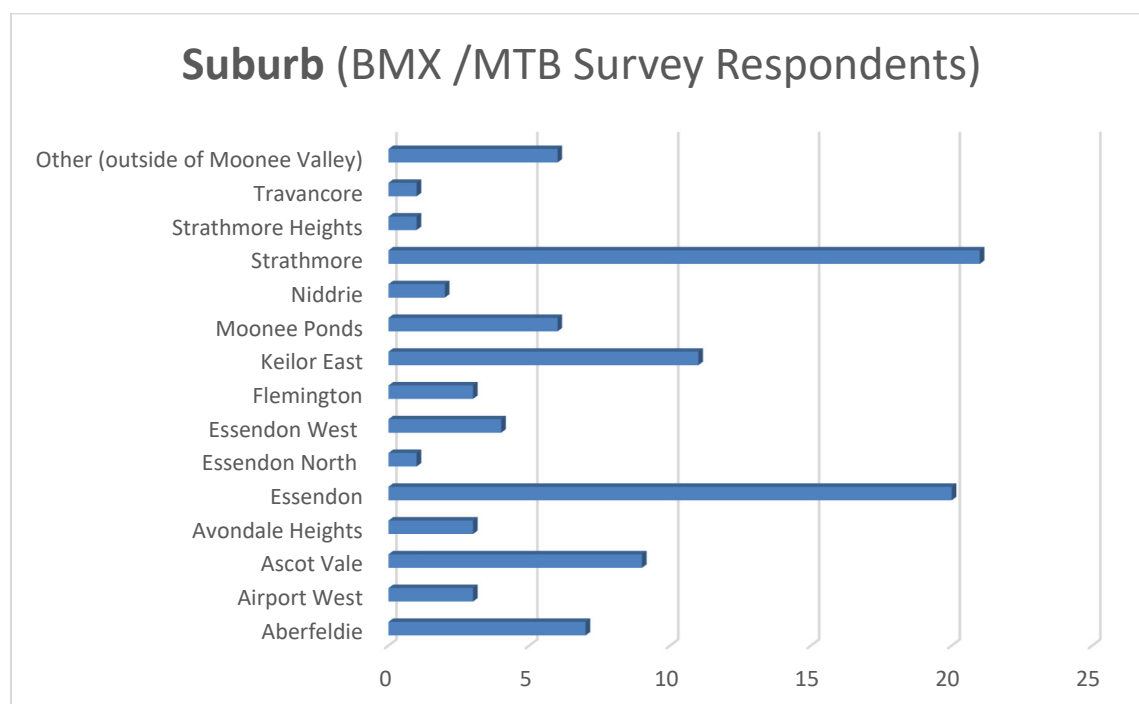


Figure 04: Number of BMX/MTB respondents from various suburbs

Only 17 respondents had more than 10 years' BMX or MTB experience, which corresponds with the young age demographic responding to the survey (Figure 05).

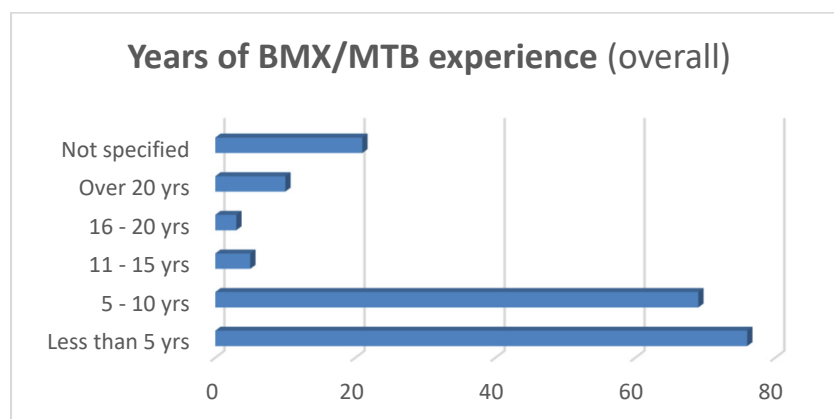


Figure 05: Number of people who ride, in each category for years of experience

A majority (86%) of the respondents travel to their favourite parks by either bike or walking (Figure 06). Of the BMX/MTB category respondents, 79% ride. Again, due to the young age cohort, in addition to the added complexity of transporting a bike in any other manner, it is unsurprising that most people in this category would cycle to parks.

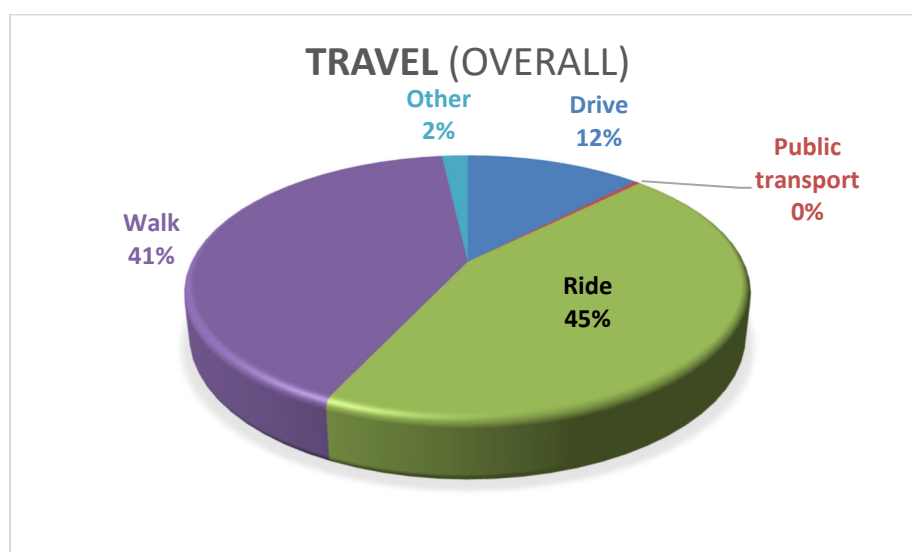


Figure 06: how respondents travel to their favourite park

c. Current use and attraction to unplanned tracks

The following charts show results from the BMX/MTB category respondents, illustrating the current usage of unplanned tracks (Figure 07), the respondent's reasons for using them (Figure 08), and their intention to keep using the tracks (Figure 09). This last question was tested as it was possible the increase in riding activity was a result of the 5km pandemic travel restrictions in place for a significant period throughout 2020. Moonee Valley has limited places to ride, and it was a hypothesis that people who might normally travel further away for mountain-biking were now restricted to using local parks. Results show that this is not necessarily the case, as most respondents intend to keep riding in local parks. Figure 08 shows people mainly use the trails for exercise, socialising and being in nature.

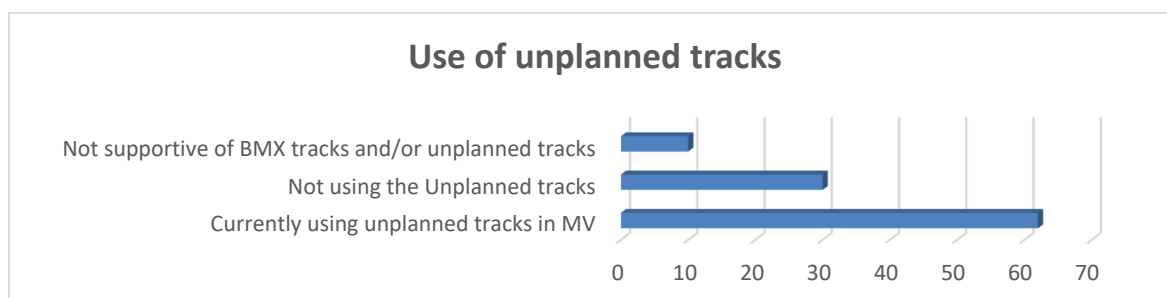


Figure 07: Number of people using unplanned tracks

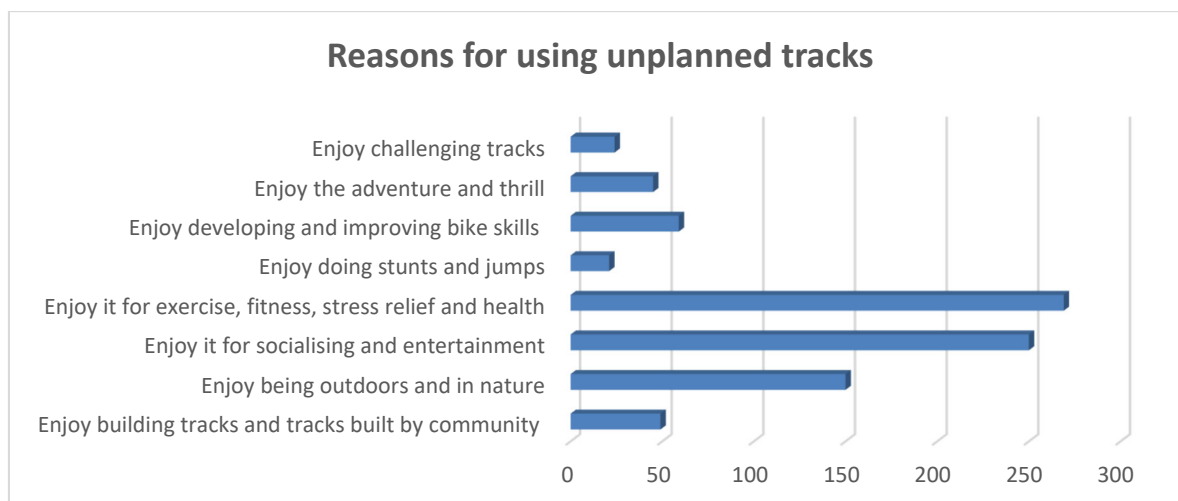


Figure 08: Number of people who mentioned these reasons for using unplanned tracks

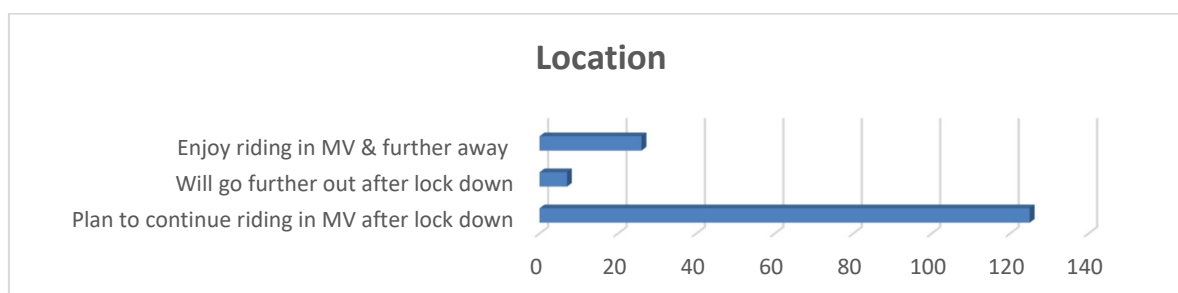


Figure 09: Number of people indicating where they are likely to ride

d. Response to enquiries about future facilities

The survey asked the respondent whether they support a mixed facility designed for skating, BMX and mountain bike riding combined together. Results below show that the majority support a mixed facility, however some would still prefer separate facilities.

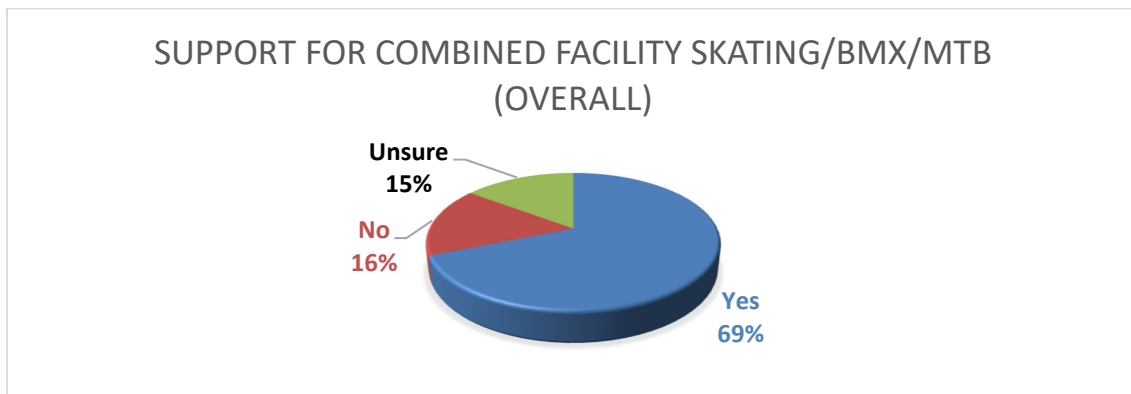


Figure 10: Percentage of all respondents supportive of combined facilities

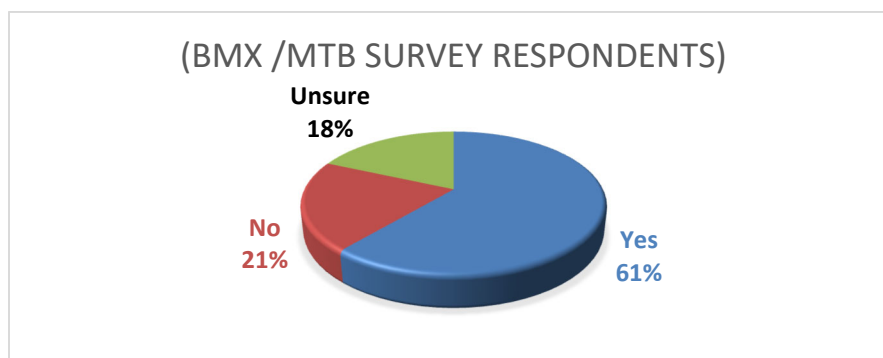


Figure 11: Percentage of BMX/MTB category respondents regarding a combined facility

Whilst not specifically asked if they prefer BMX or MTB, based the number of times BMX or MTB was mentioned in detailed comments received, Figure 12 shows a large volume of comments received about enjoying mountain bike trails. Based on the feedback, MTB trails are taken to mean lengthy meandering trails, which include technical complexities for riders to navigate, but are not the same as a concentrated series of jumps in a small area where riders take turn using the track. Further discussion with riders is required to confirm this.

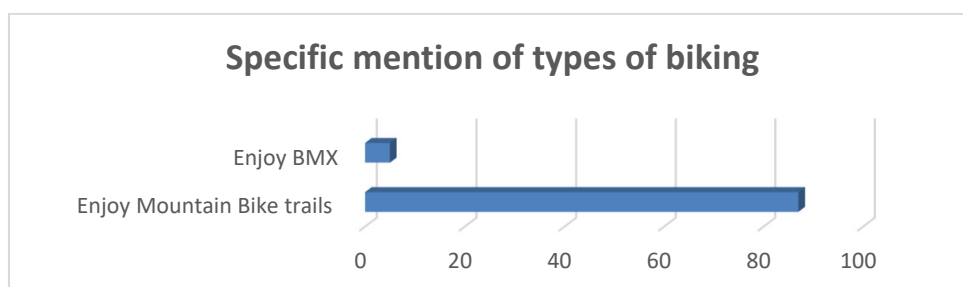


Figure 12: Number of people who mentioned these types of biking in feedback comments

e. Response to enquiries about skate/youth space projects and further involvement with Council

The survey asked for feedback from respondents of all four categories, regarding four skate and youth space projects previously identified in the *Skate & BMX Feasibility Study* (2009), which have not yet been implemented. It was seen as a good opportunity whilst engaging with young people, to also ask about this to gauge the current levels of support.

All four projects received support (respondents could vote for more than one option), with Moonee Ponds and Windy Hill receiving the highest scores, which reflects the geographic spread of participants and that many were located centrally in Moonee Valley (Figure 13).

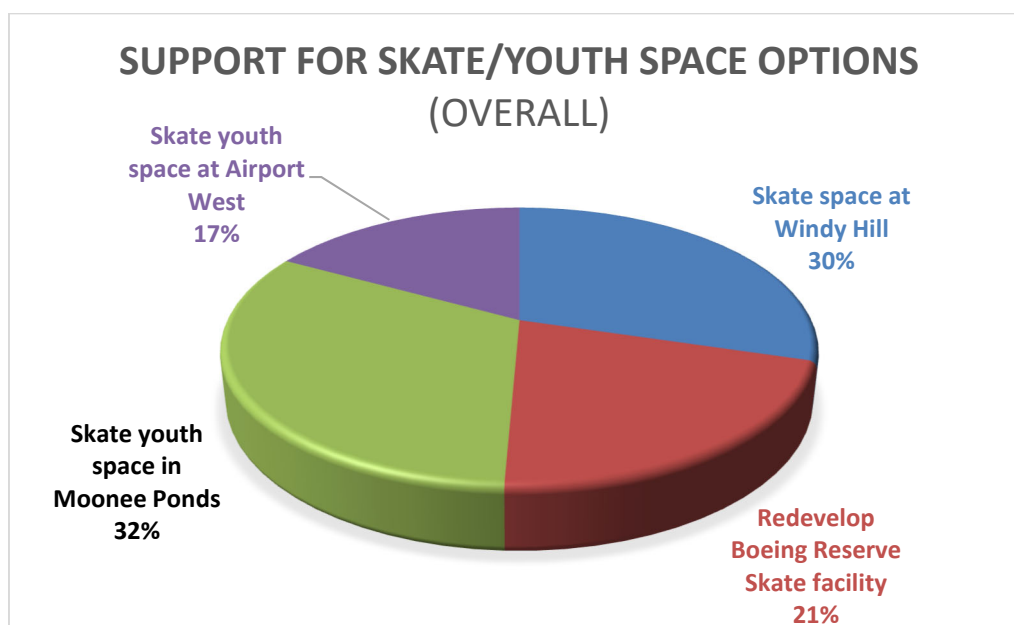


Figure 13: Percentage of respondents interested in four skate and youth facilities options

When asked about how Council could involve people, 15% confirmed interest in further participation in 'future youth workshops' (Figure 14), some outlining experience in track building and a desire for design input. Council also received emails with interest for further input. This represents an opportunity for Council to proceed in a collaborative way.

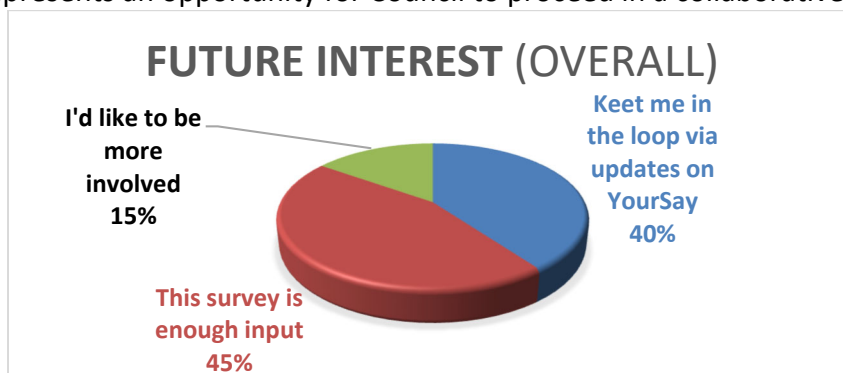


Figure 14: Interest in further engagement with Council in future youth workshops

f. Preferred activities for further investigation

The survey explored four suggested activities for Council to investigate further. Of the four, the *Permanent/Semi-permanent BMX/MTB track* received the highest votes (overall and unsurprisingly in the category of those identifying as BMX/MTB riders). Other recreational facilities were of interest, see Figure 15. In addition, further comments were received relating to outdoor gyms / fitness stations as detailed in Section 7.

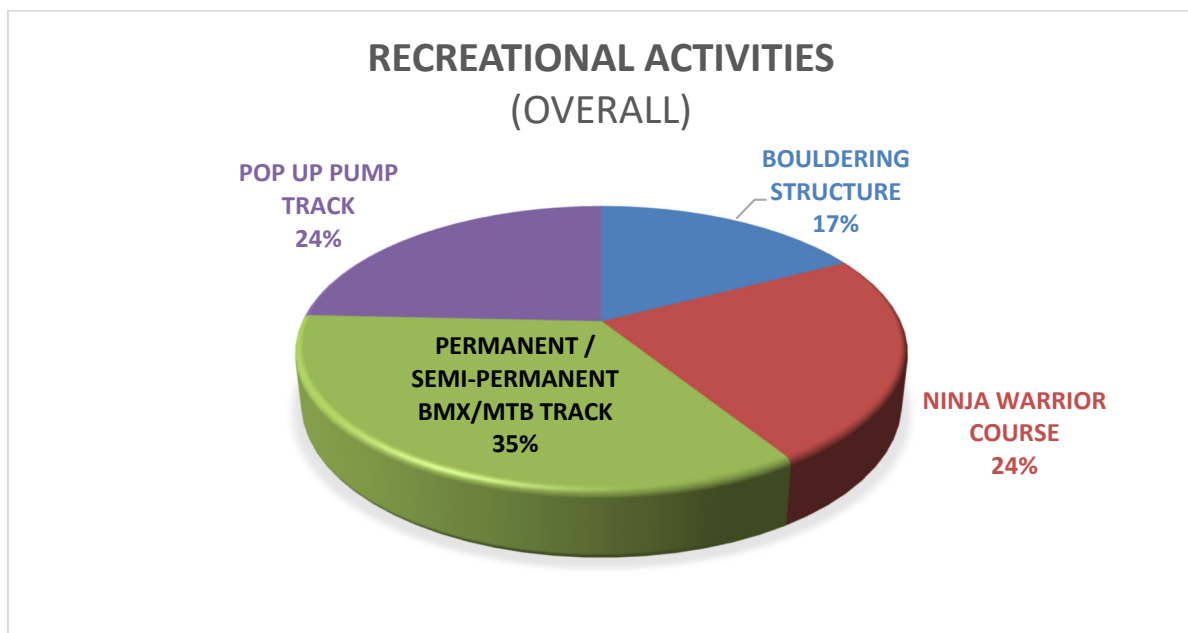


Figure 15: Percentage of overall respondents who voted that the most important activity for Council to further investigate is a permanent/semi-permanent BMX/MTB track.

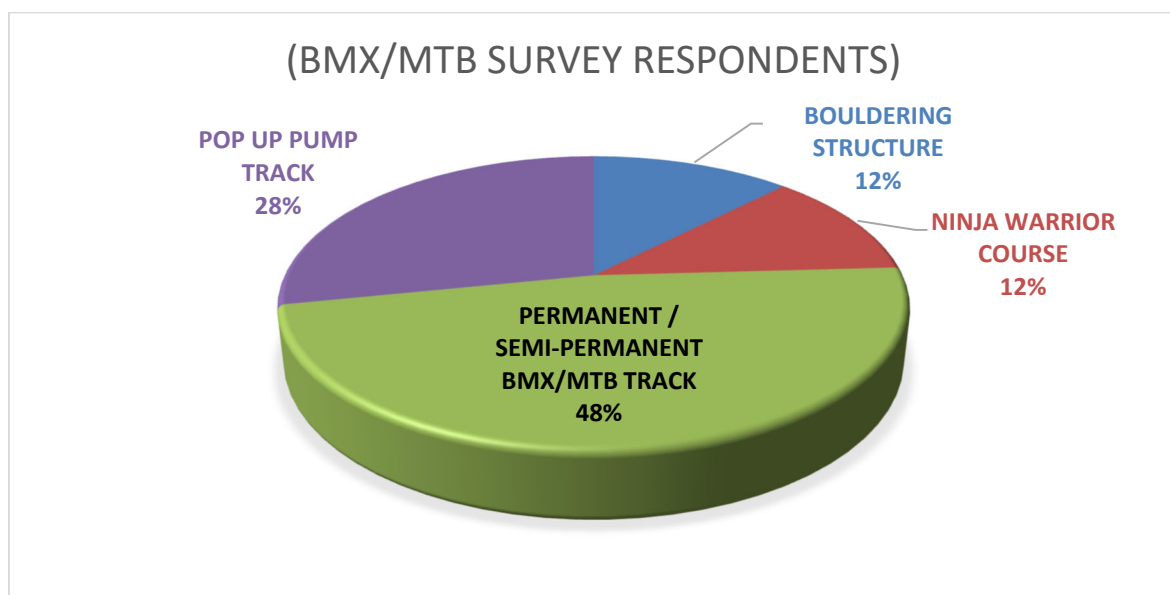


Figure 16: Percentage of BMX and MTB respondents who voted that the most important activity for Council to further investigate is a permanent/semi-permanent BMX/MTB track.

7. Locations / sites to investigate further

The survey also provided the opportunity for respondents to drop pins on a map, to identify sites they thought would be good or not good for BMX/MTB, as well as for other recreational opportunities (Figure 17 shows a screenshot). Whilst respondents could drop a pin on any location, a number of sites were suggested by Council based on an initial review by Council officers, to nominate sites deemed appropriate for further consideration. The sites suggested by Council in the map included:

- Aberfeldie park (north hillside embankment only, not the existing dirt mounds), Aberfeldie
- Airport West Shopping Centre, Airport West
- Boeing Reserve, Strathmore Heights
- Border Drive Reserve, Keilor East
- Fanny Street Reserve, Moonee Ponds
- Maribyrnong park, Moonee Ponds
- Maribyrnong Regional Park (two sites identified), Avondale Heights
- Montgomery park, Essendon
- Moonee Ponds (long term solution), Central Moonee Ponds Activity Centre
- Rosehill Easement (upper flat sections, closer to Rosehill Park), Keilor East
- Spring Gully Reserve (Steele Creek), Keilor East
- Talbot Road Wallace Crescent Reserve, Strathmore
- Windy Hill (long term solution), Essendon.

Potential sites in Moonee Valley

We have started initial investigations into some possible sites for these sorts of activities. All sites are not guaranteed, and will require further investigation.

Be mindful that our parks are for everybody and we will need to consult with the broader community about these locations to ensure there is no unacceptable impact on surrounding residents and other park users.

We want to know what you think about the suggested sites (shown in pink), as well as if you have any other ideas. On the map drag the colour pins (found on the left hand panel) to any site and make comment:

- **GREEN PIN** - Good site for BMX/MTB you would like Council to investigate further. State whether it's good for BMX or MTB (or both), and why.
- **ORANGE PIN** - Good site for other recreational activities you would like Council to investigate further. Comment on why it is a good site and for what activity.
- **RED PIN** - This site won't work well. Be sure to state why that is.
- **BLUE PIN** - I have another idea. Be sure to include comments and photos of your ideas.

PINK areas - Sites suggested by Council for comment.
PURPLE areas - 'No Go' sites. These sites have reasons that make them inappropriate for these activities.
RED area - site still under investigation.

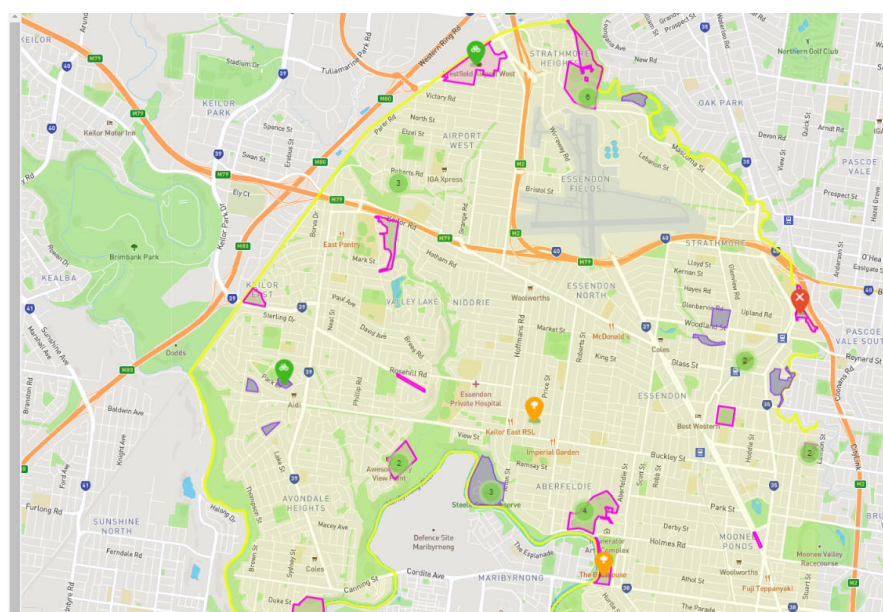


Figure 17: Interactive Map on Your Say survey

Only a small number of individuals (21) commented on the interactive map, and the feedback is provided in this chapter, along with information received from 9 emails. Due to the small number of comments (30 individuals) it is not possible to draw strong conclusions from the commentary, but it does provide some insights.

a. Sites that received supportive comments and were on council's list for consideration or new sites

Sites that received comments from community members - the first four sites were suggested by Council, the remaining were additional suggestions:

- Boing Reserve – A great opportunity for MTB trails with good gradient and undulations and access via the Moonee Ponds trail.
- Maribyrnong River Regional Park (south of Riviera Rd) - Great location for a MTB downhill track with ideal gradient and good terrain for a mountain bike rider to descend and climb up, involving some challenging obstacles (jump/rock gardens) to develop skills.
- Westfield, Airport West - The car park or the new rooftop could be a BMX/skate park facility.
- Fanny Street Reserve - three in support and one not supportive.
- Essendon Fields - The open space between the airport fence and Mascoma St has been the venue for state championship BMX racing
- AJ Davis Reserve (north of the fields in the linear section) - Big open grass space could be ideal for a simple BMX circuit track that would be close to existing walking track and schools.
- Hansen Etzel Reserve (South east corner of Hansen Reserve oval) - Corner could be turned into a BMX track circuit that is close to existing facilities.
- Steele Creek Reserve (north of Fullarton Rd, west of AJ Davis Reserve) - The area between the path and Steele Creek at the oval end of the park would be good as it is close to existing path.
- 1-5 Term Street, Strathmore - Site owned by Council, suitable for a dirt track.

b. Sites that received supportive comments despite being shown as not considered appropriate for BMX/MTB

On the interactive map, Council identified a number of sites as 'No Go' sites which were not considered appropriate for these activities as they are either environmentally sensitive open space areas, they have conservation value, cultural heritage, protected vegetation, issues with tree limbs, limited passive surveillance, access restrictions, other significant works planned, conflicting use or are still under investigation. Despite this, Council received some requests for BMX/MTB at the following sites which were listed as inappropriate:

- Aberfeldie Park (existing unplanned mounds), Aberfeldie
- Afton St Conservation Park, Essendon West
- Fairbairn Park (directly east of the new pavilion), Ascot Vale
- Fairbairn Park (directly south west of netball courts), Ascot Vale
- Glenbervie Reserve, Essendon
- JH Allan Reserve (south east of the pavilion), Keilor East
- Strathnaver Grasslands, Strathmore.

Council will review these sites and develop recommendations in an Opportunities Report. Some will remain as inappropriate because of heritage or conservation protection needs, whilst others that may have long-term plans may be acceptable for temporary / short term MTB use.

c. Sites objected to by the community

Council received some objections from community members, via the Your Say page and as email submissions. No site received more than 2 objections, with the exception of the existing dirt mounds at Aberfeldie Park which received four objections.

- Aberfeldie Park (existing unplanned mounds), Aberfeldie
- Canterbury Street Reserve, Flemington
- Lily Street Park, Essendon West
- Afton St Conservation Park, Essendon West
- Fairbairn Park (south west of netball courts and north of driving range), Ascot Vale
- Montgomery park, Essendon
- Talbot Road Wallace Crescent Reserve, Strathmore
- Strathnaver Grasslands, Strathmore.

8. Qualitative results: Considerations for BMX / MTB design

In the qualitative parts of the online survey and email submissions, there were many comments relating to BMX/MTB track design and interests, including:

- A new MTB trail with a downhill track with multiple jump lines in a natural setting – with design input from local riders but engaging experts in track design and construction (e.g. Dirt Art)
- Desire for a bike skills area, practise how to ride a berm (corner), wooden take offs, jumps and stunts area –where jumps can be built and developed by local riders where there is a hill/ roll in to get speed, and Council could work with the builders
- Does not need to be over-engineered, just an undulating circuit track
- An advanced downhill MTB track near Steele creek for downhill racing
- Pop up pump track along the river, Aberfeldie or Rosehill park
- Examples mentioned: You Yangs, Footscray Quarry Park (asphalted pump track is extremely well designed and popular), Canberra MTB trails, Woburn Bike Park in the UK, Anglesea Mountain bike track, track in Derby Street Reserve, Tullamarine
- Different graded tracks for beginners to experienced riders (including doubles for pros and flat tracks for beginners), or some advanced jumps (at least 5m long) and intermediate ones to progress a rider's skill set, simply with the right signage
- The jumps built by children ride perfectly, with the right height, radius, gaps and spacing between jumps to maintain speed and flow. These jumps might look dangerous to outside observers, but to someone familiar with mountain biking, they are extremely well built
- Issue with Quarry Park is not enough maintenance is done on the gravel tracks, and after a few months, a skilled rider quickly reaches the upper limit of what can be achieved. There needs to be a facility that offers something beyond that, like what local kids have taken upon themselves to build
- Consideration of using former industrial/commercial sites to construct dedicated sports facilities for young people/active recreation, such as **indoor** BMX/MTB, rather than in parklands. Indoor active recreational facilities such as pump tracks, bouldering structures, fitness circuits, basketball courts, where possible
- Ensure passive surveillance and visibility to designated bike tracks where the impact on the local environment is reduced
- Manage rubbish and supervision to ensure riders are considerate of other park users
- Locate bike facilities away from paths and local foot traffic
- Pump tracks attract multiple users – kids, teens, adults, bikes, scooters, skateboards. Refer the new track in Brisbane at Bracken Bridge.

9. Qualitative results: Other recreational opportunities

One of the questions in the survey asked respondents (in all four categories), whether they had any other ideas for recreation opportunities for young people. The responses were grouped into themes that are listed below in order of the greatest number of comments received:

1. Basketball
2. Some form of outdoor gym/fitness course
3. New skate facilities
4. Comments relating to playgrounds
5. Water play/water sport.

Examples of the type of comments for the most popular topics are summarised below:

- Comments relating to basketball, more courts, hoops and hit up walls.
- Comments about opportunities for unstructured play outside formal club, and dedicated sports facilities for youth rather than in parklands.
- Comments relating to skate parks include: skate bowl, snake run or a new modern skatepark like those at Brunswick and Glenroy in a central location in the Maribyrnong River precinct or at bottom of Brisbane St.
- Comments relating to water play, water sports, splash pads and improved access to the Maribyrnong River for water activities (Stand Up Paddle Board, kayaking, swimming)
- Beyond the Ninja Warrior Course suggested in the survey, further comments were received relating to outdoor gym / fitness stations, particularly chin up bars, dip bars, a fitness exercise loop, 100m running track and hurdles.
- Comments relating to Playgrounds include: Challenging playgrounds with sturdy trees where climbing is not discouraged (reference Coulson Gardens Maribyrnong and Woodlea Estate Plumpton), hamster wheel, flying fox, trampolines, jumping pillow, nature-based play for children to explore, build cubbies out of branches, utilise trunks, sand, boulders with climbing/balancing options. A quality playground at Ormond park. Reinstatement of Strathaird St Park. Improvement of Lincoln park playground. Large scale rope course such as at Royal Park playground.

a. Sites mentioned for other recreational activities

Below are sites identified by the public with comments for other recreational activities:

- Bradshaw Park - Use the oval for other activities beyond cricket, like soccer. Introduce basketball.
- Maribyrnong Park - Great area for other facilities. Sensory garden. Rock climbing wall. adventure playground. Already a popular area with young families.
- Thornbury Park - Ideal for an outdoor gym equipment, ninja warrior course or a children's park, due to river views and topography.
- Boeing Reserve - Suitable for disc golf.

b. Other comments (less than 3 received per topic):

- More goals (AFL/soccer) put up in small parks for kick about
- Mega slide
- More water drinking fountains
- New/updated playgrounds in Keilor East
- A maze
- Free access tennis courts
- Velodrome
- Nature trail, conservation club/activities
- Netball
- More park facilities for disabled people
- More car free spaces and more safe cycling lanes, and prioritise pedestrian activity
- Roller-skating/rollerblading area
- New Boom libraries in parks (game audit studio)
- Improve the high ropes course at Fairbairn Park
- Moonee Ponds Creek improvements:
 - Make the MPC swimmable
 - Encourage young people to engage with and play with nature
 - Enhance concrete sections for skateboarding (already used by young people)
 - Consider climbing walls and art installations on the City Link concrete walls
 - Remove concrete and plant native trees. Black cockatoos were spotted there.

10. High level findings

Based on the data results and detailed comments received in the survey and all other forms of feedback, below are the key, high level, learnings:

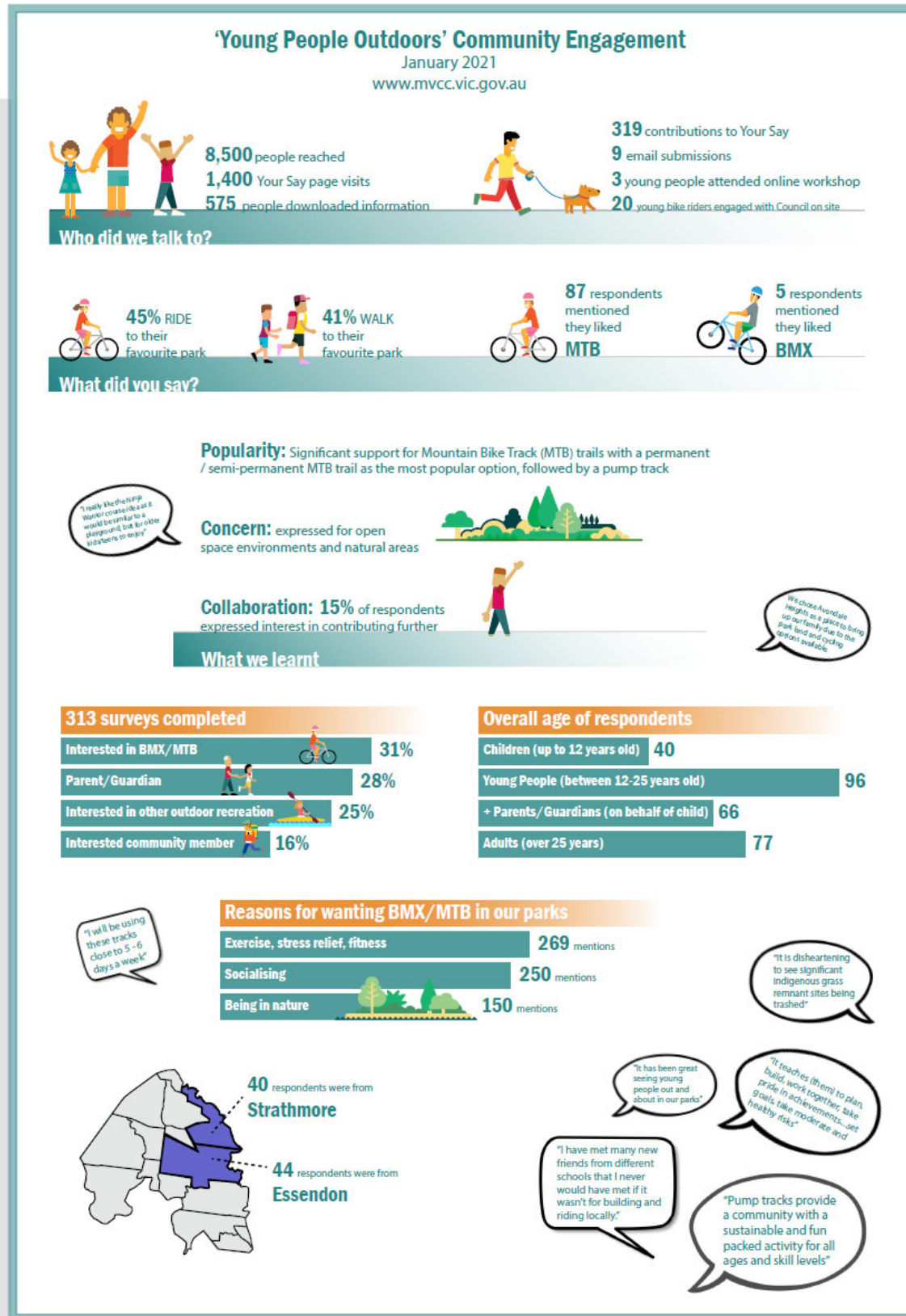
- There is a significant demand for riding trails from young people who are cycling to their parks (not driving or using public transport), and who intend to keep riding post-pandemic.
- There is interest across the whole municipality, with particularly strong interest in Strathmore and Essendon.
- There is significant interest in Mountain Bike (MTB) tracks and less demand for BMX, although there is support for facilities that cater for both types of riding, and skate.
- A permanent (or semi-permanent) mountain bike trail is the most popular option, followed by support for a pop-up pump track ¹
- Whilst the survey elicited responses from many people using the unplanned tracks, it also received input from those who don't use the tracks, and from people who do not support the tracks. This reflects that there are a variety of views and interests in relation to how our parks and open spaces are used, and for what activities. This diversity is also seen in emails and calls received about the topic.
- People who do use the unplanned tracks overwhelmingly report doing so for exercise, socialising and being in nature, for recreational and leisure purposes and not necessarily for competitive purposes. The thrill, challenge or ability to build their own tracks were much less often cited as reasons. These results suggest that if council can provide alternative sites for activities, many people would use them, that is, the community-built, obscurely placed tracks with challenging elements is not the primary reason that people use the sites.
- A range of options for facilities are mentioned in qualitative results including:
 - Permanent trails in natural settings
 - Places for jumps and developing technical skills
 - Examples of facilities for bike riding in other councils (primarily jumps based).
- There is support for fitness or gym equipment, basketball, play and skate.
- There were fewer respondents who commented on locations suggested by Council in an online map, but some alternative options were noted and those deemed appropriate need to be considered in determining next steps.

¹ A Pop-Up Pump Track refers to a modular assembled system that creates unlimited track designs with precise geometry, enabling riders to gain and maintain speed and momentum without pedalling.

- There is scope for a collaborative approach, with 15% of survey respondents expressing an interest in contributing further in workshops.
- With more than 300 online responses in addition to the emails and on-site conversations, it is evident that this matter is a major topic of interest in our community for a variety of people.

The results will be used to inform a BMX and MTB Opportunities Report to be presented to Council in April 2021, and to inform open space planning more broadly – particularly the development of a 20-year action plan for open space in the municipality (MV2040 Action Plan – Beautiful).

Appendix 1 – Visual summary of survey results



Appendix 2 – screen shots of the online survey, and poster


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Young People Outdoors






BMX, Mountain biking and other recreation activities in Moonee Valley



Over the last few months Council and community have noticed a rise in makeshift dirt jumps and bike tracks in many parks, which has increased since the lock downs in Melbourne. In response to this Council is exploring opportunities for BMX, Mountain bike tracks (MTB) and other recreational activities for young people in our parks.

We would like to hear from children, young people, parents, and the wider community who use our parks.

We have developed some initial ideas that we would like your feedback on, including:

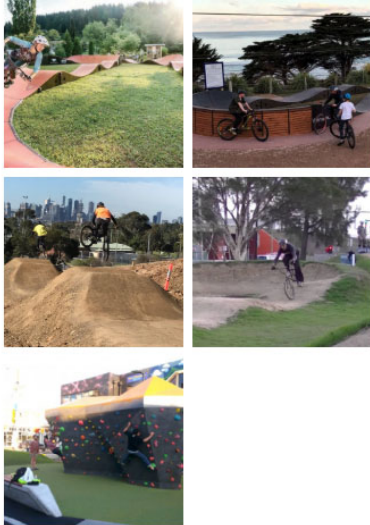
- **Pop-Up Pump Track**
- **Permanent or Semi-permanent BMX/MTB track**
- **Other recreation activities such as bouldering walls or ninja warrior course etc.**

We would like to hear your thoughts about these activities and suggested locations, as well as your own ideas. Please note that all ideas would require further investigation and are subject to Council endorsement and funding.

Ways to participate:

1. Fill in the below survey
2. Add to our interactive map, adding your thoughts on the suggested locations, as well as any other ideas.
3. Attend an online youth session, delving into the BMX/MTB track opportunity further. Date: Tuesday 15 December at 4.30pm - 5.30pm, on zoom. Session is for young people aged between 12-25. Registration and details: <https://bit.ly/youngpeopleoutdoors>

Recreation activity examples



[more..](#)

Documents

-  [Potential Activities_Descriptions \(1.16 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
-  [Existing BMX and Skate sites_Map \(84.3 KB\) \(jpg\)](#)
-  [Skate BMX Feasibility Study 2009_Report \(3.23 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

FAQs

Where are current BMX and Mountain bike tracks in Moonee Valley?

What is the environmental impact of the unplanned BMX/Mountain Bike tracks (those constructed without consent) in parks and open space reserves?

Figure 18: Online survey displayed on Council's Your Say page

FILL IN OUR SURVEY

INTERACTIVE MAP

Potential sites in Moonee Valley



about 1 month



We have started initial investigations into some possible sites for these sorts of activities. All sites are not guaranteed, and will require further investigation.

Be mindful that our parks are for everybody and we will need to consult with the broader community about these locations to ensure there is no unacceptable impact on surrounding residents and other park users.

We want to know what you think about the suggested sites (shown in **pink**), as well as if you have any other ideas.

On the map drag the colour pins (found on the left hand panel) to any site and make comment:

Figure 19: Online interactive map on Council's Your Say page

Young People Outdoors

BMX, Mountain biking & other recreation activities

Have your say



We'd like to hear from you!

Lockdown was tough on everyone, especially young people. We heard your calls for more outdoor activity options for all ages and abilities, but particularly young people.

Whether it's a BMX track, bike jumps, a ninja warrior course or something else entirely, we want to hear your ideas so we can plan for this.

We would like to hear from children, young people, parents, and the wider community who use our parks.

Complete our short survey and add to our interactive map, and tell us what activities and locations you'd like us to investigate further for young people in Moonee Valley.

Have your say

You can provide your feedback by 5pm Wednesday, 16 December 2020 in the following ways:

- Fill out our online survey and interactive map: <https://yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au/youngpeopleoutdoors>
- Email: parkimprovements@mvcc.vic.gov.au
- Attend our online session for young people aged between 12-25 on Wednesday, 2 December (4.30pm - 5.30pm) on zoom. Registration: <https://bit.ly/youngpeopleoutdoors>
- Contact Council on 9243 8888.

9243 8888 | mvcc.vic.gov.au

Figure 20: Consultation poster displayed on sites affected by unplanned tracks (note that closing date was advertised earlier in December but ultimately the survey was extended until January 1 2021).