Community Consultation Report

Fairbairn Park Playspace

August 2026



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City of Moonee Valley

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1 Summary

1.1 Background

Moonee Valley City Council is committed to creating a healthy, active and connected community by providing high-quality parks, open spaces and recreational facilities. In line with Council's long-term vision outlined in MV2040, Council invited community feedback on proposed improvements to the playspace at Fairbairn Park.

The proposed upgrades aim to enhance the playspace as an inclusive and welcoming destination for people of all ages and abilities. The project seeks to improve opportunities for play, recreation and social connection while strengthening the relationship between the playspace and the surrounding parkland.

The draft design includes a range of improvements designed to create a more engaging and accessible community space. Proposed upgrades include new and enhanced nature-play elements, play equipment that caters to a variety of ages and abilities, additional tree planting and landscaping to provide shade and support biodiversity, and new shelter and seating areas to encourage gathering and community use.

The design also includes a small multi-purpose court featuring basketball and netball facilities, providing additional opportunities for informal recreation and active play.

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Between Wednesday, 8 July and Thursday, 6 August 2026, community members were invited to review the concept plan, indicate their level of support, and share any ideas or feedback to help shape the project. Community input will help inform the future development of the project and ensure the upgraded playspace meets the needs and aspirations of the local community.

This report shares the findings from the community consultation.

2 Methodology

2.1 Engagement strategies

Community members could contribute to the consultation via:

1. A dedicated Your Say webpage (Appendix 6.1), which linked participants to the online survey (Appendix 6.3).
2. The SpeakPipe voice recording tool embedded onto the Your Say page.
3. A QR code included on an onsite poster (Appendix 6.2), which linked participants to the online survey (and associated information) via the Your Say page.
4. Phoning, emailing or writing to Council.

2.2 Participation

The table below provides information about consultation participation.

Table 1. Consultation participation

Consultation	Engagement Type	Participation
Your Say website	Page views	277
	Page visits	250
	Unique visitors	209
Document downloads from Your Say	PDF version of draft Plan	98
Online survey	Survey responses	**48**
Email submissions	Emails sent to Council	**1**
Speakpipe	Voice recording	**1**
Social media comments	Facebook and Instagram	14
Total respondents: **50**		

2.3 Key engagement questions

Participants were invited to provide feedback about the proposed improvements to Fairbairn Park playspace.

The survey asked respondents:

1. To what extent do you oppose or support the proposed improvements to Fairbairn Park playspace?
2. Do you have any comments you would like to share about the proposed improvements to Fairbairn Park playspace?

Survey respondents were also asked questions about their demographic characteristics, as outlined in Section 3 below.

2.4 Communication

The Moonee Valley community and other key stakeholders were informed about the consultation opportunity via a number of Council communications channels, including:

- social media: Instagram and Facebook
- posters on site
- Your Say webpage
- E-newsletters (Valley View, Your Say).

2.5 Key findings

- There were 50 participants in this community consultation.
- The consultation approach reached a broad cross-section of participants through online and printed methods, with especially strong participation from residents residing in Ascot Vale.
- Strong overall support for the draft Concept Design, with most survey respondents indicating they supported or strongly supported the Fairbairn Park playspace improvements.

3 Survey demographics

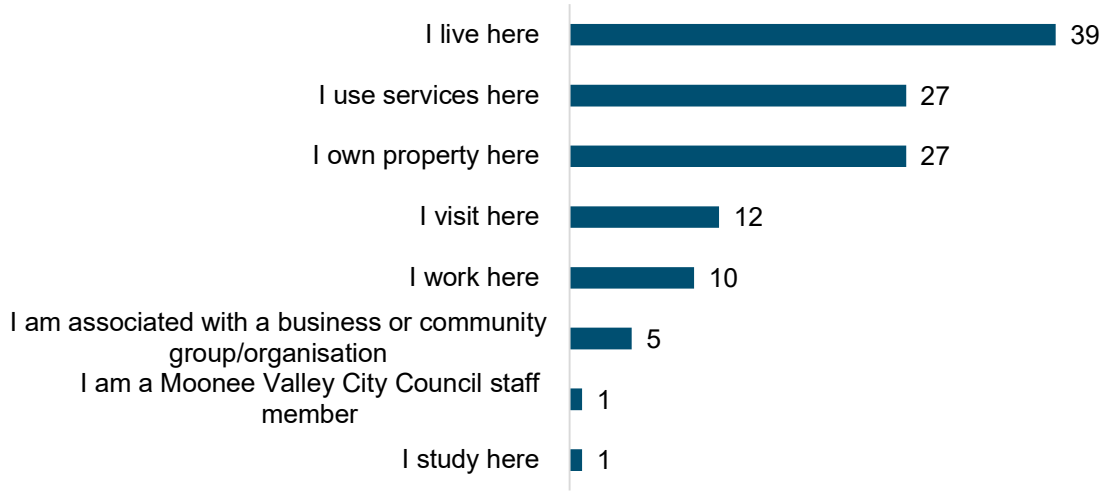
3.1.1 Connection to Moonee Valley

Survey respondents were asked to identify their connection to Moonee Valley, with the ability to select multiple of the following options:

- I live here
- I work here
- I study here
- I visit here
- I own property here
- I own a business here
- I am associated with a business or community group/organisation
- I am a client of Moonee Valley's Aged Care service
- I am a Moonee Valley City Council staff member

Of those who responded to this question, 39 indicated they live in Moonee Valley. There were also numerous respondents who user services here (n=27), and those who own property here (n=27), as illustrated in the graph below.

Figure 1. Connection with Moonee Valley



3.1.2 Type of business, community group or organisation association

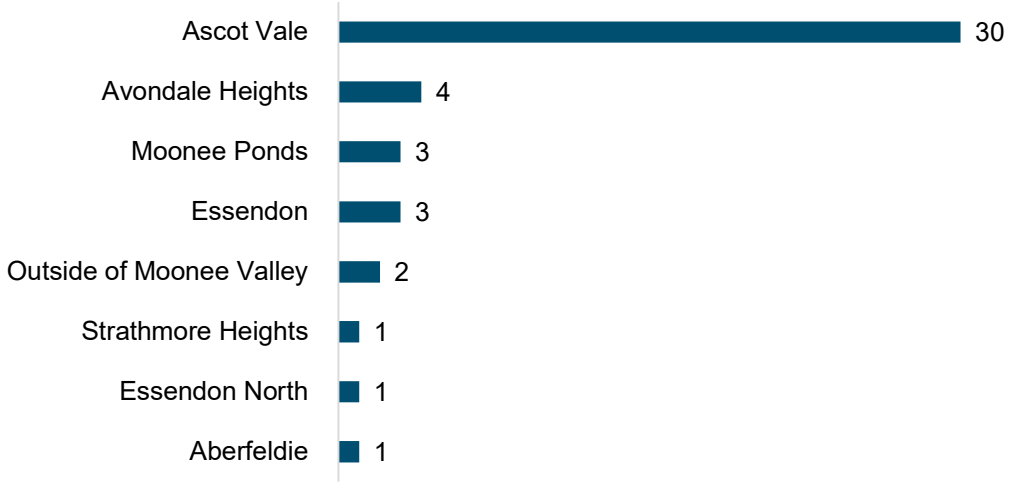
Respondents (n=5) who were associated with a business or community group /organisation were asked to identify the name of the business or community group /organisation.

There were a number of associations mentioned including: Athletics Essendon, DAV Member (MVCC), ITP (OPA), JP (Dept. of Justice), L2P Volunteer Mentor, Maribyrnong Cricket Club, St Jons Netball and Marby Lions AFL.

3.1.3 Suburb of residence

Respondents were asked to identify the suburb they live in. Of those who responded to this question (n=45), 43 were from suburbs within Moonee Valley and 2 were from suburbs outside of Moonee Valley. Of the local residents, most were from Ascot Vale (n=30), with smaller numbers from other suburbs in Moonee Valley such as Avondale Heights (n=4) and Moonee Ponds (n=3), as illustrated in the graph below.

Figure 2. Suburb of residence



Of those who identified that they lived in a suburb outside of Moonee Valley, the following suburb was listed:

- Keilor Park (n=1)

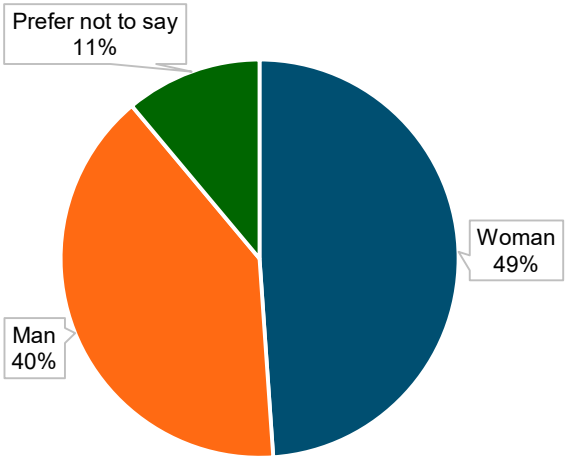
3.1.4 Gender identity

Respondents were asked their gender identity from the following options:

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe

There were 45 respondents to this question. A greater percentage of respondents identified as a woman (49%, n=22) compared with those who identified as a man (40%, n=18).

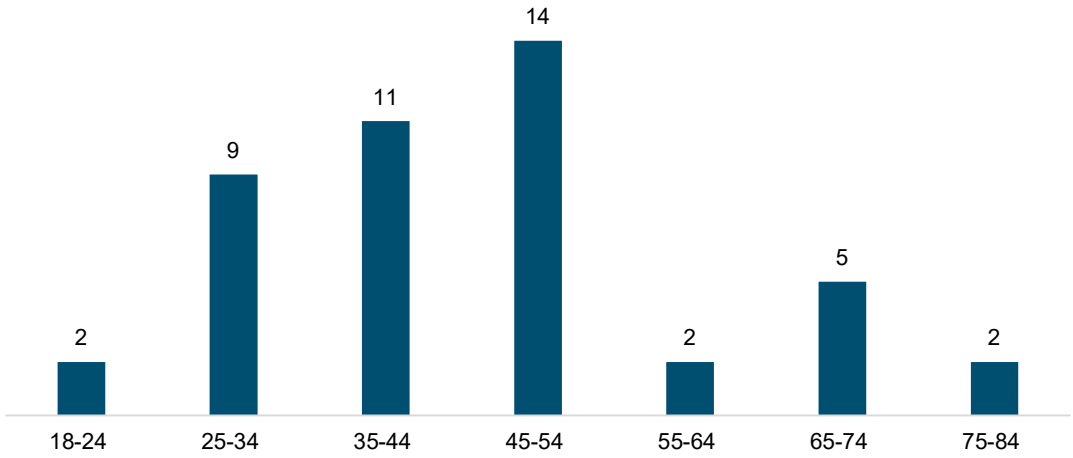
Figure 3. Gender identity



3.1.5 Age

Respondents were asked to identify which age group they belong to. There were 45 respondents to this question, with representation across 7 age brackets. Most respondents were aged between 45-54 years old (n=14).

Figure 4. Age



3.1.6 Language

Respondents were asked if they usually speak a language other than English at home, with the majority (n=32, 71%) indicating they only speak English at home.

Respondents (n=13) who identified that they usually speak a language other than English at home were asked to specify the main language they speak at home. The most commonly spoken languages other than English at home were Italian, Arabic and Spanish (n=3 each).

3.1.7 Additional identifiers

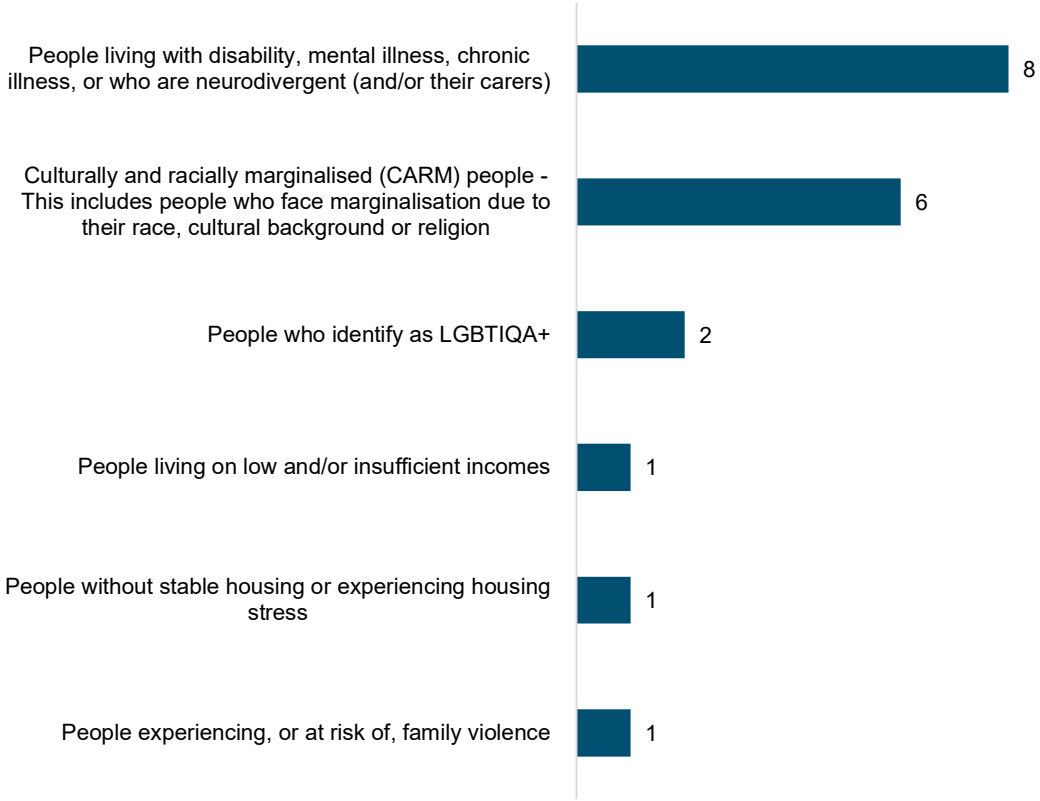
Respondents were asked whether they identify with a range of different communities and were able to select multiple from the following options:

- First Peoples - This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Culturally and racially marginalised (CARM) people - This includes people who face marginalisation due to their race, cultural background or religion
- People living with disability, mental illness, chronic illness, or who are neurodivergent (and/or their carers)
- People who identify as LGBTIQA+
- People experiencing, or at risk of, family violence
- People without stable housing or experiencing housing stress
- People living on low and/or insufficient incomes
- Prefer not to say
- None of the above

Council acknowledges that descriptive names and terminology evolve over time and can differ based on individual preferences, and Council strives to use the most current and respectful language to describe these communities.

As depicted in the graph below, a number of people identified as People living with disability, mental illness, chronic illness, or who are neurodivergent (and/or their carers) (n=8), followed by culturally and racially marginalised (CARM) people (n=6), with a number of other communities identified in the graph below.

Figure 5. Additional identifiers

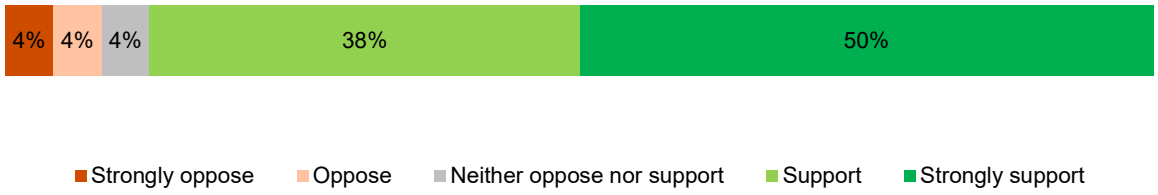


4 Survey findings

4.1 Level of support for the Fairbairn Park playspace draft Concept Design

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of opposition or support to the Fairbairn park playspace draft Concept Design. Respondents were required to select one option on a likert scale which ranged from strongly oppose to strongly support. There were 48 respondents to this question. As illustrated in the graph below, the majority of respondents either strongly supported (50%, n=24) or supported (38%, n=18) the draft Framework, with 8% expressing general opposition (n=4).

Figure 6. Overall level of support



4.2 Key reasons behind level of support

Respondents were asked to provide free text comments when asked about the reasons behind the level of support. 38 respondents provided free text comments. Respondents' comments were thematically analysed and coded, which identified 9 recurring themes, the most common theme of feedback was 'General support for the proposed playspace upgrade (n=10), followed by 'Support for a multi-court installation' (n=8).

Participants who supported the framework provided comments which generally fit within the following themes:

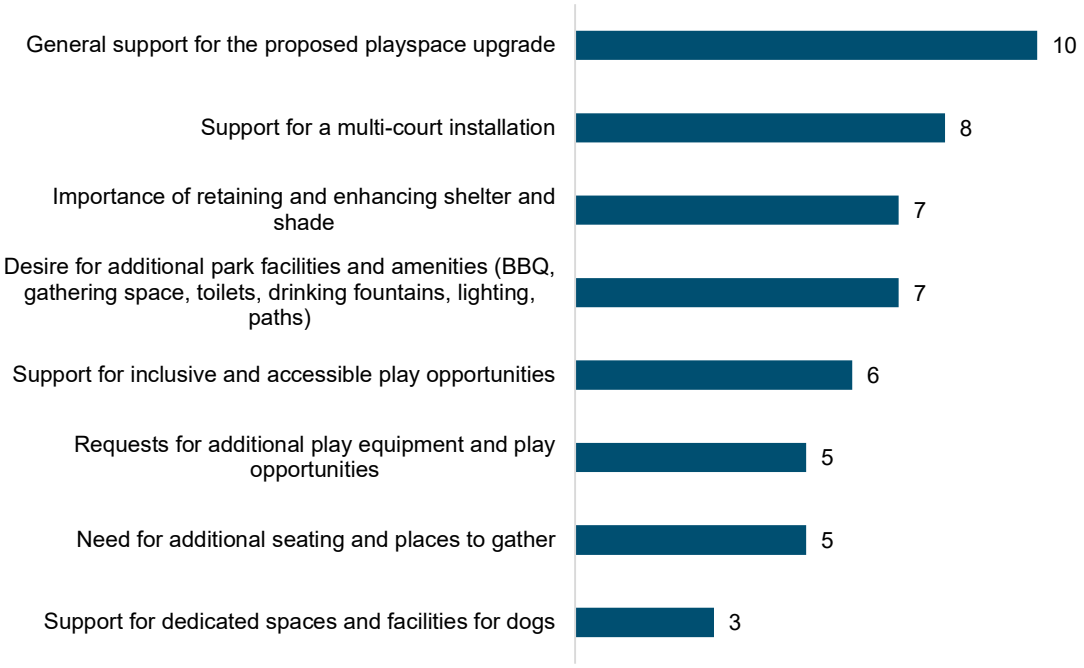
- General support for the proposed playspace upgrade
- Importance of retaining and enhancing shelter and shade
- Support for inclusive and accessible play opportunities
- Support for a multi-court installation
- Requests for additional play equipment and play opportunities

Participants who opposed or had concerns about the draft Concept Design provided comments which generally fit the following themes:

- Support for dedicated spaces and facilities for dogs
- Need for additional seating and places to gather
- Desire for additional park facilities and amenities

The frequency of themes can be seen in the graph below. Note: comments could be assigned to multiple themes.

Figure 7. Themed reasons behind level of support



Some example comments explaining support include:

- *Love the idea of netball & basketball hoops. Very much needed in the park space. The upgrades of the play equipment & sensory idea is excellent. And the tree planting is a must too.*
- *Native planting and netball hoops are great idea. Benches in sun and shade would be great for different seasons.*
- *The creation of additional basketball courts is a great addition as it feels like this is all that is missing from the park.*

Some example comments explaining opposition include:

- *Firslty the map shown is not easy to understand how much this proposal will encroach on the existing park area. This is very disingenuous. It appears to extend from the netball courts further into the existing green space. This is another slow chip away at the removal of the space as a park in favour of*

sporting lobbies. Next, why is a half court netball/basketball court even needed? I would hope this is not a poor excuse for the promised basketball stadium at Essendon Airport. Wasted money where it should be used to support the basketball stadium that is long overdue.

- *Impeding on free green space for the general public to share and enjoy.*
- *1. The existing rotunda should be retained somewhere. Sun shade is not enough - the rotunda provides a place to shelter when it rains, and is often used for parties and gatherings. 2. It appears that the only path to the play area comes from the south (near the netball pavilion). There should be access paths from the existing paths to the north and east. 3. The existing path that runs behind the netball pavilion desperately needs improving. It seems to be permanently wet and slushy, making it unsuitable to walk on.*

4.2.1 Rationale for level of support – additional information about themes identified

Theme	Description	Example sample quotes
General support for the proposed playspace upgrade	Comments expressing support for the proposed playspace upgrade and its overall direction, objectives and benefits for the community.	*"I support the proposed improvements to Fairbairn Park playspace."* *"The upgrades of the play equipment & sensory idea is excellent."* *"Sounds great."*
Importance of retaining and enhancing shelter and shade	Comments highlighting the importance of retaining existing shelter and shade while providing additional shaded areas to improve comfort, protection from weather conditions and overall park usability.	*"Shelter is essential! Please make sure there is seating with shelter."* *"Please provide more shelters and meeting structures for people watching games that are being played, with tables and seating."* *"Shelter over the play spaces is critical."*
Need for additional seating and places to gather	Comments supporting the provision of additional seating and gathering	*"I would encourage Council to ensure there is adequate shade, seating*

	spaces to improve comfort, support supervision of children, and encourage social interaction and community use of the park.	*and shelter for parents, grandparents and carers."* *"Benches in sun and shade would be great for different seasons."*
Support for inclusive and accessible play opportunities	Comments supporting play opportunities that cater to children of different ages, abilities and developmental needs, helping create a more inclusive and accessible playspace for the broader community.	*"All ages play is critical."* *"I would like confirmation that the all abilities and ages equipment caters for adults with intellectual disabilities who are mobile, people of all ages in wheelchairs who are immobile, etc."* *"The current proposal offers limited diversity in play types and experiences."*
Support for the proposed half-court basketball facility	Comments supporting the inclusion of a half-court basketball facility as an additional recreation opportunity for older children, young people and the broader community.	*"Love the idea of netball & basketball hoops."* *"Sounds great there are not enough outdoor basketball rings in monnee valley."* *"Finally a basketball hoop."*
Support for dedicated spaces and facilities for dogs	Comments supporting the provision of dedicated spaces and facilities for dogs, recognising the popularity of dog walking and the park's role as a destination for pet recreation and social interaction.	*"How will kids be kept safe from dogs running to them?"* *"I want to ensure that council is still allowing plenty of space for dogs to play at Fairbairn Park."*

		"Is there a way to fence it so dogs don't poop everywhere?"
Desire for additional park facilities and amenities (BBQ, gathering space, toilets, drinking fountains, lighting, paths)	Comments supporting or requesting additional facilities and amenities, such as BBQs, gathering spaces, toilets, drinking fountains, lighting and pathways, to improve comfort, accessibility and overall park usability.	*"I'd also really try to improve the BBQ facilities."* *"It would also be beneficial to consider facilities such as drinking fountains."* *"I would suggest adding additional toilets."*
Requests for additional play equipment and play opportunities	Comments requesting additional play equipment and features, including flying foxes, water play, climbing structures, see-saws, slides and swings, to increase the variety and appeal of play opportunities within the playspace.	*"Will there be swings?"* *"A water play zone. We don't have any in Moonee Valley."* *"Can you put athletics type material track around the perimeter for kids to run laps?"*

4.2.2 Additional suggestions and feedback

Respondents provided a range of additional suggestions and site-specific considerations for the future development of Fairbairn Park.

Suggestions included requests for additional recreational facilities such as a pump track, improved bike and car parking, enhanced dog-related signage and increased tree planting. Some respondents raised concerns about preserving open green space and ensuring future development does not negatively impact the nature of the park. Other comments related to material selection, including concerns about recycled mulch and snake risks, as well as suggestions for Wi-Fi access and a larger playspace.

4.3 Additional written submission

Council received one additional written response as part of the consultation process.

The submission supported the overall direction of the proposed playspace upgrade, including the sensory play area, covered seating and clear sightlines. Concerns were

raised about the accessibility of proposed surfaces and play elements, and emphasised the importance of shade, seating, accessible toilets, drinking water and parking to support inclusive play. The respondent also encouraged Council to engage accessibility specialists and the Disability Advisory Committee throughout the design process.

4.4 Speakpipe submission

Council received one SpeakPipe voice recording submission as part of the consultation process.

The submission opposed the proposed playspace upgrade, expressing concerns about the potential removal of existing trees, impacts on open green space and the perceived lack of need for additional recreation facilities within the park. The respondent noted the existing playground and sporting facilities already available at Fairbairn Park and suggested Council resources would be better directed towards delivering a dedicated basketball stadium within Moonee Valley. The submission also raised concerns about environmental impacts and value for money associated with the proposed project.

4.5 Social media comments

Across several social media posts (nine on Facebook and five on Instagram), Council collected fourteen comments from users.

A common theme was support for improving and maintaining local parks and playspaces.

Respondents also raised concerns about park amenity, including dog waste, off-leash dogs, and the condition of existing equipment in other reserves.

Other feedback included suggestions for additional recreational facilities, questions about Council spending priorities, and comments regarding development within open space areas.

5 Conclusion

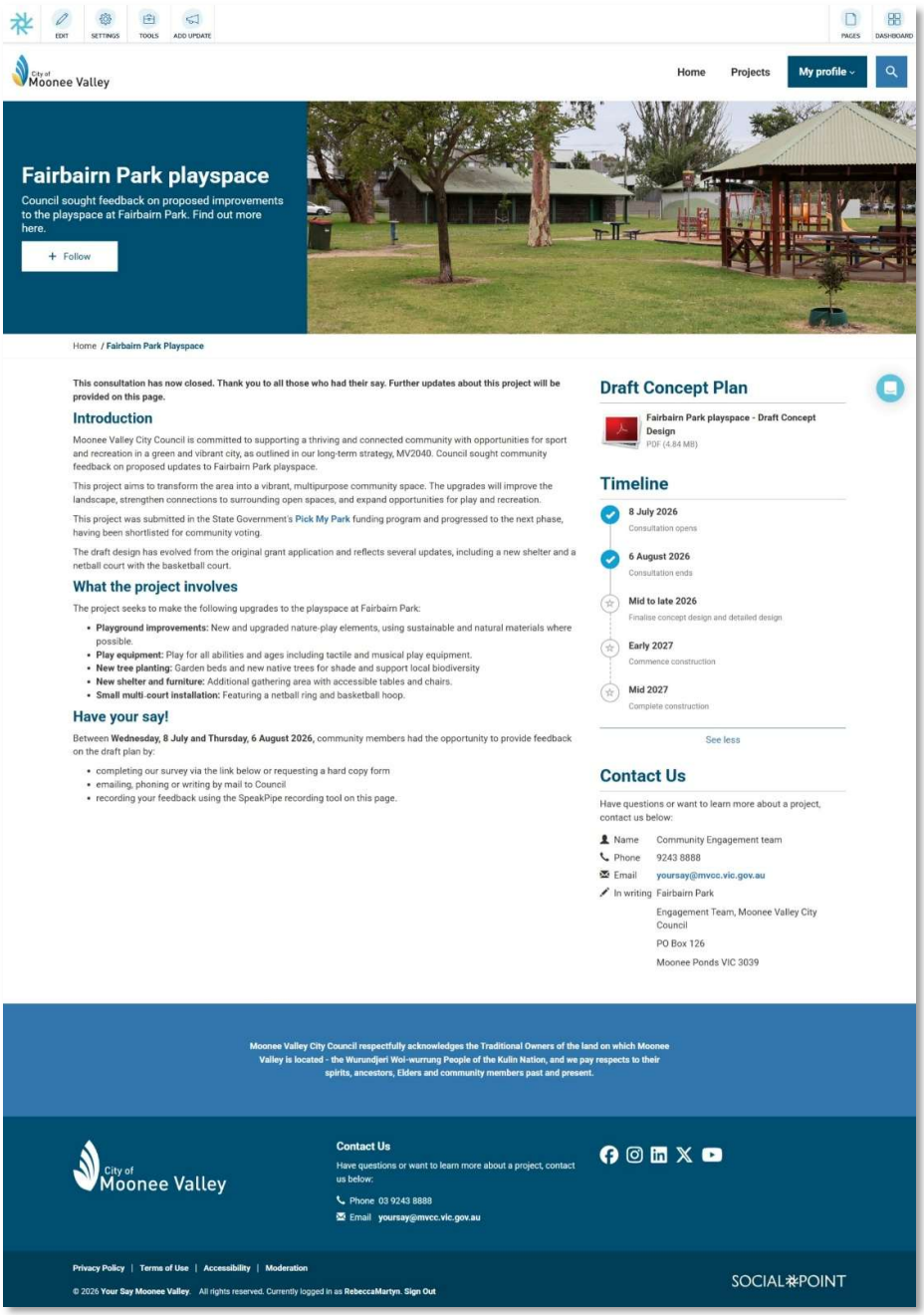
This consultation generated strong community participation and a clear level of overall support for the proposed Fairbairn Park playspace improvements. Feedback was collected through a mix of online engagement, written submissions and a SpeakPipe voice recording, providing Council with insights into how the community would like to see the playspace evolve. Most respondents supported the draft Concept Design and welcomed the proposed upgrades, particularly the inclusive play opportunities, additional shade and shelter, improved seating and gathering spaces, and the proposed multi-court installation.

At the same time, participants identified several considerations for the future development of the project. Respondents emphasised the importance of retaining and enhancing shelter and shade, ensuring accessibility and inclusive design, providing additional facilities like BBQs and drinking fountain, and maintaining opportunities for dog recreation. Community members also suggested a range of additional features and improvements, including further play equipment, increased planting, improved parking and other site-specific enhancements. A small number of respondents raised concerns about potential impacts on open green space, environmental considerations and the overall need for the proposed improvements.

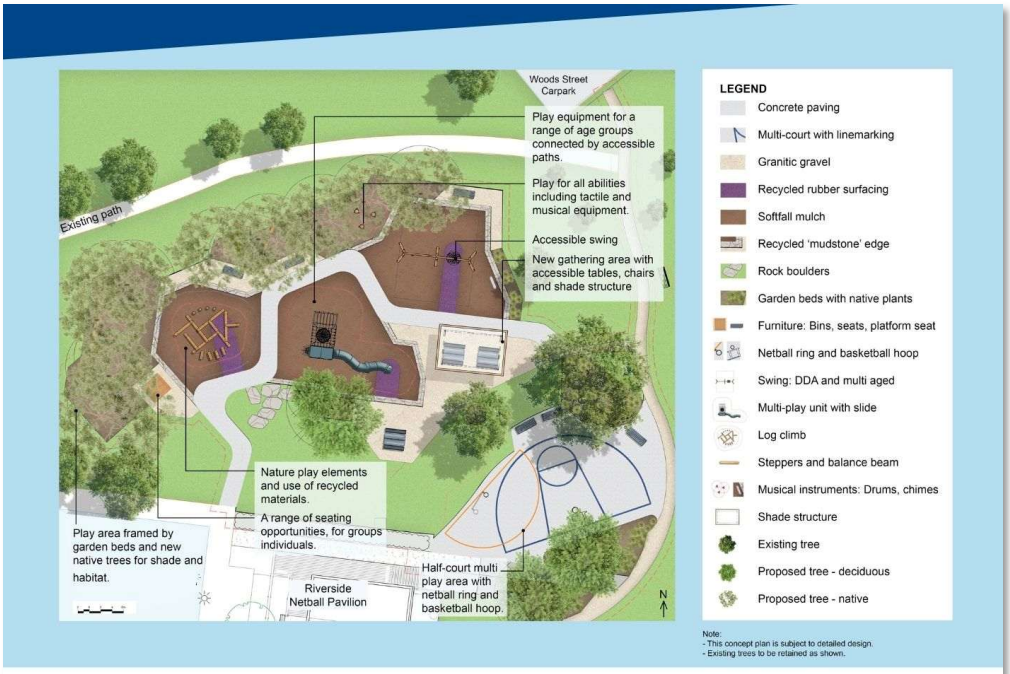
Overall, the feedback demonstrates strong support for improving the playspace while highlighting opportunities to refine the design and ensure it meets the needs of a diverse range of park users. The findings from this consultation will help inform the ongoing development of the project and support Council in creating an inclusive, welcoming and well-used community destination at Fairbairn Park.

6 Appendices

6.1 Your Say page



6.2 Onsite poster



Fairbairn Park playspace upgrade

City of Moonee Valley

We're in the final design stage for upgrades to Fairbairn Park playspace and we want to hear from you.

Planned improvements include but are not limited to:

- a small multi-court installation
- nature play elements and all abilities play equipment
- new gathering area with accessible tables chairs and shade
- garden beds and new native trees for shade and support local biodiversity.

Have your say

To view the concept design and have your say, scan the QR code or visit the link below by **Thursday, 6 August.**

Contact us

03 9243 8888

yoursay@mvcc.vic.gov.au

yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au/fairbairn-park-playspace

6.3 Survey tool

1) To what extent do you oppose or support the proposed improvements to Fairbairn Park playspace?

( ) Strongly oppose

( ) Oppose

( ) Neither oppose nor support

( ) Support

( ) Strongly support

2) Do you have any comments you would like to share about the proposed improvements to Fairbairn Park playspace?

3) What is your connection to Moonee Valley? Select all that apply.

[ ] I live here

[ ] I work here

[ ] I study here

[ ] I visit here

[ ] I own property here

[ ] I own a business here

[ ] I use services here

[ ] I am associated with a business or community group/organisation (please name):

[ ] I am a Moonee Valley City Council staff member

4) What suburb do you live in?

( ) Aberfeldie

( ) Airport West

( ) Ascot Vale

( ) Avondale Heights

( ) Essendon

( ) Essendon Fields

( ) Essendon North

( ) Essendon West

( ) Flemington

( ) Keilor East

( ) Moonee Ponds

( ) Niddrie

( ) Strathmore

( ) Strathmore Heights

( ) Travancore

( ) Outside of Moonee Valley

5) What suburb do you live in?

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

( ) Under 18

( ) 18-24

( ) 25-34

( ) 35-44

( ) 45-54

( ) 55-64

( ) 65-74

( ) 75-84

( ) 85+

7) Do you identify as:

( ) Woman

( ) Man

( ) Non-binary

( ) Prefer to self describe:

( ) Prefer not to say

8) Do you use a language other than English at home?

( ) No, I only use English at home

( ) Yes, I use other languages at home

9) Please specify which languages you use at home. Select all that apply.

[ ] Italian

[ ] Greek

[ ] Vietnamese

[ ] Mandarin

[ ] Arabic

[ ] Cantonese

[ ] Spanish

[ ] Croatian

[ ] Turkish

[ ] Hindi

[ ] I use other languages at home (please specify the other languages you use at home):

10) Do you identify with any of the following communities? Please select all that apply.

We acknowledge that descriptive names and terminology evolve over time and can differ based on individual preferences. We strive to use the most current and respectful language to describe these communities.

[ ] First Peoples - This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

[ ] Culturally and racially marginalised (CARM) people - This includes people who face marginalisation due to their race, cultural background or religion

[ ] People living with disability, mental illness, chronic illness, or who are neurodivergent (and/or their carers)

[ ] People who identify as LGBTIQA+

[ ] People experiencing, or at risk of, family violence

[ ] People without stable housing or experiencing housing stress

[ ] People living on low and/or insufficient incomes

[ ] Prefer not to say

[ ] None of the above

6.4 Social media posts

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Asset	Facebook		Instagram	
	Clicks	1,042	Comments	5
	Comments	9	Reactions	21
	Link Clicks	157	Reach	2,019
	Reach	17,494		
	Reactions	22		
	Shares	0		

6.5 Free text comments

Additional comments
Access for parents to use public access wifi would be useful
Shelter is essential! Please make sure there is seating with shelter. It doesn't need to have a picnic table but that is also helpful. It's hard to spend time in that park during the summer time. Please make sure the signage for dogs on leashes is very clear in the playground area too. All ages play is critical. Shelter over the play spaces is critical
An entire basketball half court would be better than a 3pt area only. Unsure why a netball hoop is required given there's multiple courts next to it
If at all possible I would humbly request that the basketball area be extended to at least a half court. These 3 point line shaped courts really restrict the type of play that can be enjoyed and do very little to allow actual basketball due to the cramped nature of the space. Public basketball courts are sorely missing in this area so it would be amazing for our youth to be able to actually play basketball without needing to travel or pay for the privilege. The tennis and netball courts are so beautiful and fit for purpose, I believe that the basketball area as currently proposed sends a bad message to youth who are interested in basketball as 2nd class citizens. Obviously a full court would be an incredible civic space for all of the families who use this park however I understand the constraints. A larger space in this great complex would be a wonderful addition to our community. Thank you for your work
I think that the idea for improvements is good, but I want to ensure that council is still allowing plenty of space for dogs to play at Fairbairn Park. It is a unique area which has built a significant community of furry users and owners which allows for unparalleled wellbeing benefits for both the dogs and their owners. It can already be difficult to find space at times amongst the many parallel sporting matches (sometimes 5 or 6 at a time, including cricket which goes all day). I support proposed improvements on the proviso that it does not further encroach on the areas available to dog owners - there are already so many parks where dogs are not allowed, particularly off leash.
Considering there are limited spaces for basketball in Moonee Valley. It would only be a positive to create a half court in the area similar to Coulsons Gardens.
The updates are ok but could be significantly better. I'd really include a flying fox and strngly suggest you take a look at JJ Holland park playground. This is a

fabulous playground. I'd also really try to improve the BBQ facilities. A space for people to gather would be brilliant. So what youve done is good but could be so much better.
Love the idea of netball & basketball hoops. Very much needed in the park space. The upgrades of the play equipment & sensory idea is excellent. And the tree planting is a must too.
I see nothing in the proposal that will add anything that isn't already available either at pipe makers park or other nearby parks. The investment should reflect improvements that the community want. This is an opportunity to develop a functional space that is different to the other parks around the Ascot Vale/Maribyrnong area. For example, a pump track would be a valuable asset that, when designed and built properly, would be low maintenance and provide entertainment for a wide age group. The bike jumps that were previously built at Aberfeldie park were an example of the kind of assets the younger community desire.
The play equipment should be plastic and rubber FREE - due to the environmental and health risks. Microplastic PFAS accumulation in our bodies and nature is a majorly understated problem.
Prefer more rubber surfacing given the risk of snakes nesting in recycled mulch and flood risks. The place space should have more equipment and be bigger much the same as was built Rosehill park in East Keilor.
We need multiple half courts as they are severely lacking in moonee valley. Extra basket ball half court.
I would like confirmation that the all abilities and ages equipment caters for adults with intellectual disabilities who are mobile, people of all ages in wheelchairs who are immobile, etc. Why isnt there a picture of description of the ACTUAL equipment? Because thats a very relevant part of the upgrade. Saying you will have playground equipment for all abilities and ages...does NOT informing anyone of your actual intentions. What equipment? What does it do? Is there a video showing the equipment in use? ...etcetera etcetera
Please provide more shelters and meeting structures for people watching games that are being played, with tables and seating
Better public toilet access and lighting closer to the park facilities

Please build a modern family friendly and all age suitable park with sports facilities like bike track, basketball court, climbing pyramid and water play feature, BBQ with seatings and shade
Sounds great there are not enough outdoor basketball rings in monnee valley
You need to fix the car park and space. Considering it is used by soccer, netball, cricket, canoes etc, there are not enough spaces. And then you have the audacity to fine people for parking on the grass when there is literally no where else to park. It's not good enough.
I support the proposed improvements to Fairbairn Park playspace. It is great to see investment in creating a more inclusive and connected community space that can be enjoyed by children, families and residents of all ages. The inclusion of nature play, accessible equipment, additional trees, shade, seating and a multi-use court are all positive additions. These improvements will encourage more outdoor activity, social connection and community use of the park. I would encourage Council to ensure there is adequate shade, seating and shelter for parents, grandparents and carers, as well as safe and accessible pathways throughout the area. It would also be beneficial to consider facilities such as drinking fountains, bike parking and maintaining a good balance between active recreation areas and the natural green character of the park. Overall, the proposed upgrades are a welcome improvement and will help make Fairbairn Park a more vibrant, welcoming and inclusive space for the Moonee Valley community.
Good start but the plan wasn't detailed enough - will there be swings? Slides for different age groups? It would be good to honour the same seating area roof. How will kids be kept safe from dogs running to them?
A water play zone. We don't have any in Moonee Valley, and Fairburn park area is the perfect spot. Lots of space for something like this to bring people together from surrounding suburbs.
Not the playspace but the broader park area. There are many cricket teams that play over spring and summer and limited facilities open)toilets and club rooms). I would suggest adding additional toilets or allowing teams to use the club rooms that are there.
Make a better golf driving range. You seem to have neglected that.
It would be great to have a larger playground area there, maybe some bbqs.

My nieces would absolutely love a see-saw. There isn't one anywhere nearby. Hmmm is there a way to fence it so dogs don't poop everywhere? Makes it safer for the toddlers too. Can you put athletics type material track around the perimeter for kids to run laps? Toddlers love running but fall down easy and concrete is a no go for running and grass has poop.
Please provide practical play equipment and no more of those fancy equipments that none of the kids know how to use
The play space at the Northern end of the Park is well used and enjoyed by children of various ages. The fort and the sand scoop being favourites.
The creation of additional basketball courts is a great addition as it feels like this is all that is missing from the park.
Improved play areas and a basketball hoop would be fantastic additions to see more people use this park year round.
1. The existing rotunda should be retained somewhere. Sun shade is not enough - the rotunda provides a place to shelter when it rains, and is often used for parties and gatherings. 2. It appears that the only path to the play area comes from the south (near the netball pavilion). There should be access paths from the existing paths to the north and east. 3. The existing path that runs behind the netball pavilion desperately needs improving. It seems to be permanently wet and slushy, making it unsuitable to walk on.
Finally a basketball hoop. Would be even better if it could be a full court with two hoops!!
Full basketball court installed
Firslty the map shown is not easy to understand how much this proposal will encroach on the existing park area. This is very disingenuous. It appears to extend from the netball courts further into the existing green space. This is another slow chip away at the removal of the space as a park in favour of sporting lobbies. Next, why is a half court netball/basketball court even needed? I would hope this is not a poor excuse for the promised basketball stadium at Essendon Airport. Wasted money where it should be used to support the basketball stadium that is long overdue.
Impeding on free green space for the general public to share and enjoy

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed playground design. I appreciate the work that has gone into the concept to date, and I'm writing in a professional capacity to offer constructive feedback that I believe would meaningfully strengthen the outcome for children, families, and the broader community. Cultural acknowledgement and consultation As this project sits on Wurundjeri Country, I would encourage the council to formally acknowledge the Wurundjeri people as Traditional Owners and to embed consultation with Wurundjeri representatives throughout the design process — not as a single checkpoint at the end, but as ongoing dialogue from concept through to delivery. This is consistent with best practice in public realm design and would enrich the cultural integrity and sense of place of the finished playspace. Biodiversity and habitat planting There is a substantial area of mown grass surrounding the proposed play space. This presents a genuine opportunity rather than a residual: planting out the surrounding zone with indigenous vegetation would improve habitat value and local biodiversity, soften the interface between the playspace and its broader setting, and provide children with richer, more varied natural experiences than open lawn allows. A planted buffer also performs ecological and microclimate functions that mown turf does not. Diversity of play The current proposal offers limited diversity in play types and experiences. I would encourage the design to broaden its play value, with particular attention to a therapeutic zone where children can engage in quieter, self-directed, low-stimulation play. Not every child is well served by high-arousal equipment; quiet zones provide important regulation spaces where children can feel safe, decompress, and play on their own terms. This is increasingly recognised as essential, not optional, in inclusive playspace design. Play value and engagement of the proposed equipment Speaking candidly, the equipment as proposed would entertain my own child for approximately five minutes. The strongest element of the design — and the part that will sustain the longest periods of genuine, self-directed engagement — is the planting zone. Loose natural materials give children things to build with, to manipulate, to invent with; a sand pit, for example, offers hours of open-ended play where fixed equipment offers minutes. I would urge the council to weight its investment accordingly: toward loose-part and natural-material play affordances that compound in play value, rather than toward fixed structures with a narrow functional repertoire. In summary, the design has sound foundations but would benefit from: embedded Wurundjeri consultation; replacement of surrounding lawn with habitat and biodiversity planting; the addition of a therapeutic quiet-play zone; and a deliberate rebalancing of the budget toward natural-material, open-ended play rather than fixed equipment. These adjustments would meaningfully raise the quality, inclusivity, and longevity of the playspace.

Native planting and netball hoops are great idea. Benches in sun and shade would be great for different seasons.

Would love the undercover space to be larger or the old gazebo to be retained to provide more shelter

Moonee Valley Language Line

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