

Community Consultation Report

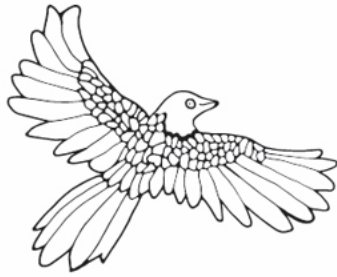
Montgomery Park Landscape Concept Design

August 2025



Contents

1. Summary	4
Background	4
Engagement strategies	4
Key findings	5
2. Introduction	6
2.1 Key engagement questions	6
3. Methodology	6
3.1 Communication	6
3.2 Participation	6
3.3 Theming framework	7
3.4 Survey respondent demographics	8
4. Findings	10
4.1 Level of support for the Concept Design	10
4.2 Rationale for level of support	11
4.3 Favourite improvements proposed for Montgomery Park	12
4.4 Other comments about the proposed design	12
4.5 Onsite consultations	13
4.6 Combined community feedback	14
4.7 Email submissions	23
4.8 Social media comments	23
5. Conclusion	23
6. Appendices	24
6.1 Your Say page	24
6.2 Onsite poster and flyer	25
6.3 Survey	26
6.4 Social media posts	29
6.5 Email submissions	31
6.6 Free text comments	32



Moonee Valley City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which Moonee Valley is located – the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation; and we pay respects to their Spirits, Ancestors, Elders and their community members past and present.

Council also extends this respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who call Moonee Valley home.

Artwork by Wurundjeri artist, the late Judy Nicholson

1. Summary

Background

The Montgomery Park Master Plan was adopted by Council on 29 January 2019 to guide the design and possible future development of the park for the next 15 years. Since the plan was adopted, further technical investigations and onsite developments have resulted in some changes to the proposed landscape upgrades for the park.

A key change was the construction of a new kindergarten in a different location to that shown in the master plan. This has altered the future layout of some elements in the park. Other changes include the installation of a temporary pump track, the proposed removal of the cricket nets and further viability analysis of the stormwater harvesting and treatment system.

In May 2025, following prior consultations about the master plan development, future pump track location and construction of the new kindergarten, Council consulted with community about the kindergarten landscaping design. In July 2025, Council invited feedback from community about the draft landscape concept design for Montgomery Park. The landscape concept design is the next step towards implementation of the Master Plan.

Community feedback from this consultation will inform the final landscape concept design for Montgomery Park.

Engagement strategies

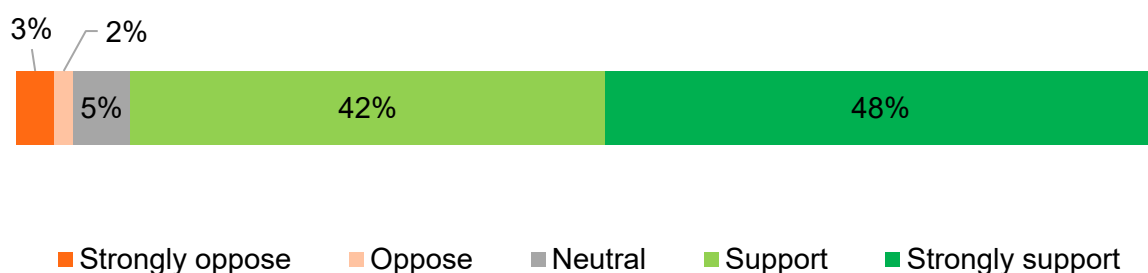
Community members could contribute to the consultation via:

1. A dedicated Your Say webpage (Appendix 6.1), which linked participants to the online survey (Appendix 6.3 Survey), draft concept plan and artist's impressions of the design elements.
2. A QR code included on an onsite poster and flyer (Appendix 6.2) which linked participants to the online survey (and associated information) via the Your Say page. The flyer was delivered to 2,500 households surrounding Montgomery Park.
3. Onsite consultations on 8th and 9th of August 2025.
4. Telephoning or emailing Council.

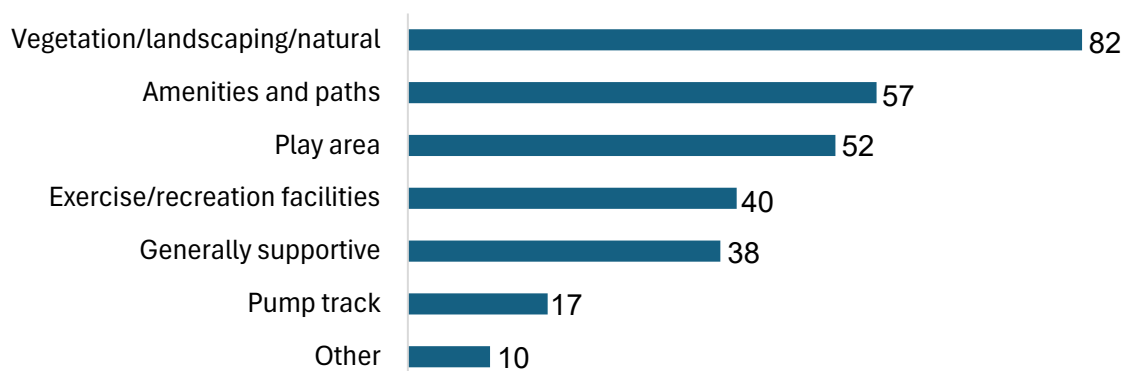
A total of 109 people participated in the consultation.

Key findings

- Of the 59 survey respondents, most live in Moonee Valley (93%), including Essendon (n¹=38), and Moonee Ponds (n=15).
- Most respondents identified as a woman (72%) and are between 35-49 years old (n=35).
- Several respondents identified as a person with a disability, a carer, a disability ally and/or a person needing help with self-care or movement.
- Most respondents (90%) either strongly support (48%) or support (42%) the proposed design:



- The five highest ranked improvements for Montgomery Park were:
 1. Upgraded play space
 2. Nature based play
 3. Picnic facilities
 4. Improved natural shade
 5. Multi court and hit up wall and integrated bouldering wall
- The top three themes across all community feedback were:
 1. Vegetation/landscaping/natural (n=82)
 2. Amenities and paths (n=57)
 3. Play area (n=52)



¹ 'n' represents the number of people who responded to a particular question or prompt.

2. Introduction

Proposed improvements within the landscape concept design include:

- Upgraded play space, including inclusive and nature-based play
- Picnic facilities and seating options
- A multi court and hit up wall with an integrated bouldering wall
- A permanent pump track and exercise equipment
- A multi-use platform/ stage
- New garden beds, additional planting and improved natural shade
- New and upgraded path connections

2.1 Key engagement questions

Survey participants were invited to provide feedback about their:

- Overall level of support for the concept design
- Favourite improvements for the park
- General feedback about the proposed design

The full survey is available at Appendix 6.3.

3. Methodology

3.1 Communication

Participants were informed about the engagement project via the onsite posters, the Your Say page, social media posts (Appendix 6.4), and a direct mailout of a flyer and a direct mailout of a flyer to 2,500 households surrounding Montgomery Park.

3.2 Participation

The table below provides information about consultation participation.

Table 1. Consultation participation

Consultation	Engagement Type	Participation
Your Say website	Page views	1,147
	Page visits	1,046
	Unique visitors ²	785
	Project followers	8
Online survey	Survey responses	59*
Onsite	In person discussion	46
Email	Emails sent to Council	2
Social media	Social media comments	2
		Total respondents: 109

*An additional 22 survey responses were disqualified as they contained no data.

3.3 Theming framework

Based on a sample of 30 free text responses to the two qualitative survey questions, a framework was developed to code community feedback against key themes. Some comments were assigned more than one code to reflect multiple themes identified within the one comment. The framework was refined throughout the coding process, with 7 themes identified, below. The same framework was used to code community feedback provided via the onsite consultations.

1. **Vegetation/landscaping/natural** – Comments regarding trees, plants, central lawn area, landscaping, natural features, habitat and materials and level of development/activation of the park.
2. **Amenities and paths** – Comments about paths and amenities including the stage, toilets, shelter, dog walking areas, lighting, drinking taps, signs, rubbish bins, bike facilities, BBQ facilities.
3. **Play area** – Support for proposed upgrades to the play area and feedback regarding preferred features and suggested changes to the play area design.
4. **Exercise/recreation facilities** – Comments about the exercise equipment, basketball and tennis court, cricket nets, climbing wall.
5. **Generally supportive** – Generally positive sentiment about the proposed changes, need for an upgrade, value of improvements for community.
6. **Pump track** – Comments about the pump track.

² The number of unique users of the project Your Say page. A visitor is only counted once, even if they visit the site several times in one day.

7. **Other** – Comments about the consultation and upgrade process and community value of the park. Feedback beyond scope of current consultation.

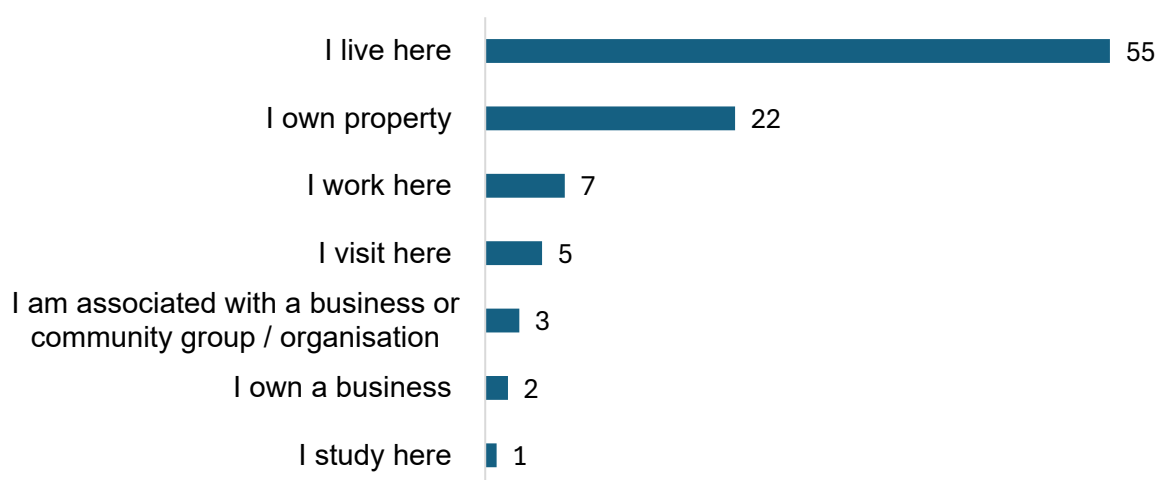
Further information is provided about each theme in Section 4.

3.4 Survey respondent demographics

Connection to Moonee Valley

Survey respondents were asked to identify their connection to Moonee Valley, with the ability to select multiple options from those listed in the graph below. Of the 59 respondents to this question, 55 indicated they live in Moonee Valley and 22 indicated they own property here, with several respondents indicating they have other local connections.

Figure 1. Connection to Moonee Valley



Type of business, community group or organisation association

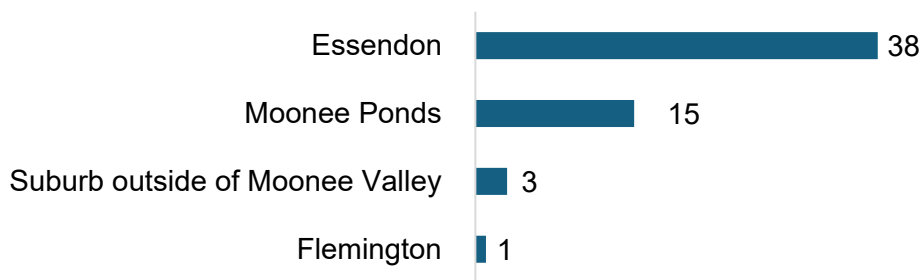
The three respondents who indicated they are associated with a business or community group /organisation specified the associations listed below.

- 4th Brunswick Scouts (just over the creek!)
- Moonee Ponds Primary School Parents Association
- Moonee Valley Football Club

Residential suburb

Respondents were asked to identify the suburb they live in. Of the 57 respondents to this question, most (n=54) were from suburbs within Moonee Valley and 3 were from suburbs outside of Moonee Valley (Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick and Brunswick West). Of the local residents, most were from Essendon (n=38), followed by Moonee Ponds (n=15).

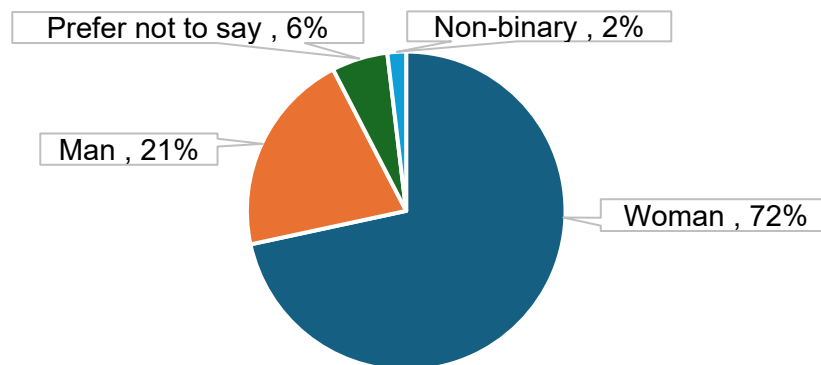
Figure 2. Residential suburb



Gender identity

Respondents were asked their gender identity. Of the 53 respondents to this question, a greater percentage identified as a woman (72%) compared with those who identified as a man (21%).

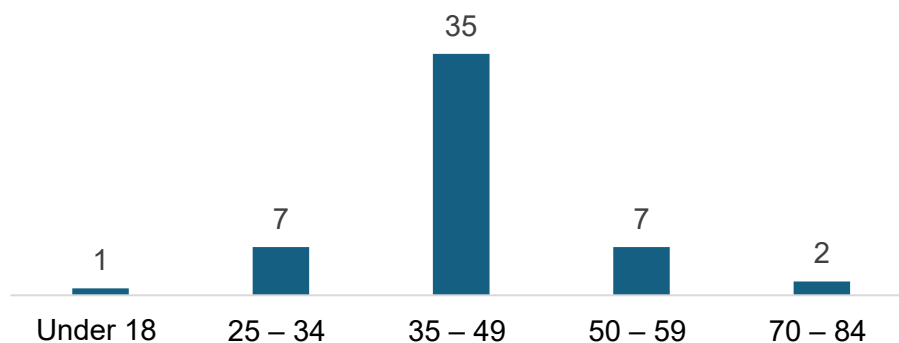
Figure 3. Gender identity



Age

Respondents were asked to identify which age group they belong to. Of the 52 respondents to this question, most (n=35) were between 35-49 years old.

Figure 4. Age group



Language

Participants were asked if they usually speak a language other than English at home. Of the 51 respondents to this question, 49 indicated they speak English only at home and 2 said the main language they speak at home is Italian.

Additional identifiers

Respondents were asked whether they identify with a range of different options including Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, LGBTQIA+, a person with a disability, a carer, a disability ally, or a person needing assistance with self-care activities/ movement and communication. Respondents could select multiple options, with responses summarised below.

Table 1. Additional identifiers

Identifier	Response rate
LGBTQIA+	6
A person with a disability	5
A carer	3
A disability ally	3
Aboriginal	1
Torres Strait Islander	1
Need help with self-care activities	1
Need help with body movement activities	1

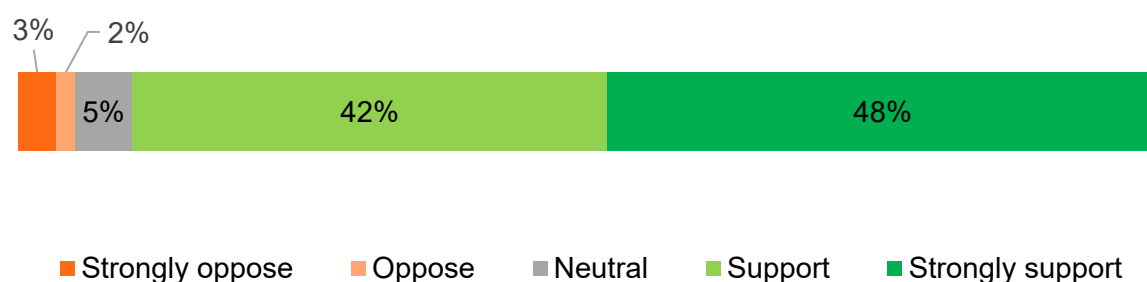
4. Findings

This section presents the main findings from the survey, along with community feedback provided via the onsite consultations, emails to Council and social media.

4.1 Level of support for the Concept Design

When survey respondents were asked to what extent they support or oppose the Montgomery Park Landscape Concept Design, 60 participants responded to this question. As illustrated in the graph below, the majority of respondents either strongly supported (48%, n=29) or supported (42%, n=25) the proposed design, with 5% expressing opposition (n=3) and 5% (n=3) neutral.

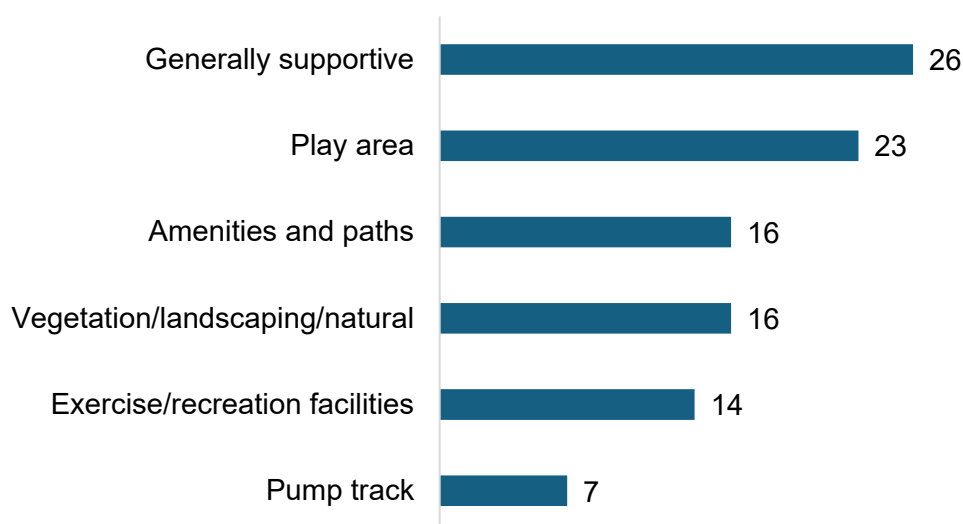
Figure 5. Level of support for the Concept Design



4.2 Rationale for level of support

When survey respondents were asked if they had any comments to expand on their level of support for the Concept Design, 49 respondents provided free text comments. Respondents' comments were thematically analysed and coded against the theming framework, which identified comments relevant to six of the seven themes, and 108 separate mentions. As illustrated in the graph below, the theme with the most mentions was Generally supportive (n=26), followed by Play area (n=23) and Amenities and paths (n=16).

Figure 6. Rationale for level of support



Further information about the above themes is summarised in Section 4.6 below.

4.3 Favourite improvements proposed for Montgomery Park

Survey respondents were asked what their favourite proposed improvements are for Montgomery Park. Respondents were invited to rank up to five improvements listed in the table below, in order of their preference (with 1 being their most favourite). As illustrated in the table, the three highest ranked improvements were Upgraded play space, followed by Nature based play and picnic facilities.

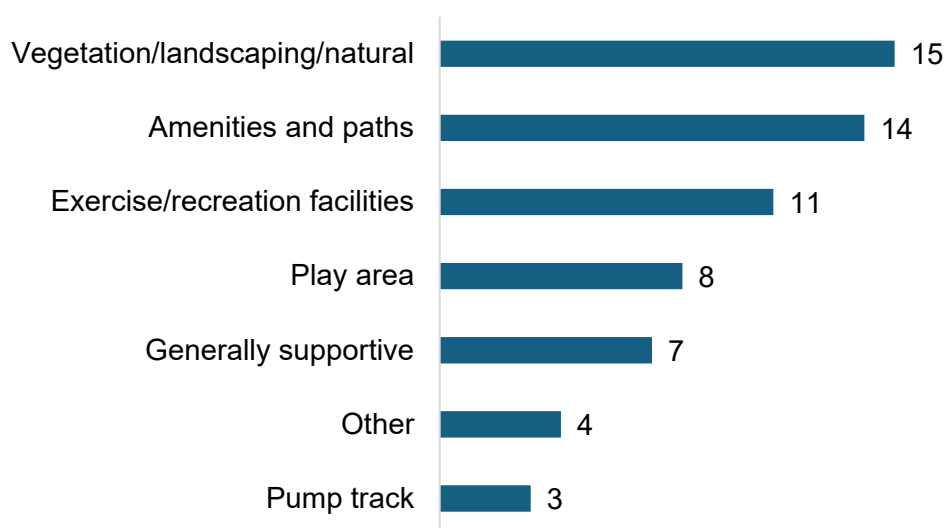
Table 2. Favourite improvements proposed for Montgomery Park

Rank	Item
1	Upgraded play space
2	Nature based play
3	Picnic facilities
4	Improved natural shade
5	Multi court and hit up wall with integrated bouldering wall
6	New garden beds and additional planting
7	Seating options
8	New and upgraded path connections
9	Inclusive play
10	Pump track
11	Exercise Equipment
12	Multi-use platform/ stage

4.4 Other comments about the proposed design

When survey respondents were asked if they had any other comments about the proposed design, 41 respondents provided free text comments. Respondents' comments were thematically analysed and coded against the theming framework, which identified comments relevant to all seven themes, and 62 separate mentions. As illustrated in the graph below, the theme with the most mentions was Vegetation/landscaping/natural (n=15), followed by Amenities and paths (n=14) and Exercise/recreation facilities (n=11).

Figure 7. Other comments about the proposed design



Further information about the above themes is summarised in Section 4.6 below.

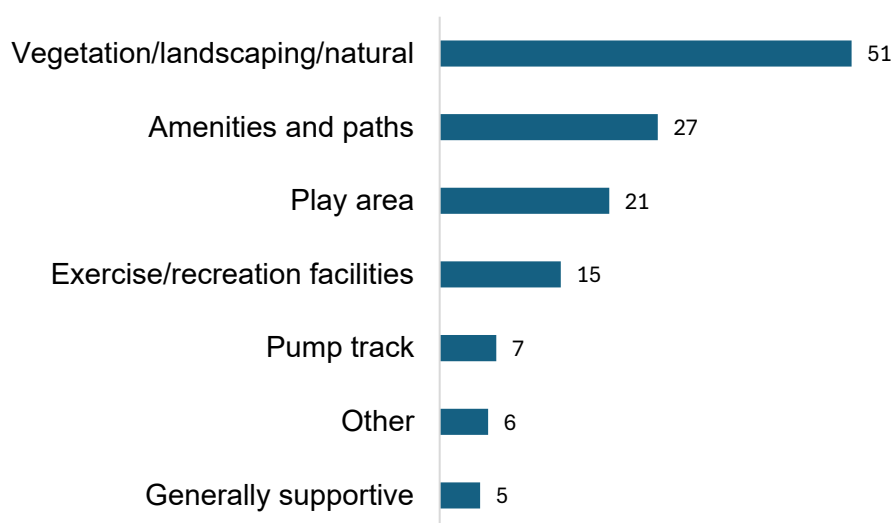
4.5 Onsite consultations

A total of forty-six community members provided feedback across the two onsite consultations about the Concept Design. Participants included:

- Residents from nearby streets and the broader local area
- Residents from neighbouring suburbs and municipalities
- Parents and their children, including parents of children enrolled at the Montgomery Park Kindergarten
- Local residents visiting with their dog
- Residents visiting to use the basketball ring

During the onsite consultations, Council staff recorded a total of 127 comments from participants. Respondents' comments were thematically analysed and coded against the theming framework, which identified comments relevant to all seven themes, and 132 separate mentions. As illustrated in the graph below, the theme with the most mentions was Vegetation/landscaping/natural (n=51), followed by Amenities and paths (n=27) and Play area (n=21).

Figure 8. Community feedback from onsite consultations

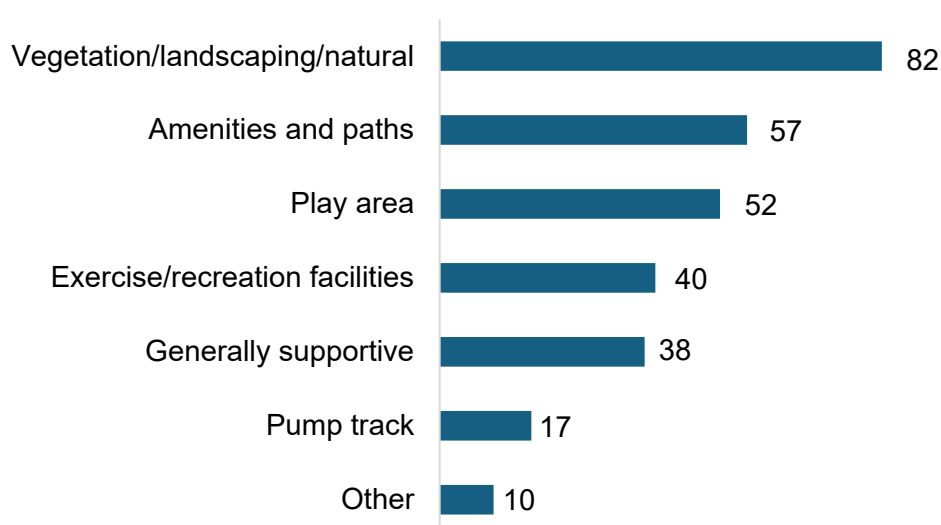


Further information about the above themes is summarised in Section 4.6 below.

4.6 Combined community feedback

The community feedback themes from the survey and onsite consultations were combined to determine the most prominent themes overall. As illustrated in the graph below, the theme with the most mentions was Vegetation/landscaping/natural (n=82), followed by Amenities and paths (n=57) and Play area (n=52).

Figure 9. Combined community feedback



Further information about the above themes is summarised in the table below. Verbatim, free text comments from the survey are provided at Appendix 6.6.

Table 3. Further detail about community feedback

Theme 1: Vegetation/landscaping/natural (n=82) Comments regarding trees, plants, central lawn area, landscaping, natural features, habitat and materials and level of development/activation of the park.	
Summary of content	Example verbatim quotes
• Supportive of proposed landscaping, plantings, commitment to ecological sensitivity and habitat considerations, water sensitive design, natural/sustainable materials and nature play. • Concern about tree removal, quality and maintenance of the central lawn area (muddy, floods, sandy, dusty, weeds, bindis, holes), draining, irrigation and long-term maintenance of new plants. • Concern about overdevelopment of the park, including built infrastructure/multiple features – impacting open, green space and natural setting, impact on wildlife and birds. • Preference to use natural materials and preserve, expand, restore and conserve existing vegetation, tree canopy, natural habitat, biodiversity, sustainable water use and original character of the park. Plantings to buffer the kindergarten, bushland area in former kindergarten site and behind tennis courts. • Seeking a quiet, peaceful environment/areas with green space and natural buffers for passive recreation – to cater for broader range of park users and activities in addition to children’s play. • Community garden suggestion.	<i>The attention to water-sensitive design is also smart, given how frequently the lawn floods, and it's reassuring to see plans for improved drainage and stormwater planting. Likewise, the intention to restore native vegetation is commendable, and the use of brick paving, refurbished timber elements, and re-use of site materials where feasible is a great idea to increase sustainability and helps retain a sense of continuity with the park's existing character.</i> <i>While the revised Masterplan introduces a number of positive initiatives, it fails to meaningfully address the major losses incurred—particularly the degradation of the park's walking track and the large, shaded, grassed areas once supported by mature canopy trees. These were fundamental to both the functionality and identity of Montgomery Park. The new plan delivers features with good intent (possibly overly so), but it does not seek to restore the previous "bones" of the park—the essential layout and landscape elements that gave it character and usability.</i> <i>I am disappointed to see that the plan appears to contain zero investment in improving the quality</i>

• Query about purpose of dry creek bed.	<i>of the main open space of the park, which is weedy, muddy, and uneven. It has the potential to be a beautiful green grassy space for picnics, ball sports, kite flying, and general enjoyment. Currently it feels like walking through an abandoned paddock.</i>
---	--

Theme 2: Amenities and paths (n=57)

Comments about paths and amenities including the stage, toilets, shelter, dog walking areas, lighting, drinking taps, signs, rubbish bins, bike facilities, BBQ facilities.

Summary of content	Example verbatim quotes
• Generally supportive of improved amenities and paths. • Importance of shelter/shade throughout park and over playground (including natural shade). • Supportive of improved access between different areas of the park and circuit path (e.g. for children's cycling), versus too many paths, impractical path near the slide. • Request to restore/enlarge the walking track, within a more organic, natural landscape and improved flow – unimpeded by play area. • Preference for gravel versus hard paths, or a mix. • Concern about comingling of dog walkers and children along path between two play areas. • Preference to omit stage – won't be used, uncertainty about the concept, versus suggestion to reposition it away from play area, to encourage broader use.	<i>Why did the water tap move to the outside of the park. Kids and dogs will run there automatically, and this is unsafe.</i> <i>... the proposed stage or platform could be a real opportunity. It's an inclusive feature that could support community events, music, and broader cultural use. But by embedding it directly within the children's play zone, its potential as a shared space is somewhat diminished. I would encourage a rethink of its placement so that it can serve more than one audience, as a space that invites intergenerational and casual use without being tied to a specific purpose.</i> <i>Please include a fenced dog play area. This is so desperately needed in this area. There are so many dogs in this area, and we so need a good recreational space: there is so much space in this park and it would enable the whole family (including fur babies!) to enjoy this space.</i>

• Retain/upgrade toilet, include additional toilets. • Request for functional drinking fountain (e.g. behind tennis court/within the park), dog water bowls. • More seating. • Querying upgrades to lighting – some supportive or neutral about upgrades, some concerned about limited/absent lighting. • Requests for a (fenced) dog play area, or off-leash central grass area. • Concerns about maintaining new features. • Supportive of signage about plants. Suggest signage regarding park history, no smoking signs. • More bins; easy to open, include dog waste bags. • Request for more barbeque facilities.	<i>I am further disappointed in the very obtuse and self-serving explanation as to why there will be limited (?none) lighting in and around the park. If MVCC is serious about contributing to the health and wellness of locals, it should reconsider the master plan's approach to lighting.</i>
---	---

Theme 3: Play area (n=52)

Support for proposed upgrades to the play area and feedback regarding preferred features and suggested changes to the play area design.

Summary of content	Example verbatim quotes
• Supportive of upgraded, accessible/inclusive play spaces, incorporation of hill, additional and specific equipment (e.g. slides, more swings, cubby). • Preference for natural materials (e.g. wood, rocks, logs), nature play, concern play doesn't blend with conservation area.	<i>Playground equipment concept seems outdated and restricts age limit and recommend a more modern design; that fits into nature and suit more ages. The wooden style playgrounds that you see across Victoria are much nicer, have better exploration concepts from young to older ages, for example, royal park nature play playground, Pipemakers Play Space; Victory Park playground; Boathouse Maribyrnong and Pirate Ship. These playgrounds</i>

- Good range of equipment, caters to a range of ages, versus outdated and restricted age range.
- Concern the play area is not accessible/inclusive enough. E.g., concern about sand, lack of handrails, busy mural on climbing wall, lack of seating visible from playground, lack of fencing, swings without back support, need for equipment large enough for older children/adults with disabilities, or accompanied play, sensory equipment for neurodiverse children).
- Ensure some equipment is safe and accessible for toddlers, safety of slide. Include play equipment for older children and adults.
- Difficulty supervising children in different areas.
- Suggestion to co-locate elements, increase investment in upgrading existing equipment, with smaller second play area if required, concern play area overextends into open area, excessive play area near slide, versus request for more/larger play areas.
- Desire for interesting, fun, custom made play equipment, comparisons with other playgrounds.
- Specific, additional suggestions, e.g., mud kitchen, kids' hamster wheel, multi-person spring rocker, water play, flying fox, climbing elements, imaginative play, seesaws, inground trampoline, repositioning of some elements, add steps to top of slide on one side.

stand the test of time, from toddlers to early teens still able to play and explore. Moonee Ponds does not need a colourful metal and plastic slide. Keep within nature, make it aesthetically pleasing and age friendly.

I love the overall concept I just wish the playground facilities were better. MVCC playground facilities are lacking in comparison to newer suburbs, and we regularly seek out (drive to) playgrounds in new estates each weekend as opposed to staying local in MV. We can walk to Montgomery Park but it's boring, as is Queens Park and most of the other parks locally if you are a 9 and 10 year old. Most play equipment is for smaller kids.

Theme 4: Exercise/recreation facilities (n=40)

Comments about the exercise equipment, basketball and tennis court, cricket nets, climbing wall.

Summary of content	Example verbatim quotes
• Supportive of upgraded recreation facilities, climbing wall (with one person considering the bouldering wall to be excessive). • Preference to omit exercise equipment – won't be used, versus position all the exercise equipment together (e.g. near basketball area), and include more equipment/outdoor gym. • Preference for full size basketball court, two rings, non-rigid, night lighting (though understand potential impact on residents). • Individual concerns about noise associated with the basketball court, orientation facing into the sun, risk of balls hitting people using paths. • Suggestion to move court to proposed location of pump track (all ball sports together, distance noise from residents). • Request to update tennis court to include Pickleball, include hard wall for solo play/handball. Request to relocate tennis wall to Albion St. • Disappointed the cricket net will be removed; popular. • Include a bike maintenance station, more bike tracks/jumps/facilities. • Request to include AFL posts.	<i>I'd observe that the single basketball ring is very highly utilized- if there's possibility to incorporate a second one, perhaps in the area that previously had the old kindergarten outdoor play area, that would almost certainly see a lot of extra use of the park, for not much cost.</i> <i>The adult exercise area that proposed is tokenistic. It should be expanded to include vastly more equipment, similar to that which Merri-Bek City Council installed in Dunstan Reserve Outdoor Gym in Brunswick West. This would be an invaluable investment in the health of MVCC adults. I am not aware of anything similar to this already existing in MVCC and Montgomery Park has plenty of space to accommodate this.</i>

Theme 5: Generally supportive (n=38)

Generally positive sentiment about the proposed changes, need for an upgrade, value of improvements for community.

Summary of content	Example verbatim quotes
• Upgrade is appreciated and overdue. • Sense of urgency to deliver the upgrade. • Exciting potential to create a more appealing community space. • Encourages families/groups to gather.	<i>There is desperate need to improve the space that makes the environment more appealing for the local community to want to visit as a destination outing. Currently the space is underutilised and is a sign that it does not support the needs of the local community.</i> <i>I'm hoping with an upgrade it will be money well spent and a place for everyone to get together and play on an amazing playground with some green oval space. The space presents an amazing opportunity for an awesome playground.</i> <i>I am very much looking forward to the improvements as a local resident, and father of a 15 year old and 7 year old daughters and 4 year old son. I have 10 years of memories at Montgomery park - using all the facilities and think the playground demographic of 4-12 is perfect to attract and make use of a well thought through and highly valued master plan to a much loved asset of this little pocket of Essendon. Thank you and well done”.</i> <i>I appreciate the thoughtful effort that has gone into the proposed concept design for Montgomery Park. The draft shows a clear commitment to accessibility, ecological sensitivity, and improved amenities. However, I</i>

	<i>do have some concerns and suggestions regarding the plan's broader impacts on the park's function, character, and community value.</i>
Theme 6: Pump track (n=17) Comments about the pump track.	
Summary of content	Example verbatim quotes
• Mostly unsupportive - not required, remove, move. • Underutilised, too advanced, dysfunctional, another one close by (Fanny Reserve), 'eye-sore', limited space, impacts grassed/picnic area, move to behind tennis courts, preference for 'hit up wall' in pump track location. • Concerned with size (too large?). • Some supportive of a permanent pump track, conditional support if the track is designed for younger children (Fanny St not suitable for younger children).	<i>The current pump track does not work well.</i> <i>The kids love the pump track. Definitely keen for a permanent one that's not gravel/dirt (e.g. asphalt).</i>
Theme 7: Other (n=10) Comments about the consultation and upgrade process and community value of the park. Feedback beyond scope of current consultation.	
Summary of content	Example verbatim quotes
• Queries/comments about process and timelines for the consultation and upgrade. Importance of local input. • Local community value of the park. • Concerns about kindergarten cleaning staff noise, overnight lighting and bin removal.	<i>We want our thoughts to be valued. We have been caring for this park for many years as this park has been overlooked by Council for so long. We view it as an extension of our homes and spend a lot of time looking after it.</i> <i>It's human nature to resist change, especially when it affects a familiar</i>

- Request for safe bike route/lane to access the park.

place we care about, and I imagine council gets plenty of feedback that boils down to "please improve the park, but don't change anything." Still, I hope it's clear that the concerns raised aren't about resisting progress for the sake of it. They come from people who genuinely care about this park. Montgomery Park has the potential to be a lovely public space for all. I hope this project builds on what already works, while improving the park in a way that is inclusive, ecologically sensitive, and genuinely shaped by the people who use it every day. Every day, I see the breadth of the community that uses this park. There's the group of dog walkers who loop the reserve together every evening, keeping an eye out for each other and for the space. There's an older woman who comes to pick up rubbish every day, quietly and consistently, as her daily act of care. A man with a disability and his carer use the paths for daily laps, always greeting passersby. I've seen older kids and teenagers gather after school, sometimes for basketball, sometimes just to hang out in a safe, open space. Recently, people who worked at AgVic were there to release rehabilitated possums and were educating all the interested passersby. These kinds of quiet stories don't always appear in design documents, but they speak to the kind of park this has been: deeply local, richly used, and full of layered meaning.

4.7 Email submissions

Two respondents provided feedback about the Concept Design via email to Council, as summarised below:

- Respondent 1 - Concerned that the stormwater harvesting system that was suggested in the original proposal is not included in the Concept Design.
- Respondent 2 – dissatisfied with the level of consultation about the Montgomery Park Kindergarten and no provision for off-lead dog walking in the Concept Design.

The (deidentified) emails are provided at Appendix 6.5. Council responded separately to these concerns.

4.8 Social media comments

Two people provided comments in response to Council's social media posts about the Concept Design:

- Concerns about the provision of shade over the children's playground.
- Posted photos of beautiful parks/gardens, as inspiration for the design.

5. Conclusion

This consultation achieved rich engagement with community members who are local and passionate about Montgomery Park. Overall, community sentiment regarding the proposed concept design is predominantly positive. Participants expressed a clear need for an upgrade to the park and view the proposed plan as a welcome opportunity to recreate an inviting space for multi-purpose recreation in the much-loved park.

In addition to support for specific design elements, participants provided considerable constructive feedback about preferred design elements, and suggested improvements. This included a strong preference to maximise vegetation and natural elements of the design, the need for adequate, well-maintained amenities and paths, a desire for safe, innovative and inclusive play areas, well planned recreation/exercise facilities, and preservation of the local character and community value of the park.

This feedback will be important for Council to consider in its approach to the design phase and balancing the diverse needs of local park users.

6. Appendices

6.1 Your Say page

EDIT

SETTINGS

TOOLS

ADD UPDATE

PHOTOS

DOCUMENTS

City of Moonee Valley

Home

Projects

My profile

Montgomery Park landscape concept design

Council is upgrading the landscape of Montgomery Park, Essendon. Thank you for having your say about the draft concept design.

+ Follow



Home / Montgomery Park landscape concept design

This consultation has now closed and Council is considering community feedback. Thank you to all those who had their say. Further updates on next steps will be provided on this page.

Background

The Montgomery Park Master Plan was adopted by Council on 29 January 2019 to guide the design and possible future development of the park for the next 15 years. Since the plan was adopted, further technical investigations and on-site developments have resulted in some changes to the proposed landscape upgrades for the park.

A key change was the construction of a new kindergarten in a different location to that shown in the master plan. This has altered the future layout of some elements in the park. Other changes include the installation of a temporary pump track, the proposed removal of the cricket nets and further viability analysis of the stormwater harvesting and treatment system. In May 2025, following prior consultations about the master plan development, future pump track location and construction of the new kindergarten, Council consulted with community about the kindergarten landscaping design. In July 2025, Council invited feedback from community about the draft landscape concept design for Montgomery Park. The landscape concept design is the next step towards implementation of the Master Plan.

Proposed improvements within the landscape concept design include:

- Upgraded play spaces, including inclusive and nature-based play
- Picnic facilities and seating options
- A multi court and hit up wall with an integrated bouldering wall
- A permanent pump track and exercise equipment
- A multi-use platform stage
- New garden beds, additional planting and improved natural shade
- New and upgraded path connections

Community were invited to have their say about their:

- Overall level of support for the concept design
- Favourite improvements for the park
- General feedback about the proposed design

You can view the draft concept design here and individual design elements below.

For further information, please see our [FAQs](#), [site analysis](#) and [master plan](#).

Draft concept design elements

Scroll through individual elements of the draft concept plan below



Montgomery Park Concept Design

Document Library

Montgomery Park Concept Design 2025

PDF (11.09 MB)

Montgomery Park Site Analysis Plan 2025

PDF (3.33 MB)

Montgomery Park Master Plan 2018

PDF (312.49 KB)

Montgomery Park Master Plan Report 2018

PDF (3.36 MB)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why is the concept design different to the master plan?

What aspects of the concept design can the community help shape?

What is happening with the slide, cricket net and tennis courts?

Are inclusive elements being considered?

[See more](#)

Useful links

Montgomery Park Kindergarten redevelopment: Community engagement page

Montgomery Park Kindergarten redevelopment: Project page

Pop-up pump track: Community engagement page

Montgomery Park: Project page

Timeline

+

Consultation opens

18 July 2025

✓

Onsite consultation

Friday 8 August 2:30pm - 4:30pm
Saturday 9 August 10:30am - 12:30pm

✓

Consultation closes

17 August 2025

✓

Publish consultation findings

September 2025

[See less](#)

Contact Us

If you have questions or want to learn more about this project, contact us below:

Name

City Futures Department

Phone

9243 8888

Email

yoursay@mvcc.vic.gov.au

In writing

City Futures Department
Moonee Valley City Council
9 Kellaway Avenue, VIC, 3029

Moonee Valley City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which Moonee Valley is located - the Wurundjeri Wai-warrung People of the Kulin Nation, and we pay respects to their spirits, ancestors, Elders and community members past and present.

City of Moonee Valley

Contact Us

Have questions or want to learn more about a project, contact us below:

Phone

03 9243 8888

Email

yoursay@mvcc.vic.gov.au

Privacy Policy | Terms of Use | Accessibility | Moderation

© 2025 Your Say Moonee Valley. All rights reserved. Currently logged in as [danielmika](#). [Sign Out](#)

socalinpoint

6.2 Onsite poster and flyer



Montgomery Park Landscape Concept Design

The Montgomery Park Master Plan was adopted by Council on 29 January 2019 to guide the design and management for the next 15 years.

Council is now keen to hear from community about the draft landscape concept design for Montgomery Park, Essendon.

Community can have their say about their level of support for the concept and general feedback about the design.

To read more and have your say, please scan the QR code or visit our YourSay website before Sunday, 17 August.



Have Your Say

- 03 9243 8888
- council@mvcc.vic.gov.au
- yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au



6.3 Survey

Montgomery Park Landscape Concept Design

Introduction

The Montgomery Park Master Plan was adopted by Council on 29 January 2019 to guide the design and possible future development of the park for the next 15 years.

As outlined on the project [Your Say page](https://yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au/Montgomery-park) (<https://yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au/Montgomery-park>), Council is seeking community feedback about the draft landscape concept design for Montgomery Park, including:

- Your overall level of support for the concept design
- Your favourite improvements for the park
- General feedback about the proposed design

Check out our [draft landscape concept design](#) (via the Your Say page) and have your say by completing this survey by 15 August 2025. If you respond to all the questions*, the survey should take around 8 minutes to complete.

*Note, all questions are optional. If you prefer not to answer, or have no opinion on a particular question, feel free to skip to the next question.

Privacy Statement:

A report that includes your feedback from this survey will be provided to Council. This report will not contain opinions or information that could lead to the identification of any individuals. Council is committed to ensuring that survey information remains confidential, in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic). If you have an enquiry regarding this survey, please feel free to contact Council's Advocacy, Grants and Engagement Team on [9243 8888](tel:92438888).

1) To what extent do you support or oppose the [Montgomery Park concept design](#)?

(Please choose from strongly oppose to strongly support on the 5-point scale below)

() Strongly oppose () Oppose () Neutral () Support () Strongly support

2) Do you have any comments to support your response?

3) What are your favourite improvements proposed for Montgomery Park?

(Drag and drop* up to 5, in order of your preference, with 1 being your most favourite).

*If you are completing this survey on your phone, simply select your preferences in order from 1-5, with 1 being your most favourite.

- _____ Upgraded play space
- _____ Inclusive play
- _____ Nature based play
- _____ Picnic facilities
- _____ Seating options
- _____ Multi court and hit up wall with integrated bouldering wall
- _____ Pump track
- _____ Multi-use platform/ stage
- _____ New garden beds and additional planting
- _____ New and upgraded path connections
- _____ Improved natural shade
- _____ Exercise Equipment
- _____ Other

4) Do you have any other comments about the proposed design?

We are committed to collecting demographic data so that we can understand the reach of our consultations. Please note these questions are all optional.

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. Please name::

- ☐ I am a Moonee Valley City Council staff member

Suburb you live in: _____

To which of the following age groups do you belong?

- ☐ Under 18 ☐ 18 – 24 ☐ 25 – 34 ☐ 35 – 49 ☐ 50 – 59
☐ 60 – 69 ☐ 70 – 84 ☐ 85+

Do you identify as:

- ☐ Woman ☐ Man ☐ Non-binary ☐ Prefer not to say
☐ Prefer to self-describe: _____

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

- ☐ No. I speak English only at home.
☐ Yes. I usually speak another language at home.

The main language I speak at home is: _____

Please indicate if you identify as any of the following (select all that apply):

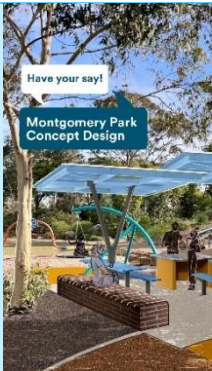
- ☐ Aboriginal ☐ Torres Strait Islander ☐ LGBTQIA+ ☐ A carer
☐ A person with a disability ☐ Need help with self-care activities
☐ Need help with body movement ☐ Need help with communication
☐ A disability ally
(someone who supports and amplifies the cause of people with disability)
- _____

Thank you!

Thank you for taking our survey. Your feedback will help inform the final concept design for Montgomery Park.

If you would like to receive updates about this project, please click the white '+ Follow' button at the top of our project **Your Say page**.

6.4 Social media posts

Date	Channel	Photo	Reach	Clicks	Comments
3 Aug 2025	Facebook post		1,430	69	Respondent 1 Shade over the children playground council have issues doing that just look around
12 Aug 2025	Facebook post		2,190	156	Respondent 2 Here are some inspirations:  5d Like Reply  5d Like Reply  5d Like Reply  5d Like Reply
8 Aug 2025	Instagram story pt1		758 views	14	

8 Aug 2025	Instagram story part 2		695 views	3 interactions	
Advertisem ent	Facebook		Impressions - 16,826 (how many times the ad was shown)	459 link clicks	

6.5 Email submissions

Email respondent 1

I have just been reviewing the [Montgomery Park Landscape draft concept design](#). I note that in the most recent plan has not included the stormwater harvesting system that was suggested in the original proposal as per this statement

- Stormwater harvesting and treatment reviews identified it is not possible to build a wetland within the park due to the high cost of connecting to the storm water system.

It is extremely disappointing to discover this change given increased runoff into our creeks is causing dire outcomes for the health of our waterways. Given the climate emergency and the ensuing issues with water security in our region it is essential that LGAs act upon their own IWM commitments to ensure we are minimising the use of our drinking water for irrigating parks. Not to mention the obligations governments have to meet the Waterways of the West Action Plan to *"Protect the Waterways of the West from pollution"*.

Email respondent 2a

Firstly, I must note the lack of consultation about the kindergarten is appalling and has left a very bitter taste in many residents mouths.

I see no reference to dog walking. There needs to be careful consideration of this for residents. Given that the new kindergarten can be accessed from Hilda St directly there should be provision for off lead dog walking.

This was discussed with [PERSONAL DETAILS REDACTED] when MVCC was trying to install rainwater gardens on Vanberg Rd at the end of sewer project using the money given to residents as compensation to residents for the years of works in the street. Interestingly there was little consultation with residents about this. The rain garden project was stopped and after some consultation the money was directed toward Montgomery Park play equipment.

It would be appreciated if some consultation about dog walking and off leash access was put to our community.

Email respondent 2b

The council's consultation particularly around the kindergarten leaves much to be desired.

Dogs off lead in the park has a long history and it is disappointing that this has not been embraced and included by council. Essentially a commonsense work around would have been for dogs on leash 30 minutes before and after kindergarten opening closing times or perhaps a fenced area around playgrounds or a fenced area for dogs. What appears is not inclusive of dogs or their owners and could easily be improved.

6.6 Free text comments

Level of support for the Concept Design
Updated play area with inclusion of new and improved basketball court and play area for activities like down ball. Would prefer to have a larger full size basketball court area - such as a full court with two rings rather than just a half size court for the large space that Montgomery Park has.
It would be great for it to have an update to make it family and kid friendly
Montgomery Park is full of potential for a serious upgrade
Shade is important to us, either w plantings or cloth. Updated and accessible playground would be great.
Don't need pump track when Fanny reserve down the road already has one. Other aspects seem very positive.
Can you please put all the exercise equipment together to form an outdoor gym? This works well at Dunstan reserve. Women feel less embarrassed to use it when equipment is bunched together. You can see when equipment is free and are more likely to try new exercises in the designated space. It would be good to have a drinking tap nearby and space for yoga/floor exercises. Is there a rowing style machine? The equipment described looks very repetitive to other equipment in the local area. Would love a balance of upper and lower body equipment. Will there be upgrades to lighting at the park?
Updated playground would be great. Slides and more swings would be great. Cubby is a good idea.
Love the new inclusive play spaces
The area is frequented by many families frequently and the present site and amenities are in dire need of an upgrade
Please include a fenced dog play area. This is so desperately needed in this area. There are so many dogs in this area, and we so need a good recreational space: there is so much space in this park and it would enable the whole family (including fur babies!) to enjoy this space
The paths and play/sporting equipment are all dilapidated and need updating. The grassed area is also poorly used and would really benefit the area if a fenced dog area was included as part of the redevelopment
I am excited there will be a desperately needed upgrade. It is a little hard to see exactly what it will look like - the drawing of a large spiral slide looks good - but there is a drawing of a smaller yellow slide which doesn't look like anything interesting. Last week I went to the big playground at Waverley Park in Mulgrave - it was amazing. It had a giant slide which you could make a slide super fun with the giant hill - at the moment it's not so fun.
Overall looks very good. I'd observe that the single basketball ring is very highly utilized- if there's possibility to incorporate a second one, perhaps in the area that previously had the old kindergarten outdoor play area, that would almost certainly see a lot of extra use of the park, for not much cost. Climbing wall on the backside of the existing brick wall is a great idea.
Overall, I really like the plan, but I am very disappointed that the cricket nets will be removed and not replaced. The cricket nets are the most important part of the park for me so it would be disappointing if that was to go.
It is over the top design without thought for its residential setting. The removal of ANY TREES will not be tolerated. Too many paths in particular that down the hill. There will already be steps next to the slide. Moving the path to relocate the play space and BBQ area, and as such removal of trees, is not appropriate. Excessive play area at bottom of slide. No pump track. An eye saw and significant loss of grassed area. No staged area. Overdevelopment installing bouldering wall. Already a noise issue with the basketball caught and no thought for impact on residents of which I am one. Not enough quiet contemplative seating areas lost due to Kindergarten. And no hard pathways as bad for walking and running. Overdevelopment detracting from the natural setting.

Just walking past today the park looks so sad and in need of urgent repair.

Temporary pump track doesn't get used. Too advanced. Don't waste my rates on a stage there. It will never get used. Same for exercise equipment. It doesn't really ever get used anywhere. But the rest of the plan looks great.

Would love the sandy part of the park to have more newer equipment as the slide part of the park. Hopefully the toilets are being upgraded to two toilets as with the park, kinder, and stop off traffic two are needed.

I appreciate the thoughtful effort that has gone into the proposed concept design for Montgomery Park. The draft shows a clear commitment to accessibility, ecological sensitivity, and improved amenities. However, I do have some concerns and suggestions regarding the plan's broader impacts on the park's function, character, and community value. The proposed planting palette and habitat considerations are genuinely exciting. Likewise, the inclusion of signage highlighting indigenous and native values is a fantastic effort to increase ecological literacy. That said, the long-term success of these features will depend on maintenance resourcing, protection during establishment, and clear management strategies. I encourage Council to embed maintenance planning and community partnerships into the rollout, to ensure the landscape thrives beyond installation. In line with the above, the lawn areas are currently in very poor condition, often waterlogged in winter and dry in the summer. It's also absolutely overrun with weeds. Any shift toward more sustainable planting should be accompanied by a realistic, transparent plan for establishment and long-term maintenance, or there's a high risk that these efforts won't succeed. Additionally, while the design acknowledges risks to the mature trees in the landscape, there's limited detail on how those trees will be protected during construction or which ones will be removed to make space for new amenities. Given how central these trees are to the park's identity and ecology, conserving them where possible, along with strong and enforceable protections, are important to the community. There is a very strong focus on children's play in the concept. This is understandable, especially with the growth in young families using the area since the kindergarten opened. It's important that children have a safe and engaging space. But their increased presence has already shifted the rhythm of the park, and further changes may cause tension if other regular users feel pushed out or overlooked. The park should also include amenities for a broader range of users: teenagers, young adults, people with disabilities, and those simply seeking quiet or passive recreation. A well-used park supports multiple forms of activity, not just one. In that regard, one particular area of personal concern that I can speak to is the design's approach to dog walkers, a major and consistent user group. The new design routes the main path directly between two major play zones, effectively funnelling dog walkers and small children into the same tight corridor. This is likely to create conflict and safety issues. Additionally, there's a brief mention of off-leash zones being "centrally focused" but gives no clear boundaries or management strategy. As another example, the proposed stage or platform could be a real opportunity. It's an inclusive feature that could support community events, music, and broader cultural use. But by embedding it directly within the children's play zone, its potential as a shared space is somewhat diminished. I would encourage a rethink of its placement so that it can serve more than one audience, as a space that invites intergenerational and casual use without being tied to a specific purpose. More broadly, the sheer number of new features may unintentionally fragment the space and detract from its quiet, open character. Quiet rest areas, natural buffers, and open green space are just as important as built features, especially in a space that serves so many different needs. I would encourage the council to consider how best to preserve cohesion and flexibility within the space. It's practically a civic pastime to greet community upgrades with a list of complaints—guilty as charged. So, with that in mind, I want to acknowledge that there are some genuinely well-considered and positive aspects to the draft concept. Additional lighting will help extend the park's usability in the darker winter months and, alongside the improved walkways, increase safety and accessibility. The attention to water-sensitive design is also smart, given how frequently the lawn floods, and it's reassuring to see plans for improved drainage and stormwater planting. Likewise, the intention to restore native vegetation is commendable, and the use of brick paving,

refurbished timber elements, and re-use of site materials where feasible is a great idea to increase sustainability and helps retain a sense of continuity with the park's existing character.

It looks fantastic as long as the toilet stays it's going to be great

Overall, very nice to see MP getting a long overdue upgrade

The concept plan adequately caters for a diverse age group however I would be mindful to ensure that some play equipment areas are safe and accessible for toddler aged children as well (if not already considered). Please ensure that there is adequate safety around the slide given the extent of the gradient. Please include a bike maintenance station near the pump track (similar to those along the Maribyrnong River)

It will be great to have some upgraded play spaces, natural plantings, and improved access between different areas of the park

The biggest feature of this park is the surrounding established trees, which provide sanctuary from the surround roads - it's important that this boundary of established trees is maintained - that said, the new developments are exciting and appreciated update to this well used local park. I feel the appropriate balance between new developments and maintaining the original character - while also attempting to link the various parts of the park.. Some specific comments on the strengths; Enhancing the sports facilities (basketball, tennis) is welcomed - while the current has an old world and workable feel - the updates will be well used and be a major draw card. It's important that the correct type of outdoor basketball ring is chosen as the wrong ring (usually ridged and stiff) can ruin the experience all together similar to some nearby Moreland council parks attest to. The existing ring is a great comparison of what ring to keep. Cross keys playground (near reserve) is exactly the example of what NOT to acquire/ install. I am very much looking forward to the improvements as a local resident, and father of a 15 year old and 7 year old daughters and 4 year old son. I have 10 years of memories at Montgomery park - using all the facilities and think the playground demographic of 4-12 is perfect to attract and make use of a well thought through and highly valued master plan to a much loved asset of this little pocket of Essendon. Thank you and well done 🙌

The park is overdue for an upgrade.

I am pleased to see that some investment in the park is proposed but having been aware of the master plan since 2019, I will believe it when it materialises. I am disappointed to see that the plan appears to contain zero investment in improving the quality of the main open space of the park, which is weedy, muddy, and uneven. It has the potential to be a beautiful green grassy space for picnics, ball sports, kite flying, and general enjoyment. Currently it feels like walking through an abandoned paddock. The adult exercise area that proposed is tokenistic. It should be expanded to include vastly more equipment, similar to that which Merri-Bek City Council installed in Dunstan Reserve Outdoor Gym in Brunswick West. This would be an invaluable investment in the health of MVCC adults. I am not aware of anything similar to this already existing in MVCC and Montgomery Park has plenty of space to accommodate this. I would like to see more large trees scattered throughout the park to provide natural shade. I am further disappointed in the very obtuse and self-serving explanation as to why there will be limited (?none) lighting in and around the park. If MVCC is serious about contributing to the health and wellness of locals, it should reconsider the master plan's approach to lighting. The proposed play equipment is good, but should be constructed of wood/ metal, not plastic wherever possible, and focus on engagement with nature. There are many examples of other local councils taking this approach (esp. MCC - see Gardiner Reserve on McCauley Road).

The park has been neglected for a long time. The essentials are lighting for safety usage and functioning water facilities. The water fountain next to tennis courts has been inoperable for more than 12 months. Gym equipment is not needed at the park and that money would be better spent on preserving the environment, which has been continually negatively impacted by new kinder.

Very much needed improvement of existing playground and area to support young families in the suburb. The addition of a mud kitchen area would also be low cost and fantastic. Such as the one at the Lincoln square south playground	
Broadly okay. Looks budget when compared to Rosehill and other MVCC park updates. Would like to see some of the existing equipment updated..most of it dated and dangerous. Tennis court needs resurfacing/ updated to include Pickleball	
Definitely needs updating	
Better playground and landscape design would be great	
I like the improved court abs climbing wall section and the plan to integrate play into the hillside. I don't think the stage will be utilized and the space could be used for something else.	
Just needs something done . Enough taking . I Would like to what is happening in the middle . It's a weak pit . I'm spring full of bees . Useless to play ball or run with kids .	
Good range of equipment. Commitment to greening the space. Caters to range of ages. Encourages families/groups to gather	
Playground equipment concept seems outdated and restricts age limit and recommend a more modern design; that fits into nature and suit more ages. The wooden style playgrounds that you see across Victoria are much nicer, have better exploration concepts from young to older ages, for example, royal park nature play playground, Pipemakers Play Space; Victory Park playground; Boathouse Maribyrnong and Pirate Ship. These playgrounds stand the test of time, from toddlers to early teens still able to play and explore. Moonee Ponds does not need a colourful metal and plastic slide. Keep within nature, make it aesthetically pleasing and age friendly.	
Loss of trees where they should be saved and plan work around environment NOT remove. Deviation from master plan in relation to pump track and basketball court. Location to be as per master plan. No mention re irrigation and improving quality of oval grass	
I love the overall concept I just wish the playground facilities were better. MVCC playground facilities are lacking in comparison to newer suburbs, and we regularly seek out (drive to) playgrounds in new estates each weekend as opposed to staying local in MV. We can walk to Montgomery Park but it's boring, as is Queens Park and most of the other parks locally if you are a 9 and 10 year old. Most play equipment is for smaller kids.	
the space as it is not being utilised for the enjoyment of the community!	
It looks nice, but I'm not sure it's as accessible/inclusive enough. 1. I think more seating with good line of sight to playground equipment where parents/carers can supervise from a distance to give children with disability more independence. Also shaded seating near playground equipment is important for children with disability to have a break and watch others play. 2. The tall piece of playground equipment - does it have stairs with handrails? if it can only be accessed by ladder/nets many children with disability will not be able to use it, which is unacceptable. 3. Sand is not a good surface for a playground, it is very difficult to walk on for children (and adult carers) with mobility difficulties - I have an Autistic child and I often have to chase her if she runs off - running on sand is extremely difficult. Sand is also completely inaccessible for wheelchair and walker users. 4. While very attractive, the mural on the climbing wall is very busy. Many children who have difficulty with motor planning will not be able to use the climbing wall because they cannot clearly see the handles (or whatever they are called). 5. I think you should consult the MVCC Disability Advisory Committee &/or an access consultant to make sure the project is adequately accessible & inclusive. 6. Fences - unfenced playgrounds are unsafe for many children with disability eg 50% of Autistic children are prone to wandering. A lack of fencing often means a playground is unsuitable for an Autistic child. For this project, consideration of how to keep children from wandering onto the bike track is also needed. 7. Swings with back support. I think this playground could use more swings and definitely needs swings that fit an older child that have back support.	

There is desperate need to improve the space that makes the environment more appealing for the local community to want to visit as a destination outing. Currently the space is underutilised and is a sign that it does not support the needs of the local community.

Likes the basketball and landscaping areas. Support a quiet environment and the playground upgrade.

Proposed changes to this park have been promised for years on end. Please just finally do it! Especially the updates to tennis courts and to the basketball area. Our kids have hardly any outdoor basketball hoops in Essendon.

The concept plan is trying to incorporate too much. The neighbours are seeking a quiet park with maximum tree canopy cover, meandering gravel paths and a refurbished open space grass area.

Love that we're updating the park as it's used by locals with kids and dogs. Would love better grass for the dogs to run in, as it currently is quite muddy on days that get slightly damp and it's not great grass to picnic on either

We think the design is good but could be improved. We would like to point to Rochester Rotary Park as a great example of kids' playground design. We would advocate for a kids' hamster wheel as seen in Rochester to be added to the Montgomery plan (we will try to attach photos to this survey)

Submission on the Revised Montgomery Park Masterplan I support Council's engagement of Pollen Landscape Design Group to help restore the core intentions of the 2019 Montgomery Park Masterplan, especially in light of the disruption caused by the siting of the new kindergarten. The placement of that facility unfortunately compromised the park's original structure and significantly diminished its natural appeal. While the revised Masterplan introduces a number of positive initiatives, it fails to meaningfully address the major losses incurred—particularly the degradation of the park's walking track and the large, shaded, grassed areas once supported by mature canopy trees. These were fundamental to both the functionality and identity of Montgomery Park. The new plan delivers features with good intent (possibly overly so), but it does not seek to restore the previous "bones" of the park—the essential layout and landscape elements that gave it character and usability. Key Requests and Recommendations: 1. Restore the Walking Track o Reintroduce a walking loop that includes the newly available parkland reclaimed from the former childcare site. o Reconfigure the alignment to shift it away from the kindergarten fence line, enabling meaningful planting buffers. o This will help re-establish the experience of walking within a natural landscape, rather than feeling confined or exposed, like walking around an exercise yard. 2. Revegetation with Canopy Trees o Actively revegetate key areas with advanced canopy tree specimens to quickly restore shade, habitat, and comfort. o Complement these with layered understorey planting and ground covers, incorporating Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) initiatives where possible to support biodiversity and sustainable water use. 3. Drought-Proof the Oval o The oval consistently degrades into a sandy, unusable surface during summer months. o The soil base should be reset and supported by an irrigation strategy that ensures year-round useability. o Consider developing meadow-style zones or microclimates—small areas of irrigated turf or ground cover, semi-shaded by trees—to reduce overall water needs while maintaining function. In summary, I commend the overall direction of the revised Masterplan but strongly urge Council to prioritise the restoration of Montgomery Park's core landscape framework before introducing additional features. The park was already sufficient prior to 2024 and simply required some care and landscape improvements. The walking track, shaded open spaces, and well-designed natural features are essential to its long-term success and ongoing community value. I have provided a sketch plan outlining my key considerations which I hope may be of use to the design team in assessing these issues. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute feedback.

[PERSONAL DETAILS REDACTED]

I like the water sensitive design, accessibility, nature play, and natural materials.

I generally support Montgomery Park being invested in following the construction of the new kindergarten building significantly and negatively impacting the usability, open space

and mature planting of the park. There are some things in the concept design that I am not in support of (i.e., additional and unnecessary building of hard elements and infrastructure.

The kids love the pump track. Definitely keen for a permanent one that's not gravel/dirt (e.g. asphalt).

Other comments about the Concept Design

Prefer full size basketball court with two rings rather than just a half size court - will get used a lot as there is a severe shortage of public basketball courts in the Moonee Valley precinct. One basketball ring will be insufficient and in demand and not able to be fairly used by more than a few people. For such a large space area, this should be very possible and would benefit so many people.

Could it be more whimsical and less modern looking?

Some signage regarding history of park

Should be a solid wall in the tennis court area so you can play solo.

No looks good

Will the grass area also be redone? The ground is very uneven with clumsy of weeds growing instead of grass. Could this be a dog off leash area?

Inclusive play is great, playground for young kids and nature play.

I note the playground is for 4-12 but there are many younger children in this neighbourhood. Please make sure there are things they can enjoy too

Looks great. Just need to deliver quickly.

Older adults are often pet owners, and a dog area would provide an inclusive space for everyone

Needs to include a fenced off leash dog area as temporary one in Bent Street has been removed

I'm hoping with an upgrade it will be money well spent and a place for everyone to get together and play on an amazing playground with some green oval space. The space presents an amazing opportunity for an awesome playground.

Nope, looks good.

The cricket nets need to be replaced

Overdevelopment and poor vision of a natural calm setting for all users - e.g. locals, dog walkers, jogging. AND to advise loss of 3 tree is inexcusable.

Are the toilets being upgraded? If you are you including two toilets in the upgrade? When is this going to take place? What is the timeline?

It's human nature to resist change, especially when it affects a familiar place we care about, and I imagine council gets plenty of feedback that boils down to "please improve the park, but don't change anything." Still, I hope it's clear that the concerns raised aren't about resisting progress for the sake of it. They come from people who genuinely care about this park. Montgomery Park has the potential to be an lovely public space for all. I hope this project builds on what already works, while improving the park in a way that is inclusive, ecologically sensitive, and genuinely shaped by the people who use it every day. Every day, I see the breadth of the community that uses this park. There's the group of dog walkers who loop the reserve together every evening, keeping an eye out for each other and for the space. There's an older woman who comes to pick up rubbish every day, quietly and consistently, as her daily act of care. A man with a disability and his carer use the paths for daily laps, always greeting passersby. I've seen older kids and teenagers gather after school, sometimes for basketball, sometimes just to hang out in a safe, open space. Recently, people who worked at AgVic were there to release rehabilitated possums and were educating all the interested passersby. These kinds of quiet stories don't always appear in design documents, but they speak to the kind of park this has been: deeply local, richly used, and full of layered meaning.

Toilet needs to stay!! It's the only park in the immediate area with one (e.g. fanny park doesn't) also picnic shaded area as it's a great park for birthday parties for kids! Looks like will be even better with new designs

Concept looks great. Potential inclusions as follows: - Opportunity to have a swing set halfway up the hill facing the oval - swing with a view! - Multi-person spring rocker rather than single - relocate birds nest swing outside of prominent walk-through area to reduce risk. Potential for additional garden bed/boulders/logs to framing the fall zone. - multi unit precent pretty basic. Presumably a district level park given the amount going into this reserve. Is it worth looking at something more custom? same with swings. - revisit shelter choice. Clashes with use of natural elements proposed throughout play space - orientation of half-court not ideal. Netball users will get full afternoon sun in the eyes. - dry creek bed. Potential to have water play element at the start of creek bed with an additional arm branching out into sand pit playing off the pirate theme. - great idea with the stage but concerns around cost and maintenance of timber platform. - pump track. great for the boys, would be also great to have something in the area for the girls e.g. extensive hangout space close by. The boys want to show off and the girls want to talk!! Well done, looking forward to seeing it come to life!

N/A

See question 1 comments

Please find the budget for an outdoor gym. Not just the couple of pieces of equipment currently proposed. At the very least, pull-up bars are simple pieces of equipment that would add a lot to the existing proposal.

Love it but if it could be like the Lincoln Park playground in Carlton (nature-based play/ imagination) that would be incredible for the local children.

The pump track is really ugly and there isn't that much space for it.

Grass , shade and water . The basics please

It has taken many years to get to this stage, so I hope installation is not delayed

Not sure exercise equipment is needed. The ones around the Maribyrnong River rarely get used and if they are it's by a minority of people thinking they are doing exercise or kids thinking it's a great novelty for 1min and they achieve nothing to your body.

Kindergarten is a large building, and the platform and stage contributes to over development. I want a calm peaceful natural setting. Not more manmade structures irrespective of materials used. The design is excessive and needs to concentrate on foundation of the part ... improved grass quality, shade, seating and path

Why are there no toilets? Do the designers not have kids that need to wee often? No toilets mean it's not a place we will visit

Rather than exercise equipment, play equipment suitable for older children and adults would be better (e.g. an obstacle course). It's important to normalise people of all ages using the playground equipment - so older siblings can join in too, as well as teenagers and adults with disabilities. Also, playground equipment must be big enough to allow an adult to enter with their child, and older children and adults with disability can also use equipment. This also allows for side-by-side play, which is very important for inclusion of children with disability.

Please include fence for playgrounds for safe enclosed space. Please include all ages/abilities in playground equipment from crawling - young kids

There is no consideration being given to the central grassed areas which is pot-holed (from dogs digging the dirt) and weed infested. The entire topsoil needs to be removed and replaced with new hardy turf with mass planting of tree to create natural play and picnic areas. The poor grass conditions and poor amenities is a major detractor for more local community members to want to have Montgomery Park as a destination.

I like quiet time in the park

Exercise station should be consolidated similar to what is at Dunstan Reserve. There should be no smoking signs installed for the whole park. More drinking taps with flip dog bowls. Support the basketball expansion. Need more space for the dogs. Support lighting but not fussed either way.

Remove the pump track. There is a good one at Fanny St Park. Move the tennis hit up wall to Albion St adjacent to the tennis courts as per 2018 Master Plan. This moves the noise to an area where it blends with the traffic noise. Delete the stage area. Delete the

exercise equipment. Refurbish the main grass area to remove the weeds and give a level playing surface for footy and soccer and running around. Increase the tree canopy to provide a shaded area. Retain the gravel paths. Improve the drainage of the whole area. Currently water pools on the paths at the eastern end of the new kindergarten. Additional BBQ facilities at existing locations. Additional pavilion shelter and BBQ at Lawson St end. Use same type of pavilion for BBQ and play space at Albion/Tenneson area (A on plan). Tenneson/Hilda corner entrance to be revegetated to provide forest entrance. Additional BBQ in area freed up by relocation of tennis wall. New paths that meander and connect the entire park area.

Would love to see the overall grass improve at the park so it can be enjoyed by dogs running around and families that would like to have a picnic. Its current state does not allow for this due to it being more dirt than grass

The design is good - just can we get a hamster wheel! It is a draw card playground item.

Submission on the Revised Montgomery Park Masterplan I support Council's engagement of Pollen Landscape Design Group to help restore the core intentions of the 2019 Montgomery Park Masterplan, especially in light of the disruption caused by the siting of the new kindergarten. The placement of that facility unfortunately compromised the park's original structure and significantly diminished its natural appeal. While the revised Masterplan introduces a number of positive initiatives, it fails to meaningfully address the major losses incurred—particularly the degradation of the park's walking track and the large, shaded, grassed areas once supported by mature canopy trees. These were fundamental to both the functionality and identity of Montgomery Park. The new plan delivers features with good intent (possibly overly so), but it does not seek to restore the previous "bones" of the park—the essential layout and landscape elements that gave it character and usability. Key Requests and Recommendations: 1. Restore the Walking Track o Reintroduce a walking loop that includes the newly available parkland reclaimed from the former childcare site. o Reconfigure the alignment to shift it away from the kindergarten fence line, enabling meaningful planting buffers. o This will help re-establish the experience of walking within a natural landscape, rather than feeling confined or exposed, like walking around an exercise yard. 2. Revegetation with Canopy Trees o Actively revegetate key areas with advanced canopy tree specimens to quickly restore shade, habitat, and comfort. o Complement these with layered understorey planting and ground covers, incorporating Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) initiatives where possible to support biodiversity and sustainable water use. 3. Drought-Proof the Oval o The oval consistently degrades into a sandy, unusable surface during summer months. o The soil base should be reset and supported by an irrigation strategy that ensures year-round useability. o Consider developing meadow-style zones or microclimates—small areas of irrigated turf or ground cover, semi-shaded by trees—to reduce overall water needs while maintaining function. In summary, I commend the overall direction of the revised Masterplan but strongly urge Council to prioritise the restoration of Montgomery Park's core landscape framework before introducing additional features. The park was already sufficient prior to 2024 and simply required some care and landscape improvements. The walking track, shaded open spaces, and well-designed natural features are essential to its long-term success and ongoing community value. I have provided a sketch plan outlining my key considerations which I hope may be of use to the design team in assessing these issues. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute feedback. [PERSONAL DETAILS REDACTED]. Happy to be contacted to share masterplan markup.

I understand the focus is on the park, but more and more people want to visit via riding to the park maybe with kids in tow or riding pillion. Could Albion Street be included with a protected riding/bike lane? Painted lanes don't offer protection from high-speed traffic. A cyclist hit at 50km/h by a 1500kg object has a one in ten chance of surviving. More kids would love to ride to the park in the local area, but parents don't feel it's safe. By adding a protected riding lane on Albion Street and potentially reducing the sign posted speed limit from 50km/h to 40km/h, it may reduce the need for a high fence to line the park, inviting more use and being a better utilised investment by council. Community gardens

are also often oversubscribed in the local area. Adding a place for people to grow food and garden together would also be great.

- I think the current plan has too many "built" objects placed throughout the park (i.e., gym equipment, pump track, additional play equipment, stage, picnic facilities and shelters) - My preference is to reinstate a better and larger walking path (ideally in gravel or a natural material rather than concrete) and increase planting and mature trees. - The park is already suffering from the new kindergarten building, making the experience of using the park very fragmented. Further "built" / hard elements will continue to fragment the park. I believe it is far better to take a more natural approach to the concept design with a focus of natural materials and more planting. - IF exercise equipment goes into the park, can this please be consolidated to one (max 2) areas (suggest near to basketball area). Understanding people using the equipment sometimes don't feel comfortable doing so if others are already using, however we're at risk of scattering unsightly and often under-utilised equipment across the whole park. My preference is not to have it at all. - We met the community consultation team on site and discussed an alternative route for the walking / biking path that was far more organic, slightly larger and had better interaction with proposed new landscaping. Can this please be considered as a top priority as the previous walking track was well used and loved. The current track (walking along the kinder fence) is a terrible experience. - Propose to invest in new lawn for the centre of the park - current lawn has a lot of weeds and if most of the time a dry dust bowl in summer. - More mature tree planting required please. - If shade structures are proposed for picnic areas, can these please be designed using as many natural materials as possible. The current design of steel and blue plastic structures are really unsightly. - Request that as much as possible, any built structures (including playground equipment) be co-located to avoid scattering built elements throughout the park. - More investment could be made in upgrading current play equipment, with a smaller secondary play equipment area proposed if needed.

More bike tracks/jumps/facilities.

Moonee Valley Language Line

العربية	Arabic	9932 1471	Ελληνικά	Greek	9932 1474	Español	Spanish	9932 1477
廣東話	Cantonese	9932 1472	Italiano	Italian	9932 1475	Türkçe	Turkish	9932 1478
Hrvatski	Croatian	9932 1473	Somali	Somali	9932 1476	Tiếng Việt	Vietnamese	9932 1479

All other languages 9932 1480

National Relay Service 13 36 77 or relayservice.com.au