



**HEIDELBERG PARK MASTERPLAN
PHASE 1 - CONSULTATION SUMMARY**
Prepared by Banyule City Council &
Three Acres Landscape Architecture
November 2021

3 Acres
Landscape Architecture



Acknowledgements:

This report has been prepared by Banyule City Council with the assistance of Three Acres Landscape Architecture.

Version: 02 - February 2022

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1.0 Introduction

Consultation for the Heidelberg Park Master Plan Project ran for a 5 week period between 26 August to 1 October 2021.

The consultation focussed on usage, experiences and ideas to improve the park. The park boundaries are detailed in the plan below.

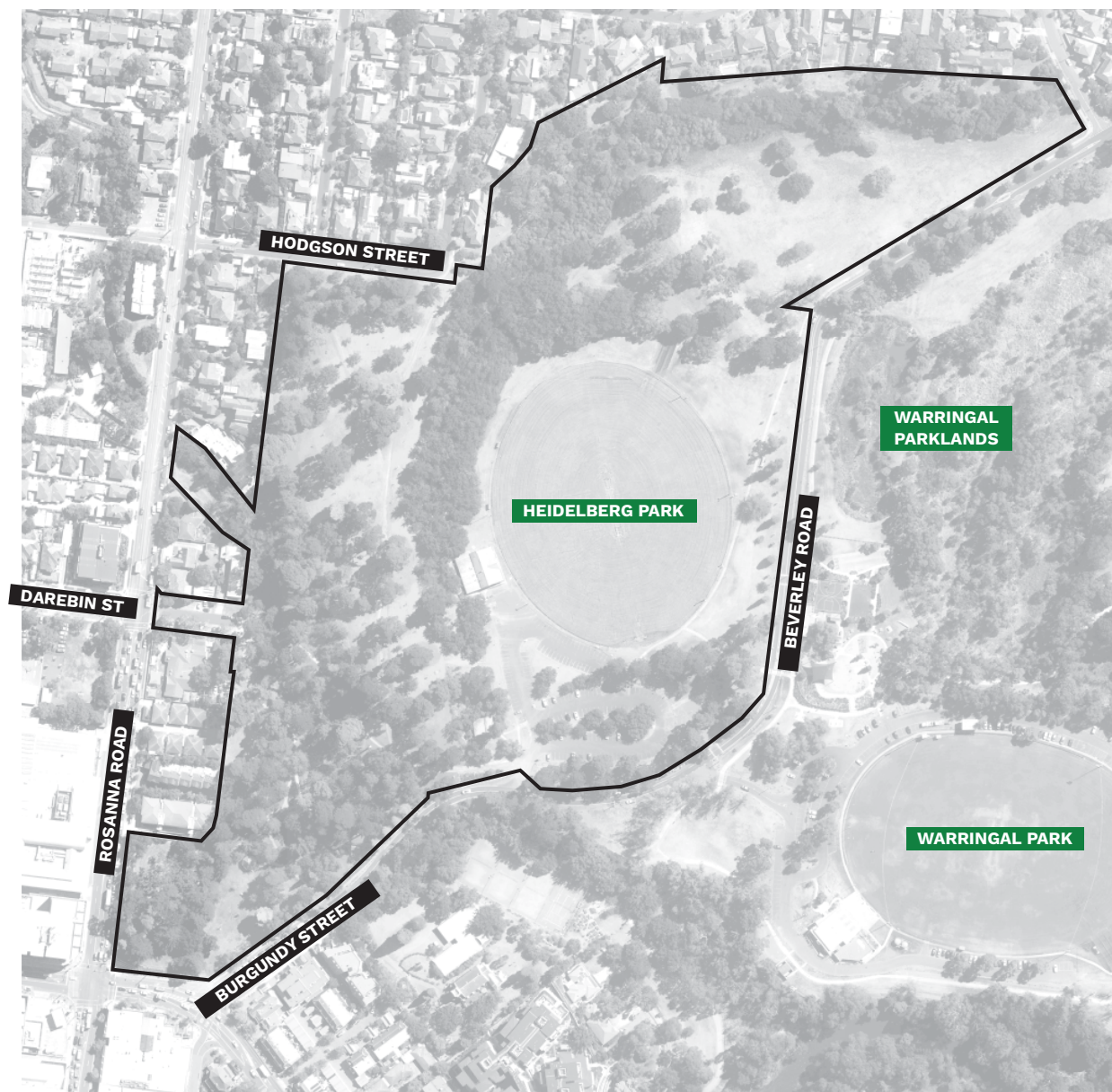


Figure 1 - Heidelberg Park Location Plan

2.0 Consultation Results

2.1 Overview

The consultation comprised of

- Councillors' briefing paper;
- Shaping Banyule page inclusive of social media map and survey;
- Four (4) signs installed on site;
- Social media posts on 31 August and 14 September 2021 (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter);
- Letter drop to properties bound by St James Road to the north, Banksia Street to the south, Warringal Parklands to the east and the Hurstbridge rail corridor to the west;
- One (1) on-line information session (Teams);
- Opportunity for written submissions to be submitted;
- Article in The Banner.

2.2 Consultation Numbers

Key consultation metrics are listed below:

- Approximately 2,290 letters were distributed;
- The project received a combined Facebook reach of 3,246 (number of individuals that saw any content from the page or about the page);
- The project received a combined Instagram reach of 1,068 (number of unique users who saw the content);
- A total of 730 Twitter impressions were recorded (total tally of all the times that the Tweet has been seen);
- The project received 1,235 views on Shaping Banyule;
- A total of 207 comments from 75 individual email addresses were received via the interactive map.
- A total of 132 surveys were completed.
- A total of 31 people registered for the on-line information session (excluding Ward Councillor, Council officers and consultant);
- A total of 13 written submissions were submitted by 12 individuals.

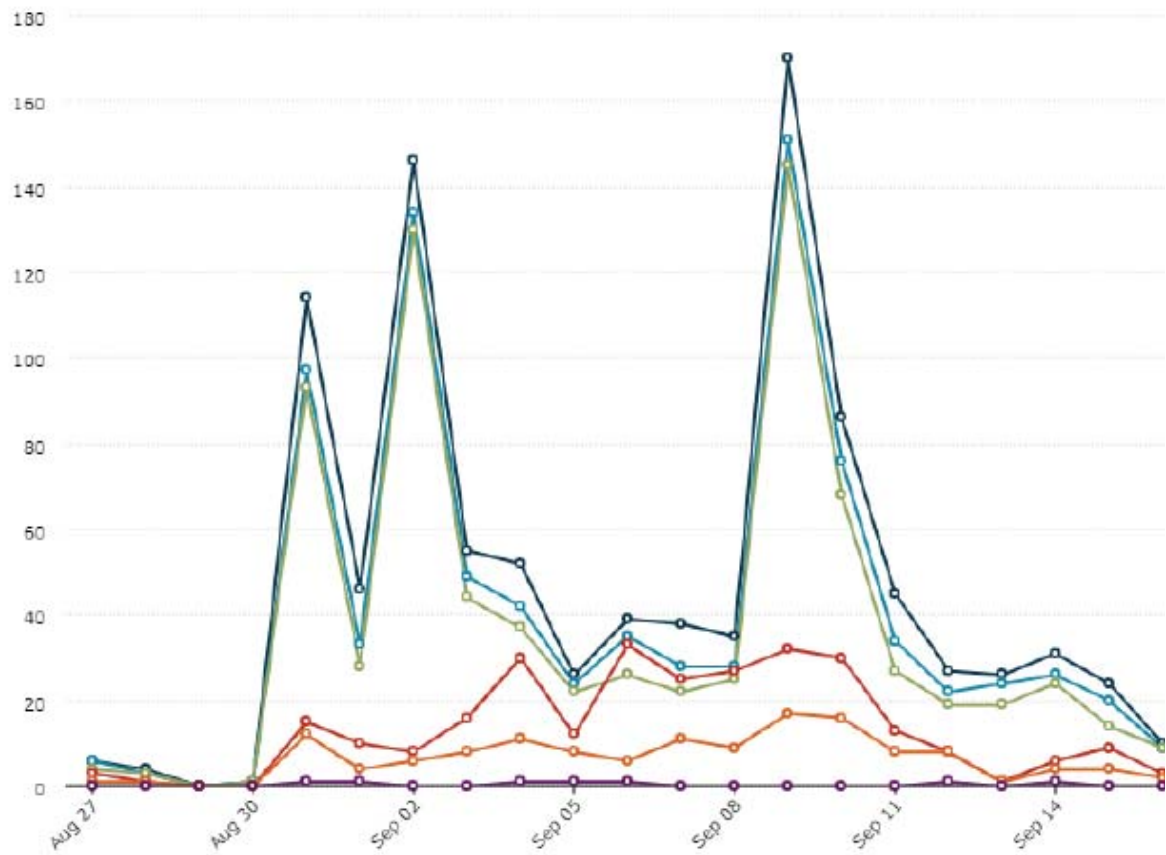
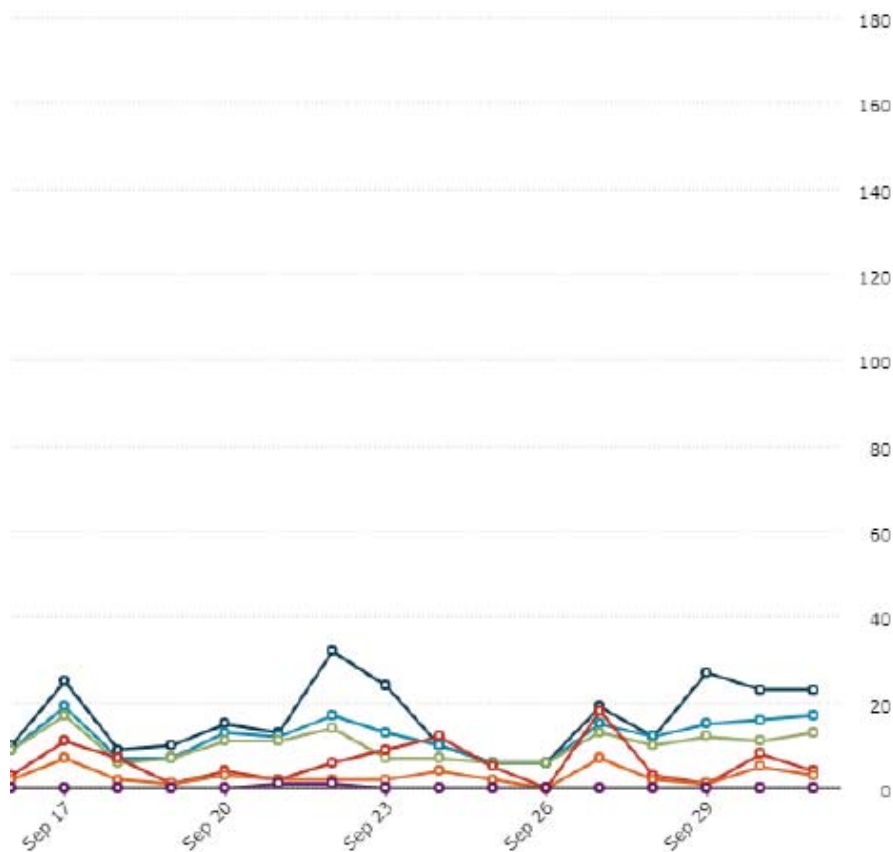


Figure 2 - Consultation Metrics



Key

Views - The number of times a Visitor views any page on a Site

Visits - The number of end-user sessions associated with a single Visitor

Visitors - The number of unique public or end-users to a Site. A Visitor is only counted once, even if they visit a Site several times in one day.

Contributions - The total number of responses or feedback collected through the participation tools.

Contributors - The unique number of Visitors who have left feedback or Contributions on a Site through the participation tools.

Followers - The number of Visitors who have 'subscribed' to a project using the 'Follow' button.

Figure 2 - Consultation Metrics

3.0 Participants

3.1 Gender

Of the 132 completed surveys, 54.5% of those who provided feedback were female, 39.4% were male, 0.8% were non-binary/gender fluid, 3.8% preferred not to identify gender and 1.5% did not respond to this question. Figure 3 details the gender of those who participated in the survey.

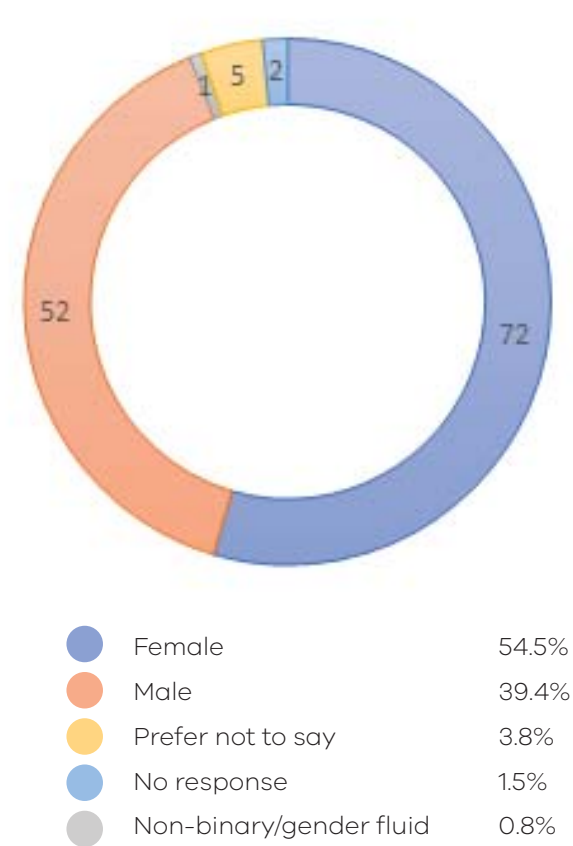


Figure 3 - Participant Gender

3.2 Age

The age of those who completed the survey is detailed in Figure 4. Age cohorts were well represented with the exception of those aged 14 years or younger. The majority of those completing the survey were aged between 35 to 49 years (43.2%).

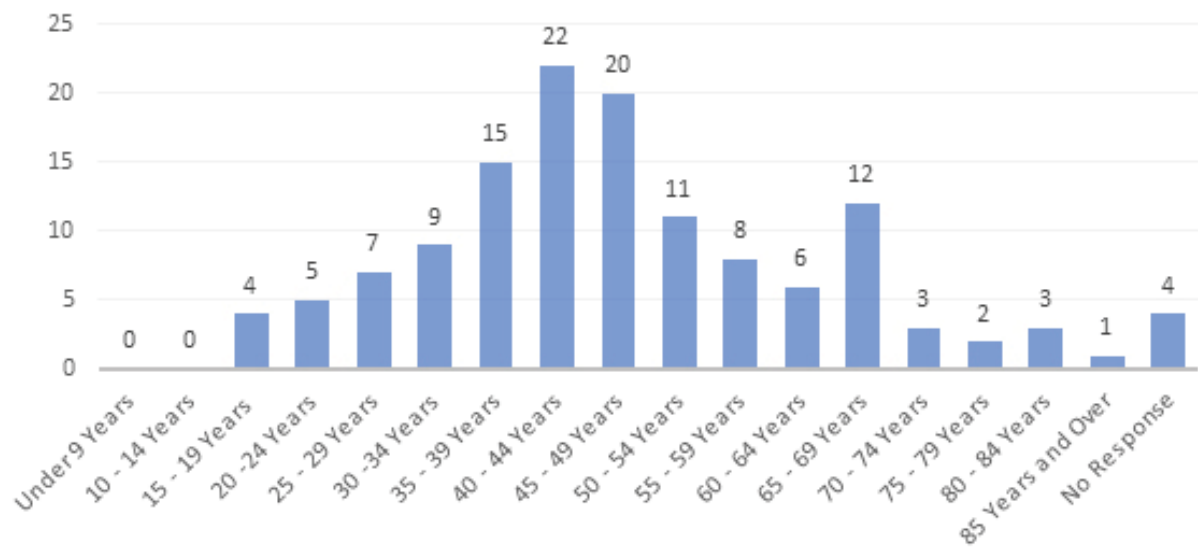


Figure 4 - Participant Age Groups

3.3 Resident locations

Figure 5 details the suburb where those completing the survey resided. Residents living in Heidelberg constituted 70.5% of total survey participants (93 individuals) followed by residents living in Viewbank which constituted 8.3% (11 individuals). No feedback was received from residents living in Bellfield, Briar Hill, Bundoora, Eltham, Eltham North, Greensborough, Ivanhoe East, Montmorency, St Helena or Watsonia North.

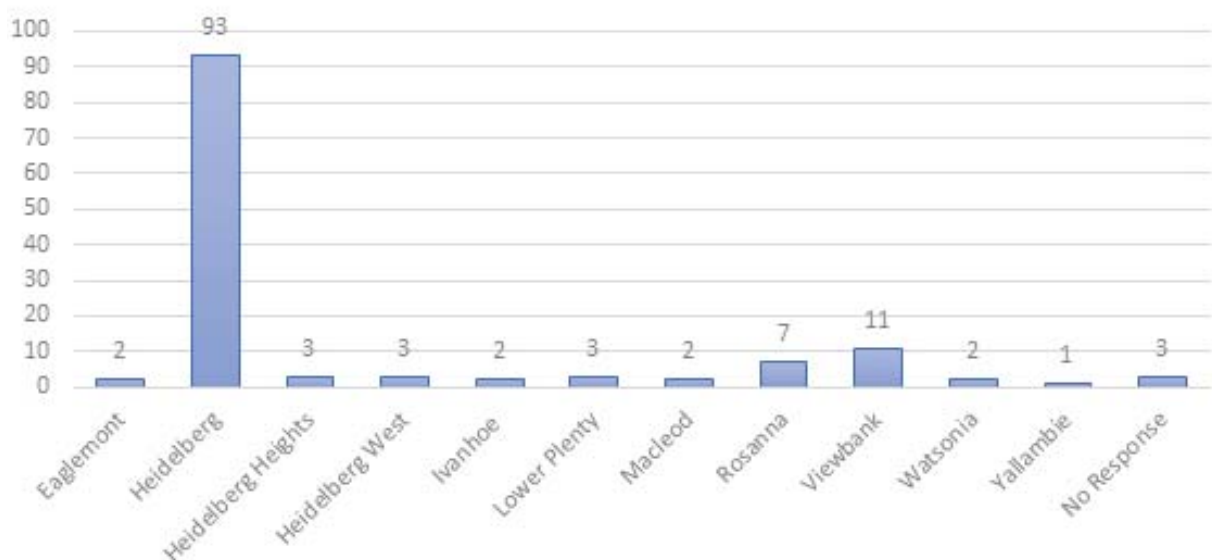


Figure 5 - Participant Resident Locations by Suburb

4.0 Survey Questions

4.1 Visitation

Survey participants were asked how often they visit/use Heidelberg Park. The vast majority of those completing the survey visited the park on a repeated and regular basis. In total, 77.3% of participants indicated that they used the park two or more times a week and 15.9% used the park once a week.

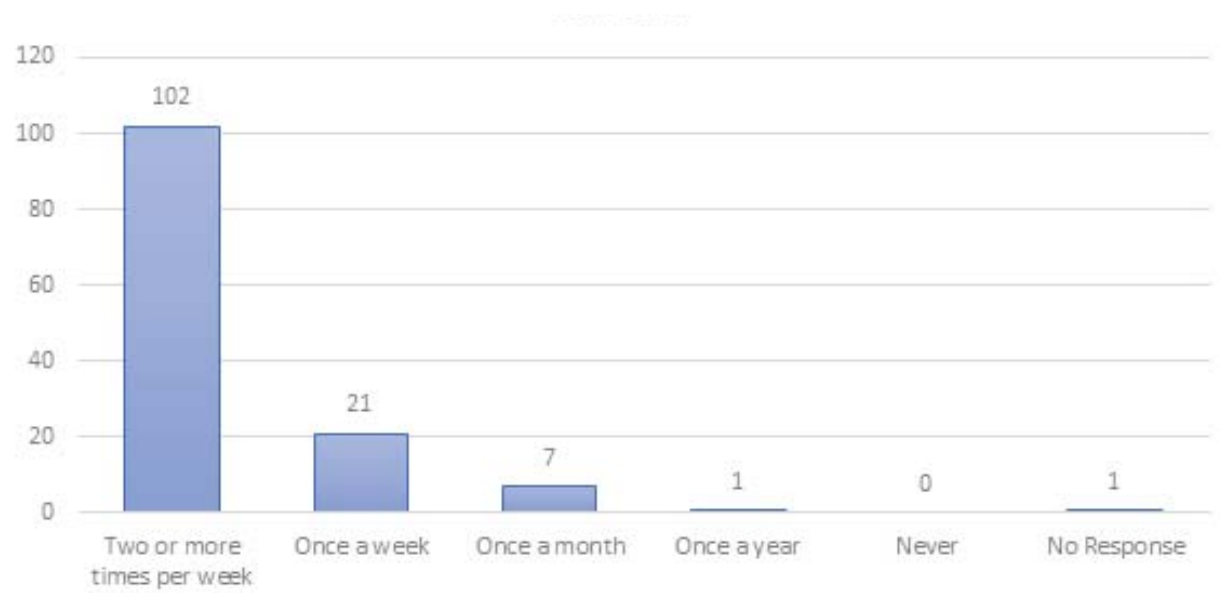


Figure 6 - Visitation

4.2 Time

Survey participants were asked how long they typically spend at Heidelberg Park. In total, 12.1% of the participants spend more than 2 hours, 36.4% spend between 1 – 2 hours and 31.1% spend up to an hour. This data demonstrates that most survey participants spend a considerable time within the park. Those who typically visit for half an hour or less represent 14.4%.

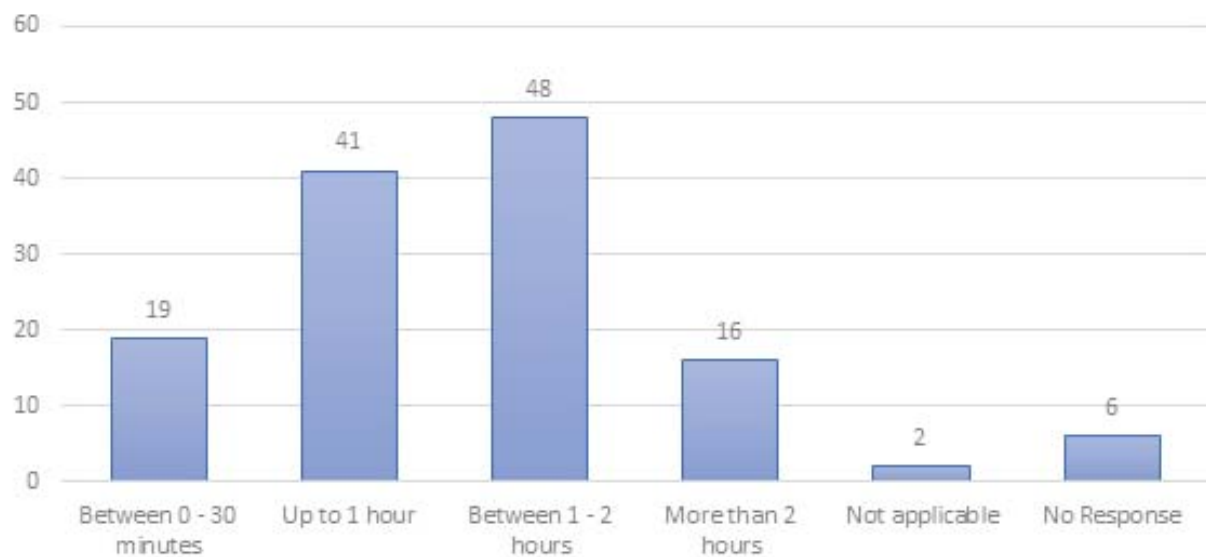


Figure 7 - Time Spent

4.3 Travel

Survey participants were asked how they usually travel to Heidelberg Park. The survey allowed individuals to nominate multiple modes of travel. Active transport (walking/cycling/running) was the dominate mode representing 83.1% of responses compared with 15.9% that travelled via a private vehicle. Only 0.5% of responses indicated that they travelled to Heidelberg Park via public transport.

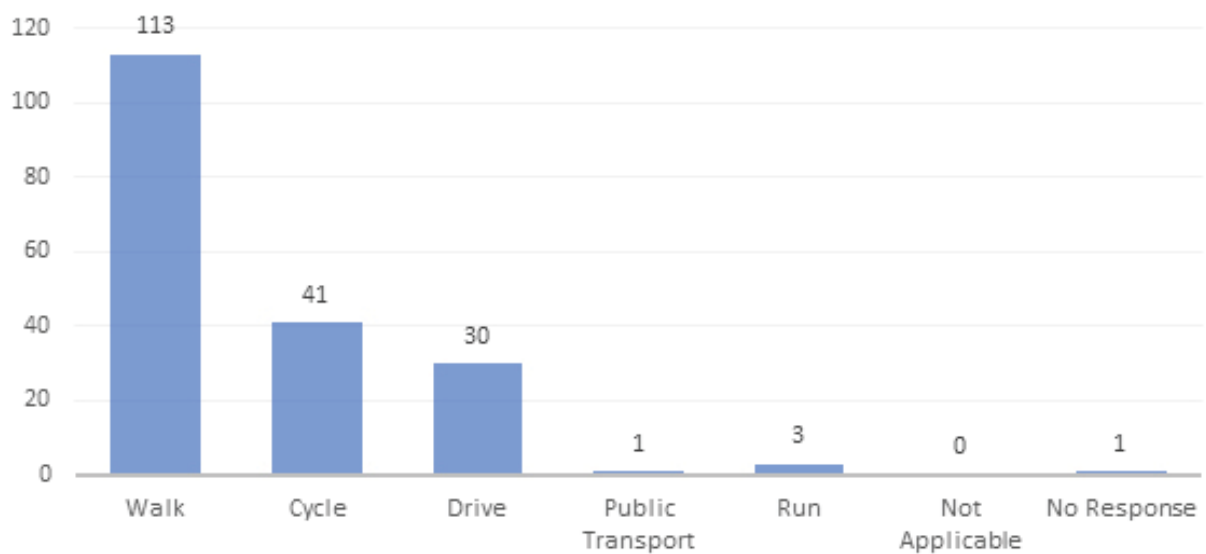


Figure 8 - Travel

4.4 Perception of Safety

Survey participants were asked if they felt safe in Heidelberg Park. In total, 85.6% of the participants felt safe, 9.8% did not feel safe and 4.6% did not respond.

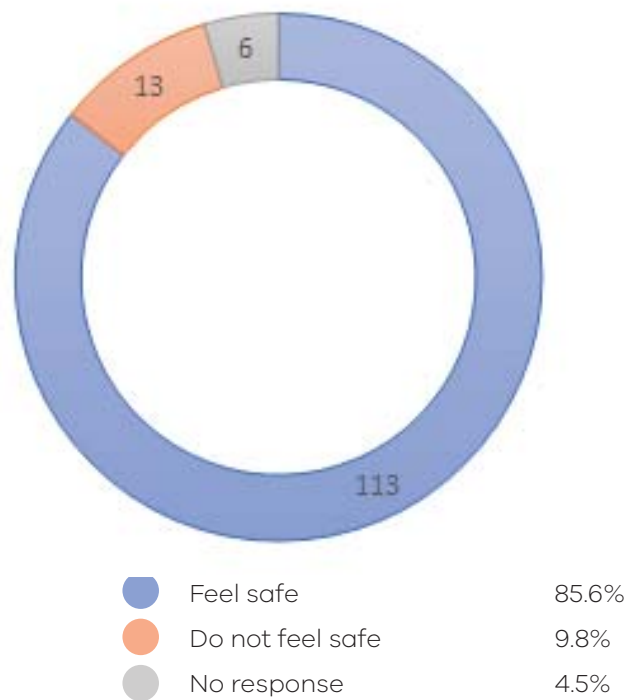


Figure 9 - Perception of Safety

4.5 Use

Survey participants were asked how they use Heidelberg Park. The survey allowed individuals to nominate multiple uses. The three most popular pursuits were exercise/fitness, relaxation and enjoying nature. Other uses included birdwatching, planting days, play, and using the site as a thoroughfare.

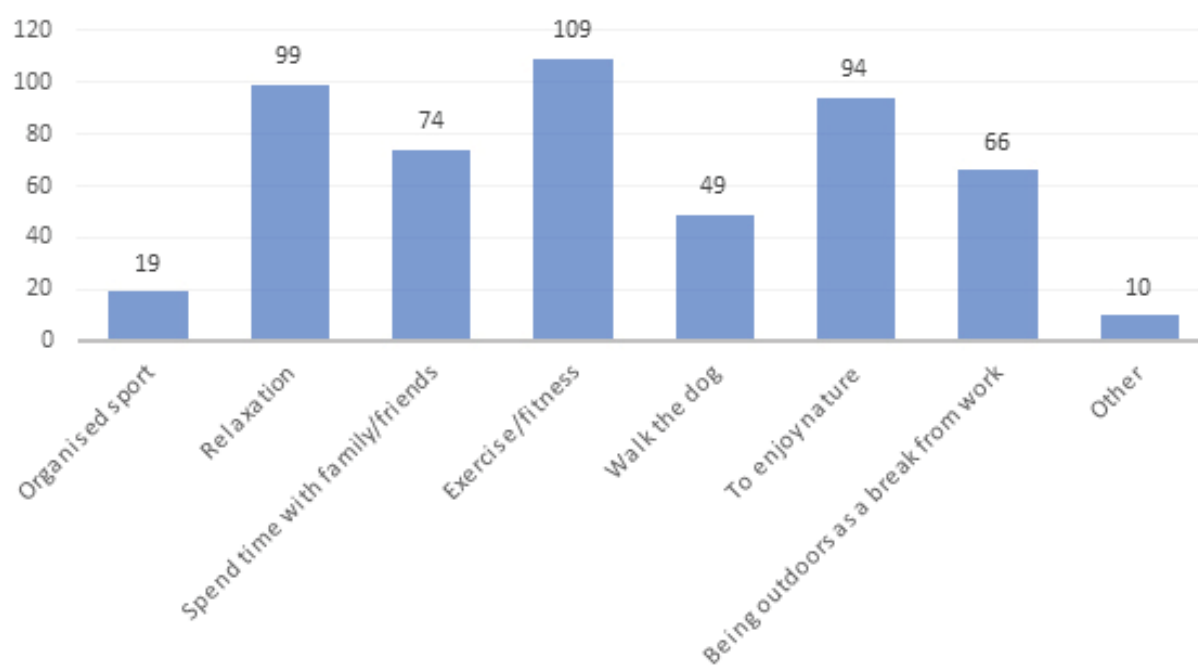


Figure 10 - Use

4.6 Areas of Importance

Survey participants were asked what parts of Heidelberg Park are important to them. The survey allowed individuals to nominate multiple areas. The three areas identified most commonly were Pine Ridge, Heidelberg Oval and Wishing Tree Walk. The Weedy Escarpment and Darebin Street were the areas nominated least.

Figure 12 identifies the various park zones/areas referenced in Figure 11.

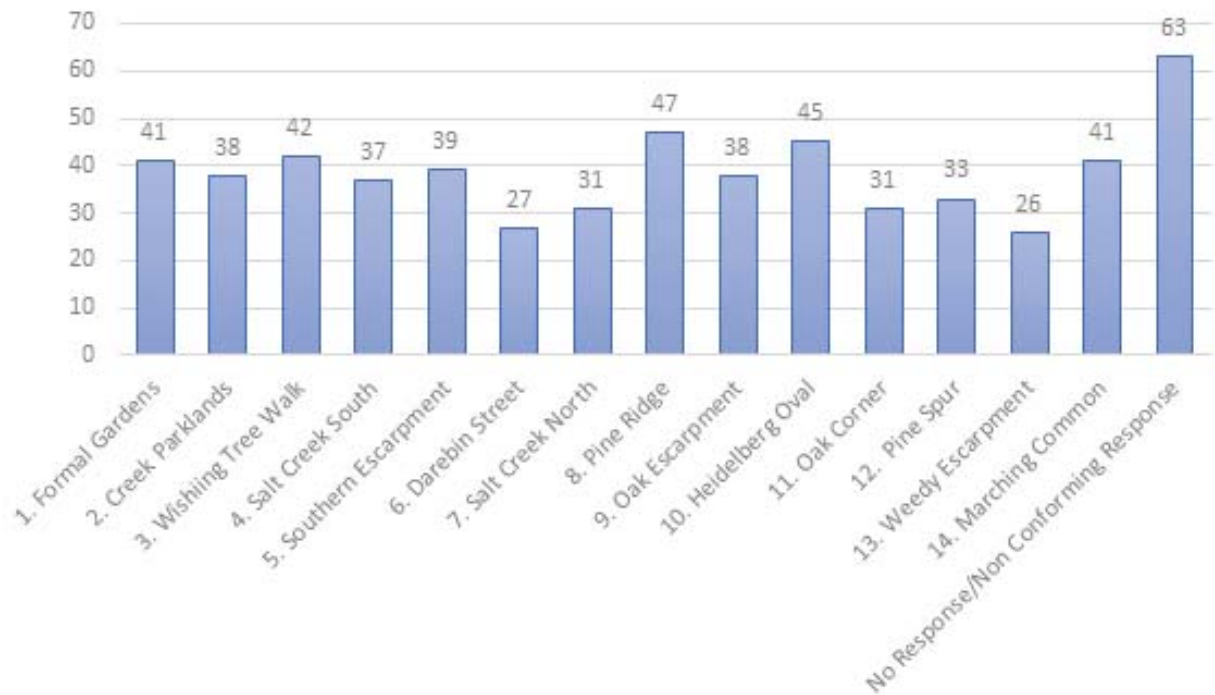


Figure 11 - Areas of Importance

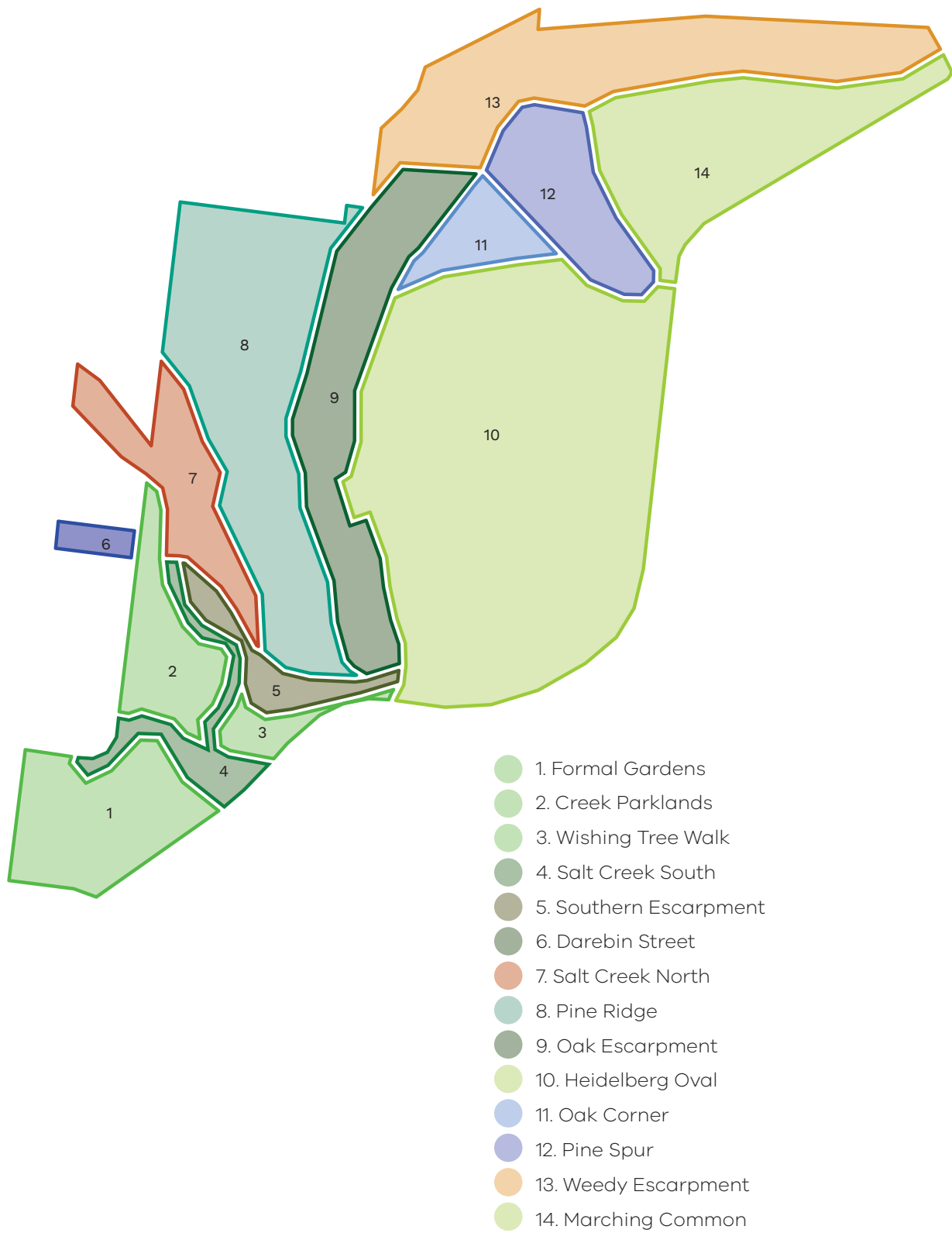


Figure 12 - Areas of Importance - Zone Map

4.7 What would encourage you to visit Heidelberg Park more often?

In total 117 responses were received detailing ideas that would encourage greater visitation to Heidelberg Park (15 surveys did not address this question).

Common themes included:

- Installation of additional rubbish bins, dog waste bins and better maintenance of these facilities.
- Installation of additional facilities including seating, tables, BBQ's, shelters, drinking fountains and lighting.
- Installation of public art/sculpture and facilities to accommodate live music, community events, markets, food trucks and café.
- Installation of a cultural/education trail that interprets Aboriginal and European heritage.
- Installation of play facilities and playground.
- Installation of an aquatic centre and water play.
- Installation of a tree top walk, tree house and giant slide.
- Installation of youth facilities including skate park, bike jumps and bike/scooter track.
- Improvements to paths inclusive of separating bikes and pedestrians, increasing width and reducing speed.
- Installation of exercise equipment, athletics track, running track with markers and walking track around the perimeter of the oval.
- Installation of pedestrian bridges over the Yarra River and over Rosanna Road.
- Installation of a fenced dog off-lead park.
- Installation of a city farm, flower gardens and improved lawn areas.
- Restoration and additional planting of indigenous vegetation, and development of an indigenous food forest.
- Installation of additional trees and pruning works where necessary.
- Naturalisation of Salt Creek and improve habitat for native wildlife.
- Upgrading toilets and rotunda and better maintenance of these facilities.
- Improving safety in/around the car park, lower speed limit along Beverley Road, installation of traffic calming devices and installation of fencing adjacent roads.
- Upgrading the existing sporting facilities, club rooms and coaches-boxes and install nets behind goals.
- Installation of basketball/netball/soccer courts and goals.
- Maintaining the site as is, do not over develop and ensure space is provided for passive/unstructured recreation.

4.8 Any further comments in relation to Heidelberg Park Master Plan?

In total 74 additional comments were received to help shape the master plan (58 surveys did not address this question).

Common themes are detailed below:

- Undertake a weed assessment and develop a weed control program.
- Undertake a vegetation and ecological investigation to assess biodiversity values.
- Undertake indigenous plantings including the revegetation of the escarpment in consultation with Wurrundgeri Woi-wurrung.
- Enhance wildlife corridors, protect habitat and retain the natural environment and character.
- Replace aging trees that are in decline or dead, plant additional trees and develop an arbor-etum.
- Install additional facilities including BBQ's, shelters and picnic facilities.
- Install lights and CCTV to improve safety.
- Install additional rubbish bins, dog waste bins and increase rubbish collection.

- Install interpretive, wayfinding and directional signage throughout the park and to the park.
- Install a pedestrian bridge over the Yarra River.
- Install a new playground, sensory play and obstacle course.
- Install viewing platforms orientated towards the Yarra River.
- Install hang-out spaces for youth.
- Upgrade toilets and improve safety around these facilities.
- Install exercise equipment and a perimeter path around the oval.
- Install bike jumps, bike play and bike maintenance station.
- Improve paths and address conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians.
- Develop on street parking around the perimeter of the park, remove parking from Brown Street and prevent unauthorised vehicles entering the park.
- Improve traffic management along Beverley Road and increase safety in proximity to the road crossing adjacent to Possum Hollow.
- Paint and upgrade the rotunda.
- Upgrade the club rooms.
- Ensure that the park caters for all abilities and cultures (inclusive space).
- Consider the need to accommodate social events and community events.
- Extend the master plan to include all areas along Beverley Road.
- Protect from over development and do not sell off any part of the park.

4.9 Social Mapping Tool Comments

A total of 207 comments from 75 individual email addresses were received via the interactive map. Comments included:

- Improve/upgrade the rotunda and surrounds.
- Improve paths, address safety when traversing the carpark, consider all ability access and address conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians.
- Develop viewing stations, lookout tower, raised tree walk, labyrinth, maze and cultural trail.
- Install play facilities, nature play, adventure play and water play.
- Develop the site as a premier sporting facility that accommodates a variety of active recreation inclusive of aquatic centre, obstacle course, fitness equipment, basketball court, tennis court and bocce etc.
- Upgrade the club rooms and umpire rooms.
- Upgrade toilets, install additional toilets and improve safety near these facilities.
- Install a traditional picket fence around the oval and improve drainage to the playing surface.
- Provide facilities to accommodate events and socialising including music bowl, amphitheatre, café, community gardens/bush tucker gardens etc.
- Provide a library and community centre.
- Provide BMX, skate and scooter facilities.
- Provide new park infrastructure including BBQ's, shelters, seats, tables, lights and picnic facilities.
- Develop a new dog off lead area.
- Install additional rubbish bins, dog waste bins and maintain these facilities better.
- Improve rubbish collection and remove graffiti.
- Install pedestrian bridges over the Yarra River and over Rosanna Road.
- Remove parking from Brown Street and review on street park in proximity to the park.
- Install traffic calming around the periphery of the park, reduce speed limits, install fencing between park and roads and improve safety where pedestrians cross roads.
- Make car parking within the park free and link the car park to adjacent BBQ facilities via a path.

- Weed control and revegetation.
- Install additional vegetation/trees and protect habitat.
- Reconfigure Salt Creek to develop a more natural looking tributary.
- Protect heritage and existing park character. Do not over develop.
- There is a mix of opinion around species selection and the use of exotics vs indigenous species.

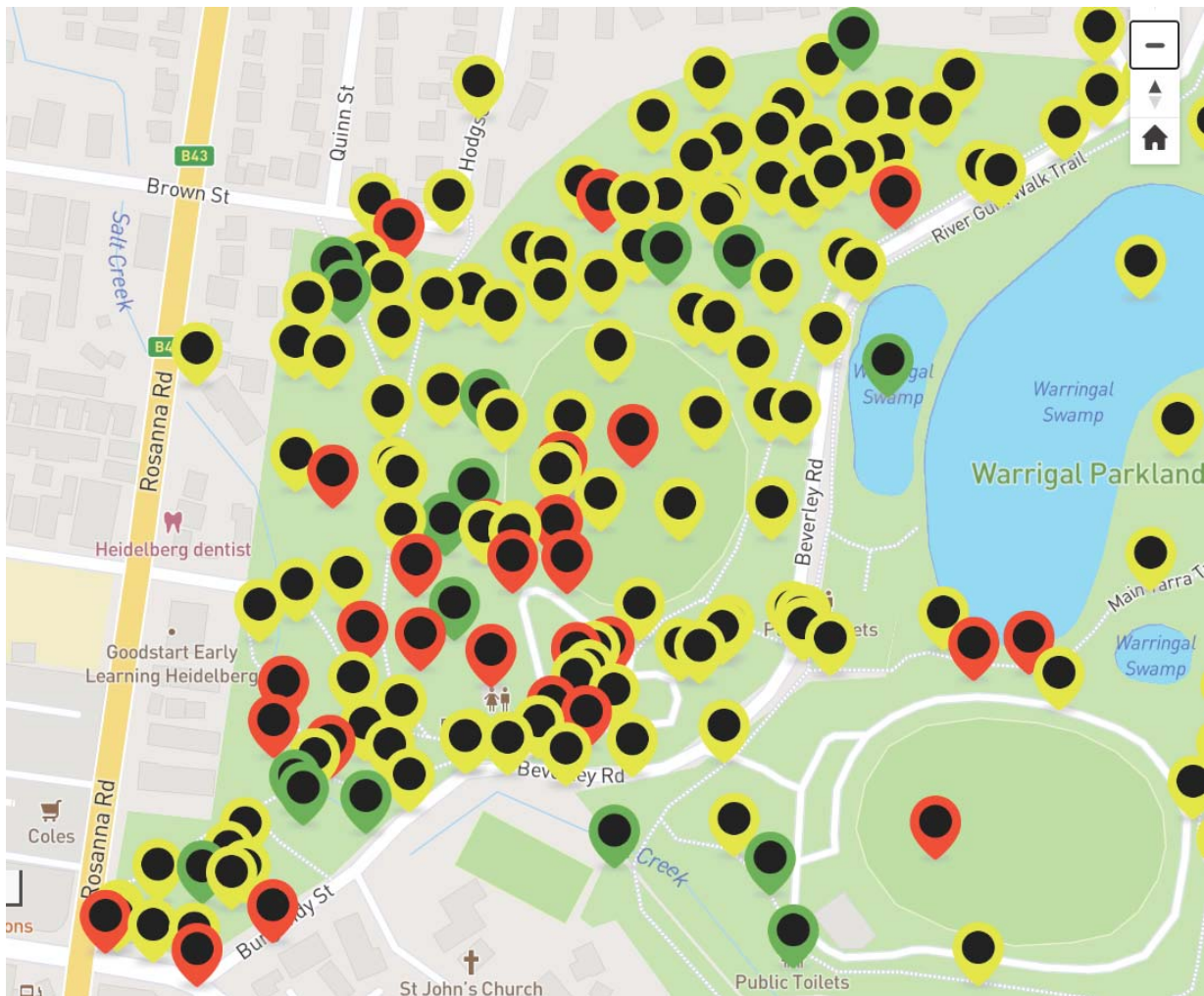


Figure 13 - Online Map

4.10 Written Feedback (Email)

In total 13 written submissions were received from 12 individuals.

Whilst submissions varied, key themes included:

- Preservation of heritage attributes inclusive of European tree species.
- Assessment of environmental weeds and implementation of weed control programs.
- Assessment and preservation of remnant vegetation and installation of additional indigenous species.
- Installation of new trees (exotic and indigenous) and improved tree maintenance.
- Preservation of wildlife corridors and environmental improvements along Salt Creek.
- Creation of an arboretum and formal gardens.
- Improvements to paths inclusive of separating bikes and pedestrians, increasing width and reducing speed.
- Installation of additional park facilities including seats, signs, toilets, bins and water refill stations.
- Provision of youth facilities including a junior bike and skate park.
- Provision of a pedestrian bridge over the Yarra River linking parkland in Banyule and Manningham.
- Replacement of roadside barriers and installation of a pedestrian crossing over Burgundy Street in proximity to St John's.
- Name park precincts.
- Ensure adjacent residential properties do not extend into the park and privatise public land.