

James Reserve Master Plan - Consultation Findings Report 2020

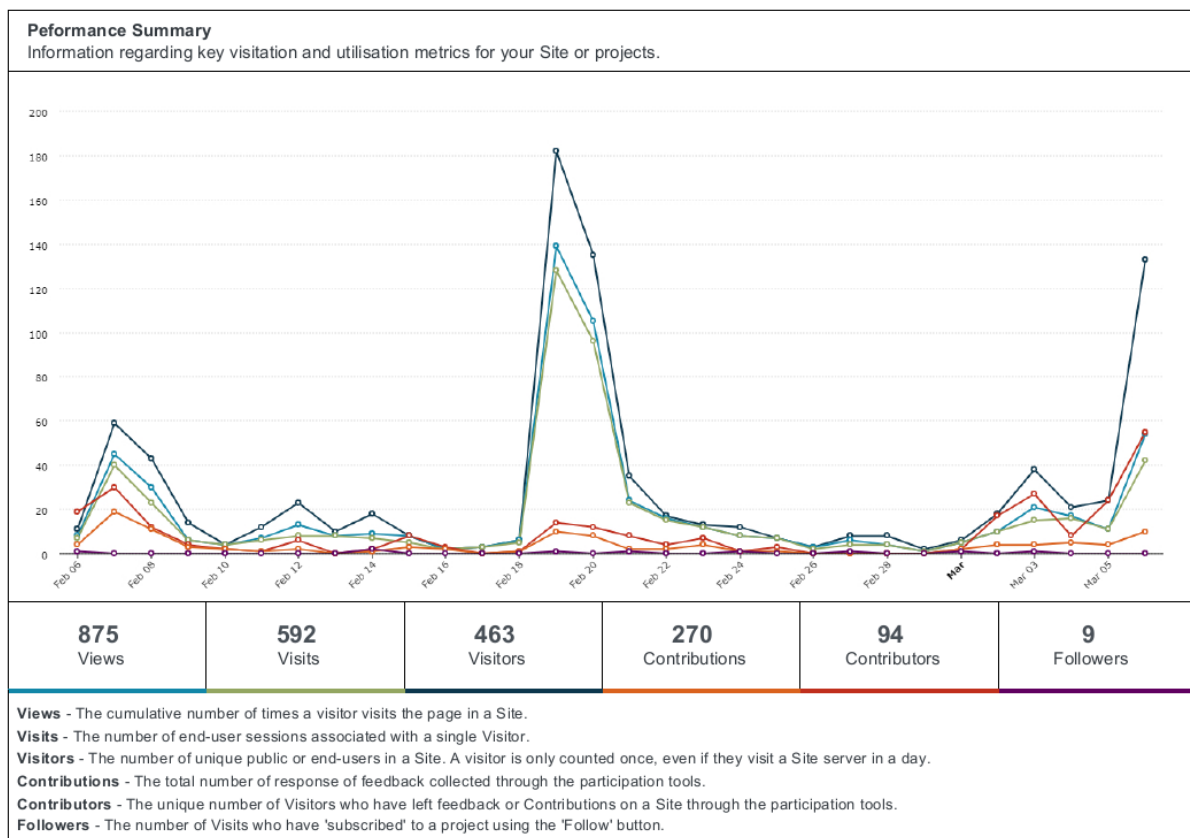
Consultation for the draft James Reserve Master Plan ran for a 4-week period between 6 February 2020 – 6 March 2020.

The consultation comprised:

- A mail-out to approximately 700 property owners/tenants living in walking distance to the reserve (400 metre radius).
- Shaping Banyule web page inclusive of quick-poll, interactive social mapping tool and an open comments section.
- Information signs (2) displayed on site.
- Meeting with representatives of the St Hellier Street Children's Centre.
- Meeting with representatives of the Heidelberg Eagles Soccer Club.
- Meetings with Council internal stakeholders.

Consultation Metrics

During the consultation 254 suggestions and opinions were shared. The graph below provides a summary regarding visitation and metrics associated with the Shaping Banyule web page.



Demographic Data

Demographic data collected indicated that 47% of those who provided feedback were male, 42% were female and 11% did not identify gender.

The age of those who provided feedback comprised:

- 8% Under 15
- 16% 25 – 34
- 34% 35 – 44
- 21% 45 – 54
- 8% 55 – 64
- 5% 65 – 84
- 8% Did not identify age

Survey participants resided in the following suburbs:

- 3% Bellfield
- 5% Heidelberg
- 74% Heidelberg Heights
- 3% Lower Plenty
- 3% Rosanna
- 12% Did not identify suburb

Quick-Poll

When interrogating the data for the James Reserve Master Plan quick poll voting, it was identified that multiple entries were submitted from single IP addresses within very narrow timeframes. To ensure data integrity, all multiple entries from the same IP addresses were removed and counted as one single entry only, resulting in the final quick poll results demonstrating approximately 74% in support of the James Reserve Master Plan and approximately 26% in opposition.

Interactive Social Mapping Tool

In total, 99 comments were provided on the interactive social mapping tool by 22 individuals.

Open Comments

In total, 31 individuals provided feedback in the open comments section.

Email

In addition to the online feedback a total of 12 emails were received.

Feedback

An amalgamated summary of the feedback obtained during the consultation is provided in the table below.

Number of Responses	> = 10
	4 ~ 9
	1 ~ 3

Map Area	No.	Community Comment	Number of Responses	Response to Community Comment
Area 1	1	Remove terrace to the north of the soccer field. Make it open and accessible/playspace.	7	Update plan to nominate a level grassed area to the north of the soccer field and introduce informal copses of canopy trees in the interest of shade, habitat, amenity and informal play.
	2	Remove or relocate the soccer officials area.	4	Unable to remove officials area as these comprise the players' bench and coach's box. Required under the Football Victoria guidelines. Relocate to the south side of the soccer field.
	3	Improve soccer field drainage.	4	Improved drainage for the soccer field is nominated on plan.
	4	Not DDA friendly.	2	Park improvements will meet DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) benchmarks and standards and park facilities will comply with universal design. A note to this effect to be included on plan.
	5	Shade for spectators.	2	Large spreading canopy trees to be included within the grassed area to the north of the soccer field and infill tree planting to be installed along the southern boundary for shade.
	6	High fence behind goals do not need to be replaced.	1	Update plan to indicate existing fences behind soccer goals to be retained.
	7	High fence behind goals to be moved back to make way for continuous footpath.	1	No change to plan. High fences to be located between the goals and adjacent paths to prevent balls running across paths. A continuous path is provided around the periphery of the park albeit sections will be located within the road reserve.
	8	Footpath along the southern edge of the soccer field is not necessary.	1	No change to plan. Whilst the paths to the south of the soccer field run parallel to each other they serve a different function. Path 19 will form part of an accessible path that runs around the perimeter of the reserve and path 20 will provide an all-weather viewing area that overlooks the soccer field.
Area 2	1	Keep the cricket net.	8	One new cricket net to be provided for community use.
	2	Toilet should be on the other side of the building.	4	Upgraded pavilion to be retained to the west of the soccer field and new public toilets to be orientated towards James Street and designed with due regard to CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles.
	3	Clubroom/pavilion not necessary.	3	The pavilion is needed for the current tenant (Heidelberg Eagles Soccer Club) and future use. Clubrooms/pavilion to be retained.
	4	Multiple purpose court/space (soccer / tennis / GAGA ball pit).	2	Futsal to be deleted. Multi-purpose court to be provided towards the north-east corner of the reserve.
	5	Remove the cricket net.	2	One new cricket net to be provided for community use towards the north-east corner of the reserve. A considerable number of responses (8) requested this outcome.
	6	Storage in pavilion for non-soccer club.	3	To be reviewed at detailed design stage. It is unclear what community group requires storage in the pavilion?
	7	Pavilion would ruin views south from Leonard Street if located to the north of the soccer field.	1	Upgraded pavilion to be retained to the west of the soccer field.
	8	Prefer futsal or tennis court in this location or maybe more playground.	1	Banyule Tennis Strategy identifies that many tennis courts are underutilised in Banyule. Tennis facilities not supported for James Reserve. Playground to be expanded.
	9	Green roof for the pavilion to reduce visual bulk.	1	To be considered as a function of the detailed design associated with the pavilion.
	10	Sporting changerooms and toilets are a good addition.	1	Noted.
	11	New entrance and ramp is definitely required.	1	Existing ramp to be retained with additional entrances to be provided.
	12	Only need one set of steps to the pavilion.	1	Noted. Upgraded pavilion to be retained to the west of the soccer field.

Area 3	1	Shade for Playground.	15	Shade will be provided in the form of a picnic shelter and the installation of large spreading canopy trees in proximity to play facilities. Shade sails are not anticipated. The Public Open Space Plan indicates that Council will endeavour to provide natural shade in and around playgrounds. Artificial shade such as shade sails over playgrounds will only be considered at regional or major neighbourhood level playgrounds where there is insufficient natural shade.
	2	Upgrade playground (size & equipment).	8	Play facilities to be expanded inclusive of nature play.
	3	Add BBQ.	8	BBQ and picnic facilities to be provided in proximity to the proposed shelter.
	4	Increase the size of basketball court to half size.	6	Court size to be maximised however limited room to expand.
	5	Drinking fountain.	6	Drinking fountain to be included.
	6	Keep / additional swing.	5	Swings are nominated within the playground.
	7	More seating.	5	Plan and legend to be updated to show seating nodes periodically located around the periphery of the reserve including in proximity to play facilities and courts.
	8	Natural adventure style playground.	3	No change to plan. Specific play elements will be determined as a function of the detailed design for the playground. Nature play referenced on plan.
	9	Native tree to replace proposed oak tree.	2	Native canopy trees to be nominated for use along the northern embankment.
	10	No BBQ.	1	Plan to be updated to include a BBQ in proximity to the picnic shelter. A considerable number of responses (8) requested this outcome.
	11	Rubber softfall.	1	Rubber softfall will be considered when the detailed design of the playground is developed.
	12	Sports court should have net.	1	To be reviewed as a function of detailed design. Nets may be problematic from a maintenance perspective. Tennis not supported.
	13	Maybe keep the current steps. More direct to the playground.	1	No change to plan. The current steps located in the north – east corner are old and do not comply with current standards and benchmarks. To be replaced with new concrete steps to the south.
Area 4	1	Remove futsal (replace by community garden, scooter track, mini skate, carpark, tennis...).	10	Futsal court to be deleted. Banyule netball stadium operates futsal on Friday nights on its 4 courts. Council has just completed the construction of a 5-a-side soccer court at Malahang Reserve in close proximity. Fitness equipment to be nominated.
	2	Futsal is good.	2	As per the above.
	3	Add some exercise equipment.	2	The introduction of fitness equipment within the reserve is considered a good outcome. Plan to be updated accordingly with fitness equipment to be provided towards the north - west corner of the reserve.
	4	Futsal move up to proposed pavilion.	2	Futsal to be deleted.
	5	Nets or similar structure for throwing, batting practice (cricket, baseball, softball, etc) to be considered.	1	One new cricket net to be provided towards the north - east corner of the reserve.
	6	Raise the clubroom to field level and put carpark underneath.	1	To be reviewed as a function of the future pavilion design.
	7	Add drinking fountain.	1	It is proposed to include a drinking fountain in proximity to the picnic shelter and playground.

Area 5	1	Carpark facility to be improved for childcare centre.	1	Not supported. The capacity and current operation of the carpark for the centre is satisfactory. Peak times of usage of the reserve are very unlikely to coincide with the peak times of car traffic for the centre (weekdays between 7am-9am, and 3:30pm-5:30pm).
	2	Support provision of additional space for St Hellier St childcare.	1	No change to plan. The small extension (125m2) will allow a ramp to be installed to the rear of the children's centre whilst maintaining the required 7m2 outdoor area per child. The area is located in an underutilised area within the park. This could be leased and the land returned to the park if needed in the future.
	3	Don't support extension. Already limited recreation in the area.	1	As per preceeding point.
Area 6	1	Setback/remove footpath make way for carpark.	3	Not supported. Periphery path around reserve required.
	2	Off-street parking created by excavating the existng slope.	1	Not supported. The creation of more car parking spaces needs to be substantiated by a major increase in demand for parking in the area that cannot be accommodated by the installation of parking restrictions and higher turn-over of vehicles. Bicycle parking facilities to be provided as part of the redevelopment to encourage sustainable modes of travel.
	3	Footpath not required. Make into carpark.	1	Not supported. The removal or reduction of width of pedestrian facilities goes against Council's Integrated Transport Plan.
Traffic	1	Increase Carpark (esp. 45/90 degree on James St).	17	Not supported. The creation of more car parking spaces needs to be substantiated by a major increase in demand for parking in the area that cannot be accommodated by the installation of parking restrictions and higher turn-over of vehicles.
	2	Speed bump on Alred Street.	3	Not supported – at the moment. Speed reduction measures can be considered once the works are finalised, and speed and volume surveys can be conducted to assess the traffic behaviour on the street.
	3	Close off southern end of Leonard Street.	1	Not Supported – at the moment. The closure of any road requires strong support from the residents that live within the street (more than 75-80%). Extensive consultation with emergency services and DoT (Department of Transport - VicRoads), which include the preparation of an independent traffic study to assess how the road network would be affected is also needed.
	4	Speed limit around childcare.	1	Not supported. The installation of lower speed limits is controlled by DoT (Department of Transport - VicRoads). The location does not meet the warrants for the reduction in speed limits.
Lighting	1	Add lighting (but not disturbance to residents).	4	No change to plan. Passive lights are typically only used in high order parks (i.e. regional) due to installation, operation and maintenance costs. Street lighting is provided around the periphery. Sports lighting will be installed so the site can be used for active recreation at night.
	2	CCTV. LED with timber for the field. Well lit light for training nights.	1	CCTV (closed circuit television) taking in the extent of the pavilion and build infrastructure along James Street would be desirable as an "Insurance" tool for new assets. Improved sports lighting for evening training sessions and night-time supported.
	3	Careful lighting for soccer field.	1	Update plan to include a notation about improved sports lighting.

General comments	1	Clubroom not to relocate.	27	The location of the clubrooms and pavilion to remain to the west of the soccer field. The existing pavilion does not comply with current standards and needs to be upgraded.
	2	Park for community not just for the soccer club.	25	The master plan needs to be a balance between active recreation (soccer) and passive recreation (informal use). Both pursuits need to be accommodated.
	3	Perimeter track around field accessible to everyone.	7	No change to plan. A continuous path is provided around the periphery of the park albeit sections will be located within the road reserve.
	4	Multi sports use.	6	To be multi sports use, it would require a summer tenant as there is already a winter tenant. At the moment Council is not seeing an increase demand in cricket in this area to justify putting in a cricket pitch. Could be used in summer for outdoor training groups. Can also be used for community groups during off peak hours eg school hours.
	5	Remove fence to open up park.	4	No change to plan. Fence along St Hellier Street and Alfred Street required as a barrier between path and steep embankment. High fences behind goals and fence along the southern side of the soccer field required to retain balls. High fence along St Hellier Street Children's Centre to be replaced with a smaller fence to improve amenity.
	6	Add dog poo bin.	2	No change to plan. Dog poo bins are only provided in dedicated dog off-lead parks.
	7	Add dog park.	2	No change to plan. There is insufficient room to include a dog off-lead park. Dog parks in close proximity include Ford Park and Malahang Reserve.
	8	Park should be downgraded to passive open space.	2	The master plan needs to be a balance between active recreation (soccer) and passive recreation (informal use). Both pursuits need to be accommodated.
	9	Add bike/scooter ramp.	2	There is insufficient room to develop a bike/scooter track however it is recommended that bike racks be nominated in proximity to the picnic shelter. Plan and legend to be updated accordingly.
	10	More DDA friendly.	2	Where feasible the design will meet DDA benchmarks and standards. Park facilities to comply with universal design including some accessible play items, furniture and paths. A note to this effect to be included on plan.
	11	Use native vegetation.	1	It is anticipated that the majority of vegetation to be used will be native with exotics to be used as highlight/feature planting. Species will be determined as a function of the detailed design.
	12	Irrigation to garden bed.	1	Garden beds to comprise a mix of robust native plant species selected with due regard to local conditions to avoid the need for irrigated garden beds. The intent is to minimise maintenance and costs associated with irrigation.
	13	Toilet should not be provided to this park.	1	Given the reserve includes active recreation and will be designed for extended stays (i.e. BBQ), toilets are considered necessary. Toilet facilities already exist in this reserve.
	14	Pavilion should be same level as the soccer field.	1	To be reviewed as a function of the detailed design associated with the pavilion.
	15	Natural landscape.	1	Natural landscaping is anticipated within this reserve. To be further resolved as a function of the detailed design.
	16	Move soccer club elsewhere.	1	There is currently a shortage of soccer fields in Banyule and certainly with the growth in female participation, there will be in the future. James Reserve to remain as a soccer facility.
	17	Improve landscaping.	1	Landscaping will be improved as a result of the future development.
	18	Add litter bin.	1	Bin to be nominated in proximity to the picnic shelter and BBQ.

Map

This map below correlates to the areas identified in the preceding table.

