218 Railway Parade, Noble Park Draft concept plan for new pocket park **CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT**







218 Railway Parade Draft Concept Plan **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

October - December 2023

BACKGROUND

The City of Greater Dandenong have undertaken preparation of a Draft Concept Plan for a new pocket park at 218 Railway Parade, Noble Park. Council purchased the site in 2020 to increase the quantity of publicly accessible public open space within this area of Noble Park that was identified in the Greater Dandenong, Open Space Strategy 2020-2030 as a gap area. Creating a new pocket park will improve the amenity of the local area and provides a new green space for the community to enjoy.

CONSULTATION

Greater Dandenong City Council asked the community to have their say on the Draft Concept Plan for the new pocket park at 218 Railway Parade.

The community consultation on the Draft Concept Plan was open for a four-week period Online via the 'Have your say' website from Monday 30 October until Sunday 3 December 2023. Various methods were used to promote and seek feedback on the Draft Concept Plan.

Council advertised the Draft Concept Plan via the City of Greater Dandenong 'Have Your Say' website with links to SurveyMonkey.

The consultation included:

- Notification posters erected at 218 Railway Parade
- Information on Council's website, 'Have Your Say'
- Online survey via Survey Monkey.
- 185 x A4 mailout fliers delivered to the catchment around 218 Railway Parade

In total there were 37 responses to the online survey and 5 emails received providing feedback on the draft Concept Plan.



218 Railway Parade Pocket Park

218 Railway Parade, Noble Park

We are creating a new pocket park at 218 Railway Parade and we want your feedback. Your ideas will help shape the design of the pocket park.

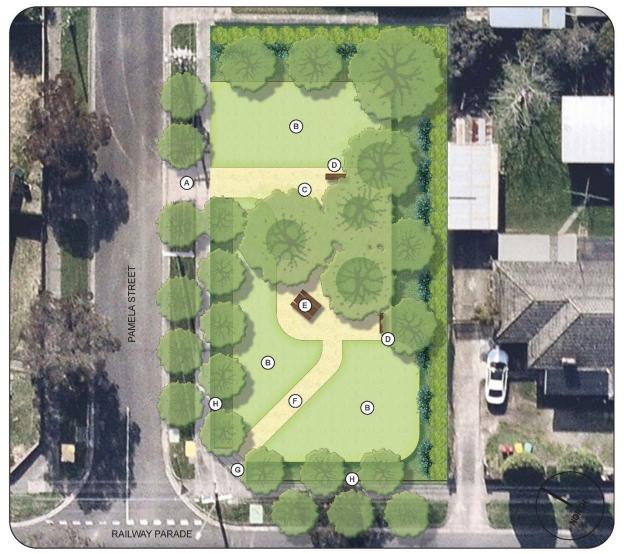
For more information and to have your say, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/railway-parade-park-consultation or phone Council on 8571 1000

Submissions close on 3 December 2023



218 Railway Parade Pocket Park

Draft concept plan October 2023



Legend:



- A Maintenance access
- B Picnic lawn area
- C Gravel gathering area
- D Bench seat

E Picnic setting



- G Steps up
- (H) Replace existing retaining wall

Additional Items:

New feature garden beds throughout

New trees on nature strips

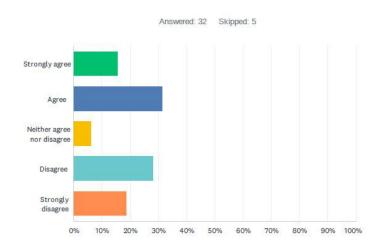




CONSULTATION OUTCOMES DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN ONLINE SURVEY / WRITTEN FEEDBACK

October -December 2023

Q1 Do you generally agree with the draft concept plan?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	15.63%	5
Agree	31.25%	10
Neither agree nor disagree	6.25%	2
Disagree	28.13%	9
Strongly disagree	18.75%	6
TOTAL		32

Overall, there was a mixed response to the draft concept plan, with an almost 50:50 split between those who agree / strongly agree and those who disagree / strongly disagree.

The breakdown of the written responses in Question 2, identifies the key issues that the community support or do not support and further ideas for the revised concept plan.

Q2 Do you want to tell us why?

Thirty-one (31) people provided written responses to the survey and there were five (5) separate emails received to this question. The key themes from these responses have been summarized in the table below. Refer to appendix 1 for details of all collected responses.

Comment Themes	Number of comments
In agreement comments	
It's a good outcome for the community – open space for all, as there is no park nearby	4
Disagreement comments	
We need a small playground - play equipment and nature play - logs and stepping stones,	13

swings.	
E.g. like the pocket park at Fifth Avenue in Dandenong, which has a hill with a slide.	
Needs to be a green space	6
Needs to cater to range of ages and families.	11
There is nothing for children – need some activities for kids.	
Not unique and nothing to draw people to the space, not just an area for sitting	
Picnic area with amenities -bbq, drinking fountain, rubbish bin, picnic tables and seats	5
The concept plan removes the existing trees - please keep the existing trees	4
More bench seats	3
Concerned with anti-social behaviour and level of lighting near Pamela Street. Keep view lines open. It needs to draw in families and older adults in order to keep it safe	3
Child safe fence / fence along Railway Parade	2
Plant the park extensively with trees for shade to read and relax	1
Need a sensory garden to make more interesting	1
Incorporate the existing fence	1
Change it into a carpark to support the shops	1
A place that attracts people to eat their food, bought from the shopping centre	1
Half basketball court	1
Public toilets	1

Q3 What type of trees do you like?.

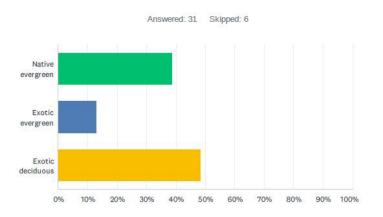


Native evergreen



Exotic deciduous





ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Native evergreen	38.71%	12
Exotic evergreen	12,90%	4
Exotic deciduous	48.39%	15
TOTAL		31

The preferred trees to plant are exotic deciduous trees, which provide seasonal colour. However, there will be some native evergreen trees planted within the park.

Q4 What type of garden beds would you like?



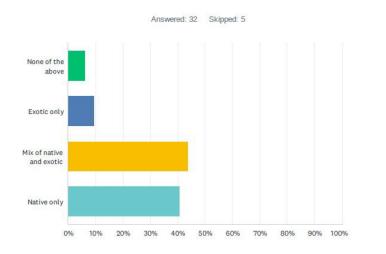
Exotic only



○ None of the above



6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	6.25%	2
Exotic only	9.38%	3
Mix of native and exotic	43.75%	14
Native only	40.63%	13
TOTAL		32

The preferred garden bed mix is to have combination of native and exotic plants. However, there would be a higher percentage of native plants than exotic plants.

Q5 If you answered, 'None of the above', please tell us why

Most of the sixteen (16) additional comments to this question were not on the preferred colour theme, but additional comments on the draft concept plan, specifically the opposition to the full-sized court. The table below has split the comments into these two categories. Refer to Appendix 1 for details of all collected responses.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 33

4	As previously stated, would better serve as a play area for kids. This area already exists under train line.	11/1/2023 7:36 PM
3	All good.	11/1/2023 9:25 PM
2	Na	11/11/2023 4:41 PM
1	They often turn into bushy areas when not maintained and grow mosquitoes. Small flowered plants would be ideal	11/18/2023 11:13 PM
#	RESPONSES	DATE

Q6 Is there any other feedback you would like to provide?

There were twenty-four (24) separate comments provided to this question I the survey as well as five (5) emails received. Refer to Appendix 1 for details of all collected responses. Notably, the themes that have been extracted from these comments correlate with the themes and comments received against Q2.

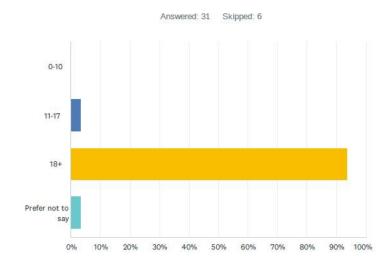
Comment Themes	Number of comments
It's a good outcome for the community – open space for all, as there is no park nearby	3
Support the inclusion of native evergreens and garden beds	2

Support the inclusion of a picnic area and seating	1
We need a small playground - play equipment and nature play – logs, stepping stones and swings. E.g. like the pocket park at Fifth Avenue in Dandenong, which has a hill with a slide.	11
The concept plan removes the existing trees - please keep the existing trees (disappointing !) helps with the shade	7
Needs to cater to range of ages and families.	5
There is nothing for children – need some activities for kids.	
Nothing to draw people to the space, not just an area for sitting	
Drinking fountain (with dog bowl)	3
Concerned with anti-social behaviour and level of lighting near Pamela Street. Keep view lines open. It needs to draw in families and older adults in order to keep it safe	2
Needs to be a green space that attracts biodiversity	1
Minimum of two picnic tables to cater for families using the park.	1
Rubbish bin	1
Fitness equipment	1
BBQ	1
More bench seats	1
Enclosed area for dogs	1
Public toilets	1

The following extracts from the feedback, reflect the general themes from the comments provided:

- I think it's a great idea
- Introduce some nature play, sensory play and play equipment to the park. Super important that you save the existing trees as well!
- That they don't plan to keep the existing trees on site is very poor, particularly as they carefully saved them in the process of demolishing the buildings on the site. It may be a mistake in the concept design but I am concerned it is not so it is worth pointing out in my view...... Nothing about the design is particularly interesting is a problem in both continuing support for this open space acquisition program but more importantly attracting people to the space......
- Needs play equipment for children and nature and sensory play like the park in Fifth Avenue, Dandenong West.
- Definitely please put in a small playground
- Also, the incorporation of active equipment for exercise and of water fountains to support this is another possible improvement to encourage use of the area for social activities
- I am writing as I'm concerned that the existing trees will be removed. How wonderful if the concept could be designed around the trees. It will be bleak without them. Public spaces must retain trees to soften a landscape and cool the area especially in summer. They also add interest.
- I don't think 1 picnic table is enough. If one family or person sits there then there's no other one for another visitor to use. Please have a minimum of two picnic tables

Q8 WHAT IS YOUR AGE GROUP?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-10	0.00%	0
11-17	3.23%	1
18+	93.55%	29
Prefer not to say	3.23%	1
TOTAL		31

Of the survey entries received, thirty-one people responded to this question. Most of the feedback was from people over eighteen years old.

SUMMARY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Overall, there was a mixed level of support for the draft concept plan. There were clear messages from the community regarding the following:

- Retaining the existing trees
- Providing activities for all age groups especially families and children
- A small playground / small number of playground equipment pieces
- Provide infrastructure such as a picnic table setting and seats
- Enhance the park's landscape amenity and biodiversity.
- Retain clear sight lines into the park for passive surveillance

The final concept plan is aligned with the following parameters:

- 1. Allocated budget for 2023-2024 financial year
- 2. Greater Dandenong's Open Space Strategy 2020-2030 Park Development Standards for Pocket Parks
- 3. Staging plan to inform future capital improvement works bids to Council

Stage 1 Works – 2023-24

- 1. New low perimeter wall and edging to align with level changes along street frontages
- 2. New gravel path from Pamela Street to a new picnic table setting and seat area
- 3. Retention of existing trees
- 4. New tree planting, garden beds and grass area

Future Stage Works – Subject to Council funding

The following projects are subject to separate future capital improvement bids being supported through council's annual budget process.

- Small area with junior playground equipment
- Single 3-piece fitness equipment pod.

The table below provides a council officer response to the summary of comments and the revised park design.

Summary of feedback

Comment Themes	Council officer response
Retain the existing trees	The revised concept plan retains the existing trees on the site and integrates them with the new trees.
More trees and indigenous planting Increase the number of shade trees	The revised concept plan includes the increase in tree planting across the park as well as garden beds.
Small amount of playground equipment There was strong support for including a small amount	It is acknowledged that the provision of some playground equipment was of high importance.

of playground.	As part of Council's review and update of the 2013-23 Playground Strategy in 2023-24, the review of this park for a small playground will be taken into consideration.
	The 2023-24 budget for the 218 Railway Parade improvements is too small to allow for the supply and installation of a small playground area as well as the required stage 1 park improvement works.
	An area for a small playground has been included in the final concept plan, however, it will be subject to a future capital improvement bid being supported through council's annual budget process.
Picnic table and bench seats	The revised concept plan will include a picnic table and bench seating.
Drinking Fountain	The revised concept plan does not include a drinking fountain.
	The Open Space Strategy's Park Development Standards for pocket parks, does not support drinking fountains in small pocket parks.
BBQ	The revised concept plan does not include a bbq.
	The Open Space Strategy's Park Development Standards for pocket parks, does not support bbqs in small parks.
Clear sight lines into the park	The revised concept plan has clear sight lines into the park
Request for clear sight lines into the park for safety reasons and mitigate anti-social behaviour.	from the street frontages.
Fitness Equipment	The revised concept plan will identify an area for a single 3- piece fitness equipment pod.
	The installation of fitness equipment will be subject to a future capital improvement bid being supported through council's annual budget process.
Enclosed area for dogs	The revised concept plan will not include an enclosed area for dogs. The Dog Off Leash Strategy 2019 does not include this reserve as a future dog off leash park. In addition, the park is council's smallest level of park, being a pocket park and is not supported in the Open Space Strategy for this purpose.
Public Toilet	The revised concept plan will not include a public toilet as the location and small size of this park is not supported in Council's Public Toilet Strategy 2020-2030.

POST CONSULTATION REVISED FINAL CONCEPT PLAN

218 Railway Parade Pocket Park

Concept plan April 2024



Legend:



A Maintenance access
 B Picnic lawn area
 C Gravel gathering area
 B ench seat
 Picnic setting

Pedestrian path
 Replace existing retaining wall
 Playground (subject to future funding)
 Fitness Pod (subject to future funding)

Additional Items:

New feature garden beds throughoutNew trees on nature strips





APPENDIX 1

Q2 Do you want to tell us why?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 6

#	RESPONSES	DATE
# 1	We need play equipment and nature play - logs and stepping stones, swings. Needs to cater to range of ages. As more yards are lost to townhouse developments, we need to have space for children and young adults to safely play. The area needs a child safe fence. Please keep existing trees. Love the plans to plant extensively, creating a shady space for adults to relax and read. It is a small space so it needs to be heavy on function so it doesn't become wasted space. It needs to draw in families and older adults in order to keep it safe.	12/3/2023 10:51 AM
2	Not unique, doesn't add amenity, takes away existing trees/plants (I thought Greater Dandenong was trying to save trees)	12/3/2023 9:38 AM
3	There's nothing to draw people to the space currently. Suggest adding a small play area or sensory garden or something that makes it more interesting.	12/1/2023 8:51 PM
4	it would be nice to incorporate the existing fence and the existing trees in the design to apy homage to the previous owners and the existing trees are already established and we are concerned about tree canopy coverage. There needs to be a fence as Railway Parade is a busy arterial road and the block is on a slope and children move very quickly so for safety there needs to be a fence . What is there that will entertain children in this design, LXRP promised activity space in tehir pocket park opposite the shops but that was taken away with the extra car parking spaces so their needs to be something that is a draw card for families	12/1/2023 10:00 AM
5	Green space is needed in that area, so any 'green space' is good.	12/1/2023 9:50 AM
6	The corner of railway parade and chandler road is so congested with the strip of shops. This space can be used as a car parking space to alleviate traffic, as many cars will always illegally stop when there is no car parking spaces available. Also, a public seating area so close to a tobacco store will only encourage teenagers to vape here. It will not be a pleasant "park" anyway.	11/22/2023 2:02 PM
7	I don't disagree with the plan but the area is congested, particularly on the weekend, with cars parking as an overflow from the shops. Adding a park could add to the congestion. In addition, there is very little street lighting in that part of Pamela Street so it could become a haven for illegal activity, not to mention safety for pedestrians. I like the idea of parkland and, as someone that has family living near the site, the protection the trees bring from the view of Railway Parade and Skyrail, but I am concerned about my family living near a site that, if not maintained, could make the area unsafe. I think some form of lighting on site or in the street might be helpful.	11/20/2023 10:33 AM
8	creating valuable public space in the local area. increasing green cover. potential synergy with adjacent yarraman shopping street.	11/19/2023 7:08 PM
9	We want park that includes activities for kids so parents can bring kids along and relax when kids are playing. Ross Reserve is the best example of what we want. Smaller version of Ross reserve would be ideal.	11/18/2023 11:13 PM
10	yes but what activities are there for children?	11/15/2023 12:50 PM
11	Na	11/11/2023 4:41 PM
12	there is no play area for young kids with swings and slides etc	11/11/2023 12:23 PM
13	I would like it to be like the pocket park at Fifth Avenue in Dandenong, which has a hill with a slide. Or some swings would be nice. Also, please retain existing trees.	11/11/2023 11:06 AM
14	There should be a small playground. There is similar parks near by but none with a small playground for young children nearby	11/10/2023 1:33 PM
15	I think a 2 picnic area with amenities like a BBQ/water fountain and rubbish bin would mean the picnic table/space would likely be used more. The other picnic space could be a flower bed/native play space for kids. It's a little bit further along the road from the shops so it needs to attract people to it rather than assume people will go there to eat their food. So a nature based playground with 2x bench seating and a rubbish bin/fountain would get more use then just a picnic table. A playground would also deter vapers/smokers.	11/6/2023 10:03 PM

218 Railway Parade Pocket Park Consultation

16	There is no park for kids nearby, it would be great if you could get a slide ,a swing in the park, there will still be enough space for benches. There is no park with any rides in the area. Please consider my advice, it is a good opportunity for little ones. They could have some quality time outdoors.	11/4/2023 6:53 PM
17	I like it, with the picnic areas, maybe a bbq would be perfect under the trees during summer!	11/4/2023 4:59 PM
18	Lots of canopy trees and a nice relaxing and quiet place is much needed so residents can relax.	11/4/2023 12:42 AM
19	There should be some activities for kids to do like sandpit, etc. There is nothing in this area and it is a big area for just sitting. It will not be used enough for that. You could have both. A water/ sand play area, garden, picnic area. An area for all.	11/3/2023 2:38 PM
20	We live on this block and we would like to see a small playground area added to the draft. We have a young family and believe the area would benefit strongly by having a small play area for young children. I propose a slide, swing set and climbing wall.	11/3/2023 12:39 PM
21	No idead	11/2/2023 12:11 PM
22	That side of Noble Park will benefit from a small playground area. Even 3 swings, and a slide. Maybe a climb up kind of equipment. With couple of sitting benches, trees and space for picnic. Room to walk is the reserve, with the size of that park you won't have people coming to just sit on the bench and enjoy the trees around. If anything will get more messy with young adults there. If you make it more for families oriented with kids, granparents etc-there's a good reason for them to come for a walk and relaxation, as the next accessible park is not close by. Thank you for the initiative	11/1/2023 10:01 PM
23	It's a good outcome for the community	11/1/2023 9:27 PM
24	It gives open space for the local community and other people come from the other place to use it or to share it.	11/1/2023 9:25 PM
25	No park area nearby	11/1/2023 8:19 PM
26	This already exists across the road! Suggest a park with play equipment and possibly half basketball court.	11/1/2023 7:36 PM
27	A fresh area for parents to relax and for children to play safely	11/1/2023 4:32 PM
28	Near station and a lot of trouble around these area. Wouldn't feel safe attending or walking past park at night. Would be great to keep fairly open and make it a dog park	11/1/2023 12:56 PM
29	It's good idea, me and my family appreciate ur plan go ahead. Thanks Kefyalew	11/1/2023 12:15 PM
30	We need some play equipment for the children there to make the most use of the space	10/31/2023 5:12 PM
31	water fountains, toilets and play equip	10/19/2023 1:58 PM

Q5 If you answered 'None of the above', please tell us why.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 33

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	They often turn into bushy areas when not maintained and grow mosquitoes. Small flowered plants would be ideal	11/18/2023 11:13 PM
2	Na	11/11/2023 4:41 PM
3	All good.	11/1/2023 9:25 PM
4	As previously stated, would better serve as a play area for kids. This area already exists under train line.	11/1/2023 7:36 PM

Q6 Is there any other feedback you would like to provide?

Answered: 24 Skipped: 13

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Introduce some nature play, sensory play and play equipment to the park. Super important that you save the existing trees as well!	12/5/2023 8:22 AM
2	For what it is worth here is what I think about the concept design in case it helps. 1) That they don't plan to keep the existing trees on site is very poor, particularly as they carefully saved them in the process of demolishing the buildings on the site. It may be a mistake in the concept design but I am concerned it is not so it is worth pointing out in my view. 2) Nothing about the design is particularly interesting is a problem in both continuing support for this open space acquisition program but more importantly attracting people to the space 3) For example see this image of the park attached that was developed in 2020/21 in Fifth Avenue, Dandenong West incorporating nature play elements, a sensory garden and a childs slide on a mound (btw the other side of the mound that you can't see in the picture is planted out with sensory plants though there is sensory planting elsewhere). The current design has no play equipment at all.	12/5/2023 8:15 AM
3	I am excited to hear of the proposed Pocket Park as a positive addition to the area environmentally and socially. I do however note that there are some areas of improvement. I support the inclusion of native evergreens and garden beds, albeit with the observation that the non-retention of existing trees on the site is disappointing as it is disruptive to the shade cover of the area, reducing short to medium term tree coverage which makes gatherings more difficult in the summer with an intensification of the heat island effect. These existing trees should be retained as such. Additionally, there should be inclusion of a unisex parent's bathroom and play equipment like a slide and/or swing to facilitate family gatherings & improve the viability of social gatherings in the area with improved amenities. The picnic area and seating is an excellent contribution. Also, the incorporation of active equipment for exercise and of water fountains to support this is another possible improvement to encourage use of the area for social activities, particularly for older residents seeking to maintain their physical health throughout the year.	12/5/2023 8:11 AM
4	1) Please keep the existing trees on site particularly as they carefully saved them in the process of demolishing the buildings on the site. It may be a mistake in the concept design but I am concerned it is not so it is worth pointing out in my view, it would be remiss to dismiss this element-'existing trees' 2) Nothing about the design is particularly interesting? This is a problem in both continuing support for this open space acquisition program but more importantly attracting people to the space 3) For example see this image of the park attached that was developed in 2020/21 in Fifth Avenue, Dandenong West incorporating nature play elements, a sensory garden and a childs slide on a mound (btw the other side of the mound that you can't see in the picture is planted out with sensory plants though there is sensory planting elsewhere). The current design has no play equipment at all.	12/5/2023 8:10 AM
5	I am writing as I'm concerned that the existing trees will be removed. How wonderful if the concept could be designed around the trees. It will be bleak without them. Public spaces must retain trees to soften a landscape and cool the area especially in summer. They also add interest. It would be good to have play equipment to attract children and families. The open space in Frank Street is an eyesore and there is no attraction whatsoever for residents to spend time there. Please improve on this. The design concept needs additions such the retention of the trees and play equipment. Thank you	12/5/2023 8:09 AM
6	We need more of these spaces.	12/3/2023 10:51 AM
7	Needs play equipment for children and nature and sensory play - like the park in Fifth Avenue, Dandenong West.	12/3/2023 9:38 AM
8	There are existing trees on the site. I hope that they are retained alongside the new planting	12/1/2023 8:51 PM
9	The planting needs to encourage biodiversity and attract insect and bees and it needas to be a haven as every block that is sold is being developed	12/1/2023 10:00 AM
10	Work around any existing vegetation! Small play equipment/area for young children is good.	12/1/2023 9:50 AM
11	Families living around Yarraman can access park within walking distance so parents can bring kids bike riding or walking. Please include activities for kids such as trampoline, zip	11/18/2023 11:13 PM

218 Railway Parade Pocket Park Consultation

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inne.	Slides, swings,	municolour	ground w		aleas,	Shaue	aleas,	CIIIIDIIID	iiaiiie.

12	Na	11/11/2023 4:41 PM
13	Definitely please put in a small playground	11/10/2023 1:33 PM
14	The rubbish bin should also provide for dogs as well. And if there is a drinking fountain then it should also cater for dogs.	11/6/2023 10:03 PM
15	Please make it a fun place for kids with a few rides, as there are benches under the Railway Bridge for anyone to sit and spend Sone time out but that isn't a good place for children as they run around. Please set up a few rides for little ones and keep the rest of things as planned, so it will be a great place for children and adults as well. I have a 5 year old child who loves to go out in park with rides but we don't have any nearby.	11/4/2023 6:53 PM
16	I don't think 1 picnic table is enough. If one family or person sits there then there's no other one for another visitor to use. Please have a minimum of two picnic tables Please also explore a picnic table that seats 2 people so that singles/couples could use them instead of hogging the family picnic table.	11/4/2023 12:42 AM
17	Yes. I think its important to only have native trees and plants.	11/3/2023 12:39 PM
18	Please keep in mind the residents that live in that pocket exclusively and how would they make the most use of it, what's lacking for that particular pocket. And how to get the most use of it all year round.	11/1/2023 10:01 PM
19	Can we please have a BBQ, it would encourage the use of the park. Possibly a Small play ground. We Should have a drinking fountain (with a dog bowl). Can we please encourage doggy poo bag, as I notice sometimes there is dog poo along nature strip. In reality people step out for walks mainly. Parks are used for social gathering so we need features/amenities to encourage the social gather. One think to consider minimise dense/high plants along the frontage to encourage passive surveillance and minimise negative social behaviour. Hopefully there will be solar lighting as well.	11/1/2023 9:27 PM
20	We need enough light and camera to make the area safe please.	11/1/2023 9:25 PM
21	I think it's a great idea	11/1/2023 4:32 PM
22	Enclosed area for dog park	11/1/2023 12:56 PM
23	No	11/1/2023 12:15 PM
24	Add some swings for children to enjoy as well	10/30/2023 5:46 PM