



**Moreland**  
City Council

# Douglas Reserve

## Play and park infrastructure upgrade

Consultation summary report

**Prepared by**

Deb Piattoni Landscape Architect  
Open Space Design & Development Unit  
16 March 2021



# Douglas Reserve - play and park infrastructure upgrade

## Consultation summary report

March 2021

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The playground at Douglas Reserve is due for upgrade in the 2020-21 financial year as Council continues to implement the Moreland Play Strategy. Funds have also been allocated for additional park improvements throughout this reserve.

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### 1. Background

Following an initial consultation where the community were asked what they would like included in the playspace/reserve upgrade, a draft concept was developed showing the proposed park and playground upgrade by Council's Open Space Design and Development Unit.

#### Consultation timings:

Initial consultation: 23 November – 23 December 2020

Draft concept plan consultation: 28 January – 26 February 2021

Final concept plan issued: 4 March 2021.

For both the initial and draft concept plan consultations, postcards were distributed to households within 400m<sup>2</sup> of Douglas Reserve, advising residents of the draft concept plan available for providing feedback on Council's website, <https://conversations.moreland.vic.gov.au/douglas-reserve-playspace>. The final concept plan showed a refined version of the draft concept plan and shown on Conversations Moreland. Two posters (at Weston Street and St Phillip Street entries) were also provided on site for both of the consultations and the final concept plan.

### 2. Initial Consultation Feedback Findings

Council received 54 feedback responses to the initial consultation.

Feedback received in the initial consultation highlighted the need for more adventurous and imaginative play options with a preference for timber-based play items (rather than plastic-based equipment) and nature-based play elements. Residents asked for play equipment to provide a balance for both younger and older children. Many residents also asked for additional infill native plants and more seating areas to enhance the already leafy reserve containing mature trees. People also asked for retention of the recently installed community garden and retention of all existing trees in the reserve (except for the dead one – since removed). Some of the community asked for the retention of the existing carousel.

The majority of the community asked that no BBQ or toilet be provided.

A few residents flagged up concerns about household waste dumping by the Weston Street end of Douglas Reserve and just inside the reserve.

### 3. Draft Concept Plan Consultation Feedback Findings

The draft concept plan was developed in response to the initial consultation. Council received 55 responses to the draft concept plan.

Responses from the community were generally in favour of the draft concept plan and supportive of the proposed improvements to Douglas Reserve in general. Many of the respondents asked for removal of the proposed sandpit around the gum nut sculpture and to include a drinking fountain.

Following a condition assessment of the existing carousel, Council was advised that it is not possible to retrofit it to meet current playground standards. This assessment has included input from the external play auditor as well as various play suppliers to see if any are prepared to take on its retrofitting, with the conclusion that it is not deemed safe to retrofit. To offer a similar spinning and adventurous play experience, a replacement spinning unit offering spinning with climbing was shown on the draft concept plan.

#### **4. Final Concept Plan Changes**

Following consultation on the draft concept plan, further changes were made to the design, reflecting as many of the feedback items as possible. This final design includes the playspace co-located in the centre (as residents also wanted areas of the reserve for passive recreation and as gathering spaces which were not all play-related).

The centralised playspace footprint is slightly larger than the original one, thanks to the removal of the existing 4 light poles in the reserve and replacement 2 solar lights for the access path.

The final concept plan playspace includes an adventurous climbing rope unit with climbing poles, a multi-user caterpillar rocker, a double swing (with strap seat and toddler seat), a cubby house with blackboard and a large spinning/climbing unit. Edging around the playspace will be provided using reclaimed logs and timber steppers set at varying heights to also provide balancing play.

Additional logs will also be included as edging around the garden beds at Weston and St Phillip Streets for further balancing play.

At the gathering space area by Weston Street, the existing electrical cabinet will be repainted by a street artist, depicting flora and fauna, as requested by one of the community (in place of the suggested basic repainting design shown on the draft concept plan). A gum nut sculpture will be provided in the Weston Street end garden bed for enjoyment by a range of ages. The proposed sandpit area has been removed, mulch to be used around the gum nut sculpture instead.

At the gathering space, seating will be provided by a platform seat (supporting a number of users) and two bench seats. A backed seat and platform seat will also be provided to the west and south of the playspace, with access into the playspace.

These new access paths will be compacted Tuscan Toppings (gravel paving), linking the two entrances from Weston Street and incorporating the gathering space. Another access paths west and south of the playspace allows for entry to the playspace and to the seats.

Some residents wanted pedestrian gates on all 4 entries to the reserve, others asked for the entries by the concrete access path to be kept open for easier cyclist/pedestrian access. The design team have determined to provide 2 gates on the Weston and St Phillip St entries on the eastern side but to leave the other two gates off from the western side for now. Posts will be installed so that gates can be attached to all 4 entries if required later.

Additional funds were sourced to include an all abilities drinking fountain by the edge of the concrete access path and for upgrades to rectify the existing irrigation system and water meter to meet current standards.

Douglas Reserve will remain as a dog on leash reserve, with dogs kept away from the playspace area.

Responding to concerns over household dumping by the Weston Street end of Douglas Reserve, the design team have fabricated a no dumping sign in collaboration with the Waste team and includes numbers to call should this occur. This will be secured to the fencing by Weston Street once construction have completed. The final design has also attempted to limit waste being dumped in the reserve by including proposed rocks at the garden bed edge where dumping has occurred.

Council's Waste team have recently upgraded all 120 litre bins to 240 litre bins to assist with overflow issues. The existing large waste bin has been relocated inwards behind the electrical

cabinet so away from the tree roots. A reassessment of waste management will be made once construction is complete, an additional bin can be included if needed.

## **5. Next Steps**

The community feedback to the proposed open space and playspace upgrade has been considered, resulting in revisions included in the final concept plan.

Detailed design and procurement has been undertaken and construction has commenced in mid-March with completion planned for end June 2021.

## **6. Further information**

Any questions can be directed to Council's Open Space Design & Development Unit via email [openspace@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:openspace@moreland.vic.gov.au) or by phoning 9240 111.