

# Gervase Avenue Reserve

## Park upgrade

### Consultation summary report

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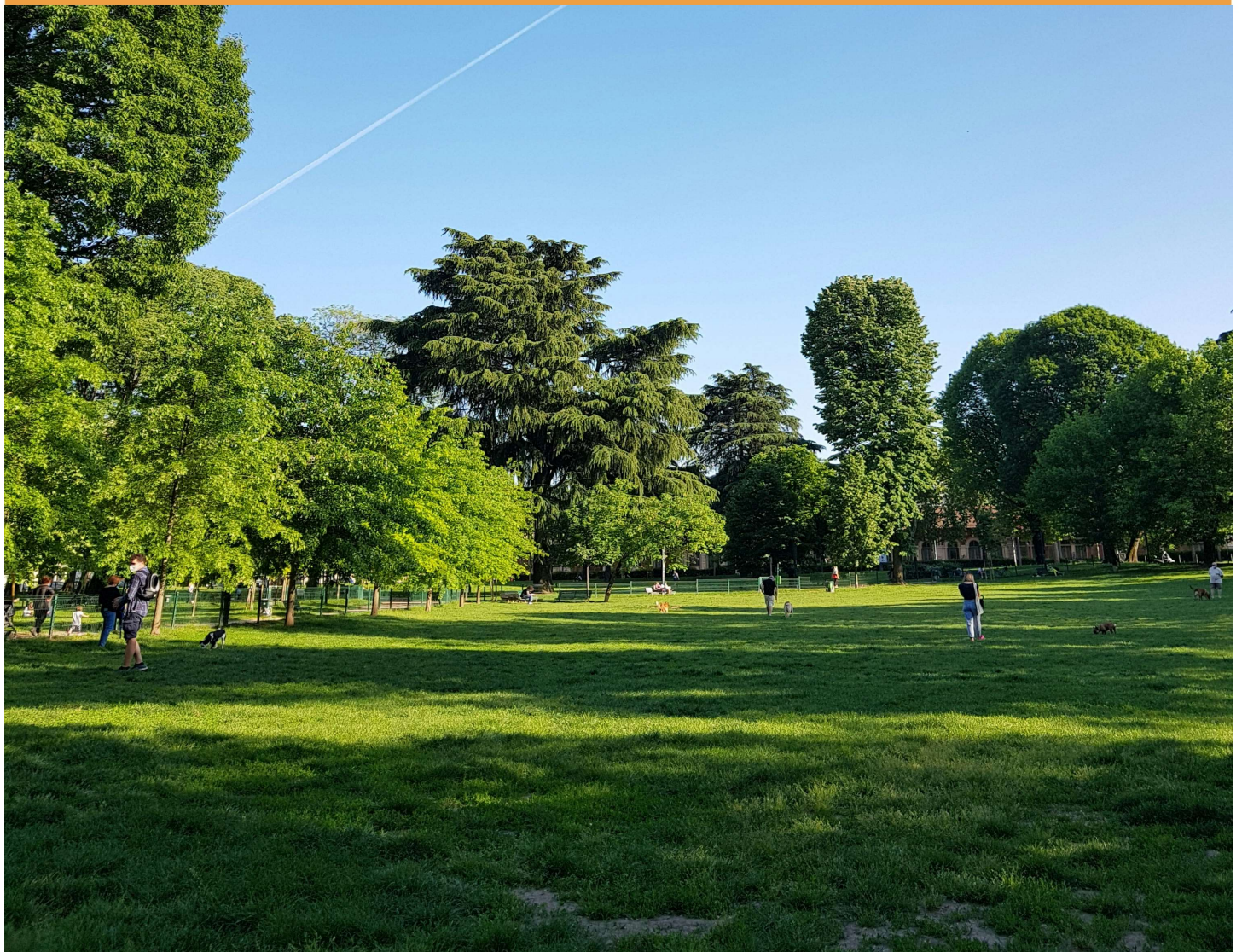
July 2024

Revision A

Revision A: initial consultation summary: July 2024



**Merri-bek**  
City Council



# Gervase Avenue Reserve – park upgrade

## Consultation summary report

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Gervase Avenue Reserve off Pecham Street in Glenroy is a medium-large sized reserve, comprising of a playspace, seating, trees and open lawn areas. It has been assessed to be ready for a park upgrade according to Merri-bek City Council's Open Space and Playspace strategies.

This report provides a summary of the Gervase Avenue Reserve consultation.

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### 1. Background

This report covers a summary of each consultation stage for the Gervase Avenue Reserve park upgrade.

As mentioned on Conversations Merri-Bek webpage, the following elements of the reserve are not negotiable as part of this upgrade:

- The upgrade will only cover the reserve and playspace area, not the surrounding areas (e.g. roads, car parking, lighting, services etc)
- Sports grounds and their facilities will not be included
- Unless trees are dead or in decline, they will not be removed as part of the works
- The playspace and gathering space areas have been pre-determined by council to avoid the main road and overhead power lines / other services.
- No new elements can be positioned within the overhead power lines or gas line zones to comply with service authority requirements.
- There may be some park infrastructure elements to be upgraded as part of the works
- The final design must fit within the available budget.

Council's Open Space Design and Development unit are conducting three consultation phases with the local community for the Gervase Avenue Reserve upgrade, these being:

- **Initial consultation**

Council have asked the local community what they would like to see included in the upgrade of this park. This information can be used as input to developing the draft concept plan. This stage has now closed.

- **Draft Concept Plan Consultation**

Using results from the initial consultation, Council will develop a draft concept plan using the local community's initial input.

- **Revised/Final Concept Plan Consultation**

This final concept plan will reflect any modifications to the draft concept plan, incorporating the community's feedback where possible. This final concept plan will close the consultation process, prior to the team proceeding to detailed design.

## Consultation timings

Initial consultation: 27 June – 25 July 2024 (completed)

Draft concept plan consultation: 1 – 29 November 2024

Revised/final concept plan issued: December 2024 (to be confirmed).

For both the initial and draft concept plan consultations, postcards are distributed to households within 0.5km of Gervase Avenue Reserve, advising residents that they can provide feedback using Council's website, <https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/gervase-avenue-reserve-glenroy>. Posters are also to be displayed near the playspace.

A similar poster approach will be undertaken for the revised/final concept plan. The final concept plan will be displayed on the website along with posters at site. Thereafter the Open Space Design and Development team can proceed to detailed design and then procurement. We will advise when construction will be starting and finishing, once we know.

## 2. Initial Consultation Feedback Findings

Council received 18 feedback responses to the initial consultation. This feedback has been organised into the following categories (not in order):

- **Dogs and off-leash areas**

There were several concerns about loss of dog off-leash areas. We are not planning to change this provision at Gervase Avenue Reserve: the park overall will remain a dog off-leash. It is a large reserve so has plenty of space to support a variety of activities.

Dogs must not be within 15m of the playspace and must be on a leash in that area. This ruling will still remain in place.

One respondent asked for a fenced dog area. We will not be providing additional fencing to isolate dogs from children but ask that dog owners manage their dogs in line with this park's dog policy. There are already two fenced dog parks in the north: one at Moomba Park in Fawkner and the other at Kingsford Smith-Ulm in Glenroy, in addition to other existing fenced dog parks in the municipality. Council will also be constructing a new dog park in Gowanbrae in 2025.

For a list of dog off-leash parks in the municipality you can view: <https://merri-bek.vic.gov.au/exploring-merri-bek/parks-and-gardens/park-amenities#autoAnchor2>

- **Upgraded playspace**

Many respondents were happy about the park being upgraded and noted that the equipment was quite outdated. Some have asked for accessible play equipment.

A few mentioned trampolines and a range of swings (with different types of seats). One person asked for more toddler friendly play equipment. Another asked for more adventurous play including a flying fox.

We will look at including play equipment to support a range of ages – from toddlers to teenagers. We may be able to include a flying fox as there is sufficient space in this reserve, budget dependent.

One individual asked for water play. There is insufficient budget to include water play in this upgrade. We can however include nature-based play using different materials to make the area engaging.

As this reserve has few shade trees near the proposed playspace and gathering space areas, we are also considering including a shade sail over the playspace and shelter over the gathering space. We will also provide additional shade trees near these areas including the basketball court.

- **Paths**

A few individuals mentioned the need for a connecting path through the reserve as there are few footpaths. We agree that this needed, especially to allow for those in wheelchairs and with prams.

We are planning to include a connecting path running through the reserve to link up the playspace, gathering space and basketball areas.

- **Gathering space and seating**

A few respondents have mentioned that the picnic areas and seating are not sufficient to support locals. We agree and are planning to provide a larger gathering space area and additional seating around the relocated playspace. There will also be seating near the new basketball court.

- **Fencing**

One respondent asked for fencing to separate dog off-leash areas from the playspace area.

We are not intending to provide additional fencing to separate areas in this reserve. It is a large reserve space which can support different activities already. We are intending to relocate the playspace away from its current location as it is too near to the main road. Instead we are planning to relocate it to a quieter location, nearer to a smaller local road and will look at natural barrier treatments to create a sense of enclosure and provide interest (e.g. grass mounds, garden beds with trees/shrubs, rocks and logs).

- **Basketball**

One individual mentioned that they recently requested having a basketball court included in Gervase Avenue Reserve so are happy it will be provided. We will be determining a suitable location for the basketball court which is not too close to the playspace/gathering space areas whilst still connected to the proposed access paths.

- **Other sports**

One respondent asked for additional sports such as futsal, hockey or a fenced off tennis court.

Sports facilities are not part of the scope of works for a park upgrade. We can consider including smaller-scale items such as fitness equipment or table tennis.

- **Lighting through the reserve**

One individual asked for lighting near the playspace. We would not support lighting this area as Council's open space lighting policy only allows for illumination of paths, not playspaces or gathering spaces at night. As we are planning to provide a connecting path through the reserve, linking the playspace and gathering space, we can consider providing lighting along this path.

- **Natural elements**

A few individuals asked for connection to the adjacent wetlands and to reflect wetland flora and fauna themes in the playspace, which can also serve as an educational element. This can be considered in the design. One person mentioned that introducing a winding tree-lined path would make the space more engaging, which makes good sense.

We are also planning to include several new garden beds with shade trees and shrubs, positioned near the new playspace, gathering space and basketball areas. Any additional planting has to be carefully positioned away from the overhead powerlines and access routes that the service authorities use. Including natural elements such as logs and rocks around garden beds can provide interest as well as natural barrier treatments. They can also support biodiversity and provide habitat for small creatures.

We will endeavour to address as many of these requirements as possible in the Gervase Avenue Reserve draft concept design.

### **3. Draft Concept Plan Consultation Feedback Findings**

Feedback on the draft concept plan will be summarised here when this stage of consultation has been reached.

### **4. Revised/final Concept Plan**

A summary of the final concept plan will be provided here once this stage of consultation has been reached.

### **5. Next Steps**

The Open Space Design and Development team are currently preparing the draft concept plan, using initial consultation feedback received.

Once ready this plan will be displayed to the community on posters at site and on council's Conversations Merri-bek webpage. You will be invited to provide your feedback on this draft concept plan.

## **6. Further information**

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

## 7. Appendix

Below are all feedback received from the community for each stage of consultation for the Gervase Avenue Reserve and images of the postcards and posters issued.

### 7a Initial Consultation



Figure 1: Postcards were issued to households within 0.5km of the reserve.

Below is feedback received for the Gervase Avenue Reserve for initial consultation:

| Date Submitted | Screen Name | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 19 July 2024   | Rebecca     | There have been some great suggestions on adding natural elements to incorporate the local wetlands and increase the amount of trees and shrubs in the area. Large trees will provide shade and interest for the people using this area long term. In terms of the play space, I'd like to see a lot of natural elements incorporated like tree stumps, hills and rocks to support children's physical development. Equipment that is inclusive of a range of physical needs is important, as is access to the area. I'd also like to see more natural items used for the equipment, such as timber and ropes (inspired by the Royal Park Nature Playground). This is along a main entry point into Glenroy so investment into the beautification of the space will make the suburb more inviting. |
| 13 July 2024   | Sara        | So happy the reserve will finally be upgraded as the equipment is quite outdated and not sufficient for the families who use the reserve. Play equipment that is accessible and inclusive for all different people would be amazing and beneficial to the community. Trampolines in the ground and swings that have adequate safety harnesses and back support for all different ages of children.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12 July 2024   | X0T1C       | Love the location! Although I understand it needs to be placed away from the road. Def need more tables and seats to sit at, paths to push strollers and prams, adequate fencing around it, shady spots to sit under, trees, oval space to play footy, better more engaging equipment for children, an undercover space to host parties/ small events, bbq spot. We love, love, love BLENHEIM Rd Reserve in Newport! It's actually perfect as it really ties in nature and family perfectly!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10 July 2024   | Lindy       | I recently wrote to Merri-bek Council to request somewhere to practice shooting hoops with my son in the Valley area and was happily and promptly advised that the Council is thinking of installing a half court in Gervase Avenue reserve as part of an upgrade. I think this is a great idea. There are lots of families in the area and only growing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 9 July 2024    | Joe Failla  | This is all great. Having additional sporting areas, such as a mini soccer/hockey court as well as maybe a small fenced off tennis court. Utilizing the space to its entirety and providing softer grass and maybe some wetlands to the sides of the path.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 4 July 2024    | Rhonda      | What a fantastic idea to make improvements to this space.<br>There are a lot of people who walk their dogs to this park.<br>Please make a fenced dog area that allows our dogs to run around and enjoy the outdoors behind the safety of a fence.<br>Keep the dogs safe and the children who use the playground.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3 July 2024    | Seh S.      | Development initiatives are good, but not when it takes away the current facilities! Please consider keeping the off-leash dog park intact for our beloved fur babies who need it for their well being too! It can be a bit harsh for dog owners when after a long day's work, you cannot take out your dog for some fresh air in a safe space                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3 July 2024    | Wasia       | Please make a fenced off area for dogs to run around and play in, and please make sure the area is large enough.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3 July 2024    | Ainul       | Thanks for taking the initiative to improve facilities in the park; however, please don't take away the play area for dogs from this park. This park is enjoyed by a lot of dog owners with their dogs throughout the day, may be more than children or adults. Other facilities are more than welcome but please keep a designated area of the park open for dogs for offleash activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3 July 2024    | Mayukh      | Please don't take away a lot of space from the dog off leash area. This is a great space for the people with dogs for quick morning and afternoon play sessions, walks etc. A good thing would be to fence a little bit of area for a dog play zone to keep it separate from the kids play zone and basketball area. In that way, everyone will be safe to do what they want and enjoy their time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Date Submitted | Screen Name | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 July 2024    | TC          | <p>The playground equipment is very outdated so great to hear that they will be upgraded as a lot of kids use this playground. It would be great if a round nest swing is included that can be used by smaller babies, kids. The playground area needs better lighting specifically for winter days when kids still like to have a play in the evening. Needs better protection under monkey bars in case of any accidents.</p> <p>There's a grass clearing with a path opposite to Gervase reserve. There's no footpath running on the east side of the Becket st. Please consider adding a path there which will make it safer people with a pram or wheelchair, mobility scooter to use. We currently have to travel on the road by foot and there are cars parked on either side most times. A photo is included to explain the section that needs a joining foot path.</p>                             |
| 1 July 2024    | Miriam      | Further fencing from the main road is needed for this park but please don't take too much space from the dog friendly area. This is a great space at the moment for walking dog off leash and easy play. Potentially put fence between playground and dog area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 30 June 2024   | B           | Definitely needed, the play equipment is outdated and not toddler friend. And adventure track, bike track, a big flying fox. Slides, water play for summer times. Playground equipment for all ages. Work out station for the parent. Bbq, shade, fenced in play area. Dogs of lead fenced in park. All options are great as there is a real family feel around the area but just lacking in that depart.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 30 June 2024   | Nigel       | I think any plan for the playground should have it being fully enclosed. It's no secret that Gervase Avenue attracts a lot of traffic and is used for a thoroughfare. The speed bumps are useless as cars just position their wheels around them and don't slow down. Having a fully enclosed fence around the play area similar to others in Brunswick such as Anderson reserve eliminates any risk. Having bbq facilities will also improve community feel for the area and has improved other playgrounds such as Kingsford Smith Ulm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 28 June 2024   | Brad        | <p>I wrote in today about this park needing so desperately to be updated, and to my surprise Phil, wrote back promptly to inform me it is being updated! I'm rapt as this has been such a waste of space for so long!</p> <p>Definitely need a basketball court, where me and the boys can shoot some hoops, and putting the play area away from the main road is a great idea, for families with young kids. This will certainly attract more families as its too close where it is to the road. Why not put tennis courts in also, like what they have in Gowanbrae to incorporate the basketball court too. Could have the same set up with lights that can be paid to put on. I'd certainly use this and know heaps that would too!</p> <p>A structured winding tree lined path through would be awesome, as just a grassy area, looks so boring and uninviting. I look forward to the final draft.</p> |
| 28 June 2024   | Jay         | This area would benefit from having some more trees and shrubs to give it a more natural feel. Just lawn isn't great. More cover, benches, and places to relax that aren't for kids would be great to provide really accessible greenspace.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 28 June 2024   | RenSar      | <p>Being close to the wetlands, this is a perfect opportunity to incorporate education and swamp/wetland creatures into the new playground design. Frog ride-ons, dragonfly artwork, etc.</p> <p>This whole grassy park area could be wetland-centred and include wooden raised walking tracks, dry rock creek beds, rotundas with information, bbq area with plenty of seating and coverage and low-level shrubbery, art work coverage (see example in picture). With the space, you could also put adventure park equipment like flying foxes, ground level trampolines, skate park area, art installations and linkage to the wetlands and Moonee Ponds creek trail.</p> <p>To top it all off, we need a lot more native trees in the area where possible that it won't get in the way of the overhead powerlines.</p>                                                                                   |

| Date Submitted | Screen Name | Description                                                                                |
|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25 July 2024   | Graeme      | Please can you provide a new seat, picnic table and drinking fountain in the park upgrade. |

**7b Draft Concept Plan Consultation**

The draft concept plan poster and resultant feedback will be displayed in this section once this consultation stage has been reached.

**7c Draft Concept Plan Consultation Responses**

Below is feedback received for Gervase Avenue Reserve during the Draft Concept Plan consultation:

| Date Submitted | Description |
|----------------|-------------|
|                |             |
|                |             |
|                |             |
|                |             |

#### **8d Revised/final Concept Plan**

The final concept plan poster will be displayed in this section once this consultation stage has been reached.