Sewell Reserve, Glenroy Park Upgrades 2024

Moreland City Council

Consultation summary report

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Open Space Design & Development Unit
October 2024



Sewell Reserve

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Council has funded upgrades to Sewell Reserve in the 2023-24 period. Works are to occur across two financial years allowing for a longer design and consultation period before construction. The scope of works includes a full reconstruction of the existing play space, a fenced dog park and general park amenity upgrades.

1. Background

Council's Open Space Design and Development unit are conducting three consultation phases with the local community for the upgrade of Sewell Reserve, Glenroy.

- Initial Consultation

Council have requested input from the community in Glenroy about what they like about Sewell Reserve and what they would like to see included in the upgrades.

- Draft Concept Plan Consultation

Council has presented a draft concept plan from the input received and submitted this to the community for further input through the Conversations Moreland website. An on-site meeting was held on 5th May to present plans to users of the park.

- Revised Draft Plan Consultation

An additional round of consultation has been added due to changes in the draft plan. A 3D model of the space has been prepared by Council which will be presented to the community through the Conversations portal and further feedback requested. Feedback will open on 28th October and close on 29th November.

- Final Draft Plan Consultation

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

Consultation timings:

Voting exercise: 6 September – 6 October 2023

Draft concept plan consultation: Jan-Feb 2024

On-site community meeting: May 2024

Revised draft plan issued: October 2024.

Final draft plan issued: December 2024.

For the initial stage of the consultation, postcards were distributed to 4000 households within 800m of Sewell Reserve.

For the draft concept plan consultation, postcards will be distributed to the same 4000 households, advising residents that they can provide feedback on Council's website at

https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/sewell-reserve-glenroy. Posters will also be displayed through Sewell Reserve showing the draft concept plan and inviting people's responses. An on-site consultation meeting will be held in May before responses close.

For the revised draft plan consultation, postcards will be distributed to the same 4000 households, advising residents that they can provide feedback on Council's website at https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/sewell-reserve-glenroy. Posters will also be displayed through Sewell Reserve showing the draft concept plan and inviting people's responses.

The final draft plan will be displayed on the website and on-site posters following completion of feedback on the revised draft plan. Thereafter the Open Space Design and Development team will proceed to detailed design.

2. Initial Feedback Findings

Responses closed on 6 Oct 2023 with 106 contributions and 814 site views. This is considered an excellent level of engagement.

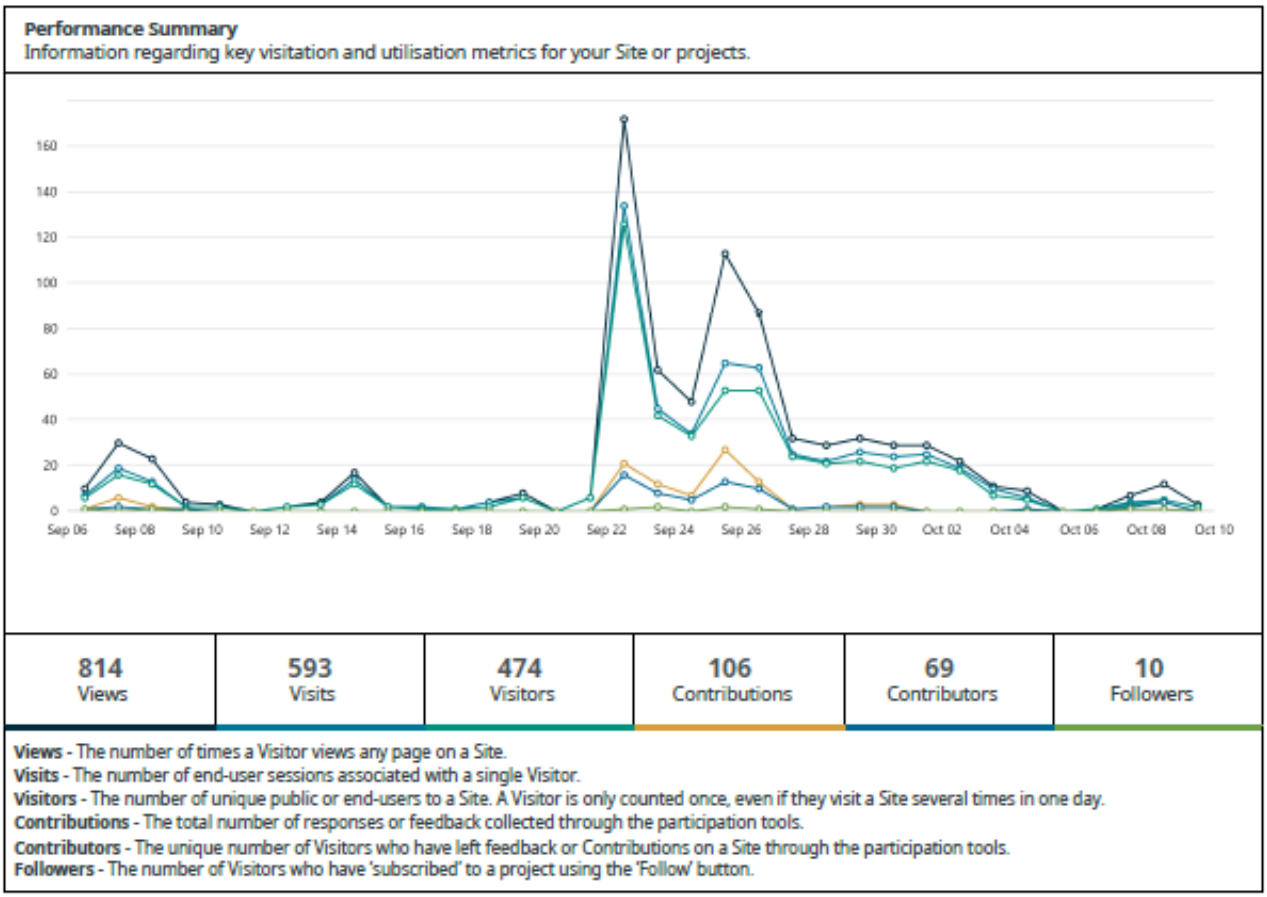


Figure 1: Graph of website engagement

55 comments related directly to children and play. All were supportive of the upgrade.

30 comments related directly to the fenced dog park. All were supportive of the fenced dog park.

16 comments related to park amenities.

A summary of the issues of most concern for the community is as follows.

Play space related;

- Nature play - 7
- Water play - 10
- Fencing to Glenroy Rd. - 11

- Range of ages – 6
- Seating for parents/families - 5
- Shade – 4
- All abilities - 1
- Specific equipment
    - Flying fox - 3
    - Slides - 3
    - Swings - 4
    - Climbing – 3
    - Sandpit – 3
    - Monkey bars - 2

Dog park related;

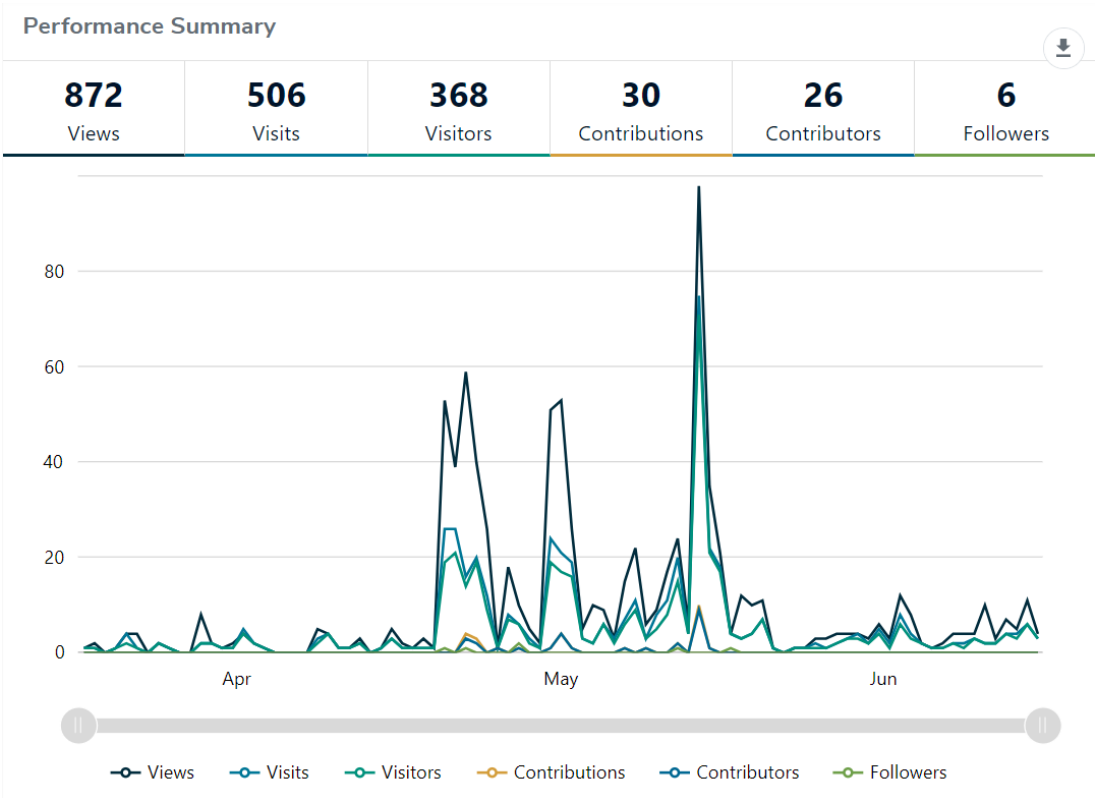
- drinking fountains with dog bowls – 3
- space for larger dogs - 7
- maintain off-lead area outside fenced dog park – 2
- Keep dogs off oval - 2
- Poo bags and bins – 1
- Agility equipment - 1

Amenities related;

- Toilets – 4
- Rubbish - 3
- Running circuits –
- Lighting – 3
- BBQ/shelter - 3

3. Draft Concept Plan Consultation Feedback Findings

Responses closed on 29 May 2024 with 30 contributions and 872 site views. This is considered a good level of engagement.



30 comments related directly to children and play. 28 were supportive of the upgrade. 2 were opposed.

A summary of the issues of most concern for the community is as follows.

- Requests for specific play equipment (monkey bars, slides, swings) – 11
- Accessibility - 6
- Safety – 4
- Rubbish - 3
- Native planting/biodiversity - 2
- Sandpit. 1 in favour, 2 against – 3
- Water play - 1
- In-ground trampoline – 1

There were reasonable concerns about the previous design theme that may be interpreted as a virus rather than pollen as was intended. The revised design has addressed these and other concerns relating to the play space. The design aims to provide a range of play equipment of for all ages and abilities. Stables surfaces are provided to most equipment. A gradient of difficulty from west to east allows for smaller children to play closer to parent's picnic facilities while older children are drawn through the site to the more challenging play equipment.

The sandpit has been moved away from the vehicle entry and closer to the shelter. Water play has been added to the edge of the sandpit. Swings, slides and monkey bars are prominent in the design. An in-ground trampoline has been added. Planting will all be native species to promote biodiversity. Additional bins will be provided.

Safety concerns are related mostly to Glenroy Road. These are beyond the scope of this project. However, parking restrictions have been enacted in the entry car park to remove large vehicle from using this space. A disability access car park has been provided. Future plans to upgrade the pavilion car park will provide further DDA parking and access paths to the play ground.

4. Revised Draft Plan Consultation Feedback Findings

Consultation feedback from this stage will be included here.

5. Final Concept Plan

A summary of the final concept plan will be added once it has been completed.

6. Next Steps

The Open Space Design and Development team have developed a revised draft plan and 3D model which will be posted to the Conversations Merri-bek website for feedback. Any appropriate feedback received from the revised draft plan feedback stage will be incorporated into the final plan. The final plan will be displayed to the community via the website and progressed to tender drawings (pending any objections). Thereafter the Open Space team will produce detailed design and procure materials for construction with the intention of completing works by June 2025.

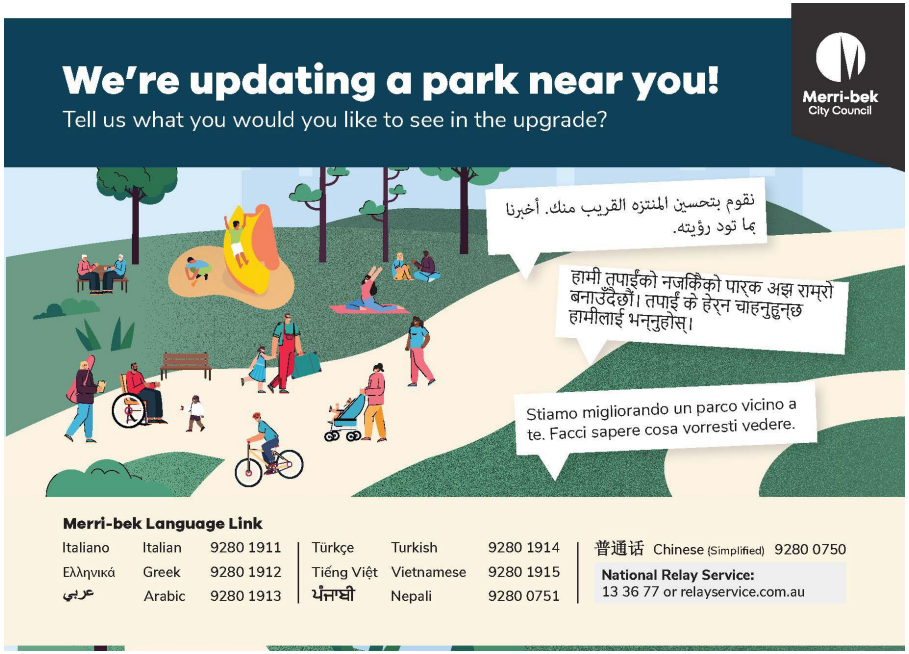
7. Further information

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

8. Appendix

Below is all feedback received from the community for each stage of consultation for the Sewell Reserve and images of the posters and postcards issued.

7a Initial consultation



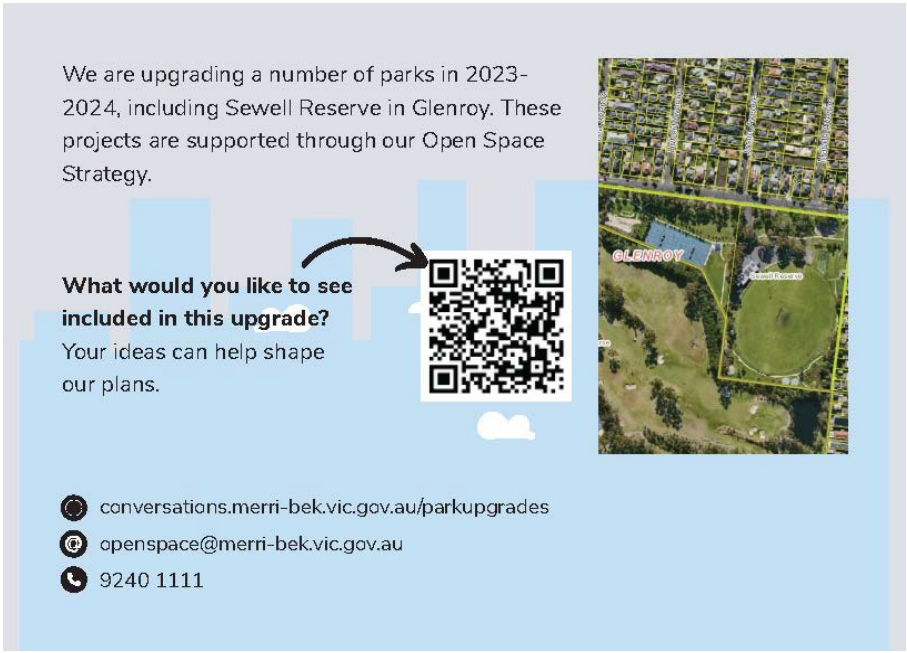


Figure 3: Postcards issued to households within 800m of Sewell Reserve.

7b Initial Consultation Responses

The following are responses to the initial consultation for Sewell Reserve upgrades from 6th September – 6th October 2023:

Response
Check out Warburton water parkNow that's something to aspire too!
More 24 hour public toilets would be great! I love to go for walks in the evening.
I really would love the existing play space to be converted into a large garden with native flowers such as bottle brushes and kangaroo paws
Water park. Natural play space/climbing areas (like Royal Children's Hospital playground). BMX dirt track to spread demand on skate park.
Would love to see some a more modern and versatile kids playground for a variety of ages, incorporating elements of the natural environment
A fenced off dog area with suitable amenities such as multiple drinking fountains, dog poo bags, more bins, etc.
I'd like to see automatic toilets put in at Sewell Reserve. Thanks.
Second the idea of water play features for kids like Cardinal rd play ground - but don't sacrifice a slide this time!
Please improve play equipment. Maybe consult some actual children? It would be great to have things for a variety of ages eg 2-10.
To cater for a more well equipped and sizeable dog park, I suggest that the 'open overflow space' and overflow space be swapped around
Fenced dog park would be amazing for the community! With grass rather than dirt grounds please. Or else the dogs will dig holes!
A kids playground with water features and soft flooring like the one on 132 Cardinal Road! With shaded areas of course :)
Ensure that the park is maintained after its refurb so sad to see broken glass graffiti everywhere making it a real dump! Make glenroy cool
New playground to be 'adventure style' with water play & similar natural design & landscaping to the one next to royal children's hospital
Please leave the basketball courts because they seem to get used more than the netball courts. Revamp gym area to make it more inclusive.

A running track around the oval
Appropriate fencing to ensure kids aren't able to run to the busy road or carpark.
Water play space that caters for all ages and abilities. Would be lovely to see something of this kind within our council
I'd like to see more bench and picnic tables and chairs for parents supervising at park and skatepark. Similar to seating at raeburn reserve
Really love to see new concept play area, something that makes u want to go there - similar to cross keys reserve pirate park Water play. Shade
A small bike track for kids with stop signs, speed bumps etc. look at elevation blvd Craigieburn for examples
Another outdoor fitness area with Duffey equipment would be fantastic please.
Hadfield Park in Wallan have built a water park, that would be a great addition for Sewel Reserve. Toilets & change rooms for b/ball courts
A soccer pitch would be a great addition for a multi-functional sport area of basketball/netball. 1 of the existing courts can be repurposed
Some form of water play would be a fantastic addition to the children's play
An improved playspace with updated features, additional fitness equipment, designated dog off lead area, with drinking fountain.
Park needs more parking as you cannot park anywhere when the football is on including the streets surrounding!
A running loop that can help extend the 4K around the golf course into 5k.
Small dog park area would be fantastic. Fully support this idea.
Our kids like to go there but they get bored easily as there's not much to play. A flying fox would be nice and shaded play area too.
Shading over the gym equipment and other areas to conduct outdoor exercises. A bike lane to avoid Glenroy road would be fantastic! More bins
A secure dog park fence with gates
Yes , keep dogs off the oval . No pooling there .
Id like to lay down on the grass on the oval without thinking .... Has a dog pooped here.
We would love a closed off leash dog area for the dogs to play when footy is on. Also another drinking fountain with dog bowl on the oval.

happy the playground is getting an upgrade. Love that there will be a dog space. More bins at the scoreboard end would be great.
Closed gated area for dogs to play & socialise off lead & not run out to the road. My dog has no recall or road sense, loves to run & play with dogs
A flying fox would be amazing as well as play equipment aimed at younger kids. “themed” main equip such as a boat or digger =)
Toilets Shade sails Large slide Picnic tables BBQs
Love the idea of moving the playground to a more shaded area. would be great for the playground to be fenced to ensure safety along the road
Love the idea of moving the playground to a more shaded area. would be great for the playground to be fenced to ensure safety along the road
A family friendly playground with comfort, exercise, safety and modern equipment for challenging kids of all ages
A playground for all ages, even pre teens and teens please
The look of the playground should reflect nature, natural fibres , wood, nice colours, modern , not old looking . Finally an update, woohoo!
Please create comfortable seating for carers under trees so we can watch our children play .The playground needs to be away from the road
No dogs in playground please. They are scary
A big sandpit
A sand pit, straight not circular monkey bars , water fountain, keep dogs out , safety and trees with shade
A long flying 🦊 fox .
My kids said they would like to see climbing for older children, a sand pit ,a see saw , straight monkey bars, a big swing for all ages .
Please update this playspace for my kids who are 11 and 8. Please cater for all ages and parents too

Swell reserve needs to be upgraded!! The equipment is too old , also needs to be fenced off as it's so close to the road which is very busy
So happy to hear this! I've been waiting for a very long time, lots of years for the play space to be upgraded. My kids are eleven 8
Fenced in dog park but please not made of just dirt so that it becomes a mud pile it rains
An inclusive park, that has almost everything l. Just the children's play area is underwhelming, would love it of the playground was updated
Improve the kids play ground, incorporate some more shade. This is prime location to many residents and is well used by all ages, mostly 1-5
Keep this park kid friendly it gets so much foot traffic at all times of the day. Fenced dog park is more suitable.don't see many dogs now
It need a much bigger playground for older kids and younger. Needs climbing, safety swings and large slides. It also needs water park
A dog fenced enclosed area is an excellent idea and we fully support it. That's a great spot as well - and good to have a fenced area
Upgrading playground is fantastic! Please include interactive equipment such as bells that you can step on for kids, bridges and tunnels.
We need more dog parks in and around Hadfield and Glenroy. We need more space for dogs and less for children Even small dogs like to run
Would love to see the off lead area stay or be expanded! It's the only off lead area we can walk to.
Playground needs to be fully enclosed with gate. Not safe! New playground location floods and water logged 4 days- needs better draining
The playground needs to be fully enclosed with a locked fence. Very unsafe! New location floods and is water logged for ages! Needs drain
Enclosed fence for the playground. Multiple kids have almost been hit by cars . It's extremely unsafe.
Upgrade the running track around the Sewell reserve and golf courae area.

I would love to see a fully fenced well lit dog park that can be used all year.
Water and sand play please!
Sometimes the play area can feel unsafe, please consider location to make sure it's not too secluded and has taps and lights.
Mix of nature play and traditional play equipment.
Please keep the dog park fenced so families without dogs can enjoy the area safely.
The playground caters for safe play for all ages and i'd like to see that continue. Pipemakers Park playground in Maribyrnong great example.
Dog park. Tree-lined walking paths that meander through the reserve. Shade.
Playground fenced off All abilities swing and web swing Large shaded seating/ BBQ areas Updated play equipment in natural materials.
Fenced in play ground as too close to the road. A nature based/new playground. More beautification . More tables/space for families
The current play equipment is some of the best in Glenroy as it is simple and Carter's to all age groups. Maybe add a fence on the road side
I barely go there.
We use this playground several times a week and would love to see play equipment that is suited to everyone. A splash park would be awesome!
Dog park section adjacent to the basketball court - long
We need a new park for kids with more seating and a fenced gate. Cars zoom down and kids can run in main road. Please build a good size park
A large dog park so people like me who has dogs can go and let them off without having to worry about them running away.
A dog park! I would also like to see an upgrade of the play equipment. It's at least 25 years old (if not older).

We'd love to see a larger than proposed fenced dog area. We often use the courts if they're unused. A dedicated space would be perfect.
We'd love to see a larger than proposed fenced dog area. We often use the courts if they're unused. A dedicated space would be perfect.
A dog park not including large dogs is not a good idea. They need to run too. It's like building a playground for 2 year olds only.
Look at the all abilities playground in MilL Park of what a playground could be like? merribek has really terrible playgrounds
Agility area for all dogs (larger ones included)
I think the park is perfect for runners, but feels unsafe for lack of lighting when is too early or dark. Specially for women.
I run every day around the park. I also walk my dog and let her play with others dogs in the oval.
I love running and walk my dog around the park, sometimes I spend time with my dog and other owners in the oval.
I love to see families with dogs and babies in once space, but I think is missing a space for dogs!
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I hope there are more slides or facilities for children to play.
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We have existing play space expands to it's new proposed play space location along with BBQ, Netball and basketball courts and events space.
I love walking around the oval with my dog, however the amount of rubbish that is discarded is a real concern. The off-leash area is perfect
I love walking around the oval with my dog, however the amount of rubbish that is discarded is a real concern. The off-leash area is perfect
Consideration should be given to a higher fence near the netball courts. I have seen golfballs land on the courts

A bbq area would be a nice addition, with a shelter that could be used for gatherings
If the playground is moved closer to the carpark, a fence should still be included to reduce risk. Playground will be close to road still
It is stated that the proposed dog park is not suitable for big dogs, however big dogs will still enter the space which may cause issues
I would like to see a fenced play area. Glenroy road is very dangerous. There has been an increase in hooning and disobeying speed limits
Block cars fr entering behind the pavillion, shld be pedestrian/bike access only Improve gravel car park on golf course side - pot holes
The beautiful gum trees are such a great feature. Would love to see a play space with a nature theme for all ages of kids.

7c Draft Concept Plan Consultation Response

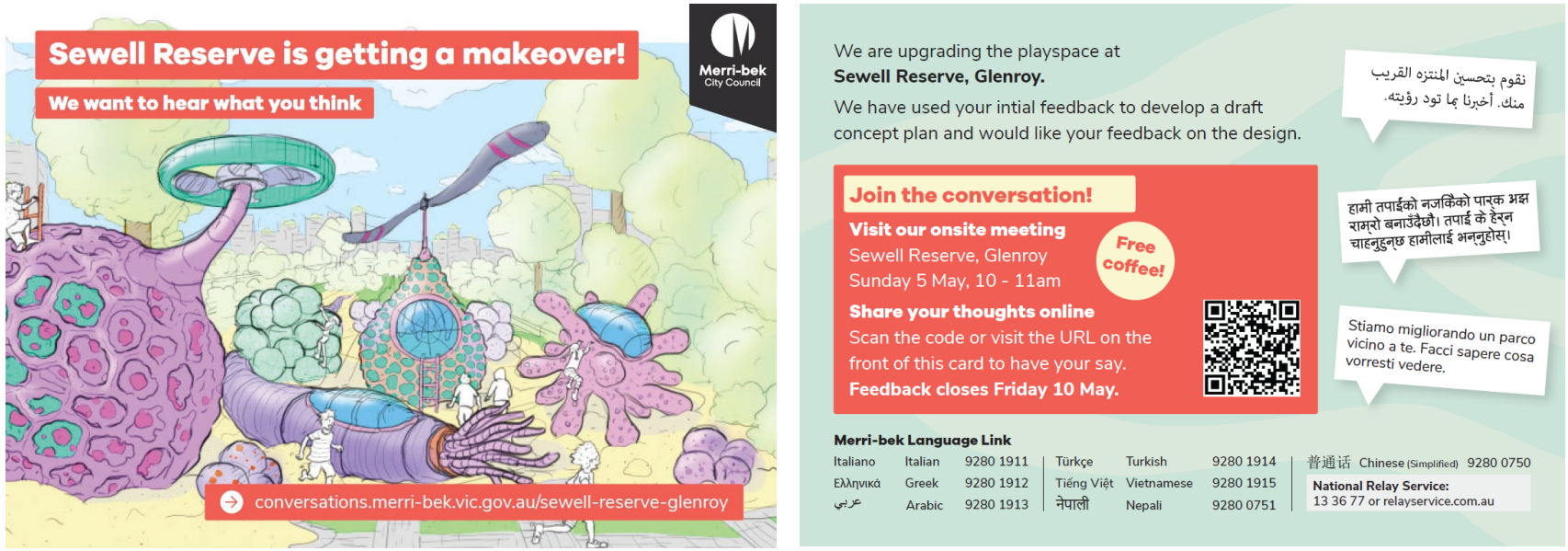


Figure 4: Postcards issued to households within 800m of Sewell Reserve.

What do you think of the draft concept plan?
How is it going to be disability inclusive for kids in wheelchairs or with walkers to access the different areas and activity's to play along side their friends and families?
It would be great if the slide/swing area could be reached by monkey bars. Also, most parks have monkey bars suitable for either young or older children, it would be awesome if both ages could have their own monkey bars
This is the type of park or playground that is exclusive of age and/or ability. Things like swings and slides cater for very young children, through to young adults and beyond. The children in our community have gone without sufficient and/or upgraded play equipment for many, many years. I have been advocating for an upgrade of this playground for at least 8 years. Glenroy is a growing community and priced to attract growing families - Our facilities should reflect this. The amount of rubbish/ littering our children are subject to play around is absolutely atrocious, no excuse should or can be made. From dumping of household items, through to food scraps, house hold waste and park goers general disregard for the appropriate disposal of rubbish - our kids play in and amongst filth and have for many years. Please provide an adequate number of very large bins, whatever the normal allocation is - triple it. Something has to be implemented regarding the amount of rubbish our children are subject to. There must be a way to enforce correct disposal of rubbish. Isn't littering an offence? This is so sad to say, however it must be said, our parks and community areas require CCTV surveillance to deter criminal activity and misuse of facilities. Either that, or a park ranger (I doubt this is possible, CCTV seems more likely). Lastly, shade is an issue at the current park. On a warm day the playground cannot be used safely after 2pm in the afternoon due to hot slides and UV/sun/heat overhead.
The concept is cool, but please put in a pedestrian crossing and speed camera on Glenroy rd. The traffic behaviour along there is continually dangerous and some drivers care little for others. Please also put cameras for dumping and to deter drug dealers using the car parks as a meet up point, which is something that happens continually in Glenroy.
swings and a slide would make this more accessible to kids with various physical abilities and more inclusive to smaller children who are often excluded from play equipment
Disappointing that it doesn't have any swings or slides. All children, regardless of physical ability, love swings.
This is really really bad! My child would be far too scared to play there. Make it nice with animals and nature not weird science looking microbes
I think this is awful. Such an eyesore. Nature inspired would be trees and animals. My son would be far to scared to play here. Put in some swings, slides, animals, cool little shop fronts and traffic bike paths. Vegetable and fruit boxes. These current plans are a disaster.
I love it
Kids love slides and swings. Cater to all abilities and not just aesthetics with rope climbing nonsense.

The swings at the current playground are used by so many children of varying ages. Can we please add some basic swings? Swings are inclusive for a range of ages and abilities. Climbing is not inclusive for children with disabilities.
Great to see Merri Bek investing in really thoughtful and clever design. Hooray - cant wait to see more of this project.
I think this is beautiful. It's different to anything I've seen and should exist. It's fun and educational. Well done
I love the idea of nature themed climbing structures and incorporating nature in general into children's play. Great to have equipment for children of varying age and physical abilities. Also great to have a sandpit for the little ones. Will there be the standard equipment such as slides as well? It would be great to have some water play incorporated into this and maybe a garden for minibeasts
How about also having a traditional slide and swing? Maybe a flying fox too. All Children love these
Please consider moving the toddler sandpit away from the car park road. Massive chance glass and other dodgy things will end up in there particularly with some of the interesting characters that hang out in the car park out night. There's no chance I'll be letting my toddler in there.
Instead of a sandpit maybe have a couple of in-ground tampoline. I don't think sandpit will be appropriate as young teenagers will likely vandalise it and animal litter will make it unhygienic to play in.

I think it's a big shame there is a massive golf course that is sitting in our councils backyard that offers no benefit to the environment and locals living in the area, besides further perpetuating the the privilege of the wealthy. Is it really okay to charge local residents who are not member $60+ just to walk around the course? I, personally, don't think so, and who would pay for a membership just to enjoy nature (which is free for everyone). What a wonder it would be to see that entire space, the full golf course, transformed in to a Glenroy Wetlands and incorporate the children and dog parks into a portion of this huge space. I have gripes with the fact that golf courses only benefit the wealthy, waste vast amounts of water and offer, literally, no value to the wildlife, people and environment in the area. I personally believe that this huge space could be better utilised to support indigenous flora and fauna, and provide a huge boost to the mental health of all the residents local to the area. Science has consistently proven that being in nature is essential to maintaining good mental health. With very little on offer in terms of big nature parks in the area, this reserve could be similar to the Darebin Wetlands and provide homes to thousands of different animals and plants, a wealth of benefits to the locals (The Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne showed a study that having and hearing 13 or more local bird species in your neighbourhood can provide you satisfaction equivalent to a a pay rise of $1.5k~ a year), and more. How many people use the course, how much money does it bring in to the council, what tangible benefits does it provide to the community and environment? If there is no overwhelmingly positive output in all three areas, don't you think it might be time for a change? There are other golf courses available, some people will be upset, but I am certain that the Merri-Bek residents would be joyous and incredibly supportive of transforming the entire course into the Sewell Reserve. Put a poll out and get residential feedback - there's no commitment from a poll. If the council is against this idea, then it should greatly consider making the golf course a publicly available area and boost the biodiversity in the course. People should not be charged an exorbitant amount just to enjoy [effectively] their back yard. In regards to the draft concept. I think this looks fine for the most part, I reflect a lot of the ideas suggested in the feedback stage. Please ensure the gardens are planted with indigenous plants ONLY, fence the areas, provide seating in shaded areas, avoid just dirt/grass for the dog park so it doesn't become mud in the rain. I also suggest having plaques on the native wildlife and plants in the area so we are also educating people as they visit the space.
I really like the concept and am excited that Stephen Mushin is involved. I'd love to see as little plastic used as possible. I'd also like to see some dedicated garden beds in the area to enhance the biodiversity. Thank you to everyone involved for putting this together, it will be an exciting addition to Glenroy.
Looks great, good use of space!
No mention if it will have a fence? A proper gate that requires an adult to open is vital for younger kids as Glenroy Rd is very busy. It would be safer to have an updated way to cross Glenroy (busy) road to get to the park. Possibly a handrail and larger space to stand where crossing at Maude ave/glenroy rd.
I don't understand why you would move it all closer to the driveway or entrance to the carpark.

It's a great draft concept plan and we can't wait to use the new play space. As a parent I have a few suggestions of improvement. I don't see any shaded area besides existing and proposed trees, especially over the toddler sand pit. Can shade sails be installed like the one at Harmony Park? It has brought much relief during the summer months and the children can still play on hot days. More so important with the increasingly hot weather predicted in the future. Also, there's a concern about the use of salvaged machinery parts. It's a great idea to use recycled materials, however, metal parts will be extremely hot to touch after being in direct sunlight and pose as a safety issue. Is there a way to include these in shaded areas or combined with other materials to make them safer? We are looking forward to hearing about the progress on this project!
I'm not sure about the sandpit idea. Who will maintain it to ensure that there is no cat litter or other animal poo inside it? Personally, I think it's messy and unsafe when it's in such a public space. How regularly it is maintained??. Young teens will probably get up to no good and vandal the space by urinating or smashed glass in there. Have you seen the basketball court? Such a nice space and the young teens have vandalized it. Such a shame.
Very interesting design. Have not seen a playground that looks like this. I showed my kids aged 7 & 9 both of them said it looks so cool!! They want to play there now! I hope there is swings and or sea-saw type equipment. I also have 1year old she would love the swings.
I'm concerned the use of old machinery + the microbe design will make the playground look more like a junk pile than a playground. Additionally, are there any plans to make Glenroy Road safer for parents and children (eg. Speed bumps, zebra crossings)?
Glad you listened to what the community wanted..?! NOT Water play was pretty prominent / did you get confused with nature play? Waste of time merribek!
Where's the slide? BORING My kids will last five minutes,… playground is better now
Well didn't really take on any feedback from the our ideas - this is BORING!
Seems really nice and wisely planned. But didn't see the draft for our lovely dog park? Which is very unique for our family!

7d Revised Draft Plan Consultation Response

Draft concept plan feedback will be displayed here once draft concept plan consultation stage has closed.

7e Final Concept Plan

An image of the final concept plan will be added here when the final concept plan has been developed.