



Merri-bek
City Council

Glenroy Lions Park

Park & play upgrade

Community engagement report

Prepared by

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Open Space Design & Development Unit

October 2026



Glenroy Lions Park upgrade – Phase 1 engagement report

Engagement summary report

October 2026

Glenroy Lions Park in Hadfield, is a local park in Box Court, located between Hilton and North Streets. It comprises a small play space along with many established trees, open grassed areas and constructed path network. It has been determined ready for a park and play upgrade according to Merri-bek City Council's Open Space and Play strategies.

This report provides a summary of Glenroy Lions Park engagement – phase 1, gathering ideas

1. Background

This report covers a summary of the engagement phases for Glenroy Lions Park and play upgrade. The initial phase is "Gathering Ideas" to inform design of the Draft Concept Plan.

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

- The upgrade will only cover the reserve and play space area, not the surrounding areas such as roads, car parking, lighting and services
- This reserve will remain a 'Dog on-leash' park
- Unless trees are dead or in decline, they will not be removed as part of the works (other than invasive species)
- There is no budget for installation of a toilet
- All the works must fit into the available budget.

Council's Open Space Design and Development unit are conducting three phases of engagement with the local community for the Glenroy Lions Park upgrade, these being:

- **Initial engagement**

Council have asked the local community what they would like to see included in the upgrade of this park. This information is being used as inputs to develop the draft concept plan, now in progress. This initial phase of engagement closed in August 2026.

- **Draft concept plan engagement**

Using results from engagement in phase 1, Council will develop the Draft concept plan with the community's input, to be shared on the project web page early in 2027 calendar year.

- **Final concept plan engagement**

Using results from engagement in phase 2, Council will draw the Final concept plan with community input, comprising written feedback on the Draft concept plan. The Final concept plan will be shared for information as soon as possible after close of phase 2.

The Final concept plan will be posted on the project web page for all to see. This will close the engagement process, prior to the Open Space team proceeding to detailed design for construction in the 2027-2028 financial year.

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Engagement timing

- Initial engagement: July to August 2026
- Draft concept plan engagement: February - March 2027
- Final concept plan issued: mid-2027 (TBC)

2. Initial engagement

Initial community engagement for Glenroy Lions Park, Phase 1, was conducted July to August 2026. For the initial community engagement, we dropped post cards in the letterbox to residents in the area around Glenroy Lions Park. With those post cards, we were notifying the community of the proposed Park and play upgrade, inviting people to submit feedback through the website, by email or telephone.

Posters were also put up at the park with a QR code link to the Merri-bek website, so that anyone visiting the park was made aware of the community engagement and could participate in the process.

3. Initial engagement feedback findings

Council received a total of 26 contributions from 24 contributors who provided feedback to the initial engagement from the Conversations website.

This feedback has been organised into a Phase 1 Feedback Summary, detailing all the individual contributions provided, which is included as an attachment to this Report; see Appendix.

4. Phase 1 engagement findings

Phase 1 of engagement was about “Gathering Ideas”, and we heard from people how much they value Glenroy Lions Park as a great location for families and children to visit, and as a place to enjoy open “green” space, connect with nature and enjoy some outdoor activity.

At the same time, the feedback we received was fairly consistent in identifying the many things that need improving to make it more welcoming and provide for more varied ways to enjoy the park: not only a bigger range of play equipment but also places to gather with picnic tables and better seating arrangements, as well as native planting to encouraging habitat for small creatures and birdlife.

The strong response from people showed how much passion there is in the community for having this open space provide better landscaping and facilities to become a more inviting and enjoyable place to visit.

What We Heard

The overall message is that people in this community want Glenroy Lions Park to offer much more in the range of activities that can be enjoyed there, providing for people of all ages, while also taking advantage of the large areas of open space for more active recreation. People are also looking for a greater play variety for children through provision of more play options including imaginative play.

We did hear suggestions that Glenroy Lions Park could become a flagship or “destination” park, offering large-scale and extensive range of activities along with public toilets and barbecue facilities. We also heard that provision ought to be made for families with

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While there is certainly the space at this reserve for something of that nature, the secluded location isn't right for attracting people – described by one as a “hidden gem” – nor is there sufficient parking space in Nth/Sth Box Court to accommodate the volume of visitors that would come. In any case, the funding allocated for this upgrading project makes no provision for public toilets or a BBQ. While it may be possible to include a park shelter within the budget, there is unlikely to be sufficient provision for meeting the cost of shade sails over play areas.

In relation to providing “All-abilities” facilities and play equipment, there will be attention given to this in our approach to the design of Glenroy Lions reserve. Elsewhere, Merri-bek Council has set aside funding for a new All Abilities playground and early design work is underway for this at a separate location.

We heard many calling for improvements to park infrastructure such as more seating options, picnic tables and additional bins. People wanted to see change in the way rubbish is managed at the park, so extra bins might encourage visitors to clear their rubbish and not leave it on the ground.

All the individual suggestions for improvements are summarised in the “Gathering Ideas” outline that is attached to this report.

5. Next steps

The response to the initial phase of engagement for Glenroy Lions Park has been strong. All the feedback we've received is proving helpful in guiding our early thinking on what needs to be kept, changed, improved or added as part of the upcoming concept design for upgrading the reserve.

The next phase to follow will start with us preparing the draft concept plan to share with the community. We will work to include as many feedback suggestions as possible in preparing the draft concept plan for Glenroy Lions Park, to show the proposed new layout of play areas, seating, picnic tables, lawn, paths, fencing and so on.

Phase 2 engagement will then take place with post card distribution once again, inviting feedback on the draft concept plan through the Conversations Merri-bek website.

At that time, there will be explanation of what is proposed and the decision-making that went into items that may or may not be included in the Draft Concept Plan.

All feedback received in the next phase will be considered in a review of Draft proposals, before releasing the Final Concept Plan as we prepare for upgrading works to be carried out at Glenroy Lions Park, planned for construction to begin in 2027 and be completed by early 2028.

6. Further information

Any questions can be directed to Council's Open Space Design & Development Unit via email openspace@merri-bek.vic.gov.au or by phoning 9240 1111.

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7. Appendix

Following are images of the posters and postcards issued plus all feedback received from the community for each stage of engagement for Glenroy Lions Park.

8a Initial engagement

Figure 1: Postcards were issued to households within 0.4km of the reserve



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8a Initial engagement (cont'd)

Following is attachment with all feedback received in Phase 1 Engagement for the Glenroy Lions Park Park & Play Upgrade.

Gathering Ideas

Title/Question:	Share your experience of Glenroy Lions Park
Tool Type:	Gather
Activity ID:	1299
Report Date Range:	30 Jul 2026 - 8 Oct 2026
Date Exported:	8 Oct 2026 12:13 pm
Exported By:	AndrewBlight
Title	Description
Toddler friendly	Desperately need park equipment safe and accessible for under 4s , as there are not many parks around that cater to this age group.
Favourite Hadfield Park	Please don't takeaway the green spaces for anything like sport courts, the green grass and nature is one of the key features of this park that makes it peaceful and a suburb favourite. The playground is dated but it suits little kids as well as older ones with the small and larger slide. An updated playground and seating with shade over both would be amazing. The tap that was put in a couple of years ago for dog walkers that pass through has the water shooting past the lower trough and is such a waste of water. No one has ever bothered to adjust the angle and the water pressure.
More street lights & plants	There are currently two lights in the park, both over one side, which leaves the other side of the park very dark at night. Suggestion to include another street light so the whole park feels safe. In addition, the community would like more native plants/ bushes please
More plants please & a sensory walking trail	We would like to see more shrubs and plants in this space. There are a few trees, but its very basic. Perhaps a small walking/ nature trail, outside of the main loop concrete path, once those shrubs are planted to give people different spots to explore either with young children or dogs who enjoy sensory walks.
Name change	The Lions Club of Glenroy assisted with the establishment of the park many years ago. Glenroy Lions Park should be renamed Lions Club of Glenroy Park. We would like to see seating, drinking fountain and shade over the playground equipment as a minimum.
Basketball court	Me and my sister love playing basketball and we live really close to this park and it's annoying to go to the glenroy basketball courts because they are quite far too walk and not the safest place in the world so we'd really appreciate having a basketball court really close to us
Something like York st playground	Glenroy Lions Park is such a hidden gem, but unfortunately the current playground is quite drab and seems to be avoided by many local families. The York Street Playground would be an ideal example of what this space could become, with its generous open area and so much potential for a fantastic family-friendly play space. There are so many young families in the area, and a well-designed playground with engaging equipment for younger children would make Glenroy Lions Park a really special and well-used community space. A public toilet and fencing wouldn't go astray either.

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Title	Description
Flagship Playground for Hadfield	I would love to see this park become a genuine destination playground for Hadfield, similar in scale and quality to the York Street playground in Pascoe Vale. It's a well designed, well used space and this area is overdue for something similar. Key things I'd love to see: varied equipment for different age groups (not just one feature piece), a connected and enclosed layout so parents can supervise easily, enough capacity for how busy the park gets on weekends, and bark rather than sand as the base surface for easier maintenance. Would also avoid single-rope elevated crossings at height not the safest for younger kids even with handrails like the recently completed HM Dowd Reserve Playground
Inclusive for four-legged family members	It would be great to see an enclosed off-lead dog area added to this space. It's an area well-used by families and dog walkers alike and an area for dogs to safely run off-lead would be a welcome addition.
Welcome upgrade to our local park	We live near this park and would like to see the following included in the upgrade: definitely new playground equipment and more tables in shaded areas. More rubbish bins and more frequent collections, especially during summer when the park is heavily utilized. The bins stink when walking past them so moving them away from the path would be ideal. As parking is not abundant in the surrounding streets, this park should be aimed at nearby locals. The large grassed area opposite the playground should be leveled and re grassed for ball sports etc. I have noticed that this park is often used for fitness and exercise. People use the bench seats around the pathway as step up stations or push up stations so I suggest that 3 or 4 fitness stations be installed around the circular path instead, leaving the benches for seating only.
Make use of the large space	Would be great to make use of the large space with some unique play equipment encouraging adventurous play. Something like the plane at the Sewell Reserve playground. Also things that caters for variety of ages including older kids, Sewell does that well with the monkey bars catering for range of size and age kids.

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Open ended and beautiful playground	Some ideas that would be great to see for this park: Playground It would be great to see the playground upgraded to a modern playground which encourages more open ended play, that way it can be used by all ages. Using a variety of natural materials which can blend into the environment. Shade cloth is also great for all year round play. A playground like penders park in Thornbury is a great example of an open ended playground. BBQ and eating facilities A beautiful bbq area with covered eating would be great. Something that is inviting to come and sit in, not just concrete and basic table and chairs if the budget allowed. Bike paths Bike paths and bumps for all ages would be a great addition More Bins More bins and more regular waste collection is required for this park, especially if BBQ facilities are added.
More variety of play options for kids	Would be great to have something engaging for older children and all ages, something creative, some water play, sound play as others have suggested. As it's such a large space, something like a concrete basketball court or smaller version of this would be great. More seating, bins as rubbish is also a big issue here.
A Park for All	Maximise natural shade areas with nature play areas and seating Play equipment for all abilities Play equipment for a large range of ages A half basketball court Shade sail over play equipment BBQ and eating area Shade sail over BBQ and eating area Toilets

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Title	Description
Ideas for changes	Our property backs onto the Glen Lyons reserve. It would be great to see more gardens to encourage bush wildlife as well as an upgrade to not only the park itself but also more lighting around the footpath which people use at night. More bins for waste management and bbq facilities would encourage more use. A rock climbing wall would also be great as well as basketball/netball half court. Once council has basic understanding of expenditure specifically for this park upgrade it would be great if they are transparent to the public in ideas and considerations etc
Huge potential for an awesome upgrade	I'd love to see an enclosed area, somewhere with lots of shade with a gazebo and table & chairs etc. A massive playground with different areas, things for toddlers and older kids to enjoy the grounds. Playground equipment and also a half court basketball ring would be great. Something similar set up to York street in Pascoe Vale or cross keys reserve park would be amazing. There's so much space there to make something really amazing for the community.
A place for all ages	It would be wonderful to see a playground upgrade that really caters to little kids, not just older children. So many local playgrounds are great for bigger kids, but there aren't many spots that feel right for toddlers who are just learning to play. It would be lovely to include some water play activities like a splash pad, along with equipment suited to toddlers and younger children — things like low platforms, soft-fall surfacing, and gentle, age-appropriate climbing and sensory elements. Plenty of shade, whether from trees or shade sails, would help families feel comfortable staying a while, especially in the warmer months. Public toilets with baby change facilities would also make a big difference for parents with young children.
Upgrading Lions Park into a Destination for Everyone	Lions Park in Hadfield should be upgraded into a modern, inclusive community park that caters to people of all ages and abilities. The upgrade should include a larger, accessible playground with equipment for children of different ages, more natural shade through tree planting and shade sails, improved seating and picnic facilities, BBQs, drinking fountains and public toilets. Additional features such as a flying fox, a half basketball court, outdoor fitness equipment and nature play areas would provide activities for older children, teenagers and adults. Better walking paths, lighting and landscaping would also improve safety, accessibility and the overall enjoyment of the park, creating a welcoming space for families and the wider Hadfield community.
Green is good – in so many ways	As this play space, and others across Merri-bek, are used by children and families, it would be great to maximise existing natural shade through the thoughtful placement of play elements, seating and other key infrastructure, alongside opportunities for additional tree planting. Natural shade and urban greening can deliver multiple benefits, helping create cooler, more comfortable spaces while also supporting protection from UV exposure, the primary cause of skin cancer in Australia. Considered surface choices are also important to help reduce direct and reflected UV exposure, improve thermal comfort, and lower surface temperatures and burn risk.

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Title	Description
Practical park	That park is visited by families and children. It will be great if it had some covered areas and bbqs for family picnics.
Biodiversity and all-ages equipment	I would be keen to see design that incorporates equipment for children 0-teens. Rock climbing walls, basketball hoops would be enjoyed by teens and older kids. Benches, bins, biodiverse native gardens and bbqs would be great!
A Family-Friendly Park for Young Children	This park is used regularly by young families with children, particularly those aged 3 years and under. While it is currently old and in need of an upgrade, it remains my toddler's favourite playground because the equipment is suitable for younger children. Many of the recently upgraded parks in the area seem to cater more towards older children, with fewer play options designed for toddlers. I would love to see this redevelopment include dedicated play equipment for children aged 3 and under so younger kids have a space where they can safely play and feel included. A functioning public toilet and a picnic area with tables and seating would also be fantastic additions, making the park much more practical and welcoming for families who spend extended time there.
Attracting more wildlife	I would love to see planting of native species such as smaller bushes, shrubs and grasses to help build and sustain biodiversity in our area as it densifies. Smaller bushes to help to attract small birds which are lacking in the area while mynas are thriving. Shrubs to create more habitats for insects and lizards. There definitely be room in the park for people and bbq's as well as more diverse species.
All inclusive park for the Glenroy family locals	We have the improvements to local park in Glenroy under revamped location, There's public toilets, shade sails over play space, large " fun adventure" play items such as a Flying Fox, bushwalking, and activity seating decks, that was being impressed for the success of metropolitan community as well.
All inclusive playground	It has been observed that the Glenroy and Hadfield areas lack an inclusive playground that adequately supports children with disabilities, particularly in relation to safety and accessible design. I hope this proposed space can address that gap. A well-designed inclusive playground would provide a safe, welcoming environment for children and their families, and create opportunities for social connection. Many members of the public are not aware of how isolating it can be for families of children with disabilities, and this park has the potential to change that.

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Title

Family Friendly

Description

This park is used a lot by the local neighbours and their families. A bbq area would be ideal, proper seating with cover and benches, better rubbish management as this can get pretty messy. Playground equipment needs to be for all ages, especially for ages between 3-13yrs old.

During the warmer months the park can be filled with families, so variety of playground activities and equipment is a must!