

Fisher Reserve

Park upgrade



Merri-bek
City Council

Consultation summary report

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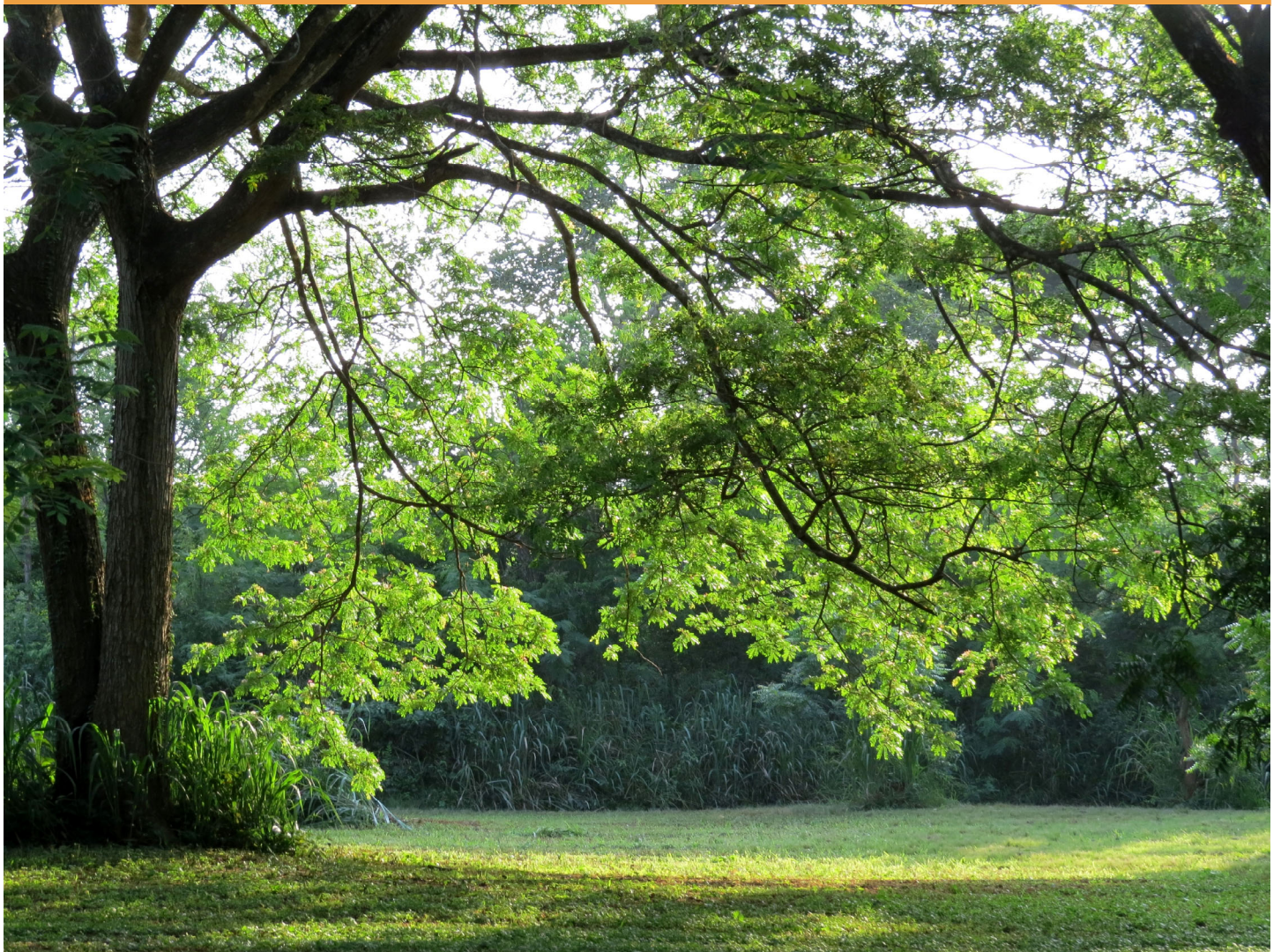
October 2023

Revision A

Revision A: initial consultation summary: October 2023

Revision B:

Revision C:



Fisher Reserve – park upgrade

Consultation summary report

October 2023

Fisher Reserve off Noel Street/Glenlyon Road in Brunswick East is a small-medium-sized reserve, comprising of a playspace, trees and open lawn areas. It has been determined ready for a park upgrade according to Merri-bek City Council's Open Space and Playspace strategies.

This report provides a summary of the Fisher Reserve consultation.

1. Background

This report covers a summary of each consultation stage for the Fisher 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)
- The existing playspace will be repositioned to a more central location in the reserve to reduce impacts on an adjacent large tree and the proximity of a neighbouring property
- Large-sized play elements cannot be included (e.g. a flying fox, tower combination unit, etc) owing to the lack sufficient space and proximity of neighbouring properties
- 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
- Some park infrastructure elements need to be upgraded (e.g. park fencing)
- All the works must fit into the available budget.

Council's Open Space Design and Development unit are conducting three consultation phases with the local community for the Fisher Reserve park 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 inputs 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 Concept Plan Consultation**

This revised concept plan will reflect changes from the draft concept plan, incorporating the community's feedback where possible. After receiving feedback, a final concept plan will be produced including any final changes to the design where possible. This will close the consultation process, prior to the team proceeding to detailed design.

Consultation timings

Initial consultation: 6 September – 6 October 2023 (completed)

Draft concept plan consultation: November 2023 (started, dates to be confirmed)

Revised concept plan: December 2023 (date to be confirmed)

Final concept plan issued: January 2024 (date to be confirmed).

For both the initial and draft concept plan consultation, postcards are distributed to households within 0.5km of Fisher Reserve, advising residents that they can provide feedback using Council's website, <https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fisher-reserve>. Posters are also to be displayed near the playspace and were provided to the adjacent kindergarten.

A similar poster approach will be undertaken for the revised concept plan.

The final concept plan will be displayed on the website along with posters at site, following completion of feedback on the revised concept plan. Thereafter the Open Space Design and Development team can proceed to detailed design.

2. Initial Consultation Feedback Findings

Council received 43 feedback responses to the initial consultation, one of these being a collation from various local residents.

This feedback has been organised into the following categories (not in order):

- **Laws, rubbish collection and overall maintenance**

Several comments from respondents have asked for improved maintenance including greater frequency of mowing and weed/rubbish removal.

Although this does not form part of the park upgrade, we have passed this information to the maintenance teams to see if we can help improve this.

- **Gathering spaces and waste bins**

A few people asked for additional seating, especially in shaded areas and suggested a gathering space near the playspace for carers to sit and watch their children play. We agree an improved gathering space area which greatly benefit users of this reserve.

There were several requests for a drinking fountain and for waste bins positioned nearer the gathering space.

- **Reserve fencing**

Several respondents asked for replacement taller fencing along both reserve entries to prevent children from wandering. We are planning to upgrade the fencing and maintenance access in the reserve as the current fencing requires upgrading. This replacement fencing can be taller and will include self-locking pedestrian gates as part of this upgrade. We will also be upgrading the maintenance entry to be just at the Glenlyon entry with a gate to match the fencing style.

Another person suggested buffer planting especially near Glenlyon Road. This can also be included as part of new garden beds to soften the fence lines.

- **Pathways through the reserve**

Some comments covered the need for an accessible pathway connecting Glenlyon Road and Noel Street from the entries. Another mentioned having a curved path would provide greater interest for

people. We agree that having a connecting path would make the reserve more accessible it can be curved to provide interest.

The secondary entry from Noel Street was mentioned as being uninviting. We are looking at ways to improve both entries/pathways to the reserve and make them more engaging, including garden beds.

- **Lighting through the reserve**

One individual asked for improved lighting around park boundary and play equipment.

It is doubtful we can include lighting along new paths in the reserve as there would not be sufficient budget. In addition Council's open space lighting policy only allows for illumination of paths, not playspaces or gathering spaces at night. It would also be difficult to illuminate just the paths without light spilling towards neighbouring properties.

- **Additional trees and garden beds (shade, buffer and biodiversity/interest)**

Several respondents asked for more native trees rather than exotic trees to be planted in the reserve. Others asked for attractive flowering native shrubs to attract birds, bees and bats. Further shade trees were requested as well as garden beds to provide natural barriers adjacent roads and neighbouring properties as well as including feature mounds to provide natural barrier treatments. We are planning to install a number of garden beds with native shrubs to improve biodiversity and provide interest along with some flowering native trees.

Another individual mentioned how the northern section of the reserve is an unusable wasteland and they would like to see this area activated. We are looking at various improvements for that area of the reserve as well.

- **Playspace upgrade (suggested items, nature play, materials)**

Many respondents asked for different forms of playspace equipment. The majority flagged the need for the play equipment to target the 3 – 10 year olds, owing to the numbers of children from the adjacent kinder and primary school, with some elements for the 2 – 6 year olds in particular.

Several have mentioned a preference for timber-based equipment rather than plastic. We will endeavour to source equipment that uses a mixture of materials with less focus on plastics where possible and to provide a range of equipment that suits this range of ages.

One asked for small trampolines and several others mentioned climbing units and monkey bars and a slide tube. This included mention of a fun-filled and challenging playspace. One asked for a train element in the playspace. Another mentioned including a sand pit. We are less likely to include a sand pit at Fisher Reserve as there is already a sand pit at the nearby Balfe Park and we try to provide different experiences in each of our upgraded playspaces. Other play elements we are assessing and seeing what will work well in the space.

Several have asked for nature-based play (including logs/rocks and to encourage exploring) to be included in addition to more traditional play equipment. One suggested this could use the north corner of the reserve for this which we agree.

One expressed concern about branches falling from the large tree near the playspace. As mentioned on the Conversations webpage, we are intending to relocate the playspace away from this large tree – also to better support the tree's health – and to ensure that the playspace is not so close to a neighbouring property.

- **Water play**

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

- **Sports related (ball games, table tennis, basketball)**

A few people asked for some ball sports or similar. Currently ball sports are not permitted in this reserve owing to the proximity of neighbouring properties. Inclusion of any sports related elements will need to be carefully considered so that sufficient open space areas can be retained for passive enjoyment (picnics etc). We are intending to retain open lawn areas that can allow for small-scale informal sports/frisbee play can continue though would need to be away from the playspace and gathering space areas.

We are also considering table tennis as this could work better than larger ball sports as it does not require as much space/hard surfacing, has less impact on adjacent mature trees root zones and does not need to be located as far away from the playspace/gathering space area and neighbouring properties.

It is looking unlikely that there will be sufficient budget to allow for fitness equipment stations.

- **Gathering space (seating, drinking fountain, BBQ, shade)**

Several asked for improved seating and a drinking fountain and for this area to be co-located to encourage socialisation. We have already been thinking along similar lines to include such an area near the playspace, in addition to other seats in the reserve.

A few people asked for a BBQ area. We are unsure that this can be accommodated as there may not be sufficient space for this away from the playspace and that strong smells can travel to adjacent properties.

- **Toilets**

A few respondents asked for a toilet.

We cannot include a toilet in this upgrade, partially owing to insufficient budget or physical space but mainly as the nearest public toilet is in Balfe Park (which is only 400m away). Inclusion of public toilets in public open space are subject to Council's public toilet policy and not generally part of a small park upgrade. Where they are included, it is where there are insufficient public toilets in the vicinity.

- **Possum control**

One individual mentioned that possums are damaging some of the mature trees. We will assess the tree health in the reserve to see if there is possum damage occurring though our arborist team no longer install possum tree guards.

- **Dogs in the park (off-leash / in-leash discussion)**

Several individuals commented on the need to keep the playspace areas protected from dogs. We will look at ways to discourage dogs from being within the playspace areas. To adhere to council policy, dogs must not be within 15m of a playspace and in Fisher Reserve, must be on a leash at all times.

Another commented that they would like the park to be an off-leash park. Fisher Reserve will remain a dog on-leash park. Balfe Park (approximately 400m away) has dog off-leash areas away from the playspace. 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>

- **Space for adults (not just children) and for those of all ages**

One respondent asked that we consider the needs for adults of all ages, including those without children. We will agree with this and will be including areas for all adult ages in the design including gathering spaces and passive recreation, especially in shaded areas where possible.

- **Community gardens**

A few individuals asked for a community garden area. We can consider including a mulched area for locals to grow plants though these would need to be just herbs, vegetables and shrubs, not trees nor can any weed species be planted. Locals would also need to maintain this area themselves including watering.

- **Property sale of adjacent property on Glenlyon Road**

Several respondents asked whether the adjacent property for sale on Glenlyon Road could be acquired by council to extend the reserve further. Under the Park Close to Home initiative, Council acquires properties for sale to build new reserves where there is an identified shortage in open space accessible on foot. In this instance it is unlikely that Council can prioritise purchasing this land as there are already reserves nearby including Fisher Reserve. We understand that the adjacent property is planned to be redeveloped in the near future.

- **Inclusion of the kindergarten in consultation**

A few individuals asked that the adjacent kindergarten are included in the consultation. We have been including them in the consultation process including holding a meeting with them at the kinder to understand their needs.

We will endeavour to address as many of these requirements as possible in the Fisher Reserve design.

3. Draft Concept Plan Consultation Feedback Findings

We are currently developing the draft concept plan and when ready, will provide this on the Conversations Merri-bek webpage.

Draft concept plan feedback summary will be provided here when this stage of consultation has been reached.

4. Revised Concept Plan Consultation Feedback Findings

Revised concept plan feedback summary will be provided here when this stage of consultation has been reached.

5. Final Concept Plan

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

6. Next Steps

The Open Space Design and Development team are currently preparing the draft concept plan, using feedback received from the initial consultation stage. Once ready this draft concept plan will be displayed to the community on posters at site, postcards to local residents and on council's Conversations Merri-bek webpage, asking for feedback.

7. 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 111.

8. Appendix

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

8a Initial Consultation

We're updating a park near you!

Tell us what you would you like to see in the upgrade?

Stiamo migliorando un parco vicino a te. Facci sapere cosa vorresti vedere.

Κάνουμε ένα πάρκο κοντά σας καλύτερο. Πείτε μας τι θα θέλατε να δείτε.

Estamos mejorando el parque cercano a usted. Dinos qué te gustaría ver.

Merri-bek Language Link					
Italiano	Italian	9280 1911	Türkçe	Turkish	9280 1914
Ελληνικά	Greek	9280 1912	Tiếng Việt	Vietnamese	9280 1915
عربي	Arabic	9280 1913	पंजाबी	Nepali	9280 0751
			普通话	Chinese (Simplified)	9280 0750
			National Relay Service: 13 36 77 or relayservice.com.au		

We are upgrading a number of parks in 2023-2024, including Fisher Reserve in Brunswick East. These projects are supported through our Open Space Strategy.

What would you like to see included in this upgrade?
Your ideas can help shape our plans.

- 🌐 conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fisher-reserve-brunswick-east
- ✉ openspace@merri-bek.vic.gov.au
- ☎ 9240 1111

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

Below is feedback received for the Fisher Reserve:

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
Oct 05 2023	Local Residents feedback	The following list is a compilation of suggestions from local residents. Better lawns and higher level of maintenance across all grounds - this park has had a very poor level of maintenance which has limited its use despite the high demand for public open space in the area. A basketball half court on the Glen Lyon rd. edge - lots of kids from local primary and high schools use the park after school - we'd love to see some equipment for older kids. New playground equipment that can accommodate 3-10yr olds. There is high usage of the park by kinder and primary school kids, but the equipment is dangerously old and poorly maintained. We'd love to see nature play mixed with play equipment. Keep the open areas for running/ball games/kicking a footy - don't lose the long space at the back - it's great to for picnics and dogs - there's very limited spaces like this in the area and with the large number of apartments in the area there is increasing demand for space. Exercise equipment for group training Paved pathways for accessibility connecting Glen Lyon Rd and Noel St Better lighting at night around park edges/play equipment Fencing/planting buffer along Glenlyon Road to prevent small kids from wandering out Rubbish bins located near new play equipment - currently the playground often is blemished by trash Landscaping and new planted areas to alter the paddock feel, which often has very long grass in spring and summer More regular maintenance- the grass and weeds are often left to grow to waist height rendering the park unusable Possum control - ringtail and brushtail possums are destroying several of the mature trees
Oct 05 2023	Great idea to optimise the green space	Very happy that you're working on making the park better. A basketball hoop and barbecue station would be well utilised. Upgrading the children's play area and a buffer between the street and the park would also be most appreciated.
Oct 05 2023	Upcoming sale of the flats at 261 Glenlyon rd.	Haven Home Safe are looking to sell the property at 261 Glenlyon (the derelict flats project). There will be demolition rights. @MERRIBEK, it would make a great extension to Fisher reserve!!
Oct 05 2023	A place for local kids to gather	The local school had (still has?) Friday night gatherings at this park - Slurpie night. Unfortunately the kids often left their rubbish behind (though the bin was not placed conveniently) and the equipment was so dire. Also the grass also gets very long there. However its central location was really great for kids to get together. So maybe a solution that factors in larger groups of kids for after school? water taps, rubbish bins etc
Oct 03 2023	Wood, water and plants	So happy to hear this park is getting some attention. We use it frequently after kinder- we would love to see a playground that's appropriate for kinder age kids as so many kids from EBK use it. Some undercover tables, BBQ and toilet would be wonderful. A playground that considers child development- for example- steps that are easy to negotiate to the smaller slides, without drop offs either side. A wooden style adventure playground and thoughtful native planting would make it an interesting place for kids to explore. In ground small trampolines are loved by kinder age kids . It would be amazing to have a splash park in this area for summer- not a sandy/ muddy one but a proper splash park as taking young kids the pool on your own is difficult- a shady splash park would be great and well used by kinder kids and their siblings! A park that isn't open or connected in any way to an off leash dog park in this area would be welcomed by our family. We are

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
		so tired of trying to protect our kids from dogs running through the playground and kids not being able to run in any open space for fear of being knocked over by dogs 'just being friendly' . There is plenty of room in this park it has so much potential! We hope something really nice comes of it.
Oct 02 2023	Underused park	We have lived locally for years and almost never use the park. It is always dirty with rubbish and long grass. It doesn't feel safe. The unfinished development to the east is an eyesore. It was once a beautiful mid-century cream brick aged care housing complex. Please don't render bricks! Play equipment is old. Play equipment for older kids would be good. Nice seats and garden beds. Keep mature trees.
Oct 02 2023	4 the♥ofcommunityparkland	Greatly appreciate offers of suggestions about upgrade of my local park, as follows: - non-blockout fencing. Everyone deserves to experience a stress reduced and fun time in the park. Protecting our little people is a priority including supporting our older carers of little people who aren't as mobile and quick to keeping up with their little loved ones from fast moving vehicles. - water fountain - large shade and bird attracting trees and shrubs - fun-filled and challenging play scape - community veggie patches - fitness fixtures - defibrillator access Thankyou!
Oct 01 2023	More native vegetation	I agree with some of the other suggestions, more maintenance of the park is needed, as it is often left neglected for long periods. More native trees and vegetation would make the park seem more inviting and add habitat value to the park. I would love to see some of the newer plantings of ash trees and oaks replaced with native trees as well. A community garden would be ideal, as much of the park is left unused. I think the large tree above the playground should also be managed as it has a number of large branches that threaten to break in windy weather. A real concern when young children are playing underneath .
Oct 01 2023	Make it inviting	Agree with quite a few of the comments. Suggestions please for the council: - do something about the development bordering the park. It's unacceptable that it's been left like this for so long. It diminishes the area and park considerably. - please put in planting, E.g. flower / plan beds and lighting and paths and a nicer fence so the park seems inviting. Cutting the grass regularly would also help - can you set aside some space for a small community garden? This could be used by the kindergarten too. - upgrade the playground, E.g. sandpit/water play. The equipment isn't too bad if money didn't allow to replace it. Thank you!
Sep 30 2023	259 Glenlyon Rd - offer to purchase?	Would it be crazy for Council to consider offering to buy the (park locked) sole house at the corner to extend the park?
Sep 30 2023	Community gathering area	Great to have this on the radar finally. However, even if the park is upgraded, the (8+ years?) unfinished next door flats project will continue to create a sense of neglect unless urgently finished or -better still - subsumed into the park area. Please tell us what Council is doing in this regard. There have been so many different ideas raised but it's a rare gem of a green space that just needs better maintenance. We need: the grass (and more frequent mowing) with exotic trees that provide a lush shade canopy to offset the urban heat island effect in immediately neighbouring streets; lighting; more bins for the high schoolers on

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
		their way back from 7-Eleven; dog friendly grassed areas; poo dispensers; upgraded play equipment; better fencing; herb planter boxes/market garden pantry structure for sharing produce; seating; better integration with the kinder space. Finally, I concur with the idea to extend into Glenlyon to calm the crazy traffic.
Sep 25 2023	A hidden gem	I use this park most days with my dog. I really like that it is shady, particularly for summer as most other parks are very exposed. Maintaining or increasing tree coverage would be great. It would be great to have water facilities and more benches. The fencing is very low and ineffectual so it would be great to get something a bit higher, maybe a pathway and better lighting at night. It could benefit from other shared facilities like a BBQ and an updated playground. Part of its charm and difference from the other nearby parks is that it's not a sports field so it's available all the time.
Sep 25 2023	A Colourful Display of Native (Non-Indigenous) Shrubs and Small trees	I would love to see some lovely flowering native shrubs such as grevillea, banksia, white and purple prostanthera, a variety of wattles and small flowering trees such as silver caesia. Fisher is a small park and under-utilised at the moment. There are plenty of indig trees and shrubs in surrounding parks ... Fisher could be made to be attractive in a different way, so why not lash out against the prevailing orthodoxy? A looped cement path around the park beginning and ending at Glenlyon road would also attract people. Three or four park benches would be attractive to elderly people and mothers watching children at play.
Sep 22 2023	Great opportunity for a rejuvenated park	Currently the park is very underutilised despite being the main open space area in the immediate area and with the East Brunswick Kindergarten next door. With the completion of another stage of the nearby East Brunswick Village on Nicholson St the area can expect an increased demand for open spaces. The playground feels very dated with poor quality equipment that is frequently dirty and not consistent with the standard of similar areas within the Merri-Bek area (e.g. Kirkdale Reserve Playground). The grass is often long in spring and summer and rubbish accumulates. Ideally the park would have a change in landscaping to cut down on the paddock feel and bins near new and updated equipment to encourage people to dispose of trash. With relatively low-cost enhancements, such as a new playground equipment and thoughtful landscaping, the park could be a fantastic resource in a growing area.
Sep 22 2023	A place for all	We live very close, but prefer to go to Fleming or Balfe Park. Toilets and communal seating areas would make it more inviting. Water play is a bonus and something for big kids to play ball games etc. Well maintained grass and plants would be lovely. It often feels a bit dark and unappealing. I'm looking forward to the upgrade!
Sep 21 2023	A community hub for all ages	Bulleke Bek playground should be of guidance in creating an inviting, landscaped focal point for the local community where the youngest can play on wooden equipment and the older can sit around, walk their dogs, bounce a ball or knit if they want to. A green piazza for days and evenings, for market or gatherings. Glenlyon is unnecessary large for the area so I would take over a chunk and make it more friendly for walkers and bikes. Finally, that abandoned building site just next to it has to go — its looming decay is a turn off and encourages vandalism.
Sep 21 2023	Facilities for all	Thanks for upgrading this park! This is right near our home but we don't use it as playground is rundown and the space is not inviting. As a large space there is a lot of opportunity to make this a neighbourhood hub. For younger kids, an upgraded playground is needed and facilities for older kids to use in the neighbourhood would be fantastic like a basketball court and place to gather safely. Current signs about not playing ball sports means neighbourhood kids can't

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
		use the park. It would also be great to have some space for adults to feel welcome to spend time. Thank you!
Sep 20 2023	Soccer goal for older kids	My kids would love to have a soccer goal, and an area to shoot goals with a wall behind.
Sep 20 2023	More active	My son asked for monkey bars or other more active play like climbing.
Sep 20 2023	Water/Toilets	Would be good have some toilets. A drinking fountain. A water play area. There's a fairly new playground on Cardinal St in Glenroy that has a great water play area. That would be awesome in the summer. A BBQ area.
Sep 20 2023	Basketball Court	As a teenager I would love to see a basketball ring hoop/ court. This would allow my friends and I and other members of the community to gather and have fun. It wouldn't take up too much space at all allowing for other things like a playground, BBQ area/ picnic tables and even a small work out space
Sep 19 2023	Drawing in community	Would love to see something that removes the lengthy grass and makes the area inviting. a push to include garden (perhaps an edible one in collaboration with the kindergarten community), an area to host a weekend farmer's market and an upgraded playground. the main issue with the space currently is that falls into disarray quickly.
Sep 18 2023	Table tennis table and badminton	Hello, it would be good for older kids to have a table tennis and badminton play areas. These can also be utilised by adults. These do not take much space but provide a lot of ways to entertain and provide activity/exercise.
Sep 18 2023	Exciting opportunity	This is a really exciting opportunity. It is a big space and there is a growing demand for well thought-out public space, especially for children, in this increasingly dense inner urban area. This park needs to have sufficient infrastructure and amenity for the literally THOUSANDS of people, including families, moving into and using EBV in the future. Hopefully some of the EBV community fund which was part of their planning permit can be utilised for this project. You need pathways, seating, permanent shade, and a higher standard of play equipment for all ages and abilities, including for very young children. Consider fencing an area off for the little ones like Park Street Reserve in Yarra. The Royal Park Nature Playground is another excellent example with a fantastic array of water play and nature elements which are so popular with children, particularly during warmer weather. Something like that would be great. You need lighting (isn't this council's responsibility?) to deter anti-social behaviour particularly given the abandoned building site next door, and to ensure all users of the park feel safe at all times. Bins with dog poo dispensers should also be installed. Planter boxes for herbs, again, like Yarra have on their footpaths, would be great. Native trees, garden beds and landscaping, well maintained grassed areas would all be beneficial.
Sep 18 2023	Lots of potential	A shaded and updated play space is very much needed and would help improve the community. We use the playground after kinder and on the weekends but find the equipment is broken and unsafe. Our five year old would love a train as part of the playground.

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
Sep 17 2023	Nature playground	Finally, there's some action being taken to improve this space! It's been a sad and neglected area for too long, but it has so much potential. We live just around the corner and have been avoiding it due to various issues. Over the past few years, I've witnessed litter and bird droppings everywhere, teenagers loitering around the large slide, public urination at the Noel Street entrance, and even a dog jumping on me while walking through. Safety should be a top priority. My kids are fond of nature playgrounds constructed from wood, featuring climbing structures, monkey bars, slides, treehouses, stepping logs, and swings. They also love basketball courts and open grass areas to kick a ball. I completely agree with the other commenter who suggested making the entrances more welcoming and accessible. Indeed, those abandoned units at the back should be concealed or removed somehow. It would greatly improve the overall appearance and atmosphere of the area.
Sep 17 2023	Better Playground	The Fisher Reserve park looks very old and dated and unsafe with the play equipment falling apart. I would recommend creating a new wooden playground and a basketball court for older kids to play and a dedicated area for dogs as my kids have almost been bitten twice by dogs in the park.
Sep 14 2023	So much potential... currently very underutilised	As others have mentioned, the tired play equipment needs replacing. Something with natural / wood elements would be preferred over plastic. Royal Park Nature Playground, Methven Park and Bulleke-Bek park are good examples. Large climbing structures (like at Douglas Reserve) would suit older kids and/or a small basketball court? Sand and water play is always great for little ones! The Reserve is desperately calling out for landscaping and seating, as well as more accessible entrances, especially to play equipment. Council should also consider handing over the small strip of land between East Brunswick Kindergarten and the abandoned flats to EBK - it would be much better utilised by the kindergarten, and will create clean boundary lines. It would be odd to leave this strip as parkland, but if it was to remain as part of the Reserve, perhaps it could be a small community garden with raised planter beds? Lastly, I note from other submissions that people like to give their dogs a run at this park. Totally valid, Brunswick is doggo central! But if this is the case, it would be great to have the playground fenced off as it isn't a large park like Fleming, so the chances of dogs and little children mixing are much higher. It's safer for all to have the playground fenced if dogs will be off leash.
Sep 14 2023	Lots of potential	Our family loves this space but the facilities are lacking. Paths for accessibility, bins and a toilet would be amazing. More plants and shade. Nature play - rocks, logs. Keeping little kid play areas a bit separate from dog play areas would be important. Looking forward to seeing what comes out of planning.
Sep 13 2023	Tube slide and monkey bars and a skate ramp	The park needs a tube slide and monkey bars. And a skateboard ramp in the far corner. Thanks Elliott (8 y.o.)
Sep 12 2023	Monkey bars !!!	Monkey bars and some off-lead areas for dogs would be great.
Sep 11 2023	Consider East Brunswick Kindergarten	I use this park for kicking the football and climbing with my children 4 and 7. The northern 1/4 is an unusable wasteland, the climbing frame is sad, and the small entry to Noel St uninviting. Dealing with these drawbacks is important. However 2. Any renovations should involve consultation with staff and committee of EBK and should permit and strongly consider future or present expansion to the north or west of the park (i.e. east or south of the current kindergarten boundary). Most kindergartens are land locked and unable to be expanded despite increasing need for childcare and kindergarten and state and federal policies to match. Merri-bek has a once in a generation chance to get this right. But even if not properly future proofing , the emergency exits, etc and shared fencing need consideration. 3. The park should include a covered barbecue area.

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
		4. Parks like this should include something for older children and teens: basketball, soccer, etc. 5. However please do not lose all space for kicking a football, games of soccer.
Sep 11 2023	Nature play	It would be great to swap some of the grass for mulch around the trees, add some feature mounds with low maintenance plantings, park benches, landscaping to provide a barrier to the road. Landscaping to provide a barrier to graffiti boarding along flats. A timber log play area like they have at the German School or Royal Childrens Hospital would be preferred over standard plastic play equipment. So much potential- thanks for making a difference! Agree make it all ages friendly, I'm sure there are some elderly people who would like to sit in a safe park space. Would love not to have to walk past the overflowing bin on Glenlyon Rd each day!
Sep 11 2023	Underutilised with great trees	So much potential and agree with others that upgraded play equipment (including for older kids) and facilities would be great. It is a great space for dogs and many people use it for a romp with their furry friends, so it would be nice to keep this aspect of it.
Sep 11 2023	Access for all	This park over the 20 years that I have lived here has catered for all age groups, parks are not for just little kids, many teenagers also use this place and lots of dogs that have all played hear. Add native trees and understory to also attract birds, bees and bats!! Definitely need pollinators in these urban areas. The neighbours across the road with the double story house, fills this one single bin regularly which ends up overflowing.
Sep 11 2023	Has great potential	This park has some amazing potential. Great and quiet location for kids to enjoy the space. It is commonly frequented by the children of EBK (kindergarten next door) and play equipment suitable for 2–6-year-olds will greatly benefit the kinder kids. We can get inspiration from Bulleke-Bek Playground for an interactive space.
Sep 11 2023	Under-utilised space	This is a play space that I seek to avoid with my kids as it seems poorly maintained. It would need bins, grass cut and a simple toilet to make the space more usable. Having a range of play equipment, including "risky play" for older children. Not just tiny kid's equipment.
Sep 11 2023	So much potential	We would use this park so much more if there was shade over the play area and not as much grass (rumoured snake bite last year during summer?!?). Upgrade of play equipment, more facilities e.g. park benches and taps, tables, shade, BINS!!! and better access from Glenlyon Rd and Noel St. So much potential to become a well-used and much loved community space, especially given the proximity to kinder. Thanks for making this happen, looking forward to the end product.
Sep 11 2023	Such an opportunity for improvement	We've lived locally for years, and had two kids through the East Brunswick kindergarten. The established trees are lovely and such as asset. It would be great to see the kids play spaces to allow for more free range nature play, landscaping with rocks and logs that allow for climbing and exploring - not just play equipment that is often age specific. Free play in the tucked away northern corner would be great as its not near the road. It would be great to see a central space for parents/others to sit and observe - but also connect with each other. A scoping of the site to allow for zones for free play/dogs/roaming, a place for play equipment, and a place for informal gathering. Please make best use of the trees to provide effective shade - as so many Merri-bek parks/play spaces are not well shaded. Finally, please seek effective engagement with the kinder community as it's a great way for the kinder families to connect alongside the facility.

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
Sep 07 2023	A buffer from the road would be a good start.	We live quite close but don't regularly use this park. We go to Kirkdale reserve for the water pump, BBQs and peaceful surrounds. Even though Glenlyon Rd should a local road here the speed limit is still 50km/h (!!) so the road noise and danger is unpleasant. A native-planted buffer would help somewhat. The area at the back is an odd space and could be hard to use practically. If a "wild" water feature with native plants was possible that would be amazing (but probably expensive!), but perhaps as density increases around Merri-bek there might be more need for community garden plots where people can grow their own food.
Sep 07 2023	Looking forward to seeing this opportunity realised!	Fisher Reserve currently isn't attractive at all for our family, which is quite disappointing. We're fortunate to live in Brunswick East and have access to Merri Creek and Fleming Park, but it would be wonderful if our nearest park offered an enjoyable and safe environment for kids and adults alike, with consideration of dogs as well. Currently, the play equipment is pretty bleak, worn out, and not fun for kids to enjoy safely. We moved from central Brunswick and our 4 year old still talks about wanting to go back to Bulleke Bek and Warr Parks as more enjoyable locations, so perhaps some inspiration could be taken from what's on offer there. It would be nice to contrast with Kirkdale Park to provide options for people living on the eastern side of Nicholson St. With the large amount of people moving into East Brunswick Village, it will also be important for their most local park to be useable for everyone - people will cross Nicholson and go down Sumner and Noel Sts, in preference to Fleming Park, I believe. The park could complement rather than replicate some of the utilities available to them (e.g. lots of BBQs may not be necessary as there are a few rooftop options there; open, safe, shaded space for play and picnic gatherings may be more important, and would make use of the big old trees). I would suggest that EBV residents and the local childcare centre EBKCC that backs onto the park should be priorities for inclusion in consultation.
Oct 16 2023	Group submission by email	Group submission from the Sumner Street Neighbourhood Group. We are an organised group of over 40 local residents who have worked successfully with council on several occasions for improvements to our neighbourhood. We are excited about a commitment to upgrade and maintain Fisher Reserve. We thank you for your commitment to our shared places. [attachment].
Sept 22 2023	Email submission	It is great to see that Fisher Reserve is being upgraded. As a resident from Glenlyon Rd we have two pieces of feedback which we hope that you will be able to incorporate in the planned activity. It is often very disappointing to see the bin on the Glenlyon rd. face of the park overflowing with rubbish. It would be great to see extra bins here, including recycling and green waste. I reckon the current bin overflows at least once a month. If there are more users after the upgrade it would be a shame to see amenity detracted by waste. Also, can you include as much native vegetation as possible. The adjacent green space in that section of east Brunswick are areas like the Northcote high and Brunswick zebras sports grounds which have short grass and high levels of human activity. Fisher reserve has some lovely mature canopy which sustains a surprising amount of bird life, we have seen tawny frogmouths, kookaburras, wattlebirds and two types of honeyeater here. It would be good to see the park have a range of understory vegetation of different sizes, this would help native birds to stay in the area and provide a refuge against dogs when they are off leash.

8b Draft Concept Plan Consultation

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

8c Draft Concept Plan Consultation Responses

Feedback will be added here when received from the community for the Draft Concept Plan consultation.

8d Revised Concept Plan

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