



Merri-bek
City Council

James Reserve

Park Upgrade

Consultation Summary Report

Prepared by

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Open Space Design & Development Unit

April 2026

Revision A

Revision A: Initial Consultation Summary: April 2026



James Reserve – Park Upgrade

Consultation Summary Report

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James Reserve in Pascoe Vale is a reserve built in 1994, and includes a playground, picnic settings, a kick-about area, established trees, open lawn spaces, connecting paths, and a bocce court adjacent to the Pascoe Vale Senior Citizens Centre. It has been assessed for renewal according to Merri-bek City Council's Open Space and Playspace strategies.

Currently, the reserve is divided into three disconnected sections by Dromana Avenue and Norton Street. As part of the assessment process, the potential road closure was identified as an opportunity to create a more cohesive and connected open space for local residents.

This report provides a summary of the James Reserve consultation – Phase 1, Gathering Ideas.

1. Background

This report covers a summary of each consultation phase for the James Reserve Upgrade in Pascoe Vale. This phase is 'Gathering Ideas' to inform the concept design.

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

- The location of the playspace will need to be determined by Council to manage flooding risks in the playground.
- Large play elements cannot be included because of the size of the playground area.
- No sound trees will be removed as part of this upgrade.
- A public toilet will not be included.
- All design and construction need to fit within the available budget.

Council's Open Space Design and Development Unit are conducting three consultation phases with the local community for the James Reserve Upgrade, these being:

- **Initial Consultation**

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

- **Draft Concept Plan Consultation**

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

- **Revised/Final Concept Plan Consultation**

This revised concept plan reflects 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: 9 March - 29 March 2026 (completed)
- Draft Concept Plan Consultation: Mid 2026 (anticipated)
- Revised/Final Concept Plan Consultation: Late 2026 (anticipated)

For the initial consultation, postcards are distributed to households around James Reserve, advising residents that they can provide feedback using Council's website, <https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/james-reserve>. Posters were also displayed at the park.

A similar poster approach will be undertaken for the draft concept plan. The final concept plan will be displayed on the website along with posters at site. Thereafter the Open Space Design and Development Unit can proceed to detailed design. We will advise when construction will be starting and finishing once known.

2. Initial Consultation Feedback Findings

- 1 on-site pop up with residents on Friday 20 March 2026
- 51 contributions from 50 contributors to the Conversations Merri-bek website survey, 516 visits, and 34 followers
- Several emails to Council
- 1 direct phone call to Council

In addition, internal engagement also took place with Council's Waste, Street Cleansing, Transport, Open Space Maintenance, Urban Forest, Drainage and Development and Integrated Water Management teams to learn more about the history of the site, issues and opportunities.

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

- **General Comments**
 - While a few residents felt the park works well and needs only minor tweaks, others advocated for a comprehensive renewal.
 - Across all the responses, the clearest priorities were improved safety through fencing, better shade (trees and shade sails), a wider range of play experiences, enhanced planting and habitat, upgraded gathering amenities (BBQ, seating, drinking fountain and toilets), and reconfiguring Dromana Avenue to unify the open spaces.
- **Play and Recreation**
 - Residents want play opportunities that cater to toddlers through older children, with interest in a pump track, a half basketball court, and dynamic items such as a flying fox, climbing and obstacle elements, nature play, imaginative play, musical features, and larger slides.
 - Several residents asked for baby-friendly items (e.g., swings and low tunnels), accessible equipment, and retention of beloved elements like the tunnel and roundabout, while cautioning against large rocks near play due to injury risk.
 - Residents noted that the bocce courts are no longer well used due to demographic changes, and they expressed support for introducing fitness equipment near the Senior Citizens Centre within the park.

Response

- Council will endeavour to source play equipment that caters to a range of ages and abilities. Given the close proximity of James Reserve and Austin Crescent Playground,

Council will consider different equipment options to ensure a variety of play experiences across both sites. As Austin Crescent already includes a flying fox, this feature will not be duplicated at James Reserve. Instead, Council will explore other community suggested elements and determine how best to accommodate these requests.

- A pump track cannot be provided at this stage due to insufficient budget. In addition, the reserve's proximity to neighbouring properties makes ball sports potentially disruptive and noisy, and therefore the half basketball court is less suitable for this location.
 - Council will consult with Open Space Maintenance team to assess whether well-loved existing elements - such as the tunnel and roundabout – are safe, structurally sound, and suitable for retention.
 - Nature play will be incorporated alongside traditional play equipment. Any rocks used will be carefully selected to ensure flat upper surfaces and no sharp edges or protrusions.
 - As the existing bocce courts are underutilised, Council will introduce fitness equipment near the Senior Citizens Centre to encourage greater activation of the northern area of the reserve.
- **Safety, Fencing and Dog Management**
 - Many residents requested a fully fenced play area with gated entries, with some noting fencing should enclose a portion of open space – not just playspace – to allow safe exploration for toddlers.
 - Views on dogs varied: some advocated for a dog-free playground or broader dog exclusion, others supported an off-leash area, and several asked for dog-waste bag dispensers to improve cleanliness.

Response

- The existing post and rail fencing is in poor condition and will need to be replaced. Council will explore a range of fencing options – fully fenced or partially fenced – to determine the most appropriate approach for the site and to ensure the space is designed to be safer for all users.
 - It is not appropriate to allow dogs off-leash within this reserve, as dogs must remain on-leash in this area and be kept at least 15 metres away from the playspace at all times. For a list of dog off-leash parks in the municipality you can view:
<https://www.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/exploring-merri-bek/parks-and-gardens/park-amenities/?st=List%20of%20off-leash%20dog%20parks%20in%20Merri-bek&a=autocomplete&q=off-leash%20dog%20park>
- **Shade, Shelter and Comfort**
 - Community feedback emphasised more shade – both through additional canopy trees and shade sails over the play area – while retaining existing mature shade trees wherever possible.
 - People also asked to upgrade and add seating so there are options in both sun and shade with good sightlines to play, noting the current shaded seating works in summer but is cold in winter and could benefit from added shelter.

Response

- Council is unable to provide shade sails in this reserve due to budget constraints. However, the playspace is proposed to be relocated to the sloped area on the western side to address existing flooding issues. This location allows Council to maximise the use of existing trees for natural shade. James Reserve already benefits from mature tree

canopy, and additional shade trees will be planted within the reserve and around the playground to further increase shade coverage over time.

- Council will enhance the gathering space and provide additional seating. These areas will be designed to offer comfort throughout the year, allowing visitors to enjoy shaded seating in summer and sunny spots in winter.

- **Gathering Spaces and Amenities**

- Residents frequently sought BBQ facilities with shelter, more picnic seating, and water taps – along with toilets and drinking fountains (including pet bowls) to support longer stays.
- A smaller set of ideas proposed an outdoor chess table and occasional activations like a temporary café or market space.

Response

- Council is not able to provide a BBQ or shelter at this reserve due to budget constraints. However, these amenities are available nearby at Austin Crescent Playground and Gavin Park. As part of this upgrade, Council will deliver a gathering space with a picnic setting, additional seating, and an accessible drinking fountain. This area will be located near the playspace and beneath existing shade trees.
- Council cannot include a toilet in this upgrade, mainly owing to the budget constraints. 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 such as this. Where they are included in small parks, it is where there are considered to be insufficient public toilets in the broader vicinity.

- **Planting, Biodiversity and Park Character**

- Many comments supported denser indigenous/native planting – more trees and shrubs and less lawn – to provide deep shade, cool the site, and enhance habitat and food for wildlife, complemented by accessible water sources for animals.
- People also asked to retain the park's mature trees and to consider nature-themed materials/colours, with one submission highlighting the presence of a nesting tawny frogmouth pair and seeking careful lighting to avoid disturbance.

Response

- A predominantly native planting palette will be used, incorporating feature garden beds with seasonal flowering and a strong preference for indigenous, pollinator-friendly species.
- No existing trees will be removed as part of the upgrade unless an arborist assessment identifies them as dead, declining, or unsafe. Additional shade trees will be included, with a mix of evergreen and deciduous species to enhance year-round comfort and seasonal variation.
- Nature-inspired materials and colour tones will be integrated into the concept design. The design will also be developed with careful consideration of local native fauna, to support habitat values and minimise potential impacts.

- **Flooding, Lighting and Operations**

- Several residents flagged frequent flooding that washes mulch into the street and recommended stormwater upgrades, noting certain features (e.g., sandpits or in-ground trampolines) may be unsuitable given site conditions.

- Upgraded lighting was requested to improve safety and deter anti-social behaviour, balanced with caution to avoid excessive lighting that could impact wildlife.
- Additional operational suggestions included more rubbish bins to keep the area clean.

Response

- Council will consult with Drainage Engineer team to investigate and address local flooding issues, including stormwater system upgrades. Where feasible, the project will also explore integrated water management opportunities on site.
- The design will consider lighting upgrades to ensure the reserve is safe, accessible, and welcoming for all users. Lighting improvements will also be designed to minimise impacts on local fauna, where practicable.
- The concept design will include upgrading the existing bin and will assess whether additional bins are required to support park use and maintain site cleanliness.

• Road Closure

- In the survey, we asked people if they support the road closure. A clear majority (≈61%) support the road closure. Opposition is ≈18%, with ≈22% undecided. Most residents are supportive, while a sizeable, undecided group signals the value of sharing more detail (e.g., exact closure extent, traffic impacts/mitigations, duration, and costs) to help convert uncertainty into informed support or opposition.
- Residents expressed strong interest in closing some or all of the roadway to unify the two green spaces, improve safety – especially for children – and expand usable parkland, while others raised concerns about traffic displacement to nearby streets and sought more detail about the extent, duration and cost of any closure.
- Several residents supported a full or partial closure (e.g., Dromana Avenue North only) or, if closure is not feasible, lower-speed shared zones and additional traffic-calming measures, whereas some preferred alternative solutions such as fencing the playground and targeted calming over a closure.
- Related ideas included creating a path around the park perimeter for riding/scooting, linking to the under-utilised block across the road, and carving out long-bay parking along the park edge.

Support (why people are in favour)

- Unifies the two green spaces into one larger, safer park and avoids children having to cross the road between areas.
- Improves safety and reduces rat-running/speeding, particularly during school peaks; some referenced near-misses and problematic chicanes that a closure (or stronger calming) could address.
- Creates a more welcoming 'place' – with more room for walking, gathering and informal play – and allows clearer separation of active and passive areas.
- Enables complementary upgrades, such as more legible parking layouts and perimeter paths; several also linked the change with drainage improvements given flooding/mulch wash-out after heavy rain.
- Partial closure options (e.g., Dromana Ave North only) were seen as a pragmatic way to expand the park while maintaining residential access.

Concerns (why people are opposed or hesitant)

- Traffic displacement to nearby streets (e.g., Ann, Archibald, Camdon), which some say are already busy or used as rat-runs – especially at school times – potentially worsening safety and resident access.
- Preference for alternatives: some would rather fence the playground and/or use traffic-calming (speed humps, shared-zone speeds) instead of closing the road.
- Everyday route reliance: several residents use these streets as a convenient back route (e.g., to school) and feel closure would push them onto busier, less safe roads, while a few felt the street is already quiet and closure is unnecessary.
- Clarity and cost: requests for details on whether the closure is temporary or permanent, the duration and exact extents, and the cost trade-offs versus other community priorities.
- Local circulation specifics that need resolving regardless: e.g., Norton/Ann bend safety, how northbound movements work if parts of Norton or Dromana are closed, and parking management if access patterns change.

Response

- Council engaged a consultant to undertake a traffic survey in February, when the school returned for the year, to better understand travel patterns and traffic conditions around the reserve. Council will work closely with the Transport team to consider the potential road closure and to share the traffic survey and community feedback received. This will help ensure a broader understanding of the community's views.
- Following internal discussions, Council will provide the community with more detailed information, including the proposed extent of any closure, anticipated traffic impacts, the likely duration, and the process for implementation. Council will then advise the community of the next steps and maintain clear communication throughout.

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

3. Draft Concept Plan Consultation Feedback Findings

To be completed at the conclusion of Phase 2 of the Consultation on the draft concept plan.

4. Revised/Final Concept Plan

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

5. Next Steps

Officers will prepare the draft concept plan using feedback from the initial consultation and additional site and stakeholder investigations. Once complete, the plan will be shared with the community on Council's Conversations Merri-bek webpage, anticipated in Mid 2026.

Following feedback, the final design will be prepared and shared with the community.

Construction is expected to begin after the final design is approved and all community feedback is reviewed – anticipated from early 2027.

Updates regarding the project will be placed on the Conversations Merri-bek webpage and the community are encouraging to sign up to receive email updates via the website.

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.

7. Appendix

Below are images of the posters and postcards issued, and all feedback received from the community for each phase of consultation for the James Reserve.

7a Initial Consultation

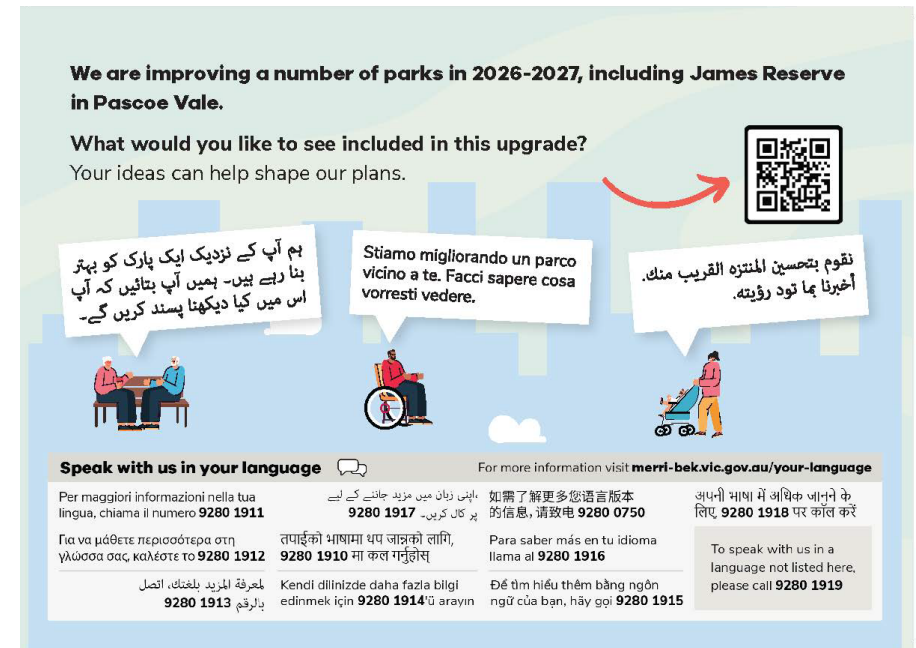


Figure 1: Postcards were issued to households around the park.



We're improving this park!

James Reserve, Pascoe Vale

We will be making improvements to James Reserve in Pascoe Vale to make the park environment more pleasant and safe for the community.

This will include:

- Upgraded playspace and gathering space
- Improved path connections for better accessibility
- Additional garden beds and new shade trees
- Potential road closure to improve safety and create a more connected reserve.

Please let us know how you use James Reserve, what do you think works and what needs improvement, by visiting our website.

On-site pop-up session: Friday 20th March (4pm-6pm)

Join the conversation

To learn more and share your feedback, visit <https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/parkimprovements> or scan the QR code.



More information

Phone: 9240 1111
Email: openspace@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Speak with us in your language

For more information visit merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language

Per maggiori informazioni nella tua lingua, chiama il numero 9280 1911	اپنی زبان میں مزید جاننے کے لیے پر کال کریں۔ 9280 1917	如需了解更多语言版本的信息, 请致电 9280 0750	अपनी भाषा में अधिक जानने के लिए 9280 1918 पर कॉल करें
Για να μάθετε περισσότερα στην γλώσσα σας, καλέστε το 9280 1912	रपाईको भाषामा थाप जाउको लागि, 9280 1910 मा कल गर्नुहोस्	Para saber más en tu idioma llama al 9280 1916	To speak with us in a language not listed here, please call 9280 1919
لمعرفة المزيد بلغتك، اتصل بالرقم 9280 1913	Kendi dilinizde daha fazla bilgi edinmek için 9280 1914 'ü arayın	Để tìm hiểu thêm bằng ngôn ngữ của bạn, hãy gọi 9280 1915	

Figure 2: Site poster.

Below is all community feedback received for the James Reserve survey during the initial consultation phase:

Closed

Share your ideas for a renewed James Reserve
James Reserve, Pascoe Vale

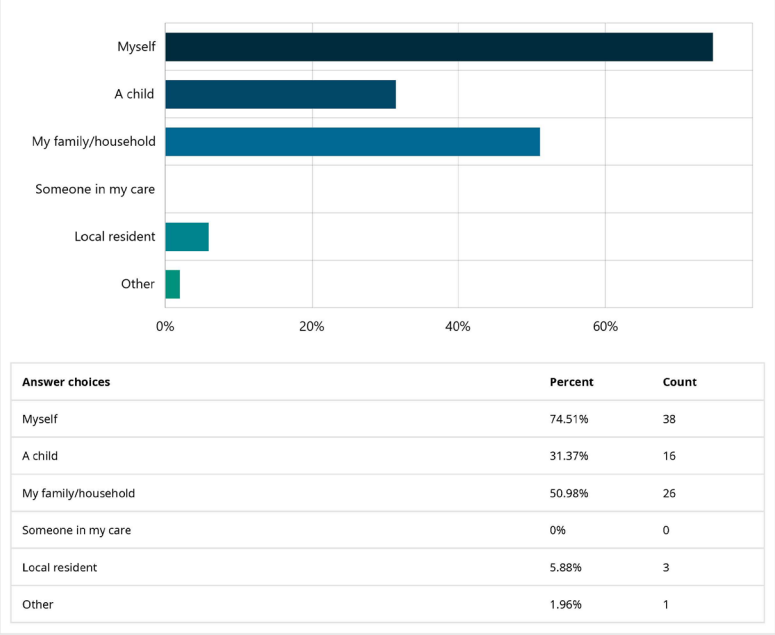
50Contributors

51Contributions

Contribution Summary

1. Who are you completing this survey for? Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 51 (100%)



2. How old is the child/children?

Short Text | Skipped: 35 | Answered: 16 (31.4%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

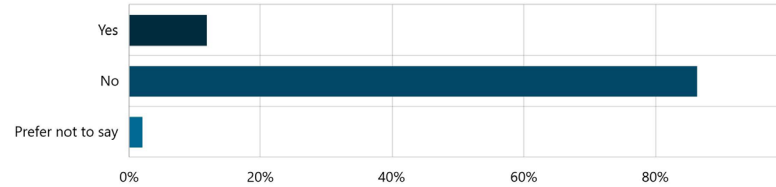
No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

3. Do you or someone you care for have accessibility needs when using the park? Required

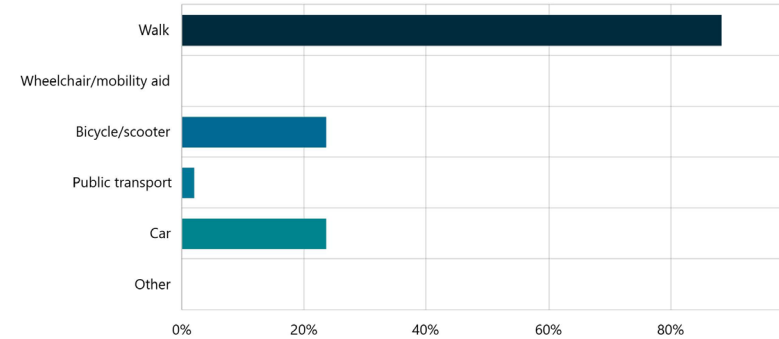
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 51 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	11.76%	6
No	86.27%	44
Prefer not to say	1.96%	1
Total	100.00%	51

4. How do you usually get to the park? Required

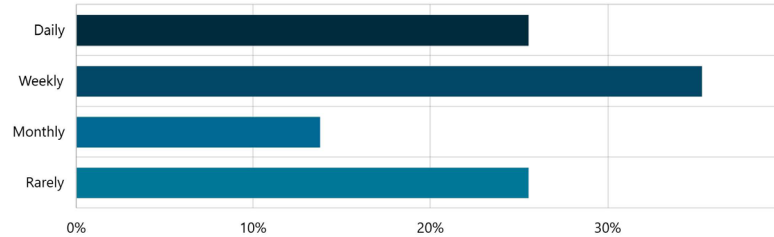
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 51 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Walk	88.24%	45
Wheelchair/mobility aid	0%	0
Bicycle/scooter	23.53%	12
Public transport	1.96%	1
Car	23.53%	12
Other	0%	0

5. How often do you use the park? Required

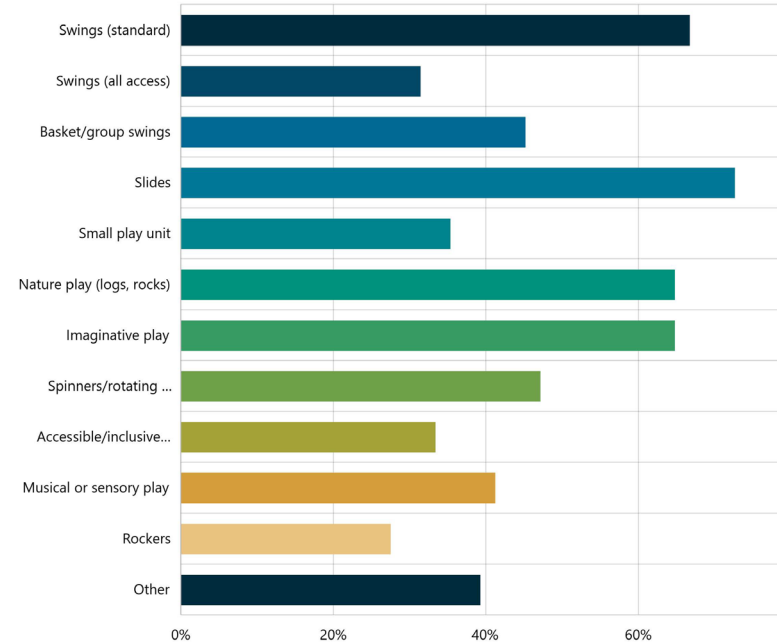
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 51 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Daily	25.49%	13
Weekly	35.29%	18
Monthly	13.73%	7
Rarely	25.49%	13
Total	100.00%	51

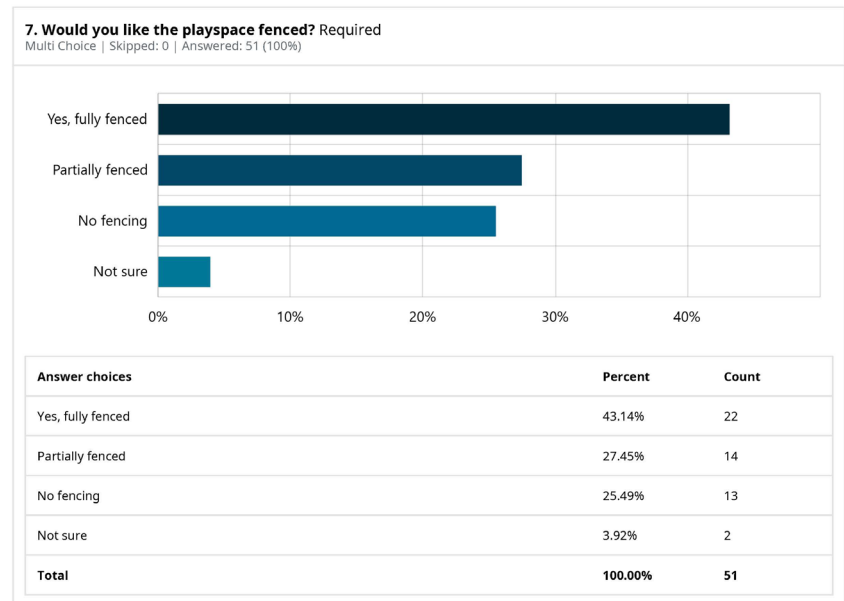
6. What play equipment would you like to see in the upgraded playspace? Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 51 (100%)



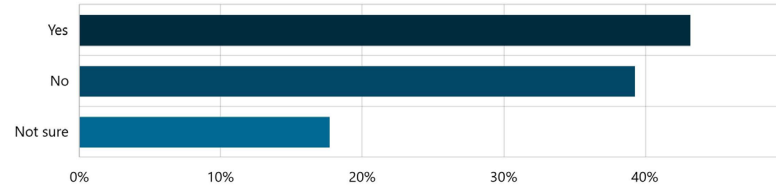
Answer choices	Percent	Count
Swings (standard)	66.67%	34
Swings (all access)	31.37%	16
Basket/group swings	45.10%	23
Slides	72.55%	37
Small play unit	35.29%	18
Nature play (logs, rocks)	64.71%	33
Imaginative play	64.71%	33
Spinners/rotating equipment	47.06%	24

Accessible/inclusive play equipment	33.33%	17
Musical or sensory play	41.18%	21
Rockers	27.45%	14
Other	39.22%	20



8. Would you like outdoor fitness equipment in the park? Required

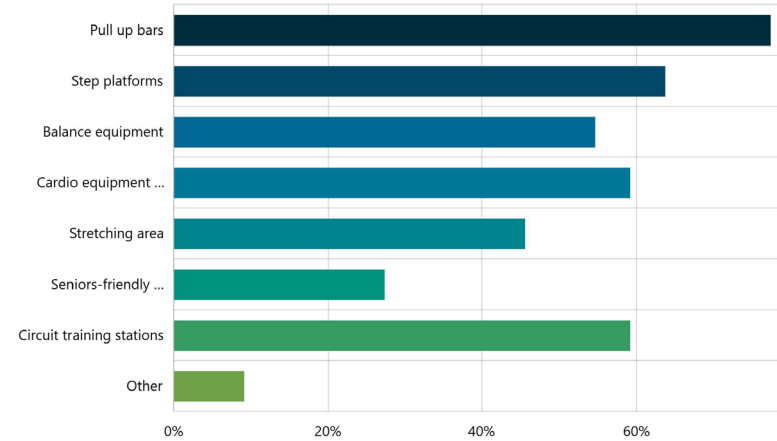
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 51 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	43.14%	22
No	39.22%	20
Not sure	17.65%	9
Total	100.00%	51

9. What type of equipment would you use? Required

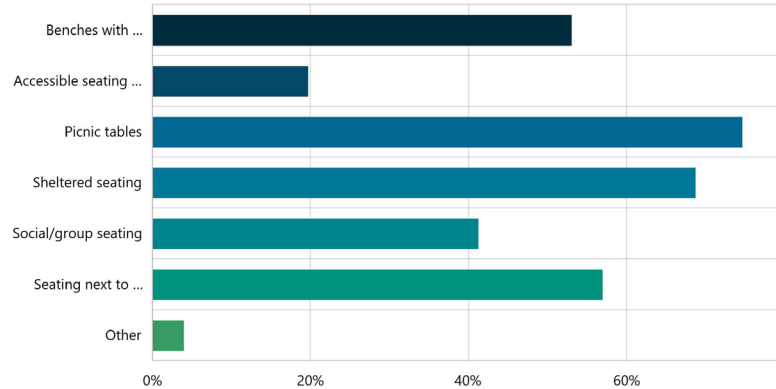
Multi Choice | Skipped: 29 | Answered: 22 (43.1%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Pull up bars	77.27%	17
Step platforms	63.64%	14
Balance equipment	54.55%	12
Cardio equipment (bike/elliptical style)	59.09%	13
Stretching area	45.45%	10
Seniors-friendly equipment	27.27%	6
Circuit training stations	59.09%	13
Other	9.09%	2

10. What seating would you use? Required

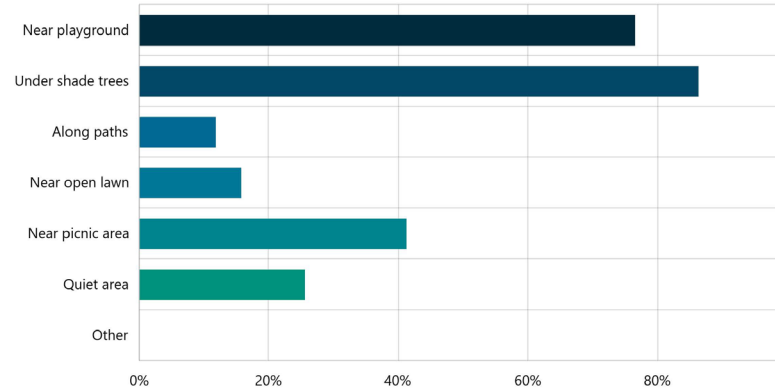
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 51 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Benches with backrests and armrests	52.94%	27
Accessible seating (arms/space for prams and wheelchairs)	19.61%	10
Picnic tables	74.51%	38
Sheltered seating	68.63%	35
Social/group seating	41.18%	21
Seating next to playground	56.86%	29
Other	3.92%	2

11. Where should the seating be? Required

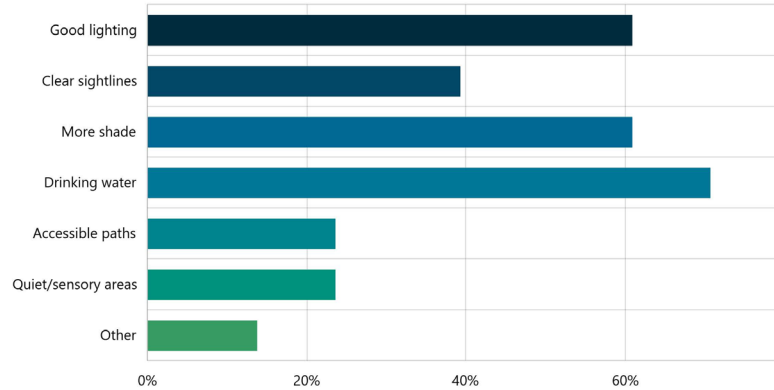
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 51 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Near playground	76.47%	39
Under shade trees	86.27%	44
Along paths	11.76%	6
Near open lawn	15.69%	8
Near picnic area	41.18%	21
Quiet area	25.49%	13
Other	0%	0

12. What would help you feel comfortable using the park? Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 51 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Good lighting	60.78%	31
Clear sightlines	39.22%	20
More shade	60.78%	31
Drinking water	70.59%	36
Accessible paths	23.53%	12
Quiet/sensory areas	23.53%	12
Other	13.73%	7

13. Any other suggestions for the park?

Long Text | Skipped: 14 | Answered: 37 (72.5%)

Sentiment

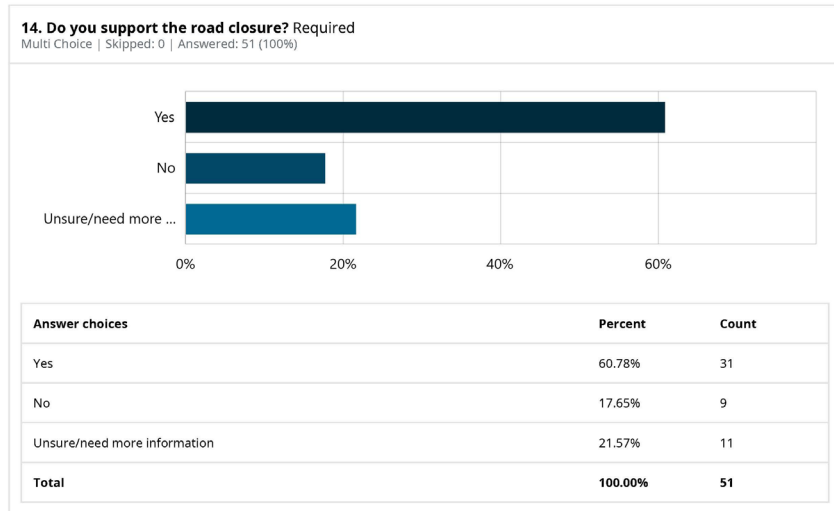
No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions



Below is the community feedback received in response to the question, “Any other suggestions for the park?” for James Reserve during the initial consultation phase:

Date Submitted	Description
Mar 27, 2026, 10:35 AM	Would love to see a bike track for kids to ride around. It's hard to teach children to ride around the streets. I would love see see a track for riding a bike which will give children more confidence to continue riding around the streets and less relying on cars.
Mar 21, 2026, 08:11 AM	Fenced with gates for entry and exit for safety of young children and pets, noting it is surrounded by 3 roads.
Mar 20, 2026, 04:09 PM	Make dromana street a cul-de-sac and join the two parks together. Then we'd really have something. Lots of other options minimises disruption
Mar 20, 2026, 03:18 PM	Basketball hoop, half court
Mar 20, 2026, 02:01 PM	Living directly across the road, we have been regular and active users of the park for the past 10–15 years and have a strong understanding of how the space functions in different conditions. <u>Flooding and ground conditions</u> The park is prone to flooding during heavy rain events. On multiple occasions, mulch has been washed toward the front of my property and, at times, into my front yard. Given these conditions, features such as sandpits or in-ground trampolines would not be suitable for this location, as they are likely to be impacted by water, erosion, and ongoing maintenance issues. <u>Seating and comfort</u> The existing seating area is well positioned for warmer weather, as it benefits from the shade of a large tree. This is an asset and should be retained. However, the seating is extremely cold and exposed during cooler months. I would recommend retaining and upgrading the existing shaded seating (including repainting and potentially adding shelter), while also installing an additional bench in full sun — ideally on the eastern or southern edge of the park — to provide a comfortable option during winter. For child safety, this seating should remain within clear sight of the play equipment. <u>Linkage to the adjacent reserve</u> If feasible, linking the park to the spare block directly across the road would significantly enhance the overall use of the space. That block is currently underutilised and neglected, but if properly connected, the two areas could function as a single, larger park, offering greater flexibility and improved recreational outcomes for the community. <u>Dog management</u> The park is regularly used by dog owners, and unfortunately dog faeces is often left behind. Installing a dog waste bag dispenser would be a simple and practical measure to improve cleanliness and amenity. <u>Lighting and anti-social behaviour</u> Lighting should be upgraded. The park is known to attract older children and groups at night, and this has resulted in damage to equipment, broken glass, and general misuse of the space. Improved lighting would enhance safety, visibility, and passive surveillance, helping to reduce these issues.

Date Submitted	Description
Mar 17, 2026, 03:03 PM	Enough rubbish bins so the area can be kept clean.
Mar 17, 2026, 02:21 AM	The park equipment is currently suited to very young children. Being so close to the primary school I would love equipment that will hold the attention of my 7 year old, now and as she grows. Climbing frames, water play, obstacle courses, incorporating nature where possible. Shade and seating is important to me as a supervisor as well.
Mar 16, 2026, 11:15 PM	Half basketball court. Zip line from top of hill to bottom. Area for dog off leash.
Mar 16, 2026, 10:01 PM	I feel the most important priority for the park is more dense planting of indigenous/native species - large/medium canopy trees and shrubs that will provide protection from sun, cool the environment and very importantly provide food and habitat for wildlife. The park also needs 2-3 water fountains with bowls at the base to collect water for animals - both native and domestic. This summer I witnessed so many heat-stressed birds and several dead possums, most likely due to lack of accessible water. More seats to sit and enjoy the surroundings and for parents to watch their children would make the park very amenable to spending time alone or in groups.
Mar 16, 2026, 09:05 PM	Fully fenced area would be great, maybe with a path around the perimeter so kids can scooter or ride their bikes
Mar 16, 2026, 02:52 PM	bbq, more seating but doesn't need to be near the playground given the small size of the park. Lighting shouldn't be too much, there's a tawny frogmouth breeding pair that nest and raise their young at this park every year that I can remember.
Mar 15, 2026, 02:20 PM	Please keep a tunnel and roundabout, they keep so many memories for us
Mar 15, 2026, 10:11 AM	Closer of the Road to create a New Amazing Park
Mar 15, 2026, 09:56 AM	If the closer of the Road between the existing Parks will be possible that will create an amazing New Park Hopefully more trees and shrubs will be planted The Small BBQ located close to the existing Picnic Table Area
Mar 14, 2026, 11:01 AM	Bigger slide, Water slide, temporary cafe / market space, More shade
Mar 13, 2026, 10:51 AM	Toilet Baby friendly equipment, eg swing, low tunnel Shade sails

Date Submitted	Description
Mar 12, 2026, 09:48 PM	Happy with park as it is. It is well used, well loved. The kids, community love the trees. The space is used for a range of play-related activities. Why fix something if it isn't broken?
Mar 12, 2026, 09:18 PM	BBQ would be great.
Mar 12, 2026, 07:10 PM	we live close by, but with with the way the playground is currently fenced it is impossible to feel safe when going with more than one child and each are playing separately so we go elsewhere. would love a playground similar to service st playground, where it is enclosed, there is water play and space to explore nature.
Mar 12, 2026, 01:17 PM	Place a Drinking fountain Rebuilt the entire Playground from scratch
Mar 12, 2026, 09:40 AM	Lots of shade trees would be great. Deep shade is critical in our hot summers. Think Hill Fig trees, Liquidamber species etc.
Mar 11, 2026, 07:52 PM	Road closure of Dromana Ave at Norton St will enable joining the two green spaces on either side of Dromana Ave. This would enable safe movement between both sides, could help optimise the separation of space into active and passive, and would enable separation of spaces attractive to young families from users wanting to either exercise or enjoy the quiet and shade. It is imperative that stormwater infrastructure is improved to cope with large rainfall events which are expected to intensify under a changing climate; the park is currently impacted by such events with floodwater swamping the playground, dispersing mulch throughout the park and onto Norton Avenue causing drains in that street to block-up. There appears to be sufficient runoff that could be captured to supplement flows to the wetland in Gavin Park, or to support the sale due to be constructed on the western side of Cumberland Road opposite.
Mar 11, 2026, 10:10 AM	This park is great but really needs a BBQ area with some more shelter, seating and water tap. A flying fox for the kids would also be great.
Mar 11, 2026, 09:59 AM	I like the possibility of closing some or all of the roadway between the two open spaces on Dromana Avenue, this would add so much more amenity to the area and assist in sharing the communal space. If road closure is not acceptable to the community, then at the very least Dromana Ave and Norton Street should be 20-30kmh shared zones. But northern end of Dromana Ave, just makes so much sense on these local roads. It could add space to have some community gardens/veggie patches etc as well as play, picnicking and community spaces etc.
Mar 11, 2026, 09:49 AM	Shade sails over play area
Mar 11, 2026, 09:36 AM	Community garden

Date Submitted	Description
Mar 11, 2026, 09:13 AM	Carve out some parking bays longways at the edge of the park, so not everyone is parking on the street. Different equipment to cater for toddlers and older children. No open edges up high on the toddler equipment that toddlers could fall from. Nature play and natural colours. Enclosed fenced shady playspace. Toilet if possible. What you have done at York St and Service St is fantastic, so doing that but with toilets, parking would be awesome
Mar 11, 2026, 08:25 AM	I love the large shade trees. Please make sure these are preserved.
Mar 10, 2026, 11:02 PM	Shade shade shade!!! It's hard to find things to do with active toddlers in the main hours of the day in summer, besides the pool or other paid classes. Some parks are oppressively hot until 5pm during warm months but shade makes such a big difference. We love water play, nature play and musical chimes that actually sound good. Thank you :)
Mar 10, 2026, 10:34 PM	An outdoor chess table Outdoor DJ play equipment (we saw one at Thomas St South Reserve)
Mar 10, 2026, 09:00 PM	Please no big rocks near the playground. It's a risk for serious injury while children are running and playing.
Mar 10, 2026, 08:05 PM	Flying fox is very popular at nearby park. Please consider toddler sized equipment as well as older children. Thank you
Mar 10, 2026, 05:48 PM	Pascoe Vale could use a pump track like Norris Bank Reserve for all the young families with kids learning to ride. I love that the council is prioritising shade in their park renovations and I would like to see shade over the actual playgrounds - a plastic slide on a sunny day easily becomes unusable.
Mar 10, 2026, 04:32 PM	This is a great playground for parents and grandparents to bring children up to pre-school age, don't design it for older children, the Austine Cres playground is for older children and just as accessible. It just needs a few tweaks.
Mar 10, 2026, 03:34 PM	Less lawn and more shrubs to give it a bushy feel. Open area around the playground only

Date Submitted	Description
Mar 10, 2026, 01:53 PM	This park is heavily used by families in the area and from the local school. This park would benefit greatly by having a BBQ area with shade, seating and water tap so families can use this facility for longer periods rather than having to rush home to make dinner. This will give kids more time outside. It would also be great to block off the end of Dromana Ave to create one big space for recreational activities. Some more trees planted would also be great. Council have made some great park upgrades such as Rayner Reserve in Oak Park and these ideas could be adapted to James Reserve. Thanks very much for upgrading this great space.
Mar 10, 2026, 01:06 PM	None of the nearby parks have toilets. Austin cres has a toilet but you have to cross a road to reach it, and the advertised baby change facility has been missing for at least 18 months. None of the nearby playgrounds are fully fenced. None of the nearby playgrounds have water play facilities. None of the nearby playgrounds have accessible play equipment. None of the nearby playgrounds are safe from dogs. This playground should be fully fenced, and preferably the park should be completely dog free. There are plenty of nearby off lead areas and no areas that children can play without being approached by dogs. Playgrounds in off lead dog areas aren't fit for purpose as dog owners don't take responsibility for their dogs and leash them when near the play space. Fences should encompass some open space to run around safely, not just the play equipment itself. There is nowhere for toddlers who are still learning how to be safe to explore in the area. Thank you.

Below is the community feedback received in response to the question, “Do you support the road closure? Please tell us why you gave that response.” for James Reserve during the initial consultation phase:

Date Submitted	Description
Mar 27, 2026, 10:35 AM	To improve the our local park
Mar 21, 2026, 04:21 PM	This would severely increase traffic in adjacent streets which are already heavily used, particularly during school times. Residents in Ann st often have difficulty getting in and out of street during busy times. Closing theses streets off will only congest other streets.
Mar 21, 2026, 08:11 AM	Closing Dromana Street North only would be good, as residents can still access from Ann and Camdon, and assuming this means you could extend the Reserve to the other green area. Would be much safer as well.
Mar 20, 2026, 04:09 PM	It would be great!!!! Could lead to increased numbers on Ann street
Mar 20, 2026, 02:01 PM	Yes, I am strongly in favour of both roads being closed. 1. Safety and traffic movement The current traffic movements through the chicanes present a genuine and ongoing safety risk. Vehicles travelling south from Prospect into Camden are required to negotiate complex turning movements, while northbound traffic from Camden, Dromana and Ann Streets converges at the same point. This configuration regularly creates conflict points, particularly during peak school times (8–9am and 3–4pm). I personally observe frequent near-misses, including incidents involving school children, which indicates the risk is not theoretical but active and recurring. In my view, leaving the current arrangement unchanged significantly increases the likelihood of a serious incident. If full closure is not supported, then at a minimum, additional traffic-calming measures should be implemented — specifically speed humps on the northern end of Camden Street, and potentially on Norton and Dromana Streets near the Senior Citizens Centre — to materially reduce vehicle speed and improve safety. 2. Improved park function and amenity As outlined in my previous comments regarding the park upgrade, closing Dromana Street would substantially enhance the functionality, safety and overall quality of the park space. Removing through-traffic allows the park to operate as a cohesive and flexible recreational area, enabling older children and broader community groups to use the facilities more freely for a wider range of activities. This change would significantly improve the park’s usability and reinforce its role as a safe, welcoming community space rather than one constrained by adjacent vehicle movement. 3. The combination of Dromana and Norton St will give the area more character and allows the street to function as a place, not just a transport corridor. This creates space for people rather than cars — encouraging walking, informal gathering, outdoor seating, landscaping, and visual openness. This is commonly associated with high-end rural towns, where the absence of traffic noise and vehicle pressure contributes to a sense of calm, and escape from urban pace.

Date Submitted	Description
Mar 17, 2026, 03:03 PM	In the past we have spoken to council with thus exact suggestion snd we know if at least 2 other residents who also have
Mar 17, 2026, 02:21 AM	I use those roads as a back route to Pascoe Vale Primary School. An open space that I would use on the walk home from school and as a meetup place with other parents is more desirable to me than an additional route to school in the car.
Mar 16, 2026, 11:15 PM	Local resident; we use east area for kicking football; throwing ball with dog.
Mar 16, 2026, 10:01 PM	Because if it is to be redeveloped as a nature reserve and gathering area then reduced access will protect and make it safer and more peaceful for humans and wildlife. Currently most vehicles speed down Camdon Street and Dromana Avenue because of the perceived thrill of accelerating downhill.
Mar 16, 2026, 09:05 PM	This will allow for the park to encompass both areas and allow children access to a larger grassed area safely
Mar 16, 2026, 02:52 PM	I support a road closure in principle, I live along the park and use it daily. I am concerned about implications of road closure on surrounding streets. Already used as a rat run to avoid Gaffney st / Cumberland intersection. A connected park is amazing, we are always running across the road for balls - therefore speed humps may be required on Ann or Camdon street to manage the non-local traffic. If you are closing Norton st west, how do residents from Camdon St head north? would be sending them on to Gaffney st then back down Ann st. The corner of Norton / Ann st is already dangerous given parking on the bend, very chaotic at school time - this would need to be adressed.
Mar 15, 2026, 10:11 AM	This will create a New Amazing and Safe park. This area is a social hub for children It is close to Pascoe Vale Primary School and Pascoe Vale Swimming Pool It is full of children of all ages The closure of the Road will create and incredible Safe Park for children to enjoy
Mar 15, 2026, 09:56 AM	This will create an excellent Park This area is visited by many children It is close to the Pascoe Vale Primary School and Pascoe vale Swimming Pool and it is a Social Hub for kids of all ages
Mar 14, 2026, 09:42 PM	Are we getting more park space by closing the road?Also you guys need to proof read your question
Mar 14, 2026, 08:26 AM	Fixing the park is important
Mar 13, 2026, 10:51 AM	I like it from a safety perspective when using the park, however live in Archibald St so I'm concerned the road closure will increase traffic in our street, which is already substantial as people avoid the speed bumps on Northumberland and the Norton St junction on Camdon and Dromana Sts.

Date Submitted	Description
Mar 13, 2026, 01:38 AM	I use the side streets to avoid traffic congestion
Mar 12, 2026, 09:48 PM	Need to understand the idea further.
Mar 12, 2026, 09:18 PM	It would create a larger more inviting playground. Being so close to the school the playground is very popular and busy so more space would be ideal and Those roads are easily accessible by Gaffney st.
Mar 12, 2026, 07:10 PM	depends on what is going to be done with the park if the disruption of a road closure will be worth it.
Mar 12, 2026, 04:43 PM	Are you closing it while works are happening only or permanently? How long will it be closed for?
Mar 12, 2026, 01:17 PM	Don't know
Mar 12, 2026, 09:40 AM	It makes sense given the park is split in two. These are also quiet streets.
Mar 11, 2026, 07:52 PM	Road closure of Dromana Ave at Norton St will enable joining the two green spaces on either side of Dromana Ave. This would enable safe pedestrian movement between both sides, could help optimise the separation of space into active and passive, and would enable separation of spaces attractive to young families from users wanting to either exercise or enjoy the quiet and shade. It is imperative that stormwater infrastructure is improved to cope with large rainfall events which are expected to intensify under a changing climate; the park is currently impacted by such events with floodwater swamping the playground, dispersing mulch throughout the park and onto Norton Avenue causing drains in that street to block-up. There appears to be sufficient runoff that could be captured to supplement flows to the wetland in Gavin Park, or to support the swale due to be constructed on the western side of Cumberland Road opposite. Closing Dromana Avenue and joining the parks could also incorporate clear and safe street parking in Norton Street.
Mar 11, 2026, 10:10 AM	More space for the kids to play and less crazy drivers cutting through these small streets.
Mar 11, 2026, 09:59 AM	See above >> I like the possibility of closing some or all of the roadway between the two open spaces on Dromana Avenue, this would add so much more amenity to the area and assist in sharing the communal space. If road closure is not acceptable to the community, then at the very least Dromana Ave and Norton Street should be 20-30kmh shared zones. But northern end of Dromana Ave, just makes so much sense on these local roads. It could add space to have some community gardens/veggie patches etc as well as play, picnicking and community spaces etc.
Mar 11, 2026, 09:49 AM	fencing for playground is more sufficient. roadblocks cause frustration and congestion

Date Submitted	Description
Mar 11, 2026, 09:13 AM	We drive this street twice a day. Closing this street would direct us onto busy, less safe streets
Mar 11, 2026, 08:25 AM	The eastern part of the reserve is not well used as it is separated by the road. The proposed road closure would help safety and ensure more effective use.
Mar 11, 2026, 04:45 AM	Need more information about how/where the roads would be closed, and the cost involved in closing the road to be able to provide an informed decision about the cost/benifits if doing so. Council has limited resources, and closing one/two roads would potentially divert funding from other park space upgrades which might be more beneficial to a bigger cohort of the community.
Mar 10, 2026, 11:02 PM	Don't care about cars. Care way more about pedestrian spaces and community safety particularly for small children
Mar 10, 2026, 10:34 PM	It will make two small parks into an incredible space. Also, much safer than having kids run between the parks.
Mar 10, 2026, 09:00 PM	Safer for kids.
Mar 10, 2026, 08:05 PM	Seems unnecessary, it's a very quiet road as it is
Mar 10, 2026, 05:48 PM	Closing Dromana Ave. North and adding a couple of parking spots would make it accessible to more than the immediate neighbourhood.
Mar 10, 2026, 04:32 PM	Archibald St is already being used excessively as a rat run with speeding traffic, this would make Archibald St much worse. All this area needs are traffic calming measures such as cushions and pedestion crossings.
Mar 10, 2026, 04:22 PM	Not an issue for me
Mar 10, 2026, 03:34 PM	I don't drive around that area. Don't see many cars so it shouldn't be an issue
Mar 10, 2026, 01:53 PM	I think closing off those parts of the roads will reduce people using these streets as a throughway and driving like maniacs and it will also provide more open space to be used for recreation. I think this is a great idea, thanks.
Mar 10, 2026, 01:06 PM	Current configuration is not safe for children to use.