

Concept Plan Feedback Summary Report:

Gladeswood Reserve Design Upgrade

Executive Summary

This report summarises the community engagement feedback to the draft concept plan for the Gladeswood Reserve playspace and recreation upgrade in Mulgrave.

The Gladeswood Reserve playspace will be upgraded to a 'district' classification, serving residents within a 2.5km radius. The design guidelines include up to 12 items of play equipment for intergenerational groups, a double barbecue with paving and shelter, a shade sail over the play area, an accessible picnic table setting, a drinking fountain, rubbish bins, and bike racks.

The allocated design budget will cover the playspace upgrade, active recreation space, fitness hub, and site investigations for a new public toilet. The equipment will prioritise high-level play opportunities, complement nearby playspaces, and incorporate nature-based elements like rocks, logs and plantings, along with some water play features. The design will also emphasise social interaction, inclusivity, and a wheelchair-accessible path system.

Construction of the playspace will be considered as part of the 2025/26 annual budget process.

The key themes of the feedback are outlined below and will be discussed in this report.

1. New elements and ideas:

The draft concept was well received and appreciated by the majority of respondents, particularly noting the unique play equipment. Positive comments highlight the inclusion of intergenerational activities, which feature multipurpose courts, an outdoor fitness area, and senior playspaces with water features and play challenges.

2. Parking and shade:

The upgrade to a district playspace, intended to serve a broader community, may increase parking strain and traffic congestion on weekends. Additionally, planting new trees to provide shade is essential to enhance the user experience at the reserve.

3. Fence and dog off-leash space:

Concerns have been raised regarding the potential loss of dog off-leash areas due to the proposed upgrade encroaching on the central open space. Some respondents have expressed the need for a fully fenced playspace and a designated sectioned-off dog off-leash area.

4. Opposition to reserve upgrade vision:

A minority of respondents advocated for the reserve to remain less developed, expressing concerns about potential disruption and the impact on the reserve's existing balance.

This feedback will be carefully considered in the design refinement stage. Please turn to page 3 of this report to read Council's responses.

Summary of Feedback

Methods of engagement and stakeholders

The consultation period for this engagement ran from **18 November to 15 December 2024**.

The key stakeholders targeted included residents living within a 2.5km radius of the reserve, Councillors and relevant internal departments.

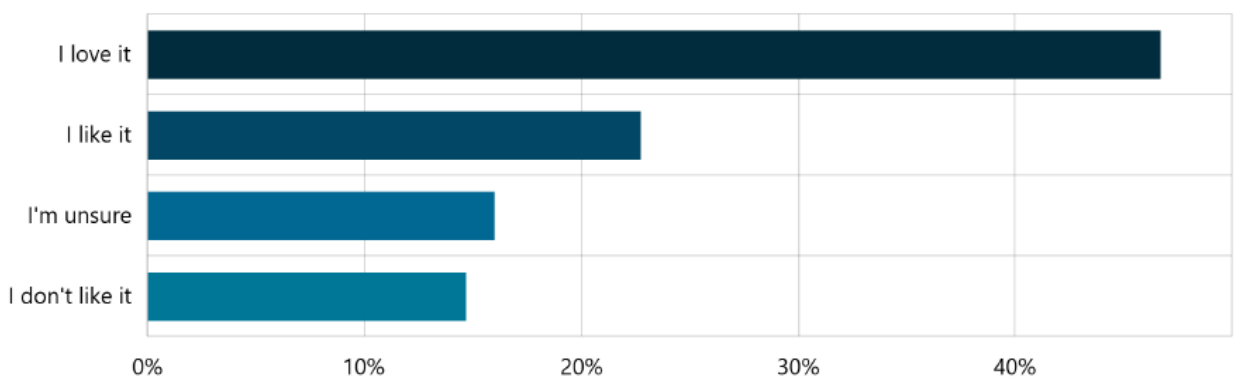
Methods used to contact and engage these stakeholders include:

- Council’s internal newsletter
- *Monash Bulletin*
- a letter drop to residents within a 400m radius of the reserve
- On-site signage for regular users of the playspace
- extensive social media campaign to areas within 2.5km radius
- an on-site consultation session with the Gladeswood Reserve Action Group on 21 November 2024
- an on-site consultation with Mulgrave Primary School’s student representative on 21 November 2024
- an open on-site consultation session at the existing playground on 26 November 2024
- poster notices at Mulgrave Farmer’s Market, Waverley Foothills Preschool, and Monash Toy Libraries in Mulgrave
- Notification to the reserve’s tenant cubs
- a survey on the Shape Monash engagement platform, and email notification to project followers.

Response to questions

We received 77 responses online, 9 attendees and 4 responses at the on-site session and 18 students participated in our school session. Below is a breakdown of the feedback, as well as Council’s responses to the key themes identified.

Question – How do you/your child feel about the draft concept plan? (online only)





On-site consultation at existing playground: A total of 9 residents attended our on-site consultation session, with 4 residents completing hard copies of the survey questionnaire. All feedback was positive, expressing enthusiasm about the upgraded Gladeswood Reserve concept plan.

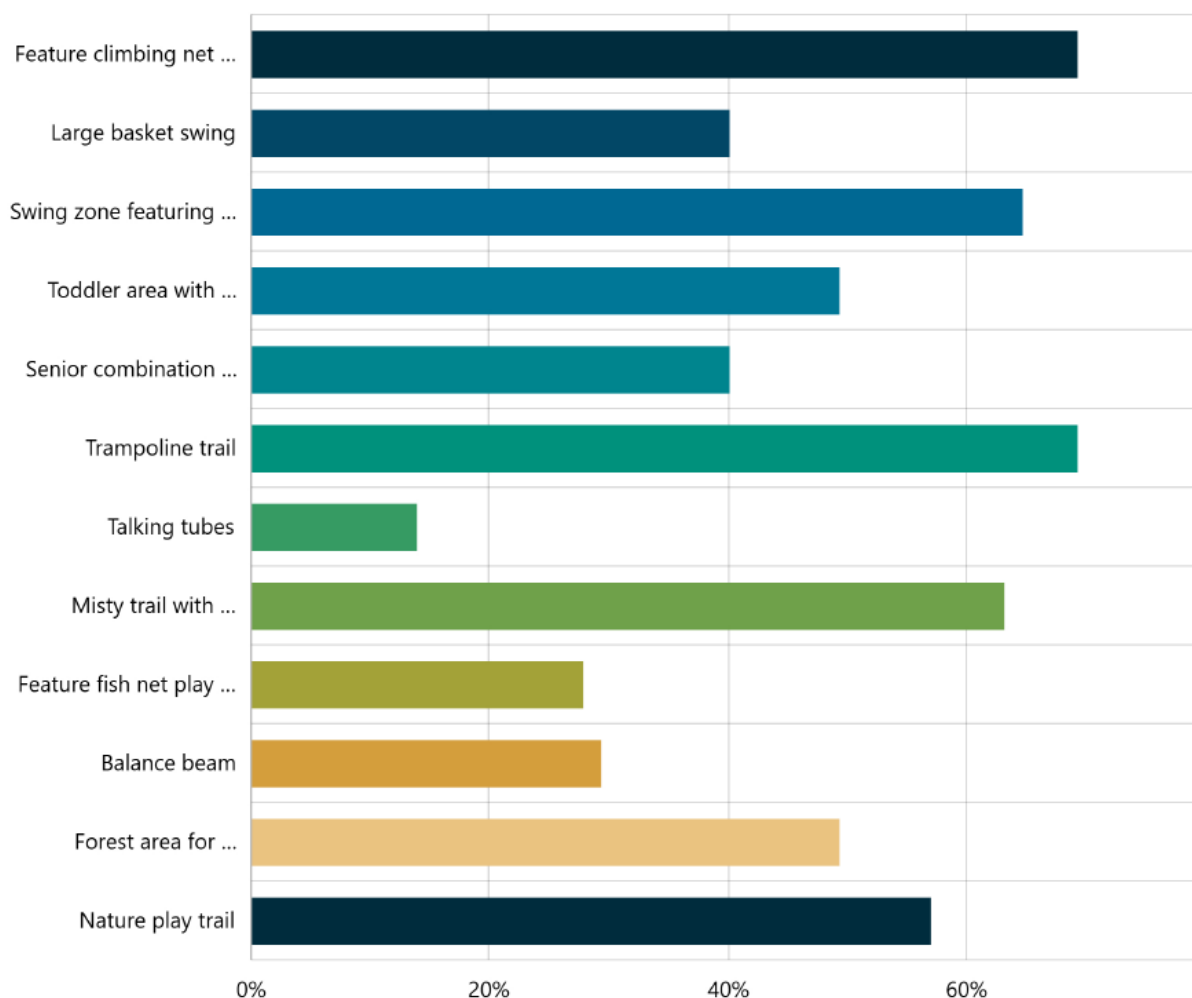
On-site consultation with Gladeswood Reserve Action Group: The meeting highlighted positive feedback on the district-level reserve's improvements and proposed infrastructure, including a playground, active recreation space, outdoor fitness area, barbecue, and sheltered picnic facilities. The centralised concept plan was well-received for preserving open space.

However, concerns were raised about potential traffic congestion on Maygrove Way, unclear parking arrangements, and the limited dog off-leash area. Safety issues were noted, emphasising the need for playground fencing, adherence to Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, and the positioning of the proposed toilet. Additionally, the proposed swale rocks were flagged for safety concerns, and more tree planting, particularly Jacaranda trees, was requested for shade.

The Gladeswood Reserve Action Group members also attended the open on-site consultation session to further understand the site markings of the proposed area and provided additional positive feedback.

All feedback received has been recorded and passed on to the Project Working Group for review and consideration in refining the concept plan.

Question – What are your/your child’s favourite elements on the draft concept plan? (online only)

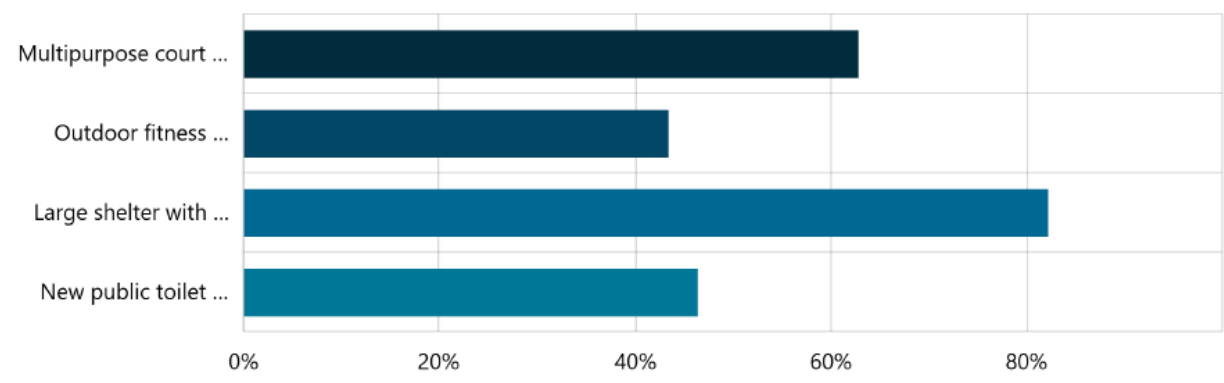


Online survey: We received 65 responses to this question, with both the feature climbing net and trampoline trail being the most frequently selected, followed by swing zone, misty trail, nature play trail, toddler area, large basket swing, senior combination, balance beam, feature fish net play and lastly, talking tubes.

On-site consultation: We received 4 responses to this question, with the majority selecting all features.

Mulgrave Primary School consultation visit: 18 student representatives from grades 3 to 5 participated in a vote to select their favourite playground equipment. The flying fox was the top choice, followed by the feature climbing net, multipurpose courts, swing zone, senior combination unit, and feature fish net. A common suggestion for improving the playground design was to extend the flying fox or add an additional one to enhance the overall play experience.

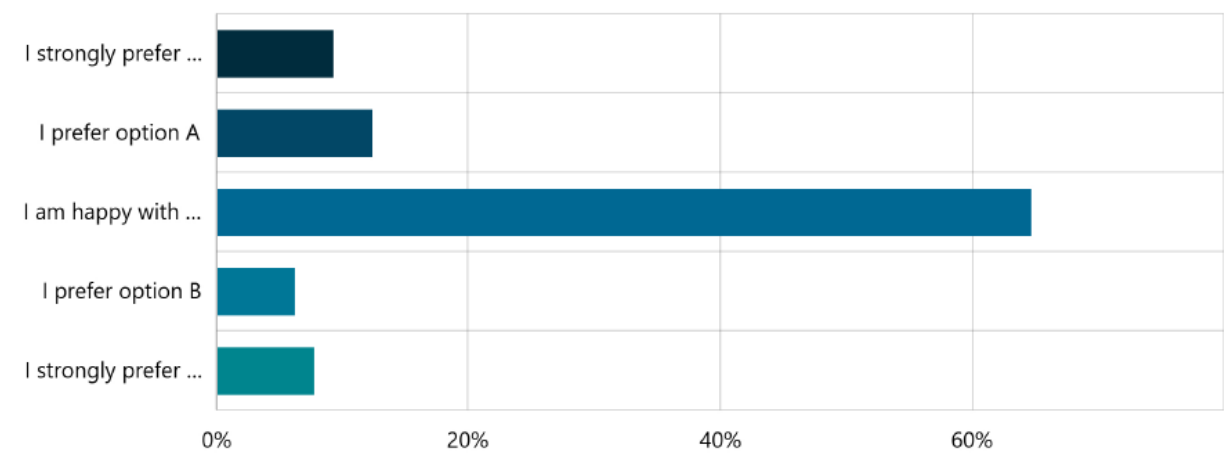
Question – What are your/your child’s favourite recreational and other infrastructure elements on the draft concept plan? (online only)



Online survey: We received 67 responses to this question. The most favoured element was the large shelter with a picnic setting area, followed by the multipurpose court, new public toilet location with front screening, and outdoor fitness equipment for multigenerational use.

On-site consultation: We received 4 responses to this question, with the majority selecting all features.

Question – The concept design includes two potential locations for public toilets with front screening for privacy. Which do you prefer? (online only)



Online survey: We received 65 responses to this question. The majority indicated satisfaction with either option A or B for the new toilet location. The designer has noted this feedback and will proceed with further site investigations to finalise the proposed location, ensuring appropriate connections to existing power and electrical infrastructure.

On-site consultation: We received 4 responses to this question, with the majority selecting Option B.

Question – Do you have any further feedback on the draft concept plan?

Online survey: 48 respondents answered this question.

The majority of respondents appreciated the proposed upgrade to Gladeswood Reserve playspace, and to the active recreation area, multipurpose courts, and outdoor fitness equipment. Most were excited about the variety of new play equipment. A few respondents expressed concerns, preferring more play challenges for older children, an active recreation area, and maintaining the natural environment with fewer built structures.

The key themes of feedback are addressed below:

Theme	Our response
New elements and ideas	<i>The designer will refine the current design layout, incorporating the feedback received, and work on detailed documentation.</i>
Dog off-leash space and fence	<i>All of Gladeswood Reserve is a designated dog off-leash area. While the new playspace and active recreation areas will reduce some open space, the current playground site will be restored to open grass and remain an off-leash area. Per Dog Control Order No. 6, dogs must be kept 20 metres from the playground. The new playground will not be enclosed, adhering to the Playspace Design Standards and Council's Dog Off-Leash Policy, which states that we do not fence for dogs. However, the designer will consider visual barriers to deter dogs from entering the playspace.</i>
Parking and shade	<i>Feedback has been passed on to the appropriate internal teams. The traffic engineering team will implement measures to manage the anticipated increase in traffic, while the tree planting team has acknowledged the request for new trees to provide future shade and will address this to improve the reserve.</i>
Opposition to reserve upgrade vision	<i>A minority of respondents preferred keeping the playground as a 'local' playspace. Upgrading it to a district-scale playspace will reduce barriers to active recreation and offer more options, especially for intergenerational groups. The upgraded playspace and active recreation space aim to make the reserve more accessible and attractive, addressing community needs and aligning with Council strategies.</i>

Who we heard from

We asked respondents some demographic questions in the online survey, which are summarised below. Data from the Mulgrave Primary School consultation visit is not included.

- **Age group:** 50 per cent of respondents completed the survey on behalf of a child. Of these, 47 per cent were primary school aged, and 40 per cent were preschool aged or younger. Among the adult respondents, the majority were aged between 35 and 49 years old (51 per cent).
- **Gender:** 52 per cent of adult respondents who filled out the survey were women. Among those who completed the survey on behalf of a child, 57 per cent were for boys and 34 per cent for girls.
- **Suburb:** Majority of respondents (84 per cent) lived in Mulgrave, with the remainder residing in Wheelers Hill, Clayton, Glen Waverley, Hughesdale, and other areas outside Monash.



Next steps

Thank you to everyone who provided their feedback for the concept design stage of the Gladeswood Reserve upgrade.

This report, and the underlying feedback, will be used by the project team and the designers to refine the design in line with the project's budget and scope.

The designer will finalise the playground upgrade details by mid-2025. Funding for the construction will be considered by Council as part of the 2025/26 annual budget process. If confirmed, we will share the final concept plan before construction.

- This report, and other updates on the project, will be shared on the Shape Monash project page: <https://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/playspace-2025-26>