

Feedback Summary Report: Mount Waverley Reserve Active Recreation Design

Executive Summary

Council developed a concept design for the new active recreation space at Mount Waverley Reserve, Mount Waverley, in line with the recommendations outlined within the reserve's masterplan and the Monash Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy. The project aims to provide non-structured recreation opportunities for the community, enhancing health and well-being and increasing opportunities for social connection.

The project's design was included in the 2023/2024 capital works program, and construction is expected to be completed as part of the 2026/2027 capital works program.

70 respondents provided us with their feedback on the draft Mount Waverley Reserve Active Recreation Space design, with three key themes emerging. These are listed below and explored further within this report.

Overall, a majority of 45% of respondents indicated they 'liked' or 'loved' the concept plan and 39% of respondents indicated they 'did not like' the concept. 16% of respondents indicated they were 'unsure'.

Full sized tennis courts

33% of respondents expressed a strong desire for full-sized tennis courts to remain on the site, voicing concerns that the hit-up wall would be too congested and did not leave enough room for the local tennis community to use the space.

Diversity of activities

Some respondents felt the active recreation space catered for various sports and provided a good variety of activities, while a few respondents felt it needed more activities, such as a rock-climbing wall.

Those who liked or loved the design cited reasoning such as a good use of a compact space, considerate of and catering to different interests, and providing recreational opportunities for those wanting to play non-club sports.

A few others believed the design did not cater enough to multiple age groups (namely older or very young residents), and that the design was too crowded with ball-sport activities. Note: this area is complimented by adjacent Mt Waverley District Playspace (incl BBQ and picnic) facilities which caters for intergenerational family/social recreation.

Other amenities

A few respondents felt the design needed to cater for other amenities, such as paved dog off-leash walking paths, benches for people to rest, drinking fountains, barbeques, toilets, lighting and bins.

One respondent made a comment regarding the need for playground equipment. A full-size playground is currently being built at this reserve, which we sought feedback on in early 2023. It is due for completion in June 2024 (weather depending).

Summary of Feedback

Methods of engagement and stakeholders

The consultation period for this engagement project was from 22 April – 19 May 2024.

The key stakeholders targeted were residents within a 400m radius of the reserve, tenant clubs of the reserve, Councillors and relevant internal departments.

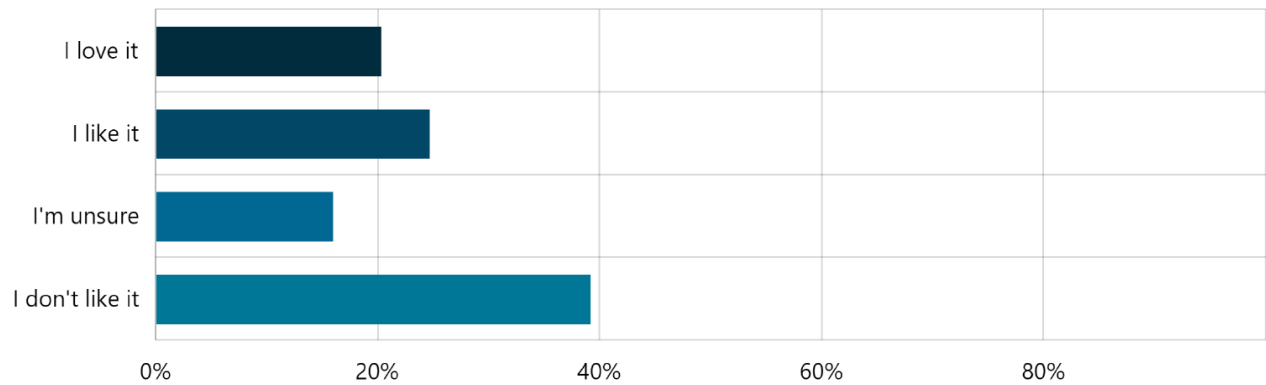
Various methods of engagement were used to contact and engage with these stakeholders, including Council’s internal e-bulletin newsletter, direct emails to the tenant clubs and internal staff, a letter drop to nearby residents, social media posts on Council’s channels and a survey on the Shape Monash engagement platform.

Response to questions

Below is a breakdown of the feedback received from each question, as well as Council’s response to the key themes identified.

Question 1 - How do you feel about the draft concept plan for the Active Recreation Space?

Ratings



69 responses were received to this question, with 20 per cent saying they loved the design, 25 per cent liked it (45% positive), 16 per cent were unsure and 39 per cent (39% negative) did not like it.

It is important to note that of the 38 respondents who selected “I don’t like it” or “unsure,” 33 related to the lack of a full-size tennis court in the design.

Question 2 – Why do you feel that way?

60 of the 70 respondents responded to this question.

Around half of these respondents were not overly positive about the proposed features and elements of the active recreation space, with many expressing the need for a full-size tennis court to engage the community. Those who liked the Active Recreation Space were complimentary on the number of activities available to the community.

The key themes of feedback are addressed below (which are also relevant for Question 4):

Theme	Our response
Full sized tennis court Some respondents queried why the design for the active space was different to the one initially presented in the Mount Waverley Reserve Masterplan.	<i>Masterplans serve as aspirational plans, illustrating how a specific area might appear to guide and influence the design phase. For this project, the priority was to create an inclusive, active recreation space that enables the community to engage in multiple sports concurrently. Rather than emphasising competitive play, the design aims to create a versatile, social, and recreational participation environment for the whole community to enjoy. This approach aligns with the Monash Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy.</i> <i>A full-size tennis court would also require the space to be fully enclosed, which was not supported.</i> <i>The Monash Tennis Plan also identified that the Mount Waverley/Glen Waverley area is oversupplied with tennis courts with tennis facilities close by at the new Glen Waverley Sports Hub, Essex Heights Tennis Club, Notting Hill/Pinewood Tennis Club, Tally Ho Tennis Club, Mayfield Park Tennis Club & Glen Waverley Tennis Club.</i>
Diversity of Activities	<i>Thanks for the comments, these will be considered in the concept design in line with the project scope and budget.</i> <i>Sign up for updates to see the final design when it is ready at: https://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/active-space</i>
Other amenities For example: dog off-leash area, playground equipment, benches etc.	<i>The playground redevelopment at the reserve is currently under construction which focuses on play equipment for younger kids. It is due for completion in June 2024 (weather depending).</i> <i>A perimeter pathway is currently under construction as part of the Mount Waverley Reserve Oval redevelopment. This will also involve the installation of park benches around the reserve for those wanting a rest. Council endeavours to cater to all resident's needs within our open spaces and have off-leash areas across the municipality for people to exercise their pets. Information on off-leash areas can be found at: https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Dog-off-leash-areas</i> <i>To find out more about what amenities are already available at the reserve, please see: https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Things-to-Do/Parks-Recreation/Mount-Waverley-Reserve</i>

Question 3. What are your favourite elements on the draft concept plan?

53 of the 70 respondents responded to this question. The favourite elements in order of preference are listed below:

Tennis hit up wall: 58 per cent (or 31 votes)

Outdoor fitness station: 58 per cent (or 31 votes)

Social space (incl. shelter): 47 per cent (or 25 votes)

Basketball rings: 43 per cent (or 23 votes)

Table tennis table: 39 per cent (or 21 votes)

Netball ring: 30 per cent (or 16 votes)

Futsal goals: 26 per cent (or 14 votes)

Question 4. Is there anything about the draft concept plan you'd like to change or anything else you'd like to see included?

54 of the 70 respondents responded to this question.

Many respondents were not overly positive on the proposed features and active recreation elements, with the two key themes of feedback being the desire for full-sized tennis courts and other amenities.

Please refer to the table at Question 2 for our responses to these themes of feedback.

Who we heard from

We asked respondents their connection to the reserve, as well as demographical questions such as their age group, gender and suburb. Below is a summary of the demographics:

- **Connection to the reserve:** 28 per cent of respondents live close by and use the reserve every day, 34 per cent live close by and use the reserve every week but not every day, and 22 percent live close by and use the reserve a few times a month or less. Under 10 per cent of respondents live somewhere else and use the reserve every day, rarely use it or use it sometimes.
- **Age group:** 35- to 49-year-olds accounted for majority of responses (45 per cent) and 50- to 64-year-olds accounted for 17 per cent. Under 18s, 18 to 24s and 65- to 74-year-olds accounted for 7 per cent each of the responses, with 5 per cent of respondents aged 25-34 and just 3 per cent aged 75 and over.
- **Gender:** 50 per cent of respondents are women or girls, 45 per cent are men or boys, and 5 per cent of respondents preferred not to say.
- **Suburb:** Majority of respondents (63 per cent) live in Mount Waverley, with the remainder of respondents scattered between Glen Waverley, Chadstone, Oakleigh, Burwood and outside of Monash.



Next steps

Thank you to everyone who provided their feedback about the Mount Waverley Reserve Active Recreation Space.

This report, and the underlying feedback will be used by the project team and the designers to revise and finalise the concept plan, in line with the project's budget and scope.

While the project's design was included in the 2023/2024 capital works program, construction is not expected to be completed until the 2026/2027 capital works program.

We will share this report, and updates on the project, via the Shape Monash project page:
<https://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/active-space>