

Feedback Report: Talbot Park Playspace

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Playground Redevelopment Program 2020-2025 outlines the playground priorities for the redevelopment of existing playgrounds for during this five-year period (2020-2025) to meet the needs and where possible, the expectations of families in Monash and in accordance with the proposed scale outlined in the Monash's Playground & Playspaces Strategy (adopted February 2020).

The prioritisation of priorities is based on advice from the most recent independent safety and condition audit for all 136 Monash playgrounds.

These renewed and upgraded playgrounds will meet the current and future needs of the community and deliver on Council's commitment to deliver flexible, sustainable, and accessible and quality community playground facilities.

Projects include the consultation and design for the complete renewal of playgrounds, which may include a renewal and upgrade of existing facility, or the development of a brand new playground.

Council's playground upgrade process is staged over two years, with a comprehensive community consultation and design phase to occur in throughout 2020-21 with construction to be undertaken in 2021-22.

Consultation and design work is occurring throughout 2021-22 with construction to be undertaken in 2022-23.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the engagement has been to consult with Councillors, local residents during November / December 2021, to seek their ideas on what could be included in the new park at Talbot Park and other ideas for improvements to the reserve. These ideas will then be used to develop a draft design.

- Promote engagement opportunities to provide Have Your Say feedback during 22 November – 17 December 2021 via Information update/flyer to Councillors and local residents within 400 metre radius of the reserve via an information update flyer distributed on 22 November, e-bulletin on 26 November, online survey and onsite consultation session with Council staff held at Talbot Park on 8 December.

ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Methods used	Stakeholders	Dates
Have Your Say Shape Monash Survey	Local residents within a 400 meter radius of the reserve. 8 responses received	22 November 2021 - 17 December 2021
On-site community consultation – Concept Design	Local residents within a 400 meter radius of the reserve. 6 residents attended.	8 December 2021

Engagement methodology

Information provision

Project Stage	Engagement Level & Objective	Stakeholders	Method	Who & Where	Key dates
Engagement – stage 1 Have Your Say	Consult	Local Residents within a 400 meter radius of the reserve	Information update/flyer Website Online and hard copy survey	Project team Communications Team	22 November 2021 – 17 December 2021
Engagement – stage 1 Have Your Say	Involve	Local Residents within a 400 meter radius of the reserve	Onsite Consultation Session	Project Team	8 December 2021

SUMMARY OF HAVE YOUR SAY ENGAGEMENT

There were 6 respondents to the survey. Of those that told us their gender, 65% were women or girls and 35% were men or boys.

We also received 2 email responses.

We asked three questions about the Talbot Park Playspace

- What do you look for in an outdoor recreational space?
- Describe what activities you would like to participate in at this reserve
- Please add any comments you would like to make about the playspace, facilities and open space

Additional Picnic Table	5
Additional Seat	5
Upgrade Path	4
Exercise / Fitness Equipment	4
Slide	3
Swings	3
Nature Play / Trees / Planting	3
Climbing Equipment (rope / rock climb)	2
Bike Rack	1
Basketball	1
Flying fox	1
Drinking Fountain	1
Sandpit	1
In ground Trampoline	1
Additional BBQ	1
Water play	1
Tennis Court	1
Lights throughout reserve	1
Mini Golf	1

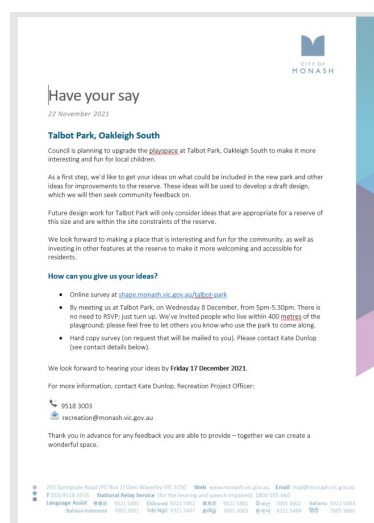
Summary of Feedback from Onsite Consultation

We asked	You said	We did
My ideas to make this playspace	• Rocks and natural elements like the existing dry creek bed • Tunnels • Rope play / Climbing • Make the height of the monkeybars accessible for children or provide a step • Slide with rollers or wavy slide  	Project team met and reviewed the feedback received via the community consultation. The design of the playground upgrade within the wetland reserve will include new paths within the playspace area and upgraded drainage system to address the existing flooding and drainage issues. This will include path alignment, grading, accessibility. This will also include the relocation of the shelter, BBQ and picnic seating. Given that the site is a previous quarry site, an environmental assessment of the reserve will be completed to determine the environmental quality of the site and the existence of any potential contamination issues which may impact equipment footings and will assist with the concept design. Feedback regarding retainning a natural playspace and retaining elements such dry creek bed will be considered in the concept design. New childrens playground with equipment to be confirmed during concept design but likely to include swings, slides, bridges, monkey bars, tunnel and flying fox, with opportunities for climbing, balancing, swinging, spinning. Talbot Park is a district standard playspace and will include the minimum playground infrastructure provision of public toilets, shade sail, BBQ facilities, accessible picnic talble, water fountain, rubbish bins, bike racks and bench seating.
	• Fitness equipment • Relocate the BBQ area • More visability from the road • Carpark lighting for safety • More seating • Fix uneven footpaths • Garden / Nature area • Area for meditation • Enhance the wetland area • Boardwalk connecting the playground the rest of the reserve • Accessible gates to reserve • Bike racks	

We asked	You said	We did
	More seats on the path around the reserve	

Promotion and notification

Have your Say – Flyer



e-bulletin 26 November 2021 –

Playspace Upgrade (Talbot Park, Oakleigh) – Community Consultation

Consultation is currently underway at Talbot Park, Oakleigh to obtain community feedback on options that could be included in the new playspace and other ideas for improvements to the reserve. These ideas and suggestions will be used to develop a draft design, which Council will then seek community comment on. Feedback is sought by 17 December 2021 on [Shape Monash page](#).

Subject to any changes to the COVID restrictions, an on-site community feedback session will take place at Talbot Park on **Wednesday 8 December, 5pm -5.30pm**. Council officers from Recreation will be on site for the community to share their thoughts and ideas on what could be included in the new playspace.

We welcome your feedback on what is proposed.

For more information, please contact Tony Oulton, Manager Active Monash on 9518 3561 or tony.oulton@monash.vic.gov.au

Appendix 1: Full summary of Have Your Say stakeholder responses

What do you look for in an outdoor recreational space?
A beautiful, healthy eco-system.
Varieties of play equipment for kids: a few slides, swings, sensory play equipment, climbing frame, bicycle track and water play. Cleanliness and quality of play equipment. Plenty of benches near the play areas to ensure ease of supervision while sitting. A few BBQ areas for outdoor gatherings. Big trees for nice picnic areas.
Play equipment for all ages (toddler, kids and teens). BBQ or picnic area.
Where lots of different groups of children can play, and variety of unique equipment to keep the children occupied. In Oakleigh South there are children of all ages, it would be nice if the playground can cater for different age groups i.e. 1yo - teens. In addition, there are many subdivisions and large developments taking place (Alvina St) so the number of local children is expected to dramatically increase. The current equipment at Talbot Park doesn't cater for a large group of children.
A Clearly marked walking path dedicated to walking and not to be shared with bicycle riders. A Dedicated bicycle track that connects to other local bicycle tracks A BBQ and a picnic area with sitting benches Grass areas, shady trees, water fountains and playground Passive recreation with wetlands
Nice walk track, if bikes are also allowed then a wider walk track. Nice greenery area for picnics/ sitting.
Ability to exercise; relax in beautiful peaceful setting and have fun. Lovely gardens / trees providing shade / scenic views. Barbeque area that is clean and spacious – picnic area for social events. Areas where you can retreat for spiritual renewal / meditation / general wellbeing. Safe access / egress routes including safe parking with adequate lighting. Clean toilets. Playground (safe) for children; disability user friendly. Hiking trails. Comfortable and adequate seating. Smooth footpaths without cracks / uneven surfaces so as to avoid tripping / fall hazards. Undercover protection for adverse weather days. Proper drainage – prevent water logged areas / flooding/ Adequate rubbish bins. Great visual appeal / image.
Describe what activities you would like to participate in at this reserve
Walking and running. Golf practice.
Picnic, group fitness, children playgroups, jogging, cycling.

Describe what activities you would like to participate in at this reserve
Accompany my children to play, having picnics with neighbours.
Playing on equipment safety, but also having somewhere where parents can sit down and have a coffee together whilst having their children in vision. The park currently has a few benches, however the gazibo/BBQ area is out of site from the playground and facilities are not vary appealing (only fits one small group, equipment is very dated, toilets are on the other side of the reserve, and the area floods regularly). There is also a nice cafe nearby (Dolce) and many parents today visit that cafe, and then go to Talbot Park with their kids. It would be nice if there can be additional small tables near to the new playground so they can watch their kids. Other activities would include; sports equipment, new table/bench equipment to enjoy food in the sun, more unique play equipment, space to play with a ball (basketball/netball), clean and safe toilets closer to the playground/BBQ area, BBQ that can facilitate more than a small group. The reserve is a large space, and the walking track is fantastic to walk with a pram and walk our dog, however it would be nice if it was more scenic, a bridge, unique plants/trees, less visual of the cars and main road.
Walking, jogging, bicycle riding, family picnics and BBQs Playground activities Passive recreation with wetlands and water features
Maybe outdoor gym equipment like Namatjira Reserve
Would like to participate in walking / running / meditating / picnic activities / enjoying a lovely scenic view.

Please add any comments you would like to make about the playspace, facilities and open space
Facilities need to accommodate smaller kids and bigger kids as well. May consider having a tennis court there also. Please also make sure no more big water puddles as every time it rains the areas near the play equipment is covered in water.
Will be great if we have the below facilities in the park :) - Playing Equipment that suitable for toddler - Flying fox for kids - Spaces for kids to play ball games (eg. soccer, footy) - Basketball court - Scooter track
Would be nice to have: -Mini rock climbing wall -Slides (both open-slides and tunnel-closed slides) -Sandpit area

Please add any comments you would like to make about the playspace, facilities and open space

- Tunnels and ropes for climbing
- Swings
- Additional BBQ area/Upgraded facilities
- Toilets closer to the playground/BBQ area
- Unique/not generic play equipment
- Water play area
- In ground trampoline
- Updated walking path/track
- More visually appealing landscaping to hide main road

Currently within Talbot park, some walking sections and paths are regularly under water during the winter months. Could this please be looked at and added to the list of works for this project. Obviously having paths under water is a safety hazard and makes it difficult with prams etc.

Please make this reserve non-smoking and drug free and non-alcohol drinking area.
Also, make this park non-dog waste reserve.

The car park is always full, please do not remove or change the car park. If most, LED/Solar lights would be nice, especially at night for safety purposes.

Talbot Park is used widely by a diverse group of people including families and children and especially during covid. Pandemic. However it is a poor quality park, lacking modern creative facilities and play equipment with the minimalist assets / fixtures. It's a dull, lacklustre open space obscured by large trees from the main access point of Centre road and has unsightly views at the rear due the visible high mountains of stockpiles of soil that contributes to substantial dust during winter and adverse weather conditions. Consider duplicating / matching the vibrant popular Thomas Reserve Hampton open play space with what appears currently in Talbot Park.

It has serious safety issues, including major flooding, uncomfortable and few seats, unsafe ponds, an unsafe car parking space, redundant bocce equipment, unkempt toilets and barbeque areas, not enough tables for social events and lacking a colourful garden area for meditation / spiritual connectivity, damaged footpath / track and uneven ground surfaces. It is need of an urgent makeover that can inspire, motive, connect people, offer functional activities, be a fun area to play and exercise in, and inject some modern vibe and creativity into it. Best of luck with the upgrade improvements.

Flooding and Drainage Issues – Talbot Park has a long history of being water logged and flooded across the entire park and outside the park along Council's footpath of Centre Road near the bus stop. This is especially so during winter and even during adverse weather conditions throughout the entire year.

Areas of particular concern regarding flooding is along the Coonil entry point near the playground area (which often accumulates not only deep levels of water but also soil residue, leaves from trees and mud) the middle of the field green space / ground area and outside Council's footpath near the bus stop, the barbeque area and seats are almost always partially under water. This is a major issue that trumps giving priority to any upgrade of the play space equipment, because if the park is not accessible then the community cannot access and use any upgraded play space area. It is also very dangerous for young children to be playing in or around

Please add any comments you would like to make about the playspace, facilities and open space

deep flooded areas. The drainage issues across the entire Talbot Park should be looked at and asses in an integrated holistic manner rather than in a staged or piecemeal approach. It may be that the drainage issues / or lack therefore from the former Talbot quarry/landfill located behind Talbot Park are also contributing to the flooding of Talbot Park. This issue is a serious safety, access and egress issue that must be solved asap.

Ponds / Lawns / Uneven Green Spaces / Grounds – Relating to the flooding issue, the ponds in the middle of the park overflow outside their circumference area and spread into the a large area of the open green space / field making the majority of the ground inaccessible as it is flooded and water logged. Large weeds and perhaps even infested weeds, grow within the ponds, at an unsightly height.

This is particularly an unsafe and dangerous situation, as young children, including toddlers are curious to explore this area and often wonder close to the ponds before being caught and stopped by their parents and grandparents.

Further, contractors mowing the lawn find it challenging to do so because of the deep levels of flooding and even when they attempt to do, its done in a messy untidy fashion. The law mowing vehicles leave behind a trail of mud within the green space and transfer some of that mud onto the footpaths / track. These latter areas then become unsightly and effect the walkability and access to the footpaths / tracks.

Why are there 3 ponds within close proximity to each other? Is this necessary and does it serve any functional use? Perhaps consideration can be given to making any ponds more attractive and safe by placing rocks of various sizes around them to signage the presence of a pong, as little children can't distinguish between flood prone areas. Warning signs may also be useful as a reminder to parents to be careful. Further the area can be made more visually attractive by building bridges over these or other areas connecting one side of the track to the opposite side of the track. Grounds can be designed with more creativity and or including wall spaces with climbing plants and greater attention be placed on even / safe walking surfaces.

Barbeque Area – It is one of the worst affected flooding areas during winter and during adverse weather conditions and becomes completely inaccessible. It takes many days for the water to dissipate. This includes the seats in and around this area which becomes partially under water. The area is also close to the ponds, which when the overflow, exacerbate the flooding issue. The area needs to be relocated to higher ground and away from the ponds. More modern and clean barbeques seats and tables are required. More bins are required throughout the park.

Cracked, uneven footpath and track inside the Park. Water on Centre Road and in front of middle gate on Councils footpath during adverse weather conditions – The footpath and track within the park has many raised uneven surfaces and cracks within them, creating potential trip and fall hazards for users, especially the elderly or people with disabilities. These areas especially become flooded in low lying areas and also at the Coonil entry point, near the playground equipment the front of the entry gates on Centre road, especially the middle gate.

Immediately outside the front of the middle entry gate on Councils footpath and on Centre road, the area becomes inaccessible due to flooding. During adverse weather conditions, soil erosion occurs from within the wire fence of the Park near the middle gate onto Council's footpath, making both the gate and the footpath inaccessible. Signs have appeared on Centre road adjacent to the Park near the bus stop stating "road under water".

Park not disability user friendly especially front gates on Centre Road – While the wire gates at the front of Centre Road are child proof, they are not disability user friendly for people with disabilities especially those in wheelchairs or walkers. Consideration to be given to a better design. Footpath and tacks inside park also create difficult mobility issues for people with disabilities and fall hazards.

Please add any comments you would like to make about the playspace, facilities and open space

More scenic views required and pockets of garden areas with colourful plants, natives etc. – Talbot Park lacks colourful gardens, scenic views and creative quiet spaces for mediation or spiritual connectivity or even just to read a book or relax in. Consider adding interesting sculptures or external art work.

Additional comfortable seats required and or quiet sitting areas – Current seats uncomfortable and need to be replaced because of damage. Also need additional seats throughout entire park. Consider creative wall spaces offering quiet sitting pockets with walls and climbing plants.

Unsafe Car Park during evening and lighting – Needs better lighting, including solar lights so as not to affect adjoining properties. Consider lights throughout park because its dangerous to access during evening hours or even to walk through e.g. from Centre Road to Scotsburn Avenue or Coonil Street.

Playground needs an upgrade with more even and stable ground surface – Playground needs to be revamped with more slides, swings for children and even stable ground surfaces. Consider adding interesting castles. However this is secondary to solving flooding and drainage issues because you can't access the park you can't access any upgraded play equipment.

Bocce Area is Redundant – This area is no longer used frequently and needs to be replaced with other modern exercise equipment or a mediation / yoga area.

Clear well maintained and modern toilets that are also disability user friendly – The toilets need to be relocated closer to the playground area. They need to be more hygienic and cleaned regularly. Be disability user friendly. Better lighting required during evening hours.

Other – Install quality exercise, barbeque and seating, playspace equipment and exercise equipment. Inject creative sculpture or other pieces to inject interest and a modern vibe. Have shade cloths available to offer shade for some of the grounds and for picnic areas.