



# ***FINAL***

## **Future Mayer Park Master Plan Community Engagement Summary Report July 2020**

Prepared by Mayer Park Community Project Control Group in collaboration with Darebin Council

<b>Version</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Date</b>
V1	Summary of Phase 1 and Phase 2 Community Engagement	March 2020
V2	Updated to include Phase 3 Community Engagement on Draft Master Plan	July 2020

# Future Mayer Park

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## 1. Introduction

Mayer Park is situated on the corner of the Normanby Ave and Leinster Grove, Thornbury.

In 2015, the park was identified by Darebin Council as the preferred site for a multipurpose sports stadium. This was overturned after a concerted campaign by local residents. Out of this process, it was recognised that Mayer Park was an open space that was highly regarded by the community. It is a space where formal sports (cricket and soccer) coexist with myriad informal activities, including: an off-lead dog area, exercise, walking, running, picnicking, children's play and kite flying. In recent times the Friends of Mayer Park have put on an open-air cinema and market events that have been met with a highly positive community response.

Breathing Space – The Darebin Open Space Strategy determines the level of infrastructure and investment at Mayer Park and classifies the park as:

- District Level Park - drawing visitors from the surrounding suburbs as well as people who live within walking distance.
- Type A level of investment in the park, with requirements for a public toilet, lighting, internal walking path network, park furniture, playground, canopy trees and garden beds.

In collaboration with a community Project Control Group (PCG), Council is now developing a master plan for Mayer Park. This master plan will help guide the future development of this park for open space and other uses, improve movement and accessibility, and provide a framework for the landscape and environmental function of the site and meet community needs in the short, medium and long term.

To achieve this, the PCG and Council prepared a Communications and Engagement Strategy to guide the community engagement process. The community will be consulted to understand the community's aspirations for Mayer Park. This report outlines this community engagement process and the responses received, for consideration in developing a master plan.

## 2. Community Engagement

### 2.1 Phase One - Council-Led Consultation

On 17 March 2018, Council conducted an initial community drop-in session at Mayer Park to garner expressions of interest from members of the local community wishing to join a Project Control Group to formulate a master plan for Mayer Park. This was also an opportunity to seek initial ideas about what local residents wanted at the park. Over 66 comments were collected and were grouped into ten general themes including:

- Park amenity
- Retain Open Space
- Playspace
- Formal Sporting
- Landscape
- Community Events/ Facilities
- Youth Facilities
- Dogs
- Parking/ Traffic Management
- Miscellaneous/ General Comments

Table 1 below shows a summary of Phase One comments grouped in the themes.

COUNT	THEMES
<b>36</b>	<b>Park Amenity</b>
10	Walking track/ shared path
7	BBQ
6	Fencing
5	Shelter and park seating, picnic tables etc
3	Lights
2	Drinking fountain
2	Bicycle facilities
1	Mini amphitheatre
<b>15</b>	<b>Retain Open Space</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Playspace</b> - children's playgrounds, play equipment
<b>12</b>	<b>Formal Sporting</b>
4	Upgrade sports pavilion
2	Footy goalposts
2	Cricket nets
2	Cricket pitch
2	Improve playing surface
<b>11</b>	<b>Community Events/ Facilities</b>
4	Hot air balloons
4	Movie nights
3	Community garden
<b>10</b>	<b>Landscape</b> - shade trees, planting
<b>8</b>	<b>Youth Facilities</b> - half courts, handball, youth sporting/recreation
<b>7</b>	<b>Dogs</b> - off-leash areas, dog fences, dog water fountains
<b>2</b>	<b>Parking/Traffic Management</b> - parking areas, street congestion
<b>5</b>	<b>Misc./General</b> - Everything else
1	WSUD (divert creek flows for irrigation)
1	Ring park around golf course for walking, riding, dog walking
1	Golf course access
1	Protection from wayward golf balls
1	Toilets

Refer **Attachment 1** for all detailed comments.

Figure 1 below shows a visual representation of the most popular key words used in the comments received in Phase 1 consultation.

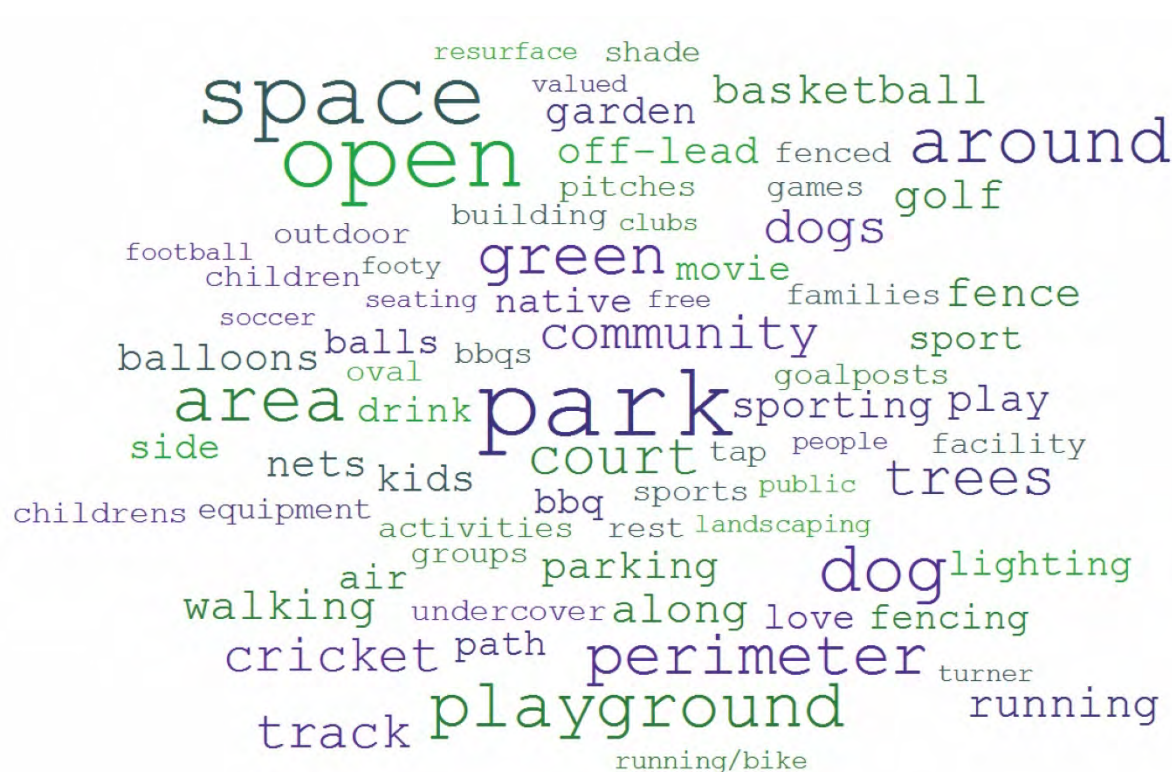


Fig. 1 – Most popular key words use at 17 March 2018 Drop in Session

## General Observations on Phase One Community Consultation

- The most common theme was improvements to the park amenity – e.g. walking tracks, BBQ facility, fencing, shelter and park seating.
- The most common comment was about retaining open space. The community feels strongly that the existing open character of the park should not be lost through overdevelopment of the park.
- The second most common feedback was for a new playspace that provides play opportunities for children of all ages, especially older kids. It was acknowledged that there is an existing playspace nearby at Turner Reserve, however this playspace mostly caters to younger children.
- The use of the park for formal sports such as soccer and cricket were acknowledged and supported.
- There were some requests for youth facilities e.g. basketball half court or similar. Subsequent feedback received by email included numerous requests for such facilities for teenagers.
- There were many requests for additional shade trees and plantings.

Refer **Attachment 1** for all detailed comments.

## 2.2 Phase Two Community Consultation – Understanding Community Expectations

From October to November 2018, a wider and more comprehensive community consultation process was conducted. This included:

- having a stall at a Makers' Market event held at Mayer Park that was promoted online and with promotional posters placed on site
- an interactive online survey
- electronic mail-outs to stakeholders
- face-to-face meetings with key stakeholders,
- Facebook posts on the Friends of Mayer Park page
- engagement activities and consultation milestones that were promoted on Council's social media streams, for example, a dedicated Your Say page on Darebin Council's website

From November to December 2018, the PCG collated all responses and communicated these to the community both online and at the following Makers' Market held at Mayer Park on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.

This preliminary phase of engagement sought to build on previous conversations with the community, and collect their ideas, about how they would like to use this community open space.

### Makers' Market Event

The Makers' Market was held on site at Mayer Park, on Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup> between 10.00am and 2:00 pm. Members of the PCG set up a stall which included posters that explained the consultation process, image boards, sticky notes and a suggestion box. The stall was staffed by members of the PCG throughout the day to further engage with interested residents.

Fine weather meant that the market attracted a big crowd. A steady stream of interested residents visited the information tent throughout the four hour duration. It is estimated that over 150 people participated in the community consultation.

The stall featured several image boards, grouped into broad themes — Open Space, Active, Amenities & Facilities — illustrating examples of elements that might be incorporated within a master plan. Participants were asked to 'vote for what was hot and what was not' (red for hot, blue for not).

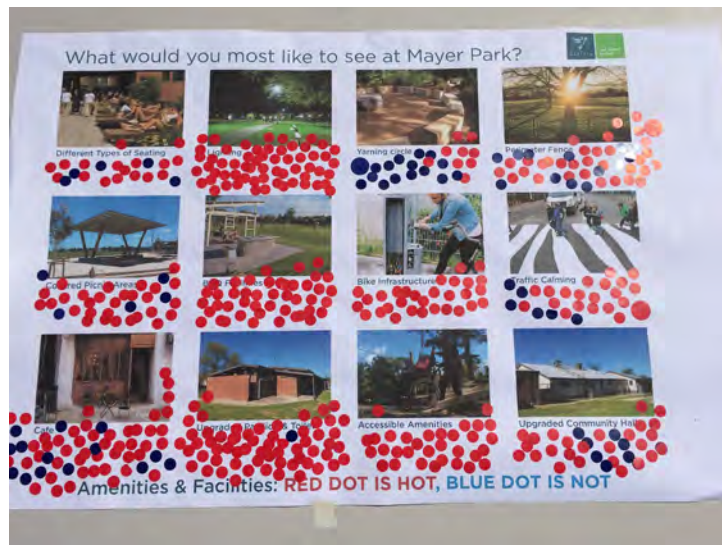
- Positive – would like to see the idea developed for the site (place a red sticker)
- Negative – would not like to see the idea developed for the site (place a blue sticker)

A cross section of adults and children were well represented with perhaps adolescent and middle-aged people underrepresented. Responses were primarily positive or negative. A detailed breakdown of the engagement activity is included in **Attachment 1**.



*Image 1 & 2 - Community Engagement Stall at the Makers' Market event.*





*Image 3 - An example of the voting engagement activity*

The vision statement prepared by the community PCG received overwhelming support, with all the participants in the activity indicating that they agree with the statement.



*Image 4 – Vision statement*

## Online

An online survey replicating the Maker' Market engagement activity was made available for the duration of the consultation period.

Over 130 people responded to the online survey, placing over 2,200 'virtual' dots. Survey respondents also provided 70 written comments.

Generally, the responses collected online aligned those gathered at the initial community drop in session and later community consultation activity at the Makers' Market.

Refer **Attachment 1** for all detailed comments.

## **Comment cards/Emails**

The community was given the opportunity to make comments or suggestions on postcards that were distributed to approximately 4,000 households within a radius of 1.5km of the park. The postcards were also made available at the Makers' Market community consultation session, The Bridge community house in Thornbury for the duration of the consultation period, and at a subsequent Makers' Market event held in December 2018.

40 postcards were returned with comments and 11 emailed comments were received. Whilst the responses generally reflected those gathered at the initial community drop in session and later community consultation activity at the Maker' Market, there was a marked increase in the postcard and email comments requesting to include activities for older children and teenagers, including numerous requests for a basketball half court.

Refer **Attachment 1** for the full list of community comments captured via postcards.

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

Nearly 30 stakeholders who have a connection to Mayer Park were contacted directly via email for their feedback. These included:

- Aborigines Advancement League
- Australian Lebanese Zahle Association
- Aveo Veronica Gardens Retirement Village
- Balloon Flights Over Melbourne
- Blow Up Cinema
- Bridge Neighbourhood House
- CERES
- Croxton Special School
- Darebin Bicycler User Group
- Darebin United Soccer Club
- Friends of Merri Creek
- Global Ballooning
- Heritage Council
- Japanese Karate Association
- Merri Community Childcare Centre Thornbury
- Merri Creek Management Committee
- Moreland City Council
- Nick Healey Dance
- Northcote Cricket Club
- Northcote Golf Club
- Picture This Ballooning
- Step Into Life Thornbury
- Thornbury Italian Senior Citizens Club (Leinster Community Centre)
- Westgarth Primary School
- Wild Darebin
- Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council
- Yappera Children's Services - Kindergarden

## **Stakeholder Written Submissions**

Three written submissions were received from the following stakeholders:

- Darebin United Soccer Club, requesting upgrades to the existing pavilion, improved perimeter fencing, a second high ball catch fence and additional storage space.
- Merri Creek Management Committee, noting the biodiversity values and potential enhancement of these values further through native vegetation systems and the possibility of the adjacent Northcote Golf Course becoming more available for general public use.

- The Bridge (who manage the community groups that use the Leinster Grove Community Hall), proposing the creation of a new multi-purpose community centre that would include new sporting club rooms and amenities, purpose built neighbourhood house and childcare centre. The new building would be located on the golf course side of the park.

Refer **Attachment 2** for copies of the written submissions.

### Stakeholder Meetings

Representatives of the PCG and Darebin Council officer met on site with the following stakeholders:

- Moreland City Council officers, who provided general comments on how to potentially improve the park amenity including opportunity for the golf course to be a shared space for both golfers and the public, improving the sporting assets and community assets such as BBQ area. Moreland officers supported the idea of a new playspace at Mayer Park, suggesting that fencing would generally be required if the playspace is in proximity to the road, and that fencing could be achieved through new plantings of vegetation.
- Wurundjeri Council Elders, who appreciated being involved in the process, however were not able to offer tangible recommendations at this early stage and requested to be kept in the loop as the project develops with future opportunities to provide input.

Refer **Attachment 3** for copies of the meeting notes.

### Phase Two Community Consultation Response at a Glance





## General Observations on Phase Two Community Consultation

- By and large, the participants were highly positive about the consultation process, and were enthusiastic that Mayer Park was being considered for an upgrade. While most of the concepts presented were positively received, there was a feeling that the park shouldn't be 'overdeveloped' or lose the character that currently makes it such a treasured space – its openness.
- There was overwhelming support for the movie nights that had been put on over the previous three summer seasons. While council had very little involvement in these events, it is indicative of the enthusiasm that the local community has for Mayer Park as a place where they can connect and celebrate the open space as a community.
- Other positive feedback related to the provision of pedestrian paths, playgrounds, park amenities including toilets, lighting, picnic and BBQ facilities with shelter and outdoor exercise equipment, a community garden, all within a green landscape.
- Participants recognised that the park's primary use was for organised sport such as cricket and soccer.
- Specific issues such as off-lead dog areas were contentious but while there were some calls for such an area to be fenced off, it was generally lauded as a place where dog owners could gather and engage with each, and, of course, where their pets can exercise freely.
- Ideas of a skate park and multipurpose courts had a strong response that was generally negatively received by older members of the community. Concerns raised were largely in relation to noise and potential anti-social behaviour. Young people were underrepresented at the drop-in session due to the typical demographic that usually attend the Makers Market, i.e. young couples with children and people in the older demographic. It is to be noted that a large proportion of the subsequent feedback received via emails and postcards noted the need to include activities for older children and teenagers, including numerous requests for a basketball half court.
- Ideas eliciting a lower number of mixed responses, and it could be concluded, less interest, included reserve naming, local history and Interpretation, storytelling, art and sculpture, a formal bike track and a yarning circle. It was suggested that some of these themes were not as clear or did not resonate with parts of the community.
- There were requests for improved fencing around the perimeter of the park to protect pets and children from the traffic on the adjoining roads, as well as catching loose balls during soccer training.

Refer **Attachment 1** for all detailed comments.

## 2.3 Phase Three Community Consultation – Seeking Feedback on Draft Master Plan

Between 7 May and 8 June 2020, a community consultation process was conducted to seek feedback on the draft master plan, including the proposed improvements to Mayer Park and the staging of the improvements.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, face to face engagement activities and gatherings were not allowed. The engagement and communication methods were tailored to abide by the restriction rules for the safety of the community and DCC staff.

These included:

- 4,000 postcard mail drop to households to 1.5km radius around Mayer Park. Postcard comments can be emailed to City Design or dropped into Bridge Thornbury mailbox within walking distance of the park.
- Your Say page where the Draft master plan report is downloadable for review
- Online form to provide feedback
- Social media posts on Darebin City Council social media outlets weekly over 4 weeks
- Promotion on Council's website
- Post on community Facebook group such as the Friends of Mayer Park page
- A3 Posters on site that direct to Your Say page
- Real estate boards on site with information on the draft master plan
- Information and key messages about the draft master plan were translated to the top 5 languages in Thornbury West and posted on site. Translation services were also available on the Your Say page.
- Email all identified stakeholders and all people on mailing list, including people registered to the Your Say page and people who provided feedback in the first two rounds of consultation.
- Email local schools and share Your Say page link
- Option to call Council's Customer Service to provide feedback
- Promote the consultation period on Community eNewsletters including What's On Intercultural Centre (approx. 1,200 recipients), What's On For Families (approx. 1,500 families recipients) and What's On Darebin Libraries (approx. 25,000 recipients)
- A media release about the project was completed.



Fig 2 - Sample of postcard



Image 4 & 5 – A3 posters placed at Mayer Park



Image 6 & 7 – Large real estate information boards placed at Mayer Park



## Your Say Page and Online Survey

The dedicated Your Say page was updated to provide the key messages around the project, with translations available. The draft master plan was available for review and download. A short survey was created to collect the community feedback and comments on the draft master plan.

Between 7 May and 8 June 2020, some of the key online visitor information were:

- **2,100** visits of the web page
- **975** views/ downloads of the draft master plan document
- **943** informed visitors
- **88** individual feedback/ comments received via the online survey
- **72** new registrations to the Your Say page
- **52** views/ downloads of the Mayer Park Community Engagement Summary report

## Visitors Summary



Fig. 3 – Visitor Summary of online Your Say page

Refer **Attachment 1** for all detailed comments.

## Postcard Feedback

The community was given the opportunity to provide feedback on postcards that were distributed to approximately 4,000 households within a radius of 1.5km of the park.

10 postcards were returned with comments.

Refer **Attachment 1** for the full list of community comments captured via postcards.

## Emailed Feedback

The community was provided the option of providing feedback and comments via email to the City Design unit at [city.design@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:city.design@darebin.vic.gov.au).

18 emailed comments were received through the City Design email.

Refer **Attachment 1** for the full list of community comments captured via emails.

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

All stakeholders engaged with at Phase 2 (refer list of stakeholders in Phase 2 above) were contacted for Phase 3 via email to request feedback on the draft master plan, to share the link to the Your Say page and to provide the avenues through which provide feedback and comments.

Additional key stakeholders were identified by the PCG as needing to be invited to provide feedback on the draft master plan. These included sporting clubs, older adults and young park users. The following organisations were targeted to address this requirement:

- Darebin United Soccer Club
- Northcote Cricket Club
- Northcote Golf Club
- Thornbury Italian Senior Citizens
- Aveo Veronica Gardens Retirement Village
- Japanese Karate Association
- Nick Healey Dance
- Wonder Garden Dance
- Northcote High School
- Northcote Primary School
- Croxton Special School
- Bell Primary School
- Thornbury Primary School
- Westgarth Primary School
- Yappera Children's Services Kindergarden
- Merri Community Childcare Centre Thornbury

## **Advisory Groups**

The following advisory groups were invited to provide feedback on the draft master plan.

- Darebin Nature Trust (DNT)
- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee (DAAC)
- Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee (DBAC)



## General Observations on Phase Three Community Consultation

- There was generally very positive feedback and support on the draft master plan approach, vision and proposed improvements.
- Survey respondents indicated the most support for the following key proposed improvements:
  - Additional tree and understorey planting
  - Additional paths
  - New playspace
  - Fencing upgrade to the park perimeter
  - Walking trail through the golf course to the new pedestrian footbridge
  - BBQ and shelter facilities
  - Basketball half court
- Some survey respondents provided additional suggestions including:
  - Making the golf course more accessible to the general public
  - Bringing the implementation of the walking trail through the golf course to the Beaver Street footbridge forward in the staging plan
  - Providing a fenced dog off lead area
  - Providing a community garden
  - Enforcing parking restrictions along Leinster Grove
- Some survey respondents raised some concerns including:
  - The long timeframe for implementation of the master plan
  - The need for consultation with Darebin United Soccer Club
  - Ensuring that the new cricket nets are installed before the existing nets are removed
  - Ensuring that uninterrupted tree lined views looking west are not disturbed if a new shared pavilion/ community facility is constructed on the western side of the park
- A petition with 317 signatures was received via email to “*request that a perimeter fence be installed around Mayer Park, Thornbury, as a matter of priority*” to stop balls, kids and dogs from running onto the adjacent roads.

Refer **Attachment 1** for all detailed comments.

# ATTACHMENT 1

## 1. Phase One – Council Led Consultation Responses

MAYER PARK COMMUNITY FEEDBACK - Drop-in Session 17 March 2018		
Date	Comments	Themes
17/03/2018	Keep the access for hot air balloons	Community/Leisure
17/03/2018	Upgrade sports grounds/lights. I feel that the open space will become congested with extra things around the perimeter. Leave this space [the perimeter] untouched! Retain off-lead dog area. Community garden near the hall.	Sporting; Dogs; Landscape; Community/Leisure
17/03/2018	Fence off a kids play area from dog areas.	Playspace; Dogs
17/03/2018	Make a kid's playground	Playspace
17/03/2018	More native perimeter trees. Somehow get dog owners to clean up after their dogs!	Landscape; Dogs
17/03/2018	Large gum trees around perimeter. Native landscaping. Potential community garden?	Landscape; Community/Leisure
17/03/2018	Mayer Park is greatly valued by residents as an open green space for informal and formal sport and recreation activities. Most critical, no buildings are developed here, including no stadiums!	Sporting; Landscape
17/03/2018	Create a ring park around golf course for walking, riding, dog walking	Infrastructure; Sporting
17/03/2018	Improved BBQ facility, this corner (north east corner) where existing, is lost from rest of park by blds and cricket nets.	Community/Leisure
17/03/2018	Fencing for dogs and children - playground lighting	Dogs; Infrastructure
17/03/2018	Opportunity to divert high Ck flows for stormwater harvesting for irrigation. Maybe with limited daylighting of Ck.	Infrastructure
17/03/2018	Fully fenced to stop dogs running on the road. Outdoor table tennis and volleyball court. More native trees around perimeter.	Dogs; Sporting; Landscape
17/03/2018	Retain as green open space and off-lead area. Erect football goalposts. Encourage more trees around the edge of park.	Landscape; Dogs; Sporting
17/03/2018	Maintain open space. Retain dog off-lead access. Add a children's playground, basketball half court, running track, fence along whole perimeter, community garden.	Landscape; Dogs; Youth facilities; Sporting;

		Community/Leisure; Playspace
17/03/2018	Fencing for sporting ground. Lights. Consequences for dog owners who aren't accountable for the remains of their pet (poo)!	Infrastructure; Sporting; Dogs
17/03/2018	Two sets of AFL footy goalposts on a mini oval for kids/family games. Kids playground. More shade trees around perimeter.	Sporting; Playspace; Landscape
17/03/2018	Keep the movie nights! More community building activities to be held at the park.	Community/Leisure
17/03/2018	More BBQs!	Community/Leisure
17/03/2018	Bike/shared path around outside of park (W,S sides) linking path on Normanby w/ Woolton Ave - wider backstreet/off-street network.	Sporting; Infrastructure
17/03/2018	Could sporting groups and personal training groups use the golf course car park to ease congestion on Leinster Grove?	Parking/Traffic Management
17/03/2018	Protect open green space - park is much used and loved in current form. Perhaps running track?	Landscape; Sporting
17/03/2018	Free gelati for next event (for non-coffee drinkers).	Misc./General
17/03/2018	Don't intensify the use. Works pretty well as it is. Perhaps some more indigenous trees and plants?	Landscape
17/03/2018	Keep the movie nights! Please!	Community/Leisure
17/03/2018	Improve cricket nets. Shade cloth roof? Open up golf course for multi-use - hardly anyone plays golf. Add a walking track and pedestrian bridge over Merri Ck at Beavers Rd.	Sporting; Infrastructure
17/03/2018	With the increase in population, Gadd St etc, where are the greenspaces for them?	Landscape
17/03/2018	The open space is fantastic. A children's playground and half court for basketball would make it more useful. Public toilets!	Landscape; Infrastructure; Youth facilities; Playspace
17/03/2018	Keep the movie nights. Great for community building.	Community/Leisure
17/03/2018	Extend the Jack Hamilton Pavilion roofing for more undercover areas for the sporting clubs	Sporting
17/03/2018	Half-court basketball court like at the park on Oakover Rd in Preston. Back wall and concrete pad for bouncing balls off of. [single player handball?]	Youth facilities; Sporting

17/03/2018	Leave it as open as possible but a children's playground would be great in one of the corners.	Playspace
17/03/2018	BBQ area on one edge, more trees (around edge)	Community/Leisure; Landscape
17/03/2018	Improve playing surfaces. Retain off-lead dog park. Another drink tap at the far end with dog drink "bowl". Fence along North boundary to stop balls. Running track.	Sporting; Dogs; Infrastructure
17/03/2018	Adventure playground for older children (Turner Reserve inadequate). Basketball half court - upgrade sporting facilities, upgrade lighting. Waterplay area for kids.	Playspace; Youth facilities; Sporting; Infrastructure
17/03/2018	We love the hot air balloons!	Community/Leisure; Landscape
17/03/2018	One cricket pitch off the two soccer pitches.	Sporting
17/03/2018	Keep green open space. [There is] limited open space in this area.	Landscape
17/03/2018	90degree parking along park side of Leinster Grove to ease parking pressure along the street. No parking on green space!	Parking/Traffic Management
17/03/2018	Playground with sandpit and water play. Fenced to avoid dogs.	Playspace; Dogs
17/03/2018	Running/bike track.	Sporting
17/03/2018	Improve club rooms	Sporting
17/03/2018	Keep the summer outdoor movies!	Community/Leisure
17/03/2018	Keep cricket pitches	Sporting
17/03/2018	Half-court basketball!	Youth facilities
17/03/2018	Running track (granitic sand) around perimeter of park.	Sporting
17/03/2018	Drink tap near cricket nets.	Infrastructure
17/03/2018	Resurface cricket nets	Sporting
17/03/2018	Concrete path around the oval.	Infrastructure
17/03/2018	Keep open space. Please increase protection on south side from wayward golf balls - dangerous!	Landscape; Infrastructure
17/03/2018	Keep an open green space. Bicycle parking area needed. Tables and chairs seating. BBQs.	Landscape; Sporting
17/03/2018	Play area to be built at side of park. Please don't spoil the open green vista of park. In this built up area we need it!	Playspace; Landscape

17/03/2018	Fence off section for dogs. Let families use the rest of the space.	Dogs
17/03/2018	Kids need things to do whilst watching sport here. (Playing on gym equipment not appropriate). Some sort of play equipment needed.	Playspace
17/03/2018	A mini amphitheatre for acoustic music events	Community/Leisure
17/03/2018	Zip lines for all ages	Playspace; Community/Leisure
17/03/2018	Stop hot air balloons using the park. One crashed this week, lucky it missed my house.	Community/Leisure; Misc./General
17/03/2018	Fencing, lighting upgrade, grounds upgrade, playground, community garden.	Infrastructure; Sporting; Community/Leisure; Playspace
17/03/2018	Keep it as it is except dog fence along Moreland Rd. It must be left for use by school buses, sports, dog walking, older people walking, exercising as it is now.	Dogs; Sporting
17/03/2018	Green open space is the greatest facility. Once you lose it, you can't get it back.	Landscape
17/03/2018	Nice BBQ area for families. Undercover.	Community/Leisure; Infrastructure
17/03/2018	Keep the balloons!	Community/Leisure
17/03/2018	Leave the park alone. It is a lovely open park. My dogs love it. I love coming here and watching the sport games in summer and winter. Leave it as an open space.	Landscape; Dogs
<b>MAYER PARK COMMUNITY FEEDBACK - Email Feedback</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Text of Feedback</b>	<b>Themes</b>
14/03/2018	Hi there, I'm unable to attend the drop in session at Mayer Park but I would like to suggest a few ideas regarding the development of the park. A playground for older children, i.e.: larger slides, flying fox etc with shelter. More seating areas. A scooter/bike path for children. Also, I have noticed the outdoor cinema events though they have children's activities to commence, the selection of movies seems to only one appropriate for adults such as Blues Bros, Stand by Me. I'm disappointed that the focus hasn't been on family friendly movies which this area needs to include. The only children's movie was a scary animated movie for Halloween about ghosts for the older children.	Playspace; Community/Leisure



19/03/2018	<p>Firstly, I would like to congratulate you on this proposal. I am currently renovating my property which is very close to Mayer Park, so I was very excited to hear this news. If I wasn't so time poor right now, I would have liked to have joined the project control group. What a great opportunity this is so I would like to put forward some ideas from my family's point of view which I believe would reflect many in our community.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Modernize the current buildings and upgrading of toilet facilities (needed for movies in the park).</li> <li>2. Undercover BBQ area (utilized by the public and the sporting groups).</li> <li>3. A playground for the children, something grand, similar to what has been done at Sumner Park Northcote, only better.</li> <li>4. A walking/running/bike trail around the park to encourage exercise.</li> <li>5. Beautify the park with planting.</li> <li>6. Dedicated fenced off area for off the leash dogs. This way they do not interfere with the sports and children. (Note: I am a dog owner).</li> </ol>	<p>Infrastructure; Community/Leisure; Playspace; Sporting; Dogs; Landscape</p>
26/03/2018	<p>Good morning, Congratulations on the decision to upgrade Mayer Park. I would like to request some BBQ facilities along with some tables. We would also like to see a basketball hoop for recreational use. Thanks for encouraging the community to provide feedback.</p>	<p>Community/Leisure; Sporting; Youth Facilities</p>
29/03/2018	<p>Unfortunately it looks as though I have just missed the drop in session regarding the master plan for Mayer park. I did not know Darebin had flagged the park for development until having a poke around the Darebin website this evening. I play with the women's soccer team at Darebin United SC and frequently use the facilities at the ground several times a week and have done for the last 4 years. Whilst I am not able to put myself forward as part of the community run project group, I would love to be kept in the loop about developments at the ground and be available to input ideas and feedback to the group. I would also like to act as a representative for our team, who really value the developments at the ground. Please keep me updated on any future community consultations etc. if you have an interest group/ stakeholder email or contact list.</p>	<p>Sporting; Misc./General</p>

## 2. Phase Two Community Consultation Responses

### Phase Two Postcard comments

Comment	Themes
Community space for older kids, i.e. skate park. More access to golf course.	Youth Facilities; Misc./ General
A concreted space for dancing.	Misc./ General
Playspace/nature play for older kids 8-14 years. Playspace with adequate shading.	Playspace
Please consider lighting is sensitive/appropriate to neighbouring residents and wildlife in the area.	Park Amenity
Retain exercise station.	Park Amenity
Drink fountain near cricket nets and football goals.	Park Amenity
Shade for children's spaces.	Playspace
Shaded play areas. Shaded seating areas – mums to sit and watch. (Have to take kids home or cover up completely on sunny days.)	Playspace; Park Amenity
Most important is to keep off-lead dog park. Playground OK if in corner and doesn't impact on where dogs can go.	Dogs; Playspace
Please stop the rat-running traffic along Leinster Grove (especially at rush hour).	Parking/Traffic Management
Fence perimeter of park for safety – children and dogs. Public toilets. More bins.	Park Amenity
Indigenous perspectives – history, use of land plaques.	Misc./ General
Food for thought are London parks. They are so community centric. I lived there for 8 years and I wish more parks here could be the same.	Note
One basketball ring and also a backboard with suitable flooring to bounce a ball would be good in a corner of the park. (Shooting practice, etc.) A full-size court would be awesome.	Youth Facilities
Skate park! Open toilets.	Youth Facilities

Dog off-leash area TO BE FENCED. (kids' play areas then safe). 'Non-dog people' like me not freaked out by overly energetic dogs jumping [up on] them. Have been bitten before and not reassured by lazy dog owners eventually removing dogs saying: 'he doesn't bite'.	Dogs
No commercial interest on the park at all. Somewhere to go without spending money.	Note
Street art painting wall that anyone can paint at any time (without prior permission) like Hosier Lane in the CBD.	Misc./ General
No private commercial interest in our community spaces (for example ads on bus shelters). I would happily pay more rates to have no ads in our public spaces!	Note
Keep the big open sky! At night it is magical to come over here to see the moon and stars.	Retain Open Space
Stage and kind of amphitheatre to encourage performance and dancing.	Misc./ General
More tree shading and seats around perimeter.	Landscape; Park Amenity
Connection to the creek. Water sensitive urban design. Golf course – open it up to people, especially during daylight saving.	Misc./ General
New footbridge is planned over creek near the Merri Creek development. Connect Mayer Park through to creek and over creek so it's more connected to East Brunswick.	Misc./ General
Indigenous, hardy planting and screening along Normanby Ave (e.g. Edinburgh Gardens planting 5 years ago, screening the park from busy St Georges Rd.	Landscape
More water sensitive urban design. Slow down run-off to creek. Let water infiltrate – e.g. swales, buffer strips, large rain garden, stormwater harvesting for irrigation through small wetland.	Misc./ General
Car parking is a must to stop infringing on residents' parking. Better seating/barbeques etc.	Parking/Traffic Management; Park Amenity
Inclusive playground encouraging kids to be active. Community garden for all to enjoy and learn.	Playspace; Community Events/ Facilities
Get rid of the golf course. Allow public access to the creek.	Misc./ General
Happy to keep it for cricket and soccer in the main areas. I personally use the oval area for running. The kikuyu grass was fantastic. Hope it is resurfaced with same!!	Formal Sporting; Park Amenity; Misc./ General

In the SE corner, maybe a small amphitheatre for music outdoors, plays, etc.	
Retain the running trail (not necessarily sealed) around the exterior but with better lighting.	Park Amenity
I love the open feel of this park. The expanse of grass with trees bordering the edge just make it a lovely park to visit. No buildings required!	Retain Open Space
In the words of the great Paul McCartney "Let it be." We have a great open area park. Don't go crowding it. "When you're on a good thing, stick to it." John Laws, Mortein Commercial 1970s & 80s	Retain Open Space
I, along with my family and neighbours, really enjoy the open-air theatre at Mayer Park. Please don't touch the park that everyone fought hard to save.	Retain Open Space
Path (concrete footpath) along Normanby Ave. Fence along Normanby Ave to stop children, pets and balls going onto road. More seats to watch sports. Bins and dog bags at all entries/exits to park. More trees/garden beds. Children's play area/equipment.	Park Amenity; Landscape; Playspace
Very concerned about parking at the park. We live in an adjacent street that is already congested. We suggest that a section of the park is given over to the parking for park related activities.	Parking/Traffic Management
More outdoor cinema sessions. More trees and shrubs. More playground equipment. More exercise equipment! Community vegetable plots. Honey beekeeping. Outdoor yoga/tai chi	Community Events/ Facilities; Landscape; Playspace
Mayer Park is one of very few parks that are uncrowded and open. So, people can fly kites (like I did as a kid and with my kids), play ball games and just take advantage of ALL THE OPEN SPACE. I BEG YOU TO LEAVE IT THIS WAY!!	Retain Open Space
The caged area located in from the clubrooms/pavilion appears to have become the dumping ground for the rooms. It is an eyesore and just encourages more rubbish to be put there. (Local resident and park user)	Misc./ General
PLEASE leave it the way it is!	Retain Open Space

## Phase Two Email comments

Date	Comments	Themes
9/10/2018	<p>Dear council of Darebin,</p> <p>I am 16 years old and live near Mayer park. I would like to share some ideas: more exercise equipment or machines, a basketball court if not basketball rings and a playground.</p>	Park Amenity; Youth Facilities; Playspace
10/10/2018	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>My greatest wish for Mayer Park is that include an adequate basketball ring and some concreted court (perhaps a half court if there are space constraints). This is because there is a serious lack of basketball facilities within walking distance in the local area.</p>	Youth Facilities
10/10/2018	<p>Hi Darebin,</p> <p>Today I got a letter in the mailbox saying to share our ideas with you. I am 11 and I had an idea about Mayer Park which is what the letter sent to email about ideas. My idea was for more drinking taps spread around Mayer Park because right now there is only 1 and it is pretty far away from where most kids play, and I think that kids are the most part of people that complain about how far away the water is. Kids also sometimes forget to bring a drink bottle so they will get pretty thirsty when they are say playing cricket for example. Another Idea I had is that maybe we could consider putting in an adventure playground even if it is a small one. I have heard kids complain to their parents that they have nothing to do. There is fitness equipment but maybe 4 year old kids don't want to play on that. I think that this is a really good idea because at Mayer Park everyone deserves to have fun Parents on the fitness, older kids playing soccer, cricket or football, and younger kids playing on our future adventure playground.</p> <p>Hope you can consider these ideas. Look forward to getting a response from you.</p>	Park Amenity; Playspace



10/10/2018	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I am a local resident in Northcote who lives near Mayer Park who received a postcard in the mail asking for ideas for Mayer Park. I think the way the A.H.Capp Reserve has been recently refurbished is a good model as it has the gym equipment next to a challenging playground so both adults and kids can play and adults can still keep an eye on kids. It also has a covered BBQ area and a half-court basketball area which are all set amongst a pleasantly landscaped area. This could all be added to where the gym equipment is already with a fence so the kids can't run onto the main roads.</p>	<p>Playspace; Youth Facilities; Landscape</p>
10/10/2018	<p>Feedback</p> <p>1/ have direct feedback link on the Your Say site on the web.</p> <p>2/ upgrade the sports pavilion into a more attractive building. (example the Brunswick velodrome)</p> <p>3/ provide a secure fenced area with gates for dogs off leash to run free. Could parallel the golf course fences.</p> <p>4/ convert the house next to the golf pro shop into a licensed restaurant with access from the park &amp; open to the public.</p> <p>beyond this, the golf course quality could be upgraded into a real class item with perfect greens and fairways to attract more clients into the area and to the restaurant.</p>	<p>Formal Sporting; Park Amenity; Misc./ General</p>
10/10/2018	<p>Hello</p> <p>More Trees at Mayer Park - it looks bare and more shade and vegetation would make it more inviting Thank you</p> <p>Seating areas</p>	<p>Landscape; Park Amenity</p>

12/10/2018	<p>I'm so glad you've asked.</p> <p>It really needs a running track. Not necessarily with lanes but even a gravel track around the perimeter of the park would be great. Perhaps it could have distance markers so distance run can be measured. It is the perfect location for a running/walking track as we have nothing but footpaths to run in the area. It will also compliment the exercise equipment Please keep it off-lead for dogs too or perhaps have a large enclosed area for dogs- they do this overseas and it's a great idea. Basketball hoops, there is a real basketball trend going on now and that will encourage kids to get outdoors, exercise and socialise. Keep cricket nets too. More trees, water feature?</p> <p>Thanks for reading this, I've dreamt of a running track for years and even submitted this idea a couple of times some time ago now. It is a large park and there are so many things that could be added to the space. I like the idea of my kids getting together with friends and spending a couple of hours at the park doing what they love. One other idea - a cafe. There aren't any around here!</p>	Park Amenity; Dogs; Youth Facilities; Misc./General
13/10/2018	<p>Dear Mayer Park Community Group,</p> <p>The ideas we have for Mayer park (from our 8 and 6 yr old children) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An adventure playground including monkey bars and a climbing wall, and lots of challenging stuff.</li> <li>2. Soccer goals.</li> <li>3. Basketball court</li> <li>4. Undercover BBQ area with tables and bench seats.</li> </ol>	Playspace; Formal Sporting; Youth Facilities; Park Amenity
15/10/2018	<p>Good morning</p> <p>Thank you for asking for feedback. Please find attached form requesting BBQ and table facilities are installed and also a basketball hoop.</p>	Park Amenity; Youth Facilities

22/10/2018	<p>Please would you include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A play area for older children - teenagers. There isn't one around here.</li> <li>2. A good sealed and level pathway around the park perimeter so wheelchairs and push chairs etc can enjoy exercise. At present there's a poor little path with tree roots making it unusable for wheelchairs. Also, a proper access from Normanby Ave at the NW corner of the park.</li> </ol> <p>Thanks</p>	Playspace; Park Amenity
26/10/2018	<p>Hi</p> <p>My ideas for Mayer park.</p> <p>I would like to see some kids' playground BBQ as well keep some space for soccer pitch. I have two children it could be great family space.</p>	Playspace; Park Amenity; Formal Sporting

## Phase Two Online Survey Comments

Already a sports reserve, please put more informal activities. As sports is already well catered for.	Note
In particular, it would be great to have a space which incorporates multiples activities (dog areas, outdoor gym area, sport area)	Note
The park is great as it is, it shouldn't be overdeveloped.	Retain Open Space
Could also incorporate that it should be safe e.g. a fence around that protects children and pets from cars	Park Amenity
The park can cater for greater diversity by dividing space into rooms with smarter use of landscaping and tree planting. Inner city parks can no longer cater for one discrete group such as cricketers excluding everyone else on a weekend.	Landscape
I love the community coming together for the outdoor cinema events in summer.	Community Events/ Facilities
Any redevelopment must hav3 activities that are suitable for people across the life course. The design should focus on spaces that have activities that build health, wellbeing and social connection. It is critical to have activities for young adults and teenagers and not just toddlers and small children. Any consultation needs to engage with young people and other hard to reach groups in the community.	Note
Yes, it needs to continue to cater to wide community need for open space in an increasingly dense urban area.	Note
No nearby public basketball courts so one is sorely needed. Thanks	Youth Facilities
As the president of Darebin Utd, we have outgrown the current pavilion. We have over 120 registered players and if you add parents it takes it to 160-180 personal. We definitely need an upgrade	Formal Sporting
To do this there needs to be space for young and old	Note
Want this vision and concept of community is not just "families with young children."	Note
I like that a broad cross section of the community has the opportunity to use the space in a variety of ways. I also appreciate the open space in what is becoming quite a building dense municipality.	Retain Open Space
Has local Sporting Clubs, Movies in the Park, Important open Space, Outdoor gym so has a range of options and needs	Note

I use the workout equipment at the park and jog there, I also enjoy the moonlight cinemas	Note
The lack of street parking during Soccer is a major concern, I regularly have to park 1km from my house... even during Wed. training nights. The fact that the Apartment owners opposite use their backyards as gardens & park on the street as well or Shaftesbury Parade my street, doesn't help. Major issue!	Parking/ Traffic Management
Implementation of WSUD at northern edge as part of the golf course. Would see better water quality and could be used to irrigate the field.	Misc./ General
A perimeter fence for off lead dog space is a must - hundreds in the community use Mayer Park for this purpose and are desperate for a perimeter fence to keep our pups safe from the busy roads.	Park Amenity
Leave it largely as it is! The golf course has heaps of wasted space.	Retain Open Space
BBQs, kids' playground, off lead dog park and perimeter fence are essential	Park Amenity; Playspace
Keeping some greenspace is most important to me.	Retain Open Space
Would love to have farmers markets or produce markets once a week/month	Community Events/ Facilities
I think the cricket nets need a large upgrade. They are used often by many people, but quality is poor	Formal Sporting
Most important is to retain and promote parkland as havens for humans as well as biodiversity. So, ensuring retention a diversity of large canopy indigenous trees and other vegetation that will attract bird life etc.	Landscape
Keep the open space to allow for community events like the outdoor cinema	Retain Open Space; Community Events/ Facilities
Please keep the open space - it is rare and special. If we were to lose it, we will never have another chance to get it back.	Retain Open Space

<p>While there are opportunities for new elements in the park and upgrades to existing elements are good, one of the best features is the visual openness, wide horizon and the unimpeded green connectedness to the golf course. (not to mention the galahs who nest in the golf course but feed on the sports ground). So, design and location of new elements is a key issue for me. The area of the former bocce court is crying out for something- I'd be less keen for "stuff" to be placed along the golf course edges. I note the gym equipment is not mentioned at all- that's been a very successful addition- is that a keep? In general, the current mix of juniorish sport and dog walking works. My observation is that the group who may most benefit from additional informal recreation or play equipment are in the age group primary school and above- waiting for their sports game to start or waiting for a sibling who is participating in a junior match for example, or who've come to the park with friends but been excluded from kick to kick. Often girls in that category. They just hang around and there is absolutely nothing of interest for them to do. (not pre-schoolers so much and there is a play space at Turner Reserve nearby which is suitable age equipment anyway.)</p>	<p>Retain Open Space; Playspace</p>
<p>My children play soccer it has been amazing to have this available for them to walk to training - such a valuable sport space - the club has grown from 16 kids to potentially over 100 in 3 years. A skate park and hard-court basketball would complement the sport and activity theme for the young population that frequent this area.</p>	<p>Formal Sporting; Youth Facilities</p>
<p>More bins to be placed around the park. More signage for dog owners to clean up after their dog.</p>	<p>Park amenity</p>
<p>It's a great area for dogs and kids. Multipurpose space that is safe with a playground and off lead area - preferably fenced - with a sports ground / oval would be great. I like the idea it can be a space to play and BBQ / picnic as the nearest is ah Capp reserve. Keeping the community hall is important too.</p>	<p>Playspace; Dogs; Park Amenity</p>
<p>I think Mayer Park should be an open space off lead dog park with shade trees and should be available for mixed use community organised sports and occasional events as has become known as in recent years. I would love to see Council commit to a regular maintenance program to keep the park in good condition. As a long-term resident, we are in the enviable position to already be in walking distance to other parks and spaces that offer the myriad of facilities being proposed for this space.</p>	<p>Landscape; Formal Sporting; Community Events/ Facilities</p>
<p>We are happy with the park and want to see it stay as is including the rough gravel tracks, we like to run on. More nature play and native revegetation would be good. Also, a</p>	<p>Retain Open Space; Park Amenity; Landscape</p>

native/water wise display garden labelled with botanic names would be great.	
Please retain all green space. It would be very disappointing if we lost outdoor space for the sake of courts/paving/infrastructure. Also, an outdoor all ages play space that encourages risk taking would be ideal considering the equivalent was removed from Turners Reserve with zero community consultation. It's disappointing as there is a significant body of academic research highlighting the benefits of risky play.	Retain Open Space; Playspace
Need more play area and facilities for teens age group. Turner Reserve is great but only facilitate for 2-10year old. This age group will grow up and soon become teens. They won't be fighting with youngers down the slides. Just a 1/2court basketball will give space to them, like the Pitch Park in Alphington with basketball ring.	Youth Facilities
Full court basketball	Youth Facilities
Hi, i suggest that instead of a half-court basketball, there should be a full court instead:) + need more teenage activities space and facilities:)	Youth Facilities
Please install a basketball court as there is no local & nearby public basketball court within 1km. Thanks & Regards	Youth Facilities
It's a great open space that serves many purposes, so we'd like to see it kept open with the sides developed with the above ideas I've ticked. be great to get something that engages kids aged 8 and up, i.e. the nature play or multipurpose court.	Retain Open Space; Playspace; Youth Facilities
I'm 10 and use the park all the time but would really like some outdoor design that works for our age group like the outdoor play space and I really need to walk my dog off the lead. We love the open space of Mayer Park. Please keep that:)	Retain Open Space; Playspace; Dogs
I'm a regular user of the outdoor gym equipment on the corner, and see many others using this area too. It does not obviously feature in your engagement questions. Please retain the organized sports clubs' use of the park, there aren't enough soccer pitches in Melbourne as it is, the area can't afford to lose any.	Formal Sporting
No basketball courts nearby. Please install one Thanks	Youth Facilities
No nearby public basketball courts so please could we have one. Thanks	Youth Facilities
No nearby basketball courts.	Youth Facilities
Soccer park & basketball courts.	Youth Facilities



It's a great park - it could be more beautiful with more flowers and trees/ shrubs and seating. It doesn't need too much - the cinema and markets were great. I don't believe it needs a bike track - the thing about Northcote Thornbury area that annoys me is that beautiful, peaceful areas are overrun by bloody bikes and their bells- just my humble opinion.	Landscape; Park Amenity
As there is already children's play equipment and BBQ facilities at Turner Reserve, I believe facilities for older kids would be much needed at Mayer Park such as a Skate area.	Youth Facilities
I think this park needs to accommodate for older children in the area. There is already a great park for young children only two blocks away. There are no skate or BMX parks anyway in this area. The closest is All Nations. There is plenty of room for a skate bowls or dirt jumps, which I know would make my son and his friends very happy.	Youth Facilities
I would like the park to not be too formalised/structured. It would be nice for kids to have a playground, and a half basketball court might be nice, but it would be good if it was a place the whole family including dogs can come to enjoy the open space and get some informal exercise	Playspace; Youth Facilities; Dogs
Perimeter fence and off lead dog area would be great, lots of dog activity already in the park. Low maintenance and achievable for council to deliver	Park Amenity
Think it should be recognised that while it would be good to have all sorts of new amenities sufficient space for organised sports is hard to come by and sporting fields should not be impeded on.	Formal Sporting
Dog walking is great and really gathers the community Be great to keep space for sport Turner Reserve is very close and has good kids play space so no need to replicate for the preschool age kids	Dogs; Formal Sporting; Playspace
Please consider a playground for kids with a fence around it	Playspace
Very important to build a fence around the perimeter. Currently park is unsafe for dogs and children. Would only need to be a low fence to have a high impact on safety.	Park Amenity
Highest priority (talking to everyone) seems to be a perimeter fence. This prevents dangers of kids and dogs, as well as balls etc, going onto busy roads. A good point of reference is the setup at A.H.Capp reserve. Also, it is important not to let the Golf Course become part of this undertaking. This should be left for another time (however I strongly feel it should remain a golf course forever, with ways to "value add", such as an architecturally designed pavilion with a restaurant	Park Amenity

and bar and functions facilities. It'd be very popular and would easily cover cost of maintaining the course!	
Having the whole park as dog off leash really restricts people wanting to use the park. Many dog owners do not keep their dogs under voice control. I had to leave one of your consultation sessions because some strange dog came up from behind and started licking my legs. The owners thought this was funny, I was shocked and annoyed. A Dog off leash area should be fenced. Darebin council should also patrol and fine noncompliance. Just have a look at All Nations Park to see how rarely dog owners comply with dog on leash rules. This is my local park and it's a long way to the next closest park.	Dogs
Storage cages for our sporting clubs to house equipment so they are not damaged, extending the roof on the current pavilion at Mayer Park which is currently used by the local soccer club Darebin United. Many residents have children playing in the teams and come down to watch over the weekends. Extending the roof will allow parents and spectators to watch games without being exposed to rain. I'm not sure how the community hall has made the budget as they are separate to Mayer Park? The current organisers of the hall have ridiculous hourly rates even for local community groups. If any money is allocated to updating the hall then the equivalent should be made to the Mayer Park pavilion occupied by the Darebin United Soccer Club, let's not forget this Master plan is the doing of years and years of pushing council from the soccer club. Putting funds into updating the community hall and not the pavilion where many local kids, men and women play is absurd. Last but not least, I'm not sure if research has been done? Mayer Park is getting 6 brand new light towers in October 2019 once again thanks to the hard workers of the Darebin United Soccer Club. Lighting shouldn't even be on this survey.	Formal Sporting
There is a really great community park in Rathdowne St, North Carlton called Curtain Square. It's not a large park, but it has separate areas for kids and teenagers, a fenced dog off leash park and plenty of green space for all to enjoy. I would love a park like this for Mayer Park. We must accept that people want to use the park differently and provide a space for everyone to enjoy the environment.	Dogs; Landscape
Please keep it an open space	Retain Open Space
Nearby playground and child's play space means that having play space for older children including half-court basketball and skate park should be a priority. Maintenance of at least one professional sporting field is desirable. Local film nights	Youth Facilities; Formal Sporting; Community Events/ Facilities

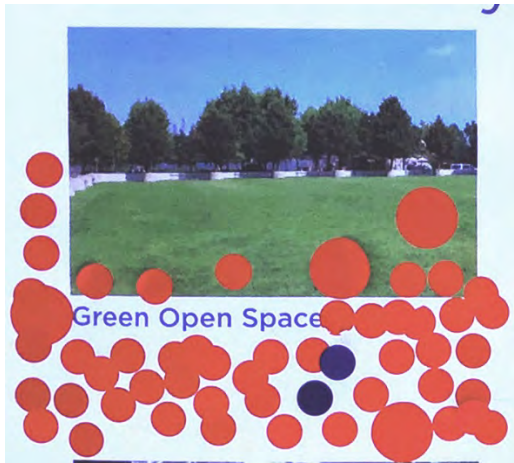
have been well attended and are popular with locals and bring community together.	
Keep it Simple - don't overdevelopment the area.	Note
The Open Space is really important to retain- there are parks with playgrounds and BBQs close by. Local Sporting Clubs need to be supported	Retain Open Space
Utilise part of the golf course space to include all facilities and activities listed in this survey. It's an under-utilised space and should be made available for residents and visitors especially as the housing density increases.	Misc./ General
Everything listed has benefit. There are definitely things I'd prefer, but there is nothing that I would object to.	Note
Fenced dog park where dogs can run off leash	Dogs
The local soccer team there just needs a flat surface. The outdoor gym is great. Maybe a more elaborate version. Pavilion and community hall need a serious upgrade	Formal Sporting
I would really love a running track!	Park Amenity
The lack of street parking during Soccer is a major concern, I regularly have to park 1km from my house... even during Wed. training nights. The fact that the Apartment owners opposite use their backyards as gardens & park on the street as well on Shaftesbury Parade my street, doesn't help. Major Major issue!	Parking/ Traffic Management
Organized Sport at Mayer impacts heavily and negatively on the west end of Shaftesbury Parade. Resident parking should be made available.	Parking/ Traffic Management
Upgraded lighting for the soccer club would be amazing! Training at night in winter under half light is very difficult.	Park Amenity
Dogs must be placed on a leash for community safety. The privilege of owning a dog must not preponderate the right to enjoy a park without dogs bothering you.	Note

## Phase Two Makers' Market Consultative Exercise – Detailed Review

### OPEN SPACE

#### CONCEPT

#### OBSERVATION



Green Open Space

**Positive**



Trees & Planting

**Positive**



Off-Lead Dog Area

**Positive**



**Perimeter Walking Trail**

**Positive**



**Community Garden**

**Positive**



**Movie Nights**

**Very positive**



**Informal Play**

**Positive**



**Outdoor Library**

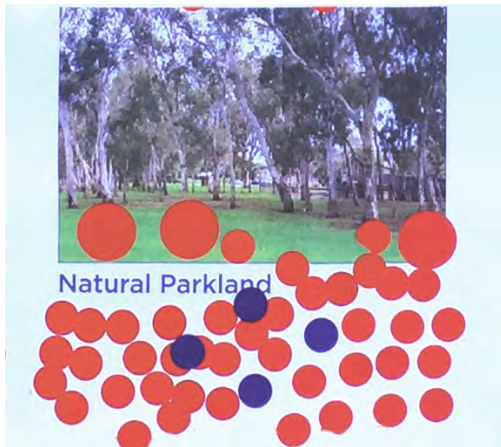
**Mixed**



**Edible Orchard**

**Positive**





**Natural Parkland**

**Positive**



**Art & Sculpture**

**Mixed**



**Local History/Interpretation**

**Mixed but with limited  
response/ interest**



## ACTIVE

### OPPORTUNITY

### OBSERVATIONS



Organised Sport

Positive



Cricket Nets

Mixed



Playspace

Very Positive



Nature Play

Positive



Water Play

Positive



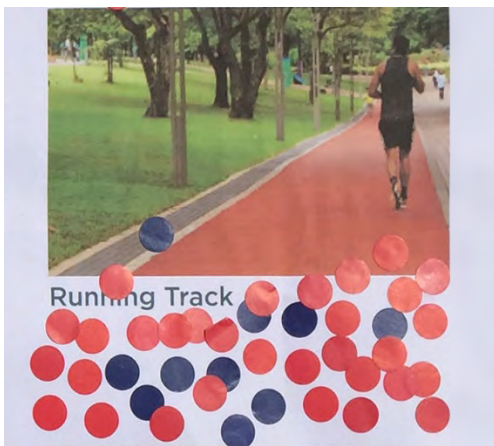
Formal Bike Path

Primarily Positive  
but with limited  
response/ interest



Half-Court Basketball

Mixed



Running Track

Positive



Games Area

Mixed



Skate & BMX Area

Negative



Multi-Purpose Courts

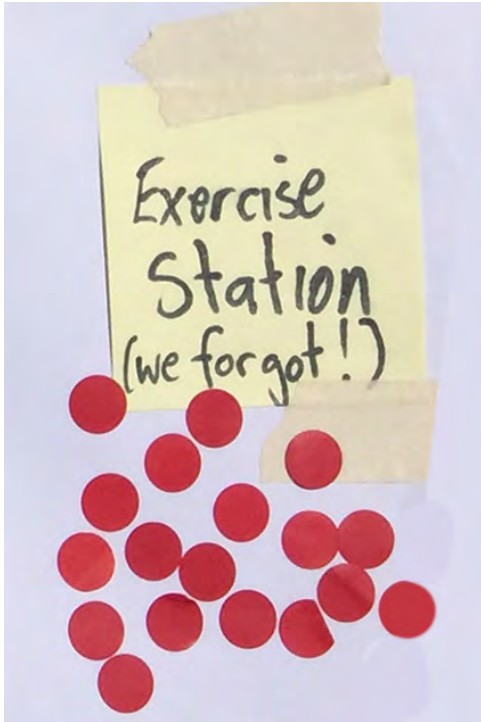
Negative



Activities for All Ages

Positive





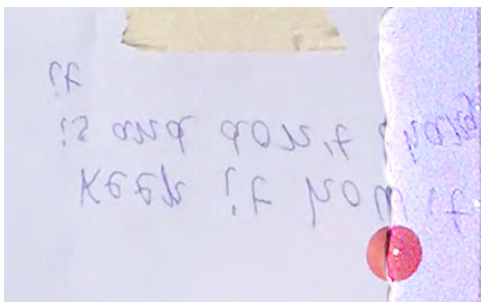
Exercise Station

Positive



Golf Course Access

Positive but limited response



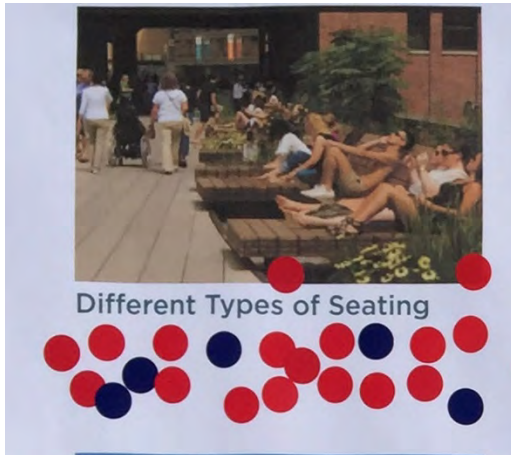
Keep it as it is

Limited response

## AMENITIES & FACILITIES

### OPPORTUNITY

### OBSERVATIONS



Different Types of Seating

Mixed



Lighting

Very Positive



Yarning Circle

Negative



Perimeter Fence

Positive



Covered Picnic Area

Positive



BBQ Facilities

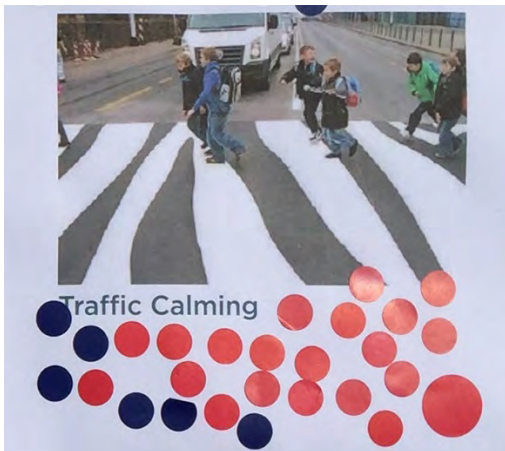
Very Positive





Bike Infrastructure

Positive



Traffic Calming

Positive



Café

Positive



Upgraded Pavilion & Toilets

Very Positive



Accessible amenities

Positive



Upgraded Community Hall

Positive

## Graphical Analysis

The following two graphs illustrate the count of the positive (red) and negative (blue) responses to concepts and themes presented to the community during the consultation period.

The concepts and themes are sorted by the difference between positive and negative relative rankings.

Those from the middle to right hand side of the graphs are those which are likely to be contentious within the sampled population.

Community members contributed their own ideas to the poster boards during the drop-in consultation and these are indicated with an 'x'.

### Graphical analysis of responses from Makers' Market engagement activity

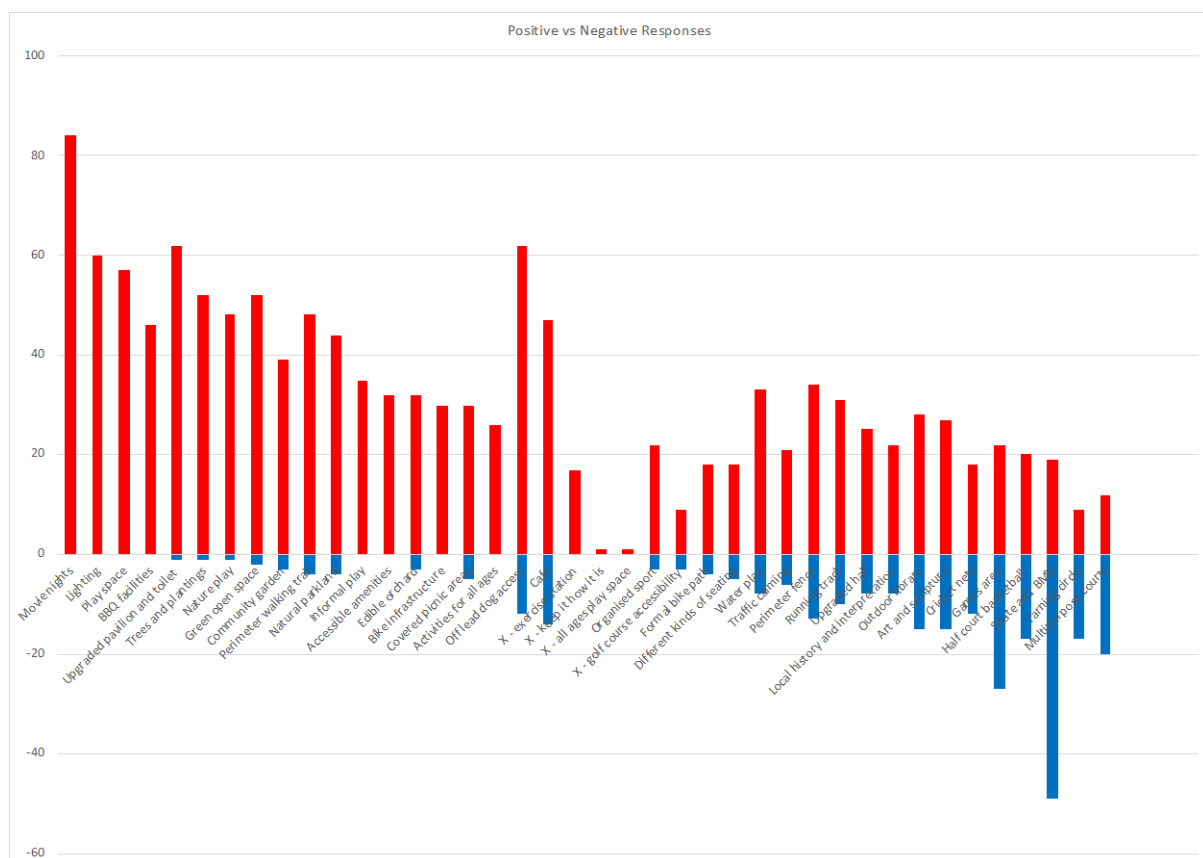


Figure 03 - Tally of red vs blue dot responses

Graphical analysis of responses from online survey, Mayer Park October-December 2018.

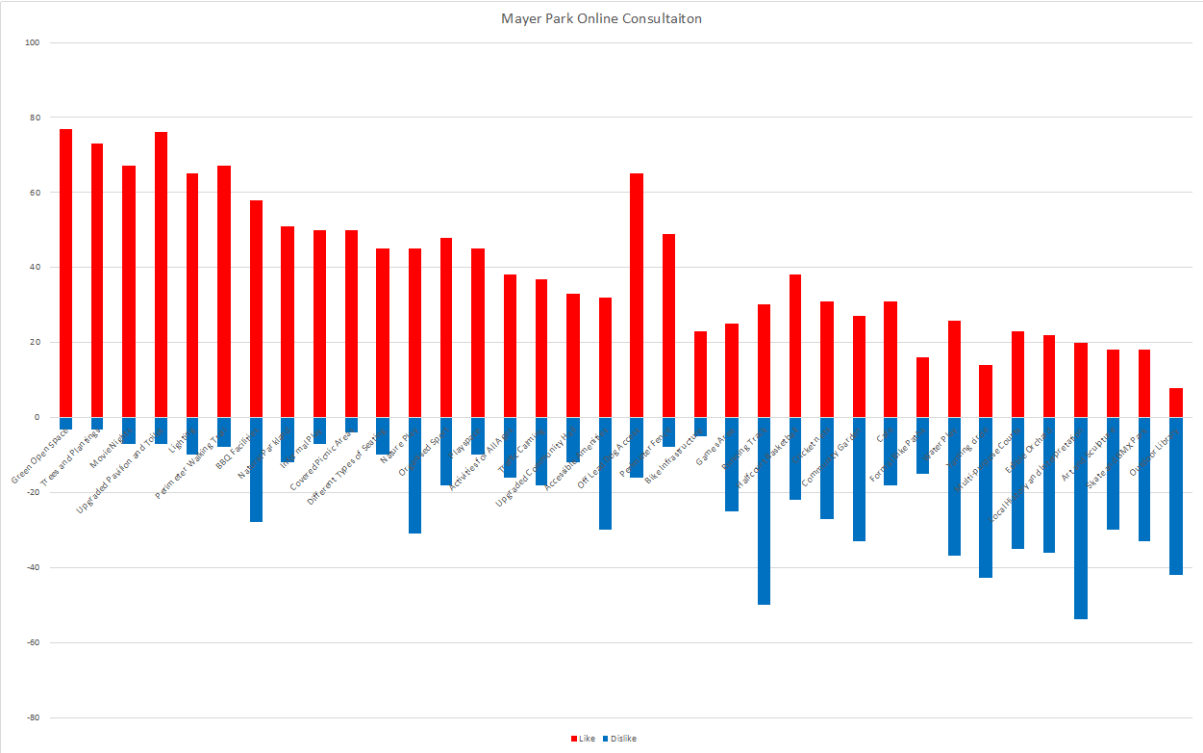


Figure 04 - Tally of Like vs Dislike responses

### 3. Phase Three Community Consultation Responses

#### Phase Three Postcard comments

Comment	Themes
Expand the tree cover with indigenous plants. Don't cover precious greenspace with buildings and playgrounds. COVID19 shows the importance of parks.	Landscape; Retain Open Space
Plan looks great - congratulations. 10 years is too slow. 6 years max. Informal walking/running trail should extend between soccer pitch and clubhouse on east boundary	General; Park Amenity
I like the landscape buffer along Normanby Avenue. I also like the idea of combining the golf and sports facilities to open up the area between the car park and park	Landscape; Park Amenity
Walking/running gravel track around outside of park Dog bags /signs/bins at all park entries/Park lighting/toilets upgraded and longer opening. Fence along Normanby stop kids/pets on road. Proper steps near golf course entry.	Park Amenity
I live opposite Mayer park and have 2 teenage kids would love to see a small basketball Court with basketball ring as well as footy goals installed.	Youth Facilities
Leave plenty of open space, scrub and green grass. Leave alone trees unless essential to remove. Demolish ugly "The Bridge" Comm house, toilets and rebuild	Retain Open Space
Circuit of low impact running surface needed around perimeter - help older joints, promote safer night running - less hazards	Park Amenity
Rubbish bins- as I was walking around, I picked up some rubbish and there are no bins near the golf course side on Normanby Road. Lack of bins all over the park	Park Amenity
Why can't Mayer Park remain as it is? Doesn't Council think there are enough stadiums and brick and concrete structures? The green space is the only thing that makes this area liveable.	Retain Open Space
I like the plan to use the drain as a cycling/walking path. Residents of Newman Street would like to develop a community garden along the sides of this path.	Park Amenity; Misc./ General (Community Garden)

## Phase Three Email comments

Comment	Themes
<p>Hi</p> <p>Just wanted to give my feedback on the master plan. Overall, I like it particularly retaining the open space. My only comments are that I would personally prefer to have a gravel track going around the entire area. I also would prefer not to have a new facility built at the western end. In addition, the drainage of the western half of the park is poor. This should be improved if possible before anything else (I'm not an expert on this). Overall, I'm excited about it!</p>	Retain Open Space; Park Amenity
<p>Hi,</p> <p>I wish to provide the following feedback on the subject plan, as requested.</p> <p>I think the plan, with two exceptions, is marvellous - well done all concerned.</p> <p>The two aspects that I feel need to be improved are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The plan should be implemented over 6, not 10 years, to meet the current community's urgent needs. As my 10 year old said " 10 years! I'll have moved out of home by then."</li> <li>2. The informal running track along the western and southern boundaries should be extended along the eastern side between the soccer pitch and the clubhouse.</li> </ol> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>PS. I suggest Council look into opening up the golf course. Hardly anyone plays golf there and the potential is limitless.</p>	General; Park Amenity; Misc./ General (Golf Course)
<p>Hullo there</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the master plan I have looked at this morning.</p> <p>I am impressed by the good work done on the plan. I especially like the inclusion of a ½ court for Basketball and wonder if there is a spectator seat nearby and if there is adequate space provided for loose ball recovery.</p> <p>I also like the idea of liaising with Northcote Golf Course to work through the possibility of a walking trail to the new Merri Creek bridge to CERES.</p> <p>For me there is one thing missing. It is the lack of inclusion of a Café where people attending sporting events can retire to enjoy non-alcoholic beverages together.</p> <p>Such a facility could be appended to change rooms and leased with chairs and tables put away on closure.</p> <p>Overall very impressed.</p>	Youth Facilities; Park Amenity; Misc./ General (Golf Course)
<p>Hi,</p> <p>I live on Normanby Avenue and have a keen interest in the upgrade of Mayer Park.</p> <p>There are some good initiatives included in the recent Masterplan, but the plan does not sufficiently address the issue of fencing. Fencing of the park is the most important part of the future park upgrades and if done well, will result in the most positive community response. The fencing proposal in the report is vague and unclear. there needs to be a more firm/clear proposal for the fencing of the park.</p> <p>The park already has a post and rail fence around the</p>	Park Amenity

<p>perimeter of the park, please can the masterplan propose that the existing post and rail fence remain, and mesh infills be installed between the posts (including mesh gates at existing openings). This is a very in-expensive way to provide a safe barrier between the busy roads of Normanby and Leinster and the park. It would improve the parks safety for children, pets &amp; reduce soccer balls going on the roads.</p>	
<p>Good morning, Thanks for the opportunity to provide some feedback for the proposed changes to Mayer park. The design concept looks good, with a number of improvements which will make the park a wonderful place to enjoy.</p> <p>I have some questions/comments regarding the relocation of the cricket nets. I understand that Council wishes to move them to allow more open space for the community centre. If the nets are moved, this will mean that heavy cricket bags and training equipment will need to be carried quite some distance away from where cars are parked on the street. Not an ideal situation.</p> <p>If the nets cannot be retained in their current position, and are accessible via the proposed new pathway, can consideration be given to making that pathway a concrete path? The gravel type path proposed is not compatible with the wheelie type cricket bags. When heavy cricket bags are pulled over gravel pathways, the gravel gets caught in the wheels and locks them up. This requires the bags to be carried, and the weight of the bags over even moderate distances can cause back problems.</p> <p>Regarding the net design, is it possible to have a copy of the actual detailed design drawings forwarded for review? Having used a number of nets around the city area, there are a few design features that make the nets either good or bad for training:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The net walls need to be built to ground level, i.e., have no gaps between the pitch and the nets under which balls can either pass through or get caught in.</li> <li>2. The pitch turf needs to run the entire width and length of the pitch area. Any sections left as bare concrete cause dangerous bounces that can easily injure players.</li> <li>3. The top (roof) of the net structure should be angled back towards the 'batting' end such that any wayward balls that land on the top of the roof will roll back and off. This will stop people climbing onto the roof structure which causes damage to the structure and is a fall hazard.</li> <li>4. The orientation of the proposed nets (similar to the orientation of the current nets) allows rubbish to be blown into the nets and get caught there. The construction of a small area around the entire net area would stop rubbish blowing into the nets and if the base of the fence is at ground level, also stop hit cricket balls from rolling into the greater park area. The nets at Ramsden Park Clinton Hill, are an example of a fenced off net area (although their fence has gaps which allow the balls to roll under).</li> <li>5. A drinking fountain located close by.</li> </ol> <p>I have enclosed some photos to highlight some of my points.</p> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment and should you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch.</p>	<p>Park Amenity</p>
<p>Dear Sir or Madam,</p>	<p>Park Amenities</p>



<p>Re: Fencing for Mayer Park</p> <p>I have previously expressed interest in supporting the inclusion of fencing on the Master Plan, for the safety of children, dogs, motorists and to prevent soccer balls rolling out into traffic.</p> <p>I am a local resident (Veronica St, Northcote) and Mother to a 10 year old Special Needs son as well as a dog. My son often expresses a strong desire in taking his ball and dog and going to Mayer Park, however due to the lack of fencing I am unable to take him because it is too dangerous with the busy roads/intersection in the event that my son runs off (&amp; dog follows) - this has happened in the past. Unfortunately, we as a family are unable to use Mayer Park at all. I am limited to taking my son to the small fenced park behind the Croxton Special School and unfortunately our dog is only walked on leash around the local area.</p>	
<p>Hi team on the Master Plan, Here are my comments on this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) only one field for Soccer and Cricket to share, not two. These sports have been acting as "boys clubs" and do not show enough effort to be inclusive of women. This should be on the Western side of the park too!!</li> <li>2) a basketball half court AND a netball half court. This will allow members of the public to train in a safe location</li> <li>3) a fenced off dog off lead area. Dogs off leads can be threatening to some members of the public and thus the need for the fenced off area.</li> <li>4) no barbeque. The one in the park between Smith St and Harold St rarely gets used</li> <li>5) More trees and some seats</li> </ol>	<p>Park Amenities; Youth Facilities; Landscape</p>
<p>In response to Future Mayer Park master plan, can we suggest to include a designated enclosed and gated, off leash dog area (similar to Crispe park in Reservoir). We live locally, a few meters from this park but usually drive to Crispe Park just to use the facility of a gated and fenced off park for the dogs.</p> <p>Really looking forward to see the Future Mayer Park with enhanced facilities.</p> <p>Thank you and best regards,</p>	<p>Park Amenity</p>
<p>Thanks for the opportunity of being able to provide feedback into future plans. As a resident of Shaftesbury Parade, near the Mayer Park end, I would like to (continue) to advocate for increased no standing restrictions on Leinster Grove, near the corner of Shaftesbury Parade. Cars that are turning right out of Shaftesbury Parade into Leinster Grove face huge visibility issues due to cars being able to park right up to the corner on Leinster Grove. As this right turn is already very risky due to limited space when cars parked against Mayer Park, speeding cars crossing over St George's Road (to make the lights) and lots of pedestrians, school kids on bikes etc - it's an accident waiting to happen. It's a very narrow stretch of road and during (normal pre-COVID peak hour) cars take</p>	<p>Parking/ Traffic Management</p>

<p>risks to 'get into the line', banking up Shaftesbury Parade and holding up traffic both ways.</p> <p>Can you please install no standing signs on Leinster Grove at this corner to improve this visibility and reduce this risk as part of this plan? Due to the narrowness of the road and it's high usage of school kids on bikes, park visitors and thoroughfare for cars, I would like to suggest that it be considered that no parking is allowed on that side of the road for that section between St George's Road and Shaftesbury Parade at all. I don't agree with the current parking allowance on that stretch as when cars are parked on both sides it does not allow for a throughput of traffic in both directions - this again causes bank ups, drivers taking unnecessary risks - is the road wide enough to safely cater for this level of parking and traffic?</p> <p>Thanks in advance for your consideration.</p>	
<p>For the love of people and birds. I would like to ask if there can please be five Gum Trees at Mayer Park.</p> <p>Thankyou.</p> <p>I am responding to a Council postcard entitled "Future Mayer Park" placed in my mailbox and this is what I would like to see in the future at the park.</p>	Landscape
<p>Hello,</p> <p>I have read over the draft plan for Mayer Park and the only downside I can see is that it will take too long to fully implement all the proposals.</p> <p>I am very happy with everything that is proposed and hope this can happen asap.</p> <p>Thank you for the effort that has been put into this as I think it will cater perfectly to the people who use it and will encourage more people to use it in the future. I am happy to see that native vegetation is being increased as I really want to see more native birds and other critters in the area.</p> <p>I am also very happy that there is a lot of space for "unplanned" sport / activities rather than just formal sport. Can't wait for the new BBQ area - a huge bonus for the area.</p> <p>Keep up the great work.</p>	General/ Misc.; Landscape; Park Amenity
<p>Hi, we are residents nearby and frequent Mayer park twice a day.</p> <p>With upcoming plans can we confirm there is enclosed fencing around the periphery of the park? (I.e. fully enclosed for dogs too?)</p> <p>Thanks</p>	Park Amenity
<p>Please accept this as a formal notice of dissatisfaction and objection with the current Mayer Park Masterplan proposal. Please note my specific concerns;</p> <p>- The security of the Pavilion and surrounding area. Mayer Park has been the subject of significant criminal activity in recent years including break-ins, theft, and vandalism.</p>	Formal Sporting; Park Amenity

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The safety of the Junior members of the associated soccer club (Darebin United (Apollo) Soccer Club). We are concerned at the current lack of fencing running along Normanby Avenue which would serve the purpose of preventing balls rolling onto the road and having children chase after them.</li> <li>- The functionality of the external area of the Mayer Park pavilion. We propose the extension of the overhanging veranda to accommodate parents and other spectators who may wish to stand under-cover to observe sporting activities.</li> <li>- The lack of consultation with the associated soccer club (Darebin United (Apollo) Soccer Club). It is of major concern that the current tenants and providers of a sporting association to a significantly large member of local residents was not consulted nor guaranteed tenancy moving forward as part of the new Mayer Park masterplan process.</li> </ul>	
<p>To whom it may concern, Please accept this as a formal notice of dissatisfaction and objection with the current Mayer Park Master plan proposal. Please note my specific concerns;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The security of the Pavilion and surrounding area. Mayer Park has been the subject of significant criminal activity in recent years including break-ins, theft, and vandalism.</li> <li>- The safety of the Junior members of the associated soccer club (Darebin United (Apollo) Soccer Club). We are concerned at the current lack of fencing running along Normanby Avenue which would serve the purpose of preventing balls rolling onto the road and having children chase after them.</li> <li>- The functionality of the external area of the Mayer Park pavilion. We propose the extension of the overhanging veranda to accommodate parents and other spectators who may wish to stand under-cover to observe sporting activities.</li> <li>- The lack of consultation with the associated soccer club (Darebin United (Apollo) Soccer Club). It is of major concern that the current tenants and providers of a sporting association to a significantly large member of local residents was not consulted nor guaranteed tenancy moving forward as part of the new Mayer Park master plan process.</li> <li>- Other: Storage facility for the Soccer goals provided by the club, maintaining the ground at all times, Security Cameras, 24/7 lights around the pavilion,</li> </ul>	Formal Sporting; Park Amenity

## Phase Three Online Survey comments

Comment	Themes
Pls ensure adequate lighting around the park, as I walk past every night from work and some nights, I'm terrified as I can't see. I would really love to see a family orientated social bar, open from app. 2 to 9 pm. Maybe that should be a part of the golf course. Also, from a Gadd St homeowner, I thank you for the upcoming improvements in my area.	Park Amenity; Misc./ General (Golf Course)
I think it looks great.	Note
The plans look great but please please please put a proper fence all the way around the playground area with a proper gate, like what they have at Batman Park. Little kids run away all the time at playgrounds and this one will be next to a busy road. It's not relaxing at all taking my kids to playgrounds without fences, so I usually avoid them unless there is a fence all the way around. Ideally, the playground, basketball and other areas for gathering would be located over the golf course side of the park, it makes no sense to gather with families near the busy roads	Park Amenity; Playspace; Youth Facilities
I like the master plan as a daily user of Mayer Park primarily for dog walking but also activities with my teenaged kids. Very pleased to see the half-court basketball ring as my kids have wanted this for years so we'll done! Would also like more to be spent on maintenance of the park surface, I know irrigation and change of grass type has been completed but further spending on levelling and keeping the surface in prime condition would further support greater use of the facility. Overall the plan is a very positive move but let's keep the maintenance up to ensure we keep attracting people to use the park. Finally, the community hall and club rooms are an eyesore, any plans to replace should be fast tracked. Thanks for the great efforts	Youth Facilities; Maintenance; Formal Sporting
Very happy, some great decisions	Note
-doubling the amount of trees (12.5% to 25%) is a great idea, particularly around the outdoor gym area as it will increase shade in that area. -The upgrade to amenities should be one of the highest priorities, particularly new toilets that are accessible all hours (like at Princes Park). - Inclusion of family friendly spaces is great! -Inclusion of bike repair stations and bike racks is great - many people ride to the park to use it -Overall the plan looks promising!	Landscape; Park Amenity
I think the master plan is a great balance between maintaining existing uses and improvements that will make the park more attractive to varying age groups and both existing and new users. I especially like the ideas to connect the park more to the creek (via the golf course) and to the surrounding areas via more paths & pedestrian crossings & I live nearby, but across Normanby Ave and don't tend to use this park much because of that accessibility barrier (plus the lack of a playground currently), but would definitely use this park frequently, both for sport and the playground and other facilities if it were upgraded as per the masterplan. Thanks for the great work - I am very thankful for the wonderful open spaces across Darebin to	Park Amenity; Playspace

help us all maintain good mental health and wellbeing during this lockdown period! I think these will become even more valuable in future so a great investment for the community.	
Overall, a great draft master plan. In particular, I fully support a new half basketball court, the upgrade of perimeter tracks, and the addition of more trees and native plants.	Youth Facilities; Park Amenity; Landscape
Add WSUD treatment to capture stormwater from the surrounding streetscape and roof runoff from the golf course into park, capturing it underground for repurpose in irrigation and toilet flushing like Edinburgh Gardens. Terrace the south-eastern corner (no.6 on map) to break up the height difference and provide entry definition to the park. Where does the playground sit with staging of works? Highly recommend it for the short-term staging. Don't agree with reduced speed limits on Normanby Road - this isn't necessary as it already has a good buffer from a safety point of view. The play area is also located away from Normanby Rd.	Misc./ General; Landscape; Park Amenity; Parking/Traffic Management
Good - addition of basketball facilities and playground, increased tree plantings, informal path around western and southern sides, maintenance of open space, future upgraded clubrooms shared with golf course (excellent idea), moving cricket nets Bad - has not adequately addressed car parking on Leinster Grove. Impossible to pass through when there are cars parked on both sides, which happens all the time. Need to create "no standing" on one side of the road and open up golf course car park ASAP. Alternatively create indented car parks (like the ones on Normanby Ave).	Youth Facilities; Landscape; Park Amenity; Playspace; Parking/ Traffic Management
I believe that the main ideas of a play space, BBQ area, and walking track are all great, and necessary to make the park a better place. Possible future involvement of a walking track between Mayer park and the new Merri Creek bridge is a good idea, as many people use the golf course for walking. My only concerns is for the sport club that resides at Mayer Park. It needs to be made sure of that the sport club and members use take care of the environment around them. I agree with the fact that the toilet's opening hours need to be lengthened, but I also think that the toilet might have to be replaced rather than cleaned, because it is very old and has faced many years of neglect before today.	Park Amenity; Playspace; Formal Sporting
There was never a greater an example of the requirement of open green park as in the current covid-19 outbreak. The founders of our parks were far looking. Councils now a days are looking to see how we can build and develop these green spaces but that's a huge mistake. Very seldom if never are places being turned back into green spaces once built on. Mayer Park provided a breathing space for people in high density streets like Gadd Street. It was never more important, just the open space to walk around. Never again should any green space be taken up with bitumen and concrete or buildings. The Golf Club buildings and just that area could be repurposed for dual purpose without expanding the footprint. The closure of the existing path beside Croxton Special school under the guise of temporary closure for building purpose and then turned into full closure under some security guise is a retrograde step. It should be re-opened for pedestrians and bikes, and allowance should	Retain Open Space;

be made for a connecting path here if any new development takes place in the business park beside the special school. This path was extensively used and the play area was extensively used by older people of the area for many years before the path was closed and the play area turned into children only area. Thank You for allowing the opportunity to give my opinion	
Sounds like a great idea. I think it would be great if there was a soccer net set up for locals to practice shooting. Currently they are all locked in a way that they cannot be used. A set of basketball courts with the chain nets would be the optimal use for the spare area. Lately all of the local courts are packed with players.	Youth Facilities
We love the movie nights and have missed them this year. We would love a playground for the kids and more secure fencing along Normanby Road.	Park Amenity; Playspace; Community Events
Thanks for the extensive changes, it will make this space much more user friendly and safer. I am a little concerned still about the fencing along Normanby. We use the park daily for walking our dog and at least once a week a ball goes onto Normanby and is frequently followed by a small child, which is quite worrying. The timeframe for the fencing is also quite long term in reality and it would be good to see if it could be prioritised sooner.	Park Amenity; Dogs
Great to see the outdoor gym being retained as I and a lot of other middle-aged men (among others) use it as an important part of our fitness regimes to keep healthy (we are at higher risk of heart attacks etc) When it comes to the basketball court, it might be better to have a half-court so teenagers can play actual games with each other, rather than just a semi-circular shooting pitch. And if there is room, a full court might also be an option, as basketball is a great way to get teenagers exercising and socialising and therefore keeping them out of trouble :)	Youth Facilities
Excellent to see this plan, with many exciting ideas to improve amenity of the park for all users. Would like firmer commitment to perimeter fencing. The suggestion of infill mesh to existing post and rail fence is ideal, but it is unclear on plan where this treatment would be applied. It is required along the FULL LENGTH of both Normanby Avenue perimeter, and Leinster Grove perimeter, with multiple safe gates/entry points. This should be a priority as the park is unsafe with current fence treatment. Mounds, trees and shrubs (as per current plan, page 23) are inadequate. Would like to see BBQ and shelter upgrades actioned in the short term. Basketball ring and improvements for cricket nets crucial to offer activities to adolescents (currently inadequately catered for). Would like to see connections to Merri Creek footbridge as a priority. It has been great to see the public accessing this (albeit illegally) during Covid closure of golf course.	Park Amenity; Youth Facilities; Misc./ General
There are some good initiatives included in the Masterplan but the plan does not sufficiently address the issue of fencing. Fencing of the park is the most important part of the future park upgrades and if done well, will result in the most positive community response. The fencing proposal in the report is vague and unclear. there needs to be a more firm/clear proposal for the fencing of the park. The park already has a post and rail fence around the perimeter of the park, please can the masterplan propose that the	Park Amenity

existing post and rail fence remain and mesh infills be installed between the posts (including mesh gates at existing openings). This is a very in-expensive way to provide a safe barrier between the busy roads of Normanby and Leinster and the park. It would improve the parks safety for children, pets & reduce soccer balls going on the roads.	
I live close to Mayer Park and my son plays soccer with Darebin United and I am the team manager. The addition of another high fence is needed behind the second pitch on Normanby Ave but additional enclosed fencing is required between the high fences and from the already installed high fence to near the corner of Leinster Grove. When the seniors play games at home more than once a game the soccer ball is kicked out of bounds and onto oncoming traffic on Normanby Street. Near accidents have occurred regularly and it this doesn't occur it's a matter of time before a major accident happens as a result of a wayward soccer ball. This additional fencing would also support dogs off lead. Last May my dog was seriously injured when it was struck by a car on Normanby street. If there had been enclosed fencing this accident would have been avoided.	Park Amenity; Formal Sporting; Dogs
Please don't add play equipment or too many recreational things to Mayer Park as it will take away from the openness of Mayer Park that is so rare and what makes it so special. Turner Reserve is walking distance away and already provides the community with play equipment and a nice jogging path.	Retain Open Space
What a great plan! Also love that there's a look towards linking up the Merri bridge in the future, pity it's in the 10+ years but everything else is spot on.	Misc. / General
Hi my name is Alexander Spiteri and I am Secretary, Player and Coach at Darebin United Soccer Club. I think all the suggestions are good however I have some safety concerns with specific locations. Concern 1: Short Term (1-5 years) - a. New playspace for all age groups There will need to be barriers protecting this area to avoid children from being hit by soccer balls Concern 2: Medium Term (6-10 years) - b. New high netted ball stop fence This needs to be addressed urgently for both player and community safety. There is significant danger in children chasing balls on the road as well as balls hitting moving vehicles. An alternate solution would be to place low fencing at the end of the footpath. Concern 3: Medium Term (6-10 years) - c. Relocate cricket nets The cricket nets opening should be facing away from the pitch. It is dangerous for players on the pitch as well as cricketers for balls to be entering a pitch. A simple fix would be to have the cricket nets re-located further to the left and facing the empty space on the left side of the pitch. Concern 4: Medium Term (6-10 years) - a. New BBQ and shelter Similar to my comments regarding the playspace for kids, this area will need to be protected or re-located to prevent balls from hitting people or BBQ's Concern 5: Long Term (10+ years) - e. Plant understorey During winter players train off the pitch to prevent surface damage. Also significant space is required behind the goals for the nets to be paced.	Park Amenity; Playspace; Formal Sporting
I think the plan looks great, however it would be great if we could include a skate/scooter park & possibly a small BMX bike play area on the north west corner hill behind the footy	Youth Facilities; Dogs

goal posts. I also hope that the park will stay a dog off lead park.	
A bike station with air pumps for tyres and bike maps of nearby trails would be very useful for the many bikes who pass Mayer park	Park Amenity
I really like the plan in general, very well done! I particularly like the walking track and understory planting. However, the proposed picnic pavilion could look a lot more natural (it is a bit of an eyesore currently). I like the idea of lots of vegetation, but given the rise in violence against women, we need to keep these risks front of mind so that predators cannot take advantage of the complete visual obscuring or walking paths.	Park Amenity
Hi there, I am one of many greyhound owners who live locally and would love to see an area for greyhounds to be allowed off leash at the park please	Dogs
I'm really happy that there will be a playground. Could it please be fenced or protected from the dogs in the off-leash area. I currently hate going there when we other people's off leash dogs run and approach my kids. Signs are not a good enough deterrent. Thanks	Park Amenity; Playspace; Dogs
My partner and I live in Gadd St and we walk our dog up to Mayer Park every day. It would be fantastic if the park could be fenced so we were able to let him off safely. Thanks for considering my comment!	Dogs
I visit Mayer Park a few times per week to walk my dog or travel through it on my way to the Merri Creek trail. I really appreciate that the plan considered how visitors will be travelling through and to/from the park, especially the addition of an informal path throughout. I especially like the idea of a potential path alongside the river so I could use that to walk to/from without taking a route through the neighbourhood. I also routinely exercise at the park and so I appreciate the upgrade to the communal benches and exercise areas in addition to the fitness area. Overall I support the plan and wouldn't change anything.	Park Amenity
good	Note
I think that Council and the committee have done an excellent job, for the most part I think the draft Strategy is well thought out and presents a balanced approach to the multitude of existing and potential users of Mayer Park. However, I am puzzled by two of the long-term initiatives on page 32 - a. and b. Action a. seeks only to 'consult' with Northcote Golf Course regarding a new walking trail to the new Merri Creek footbridge. For starters why is only 'consulting' something that will happen 10 years hence? As I understand it Darebin Council is the owner of the golf course. Obviously golf course users should be consulted but a complete walking trail should be possible in much less than 10 years let alone consultation, I can't expect it would be particularly capital intensive to deliver. I think the idea of a walking trail itself is excellent and should be pursued much quicker than 10+ years. Similarly in relation to action b., why should 'investigations' be 10+ years away? This should be capable of being done by existing Council staff much quicker, even if implementation is a while away. As with the trail through the golf course, this shouldn't be	Misc./ General (Golf Course)



significantly capital intensive to deliver if investigations prove to be positive.	
It would be good to prioritise community facilities like the BBQ into the next couple of years rather than 5-10 yr period. Also strongly support a fence or boundary surrounding the park for dogs to go off lead without worrying they'll run onto the road. A link to Merri Park would also be really fantastic to improve accessibility. Lovely that it's still wanted as a sporting field but using it as a buzzing community space that can host markets and other community activities would be wonderful for people living this side of High Street.	Park Amenity; Dogs; Community Events
We (family of four, two kids 9&11) think the plan looks great. You have retained the open spaces which is terrific. We also like the playground and more trees around the perimeter and additional opening hours for the toilets. We use the park a lot, several times a week for walking, playing, dog walking and general outdoor fun. We really, really, really have missed the open-air cinema in summer. These were such a wonderful, convivial community event that families could attend and as they are no cost, all families can be included. Please, please work to bring these back this summer, and/or once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. All of us who live locally miss them so much.	Park Amenity; Landscape; Community Events
Given the acute lack of green space in the inner areas of Darebin and Moreland, it's been interesting to see how the golf course has been used by the community since its closure from Covid-19. While not technically allowed, every afternoon many people young and old have been using the area for jogging, walking dogs and kicking a ball. I'm under the impression that the course is owned and managed by Council, has very low usage and runs at a significant loss. Transforming it into a massive regional park that would go a long way in solving green space issues and provide greater benefit than the few who use it for golf.	Misc./ General (Golf Course)
So happy to see the basketball court idea is added to the draft design. Although bushes and landscapes are necessary, please keep the area open for security reason. Lighting is another important factor. All age group playground sounds good but younger kids may still be better to use Turner Reserve playground to avoid overcrowded. Mayor Park should focus on older children and adults. BBQ is good idea. But given the traffic on Leister already busy, particularly in afternoons, this will see increasing cars and parking issues. Should reconsider and consult with the local residents.	Youth Facilities; Park Amenity; Playspace; Traffic Management
Very supportive of greater canopy density around perimeter, especially indigenous and native plants. It would be great to have educational placards about the flora so families and children can learn more. The Royal Children's Hospital gardens and playground in Parkville have done this really well - the gardens are based around the 7 seasons of the Wurundjeri peoples, and the playground integrates the gardens through rockeries and beautiful ambling trails. We support a children's playground, particularly if it can have a section catering to younger children e.g. under 5s. Additional pedestrian crossings and footpaths will increase both safety and accessibility. Great to see this initiative improving our community.	Landscape; Park Amenity; Playspace

Generally supportive of the direction of the plan, I just feel that it's a huge park and the dog walkers have been overlooked. This is a very popular dog spot, and there are no facilities proposed for dogs. The fence needs to be enclosed fully to the busy roads to prevent dogs and children from getting out easily (mesh underneath). And ideally you could have a dog play area in one of the southern corners. Please think about adding one, it's not a huge cost.	Dogs
Congratulations on a terrific Master Plan that takes account of the multiple users of Mayer Park and their needs and interests. During this COVID crisis the use of Mayer park has increased enormously and the park has handled it pretty well. The additional features outlined in the plan would have made it even better for residents. Moving the cricket nets seems like a good idea and improved park furniture would be great. My main reservation, and it is only about investigating feasibility at this stage, is the building labelled 21 on the proposed layout. A building on the Western boundary would destroy one of the main features of the park which is a near perfect natural horizon. This feature is incredibly important, and once lost, it would be lost forever. Building behind the tree line in the golf club golf course would be better.... if it is ever required. I cannot stress how important this feature is. There are very few places in Northcote/Thornbury that give the feeling of being away from it all...even the gorgeous Merri path always has a powerline visible, All Nations similarly has very few spots with an undisturbed vista. Please reconsider this.	Park Amenity; Misc./ General (Golf Course)
Increased green areas with indigenous planting, moving barbeques and seating, a walking track around the perimeter are important improvements, however a specific fenced area on the perimeter for dogs to run and socialise (as per Rathdowne St Park in Carlton) would keep them separate and safe when the main part of the park has sporting activities such as soccer and cricket. Walking our dog to Mayer Park almost daily for nine years has been an unexpected but very positive social aspect for us as we have met many local residents this way. It has been terrific for our health and wellbeing and connecting to the community of Darebin. The long-term plan for a walking track from Mayer Park to the new Merri Creek Bridge and a rebuild of the existing golf course facilities to be shared are excellent. I strongly believe that the Golf course environment is a wasted resource for many of us who live close by and use Mayer Park regularly for dog walking, socialising and enjoying the green space. The golf course is currently only available to the few.	Landscape; Park Amenity; Misc./ General (Golf Course)
Hi. The master plan looks fantastic! well done. I am very excited by the new walking track, BBQ area and removing the barbed wire fence from around the community hall. Also the access from Turner reserve through to the park. My main feedback is to please make sure that the new cricket nets are in place before the old ones are removed. This is VERY IMPORTANT. The nets are a highly used and valuable resource.	Park Amenity
I would have liked to see more trees and nature rather than just open space for football and cricket. Why can't we use some of the golf course? so selfish to have a golf course in such a built-up area space for the few at the expense of the	Landscape; Misc. / General (Golf Course)

many. Golf courses are everywhere and it's not even a large enough one to justify keeping it as such.	
I like the plan, it seems to have taken into account most of the needs of, and feedback from the local community. I am happy to hear there is going to be a basketball court, walking/running track, and planting of more vegetation. Off-lead seems to be a common theme so I hope this remains the case in the new plan. Obviously, the sooner this all happens the better. Thanks for listening.	Youth Facilities; Park Amenity; Landscape
I am generally supportive of the plan. I see that the lights and the netting improvements have already happened. I like the idea of expanding the tree cover and the understorey. Where possible it would be good if this planting could be of indigenous species. I also like the idea of improved cycling and walking infrastructure. It would be nice to be able to walk the perimeter of the park without getting muddy, which has been quite a problem of late. Extending the opening hours of the public toilets would be good to. I mostly walk there after work and they're consequently never open. With the medium-term projects I would urge against expanding the existing footprint of fixed infrastructure like playgrounds and buildings. Green space is so rare and so precious it should be preserved. I live in an apartment block and it's my only access to nature. COVID-19 has really highlighted how important having this open green space available it to me. The desire to be seen to be 'doing something' always seems to mean encroaching further and further into parks with toilet blocks and BBQ shelters. I am particularly opposed to a new BBQ shelter. In my experience, BBQ shelters tend to attract people at night engaged in anti-social behaviour. This is evident in the All Nations park where people drink and smoke, smash bottles and leave rubbish at night. This scares other users away and diminishes public amenity. To the longer-term projects, I would support replacing the existing sports pavilion with a new multipurpose centre. The current structure is ugly and dated. I would also be extremely supportive of a walking trail to the new footbridge and rehabilitation of the Preston Main Drain so that it's a nice off-street walking and cycling trail.	Landscape; Park Amenity; Retain Open Space; Formal Sporting
Draft Master Plan appears suitable and follows the apparent consultation feedback. The walking/riding path around the perimeter is paramount along with the increased tree canopy With more leisure time people of all ages need places to 'breathe'. Mayer Park can do this with Council help.	Park Amenity; Landscape
Make sure that the new lights are on timers to go on every weeknight don't let the soccer club decide when to turn them on and off they don't turn them on for other people	Park Amenity
Very comprehensive plan! I really like the 'indicative timeline' on the website, it's a really clear way of showing where we are. For the park, I would love to see those huge fences come down, they're very unwelcoming. Of everything in the plan, I was most excited about the proposal for well-lit and safe walking paths, and all of the gorgeous plants! I think the community engagement is really great, and it might be too much hassle (or too hard with coronavirus restrictions), but getting the community involved in planting or specifics of design could really instil a	Park Amenity; Landscape

sense of ownership by locals. Great work and looking forward to seeing it continue. (Also I've said 'yes' to a response to my comments, but that's because I felt mean saying 'no'. I don't REQUIRE a response to my comments).	
Hi Team, I think the Mayer Park draft master plan is pretty good, well done. My 4 comments which are for consideration are: 1. While you may know it, it is worth mentioning in the plan early the fact the park is within a flood zone - and I assume must have a limit to how much hard structure can be inserted - I assume that has all been calculated as part of the design plan. 2. turning the footpath on the north side of the park (currently granitic) to concrete. I see that you are trying to meet shared path standards- but does it have to go to concrete? I can think of several shared paths that are not. A loop of a soft surface around the park is so much better for walking and jogging and will absorb more water than the concrete replacement. 2. I would prioritise creation of the picnic and BBQ at a higher level than as listed currently. 3. The future envelope of the next sports pavilion (21). This is a very large envelope shown on the plan and if that means a building of that size on that side of the park will be contemplated in the future, then I am not in support. It would be very intrusive: one of the best visual aspects of the park currently is that there is a lovely uninterrupted treed horizon to the west and south - which I value as a real plus- you can turn away from the built form of the streets and just see trees, green, sunsets and birds. It would be a pity to break that with such a large intervention. Freeing up the current pavilion space in return for this new footprint would not re-deliver this benefit to the community. I can see the value of investigating if the current building in the golf course can be re built as a pavilion, and the car parking shared -but I think the missing parts in this proposal are - the overall needs of the Golf Course and doing some long term planning there and the proposed size of the envelope shown in the draft Masterplan. So do not support that aspect of the plan as shown currently. Otherwise- look forward to seeing some amenity improvements in the Park	Park Amenity; Misc./ General (Golf Course)
There needs to be greater native indigenous coverage to offset the urban sprawl and climate change.	Landscape
Plan sounds excellent, especially pedestrian crossing on Normanby Ave as well as "Advocate to VicRoads for decreased speed limit on Normanby Avenue". The basketball half court will be a great addition as will the walking track around the perimeter.	Traffic Management; Youth Facilities, Park Amenity
I am so impressed at the plans for the Mayer Park, particularly the way they have been considered with extensive community consultation. Over the past 3 months during the unprecedented time of COVID-19, the community around Mayer Park has been thriving and we are continually seeing the overwhelmingly positive impact of green spaces and the natural world. These spaces have undoubtedly offered us relief, perspective, and regeneration in this time of confinement. I am a passionate amateur gardener and urban farmer residing in Shaftesbury Parade. I have recently been thinking about the benefits of placing a community garden in Mayer Park that would contribute to the vibrant ecosystem and plans for the space. Imagine	Misc./ General (Community Garden)

<p>having a BBQ in the park and heading across to the community garden to pick your salad greens or a lemon from the tree to enjoy with your family. Mayer Park gets ample light so there would be flexibility around spaces for growing. Personally, I know how easy and rewarding it is to grow your own food when you have the right resources and support. I have work experience in project management and community support. Please let me know if you would like me to send through a plan for this project if it is something you would like to go ahead with. As a young person living in the City of Darebin and a big fan of the Mayer Park, I am extremely excited at the prospect of watching the improvements to the park being made over the next few years. I am looking forward to hearing from you about the Mayer Park Community Garden project.</p>	
<p>A good plan. Mayer Park is in need of an update. I like the plans for a playpark, more shade, a proper path around the park, better separation from nearby roads (especially Normanby) and improved BBQ facilities. I do wonder if the playspace could have a small fence around it so that parents can relax and let kids play. Some toddlers just bolt which makes it hard work and a fence helps. Also, could other non-native trees be considered for shade rather than more gum trees. Gums just drop bark, leaves and branches and don't actually provide much shade. Other trees are far better at providing shade and are lower maintenance. Overall, a good plan as it maintains the vast open space, but with improvements around the edge to make the park more usable.</p>	<p>Park Amenity; Playspace; Landscape</p>
<p>Path to creek on East of golf course. The golf course is highly discriminating in terms of access. A path to creek would open the area up, esp. with the bridge being built over the creek.</p>	<p>Misc./ General (Golf Course)</p>
<p>Dear Darebin Council, during this COVID crisis many have taken advantage of the closure of the Northcote golf course to survey the beautiful grounds that Darebin council fund a secretive, elite group of 120ish largely white males to very occasionally play golf on. It angers me that our rates subsidise this elitism, while the community struggles with very low levels of green open space. I call on the council to allocate budget in 2020 to consult and establish a master plan to consider the entire golf course area that will soon be linked by a footbridge at its southern end to Cere's. I invite the Green dominated council to embrace this opportunity to demonstrate to the community its ability to deliver change in line with its and the communities' values.</p>	<p>Misc./ General (Golf Course)</p>
<p>Love the new play space for all age groups especially the half-court basketball ring. There isn't a public basketball ring nearby (closest is the Croxton School or at NHS) so this will be an appreciated and popular addition.</p>	<p>Park Amenity; Playspace; Youth Facilities</p>
<p>Overall looks great, and great that community group involved. Pleasing also that access to the park has been considered and please do apply to get wombat crossings put in to safely cross the local streets (DoT cannot push back on such a significant park, with further access to the creek, and you do not need counts to justify this) and also ask to reduce speed limit on Normanby (wider issue but how do people actually safely cycle from east of High St to St Georges Rd and the park - Normanby is unsafe). Be nice to see some different use e.g. bicycle playground, that is</p>	<p>Traffic Management; Misc./ General (Bicycle Playground)</p>

not provided elsewhere in Darebin (at least not nearby that I know of)!	
There is mention of electric charging stations, but no future proofing for shared autonomous vehicles (AVs). There is mention of wattle. That contains allergens, and not advised for urban areas. Suggest allergen review of page 25, and re-cut. It mentions only replacing desert ash. Suggest the introduced Canary Island Date Palm should also be removed. Could edible plantations be introduced? Waste management is missing from plan. Would benefit from new page, setting out pandemic-safe and usability framework for the Park.	Misc./ General; Landscape
Looks good. I'd push the walking trail through the golf course to the new Merri Creek bridge up the list of priorities. As a regular park user, both walking my dog there, and exercising with my teenage daughter, I have to point out that the park surface gets slushy very quickly after rain and takes a long time to dry out. I know that some work has been done on drainage of the playing fields, but it is still far wetter and slushier compared to other playing fields.	Park Amenity
Looks great. As a cyclist I would have liked more detail on the shared path and how it leaves and rejoins Normanby Ave and how car parking and the traffic crossing will affect cyclists along Leinster Gve but I'll wait for the Streets for People and detailed Mayer Park plans.	Park Amenity; Traffic Management
Love the idea of the playground and BBQ's ensuring there is enough shade. It's an excellent idea to have the intergenerational playground e.g. the child swing facing the adult swing. I believe it's critical that there is low fencing around the perimeter as it's an off-lead dog park and there will be small children on the playgrounds which is close to a relatively major road. It would be amazing if after hours walking is allowed in sections of the gold course.	Park Amenity; Playspace; Misc./ General (Golf Course)
Park needs to be fenced for safety of dogs and children	Park Amenity
I think it is important that the old cricket nets remain until the new nets are fully set up. This will mean no time where there are no nets all together...after all, the nets are a very popular facility for all ages!	Park Amenity
It looks pretty good, I like the short, medium- and long-term vision.	Note
have you considered having a community compost hub or community garden?	Misc./ General (Community Garden)
1. I love the idea of this being a community driven project where residents can feel ownership and affinity with Mayer Park. 2. Proposed plans for native and indigenous plantings look beautiful as well as practical. A major alienating feature of this park is the confronting nature of the open access to a busy road as well as difficulty crossing that same road. Boundary planting of suitable species which still enables surveillance and views is a great idea. I have seen it done in other places very successfully where the wilderness of grasses and shrubs traps balls and is a deterrent to youngsters chasing them. 3. I note the plan to discreetly remove non indigenous species over a period of time. Does this include the Canary Island Palms as well as the Desert Ash? I thought in some circumstances in NSW and Victoria	Landscape; Park Amenity

<p>the canary island palms too are considered environmental weeds. I have seen these palms struggling during drought years and if they are staying I hope some extra care will be given to them to support their bases. Whenever I have seen this species (Phoenix Canariensis?) in Queensland or the Melbourne Botanical Gardens they have much more robust bases - thick with roots or surrounded by a mulched supported area. Some of these palms in Mayer Park (and in other parts of Darebin) appear to have been badly managed and have been cut in under the trunk. They sometimes appear to be balancing on a tiny thread of roots - very scary. Since these trees do not appear to have deep tap roots so it would seem they need extra care to thrive (if they are to stay). Whatever as a regular user of the park for outdoor theatre, markets, playground and supervising dogs and grandkids I will happy to see the palms in particular surrounded by barrier plants and looking much happier and healthier along Leinster Grove.</p> <p>4. My teenage grandchildren have grown up using Mayer Park with their friends and parents. It will be a delight to see it looking loved with plantings and improved facilities. I'm glad the value of an open sporting space has been acknowledged. I love seeing teams playing cricket and picnicking during the summer months in particular.</p> <p>5. My grandchildren and their mates are big fans of the cricket nets which are due for relocation at some stage. They have asked me to mention, when the time comes, they hope they are moved and resurrected quickly so an important teenage attraction is not forgotten. I told them to fill in a survey so I hope they have.</p> <p>6. The long-term links with walking tracks and creek paths is an excellent idea, especially linking in with the bike and walking path further north. I hope these connections happen sooner rather than later.</p> <p>7. Picnic shelter, improved playground, plantings and attractive boundaries with extended walking tracks all sound guaranteed to attract families. I can't wait to see this project develop. Thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback. Even though I live further south and am technically in Yarra not Darebin all of my grandchildren are in Darebin and I still spend a lot of time with them. I have walked Merri creek with them since they were babies and I often visit them on foot using the Merri Creek path. I have to come off the track further down Moreland Road at the moment so I look forward to one day crossing the footbridge south of Mayer Park instead. Good luck.</p>	
<p>1. The new park at Bellfield/Ivanhoe is a fantastic playspace to replicate</p> <p>2. Community and gym space should include a skate pump track for the rollers. These are a fantastic and fun way for kids and old school rollers to get some exercise. They are safe and fun.</p>	<p>Park Amenity; Playspace; Misc./ General (Skate pump track)</p>
<p>Mayer Park should be a hub for healthy living and exercise for all ages and abilities in Darebin. It is critical that this includes informal fitness activities as a priority, ahead of organised sports (which are still important). The park must include an all-weather walking/running track along its perimeter and excellent lighting, to ensure extended hours of use and safety for the community. Without this, any design will be sub-optimal - the reality is that, once it has rained a few times, the grass oval areas become muddy and will not be used to their full capacity. Given the</p>	<p>Park Amenity; Playspace</p>



investment of council, it will be a shame to see the park under-utilised. Agree that an all-ages, all-ability play space is needed for local families too.	
Well done on putting together a thorough masterplan. A few thoughts: * Please build the new cricket nets before removing the old ones. We use them frequently and would miss them immensely. If there was any way to have some lighting that would be accessible to the public to turn on and use the new nets after dark, that would be a bonus! * While I understand the desire to limit fencing, please consider increasing the height of the fence along the southern end of the park, particularly the south western aspect. I have been in the park when a golf ball bounced over the fence, into the park. It is dangerous relying on luck for balls not to hit people. * I love the idea of a walking/running path. I think it would be great to have some small posts/markers to indicate every 'x' distance. (perhaps 200m or one at each corner?) It creates an interest for all people to track their activity. * One more drinking fountain would be good. * With regard to the last dot point under the subheading 'Breathing Space – Darebin Open Space Strategy (2019-2029), which says: Make sporting grounds available for public use when games or training sessions are not in session. I wonder whether the new turf wicket is in keeping with this idea? While I am supportive of having turf wickets for cricketers to play and develop on the best surface, it is not a usable wicket for the public and creates a roped off section smack in the middle of the open space. The two synthetic wickets that used to be part of the park attracted friendship groups and families to play social cricket after hours on weeknights and on Sundays. It IS possible to have both a turf wicket and a synthetic wicket (Brunswick Street Oval is an example of this). It could be placed to the Western end of the park, as one of them was previously. * Great idea to have the bike repair station.	Park Amenity; Formal Sporting
I think the masterplan looks terrific - big thanks to the community members involved. My favourite additions are the basketball half-court - I wish we had this NOW! I do think 5 years is too long to wait for this and would like it if the play space could be expanded in stages if it's too tricky to get the full budget allocation. And the proposed path through the golf course is my other favourite idea. I deeply disagree that so much open space (the golf course) should be locked up from public access. We should be able to have a sliver of golf course as a safe off-street path to the new bridge. Given the bridge will be finished in 2020, why will it take 10 plus years to negotiate a safe path through the golf course? Is this due to the terms of their lease? These negotiations should begin sooner. Contrary to what the masterplan states, the Great Western Shimmy along Leinster Grove/Woolhouse St is busy with vehicle traffic and no longer "traverses quiet back streets". It's becoming a dangerous, congested cycling route and we should be fast-tracking alternatives to separate bikes from car traffic/street parking/the Croxton school. Thanks for all the masterplan ideas - I am grateful for such a considered proposal - but hope that some measures can be fast-tracked.	Youth Facilities; Park Amenity; Misc./ General (Golf Course)
Great work on the plan. I'd like to see the integration of a pathway from Bracken Ave, along Mayer and the golf course, to the new Bridge at Ceres as an absolute priority.	Park Amenity

I'd also like to see a pathway around Mayer park that is safe for running, being a complete loop, pothole and mud free.	
Really keen to see more links through the golf course- and generally more public access to the golf course. For such a large space that is so valuable and supported by rate payers \$, it is so under-utilised and very exclusive - which really goes against the values of our community. It is such a valuable link to the creek and new bridge and I really hope the proposed bike/pedestrian link can happen.	Misc./ General (Golf Course)
I love the idea of more trees, better toilets, BBQ and some shelter. Looks how amazing Edinburgh Gardens is and the sense of community it brings. The park is not somewhere I would currently go to sit and read a book it's not very appealing.	Landscape; Park Amenity
Very Happy about this master plan, but the local soccer club (Darebin United SC) needs a major upgrade they have been tenants for the past 15 years, there is poor security around the main club rooms, the lack of safety around Mayer park is extremely poor new perimeter fencing needs to be put in place, the overall functionality of the club rooms is very poor, no internal or external upgrades have been done to modernise the facility only new paint, also the undercover shelter should be extended a few meters. And lastly the lack of consultation with the soccer club needs to improve they are the tenants for more than half a year a never got informed about Master Plans or any works going on, they bring hundreds of local residents to play at this wonderful club, they've done so much good work to the local community... funding for the resurface of the ground and 6 new light towers all done in the past 3 years. I really hope you take some of these ideas into consideration, thank you	Formal Sporting
Lack of consultation The safety of junior members associated with darebin soccer club The security of the pavilion and surrounding areas	Formal Sporting
I love the plan for native trees and a picnic -/ BBQ area but I think we can do better. Mayer park would be a wonderful location for a running track. As a female in Thornbury and a keen runner and a mother of two kids, I wish there was more safe places to run. A running track wouldn't interfere with the other existing uses.	Landscape; Park Amenity
Please accept this as a formal notice of dissatisfaction and objection with the current Mayer Park Masterplan proposal. Please note my specific concerns; - The security of the Pavilion and surrounding area. Mayer Park has been the subject of significant criminal activity in recent years including break-ins, theft, and vandalism. - The safety of the Junior members of the associated soccer club (Darebin United (Apollo) Soccer Club). We are concerned at the current lack of fencing running along Normanby Avenue which would serve the purpose of preventing balls rolling onto the road and having children chase after them. - The functionality of the external area of the Mayer Park pavilion. We propose the extension of the overhanging veranda to accommodate parents and other spectators who may wish to stand under-cover to observe sporting activities. - The lack of consultation with the associated soccer club (Darebin United (Apollo) Soccer Club). It is of major concern that the current tenants and providers of a sporting	Formal Sporting; Park Amenity

association to a significantly large member of local residents was not consulted nor guaranteed tenancy moving forward as part of the new Mayer Park masterplan process.	
I think that it's good that they have put lights in so we can train when it gets dark	Note
Mayer Park is our boys Soccer Club ground. It is very important to us that it remains so. It is also important that it is well lit.	Note
As a parent of a young player at Darebin United FC I feel as though being a majority user of the ground (Mayer Park) our players, members and families voices have not been heard. Our club has been left out of major consultation and I believe that our club would be greatly affected by the proposed changes and should be consulted when decisions such as these are being made.	Note
To whom it may concern, Please accept this as a formal notice of dissatisfaction and objection with the current Mayer Park Masterplan proposal. Please note my specific concerns; - The security of the Pavilion and surrounding area. Mayer Park has been the subject of significant criminal activity in recent years including break-ins, theft, and vandalism. - The safety of the Junior members of the associated soccer club (Darebin United (Apollo) Soccer Club). We are concerned at the current lack of fencing running along Normanby Avenue which would serve the purpose of preventing balls rolling onto the road and having children chase after them. - The functionality of the external area of the Mayer Park pavilion. We propose the extension of the overhanging veranda to accommodate parents and other spectators who may wish to stand under-cover to observe sporting activities. - The lack of consultation with the associated soccer club (Darebin United (Apollo) Soccer Club). It is of major concern that the current tenants and providers of a sporting association to a significantly large member of local residents was not consulted nor guaranteed tenancy moving forward as part of the new Mayer Park masterplan process.	Formal Sporting; Park Amenity
Traffic on Leinster at peak times makes it dangerous to cross to the park Most traffic is cutting through to avoid St Georges Parking in Leinster & Shaftesbury Pde should be time limited with resident parking permits Especially for Shaftesbury where most residents have no OSP	Parking/ Traffic Management
The recent improvements to the sporting fields (surface, lighting, high net/fence) have been great and most welcome. This is an important organised community sport space in the local area and such improvements increase the propensity of girls and boys to get active and participate in community clubs. The upgrade to the pavilion 8 years ago was only partially done - the northern end of the facility remains in very poor condition, especially the public toilets. Reconsideration of this facility needs a higher priority and the partial-upgrade should not be considered to have been anything more than that - a job partly completed. It would be of greater community benefit (and used more) if the pavilion was of a higher quality, encouraging greater female participation in soccer and cricket. The longer-term vision appears to be to relocate the facility to the other side of the park with a shared carpark for the golf course? If that is so,	Formal Sporting; Park Amenity

<p>then what is the proposed timeline for this and will it actually ever happen? If not, then properly upgrading the pavilion needs to be given greater priority. Just extending the hours of the dark, grubby and poor-quality toilets is of no community benefit - people simply don't want to use them, no matter how long they are open. It would be of actual benefit to provide amenities consistent with those found in other Darebin parks used for organised community sport like WH Robinson Reserve, AH Capp Reserve, McDonnell Park and Fairfield Park. This would also be far more fruitful as a pursuit than advocating for a lower speed limit on Normanby Avenue - a major arterial road that has little history of speed-related accidents and where VicRoads has little motivation to act.</p>	
<p>It is extremely disappointing that you have given no consideration to separating the park into dog off leash and dog on leash sections. Many dog owners let their animals run wild with no management of them at all. It is also like a minefield trying to avoid the dog poo in that park. The park should be for everyone, including those who do not like strange dogs running around their feet. It would be pretty simple to indicate areas for each in that large park. There are no dog on leash parks in walking distance. I'm also surprised that developing a walking path through the golf course to the new bridge is a 10 year plan, surely this could commence sooner? Very disappointed that the footy goals were permanently removed without any consultation. They were used frequently and never caused problems with other sports.</p>	Dogs; Park Amenity
<p>Hello, as a nearby resident whose family regular uses the park through the year, be that with the Darebin United Soccer Club, for exercise and activity with my young family I would like to provide some specific feedback regarding the master plan. While broadly I commend the effort and thought that has been put into the Masterplan, I am somewhat concerned that the one major aspect that I was after was a surrounding/perimeter fence. The purpose of the fence is twofold, one to secure off-leash dogs within the park and secondly to greatly limit balls running into the streets, regardless of sport being played. The Masterplan does not seem to have this as a sufficient priority in my mind as an improvement in the park. Thank you.</p>	Park Amenity
<p>It seems the plans don't reflect what a large part of the community wants in the area... to keep it open and uncongested. The playground and the trees on the Eastern side are not necessary. This area is a great place for sporting games and some opportunity for dogs in the area to roam off- lead. There is a Playground park less than 500metres away at Turner Reserve that could be improved.</p>	Retain Open Space
<p>I like all the ideas. Better paths more trees and a playground are great. I've really noticed during the pandemic how little public open space we have and how crowded the creek and Mayer park became. I think that the golf course is a huge untapped resource that could be enjoyed by so many and yet it's not part of the plan for years. As darebin gets denser we will need more not less public open space. Those of us who live near merri creek have to drive to get to darebin creek which is so much more open. I really hope council can consider this.</p>	Park Amenity; Landscape; Misc./ General (Golf Course)

Love the plans for the park. I would like to see a much higher priority given to the "Potential new off-street walking access" from Mayer Park to the creek and connecting to the new footbridge. Starting maybe with public access to a very small section of the golf course, e.g. from the end of Beaconsfield Parade to the new bridge? Thanks!	Park Amenity; Misc./ General (Golf Course)
I think the master plan looks great, but the proposed timings are way too long. The master plan looks great for my family now, but by the time it is implemented will no longer be relevant to my family! 10+ years to open up Northcote golf course to the community is outrageous! Considering the golf course is zoned PPRZ I think it should be open for all the community to enjoy not just a few golfers. My kids go to Brunswick east primary but even when the new pedestrian bridge is built, we will still not ride that way as too many roads to cross down Leinster ave, the other side of the creek is preferable, unless the golf course is opened up to the community	Park Amenity; Misc./ General (Golf Course)
The draft plan looks great. Very pleased to see plans for more extensive planting of native vegetation. The new BBQ, shelter, and play area will be terrific. We strongly support making off-street car parking available to park users. Two suggestions: - please retain public toilets near the BBQ area, even if the sports pavilion is moved - we feel that a reduced speed limit on Normanby Avenue isn't necessary, given the separation between the park/footpath and the road, and the intervening plantings and fencing that are planned.	Landscape; Park Amenity; Parking/Traffic Management

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

### **Written submissions from:**

Darebin United Soccer Club – Received 13/02/19

Merri Creek Management Committee – Received 15/02/19

The Bridge Thornbury – Received 07/03/19

**Darebin United Soccer Club <darebinunitedsc@yahoo.com>** Feb 15, 3:29 PM

to me

Hi Catherine,

Thank you again for reaching out and asking for our preferences regarding the Mayer Park Master Plan.

We have had a Committee Meeting this afternoon and put some ideas down regarding what we feel will benefit the Club most moving forward and would greatly appreciate your advocacy on these issues.

Mainly, our requirements include;

- 6 meter extension of veranda on the outside of the pavilion on the side facing the ground. This will provide cover for our supporters to be able to watch the games while not being exposed to the elements as we compete in a winter sport. We also will benefit in regards to our outdoor cooking of our meat, as this is currently impossible to run if it rains should this covering extend to finish at the public toilets. If possible, following the extension of the veranda, some permanent seating running along the external wall of the clubhouse would provide seating for people unable to stand and requiring a place to sit.
- Fencing around the perimeter of sporting grounds. This would be crucial as our junior program has expanded and we require this as a minimum standard for safety. Perimeter fencing would prevent balls from going onto the road, which could be highly unsafe if children try to chase after them as well as for the safety of drivers and vehicles using Normanby Avenue.
- Second high-netted fence which will prevent balls from going on to the Normanby Avenue. There is currently one of these structures erected behind the location of the goals on the first (closest) however as we now will be running two official pitches side-by-side we will require a second high-netted fence accordingly.
- Increase to size of Canteen window opening along pavilion wall. Due to the significant increase in spectators and junior parents attending our home games, we now require to be able to serve multiple people at one time, which at the moment due to the size of the canteen window is limited to just one person at a time.
- Storage cages and facilities. We are currently in the process of purchasing 4 sets of portable goals, which includes the largest size available of 7.5m x 2.4m. These sets of goals come at a significant cost to the Club (of approximately \$16,000) and therefore represent a valuable asset to the Club which require a secure lock-up facility. Currently, the Club is using a changeroom as a storage room which therefore eliminates one changeroom and means the Club is having to have two teams change together on match-day which is unacceptable. Also, Football Victoria also require a minimum of four changerooms to be available on match-day for Clubs that have both mens and womens teams. We will have a new womens team joining our club as of next season therefore need this storage issue rectified as a matter of urgency.
- Upgrade to the kitchen facilities. This is a significant need to our Club and one which is vastly overdue. We currently have valid Liquor and Food Handling licences, however it is a condition of these licences that our facilities are maintained in a certain order. At the moment we run the risk of losing our Liquor and Food licences, please include the upgrade to the kitchen facilities to the list.

Thank you again, please let me know if you need anything further from me or other Committee members.

We very much appreciate your help and support.



**Tom Belles**  
*Vice President*

**M: 0413 938 415**

**E: [Darebinunitedsc@yahoo.com.au](mailto:Darebinunitedsc@yahoo.com.au)**



file: sites / ~~Northcote~~ / ~~Thornbury~~ / Normandy Ave & Northcote Golf Course ✓

Luisa Macmillan <luisa@mcmc.org.au>

## Mayer Park Master Plan Development

1 message

**Luisa Macmillan** <luisa@mcmc.org.au>

Mon, Feb 18, 2019 at 10:00 AM

To: public.places@darebin.vic.gov.au

Cc: mayerpark@gmail.com

Hello there,

Apologies for this late comment from Merri Creek Management Committee on the consultation for the Mayer Park Master Plan Development.

From our perspective, Mayer Park and the adjacent Northcote Golf Course are part of the wider Merri Creek Parklands, a linear network of public open space that extends from the Merri-Yarra confluence of the Ring Rd (and beyond with concept plans linking parkland all the way to Wallan in the top of the catchment).

This public open space ranges from bushland conservation areas to active sports areas and everything in between. It provides an immensely important linked space for community to enjoy recreating in bushland surrounds, connecting with nature, walking, jogging and bicycling as well as accessing complementary open air sports fields. The totality of these spaces also support important biodiversity values and in many places, potential for enhancement of biodiversity values through further development of native vegetation systems.

We are particularly interested in the possibility of the Northcote Golf Course becoming available for more general public use and its potential to make a significant biodiversity contribution to the City of Darebin and Merri Creek more widely. Likewise, the development of Mayer Park has the potential to complement the adjacent open space of the Golf Course without compromising its ability to provide for appropriate active recreation.

We look forward to the next steps in this process.

Regards,

**Luisa Macmillan** Manager, Merri Creek Management Committee [www.mcmc.org.au](http://www.mcmc.org.au)

2 Lee St, Brunswick East, V. 3057 ph. (03) 9380-8199 0418-330-030 [luisa@mcmc.org.au](mailto:luisa@mcmc.org.au)

*Community Caring for Merri waterways.*

*Acknowledging the Wurundjeri People as the Traditional Custodians of the land of the Merri Merri*

**Merri Creek: From Wasteland to Parklands** View the spectacular images on-line.

Sign up for our e-newsletter and regular notification of our events



7/3/2019

## Proposal for Mayer Park redevelopment

Thank you for inviting feedback from the community and key stakeholders in the redevelopment of this important space in Thornbury. The Board of Management are aware that we are late in putting this submission to the committee but we have been undergoing a review of our strategic plan. A body of work that was required to inform our direction on this matter and others.

In line with our strategic plan and Council's current feasibility study into the facility requirements of Darebin Neighbourhood Houses (NH) we propose the following:

The creation of a community centre which includes the current Leinster Grove Hall, new sporting club rooms and amenities and a purpose built NH and Childcare centre in place of the current NH site in Shaftesbury Parade. The creation of this multi-use Community Centre would ensure that current and future community needs can be met efficiently.

In line with Darebin Council Plan 2017-2021, a purpose built centre will have great cost-savings, ensure maximum use of available facilities and create a community hub that is accessible by all age-groups.

Careful consideration in coming up with a design which will facilitate increased community engagement will ensure that the needs of all parties can be met. The great advantage of a concept such as this would be the presence of Neighbourhood House staff at the facility 5-6 days a week. Through this physical presence, comes the greatest opportunity to meet community needs. There are successful models such as this in other LGA's.

As to the exact location on the Mayer Park site, much would need to be considered, not the least of which is parking. For this reason, a community centre on the golf club side of the park may make the most sense to make best use of car-parking.

If you have further questions regarding this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With thanks

Chris Lombardo

(on behalf of the Bridge Board of Management).

Preston  
T: 03 9484 5806  
218 High Street, Preston, VIC 3072, Australia

Preston Neighbourhood House Inc.

Thornbury  
T: 03 9480 0466  
131 Shaftesbury Parade, Thornbury, VIC 3071, Australia

[connect@bridge.org.au](mailto:connect@bridge.org.au)  
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ABN 66 801 857 062

## **ATTACHMENT 3**

### **Meeting notes site meetings with:**

Moreland City Council – 23/11/18

Wurundjeri Council – 05/02/19

# **Future Mayer Park**

## **Community Consultation**

Mayer Park Community Group (MPCG) and Moreland City Council (MCC)  
Friday November 23, 2018

Marc Chung – Darebin City Council  
Dajarra Golding – MPCG  
Chris Jennings – MPCG  
Alex English – Open Space Planner MCC  
Robert ? – MCC

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## **Background**

The meeting was held onsite at Mayer Park.

AE was given some background about how the Mayer Park community consultation process came about. He was given a broad outline of the park and how it is used.

He mentioned the Moreland experience where a number of netball courts were constructed on what had been open spaces, rather than at schools, and that these had proved 'problematic'.

## **Golf course**

His immediate response to the space was seeing the potential of opening up the golf course as part of the master plan of the park 'in the medium term'. He noted that could be as a 'co-activation', allowing both golfers and the public to share the space. He saw that opening up the golf course to the public would also provide a natural link to the new Beaver St bridge that is being built over the Merri Creek, and thus provide greater access to both sides of the creek.

## **Community hall/pavilion**

AE felt that these buildings and the fencing around them created unsightly barriers and that this should be addressed.

He stressed that any building work would be a costly exercise and cited the Campbell Reserve in Moreland where portable rooms to accommodate female soccer players were installed rather than constructing permanent structures because of budgetary constraints.

He mentioned that a commercial enterprise such as a café could be considered as a visitor destination to activate the park at otherwise low usage times. DJ pointed out that the golf course had a café.

## **Cricket nets**

While AE believed that the cricket nets needed upgrading, he felt that these, too, created a barrier that was unsightly and limited the potential enjoyment of the space. He felt that these should be relocated.

## **Play space**

AE saw the need for a children's playspace, incorporating nature play. He mentioned that if it was constructed within 30 metres of a major road it would require fencing.

### **BBQ area**

AE felt that the BBQ area should be relocated away from the Leinster Grove, and closer to the vicinity of any play area that was constructed.

### **Fencing/Planting**

AE believed that fencing should be kept to a minimum. Where fencing was needed, AE felt that this could be achieved with plantings of vegetation.

He noted that the ash trees in the park looked like they were at the end of their life and that they should be replaced with more suitable native trees and understorey. He felt that the willows and ash trees in the golf course could also be replaced with native species to encourage native wild life.

### **Car parking**

AE expressed a concern on whether there was enough car parking spaces to meet the needs of users of the park. DG mentioned the car park at the golf course and how this was mostly under-utilised. AE agreed that this could

### **Wetlands**

DG and CJ pointed out that the park sat over what was once a tributary of Merri Creek, Bracken Creek, and which is now Melbourne Water's Preston Main Drain. AE felt that this may be an opportunity for Darebin to partner with Melbourne Water in its *Living Rivers* funding program, for example, to revitalise this waterway and, by extension, Mayer Park.

### **Off-lead dog area**

AE recognised the issue about on-lead, off-lead dog areas, but offered no opinion about how Moreland addresses this.

### **Open space**

Overall, AE appreciated the open space of Mayer Park, and he indicated that the consultative process now being undertaken was a great opportunity to create a master plan for the park which would benefit the community well into the future.

He wished MPCG well in their endeavours.

## **Future Mayer Park**

### **Community Consultation**

Mayer Park Community Group (MPCG) and Wurundjeri Council  
Tuesday February 5, 2019

Marc Chung – Darebin City Council  
Chris Jennings – MPCG  
Stuart McFarlane – Darebin City Council  
Aunty Gail Smith – Wurundjeri Council  
Aunty Julieanne Axford – Wurundjeri Council

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### **Background**

The meeting was held onsite firstly at Penders Park and continued at Mayer Park.

### **Penders Park**

Members of the Penders Park Community Committee showed the Gail and Julie plans for the park.

The women were asked if they could supply an indigenous name for the new playground. They said they could.

Gail recommended that, as part of the indigenous planting/nature play area, elements such as kangaroo paw prints could be embedded in the ground to encourage children to explore the area.

Gail and Julie were also open to the idea of having an aboriginal mural painted on the existing buildings.

### **Mayer Park**

With plans for the park still in their early stages, the Wurundjeri Council weren't able to offer tangible recommendations for this site. They appreciated what we were developing and said that they would like to be consulted as the MPCG refine the master plan. We said we would be happy to keep the Wurundjeri Council in the loop as the project developed.