

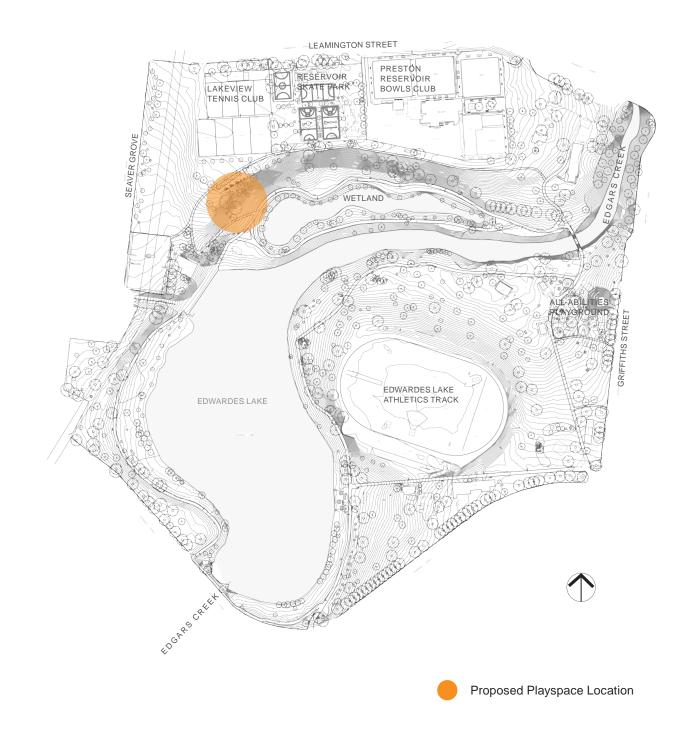
Edwardes Lake Park Playspace

Community Engagement Summary Report May 2021

Edwardes Lake Park Playspace

Edwardes Lake Park, located in Reservoir, is of regional significance, and serves a critical role in providing 'green lungs' for the Darebin community. It is also an important connector for local habitat along Edgars Creek and is a popular regional destination for informal community gatherings and recreation.

Council worked with consultants Urban Initiatives to design the new nature-based playspace at Edwardes Lake Park close to Seaver Grove, based on the feedback we received from the community during consultation in 2016 and 2017 and the most recent feedback received in July and August last year.



What was shared with the community in 2020

A brochure was sent out to community members within a 500m radius of the park, seeking feedback of the new nature based playspace concept design and asking them to vote for their favourite sound play equipment. The Community were directed to the project Yoursay page where they could vote and give feedback.



6 BBQ Area + Existing Playspace



Big Hill Adventure Trail

The design of the new playspace focuses on nature play and adventurous play for children of all ages.

The steep slope creates opportunities for sliding, climbing, swinging, rolling and spinning.

It also offers space for building cubbles, engaging with nature, playing with water and sound equipment, having picnics, watching a performance, hanging out, and enjoying the view.

www.yoursaydarebin.com.au edwardeslakeparkplayspace



Thank you



Activites:

Play

Nature

ded, sensory place which feature

4 Wetland Amphitheatr

	visits to site	Views/ downloads of playspace concept design	Feedback	New registrations
Your Say	1030	243	31	27
Social media			23	
Emails/comments			4	
Phone Calls			1	
Letter			1	
Total Feedback received		60		

Yousay Page visitation summary

The feedback was positive and in support of the playspace concept plan approach, vision and proposed improvments. Findings from community consultation on the playspace concept confirmed the initial feedback trends received from community consultation in 2017.

Yoursay respondents indicated support for the following areas during consultation in 2017:

- Nature play
- Water play
- Sound/music play
- New play equipment, spinning play equipment
- Loose parts play
- Sensory garden, native grassland meadow, garden beds, trees
- Environmental themes
- Treasure hunt/orienteering

From the feedback received in 2020, 50.8% of comments related to the playspace. Out of this feedback, Yoursay respondents showed support for the following areas during consultation in 2020:

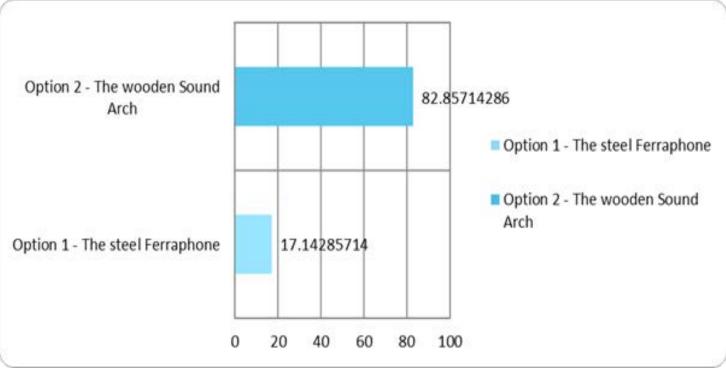
- 16.2% of comments were in support of the playspace incorporating nature-based play into the design
- 10% of comments we received showed additional support for sound play being incorporated into the design. Yoursay respondents showed their support of sound play through the voting poll results which can be viewed on the following page
- 16.2% of respondents were excited by the concept of loose parts play being incorporated into the design, as cubby building was high on the agender
- 9.7% of people showed support for the playspace incorporating waterplay elements into the design
- 12.9% were in support of new play equipment
- 35.4% were in support of the design incorporating Indigenous history and environmental themes
- 22.5% of comments related to the importance of native and Indigenous tree and understorey planting
- 16.2% thought that educational signage should be included in the design
- 16.1% of comments mentioned treasure hunts and scooter trails
- And 6.5% of comments spoke about the need for the playspace to have all-access pathways and play equipment

Sound Play Preferences

The community were presented two options for sound play in the concept design which they where asked to vote on their preference. The two options were:

- a Steel Ferraphone, which allows children to create a melody through steel sound tubes by striking them with a hammer, and
- the Wooden Sound Arc, which can be played like musical chimes.

The Community preference was for option 2 the Wooden Sounds Arc



Soundplay voting poll results

Design Changes made after considering community feedback

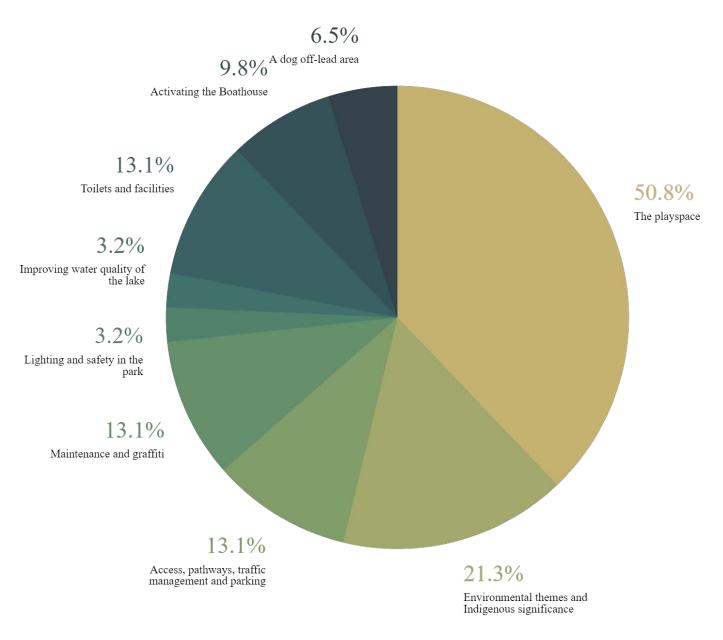
As a result of community feedback, the following key changes are proposed to the playspace concept design:

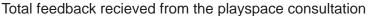
- Community feedback showed a clear preference (82%) for a wooden sound arch rather than a ferraphone, and therefore the proposed concept design includes a wooden sound arch.
- The playspace design and planting will ensure sight lines are kept open to enable passive surveillance and to maintain a sense of safety. This is also to reduce the potential for vandalism and graffitiing of the playspace
- Canopy trees will be provided to ensure sufficient shading within the playspace
- Improved accessibility to the playspace through the inclusion of a gravel path and soft fall rubber under play elements in the design

Additional comments:

The community also provided additional feedback on other elements of Edwardes Lake Park that are beyond the scope of the play space project. The main feedback was around improving biodiversity within the whole park, and that caring for Country was also an important element that needs improving at Edwardes Lake Park. Other comments related to management of graffiti and rubbish, the need for more toilet facilities, and better connectivity and accessibility.

Where appropriate, issues raised have been forwarded to the relevant Council teams, and officers also note that other improvement works have been proposed for inclusion in the Council budget for 2021/2022, such as improving the water quality of Edwardes Lake.





- The playspace feedback we received supported the design and encouraged nature-based play at the proposed site
- Environmental education, increasing biodiversity and caring for Country were important elements that the community said needed improving at Edwardes Lake Park
- Better maintenance and management of rubbish, vandalism and graffiti of the new proposed play-space and the broader park were very important to the community
- Improving facilities such as existing bathrooms and installing new bathrooms near the proposed playspace were mentioned
- Access and pathways within the park and better connectivity between the park and surrounding suburbs, creeks and walking/cycling areas was mentioned. These comments also spoke about parking, traffic calming and traffic management around the park being improved
- The boathouse being turned into a café was mentioned by some members within the community
- A dog off-lead area was requested at the park by some community members
- The lake and water quality was mentioned, as the community felt that the water quality needs to be improved
- Lighting and safety were mentioned as some respondents felt that additional lighting could be added to increase feelings of safety within the park at night-time.

Other requests that were made by only one or two people may also not be incorporated into the design due to a lack of demand and timing or budget constraints.



Site Map with recent improvments made to Edwardes Lake Park

1	I was delighted to receive a letter and information today regarding the proposed nature-based plays- pace at Edwardes Lake Park (Seaver Grove). The concept is impressive, will fit into the space, and has been well considered.
	My only suggestion is the incorporation of a 'bumpy' bike/scooter circuit similar to that at Norris Bank Park in Bundoora - I think it would be an amazing addition and link between the new playspace and the existing skate park adjacent - there are scores of families riding scooters and bikes around the lake, and I think it would be a fantastic additional feature https://www.google.com/search?q=Norris+Bank+Park+Bundoora&rlz=1C1CHBF_en-gbAU-
	838AU838&oq=Norris+Bank+Park+Bundoora&aqs=chrome69i57j46j69i57.4672j1j7&sourceid=- chrome&ie=UTF-8
2	Hi there,
	I'm providing feedback in response to the proposed nature-based playspace at Edwards Lake.
	Great idea! We look forward to hearing/seeing more about! The location looks alright too.
	Now we just need something to happen with with that boathouse, a cafe or something would be great.
3	Hi team,
	I tried to vote for our favourite sound play equipment on the have your say website you published but it says 'access denied' regardless if i am logged in or not so i'm just emailing you instead.
	We vote for option 1: Wooden sound arch
4	Hi, absolutely love the design for the new playspace. My children are excited, and love all parts of it. Ed- wardes lake park is very popular, and the current playground is really limited to little children and is getting worn down, and needs some maintenance. This new playspace has something for all ages and encourages outdoor exploration (which we've enjoyed more of now the playground equipment is closed in lockdown). It will definitely become a destination playground, and attract large groups for birthday parties and parent's groups from neighbouring suburbs.
	My only concern is whether an accessible toilet will be located close to the playspace.
	The nearest toilet currently is behind the scout hall and it is frightening, in a terrible state of disrepair and does not feel safe at all. It's also a very very long way away if you are trying to rush there with a small child who desperately needs the toilet and you're also dragging a baby/stroller/bags/scooters/dog along with you!
	An adjacent toilet is absolutely essential. Otherwise kids (and some adults) will be forced to wee in the bushes! Additional rubbish bins nearby, would be great. The only bins on that side of the park, between the running track and the bridge is located at the tennis court bbqs, that's a huge space with no bins in easy reach.
	Thanks, and looking forward to the development.
5	Love it!!

6	I think this is a good idea, however with the sound play equipment hopefully it won't be too noisey for those residents that live close by, possibly an allocated time where its allowed to be played with so its not to be used in the midddle of the night
7	It's great to see some more challenging items for the older kids to entertain themselves
8	Very excited about the new play area. My kids will use it almost every day. Any chance of the large grassed area to the west becoming a dog off leash area?
9	The design looks brilliant. Big areas for exploring and adventure. The mixing of nature and playground equipment is clever as both are important elements in play. Such an awesome idea. Hopefully it gets the support you need.
10	I love the idea of a nature play space, I'm very excited to see how this project turns out. Though I would like to add some tree houses would elevate it that much further. Also using logs as benches and natural materials for picnic tables etc would be great. Using more natural material and keeping with the look of the natural habitat will make this space so whimsical. Almost like a never never land where the lost boys live. Also having little bits around the park to make it though fairies or gnomes live there and look after the Local plants and animals. Things like little windows and doors put on tree trunks and rocks. Including a mini beige over the water tray/tunnel thing so fairy/gnome crossing. Also using the fairy and gnomes as a mouth Ice for educating children and adults alike about the local flora and fauna. You could even include a little post box for kids to write letters to the fairies and gnomes. Similar to the gnome tree at Mt.Buller. I think this would take this project that one step further into making some- thing really special for darebin. I myself am born and raised in Darebin and now raise my children here. Thanks for your hard work on this. X
11	 Hello I am an owner/occupier of one of the Villa Units on Seaver Grove, Reservoir and a member of the Body Corp Committee of the Seaver Grove Unit complex that runs along the whole of Seaver Grove. I am not adverse to the ideas/concepts present in this new playground, or the idea of having a play space in this area; however, I would like more information and clarification on a couple of things. First, has Council considered or anticipated an increase in visitation, cars, and noise levels, especially with the sound equipment/installation, earmarked close to Seaver Grove? One of the attractive things in living on Seaver Grove is the quiet and peacefulness of the street and view of green hills (for the most part) and the lake. What contingency plans have been put in place to avoid congestion/noise (if any)? I would not like to see new carpark spaces encroaching on the vast green space. I'm happy that a nature based play space is considered, but I hope it will stay true to the environment and be maintained on an ongoing basis. I have found through experiences that amphitheatres can be wasted spaces if not programmed so hope that this will be well utilised.
12	I really like the natural topography of the area, using the hills to advantage makes for an exciting con- cept, watching a performance. Other features that I like are the sensory garden, nature play and native grasslands. I worry that perhaps the park is trying to fit too much in, a bit crowded and trying to be too many things that people may identify with. Natural features like big rocks to scramble over or simply to appreciate would go well.
13	This park gets a lot of use and hence I feel that this is an opportunity to educate both young and old. How did local aborigines use endemic plants that are being planted in this proposal. Explain the vol- canic history to those that don't understand how this land evolved. What native animals might we see use the lake and surrounds and what actions can people take to help them thrive.
14	It would be great to have public toilets in this area, with baby change facilities. I've been to many areas, esp in regional areas & interstate that have great toilets near their play areas & don't see why Darebin cannot have facilities to the same standards.
15	Yew The design is the right one go-ahead
16	We really need a proper off lead dog park in Reservoir. The area along Seavers and cnr of Leamington would work well. It would serve as a community hub and encourage dog owners not to let their dogs off lead in other areas.

17	• Rent the boathouse over summer as a café with outdoor seating
	• Install more signs outlining the benefit of exercise
	• Install more rubbish bins in the park
	• A educational picture board about the types of wildlife found at ELP and general biodiversity information
	• The history of the lake (spoken through a speaker!)
	More dog bag dispensers with an allocated bin for this matter
	Lists of plant species in the park to promote garden groups
	• The footpath around the lake could have markers/be colour coded every 100m with a prompt for
	hydration
	• A colour coded legend outlining where toilets are along with locations of additional points of interest/
	areas in the park
	• Hip height rail plaques in brail with information about the lake and the park
	• First aid points – AED. Install a phone or speaker system that is linked to nearby police station/000
	for people who do not have phones.
18	We like the steel Ferraphone. We like that you can build cubby houses.
19	Love the idea of the loose parts play it Will allow the children to use the different materials to build cubby's and forts abs use thier imagination but also allows children to get explore with nature.
20	Looks great but! What about the dogs. The off leash area at the park is a joke that no one in their right mind uses - we all trek to Crispe Park when we're not pushed out by sports. It's took close to the road,
	too close to a play area, on a hill and has handy vents sticking out all over the place. The area under the
	powerlines that is now labelled "kickabout area" would be a perfect off leash area, but now it's slated for
	play. The park already has 3 playgrounds and a skate park for kids, it's time for a proper off leash dog park north of Edwardes St!
21	Could we make the treasure hunt with stars and numbers in them
22	All looks great. I noted in the video that there was a lot about listening quietly and noticing natural sounds of birds and other creatures. This would be enhanced massively if all the roads bordering
	Edwardes Lake Park had a speed limit of 30 kpm. The traffic noise from Edwardes St in particular is a
	massive impost on the amenity of the park to humans and all the wildlife.
23	Looks fantastic and greatly excited and look forward to completion of this project. Prefer Option 2 -
	Wooden sound arch.
24	This is wonderful! Our family incl 3 children are thrilled about this design. I am sure you have thought
	of all kinds of things but I had two suggestions: 1. It would be great to have some kind of discovery trail
	connecting this new playspace to the other playgrounds, or even over to Edgars Creek. It would help
	children (and adults) build an understanding of the physical and ecological connections between these
	places. It could be a physical trail, or perhaps a map (online or otherwise) that allows children and
	parents to explore and discover between the spaces. 2. What are the possibilities for having Indigenous components to the new space? Indigenous plants perhaps, or art? Or perhaps consultation with the
	Indigenous community to ensure it is culturally safe and welcoming for their families too. And many
	other options.
25	Looks great and like lots of fun for more son. I don't know if I missed it but I didn't see a water play
20	area for the kids to get wet in the hot summer months. Just the swing that feels like going over the wa-
	ter? Is there plans of an area for kids to play with/in the water?
26	I think it all looks wonderful. I only have two things I wonder about: 1) rubbish has always been an is-
	sue at this park, how will you try to manage this in this space ? (as I note a picnic area) 2) sadly I worry
	that this will be vandalised, how or what measures can be put in place to limit this?

27	It seems like a well thoughts through project. However, it seems highly concentrated to one area of the park. I also express concern for amenities such as toilets and a bubble tap on that side of the lake. At this point in time both do not exist on the side of the proposed project. In addition to this I would actually like to see more provided to engage all age brackets. What has been outlined seems to be more targeted and appropriate for younger people. If my memory serves me correctly, in approximately 2005 when the lake itself was upgraded there was a proposal for a footpath connecting to the Coburg lake (via the merri Creek I believe). This would be wonderful for intersuburb connection and allow a foot- path/cycling track for slightly older people. It would also provide an additional means of travel to see friends/family and reduce road traffic and carbon emissions. Another project that should have serious consideration, if not a feasibility study is that of cleaning the edwardes lake as it often smells and is very unsightly. There is an opportunity for the boat house building to be privatised - it could become a cafe. And similar to that of the lake house in Fairfield and Studley Park, an opportunity for boat hire etc.
28	I think it looks great, just wanted to reiterate the importance of integrating Aboriginal history as much as possibel - perhaps info points or acknowledgement signs. Also, toilets toilets toilets!!!! Shade is crucial, make sure there's lots of it.
29	Good Morning, The play space looks incredible using a lot of natural materials and looks extremely inviting. Having two young children, and living around the corner we head down to Edwards Lake on a daily basis. What I have noticed that there isn't much of a play ground there We live on the Seaver side of the lake and (when we were allowed to) often walk around to the other side, the playground (in the fencing). It's seems to be a little underwhelming for the children. There is that climbing section but there is not much you can do on there, and from the times I have been there children tend not to go on it. I was so excited to heard a new play space was being built on our side of the lake. I have shown my children the plans and they are very excited about it but would as it all be possible to have some climbing nets, rock climbing or monkey barsI can see the look you are aiming to achieve making it a playspace rather then a playground but I feel more children would play there. There is a great new park in Bellfield which I travel to because it is GREAT for kids so much for them to do and explore. The play ground up near the skate park is very sad and depressing and you could probably remove it altogether, although having those swings up there is great! Sorry for the long winded comment, we are really look- ing forward to having something on our side of the lake we just hope it will be something that the kids will enjoy playing on not just something that is aesthetically pleasing.
30	Would like to see a community garden at Edwardes Lake Park. She works within the community with people who have chronic pain and illness and was very keen to see something at ELP for people to engage in art and gardening for sensory and healing experiences.
31	Thank you for allowing community the chance to provide feedback on Edwards Lake Park. My role at Your Community Health is supporting gender equity, so many of my comments relate to thinking from a gendered perspective. It's hard to envision exactly what this play space will look like from the concept plan and video so please take the feedback below as more generalised with ideas for consideration Accessibility of each of the features within the play space: Consideration around paved access to sup- port accessibility for parents with prams or for wheelchair access Bathroom and access to change room facilities - Ensuring unisex bathrooms and change table facilities within close proximity. Break away space for mothers who might wish to breastfeed - ideally within line of sight to play features Lighting and safety: Consideration around adding additional lighting along the path and throughout the play features, particularly for winter months, to increase perception of safety by women Further testing and concept refinement with a group of local women to go on a 'walkabout' and provide feed- back periodically while under construction Consideration around lines of sight from chairs and observation points - particularly when considering the incline and hills.

32	Dear Sir/Madam, As climate change is progressing even faster than the scientific predictions previously indicated, and as each year brings even more dangerous consequences for Australians, such as extreme heat, fires, drought and biodiversity loss, we would like to submit the following suggestions to the play space: 1) Substantially increase the planned amount of other vegetation to be planted around the play space 2) Substantially increase the planned amount of other vegetation to be planted, including shrubs, herbs, native grasses and flowers. This is because vegetation: - captures CO2 - helps retains moisture in the ground, which is crucial for drought prevention - filters out pollution (e.g. car pollution from the road), which is crucial for drought prevention - filters out pollution (e.g. car pollution from the road), which is crucial for human health - attracts insects, including bees, which humans depend on for food production - provide shade in extreme heat. Australian summers are fast becoming unbearably hot, so if there is no shade, children will not be able to use the play space at all 3) Please do not use any plastic materials for building the play space. Choose all natural construction materials. This is because: - Plastic is toxic and never biodegrades Instead, overtime, it just disintegrates into smaller and smaller particles, down to micro and nanoplastic, which gets into the water, ground and air Plastic is toxic, cancerogenous and attracts other toxic substances, such as heavy metals As such, it is ingested by humans when they breathe and consume fish, vegetables, grains and water Nanoplastic particles have now been proven to penetrate animal and human cell membranes and accumulate in the body, acting as endocrine disruptors (i.e. harming the hormonal systems) and causing cancer 4) Given the harmful effects of all kinds of plastic, as well as other litter, such as cigarette butts, including plastic and cigarette butts, in the play space and the whole Edwardes Lake Park. Penalties s
33	sounds great. cant wait.
34	It looks pretty good. Anything that can be added to it that could increase the amount of trees and bird nesting boxes would be wonderful.
35	I would like to shade accounted for in each of the areas, particularly while the trees are growing. We find in darebin many of the play spaces do not incorporate sufficient space for sun safe play during warmer months.
36	Fantastic idea and about time a wasted space was adapted. Love the idea of a modern play area instead of the standard play space. You only need to look at some of the others around Melbourne which are used heavily due to their uniqueness.
37	Sounds and looks good. I only hope that ELP is also available to those without children who want to use the park for walks, etc. It needs to be a Shaed Space project that takes in the needs of all rsidents
38	Great concept but will supporting infrastructure be improved with regard to the following: a. Additional rubbish bins given the two at BBQs and the one at the skate park are usually full to over- flowing. b. Toilets at skate park refurbished to support the area.
39	We love the little skate track at Norris bank reserve playground. It would be fab to see one at Edwards Lake. Would also be great to see play equipment with ropes for climbing and slides for younger kids rather than just the big long slide.

40	I think that providing better pedestrian access to the park (particularly for those on wheels) should be a higher priority than the playscape. Any update on that please? The entry point near the scout hall is really an accident waiting to happen
41	Now I hope I don't get howled down however I can't for the life of me understand how these projects continue during these compromised economic times. Oh, I forgot we are all getting a rates increase regardless of the pain and suffering in our community. At least we'll have a play space to look forward to. Hope it's worth it
42	I would prefer to see more small projects carried out in a multitude of parks throughout the region. So many of the parks have playgrounds designed for young kids but nothing for the older ones. How about some more (sml) skate areas and half basketball courts ? (like at Penders)
43	Nothing about dogs here grrrr. Les Fogarty replied: Yes I seem to remember from a previous plan there was going to be a fenced 'Off Leash' area west of the tennis courts.
44	Is there enough parking or is Darebin going to try and implement the 1 hour zone everywhere! Like they tried within the residential areas and thankfully failed!
45	Looks great!!
46	this will be so cool when it's done
47	wow this is going to be so great!!
48	Looks a fabulous. A thought, why not turn the old yacht club into a cafe/restaurant run /staffed by tafe hospitality students. I am sure it would be absolutely supported by the community
49	With this project going ahead, what is the current outlook into an environmental study into the lake? The water quality has been on a steady decline. Part of inhabiting an environment is respecting it, so hopefully kids are taught this respect through the nature based play.
50	Very pretty but i feel like so many parks are missing out while Edwards Lake park already has pretty decent set up. Why fix something that is already perfect. Make Wood St park (A.G. Davis) into something special too! So much potential there for landscaping, yet you never even put a drop of water into that park
51	Edwardes Cafe or Lake Cafe is definitely needed there. May as well renovate and expand the boathouse and while you're at it could the concrete waterfall be made to look more natural somehow. TIA
52	Looks great. Is there any area where children can construct their own play? Are there any movable parts? Who replenishes the parts? Are there places where children can be high (not just up the hill)?
53	Hey Darebin, what ever happened to park upgrades for Blake Reserve in Preston? They were promised to be finished by end of last year, but no work has started?!
54	Take the sea sore down away near the track it's very dangerous. Lots of kids have gotten injured
55	Edwardes Lake defo needs a coffee van!
56	When is this going to be built? Looks great!
57	what a good idea!! Needs to have educational boards and games in the park too about climate and rubbish
58	They really need to do something about the toilet block, it's always disgusting.
59	omg YES update the litter signs too
60	darebincouncil great concept, but if between the council and the people who currently use the plays- pace available, the area is not kept clean, what's the use of the money spent? The current area is always dirty, there is rubbish everywhere, broken bottles and the bins are full or overflowing because people can't take rubbish home, or dispose of it thoughtfully. I feel sorry for the birdlife in the lake! The toilets are a disgrace. Look after what we have, before we deserve new!