

Feedback Report: Westerfield Drive Reserve Playspace

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Monash Council has been successful in securing funding for Westerfield Drive Reserve, Notting Hill (\$400,000) from round 2 of the State Government's Pocket Park Program.

This project is well-supported by Monash's Playground & Playspaces Strategy (adopted February 2020) and will significantly enhance play and active recreation opportunities for the local community.

This site is located in the Notting Hill precinct which has a significant shortfall (or undersupply) of open space with only 5m² per capita (the lowest in Monash and well below the benchmark of 30m²).

The site includes the Westerfield Drive public playspace and Notting Hill Neighbourhood House playspace. The project will deliver a net increase in public open space of approx. 500m² by reducing the footprint of the leased (exclusive use) area of the Neighbourhood House. The project includes the establishment of a new lease for the Neighbourhood House to allow Council to manage the outdoor areas as public open space.

There has previously been significant community engagement held about open space generally in Notting Hill. This was facilitated by the Place Making team.

This project is for the design of a 'local standard' playspace and will include the provision of new play opportunities including innovative sensory play elements and discovery trail, as well as enhanced family and social recreation opportunities e.g. playspace, village green park seating, landscaping improvements, local art and natural shade.

Consultation and design work is occurring throughout 2020-21, with construction to be undertaken in 2021-22.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the engagement is to consult with Councillors, local residents and the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House during April 2021, to seek their level of support and feedback for the proposed concept plan for Westerfield Drive Playspace and to seek ideas on what design/features/colours should be included in the mural located within the playspace.

- Inform Councillors and the community of the concept design that has been prepared for the site
- Promote engagement opportunities during 6 April 2021 - 4 May 2021.

SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT

Methods used	Stakeholders	Dates
e-bulletin	Councillors	1 April 2021
Shape Monash Survey	Notting Hill Neighbourhood House Local residents within a 400 meter radius of the reserve. 26 responses received.	6 April 2021 - 4 May 2021
On-site community consultation	Notting Hill Neighbourhood House Local residents within a 400 meter radius of the reserve. 10 residents attended.	22 April 2021

ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

There were 26 respondents to the survey. Of those that told us their gender, 79% were women or girls and 21% were men or boys.

A concept plan for the playground was presented by flyer and on the Shape Monash website.

We asked three questions about the Westerfield Drive Playspace concept plan:

- Things I like about this playspace are:
- Things I don't like about this playspace are:
- My ideas to make this playspace better are:

Summary of Feedback

There were 26 respondents to the survey. Of those that told us their gender, 79% were women or girls and 21% were men or boys.

We asked	You said	We did
Things I like about this playspace	General feedback positive - lots of interesting elements available (62%) <u>Key play elements –</u> Trampoline (11%) Sensory items (11%) Music items (11%) Chessboards (8%) Waterplay (8%) Basket Swing (8%) Art (8%)	
Things I don't like about this playspace	Removal of swings (27%) Not enough for older children (19%) Talking tubes – unhygienic (15%) Not enough picnic tables / seats (11%) Too much wasted green space (3%) Music equipment – too noisy (3%)	Project team met and reviewed the feedback received via the community consultation survey and on-site consultation session. A concept review and redesign took place between 5 May and 21 May 2021. A decision was made to remove the talking tubes.
My ideas to make this playspace	Swings (50%) Shade (19%) Another picnic table / seating for large groups (15 %) BBQ (15%) Basketball court (11%) Public toilet (7%) Ping pong table (7%) Dog off-leash area (7%) Skate ramp (7%) Rebound wall (3%) Rock climbing wall (3%) Community garden (3%) Water fountain (3%) Relocation of the front gate (3%) Create a walkway through from the neighbourhood house door to the playground to the village green side of the reserve (3%)	Project team agreed to review the concept design to see the feasibility of the inclusion of traditional belt seat swing / bucket seat toddler seat swing in either the village green or sensory playspace area. Four options were investigated and a single 2-swing (single and toddler seats) will be included in the village green area of the playspace. Agreed to investigate the replacement of the three swivel chairs and small table located in the village green area to an accessible picnic table. Confirmed replacement. Natural Shading has been planned for this site which negates the need for built shade structure. Advanced tree planting will occur which should provide adequate shading within 5 years. Agreed to review the fence-line of the playspace to allow for an indentation off the footpath for ease of entrance and egress with small children on to busy street corner. Confirmed realignment

We asked	You said	We did
		<p>of the fence-line around the main entrance gate on the corner of Westerfield Drive and Samada Street.</p> <p>Agreed to investigate possible access pathways from the neighbourhood house to the village green side of the playspace.</p> <p>Agreed to provide an access gate to allow access from the Neighbourhood House kitchen to the village green.</p>

Appendix 1: Engagement methodology

Information provision

Project Stage	Engagement Level & Objective	Stakeholders	Method	Who & Where	Key dates
Engagement	Consult	Councillors	e-Bulletin	Project team Communications Team	1 April 2021
Engagement – stage 1	Consult	Notting Hill Neighbourhood House Local Residents within a 400 meter radius of the reserve	Information update/flyer Website Online and hard copy survey	Project team Communications Team	6 April 2021 – 4 May 2021
Engagement – stage 2	Involve	Notting Hill Neighbourhood House Local Residents within a 400 meter radius of the reserve	Online Survey Onsite Community Consultation Session held at Notting Hill Neighbourhood House	Project team Placemaking team Comms team	22 May 2021

Promotion and notification

e-bulletin 1 May 2021 -

DELWP Pocket Park (Round 2) funding for Monash

Monash Council has been successful in securing \$1.4M for Cameron Avenue Reserve, Oakleigh South (\$900,000) and Westerfield Drive Reserve, Notting Hill (\$400,000) from round 2 of the State Government's Pocket Park Program. This is in addition to the \$700,000 previously awarded for the redevelopment of Cambridge Street Reserve, Oakleigh as part of Round 1 funding.

These two projects are outlined below and are well-supported by Monash's Playground & Playspaces Strategy (adopted February 2020) and will significantly enhance play and active recreation opportunities for the local community.

Westerfield Drive Reserve Pocket Park

Location: Corner Westerfield Drive and Samada Street, Notting Hill (next to Notting Hill Neighbourhood House).

Objective: To develop a new pocket park in Notting Hill at the corner of Westerfield Drive and Samada Street by increasing public open space (by utilising green space previously encumbered by an exclusive use agreement with the neighbourhood house) at Westerfield Drive playspace.

Preliminary Concept Layout:



Project budget: \$400,000


Indicative Scope:

- The addition of an extra 500m² public open space (previously leased to Notting Hill Neighbourhood House) **added** to Westerfield Drive Reserve Pocket Park (increasing total public open space provision to approx. 750m²)
- The provision of new play opportunities including innovative sensory play elements and discovery trail
- Enhanced family and social recreation opportunities e.g. playspace, village green park seating, landscaping improvements, local art and natural shade.

Community consultation on these exciting projects will commence in within the next few weeks with the view to finalising detailed designs by June 2021. Construction due to be completed by the end of June 2022.

For more information please contact Jackie Grieve, Strategic Leisure Planner on 9518 3559 or jackie.grieve@monash.vic.gov.au

Have your Say – Draft Concept Flyer



CITY OF
MONASH

New Playspace

Westerfield Drive Reserve, Notting Hill

Have your say - Draft concept plan

Council has received funding from the Victorian Government through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's Pocket Park Program, to create a pocket park including sensory play elements at Westerfield Drive Reserve.

We wanted to let you know that we have been working hard to create an exciting draft concept plan which we are now seeking feedback on. We want to make this a fun and engaging place that enhances family and social recreation opportunities and we hope you like what we've put forward.

Please turn over this page to see the draft concept plan. The proposed key play elements are:

- Nature trail
- Water pump and log channel
- Sound bouncers
- Talk Tubes
- Multi-use play unit
- Trampoline
- Junior basket swing
- Bamboo art poles
- Shop front play.

Other elements of the project will include:

- Bench seating
- Picnic chess table
- Children's play picnic table
- Decorative gate entrance
- Planting of additional trees
- Mural (please note: consultation on the mural will begin later this year).

We welcome your feedback on what is proposed. Please provide your suggestions and feedback by **Tuesday 4 May 2021**:

- Online at www.monash.vic.gov.au/westerfield-reserve
- By emailing recreation@monash.vic.gov.au
- By calling, Kate Dunlop, Recreation Projects Officer, on 9518 3003.

Thank you in advance to those who provide feedback – it will help ensure that we deliver a project that is valued by the local community.

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 Bahasa Indonesia 7005 3001 Việt Ngữ 9321 5487 ភាសាខ្មែរ 7005 3003 한국어 9321 5484 ភាសាខ្មែរ 7005 3000



Appendix 2: Full summary of stakeholder responses

Things I like about this playspace are:
The sensory trampoline and increased visuals
Tennis half court or Basketball ring
Herb garden - slides and swings
I like everything about it - except, that the baby swing and normal swing is removed (the ones that are currently there behind the building)
Varity of play features
Noisy and quiet activities
A fully serviced barbecue area with gazebo.
Lots of interesting areas for kids to explore
Chess board and Water play
Multi Play Unit with Shop Front and Slide, Trampoline, Junior Basket swing, 8-Key Marimba,
The trampoline and basket swing
The look of it, very inviting!
The central playspace is nice, lots of interesting available
It looks really great.
Seems to have everything to please parents, kids and families
It all looks lovely and a much greater use of the space.
The increase in seating is great.
The water feature, sensory aspects
Close to the Notting hill neighbourhood house and Inchmeal
All of it is great. Our kids especially love a feature animal in a playground
No BBQ is a good idea.
If a BBQ is there people would stay longer period and kids would not get a chance.
Also people can have parties with Alcohol and brake bottles which is not safe for kids.
Also non locals can visit the place and would be crowded.
Chess area, Music things and art pieces

Things I like about this playspace are:
Good use of space and love the artwork.
Retaining fencing around the playspace as children can easily run off on to the road and it makes the parents' supervision a little easier especially with multiple children.
Sensory play and loads of equipment for all ages
Innov as time with a variety of activities for kids and families
I applaud the Council for letterboxing the neighbourhood to invite feedback on the proposal. I think the plans are generally very good
I welcome the upgrades to the Westerfield play space
Draft concept plan looks very good
Sounds/looks like a good idea. The play area is well utilised during school holidays and weekends by families. We agree with the alterations you are suggesting
It is a great space for the very young children of the area
The main concern is that majority of People that frequent the pocket park use the swings. Removing the swings will remove a major pastime and feature that attracts many people and has been a favourite spot for myself and family for over 20 years. Yes there are swings in the other area but this cannot be shared as it is booked out and used by others and private functions. Regardless of what the council may think it is not a "shared space". Any many people use the small park for this purpose as it is seperate to the main area. Other concerns is sensory items where people touch and place their face on, not really a good idea with the current pandemic and I believe will be a waste of time and money and never used. (Item 5)

Things I don't like about this playspace are:
Too much wasted space in the back
That the baby swing and normal swing is removed (the ones that are currently there behind the building)
Nothing for older kids to chill on.
Minimal draw cards for older kids
That there is only 1 picnic table. No accessible bathrooms if centre is closed. Most families use these play areas on weekends, after school & school holidays. This means we have no access to bathrooms, if the community centre is closed.

Things I don't like about this playspace are:
<p>The fence that demarcates the playspace and NH</p> <p>Relocation of the front gate</p> <p>Caters only to families with young children</p> <p>Removal of indigenous tree unnecessarily</p> <p>No budget available - feels like much more can be done to make the space useful for more people with the massive grant for this relatively small space available.</p>
No. 5 Talking tubes are not a good idea health wise.
What seems to be a car park splits the park into 2 -for safety, I would prefer either no car parks or the car parks near the entrance and the park area is segregated off. The kids area should be such that, there is almost no risk of them running or getting into danger zones like car parks.
<p>None of the main pieces of equipment are special needs friendly / disability friendly.</p> <p>Talking tubes should be removed. It's a great way for germs to spread. Given the rest of the world is still in the midst of a pandemic, why would we run the risk of kids speaking, and passing saliva through these..</p>
<p>Playground only caters for younger kids and not so much for the older ones.</p> <p>Not enough seating</p> <p>Needs more trees for shade</p>
<p>It is not a fenced in dog park which is needed in our area.</p> <p>A Marimba is noisy for the neighbours. My understanding is that neighbours have complained about the noise from Essex Heights Primary's Marimba.</p>
Yes there are swings in the other area but this cannot be shared as it is booked out and used by others and private functions. Regardless of what the council may think it is not a "shared space". Any many people use the small park for this purpose as it is separate to the main area.If you can change your plans to add or keep swings that older teenagers and adults can use will be ideal.Other concerns is sensory items where people touch and place their face on, not really a good idea with the current pandemic and i believe will be a waste of time and money and never used. (Item 5)
Not enough picnic tables
<p>No carparking?</p> <p>Looks vulnerable to graffiti and vandalism</p>
I oppose the removal of the existing swings as they are a well-used piece of equipment for children of all ages and are always occupied when I pass by. Please reconsider their removal as I know of many families, like mine, who enjoy them.
I Would like to see the swing being retained for teenagers and adult use.
For those who are over the age of 10 there is very little to recommend it especially as you are removing the swings that are currently in the pocket park. This area is a great space where the older children use the swings and they are often there after school and during the weekends and holidays.
Why are the swings being removed?

Things I don't like about this playspace are:

The main concern is that majority of People that frequent the pocket park use the swings. Removing the swings will remove a major pastime and feature that attracts many people and has been a favourite spot for myself and family for over 20 years.

Yes there are swings in the other area but this cannot be shared as it is booked out and used by others and private functions. Regardless of what the council may think it is not a "shared space". Any many people use the small park for this purpose as it is separate to the main area.

Other concerns is sensory items where people touch and place their face on, not really a good idea with the current pandemic and i believe will be a waste of time and money and never used. (Item 5)

My ideas to make this playspace better are:

Missing BBQ space and more water fountain features. My autistic daughter loves water play.

The back could offer a water umbrella given the large unused space.

Please add basketball ring or tennis court or rock climbing wall.

Skate ramp - stuff for older kids

To keep the swings and place them somewhere appropriate.

Why take the current swings out went they are already there, if you aren't replacing them?

Skate ramp maybe in the space behind the classrooms (ie where the swings are)

Swings! I know there is a basketswing but my son loves the individual swing and it's also good for smaller kids who wouldn't be able to go on the basketswing.

Another picnic table, for when there are more families at the centre.

Accessible toilets during weekends & school holidays..

Add off leash dog area with facilities, such as double gates, dog bins, drinking fountains in back area. It would actually invite some other demographics to use the space for a change.

The chess table needs to have only 3 seats so prams and /or wheel chairs can access.

More shade is an imperative.

Add a toilet

I would prefer a small community garden. This will be great for kids, families, seniors to "play" and learn together. Also, it gets the community into the space as well

Some after-hours lighting would be good. Some communal type covered areas would be good, like a gazebo type pergola

Shade is a must for community events and for the children. Current existing trees provide limited shade on hot days.

Water fountain to fill up drink bottles etc

My ideas to make this playspace better are:
- bbq pit on lawn green -make all foot paths and gates large enough to fit prams / wheel chairs.
Would be great to have a basketball hoop for older kids? Also living opposite the proposed new park, one concern is the T junction from Samada into Westerfield drive. It's already a bit of an accident blackspot (since we have lived here there have been several accidents) concern is the increase in traffic and perhaps something needs to be considered to control traffic at this junction (? roundabout)
Basketball hoop, ping pong table, Flat concrete area for playing downball, hopscotch etc. BBQ
BBQ so the neighbourhood house can host fundraisers and food events for the community!! Rockclimbing wall and art mural done by community members
Alternative to Marimba.
Include swings (for babies with safety chain and older toddlers/children (without chain)) Include more shade over the play area - maybe using sail canopies
More functional seating will be ideal to cater for 5 to 8 people spread around will be also ideal.
Cater for older age children, add a table tennis table, and tennis half court practice wall.
Add more picnic tables
Ensure materials are appropriate & user friendly plus ready to clean, maintain and repair
I would like to see the swings retained for the use of older children or younger children together with their parents or carers. Certainly, they have been well used over the years when our grandchildren visited and provided a safe place to play once they were a little older and allowed a degree of independence. I would urge the Council to find a place for some swings in the revision. Yes, there are some swings in other recreational areas ... but that's the whole point, swings and slides have always been an integral part of most well-used play areas.
Rather than changing the swings area to 'village green', just leave this area as it currently is. With lots of young children in the area, I have seen that this play area with swings still gets a lot of use.
As one of the original residents who was involved in the building of the kindergarten - the original use for the neighbourhood house Building - somehow or other can that be incorporated in its name?
The mural to be by a local artist or Monash Uni art students via a submission of a selection of proposed designs.
If there is a way to keep the swing for older children, and perhaps take away the baby swing, and replace it with a another swing for tweens and teens, that would be great There is, after all, plenty of space. My grandchildren aged from 19 to 8 years old use the one swing available for their age frequently. The current Notting Hill Neighbour Hood House provides swings and equipment for babies. But nothing at all for the children such as my grandchildren. There is the park further along Samada St. But the pocket park is convenient for those of us who live in Longbourne Ave, Risdon and Huntley Streets

My ideas to make this playspace better are:
The swings have been used by a large part of the community for a while. Can we not incorporate swings into the new design please? The swings are actually being used by older children in the community as well as disabled children.
If you can change your plans to add or keep swings that older teenagers and adults can use will be ideal. More functional seating will be ideal to cater for 5 to 8 people spread around will be also ideal. They can bring their dogs in a locked off area as well