

7.2.1 OAKLEIGH GOLF COURSE FUTURE PLANNING - CONSULTATION FINDINGS

Responsible Manager:	Tony Oulton, Manager Active Monash
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RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note that the two potential future development options for the Oakleigh Golf Course were publicly exhibited on Shape Monash from 27 September 2023 to 30 November 2023.
2. Note there is strong community support to retain the Oakleigh Golf Course as a nine-hole public golf course.
3. Retain the Oakleigh Golf Course as a nine-hole public golf course for the foreseeable future and not consider any alternative options for the site until after the new management contract term and option extension is anticipated to end in 2034.

INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the engagement methodology and key findings of the community consultation on two potential future development options for the Oakleigh Golf Course. The consultation has identified that there is strong community support from the golfing community and local residents to retain the golf course as a nine-hole public golf course.

COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Sustainable City

Ensure an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable municipality.

Inclusive Services

Renew our community assets to deliver contemporary services.

Enhanced Places

Improving open spaces, bushland, and street trees, including prioritising biodiversity and community engagement.

Good Governance

Ensure a financially, socially, and environmentally sustainable organisation.
Effectively communicate and engage with the community.

BACKGROUND

In 2023, Council undertook a review and options analysis of Oakleigh Golf Course to consider the future opportunities and form of the site to maximise community benefit. The Review and Options Analysis considered options for enhancement, development and/or transformation of the existing facilities and configuration of the site in consideration of deriving the highest value for the community.

At the 26 September 2023 meeting, Council resolved to:

1. Approve the future development options and the Oakleigh Golf Course Options Overview for public exhibition and invite community feedback on the options.
2. Consider the findings of the community consultation at a future meeting.

This report provides an overview of the community engagement methodology and outlines the key findings of the consultation on Oakleigh Golf Course future planning project. Overall, the findings of the consultation on the two options identified there is strong support for Option A – retention of the site as a nine-hole public golf course.

DISCUSSION

It was considered timely to consider the future of the Oakleigh Golf Course having regard to several factors including but not limited to:

- the impact of COVID-19 and the increased focus on the activation of open space
- the potential use of public golf courses for flexible, non-organised recreation activities
- expected population growth and increasing urban densification in Oakleigh
- the long-term financial investment required to maintain the golf course and upgrade ageing assets
- the existing provision of both public and private golf courses within the region
- limited access to and increasing demand for open space due to demographic changes

After undertaking analysis of potential future uses of the site, two potential development options were identified as most feasible in meeting future community needs, specifically:

- Option A - Retain the nine-hole golf course (with ninth hole shortened to allow for trail realignment to overcome safety concerns on the adjoining trail).
- Option B - Transform the area to open space (e.g. regional park) with no provision for golf.

Option A – retention of the 9-hole golf course

Under this option the nine-hole course configuration and existing built infrastructure is retained. The ninth hole is shortened to allow for the realignment of the shared path at Park Road. The shared path is realigned at the maintenance depot to minimise conflict between maintenance vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists. This option also includes improvements to drainage on holes 1 and 7, and enhancement of areas of native vegetation.

The clubhouse was originally built in or around 1980 with a pro-shop added a few years later. The facilities are considered fit-for-purpose and commensurate with the standards of the day, although ageing and will require renewal in the medium-term.

Under Option A, the nine-hole course configuration and existing built infrastructure is retained. In addition to highlighting potential infrastructure upgrades and improvements, this option also includes an opportunity for the potential enhancement of areas of native vegetation.

Option B – Transform the area to open space with no provision for golf.

Whilst the Oakleigh Golf Course plays an important role in supporting golf participation, it provides limited opportunities for use by non-golfers who are becoming increasingly evident in the local area based on its changing demographic profile i.e. it is considered “restricted open space” as public access through the space is restricted and golfers are required to pay an entry fee.

This option explores the potential for repurposing the golf course into public open space and developing infrastructure that would be free and accessible to all e.g. regional playspace, improved trail alignment, recreational walking track, BBQs and amenities, amphitheatre, enhanced planting etc. This option further strengthens and supports the precinct's transport and bi-diversity value to the community.

The engagement objectives for this project were to:

- Inform and consult with the course users, external stakeholders, and the community to identify existing/potential uses and preferences for the future of Oakleigh Golf Course.
- Consult with peak bodies, government agencies and other stakeholder organisations seeking their input on trends, policies, strategies, and initiatives that relate to the review of Oakleigh Golf Course.
- Seek feedback on the future design options for Oakleigh Golf Course.
- Encourage a balanced response from existing users of Oakleigh Golf Course, the golf community, and the broader community into the future of Oakleigh Golf Course for Council's consideration.

Numerous engagement methods and opportunities for the community to *Have Your Say* were provided over the consultation period such as:

- Letters to key stakeholders including to Oakleigh Golf Club, Oakleigh Veterans Golf Club, Golf Australia, Crown Land Authority and BlueFit Pty. Ltd
- Letterbox drop to surrounding residents
- On-line survey and submissions via Shape Monash
- Meeting with Golf Australia - Tuesday, 10 October
- Information Session with Oakleigh Golf Clubs – Wednesday, 11 October
- Community Drop-In Session #1 -Thursday, 12 October 4:30pm - 6:30pm
- Community Drop-In Session #2 – Saturday, 21 October 10am - 12pm

- Intercept Surveys conducted on Saturday, 25 October (8am - 12pm) and Monday, 27 October (3pm-7pm) at various sites including Brickmakers Park, Scotchmans Run Reserve, Caloola Reserve and Oakleigh Recreation Centre
- On-site signage with QR code linking to Shape Monash page
- Project Bulletin article
- Social media
- On-line community panel
- Information forwarded to Monash Advisory Committees such as the Gender Equity Committee, Positive Aging reference Group, Disability Advisory Group, Multicultural Advisory Group, Sustainability networks.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications to this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Oakleigh Golf Course future planning and associated development priorities align with relevant Monash strategies and plans including but not necessarily limited to:

- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Municipal Public Health Plan 2021-2025
- Monash Open Space Strategy 2021

Combined these policies, plans and strategies highlight the key priorities and areas of focus for Council which focus on *improving the health and wellbeing of the community* through the provision of -

- safe and inclusive places,
- accessible and engaging activities and services, and
- enhance opportunities for residents to be physically active and participate in community life.

CONSULTATION

Consultation on the two options ran for over two months on [Shape Monash](#) from 27 September – 30 November 2023. At the close of consultation, the following site visitation and utilisation metrics were recorded:

- 13,619 views (the number of times a Visitor views any page on a site)
- 11,014 visits (the number of end-user sessions associated with a single visitor)
- 8,569 visitors (the number of unique public or end-users to a site - a visitor is only counted once, even if they visit a site several times in one day)
- 1,810 contributions (the total number of responses or feedback collected through the participation tools)

- 1,798 contributors (the unique number of visitors who have left feedback or contributions on a site through the participation tools)
- 1,054 followers (the number of visitors who have ‘subscribed’ to a project using the ‘Follow’ button).

Online- Survey Snapshot

- Community support:
 - Option A - 84% (1,480 responses) supported keeping the site as a nine-hole golf course
 - Option B - 16% (276 responses) supported transforming it into a regional park
- 67% of respondents were City of Monash residents, with 30% from Greater Melbourne / Mornington Peninsula and 3% from outside of Greater Melbourne
- 77% of respondents indicated that they had played golf at least once in the last 12 months
- 53% of respondents had played golf at Oakleigh Golf Course at least once in the last 12 months
- Respondents that had played golf at any course in the last 12 months were strongly in favour of retaining golf at the site (97% of responses)
- Respondents that had not played golf in the last 12 months were in favour of transforming the site into a regional park (58% of responses).

Online- Survey Key Findings

- When asked *Why you think we should keep Oakleigh Golf Course as a nine-hole golf course?* the top responses included:
 - Golf is important for community health (1,219 respondents)
 - Golf has been at the site for a long time, and I don’t see a reason for this to change (737 respondents)
 - I play golf at Oakleigh Golf Course and don’t want to see it change (673 respondents)
 - We don’t need any more publicly accessible parks in the area (418 respondents)
 - We need more parks in the area, but I don’t think we should transform the golf course into open space to achieve this (397 respondents)
 - I live near Oakleigh and don’t want to see it change (324% respondents)
- When asked *Why do you think we should transform Oakleigh Golf Course into a regional park?* the top responses included:
 - We should provide parks that appeal to the whole community (203 respondents)
 - We need more parks and open space in the area (195 respondents)
 - Golf courses have restricted community access and don’t provide for the whole community (198 respondents)
 - Golf courses are important, but there are other places to play golf close by and I think the site would be better as a regional park (114 respondents)
 - I don’t play golf, so I’m not worried about losing access to the golf course (34 respondents)
- When asked, *Have you played golf at any course in the last 12 months?* the top responses included:

- Yes, at Oakleigh Golf Course (926 respondents)
 - Yes, at another golf course (886 respondents)
 - No (409 respondents)
- When asked *What are the main reasons you play golf?* the top responses included:
 - I enjoy golf as an activity (1,172 respondents)
 - To be healthy / physically active (1,144 respondents)
 - I like being outside in the natural environment (976 respondents)
 - My friends / family play golf (959 respondents)
 - It's affordable (779 respondents)
 - I play golf competitively (367 respondents)
 - When asked *How often do you play golf?* the top responses included:
 - At Oakleigh Golf Course
 - At least weekly - 21% or 252 respondents
 - At least monthly - 24% or 294 respondents
 - Every few months or less - 43% or 528 respondents
 - Not at all – 12% or 144 respondents
 - At other golf courses
 - At least weekly 43% or 541 respondents
 - At least monthly 24% or 298 respondents
 - Every few months or less 26% or 329 respondents
 - Not at all – 7% or 83 respondents
 - When asked *What are the main reasons that you play at Oakleigh Golf Course?* the top responses were:
 - Proximity to home/work (469 respondents)
 - It's affordable (465 respondents)
 - My friends/family play there (420 respondents)
 - The course suits my skill level (408 respondents)
 - I like to play 9-hole courses (280 respondents)
 - I like the design of the course (197 respondents)
 - The staff are friendly and helpful (171 respondents)
 - I like the facilities e.g., clubhouse, pro shop, practice facilities (63 respondents)
 - I'm a member of one of the clubs that play from Oakleigh Golf Course (52 respondents)
 - When asked, *What suburb do you live in?* 34% (or 593 respondents) indicated they lived in a suburb outside of Monash.

Many written submissions from key stakeholders supported retention of the golf course e.g., Oakleigh Golf Club, Reach & Belong (disability golf program) and Golf Australia.

A written submission from KooyongKoot Alliance (20+ Friends Groups from along the Gardiners Creek catchment), advocated for protection of the KooyongKoot Creek (Gardiners Creek), and indicated support for transforming the site into a regional park.

The Oakleigh Golf Course Future Planning Consultation Report is included as an Attachment to this report. The full list of submissions and appendices is available on the Shape Monash webpage or via request.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no social implications to this report.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no human rights implications to this report.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Oakleigh Golf Course provides opportunities for both male and female participants to access golf at a public facility and at an affordable price.

Golf is a sport that is predominately played by males. This was evident at Oakleigh where over ¾ of the existing club membership base and a majority (60%) of on-line survey respondents identified as male.

Oakleigh Golf Course is home to two golf clubs:

- Oakleigh Golf Club – 64 total members – consisting of 29 female and 35 male members
- Oakleigh Veterans Golf Club – 63 total members – 100% male membership.

As of January 2024, the two Oakleigh clubs had a total membership of 127. A breakdown of this membership by gender shows that 77% of members identify as male and 23% as female.

Public golf courses such as Oakleigh Golf Course provide important opportunities for golf to remain accessible across gender, age, and socio-economic cohorts. Independent of the future of Oakleigh Golf Course, retaining a public golf offering and programs that encourage female participation remains a priority for the City of Monash.

CONCLUSION

At the September 2023 meeting, Council resolved to test community sentiment regarding the potential future use of the Oakleigh Golf Course. Two development options were approved for community consultation and public exhibition being –

- 1) retain and the golf course; or,
- 2) transform the course into a regional park.

Consultation on the two options ran for over two months on [Shape Monash](#) from 27 September – 30 November 2023. At the close of consultation, 1,798 contributions were recorded. A large majority (84%) of online respondents supported option A, keeping the site as a nine-hole golf course. Only 16% of online respondents supported transforming it into a regional park (option B). A large majority of written submissions also supported retention of the golf course.

Based on the consultation findings it is recommended that Council retain the Oakleigh Golf Course as a nine-hole public golf course for the foreseeable future and not consider any alternative options for the site until after the current management contract term ends in 2034.

ATTACHMENT LIST

1. Attachment 1 - Oakleigh Golf Course Future Planning Consultation Report [7.2.1.1 - 27 pages]



OAKLEIGH GOLF COURSE FUTURE PLANNING

Consultation Report
January 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Monash City Council engaged with residents and the golf community between 27 September and 30 November 2023 to seek feedback on future options for Oakleigh Golf Course (2 Park Road, Chadstone).

Community and stakeholder engagement was centred around an online community survey hosted on Council's Shape Monash engagement platform.

Information regarding the following two future options for Oakleigh Golf Course were presented on Shape Monash:

- A. Retain Oakleigh Golf Course as a nine-hole golf course
- B. Transform Oakleigh Golf Course into a regional park

Council staff and the project consultant also provided further engagement opportunities via community drop-in sessions, a club member information session and intercept surveys.

Council also received written submissions and email submissions from the community.

Key Community Survey Outcomes

- 1,756 responses to the online community survey were received.
- 67% of respondents were City of Monash residents, with 30% from Greater Melbourne / Mornington Peninsula and 3% from outside of Greater Melbourne.
- 77% of respondents indicated that they had played golf at least once in the last 12 months.
- 53% of respondents had played golf at Oakleigh Golf Course at least once in the last 12 months.
- The overall response to the future options of Oakleigh Golf Course was 84% of respondents (1,480 responses) were in favour of retaining the site as a nine-hole golf course, while 16% of respondents (276 responses) were in favour of transforming the site into a regional park.
- Respondents that had played golf at any course in the last 12 months were strongly in favour of retaining golf at the site (97% of responses).
- Respondents that had not played golf in the last 12 months were in favour of transforming the site into a regional parkland (58% of responses).

Community Engagement Outcomes

- Sentiment at two community drop-in sessions held at Oakleigh Golf Course was strongly in favour of retaining the site as a nine-hole golf course. Attendees at drop-in sessions generally identified as either users of Oakleigh Golf Course or residents that live in close proximity to Oakleigh Golf Course.
- Council staff and the project consultant ran an information session with members of the Oakleigh Golf Club and Oakleigh Veterans Golf Club to provide an opportunity to discuss the future options for the site.
- A community petition to "Save Oakleigh Community Golf" is being hosted at change.org, with 4,309 signatures (as of 3 January 2024).
- Advocacy from the golf community, including Oakleigh Golf Club, Oakleigh Veterans Golf Club and Golf Australia, generated significant media coverage, including television (Channel 9 News and A Current Affair), print (The Age, Herald Sun and golf magazines) and social media.
- An email from Golf Australia to its members on 25 November 2023 generated a significant increase in responses to the online community survey.

ENGAGEMENT PLAN

ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Community engagement was undertaken between 27 September and 30 November, with a range of engagement options enabling the community and stakeholder groups to provide feedback on the proposed options.

The primary method of collecting feedback was the online community survey (via Shape Monash). A copy of the survey is provided as an appendix.

Communications relating to the engagement process generally referred respondents to the online community survey as the preferred method of collecting feedback.

Email and written submissions were also permitted. A summary of emails and written submissions are provided in appendix 3 and 4.

A meeting was held with representatives of Golf Australia who were advocating on behalf of Oakleigh Golf Club and Oakleigh Veterans Golf Club.

The Club member consultation session provided an opportunity for members to hear about the proposed options and ask questions of Council's project team.

The drop-in sessions provided further opportunities for course users and residents to seek further information and ask questions of the Council's project team.

Engagement Activity	Stakeholders	Dates
Shape Monash online community survey	All community	27 September – 30 November 2023
Meeting with Golf Australia	Golf Australia representatives	10 October 2023
Club information session	Members of Oakleigh Golf Club and Oakleigh Veterans Golf Club	11 October 2023
Community drop-in sessions	All community	12 October 2023 & 21 October 2023
Intercept surveys	Local park users	25 November 2023 & 27 November 2023
Email and written submissions	All community	27 September – 30 November 2023

COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA

The engagement process relating to the future planning for Oakleigh Golf Course was communicated via a range of channels.

Use of Council communication channels such as Shape Monash, Council social media accounts, Monash Bulletin, and letters to key stakeholders and the residential catchment surrounding the course ensured that the community were aware of the engagement process.

The installation of large signs at key locations on Oakleigh Golf Course ensured that all course users and local residents were aware of the engagement process.

Television and print media content was externally driven, with a primary focus on the impact that the potential removal of the course could have on local golf participants.

The Change.org petition (over 4,300 signatures as of 3 January 2024) to 'Save Oakleigh Community Golf' was organised on behalf of course users.

An email from Golf Australia to members encouraging them to complete the online survey on 24 November 2023 saw a sharp rise in the survey response rate.

A summary of media coverage is provided in appendix 1.

Communication Channel	Stakeholders	Dates
Council website / Shape Monash	All community	27 September 2023 - current
Resident letters	Residents within 500 metres of Oakleigh Golf Course	30 September and 1 October 2023
Stakeholder letters	Oakleigh Golf Club, Oakleigh Veterans Golf Club, Crown Land Authority, Bluefit, Golf Australia	27 September 2023
Council social media	All community	3 October 2023, 10 October 2023
Monash Bulletin	Monash residents	November and December distribution
Signage at Oakleigh Golf Course	Local community, course users	Installed on 27 September, removed early December
Television	All community	Nine News – 11 October 2023 A Current Affair – 25 November 2023
Print media	All community, golf participants	The Age – 11 October 2023 Herald Sun – 10 October 2023 Various golf magazine articles
Golf Australia email to members	Golf Australia members	24 November 2023
Change.org petition	All community, course users	Commenced 10 October 2023

FUTURE OPTIONS FOR OAKLEIGH GOLF COURSE

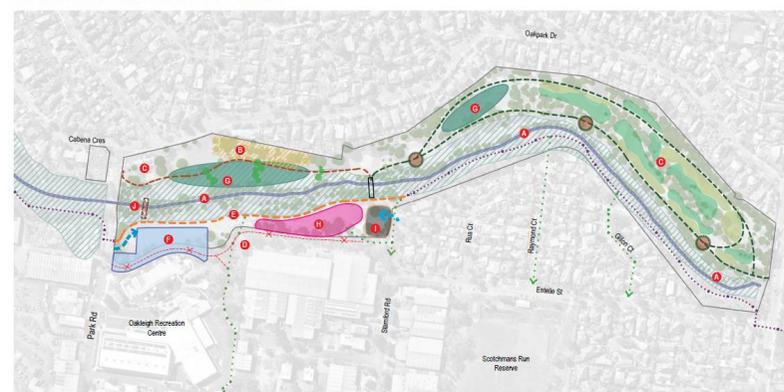
Council consulted with the community on two potential options for future of Oakleigh Golf Course:

- Option A – Retain the site as a *nine-hole golf course*, with improvements made to course infrastructure and the shared path, or
- Option B – Transform the site into a *regional park*, comprising of informal open space, regional playspace, walking tracks, active recreation infrastructure and revegetation.

OPTION A - NINE HOLE GOLF COURSE



OPTION B - REGIONAL PARK



COMMUNITY SURVEY

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The community survey was undertaken via Council's Shape Monash engagement platform between 27 September and 30 November 2023.

The community survey collected information relating to the preferred future option for Oakleigh Golf Course, golf participation and use of Oakleigh Golf Course, and frequency of use of other types of parks and reserves.

A total of 1,756 surveys were received via the Shape Monash platform. Analysis of survey responses is provided on pages 11-19 of this report.

A further 46 intercept surveys were undertaken in reserves in close proximity to Oakleigh Golf Course. Analysis of intercept surveys is provided on pages 21-23.

The following appendices are provided in relation to the community survey:

- Survey questions and response options (Appendix 2)
- Table of comments received via the community survey (Appendix 3)
- Written submissions (Appendix 5)



Image: Shape Monash home page for Future Planning for Oakleigh Golf Course

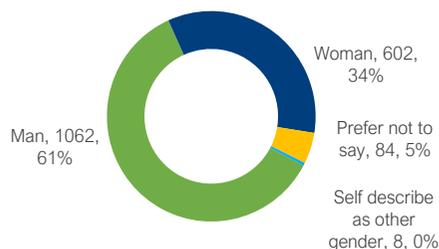
COMMUNITY SURVEY

A total of 1,756 responses to the online community survey were received between 27 September and 30 November 2023.

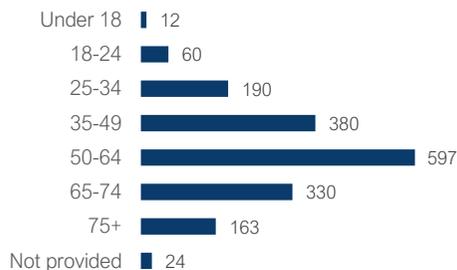
Key respondent profile indicators:

- Respondents were primarily submitted by men (61% of responses), with women submitting 34% of responses, and people that identify as other genders or would prefer not to specify submitting 6% of responses.
- 67% of respondents indicated that they live in a suburb within the City of Monash.
- Ashwood/Burwood/Chadstone (264 responses), Oakleigh (243) and Mount Waverley (212) were the suburbs with the highest number of responses.
- 33% of respondents were from outside of the City of Monash, with 30% of respondents being from outside the City of Monash but within Greater Melbourne (including Mornington Peninsula).
- 50–64-year-olds submitted the most responses (597), followed by 35-49-year-olds (360) and 65-74-year-olds (330).

Respondent Gender



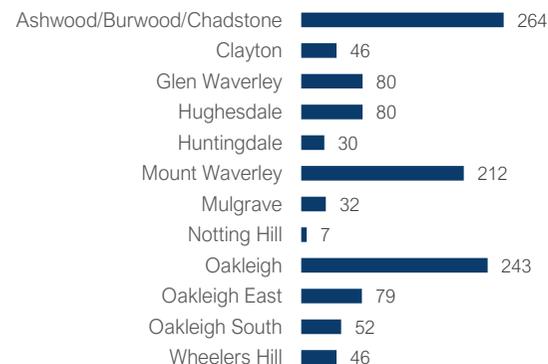
Respondent Age



Respondent Suburb



Respondent Suburb - Monash

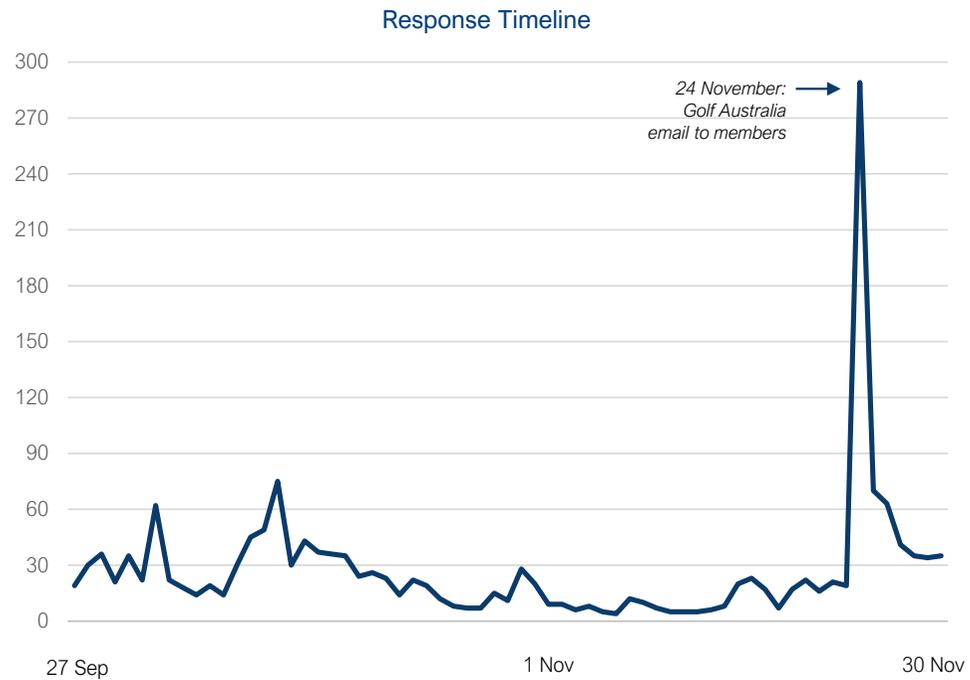


COMMUNITY SURVEY

The online community survey was conducted between 27 September and 30 November 2023. The adjacent response timeline provides an overview of the number of responses received per day, noting the following influencing factors:

- 30 September and 1 October 2023: Letter to residents within 500 metres of Oakleigh Golf Course
- 3 October 2023: City of Monash social media post
- 10 October 2023: Coverage in the Herald-Sun
- 11 October 2023: Coverage in The Age
- 11 October 2023: Coverage on Channel 9 News Melbourne
- 12 October 2023: Drop-in session at Oakleigh Golf Course
- 21 October 2023: Drop-in session at Oakleigh Golf Course
- November distribution: Monash Bulletin feature article
- 24 November 2023: Golf Australia email to members
- 25 November 2023: Coverage on A Current Affair (Channel 9)
- December distribution: Monash Bulletin follow-up article

The large spike in the number of responses aligns with the email Golf Australia sent to members on 24 November, which included a link to the online community survey.

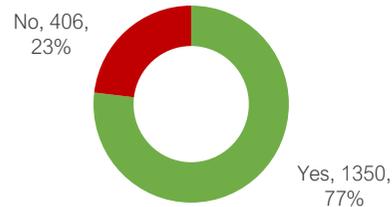


COMMUNITY SURVEY

Respondents to the online community survey presented a high level of golf participation, with 77% participating in golf in the last 12 months.

- 925 respondents indicated that they had played golf at Oakleigh Golf Course in the last 12 months (53%)
- Relating to the frequency of use, respondents generally indicated less frequent use of Oakleigh Golf Course than use of other courses.
- *Note: Victorian participation rate for adults is 5.1% based on Ausplay July 2022-June 2023.*

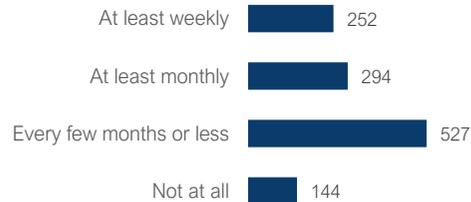
Have you played golf in the last 12 months?



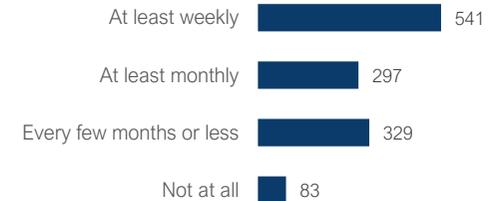
If you have played golf in the last 12 months, where have you played?



How often do you play golf at Oakleigh Golf Course?



How often do you play golf at other golf courses?



COMMUNITY SURVEY

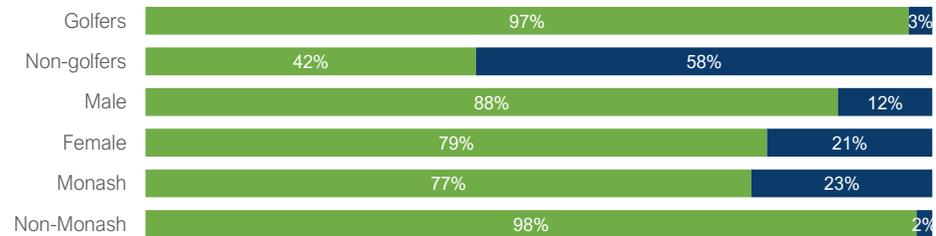
Respondents indicated a preference to retain the site as a nine-hole golf course (84% of total responses).

- All respondent categories indicated a preference to retain the site as a golf course other than non-golfers, who were in favour of transforming the site into a parkland (58% of non-golfers).
- Given the high rate of response from the golf playing community (both local and non-local), the overall preference to retain the site as a golf course is expected.
- 97% of respondents that had played golf in the last 12 months preferred to retain the site as a golf course.
- 58% of respondents that had not played golf in the last 12 months preferred to transform the site into a regional parkland.
- 77% of respondents from the City of Monash indicated a preference to retain the site as a nine-hole golf course, compared to 98% of non-Monash respondents.
- Male respondents (88%) had a stronger preference to retain golf at the site than female respondents (79%), although both genders strongly preferred retention of the golf course.

Thinking about the future of Oakleigh Golf Course, which statement most closely aligns with your preference?



Option Preference by Respondent Category

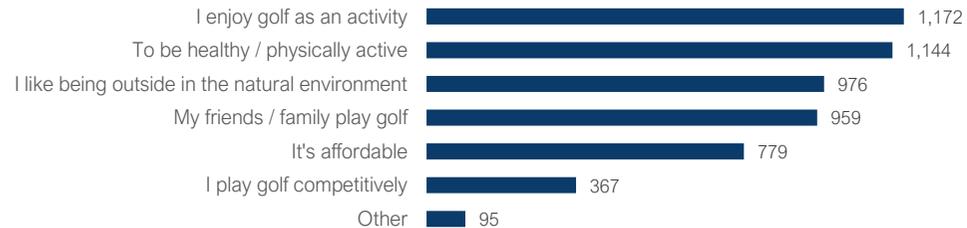


COMMUNITY SURVEY

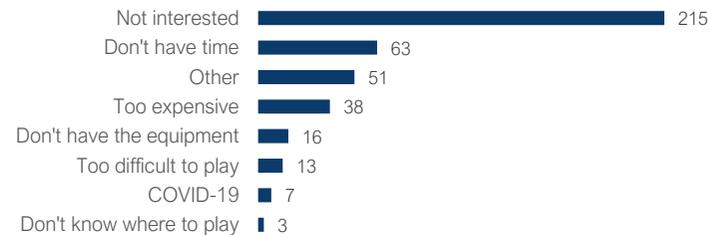
Respondents were asked to indicate why they do or don't play golf, with the option to select multiple reasons.

- Based on 1,350 golf playing respondents, enjoyment (87%), health/physical activity (85%), being outside (72%), and playing with friends/family (71%) were all indicated as primary reasons why respondents play golf.
- Affordability (58%) and playing competitively (27%) were secondary reasons based on the number of responses.
- Not being interested in golf was the main reason why non-golf playing respondents had not played golf in the past 12 months (53%).
- Not having enough time (16%), other reasons (13%) and golf being too expensive (9%) were the next three most common reasons why non-golf playing respondents had not played golf in the last 12 months (Note: 'Other' reasons for not playing golf were varied).

If you have played golf in the last 12 months, what are the main reasons that you play golf?



If you haven't played golf in the last 12 months, why have you not played golf?

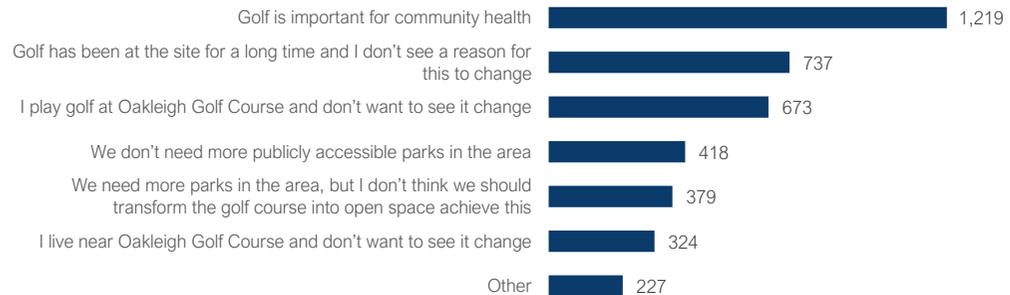


COMMUNITY SURVEY

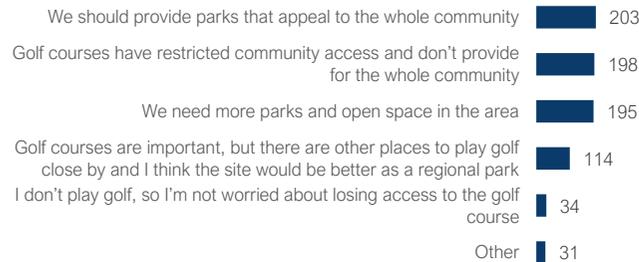
Respondents were asked to select reasons why Oakleigh Golf Course should either be retained as a nine-hole golf course or transformed into a regional parkland (multiple responses permitted).

- The importance of golf for community health was identified as the most common reason for retaining the golf course (82% of those in favour of keeping the course).
- Golf having been at the site for a long time (50% of those in favour of keeping the course) and current course users not wanting to see the site change (45%) were also identified as important reasons for retaining the golf course.
- The top three reasons provided for transforming the course into a regional park are relatively equal. Providing parks that appeal to the whole community (74% of those in favour of transforming to a regional park), golf courses having restricted community access (72%), and needing more parks and open space in the area (71%) were identified as important reasons for transforming the course into a regional park.

Why do you think we should keep Oakleigh Golf Course as a nine-hole golf course?



Why do you think we should transform Oakleigh Golf Course into a regional park?

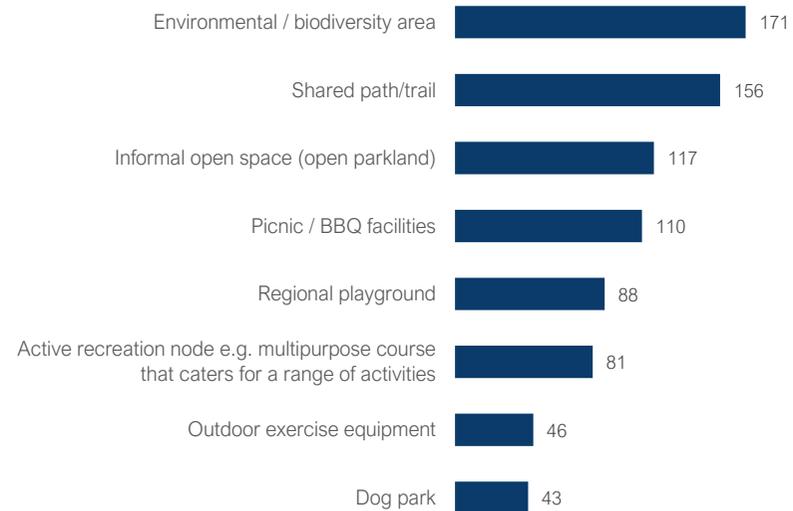


COMMUNITY SURVEY

Respondents that indicated a preference to transform the site into a regional park were asked to provide up to three types of facilities they would like to see provided.

- Creating area that support environmental and biodiversity outcomes received the highest support, with 171 responses.
- Facility components that support informal use, such as open parkland and picnic/BBQ facilities, also received high levels of support.
- Facilities that provide options for physical activity/exercise received mixed support, with shared paths highly supported (156 responses), while active recreation nodes (81 responses) and outdoor exercise equipment (46 responses) received lower levels of support.
- The provision of a dog park received lower levels of support, with 43 respondents indicating this as one of their top priorities if the site was transformed into a regional parkland.
- *Note: Respondents that indicated a preference to retain the golf course were not asked this question.*

If Oakleigh Golf Course was transformed into open space, what types of facilities would be most appealing to you?

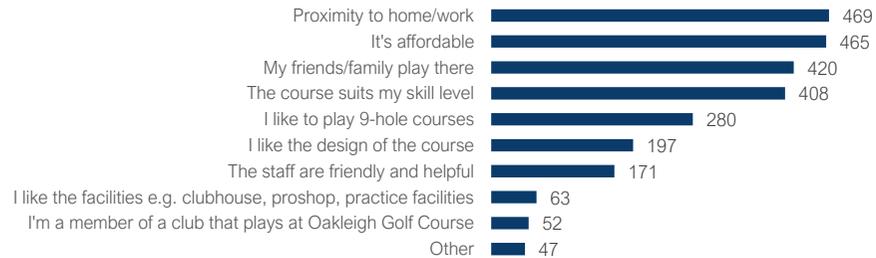


COMMUNITY SURVEY

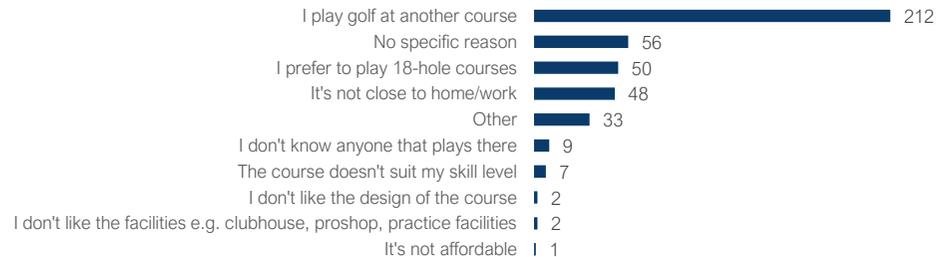
Golf playing respondents were asked to indicate the main reasons for either *playing* or *not playing* at Oakleigh Golf Course in the last 12 months.

- The primary reasons that respondents had played at Oakleigh Golf Course were proximity to home/work (51%), affordability (50%), friends/family play there (45%) or the course suiting their skill level (44%). *(Note: A total of 925 respondents had played at Oakleigh Golf Course in the last 12 months).*
- The primary reason that golf playing respondents had not played at Oakleigh Golf Course in the last 12 months was due to them playing golf at another course (50%). *(Note: A total of 425 respondents had played golf in the last 12 months, but had not played at Oakleigh Golf Course in the last 12 months).*

If you have played golf at Oakleigh Golf Course in the last 12 months, what are the main reasons?



If you haven't played golf at Oakleigh Golf Course in the last 12 months, what are the main reasons?

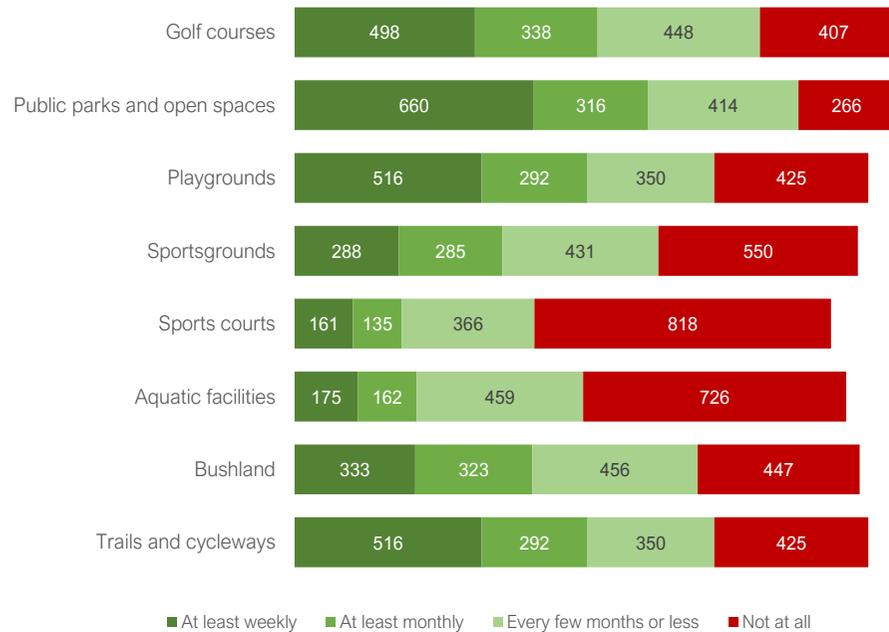


COMMUNITY SURVEY

Respondents were asked to indicate how often they visit a range of types of parks and open spaces within the City of Monash

- High visitation of golf courses was expected due to the high response rate for golf participants (38% at least weekly, 26% at least monthly and 34% every few months or less).
- ‘Non-golf-playing’ respondents indicated that they generally don’t visit golf course, with 75% saying ‘not at all’ for how often they visit golf courses. Interestingly, non-golfers do still visit golf courses, with some drop-in session attendees identifying that the course is used for walking / dog-walking.
- Public parks and open spaces were the most popular reserve category, with 41% of respondents visiting at least weekly.
- Reserve types that provide unstructured participation opportunities such as trails and cycleways, playgrounds and bushland also indicated high levels of use by respondents, while sports courts received the lowest indicated level of use.

How often do you visit the following types of parks and open spaces in the City of Monash?



INTERCEPT SURVEYS

INTERCEPT SURVEYS

Intercept surveys were undertaken on Saturday 25 November (8am-12pm) and Monday 27 November (3pm-7pm) in Council reserves in close proximity to Oakleigh Golf Course.

Intercept surveys were undertaken to gather feedback from local reserve users. A total of 46 intercept surveys were conducted across Caloola Reserve, Brickmakers Park, Scotchman's Run Reserve, Scotchman's Creek Trail and Oakleigh Recreation Centre.

Please note the following considerations relating to intercept surveys:

- The online community survey was used as the basis for the intercept surveys
- Reserve users were approached and asked if they were willing to complete a survey
- Responses were collected verbally from the respondent by the project consultant
- Refusal to complete an intercept survey was relatively common due to 1) having already completed the online survey, 2) not having enough available time, or 3) not being interested in the subject matter.

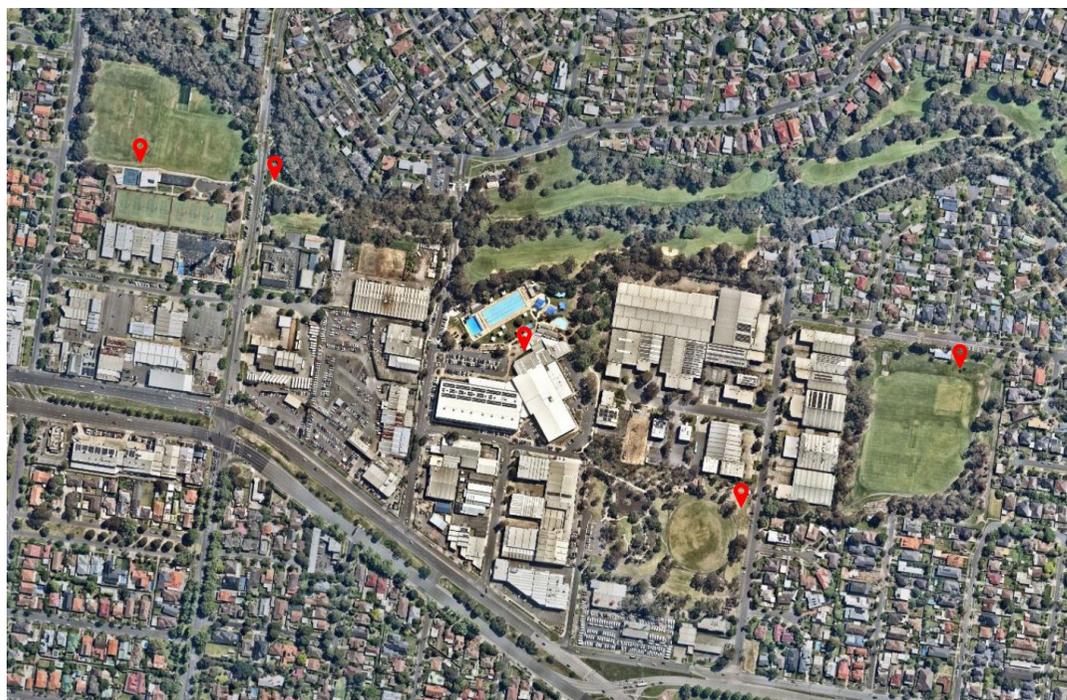


Image: Intercept survey locations

INTERCEPT SURVEY ANALYSIS

Intercept survey respondent profile:

- Total responses: 46
- Gender: Male – 21, Female – 25
- Age: 18-24 years – 1, 25-34 years – 12, 35-49 years – 21, 50-64 years – 11, 65-74 years – 1
- Suburb: Ashwood/Burwood/Chadstone – 20, Clayton – 1, Glen Waverley – 1, Mount Waverley – 5, Mulgrave – 1, Oakleigh – 13, Oakleigh East – 2, Oakleigh South – 2, Malvern East – 1
- Survey location: Scotchman's Creek Trail – 22, Caloola Reserve – 13, Brickmakers Reserve – 5, Scotchman's Run Reserve – 2, Oakleigh Recreation Reserve – 4

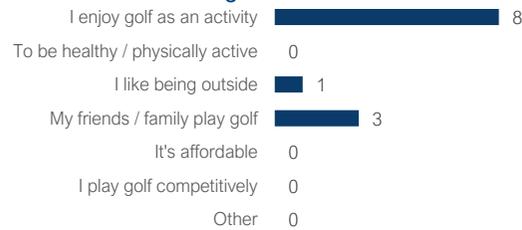
Thinking about the future of Oakleigh Golf Course, which statement most closely aligns with your preference?



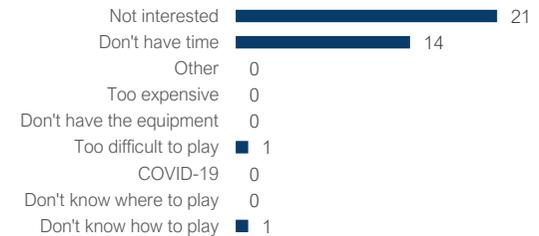
Have you have you played golf in the last 12 months?



If you have played golf in the last 12 months, what are the main reasons that you play golf?

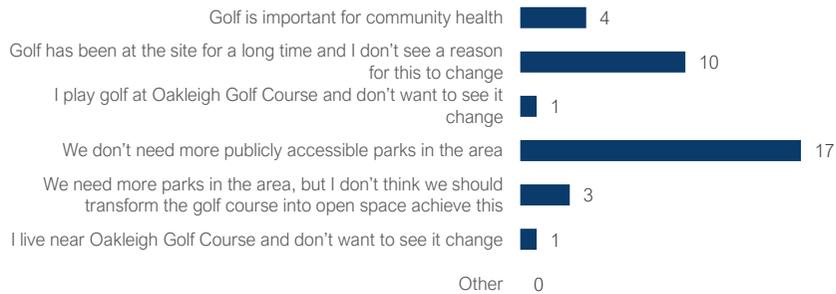


If you haven't played golf in the last 12 months, why have you not played golf?



INTERCEPT SURVEY ANALYSIS

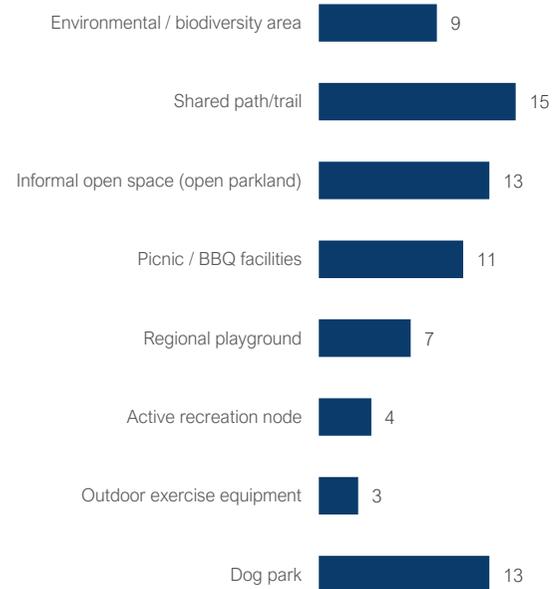
Why do you think we should keep Oakleigh Golf Course as a nine-hole golf course?



Why do you think we should transform Oakleigh Golf Course into a regional park?



If Oakleigh Golf Course was transformed into open space, what types of facilities would be most appealing to you?



INFORMATION SESSIONS

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Information sessions for golf club members and the general public were held at Oakleigh Golf Course at the following times:

Club Information Session:

1. 12:30-2:00pm, Wednesday 11 October 2023

Community Drop-In Sessions:

1. 4:30-6:30pm, Thursday 12 October 2023
2. 10am-12pm, Saturday 21 October 2023.

A summary of responses to community surveys (abbreviated) conducted at the Community Drop-In Sessions is provided in appendix 6.

Club Information Session Summary

- An information session was organised to allow members of Oakleigh Golf Club and Oakleigh Veterans Golf Club to discuss the potential options for the future of Oakleigh Golf Course with Council staff and the lead consultant.
- The future options for the Oakleigh Golf Course site were presented to club members, with members able to ask questions of the project team.
- Club members were encouraged to complete the online community survey to ensure that their feedback was received by Council.
- It was acknowledged that the consultation process regarding the future of Oakleigh Golf Course may be challenging for members and course users.

Community Drop-In Session Summary

- A high majority of drop-in session attendees were in favour of retaining the site as a nine-hole golf course.
- Attendees at the first community drop-in session were primarily local residents, with discussion generally focusing on topics such as concerns over safety issues and crime, perceived lack of rationale for any proposed change of use, and general support for retention of golf at the site.

It should be acknowledged that the first community drop-in session was held at a time when golf use is generally low, and rain may have impacted the number of people that attended.

- Attendees at the second drop-in session were an even mix of local residents and golf course users due to the time of the session and weather. Attendees generally exhibited high levels of support for retention of golf at the site. Given the higher number of golf course users at the session, discussion was more strongly focused on the rationale for any proposed change of use.
- Attendees were generally guided towards completing an online community survey to ensure consistency in responses. A limited number of abbreviated community surveys were conducted (summary provided in appendix 6).

APPENDICES



APPENDICES

No.	Appendix
1	Media coverage relating to Oakleigh Golf Course consultation
2	Community survey questions and response options
3	Community survey comments
4	Summary of submissions
5	Written submissions
6	Drop-in session survey responses (abbreviated format)

