

WHAT WE HEARD – LOVE LAVERTON PARKS

FRANK GIBSON RESERVE, DICK MURDOCH RESERVE AND
WHITTAKER AVENUE RESERVE

Eight local community parks in Laverton are being updated as part of the Love Laverton Parks project. The first three parks set for improvement will be Frank Gibson Reserve, Dick Murdoch Reserve and Whittaker Avenue Reserve.

Thank you to everyone who shared feedback in late 2020 for the upgrade of these three parks.

Whether you joined us on our park day, submitted a survey online or contacted us directly, all feedback has been collated and a summary of what we heard is presented below. Your input will help shape the upgrades of these Laverton parks.

This project is delivered by

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Who got involved

Concept designs for the upgrade of Frank Gibson Reserve, Dick Murdoch Reserve and Whittaker Avenue Reserve were developed based on what we heard from the community during the Better Places Laverton project.

These were shared during the community engagement period between 26 November and 23 December 2020. The community was asked to draw on these designs for inspiration and share their thoughts on how they would like each of these parks to look and feel in the future.

Both in-person and digital engagement activities were on offer, including a community drop-in session, online surveys and direct feedback to the project team via email and phone calls.

These community engagement opportunities were shared via Council's digital platforms. Information flyers, posters and copies of the concept

designs for each park were distributed to neighbouring residents, businesses in the Laverton community, local primary schools and local day care centres.

A COVID-safe community drop-in session was held on Saturday 12 December 2020, 11am to 12.30pm at Frank Gibson Reserve. Approximately 50 people attended. Participants were invited to view the concept designs on display in person, chat with a Council officer about the project, and provide their feedback. An ice-cream van provided free ice-creams to families and community members.

The project's webpage on Participate Hobsons Bay received 322 site visits and 245 individual visitors during the community engagement period.

A total of 25 online survey submissions were received by 17 individual contributors. Dick Murdoch Reserve received the most survey submissions with 15 in total. The majority of online respondents were from Laverton between the ages of 25 to 44 years. Of those that responded, just over half were parents or carers of children.

What we heard

The three concept designs were displayed at the community drop-in session on Saturday 12 December 2020 at Frank Gibson Reserve. Council officers facilitated constructive discussions with community members to gain feedback on the preliminary designs.

The concept designs were very well received and there was a strong feeling of positivity and excitement from community members to see the parks upgraded. This was reflected in the online survey submissions as well, with at least 80% of respondents sharing that they were 'extremely supportive' of the proposed improvements to each park.

Specific feedback received for each of the park upgrades included:



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Frank Gibson Reserve

Support was shown for the proposed play equipment (including that it caters for all ages) additional tree planting including natural shade and the retention of the cricket pitch.

Requests were made to:

- improve the tree species selection currently found in the reserve
- include recycled rubber surfacing within the play areas
- upgrade the existing cricket pitch
- install more seating and barbeque facilities

Dick Murdoch Reserve

Specific features supported including the proposed flying fox and multi-unit play structure, additional native trees and the native meadow garden beds.

Requests were made to:

- keep the existing swing set in addition to the proposed basket swing
- ensure the multi-unit play structure will cater for toddlers
- install facilities such as a rotunda, barbeque and public toilets within the reserve
- install exercise equipment
- create more shade around the play area
- install an explorer track and interpretive signage near the native meadow garden beds

Concerns were noted about the noise that could be made from the proposed flying fox and the bright colour of this piece of equipment.

Whittaker Avenue Reserve

It was noted that although there are limited play opportunities currently, support was shown for the proposed play equipment and improvements.

Requests were made to install additional seating or a picnic table and chairs, include additional play equipment and install a drinking fountain.

Look and Feel

When asked to describe what they would like the character or look and feel of each park to be like in the future, some words used included:

- **Frank Gibson Reserve:** family / safe / fun / all ages / modern
- **Dick Murdoch Reserve:** native / flora and fauna / grasslands / shade trees / open / modern / a place to enjoy a quiet read / vibrant / adventurous
- **Whittaker Avenue Reserve:** enticing / eye catching / young families / more than just a walk through

Next steps

Thank you to all community members who got involved and shared ideas for the park upgrades of Frank Gibson Reserve, Dick Murdoch Reserve and Whittaker Avenue Reserve in Laverton

Council will consider all suggestions, comments and concerns when finalising each of the concept designs before sharing these on the project website, participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/love-lavertonparks

Keep an eye on the website for more information on construction timelines and opportunities to have your say on the remaining park upgrades that are being fast tracked as part of the Love Laverton Parks project.



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