



3

What We Heard

3.1 COMMUNITY SURVEY

This section presents the key findings of the Community Survey undertaken during Stage 2 of the Digman Reserve Master Plan project.

METHOD OF ANALYSIS

The survey comprised 9 closed and open ended questions. The questions covered various themes relating to the usage, methods of transport, likes and opportunities future improvements for the reserve. Four demographic questions were also included at the end of the survey. Refer to Appendix A for a copy of the Community Survey.

Responses to closed questions have been sorted and tallied by category.

Open ended questions have been analysed thematically. It is noted that many open ended responses contained comments that fell into multiple themes. Responses were tallied to identify the most common themes and issues raised.

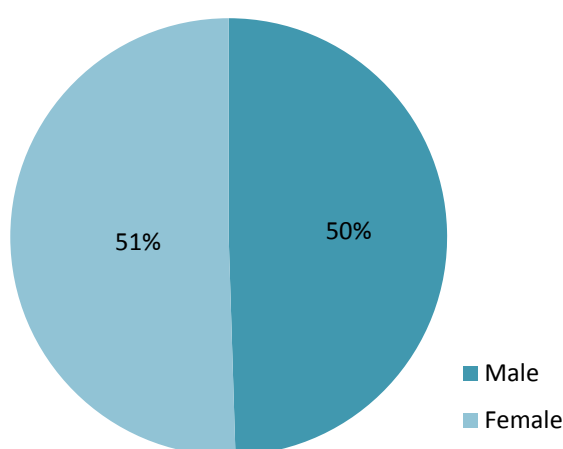
The thematic approach used in this report is necessarily subjective and required the exercise of professional judgement as to how comments are summarised and categorised. The advantage of this approach is that it provides a useful means of identifying significant themes and priorities within highly variable and detailed responses.

ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS

A total of 207 responses were received to Council's survey. This includes responses received by hard copy and online. 50% of respondents were male and 51% were female.

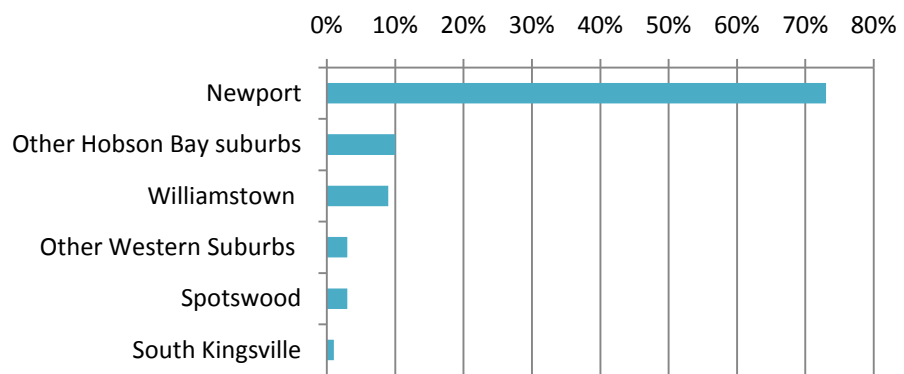
FIGURE3. WHERE RESPONDENTS LIVE



PLACE OF RESIDENCE

The majority (74%) of respondents were from Newport, the suburb in which Digman Reserve is located. 10% of respondents lived in other Hobsons Bay suburbs, 9% in nearby Williamstown and 3% from other western suburbs. A small percentage of respondents were from Spotswood (3%) and South Kingsville (1%). Refer to Figure 4 below.

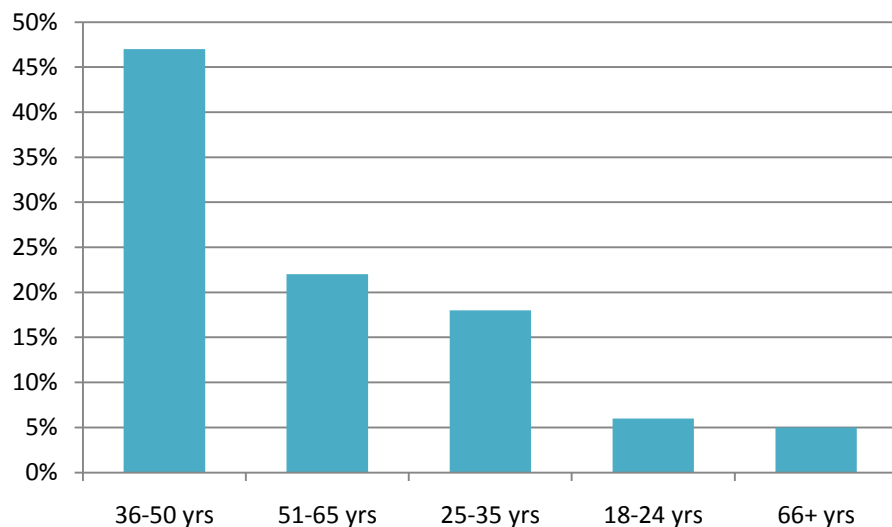
FIGURE 4. WHERE RESPONDENTS LIVE



RESPONDENTS AGE

The majority of survey respondents were aged between 36-50 years (47%) followed by the 51-65 years old (22%) and 25-35 years old (18%) age groups. Refer to Figure 5 below.

FIGURE 5. AGE OF RESPONDENTS



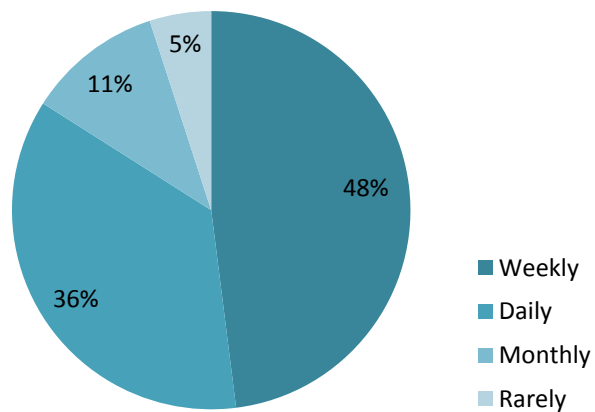
THE FINDINGS

Q1 - HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE DIGMAN RESERVE?

This question sought to understand how often respondents use Digman Reserve.

The majority of respondents use Digman Reserve weekly (48%) with a large proportion also using the Reserve daily (36%). Only a few respondents use the reserve monthly (11%) or rarely (5%).

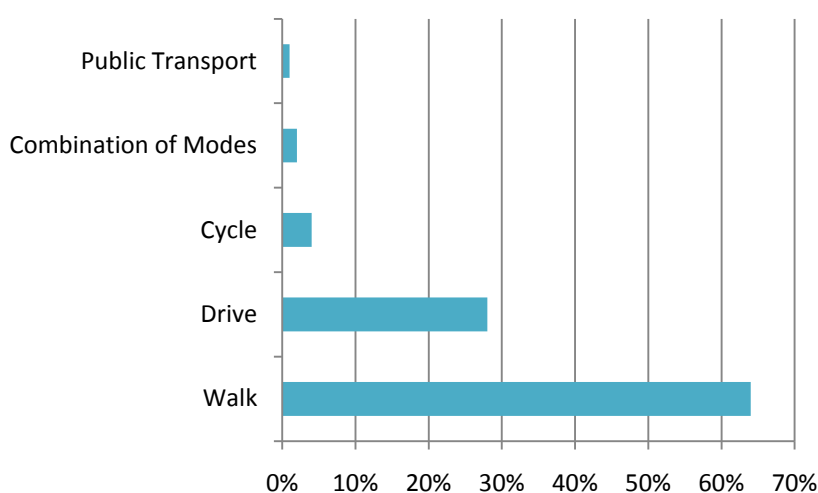
FIGURE 6. FREQUENCY OF RESPONDENT'S USE OF DIGMAN RESERVE



Q2 - HOW DO YOU GET TO DIGMAN RESERVE?

This question sought to understand how people travel to and from the reserve. Figure 7 below shows that the majority of respondents walk to Digman Reserve (64%) with the only other significant mode of transport to the reserve being by car (28%). Other modes of transport used to get to Digman Reserve include cycling (4%), a combination of transport modes (3%) and public transport (1%).

FIGURE 7. HOW RESPONDENT'S GET TO DIGMAN RESERVE



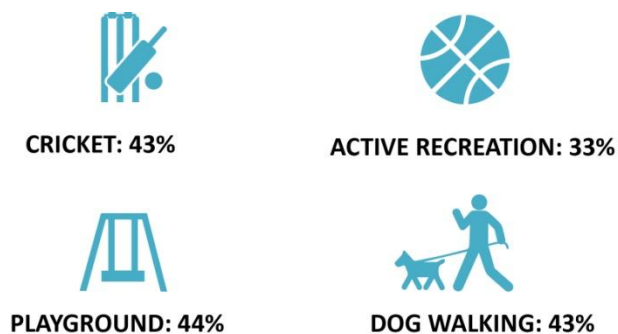
Q3 - WHAT DO YOU USE DIGMAN RESERVE FOR?

This question allowed respondents to choose from a range of specified options, choose more than one option or list alternative reasons as to what they use Digman Reserve for.

The majority of respondents indicated they use the reserve for its playground (44%), dog walking and cricket (both 43%). A large proportion of respondents use the reserve for active recreation (33%), such as personal exercise and ball play.

Other reasons for using the reserve, as cited by respondents include sport spectating, family picnics or gatherings.

FIGURE 8. USE OF DIGMAN RESERVE



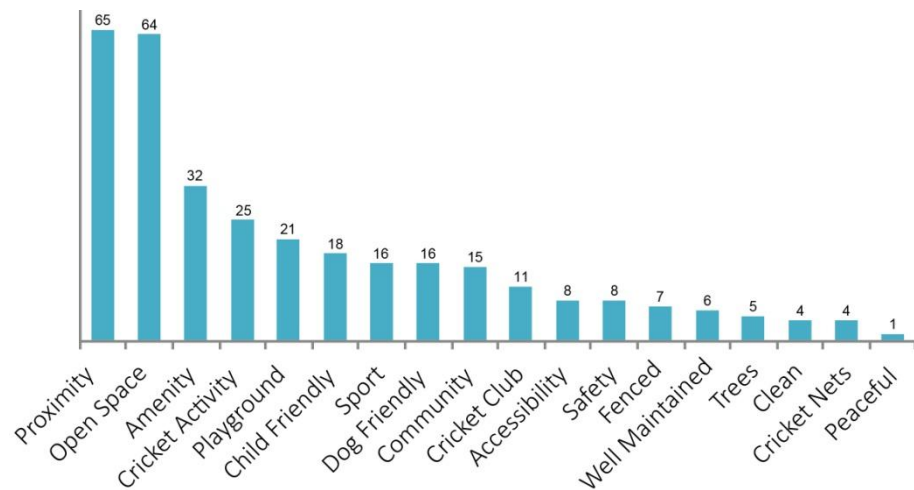
Percentage shows overall number of times mentioned against responses received.

Q4 –WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT DIGMAN RESERVE?

Question 4 was open ended and respondents were asked to list what features they liked best about Digman Reserve.

Answers were grouped accordingly into themes and as shown in Figure 9 below. Proximity and the open space of the reserve were listed as amongst the most 'liked' aspects (achieving 65 and 64 responses respectively). Amenity (e.g. peaceful atmosphere, size of reserve, visual relief next to an industrial area) and cricket activity were the third and fourth most cited responses.

FIGURE 9. WHAT RESPONDENTS LIKE BEST ABOUT THE RESERVE



Total number of times mentioned.

Q5 - WHAT TYPES OF IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED AT DIGMAN RESERVE?

This question provided respondents with a range of options of which they ranked in order of importance.

Based on tallying the top two priorities identified by respondents, upgraded cricket facilities and landscaping and planting were cited as the top two required improvements. Figure 10 shows the ranking of improvements based on the six options available for selection.

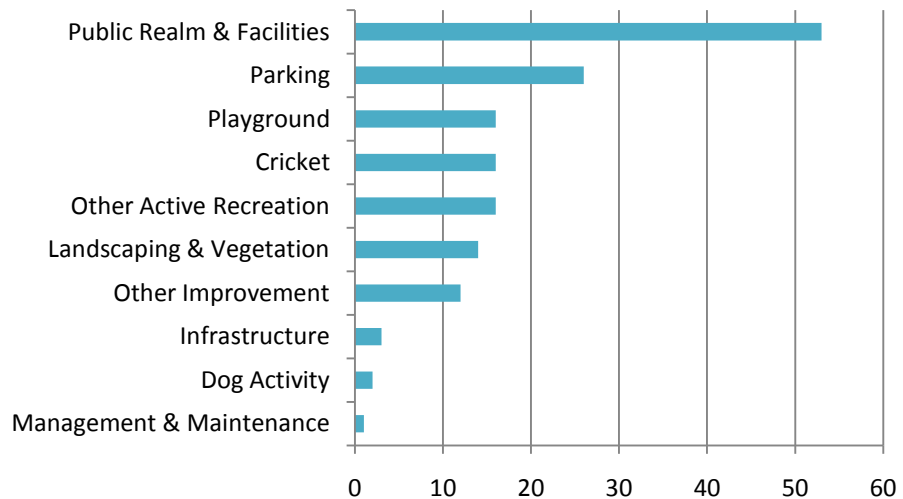
FIGURE 10. RESPONDENTS TOP 2 IMPROVEMENTS FOR DIGMAN RESERVE



Q5 IS THERE AN IMPROVEMENT REQUIRED THAT IS NOT LISTED ABOVE?

The second part of question 5 allowed respondents to provide open-ended and unprompted responses for 'other improvements' not listed above. There were a variety of responses which were tallied and sorted by theme. Figure 11 shows the complete list of themes and the number of times mentioned.

Upgrades to the public realm and facilities (53 responses) were the most commonly cited improvement for Digman Reserve. This included a range of improvements such as BBQ/Picnic areas, drinking taps and path upgrades. Improvements to car parking arrangements (26 responses) were the next most popular response.

FIGURE 11: OTHER IMPROVEMENTS THEMES

Total number of times mentioned.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Many of the written responses represented resident's frustrations during the Cricket season, primarily in relation to the parking supply for residential and property damage from ball play.

Public amenity, in particular toilets were identified as 'disgusting', with hope that amenities would be made available near the kindergarten in the future.

A small minority voice concern about over development of the reserve

There was no evidence of the community being opposed to formal sport being played at the reserve in summer or winter, however respondents strongly identified that residential amenity needs to be protected and the open space and playground considered as part of any future development.

3.2 DROP-IN SESSION RESULTS

This section presents the key findings from the Drop in Session undertaken during Stage 3 of the Digman Reserve Master Plan project.

OVERVIEW

A drop in session was held on Wednesday 22 March 2017 at the cricket pavilion at Digman Reserve. The session was open to the public for three hours between 4:30PM and 7:30PM.

A total of five Council staff and consultant representatives were present at the session.

Over the course of the consultation period, 46 participants were recorded as attending. It is noted that some participants attended in groups and would only sign in as once. On this basis it was estimated that 50 - 55 attendees were present at the event. It is noted that the total number of attendees excludes Council staff, Councillors and other project staff.

The majority of attendees were from the immediate local community in Newport; however there were also representatives from external sporting clubs, refineries, Friends of Greenwich Bay and Home Road Kindergarten.

A range of consultation materials were available to the public for the event, these are detailed below. Refer to Appendix B for a copy of all the materials used as part of the Stage 3 consultation.

DROP IN BOARDS

Six display boards were produced for the session which contained information regarding existing conditions and site analysis, results from the community survey, site constraints and a next steps diagram. A description of each board is outlined below.

- **Local Context, What We Know:** a map and accompanying text illustrating the context around the reserve including key connections, land uses, other open space, land ownership and pedestrian walking catchments.
- **Community Consultation Outcomes, What You Told Us:** graphs and diagrams which presented and summarised the key outcomes from the community survey.
- **Site Assessment, Existing Conditions & Key Issues:** a detailed map of the reserve showing the existing infrastructure, interfaces, pedestrian connections, parking restrictions and other existing features.
- **Site Constraints, Formal Sport Usage Preliminary Studies:** five thumbnail maps showing different sporting configurations for various sports pitches including junior and senior cricket, AFL, soccer, rugby and lacrosse. Dimensions of various pitches overlaid with existing reserve to illustrate the site's constraints.
- **Digman Reserve, Tell Us More:** a large aerial image and twelve smaller thumbnail images showing key features of the reserve. The images were used as prompts for community to provide further feedback

- **Next Steps, Master Plan:** sets out the six stage process diagram for the development of the Master Plan including key tasks and milestones.

THOUGHT BUBBLES

In addition to the display boards, a number of direct quotes which reflected common themes taken from the online survey, were printed out as speech bubbles to illustrate what the community 'liked' about the reserve and suggestions for 'improvements'. The speech bubbles were displayed adjacent to the 'tell us more' display board.

FEEDBACK FORM & BOX

A feedback form was distributed to attendees of the session to provide an opportunity for comment, regardless of whether they had undertaken the survey. The feedback form included an aerial image for attendees to annotate with issues and opportunities as well as a comments section for written responses.

A feedback box was available for attendees to submit their completed forms.

METHOD OF ANALYSIS

A total of 34 feedback forms were submitted during the session. Each of the forms has been allocated a unique reference number and have been reviewed individually.

The comments on each feedback form, including the details of the submitter, were input into a single database and grouped by theme.

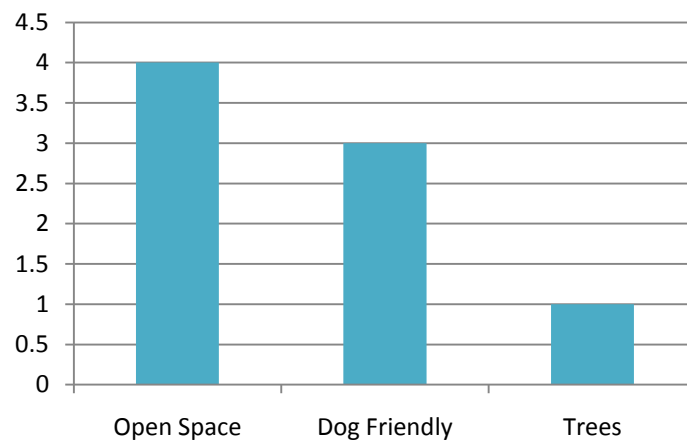
The results from this analysis are presented in the following section. Comments received from the drop-in session covered a wide range of ideas, opinions and issues. They have been categorised according to 'likes' and 'improvements' and themed in accordance with Stage 2 findings. Like the open-ended questions from the community survey, the responses have been analysed thematically, requiring a subjective approach.

WHAT USERS 'LIKE' ABOUT THE RESERVE

There were only eight comments collected regarding what people 'liked' about Digman Reserve, refer to Figure 12.

The majority of responses indicated the 'open space' (4 comments) and the dog friendly environment (3 comments) were the most valued aspects of the reserve.

FIGURE 12: WHAT PEOPLE LIKE ABOUT THE RESERVE

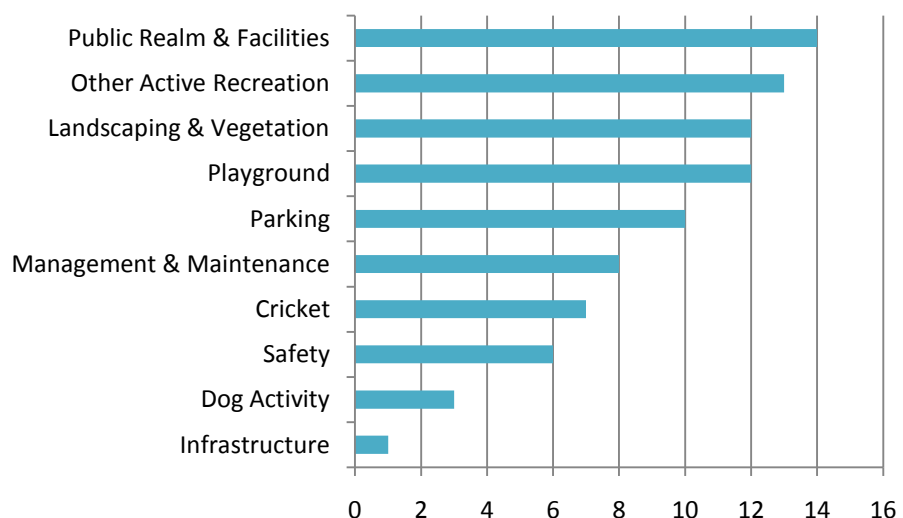


IMPROVEMENTS

Responses relating to 'improvements' were categorised into the same themes as the survey responses, with the addition of one new theme; 'safety'.

The distribution of comments by theme can be seen below in Figure 13, the majority of comments were related to public realm and facilities (14 responses), other active recreation (13 responses) and landscaping and vegetation (12 responses).

FIGURE 13: DISTRIBUTION OF COMMENTS BY THEME



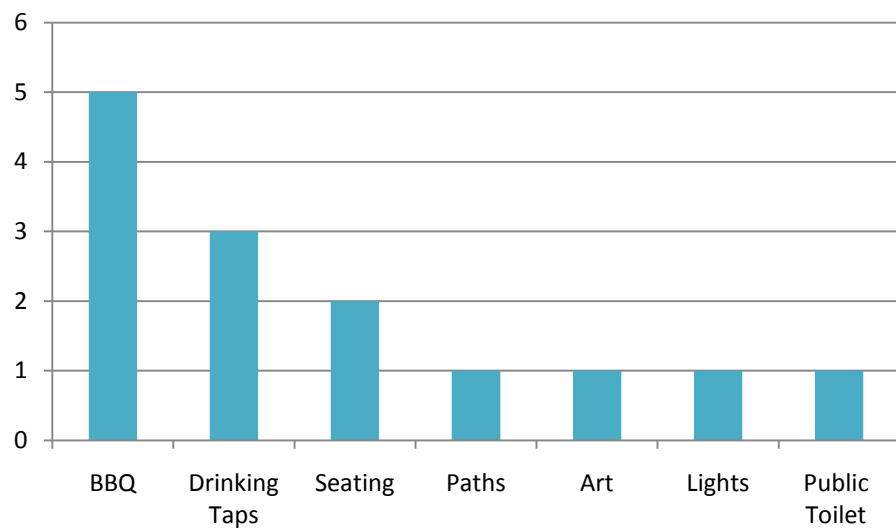
PUBLIC REALM & FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

A total of 14 responses were provided regarding public realm upgrades (see Figure 14) and facility improvements for the Reserve in relation to:

- BBQ (5 responses)
- Drinking Taps (3 responses)
- Seating (2 responses)
- Pathway improvements (1 response)
- Art Installations (1 response)
- Lights (1 response)
- Public Toilets (1 response)

The majority of responses regarding public realm improvements identified installation of BBQ facilities, drinking taps and seating.

FIGURE 14: PUBLIC REALM & FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS



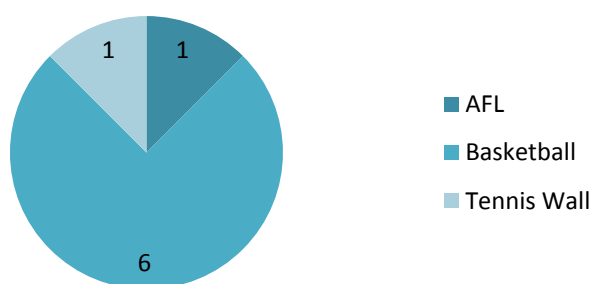
OTHER ACTIVE RECREATION

A total of 13 responses were recorded with regard to other active recreation .This theme captured two types of responses:

- Active recreation facilities
- Use of the Reserve for other formal sport

There were eight responses suggesting improvements to the current active recreation facilities including basketball court, tennis wall and AFL sticks, as shown in Figure 15 below:

FIGURE 15: ACTIVE RECREATION FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS



Additionally there were also five responses relating to the usage of sport for other sports. Four respondents indicated a preference for a winter sport to be considered including AFL, soccer or lacrosse.

One respondent indicated that they would not like to see AFL occur on the grounds.

LANDSCAPING AND VEGETATION

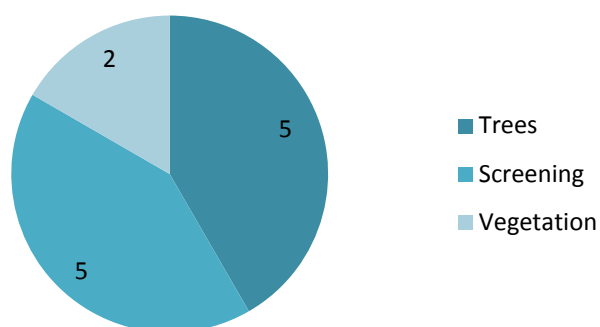
A total of 12 responses were received regarding landscaping and vegetation relating to:

- Increased tree provision
- More screening
- Vegetation improvements

Five respondents indicated that they would like more tree planting within the reserve and along Hobson Street.

Five respondents also indicated that they would like to see some landscaping along the northern boundary of the reserve to screen the existing petroleum farm.

Two respondents indicated a preference for more vegetation including 'flowers' and 'natural bushland'.

FIGURE 16: LANDSCAPING & VEGETATION IMPROVEMENTS

PLAYGROUND

A total of 12 responses were submitted regarding improvements to the playground. In particular, participants cited a desire for shading over the playground (7 responses), as well as an upgrade to the equipment itself (5 responses).

One respondent indicated that they travel to other open space areas outside Hobsons Bay to use the playground facilities due to the existing condition of the play equipment at Digman Reserve.

PARKING

A total of ten responses were submitted regarding car parking. It is noted however half of these responses did not provide any further comment beyond listing 'parking'.

Four responses indicated that they would like to see additional car parking at the reserve.

One response highlighted that local parking restrictions are often ignored on weekends, particularly during the cricket season.

CRICKET

A total of seven responses were received relating to cricket activity. Two respondents indicated a need for improved club rooms and pavilion facilities while one respondent indicated a need for a level playing surface on the eastern side of the reserve.

The other comments related to the cricket net roof structure, the overlap of boundaries on the eastern side of the field and instances where cricket balls are hit over the fence.

SAFETY

A total of seven comments were made regarding safety. 5 of these comments related to reducing the vehicle speed or installing speed humps along Hobsons Street. The other two comments expressed concerns regarding the interface the petroleum farm along the northern boundary of the reserve, citing safety concerns around the power lines and petroleum farm.

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

There were eight comments relating to the overall maintenance and management of the reserve.

Four responses expressed a need to improve the provision of rubbish bins around the reserve recommending further installations. Two responses related to improvements for the existing public toilets and resurfacing of the grounds and the other two responses indicated that rabbit control was an issue in the reserve.

DOG ACTIVITY

A total of three responses were received regarding animals concerning either dogs or rabbits.

Two respondents indicated a preference for on-lead dog activity while one respondent preferred to have off-lead dog access.

INFRASTRUCTURE

There was only one comment relating to infrastructure which indicated the occurrence of flooding during heavy rains.

DIGMAN RESERVE MASTERPLAN

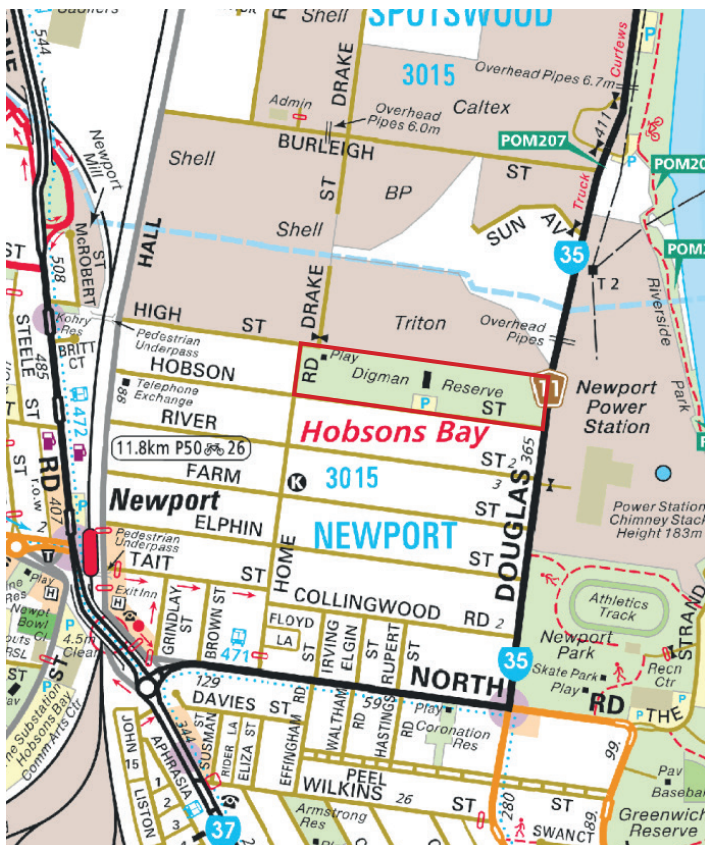
About the Project

Hobsons Bay City Council is asking for community feedback about how you use Digman Reserve to help Council develop a Masterplan.

Council will consider all elements that will affect the short and long term use of the Reserve.

In the meantime, Council has prepared a preliminary site assessment plan and local context plan that highlight the key issues, constraints and existing conditions of Digman Reserve.

Copies of these plans can be found on the Council Website.



How to Get Involved

You are invited to participate by sharing your thoughts about the current issues and future opportunities for Digman Reserve via our online survey available at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/digmanreserve

If you cannot access a computer, please complete the survey overleaf and return to Council.

In early 2017, Council will host a drop-in session at the Reserve which will be open to all members of the community.

- **Preliminary Investigations**
November, 2016 - January, 2017
- **Online Survey**
Closes Friday 27 January, 2017
- **Community Drop-In Session**
February/March, 2017
- **Masterplan for Digman Reserve**
Mid 2017

Register Your Interest

To register your interest about this project or for further information, visit the project website www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/digmanreserve or alternatively you can contact the Project Team via:

Email: projects@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Phone: (03) 9932 1131



Survey Questions

Q1. How often do you use Digman Reserve?

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Rarely

Q2. How do you get to Digman Reserve?

- ☐ Walk
- ☐ Cycle
- ☐ Drive
- ☐ Public Transport
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Q3. What do you use Digman Reserve for?

- ☐ Cricket
- ☐ Other Sport (please specify below)
- ☐ Dog Walking
- ☐ Playground
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Q4. What do you like about Digman Reserve?

Q5. What type of improvements are needed at Digman Reserve?

(rank in order of importance, 1 being the most important)

- ☐ Active sporting areas
- ☐ Upgraded passive recreation areas
- ☐ Upgraded cricket facilities
- ☐ Seating and pathways
- ☐ Playground equipment
- ☐ Landscaping and planting

Other (please specify) _____

Q6. Tell us about you:

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Other

Q7. What is your age?

- ☐ 5 - 17
- ☐ 18 - 24
- ☐ 25 - 35
- ☐ 36 - 50
- ☐ 51 - 65
- ☐ 66+

Q8. Where do you live?

- ☐ Newport
- ☐ South Kingsville
- ☐ Spotswood
- ☐ Williamstown
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Q9. Do you want to be kept informed?

- ☐ Yes, my address details are:
Email: _____
Address: _____

This survey can be returned to Council by post:

Hobsons Bay City Council
Reply Paid, PO Box 21
Altona, VIC 3018