

BRUCE COMBEN MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STAGE 1 SOUTHERN OPEN SPACE

Community Engagement Report

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BRUCE COMBEN RESERVE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT - SOUTHERN OPEN SPACE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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1. Executive Summary

Consultation on the Southern Open Space component of the Bruce Comben Reserve Master Plan Implementation project was held throughout May 2022 with stakeholders able to provide feedback through both Council's online engagement platform and two face to face opportunities, one in the Southern Open Space section of Bruce Comben Reserve and the second at Homestead Run Seabrook.

Drawing on the feedback received during the master plan process, the draft open space concept plan promotes a strong focus on the natural environment in the southern section of the reserve. It includes increased tree planting to provide shade whilst also reducing the urban heat island effect in this area and ensures the protection of the emu foot native vegetation along the Skeleton Creek corridor. A connecting path network links into the Skeleton Creek Trail down to the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail and maintains the important pedestrian link to Seabrook at the recently updated Lan Avenue Bridge.

Pathways will also connect to an upgraded play space, picnic area and new toilets.

We are proposing to upgrade and extend the Henry Drive Carpark to accommodate the use in the southern end of the reserve. This extended carpark can also be used as an overflow carpark from the sporting fields and the aquatic centre, encouraging people to park off street rather than in the nearby residential streets.

The two existing southern tennis courts will be retained and refurbished, and a multiuse activity court servicing basketball, netball and Sepak Takraw is proposed.

The footprint of a new junior sportsfield at the back of the existing pavilion is also included as part of the design however the construction of this oval will be with the future works onsite relating to the Aquatic Facility. Once developed, it is proposed that when this sportsfield is not in use, it will serve as a dog off leash area, freeing important and much-loved open space at the bottom section of the reserve.

There are a couple of themes coming through the consultation that should be addressed. These include:

- provision of tennis courts and wind barriers around the courts,
- the need to increase tree cover particularly native trees in the reserve,
- and the provision of a dedicated dog off leash area separate from the proposed junior sports field.

There is also a lot of interest in the upcoming consultation on the proposed aquatic facility in the northern section of the reserve and the subsequent removal of the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre once a new aquatic centre has been opened.

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2. The community engagement process

Promotion of engagement and statistics	
Participate Hobsons Bay	<p>Overall site visitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1483 site visits and 1178 individual site visitors• 74.8% visitors referred from social media• 16.86% of visits where at least 1 contribution was made• 28.52% of visits lasted at least 1 active minute• 41 project followers <p>Engagement activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 283 online total submissions• 256 people registered to show their support of the new pool• 16 submissions received to provide general thoughts on the southern open space• 10 submissions received provided detailed feedback on components of the southern open space concept plan
Drop in sessions / online sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saturday 28 May 2022 in the Southern carpark off Henry Drive, Altona Meadows• Saturday 4 June 2022 at Homestead Run, Seabrook

3. What we heard – digital engagement and face to face

Digital engagement

The open field question seeking general feedback on the concept plan for the Southern Open Space component received 16 contributions. Sentiment was positive on the plans delivered.

Sentiment

100% Positive

With the themes from the comments listed below.



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Wayfinding signage

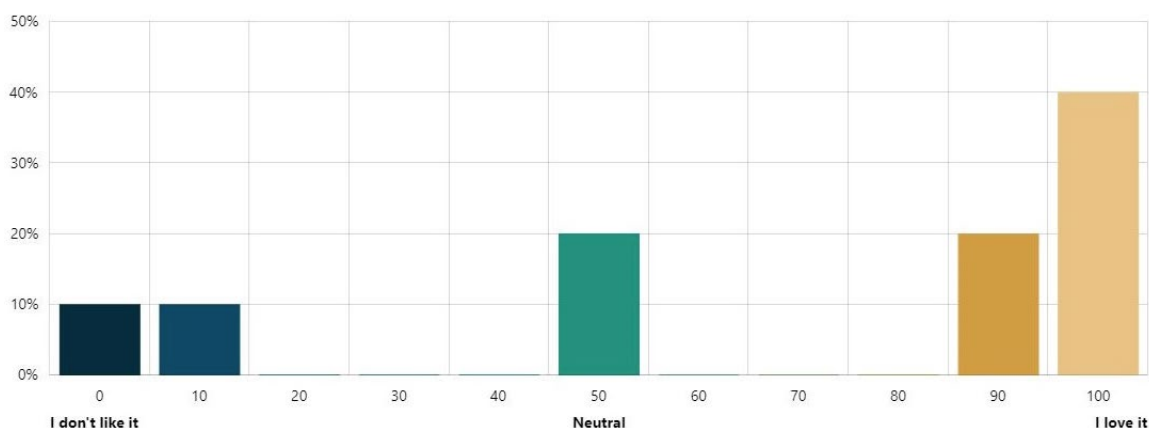
Look at pre-emptive control of hooning on the shared trail
Landscaping needed on Seabrook side of Lan Ave bridge
Tennis Courts
Sensory Garden near playspace
Wildlife signage along creek corridor
Don't remove trees
Flood lights on the tennis courts
Trees
Community garden
GPTS at drainage outfall required
Keep four courts
signage
Include wind curtains on the courts
Fully supportive
Southern mound - landscaping and seating
More indigenous themes within the playspace
second creek crossing near old stepping stones

There were 10 submissions received on the more detailed feedback on the concept plan for the southern open space.

Carpark off Henry Drive

What do you think about the extended carpark off Henry Drive?

(n=10) Mean response - 69,



Comments or concerns received regarding the carpark:

(n=6)



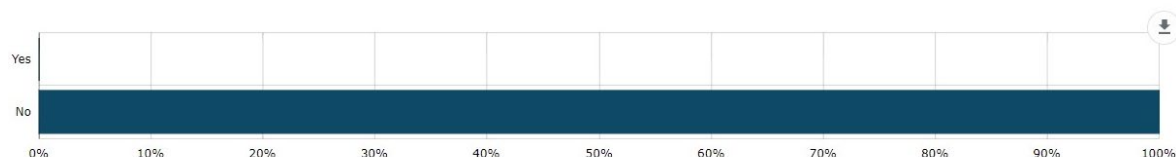
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Weekend games need more parking
redesign area 6
combine the two carpark sections
It is too large Don't make entry points too steep
Needs shade trees to reduce heat
Need more car park spaces

Do you have any concerns about the proposed entrance / exit of the new carpark?

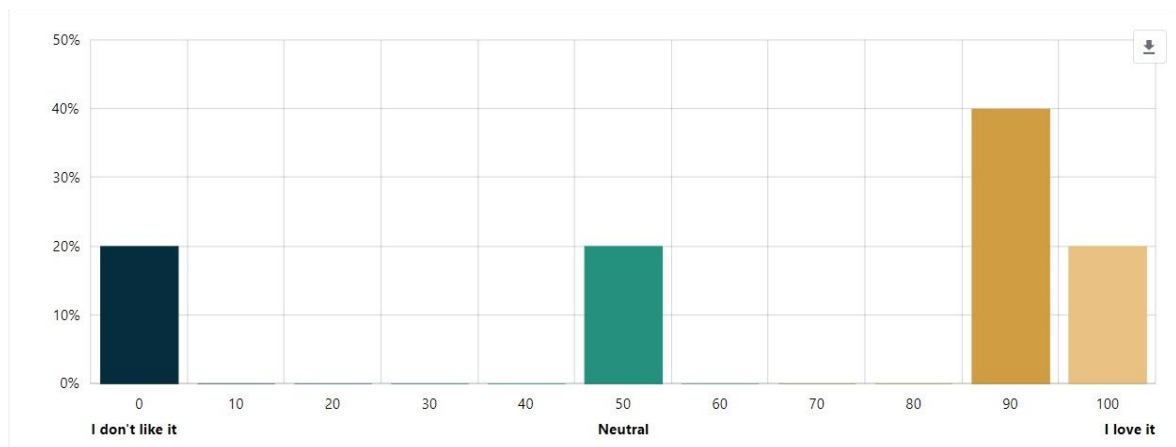
(n=9)



Open Grassed Area

What do you think about the open grassed area?

(n=10), Mean response 66



Do you have any comments or concerns on the open grassed area?

(n=5)



With the themes from the comments below



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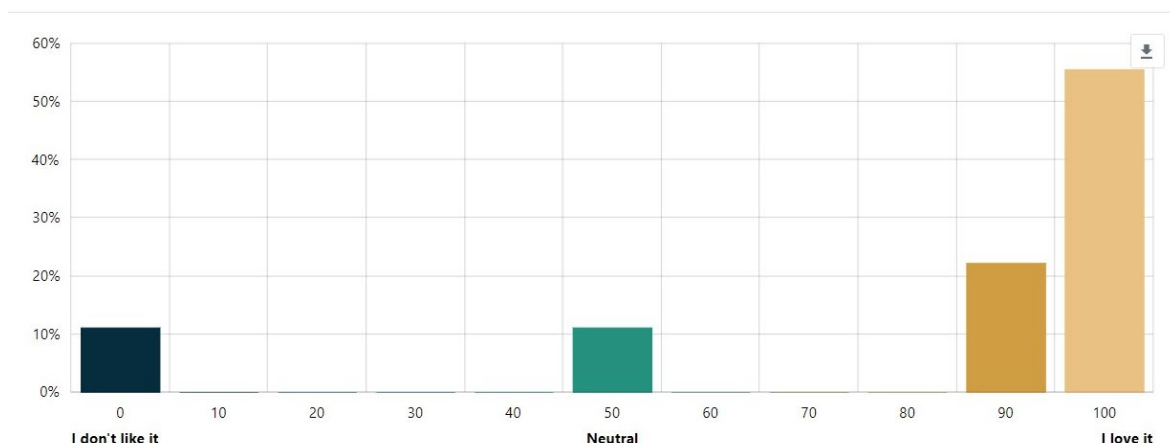
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plant trees as a wind break
Would like a dedicated dog off leash area
Love the open grass areas
Need shade trees to reduce heat

Shade Tree Planting Buffer

What do you think about the Shade Tree Planting Buffer?

(n=9), Mean response 81.11



Do you have any comments or concerns on the Shade Tree Planting Buffer?

(n=3)



With the themed comments:

Plant trees as a wind break along the southern section
Plant natives
Would like a dedicated dog off leash area
Needs shade trees to reduce heat

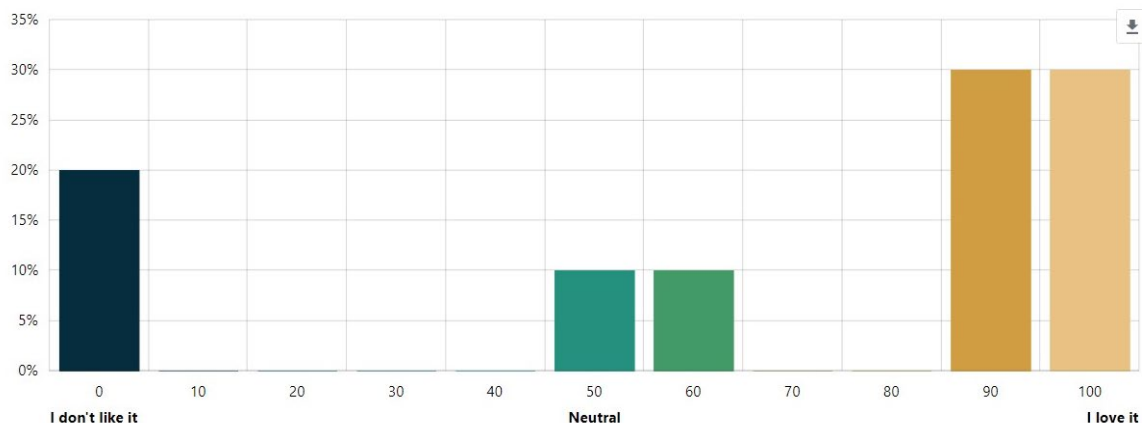


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Natural Woodland Trail

(n=10), median response 68.00



Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the natural woodland trail?

(n=4)



plant trees that will provide shade Great idea
Would like a dedicated dog off leash area
Choice of tree important More native plants
Really like the idea

Overall sentiment on the concept plan for the southern end of Bruce Comben Reserve

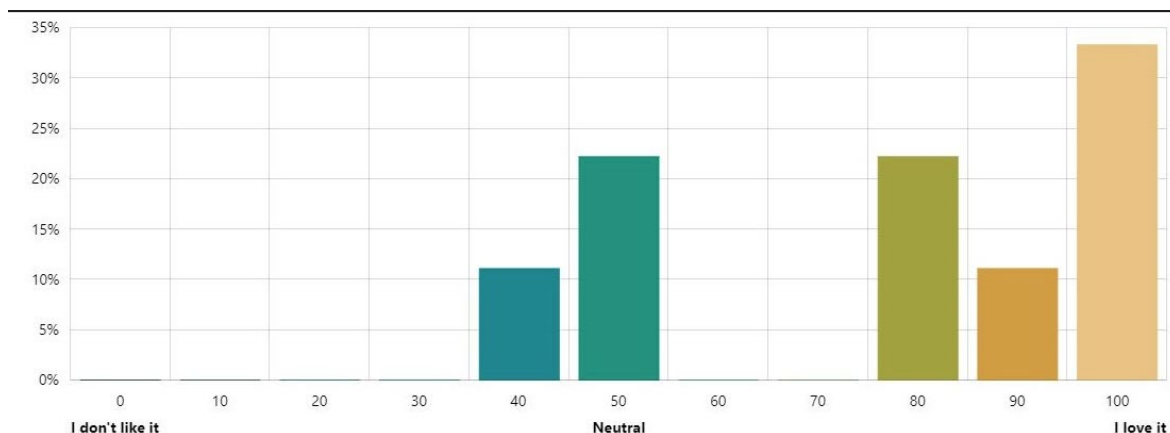
Overall, I ...

(n=9)



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Public sentiment of the overall comments



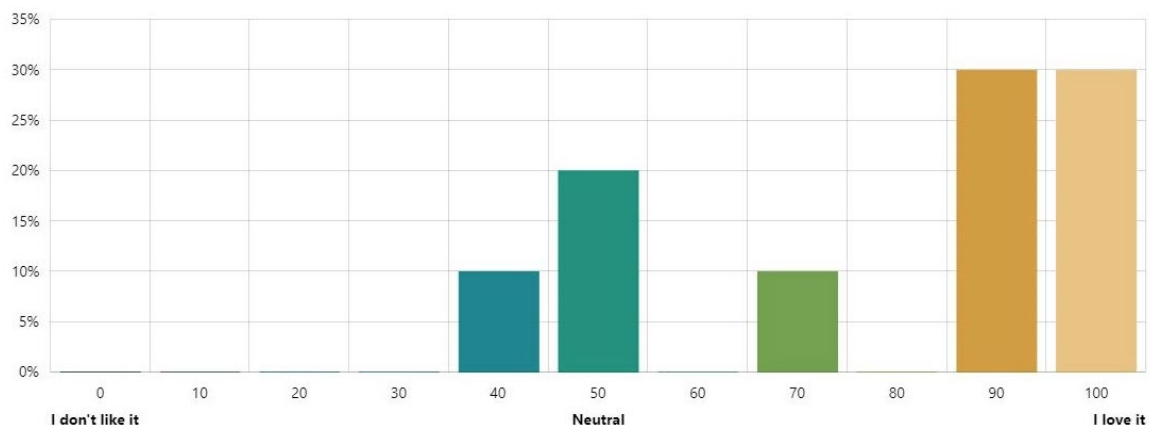
Comments received on the overall concept plan

Shift community area a little to the west
 Full basketball court plant trees that will provide shade
 Would like a dedicated dog off leash area
 Retain all four tennis courts activities for kids install wind curtain on tennis courts
 Redesign carpark

The playspace

Proposed theme, inspired by rich diversity of flora and fauna found along Skeleton creek and emu Foot Grassland ecosystems that border Bruce Comben Reserve.

(n=7)



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Sentiment and overall comments on the proposed theme.

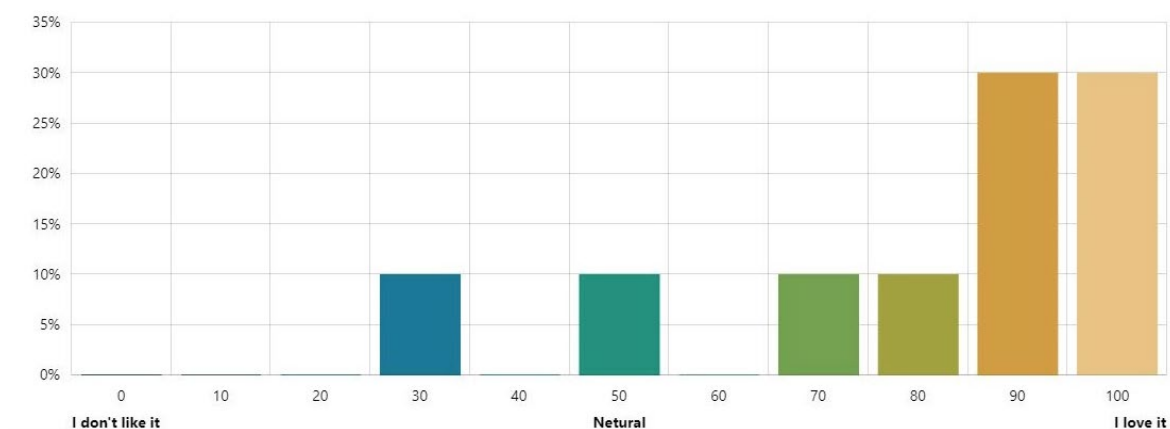
Sentiment



Great idea
More native plants
Good to have a native local signature on the playspace

Proposed multicourt playspace

(n=10)



Sentiment and overall comments on the proposed multicourt playspace

Sentiment



Full basketball court
install wind curtain on tennis courts **Get rid of the Sepak Takaw**
Retain all four tennis courts
multiple half courts **Always good to have a multicourt playspace**
Convert two northern tennis courts into a basketball and netball court

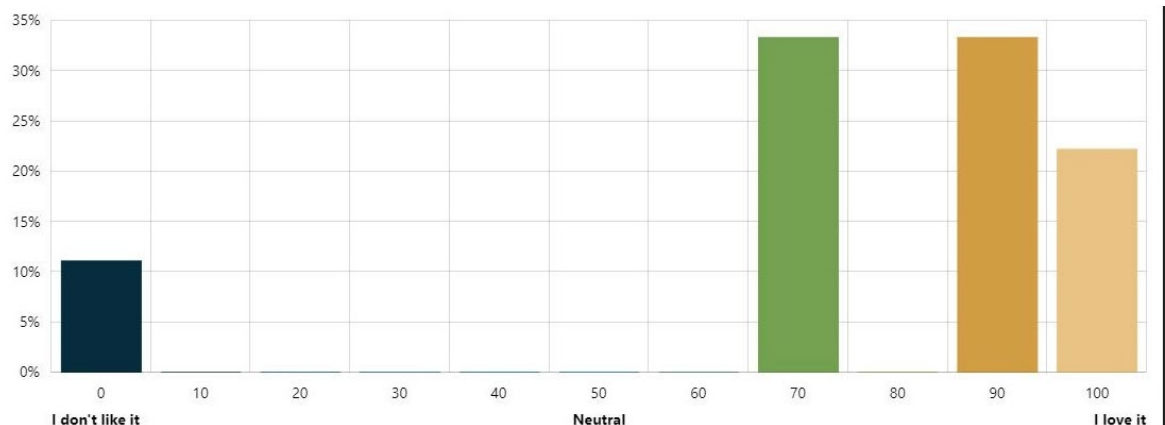
Social hangout space

(n=9)



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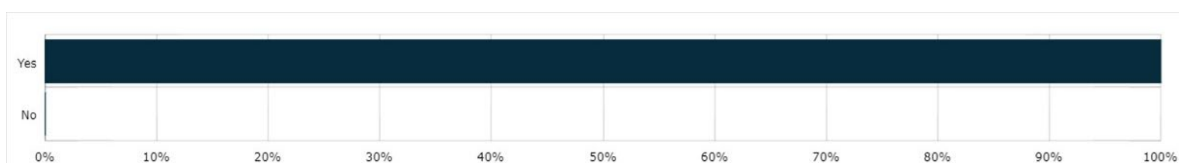
Sentiment and comments on the social hangout space



**link into the creek for running water
should merge with the tree area**

**Not sure who this will attract
needs comfortable seating
have a lawn and tree area**

Do you think this reserve needs a public toilet?

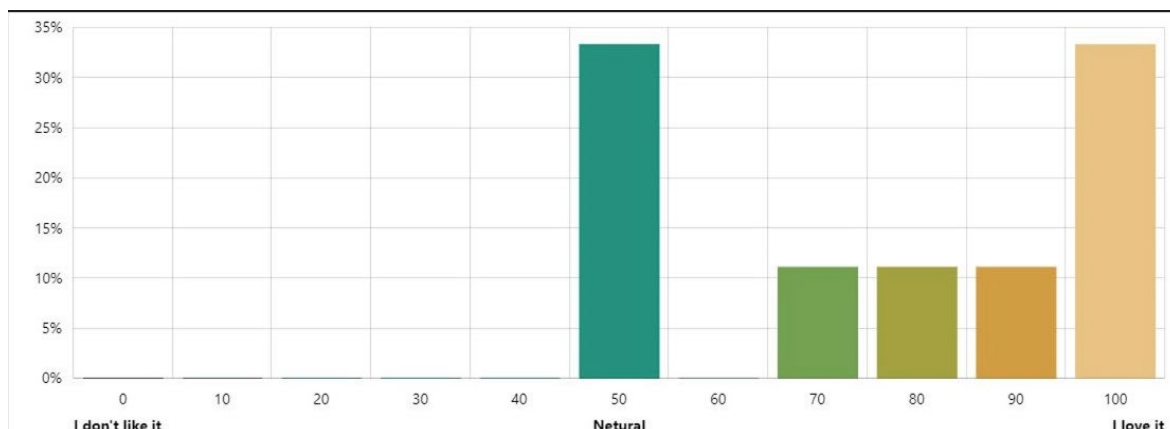


What do you think about its location in the reserve?

(n=9)

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Sentiment and comments on public toilet

Sentiment

100% Positive

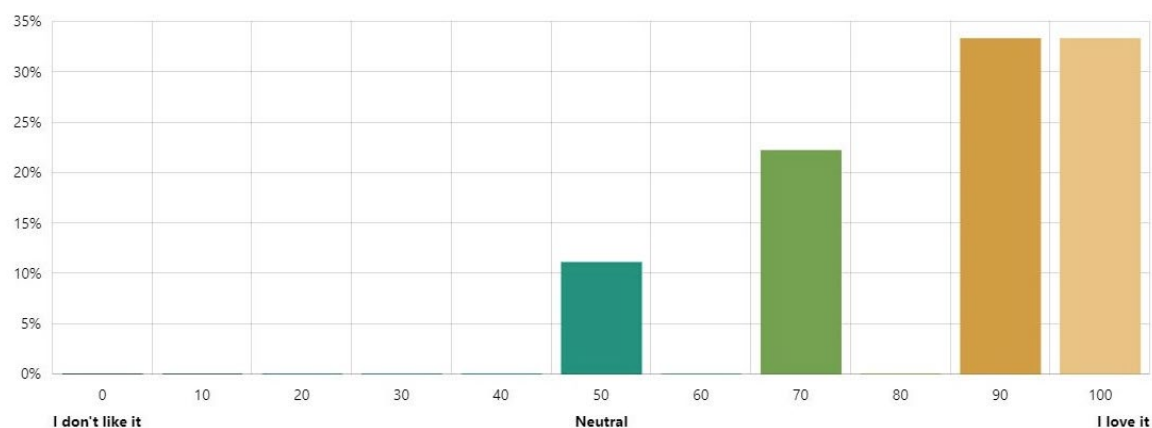
Picnics areas and social hangout should all be together

Needs to be well lit Basic toilet is fine
100% yes to a public toilet

Public restrooms Location good
link in with shaded areas

Sheltered picnic area

(n=9)



Sentiment and comments on the sheltered picnic area

Sentiment

83.3% Positive

16.7% Neutral



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picnics areas and social hangout should all be together

Great idea

Need lots of bins

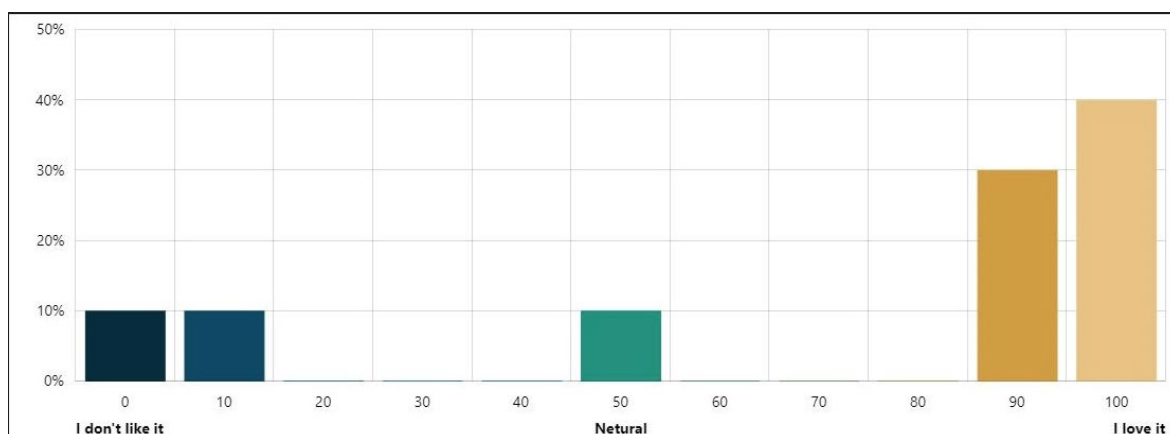
Get a cafe in there

Public restrooms Depends on usage

plant trees that will provide shade

Shaded nature play discovery trail

(n=10)



Sentiment and comments on the shade nature play discovery trail

Sentiment



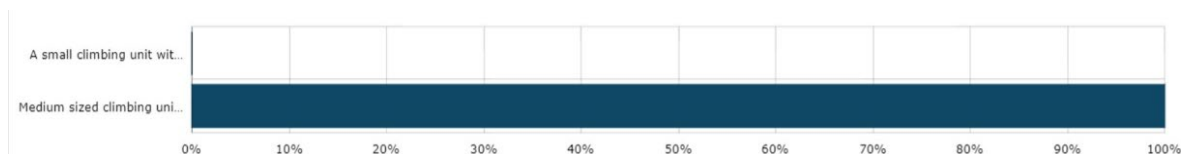
Would like a dedicated dog off leash area

plant trees that will provide shade

waste of money

Junior playspace

(n=7)



Sentiment and comments on the junior playspace

Sentiment



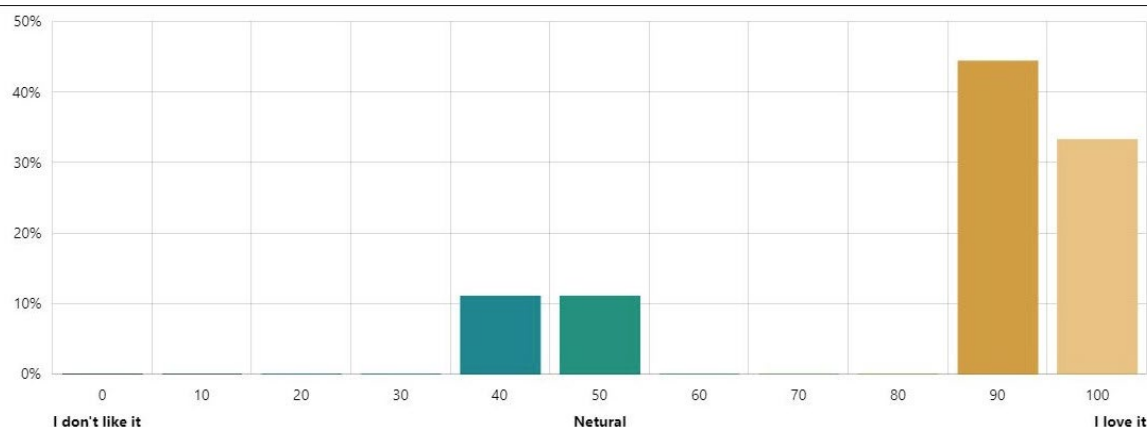
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Make the playspace fun Option B far superior more activities for kids the better

Large accessible in-ground trampoline

(n=9)



Sentiment and comments on the inclusion of the large accessible in-ground trampoline



Need more than one trampoline

Trampoline great idea
Great idea

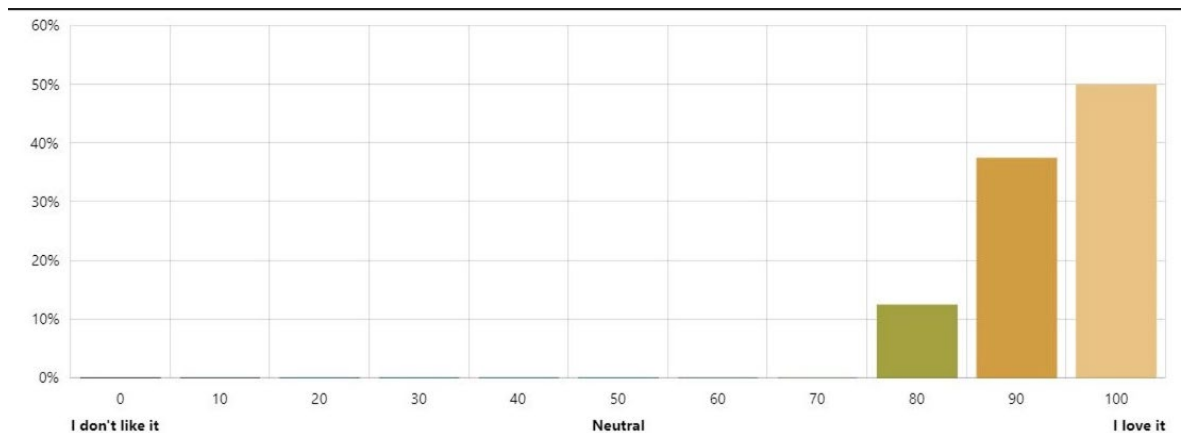
The inclusion of a flying fox

(n=8)



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Comments

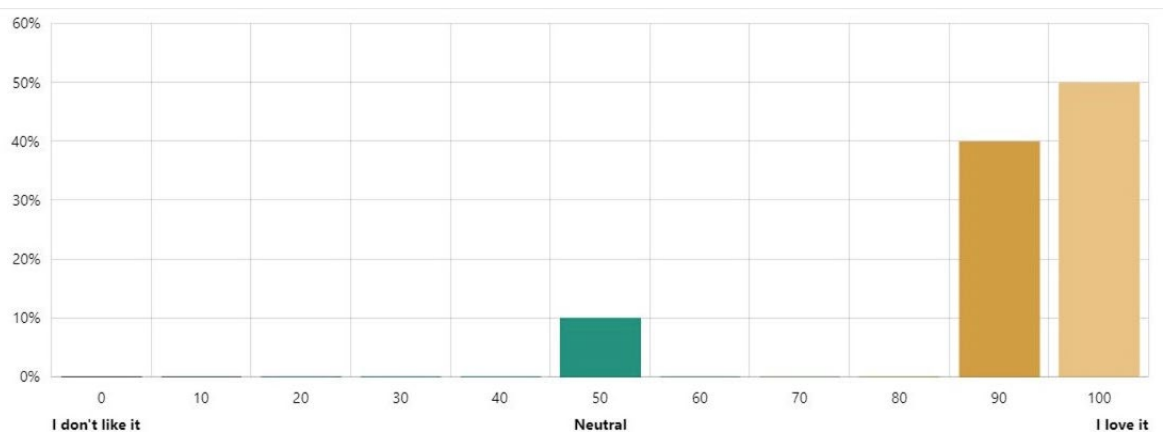
provide shade cover (trees) over the flying fox
Great idea

This would be mega cool

Would like a dedicated dog off leash area

The inclusion of Swings

(n=10)



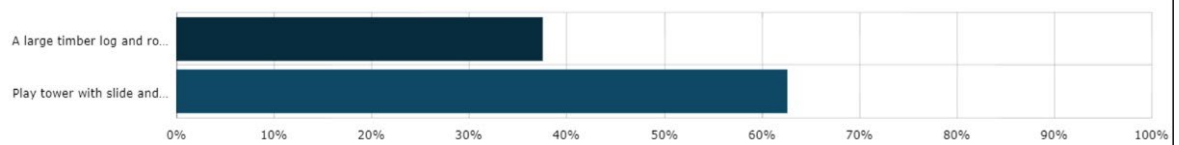
Comments

swings should be within shaded area near hangout space
need more swings

Large Play Unit

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Comments

Great idea

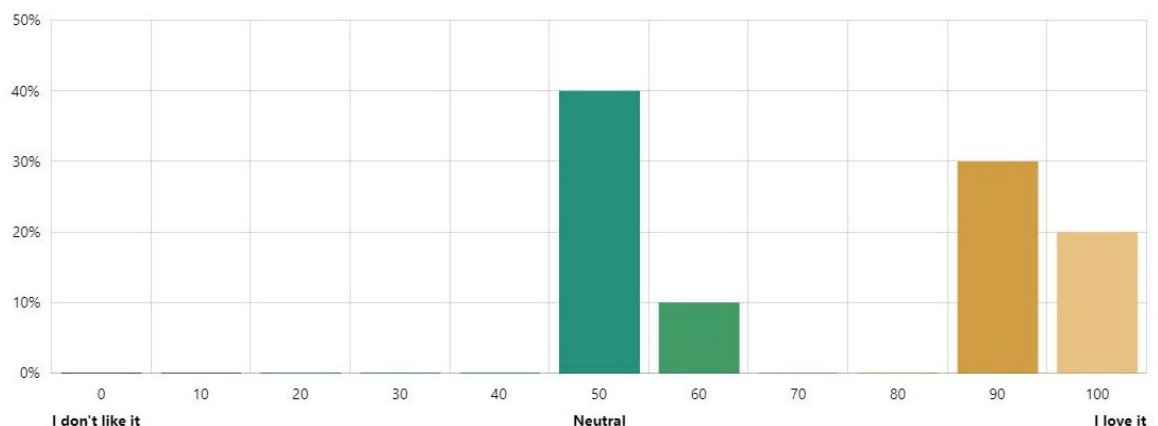
Not required

can we get both options?

Make sure that older kids can use it - -yr olds

Wheelchair accessible carousel

(n=10)

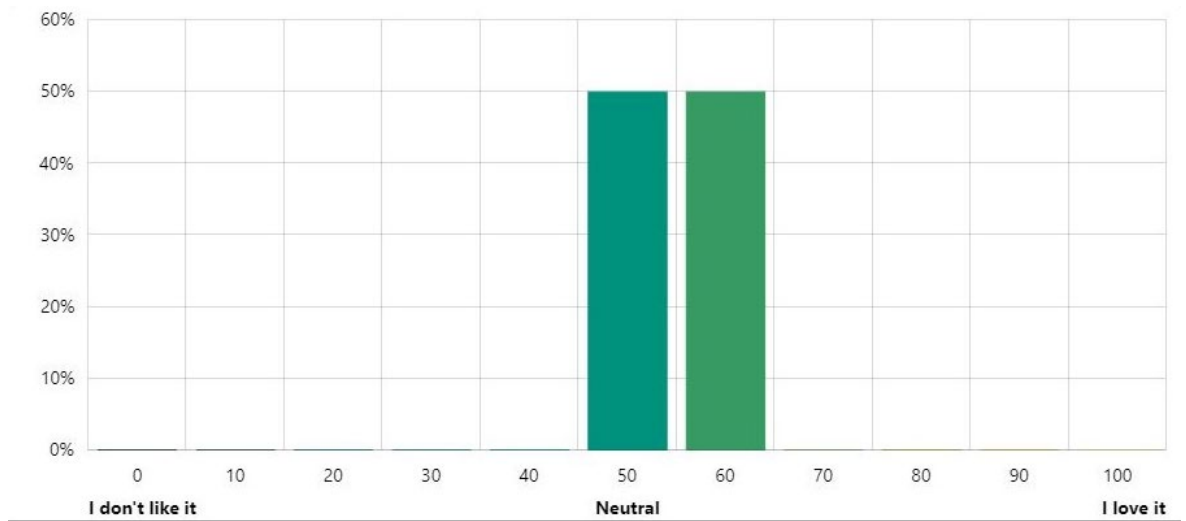


Junior Sports field

(n=2)

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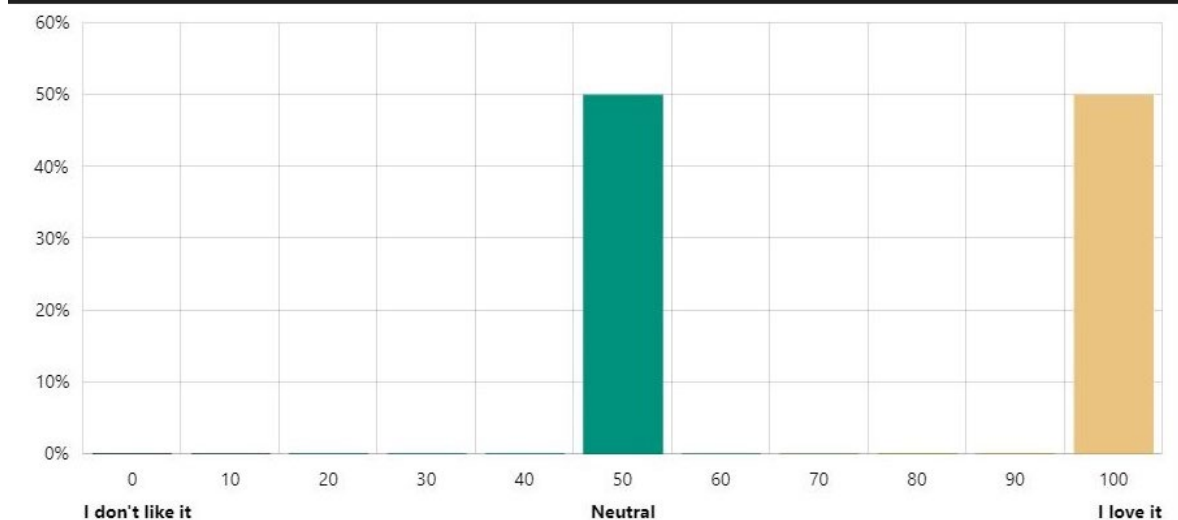
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Comments on the inclusion of a Junior Sports field

Skate park would be great
Would like a dedicated dog off leash area

Future inclusion of a landscape swale



Comments on the future inclusion of a landscape swale

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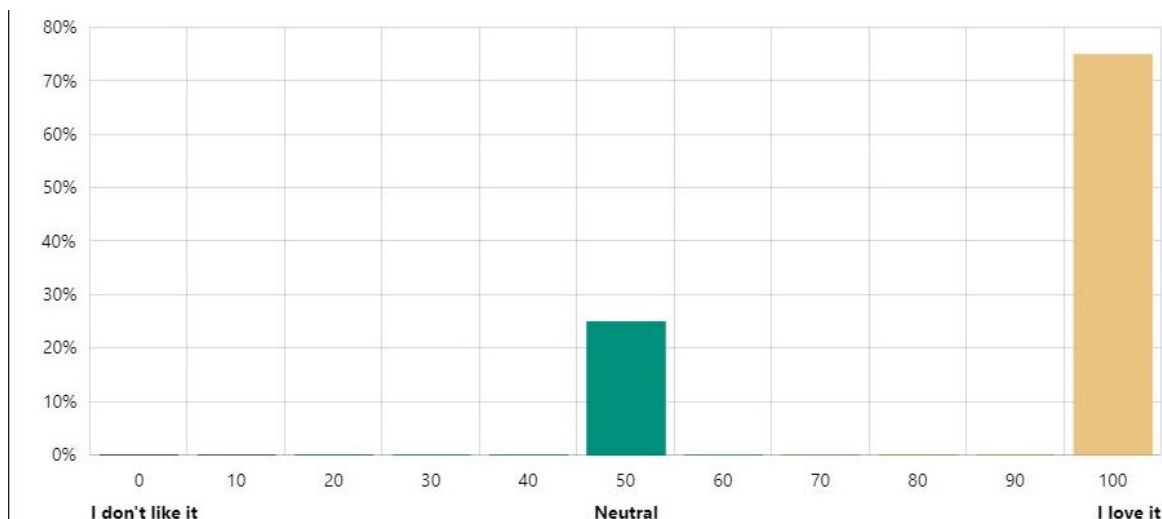
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get rid of rugby

Ensure it can be crossed without getting your feet wet
Swale good Great idea

Future inclusion of fitness equipment

(n=4)



Comments on the future inclusion of fitness equipment

Provide fitness stations appropriate for seniors and youth

Would be great to have more units spread out along the path

Feedback and comments from the drop in session through the Forum portal

second creek crossing near old stepping stones
More indigenous themes within the playspace
Community garden
Don't remove trees
Keep four courts
Include wind curtains on the courts
Wayfinding signage
Landscaping needed on Seabrook side of Lan Ave bridge
Look at pre-emptive control of hooning on the shared trail

Fully supportive

signage
Flood lights on the tennis courts
Sensory Garden near playspace
Tennis Courts
Wildlife signage along creek corridor

Southern mound - landscaping and seating
GPTS at drainage outfall required



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Feedback taken from the two face to face sessions not included in the word cloud above included:

- Concern about a planting buffer between residential houses and the southern carpark
- To maintain existing trees (ie no loss of existing trees)
- Increase tree cover in the reserve.

4. Recommendations and next steps

A response from the project team on how this information will be used including the following:

- Publish the engagement report as What we Heard from the community during this current phase of consultation.
- There are a couple of themes coming through the consultation that should be addressed. These include:
 - provision of tennis courts and wind barriers around the courts,
 - the need to increase tree cover particularly native trees in the reserve,
 - and the provision of a dedicated dog off leash area separate from the proposed junior sports field.