

DENNIS RESERVE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

STAGE 2 OPEN SPACE AND LANDSCAPE PLAN – WHAT WE HEARD

The community engagement process

Thank you to everyone who participated in Council's consultation process for Stage 2 of the Dennis Reserve Master Plan Implementation Project. We received a lot of good feedback through our online engagement portal Participate Hobsons Bay, written emails, responses submitted at the library and from conversations with community members at the two community drop in sessions.

From Monday 28 October 2019 through to Wednesday 4 December 2019, community members were able to provide comments on the landscaping designs and play space themes. This process was advertised to the local community through a range of ways including Council's digital platforms (website and social media), the Star Weekly newspaper and over 3,864 fliers distributed to the Williamstown community.

Who got involved

The Dennis Reserve Open Space and Landscape Design page on Participate Hobsons Bay <https://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au> had 95 visits with 28 people taking the time to provide feedback. In addition to this, a further 38 people attended the community drop in sessions held on 10 and 14 November 2019.



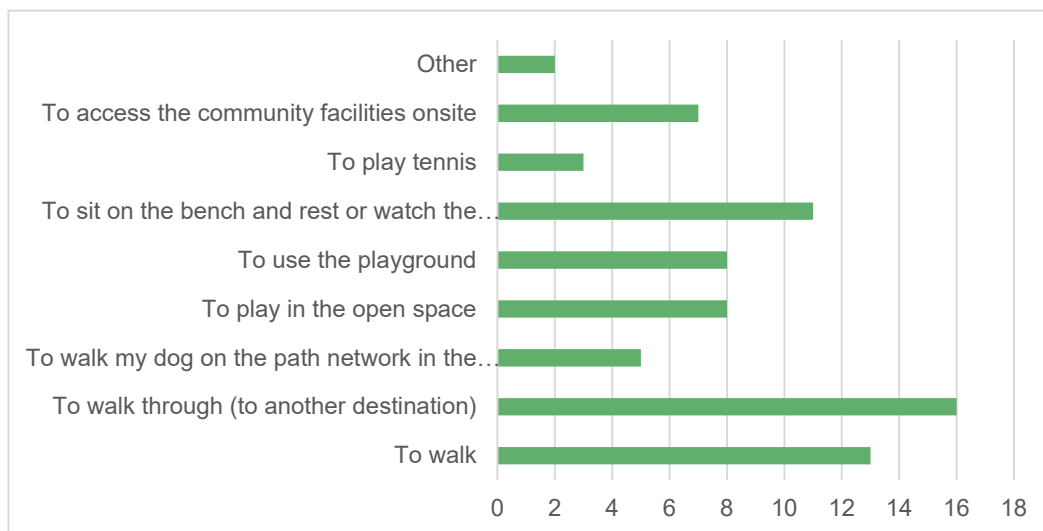
What we heard from the community

Uses of the reserve

We heard that Dennis Reserve is really well used and highly valued by the local community. From the feedback received, we noted that the reserve has many different uses with walking through from other spaces and as a location to take a walk being the top two activities.

DENNIS RESERVE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

STAGE 2 OPEN SPACE AND LANDSCAPE PLAN – WHAT WE HEARD



Playground upgrade

Though our conversations about the playground upgrade, we heard that you would like:

- New equipment to cater for a diverse age range including a swing set in the playground as people of all ages use the swings.
- Nature and creative play opportunities with the use of natural materials and neutral colours
- More natural shade provision in the playground
- A barrier to prohibit children running onto nearby busy roads.

Local knowledge and historic information

We know Dennis Reserve holds a special place in the hearts of Williamstown residents as many local families have played a significant role in the reserves - and indeed in Williamstown's - history and development.

From our conversations with the local community through this engagement process, we learnt that there is a strong desire to pay homage to and acknowledge the history of the former Williamstown Ladies Bowls Club and the remaining soldier palm trees in Dennis Reserve.

Other important information you told us about the reserve

There are a number of groups who have an interest in the design of the new multipurpose facility that is a key part of the Dennis Reserve Master Plan. We will soon commence engagement with these groups to gather ideas that will inform the facility's concept design. In addition, the design will also have a focus on environmental sustainability by including various features to harness solar energy or reuse existing building materials where possible.

We received a number of comments regarding the path network through the reserve and we learnt that this network is well used by the community. We heard that the community

DENNIS RESERVE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

STAGE 2 OPEN SPACE AND LANDSCAPE PLAN – WHAT WE HEARD

wants the path network to connect appropriately to nearby footpaths and pedestrian crossings, with clear sight lines through the reserve. We have also noted a strong wish for more seating in the reserve.

In addition, there is a clear desire for more trees, particularly shade trees in the southern end of the reserve, to both create increased natural shade around the playground and to address the urban heat island effect in Williamstown.



How has the community feedback changed the reserve designs?

Following the community engagement process about the landscaping and play space design in late 2019, Council officers reviewed all the valuable feedback provided and took it all into consideration. This feedback helped inform and guide the landscape design. The revised landscape design is attached at the end of this document. This revised design revolves around three key themes – playspace, landscape design and celebration of the history of the reserve.

Play space

- The playspace will be located further away from Melbourne Road, closer to Lyons Street to enhance safety of the play area.
- A larger play area is proposed with a climbing net structure, a toddler tree house, a five person swing, a rocker and a seesaw to cater to children of various ages.
- Natural materials and colours will be used to blend the new features of the playspace into the reserve's existing landscape

The landscape design

DENNIS RESERVE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

STAGE 2 OPEN SPACE AND LANDSCAPE PLAN – WHAT WE HEARD

- Balanced planting of shade generating trees in the southern end of the reserve.
- Irrigation will be installed to the lawn area between the new tennis courts and the Williamstown Bowls Club.
- An improved circuit path network is included to help connect the reserve and other areas in the broader precinct.
- Additional park seating has been included in the new lawn area and the coronation lamp area. This seating will not be individual park seats, however will be grouped together in nooks off the pathways or in the coronation lamp areas where people can either sit alone or have the opportunity to connect with other users of the reserve.
- Refresh and extend the Victorian era plant palette in the garden beds throughout the reserve, focusing on colour, texture and interesting combination of plants.

Celebrating the history of the reserve

- Design features such as hooped garden bed edgings, Victorian styled patterned paving and winding gravel paths are included.
- Landscaped garden beds and footpaths to formalise and frame the areas surrounding the heritage components, such as the Coronation Lamp and HR McLean Memorial.
- Refurbished park benches taken from the former Williamstown Ladies Bowls Club, and repositioned in the central area to serve as markers of the facility's history.
- A community partnership project to commemorate the history of the reserve while featuring its historical landmarks such as the Soldier Palm Trees, Coronation Lamp and HR McLean Memorial. Including the former Williamstown Ladies Bowls Club is currently being determined.. We will keep you informed of the progress and opportunities for residents to share their knowledge and stories on the history of Dennis Reserve.

Keep informed

Regular updates on this project can be found on Council's website

www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/dennisreserve.

If you have any questions pertaining to the project, please call Larry Tan, Senior Project Manager on 9932 1249 or email projects@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au.

Hobsons Bay City Council

115 Civic Parade, Altona
PO Box 21, Altona 3018

Telephone (03) 9932 1000
Fax (03) 9932 1039

NRS phone 133 677 and quote 03 9932 1000

Email customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au



www.twitter.com/hobsonsBaycc



www.facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil



www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**

