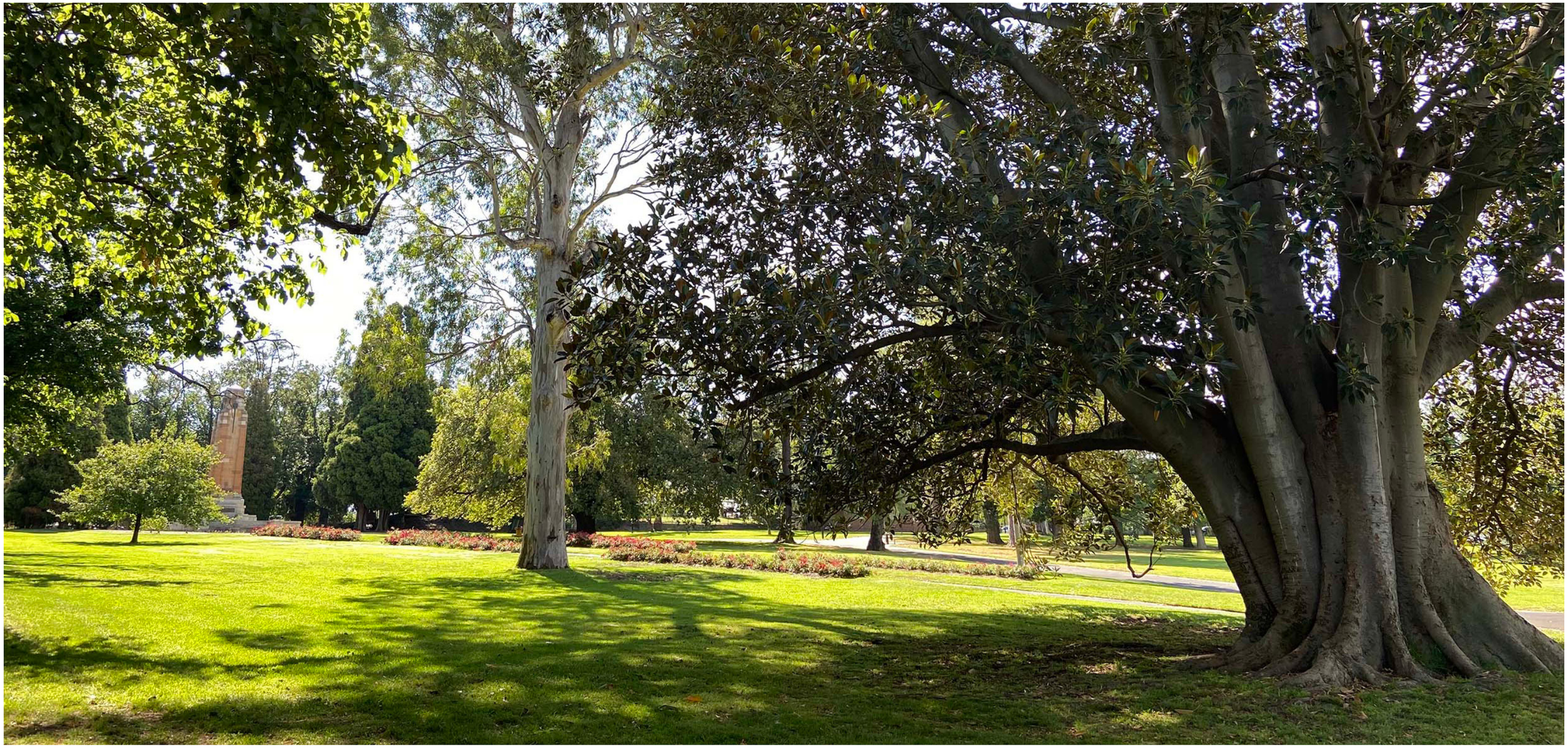
St James Park Master Plan

Community Engagement Summary

September 2024



Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The City of Boroondara acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and original Custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Prepared for:

The City of Boroondara

Prepared by:

Environmental Sustainability and Open Spaces – Open Space Strategic Design team

In collaboration with Internal Project Control Group (PCG) made up of council officers from the following departments:

- Environmental Sustainability and Open Spaces
- Health and Wellbeing Services
- Sports and Recreation
- Customer and Transformation
- Strategic Communications
- Arts Culture and Economic Development

Responsible directorate: Environmental Sustainability and Open Spaces, Places & Spaces

Authorised by: Council

1. Table of contents

1. Table of contents 1

2. Introduction 2

Phase 1 Engagement (February to April 2022)

3. Community engagement 4

4. Methodology 5

5. What we heard, what we learnt 7

6. Key themes 8

Phase 2 Engagement (February to March 2024)

7. Community engagement 11

8. Methodology 12

9. What we heard, what we learnt 13

Appendix 1: Phase 1 - Summary of responses to survey

Appendix 2: Phase 2 - Summary of responses to survey

Appendix 3: Phase 2 - Summary of other submissions (draft plan)



Figure 1. Photograph of historical elm avenue, facing west adjacent to Burwood Road

2. Introduction

The following report has been prepared as a supporting document to the St James Park Master Plan, detailing the community engagement activities conducted during phases 1 and 2 of the master plan timeline.

Consultation feedback from Phase 1 informed the development of the draft master plan, while input from Phase 2 guided the finalisation of the plan.



Phase 1 Engagement

February – April 2022

3. Community engagement

The St James Park Master Plan involved an initial engagement with the community to gather input and inform them about the master plan. Various methods were employed, including surveys, on-site sessions, tours and meetings with key stakeholders.

Pre-consultation communication: 7 February 2022

A letter to community and stakeholders informed them of the upcoming tree renewal and master plan work and how they could be involved in the near future. This was the first step in educating the community on why tree replacement is necessary and how avenue renewal will be managed.



Figure 2. Photograph taken during on-site information session (March to June 2022)

Community consultation: March to April 2022

Council sought feedback on what is important to the community about the park and what improvements could be made. Feedback on replacement tree species and methods of removal were also sought.

The engagement revealed the following key considerations:

- Most respondents supported removing aging trees and favoured activities such as exercising, sports, relaxation, picnics, and walking their dogs in the park.
- The park's history and age were appreciated by the community, and the input of local school children was particularly valuable. Residents and nearby workers regarded the park as a natural retreat and valued it for relaxation and observing wildlife.
- The community's preference for the future use of the southern green (also known as Charles Peters Green) area was for a mix of informal recreation and green spaces. The second most popular choice was for a passive recreational space with lawns, trees, and seating.

For a detailed summary, refer to appendix 1 (page 16).

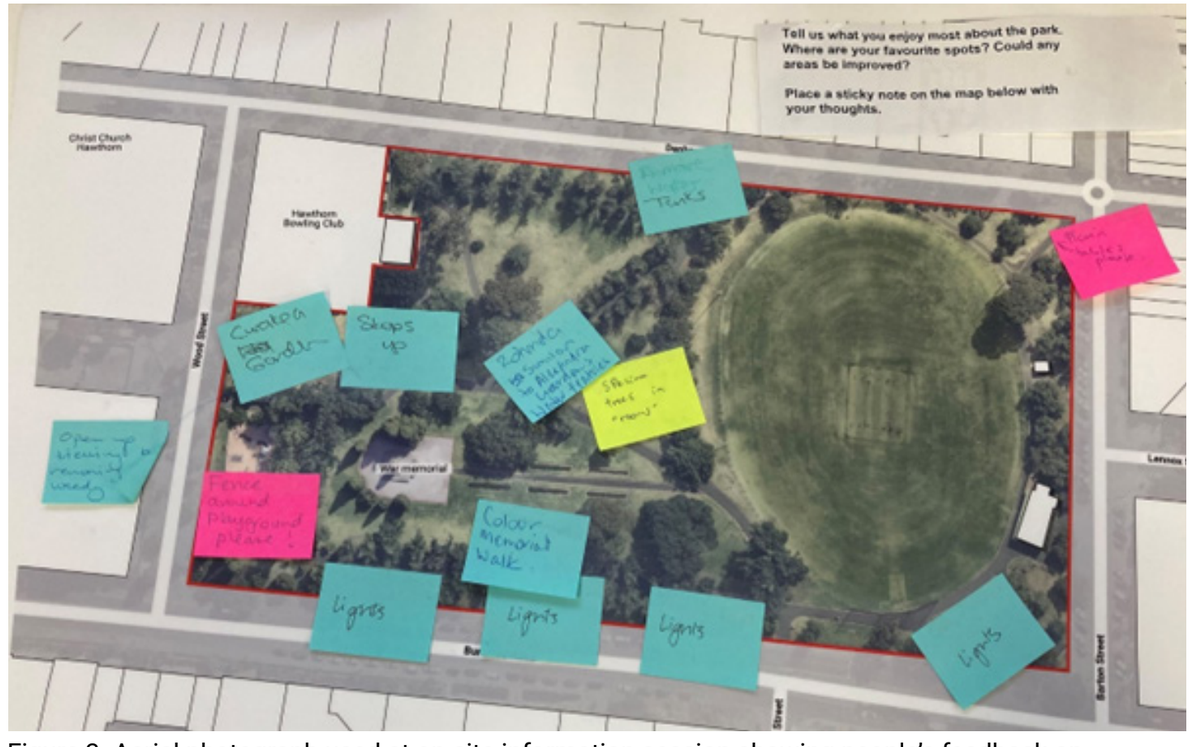


Figure 3. Aerial photograph used at on-site information session showing people's feedback on sticky notes that replicated the online interactive social mapping activity on the Engage Boroondara page

4. Methodology

A variety of engagement methods were used to obtain valuable responses from the community including:

- a survey (available on paper on request)
- two on-site information and listening sessions
- on-site tour of trees with a Council arborist
- a map of a self-guided walk for residents to explore the neighbourhood to view examples of replacement tree options
- an interactive social mapping activity
- meetings with stakeholders
- on-site tours with small groups of children from the local primary school
- meetings with internal stakeholders and staff.

The survey consisted of predominantly quantitative questions:

- user/visitor characteristics – reasons for visiting, home address, age group, gender
- options for removing and replacing the trees along the park's central diagonal avenue
- options for tree species to be planted
- options for removing and replacing the trees along the park's southern avenue
- options for planting in the garden beds along the path to the war memorial
- options for the southern green area.

Refer to Appendix 1 for more details on survey responses and demographics.

4.1 Engagement Activities

Survey

A community survey was hosted on the Engage Boroondara consultation website at engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/st-james-park-master-plan from 31 March to 26 April 2022.

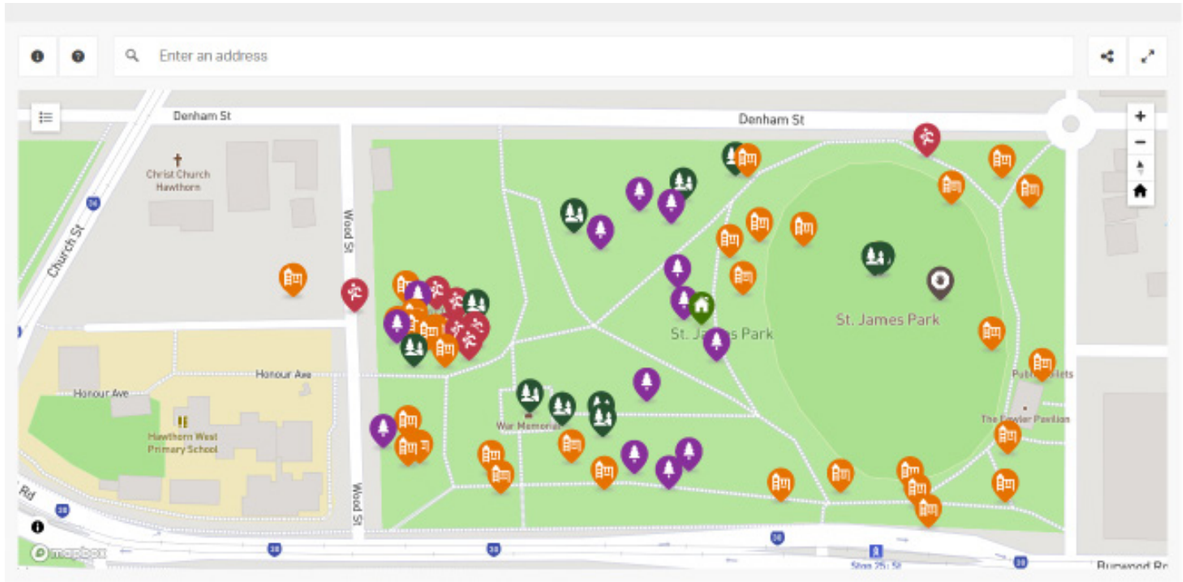


Figure 4. Image of Social Map from St James Master Plan Engage Boroondara website

Mapping activity

The second engagement activity involved a mapping activity where participants could suggest specific areas for facilities, activities, trees and signs - in total 36 people provided 67 responses to the social mapping activity. Comments were recorded in the following themes (in order of frequency) below:

- facilities for the park
- trees
- open spaces
- activities.

Comments from the mapping activity

Locational Element	Summarised comments (in order of frequency)
Facilities – seating, lighting and bins	• Picnic tables and seating/terraced seating (24%) • Better lighting for safe exercise (16%) • Other – lookout tower, vintage tram, new public toilets, remove water tank (15%) • Paving and paths (12%) • Informal recreation area – running and walking, fitness area (12%) • Fencing along Burwood Road, around playground (12%) • Return land to Bowling Club (6%) • Bins for dog poo (3%).
Trees	• Remove elms (inappropriate climate) (20%) • Improve health of area – too dry, no mulching (20%) • Plant extra specimen trees (20%) • Trees for bird habitat (hollows) (10%) • Plantings of more height near cenotaph war memorial (10%) • Propagate indigenous trees from mature specimens (10%) • Playground shade by trees, community garden (10%).
Open space – what would make you spend more time here?	• Low maintenance plants (19%) • Incorporate Wurundjeri history and heritage (18%) • Alternative water sources for use in the park (18%) • Ideas for the southern green: secret garden; labyrinth; indigenous food garden (9%) • Quiet space to view the sunrise, for contemplation and meditation (9%) • Oval to be fully fenced to ensure safety of children and dogs (9%) • Improve health of earth throughout grassed areas (9%) • Introduce informal recreation, seating (9%).
Activities – what would make you spend more time here?	• Return land to Hawthorn Bowling Club (45%) • Community garden/food forest (9%) • Indigenous insect attracting plants with interactive educational signs (9%) • Fulfill needs not currently met - a basketball hoop, picnic area, reading/ meditation garden, circuit walking path (9%) • Strengthen pedestrian and cycle connections from the west side of the park (Wood Street) (9%).

5. What we heard, what we learnt

Overall, 101 people completed the community surveys and 67 responses were provided to the social mapping activity.

Responses indicated overall support for removing the trees approaching the end of their life.

Respondents' most popular activities were informal exercising, playing organised sports, a place to relax, enjoying picnics, going to events, and walking, exercising and socialising their dog/s.

We learnt that the history and age of the park added to the community's appreciation of the park. We heard memories and stories passed through the generations that added richness to local families' appreciation of the park.

We learnt the school uses the park for Physical Education classes, an annual cross-country competition, social get togethers and it's a popular place for the school's community to gather and play after-school.

Hearing the perspective of the local school children through the tours was invaluable. They told us about their favourite things in the park, including:

- the trees
- places to play including the playground, on and around trees, on the oval and in the "messy" overgrown gardens near the southern green.
- the grassy embankment next to the oval where they liked to roll down
- the oval's fence to swing and somersault.

They requested more challenging play equipment and rubbish bins that don't smell.

We learnt that local residents and nearby workers like to visit the park to relax and it is an important natural retreat. Some spoke of it being a wonderful place to watch the sunrise or observe wildlife.

Hearing community preferences for the future use of the southern green, an important guide for the future development of this space and has informed the recommendations in this master plan. The survey asked community members to indicate their preference for:

- a grassy space with trees and seating – similar to the rest of the park
- a half basketball court alongside a grassy space with trees and seating – similar to the rest of the park
- another idea.

People's ideas revolved around active recreation, passive recreation or leasing the space to the Bowling Club again.

Refer appendix 1 for more details on survey responses and demographics.

6. Key themes

A number of key themes emerged from community engagement (with general consistency amongst all age groups, genders and active and passive users of the park).

6.1 Trees

- General acceptance of the reasons to remove the deteriorating trees and intent to renew trees (no negative feedback disputing the need to remove deteriorating trees).
- Support for replacing central avenue with a new species from the shortlist of trees suitable. *Quercus castaneifolia* was the most popular choice.
- Requests for more native trees wherever possible to provide wildlife habitats.
- Requests to plant more trees to give natural shade at the playground.
- Need to care for trees for future generations.
- Appreciation of park's history and desire for it to be conserved.
- Requests for more interpretive information about the park's history.

6.2 Amenities/Park furniture

- Request for more picnic tables, at the playground and at corner of Denham and Barton Streets (opposite café).
- Provide more accessible bench seating and picnic settings, especially at eastern end of park near the oval and near the playground.
- Bins are smelly and need a different design.
- Provide seating so they can enjoy views from the upper part of park.
- Provide more reliable drinking fountains.
- Remove redundant water tanks.
- Requests for more and better seating was the most common feedback heard in the social mapping exercise.

6.3 Green Space to relax and unwind

- The park's trees and green spaces are important places to relax and retreat from urban life, including those who live in Richmond, City of Yarra (many school families).
- Pleasure in watching and listening to birdlife with habitats in mature trees.
- A lovely spot to view sunrise from the western end of park, looking towards the valley.
- Restoring the southern green to passive open space is the second most popular option. The most popular option is to use the space for active recreation with grassy space.

6.4 Environment

- The need for climate resilience of all new plantings, potential for water harvesting and the importance in protecting parks, trees, green spaces and nature were commonly included within the social mapping and the comments suggesting future uses of the southern green.
- Green spaces are important for health of our planet (as well as people).
- Providing native vegetation for a healthy biodiversity and for wildlife habitats.
- Explore sustainable water and irrigation management systems.

6.5 Safety

- Requests for lighting along southern path (parallel to Burwood Rd) and throughout park to improve safety when exercising.
- Request to fence playground - traffic safety.
- Request to fence oval to improve safety for children and dogs.
- Concern about alcohol consumption at the Bowling Club, especially if it's expanded into the southern green.
- Making supervision of children easier by providing nearby seating to play areas and improving view lines to keep children within line of sight.
- In the social mapping exercise[1], safety was the only theme raised by significantly more women than men who mentioned issues and suggested how safety could be improved.

6.6 Recreation

- Organised sport and informal recreation important use of the park (football, cricket, bowling).
- Running, walking, dog walking are popular activities.
- Some community needs are not currently fulfilled in the neighbourhood, such as a basketball hoop, picnic area, reading/meditation garden, circuit walking path.
- Need more facilities for active but not organised sport. Nearby facilities such as basketball half courts tend to be dominated by older children and younger children don't get a chance to play (feedback from Hawthorn West Primary school).
- At the southern green - an active space integrated with seating, trees and lawn areas was the most popular response. Ideas included a small basketball area, outdoor learning or fitness activities.
- More nature play near playground.
- Epworth Rehabilitation hospital use park for rehabilitation exercises and need accessible paths and seating.

The community's feedback during this first stage of consultation along with extensive research, enabled council staff to draft a master plan.

Footnote

1 9% of all comments in the social mapping exercise relating to safety were made by women; 2% by men.

Phase 2 Engagement

February – March 2024

7. Community engagement

A second stage of consultation invited the community to give feedback on a draft master plan. Various methods were employed, including a survey and 2 on-site information and listening sessions.

Community consultation: February to March 2024

Key findings:

- A total of 92 respondents completed the community survey, revealing key insights and preferences.
- The most frequent requests were associated with maintaining the park as an off-leash area for dogs.
- Opinions on adding new recreational facilities were mixed; Some people supported the idea, while others were concerned about potential nuisances.
- There were numerous requests for more amenities, including drinking fountains, public toilets, additional seating, and picnic areas. Many people also requested more shade, especially near the playground.
- The Hawthorn Bowls Club shared additional details about the land they formerly leased, noting that the Club referred to this space as the 'Charles Peters' green.
- Initiatives like art installations within the broader park, and the children's nook and new tree plantings within the southern green received varying levels of support, reflecting diverse community interests.
- The Hawthorn RSL requested the inclusion of three flagpoles at the war memorial for use during commemorative ceremonies (one to represent the Australian flag, First Nations Flag and Torres Strait Island Flag).

For a detailed summary, refer to appendix 2 (page 18) and appendix 3 (page 28).



Figure 5. Photograph taken during on-site information session (February to March 2024).



Figure 6. Photograph taken during on-site information session (February to March 2024), including sticky-note comments.

8. Methodology

A variety of engagement methods were used to obtain valuable responses from the community including:

- an online survey (available on paper, on request)
- 2 on-site information and listening sessions
- meetings/tours with individual community members (on request)
- conversations with key stakeholders. We also received letters from key stakeholders, providing input and feedback on the draft plan (appendix 3, page 28).
- meetings with internal stakeholders and staff.

8.1 Engagement Activities

Survey

A community survey was hosted on the Engage Boroondara engagement website at engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/st-james-park-master-plan from 5 February to 4 March 2024.

The survey consisted of the following questions:

Broader master plan questions

Q1) Are there any principles you think we have missed?

Q2) Would you like to see particular zones within the park reclassified as dog on-leash areas?

Q3) Would you like to see more seating and picnic setting opportunities near the Barton and Denham Street intersection?

Q4) Would you like to see temporary art installations within St James Park?

Q5) Would you like to see signage to celebrate the area's history (Indigenous and recent history)?

Q7) Do you have any comments or suggestions about the draft master plan to share?

Southern green questions

Q6a) Would you like to see this space offer a BBQ and seats with city views?

Q6b) Would you like to see this space offer a sensory walk through native garden beds?

Q6c) Would you like to see this space offer a children's nook with log and boulder seats?

Q6d) Would you like to see this space include an area of open and flat lawn?

Q6e) Would you like to see trees planted along the north and west sides of the southern green?

9. What we heard, what we learnt

Overall, 92 people completed the community survey.

Respondents' most popular activities were informal exercising, playing organised sports, enjoying picnics, going to events, and walking, exercising and socialising their dog/s.

9.1 Summary of questions 2 to 6

Questions 2 to 6 of the survey offered multiple choice questions to capture the community's position on a number of proposed actions. Refer to Appendix 2 (page 18) for a detailed summary.

Broader Park Initiatives:

Dog Leash Requirements

62% preferred no changes to the current dog leashing requirements.

Seating and Picnic Settings

59% supported additional seating and picnic settings near the Barton and Denham Street intersection.

Art Installations

47% supported temporary art installations, with higher than average of respondents selecting "I'm not sure" (19%).

Historical Signage

64% supported signage celebrating the area's history, both Wurundjeri and recent.

Southern Green Initiatives:

Barbecue and Seating Facilities

72% supported these facilities capturing views to the city at the new open space.

Sensory Walk

63% supported a sensory walk through native garden beds at the new open space.

Children's Nook

48% supported a children's nook with log and boulder seating elements, with higher than average of respondents selecting "I'm not sure" (23%).

Tree Planting

Respondents were divided on tree planting along the north and west sides of the new open space, with higher than average of respondents selecting "I'm not sure" (21%).

9.2 Comments (summary of questions 1 & 7)

Questions 1 and 7 of the survey asked for direct feedback and suggestions. The topics mentioned most requently in comments are listed here. Refer to Appendix 2 (page 18) for a detailed summary.

Off-Leash Area for Dogs

- Maintaining the park as an off-leash area for dogs is important to many community members, highlighting the park's value to dog owners and their pets.

Amenities and Infrastructure

- Requests for additional amenities included drinking fountains, particularly near Barton and Denham Streets, and public toilets near the playground. There were also calls for more seating and picnic areas to encourage community use.
- Enhancing accessibility for people with disabilities and ensuring the park remains welcoming to all community members were also key suggestions.

Recreational Facilities

- While there was support for adding new recreational facilities such as a basketball court, there were concerns about it causing a nuisance to nearby properties or impacting the broader park's tranquility.
- Additionally, there were requests for a pickleball court, netball courts and outdoor exercise equipment.

Importance of Shade

- The need for shade, particularly near the playground, was mentioned by a number of people. Respondents emphasised the importance of both immediate and long-term shading solutions to ensure safety and usability.

Environment

- Requests for improved drought management and long-term tree health.
- The need for a balance between native and exotic vegetation, and to include indigenous, pollinator-friendly species in the planting scheme.
- Requests to avoid additional lighting to reduce light pollution.

Southern Green

- The need for protective boundary fencing to the Hawthorn Bowls Club was suggested, and the potential impact of the proposed basketball court's proximity to a licensed premises were highlighted.
- Respondents noted that the GML Heritage Report failed to acknowledge the 'Charles Peters' bowling green's historical significance, mislabeling it as a 'former disused pétanque area.' There were also concerns raised about the design, noting the potential damage to the existing green from tree planting without proper root barriers.

APPENDIX

Appendix 1: Phase 1 - Summary of responses to survey

An online community survey and social mapping activity were hosted on the Engage Boroondara website from 31 March to 26 April 2022.

The key engagement questions were:

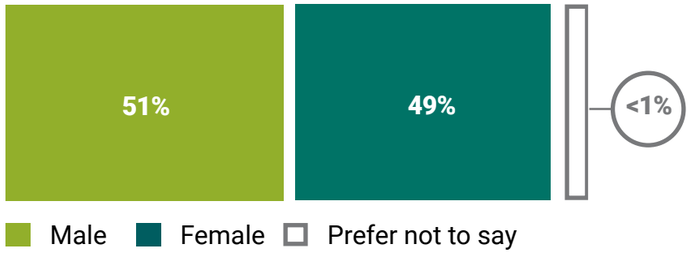
- How do you use the park?
- Your preferred approach for replacing the elm trees in the central diagonal avenue and in the southern avenue.
- Which new tree species you would prefer to see planted in the central diagonal avenue?
- Your preferred option for replanting the garden beds near the war memorial.
- Your preferences for the future use of the southern green area.

Preferred approach to replacing the deteriorated trees along the park's central diagonal avenue

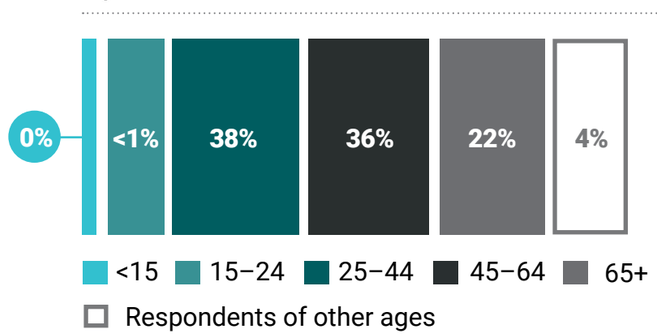
Just under half of all survey respondents preferred the trees along the park's central diagonal avenue to be removed and replaced, one side at a time. *Quercus castaneifolia* was the most popular replacement species, followed by *Zelkova serrata* and *Celtis australis*.

Who participated

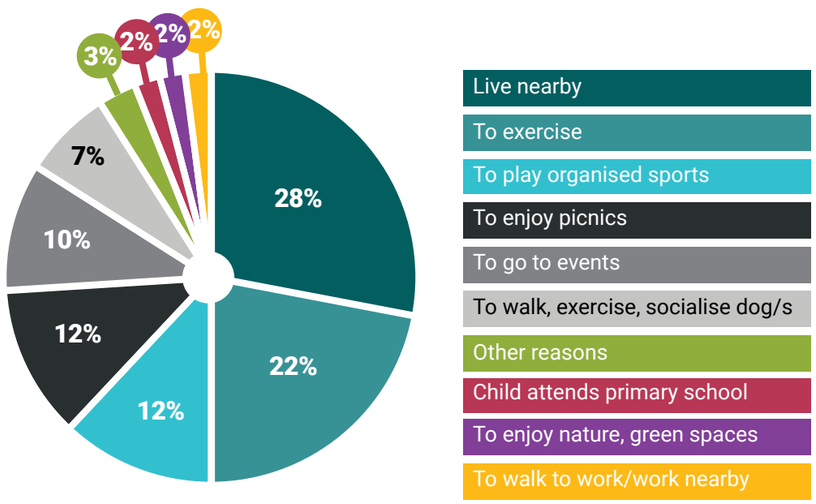
Gender



Age



Reason for visit



Preferred approach for removing and replacing the trees along the park's southern avenue

There were mixed views about the park's southern avenue with 31% of all survey respondents having no preference, 29% preferring the removal and replacement of all the trees this year, 22% preferring the removal and replacement of the trees on each end of the row and, the remaining 18% preferring pruning of deadwood on all trees this year. Note that no option was given for replacement species as trees will be replaced with elms due to its protected microclimate of this avenue compared with the central diagonal avenue.

Options for planting in the garden beds along the path to the war memorial

Planting preferences were similar between a mix of Australian and other plants (46%) and Australian plants only (45%). A small percentage of respondents preferred plants from other parts of the world only (9%) .

A mix of Australian and other plants – stronger preference by those who lived within 500 metres of the park, by males, by those aged 45-64 years and by those who walked their dog/s or exercised at the park.

Australian plants only – stronger preference by those who lived more than 500 metres away from the park, by females, by those aged 15-44 years and by those who visited the park to play organised sports or to attend events.

Options for the southern green area

This question asked people to select their preferred way to use the space formerly used as a bowling green area from three options:

- a half basketball court and grassy space
- a grassy space with trees and seating
- another suggestion (with an open field inviting people to write their idea).

A total of 100 people responded to this question.

Options for the southern green area

Preferred way to use the space formerly used as a bowling green area	Respondents who selected this option	Respondents who selected the "another idea" option and suggested similar ideas	Total
A half basketball court and grassy space	34%	12% put forward ideas for active recreation including outdoor learning, fitness activities or an exercise area.	46% prefer space for active recreation open to all.
A grassy space with trees and seating	23%	15% put forward ideas for passive recreation including a garden setting, biodiversity planting, indigenous plants or a retreat space.	38% prefer space for passive recreation with lawns, trees and seating open to all.
Another suggestion: (with an open field inviting people to write their idea)	n/a	21% suggested leasing the space to the Bowling Club for a synthetic green.	21% prefer leasing the space to the Bowling Club.

The totals add to more than 105% because a small number of people who chose to suggest their own idea suggested a mix of active recreation and passive recreation uses for the space.

Appendix 2: Phase 2 - Summary of responses to survey

The City of Boroondara released the draft St James Park Master Plan for community consultation from 5 February to 4 March 2024. The consultation was seeking feedback on the draft master plan which was based on extensive research and feedback from key stakeholders and community. The following findings are from the survey.

The key engagement questions were:

<u>Broader master plan questions</u>

Q1) Are there any principles you think we have missed?

Q2) Would you like to see particular zones within the park reclassified as dog on-leash areas?

Q3) Would you like to see more seating and picnic setting opportunities near the Barton and Denham Street intersection?

Q4) Would you like to see temporary art installations within St James Park?

Q5) Would you like to see signage to celebrate the area's history (Indigenous and recent history)?

Q7) Do you have any comments or suggestions about the draft master plan to share?

<u>Southern green questions</u>

Q6a) Would you like to see this space offer a BBQ and seats with city views?

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Q6c) Would you like to see this space offer a children's nook with log and boulder seats?

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Q6e) Would you like to see trees planted along the north and west sides of the southern green?

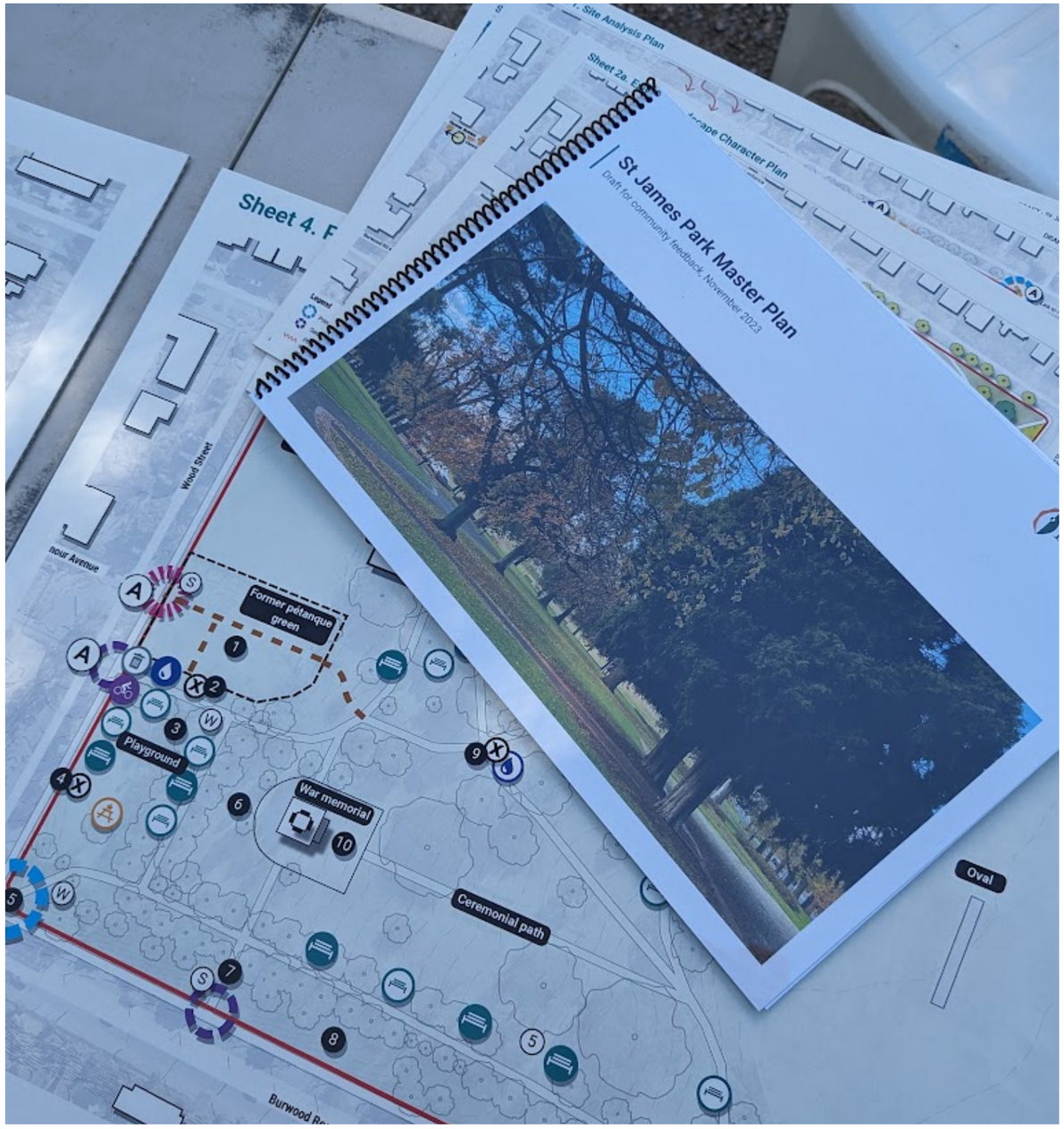
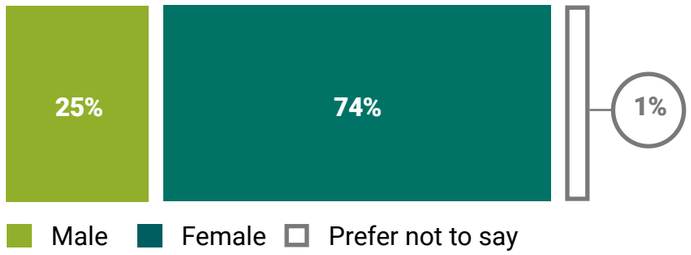


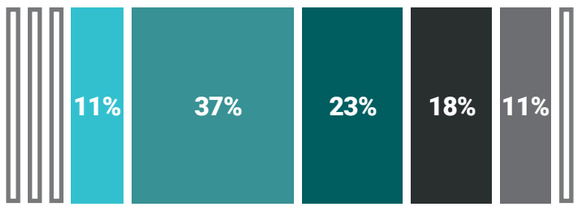
Figure 7. Photograph taken during on-site information session (February to March 2024).

Who participated

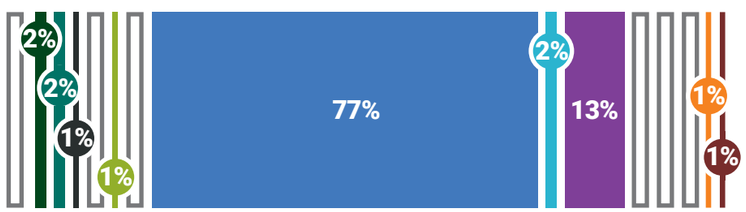
Gender



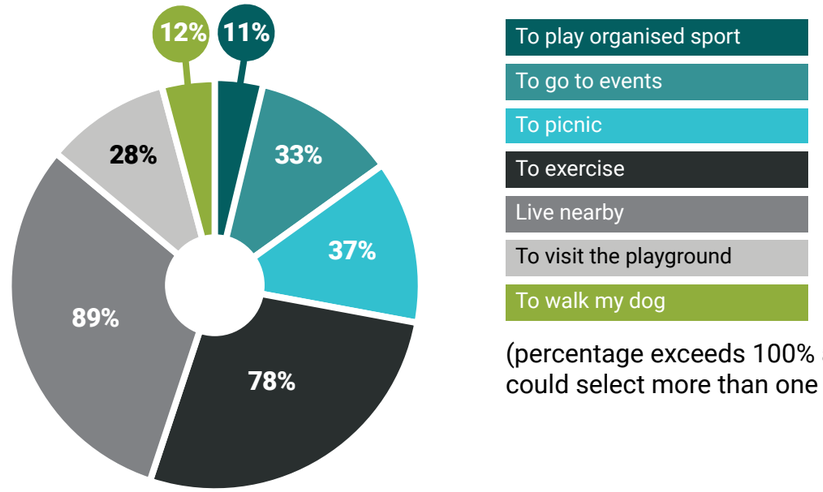
Age



Location



Reason for visit

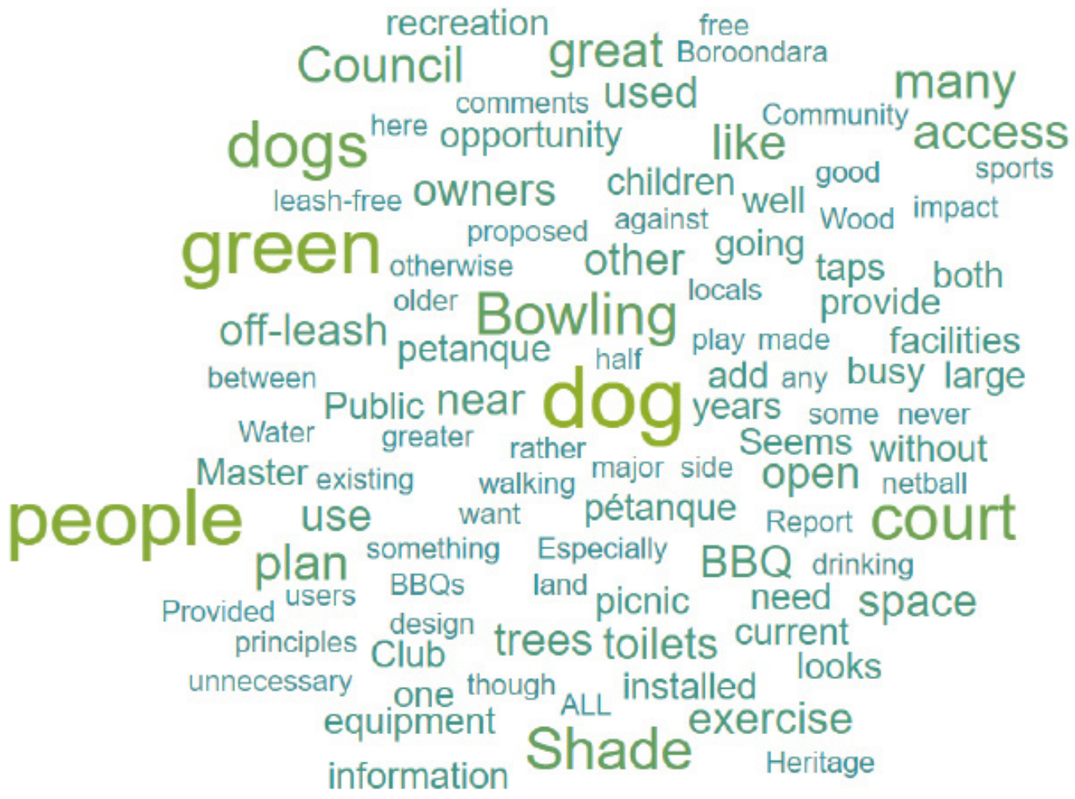


(percentage exceeds 100% as respondents could select more than one answer)

Question 1 & 7

A ‘word cloud’ is a tool which visualises the 92 survey responses. The larger and more bold the word is, the more frequently the word has been used by the respondents.

Question 1: Are there any principles you think we have missed?[1]



Question 7: Do you have any comments or suggestions about the draft master plan to share?[1]



[1]Only responses from survey data that appears more than 2 times are shown on the word cloud, filtered based on key words listed in the methodology.

What does this tell us? (question 1)

Community feedback on **Question 1, "Are there any principles you think we have missed?**", highlights several key areas for Council to consider in the St James Park Master Plan. Of 92 survey submissions, we received 40* responses to this question, with a summary (in order of topic frequency) provided below:

Leash-free area for dogs (10 mentions)

- Strong emphasis on maintaining St James Park as a leash-free area for dogs.
- Highlighted its role in providing a safe and large space for recreation and socialising among pet owners.

Amenities and infrastructure (7 mentions)

- Suggestions included adding picnic tables and seats, drinking fountains with dog bowls, and an outdoor gym for free access to strength training equipment.

Shade and playground (6 mentions)

- Suggestions for shade over the playground area and additional tree planting for better protection from the afternoon sun.

Public toilets (4 mentions)

- Suggestions for public toilets near the playground or the new proposed southern green.
- Deemed essential for picnickers and visitors who intend to visit the park for longer periods of time.

Recreational facilities (3 mentions)

- Support for a basketball court for both children and adults.
- Suggestion to include a half-netball court to cater equally to netball players.
- Concerns about managing the area at night if it becomes a basketball court, given the park's history of not having one.

Environment (3 mentions)

- Concerns regarding future drought management and long term tree health.
- Emphasis on biodiversity corridors as well as pollinator wildlife corridors in Boroondara.

**A number of survey responses included mentions of multiple themes. These responses have been split into the relevant section, which is why the number of mentions exceeds the number of received responses.*

Southern green (2 mentions)

- Concerns about the lack of acknowledgment regarding its history, originally part of the Hawthorn Bowling Club.
- Concerns raised about the need for a fence to protect the Club from vandalism and the risk of tree roots damaging the green.
- Criticism of the GML Heritage Report for referring to the 'Charles Peters' bowling green as a 'former disused pétanque area'.

Other themes and general comments (5 mentions)

- Suggestions to prioritise nature and peacefulness over specific historic or cultural heritage.
- Concerns about accessibility for wheelchair users and improved pedestrian crossings.
- Suggestions to consider "Community" as a new theme for the master plan.

What does this tell us? (question 7)

Community feedback on **Question 7, "Do you have any comments or suggestions about the draft master plan to share?**", highlights several key areas for consideration in the St James Park Master Plan. Of 92 survey submissions, we received 56* responses to this question, with a summary (in order of topic frequency) provided below:

Leash-free area for dogs (17 mentions)

- There is strong support for maintaining St James Park as an off-leash area for dogs, as it is vital for community interaction and provides a unique space for dog owners.
- Suggestions to include adding more bins for dog waste and fencing around the children's playground to ensure safety while keeping the rest of the park off-leash.

Amenities and infrastructure (17 mentions)

- Concerns regarding quantity of proposed barbecues and if they will be sufficiently supported by other assets such as rubbish bins, a drinking fountain, shelter and public bathroom.
- Suggestions to reduce proposed seating and picnic areas at the Barton and Denham street corner due to high traffic, and add more seating along peaceful paths.
- Suggestions to add additional drinking fountains, including those with dog drinking bowls, at various locations such as near the clubhouse or at the corner of Barton and Denham streets.
- Suggestions to include a covered area for wet weather use.
- Suggestions to include tiered seats for spectators on the sloped part of the oval.
- Additional amenities suggested for the southern green include sports facilities like cricket nets and handball, recreational features such as outdoor chess, a bush play area, water play elements, and sensory gardens. Additional recommendations included outdoor kitchen sinks at BBQ areas, and more flat/paved spaces for exercise.

Environment (9 responses)

- Suggestions to add shady nooks throughout the park in quiet areas for adults to relax.
- Suggestions to balance the planting of native and exotic vegetation, prioritising the celebration of established exotic vegetation and using native plants for resilience and biodiversity.
- Suggestions to include Australian shrubs and gum trees in the park's planting scheme, incorporating indigenous pollinator friendly species (including at the southern green).
- Suggestions to evaluate the benefits of increasing park maintenance and gardening in addition to implementing the master plan.
- Suggestions to avoid adding additional lighting, such as lighting up the war memorial, to minimise light pollution and disturbance to animals.
- Suggestions to include a bush play area for children, or nature playground style including water play.

**A number of survey responses included mentions of multiple themes. These responses have been split into the relevant section, which is why the number of mentions exceeds the number of received responses.*

Recreational facilities (7 mentions)

- Support for the half-court basketball idea, seen as positive for local kids and seen as important for the neighborhood's increasing density and appealing to families staying in the area.
- Suggestions for alternative infrastructure to basketball courts, such as exercise equipment, bocce courts, or life-sized chess boards, to encourage intergenerational participation and cater to those sensitive to loud noises.
- Suggestions to include an exercise station to encourage more locals to exercise in the park.

Southern green (5 mentions)

- Concerns were raised about the Bowling Club and the impact on its operations, as well as the omission of the area's historical significance as part of the original bowling green.
- The Hawthorn Bowling Club advised they need truck access from Wood Street for the full length of the main green for regular delivery of soil sand and large machinery, as well as removal of waste. The Club also noted they have no other storage facilities other that the shed on the southern green.
- Suggestions to avoid planting trees to the north and west of the southern bowling area to prevent shading and competition with the bowling green.

Shade and playground (4 mentions)

- Suggestions to install sun shades above the playground to address safety hazards and increase family use, especially during summer.
- Suggestions to incorporate significant shade around the existing playground and proposed southern green to enhance usability and accessibility year-round.

Public toilets (4 mentions)

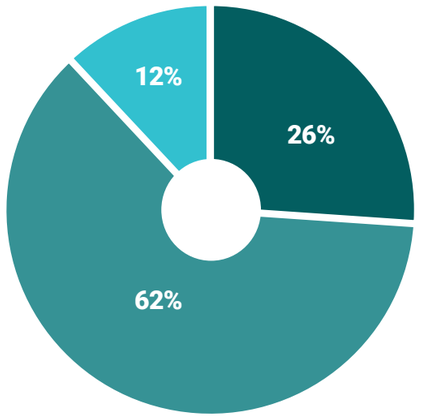
- Suggestions to install public toilets near the children's play area to accommodate increased park usage and encourage longer stays.
- Suggestions to consider adding public toilets to support increased picnic activity and enhance visitor experience.

Other themes and general comments (4 mentions)

- Suggestions to enhance connectivity between St James Park and other nearby green spaces like Creswick Reserve, Grace Park and Smart Street.
- Suggestions to consider updating the Fowler Pavilion to improve its appearance.
- Suggestions to improve access and safety by widening the Burwood Road entry to align with pedestrian lights.

Question 2 – Question 5 (preferences)

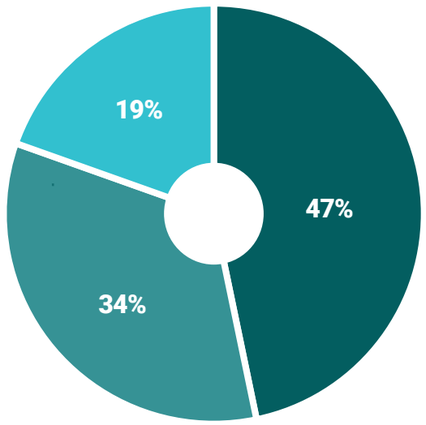
Question 2: Would you like to see particular zones within the park reclassified as dog on-leash areas?





More than half (62%) of survey respondents preferred not to see changes to dog leashing requirements.

Question 4: Would you like to see temporary art installations within St James Park?

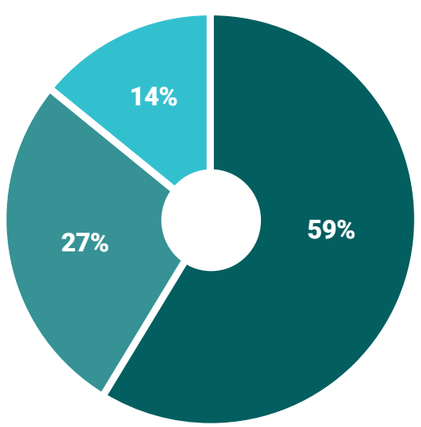




47% of survey respondents preferred to see temporary art installations within St James Park.

On average, respondents noted a higher uncertainty regarding this question (19%).

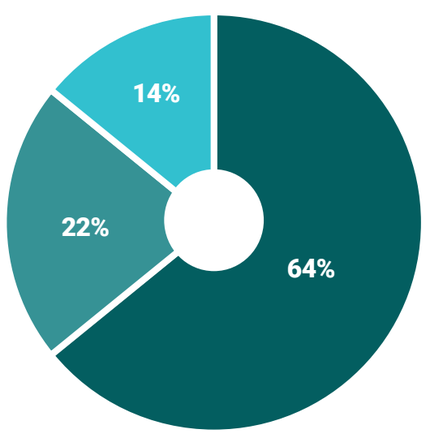
Question 3: Would you like to see more seating and picnic setting opportunities near the Barton and Denham Street intersection?





More than half (59%) of survey respondents preferred to see additional seating and picnic setting opportunities near the Barton and Denham Street intersection.

Question 5: Would you like to see signage to celebrate the area's history (both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recent history)?

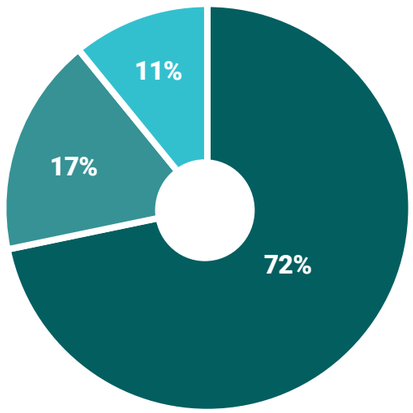




More than half (64%) of survey respondents preferred to see signage that celebrated the area's history (both Wurundjeri and recent history).

Question 6a – Question 6e (southern green area questions)

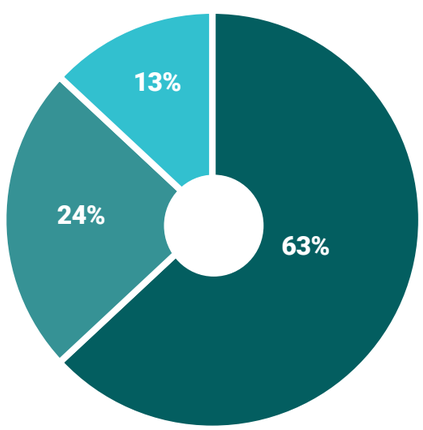
Question 6a: Would you like to see this space offer a BBQ and seats with city views?





More than half (72%) of survey respondents preferred to see barbecue and seating facilities, capturing views to the city at the new open space.

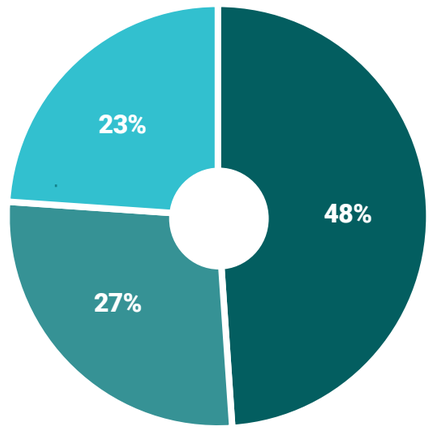
Question 6b: Would you like to see this space offer a sensory walk through native garden beds?





More than half (63%) of survey respondents preferred to see a sensory walk through native garden beds at the new open space.

Question 6c: Would you like to see this space offer a children's nook with log and boulder seats?

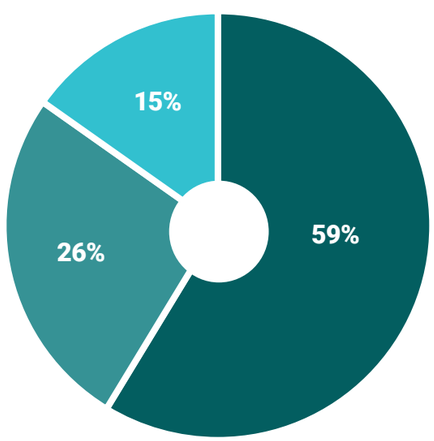




48% of survey respondents preferred to see a children's nook with log and boulder seating elements.

On average, respondents noted a higher uncertainty regarding this question (23%).

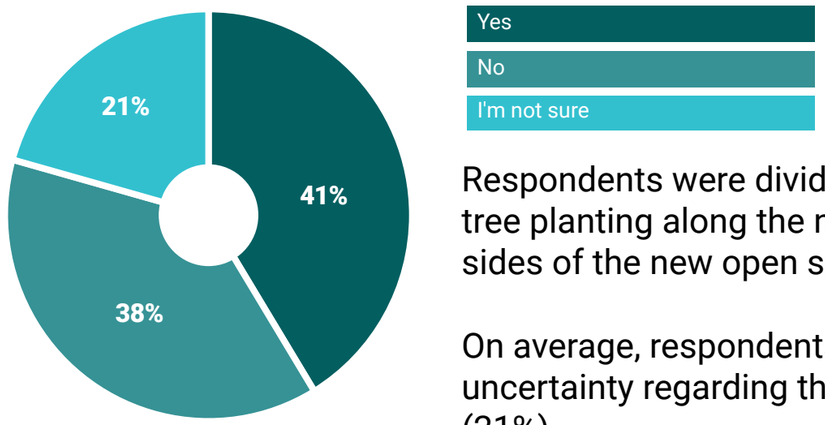
Question 6d: Would you like to see this space include an area of open and flat lawn?





More than half (59%) of survey respondents preferred to see barbecue and seating an area of open flat lawn at the new open space.

Question 6e: Would you like to see trees planted along the north and west sides of the southern green?



Respondents were divided regarding tree planting along the north and west sides of the new open space.

On average, respondents noted a higher uncertainty regarding this question (21%).

Appendix 3: Phase 2 - Summary of other submissions (draft plan)

In-person consultation

The following feedback was received in face-to-face consultation from 5 February to 4 March 2024.

Consultation 1

When: Wednesday 14 February from 3 pm to 5 pm

Where: St James Park, Hawthorn

Quantity of responses: 8

Consultation 2

When: Saturday 17 February from 12 pm to 2 pm

Where: St James Park, Hawthorn

Quantity of responses: 9

Face-to-face feedback (summary)
Suggestions *for a toilet facility near the playground.*
Suggestions *for native trees and understory.*
Suggestions *for a swimming pool.*
Suggestions for *pickleball and seasonal activities like food trucks.*
Suggestions for *netball facilities.*
Suggestions to *maintain the park as a dog off-lead area.*
Suggestions to *Retain natural amphitheatre grades to ovals.*
Concerns about the basketball court causing nuisance to nearby properties.
Support for central avenue planting outcomes.
Hawthorn Bowls Club members requested re-leasing the former green for a synthetic bowling green, with interest to still celebrate many of the initiatives identified in the draft master plan. *Hawthorn Bowls Club noted the added benefit of obtaining the space to support a shift in events, to a location further away from sensitive residential interfaces.* *Members also criticised of the GML Heritage Report for referring to the 'Charles Peters' bowling green as a 'former disused pétanque area'.*
Suggestions for *more native tree planting, including at the southern green.*

Hawthorn Bowling Club Submission Letter

The Hawthorn Bowling Club submitted a letter providing feedback on the draft Master Plan.

A summary of their feedback is noted below:

The Hawthorn Bowling Club proposed the incorporation of the southern green, back into their lease agreement. They noted that they have maintained this area diligently, despite its exclusion from their current lease, reflecting their commitment to community stewardship.

The Club noted their ongoing contribution to the community, hosting events that extend beyond traditional bowling. These include commemorating ANZAC and Remembrance Days with Hawthorn RSL, social bowling with Aspect Health, karate classes for local children, pilates for seniors, and collaborations with local schools such as Hawthorn West Primary, Trinity Grammar, Xavier College, Strathcona Girls School, and Melbourne Girls College.

They proposed creating an accessible synthetic green on the former bowling green, offering a versatile space for various activities. They noted that this new facility would benefit not only Club members but also local schools, businesses, and community groups while also fostering better relations with neighbours by hosting more events in the new area, reducing the impact on Denham Street residents.They noted that the synthetic green would also support educational bowling programs and enhance relationships with nearby Grace Park Tennis Club.

The Club also envisions renaming the former bowling green to honor the ANZAC legacy of a revered veteran, while maintaining recognition of its history as the 'Charles Peters' green.



Figure 8. Photograph of southern green, facing west towards Wood Street.

Hawthorn RSL Submission Letter

The Hawthorn RSL submitted a letter providing feedback on the draft Master Plan.

The Hawthorn RSL Committee noted they were pleased with the proposed enhancements. The upgrades included improved pathways, on-site power, and maintenance work to restore and update the cenotaph, which would enhance the site's functionality for community and commemorative events.

Hawthorn RSL requested the addition of three flagpoles to the master plan for use during commemorative ceremonies. They emphasised the historical significance of flags in military history, where the lowering of flags was a sign of respect dating back to the era of sailing ships. Over time, this practice evolved into military ceremonies on land.

The three flagpoles would represent the Australian flag, the First Nations flag, and the Torres Strait Islander flag. This addition would enhance ceremonial occasions and serve as a visible reminder of the service and sacrifice of Australian veterans.



Figure 9. Photograph of cenotaph within St James Park, facing south-east towards Burwood Road.

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation feedback

On 29 February 2024, Council officers met with Elders from the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation during the second phase of community consultation. The aim was to understand their aspirations for St James Park and gather feedback on the draft master plan. The feedback from the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders showed general support for the proposed actions, particularly those relevant to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, such as the use of local Aboriginal languages on new signage.

The design of the southern green was also shared and discussed. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders were supportive of the design and suggested including a yarning circle for informal gatherings.

1. Contact page

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