

Sandfield Reserve Master Plan

Community Consultation Feedback Summary – August 2021

At its meeting on Monday 19 April 2021, Council endorsed the Public Exhibition of the Draft Sandfield Reserve Landscape Master Plan for a period of 6 weeks commencing Monday 26 April 2021 and notes a report will be presented to Council no later than August 2021. Feedback in this report was received during the exhibition of the Draft Master Plan in 2021.

Online Survey Responses

1 How old are You? (83 out of 86 people answered the question)

Age	%	No. of Responses
Under 10	0%	0 responses
11-17	0%	0 responses
18-25	7.2%	6 responses
26-45	63.9%	53 responses
46-60	19.3%	16 responses
61-80	9.6%	8 responses
Over 80	0%	0 responses

2 How do you normally travel to Sandfield Reserve?

84 out of 86 people answered the question

Mode of Transport	%	No. of Responses
Walk	79.8%	67 responses
Car	36.9%	31 responses
Bicycle	22.6%	19 responses

3 Who do you normally come to Sandfield Reserve with?

- 83 out of 86 people answered the question

Mode of Transport	%	No. of Responses
Your children	66.3%	55 responses
Your dog	48.2%	40 responses
Your friends	34.9%	29 responses
Your grandchildren	13.3%	11 responses
Your parent/carer	10.8%	9 responses
Your grandparent	2.4%	2 responses

4 Where is the best place for the play space at Sandfield Reserve?

- 79 out of 86 people answered the question

Option	%	No. of Responses
Option 1 - Keep the playground in the same location close to Sandfield Drive	65.8%	52 responses
Option 2 - Install a new playground closer to the school and kinder	34.2%	27 responses

5 What would make you visit Sandfield Reserve more often?

- 85 out of 86 people answered the question

Intervention	%	No. of Responses
A public toilet	65.9%	56 responses
Improved paths and lighting for walking and exercise	64.7%	55 responses
Upgraded playground	57.6%	49 responses
Picnic and BBQ facilities	55.3%	47 responses
Community Events and activation including food trucks	50.6%	43 responses
More tree planting and shade	48.2%	41 responses
Upgraded youth space	47.1%	40 responses
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	37.6%	32 responses
Other	7.1%	6 responses

Other Responses -

- A small fishing pond. Like what you see around the Sandhurst golf club.
- If there was access to netball rings where the basketball is... everyone installs basketball rings but not netball, considering you have FDNA in your area, free access to netball rings would fantastic!
- Better maintenance, upkeep and security. Less dog poop and rubbish. Security cameras.
- Its a lease free dog park .ive been walking there twice a day for the last 10 yrs,get your filthy hands off our park,its fine the way it is.if the state gov didnt allow for an oval for the school bad luck.put some bins in & another poo bin at rowellen end
- better fenced area for off leash dog play with plenty of trees and bushes and undurlating landscape that engages dogs
- Keeping it a dog off lead park. I like need to walk 5000-10000 steps daily. My dog needs a lot more than this

6 What would you like to see in an upgraded play space?

- 79 out of 86 people answered the question

Intervention	%	No. of Responses
Improved shade and seating	63.3%	50 responses
Adventure play (Ropes/Rock Climbing)	62.0%	49 responses
Nature based play	59.5%	47 responses
Swings/Slides	41.8%	33 responses
Sensory play	40.5%	32 responses
More inclusive play	24.1%	19 responses
Other	7.6%	6 responses
Other Responses -		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Netball rings Water play. Musical play. Seated flying fox. In ground trampoline/jumping play. I rely on walking my dog off lead each morning around the park. Please don't take this away! None A large hill climbable by old tyres, with a huge slide from the top Space for me to walk with other dog walkers all off lead. Skate park area and seats enclosed so other waste food broken glass and assorted rubbish does not attract dogs 		

7 What would you like to see in an upgraded Youth Space?

- 79 out of 86 people answered the question

Intervention	%	No. of Responses
Upgraded multi use court and hit up wall	74.7%	59 responses
More adventurous play for older children and youth	55.7%	44 responses
Improved Shade and seating	51.9%	41 responses
Climbing Wall	40.5%	32 responses
Other	6.3%%	5 responses
Other Responses -		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removing the skate park will reduce litter, graffiti and make the park feel safer and family friendly Small fishing pond so kids and families can spend quality family time fishing Bins and security cameras. The current "youth space" is disgusting and I have had to call the council to have glass and rubbish removed Rubbish bins. Tables and seats. Gates that stop motorbikes and motorised bikes riding into and through park. Everyone knows this happens and the busier the park is an accident is more likely to happen Security cameras. Table tennis. 		

8 Do you have any other thoughts or ideas for Sandfield Reserve?

- I live in Sandfield Dve across the road from the park. Speed humps or a fence need to be installed before a child or dog are hit by a speeding car
- Give some land to Rowellyn Park Primary School. So many kids in the school and very little playground space. This would benefit the school and community greatly
- You need to add bins
- Netball rings where the basketball area is, not is very much under represented
- Creating a fence at the lower end of the park that is pet friendly to keep them enclosed within the park. Adding additional bins with dog bags and taps that are dog friendly would be great. I go to the park everyday with my dog, there is a real community there for dog owners. We are the ones who use the park the most and respect it greatly. Please keep this in mind when deciding what is best for the park and the community
- The multisports court needs soccer goals and a roof
- Fenced and floodlit street synthetic soccer pitch, same as the Dandenong pop-up park
- Parking for school pickups which will take the cars off the streets which can be dangerous for children
- Maybe also include some fun jumps or play equipment in the off leash dog area.
- Such a huge space it's let down by now having a public toilet
- Don't have a leash free dog area. You can guarantee people will assume the whole park is leash free and there's nothing worse than having dogs run up to your kids, who are nervous with dogs, when your trying to have a nice time at the playground. With some of the, less than responsible, dog owners I've seen in Carrum Downs, this is asking for an biting incident. Dogs have Banyan reserve, let the kids have somewhere safe.
- Public toilet is needed as no other reserve in this area of Carrum Downs has a public toilet eg no toilet at the Rotary Park, the park on Lyrebird has no toilet
- It needs public amenities
- It desperately needs a massive upgrade. Also there needs to be taken into consideration security features if this was to happen as the local youths like to hang there at night. We don't want them to ruin all the new equipment
- More bins and lighting and if these changes go ahead you need much more car parking or it will be a disaster in Sandfield for parking
- Secured Dog enclosure
- More lighting for the paths especially public toilets and bbq facilities so it's not only a pass through but a place to congregate and spend time
- Provide habitat boxes for local wildlife. Remove tennis wall as kids just smash glass against it. Lighting should be sensor activated so you don't contribute to light pollution for the birds & insects. Make the rest of the park outside of the dog park on leash. Don't put the playground near the school there is nowhere to park. More bins. Try to do something about the vandalism

- Seating and shade near the park entry/exit to Rowellyn Park Primary School
- Public toilets!! Nice ones!
- The park needs to remain an off leash area, I have a chihuahua & it will not be safe for her to be in a small enclosure with other big dogs. We have walked at this park 5 times a week minimum since moving here, there's a lovely group of dog walkers that nest daily to walk laps, with their dogs off leash, everyone loves it, this will be putting an end to that. Please reconsider as there is nowhere else I can walk her, she refuses to walk on a leash
- Definitely needs a public toilet particularly when a lot of kids/families use the area
- Kids signed bike track. (Eg: stop, go, give way signs)
- A community garden would be really nice
- Water play area
- Don't forget all the other Carrum Downs parks. They need upgrading too due to all the new housing being built
- More bins especially near the skate park
- Small fishing pond so families can get out in nature and enjoy quality time.
- Make the park on leash outside of the fenced in dog park.
- Please don't make the park an offleash, I've been walking my beautiful well behaved dog there everyday twice a day for 8 years. We have such a strong loyal dog group that have become a livelihood for us all. Most of us are great dog owners that do the right thing. Thankyou
- An adequate car park for both school, kinder, maternal health nurse and park is an absolute Must! There is Extremely limited park for any of these places. Especially for Rowellyn Park Primary school as the attendance number grows in the future and will only get worse. It is dangerous and buses almost have accidents because there are so many cars on the roads trying to park. Cars have accidents regularly. Police have to come and direct traffic, it's a huge issue that will end up with a dead child one day if something isn't done about it and Sandfield Park has the only space for it.
- I think the park should be off leash it is in close proximity to two educational facilities and has 2 playgrounds. Residents especially a local dog walking group have shown their lack of care for children and adults in the park. Pretending that it is the first time their dog had chased a child putting it back on leash only to be seen moments later letting the dog off the leash again. My daughter has had to leave the playground after local residents have let their off leash dog in the playground even letting it come up the equipment. The gates often don't work to the playground either.
- We would love more trees, seats, picnic/bbq areas & just general spaces we can enjoy. Gardens and trees to make it look nice would be awesome & I know my fiancé would love the oval with goal posts
- Dogs should be permitted to walk off leash also as we are one of many that has been walking our dog there with at least 20 other dogs and their owners for a very long time.

- A sculpture walk. Community art.
- In built trampolines
- Rowelyn end feels unsafe, large tree blocks view and there is a "blind spot", walking alone is a concern. If you are at the park in the evening, it feels unsafe with the large number of teenagers. Playground needs shade, and some updated equipment. I think it needs to be considered if doing all these upgrades with prevent/ limit the amount of graffiti, what will you do differently? I don't think a football oval is required, leave the open space for non specific play. There are still some incomplete paths (gravel).
- Replace current parralell parking spaces by cutting into the park and making angled parking instead
- Definately needs a toilet. It's a long walk to the shopping centre or home. Also the multi-use court needs to be a full sized basketball court, only 1 tiny group can currently use a 1/2 court. This opens it up to basketball/soccer/netball simultaneously. The court needs a low level fence of some sort around the perimeter to contain wayward balls. It also needs a simple roof, so it can be used for the 139 days a year when it rains and makes it more comfortable in the summer.
- The multi-purpose court must be full-sized complete with with basketball rings and soccer goals all contained under a roof
- Have a look at the undercover outdoor basketball court at Lighthouse Christian College in Keysborough. This would be ideal and not expensive.
- Full sized synthetic basketball court under cover for use in all conditions
- As a local resident and rate payer, I am appalled at 2 things - limiting the only decent sized offlead dog park to an area too small to exercise most dogs, whilst creating a fenced area which can lead to dog fights, as there are too many dogs in too small a space. Small, young and old dogs can't comfortably and safely be in an area, where large, boisterous dogs are playing, and it is best practice to have 2 separate fenced areas, which are clearly marked as strictly for large or small dogs, to lessen the risk of dogs being hurt or scared. Both these 2 areas should have sensory items in them - trees, water to cool off in, low ground cover greenery that is safe for dogs to smell, and their own double gated entrance point, dog poo bin and very clear signage indicating which area is for large/medium dogs, and which is for small dogs. Council should also install signage with information that assist uneducated dog owners about dog body language, appropriate play styles, when to leash their dogs (if they are being a nuisance to others), etc. Lastly well trained, less dog-social dogs should still have access to walk offlead right around the park or throw ball for them in the large grassed area, as we always have. If the fenced area is the only space, dogs like mine and many others will no longer be able to use our local reserve at all! My second issue is changing the current open grassed area into a sports field with goal posts and cutting it off from the remainder of the park. This open space has always been used for casual family and dog related activities (kids kicking footballs, dogs chasing balls, etc), and it is desperately needed to have open, well drained, grass areas for everyone to use. With every other decent sized reserve in the area used

exclusively for formal sport activities, it is simply unfair to the rest of the community, to remove the one open grassed space from being used for dog or children play. This feedback has been suggested before, and I would hope that this time, it will actually be considered!!

- Toilet block
- Definitely needs a community garden, astroturf soccer pitch and public toilet. There is currently not much on this side of Carrum Downs. All the facilities are far away on Wedge road
- The dog walking community is huge. The path around is my motivation to get up each morning and walk and socialise my dog. I do 5 laps each morning around the entire park. If we get restricted to just the pen, it won't be enough. There are not enough off lead dog areas anymore. Please do not take this away.
- Fantastic plan
- These places need to be more 'special needs' friendly
- Several toilets in different locations. More bins, regularly emptied. A youth centre that is staffed, including evenings and weekends. Great opportunity to engage with local kids.
- I would like it if the park remained an off leash park in the outer perimeters
- Toilet amenities are most definitely required
- More off leash dog play areas and socialisation for pets
- Management of dog owner responsibility of dog waste disposal especially near the school
- Can we get a roof over the skate park and basketball court and shade sails over the playgrounds, so the kids can use them all the year round.
- I would like this space to only have dogs in the fenced. As I back onto this reserve and are sick of the dog poo not being picked up in area.
- Covered and floodlit futsal court and large community garden
- We really enjoy walking in a group with our dogs off leash. This has enabled the single people who are living alone to be part of a walking community. This helped them all to maintain good mental health.
- Toilets & rubbish bins at both ends ,park is a pigsty,a disgrace &
- How about an oversize chess set. Also, I think the new skatepark is fantastic and a good place for kids and young teens to be able to congregate, they have to go somewhere and there are not enough places for them.
- Listen to the people who currently use it 7 days a week. 360 days a year. Walkers who walk their dogs off-lead (safely) and less to people who may come infrequently.
- Better signage to the reserves from other streets
- Lighting and safety
- It could be such a nice area, if people were to clean up after themselves/their dogs. It's not just on the grass either, but on the paths. If people can't be fined, perhaps some signage requesting people clean up, might help.

Email Response Summary

Response #1

I live Carrum Downs & ... about the reserve, I have 3 concerns about the proposed plan.

1. Re :EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR REMOVAL OF FENCES OR LEAVING GATES OPEN FOR COMMUNITY ACCESS

The gates & fences were brought in for protection of the neighboring streets. Sometimes people were going down at nighttime, vandalising on their way to the park. Since these gates were erected, these night incursions are rarer. Sometimes the people who open & shut the gates do forget to open them (which can be annoying for all). However all in all, the gates do serve a purpose. I know that as I bought a house so close to the reserve, that there would be some issues but the gates do keep the night issues at a minimum. Some teenagers still climb these gates but it is still fewer than without gates.

2. NORTHERN WSUD INTERVENTIONS TO TREAT SITE SURFACE WATER AND REDUCE FLOODING ALONG SCHOOL BOUNDARY

I am concerned that these alterations may help the school but cause flooding at the back of my property or next to it. It may cause water to pass through my backyard to get to Maplewood court (which is the lowest point & water flows to the lowest point). I understand the need but hope that my concerns will be addressed.

3. I am concerned that if there is a football field placed near my backyard, that the balls will come flying onto my roof & property. It will be very close to my back fence. Will there be a tall wire fence or some protection built to stop this happening?

Finally I would also hope that maybe some exercise equipment for adults could be placed in the park. Maybe they could be replaced where you are removing the junior playground. Thank you for taking my concerns.

Comments –

- Existing gates will be retained in response to community feedback.
- Any drainage improvements would ensure that neighbouring properties aren't impacted and site drainage would be directed to the drainage discharge point at Sandfield Drive.
- The 'football field' won't be used for competitive matches, it is to provide a flat open grassed area that people can play kick to kick, or throw a Frisbee, or other informal ball sports. The proposed goals are located a minimum 25m from the closest residential fence, additional tree planting to the existing pedestrian path is proposed to provide a barrier for any errant balls or other objects.
- Fitness equipment is identified in the Master Plan.

Response #2

I have reviewed the master plan for the park in Sandfield Drive and have number of concerns about this grandiose plan. Firstly, I must admit that it does look impressive but my concern is that it's too much for the area and will attract way too many people to the park causing serious parking and traffic issues. I live... (nearby) and have run my business from home since 2006 and that end of the street where the park is has always been a concern no matter which way you're travelling.

Improvements were made a few years ago when parking spots were made into the nature strip along the front of the park. This has helped along with the recent pruning of trees on the opposite side right where the road curves on the residential side. This has helped to avoid a head on collision but the risk still remains especially if there are cars parked on, or next to the nature strip blocking your view on the same side. I've had plenty of near misses because you just can't see until it's nearly too late. I feel that this major upgrade to the park will make the traffic problem far worse and a greater concern for the general public including parents picking up or dropping off their children to walk through the park too and from school, as the street gets very busy at those times.

Another concern to some of the residents I've spoken to is the fear that speed humps will be put in the street and all were crystal clear that this is NOT something they want and nor do I. Some residents in the street including myself own classic cars and we abhor them so the last thing we want is to have them in our street. The round-about at the other end of Sandfield Drive and Greenwood Drive is bad enough and should've never been put in. The other reason I'm against this is because I carry ... tools (and equipment) and work mobile... Personally I'm sick and tired of the streets being turned into obstacle courses and no regard is placed on tradesmen who have to fight these things in commercial vehicles. I had previously raised this concern about speed humps in the street at a Council meeting years ago at the Lyrebird Community Centre and made the suggestion that I feel it would be better to cut off the street at the intersection at Sandfield Drive and Woodvale Drive to vehicles and have it open to pedestrians and bike riders only. The reason why I raised this is because Sandfield Drive is too narrow for it's length. This would also effect me and was knocked back at the meeting. So my question is how will the new influx of traffic be managed? I would like to be contacted about this!

Comment -

Council is currently investigating the traffic and vehicle speeds in the vicinity of Sandfield Reserve along Sandfield Drive. In collaboration with Department of Transport, we are reviewing the speed limit to provide a safer road environment for residents, school and other road users. As part of this process, we will monitor the situation and also give consideration to further measures where appropriate, in consultation and with support from the community.

Response #3

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for taking my call and answering my concerns regarding the facilities at Sandfield Reserve. As discussed being a Mum and taking the kids out and about to the local parks there are extremely limited toilet facilities in our area of Carrum Downs so I was suggesting it would be fabulous if we could arrange for this to be looked at as part of the Sandfield Reserve upgrade.

Comment - A toilet is proposed as part of the final plan.

Response #4

I am writing to you as a resident that... I would like the reserve to be a dog off Leash park to be contained to the fenced in area only. I am aware of the people that walk their dogs daily. They have a large number of dogs that run free and I feel that it is unsafe for small children and have seen this first hand with my grandson being knocked over by one of these dogs. I am also sick of the amount of dog poo that is left around the reserve and the consistent barking of dogs. I would like to see the park used for more people than dogs.

Comment –

The future status of the reserve in relation to dogs on or off lead, will be considered as part of Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan. The community has responded positively to the recent opening of the new fenced free roam area. The Compliance and Safety Department will continue to monitor behaviours and any new community concerns or requests over the next 12 months to assess its future status as a free roam dog reserve. Any change to this status is required to be undertaken in accordance with a statutory process that allows for the community to respond.

Response #5

Hi, I live in Sandfield Drive across the road from the park. I am very concerned with the development of the park. It is only a matter of time before a child or dog is hit by a car speeding along Sandfield Drive, council must address this issue prior to any improvements.

My other concern is the park is leash free for dogs and due to this created a great community group of dog walkers. There are a lot of rumours the only area to have a dog off lease will be in the caged area, that is too small to throw a ball and walk your dog in.

There are minimal lease free parks in Carrum Downs. I would appreciate if council can promise the entire park will remain lease free, as it has been for the past 21 years when I moved here.

Comments –

The future status of the reserve in relation to dogs on or off lead, will be considered as part of Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan. The community has responded positively to the recent opening of the new fenced free roam area. The Compliance and Safety Department will continue to monitor behaviours and any new community concerns or requests over the next 12 months to assess its future status as a free roam dog reserve. Any change to this status is required to be undertaken in accordance with a statutory process that allows for the community to respond. As part of the plan a vegetated buffer is proposed along the interface with Sandfield Drive which will act as a barrier to Sandfield Drive for children and dogs.

Response #6

I am a resident living on Sandfield Drive, right across the road from the Sandfield Reserve. I am THRILLED with this submission and welcome all the changes that have been carefully thought out and put forward. I can't wait! So excited!

Thanking Frankston City Council and the Designers of this project.

Comment – Noted

Response #7

I am writing to air my disappointment on the new plans for Sandfield Reserve. I and many people have been walking our dogs daily in this off leash park and now you want us to put our dogs in an off leash area that is way too small, uneven grassed surface and not a valid option for both us and our dogs to gain exercise. We have walked many a lap around this park for many years without an issue and now we are being told if our dogs are off lead we must use the dedicated dog area.

If this is the case you will lose many local people to this park and also invite local youth to take over the area with continual bad behavior , including loud music , swearing and vandalism all of which we see at this park on a consistent basis. Also motorized bikes and mini bikes honing around tearing up the grass, of which has been reported to police on many occasions. At least with us dog walkers frequently visiting the park the kids in most cases feel obliged to behave when we are present. I do understand the need to accommodate for the youth in the area but I also firmly believe your off leash dog plan will be detrimental to this area. We need a mix of families, dog walkers and youth to enjoy this park without restriction, surely cater for the majority not the minority.

I would also encourage a toilet site and BBQ area which would certainly appeal to young families. I would really appreciate some feedback to my email.

Comments –

The future status of the reserve in relation to dogs on or off lead, will be considered as part of Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan. The community has responded positively to the recent opening of the new fenced free roam area. The Compliance and Safety Department will continue to monitor behaviours and any new community concerns or requests over the next 12 months to assess its future status as a free roam dog reserve. Any change to this status is required to be undertaken in accordance with a statutory process that allows for the community to respond.

Responses #8 & #9

Our back fence is on the Reserve where they are proposing to put the Outdoor Fitness area and lighting. This area is ... (close to) our 2 bedrooms, which we are NOT happy about. We would like to have a meeting with a member of the Planning Committee to show someone our concerns.

Since the extension of the skate ramp, we have endured many acts of vandalism including graffiti on our fence and smashed bottles and rubbish strewn through-out the park and also anti-social behavior, including loud music, screaming up to 3.00am on numerous occasions. There has also been several occasions of monkey bikes roaring around the park, we have called the Police several times to no avail. Fires have also been lit in the rubbish bins. These people that frequent the Skate Park need to be educated NOT to be FERAL. We would appreciate some correspondence as soon as possible please regarding this matter.

Comments –

- 2 new bins have been installed as part of the delivery of the Off leash dog park to help address existing waste issues. Additional bin locations have been identified as part of the Master Plan. Rubbish has been an ongoing issue at the Skate Park with bins previously being set alight near the skate park. It is recommended to trial bins that are non flammable to address the issues.
- The residents were contacted by a Council Officer and a site visit was arranged to assess the proposed location of the Outdoor Fitness area. The location has been updated in the Final Plan to be a greater distance from residential properties. Additional feedback was submitted via email based on discussions with the residents as outlined below;

Response #9

Thanks for coming out to look at our concerns. It was much appreciated. Just in regards to the gates on path ways into the reserve ,The park feels much safer with those gates shut at night. We had a very bad experience roughly 15 years ago before the gates where installed. There was a big gathering of people at the skate ramp . Short story about 1.00am a mob of these people started smashing peoples windows including ours and our neighbours .As soon as the police turned up the offenders bolted out all the court exits. I think the locked gates deter this sort of activity.

Comment -

The recommendation to review the gates has been removed from the final plan with the existing gates retained in response to community feedback.

Response #10

I have a few ideas for the Sandfield reserve upgrade :)

- Fenced in toddler area! (it can be so difficult to juggle multiple children when doing it alone. A big part of why I didn't get out much when I had baby #2 is because my toddler would run off and I couldn't keep up with him. If there could be a fenced in toddler playground/area, with access within it to some grass to sit on instead of mulch, this would be perfect for parents and children, and would help new mums venture out of the house, giving us perfect opportunities to meet other families too, which is extremely important for our mental health and well-being.
- Multiple gates for this fenced area would also be great for accessibility to different parts of the area too. Sand pit play area with an excavator and water play area. Or an area combined with the two.
- Adequate shelter for all areas! This is a must.
- Appropriate Placement of swing sets. It's not nice for children on the swing when the sun is directly in their eyes. Otherwise appropriate shelter placement for swings.
- BBQ's and undercover tables/seats
- Toilets
- If playgrounds are getting upgraded, I suggest wooden, sheltered playgrounds with safety barriers surrounding the equipment walkways so that toddlers can safely walk around and explore.
- Mini Trampolines
- Soft fall ground
- Football goals
- Cricket nets

Comment –

- BBQ and picnic facilities are proposed in the Final Plan
- The play space will be upgraded with consideration of recommendations from the Frankston Play Strategy, but a more integrated playspace is proposed as part of the plan. Draft recommendations identify Sandfield as a fenced play space with shade provided.
- Toilets are proposed in the Final Plan with the location to be determined with further investigation to available service connections.

Response #11 & #12 – The resident sent 2 responses.

We are dog owners, as well as keen and frequent users of Sandfield Reserve. I wanted to firstly applaud Frankston Council for the installation of the new dog enclosure section, the planting of new trees, improved paths and the installation of new rubbish bins and dog faeces bins. I also love your intention to enhance park amenities with improved lighting and new seating.

I would like, however, to caution Council on any proposed limitation of dog access by calls to enforce on-leash sections in the park. At 6am, for instance, the only users of the park are dog walkers. The ability of dogs to run in the section of the park closest to the school is a freedom that impinges upon no one. It would be unfairly restrictive to enforce on-leash expectations at such times.

Furthermore, while the dog enclosure is wonderful, there are occasions when more boisterous dogs are at play in both sections of the dog enclosure, and it is unfair to expect that smaller or more timid dogs have their freedoms curtailed in the rest of the park as a result of their having to avoid the dog enclosure at those times.

By and large, dog owners have demonstrated responsibility in their usage of the park. Problems have only arisen when dogs have been attracted onto the skate-park section by the rubbish and discarded food stuff that is often littered there. As well as being an eyesore, such discarded food is often dangerous for dogs, the discarded food becomes a temptation too great for even the best-behaved canines, the broken glass dangerous for young children, and the litter a turn-off for the skating area's usage by wider family groups.

There need to be more bins in the skating area. I realise that the problem has been that youths have been setting fire to the bins. However, it seems an unacceptable cop-out for the Council to simply give up and remove the bins. The month last year when the two new skating bins were temporarily in use was a brief respite during which the litter significantly decreased. The litter returned (worse, especially during the hard rubbish collection) after the bins were removed.

The simple solution would be to install brick or metallic bins. Yes, a little more expensive, but the pay-off would be the capacity to keep this wonderful park free of litter. I would also strongly suggest that further dog faeces bins need to be installed at other corners of the park. It can be clearly seen that uncollected dog droppings have diminished near the dog enclosure area (where, thankfully, three bins now do a wonderful job). However, there are still droppings closer to the school and bins at each of the far exits would encourage some of the less responsible dog owners to improve their game.

Response #12

I attended the community meeting about the park yesterday. I have already sent one email through to you on Friday evening, but I thought I might also address some of the newer issues raised at the meeting.

One attendee at the meeting advocated for angled parking along Sandfield Drive to provide more parking for visitors. As a resident of Sandfield Drive and a keen user of the park, I would like to argue strongly AGAINST angled parking. It would make the road more dangerous with drivers having to back out into oncoming traffic when leaving. Furthermore, the increase of parking would be a terrible idea because it would encourage more people to drive to the park rather than walk. I feel that we need to encourage more walking along the lovely streets of Carrum Downs, and less driving. Research also shows that car usage also tends to increase to fit the available roads and parking spaces. An increase in parking would lead to a concomitant increase in car usage along Sandfield Drive.

Mention was also made about the possibility of filling the gaps underneath the horizontal tops of the bollarded fencing along the Sandfield Drive edge of the park, in order to prevent dogs or children running onto the road. An excellent counter suggestion of increased plantation along that border was also made, and I would definitely agree that this would be an brilliant and effective innovation. One resident at the meeting spent a lot of time talking about changing the name of Carrum Downs.

While the issue of a name change was totally irrelevant to the discussion of the park, I would like to say that, if a name change does fall on the table as a result of these discussions, any change must properly incorporate respectful acknowledgement of our area's indigenous past. If the name of Carrum Downs WAS to be changed, it should be something like "Karrum Karrum" (the correct original spelling of the Europeanization of the Bunurong word for "boomerang" from which the name originated), "Dunbar" (in honour of Jimmy Dunbar, the last of the Bunurong tribe from the area, who died in 1877), or perhaps most accurately, "Bunurong Land".

Comment -

- The future status of the reserve in relation to dogs on or off lead, will be considered as part of Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan. The community has responded positively to the recent opening of the new fenced free roam area. The Compliance and Safety Department will continue to monitor behaviours and any new community concerns or requests over the next 12 months to assess its future status as a free roam dog reserve. Any change to this status is required to be undertaken in accordance with a statutory process that allows for the community to respond.
- 2 new bins have been installed as part of the delivery of the off leash dog park to help address existing waste issues. Additional bin locations have been identified as part of the Master Plan. Rubbish has been an ongoing issue at the Skate Park with bins previously being set alight near the skate park. It is recommended to trial bins that are non flammable to attempt to address the issues.

- Council is currently investigating the traffic and vehicle speeds in the vicinity of Sandfield Reserve along Sandfield Drive. In collaboration with Department of Transport, we are reviewing the speed limit to provide a safer road environment for residents, school and other road users. As part of this process, we will monitor the situation and also give consideration to further measures where appropriate, in consultation and with support from the community.

Response #13 (received via post)

I commend Frankston City Council for how the reserve has been developed over the years as well as its maintenance and upkeep. It is used and enjoyed by many people, including myself. I am also pleased to see the plans outlining further development.

However, I do have a couple of concerns.

1. PARKING

It is obviously the intention to encourage more people to use the reserve — particularly with the inclusion of a football ground. As Sandfield Drive provides the only convenient parking I question:

- whether there will be sufficient parking spaces , and
- whether extra traffic will cause safety issues in the street.

There are currently 21 parking spaces on the reserve side of the street and a smaller number on the houses side. Sandfield Drive is a fairly narrow street and if cars are parked on both sides it only leaves enough space for one lane of through traffic, causing a chicane effect. This was obviously recognized as a problem a few years ago when the parking on the reserve side of the street was upgraded and parking on the houses side was banned during school drop-off and pick-up times (8:00-9:00am and 3:00-4:00pm), the busiest times of the day. The speed limit was also reduced to 40kph.

An added complication is the fact that at both ends of the stretch of street along the reserve there are "blind" curves which become dangerous when there are cars parked on both sides of the street. I am concerned for my (and others) ability to safely exit and enter my driveway by car and to travel along Sandfield Drive during times of increased usage.

Suggestion:

Construct more parking spaces within the boundary of the reserve near Sandfield Drive.

2. HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO BUILD THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS

As Sandfield Drive is currently the only place that will allow access to semi-trailers, cement trucks, excavators and other heavy construction equipment I am not looking forward to the;

- increased traffic of large vehicles in Sandfield Drive
- increased noise from:

- cement trucks parked in the street, idling, waiting to enter the construction site,
- engine noises from large construction equipment,
- reversing 'beepers on this equipment,

If the construction of the Dog Park is any indication of the entire project, work could go on for years, The Dog Park was started before Christmas and is still not open to the public. I am now retired and home most days I do not presume to speak on behalf of my neighbors or any other residents impacted by the project, Whilst I appreciate that the development of Sandfield Reserve is for the benefit of many people, I am also aware of the potential for it to impact some aspects of my (and others) quality of life.

Comment -

FOOTBALL GROUND AND CAR PARKING

Regarding your query on the “football ground” and car parking, Council are not proposing that this reserve will be used for competitive football matches, it is more to provide a level grassed area for informal ball sports or “kick about space” for the adjacent school as well as the broader community. It will provide a space to allow users an open space to play kick to kick, throw a ball or a frisbee and we don’t anticipate an expanded need for additional car parking.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO BUILD THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Regarding your query on the time for implementation of the new developments, once the Master Plan is finalised and endorsed by Council, this will allow Council to develop a plan and recommendations for the implementation and timing of the various elements. This will be programmed into our Long Term Infrastructure Plan and influenced by available budgets and the broader Capital Works Program. The endorsed Masterplan will allow Council to advocate for additional external funding to assist in the delivery of these projects.

Youth Consultation Summary with the WHAT Bus

Consultation was undertaken on Thursday 20 May from 3:30pm to 4:30 pm at the Sandfield Skate park with the Youth Services WHAT Bus. A number of local Youth were in attendance to provide feedback with feedback focusing on the existing Skate Park.

Youth requests:

- Lights to be installed at the Skate Park to extend the usage of the space
- Bins and toilet facilities
 - Currently have to use the local McDonalds toilet facilities
 - Youth Services were picking up litter while on site due to lack of bins in this area
- Skate Park
 - Skate park was designed by one person with a particular focus so there can be more additions to provide a better spread of Skate activities and graduation of skill levels, existing bowls & ramps are steep providing for advanced skaters but there could be mellower ramps/bowls for skill graduation and to accommodate different skate styles.
 - Youth who designed the new space aren't as involved in the space anymore as they are older and have entered the workforce.
 - The coping of the new skate park is very proud, inhibiting ability to do tricks, the rail profile of the old ramp is a better profile, more flush.
 - Bigger areas for fly-out tricks, current edges don't allow a big enough area for flyout tricks and allow for people to stand and watch/wait.
 - Want rails/ street skating zone to provide a diversity of skate opportunities - Grind box, stair set, ledges etc.
 - Want half pipe/mini ramp
 - Only one way through the old skate facilities - opportunity to infill the existing grass area to provide additional ways through the space and reduce the banking up of skaters.
 - Extend the skatepark so one of the new ramps is usable - currently top of the ramp launches onto lawn
 - Bairnsdale Skate Park has a good street section and small skatable features with unique shapes
 - Desire for skate competitions at the Park with prizes for the skaters, could potentially have guest skaters & demonstration events.
 - Highpoint Skate park has some good rails & street section
 - Skate Park - Request for Pump track at Sandfield Reserve
 - Feedback from Youth Services that Frankston North Skate Park isn't very popular with the Youth.

Comments – The opportunity to extend the skate park and provide a greater range of skate experiences has been identified in the Final Master Plan.

Trader Feedback

I just wanted to quickly touch base with you to offer some feedback regarding the Do It Outdoors weekend and our experience at Sandfield Reserve in particular. We found the park to be just wonderful and once the new landscaping is all complete it's going to just shine. Our personal experience regarding sales and impressions were overall quite positive. Our sales were promising and could easily be quite profitable with regular attendance and advertising.

Feedback from the locals was unanimous. The vast majority of patrons asked us questions relating to our continued attendance and stated how beneficial they felt it would be to have something like our van as a regular fixture in the reserve.

Comment

It is recommended that Sandfield Reserve is endorsed as part of the CAPOS Program to allow traders to operate at Sandfield Reserve and provide for the local community and help activate the park.