

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF SOLDIERS RESERVE & THE COLLEGE ROAD PRECINCT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



November 2023

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this project was to seek community feedback in relation to the Soldiers Reserve and College Road precinct to help shape the future development of the precinct.

Community Consultation was open from 5 September – 2 October 2022 which highlighted a range of issues and opportunities for Council to consider, including:

- Usage and participation
- Quality of facilities
- Condition of assets
- Desired reserve Improvements

This report provides a summary of the consultation process and feedback received.



METHODOLOGY:

The below table outlines the various methods and techniques used to engage with the community.

Community engagement activities / tools	
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged
Project page on The Loop	2,079 page views 1,780 total visitors to the page
Online survey	94 surveys completed
Community drop in session	Session for local community members - Sunday 11 September 2022
Additional engagement	<p>Direct consultation conducted with user groups of the Soldiers Reserve and College Road precinct, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Werribee District Football Club • Werribee Cricket Club • Werribee Junior Cricket Club • St Johns Ambulance (Wyndham Division) • 1st Werribee Scouts • Werribee Guides • College Road Kindergarten

Communications / marketing activities		
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged	Dates
Online promotion (Facebook, website etc)	Targeted promotion with local community members	September – October 2022
Other Engagement	Meetings held with the Soldiers Reserve user groups, as highlighted above.	31 August 2022 30 September 2022 (In person meetings)

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK:

The following feedback will help to shape the future development of the Soldiers Reserve and College Road Precinct:

We Asked	You Said	We did
How often do you or your family visit the reserve?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I don't use the reserve 2. 2 – 4 times a week 3. Weekly 4. Monthly 5. A few times a year 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 15 respondents 2. 45 respondents 3. 22 respondents 4. 5 respondents 5. 10 respondents <p>This data shows most respondents utilise the reserve 2 – 4 times per week.</p>
Why don't you use Soldiers Reserve?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not interested 2. No time – too busy 3. Nothing for me to do 4. Lack of Seating and tables 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1 respondent 2. 1 respondent 3. 6 respondents 4. 1 respondent <p>This data shows a low percentage of respondents don't utilise the reserve because there is nothing that interests them.</p>
What do you mainly use soldiers reserve for?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Play Sport (Club member) 2. Play casual sport/ball games 3. Walk the dog 4. Personal exercise 5. Watch sport/activities – 6. Sit and Relax 7. Use the playground 8. Use the BBQ area 9. Visit the Kindergarten 10. Visit the Scout Hall 11. Visit St Johns Ambulance 12. Other 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 52 respondents 2. 32 respondents 3. 29 respondents 4. 42 respondents 5. 38 respondents 6. 10 respondents 7. 32 respondents 8. 2 respondents 9. 10 respondents 10. 3 respondents 11. No respondents 12. Use the toilets <p>This data shows the main visitation to the reserve is to play sport (club/casual), walk the dog, exercise, and use the play space.</p>

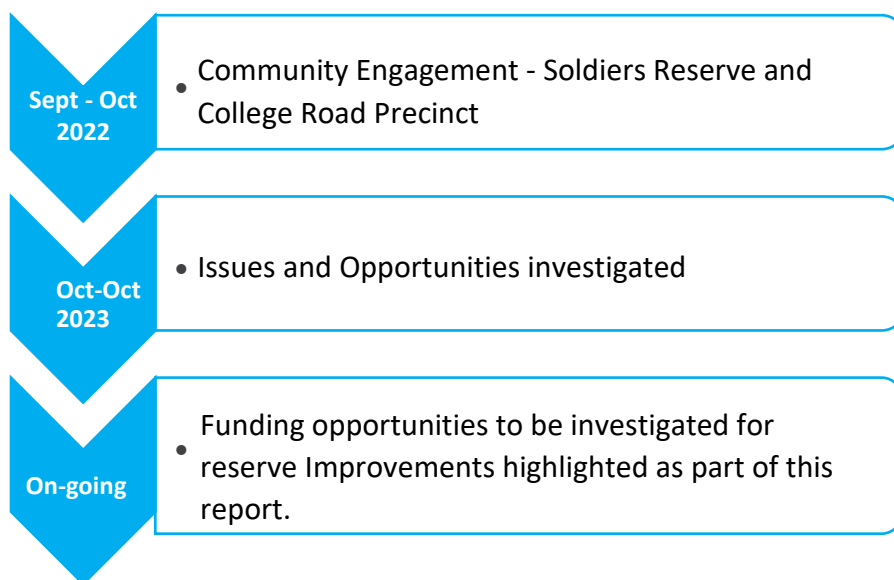
We Asked	You Said	We did
How do you rate the general quality/condition of the facilities at Soldiers Reserve? (1 – 5)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Path and lighting 2. Oval surface 3. Public Toilets 4. Shade 5. Seating 6. Playground 7. BBQ area 8. Landscaping 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Average 2.5 2. Average 2.5 3. Average 2 4. Average 2 5. Average 2 6. Average 2.5 7. Average 2 8. Average 2 <p>Respondents rated each item between 1 (being worst) and 5 (being best). An average score has been taken from all respondents.</p> <p>This data shows the condition of the reserve is deteriorating with an average score of 2/2.5 for all items.</p> <p>Condition of these items is being monitored regularly and are included in Council's Asset Renewal plan.</p>
Overall, what do you like about Soldiers Reserve?	<p>Key themes from responses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Good location 2. Facilities available (diversity) 3. Playground 4. Sports Club 5. Cypress Trees/Established trees 6. Available to junior sport 7. Good parking 9. Enclosed oval 	All these items will be maintained within the precinct.
Overall, what do you like least about Soldiers Reserve?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Playground/seating/landscaping 2. Lack of shade/lighting 3. No sitting/shaded area in the reserve 4. Facilities need to be upgraded (too small/dated). 5. Toilets 6. The oval 7. Car Park 8. Feels crowded. 9. Lighting needs to be fixed/upgraded 10. Public toilets need to be improved 11. Grass gets muddy and slippery during winter 	These items will be taken into consideration either through Council's Asset Renewal planning process or a general Open Space renewal project, including the play space and surrounding areas.

We Asked	You Said	We did
Overall, what do you like least about Soldiers Reserve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Playground/seating/landscaping 13. Lack of shade/lighting 14. No sitting/shaded area in the reserve 15. Facilities need to be upgraded (too small/dated). 16. Toilets 17. The oval 18. Car Park 19. Feels crowded. 20. Lighting needs to be fixed/upgraded 21. Public toilets need to be improved 22. Grass gets muddy and slippery during winter 	These items will be taken into consideration either through Council's Asset Renewal planning process or a general Open Space renewal project, including the play space and surrounding areas.
Are there any improvements you would like to see at Soldiers Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More shade 2. More seating 3. Upgraded playground/BBQ 4. Active recreation equipment 5. More car parking 6. More tree planting 7. Rationalise the buildings 8. Other – Upgraded pavilion/oval, bins, basketball court. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 60 respondents 2. 73 respondents 3. 40 respondents 4. 39 respondents 5. 25 respondents 6. 34 respondents 7. 38 respondents <p>This data will be utilised to shape future upgrades of the reserve.</p>

NEXT STEPS:

- Council will use the feedback received in this consultation process to further investigate areas for improvement via scoping and securing funding to support the delivery of the improvements listed in this report.
- When funding is secured to deliver reserve and precinct improvements, a project specific community engagement processes will occur.
- For further information, please contact Council's Recreation Strategy, Planning & Projects Team on – 1300 023 411 or recreationstrategy@wyndham.vic.gov.au.

STAGES OF THE PROJECT



*Note – This engagement process has been complete. A separate targeted engagement processes will be undertaken for specific projects highlighted as part of this process once funding is secured.

HOW CAN PARTICIPANTS STAY INVOLVED/INFORMED?

Participants can stay informed by visiting the Loop page and selecting to “Follow” the project. Updates will be posted on The Loop and the project timeline will be updated to reflect project status.

Participants can also stay informed with updates available on Council's Capital Works Dashboard www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/capitalworksdashboard