

Mitchell Street Reserve Community Engagement Findings

November/ December 2025

1. Introduction

The City of Marion is planning an upgrade to Mitchell Street Reserve in Seaview Downs. The reserve currently has seating, biodiversity plantings and an irrigation system (upgraded in 2020).

This consultation was undertaken to consider what other improvements are needed at the site, with a range of both active and passive options presented to the community for feedback. Some of the ideas to create an inviting open space included:

- Nature play or
- Dog-friendly features such as a drinking fountain with a water bowl or
- Shelter or
- Seating or
- A basketball practice court with netball goals

While the ideas presented by Council reflected a range of possibilities, it was also understood by the community that not all suggestions could be included due to budget limitations.

This report summarises the outcomes of the community consultation and next steps for the project.

2. Consultation Program

The community engagement was undertaken over four weeks from 13 October – 9 November 2025. It included:

- An information postcard sent to households within a 400m^2 radius from the reserve (Attachment 3)
- Information on the Making Marion website
- An online survey
- Facebook posts
- Onsite signage
- Community drop-in session on 28 October 2025 (4-6pm)

3. Consultation Overview

During the consultation period we received:

- 184 visits to the Making Marion page
- 231 views
- 11 followers
- 49 survey responses
- Approximately 30 people attended the community drop in session

4. Consultation Findings

Key findings from the consultation included:

- 49 survey responses received, 30 attendees at the drop-in session.
- The majority of the respondents visit the reserve weekly.
- Main uses: (1) dog walking/pet exercise, (2) walking/running and (3) informal play.
- Reasons people are not using the reserve: (1) limited equipment/ activities, (2) turf quality and (3) limited seating.

Preferred active recreation options:

- Nature play (27 responses / 55%)
- Dog friendly facilities (16 responses / 33%)
- Basketball practise court with netball goals (16 responses / 33%)

Preferred passive recreation options:

- Shelter (29 responses / 59%)
- Picnic setting (18 responses / 37%)
- Improved look and feel of grass (13 responses / 27%)

Other comments we received included requests for a playground (10 comments), nature play (5 comments) and turf improvements (5 comments).

Tree Removal

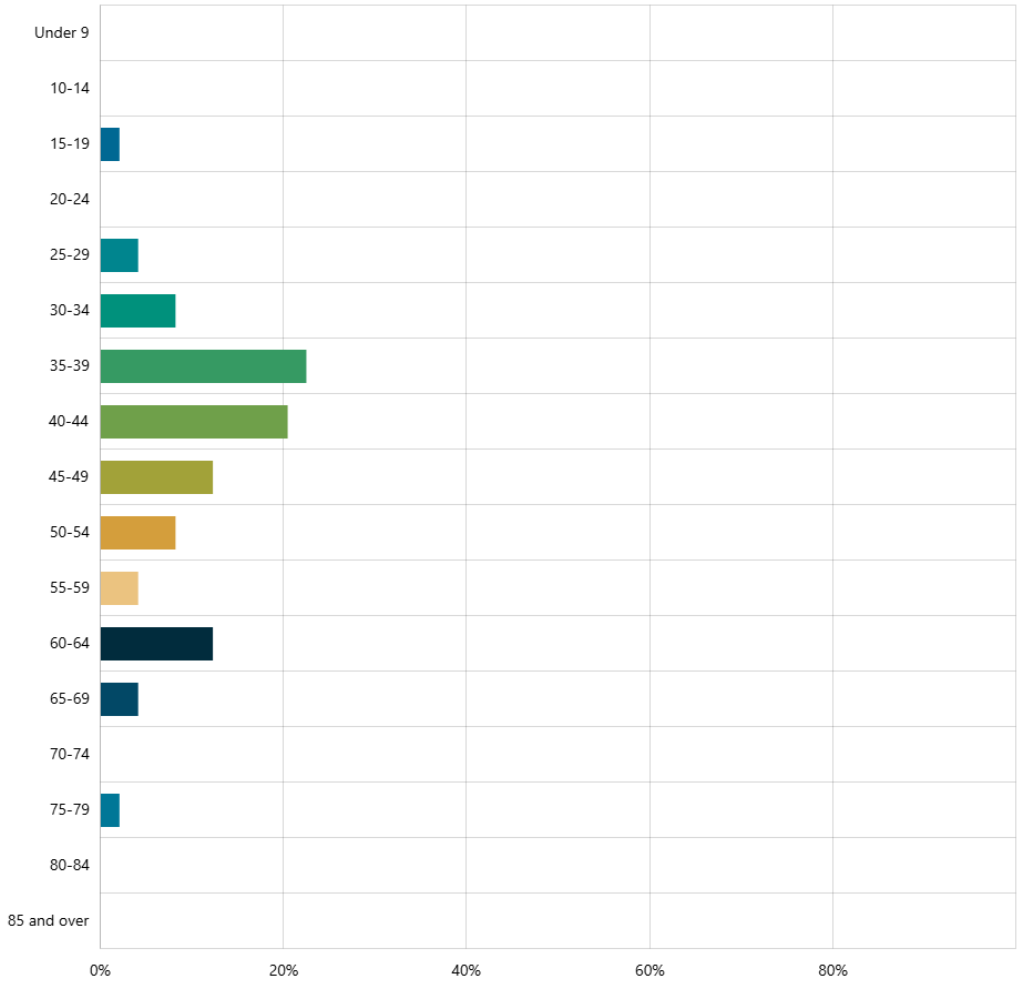
As part of the consultation, information was provided about the removal of several weedy trees within the reserve. No opposition to the proposed removals was received during engagement. The removal works are scheduled for this financial year. A notice of works will be issued to nearby residents prior to commencement.

Based on this data, a concept plan has been developed which includes nature play, a new shelter, seating, dog friendly improvements such as pathway improvements, drinking fountain with dog bowl and turf improvements. Unfortunately, a basketball court is unable to be provided due to budget limitations. The closest basketball court to the reserve is Gully Road Reserve (approximately 500m from Mitchell Street Reserve).

5. Survey Results

1. Who did we hear from?

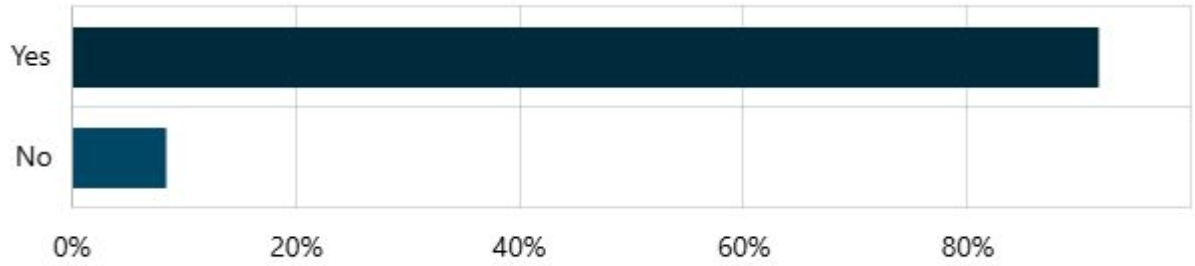
We received 49 survey responses. The majority of respondents were aged 35-39 years old (11 respondents / 23%), followed by 40-44 years old (10 respondents / 20%).



Age Group	Number	Percentage
15-19	1	2%
25-29	2	4%
30-34	4	8%
35-39	11	23%
40-44	10	20%
45-49	6	12%
50-54	4	8%
55-59	2	4%
60-64	6	12%
65-69	2	4%
75-79	1	2%

2. Do they want to be kept up to date on the consultation outcomes?

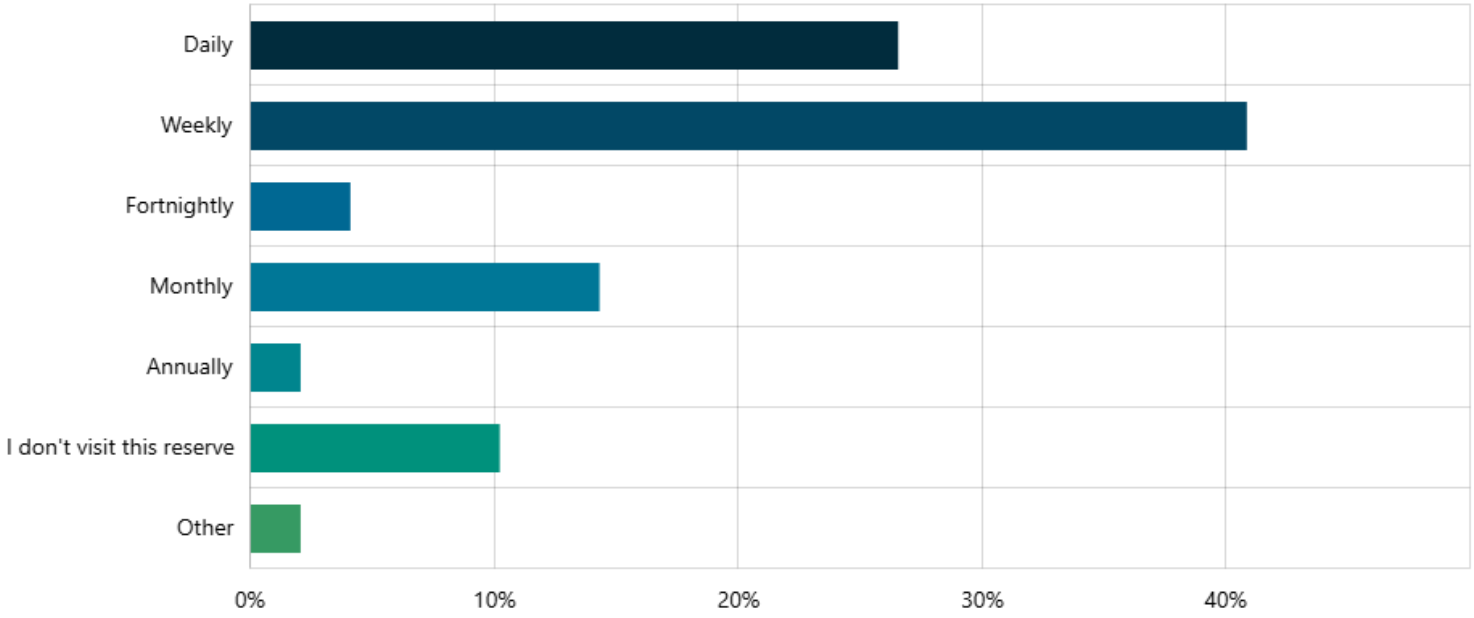
92% (44 respondents) would like to be kept up to date on the outcomes of the consultation. 8% (4 respondents) do not want to be kept up to date.



Option	Number	%
Yes	44	92%
No	4	8%

3. How often do people visit Mitchell Street Reserve?

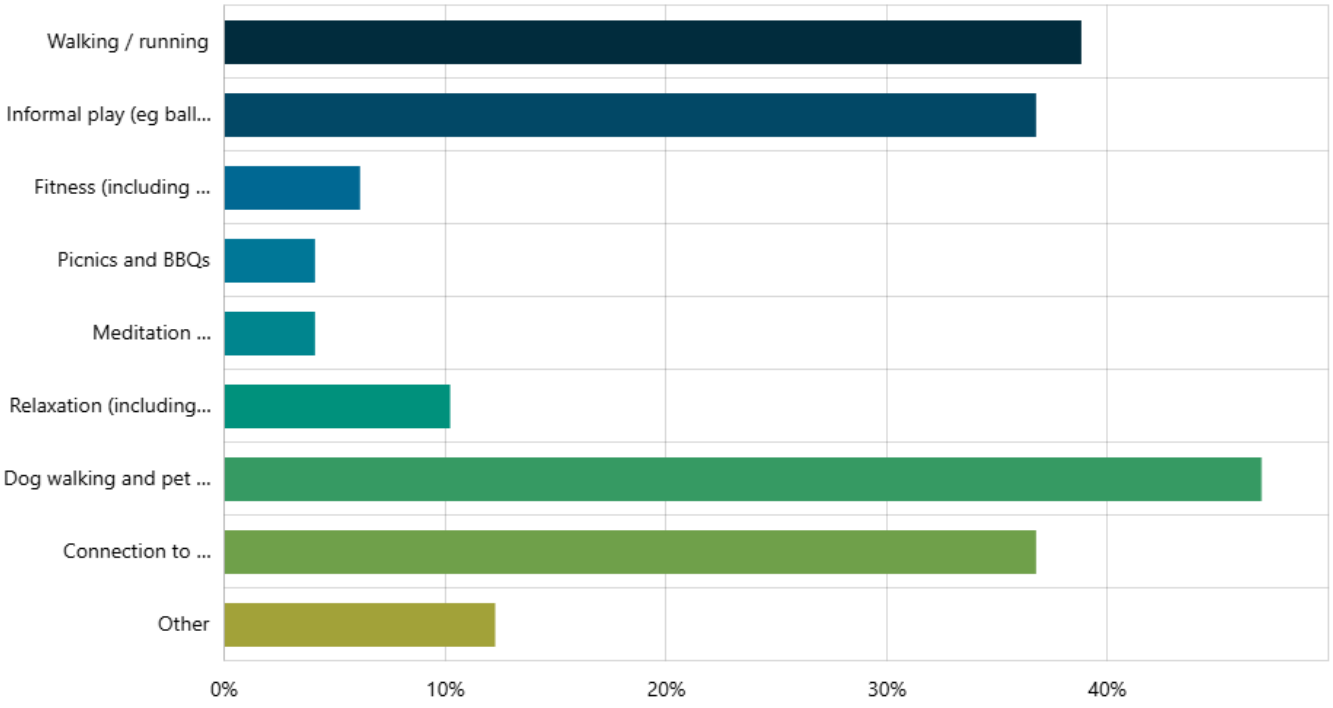
Most people visit the reserve weekly (20 responses / 41%), followed by daily (13 responses / 27%)



How Often?	Number	%
Daily	13	27%
Weekly	20	41%
Fortnightly	2	4%
Monthly	7	14%
Annually	1	2%
I don't visit this reserve	5	10%
Other – (response included “only when family visit”)	1	2%

4. How do people currently use the reserve?

The majority (23 responses / 47%) use the reserve for dog walking and pet exercise. Other popular uses include walking / running (19 responses / 39%), informal play (18 responses / 37%) and connection to nature and green space (18 responses / 12%).

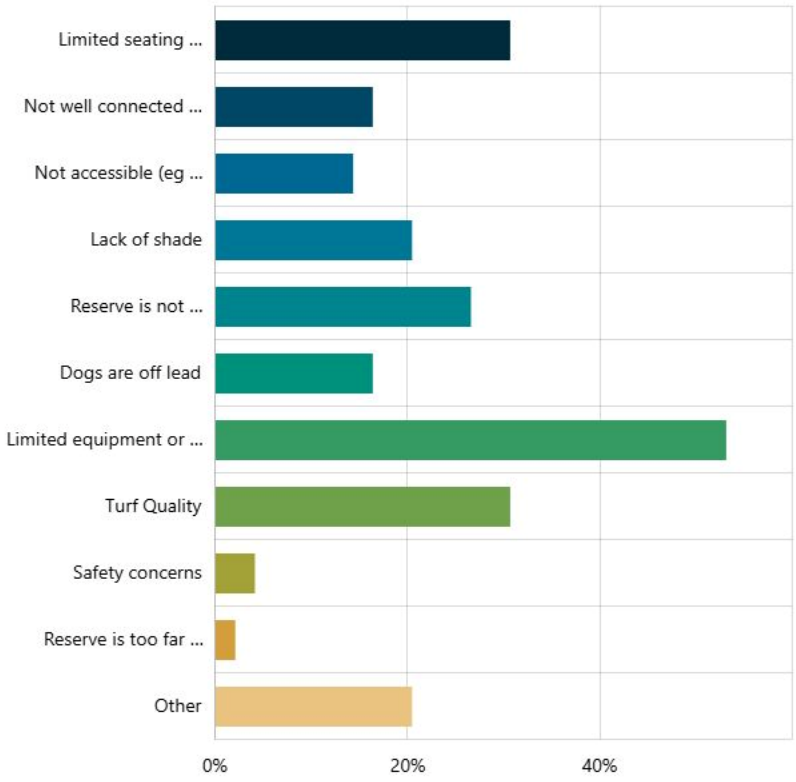


Activity	Number	%
Dog walking and pet exercise	23	47%
Walking / running	19	39%
Informal play (eg ball games, cricket, football, frisbee)	18	37%
Connection to nature and green space	18	37%
Relaxation (including reading)	5	10%
Fitness (including fitness groups)	3	6%
Picnics and BBQs	2	4%
Meditation (including yoga)	2	4%
Other*	6	12%

Other* comments included: “running around with toddlers”(1 comment), “don’t use it - it is not accessible” (2 comments), “I have a big garden so no need to use it” (1 comment), “Don’t use it” (2 comments).

5. Why don’t people use the reserve?

The key reasons that people do not use the reserve include limited equipment or activities provided within the reserve (26 responses / 53%), turf quality (15 responses / 31%), limited seating in the reserve (15 responses / 31%), reserve is not visually appealing (13 responses / 27%) and lack of shade (10 responses / 20%).

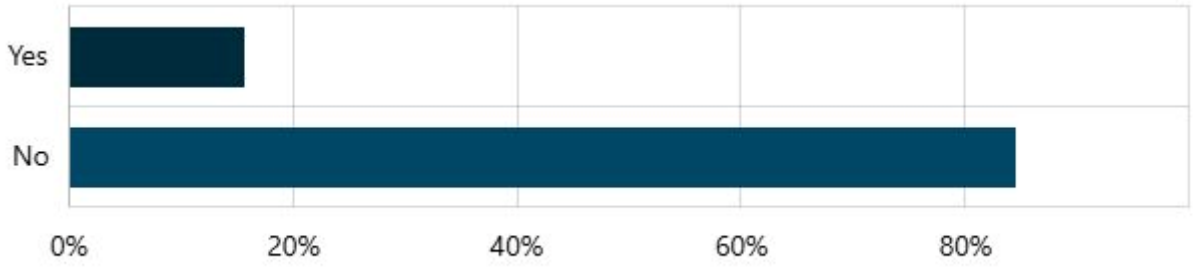


Reason	Number	%
Limited equipment or activities provided within the reserve	26	53%
Limited seating within the reserve	15	31%
Turf quality	15	31%
Reserve is not visually appealing / or well maintained	13	27%
Lack of shade	10	20%
Not well connected with pathways / footpaths	8	16%
Dogs are off lead	8	16%
Not accessible (eg for prams, wheelchairs)	7	14%
Safety concerns	2	4%
Reserve is too far from home	1	2%
Other*	10	20%

Other* comments included “boring” (1 comment), “no drink fountain/dog bowl” (2 comments), “don’t use the reserve” (5 comments), “nothing appealing about the reserve” (1 comment), “no playground or toilet” (1 comment).

6. Do people use the sport equipment in the existing toy box?

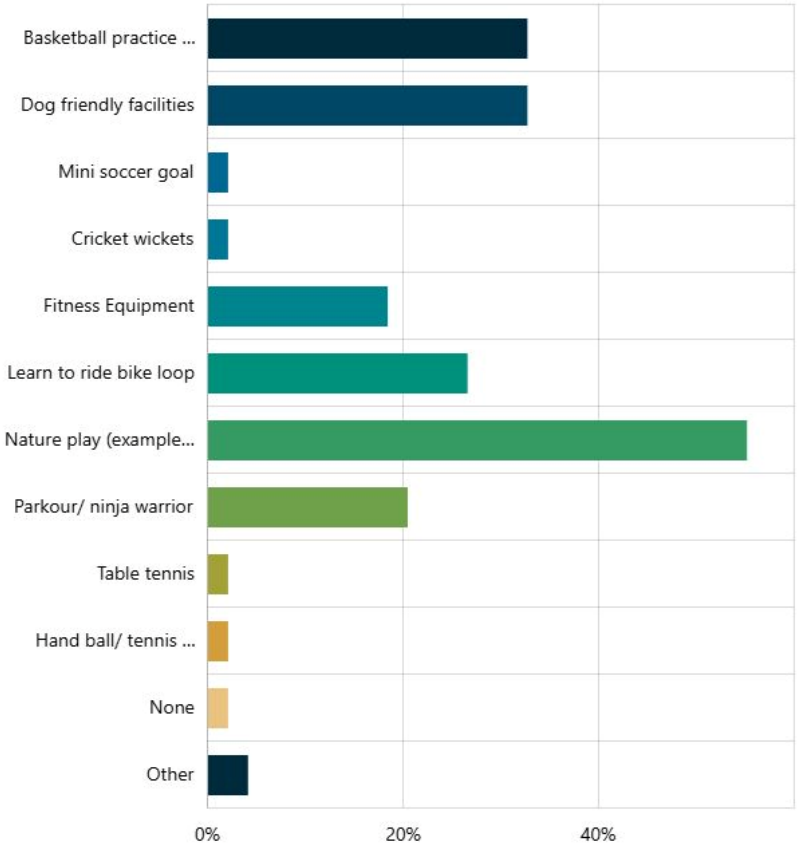
Most respondents are not using the sports equipment (38 people / 84%). However, there are some residents that do use the equipment (7 respondents / 16%).



Option	Number	%
No	38	84%
Yes	7	16%

7. What are the top active recreation options for the reserve?

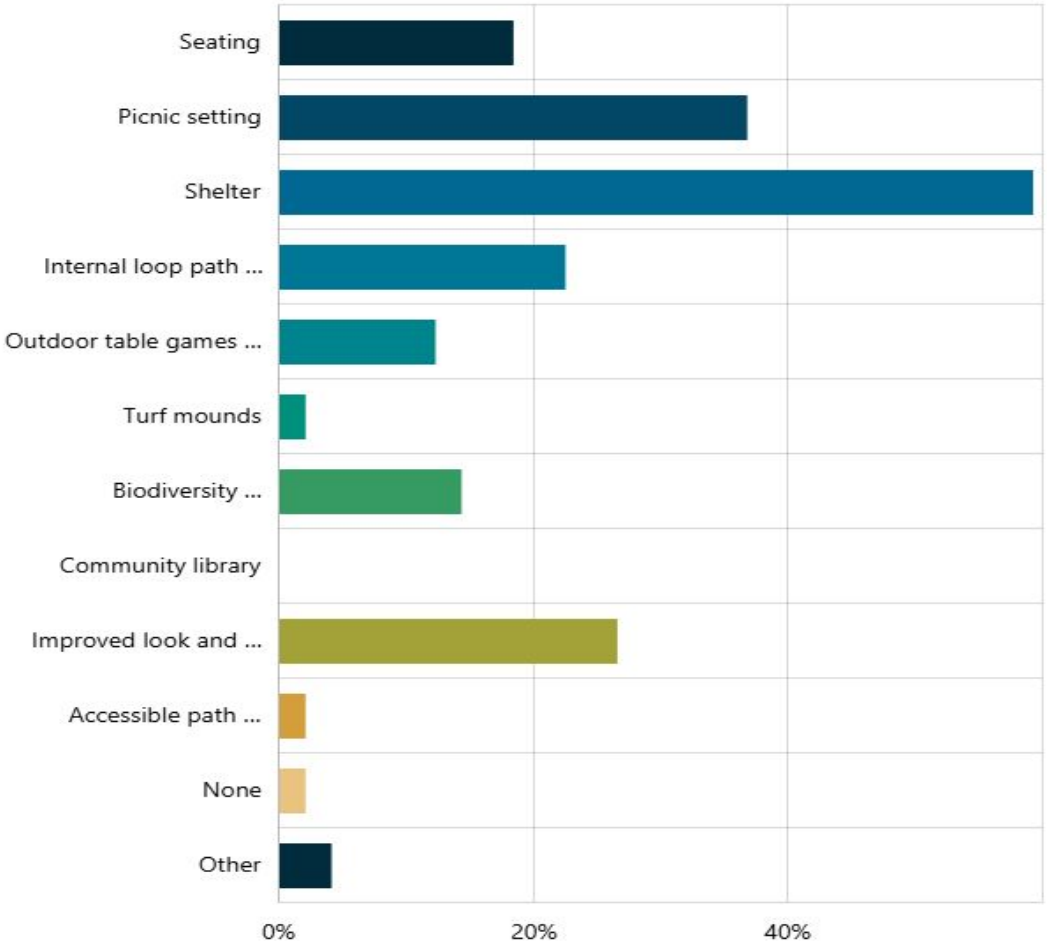
The top active recreation options that respondents would like within the reserve include nature play (27 responses / 55%), dog friendly facilities (16 responses / 33%), basketball practise court with netball goals (16 responses / 33%) and learn to ride bike loop (13 responses / 27%).



Active Recreation Option	Number	%
Nature play (example - rock and log steppers, balance beam)	27	55%
Dog friendly facilities	16	33%
Basketball practice court with netball goals	16	33%
Learn to ride bike loop	13	27%
Parkour/ ninja warrior	10	20%
Fitness equipment	9	18%
Mini soccer goal	1	2%
Cricket wickets	1	2%
Table tennis	1	2%
Hand ball/ tennis practice wall	1	2%
None	1	2%
Other (responses included “fenced dog park” and “playground”)	2	4%

8. What are the top passive recreation options for the reserve?

The top passive recreation options that respondents would like within the reserve include shelter (29 responses / 59%), picnic setting (18 responses / 37%), improved look and feel of grass (13 responses / 27%) and internal loop path (11 responses / 22%).



Passive Recreation Option	Number	%
Shelter	29	59%
Picnic setting	18	37%
Improved look and feel of grass	13	27%
Internal loop path (for walking / dog walking)	11	22%
Seating	9	18%
Biodiversity enhancements (insect hotels / butterfly gardens)	7	14%
Outdoor table games (chess / snakes and ladders)	6	12%
Turf mounds	1	2%
Accessible path connections	1	2%
None	1	2%
Community library	0	0%
Other (comments included “BBQ with picnic table” and “toilet”)	2	4%

13. Any other comments or ideas?

The most popular comments to this question (in order of preference).

We would like:

- A playground (**10 comments)**
- Nature play **(5 comments**)
- Turf improvements (**5 comments**)
- Bike paths / loop (**5 comments**)
- Fenced dog area (4 comments)
- A multi-sports area (eg basketball, cricket, soccer and parkour) – 4 comments
- Improvements for families (4 comments)
- Toilet (4 comments)

Other feedback

We would like:

- A community garden (3 comments)
- BBQ and shelter (3 comments)
- Fenced playground (2 comments)
- Seating (2 comments)
- Dog friendly improvements (1 comment)
- AFL goals (1 comment)
- Dog bags (1 comment)
- Rubbish bins (1 comment)
- Accessible playground / pathways (for wheelchairs) – (1 comment)
- Butterfly garden (1 comment)
- Fitness equipment (1 comment)
- Turf mounds (1 comment)
- Shade (1 comment)

Other general comments include:

- Thank you (2 comments)
- Leave as it is for informal use (walking, dog exercise, ball games)- (2 comments)
- No basketball (1 comment)
- No dog park (1 comment)

6. Onsite Consultation – Community Drop In Session

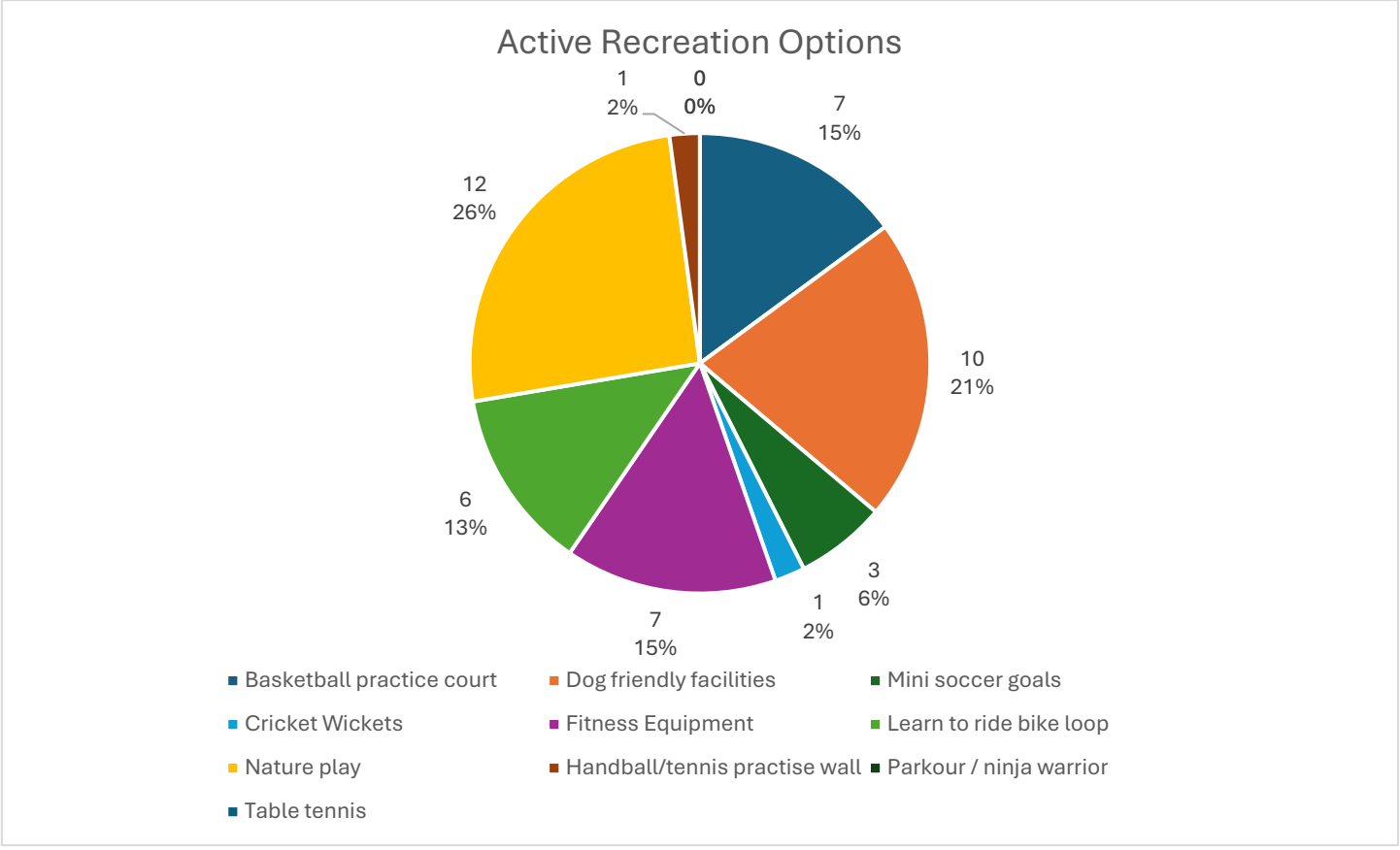
All local residents within 400m of the reserve were invited to an onsite consultation session held on 28 October 2025 at 4-6pm. At the session a copy of the active and passive recreation options was on display for resident and community feedback, and there were various activities to gather feedback from all ages, including children. Approximately 30 attended the session. The feedback included:

Active and Passive Recreation Preferences

An activity was held at the onsite session where staff invited the community and residents to select their preferred improvements from the choices on the boards. Refer to Attachment 5 & 6 to view the consultation activity.

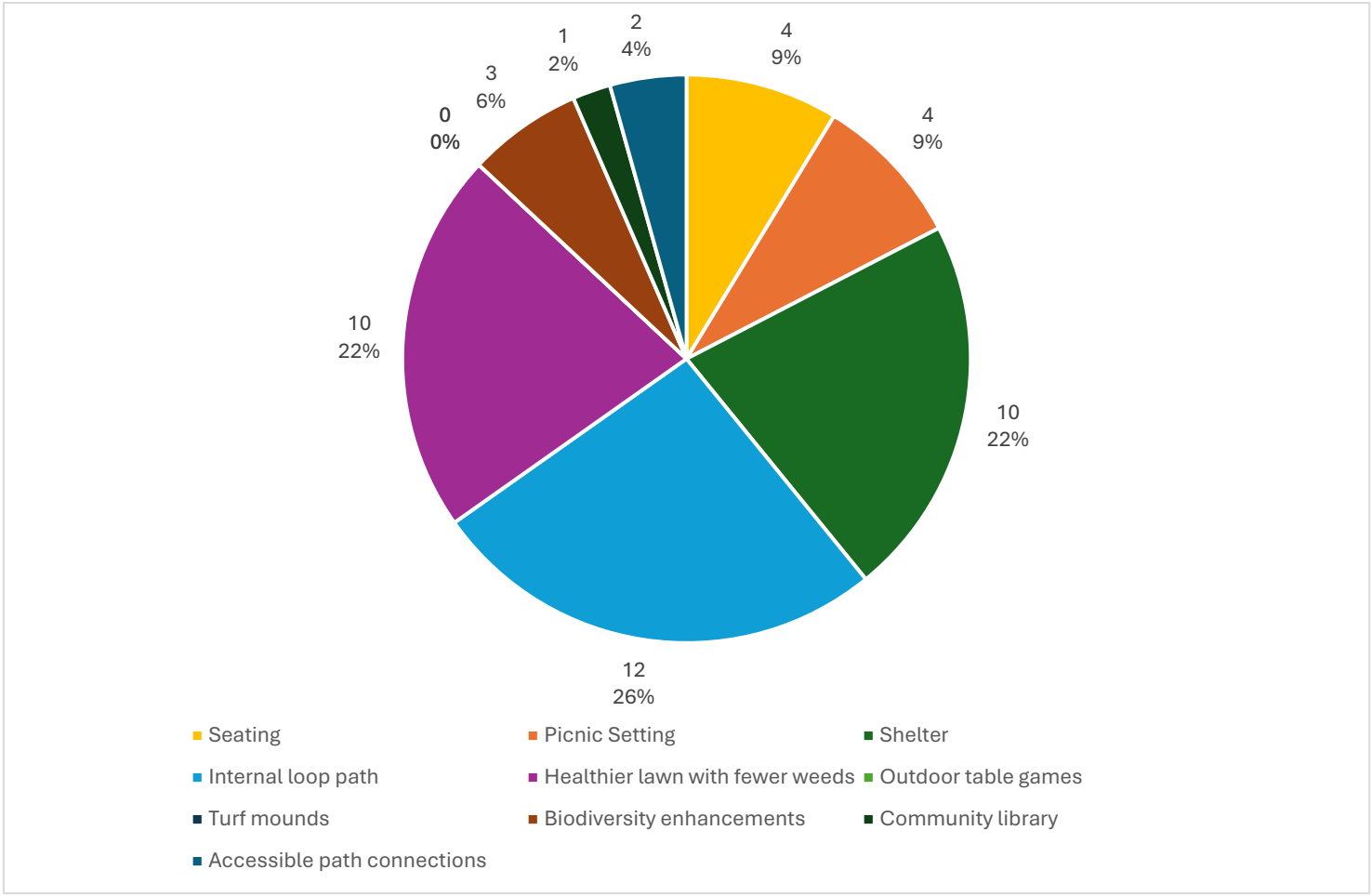
Active Recreation

The most popular active recreation choice was nature play (12 votes, 26%), followed by dog friendly facilities (10 votes, 21%) and basketball practice court with netball goals (7 votes, 15%). See data below:



Passive Recreation

The most popular passive recreation choice was internal loop path (12 votes, 26%), followed by shelter (10 votes, 22%) and healthier lawn with fewer weeds (10 votes, 22%). See data below:



7. Design Response

A design response has been provided to address comments in the survey and expressed at the onsite community drop in session:

Comment	Responses (no)	Our Response
Would like a playground An accessible playground and pathways Fenced playground	10 1 2	A playground will not be installed within the reserve. The City of Marion Open Space Service Levels allows for "playgrounds to be provided within walking distance (approximately 500m or averaging provision of one playground for every 1,000 residents), where possible." There are three playgrounds in close proximity to Mitchell Street Reserve, including: • Gully Road Reserve, Seaview Downs (approx. 500 metres) • Cadell Street Reserve, Seaview Downs (approx. 400 metres) • Susan Grace Benney Reserve (approx. 400 metres) There are no plans to provide a playground at Mitchell Street Reserve in the future.
The turf needs improvement	5	The existing turf is irrigated and we plan to include turf remediation works such as aeration, fertilising, and broad leaf control as part of the upgrade (subject to budget).
Would like nature play in the reserve	5	Nature play is a popular option that the community strongly support in the survey. As a result, nature play will be included within this site. Please refer to the final Concept Plan for details.
Would like a bike path	5	An unsealed pathway has been included as part of the design linking Davenport Terrace to Mitchell Street, along the northern perimeter of the reserve. This pathway will be suitable for walking and recreational/children's bike riding.
Need improvements for families	4	The final concept plan has a focus on family friendly improvements including nature play, pathways, shelter, seating and turf improvements to ensure the reserve is suitable for ball sports, dog walking and family activities such as picnics.
A multi sport area would be good (basketball, cricket and soccer)	4	The concept plan includes turf improvement works to support casual sporting activities such as informal cricket and soccer in the park. A basketball court was considered for this site, however a number of other choices were more popular in the community consultation (survey) including nature play, dog friendly facilities, shelter and picnic setting. While basketball also had many votes, we are unable to include all options within the reserve due to budget limitations. The closest basketball court is Gully Road Reserve (approximately 500m from Mitchell Street Reserve).

Would like a fenced dog park	4	Dog friendly improvements including paths, turf remediation and a drinking fountain with a dog bowl is planned for this site. There are no plans to include a fenced dog park. The closest dog park is Reserve Street Reserve in Trott Park (City of Marion) and Dover Square Reserve in South Brighton (City of Holdfast Bay).
Site needs a toilet	4	Mitchell Street Reserve is a local level park. The service levels in the City of Marion Open Space Plan 2024-2034 which was endorsed by Council states that toilets are only considered in neighbourhood and regional level parks. The closest public toilet is at Gully Road Reserve (500m from Mitchell Street Reserve).
Site needs a BBQ and shelter	3	A new shelter has been included in the plans for the site. As the reserve is a local level park, a BBQ has not been included. A BBQ is above the service level for this reserve, as this facility is usually provided in neighbourhood and regional reserves only.
Would like a community garden	3	The closest community garden isMarino Community Garden, Marino. . These gardens are community initiatives, and require an application process and have a number requirements that need to be met to establish, develop and maintain. For further information on community gardens visit: www.marion.sa.gov.au and see the “community garden” page. There are no current plans for a community garden at this site.
Leave site as it is for informal use	2	Thank you for your comment. The improvements in the Concept Plan will enhance the reserve, while still allowing for informal use including walking, dog exercise, relaxation, and ball games.
Include additional seating	2	Additional seating will be included. Please refer to the Concept Plan.
Please consider: • AFL Goals • Dog poo bags • Rubbish bins • Butterfly garden • Fitness equipment • Turf mounds • Shade	1 response to each	• Unfortunately, the site is not large enough to safely accommodate football goals, as this would likely result in balls entering neighbouring properties or the roadway. • Dog poo bags will be included at the site. • The location of the existing rubbish bin, and consideration as to whether further bins are required will be considered in the detailed design phase for this project. • Butterfly attracting plants will be included as part of the natural landscaping of this site. • Fitness equipment only received 9 votes in the survey and due to budget limitations we are unable to provide at this site. The closest fitness equipment is at Gully Road and Cadell Street Reserve (both within 500m of Mitchell Street). • Turf mounds only received 1 vote in the survey and therefore will not be included.

		• Increased tree planting and a new shelter included for additional shade.
Don't want: • Dog park • Basketball court	1 response to each	Noted. A dog park and basketball court is not planned for this site. Please see Concept Plan for more information on improvements.
Thank you for upgrading the reserve / consulting with the community	2	Thank you for your feedback.

8. Next Steps

We thank all that provided their feedback and participated in the engagement process. The feedback has been used to develop a concept plan for Mitchell Street Reserve (refer to Attachment 4). This is now available for community information. Next steps include progressing to detailed design (to be completed by May 2026). Tender and construction is anticipated for the 2026/27 financial year.

9. Project Updates

Project updates will be provided through the Mitchell Street Reserve page on the City of Marion website and Making Marion webpage.

Attachment 1 – Active Recreation Options

Mitchell St Reserve- ACTIVE Recreation Options

Select 2 ACTIVE recreation options that you would like to see in the reserve

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Basketball practice court with netball goal



Dog friendly facilities



Mini soccer goals



Cricket wickets



Fitness equipment



Learn to ride bike loop



Nature play



Parkour/ Ninja warrior



Table tennis



Handball/ tennis practice wall

*Images are for illustrative purposes only. Final selections may differ from those shown.

Attachment 2 - Passive Recreation Options



Seating



Picnic setting



Shelter



Internal loop path (for walking/ dog walking)



Outdoor table games (Chess/snakes & ladders)



Turf mounds



Biodiversity enhancements (Insect hotels/ butterfly gardens)



Community library



Improved look and feel of grass



Accessible path connections

*Images are for illustrative purposes only. Final selections may differ from those shown.

Attachment 3 – Community Postcard

Mitchell Street Reserve upgrade

The City of Marion is planning an upgrade to the open space at Mitchell Street Reserve and we want your input to help shape the concept plan.

Come along to a drop in session and tell us what you think:
Tuesday 28 October from 4 pm to 6 pm
at Mitchell Street Reserve

You can also share your thoughts by **scanning the QR code** or visiting **makingmarion.com.au/mitchell-street-reserve**

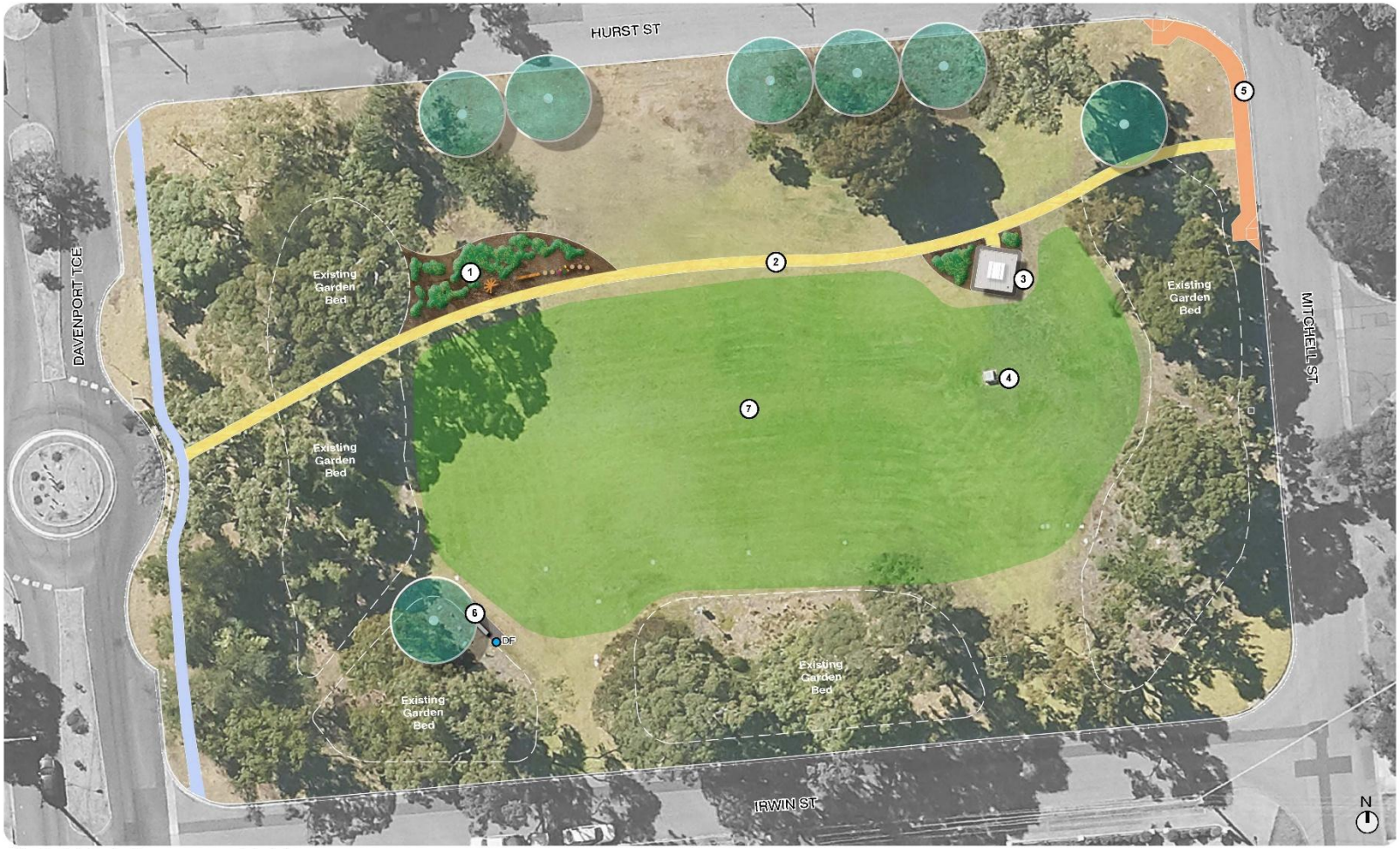
Consultation closes at 5 pm on 9 November 2025.

A great place to *play*
marion.sa.gov.au

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Attachment 4 – Final Concept Plan



The final design for the reserve upgrade includes:

1. New nature play trail and biodiversity plantings
2. New 1.2m wide unsealed
3. New shelter with picnic setting
4. Paint existing toy box
5. New path connection into reserve with kerb ramp crossings
6. New seat with drink fountain and dog bowl
7. Improve existing lawn including broad leaf weed management, aeration and fertilising.

New tree planting
New biodiversity planting
DF Drink fountain with dog bowl

Existing path
New unsealed path
New paved path

Improve existing lawn

Note: See next page for supporting images

MITCHELL STREET RESERVE - CONCEPT PLAN

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Concept design is for illustrative purposes only. Council retains the right to modify the design in consideration of unknown site conditions, cost management, internal approvals and consultation responses.

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Nature Play



CUBBY



BALANCE BEAM



CLUSTER CLIMBER POLES



CONCRETE STEPPERS

Furniture and Amenity



SHELTER



PICNIC SETTING (wheelchair friendly)



NEW BENCH SEAT (to match existing)



DRINK FOUNTAIN WITH DOG BOWL



UNSEALED PATH



BIODIVERSITY PLANTING

Note: See previous page for concept plan

MITCHELL STREET RESERVE - CONCEPT PLAN

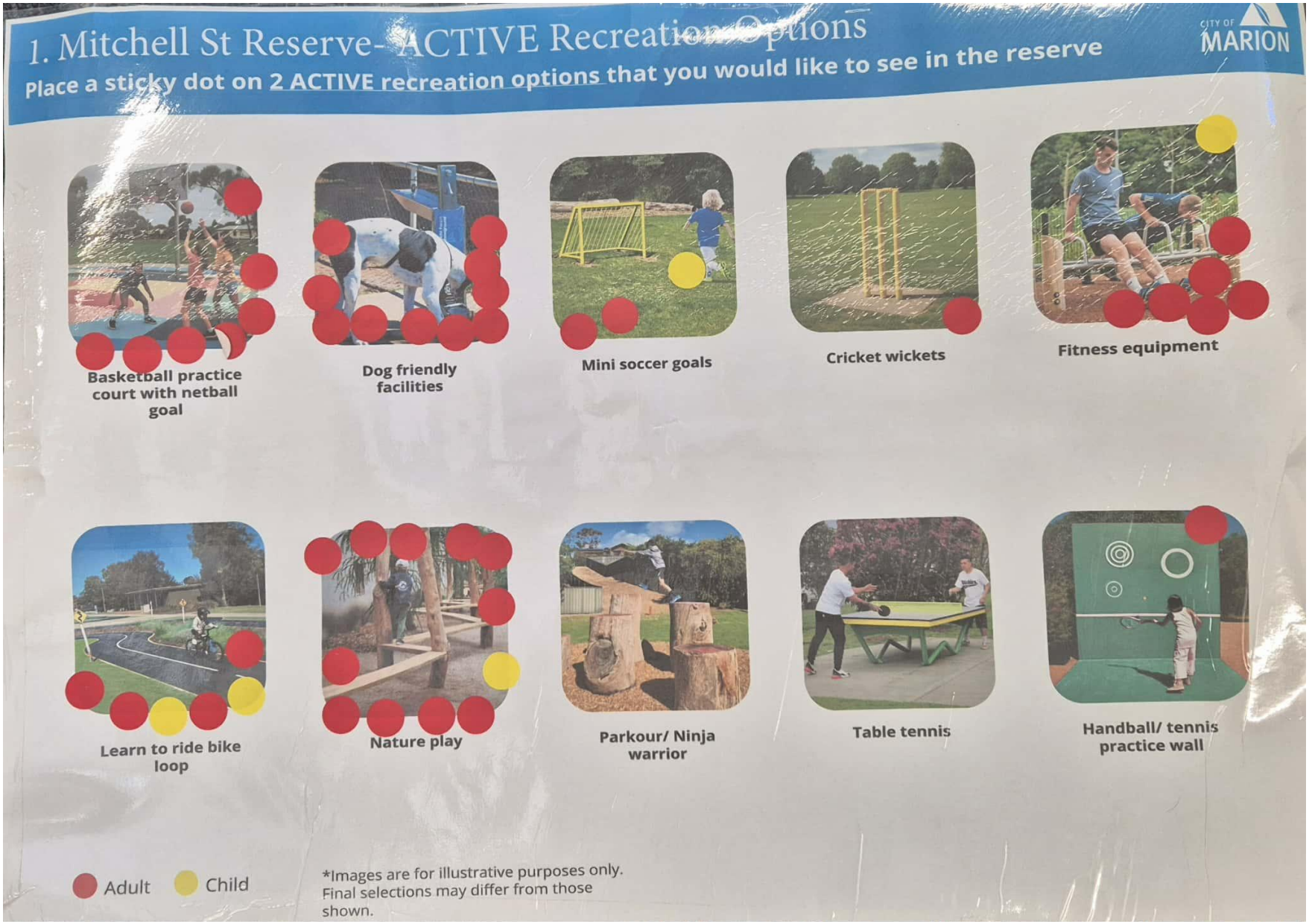
@CityofMarion @CityofMarion City of Marion

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Attachment 5 – Consultation Activity – Active Recreation Options

The dots on the page show the level of support for each active recreation option at the community drop in session:



Attachment 6 – Consultation Activity – Passive Recreation Options

The dots on the page show the level of support for each passive recreation option at the community drop in session:

