CITY OF MARION



Aldridge Avenue Reserve
Community Consultation Findings

December 2022

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1. Executive Summary

The City of Marion is planning reserve improvements at Aldridge Avenue Reserve, Plympton Park next financial year 2023/24. This project is jointly funded by the City of Marion and the State Government (Department for Infrastructure and Transport). A concept plan was developed for community feedback, with a focus on items for young children. Key elements of the design include:

- Trampoline
- Nature and water play
- Extension of existing trike track
- Soccer goals
- Landscaping and irrigation
- Court improvements

We undertook one round of community engagement from 2 November 2022 – 2 December 2022. The purpose of this engagement was to present the draft concept plan for community feedback. The engagement was promoted via a postcard delivered within a 400m radius, Making Marion information and online survey, sign on site and social media posts.

During the community consultation, we received 23 survey responses:

- 56.5% (13 respondents) were either very satisfied or satisfied with the concept plan, 30.4% (7 respondents) were neutral and 13% (3 respondents) were not satisfied
- The top 3 items in the concept plan that respondents liked were 1. Water play, 2. Trampoline, 3. Variety of activities for young children / all ages, rock swale and the trike track. All items are suitable for young children.
- The top 3 items in the concept plan that respondents would like to see improved in the plan were 1. Add a toilet 2. Upgrade basketball net and ring/ add additional basketball rings, 3. Fence along roadside for safety of children / pets and fence the playground

The majority of respondents were:

- Between 25-39 years old (56.5%)
- Live in Plympton Park (87%)

We will now update the concept plan based on the feedback and proceed to detailed design.

2. Introduction

The City of Marion is planning reserve improvements at Aldridge Avenue Reserve, Plympton Park next financial year 2023/24. This project is jointly funded by the City of Marion and the State Government (Department for Infrastructure and Transport). A concept plan was developed for community feedback, with a focus on items for young children. Key elements of the design include:

- Trampoline
- Nature and water play
- Extension of existing trike track
- Soccer goals
- Landscaping and irrigation
- Court improvements

Council received 23 responses to the online survey.

3. Consultation Program

The community engagement was undertaken over four weeks from 2 November – 2 December 2022.

It included:

- An information postcard sent to households within a 400m^2 radius from the reserve
- Information on the Making Marion website
- An online survey
- Facebook posts
- Onsite signage
- Community drop in session on Thursday 24 November 4.30-6.00pm

4. Consultation Overview

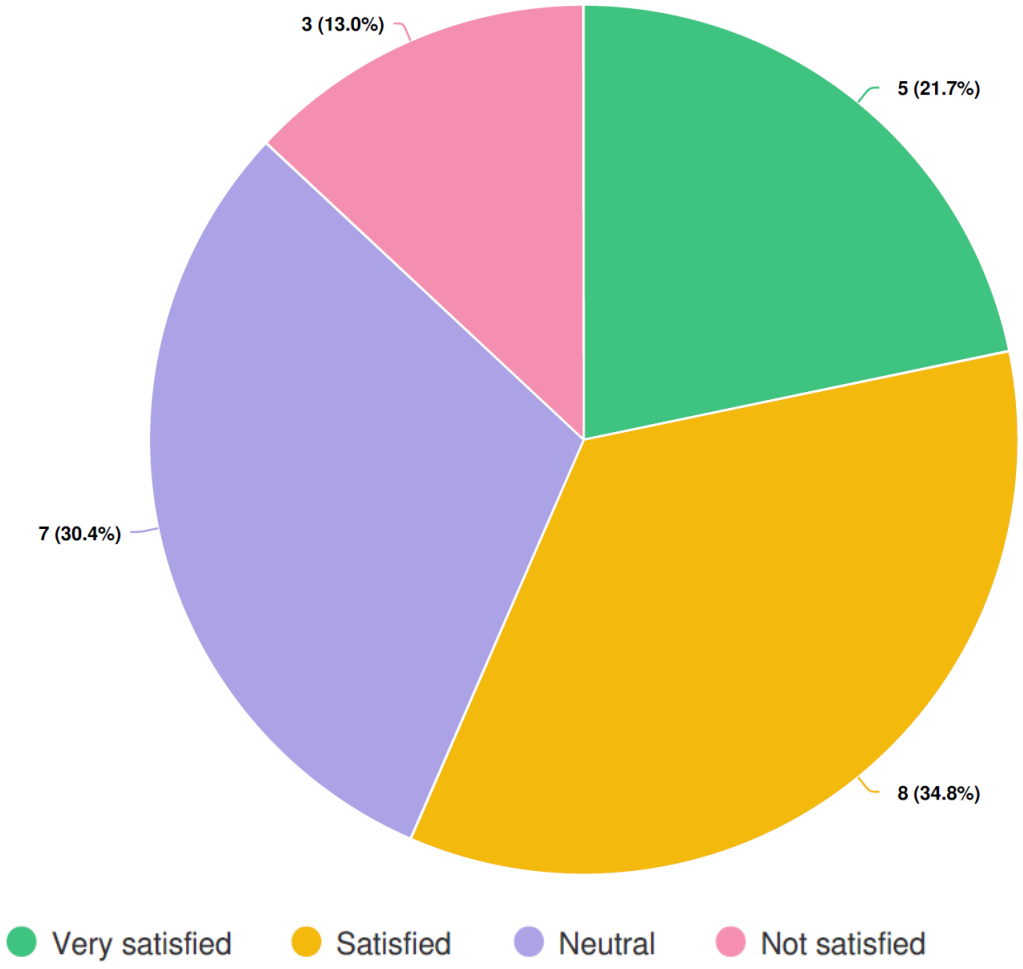
During the consultation period Council received:

- 196 visits to the Making Marion Page
- 23 survey responses
- Approximately 20 people attended the community drop in session

5. Consultation Findings

Each question is listed with the corresponding graph and results summary.

Q1. How satisfied are you with the concept plan for Aldridge Avenue Reserve?



Summary of results

A total of 23 respondents completed this question:

56.5% (13 respondents) were either very satisfied or satisfied with the concept plan

30.4% (7 respondents) were neutral and 13% (3 respondents) were not satisfied

Q2. What do you like about the concept plan?

Summary of results

We received 22 text responses to this question. Below is a summary of the key elements that respondents liked about the concept plan. The ticks / number represent the number of times mentioned. The top 3 items in the concept plan that respondents liked were 1. Water play, 2. Trampoline, 3. Variety of activities for young children / all ages, rock swale and the trike track. All items are suitable for young children.

Water play (5) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Trampoline (5) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Variety of activities for young children / all ages (4) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Rock swale and opportunity as a wildlife habitat/ improved drainage (4) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Trike track (4) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Improvements / investment in the space (3) ✓ ✓ ✓

Nature play (3) ✓ ✓ ✓

Soccer goals (2) ✓ ✓

New, clean and maintained (2) ✓ ✓

Retention of existing playground (1) ✓

It would be great to include a dog park (1) ✓

Additional features to the playground (1) ✓

Refer to Appendix 1 to view a full list of the text responses

Q3. What could be improved in the design?

Summary of results

We received 22 text responses to this question. Below is a summary of key design improvements suggested for the concept plan. The ticks / number represent the number of times mentioned. The top 3 items in the concept plan that respondents would like to see improved were 1. Add a toilet 2. Upgrade basketball net and ring / add additional basketball rings, 3. Fence along roadside for safety of children / pets and fence the playground.

Add a toilet (7) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Upgrade basketball net and ring / add additional basketball rings(3) ✓ ✓ ✓
Fence along roadside for safety of children / pets and fence the playground (4) ✓ ✓
Shade structure with seating (2) ✓ ✓
Picnic bench (2) ✓ ✓
Further improve playing surfaces (2) ✓ ✓
New drinking fountain (2) ✓ ✓
Carparking (2) ✓ ✓
Soccer goal to be located on turf area (2) ✓ ✓
Court lighting (1) ✓
Increased shade (1) ✓
Fenced areas (1) ✓
Move soccer goals to other court (1) ✓
More trees (1) ✓
More seating areas (1) ✓
Bike track located within line of sight for parents (1) ✓
Not sure about the water play (1) ✓

Dog park (1) ✓
Bins (1) ✓
More nature play and a flying fox (1) ✓

Refer to Appendix 2 to view a full list of the text responses

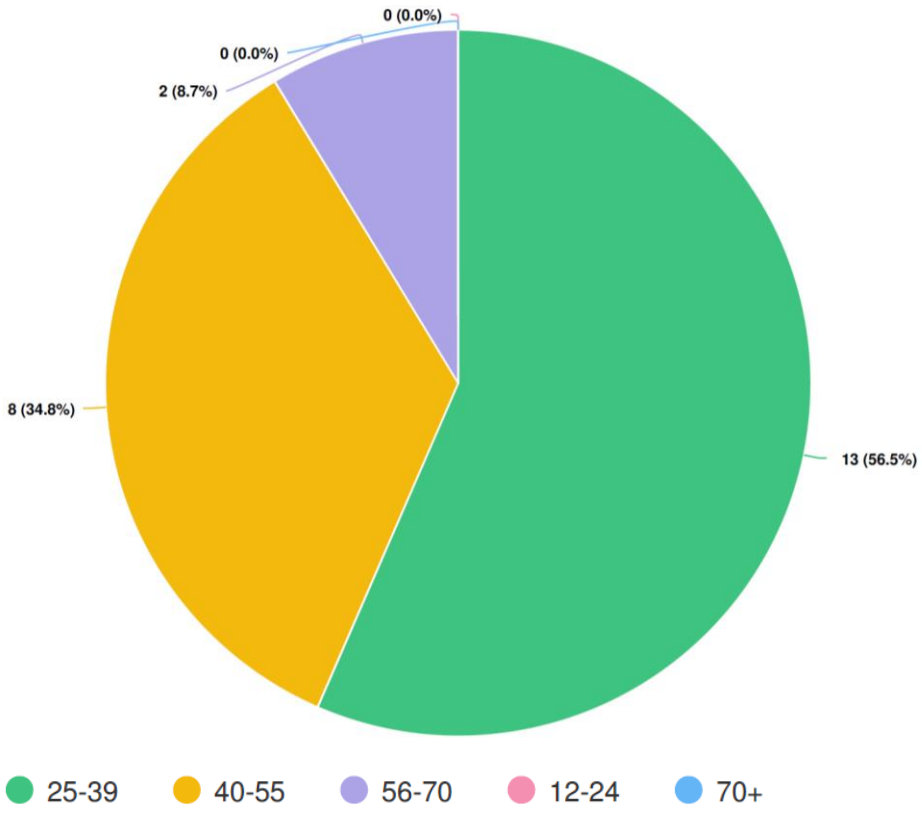
Q4. Do you have any other comments or feedback?

Below is a summary of the 19 comments received from survey respondents. The number next to the comment refers to the number of times the feedback was mentioned.

Comments Summary	
PLAYGROUND	FACILITIES / AMENITIES / NATURE/TRAFFIC/PARKING
Add court lighting (1) Fencing alongside road/ playground (2) Move soccer goals to the turf area instead (1) Better utilisation of turf area (1)	Add a toilet (4) Concerned about swale attracting snakes (1) Add a BBQ (1) More frequent maintenance of reserve / lawn mowing (2) Parking needed (1) Need speed humps (1) Concerns about dogs off leash (1) Add artwork on surrounding fences (1)
GENERAL COMMENTS	
Great to see the reserve upgraded – good for families (1) Thank you (1) Happy existing playground is being kept with additions (1)	

Refer to Appendix 3 to view a full list of the text responses

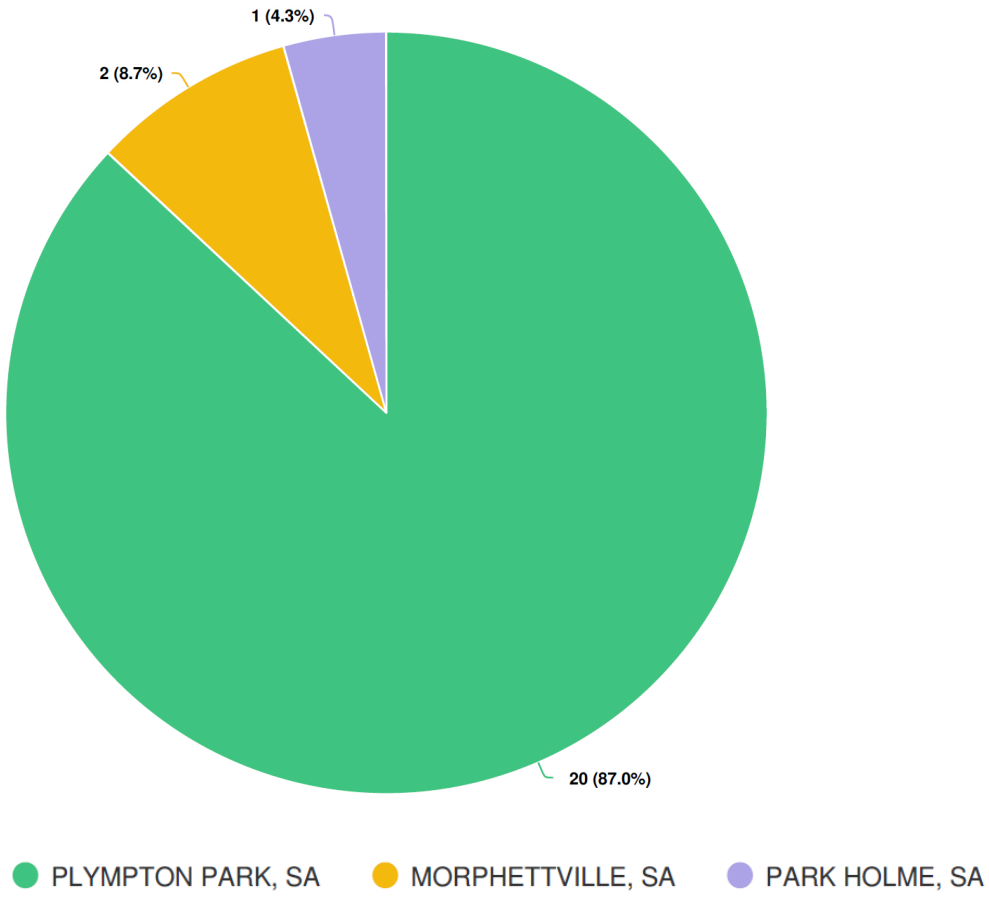
Q5. Age



Summary of results

A total of 56.5% (13 respondents) were aged 25-39, 34.8% (8 respondents) were aged 40-55 and 8.7% (2 respondents) were 56-70.

Q6. Suburb



Summary of results

The majority of respondents were from Plympton Park (87%, 20 respondents).

6. Community Drop In Session

Approximately 20 people attended the community drop in session on 24 November 2022. Feedback from the community included:

- Generally happy with the overall plan
- Would like the basketball net replaced
- Like the nature play proposed – especially the water play
- Like the trike track and trampoline
- A future community garden is of interest
- Ninja equipment is of interest
- Comments that the drainage swale currently requires improvement, concerns regarding ponding of water in this location
- Request for lighting within the reserve and shelter over picnic setting
- Some parking / traffic concerns
- Preference for no trees along the boundary of the reserve (potential impact for surrounding residential properties)
- Some concerns regarding people driving onto the reserve to access the shelter for BBQs
- More trees for shade would be appreciated

- Improvements to landscaping is supported

7. Design Response

Some key themes emerged multiple times throughout the consultation and evaluation process.

Overall summary of key themes and the design response:

Key Theme	*Design response*
Add a public toilet	There are currently no plans to include a public toilet at this reserve. Public toilets are generally included within City of Marion regional reserves. This site is a neighbourhood level reserve.
Fence along roadside for safety of children / pets and fence the playground	At this stage there are no plans to fence the playground or along the roadside. There is adequate distance between the road and playground at this site.
More frequent maintenance of reserve / lawn mowing	Thank you for your feedback, we will forward this information onto the relevant department within Council to consider the future maintenance of this reserve.
Upgrade net and rings of courts / add additional basketball rings	We will review the condition of the basketball net and ring as part of the design. At this stage there are no plans to include an additional basketball ring.
Shade structure with seating	The site currently has a large shelter and as the tree canopy grows over the coming years there will be sufficient shade within this reserve.
Picnic bench	We will review the need for additional picnic benches as part of the design review, with consideration of available budget for this project.
Further improve playing surfaces	Playing surfaces will be repaired and improved as part of this reserve upgrade project.
New drinking fountain	There is a drinking fountain currently located on site. We will review the condition of the drinking fountain to determine if replacement or maintenance is required.
Carparking	We will monitor carparking once the reserve is upgraded and determine if new carparking is required as a future project.
Soccer goal to be located on turf area	The soccer goals have been located on the courts to limit the risk of balls hitting the close residential properties surrounding the reserve. The location also helps to prevent balls on the road, which could be a risk for children and pets.
More frequent maintenance of reserve / lawn mowing	Thank you for your observations, we will discuss this with the relevant department within Council.

8. Next Steps

We thank all that provided their feedback and participated in the engagement process.

The feedback will help finalise the Aldridge Avenue Reserve Concept Plan to progress to detailed design.

9. Project Updates

Project updates will be provided through the Aldridge Avenue Reserve page on the City of Marion website and Making Marion webpage

Appendix 1

All 22 text responses to Question 2: What do you like about the concept plan?

I really like the rock lined water way as this part always floods, so it's a great opportunity to create a habitat for wildlife.

Nature based play

The soccer goals, trampoline and improved bike track

Great that work continues to be done to improve the space

Utilisation of the current area that pools water over winter and turning it into a water play area - at the moment it is a very large muddy puddle which is actually quite dangerous when taking young children to the playground.

The nature play aspects as well as being able to be used by a diverse range of people.

The bike track and trampoline

it appears to at last be completing some of the works that should have originally been done - eg the water catchment area adj. the courts & the bike path extension

All the improvements sound wonderful

Love the water play, trampoline.

Fixing the issue with the water pooling by the courts. Keeping the existing playground which my daughter loves. Trampoline

Good variety of outdoor activities

Lots of new and safe activities for kids

It would be great if a dog friendly/safe space could be incorporates. A dog park would be wonderful.

New and clean

Further investment in parks in Plympton Park

Love the extended bike trail, bridge and nature play - that area always becomes a swamp after a downpour so would be good to repurpose that space.

Trike track and water play

All the new stuff for the kids to play with the water play and soccer

More activity for the little ones and maintenance work

I like the water play area and the trampoline

Additional features to the playground

Appendix 2

All 22 text responses - What could be improved in the design?

The possibility of some court lighting so that courts can be used when it is darker. Obviously there would be a 'curfew' or shut off time for the comfort of the adjoining properties, but I think this would encourage people to use these facilities.

Increased shade

Larger covered area with chairs

Improving playing surfaces and fenced in areas.

Move the proposed soccer goals to the other court. The western court is usually used for tennis because the basketball ring is on the other court. Having the soccer goals there would make it much less likely that a tennis court would be available.

More trees and seating areas. The bike track is great but as a parent I want to be able to have line of sight on my children as they ride around the track. There are some areas behind the tennis courts where vegetation is over grown.

Upgrade court surfaces/nets/rings. Rethink where the soccer goal should be, possibly over near the grass area? A fence should be added along the roadside, for added safety especially with the nature play watercourse on the roadside edge of the park.

A toilet would be fantastic. I'm not sure water play is the best option. At other playgrounds it is regularly out of order.

I would prefer to see some fencing on the street edge of the grassed area to limit the chance of pets/kids/balls running out to the road

Would be fantastic to have a couple more basketball hoops around the courts as there is only one at the moment & it's very popular

There simply has to be a toilet facility. The next closest bathroom is the Plympton Oval. If this playground were to have a toilet and change facility it would be perfect.

Toilet!! There is no public toilet with a walking distance for small children. I have never seen families use the bbq facilities which I believe is due to the lack of toilets nearby. Therefore the bbq facilities are redundant....

Off street parking at the park.

A child safety gate around the playground area, as it's so close to a road where traffic is often unable to stop quickly.

Dog park

Toilets! At least 1

Toilet.

The location of the soccer goals. Should they not be on the grassed area on the eastern side?
Future Mayor

limited carparking near the reserve on a bend and adjacent Ralli St with yellow lines. Suggest sacrificing the SE corner of the reserve for 2/3 vertical parking spaces. Additional tables. The NE corner could use some attention maybe fitness gym?

More uncover seating and more bin. Have been to the park and the bin has been overflowing on to the floor. Upgrade the water fountain

Add a toilet or wash room & drinking station

Addition of toilets and fenced off area of children's play areas. More basket ball rings and nature play concepts. Flying fox would be good too.

Appendix 3

Appendix 3 – All 19 text responses - Do you have any other comments or feedback?

Without court lighting, people often travelled into Holdfast Council where some of their courts have lighting.

I'm concerned about the long grass and the rock pathways on the river attracting snakes

No

More frequent lawn mowing would be appreciated, and it also gets pretty dry in summer. A bit more regular attention would make it great to use all year.

Why not put the soccer goals on the grass area - not on the hard court where others are playing tennis. Please consider fencing the western side closest to the road if this is going to be a water play area which will attract young children. Cars speed.

Will be great to have this space upgraded, it is long overdue. Will be great for the local families!

Please consider a toilet.

This playground caters for a broad range of age groups & the proposed improvements add a welcome 'rounding off' of existing facilities

Thankyou for considering our comments

Please put a toilet in place. There are dirty nappies and faeces often found in the shrubbery. Without this essential addition, the parks upgrade will be essentially for nothing. If you were to ask anyone who attends this park, they'll attest to this.

Happy that the existing playground is being kept with the changes being additional to this. Public toilet is very important

Parking is already a problem in the adjoining streets. Park users need parking

I have seen countess dogs walking off leash and often away from their owners, even though there's a clear sign saying that all pets must be on leashes. This is another reason why we need a safety gate near the playground area.

Speed humps on Aldridge Ave to improve safety, particularly near the reserve but also near the marion Road end where people speed around to access the gym and Dominos

Almost every time I go to Aldridge Ave Reserve, I find the drinking water tap is broken. Unsure why, but this is something that should be checked more frequently and maintained.

the fence lines are an eye sore, suggest wall art against the fence and/or kids chalk wall

None

Better utilisation of the grass area. Also can their be clarification of wether there will be a upgrade of the existing playground

Wish there is also a toilet at the playground and also a new barbeque area.

Appendix 4 - Letter Received

I use the tennis courts every week to practice my tennis serve.

It is commendable that this council has seen fit to put up one netball ring and one basketball hoop.

I often drive by or cycle by the courts to see how the park is being used.

Basketball and netball rings are frequented by individuals.

The courts are often used by individuals like me who wish to practice their serve.

I would like to propose a wall which would similarly be used by individuals like me who wish to practice ground strokes.

In the past I have hit against brick walls, cement block walls, wooden walls and others as well. From my experience, the best wall would be a slab of reinforced concrete because it is both smooth and solid. The least good wall would be a wooden wall but I'd rather have a good wooden wall at Aldridge Avenue than none at all. (For the latter option, a permapine frame with

heavy marine ply could be affixed to the inside of the tennis court fence.)

A practice wall should be 5 metres wide and as high as the fence (the higher the better).

There are many options for where a wall could be placed within the court area. I have considered them. If this proposal isn't vetoed off the cuff, I would be happy to walk the courts with council staff and explain my considerations.