



WHITEHORSE
CITY COUNCIL

Consultation Report

Charles Rooks Reserve

Play Space Upgrade, Fitness Equipment and Multi-purpose half-court

Thank you to everyone who shared their feedback and suggestions for the upgrade at Charles Rooks Reserve.

We received 89 survey submissions.

What we learned is that the community supports creating a larger, nature based and inclusive play space that caters for all ages and abilities. Key requests outdoor fitness equipment basketball/netball facilities, accessible play elements, shade, seating, drinking fountains, bins and a fenced playground. Respondents also emphasised the importance of retaining unique park character and using natural colours and Indigenous or environmental themes that complement the landscape. Overall, the community is seeking a high-quality, recreational space that balances play, exercise, accessibility, environmental sensitivity and community connection.

Engagement snapshot

Key highlights:

- 622 total visits to the Charles Rooks Reserve 'Your Say' project page
- 89 contributions to the 'Your Say' Project page
- Social media comments
- Various emails and phone calls

Promotion of engagement:

- Social media across Facebook and Instagram
- 896 copies of the letter and concept plan sent to residents
- In person community consultation with Mount Pleasant Road Primary School
- On-site signage

Your feedback

Below is a summary of the feedback we received on the project. Please note this includes similar comments received, however does not include every comment.

Here are some of the themes you requested in the play space design:

- Diverse and challenging play opportunities for all ages
- Nature based design
- BMX track
- Shade and park amenities
- Fencing and safety
- Retaining character and local identity

Our response to Community Preferences and Feedback:

- **Diverse and challenging play opportunities for all ages**
The play space is classified as a Neighbourhood Level which means it should cater for households located within a 10-minute safe walk and should be designed for 0 - 11-year-olds. The proposed equipment includes opportunities for young children as well as older kids, with different materials used throughout the equipment.
- **Nature based design**
The design includes a rock retaining wall to separate the different zones and the use of garden beds with trees and plants and gravel surfaces will help blend into the natural landscape. Council prefer to use steel and rope materials as they are stronger and longer lasting than timber.
- **BMX track**
A BMX track was proposed however there is not sufficient space and the track would impact on existing indigenous vegetation and biodiversity of Charles Rooks Reserve.
- **Shade and park amenities**
There is a vast amount of mature canopy trees within the reserve that will shade the play space. New bench seats and a picnic table will be installed within the play space. There is an existing bin just east of the proposed play space. A drinking fountain is outside of the budget and scope for this design.
- **Fencing and safety**
The play space is a lot further set-back from Lorikeet Street and there is a fence that encompasses the multi-purpose court. The play space and court are also split up into different levels with rock retaining walls and new vegetation separating these areas.
- **Retaining character and local identity**
The main combination unit will be a custom design so it captures all of the items that the community requested in round 1 of the engagement. The colours of the equipment and the rubber surface will blend into the natural landscape.

Here are some of the themes you requested in the fitness equipment design:

- Simple and functional equipment

- Full body work-out
- Accessible equipment
- Equipment for all ages
- Clear signage
- The equipment won't be used by the community

Our response to Community Preferences and Feedback:

- **Simple and functional equipment**
The fitness equipment selected will be simple and off the shelf items that can be easily used by the community.
- **Full body work-out**
The most popular requests for individual equipment were targeting the leg muscles, upper body strength and core, which we will incorporate in the design.
- **Accessible equipment**
The equipment will be accessible off the main path and the surface will be suitable for exercising.
- **Equipment for all ages**
While the fitness equipment proposed isn't specifically designed for seniors, like Council has installed at other locations, we encourage the equipment to be used by all ages.
- **Clear signage**
All stations will have clear signage of how to use the equipment so it safe for everyone.
- **The equipment won't be used by the community**
Council believe the fitness equipment will be used by the local community members. There have been other examples, where new fitness equipment has been used very well since installation such as Somers Trail, Mitcham.

Here are some of the themes and colours you requested for the multi-purpose court:

- Nature inspired colours
- Local environment and nature themes
- Indigenous design elements

Our response to Community Preferences and Feedback:

The intention of the court design is to enhance the space without overwhelming it. We have included earthy and muted tones such as olive green, sand, clay and orange with some indigenous plants that will blend into the natural environment.

Next steps

Please find attached to the yoursay website, the concept plan for Charles Rooks Reserve based on the community feedback. Once the consultation period is complete, Council will assess the comments and make any further adjustments if required.

Subscribe for updates

To keep updated, check for updates at: <https://yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/charles-rooks>

Contact us

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