

City of Yarra

Linear Parklands Master Plan

Stage 1 Engagement Consultation Findings Report

Final

Acknowledgement

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations - and to their Elders past, present and future.

Document title	City of Yarra Linear Parklands Master Plan – Stage 1 Engagement Consultation Findings Report
Version	Final
Date	29 June 2022
Prepared by	Robyn Cochrane, CEO/Director, Cochrane Research Solutions Angela Walter, Senior Consultant, Chatterbox Projects
Approved by	Sam Walsh, Director, Chatterbox Projects
ChatterBox Projects Pty Ltd ABN: 40 403 533 235	
Telephone	0411 333 102
Email	info@chatterboxprojects.com.au
Web	chatterboxprojects.com.au
Copyright and disclaimer The materials presented in this report are for information purposes only. The information is provided solely on the basis that readers will be responsible for making their own assessments of the matters discussed. Readers are advised to verify all relevant representations, statements and information and to obtain independent advice before acting on any information contained in or in connection with this report. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate, Chatterbox Projects will not accept any liability for any loss or damages that may be incurred by any person acting in reliance upon the information.	

Partner



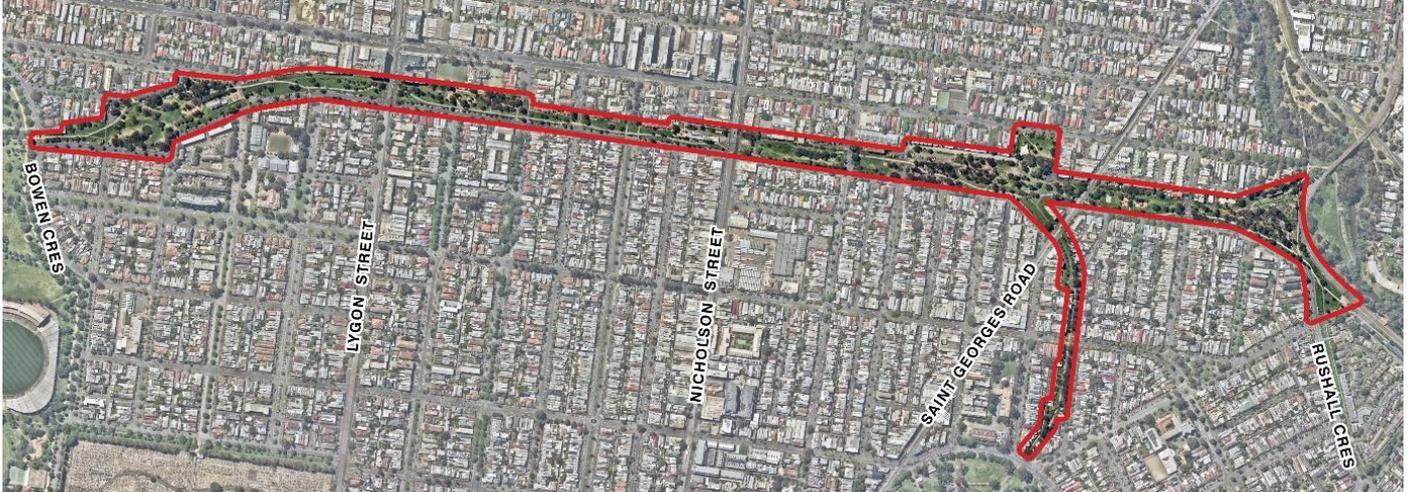
Contents

1	Executive summary	4
1.1	Overview of engagement activities	4
1.2	Key findings	5
1.3	Overview of participation and participation profile	9
2.	Project background and engagement overview	11
2.1	Background and purpose	11
2.2	Engagement overview and program	12
2.3	Overview of participation	15
3.	Findings from the analysis of the community feedback - parklands	16
3.1	Participants' connections to, and uses of, the Linear Parklands	17
3.2	What participants love or value now about the Linear Parklands	22
3.3	Views on the current look and feel of the Linear Parklands (level of agreement)	25
3.4	Unique or important aspects of the Linear Parklands that need to be protected in the future	29
3.5	Potential activities and facilities for the Linear Parklands in the future	31
3.6	How could areas be used differently in the future	34
4.	Insights from community feedback - shared cycling/pedestrian path	38
4.1	Participant views about the current shared cycling/ pedestrian path	38
4.2	Participant views about the shared cycling/ pedestrian path looking to the future	40
5.	Description of participation profile	41
5.1	Gender of participants	41
5.2	Age of participants	41
5.3	Residential suburb	42
5.4	Living arrangement	43
5.5	Participants' connections to local organisations, groups, and businesses	43
6.	Areas A to E - Insights from the community feedback	44
6.1	Area A (between Princes Park and Lygon Street)	44
6.2	Area B (between Lygon Street and Nicholson Street)	45
6.3	Area C (between Nicholson Street and St Georges Road)	47
6.4	Area D (between St Georges Road and Rushall Station)	48
6.5	Area E (between St Georges Road and Edinburgh Gardens)	49
	Appendix 1. Consultation survey	51
	Appendix 2. Images of feedback gathered via mapping activities	59

1 Executive summary

Yarra City Council (Council) is developing a new masterplan to guide the future of the Inner Circle Linear Parklands. The parklands are made up of a series of open space reserves that forms an important east-west link between Princes Park and Rushall Station and connects southward to Edinburgh Gardens.

Map 1. Project area



The purpose of the masterplan is to guide future upgrades to improve safety, amenity, usability, sustainability, and heritage protection. The masterplan also aims to protect what is loved and valued by the community and ensure a holistic approach to management and maintenance of the parklands.

Developing a masterplan for the parklands was identified as a priority action in Council's Open Space Strategy 2020, and will replace the current masterplan, which was adopted in 2006.

Informing the development of the masterplan will be several stages of community consultation as well as background studies and data collection, including the development of an updated Conservation Management Plan.

1.1 Overview of engagement activities

Linear Parkland users, local residents, and key stakeholder groups who visit and / or operate in and around the space were identified as the target population for this engagement, however the general public could also participate. The consultation was open for four weeks from 4 April to 1 May 2022.

Engagement activities where people could provide feedback included:

- Survey (available in hardcopy and online via Council's Your Say Yarra engagement platform) – see Appendix 1 Consultation Survey
- Online mapping tool
- Place-based pop-ups x 3
- Written submissions
- Online key stakeholder workshop x 1
- Student workshop x 1

These engagement activities were supported by a range of communication activities including:

- Information on Council’s website and on the Your Say Yarra engagement platform
- Information in Yarra News, Yarra Life e-news and other relevant Council newsletters
- Posts on Council’s social media sites
- Core flute posters placed throughout the Linear Parklands
- Project postcard mailed out to surrounding households
- Posters and postcards placed at Council facilities and community locations
- Emails to key stakeholder and interest groups including nearby schools

1.2 Key findings

Four key themes emerged following the analysis of the community feedback:

1. Green open spaces, trees and the natural environment
2. Facilities and spaces for the community to enjoy, come together and connect
3. The shared path, its linkages and connectivity and the need to increase safety for all users
4. The history of the area including railway heritage, Indigenous and cultural history

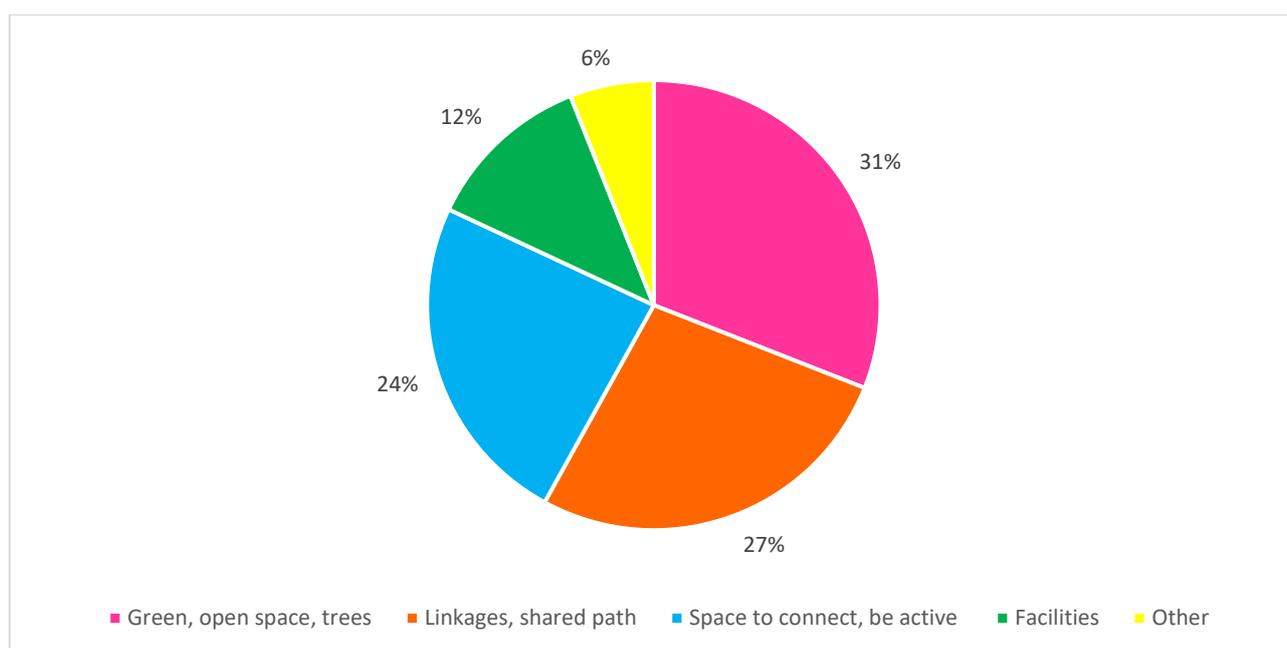
This section presents an overview of the community feedback and highlights how the four key themes emerged from the responses gathered from the engagement activities.

It is noted that some feedback refers to locations outside the City of Yarra or outside of Council’s control. This feedback has been regarded as relevant to the overall context of the Linear Parklands and has been included in the report findings. Most of the land within Area B (between Lygon Street and Nicholson Street) is located within the City of Moreland and is maintained by Moreland Council under agreement with the City of Yarra.

The Linear Parklands now

Figure 1 presents an overview of what participants love and value most about the Linear Parklands now.

Figure 1. What participants love and value now (survey)



This feedback strongly linked with what people said were important aspects of the parklands to be protected in the future. Again, green natural spaces including trees, open areas, gardens, and wildlife was the most popular response. Other popular responses included:

- protecting community facilities, the shared path, and spaces for children to play, to walk the dog and for community to meet and gather; and
- protecting and recognising history including railway heritage, history of the area and Indigenous history.

Survey respondents were asked how much they agree or disagree with a series of 12 statements involving the parklands.

Most or many respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the following statements:

- I feel safe during the day (94%)
- The parklands are well-maintained and looked after (76%)
- There are enough opportunities/areas for children to play (55%)
- There are enough open space areas and facilities for casual sporting activities (52%)
- There is sufficient signage (i.e., directional, information, safety) (49%)

Many respondents strongly agreed, agreed or selected neutral for the following statements:

- I feel safe at night (46% Strongly Agreed/ Agreed and 30% Neutral)
- There are enough facilities for dogs and dog owners (42% Strongly Agreed/ Agreed and 42% Neutral)
- There are enough BBQ and picnic facilities (40% Strongly Agreed/ Agreed and 43% Neutral)

Many respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed with the following statements:

- I can access well maintained public toilets (47%)
- There are enough drinking fountains (38%)
- There is enough seating (33%)

In relation to the shared cycling/pedestrian path – when asked how much people agreed or disagreed with the statement; ‘The shared cycling/pedestrian path is working well’ polarised views were reported as follows:

- 38% strongly agreed or agreed
- 19% selected neutral
- 43% strongly disagreed or disagreed

Overall, substantial community feedback referred to the shared cycling/pedestrian path and it is regarded as an important feature of the Linear Parklands. Polarised views were reported in relation to how well the current path is working. A variety of suggestions were proposed to improve the experience of the various path users, and many suggestions related to improving safety elements.

The Linear Parklands in the future

Activities and facilities that participants would like to see in the parklands in the future.

- New and improved facilities and spaces was by far the most popular response. This included the facilities that people thought needed improving including public toilets, drinking fountains and seating as well as things like outdoor gym equipment, play options for older children (eg: basketball courts, volleyball courts, soccer nets), playgrounds, water play, BBQ’s, shared areas, dog facilities, bike repair stations, lighting and historical information and displays (referenced in 182 of the total 490 surveys).

Other common responses included:

- improving the open spaces and natural environment by adding more trees for shade and wildlife, more community gardens/ community kitchens, areas for picnics, more recreational paths/ trails and nature based play (referenced in 97 surveys); and
- activating the space with events and gatherings including food vans, pop-up cafes, bars outdoor events, markets stall and music (referenced in 43 surveys).

Another important theme that emerged in relation to improving the parklands into the future was safety, including:

- improving the safety at crossings or intersections where cyclists and pedestrians interact with vehicles;
- improving the safety of the shared path in relation to site lines, fast travelling bikes, scooters, electric bikes encountering other path users, and signage; and
- increasing lighting along certain areas of the shared path.

When asked why people strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement ***'The shared cycling/pedestrian path is working well'*** comments around safety were mentioned by 227 respondents. A breakdown of these comments is outlined below:

- Path is crowded and congested, particularly at peak hour. There are multiple users (bikes, motorised, scooters, e-cycles, pedestrians) and this can generate conflict and a feeling that it is unsafe (referenced in 89 surveys)
- The aggressive behaviours and speed shown by some cyclists is concerning. Bikes and some motorised scooters and e-bikes travel too fast, and often disregard signage (86 surveys)
- Confusion around right of way, some intersections and road crossings are inconsistent, and this creates a hazard for shared cycling/pedestrian path users (56 surveys)
- Prefer to have separate paths for cyclists and walkers or separate zones (53 surveys)
- Path is too narrow and needs widening (40 surveys)
- Sections of the path are very dark, and lighting is needed, particularly at night and early morning (37 surveys)

All feedback around the future activities, facilities and improvements for the parklands was reflected in the ideas put forward.

Table 1 presents an overview of ideas submitted for each of the five separate areas (Areas A to E) across the parklands. The most popular ideas across all areas included:

- Increasing the safety of the shared path for cyclists and pedestrians at road crossings
- Separate/ widen the shared path to increase safety
- Adding lighting to areas to improve safety
- Increase planting/ trees
- Add more picnic areas and seating

Table 1. Overview of ideas submitted for each of the five Areas (Area A to E)

Area	Ideas
Area A: Between Bowen Crescent (Princes Park) and Lygon Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase safety of the crossing (5) ▪ Add lighting (4) ▪ Add secondary informal path (3) ▪ Increase access to /expand community garden (2) ▪ Charging station for bikes ▪ Fenced dog park ▪ New playground ▪ Paint power poles green or colourful ▪ Skate area/ jumps
Area B: Between Lygon Street and Nicholson Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Separate / widen shared path (9) ▪ Increase safety of crossing/ path (7) ▪ More bins/ cleaning/ maintenance (3) ▪ Activities/ facilities for older children (2) ▪ Care for new plants/ increase natives (2) ▪ Increase seating (2) ▪ Indigenous history section ▪ Add lighting ▪ Add drinking fountain ▪ Improve school/ park interface ▪ Spread compost pile ▪ Dog playground ▪ New playground ▪ BBQ
Area C: Between Nicholson Street and St Georges Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase safety of crossing (different to rest of trail – cars get priority here) (12) ▪ Increase lighting (5) ▪ Plant trees (deciduous / Indigenous)/ wildlife corridor (4) ▪ Fenced dog park/ separate dogs and children (3) ▪ Bike jump track (2) ▪ Wider/ separate the shared path (2) ▪ Picnic tables/ seating (2) ▪ eBike charging station/ bike parking/ repairs (2) ▪ Replace soil near BBQ area ▪ Better integration with Holden Street NH ▪ Extend the park into the vacant block? ▪ Build social housing ▪ Dog poo bags
Area D: Between St Georges Road and Rushall Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve/ separate widen path/ make safer (9) ▪ Improve connections including Rushall Station underpass (5) ▪ Improve crossing/ make safer (4) ▪ Add seating/ picnic tables (4) ▪ Expand garden/ planting (3) ▪ Exercise equipment near playground (2) ▪ Toilets (2) ▪ Add a half basketball court/ soccer pitch (2) ▪ Signage
Area E: Between St Georges Road and Edinburgh Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve crossing/ make safer (10) ▪ Lighting (2) ▪ Upgrade pavement

Other suggestions for using the parklands differently included:

- collaborating with Brunswick South Primary School to increase access and use of space (referenced in 21 surveys); and
- having a focus on more community gardens, community plantings, fruit trees, herb gardens and nature corridors (referenced in 16 surveys).

1.3 Overview of participation and participation profile

The engagement activities were effective in obtaining feedback from 764 people with:

- 490 people submitting a completed survey
- 49 people adding their ideas to the online mapping tool
- 203 participating in the three place-based pop-ups
- 6 people providing a written submission
- 9 group representatives attending the online key stakeholder workshop
- 7 children participating in the student workshop

In addition, the communications activities were effective in reaching over 4,000 people with:

- 1,137 visitors to the Your Say Yarra project page
- 420 people contributing to the Your Say Yarra project page
- 2200 postcards delivered to local residents and businesses
- 841 engagements from three Council's social media posts

Please note: some people may have participated in more than one engagement activity.

Participant demographic data was captured via the online and hard copy surveys (490).

Majority of people (93%) indicated they live nearby to the Parklands, with most living in Fitzroy North (33%), Carlton North (19%) and Princes Hill (11%).

With majority of respondents living near the parklands, it is not surprising that 95% of people indicated they walk or ride a bike to get to area (59% Walk and 36% Bike).

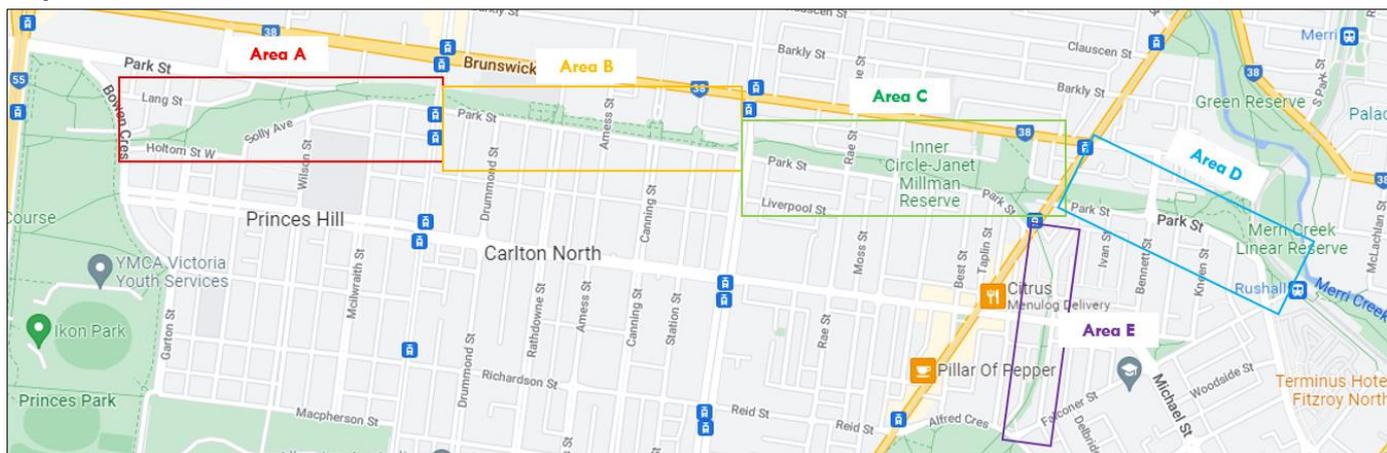
In relation to people's connection to, and use of the parklands, there was a good spread across all areas and the parklands as whole.

Survey respondents could select which areas (one or more than one) of the parklands they use the most (using a map which outlined five separate sections as well as the option - 'All or Most of the Parklands'. (See Map 2 - Areas of the Parklands)

- 45% of respondents selected they mostly use area B (Between Lygon Street and Nicholson Street)
- 42% of respondents selected they mostly use Area C (Between Nicholson Street and St Georges Road)
- 31% of respondents selected they mostly use Area A (Between Bowen Crescent (Princess Park) and Lygon Street)
- 30% of respondents selected they mostly use Area D (Between St Georges Road and Rushall Station)
- 22% of respondents selected they mostly use Area E (Between St Georges Road and Edinburgh Gardens)

In addition, 38% selected they use 'All or most of the Parklands'.

Map 2. Areas within the Parklands (Areas A to E)



Survey respondents also indicated they use the parklands for a range of activities.

Out of a list of 11 options (which respondents could select all that applied) the highest activity reported was Walking (69%). Other popular uses of the parklands included:

- Recreational cycling (52%)
- Commuter cycling (49%)
- Meeting with family and friends (44%)
- Relaxing and enjoying nature (43%)
- Traveling through to school, work, other (38%)
- Running / jogging (24%)
- Dog walking (24%)

In relation to facilities in the parklands that people have used in the past six months, the Capital City Trail/Shared Path was by far the most popular (at 85%).

Other popular facilities in the parklands used in the past six months included the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House (25%); Green Park Playground (23%), Inner Circle Rail Trail Playground (21%); Thomas Kidney Reserve Walking trails (18%); and North Carlton Community Garden (18%).

Other demographic or personal details provided by survey respondents included:

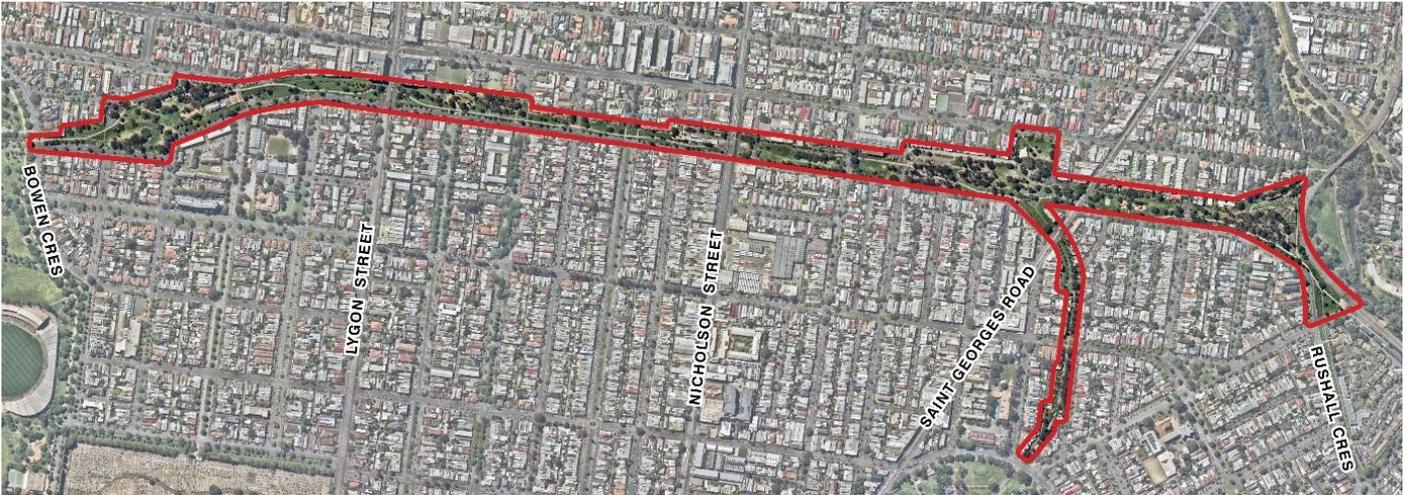
- **Gender:** All genders were represented, with 52% identifying as female, 42% as male and 6% as other.
- **Age:** All age groupings were represented, with the highest representation from 35–49-year-olds (41%), and then an even representation from 25-34 years (15%), 50-59 years (15%), and 60-69 years (15%).
- **Living arrangements:** Majority of respondents reported living in a place that they own (63%) and many reported living in a place that they rent (28%).

2. Project background and engagement overview

2.1 Background and purpose

Yarra City Council is developing a masterplan to guide the future of the Inner Circle Linear Parklands. The parklands are made up of a series of well-used open space reserves that forms an important east-west link between Princes Park and Rushall Station and connects southward to Edinburgh Gardens (see map below).

Map 3. Project area



The parklands are an important open space asset for a range of reasons including:

- providing a habitat corridor between Royal Park and the Merri Creek for insects, birds and small mammals;
- contributing to biodiversity, urban cooling, and improved air quality, via large canopy trees and native plantings
- encouraging active transport with the use of the shared path for walking and cycling;
- featuring a heritage trail that includes remnant artefacts from the Inner Circle Rail Line; and
- supporting community recreational activities via neighbourhood and local open spaces with facilities like playgrounds, seating, picnic facilities, open grassed areas, walking trails and community gardens.

The purpose of the masterplan is to guide future upgrades to improve safety, amenity, usability, sustainability, and heritage protection. The masterplan also aims to protect what is loved and valued by the community and ensure a holistic approach to management and maintenance of the parklands.

Developing a masterplan for the parklands was identified as a priority action in Council's Open Space Strategy 2020, and will replace the current masterplan, which was adopted in 2006. The need for a masterplan has also come about because of:

- increased usage of the parklands in recent years, driven by population growth, uptake in cycling and the COVID 19 Pandemic; and
- impacts of climate change on the natural environment.

Developing the masterplan has been scheduled over two financial years (2021/22 and 2022/23). The first phase of the project involved Council undertaking a range of background studies and data collection including:

- detailed land survey (geospatial mapping);
- development of a new Conservation Management Plan; and
- traffic, pedestrian and cycling movement patterns and numbers on the shared path and in surrounding streets.

The second phase of the project will involve developing the draft masterplan, followed by further community consultation before finalisation.

2.2 Engagement overview and program

Stage 1 community engagement aimed to inform the community about the project and seek broad ideas and input from a diverse range of community members, parkland users and key stakeholder groups. The purpose of the engagement was to gain an understanding of the community's current uses of the parklands as well as their concerns, future preferences, priorities, and ideas for the future.

Participants could provide feedback and ideas for the overall parklands as well as indicate ideas and feedback for specific areas.

Linear Parkland users, future users and key stakeholder groups who use and / or operate in and around space were identified as the target population for this engagement. The consultation was open for four weeks from 4 April to 1 May 2022.

ChatterBox Projects was engaged to support Council with the planning and deliver of engagement activities, analyse the community feedback and produce a consultation findings report.

The community was made aware of the project and the opportunities to get involved with consultation via:

- Information on Council's website and on the Your Say Yarra engagement platform
- Information in Yarra News, Yarra Life e-news and other relevant Council newsletters
- Posts on Council's social media sites
- Core flute posters placed in the Linear Parklands
- Project postcard mailed out to surrounding households
- Posters and postcards placed at Council facilities and community locations
- Emails to key stakeholder and interest groups including nearby schools

Engagement activities where people could provide feedback included:

- Survey available in digital and hardcopy formats (see Appendix 1)
- Online mapping tool
- Place-based pop-ups x 3
- Written submissions
- Online key stakeholder workshop x 1
- Student workshop x 1

Survey (online and hard copy formats)

A 19-question survey was designed to capture participants' views about the parklands as well as demographic details to generate a participation profile (see Appendix x1). The survey could be completed online via Your Say Yarra (<https://yoursayyarra.com.au/linearparklands>) and in hard copy format which were available at the place-based pop-up engagement activities. The survey opened 4 April and closed 1 May 2022.

Online mapping tool

The online mapping tool was available via Your Say Yarra (<https://yoursayyarra.com.au/linearparklands>). A map of the entire parklands area was shown. Participants selected one of four pin categories (love and value; unique and important; needs improving; and ideas for the future), selected a specific feature or location, and then entered a personalised comment. Participants could participate one or multiple times. The online mapping submissions provided useful insights for each Area (A to E) and complemented the feedback gathered via other engagement activities.

Place-based pop-up engagement

The engagement program included three place-based pop-ups in the parklands, as follows:

1. Friday 8 April, from 2.30pm – 5.30pm near Rushall Station
2. Wednesday 13 April, from 12pm – 3pm near the North Carlton Neighbourhood House
3. Sunday 1 May, from 10am – 1pm near Park Street Cafe

The pop-ups were designed to intercept users of the parklands, provide information about the consultation, and invite questions and feedback.

Feedback could be provided via the survey (hard copy format) and one or more of the following activities:

- **Chatboard** (where people can write their responses on a board with chalk) asked ‘What do you love and value about the Linear Parklands?’.
- **Dotmocracy activity** invited participants to prioritise what was most important to them along the Linear Parklands. Participants could select up to four priorities from a listing of eight elements.
- **Ideas drawing sheet** was designed for children and as an option for adults to express their feedback and ideas through drawing.
- **Mapping activity** invited participants to write their ideas for the parklands on a large map and permitted participants to identify specific locations for changes and improvements.
- **Voting pod** (where participants could select an option by placing a ball into a one of multiple labelled tubes) asked how often participants used or visited the facilities along the Linear Parklands. This tool provided an interactive way of getting people to think about the parklands and start a conversation while providing data for the project.

The pop-up activities were designed to replicate and complement the questions asked in the survey, to ensure similar types of feedback were gathered via different types of engagement activities.

Online key stakeholder workshop

An online workshop was held on 4 April, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm for key stakeholder groups operating in and around the parklands or with an interest in the parklands.

The objectives of the workshop were to ensure key stakeholder groups:

- were informed about the project early;
- had the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback and ideas; and
- were happy to help support the project by passing information onto their members/ networks and contacts.

A broad range of local interest groups were invited to attend including primary and high schools, business operators, Indigenous elders, resident’s associations, community centres and Neighbourhood Houses,

community gardening groups, social housing and retirement homes, and historical, environmental, and active transport advocacy groups.

Attendees included representatives of:

- 3068 Residents Group
- Active Transport Advisory Committee
- Brunswick South Primary School
- Carlton Community History group
- Moreland City Council
- North Fitzroy Community Garden Group (Rushall Garden)
- Velo Cycles
- Yarra City Council
- Yarra Environmental Advisory Committee (YEAC)

Through this workshop valuable insights were gathered regarding how different user groups interact with the parklands as well as specialist knowledge of key issues relating to different areas of expertise.

Student workshop

The student workshop was held in the parklands (near the Park Street Café) on 2 May from 11 am to 12.30pm. Seven students from Brunswick South Primary School (Environment Team members) attended the workshop.

The students were provided with information about the project and as a group participated in the pop-up activities including the Mapping tool, ChatBoard, Dotmocracy activity and Voting Pod. The workshop finished with each student providing their feedback and ideas via the drawing sheet.

Please note: Fitzroy North Primary School, Fitzroy High School and Princess Hill Primary School were invited to the workshop but were unable to attend.



2.3 Overview of participation

The engagement activities were effective in seeking feedback from 764 participants, although the overall reach of communications was far greater. An overview of participation outcomes is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Overview of communication and engagement activities with participation outcomes

Communication and engagement methods	Participation outcomes
Engagement activities	
Survey (online and hard copy)	490
Online mapping tool	49
3x place-based pop-up engagements (Mapping tool, ChatBoard, Dotmocracy activity and Voting Pod participants)	203
Student workshops	7
Online key stakeholder workshop	9
Written submissions	6
TOTAL	764
Communications activities (inform and raise awareness)	
Visitors to Your Say Yarra project page	1137
Number of contributors (contributions) on the Your Say Yarra project page	420
Hard copy surveys received	50
Postcards delivered to local residents and businesses	2200
Engagements from three Council's social media posts	841

Please note: some people may have participated in more than one engagement activity.



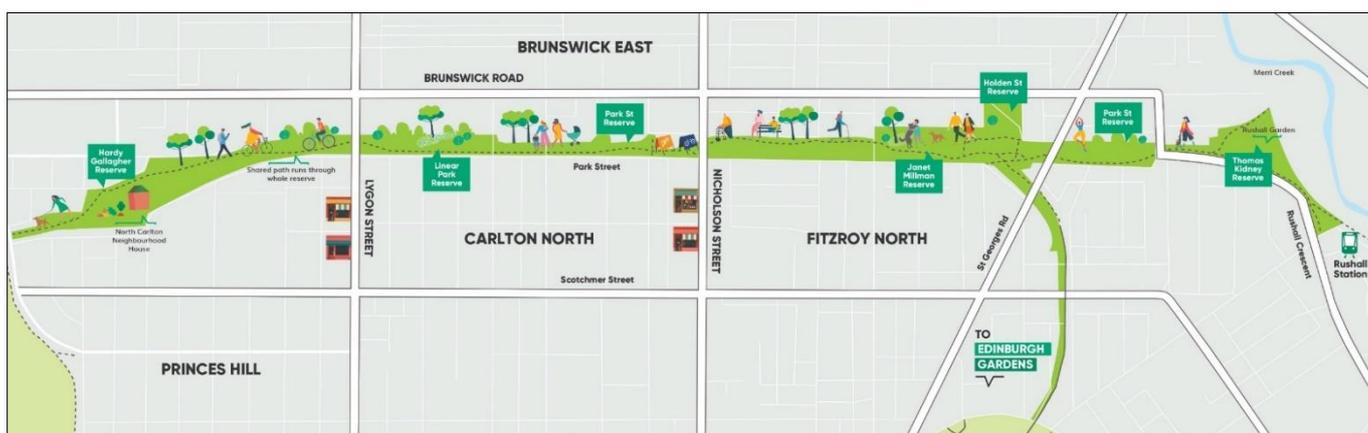
3. Findings from the analysis of the community feedback - parklands

This section reports the findings from the analysis of the community feedback gathered via the survey, online mapping activity, school workshop, online key stakeholder workshop, place-based pop-up engagement activities and written submissions.

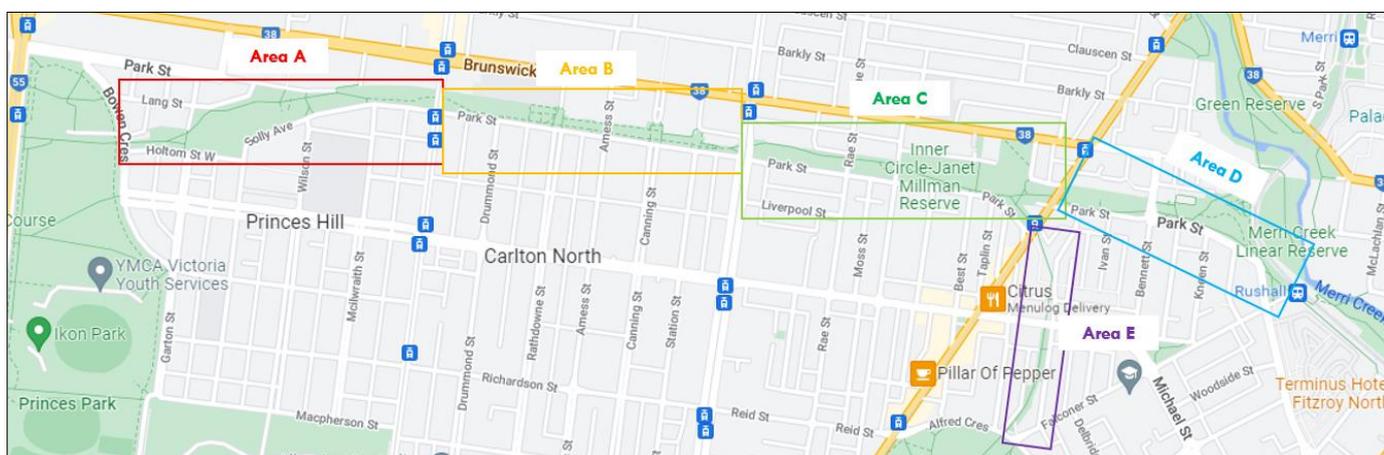
The focus of this section is the features, facilities, and spaces relating to the overall Linear Parklands. Findings from the analysis of feedback referencing the Inner Capital City Trail (which runs through the entire reserve and is also known as the shared cycling/pedestrian path or shared bike/walking path, see Map 4) is presented in Section 4. Insights relating to specific sections of the Parklands (Area A, B, C, D or E, see Map 5) is presented in Section 6.

It is noted that some feedback refers to locations that are outside of the City of Yarra municipality (and therefore the responsibility of a neighbouring Council) or Council's responsibility (such as Rushall Station which is managed by Metro). However, this feedback is regarded as being relevant to the overall context of Linear Parklands and has been retained in this report. Most of the land within Area B (between Lygon Street and Nicholson Street) is located within the City of Moreland municipality and the entire area is maintained by the City of Moreland under agreement with the City of Yarra.

Map 4. Image of the project area



Map 5. Areas within the Parklands (Areas A to E)



Overall, the 490 survey responses provided the most in-depth information in terms of demographic details, connections to, and uses of the Parklands; what they love or value about the Parklands; unique or important aspects of the Parklands; desired activities, or facilities and how areas could be used differently, looking to the future and general feedback. Verbatim feedback or excerpts gathered via the online mapping tool, place-based pop-up engagement, written submissions, online key stakeholder workshop, and student workshops are presented throughout this section, alongside the most relevant survey findings. This feedback is informative as it elaborates the survey feedback. Some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity.

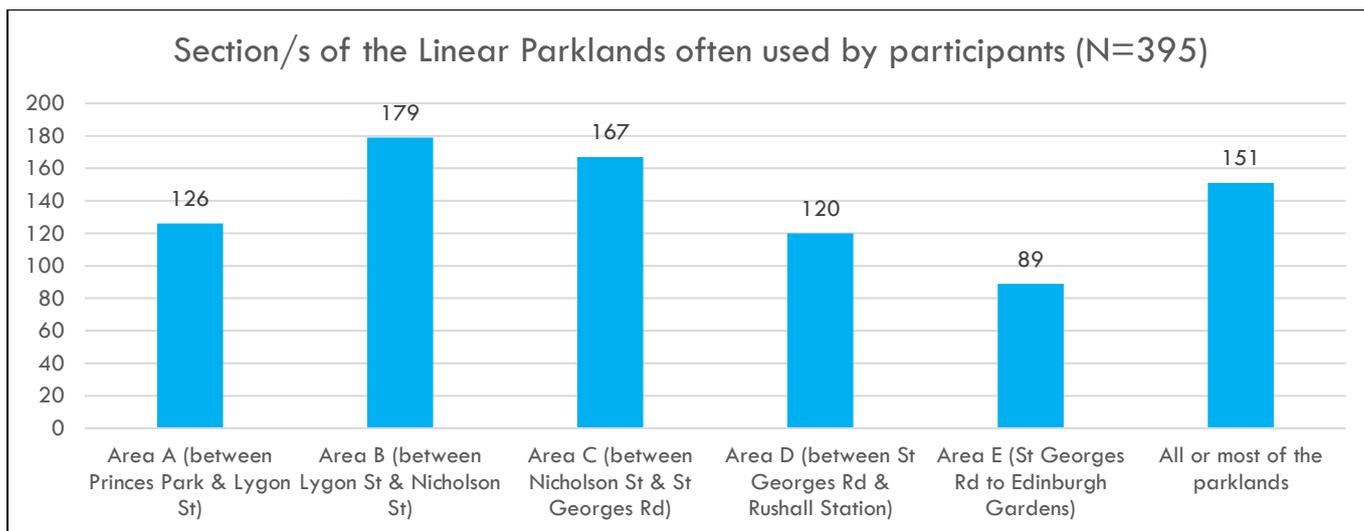
In relation to the analysis approach, responses to the closed-ended questions were tally counted and are presented as figures. Personalised responses to the open-ended questions were manually analysed and coded in MS Excel. Parkland features, facilities and spaces were used as an initial coding template (themes) and additional themes emerged from the feedback during the analysis process. Some personalised responses outlined requests, complaints or referred to topics regarded as outside the scope of this consultation. This feedback will be noted by Council and is not included in this report. Themes with summary statements which describe the sentiment in the relevant feedback are presented in tables, accompanied by tally counts.

3.1 Participants’ connections to, and uses of, the Linear Parklands

Survey respondents were asked which section or sections of the Linear Parklands they use the most or often use. The survey (both hard copy and online) included a map outline five separate areas of the parklands (see Map 5). Respondents were able to select one or more options which included the five separate areas on the map or an option that included ‘All or Most of the parklands’. 95 respondents did not provide a response to this question.

As shown in Figure 2 the most frequently selected options were Area B (179 or 45%) and Area C (167 or 42%). Many respondents also selected All of most of the parklands (151 or 38%).

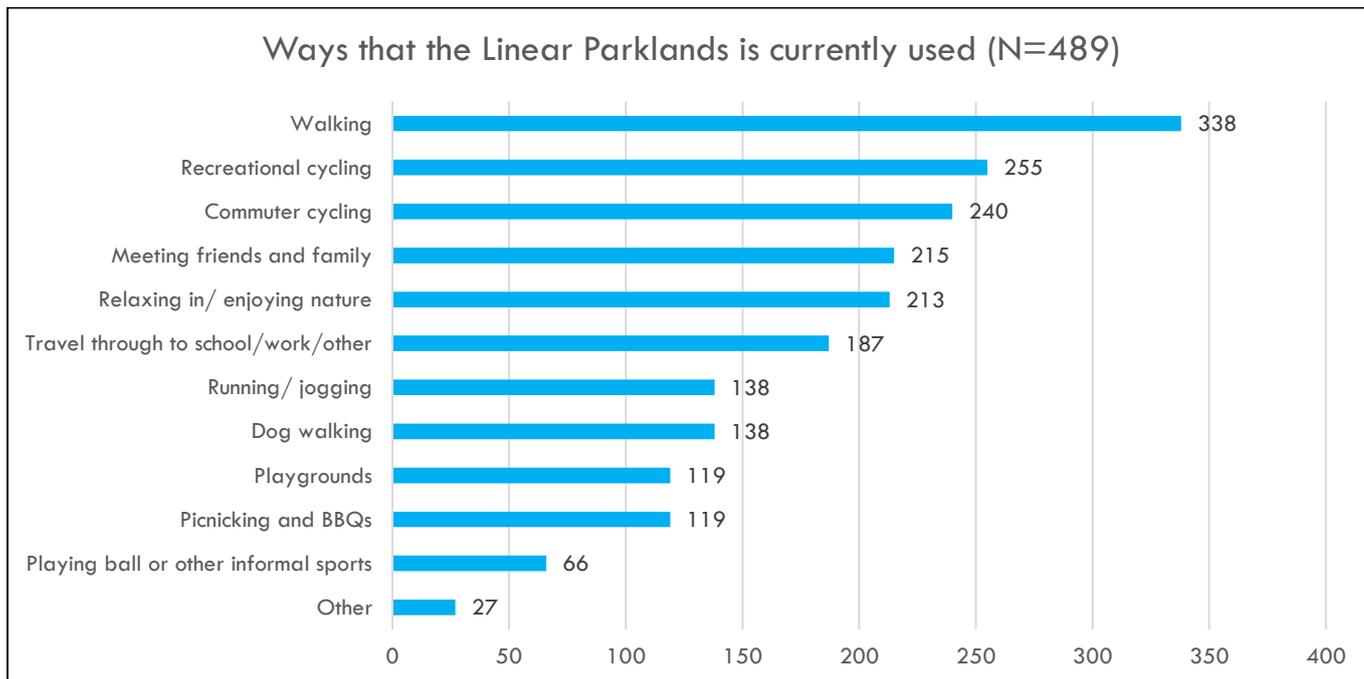
Figure 2. Section/s of the Linear Parklands often used by participants (Survey)



Survey respondents were asked how they currently use the Linear Parklands. Respondents could select one or more of the 11 response options and provide a personalised response by selecting “Other”. All response options were selected. One respondent did not provide a response to this question.

As shown in Figure 3, the majority of respondents selected Walking (338 or 69%) followed by Recreational cycling (255 or 52%) and Commuter cycling (240 or 49%).

Figure 3. Ways that the Linear Parklands is current used by participants (Survey)



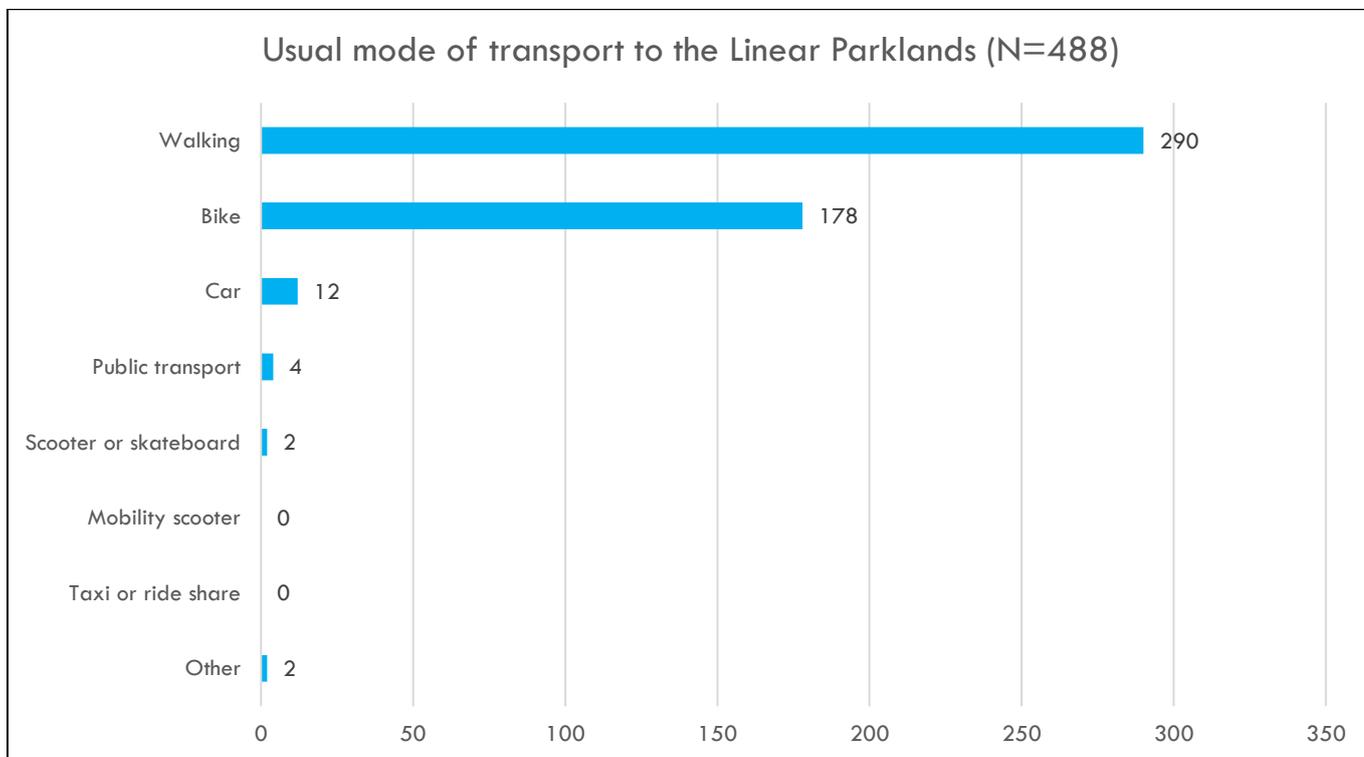
The 27 respondents who selected “Other” provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Accessing shops, Rushall community garden, and Fitzroy tennis club by bike or foot
- As a parkour practitioner
- Community Garden
- Exercise/play
- Fitness circuit drills
- Gardening at Rushall garden
- Getting children out to Bike Ride
- Heritage interest
- It's a key bike route for getting to many destinations so I use it for accessing shops and services by bike, and entertainment and eating venues in the evenings
- Morning coffee at Park St Cafe
- Overlook the park we live opposite
- Parkour, roller skating
- Pétanque / Bocce
- Playground for grandchildren
- Railway House community garden (4)
- Riding Lime/Neuron e-scooters
- Roller skating (2)
- Rushall garden member - growing food
- School drop to Brunswick South Primary School
- Skating
- Taking kids to school
- Work at North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House
- Use as study space

Survey respondents were asked how they usually get to the Linear Parklands. Respondents could select one of the seven response options or provide a personalised response by selecting “Other”. Two respondents did not provide a response to this question.

As shown in Figure 4, most respondents selected Walking (290 or 59%), followed by Bike (178 or 36%). The two respondents who selected “Other” reported: Walking and escooter, and Jogging.

Figure 4. Participants’ usual mode of transport to the Linear Parklands (Survey)

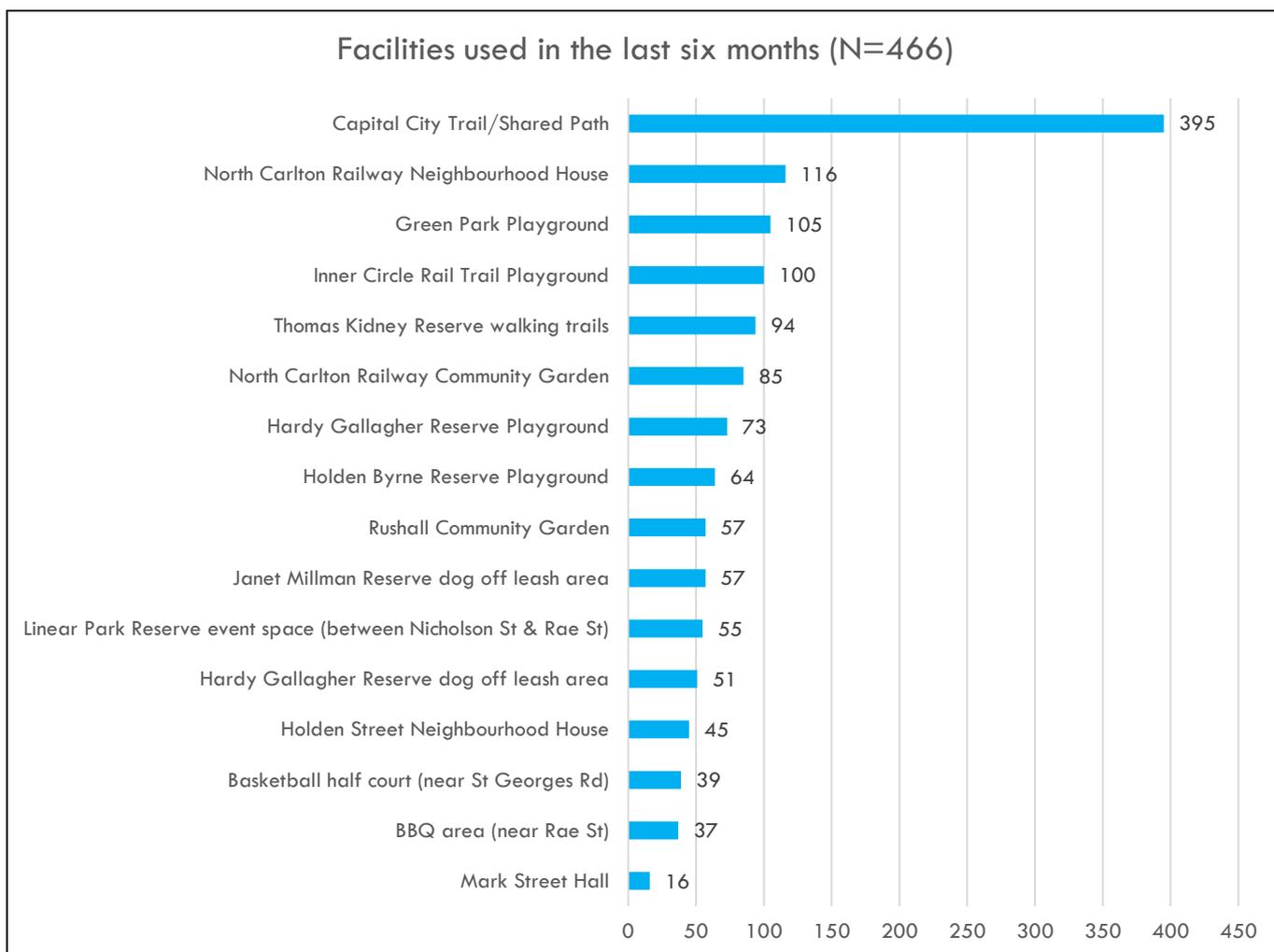


Survey respondents were asked what facilities they have used in the last six months and could select one or more of the 16 response options. All response options were selected. 24 respondents did not provide a response to this question.

As shown in Figure 5, the majority of respondents selected Capital City Trail/Shared Path (395 or 85%), followed by North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House (116 or 25%) and Green Park Playground (105 or 23%).



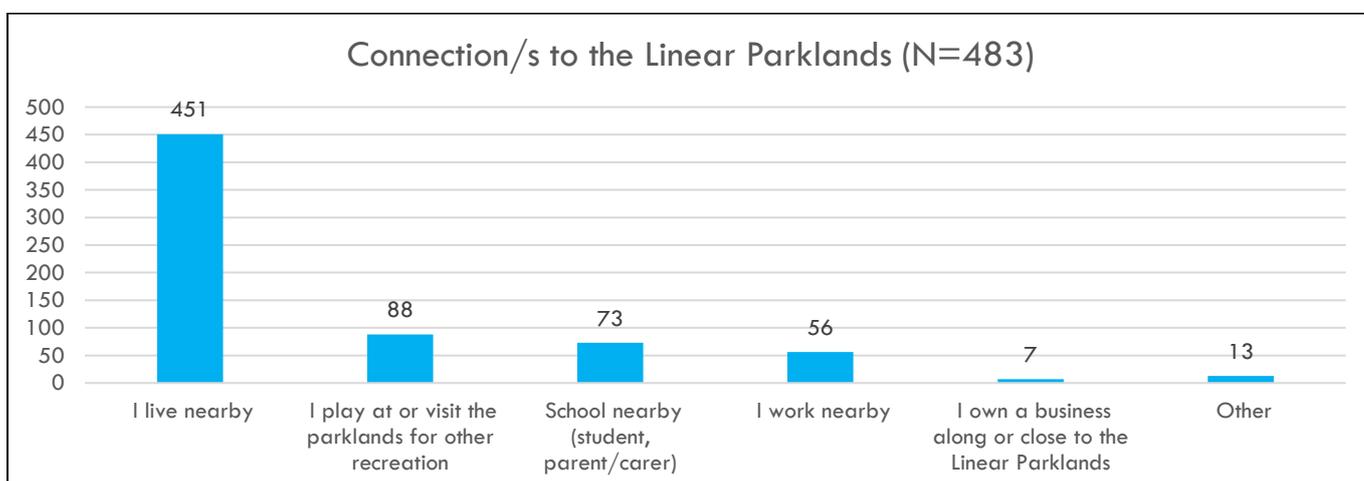
Figure 5. Facilities used in the last six months by participants (Survey)



Survey respondents were asked about their connection to the Linear Parklands and could select one or more of the five response options and provide a personalised response by selecting “Other”. Seven respondents did not provide a response to this question.

As shown in Figure 6, the majority of respondents indicated they live nearby (451 or 93%). Some respondents play or visit for recreation purposes (88 or 18%), have connections to a nearby school (73 or 15%), work nearby (56 or 12%) and/or own a nearby business (7 or 1%).

Figure 6. Participants’ connection/s to the Linear Parklands (Survey)



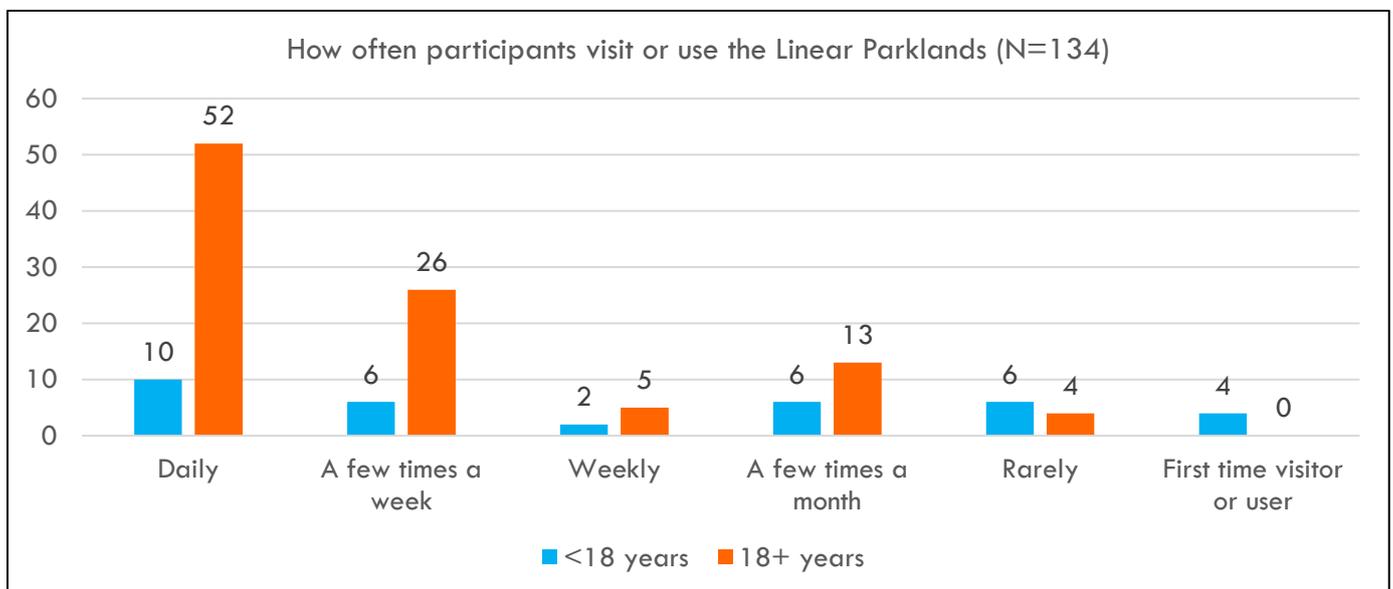
The 13 respondents who selected “Other” provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Dog Walking
- Garden
- Have local taekwondo club close
- Have parkour and roller-skating groups based nearby
- Live opposite the park and I use it daily
- Mainly commuting
- Member of the Rushall Community Garden
- Purposefully chose a medical clinic and hairdresser that I can cycle to safely via the linear parklands
- Recreational cycling and visiting friends
- Travel to various destinations in Melbourne
- Use it as a cycling link across the north of the city from Flemington via royal park
- Use it for walking and cycling
- Walk our dogs here, school parties at Railway Neighbourhood Park

Place-based pop-up (voting pod) participants and Primary school workshop participants (aged under 12 years) were asked “How often do you visit or use the Linear Parklands?”. Participants were presented with six statements invited to allocate one vote. Voting balls were colour-coded based on each participants’ age grouping and there were 134 participants (34 aged under 18 years and 100 aged 18 years and over).

As shown in Figure 7, all statements were selected by participants in both age groupings except First time visitor or user. Overall, many participants of both age groupings indicated that they visit or use Linear Parklands on a Daily basis (10 participants aged under 18 years and 52 participants aged 18 years and over).

Figure 7. How often participants visit or use the Linear Parklands (Pop-up engagement and Primary School workshop)



3.2 What participants love or value now about the Linear Parklands

Survey respondents were asked “What do you love or value right now about the Linear Parklands?” and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 405 respondents provided a personalised response which referred to one or more topics. Respondents referred to a variety of aspects, elements, features, facilities, and spaces.

As shown in Table 3, the personalised responses were sorted into six categories or themes:

- Green and natural features of the space (referenced in 290 surveys)
- Linkages to support access and active movement (254 surveys)
- Comfort and sense of community (218 surveys)
- General facilities in the Parklands (83 surveys)
- Named facilities or spaces in the Parklands (29 surveys)
- Other comments

The top 5 most frequently referenced topics within the five themes were:

1. Green and open spaces (Natural features of the space - referenced in 214 surveys)
2. Access to off-road cycling and walking paths (Linkages to support access and active movement - 154 surveys)
3. Pleasant and safe place to ride, walk and explore (Comfort and sense of community - 127 surveys)
4. Routes and connections to move to other areas (Linkages to support access and active movement - 94 surveys)
5. Family-friendly and dog-friendly (Comfort and sense of community - 68 surveys)

Table 3. Summary of themes and topics describing elements that are loved or valued (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=405)
1. Green and natural features of the space (referenced in 290 surveys)	
Green and open spaces: Love the parkland, green area, green corridor, and parks. Value the greenery, open air, fresh air, and grassland	214
Gardens, trees, and landscaping: Value the trees, sitting under shady trees, big trees, many green trees, and dense tree areas. Enjoy the fragrances of plants while walking and the beautiful gardens	61
Nature, native vegetation, and plants: Love the bushland, natural environment, native plantings and species, and the ecological value	42
Birdlife and wildlife: Love the birdlife, listening to the birds, Magpies, Black Cockatoos, Kookaburras, Rainbow Lorikeets. Value the wildlife corridor and restoring of habitats	37
Well maintained, clean and beautiful: Love the beauty, vibrancy, and attractive and clean of the facilities. Value the well-maintained paths and well-kept cycling track	20
2. Linkages to support access and active movement (referenced in 254 surveys)	
Access to off-road cycling and walking paths: Value the off-road and continuous route that is away from cars and busy traffic. Love the wide path, shared paths, and that bike/walking crossings have right of way	154
Routes and connections to move to other areas: Love the connections between east, north and west. Value the major thoroughfare and a direct route in either direction	94
Close to me, home, work, school and/or city: Love that it is near my house or next to my child’s school. Value being able to commute to work and that it is so close to the city	62
Convenient, easy for my household to access: Love having a space that is convenient for my household (myself, family, dog). Value the accessibility, having access to shops, and the ability and ease of travelling to nearby places	35
3. Comfort and sense of community (referenced in 218 surveys)	

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=405)
Pleasant and safe place to ride, walk and explore: Love that it is a great place to walk and ride. It provides a pleasant riding experience and promenading the path is a great joy. It is a great place for children to explore and well-lit paths create a sense of safety	127
Family-friendly and dog-friendly: Love enjoying this space with my family and that there are so many places to play and options for children. Value the space which is great for families and dog walking	68
Friendly, diverse community and sense of connection: Value the way the space facilitates neighbourhood connections. Love the community feeling, sense of a diverse community and feeling connected to my community. Love seeing other people enjoy the park	61
Good place for recreation and socialisation: A valued meeting place, where I can meet my neighbours and there is the capacity to socialise and meet new people. Love that there are lots of things to see and do such as having picnics, children's parties, kicking a ball with friends or sitting and reading	42
Quiet, peaceful and/or good for health and wellbeing: A valued and important place for physical and mental health, particularly during COVID lockdowns. Love relaxing here, it is an oasis and quiet space where I feel happy and a space where I can keep fit	31
Activities and/or history of the area: Love the film nights, rail trail history and educational workshops	12
4. General facilities in the Parklands (referenced in 83 surveys)	
Playgrounds and play spaces: Value the safe and varied playgrounds, fenced playgrounds, swings and play equipment, which can also be used for parkour	40
BBQ area	6
Community gardens (general)	5
Benches, resting areas, and shaded seating	4
Dog parks (general)	3
Bins and water fountains	2
Basketball courts	1
5. Named facilities or spaces in the Parklands (referenced in 29 surveys)	
North Carlton Neighbourhood House	8
North Carlton Railway Community Garden	6
Edinburgh Gardens	4
Holden Byrne Reserve Playground	3
Janet Millman Reserve dog off leash area	2
Rushall Community Garden	2
Thomas Kidney Reserve Walking trails	2
Inner Circle Rail Trail Playground	1
Holden Street Neighbourhood House	1
6. Other comments	
Element referenced in a specific section, Areas A to E (see Section 6)	0
Requests or complaints	30
Shared cycling/pedestrian path (see Section 5)	13

Online key stakeholder workshop participants were asked what they love and value about the Linear Parklands and provided the following feedback:

Community open space

- This green space is a precious resource and open space
- Great open space that connects important community facilities
- Very important space during COVID to help people get out and be active
- Great area of congregation respite from the urban interface

Connectivity and transport (also see Section 5)

- Great for active transport - a link to Edinburgh Gardens and on to Napier Street route. A significant East-West route and collector and distributor from North and South
- Love the cross-town connection
- I love the connectivity
- It is a rare place in the inner city where you can ride safely and keep off the road
- Ability to link parklands is powerful especially for kids who ride to school on bikes
- Cyclists get right of way crossing most roads in the Linear parklands

Community facilities

- North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House serves a vital community function, especially for the residents of the housing estate opposite
- Love the gardens
- The Holden Neighbourhood House offers a wide option for different uses.

Environment

- The Yarra sections of habitat planting in the parklands are looking really good and inspire many. This linear park provides a really valuable habitat corridor and connection. Well done!

Place-based pop-up (chatboard) participants were asked “What do you love and value about the Linear Parklands?” Participants provided the following feedback for the Linear Parklands generally:

Community open space

- Green space
- Open
- Lots of greenery
- Love the tree area outside Brunswick South Primary
- The trees and nature

Connectivity and transport (also see Section 5)

- Cars give way to pedestrians/bikes etc.
- Connected bike route
- I like the pedestrian / cycle priority crossing just before Princess Park
- Long fun bike path
- Safe cycling
- Shared priority crossing on Rae Street
- The new bridge rocks

Environment

- Play with nature
- Trees (2 mentions)
- Climbing trees

General

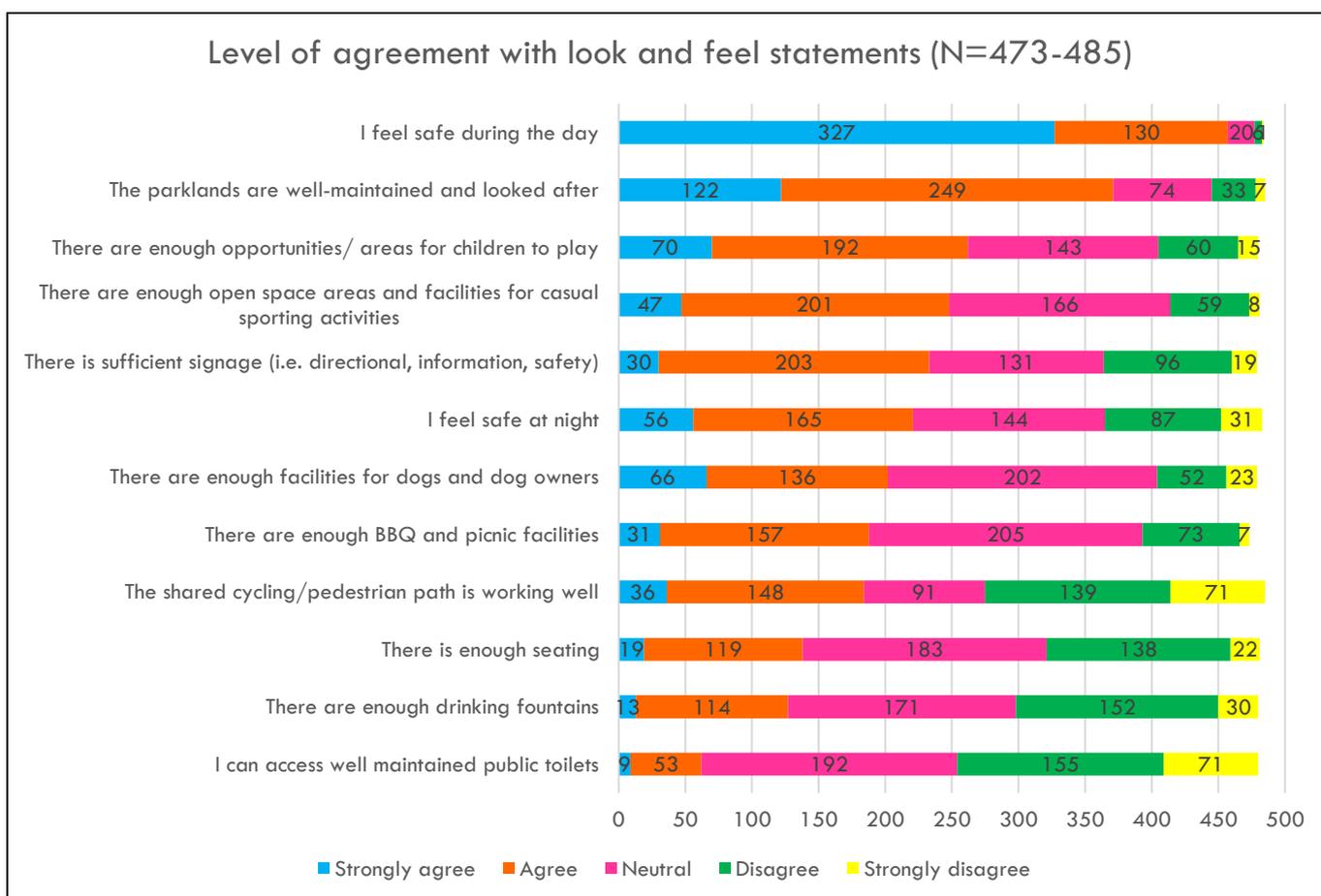
- Don't do too much. I like it the way it is!
- Easy on the eye
- Flat
- For 20 years I've loved the way it is
- Harmony
- Inclusivity – caters for a variety of abilities
- Love the level of maintenance
- Loved the movie nights
- Mural

3.3 Views on the current look and feel of the Linear Parklands (level of agreement)

Survey respondents were asked “How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Linear Parklands? (Choose one for each statement)” and presented with a listing of 12 statements. Three respondents did not provide a response at all. Between 473 and 485 respondents selected a response for each statement.

As shown in Figure 8, the level of agreement varied for each statement.

Figure 8. Level of agreement with look and feel of the Linear Parklands statements (Survey)



Most or many respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the following statements:

- I feel safe during the day (457 or 94%)
- The parklands are well-maintained and looked after (371 or 76%)
- There are enough opportunities/areas for children to play (262 or 55%)

- There are enough open space areas and facilities for casual sporting activities (248 or 52%)
- There is sufficient signage (i.e., directional, information, safety) (233 or 49% and 131 or 27%)
- I feel safe at night (221 or 46% and 144 or 30% Neutral)
- There are enough facilities for dogs and dog owners (202 or 42% and 202 or 42% Neutral)
- There are enough BBQ and picnic facilities (188 or 40% and 205 or 43% Neutral)

In contrast, many respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed with the following statements:

- I can access well maintained public toilets (226 or 47%)
- There are enough drinking fountains (182 or 38%)
- There is enough seating (160 or 33%)

Regarding the statement “The shared cycling/pedestrian path is working well”, polarised views were reported as follows:

- Strongly agree or agree: 184 or 38%
- Neutral: 91 or 19%
- Strongly disagree or disagree: 210 or 43% (also see Section 4)

Survey respondents who indicated Disagree or Strongly disagree in the previous question were invited to provide a personalised response outlining their reasoning and/or improvement suggestions. A total of 377 respondents provided a personalised response which referred to one or more topics. Respondents referred to a variety of aspects, elements, features, facilities, and spaces.

As shown in Table 4, the personalised responses were sorted into 11 categories or themes:

- Greater access to public toilets (referenced in 100 surveys)
- Need better or more safety, directional, and information (70 surveys)
- Increase safety through lighting, safer pedestrian movements, and surveillance (55 surveys)
- Maintenance, cleaning, and general improvements (49 surveys)
- Need more space and amenities for dogs and dog owners (51 surveys)
- Need additional seating (43 surveys)
- Need more drinking fountains and access to water (40 surveys)
- Need more play areas, and improved playgrounds (32 surveys)
- Need more BBQs and picnic facilities (23 surveys)
- Use the space and facilities for informal sport-related activities (19 surveys)
- Other comments

The top 5 most frequently referenced topics within the five themes were:

1. Greater access to public toilets (referenced in 100 surveys)
2. Need additional seating (43 surveys)
3. Need more drinking fountains and access to water (40 surveys)
4. The park needs more lighting (Increase safety through lighting, safer pedestrian movements, and surveillance - 39 surveys)
5. More regular maintenance (Maintenance, cleaning, and general improvements - 29 surveys)

Table 4. Summary of themes and topics in explanations for disagreement and improvement suggestions – current look and feel of Linear Parklands (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=377)
Greater access to public toilets (98 surveys)	
Need for more public toilets that are accessible, well-maintained, and open extended hours. Toilets at Railway House and near Carlton North Community Centre are often locked out of hours. Suggested locations for new public toilets: near all playgrounds, Holden Street Reserve, Park Street Reserve, between Lygon and Nicholson Streets, between Rushall Station and Princes Park, between St Georges Road and Lygon Street, near St Georges Road, and near Nicholson Street	100
Need better or more safety, directional, and information (70 surveys)	
Safety and directional signage along and around the shared cycling/pedestrian path. Speed limit signs and signs indicating to slow down, and beware of children signs around playgrounds directed at cyclists	28
Wayfinding signage indicating the location of facilities such as toilets and drinking fountains within the park and signposting other routes and places	18
Safety signage at crossings and intersections clearly indicating right of way to inform drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Some current signage is unclear	14
More clear signage generally including reflective signage on footpaths and road pavements	6
Signage indicating dog on-leash and off-leash areas and to be on-leash near the path	4
Signage recognising local history and features	3
Increase safety through lighting, safer pedestrian movements, and surveillance (55 surveys)	
The park needs more lighting: The park is generally dark and not well lit which creates safety concerns. Needs more lighting and street lighting, sympathetic to wildlife	39
Concerns about safe pedestrian movements particularly at intersections and crossings	11
Address anti-social behaviours, loitering, alcohol and drug consumption and offer support to rough sleepers	5
Need more space and amenities for dogs and dog owners (51 surveys)	
Improved amenities in current or new dog spaces, such as water bowls, poo bag dispensers, bins, and seating for owners	23
Designated dog space or fenced dog park, preferably for dogs off-leash	22
Responsible dog ownership awareness and enforcement in the areas of dogs being off-leash in on-leash areas and around the shared cycling/pedestrian path	12
Maintenance, cleaning, and general improvements (49 surveys)	
More regular maintenance. Regular maintenance of the green areas, grassed area, and barren areas. Regular cutting back of vegetation and weed eradication	29
More bins, clean up the dumped rubbish and overflowing bins	14
More trees, plantings, shrubs, garden beds, and natives	8
More tree shade and shade structures	5
Need additional seating (43 surveys)	
More seating, some with shade structures. Suggested types of seating: communal seating, benches to rest, seating for those who need to sit at regular intervals (all fitness levels and ages), seats for quiet contemplation. Suggested locations: on the CCT, near Railway House and, the Janet Millman area	43

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=377)
Need more drinking fountains and access to water (40 surveys)	
More drinking fountains, some with dog water bowls, and better access to water. Suggested locations: near BBQ areas, closer to St Georges Road, Janet Millman Reserve, Holden Byrne Reserve, and at major road crossings such as St Georges Road and Nicholson Street	40
Need more play areas, and improved playgrounds (32 surveys)	
Small playgrounds with old equipment and little shade to be improved and be accessible and suitable for children of all ages	13
Need more children's play areas, consider nature and water play features	11
Collaborate with Brunswick South Primary School regarding play area and access options	11
Need more BBQs and picnic facilities (23 surveys)	
Need more BBQs, BBQ areas, picnic tables, and picnic facilities, some with shade structures and/or fencing. Suggested locations: Janet Millman Reserve, between Lygon and Nicholson Streets	23
Use the space and facilities for informal sport-related activities (20 surveys)	
Provide new facilities and equipment. Suggestions: outdoor gym equip, skateboard ramp, pump park, basketball/netball half-courts or rings, tennis wall, cricket nets, soccer goals, bike parking racks, and ping pong tables	14
Have space for casual sports activities, skateboarding, and parkour	6
Other comments	
Shared cycling/pedestrian path (see Section 5)	227
Element referenced in a specific section, Areas A to E (see Section 6)	8

Online key stakeholder workshop participants were asked about the general issues and challenges for the Linear Parklands overall. Participants provided the following feedback:

- What can we do on the Office of Housing Land? This land contains some of the most significant bits of railway heritage.
- Safety issues with children on bikes riding to school with commuter cyclists going fast.
- Cyclists have right of way on most roads – not all – lack of consistency may be an issue.
- There can be a clash between the needs of traffic management and heritage protection.
- Lighting needed along the shared pathway but need to consider impact on wildlife vs safety.

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- *Maintenance - rubbish collection (more bins particularly between Nicholson to Lygon Streets)*
- *Crossing at Macpherson Street across Lygon St. Very dangerous, six 6 lanes of traffic should also be 40km*

3.4 Unique or important aspects of the Linear Parklands that need to be protected in the future

Survey respondents were prompted to “Tell us if there is anything unique or important that needs to be protected for the future? (Think environmental, cultural, historical, community)” and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 244 respondents provided a personalised response which referred to one or more topics. Respondents referred to a variety of aspects, elements, features, facilities, and spaces.

As shown in Table 5, the personalised responses were sorted into five categories or themes:

- Green and natural features of the space (referenced in 132 surveys)
- Heritage, comfort, and sense of community (129 surveys)
- Named facilities or spaces in the Parklands (62 surveys)
- Linkages to support access and active movement (10 surveys)
- Other comments

The top 5 most frequently referenced topics within the five themes were:

1. Trees (Green and natural features of the space - referenced in 76 surveys)
2. Nature and native vegetation (Green and natural features of the space - 52)
3. Recognition of the railway history (Heritage, comfort, and sense of community - 43 surveys)
4. Openness of the green space (Heritage, comfort, and sense of community - 40 surveys)
5. Greenery, gardens, and landscaping (Green and natural features of the space - 28 surveys)

Table 5. Summary of themes and topics in descriptions of unique or important aspects of the Linear Parklands to be protected (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=244)
1. Green and natural features of the space (referenced in 132 surveys)	
Trees: The shady trees, big trees, native trees, gum trees, eucalyptus trees and tree canopy	76
Nature and native vegetation: Natural environment, native vegetation, bushes, flora, fauna, revegetation, and biodiversity	52
Greenery, gardens, and landscaping: Greenery, beautiful gardens, native plantings, landscapes, and grassed areas	28
Birdlife and wildlife: The variety of beautiful birdlife, the wildlife corridor and restoring of habitats	20
2. Heritage, comfort, and sense of community (referenced in 129 surveys)	
Recognition of the railway history: Signage, information, plaques, or artwork referencing the railway history, railway tracks, inner circle, linear trains, tram and station	43
Openness of the green space: green parklands, open space, sense of openness, and grassed areas	40
Recognition of the cultural and natural history: Signage, plaques or artwork referencing significant history, industrial, post settlement and European heritage. Information and signage about heritage buildings and significant trees and plants	23
Acknowledgement and understanding of the Indigenous/Wurundjeri history: Planning that recognises the Indigenous heritage. More Aboriginal placemaking, signage or plaques about Aboriginal history, and First Nations cultural and environmental references	24
Community space for gathering and socialising: Shared community outdoor space with multi-purpose that are accessible to the diverse community. Spaces where family, friends, and community members can meet and socialise	17
Peaceful, natural space that is good for health and wellbeing	10
Safe and clean place to walk, run and play	8

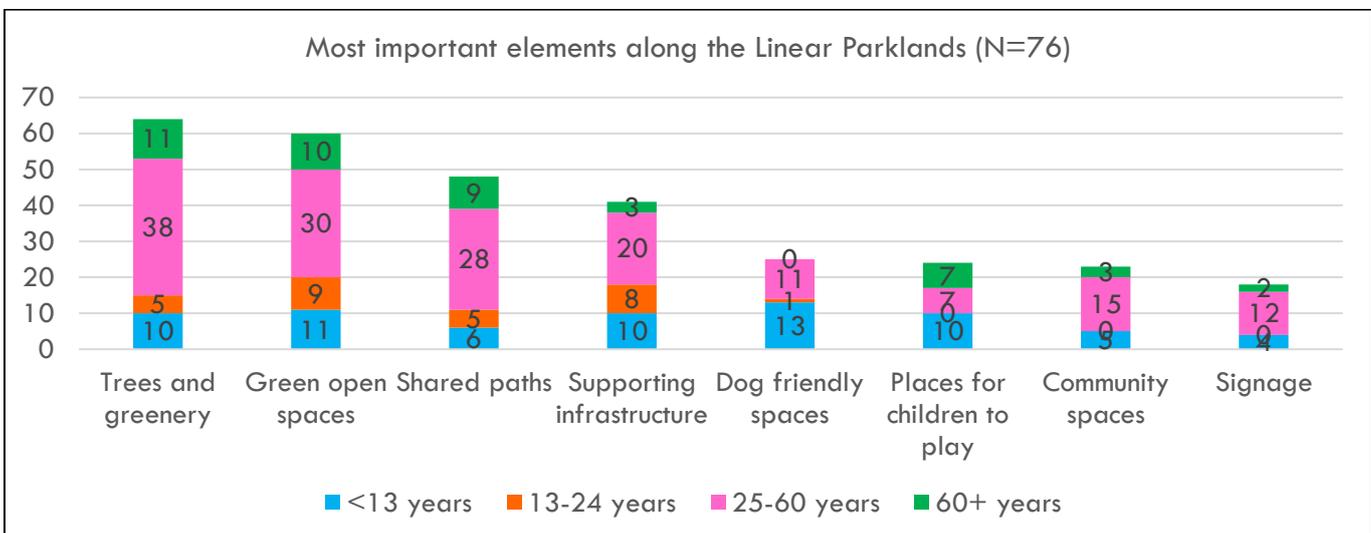
Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=244)
3. Named facilities or spaces in the Parklands (referenced in 62 surveys)	
Rushall Community Garden	24
North Carlton Neighbourhood House (Railway House, Old train station, North Carlton Railway house/neighbourhood house)	20
Neighbourhood house or Community house (general)	11
Janet Millman Reserve dog off leash area	5
Thomas Kidney Reserve Walking trails	2
Linear Park Reserve event space	2
Hardy Gallagher Park/Reserve dog off leash area	2
BBQ area	1
4. Linkages to support access and active movement (referenced in 9 surveys)	
Routes and connections to move to other areas: The off-road connections between east, north and west and access to other areas, shops, and Merri Creek trail	8
Protect existing car parking	2
5. Other comments	
Shared cycling/pedestrian path (see Section 5)	33
All of it is unique and important, leave as it is and limit development	19
Requests or complaints	16
Element referenced in a specific section, Areas A to E (see Section 6)	1

Place-based pop-up (dotmocracy) participants and Primary school workshop participants (aged under 12 years) were asked “What’s most important to you along the Linear Parklands?”. Participants were presented with eight statements invited to place up to four dots. Dots were colour-coded based on each participants’ age grouping and there were 76 participants.

As shown in Figure 9, all statements were selected by participants in most age groupings. Overall, the top three most frequently selected statements were:

- Trees and greenery (64 dots)
- Green open spaces (60 dots)
- Shared path (48 dots)

Figure 9. Most important elements along the Linear Parklands (Pop-up engagement and Primary School workshop)



3.5 Potential activities and facilities for the Linear Parklands in the future

Survey respondents were asked “Are there any other activities or facilities you would like to have in the parklands in the future?” and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 289 respondents provided a personalised response which referred to one or more topics. Respondents referred to a variety of aspects, elements, features, facilities, and spaces.

As shown in Table 6, the personalised responses were sorted into five categories or themes:

- Ideas for new and improved facilities and spaces (referenced in 182 surveys)
- Prioritise the open space and natural environment (97 surveys)
- Activate the space with activities, events, and gatherings (43 surveys)
- Improvements or changes to specific existing facilities (21 surveys)
- Other comments

The top 5 most frequently referenced topics within the five themes were:

1. Exercise and recreational facilities (Ideas for new and improved facilities and spaces - referenced in 35 surveys)
2. Playgrounds and child-friendly spaces (Ideas for new and improved facilities and spaces - 29 surveys)
3. Trees and shade (Prioritise the open space and natural environment - 28 surveys)
4. Communal BBQ areas, seating, and shade (Ideas for new and improved facilities and spaces – 27 surveys)
5. Community Gardens (Prioritise the open space and natural environment - 27 surveys)

Table 6. Summary of themes and topics describing potential activities or facilities for the Linear Parklands in the future (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=289)
1. Ideas for new and improved facilities and spaces (referenced in 182 surveys)	
Exercise and recreational facilities: Gyms, courses, courts, adult obstacle course or outdoor gym equipment that is safe and accessible to community members of all abilities and fitness levels. Play options for older kids such as a half basketball court, volleyball court, soccer nets or a climbing course and disk-golf amenities as an inclusive option for intergenerational play	35
Playgrounds and child-friendly spaces: Playgrounds, child-friendly spaces, and options. Spaces which include elements such as water features or a water park, cubby house, and in-ground trampoline	29
Communal BBQ areas, seating, and shade: More BBQ facilities, additional seating, and shaded areas to create more of a picnic feel. More seating such as recliner seats to relax on and read and bench seats for resting, particularly for older persons	27
Dog-friendly zones and amenities: More dog friendly facilities such as a fenced off-leash area and agility equipment like small jumps and tunnels for exercise. More dog amenities such as dog poo bag dispensers, drinking fountains, and rubbish bins. Clear signage that indicates on-leash and off-leash areas	25
Clean, accessible public toilets	23
Drinking fountains and rubbish bins	21
Safe bike/walking path connections, crossings, and signals: Connections to other paths beyond the Linear Parklands and more cyclist/pedestrian right of way signals at busy intersections	15
Parkour and skate parks	15
Historical information displays and signage: Opportunities to interact with, and learn about, the historical aspects of the Parklands through signage and information along the	14

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=289)
path. Recognising the history and Indigenous history of the area to respect and acknowledge Australia's First Nations Peoples	
Bike repair station	13
Lighting and street lighting	13
Review or improve general facilities near Brunswick South Primary School	10
Passive recreation such as chess, table tennis, and bocce	5
Install artwork or sculptures	3
Maintain and clean existing facilities	2
2. Prioritise the open space and natural environment (referenced in 97 surveys)	
Trees and/or shade: More trees and shaded areas to protect from the sun and rain. More trees for picnics in the shade	28
Community gardens: More community gardens, an Indigenous community garden and opportunities for community members to grow and consume (lemons, olives, and herbs). A community kitchen garden in collaboration with Brunswick South Primary School to complement the busy Rushall Community Garden	27
Native vegetation and wildlife: Prioritise native trees, shrubs, and plants to provide shelter and habitat for wildlife. Creating a native corridor with a focus on native species and vegetation, with a focus on bee-friendly flowers, a bee apiary and bee-hive classes and a composting hub or worm farm	26
Open and/or green space: Green, lush, grassed areas for picnics More low-lying garden beds with softer landscaping to provide attractive spaces for all to enjoy	19
Tracks and/or trails: More recreational bike and jogging paths, surrounded by green plants and trees for those who seek respite and a connection with nature. Consider a BMX track	14
Nature-based play: Designated nature obstacles and play areas for children. Activate the space in natural ways such as by leaving large logs from nearby trees for seating and play	10
Maintain the green spaces	5
3. Activate the space with activities, events, and gatherings (referenced in 43 surveys)	
Food vans, pop-up cafes and bars: Re-establish or continue the food vans in Summer and warm weather for a fun and temporary way to activate the space on weekends or evenings. Encourage some small 'pop' up cafes to attract more people	19
Outdoor cinema and pop-up events: Re-establish or continue the open-air movie nights in the summer evenings. More pop-up events run by locals for the benefit of the broader community	14
Markets and stalls: Opportunities for local community groups to have stalls and buy/sell fresh produce, crafts, vintage clothes, and books. This would create a fun community vibe and would generate revenue or exposure for local participating businesses	12
Music and festivals: Create a dedicated space (such as an amphitheatre) to host music events. Regular performance opportunities for local musicians and artists	12
Classes and workshops	4
4. Improvements or changes to specific existing facilities (referenced in 21 surveys)	
Reserves/dog parks (Hardy Gallagher Reserve or Janet Millman Reserve or Holden Byrne Reserve)	10
Rushall Community Garden	5
North Carlton Railway Community Garden	3
Neighbourhood House (Holden Street or North Carlton)	3
5. Other comments	
Shared cycling/pedestrian path (see Section 5)	23
No need to change it, keep the Linear Parklands as it is	15
Element referenced in a specific section, Areas A to E (see Section 6)	2

Place-based pop-up (ideas drawing sheet) participants and Primary school workshop participants (aged under 12 years) were invited to “Draw your ideas for the future.” Participants provided the following ideas for the Linear Parklands generally:

- A few more dog friendly parks they can be enclosed areas. Natural playgrounds as well
- Dog park, picnic areas, trees areas for bird homes
- Flowers and space for flying kites
- Lots more trees green open spaces. More dog friendly areas, benches for picnics and gatherings, water fountains, nature playground
- More dog parks and playgrounds
- More trees along the path and more lights. Sticks behind our school to pay in and more taps
- My drawing is a drawing of a tee-pee tent things and chairs/thrones made with tree stumps and logs
- Playground with giant slide
- This is what I would like to be built because I think it would be good to have all of this



Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (themes with some verbatim comments):

- *North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House: Generally enhance the area surrounding the Neighbourhood House. Upgrade the playground near the Railway Neighbourhood House, add some nature play options and equipment suitable for older children. More tree plantings and use the large empty square of gravel behind the Neighbourhood House. Thin or remove the casuarina trees overshadowing the Railway House on the northern side to increase visibility. Upgrade of the path on the south side leading to the House from Solly Avenue; relocate the rubbish bins to the playground; install shade for the picnic benches by the BBQs and the table in the community garden. Extend the community garden to the west and add a ‘food forest’ or orchard on the south side or northern (Solly Avenue) side.*
- *Tree plantings and care of trees: Tree expert to review current tree plantings, more native plantings along the parklands, and more regular care of plantings. Engagement initiatives to encourage volunteers and local groups to assist with maintain the tree plantings and gardens, potentially involve Holden Street Neighbourhood House, the Railway Neighbourhood House and Rushall community garden*

3.6 How could areas be used differently in the future

Survey respondents were asked “Do you have any ideas of how specific areas of the parklands could be used differently in the future? (make sure you tell us the area or location)?” and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 192 respondents provided a personalised response which referred to one or more topics. 139 responses referred to a variety of ideas, concerns, and improvement suggestions which largely reiterated feedback previously presented in Sections 3.2 to 3.5. This feedback is not repeated here. This section focuses on additional ideas for the parklands, some of which reference an area (i.e., Areas A to E) or existing facility.

As shown in Table 7, the personalised responses were sorted into five categories or themes:

- Collaborate with Brunswick South Primary School to increase access and use of space (referenced in 21 surveys)
- Refocus the Parklands as community gardens and nature corridors (16 surveys)
- Move powerlines underground and no new towers (4 surveys)
- Collaborate with Moreland City Council (3 surveys)
- Areas A to E (6 surveys)

Table 7. Summary of themes with ideas for using the Linear Parklands differently in the future (Survey)

Themes with feedback	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=53)
1. Collaborate with Brunswick South Primary School to increase access and use of space (referenced in 21 surveys)	
Make the parklands more accessible to students at nearby schools and their siblings. Collaborate with Brunswick South Primary School (BSPS), they have developed a masterplan. Make green space nearby or adjacent to BSPS available during school hours and for school activities. Create a park, play area, nature playground, build understory density, more indigenous plantings, landscaped pathways, water play, and a community garden or kitchen garden	21
2. Refocus the Parklands as community gardens and nature corridors (referenced in 16 surveys)	

Themes with feedback	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=53)
Create more community gardens. More community planting of fruit trees, urban orchard, citrus forest, and herb gardens. Suggested locations: near bike path and gravelly area east of Brunswick Street North, other end of the reserve, and area near St Georges Road north	12
Recreate the parkland as a nature corridor, a heatwave buffer in a time of climate change. Suggested location: Space linking Royal Park to the creek, and towards Yarra bend	4
3. Move powerlines underground and no new towers (referenced in 4 surveys)	
Move high voltage power lines, and other powerlines underground or remove the powerline easements and poles. Ensure the area remains free from new phone and electrical towers	4
4. Collaborate with Moreland City Council (referenced in 3 surveys)	
Enlarge playground located beside Park Street Cafe in conjunction with Moreland. Improve the bike path connection from Canning Street into Moreland. Persuade City of Moreland to expand the urban forest concept on the vacant land near Railway Street	3
Area A (between Princes Park and Lygon Street) (referenced in 1 survey)	
Some lighting at night along pathway Area A is necessary	1
Area B (between Lygon Street and Nicholson Street) (referenced in 2 surveys)	
Bike counter in Area B visible to cyclists can see themselves counted Space to be accessible to kids at Brunswick South primary school in Area B	2
Area C (between Nicholson Street and St Georges Road) (referenced in 2 surveys)	
Area C close to Nicholson Street is nice, but the BBQ area could be more appealing Area C would be a great location for a further community garden	2
Area D (between St Georges Rd and Rushall Station) (referenced in 1 surveys)	
The Rushall Cres area (Area D) would benefit from the creation of an indoor/outdoor space with a cafe	1
Area E (between Princes Park and Lygon Street) (referenced in 0 surveys)	
Nothing specific referenced	0

Online key stakeholder workshop participants were asked for general ideas for the Linear Parklands overall. Participants provided the following feedback:

- Separate bikes and pedestrians, or introduce contraflow system, i.e. pedestrians walk facing the cyclists, as in most European pedestrian systems. (Bikes and pedestrians going in both directions so contraflow may be a challenge).
- The way forward for handling more potentially controversial changes is well designed and comprehensive consultation. Too many ‘push back’ responses to so-called pop-up lanes etc, or removing an on road car park space.
- Great to tie this project into the Urban Forrest Strategy and planting more trees for climate change and shade

Place-based pop-up (Chatboard) participants were asked “What are your small and big ideas for the Linear Parklands in the future?” Participants provided the following ideas for the Linear Parklands generally:
Community open space

- Community spaces (seating)
- Remove all lawn and create linear bushland/biodiversity link (with seating moments, etc).

Connectivity and transport (also see Section 5)

- Bikes at weekends and busy times to be limited
- Consistent crossing paths [currently] not safe

- Designated area for electric scooters to stop them lying everywhere
- Fix Rushall Station underpass
- Install speed bumps all along bike path
- Install timers on all crossings so you can see how long there is until you can cross
- Integration between cyclists and pedestrians need to be improved
- Make all crossings yellow including Rae Street
- Separate crossing areas at Lygon Street to make it safer
- Separate lanes for cyclists and pedestrians
- Separate paths for cyclists and walkers
- Remove all blind corners on shared path (i.e., Nicholson Street)
- Sometimes the paths are too busy
- Speed humps needed
- Wider Shared paths (safety)
- Yellow crossing paths are confusing, make them all zebra crossings to make it easier for drivers to understand

Community facilities

- Dog poo bags
- Exercise equipment
- Consider addition of basketball and skateboard facilities for teenage users
- Install bike repair/pump station (one in each section)
- More bike racks
- More bins near seating
- More public use compost bins
- More seating
- More dog poo bags/bins
- Sheltered spaces to encourage people to come out during the winter.

Environment

- Avenue of Christmas Gums (Angophora) like in Balwyn (Old gun club)
- Indigenous plants not introduced species
- More canopy trees for shade
- More community gardens
- More trees (avenue)
- Native gardens
- Plantings, understory and ground covers for birds and wildlife

General

- Acknowledge migrant origins and the value migrants have instilled in inner Melbourne by erecting a sculpture along the walk of a migrant arriving in a boat
- Better signage for the Capital City Trail at Rushall Station
- Is it a thoroughfare or park?
- More events like the recent movie night on Nicholson Street

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (themes with some verbatim comments):

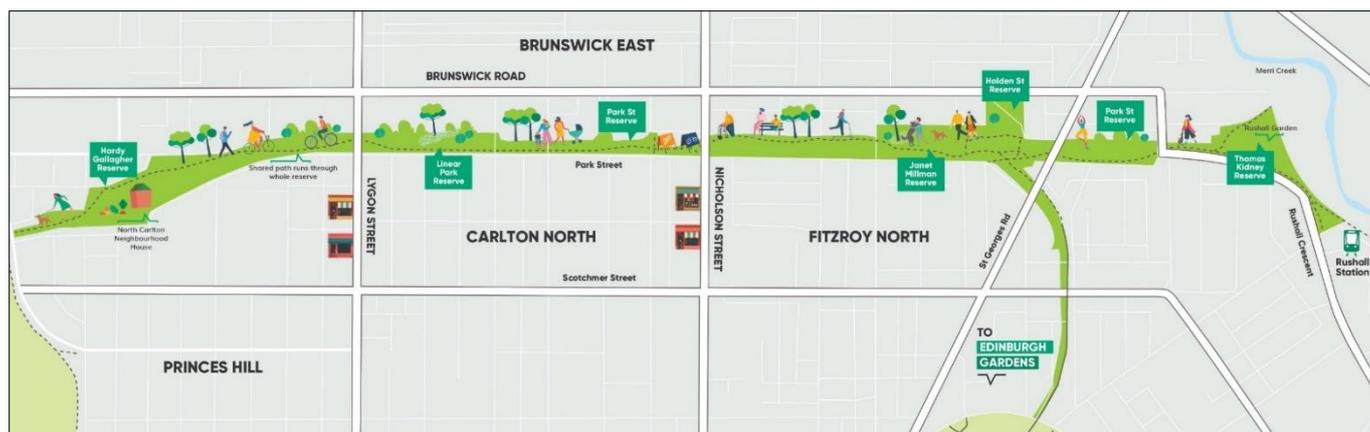
- *Reduce or redirect motor vehicle traffic: expand public open space by closing minor (non-Department of Transport arterials) streets and provide restricted access for buses (i.e., 504, 250 or 251). Retain small north-south paths for neighbourhood connectivity and walking or biking for short trips. Lygon Street, Nicholson Street, and St Georges Road (Department of Transport arterials) to remain open for north-south motor vehicle traffic.*
- *Create a true Linear Park: more native greenery, no buildings on the site, move the bike shop and café to the Nicholson Street shopping strip. Selection another location for public housing to improve tenant access. If the bike path is retained, then position it at the rear northern sections of the park and do not make it wider.*



4. Insights from community feedback - shared cycling/pedestrian path

Due to the large volume of community feedback and diverse views expressed regarding the Inner Capital City Trail, this feedback is presented in a separate section. This section reports the findings from the analysis of the community feedback gathered via the survey (online and hard copy formats), online mapping activity, school workshop, online key stakeholder workshop, place-based pop-up engagement activities and written submissions relating to the shared path. The Inner Capital City Trail runs through the entire reserve and is also known as the shared cycling/ pedestrian path or shared bike/walking path, as shown in Map 6.

Map 6. Image of project area



4.1 Participant views about the current shared cycling/ pedestrian path

Love and value right now about the shared path

Survey respondents were asked “What do you love or value right now about the Linear Parklands?” and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 10 respondents provided a personalised response which related to the shared cycling/pedestrian path. A descriptive summary of the responses is as follows:

- The Capital City Trail/shared path provides a valuable east-west off-road connection through the north of the inner city to other shared paths, river walks, and parks. The path is wonderful, is very popular and enables people and families to commute by walking, running, or cycling away from roads. The path works well, and cyclists and pedestrians are generally respectful of each other

Online key stakeholder workshop participants were asked what they love and value about the Linear Parklands and provided the following feedback in relation to Connectivity and transport:

- Great for active transport - a link to Edinburgh Gardens and on to Napier Street route. A significant E-W route and collector and distributor from N and S (e.g., Rae Street)
- Love the cross-town connection
- I love the connectivity
- It is rare place in the inner city where you can ride safely and keep off the road
- Ability to link parklands is powerful especially for kids who ride to school on bikes
- Cyclists get right of way crossing most roads in the Linear parklands

Place-based pop-up (Chatboard) participants were asked “What do you love and value about the Linear Parklands?” Participants provided the following feedback in relation to Connectivity and transport:

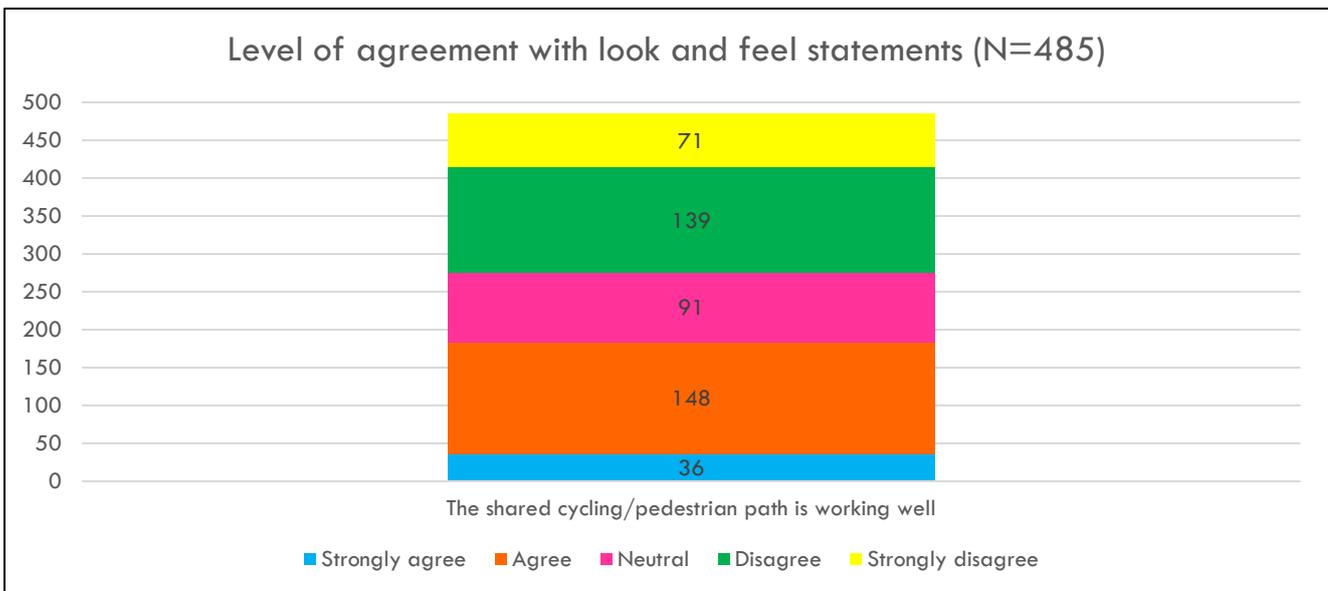
- Cars give way to peds/bikes etc.
- Connected bike route
- I like the pedestrian / cycle priority crossing just before Princess Park.
- Long fun bike path
- Safe cycling
- Shared priority crossing on Rae Street
- The new bridge rocks

Survey respondents were asked “How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Linear Parklands? (choose one for each statement)”. Five respondents did not provide a response for the Shared cycling/pedestrian path statement.

As shown in Figure 10, the statement “The shared cycling/pedestrian path is working well” attracted **polarised views** as follows:

- Strongly agree or agree: 184 or 38%
- Neutral: 91 or 19%
- Strongly disagree or disagree: 210 or 43%

Figure 10. Level of agreement with look and feel of the Linear Parklands statements (Survey)



Survey respondents who indicated Disagree or Strongly disagree in the previous question were invited to provide a personalised response outlining their reasoning and/or improvement suggestions. A total of 227 respondents provided a personalised response which referred to one or more topics.

The personalised responses relating to the shared cycling/pedestrian path referred to:

- Path is crowded and congested, particularly at peak hour. There are multiple users (bikes, motorised, scooters, e-bikes, pedestrians) and this can generate conflict and a feeling that it is unsafe (referenced in 89 surveys)
- The aggressive behaviours and speed shown by some cyclists is concerning. Bikes and some motorised scooters and e-bikes travel too fast, and often disregard signage (86 surveys)
- Confusion around right of way, some intersections and road crossings are inconsistent, and this creates a hazard for shared cycling/pedestrian path users (56 surveys)
- Prefer to have separate paths for cyclists and walkers or separate zones (53 surveys)

- Path is too narrow and needs widening (40 surveys)
- Sections of the path are very dark, and lighting is needed, particularly at night and early morning (37 surveys)

Online key stakeholder workshop participants were asked about the general issues and challenges for the Linear Parklands overall. Participants provided the following feedback which related to the shared cycling/pedestrian path:

- Safety issues with children on bikes riding to school with commuter cyclists going fast.
- Cyclists have right of way on most roads – not all – lack of consistency may be an issue.
- There can be a clash between the needs of traffic management and heritage protection.
- Lighting needed along the shared pathway but need to consider impact on wildlife vs safety.

4.2 Participant views about the shared cycling/ pedestrian path looking to the future

Unique or important to be protected for the future

Survey respondents were prompted to “Tell us if there is anything unique or important that needs to be protected for the future? (Think environmental, cultural, historical, community)” and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 33 respondents provided a personalised response which related to the shared cycling/pedestrian path. A descriptive summary of the responses is as follows:

- Retain the historic role of the shared path, it is an essential part of this area and provides a safe transport corridor for commuters and recreational cyclists through improved east-west bike movement. It provides the ability to run and cycle for the length of the park, connecting to other places, in a safe and encouraged way. It is critical to have safe and beautiful cycling and pedestrian infrastructure and well-maintained paths that are accessible to all. With an increasing number of people cycling, the linear trail is vital

Place-based pop-up (dotmocracy) participants and **Primary school workshop participants (aged under 12 years)** were asked “What's most important to you along the Linear Parklands?”. Participants were presented with eight statements invited to place up to four dots. The shared path was in the top three most frequently selected statements:

- Trees and greenery (64 dots)
- Green open spaces (60 dots)
- **Shared path (48 dots)**

Potential activities and facilities for the Linear Parklands in the future

Survey respondents were asked “Are there any other activities or facilities you would like to have in the parklands in the future?” and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 23 respondents provided a personalised response which related to the shared cycling/pedestrian path. A descriptive summary of the responses is as follows:

- The current shared path is not working well and often very busy with conflicts between users. Have a separate path for cyclists and pedestrians. Alternatively, widen the shared path or create a dedicated, purpose-built commuting cyclist lane to avoid collisions and make it safer and easier to walk or jog. Cyclists travel very fast in straight sections, consider slowing them by making the path more winding or encourage the use of Park Street bicycle path

Overall, substantial community feedback referred to the shared cycling/pedestrian path and it is regarded as an important feature of the Linear Parklands. Polarised views were reported in relation to how well the

current path is working. A variety of suggestions were proposed to improve the experience of the various path users, and many suggestions related to improving safety elements.

5. Description of participation profile

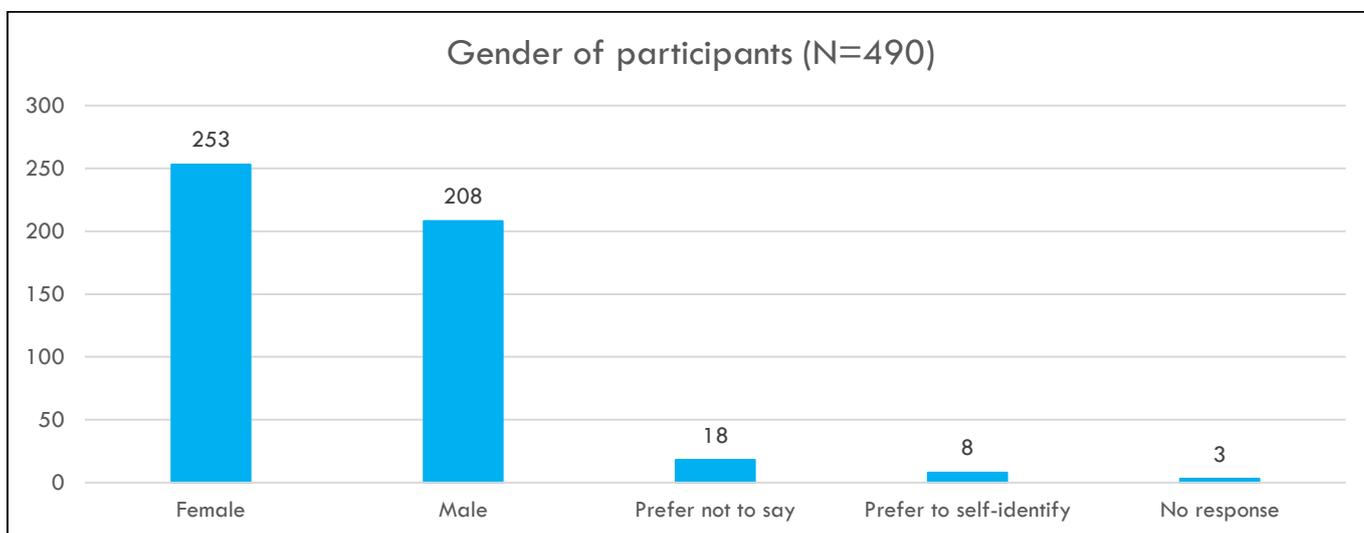
This section presents an overview of the participation profile and is largely based on the demographic and personal information provided by survey respondents. Demographic details were captured for gender, age, residential suburb, living arrangement, and connections to local organisations, groups, and businesses.

5.1 Gender of participants

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their gender. Three respondents did not provide a response.

As shown in Figure 11, all genders were represented. More respondents identified as Female (253 or 52%) than Male (208 or 42%). The 11 respondents who selected “Prefer to self-identify” reported Gender Queer (2), Non-binary (8), and She/they.

Figure 11. Gender of participants (Survey)



5.2 Age of participants

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their age.

As shown in Figure 12, all age groupings were represented. Many participants identified as 35 to 49 years (202 or 41%).

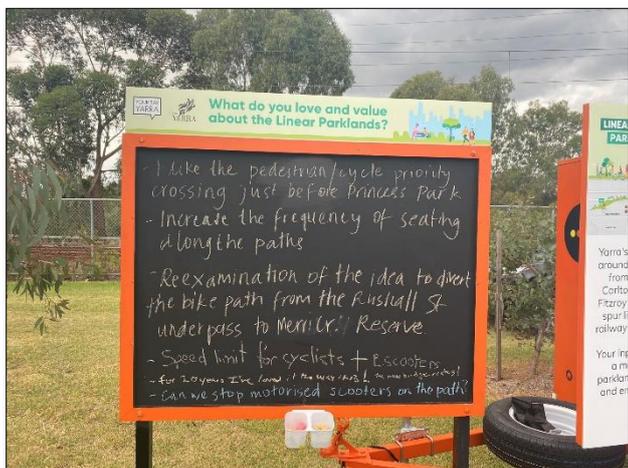
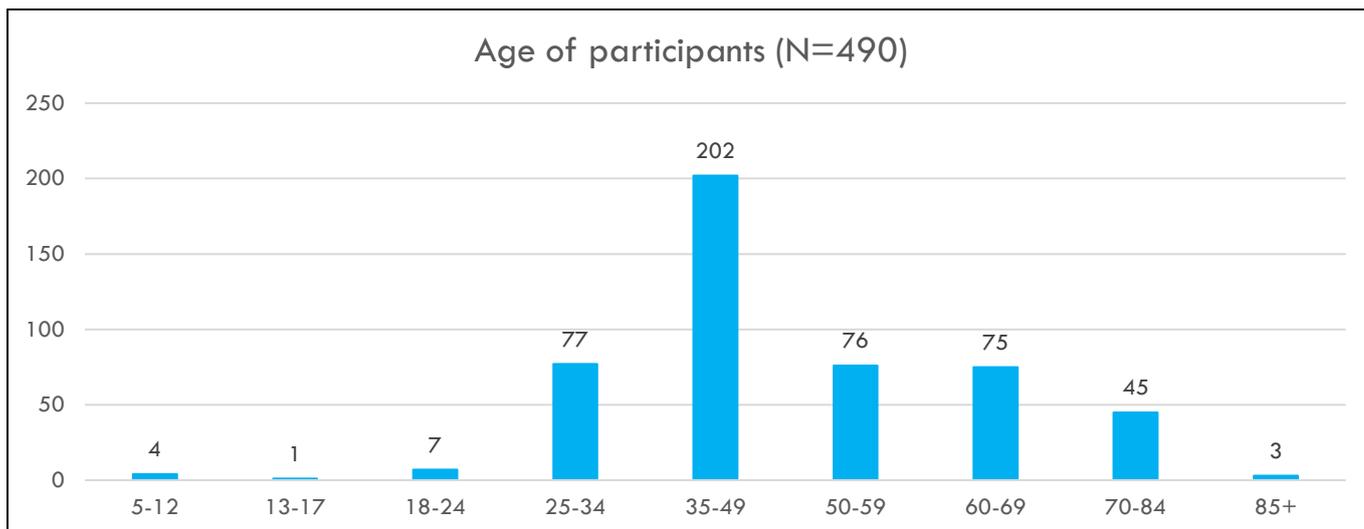


Figure 12. Age of participants (Survey)

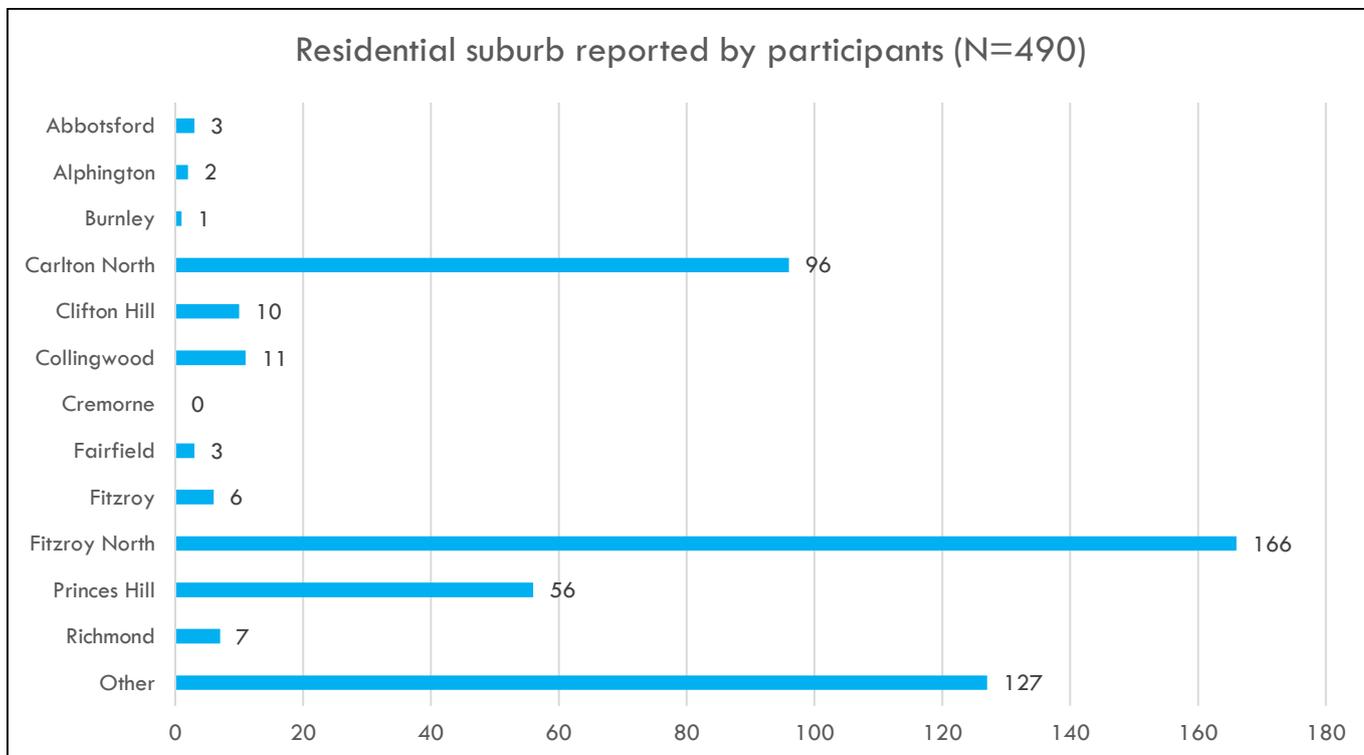


5.3 Residential suburb

Survey respondents were asked to indicate the suburb where they live. All City of Yarra suburb responses options were selected. Two respondents did not provide a response to this question.

As shown in Figure 13, the majority reported living in Fitzroy North (166 or 33%), Carlton North (96 or 19%) and Princes Hill (56 or 11%). The 127 respondents who selected “Other” reported Brunswick (34), Brunswick East (36), Brunswick West (2), Carlton (2), Eltham, Elwood, Essendon, Flemington (2), Glen Iris, Hawthorn (2), Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, Kensington (3), Kew East, Melbourne (2), North Melbourne (4), Northcote (16), Preston (2), Preston West, Reservoir, Thornbury (7), and Westgarth (3).

Figure 13. Residential suburb reported by participants (Survey)

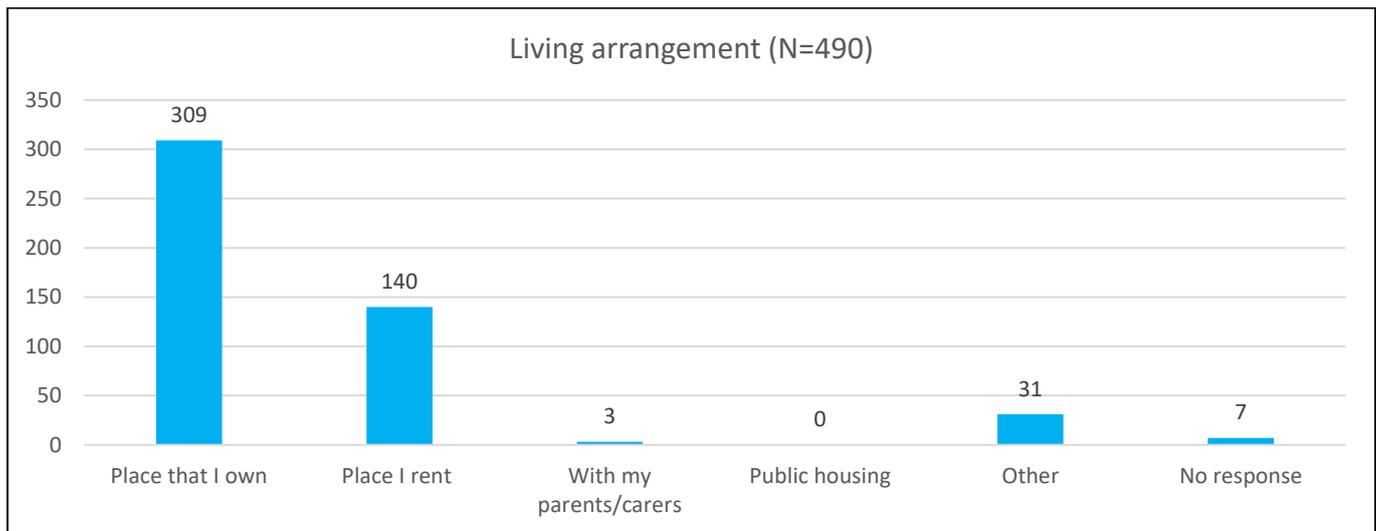


5.4 Living arrangement

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their current living arrangement. All responses options were selected except public housing. Four respondents did not provide a response to this question.

As shown in Figure 14, the majority reported living in a place that they own (309 or 63%) and many reported living in a place that they rent (139 or 28%). The 31 respondents who selected “Other” reported: Place that I own outright, no mortgage (25), Community housing, Couch surfing, Retirement Village, Rushall Park, With a person I am also carer for, and With family.

Figure 14. Living arrangement reported by participants (Survey)



5.5 Participants' connections to local organisations, groups, and businesses

Survey respondents were asked if responding as a representative, to indicate the name of the local organisation, group, or business. 10 respondents provided the following responses:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carlton Community History Group ▪ Fitzroy North and Edinburgh Gardens dog walking fraternity ▪ Folks on Spokes Seniors bicycle group ▪ North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House ▪ Open Advisory Pty Ltd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parkinson's Fund Raising ▪ Protectors of Public Lands Vic Inc. ▪ Simon de Winter Group ▪ Tyrrells on Drummond Pty Ltd ▪ www.tribalstrategies.com.au
--	--

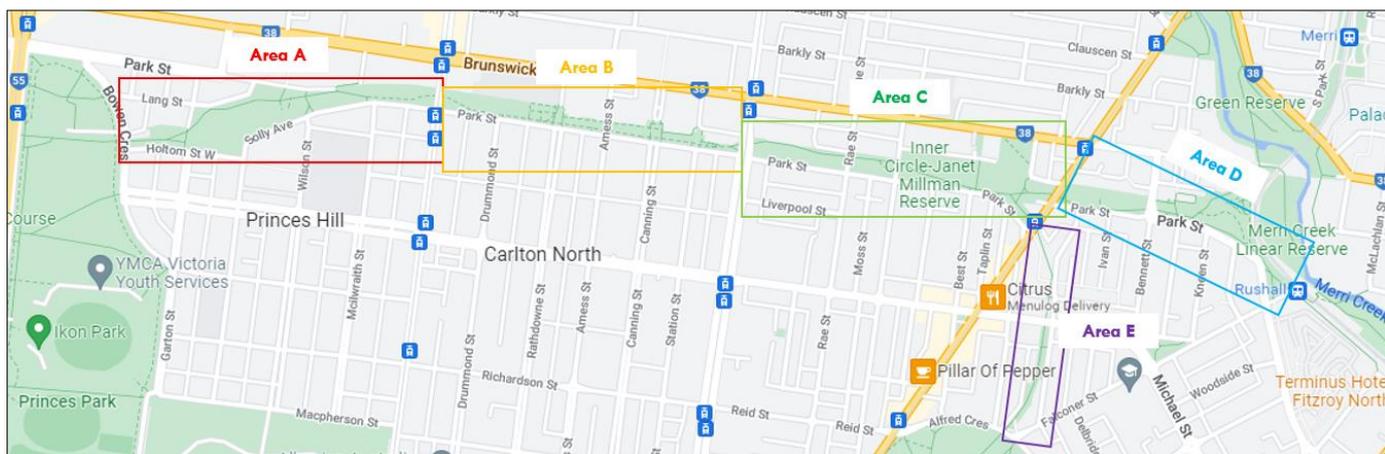
Online key stakeholder workshop participants included representatives of the following groups or organisations:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3068 Residents Group ▪ Active Transport Advisory Committee ▪ Brunswick South Primary School ▪ Carlton Community History group ▪ Moreland City Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ North Fitzroy Community Garden Group (Rushall Garden) ▪ Velo Cycles ▪ Yarra Environmental Advisory Committee (YEAC)
---	---

6. Areas A to E - Insights from the community feedback

This section presents insights from the feedback gathered via the online mapping tool, and mapping activity at the place-based pop-up engagement and online key stakeholder workshop. In relation to the online mapping tool, participants selected one of four pin categories (love and value; unique and important; needs improving; and ideas for the future), selected a specific feature or location, and then entered a personalised comment. See Appendix 2 for visual images of the submissions gathered via the online mapping tool and place-based pop-up activity. In addition, where survey respondents referred to a specific Area, these comments are reflected in this section.

Map 7. Areas within the parklands (Areas A to E)



6.1 Area A (between Princes Park and Lygon Street)

Feedback from survey respondents and online mapping activity participants referring to Area A is summarised in Table 8.

Table 8: Summary of feedback by themes for Area A (Survey and online mapping activity)

Theme and feedback
Love and value
Beautiful native vegetation especially the native grasses near Lang Street
Needs improving
Safety concerns about crossings: Crossing at Bowen Crescent is good but dangerous, needs more signage or extra road markers to slow cars, and on the western side of the road as well. Prioritise active transport users at the intersection with Lygon Street, longer crossing times and reduce wait times
Improve lighting: Area along Lang Street under the trees is very dark at night. Areas on the other side of Princes Park are dark and Park Street to the Upfield line feels unsafe as cars at the Royal Parade intersection often do not abide by the road. Needs lighting and passive surveillance
Ideas for the future
Nothing specific referenced

Online key stakeholder workshop participants were asked what is working well, what are the challenges and their ideas for Area A. Participants provided the following feedback:

Working well

- Like the community garden and that you can walk around and look inside (issue that the garden does not feel like it belongs to the community)

- Quality of planting here is high and more interesting and could be a good model for other sections to increase the overall canopy and plantings
- A beautiful community centre. The buildings and grounds are a great illustration of what can be done with the wonderful heritage buildings.

Challenges

- It would be good to solve some of the safety elements of this space.

Ideas

- Regarding Park St and the contra flow for bicycles/scooters - a better option for riders who want to move at higher speeds free of pedestrian interactions. Should be encouraged once it has been confirmed by the Council (currently still in a 'trial' mode).
- Like the secondary informal path as an alternative to the Shared path. ✓
- This section has a great diversity of different types of spaces – open space, densely planted native garden, urban node – could be applied along the length of the park. ✓

Place-based pop-up (Mapping board) participants were asked “What are your small and big ideas for the Linear Parklands in the future?” Participants provided the following ideas for Area A:

- Add charging station for bikes at Neighbourhood House
- Bike path on hills (at North Carlton Neighbourhood House)
- Expand the community garden
- Fenced dog park
- Formalise goat track that runs along fence line
- More lighting between Princes Park and Lygon Street
- New playground
- Paint power poles green or make colourful (use local artists)
- Small skate area and bike jumps
- Smart lighting, good for animals
- Urban orchard

6.2 Area B (between Lygon Street and Nicholson Street)

Feedback from survey respondents and online mapping activity participants referring to Area B is summarised in Table 9.

Table 9. Summary of feedback by themes for Area B (Survey and online mapping activity)

Theme and feedback
Love and value
Nothing specific referenced
Needs improving
More regular maintenance: Grass in Area B is patchy and needs more regular mowing. The bushland outside Brunswick South Primary School needs regular cleaning and more bins. The area in front of the apartment block close to Lygon Street needs attention
Safety concerns about shared path: Shared path is very busy and there are many users and hazards. Cyclists and pedestrians need to be separated for most of the path, particularly in busy sections or widen the path or divide with painted lines. Cyclists travel fast in straight sections, consider slowing them by making the path more winding or encourage the use of Park Street bicycle path
Safety concerns about crossings: Lights are too slow, crossings are too narrow, too many cars ignore lights

Theme and feedback
More amenities: add a BBQ facility in Area B
Ideas for the future
More active space for children and young people: Parkour style playground for all age groups that is sensitive to the environment. Adventure Park or park for pre-teens near Brunswick South Primary School
Indigenous history section in the native bush

Online key stakeholder workshop participants were asked what is working well, what are the challenges and their ideas for Area B. Participants provided the following feedback:

Challenges

- Many cars travel quickly along Park Street
- There is a sharp turn and blind corner in front of bike shop, and people travel too fast
- Nicholson Street intersection has many challenges and is congested. Needs to be investigated for safety reasons as cyclists speed up reach a green light

Ideas

- Consider “shimmy” routes (as in City of Moreland), such as Rae Street. There are several existing and potential routes which need to be recognised and sign-posted, along minor streets, laneways and other “slip through” paved spaces
- Opportunity to work with the school to improve the interface with the parklands. School would be interested in being involved with nearby improvements or plantings. This space could be a great play area for students
- As many cars travel quickly along Park Street, narrow the street to slow cars or do not permit turning from Lygon Street into Park Street. This idea may also provide opportunities for greening

Place-based pop-up (Mapping board) participants were asked “What are your small and big ideas for the Linear Parklands in the future?” Participants provided the following ideas for Area B:

- Alter path east of Lygon Street to make it wider
- Care for new plants
- Compost piles need to be spread
- Dog playground east of Lygon Street
- Dotted line on shared path
- Implement a school zone for cyclists/scooters outside the playground near the café (like school zone for cars). Introduce rumble strips coloured pavement etc (as a design feature to change behaviour)
- Install bench, public drinking, lighting, BYO seating
- Keep trees outside of Brunswick South Primary School and improve the fence on the path that runs along Brunswick South Primary School
- More café seating
- New playground near Linear Park Reserve
- Reallocate some road space to widen the path
- Remove poplars north of the path and replace with native trees
- Some sections are too congested. Fast bikes need clear signage and on/off pathways to the road
- Widen the path near Velo Cycles (Nicholson Street)

6.3 Area C (between Nicholson Street and St Georges Road)

Feedback from survey respondents and online mapping activity participants referring to Area C is summarised in Table 10.

Table 10. Summary of feedback by themes for Area C (Survey and online mapping activity)

Theme and feedback
Love and value
Nothing specific referenced
Needs improving
Safety concerns about crossings and inconsistency in right-of-way: Some crossings are confusing and dangerous. The Brunswick Street North crossing is busy and does not prioritise pedestrians and cyclists while the Rae Street intersection is dangerous. Prioritise pedestrians and cyclists at all road crossings. Install better signage and ask for creative solutions from people who use the crossings. Reduce traffic flow in Brunswick Street North through narrowing or making it one way
More and improved amenities: Parking facility for bicycles and a bicycle repair station close to St. Georges Road and/or Rushall Crescent in Areas C/D. Soil needs replacing near BBQ. More shade trees are needed near the picnic table and seats and more bins for dog poo bags. Review the seating nearby Nicholson Street it is either too close or far apart
Improve lighting along path: Around trees in the section between Birkenhead Street and Best Street, and other dark places to improve safety
Safety concerns about shared path: Shared path is very busy and there are many users and hazards. Cyclists and walkers need separate tracks
Create a wildlife corridor: Entire parklands to look like the area between Nicholson Street and St Georges Road in Area C
Ideas for the future
Facilities to activate under-utilised spaces: Fenced dog park in Fitzroy North alongside Railway Street could be a good, centralised location. Build a bike pump track, fitness or exercising area that has easy access from the shared path and may potentially move some users off the busy shared path
Indigenous history section in the native bush

Online key stakeholder workshop participants were asked what is working well, what are the challenges and their ideas for Area C. Participants provided the following feedback:

Challenges

- Some tensions between dog owners and playground users with children playing. Dog owners congregate near the playground
- Lighting is a concern for young people at night and some people may feel unsafe walking in the area
- The entire path is dimly lit

Ideas

- The Community House on Holden Street could be better integrated, especially with the covered playground space next door and adjacent open space. Review the BBQ facilities.
- Improve lighting for cyclists and pedestrians using the space at night

Place-based pop-up (Mapping board) participants were asked “What are your small and big ideas for the Linear Parklands in the future?” Participants provided the following ideas for Area C:

- Build social housing
- Check access for cyclist heading north on St Georges Road
- Close Brunswick Street North and extend the park
- Path connection to Merri Creek needs to be more direct

- Fenced dog park
- Install count down on lights at St Georges Road
- Install electric bike and scooter charging station near St Georges Road
- Make Rae Street yellow and give cyclists right of way like all the others
- Plant deciduous trees so it's light and bright in winter
- Plant more indigenous trees north of the path east and west of Rae Street
- The bush there is the best part of the park, magpies and lorikeets are a daily joy
- Wider path

6.4 Area D (between St Georges Road and Rushall Station)

Feedback from survey respondents and online mapping activity participants referring to Area D is summarised in Table 11.

Table 11. Summary of feedback by themes for Area D (Survey and online mapping activity)

Theme and feedback
Love and value
Retention of Rushall Reserve as a peaceful space for walkers and that the bike path idea across to Rushall Station was abandoned
The widening of the shared path
Needs improving
Connection from here to the Inner Circle Line and Merri Creek paths for people on bicycles is terrible.
Improve lighting: Lighting is often out around Rushall Garden
Safety concerns about crossings: On St Georges Road there should be a signalled, high-priority bike crossing and/or a traffic light crossing to improve cycling connections. The crossing at St Georges Road needs to be wider, smoother and have more responsive lights
Safety concerns about shared path: Need to slow cyclists travelling down the hill from the Capital City Trail towards Koondalat Bridge, poor visibility from the end of Holden Street due to plantings/trees and poor sight lines where Koondalat path meets Rushall Station to St Georges Road path
Shared path connections around Rushall Station: Unrealistic to expect cyclists to walk a bike under Rushall Station. Bottlenecks around the station and underpass as the path is too narrow for shared use. Need a direct path linking Merri Creek Linear Reserve to the other side of Rushall Station to reduce congestion in the underpass, with connections to the shared path
More amenities: More seating (recycled materials) to relax away from the main path in Thomas Kidney Reserve
Improve signage: Signage to continue the Capital City Trail is unclear in Area D
Ideas for the future
Nothing specific referenced

Online key stakeholder workshop participants were asked what is working well, what are the challenges and their ideas for Area D. Participants provided the following feedback:

Working well

- Love the wilderness of this area
- One of the more interesting paths in the parklands with the community gardens and old plantings
- Intersection in the middle of this section works well and there is good visibility

Challenges

- No crossing over St Georges Road to reach Edinburgh Gardens (south one)
- Path is too close to the sub-station as people pick up speed going down to the creek

- Having to cross the path to reach the basketball court and playground
- Rushall Station underpass needs improving

Ideas

- Diverse elements here could be replicated along the corridor
- Community gardens are very popular with a long waiting list. Gardens are being made more available for community to enjoy (i.e., planting flowers, creating a promenade and possible opening of spaces for community use). Opportunity to incorporate improvements into this master planning process
- Continue the path around the gardens, across Rushall Reserve and into Northcote
- Basketball court is well used and would be good to see another half court
- Opportunity to close Burn Street and extend the park

Place-based pop-up (Mapping board) participants were asked “What are your small and big ideas for the Linear Parklands in the future?” Participants provided the following ideas for Area D:

- Bigger car park
- People jump the fence on the other side of train line to access Merri Creek Linear Reserve
- Create a path on the north side of Rushall Station to CERES
- Exercise equipment
- Expand the community garden
- Install 20km speed zone on path near Thomas Kidney Reserve
- Install exercise equipment near playground
- Install picnic area and amphitheatre
- Install soccer pitch/goals near the basketball court
- Install toilets near playground, east of St Georges Road
- Lighting please
- More green
- More seats
- Needs a toilet, park is used by families, kids, grandparents for BBQs but no toilet! Lots of bush weeds
- Open the fence to allow walk throughs
- Picnic facilities please
- Put in a crossing near Thomas Kidney Reserve
- Slow cyclists near Rushall Station due to lots of older residents

6.5 Area E (between St Georges Road and Edinburgh Gardens)

Feedback from survey respondents and online mapping activity participants referring to Area E is summarised in Table 12.

Table 12. Summary of feedback by themes for Area E (Survey and online mapping activity)

Theme and feedback
Love and value
Nothing specific referenced
Needs improving
Safety concerns about crossings and inconsistency in right-of-way: Some crossings are confusing and dangerous. Right-of-way needs to be clearer and formalised. Sightlines to users on the path for west bound drivers are tight and many drivers fail to obey Stop signs, which needs to be addressed. Alfred Crescent crossing is unclear, pavement needs improving, better signposting for drivers is needed (there have been near misses) and cyclists/ pedestrians/ path users should have right of way

Theme and feedback
Improve lighting: Across Area E generally and the path as it feels unsafe
Ideas for the future
Nothing specific referenced

Online key stakeholder workshop participants were asked what is working well, what are the challenges and their ideas for Area E. Participants provided the following feedback:

Working well

- A narrow piece of park that is successful, particularly the tree planting and swale.

Challenges

- Safety concerns for pedestrians crossing Scotchmer Street, poor visibility due to buses stopping in the area.
- Small garden area near Edinburgh Gardens does not work and there is an opportunity to do something.
- Safety concerns when crossing Albert Crescent, cars travel quickly and it is unclear who has right of way.

Place-based pop-up (Mapping board) participants were asked “What are your small and big ideas for the Linear Parklands in the future?” Participants provided the following ideas for Area E:

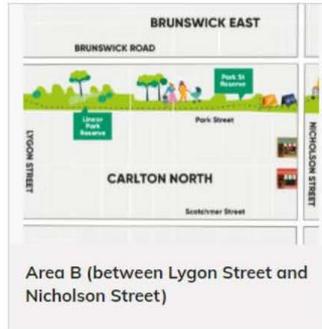
- Add yellow cyclist crossing at Alfred Crescent
- Put in flashing lights to alert cars they need to stop
- Scary near path and Scotchmer street cross over
- There are sight line issues at Scotchmer and Alfred Streets

* * * * *

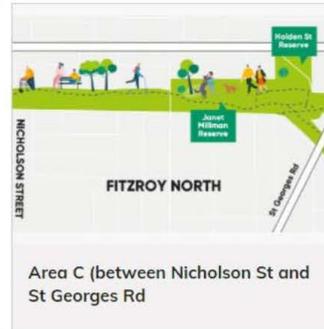
2. Which section of the Linear Parklands do you use the most? (If you use more than one area often, tick two or more)



Area A (between Princes Park and Lygon Street)



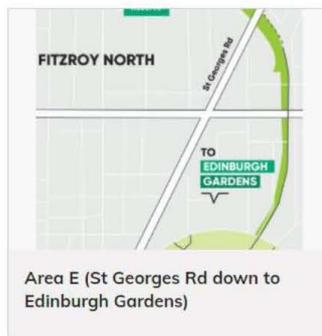
Area B (between Lygon Street and Nicholson Street)



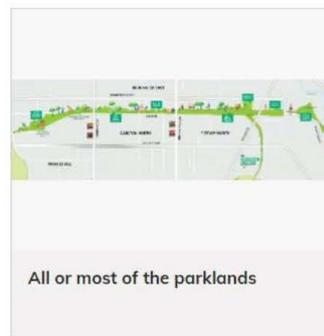
Area C (between Nicholson St and St Georges Rd)



Area D (between St Georges Rd and Rushall Station)



Area E (St Georges Rd down to Edinburgh Gardens)



All or most of the parklands

3. How do you currently use the parklands? (tick all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commuter cycling | <input type="checkbox"/> Relaxing in / enjoying nature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Running/jogging |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting friends/ family | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel through to school/work/other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking and BBQs | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing ball sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Other : Please specify |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playground/s | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational cycling | |

4. I usually get to the Linear Parklands by (tick one):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car | <input type="checkbox"/> Taxi/ ride share |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility scooter | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scooter/skateboard | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public transport | |

5. What Facilities have you used in the last 6 months? (tick all that apply)

- Basketball halfcourt (near St Georges Rd)
- BBQ area (near Rae St)
- Capital City Trail/Shared Path
- Green Park Playground
- Hardy Gallagher Reserve dog off leash area
- Hardy Gallagher Reserve Playground
- Holden Byrne Reserve Playground
- Holden Street Neighbourhood House
- Inner Circle Rail Trail Playground
- Janet Millman Reserve dog off leash area
- Linear Park Reserve event space (between Nicholson St and Rae St)
- Mark Street Hall
- North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House
- North Carlton Railway Community Garden
- Rushall Community Garden
- Thomas Kidney Reserve walking trails

6. What do you love or value now about the Linear Parklands?

7. In relation to the Linear Parklands, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements. (tick one box for each statement)

	Strongly agree 	Agree 	Neutral 	Disagree 	Strongly disagree 	Don't know 
I feel safe at night						
I feel safe during the day						
The parklands are well-maintained and looked after						
There are sufficient and well-maintained public toilets						
There is enough seating						
There are enough drinking fountains						
There are enough opportunities/areas for children to play						
The shared path is working well						
There are enough BBQ and picnic facilities						
There are enough facilities for dogs and dog owners						
There are enough open space areas and facilities for casual sporting activities						
There is sufficient signage (i.e. directional, information, safety)						

8. If you disagree with any of the above statements, please tell us why and/or where you would like to see improvements.

Your ideas for the future

9. Tell us if there is anything unique or important that needs to be protected for the future? (Think environment, cultural, historical, community)

10. Are there any other activities or facilities you would like to have in the parklands in the future?

11. Do you have any ideas of how specific areas of the parklands could be used differently in the future? (Make sure you tell us the area or location)

A little about you

We value diversity. By telling us a little bit about yourself we can ensure we are hearing from a broad range of voices.

12. I am:

- Female
- Male

Prefer to self-identify:

Prefer not to say

13. I am:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5-12 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 35-49 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 85+ years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13-17 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 50-59 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 60-69 years | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 70-84 years | |

14. What suburb do you live in?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abbotsford | <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfield | <input type="checkbox"/> Brunswick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alphington | <input type="checkbox"/> Fitzroy | <input type="checkbox"/> Brunswick East |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burnley | <input type="checkbox"/> Fitzroy North | <input type="checkbox"/> Northcote |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carlton North | <input type="checkbox"/> Princes Hill | <input type="checkbox"/> Parkville |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clifton Hill | <input type="checkbox"/> Richmond | <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please specify: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collingwood | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cremorne | | |

15. I identify as... (please tick all that apply)

- A person with a disability
- LGBTIQ+
- A person of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander decent
- A person speaking English as a second language
- A parent of a child under 12 years
- None of the above
- Prefer not to say

16. I live...

- In a place that I rent
- In a place that I own (paying mortgage)
- In public housing
- With my parents/carers
- Other (please specify) _____

17. If you are filling in this survey on behalf of an organisation, group or local business, please tell us which organisation, group or business

18. I would like to be kept up to date about this project via email

Yes

No

Email: (required): _____

Appendix 2. Images of feedback gathered via mapping activities

The online mapping tool was available via Your Say Yarra (<https://yoursayyarra.com.au/linearparklands>). A map of the entire parklands area was shown. Participants selected one of four pin categories (love and value; unique and important; needs improving; and ideas for the future), selected a specific feature or location, and then entered a personalised comment.

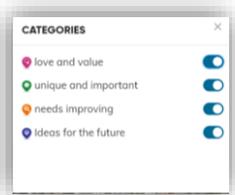
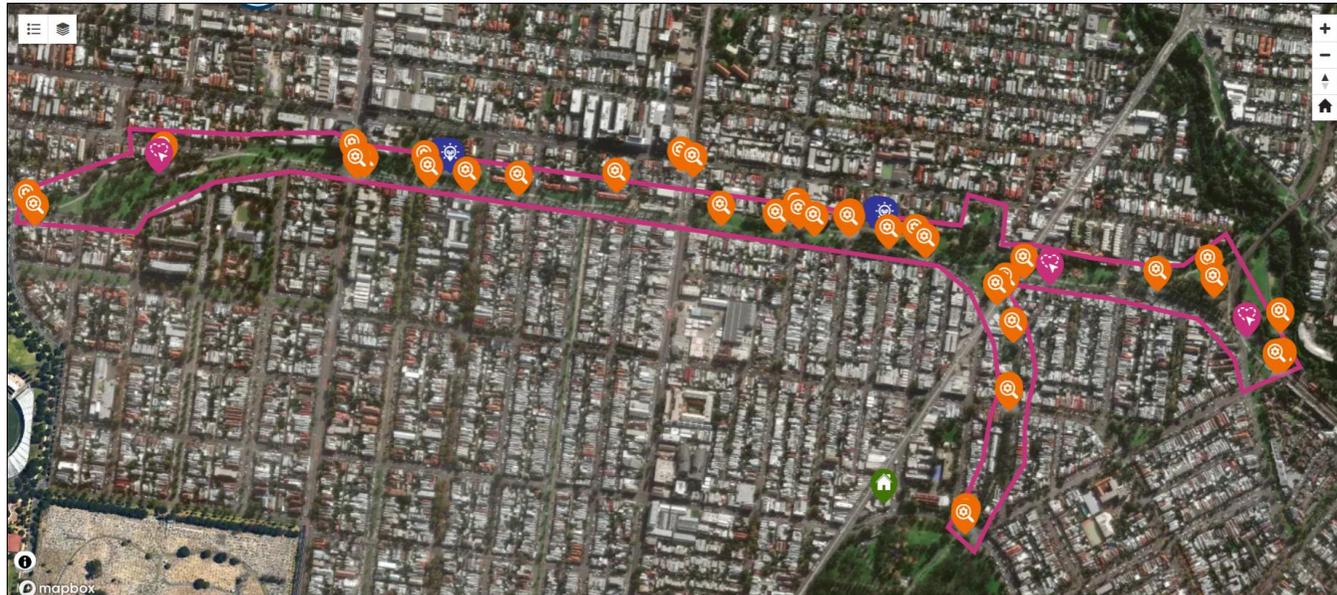


Figure A1. Image of Linear Parklands online mapping tool with submissions



At the place-based pop-up engagement, there was a mapping activity. Participants were invited to write their ideas for the parklands on a large map, allowing participants to identify specific locations for changes and improvements.

Figure A2. Pop-Up 1 Image of place-based pop-up engagement mapping activity with comments

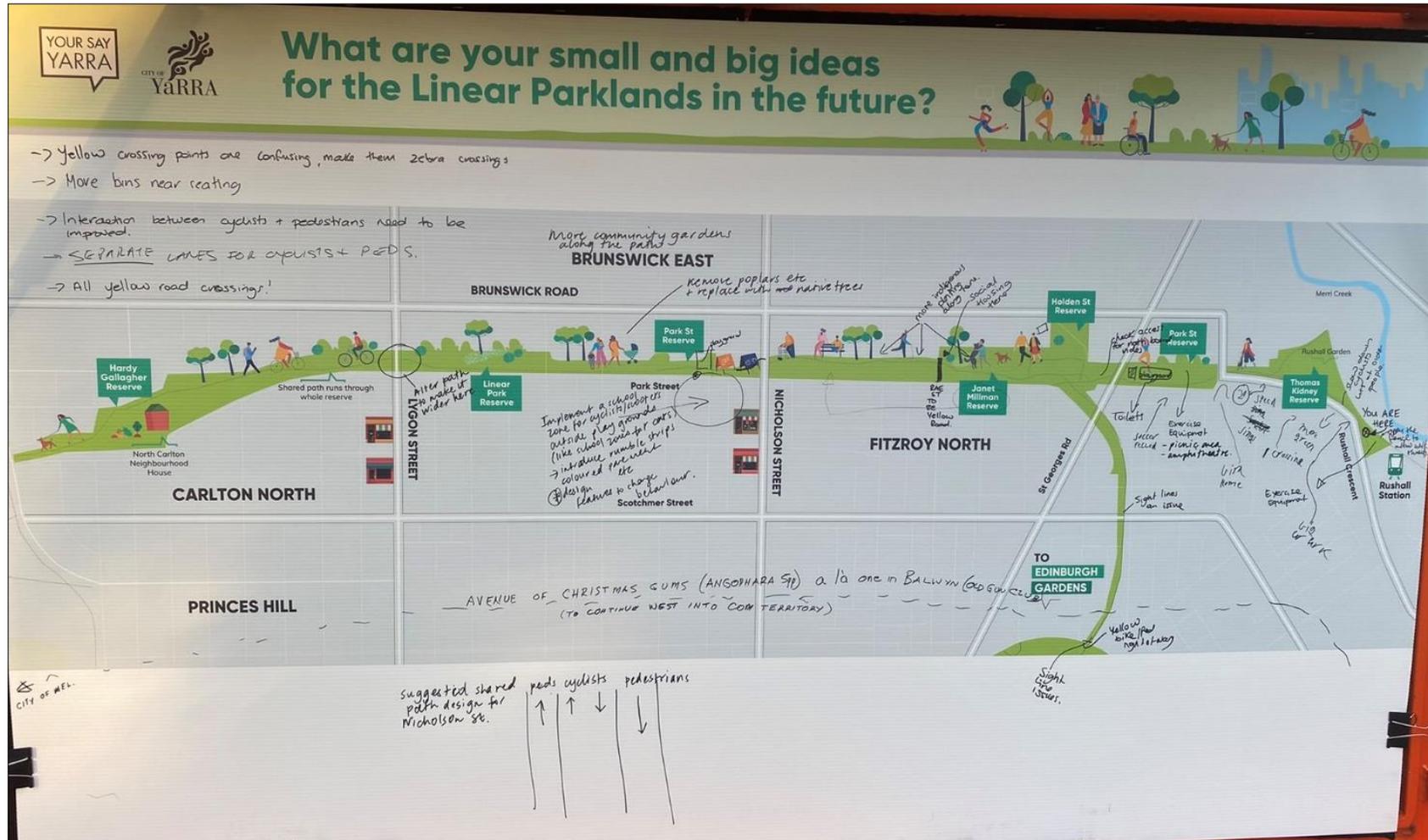


Figure A3. Pop-Up 2 Image of place-based pop-up engagement mapping activity with comments



Figure A5. School Workshop Image of place-based pop-up engagement mapping activity with comments

