

We Are Upgrading Anderson Park

Title/Question: Tell us your stories or ideas about Anderson Park
Tool Type: Conversation
Activity ID: 176
Report Date Range: 17 Sep 2020 - 26 Jan 2021
Date Exported: 2 Feb 2021 12:31 pm
Exported By: AndrewBlight

Contribution ID	Date Submitted	Screen Name	Response	File Attachment
14482	Dec 19, 2020, 09:31 AM	Miguel	As many mentioned already I would love to see more native plants, grasses, and trees. A physical separation to guard kids from the road. But would add that some landscaping fun is missing on most Melbourne parks. Please bring in some landscape relief. Some ground elevation towards the back corner of the park is a simple way of adding some natural fun to otherwise "flat" space without impacting the passive surveillance. Kids love little hills, and they are natural and casual amphitheaters for adults to sit on	
14346	Dec 16, 2020, 08:21 AM	sally	Id like to see denser plantings, more seating under shade and water collection and filtering arrangements. The park feels dry and dusty, and defined by the roads, at the moment. Could introduce more discreet 'zones' of planting to give a sense of enclosure and containment rather than exposure to the roads.	
14642	Dec 23, 2020, 06:46 PM	Mem	I really would like to see some interesting play equipment for children if all ages . I am tired of the generic "out if the box" offerings available at most parks in Moreland . I wish we could offer our children an opportunity for more imaginative play . I have much admired the work if MaryJeavons who has designed some wonderful playgrounds around Melbourne	
14344	Dec 15, 2020, 08:33 PM	H	I frequently walk past this pack. And have occasional eaten some take away there. It most notable element seem to be its use as an advertising corner. it would be lovely if it had more spaces to hang out that did not all face the main road , maybe chess tables or table tennis and some and improved garden to create shade and also for improve outlook to the road/from the foot path.	

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14345	Dec 15, 2020, 10:56 PM	AmanD	I think this is an excellent opportunity to develop a attractive, welcoming park with ample seating and toilets. A special zone could also e created to allow food trucks to pull off the streets	
14359	Dec 16, 2020, 12:25 PM	Maddy	I agree! I only live a block away but never think to spend time there as it feels very exposed to traffic and the elements. Sally's suggestions would help make it feel more appealing and removed.	
14360	Dec 16, 2020, 12:29 PM	D G H	Agree with earlier comments that denser planting would be a great idea. From memory there is street parking on either side of the park - could there be an opportunity to have regular food trucks over the summer months and opportunity for the community to eat and mingle on the grass.	
14371	Dec 16, 2020, 03:11 PM	Julia	I walk past/through this park a lot but have never stopped to hang out inside it. I think being bordered by two main, busy roads makes it not feel as restful as other parks.Putting in bigger trees and dense garden beds around the perimeter might help, but need to balance that against keeping passive surveillance. Could you get rid of some of the on-street parking around the park and put in larger street trees/plantings? To buffer against the roads, but not the footpaths? Sort of like the University Square redevelopment in Carlton.Generally- would be good to see more trees and interesting native plantings, maybe a woody meadow (like the one in Royal Park).It might also be a good place to put in some dirt bike jumps. I noticed kids/teenagers were busy building these during lockdown along Moonee Ponds/Merri Creeks, destroying revegetation efforts. Would be good to provide a space for that.Another idea is making the existing diagonal path a bike cut-through, so cyclists can avoid the Blyth/Lygon intersection.A public toilet would be great. Would make the park much more useable (especially the playground!).	

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14381	Dec 16, 2020, 06:37 PM	Lyn	This little oasis could be so much more friendly and safe. An elderly friend sits there to recover her breath after walking to the shops. A safe fence to ensure little ones do not wander onto the busy roads, a shady comfortable place to sit, shady trees, smooth paths - for older folks walking - some adventure type play landscape, like Fleming park and a welcoming feel like in the Robertson St Kensington pocket park - see pics attached	https://conversations.moreland.vic.gov.au/download_file/1062 , https://conversations.moreland.vic.gov.au/download_file/1061
14530	Dec 21, 2020, 03:53 PM	Will	I agree with the ideas that has been posted already and just wanted to jump in on the idea of framing the park with see through fencing perhaps whilst keeping the passive surveillance. Also, potentially further lighting at night as the corners tend to hide late night activities.	
14718	Jan 03, 2021, 01:10 PM	Jacko	I'm excited about this as our family use the park daily. Our thoughts below: 1) desperately needs a fence, would prefer lower half blue stone and upper half wrought iron in keeping with the heritage of the area. This will help block out some of the traffic noise and make it safer for children and dogs. 2) Many adults use it as a picnic area so new grass would be great. 3) seating under and around the large trees. 4) extra gravel pathways leading to and surrounding a fountain, like the St Kilda botanical gardens. 5) fix and paint the back fence. 6) some heritage style pathway lamps. Thankyou for seeking community input. Kind regards The Jackos	
14719	Jan 03, 2021, 05:17 PM	Ryan	I agree with the ideas of some form of informal fencing along Lygon Street to offer added protection for small kids playing on the equipment / dogs off the lead. Also offering nature based play equipment to tie into indigenous planting would be a great outcome (Royal Park playground on a smaller scale). The seating and arbor along the western boundary is tired and needs updating. If picnic tables were incorporated into the park it would offer a reason for people linger longer than they currently do. Warr Park does it well, especially with the food forrest that's been added over the last little while. Replacing the current bluestone pavers with a permeable gravel path would also be a win as they've seen better days.	

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14750	Jan 07, 2021, 04:57 PM	Catherine	The swings are very popular in our household, so I hope they stay (or come back in a new incarnation). Perhaps also monkey bars or other climbing play equipment for older kids, and hammock swings are great for younger kids. There is uneven brickwork near the tree/north-east corner of the arbor which would be safer if it was smoothed out. The whole arbor area could be better used, perhaps with seating/tables under it, and climbing roses would be pretty!! I like that there is a bit of open green so kids can run around, and as others have said, a fence would add to the safety of the park overall, too.	
14844	Jan 17, 2021, 03:11 PM	El	Love that it is green and lots of trees planted. I use the park most days with toddler and now with baby as well. A fence around playground (or ideally the whole park!) would be great. Creative adventure playground for all ages would be great (like at the royal children's) with stumps/rocks/hills/bushes/sticks/stones. a picnic table in the tired area towards the neighbouring house would be nice. I want to keep all the existing trees.	

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Contribution ID	Date Submitted	Screen Name	Response	File Attachment
14864	Jan 19, 2021, 09:23 AM	Ange	I walk with my dog to this park everyday.Observations of the space:- tired space, not inviting people to stay for long. -Underutilised, there is often no one or only one other person in the park- large well established trees are nice-all borders of the park are unsightly, the park should be an escape from the busy roads. The fence that runs along the house is run down and makes the space feel less safe. More could be done to hide/ better incorporate the apartment block. there is at least one gate that opens up to the park. Maybe put a path in there and more bordering plants. Plants in the garden beds are often sparce and weeds quickly pop up in the mulch.-there is no path to the playground-The open grass area is nice, but the grass itself is bare in spots and not very nice to sit down-Wildlife- strong magpie presence especially over winter/spring with fledgling magpies, other birds sighted include noisy mynahs, rainbow loris, crested pigeon. Tried to save a baby ringtail possum from this park.- When the taco truck comes to the park there are many more people there, but no picnic tables.- All the seats in the park face lygon st, I'd like them to look at different aspects- The pergola tucked against the fence doesn't feel like a nice space to spend any time. There is often cans and rubbish in this area.- there are other parks in the area with large open spaces, so it would be good for this park to have a different drawcard- more plants and aspects to look at, a really interesting playground etc.What I'd like to see:- a bbq or picnic area (tables/benches) towards the centre of the park, and removal of the current pergola- a space for community to gather, e.g a community garden space, a small skate park or table tennis table for older kids/adults, communtiy planting event to increase ownership over the space.- Keep all mature native trees. Increase plants and variety in the understorey planting, especially native plants. There is lots of Dietes at the entrances to the park which flower all at once and look scrappy otherwise.- planning with the intention for more food trucks to use the space, and better picninc spaces- keep the bluestone to some degree. The path is uneven so not accessable to all, but I like that it is not the same as every park and has a bit of history. Potenitally change to concrete with bluestone border.-potentially a toilet- better maintained grass for picnics- benches that face different aspects I'm looking forward to improvements at the park as it is a great green space in a busy area.	

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Contribution ID	Date Submitted	Screen Name	Response	File Attachment
14954	Jan 26, 2021, 10:24 AM	Anonymous	We use the park most days with three year olds and now have a baby too. Love that the playground is far from road. Love the green grass and not lots of tanbark everywhere. Love the bench seats. Love that there is rubbish facilities. Don't love that several times I've found used sharp medical equipment. Play equipment was great aged 1 and now aged 3 but for a period while son was 2 years old the equipment wasn't interesting for him. Love newly planted trees for shade. Would like fence around entire park (ideal) / or playground (less ideal but still good) as very busy roads nearby. Could plant more vegetation to have a plant-fence in front of a more structured fence. I like having swings, the little "kitchen" area in play equipment and the piles of rocks/bluestone edging are great for creative play. If play equipment changed would like a more natural/wood look, adventure/creative spaces (like at the RCH playground with rocks/stumps/water pump/bushes etc. possibly a little bbq area with shelter but I'm mindful of issues with security in the area so would be equally happy not to have this. There is a run down paved area near a neighbouring property that could have a picnic table. Love to keep green areas for grass picnic, kicking balls. Creating a little hill area towards the back of the park would be fun for kids. Would like the area to be no dogs, as so many parks in Brunswick are busy with dogs and this makes it hard with small children. Above all I would like the area to be green, lots of trees leafy; not to be a hot/dry/tanbark/concrete/paved/scraggly native plant area. I don't want to see the removal of any trees.	

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Contribution ID	Date Submitted	Screen Name	Response	File Attachment
ADD other email / messages: N/A	Sep 22, 2020	Deanna	Hello Andrew, I am a resident of Blyth street Brunswick and would like to provide feedback regarding the future park upgrades. As the parent of a young child, I would like to see the park improved both aesthetically and in terms of safety. I would like to suggest the following: - rubber surface beneath the playground as opposed to bark. I fear there are nasties hiding in the bark and currently don't feel it is safe for little ones. - an upgrade to the play equipment to keep it contemporary and engaging. - rubbish bins with the fixed openings (both landfill & recycling) to encourage people to use them instead of having to open the current lid. Clearly people can't/won't do it and are happy to leave their rubbish in dumped trolleys. - some undercover seating if possible. I value the trees there, both old and new and look forward to any new greenery. Thanks in advance,	

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Contribution ID	Date Submitted	Screen Name	Response	File Attachment
N/A	Sep 29, 2020	Craig	Dear Mr. Blight, I am writing in response to the advertised planned upgrade to Anderson Park, corner Blyth Street and Lygon Street, Brunswick East. As one of the residents whose residential property borders the park, I deeply care about maintaining a park that (i) protects the green space and (ii) serves the diverse population of local residents and community visitors who currently enjoy the park and its facilities. To this end, I wish to recommend to the planning committee the following: 1. Maintaining green space – that the same area of land cover be maintained. In my six years at the property across all seasons people of all ages enjoy the open grass spaces. Children run and play ball games. Adults sit, meditate, read, meet and chat with friends, picnic. Currently, there is enough space and mix of shade and sun for individuals and groups to children, young and older adults appreciate the space to sit on grass. Please do not reduce the overall area or the open grass space. Continuing to attend to the health of the grass and covering concrete drain/pipe covers at the southern end is recommended. 2. Maintaining bluestone paths – paths are well placed for regular traffic. That the path is blue stone is at once an attractive feature but also deters fast travelling cycles, skateboards roller-blades and other vehicles from taking the short cut across the Lygon-Blyth Street corner. There are already enough dangers on footpaths bordering the park where parents need to be extra vigilant of toddlers as much as caring for their own safety. Many cyclists, roller-bladers and skateboarders currently travel these paths but are less dangerous to others in the park. 3. Maintain and upgrade children's play area without making it bigger – while I appreciate that there is an opportunity to upgrade the playground which supports local and visiting children, children are not the main users of the park across the day. Ensuring an attractive children's area within the existing bluestone perimeter with appropriate safety upgrades is important. Maintaining the balance for residents across the demographic is equally important.	

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			4. Maintain large trees – large trees like the eucalypts provide shade, attract and house birds and are marvellous to look at. There is an opportunity to review the shrubs surrounding some of the larger trees that abut Lygon and Blyth Streets. Whether it is replacing or attending to some unhealthy, crowded plants at the base of these trees, the council is wise to invest in this for the well being of the health of the plants as well as attending to the ‘window’ as passers-by look into the green space. Please do not add any more trees to the open grass spaces. 5. Maintain park benches – those that exist are well spread, well positioned and well utilised by members of our community. As the seasons and time of day change, all provide sun or shade as preferred. These could do with repainting. As you will notice, the key word here is maintaining. I love to look out my window, sit on my balcony or be ‘out there’ myself to see how well appreciated Anderson Park is as it is. I am sure you have done your own research of usage and demographics through the day and across the seasons (at least I hope the Council has!) but from morning to night I see people of all ages enjoy this well balanced green space. I am eager support improvements while confirming benefit balance to the immediate community. While I love Anderson Park and care for its preservation and sustained future, there is some anti-social behaviour. Occasional drug deals are made and late night drinking parties Fridays and Saturdays, especially in summer. Thankfully, the current openness of the park does not encourage less desirable behaviour for neighbouring residents. There is sufficient night lighting in the park and on neighbouring streets. Let’s upgrade Anderson Park but maintain its attraction to locals who love and use it. I am happy to be contacted in regards to any of the points raised in my letter. I trust in the consultation process and equally trust you and the planning committee will consider recommendations made.	
N/A	Oct 27, 2020	Laurie	Hi Andrew. It is very exciting to read that Anderson Park is to be upgraded. We have lived next to this park for 12 years and have been commenting lately that it is a little dated compared to several parks around that have already been upgraded. This park (pre COVID) is utilised by people of all ages. Changes that we believe would ensure children’s safety whilst playing include fencing the boundaries along Blyth and Lygon Streets. We have witnessed several incidents when toddlers and young children have fallen from the raised bluestone walls around the play equipment. Levelling the playground space would also improve the safety aspects. The installation of more swings and play equipment catering for children aged 1-12 years would also be beneficial. There are a several old wooden structures along the western fence line that need to be removed/replaced. The bluestone path that runs through the middle of the park needs to be repaid/replaced. Maybe a path could be put around the perimeter of the park for small children to ride their bikes/scooters. Many Thanks Laurie Burns.	