

# GARDINER RESERVE PUBLIC TOILET PROPOSAL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY  
SEPTEMBER 2021



CITY OF MELBOURNE



## **Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners**

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Gardiner Reserve, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We are committed to our reconciliation journey, because at its heart, reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, for the benefit of all Victorians.







# PROPOSING A NEW PUBLIC TOILET FOR GARDINER RESERVE

Gardiner Reserve, North Melbourne, underwent a substantial expansion and upgrade in 2018-19. This included the planting of new trees and shrubs, improved pedestrian paths, a new picnic area, and an upgrade to the children's playground. Ongoing community feedback suggested there may be a need for a public toilet in this location.

Between 10 May and 6 June 2021, City of Melbourne asked local residents and park users to share their views on a proposal to install a public toilet on the perimeter of the park at the corner of Haines Street and Macaulay Road.

We asked our community to indicate their level of support for the proposal via online survey, email or phone, including language interpreter services. Each contribution has been recorded and de-identified for analysis, with every comment read and themed by the City of Melbourne Open Space Planning team.

This report provides a brief overview of the results of our engagement with the community.

## Location of Proposed Toilet



# HOW WE ENGAGED

Over four weeks, we communicated with over 2000 households surrounding Gardiner Reserve. We also invited other park users to get involved through on-site signage and the Participate Melbourne e-newsletter.

In total, we reached over **8650** people and recorded **406** views.

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## Promotion



LETTERS SENT:

**2100**



E-NEWSLETTERS:

**6550**



ON-SITE SIGNAGE:

**5**

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## Participation



WEBSITE  
VISITORS:

**661**



SURVEYS  
COMPLETED:

**398**



EMAILS  
RECEIVED:

**5**



PHONE  
CALLS:

**3**

Gardiner Reserve Public Toilet Proposal – Artist's Impression

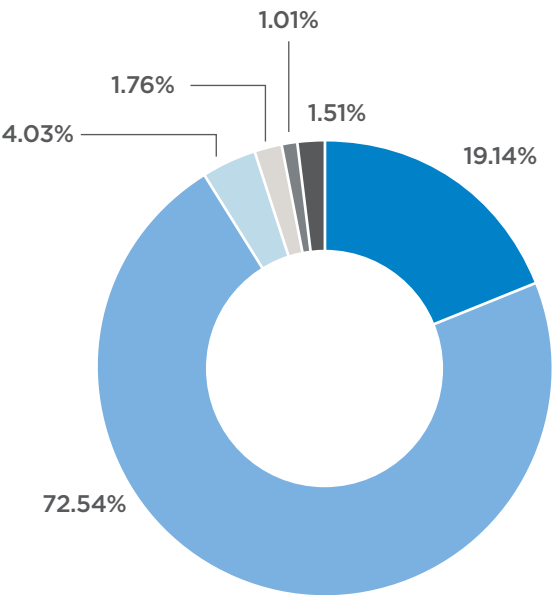


# WHO PARTICIPATED

Online survey participants were asked two optional multiple choice questions about their connection to the park and how frequently they visit. Of those that replied:

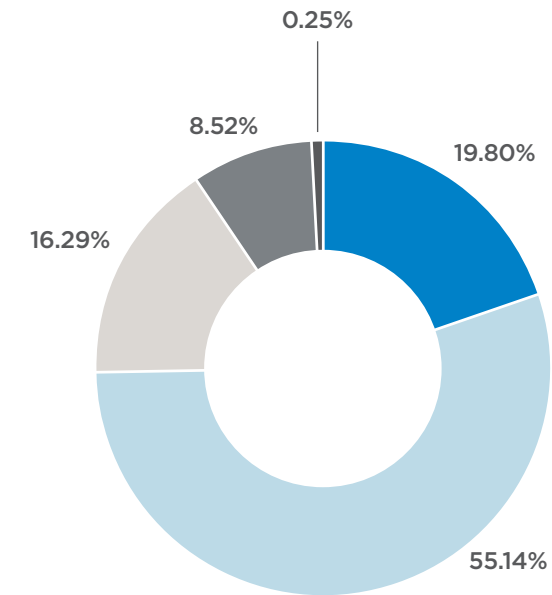
- the vast majority (72.54%) live or work in North Melbourne
- almost 20% live or work immediately opposite Gardiner Reserve
- a further 4% visit from a suburb further away
- another 2% often travel through the park.
- More than half of the respondents visit the park weekly, with almost a fifth visiting daily.

The connection our participants have to Gardiner Reserve



- Key**
- I live or work immediately opposite Gardiner Reserve
  - I live or work nearby in North Melbourne
  - I visit from a suburb further away
  - I often travel through the park
  - I'm just interested in this issue
  - Other

How often our participants visit Gardiner Reserve



- Key**
- Daily
  - Weekly
  - Monthly
  - Occasionally
  - Never



# ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK

## Support for the public toilet proposal

When asked 'Do you support the proposal to install a public toilet at Gardiner Reserve?' **92.54%** of respondents who expressed a view (372) said "yes".

# 92.54%

### You said:

"I live across the road. The park has become a more popular playground and hangout since the redevelopment was completed, which is great. It makes sense for people using the park to be able to use a bathroom if/when they need it. There are no other public toilet facilities particularly close by."

"I utilise the park regularly, often with children, and not having a toilet there inhibits our use and enjoyment of the park."

"I visit this park frequently in my week to read, exercise, have a coffee and I always find my visit is cut short as I need to go home for the bathroom so this will be a lovely idea. I also love the placement as it's not taking away from the open clean park ground it's on the outside. Very well planned and very excited."

### We heard:

- Gardiner Reserve is extremely popular with locals and has become a destination for those living in the North Melbourne suburb.
- Introducing a public toilet in this location would enhance the amenity for the broader neighbourhood, as there are no other public toilets nearby.
- Park users, particularly families with young children, would be able to enjoy longer park visits if there were toilet facilities.
- It would be more practical and functional for groups to plan social events at the BBQ and picnic areas if there were a toilet.
- The proposed location of the toilet doesn't detract from the park's overall appeal.



## Uncertainty about, or objection to the proposal

When asked 'Do you support the proposal to install a public toilet at Gardiner Reserve?' **6.22%** of respondents who expressed a view (25) said "no" and a further 1.24% (5) said "not sure".

### You said:

"It's an eyesore. Also, as a resident of Haines Street, I'm concerned it will attract illicit drug users and drug dealers."

"It would increase risks to public safety by encouraging loitering and undesirables to a children's park. Locals using the park are able to return to their homes for toilet facilities."

# 7.46%

### We heard:

- The introduction of a public toilet risks attracting antisocial behaviour, which could be disruptive and unsafe.
- The 'look' and location of the proposed toilet is unappealing, due to the material design and pathway orientation.
- Regular cleaning and consistent maintenance of public toilet facilities is essential and this is not something we have confidence will happen.
- Car parking around the Reserve can be challenging, and this might be exacerbated by increased visitation expected from additional public facilities.





# HOW YOUR FEEDBACK WILL BE USED

Thank you to everyone who has shared their views on this proposal. We have read each comment submitted and as a result, believe that we have a stronger understanding of the Gardiner Reserve community and the importance of this park to the neighbourhood.

We're thrilled to hear the wide range of purposes this green space plays in your lives.

Given the overwhelming community support for installing a public toilet at Gardiner Reserve, we intend to proceed with the project.

We anticipate construction will commence towards the end of 2021.







## How to contact us

### Online:

[melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### In person:

Melbourne Town Hall - Administration Building  
120 Swanston Street, Melbourne  
Business hours, Monday to Friday  
(Public holidays excluded)

### Telephone:

03 9658 9658  
Business hours, Monday to Friday  
(Public holidays excluded)

### Fax:

03 9654 4854

### In writing:

City of Melbourne  
GPO Box 1603  
Melbourne VIC 3001  
Australia



### Interpreter services

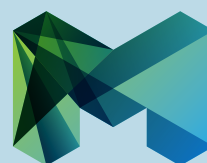
We cater for people of all backgrounds  
Please call 03 9280 0726

03 9280 0717	廣東話
03 9280 0719	Bahasa Indonesia
03 9280 0720	Italiano
03 9280 0721	普通話
03 9280 0722	Soomaali
03 9280 0723	Español
03 9280 0725	Việt Ngữ
03 9280 0726	عربي
03 9280 0726	한국어
03 9280 0726	हिंदी
03 9280 0726	All other languages

### National Relay Service:

If you are deaf, hearing impaired or speech-impaired,  
call us via the National Relay Service: Teletypewriter (TTY)  
users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 03 9658 9658  
9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (Public holidays excluded)

[melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au)



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