

THANKS FOR HELPING US DESIGN THE GARDINER RESERVE PARK EXPANSION

City of Melbourne is committed to developing green space and new play opportunities in North Melbourne, so we can sustainably meet the recreation and environmental demands of our growing population.

Community consultation

In 2017, we asked locals for feedback on suggested expansion and upgrade plans for Gardiner Reserve. In total, seventy one community members, including children, have provided input in person or online. All of the feedback received helped refine the final park landscape design as well as our understanding of local community priorities.

WE HEARD	DESIGN RESPONSE
We need new & different play opportunities for pre and primary school aged kids	1 Replaced key playground equipment with new elements designed for 2-12yr olds
We love the spider! It's our favourite thing in the playground	2 Incorporated the existing spider sculptural installation within the playground
We need more green space, Gardiners Reserve is the only park in the neighbourhood	3 Significantly expanded the existing park footprint by reclaiming land from Dryburgh Street
It's hard to secure space at the picnic tables for family or group get-togethers	4 Created an additional picnic spot by separating out existing table and seating facilities
We'd like to see more native plants and animals in our parks	5 Landscaping along new sections of park to feature Australian biodiversity planting
There's not enough space to kick a ball around or throw a frisbee safely	6 Opened up a wider grassy area in the heart of the park for flexible recreation
It would be good to keep a clear path from one side of the park to the other, and to separate areas for older and younger kids' activities	7 Creating a path toward the narrower corner of the park facilitates better pedestrian links as well as defining functional areas



Replacement playground



Refurbished seating



Native planting

Design Constraints

While all the feedback we received was considered, not every concern was able to be addressed through this project.

Public toilets were not able to be considered at Gardiner Reserve as our Open Space Strategy classifies this reserve as “local open space”, which is designed for local use and short stays. The installation of new toilet facilities today is reserved for larger regional parks with high usage.

In order to increase the size and functional capacity of the park, it was also not possible to maintain previous levels of on-street parking.

Construction update

Construction has been underway since August 2018, and for safety reasons public access to the site has been closed.

Recent rain events have delayed some of the scheduled lawn laying and asphalt works, and we thank you for your patience.

With Dryburgh Street dug in readiness for landscaping and the new playground well underway, it is now anticipated that you’ll will be able to enjoy a partially re-opened park by the end of January, with full access to come at the end of February 2019.

Invitation to re-launch this space

- Want to encourage a more connected neighbourhood?
- Keen to launch the park with local flair?
- Able to contribute time & skills?

Co-design community activities

The warmer months present an exciting opportunity for you to get involved in the launch of the enhanced Gardener Reserve. It will be a fun way to meet new neighbours and strengthen existing relationships, as well as ensuring the launch activities have a local flavour.

Council will support a group of motivated residents to plan and host an event/series of activities that reflect the interests of our diverse community. The *Volunteer Launch Leaders* will have access to resources, and will meet with project staff several times between January and February to organise initiatives for the wider neighbourhood to enjoy in the new year. A personal commitment of between 6 to 12hrs is anticipated.

Sustainability Benefits

89 new trees

> improved air quality and natural shade, taking us closer to Melbourne’s sustainability target of 40% canopy cover by 2040

47% increase in park size, with 2831m² of new green space

> supporting outdoor recreation space for our growing population

2102m² of water-permeable surface

> contributing to our Climate Change Adaptation targets

Share an Idea or Nominate Now

You don’t need to have event planning or leadership experience to get involved. This is about working collaboratively to celebrate our green space. Nominations close 9 January, so get in touch today!

Visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/gardinerreserve or contact 9658 9658 parkplanning@melbourne.vic.gov.au to make suggestions for park activation, to nominate yourself as a Volunteer Launch Leader, or for project timeline updates.