

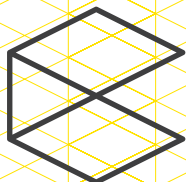
# RIVERSLIDE SKATE PARK

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

MAY 2020



Prepared for: City of Melbourne  
Riverside Skate Park  
Public Community Engagement Report  
MAY 2020  
[VERSION 3]



CO  
DESIGN  
STUDIO



**CONVIC**

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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## PROJECT CONTEXT

Riverslide Skate Park is one of two sites that the City of Melbourne has identified as needing significant upgrading and/or replacement due to aging infrastructure and heavy use.

Riverslide Skate Park is located in Alexandra Gardens between Boat House Drive and Alexandra Avenue. Due to its location and a history that includes being the original central city skatepark, it is not only well-known in the skate community, but has significant cultural importance. It is the only fully supervised outdoor skatepark in Australia.

The YMCA currently manages the skatepark for the City of Melbourne. The YMCA runs a number of programs for beginners through to intermediate skaters, individuals, groups, and schools.

Riverslide Skate Park hosts three major National level events; Australian National Skateboarding Championships competition during Moomba and Go Skateboarding day along with many smaller district level competitions as well international professional demonstration events throughout the year. For some events temporary seating is installed for viewing.

## ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY

Consultation ran from 19 December 2019, to 14 February 2020.

The purpose of the community engagement was:

- > For participants to gain a greater understanding of the project and process
- > To better understand what users like and wish to retain
- > To understand what can be improved in the space
- > To explore and model what these ideas could look like in the space
- > To identify community members interested in being part of a reference group to work with council further on developing this project.

Multiple engagement techniques were undertaken, including:

- > 3 on-site informal 'Drop-in' sessions: 19 December 2019, 3:30-6:30pm; 12 January 2020, 11-1pm and 12 February 2020, 5-8pm
- > A Design Workshop at nearby Signal on 30 January, 2020, 6-7:30pm
- > City of Melbourne's 'Participate Melbourne' online forum from 19th December 2019 until 14 February 2020
- > Other means including comments on Instagram, comment boards in the skate shop from and correspondence with community members
- > The YMCA also ran a design competition for children to develop their own design for the park

Feedback was sought from all users of the park including skateboarders, BMXers, scooter riders, roller skaters and bladers.



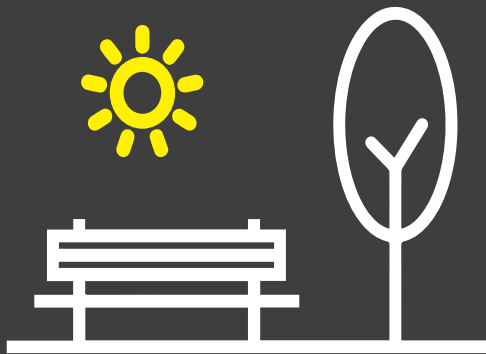
## HOW DID WE ENGAGE PEOPLE?

### WHAT DID WE ASK?

- > What do you love about skating at Riverslide?
- > How would you improve Riverslide Skate Park?

### WHEN?

- > From 19 December 2019 to 14 February 2020



**3** ON SITE  
DROP-IN  
SESSIONS



**1** HANDS ON  
DESIGN WORK-  
SHOP



SOCIAL MEDIA:  
> INSTAGRAM  
> FACEBOOK  
> TWITTER  
> LINKEDIN



PARTICIPATE  
MELBOURNE  
ONLINE  
FORUMS

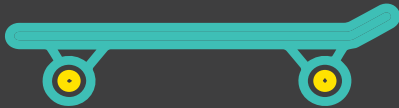
### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- > Comment boards in the skate shop
- > Children's design competition

## WHO DID WE HEAR FROM?

66%

OF PARTICIPANTS WERE  
SKATEBOARDERS



26%

SCOOTER RIDERS

WE ALSO HEARD FROM  
BMXERS &  
ROLLERBLADERS



UNIQUE  
RESPONSES  
WERE RECEIVED

412

147



FACE-TO-FACE  
PARTICIPANTS



63%

SHARED FEEDBACK  
AT A DROP-IN  
SESSION ON SITE

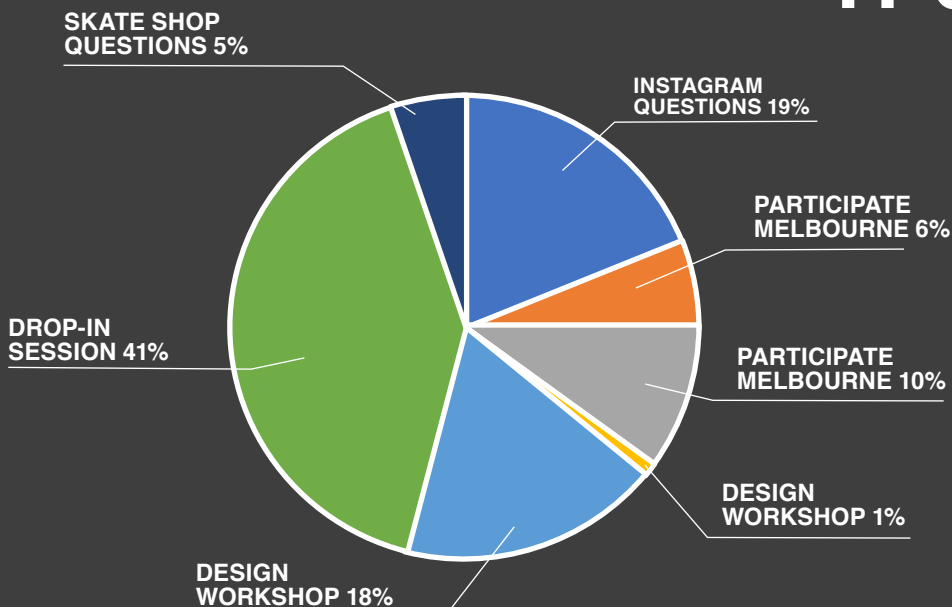
19%

SHARED FEEDBACK  
ON INSTAGRAM



50%

AGED BETWEEN  
11 & 19



## WHAT DID WE HEAR?



**BIG 462  
IDEAS**



**264  
VOTES**  
ON PREFERRED  
SKATEPARK STYLE



**63** OUT OF 148  
PEOPLE VOTED FOR A  
STREET & PLAZA  
STYLE PARK

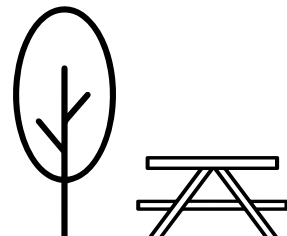
## WHAT ARE THE TOP 3 THINGS PEOPLE LOVE ABOUT SKATING AT RIVERSLIDE?



**THE DESIGN  
FEATURES, RAMPS,  
OBSTACLES & FLOW**



**THE VIBE &  
COMMUNITY**



**THE OPPORTUNITIES  
THE LOCATION  
PROVIDES**



## WHAT WERE PREFERRED SKATE PARK STYLES?



### TRANSITION

More traditional in their form, transition style skate parks are usually flowing and fast, combining quarter pipes and banks to allow the user to pump and transfer without the need to push. Typically, more organic in their appearance than other styles of skate park, they often include bowls, ramps, quarter pipes, moguls, flat banks and more.



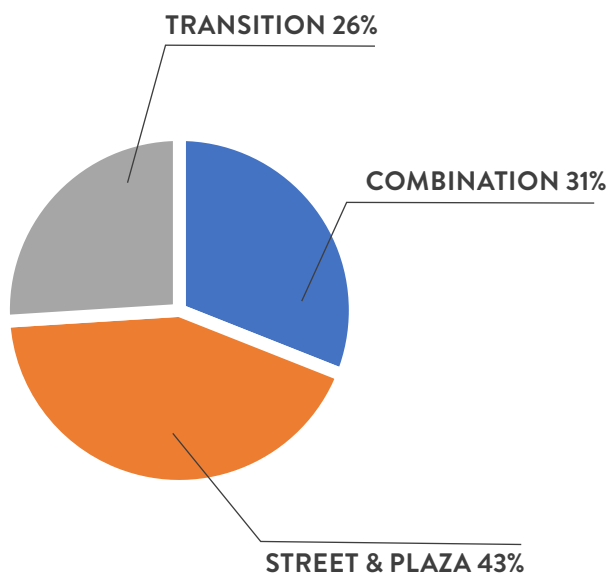
### COMBINATION

This style of facility combines the two more defined styles of skate park into one space allowing the user to experience a range of different styles of skate in one. For example, you may have a central street area that is bordered by quarter pipes or open bowls to allow the user to gain increased momentum or simply perform a wider range of tricks.



### STREET & PLAZA

A more contemporary style of skate park aimed to mimic features and forms found in the modern urban environment. For example, they usually include stairs, ledges, rails and blocks, combined in a more linear fashion to allow the user to link 'lines' together from one feature to the next, often performing flat ground tricks or simply pushing in between. The features cater to a more slow paced and technical style of skating.



# WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT RIVERSLIDE?

The majority of responses related to specific design features within the park, its location, surrounding amenity, along with the community and people who use the park.

As identified in the diagram below, obstacles within the park, that are well loved, highly utilised and positively contribute to the overall function of the space are:

1. Both corner Flat bank hips.
2. The L Ledge.
3. The Small Flat Rail.
4. The mixed variety of ramps and sizes.
5. The Quarter Pipe along the Northern edge.
6. Middle Boxes.

There was a strong attachment to the street and plaza aspects to the space with an appreciation that the lower, street and plaza area to the south of the site, flowed well.

**“THE LOCATION OF THIS PARK MAKES A GREAT MEETING PLACE FOR SKATERS COMING FROM ALL SUBURBS OF MELBOURNE”**

**“LOVE THE CULTURE & THE VIBE, DON’T WANT TO LOSE THIS”**

**“OBSTACLES ARE WELL SPACED OUT. THE HIPS ARE A PERFECT GRADIENT”**

**“ALWAYS PEOPLE THERE”**

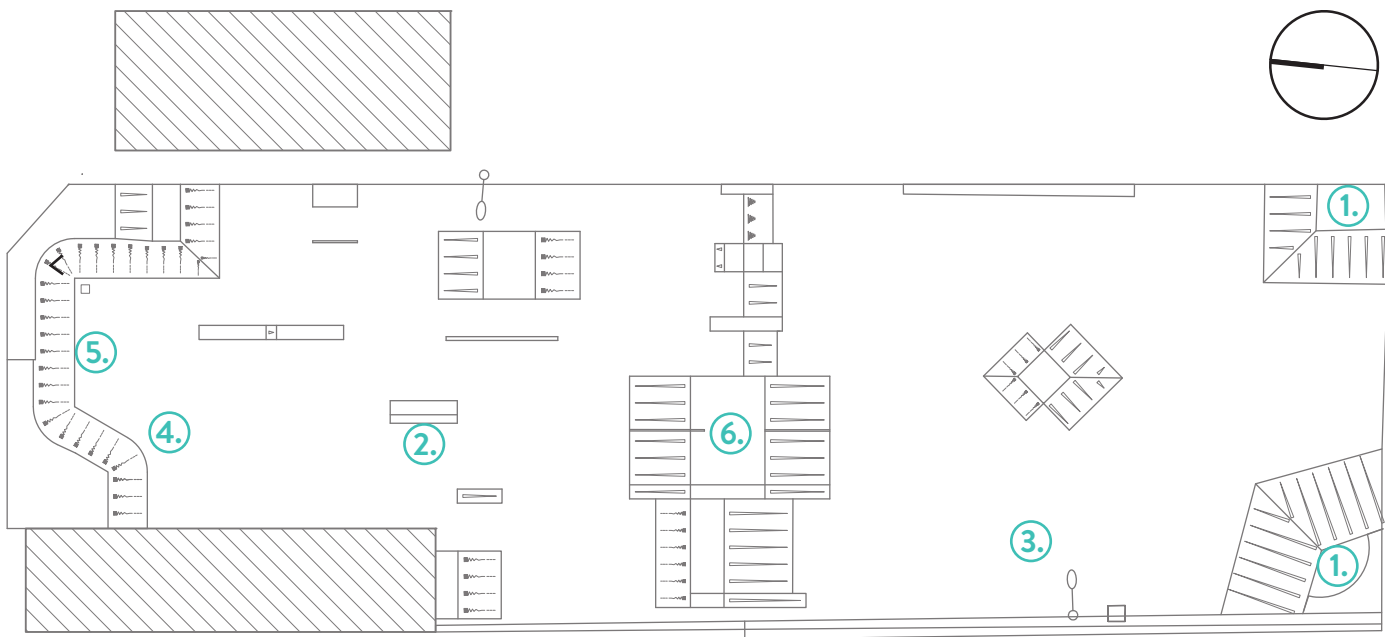


Figure 2 Riverside Layout



# HOW CAN RIVERSLIDE SKATEPARK BE IMPROVED?

## RAMPS & OBSTACLES

Popular suggestions included:

- > Rails - including small down rails, round, square and interchangeable/adjustable
- > 1/4s - specifically small & medium
- > Mini ramps
- > Ledges
- > More transition
- > Stairs
- > 1/2 pipe
- > Manny pad - make the existing longer, adjustable height
- > More street

A bowl, including quarters, pool coping, corners and hips, was raised by some. A number of participants also mentioned they would not like a bowl.



“LEDGES HERE, LEDGES THERE  
LEDGES EVERYWHERE!”

“RAILS, AND EQUALITY BETWEEN  
GOOFY AND REGULAR”

“STREET INSPIRED OBSTACLES”

“MORE TRANNY AND RAILS ON BOTH  
SIDES OF THE DOWN BAR”

“MANY PRO TOURS COME THROUGH  
MELBOURNE. WOULD BE GREAT TO  
HAVE A FEATURE THAT PEOPLE CAN  
FILM/SHOOT PHOTOS FROM.”

“RAILS TO ALLOW THE HEIGHT OF THE  
RAIL TO ADJUSTABLE”





## LAYOUT IMPROVEMENTS

The overall layout and flow of the park was mentioned including transition and street features whilst ensuring that there is appropriate integration between the two.

Inclusion of transitional and street features, was requested, ensuring that there is appropriate integration between the two.

A popular request included areas of flat open space for:

- > People who are learning and who do not yet feel confident in high use areas.
- > Warming up before events.
- > Temporary obstacle installations for events.



“MAKE SURE THE SKATE PARK ISN'T TOO NARROW SO THAT PEOPLE HAVE ROOM TO MOVE AROUND ONE ANOTHER AND THERE CAN BE A GOOD FLOW”

“RETHINK THE PARK LAYOUT TO IMPROVE FLOW (LIKE THE VANS PARK)”

“MORE STREET. MOVE AROUND - MORE TEMPORARY STUFF.”

“SMOOTH TRANSITIONS. CONSIDER OTHER RIDERS NOT JUST SKATERS. FIT & FLOW.”

“BETTER FLOW FOR THE BIG RAIL/ HUBBAS. MORE SMALL 1/4S. MORE MOVABLE FEATURES”



## OTHER THEMES RAISED

### CELEBRATE RIVERSLIDE IDENTITY & SKATING CULTURE

Riverslide's iconic identity is a key component of the skatepark. It is important to recognise and retain this.

Additional suggestions

- > The 'Riverslide blue' colouring.
- > Replicate iconic Melbourne street skating features, e.g: the yellow tram barriers, Flinders Street station gold hand rails and the State Library sculpture.
- > Continued tributes to famous local skaters as currently displayed at the current Riverslide Skate Park.

### SUPPORTING AMENITY (NON SKATE SPECIFIC)

Areas of shade and additional seating were highlighted as important for both skaters and spectators alike; to provide areas of respite and to make the space feel more inviting to all.

Other comments received included:

- > Improving the fence that surrounds the park. There is a risk boards and arms can get caught in existing fence line.
- > The small box on the eastern park border works great for teaching beginners, however it is too close to the fence.
- > The new design should consider the fence design and its relationship to the skate features and their functionality, if required at all.

### ENSURE APPEAL TO BROAD AUDIENCE

Ensure the design continues to enable the provision of lessons and other events such as demos, competitions and private parties.

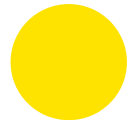
Ensure feature inclusions cater to a wide demographic, including:

- > Female skaters.
- > Beginner riders.
- > Young users.
- > Visiting skaters/ tourists.

### WIDER CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

Examples raised include:

- > Access to and condition of existing toilet block.
- > Improved lighting (specifically during night sessions).
- > Improvements to surrounding footpaths (for learners and for warming up before competitions).
- > Existing YMCA board shop and cafe area.



**“ALLOW FOR LOTS OF PEOPLE TO USE THE PARK”**

**“MORE GIRLS SESSIONS, 2 TICKS”**

**“PROJECTIONS / ART INSTALLATION E.G. WHITE NIGHT”**



# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

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Riverslide Skate Park is well loved and utilised by people from all over Victoria.

Although the majority of users surveyed were experienced, it is important to provide for a range of skills and abilities within any skate facility.

The majority of people engaged with throughout the project flagged the importance of the inclusion of spaces and features that cater for beginners all the way through to more advanced riders.

Key recommendations for consideration in the development of the design brief are as follows:

- > Retaining or replicating similar features which are unique to Riverslide, continuing with the overall street and plaza style of the park, including the 'Riverslide blue' colouring of obstacles and the provision of the surrounding murals and artwork.
- > Providing a number of multi-purpose features and obstacles that have both beginner to advanced applications.
- > Consideration to the flow of the space and how different style features interact with each other to maintain flow and safe set up and landing spaces.
- > Adaptable, temporary infrastructure can change up the layout and flow over of the space - provide space for temporary and adjustable features such as rails, ledges and boxes.
- > Ensure the design and placement of any fencing or balustrade does not impact on the functionality or safety of the active skate areas.
- > Consider the use of the sub-station as a skate obstacle or supporting amenity feature.
- > Expand of the path network around the skate park for warm up and skating during competition days.
- > Remove existing obstructions such as the power pole in the middle of the skate park.
- > Explore creative ways to provide shade to areas of the skate park to make the space more inviting and user friendly particularly during the summer months.
- > Retain global legacy as the most popular skate park in Melbourne by continuing to attract world-class skaters and events to Melbourne.
- > There is a strong interest from skaters to continue to be involved in a hands on capacity throughout the project.
- > Continued engagement with the skaters/users throughout the project to ensure a progressive and responsive design outcome.



