

Thank you to all who showed interest in the Denzil Don Reserve play space upgrade. Special thanks to those who attended the drop-in style consultation sessions during February and March, and those who submitted feedback on the draft concept plan.

Feedback received was generally very positive in support of the proposals in the draft concept plan.

Feedback on play space proposals

There were a few requests for changes to the play space including:

- Retention of a tunnel same as existing
- Addition of sand play
- A ramp instead of, or as well as, steps into the play space
- More informal sitting, such as a platform bench
- Additional seating and free space on the west side of playspace above the lawn embankment
- Relocating drink fountain with dog-dish away from play space, to avoid dog conflict with children's play
- Provide shade canopy, including over play space
- Additional trees for shade
- Install park signage including for dog on-leash restrictions near play space
- Fencing in of play space

Response to Feedback

The concept plan for upgrading this play space aims to create a greater variety of play and this is achieved through provision of new play opportunities such as nature play, a basket swing and climbing net. It is not possible to retain all existing kinds of play equipment in the new scheme.

A ramp into the playspace is being considered and will be subject to availability of space and provision of additional funding required. Sand play will not be included due to budget constraints and ongoing maintenance.

Fencing of this play space would require a significant proportion of the funds available. This is usually considered desirable when near a busy roadway and that is not the case at Denzil Don Reserve with the play space over 30 metres from Victoria Street, which is up a steep grade with a fence along the top.

The new drink fountain with dog dish will be located near the upper level path, away from the play space. Signs with dog on-leash restrictions near play space will be located in the reserve.

The available budget for this project does not allow for installation of shade canopies.

Other Feedback

There were numerous requests and suggestions for improvements to the park itself:

- Installing a BBQ
- Installing a picnic/shade shelter
- Enhancing the picnic area
- Making the embankment beside the play space less steep, to reduce risk to small children

DENZIL DON RESERVE PLAYSPACE UPGRADE 2019: FEEDBACK SUMMARY

- Creation of a productive garden space or community garden
- Community involvement in planting, weeding, caring for the park, gatherings & events
- More tree planting throughout the park, including more shade around the play space
- Planting of garden beds, better maintenance of existing garden beds
- Automated irrigation for lawns and garden beds
- Design for water capture and re-use

Response to Feedback

The scope for the play upgrade project does not cover works to the overall reserve but does allow for upgrading of furniture such as seats and picnic tables next to the play space. There are insufficient funds available for installing a picnic shelter.

There are no plans at present for installing a BBQ at this reserve. There is a BBQ in the picnic area at Holbrook Reserve to the south of Denzil Don Reserve and one is being installed at Sheils Reserve to the north, both located near Moonee Ponds Creek in Brunswick West.

Additional tree planting to what is planned around the play space, is being arranged for other parts of the reserve including on the north and west boundaries. This will be included in the annual tree planting program.

Some planting of shrubs and groundcovers is also being planned in the coming year, with one or more the community planting days for locations along Moonee Ponds Creek to include some areas within the Denzil Don Reserve. There are no plans for irrigation to be installed.

Next Steps

We have commenced ordering of the play equipment and associated works and expect the new play space to be completed by the end of June 2019.

The suggestion for establishing a community garden has been referred to our Community Gardening Officer for action. As the project progresses there will be follow up with those who expressed interest.

If you have any further questions on the play space upgrade, you are welcome to contact me directly.

Andrew Blight
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19 March 2019