

Monash Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy

Engagement Report: Part B - Public Exhibition

November 2021



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PUBLIC EXHIBITION PROMOTION AND RESPONSE

The Draft Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy was released for public exhibition between 31 August and 7 October 2021. The public exhibition process provides stakeholders and the community to with the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Strategy prior to finalisation.

The Draft Strategy was made available via the online Shape Monash platform and promoted via the following channels:

- Shape Monash Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy project page: 31 August – 7 October 2021
- Monash Bulletin: Distribution commenced 20 September 2021
- Monash e-news: 23 September 2021
- Email to Shape Monash project page subscribers and general subscribers with interests aligned with active recreation: 30 September 2021
- Email to Online Community Panel members: 30 September 2021

A total of 23 submissions to the public exhibition process were made via Shape Monash and eight submissions made via email.

A summary of the submissions (anonymised) is provided on pages 5 – 17.

The Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy Shape Monash webpage received visitation throughout the development of strategy:

- **Date range:** 7/12/2020 – 8/10/2021
- **Views:** 1,868
- **Visits:** 989
- **Visitors:** 715
- **Contributions:** 581
- **Contributors:** 149
- **Percentage of visits where at least one contribution was made:** 17.2%
- **Percentage of visits that lasted at least one active minute:** 41.9%
- **Percentage of visits where at least two actions were performed:** 22.6%
- **Note:** *Hard copy youth surveys were entered via the public Shape Monash survey form for analysis by insideEDGE Sport and Leisure Planning*

ACTIVE RECREATION PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

The public exhibition process provided the opportunity for community feedback on the Active Recreation Framework principles and priorities established within the Strategy.

The adjacent charts outline the level to which respondents 1) agree, 2) neither agree or disagree, or 3) disagree with the principles and priorities.

The results show a consistent level of agreement with the principles and priorities established by the Strategy, with limited indication of disagreement within the responses.

Where a respondent provided a “neither agree or disagree” or “disagree” response, they were provided with an opportunity to provide further explanation. Further information provided by respondents have been treated as submissions to the public exhibition process and summarised within the submission summary on pages 5 – 17.

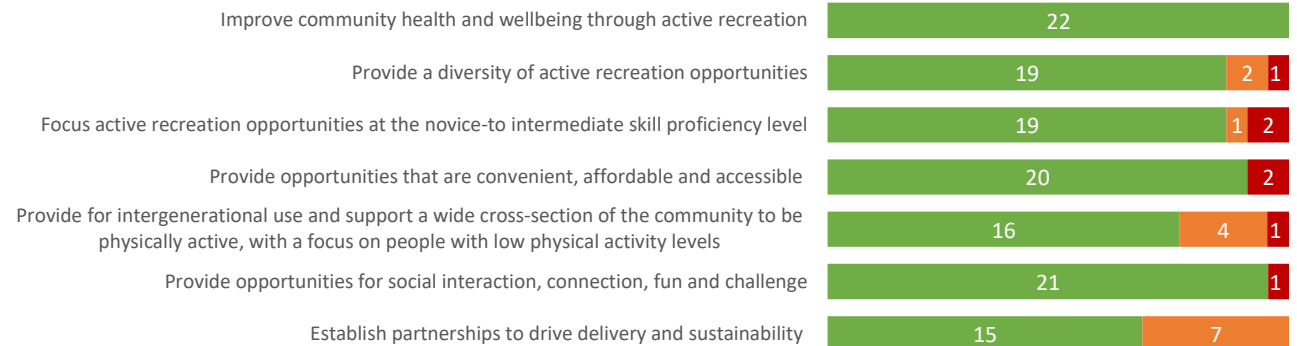
Legend

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

To what extent do you agree with the principles of the Active Recreation Framework?



To what extent do you support the strategic priorities of the Strategy?



Public Exhibition: Summary of Submissions

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

No.	Submission Topic	Summary of Submission	Response	Outcome
1	Various items	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Concern regarding use of outdated data from phone surveys in 2015 and residents under 18 not represented in data The strategy should focus on activities that are most popular or where there is a shortfall in facilities. There is need for BMX and mountain bike facilities in the City of Monash. There are many examples of ad-hoc jumps and trails being built by residents indicating need for these types of facilities. <p><i>Submission 1 continues on page 4</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A range of data sources were used to identify participation trends and consultation methods used to identify community needs. Among other consultation activities, 413 hard-copy committee surveys were completed by young people through direct engagement by the City of Monash and the Monash Youth Committee was engaged to provide further contributions from young people. The strategy aims to balance the need for facilities that provide for the most popular activities while also providing new participation opportunities. The strategy focuses primarily on facilities within reserves, noting that the trail, path and road networks provide additional opportunities for walking, running and cycling. Inclusion of circuit paths within reserves also provide new opportunities for walking and running. The focus on the development of active recreation nodes within reserves will create an active recreation network, with the design of local facilities to include further opportunities for local influence on design through consultation. The Strategy identifies the need to upgrade the BMX track at Stan Riley Reserve, investigate the potential for a cycle skills/pump track and upgrade the skate facilities at Central Reserve. BMX/cycling components will also be considered within active recreation nodes. 	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

No.	Submission Topic	Summary of Submission	Response	Outcome
1	Various items	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Concern that the proposed budget for the upgrade or potential repurposing of the BMX track at Stan Riley Reserve is excessive and could be supplemented by engaging local residents to contribute. 5. The bike track at Federal Reserve was not mentioned within the strategy. The track is very poor and its purpose is confusing. Consists of two raised bumps and two slightly shaped corners/berms. This track has potential to be built into a pump track and create a central facility for Monash. 6. The report recommends the development of a cycle skills facility in the east of Monash. What is involved in this investigative process? 7. Examples of other cycling facilities noted within Melbourne, including Hill and Dale Park (Glen Iris), Quarry Park (Maribyrnong), Footscray Pump Track and Heatherdale Pump Track. Sites within Monash could support similar facilities, such as Jells Park, Nortons Park, Markham Reserve and Transmission Line Linear Reserve. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Local residents should be engaged in determining the future development of facilities at Stan Riley Reserve. Any works will generally need to be undertaken by qualified professionals due to the nature of the activity and potential for risk should cycling facilities be constructed inappropriately. The budget is an estimate only based on similar projects and will require refinement through the design process. 5. The bike track at Federal Reserve is informal and was not considered to be an established cycling facility within the strategy. Monash does have a regional BMX track at Stan Riley Reserve, South Oakleigh and skate parks that are also used for BMX at Central Reserve and Waverley Park Regional Active Recreation Hub. 6. Cycle skills facilities/components may be integrated into the facility provision at Stan Riley Reserve, as well as being considered for inclusion in active recreation node design at sites throughout the City of Monash. 7. There is no intention to include provision for a mountain bike track within this Strategy at this stage. Development of a pump track and/or other cycle skills facilities may be considered for future implementation at active recreation nodes within the City of Monash. 	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

No.	Submission Topic	Summary of Submission	Response	Outcome
2	Opportunities to promote existing activities	Consider how to get people to take up existing participation opportunities that exist within the city, including walking groups. More people would participate if they were aware of existing activities.	The strategy identifies opportunities to increase promotion and support of local activity providers and activate facilities through organised activities. Increased promotion via City of Monash communication channels is recommended, which will assist local providers and groups to reach a larger audience. Clubs/groups can log their contact details on the Community Directory on Council's website at: https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Services/Community-Directory	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.
3	Mountain bike facilities	Concerned that the strategy doesn't cater for mountain biking. Mountain bike riding is popular on trails in the City of Monash and there are examples of informal jumps and tracks. Mountain biking has a higher uptake than BMX. There is potential to repurpose the BMX track at Stan Riley Reserve, create an unsealed trail in Scotchman's Creek Reserve or identify opportunities for trails and loops in other reserves.	There is no intention to include provision for a mountain bike track within this Strategy at this stage. Development of a pump track and/or other cycle skills facilities may be considered for future implementation at active recreation nodes within the City of Monash.	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.
4	Strategy review	A number of minor grammatical errors and inconsistencies were identified within the strategy.	Any grammatical errors and inconsistencies have been updated in the final strategy documentation	Any grammatical errors and inconsistencies will be updated in the final strategy documentation

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

No.	Submission Topic	Summary of Submission	Response	Outcome
5	Feedback relating to Princes Highway Reserve	<p>A number of comments and suggestions provided relating to the potential improvement of Princes Highway Reserve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Playground should be fenced as it is within proximity of the dog off-leash area. 2. Reconfiguration of the existing track and inclusion of distance markers would improve conditions for runners and walkers. 3. Park safety could be increased through provision of lighting and security cameras. 4. Inclusion of bicycle racks would encourage more people to ride to the reserve. 5. Improved information for dog owners on managing their dogs within the reserve. 6. Improvements to the cricket nets to decrease the likelihood and number of balls that leave the enclosure. 7. Concern that there hasn't been an attempt to speak directly to users of the reserve in the development of the strategy. 	<p>Responses to each listed item:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Planning and provision of playgrounds is determined via the Monash Playground and Playspace Strategy. 2) The existing circuit trail network is appropriate for the size and configuration of the reserve, but opportunities for improvement of provision and connection are noted. 3) The potential for increased lighting is noted. The provision of security cameras is generally not recommended for this reserve at this stage. 4) The potential to include bicycle racks is noted. 5) The potential to improve signage and information for dog owners is noted. 6) The condition of the cricket nets was noted as being in moderate-to-poor condition. The strategy recommends that Council establish a cricket practice facility improvement program to assist in facility renewal. 7) The consultation process includes a wide range of engagement opportunities including surveys, stakeholder advisory groups, online community panel and a drop-in session. 	<p>Note potential for improvement to path network, increased lighting, bike racks, dog signage and cricket net upgrade at Princes Highway Reserve for future consideration by Council. No change has been made to the Strategy.</p>
6	Active recreation facilities in Chadstone	<p>Access to outdoor gym/workout area in the Chadstone area similar to the one under construction at Duncan McKinnon Reserve (Glen Eira City Council). Access to BMX / cycling facilities would also engage children, youth and adults.</p>	<p>The inclusion of local level active recreation facilities (including outdoor fitness equipment) at Batesford Reserve will be added as a recommendation of the Strategy.</p> <p>BMX/cycling facilities are provided at Stan Riley Reserve and throughout the trail network. Additional BMX/cycling components will be considered during the design of active recreation nodes.</p>	<p>Active recreation facilities at Batesford Reserve has been included as a recommendation of the Strategy.</p>

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No.	Submission Topic	Summary of Submission	Response	Outcome
7	Inclusion of golf nets in local parks	Consideration for the inclusion of golf practice cages (Birdie Cages) within local parks. Birdie Cages are provided in a number of reserves within Glen Eira City Council and appear to be well utilised.	There are currently no recommendations for golf practice cages to be incorporated into reserves within the City of Monash. Golf practice cages may be considered during site-specific facility design, subject to future community engagement on preferences for active recreation facilities.	Request for golf practice cages is noted for consideration in future facility design, noting that demand for golf practice facilities was not indicated via community consultation. No change has been made to the strategy.
8	General comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure paths are wide enough for people to pass considering prams, wheelchairs, bikes, dogs etc. 2. Ensure outdoor fitness equipment includes instructions for how to use. 	The suggestions are noted and considered within the Strategy guidance notes.	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.
9	Facilities of older adults and people with disabilities	As a non-English speaking background older adult with a disability in Wheelers Hill, I find larger facilities confronting and impersonal, therefore facilities are underutilised and residents walk for exercise. More personal/intimate facilities may encourage more complex exercise needs for older adults.	The strategy recommends the development of intergenerational facilities that cater for a wide range of ages rather than age-specific facilities. This provides opportunities for a range of ages to participate and encourages participation by family and friendship groups. Facilities will also be focused at the novice/intermediate skill level and made accessible to encourage people with lower mobility to participate. Further reinforcement of the importance of universal design principles has been included.	A statement noting the importance of Universal Design has been added (page 19). A section relating to Universal Design has been added to the guidance notes (page 52).

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No.	Submission Topic	Summary of Submission	Response	Outcome
10	General comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A circuit track needs to be provided around Pinewood Reserve (much use during COVID and uneven for walkers). 2. Explore more local BMX opportunities to discourage informal jumps and tracks. 3. Recognise the added benefit of nature-based settings for active recreation. 4. Acknowledge the connection and linkage between Council strategies (Health and Wellbeing, Play, Sports, Walking & Cycling). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The future inclusion of a circuit track at Pinewood Reserve may be considered by Council in future site planning. 2. Local-level BMX components may be included at active recreation nodes during the design and implementation of facilities. 3. The benefits of nature-based active recreation is acknowledged and will be considered in future planning of active recreation facilities. 4. The detailed review of relevant strategies and policies was completed in the first stage of development of the strategy (Background Report) to inform the development of the active recreation framework. 	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.
11	Local demographics and provision	The strategy appears to not address the demographics surrounding each of the parks, particularly in the west where there is an insufficient number of quality parks. Focus on development of Princes Highway Reserve.	The demographics and community profile of each suburb catchment were considered in the analysis of community needs. The Monash Open Space Strategy informed the overall provision of parks and open space, with a focus on overall provision and provision per 1,000 persons to identify areas of need. A recommendation for the inclusion of outdoor exercise equipment around the circuit path at Princes Freeway Reserve is included in the strategy.	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.
12	Pedestrian access to Waverley Park	Improve safe walking access to Waverley Park for residents from the northern side of Wellington Road. Residents between Jells, Springvale, Wellington and Waverley Roads have limited active recreation opportunities.	The suggestion is noted and to be considered for future pedestrian network improvements.	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.

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No.	Submission Topic	Summary of Submission	Response	Outcome
13	Various	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The skate park at Central Reserve is still in good condition and doesn't appear to need improvement or renewal. Including toilets at Glen Waverley North Reserve would encourage people to visit the reserve and stay for longer. Potential to hire the pavilion at Glen Waverley North Park would encourage community gatherings. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> An audit of the Central Reserve skate park determined that it requires renewal/upgrade works in the near future to ensure that it remains safe and attracts users to the reserve. The Monash Public Toilet Strategy will guide the provision of toilets in reserves, with access to public toilets at the Glen Waverley North Reserve pavilion being considered. The potential for pavilion hire to encourage community gatherings is outside the scope of this strategy, but is noted for future reference. 	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.
14	Ashwood Reserve hockey field	Concern that the proposal of a second hockey pitch at Ashwood Reserve will reduce active recreation opportunities by providing the space for use by the hockey club only. The proposal at Jingella Reserve sounds like a great idea and inclusive options if facilities remain free for the public to use.	Consideration of the provision of additional facilities for organised sport is outside the scope of this strategy, but it is noted that sport and active recreation facility provision needs to be balanced. Support for the proposal at the adjacent Jingella Reserve is noted, with the intention for facilities to remain free and accessible to the public.	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.
15	Lack of recommendations for Wheelers Hill	There is an absence of recommendations for reserves in Wheelers Hill. Residents are using the Wheelers Hill Primary School playground equipment. There has been very little improvement of Bowden Crt Playground, Ashdown Way Reserve and Trafford Reserve. Improvements to local parks should be considered given the number of families in the area. Facilities for older adults should be considered.	Recommendations for an active recreation node at Columbia Park Reserve, and replacement of the cricket nets with a multipurpose cricket netball facility and installation of concrete circuit path at Mulgrave Reserve are included in the strategy. Bowden Court Reserve, Ashdown Way Reserve and Trafford Reserve were not considered for further active recreation facilities due to their small size and catchment. Active recreation facilities will be delivered to provide intergenerational participation opportunities that cater for people of all ages and abilities.	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

No.	Submission Topic	Summary of Submission	Response	Outcome
16	Key active recreation site selection and public safety recommendations.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The selection of the key active recreation sites was not undertaken with clear transparency. Why were these sites prioritised? Additional focus on safety is required within the recommendations given the importance placed on safety provided during community consultation. Increased emphasis needed on rubbish collection, cleaning, night use, active transport design and police presence. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The facility development recommendations of the strategy aim to create a network of active recreation facilities across the city to ensure that access to active recreation opportunities is equitable. The key active recreation sites were identified by considering existing facility provision, opportunities for upgrade and development, proximity to other parks and reserves, open space provision needs and previous Council planning. “Safety and passive surveillance” is included in the guidance notes (page 52) for consideration in the planning, design and development of all facilities. Increased focus on safety is a general recommendation across all reserves to encourage increased active recreation. It is not within the scope of the strategy to outline specific safety improvements for each reserve, but opportunities for safety improvements have been noted during facility audits. The request for additional rubbish collection, cleaning, active transport design improvements and police presence are noted. 	“Safe” has been included within principle four of the Active Recreation Framework (page 16) to ensure that the importance on safety is acknowledged in facility planning, design and development.
17	Facilities for people with a disability.	Recommendations for intergenerational facilities are supported. More facilities for people with disabilities and sight impairment should be included. Implementing sensory areas for children of all abilities would be also be supported.	Active recreation facilities will be designed to ensure that they are accessible and available for people of all abilities. References to the importance of universal design have been added to strengthen the messaging relating to accessibility within the Strategy. Sensory areas for children are generally outside the scope of this Strategy and managed via the Monash Playground and Playspace Strategy.	A statement noting the importance of Universal Design has been added (page 19). A section relating to Universal Design has been added to the guidance notes (page 52).

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

No.	Submission Topic	Summary of Submission	Response	Outcome
18	Loss of provision for golf.	Losing provision for golf through the downsizing of Glen Waverley Golf Course to provide tennis courts.	Provision for golf and changes to the Glen Waverley Golf Course are outside the scope of this strategy.	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.
19	Community involvement in decision making	Greater community involvement should be provided prior to final decisions being made	The development of the strategy has incorporated an in-depth stakeholder and community engagement process. The public exhibition process is part of the engagement process for the community to have further input into the recommendations and outcomes of the strategy.	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.
20	General comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Care needs to be taken with conflicting activities on paths/trails to avoid conflicts. Children benefit from access to hard surface areas to ride bikes and play ball games. Seating, shade, drinking fountains and rubbish bin provision are appreciated by park users 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Careful planning for the trail and active transport network to avoid conflicts is included in the guidance notes. The strategy recommends increased multipurpose hard surface areas within parks to cater for use by people of all ages. The need for supporting infrastructure such as seating, shade, drinking fountains and rubbish bins is noted and will be considered during the design and delivery of facilities. 	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.
21	Basketball court/rings at Jells Park	Suggestion to add basketball court/rings at Jells Park because there is a lack of basketball facilities in the area.	Jells Park is managed by Parks Victoria and is not considered within scope. The request for basketball courts/rings at Jells Park can be referred to the land manager. The Waverley Women's Sports Centre (corner of Jells and Waverley Roads) is Council owned and any improvements for this site will be in accordance with the Council's adopted Waverley Women's Sports Centre Precinct Plan available at: https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Leisure/Recreation-Strategies-and-Policies#waverley	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

No.	Submission Topic	Summary of Submission	Response	Outcome
22	Federal Reserve	<p>Suggested improvements to Federal Reserve, Mount Waverley.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Public toilet near the car park for children/older adults/delivery drivers. Install safety fencing along the north of the reserve adjacent to Federal Street to prevent children and dogs running onto the road. Distance markers to be incorporated on the path (clockwise and anti-clockwise). A climbing wall could be provided close to the picnic shelters. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of public toilets at reserves will be managed by the Monash Public Toilet Strategy. There is no indication of toilets to be constructed at the site at this stage. Potential for a safety fence to be referred to Council's Recreation department for consideration. Distance markers may be considered for future implementation within Council's reserve upgrade program. The provision of climbing walls and climbing components will be considered within the design of active recreation nodes. It should be noted that an active recreation node is not being considered for Federal Reserve at this stage. 	<p>The request for fencing and distance markers at Federal Reserve will be referred to Council's Recreation Department for consideration. No change has been made to the Strategy.</p>
23	General comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested provision of volleyball and netball facilities to encourage female participation. Provide tables to enable people to play card games in the park. Provision of trails to and through transport corridors (including rail reserves) with exercise equipment provides for people that don't visit reserves. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of netball and volleyball facilities within active recreation nodes will be considered during facility design prior to construction. It should be noted that active recreation nodes will be designed and constructed to provide facilities that cater for all ages and genders, with facilities such as multipurpose courts (that can be used for netball and volleyball) providing for both males and females equally. Picnic tables are provided broadly throughout Council reserves. The trail network within the City of Monash is established and future works will continue to improve connection, access and recreation opportunities. 	<p>The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.</p>

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No.	Submission Topic	Summary of Submission	Response	Outcome
24	Mount Waverley Reserve and indoor recreation opportunities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suggested provision of outdoor table tennis, climbing wall and basketball court at Mount Waverley Reserve to provide for teenagers. 2. Suggested provision of additional indoor recreation opportunities for teenagers for activities such as chess, video games, web design, theatre, film, cooking and automotive. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mount Waverley Reserve is listed as a key active recreation site and planning for future active recreation provision underway. A multipurpose court and outdoor table tennis table are included in the suggested provision at the site, with other components to be considered and confirmed during the design process. 2. Provision for indoor recreation and activities is not considered within the scope of this strategy. 	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.
25	Facilities in the Mulgrave/Wheelers Hill area	Suggested provision of additional active recreation facilities outside of Waverley Park, with consideration of the demographics of the area and provision for children. Potential inclusion of facilities at Columbia Park Reserve which is currently under-utilised. Further consideration of the local demographics to ensure facilities meet the needs of users is encouraged.	The network of proposed active recreation facilities aims to provide access to a range of facilities within close proximity to where residents live. The network of facilities is prioritised and does not provide the same level of provision for every park. The existing facilities at Waverley Park provide a range of active recreation opportunities, which are supported by provision within local parks. A local-level active recreation node is recommended for Columbia Park Reserve. As active recreation nodes/facilities are developed, further consultation and engagement with local communities will assist in determining the design prior to construction.	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.
26	Connection of paths and trails	Priority should be given to connecting the path and trail network to promote safe active transport and decrease the danger of cycling on roads. Paths and trails should be wide enough to cater for pedestrians and cyclists.	The development of the path and trail network is a priority of the strategy, but will be primarily delivered via the Monash Walking and Cycling Strategy. The guidance notes within the Strategy outline a number of key considerations for the development of paths and trails.	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.

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No.	Submission Topic	Summary of Submission	Response	Outcome
27	Outdoor fitness stations in the City of Monash	There are no outdoor fitness stations at all of the parks in the City of Monash (except for Namatjira Park and Jingella Reserve). I'd like there to be a selection of them along with teenage space that includes a barrel roller.	There are currently 15 outdoor fitness equipment locations in parks and reserves within the City of Monash (locations provided via email to respondent). Further to these existing sites, the Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy is recommending the development of a network of active recreation nodes throughout the City of Monash to ensure that residents have equitable access to active recreation opportunities. Outdoor fitness equipment will be considered during the design stage of establishing each active recreation node and will be featured at a number of additional sites.	The submission is addressed by the Strategy. No change has been made to the strategy.
28	Play/exercise area specifically for older adults	Consideration of the inclusion of a play/exercise area specifically for older adults within the recommendations of the Strategy.	The Strategy prioritises the development of intergenerational facilities that cater for a broad range of ages and abilities. The design of active recreation nodes will consider the needs of older adults to ensure that facility and equipment choices provide opportunities for older adults.	The submission is noted and no change has been made to the Strategy.

