# Victoria Park Vision Community Engagement report

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## Acknowledgment of Country

Brisbane City Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and their unique relationship with their ancestral Country. We pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders of Brisbane, and recognise their strength and wisdom.

## Shaping Brisbane’s biggest new park

Brisbane City Council is creating a greener Brisbane by beautifying our suburbs so you can enjoy our subtropical climate while connecting with the people and places that make our city even better.

We are protecting and expanding greenspace to make it easier for you to enjoy the lifestyle our great city has to offer. Delivering a clean and green Brisbane means beautiful suburbs for generations to come.

As the city grows and inner-city housing evolves, our parks will play a greater role as places for Brisbane’s residents and visitors to experience the natural world and retreat from city life.

The coronavirus pandemic has only emphasised how much our residents love their parks and greenspaces. Council is changing one of Brisbane’s largest and oldest greenspaces, Victoria Park, into an iconic public parkland and it will play a vital part in the evolution of Brisbane. It will provide much needed open space for residents and attract tourists and workers.

Victoria Park will have something for everybody and is another way we’re making Brisbane better. This means more opportunities to enjoy Brisbane and connect with family and friends in the places that make our city great. In January 2020, Council launched the Victoria Park Draft

Vision (draft vision) to convert the 45-hectare, 18-hole golf course into an expansive new park. This followed community feedback from more than 2000 people, wanting more greenspaces with new places to relax. It presents an opportunity to showcase our clean, green and sustainable lifestyle in a well-designed destination that puts Brisbane’s liveability attributes on the world stage.

Redeveloping Victoria Park will achieve this by protecting and enhancing almost 64 hectares of greenspace for future generations through the Victoria Park Vision. It will also improve our quality of life by creating an amazing public parkland that is uniquely Brisbane.

The Brisbane community’s vision will start taking shape from July 2021 and guide the park’s evolution over the years ahead.

### Timeline



### What is a vision?

A vision for a place forms the aspirational framework for the future design and for how the place can improve and evolve over time. A vision provides the principles to follow and outlines strategies for the design of a place.

### What is a master plan?

A master plan builds on a vision and can include further investigations and engagement to refine the overall layout, areas and elements of the vision. Master planning makes the connection between buildings, people and the surrounding environments. A master plan includes a holistic view that includes analysing, recommending and idea generating for a space. It considers the community, the economy, housing, transportation and community facilities at a greater detail than a vision.

## Having your say

Since mid-2019, Council has provided ongoing opportunities for local residents, the community and stakeholders to provide ideas and give feedback at key milestones in the project. This has played an essential role in shaping the Victoria Park Vision.

### Community-driven design

Two rounds of communication and engagement activities were held between July 2019 and July 2020, initially for ideas to create the draft vision and then to seek feedback once the draft vision was released.

The primary strategy driving the visioning process was Council’s desire for strong community involvement and ownership of the Victoria Park Vision to guide future park development decisions.

Rather than present a detailed plan to the community to comment on, initial community feedback and ideas encouraged Council to start at a higher visionary level to give the park design process crucial time for ideas to be reflected on by the community and provide feedback to Council. This approach gave the project team room and time to consider queries, research findings and adapt the design to new opportunities as they emerged, without being fixed on a ‘spatially-driven’ or pre-determined outcome.

### Engagement goals

* Council’s key goals for the community engagement process were:
* reaching residents from across Brisbane
* generating a rich collection of stories and innovative ideas
* gaining a strong understanding of what is important to the community
* asking a set of key engagement questions designed to determine priorities to inform the Victoria Park Vision, understand community-favoured strategies and understand what the community wants for the future
* seeking the views of the broader community
* reaching a diverse audience including Traditional Custodians of the land.

## Engagement prior to the draft vision release

Before developing the draft vision document, Council sought extensive input from the community and stakeholders via face-to-face meetings, online engagement and information sessions between August and September 2019. The engagement tools used are outlined further in this section.

Council released visionary concepts for the greenspace to help the community reimagine what could be, create ideas and provide specific feedback. This gave the project team room to adapt to queries, research findings and new opportunities as they emerged, ensuring a true community-guided vision for Victoria Park was achieved.

During the consultation period, more than 5400 ideas were shared with Council and subsequently fed into the draft vision. More than 16,300 people helped Council throughout this engagement period with feedback.

The objective of this stage of engagement was to generate awareness of the project and generate ideas and submissions.



### Awareness campaign

Council ran an awareness campaign to ensure the Brisbane community was aware of the project and to encourage public participation in the design process.

The awareness campaign included:

* ongoing updates to the project website
* media release
* social media posts
* project features in Council’s monthly Living in Brisbane newsletter distributed across Brisbane in both August and September 2019.

### Information sessions and displays

Council held information sessions as part of the engagement prior to the development of the draft vision, which included a presence at:

* EKKA
* Green Heart Fair
* Queen Street Mall
* Kelvin Grove Village Markets
* Jan Powers Farmers Markets at Brisbane Powerhouse.

Each information session was staffed by members of the project team from a range of disciplines and members of the public were encouraged to share their feedback on the visionary concepts for Victoria Park and other ideas. These sessions also used an ‘ideas tree’ for the public to write down their ideas and tie to the tree. The ideas tree was also placed at Toowong, Carindale, Chermside, New Farm and Indooroopilly libraries. Attendees were also encouraged to complete the online survey or upload an idea to the online ideas tool.

Speech bubbles for feedback were also used to capture individual ideas for the park’s future, which were then uploaded to the website by residents or collated from events by staff.

### Onsite engagement event

In September 2019, Council held a major engagement event, the Victoria Park Party, closing the Victoria Park Golf Course for the day to allow the community to see the full extent of the park.

Council distributed 57,000 flyer invitations to residents and businesses, with 4500 people attending to explore, understand its potential and provide further ideas for the park. Attendees were offered golf buggy tours of the site and asked to provide feedback on the visionary concepts for Victoria Park and offer other suggestions for the park.

Two infographics. The first pictogram is a symbol of a leaf. Text: A total of 1052 idea leaves were completed by the public. The second pictogram is a symbol of three people. Text: 4500 people came to the Victoria Park Party. 

Photo of an ideas leaf card hanging from the ideas tree. In handwriting it reads: An outdoor performance space for concerts and theatre in the park.

Council provided the opportunity to learn more about the Traditional Custodian uses and pre-settlement way of life in the park area through a virtual reality experience.

A range of co-design workshops were held, facilitated by local designers. These involved key ideas, concerns and opportunities for the park being recorded and mapped onto large-scale maps. The visionary ideas concepts also helped create public discussion at the Victoria Park Party, online and in the media.

### Online engagement

Council’s Your City Your Say tools were used to collect online submissions, capture ideas and host a feedback survey.

One infographic. The pictogram is a symbol of a light bulb. Text: The online survey received 1745 responses and in total 2768 ideas.

A digital ideas wall to assist with vision-building received more than 16,000 visits throughout the consultation period, resulting in 521 ideas posted and 3543 likes for images submitted.

A second survey was launched during this phase to capture support and feedback for the visionary ideas concepts that were showcased at the Victoria Park Party. This showed that there was support for many of the ideas included in these concepts.

More than 1000 people registered for email project updates.

### Stakeholder briefings

Council engaged with 31 targeted stakeholder groups including those with an interest in the project or those that are located in close proximity to Victoria Park. This included:

* park lessees (including Victoria Park Golf Complex and schools)
* major institutions around the site including hospitals and universities
* Queensland Government departments and agencies
* community interest groups
* Traditional Custodians.

Most stakeholders that were offered a briefing accepted the offer. All invited groups were encouraged to provide Council with submissions and fill in the survey where possible.

Meetings were held with residents who made contact during the early engagement period, including residents who could not easily provide feedback through online platforms or travel far from their homes.

The Lord Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council also received a briefing on the project with 60 students providing their ideas to help shape the draft vision.

### Submissions

Stakeholder groups and the community were encouraged to provide formal submissions with their ideas, thoughts and input via Council’s website, email or in writing.

Council received a total of 52 formal submissions from:

* residents
* community interest groups
* public and active transport interest groups
* sporting groups
* heritage groups
* schools.

### Traditional Custodian group consultation

Council is committed to involving Traditional Custodians in the design of Victoria Park.

In July 2019, prior to design commencing, Council wrote to and met with Traditional Custodian groups asking for involvement and engagement in the creation of the draft vision.

Traditional Custodians confirmed their interest in participating on the project and contributing to the draft vision. Meetings were held with interested groups to identify the values of the site, their aspirations for the park into the future and seek cultural input.

Traditional Custodians want ongoing, authentic engagement, for Council to take time to consult

with them and for their ideas to be respected.

## How your feedback shaped the draft vision

### Feedback themes

Feedback from the community and stakeholders highlighted consistent themes and the following top features.

* Native gardens incorporating trees, shade, gardens and forest.
* Areas for all-ages play, barbecues and picnics, exercise, adventure and nature play.
* Water features.
* Paths, connectivity and accessibility.
* Cycling, sports areas, a skatepark and BMX tracks.
* Food garden, farm and community garden.
* Indigenous space.
* Event and music space.
* Golf.
* Cafes, restaurants, bars, retail areas and markets.
* Iconic architecture, art and sculptures.
* Open, unstructured greenspace.
* Day and night use.

Feedback and ideas inspired the design framework, which was formed by three principles and eight strategies to articulate how the Victoria Park Vision will be achieved and guide more detailed planning in the years ahead.

The strategies consider the park’s unique history, the needs of the city and surrounding communities, environmental imperatives and opportunities offered by the site’s natural features and location.

### Guiding principles

The following guiding principles of design were used to create the draft vision.

* Recognition. Creating a place to respectfully celebrate the connection between culture, history and nature across past, present and future generations.
* Restoration. Celebrating our unique, interwoven landscape and ecosystems.
* Reconnection. Making transformational connections that stitch the parkland back into the city.

### Strategies

The following eight strategies were used to create and seek feedback on the draft vision.

* Unique experiences. Peaceful, natural spaces in the park’s centre will be a striking counterpoint to its lively edge, where community life is played out.
* Connections. Going green will be the easiest way to get to the park with walking, cycling, bus and train the modes of choice. Every journey within the park itself will be an experience.
* Cultural landscape. The park will inspire sharing, the telling of stories and learning in the landscape with opportunities to understand and engage with Brisbane’s cultural heritage.
* Room for water. Lagoons, wetlands and a lake will bring water back to the site and restore natural cooling, cleansing and flood management systems.
* Connected habitats. Revitalised ecosystems and restored habitats will draw wildlife back to the city and enrich our connection with nature.
* Health and recreation. Outdoor adventures will challenge people of all ages and abilities, inspire
* active lifestyles, offer a natural experience in the city and support reconnection with the natural world for mental health.
* Creative expression. World-class architectural forms and unique public spaces will enable cultural expression, facilitate community gatherings and make the park a showcase for visitors from around the globe.
* Relationships and partnerships. Well-located links and thoughtfully designed facilities will invite neighbours to move through and explore the park and adopt its spaces and places as their own.

Flowchart showing the process of preparing the Victoria Park Vision. Text reads:
First stage: Strategic context and site analysis. Lessons from around the world. Community and stakeholder ideas.
Second stage: Have your say - Victoria Park Ideas
Third stage: Victoria Park Draft Vision. 
This is made of three guiding principles being recognition, restoration and reconnection; eight strategies being uniques experiences, connections, cultural landscape, room for water, connected habitats, health and recreation, creative expression, relationships; and an illustrative concept.
Fourth stage - Have your say - Victoria Park Draft Vision
Fifth stage: Victoria Park Vision
Next steps: Detailed studies, continuing community and stakeholder involvement, preparation of the Victoria Park Master Plan and Implementation Plan.

## Engagement for the draft vision release

### Draft vision statement

Victoria Park will be a natural retreat, an urban park for adventure, discovery and reconnection.

![An illustrative concept map, which shows how the Victoria Park Vision could be realised on the ground. The concept highlights 43 elements.
2. The Green 
3. Lake Barrambin 
4. Lake pavilions 
5. Boat house and canoe launch 
6. The Wetlands 
7. Yorks Hollow 
8. Nature and Water Play Gully 
9. Sensory adventure trails 
10. Connector bridge 
11. Canopy Walk 
12. Canopy pods 
13. The Tree House 
14. Art/exploratory trails/ sculpture park 
15. The Rolling Hill 
16. Adventure Valley 
17. Community Hub 
18. Spring Hill Water Play 
19. Community Green 
20. Picnic pods 
21. Farm Gate
22. Productive Gardens 
23. Spring Hill Common 
24. Relocated community tennis courts 
25. Upgraded land bridge 
26. Entry plaza 
27. New shared path bridge (Queensland Rail owned) 
28. Kelvin Grove arrival 
29. Dog off-leash area 
30. Entry portals 
31. New function facility 
32. New function lawns 
33. New golf ‘skills’ green 
34. Existing driving range 
35. Existing putt putt golf course 
36. Existing Victoria Park Bistro 
37. Existing Victoria Park function rooms 
38. Existing Centenary Pool 
39. Car parking (overall increase of 20-30%) 
40. Gilchrist Avenue reduced and upgraded 
41. Historic golf clubhouse 
42. Maintenance facility 
Play areas 
]()

Community and stakeholder feedback, ideas and aspirations gathered in initial consultation were considered during the development of the draft vision.

Council released the draft vision in January 2020 inviting the community to have their say. This community engagement phase was open until 31 July 2020.

As part of providing feedback on the draft vision, the community was invited to provide feedback on the proposed eight strategies, vision statement and the illustrative concept. More than 2000 people had their say across the different feedback channels.

The objective of this stage of engagement was to generate survey responses, input into the city’s key priorities for the area and submissions.

The engagement phase was affected by the coronavirus pandemic with feedback methods changing from face-to-face to online and the engagement period being extended.

### Draft vision awareness campaign

Council ran a communication campaign to raise community awareness of the release of the draft vision and encourage as much community feedback and engagement as possible.

### Letters

During this phase of consultation, 7920 letters were sent to the community in Spring Hill, Herston and Kelvin Grove from local Councillors, encouraging them to visit the website to complete surveys and invite them to information sessions to talk directly with members of the project team.

### Information sessions

Council held two information sessions for local residents at the Old Museum. Residents at this session were satisfied for the golf course to close and become public parkland, with varying views on how that was to be achieved.

### Online engagement

During this phase, the project web page was visited by more than 35,000 people. The draft vision was downloaded 8039 times.

### Surveys

Council offered two surveys as part of the engagement following the release of the draft vision including:

* a citywide survey for the wider Brisbane community
* a survey for local residents in closer proximity to Victoria Park.

#### Citywide feedback survey

Council released the citywide feedback survey for the draft vision in January 2020, which remained open until 31 July 2020.

The survey was available online and in written form, and attracted more than 1750 responses. Feedback was received from all age groups, although the most responses came from ages including:

* 25-34 years (22% of total respondents)
* 35-44 years (21% of total respondents)
* 45-54 years (19% of total respondents).

Three infographics. The first pictogram is a symbol for a speech bubble. Text: 2000+ pieces of feedback, submissions and surveys received. The second pictogram is a thumbs-up symbol. Text: 86% support for the vision. The thirdhird pictogram is symbols for laptop and phone screens. Text: more than 35,000 people engaged on the draft vision online.


Survey results showed:

* 86% in favour of the vision statement for Victoria Park with a ‘natural retreat, an urban park for adventure, discovery and reconnection’ capturing the essence of what you want for Brisbane’s biggest new park
* 85% overall support for the draft vision document, with only nine per cent completely or somewhat against it (opposed to the closure of the golf course)
* 93% of Brisbane’s postcodes gave survey responses.

Features most often commented on by the community in the survey were:

* car parking
* existing driving range, golf and putt-putt course
* productive gardens
* dog off-leash area
* Lake Barrambin
* The Wetlands
* connector bridge
* new shared bridge
* Canopy Walk
* Cultural Hub
* farm gate restaurant
* nature and water play gully
* boat house and canoe launch
* upgraded land bridge
* existing function rooms
* The Green
* new golf skills green
* existing bistro
* York’s Hollow.

#### Local postcodes survey results

Council extracted results for the local postcodes surrounding Victoria Park (4000, 4006 and 4059), from the citywide survey. Results showed:

* 258 respondents from these three postcodes (20% of respondents that provided their postcode)
* 88% of respondents had read the entire draft vision
* 85% positive support for the draft vision statement (82% for the draft vision overall).

#### Citywide feedback on principles and strategies

As part of the citywide survey the community was asked to choose their top three supported strategies out of the eight strategies used to shape the draft vision. A summary of what the community liked about the individual strategies and what could be improved are on the following pages.

Most supported strategies

Infographic of horizontal rows and strategy symbols showing the most supported strategies of the Victoria Park Draft Vision. Text reads: Room for Water (50%)
Connected Habitat (46%)
Health and Recreation (40%)
Connections (39%)
Unique Experiences (30%)
Cultural landscape (20%)
Creative expression (17%)
Relationships (9%)


#### Room for water

Lagoons, wetlands and a lake will bring water back to the site and restore natural cooling, cleansing and flood management systems. Fifty per cent of respondents listed this in their top three strategies. 318 people contributed their feedback on this strategy.

What did Brisbane say?

The Brisbane community wants room for natural waterways and water features with less hard

infrastructure. The community supports wetland and lake habitat restoration to cool the environment and encourage native plants and wildlife back into the city. The Brisbane community would like to interact with water through activities such as kayaking or water play, but also have quieter areas with reduced access for wildlife and environmental education opportunities.

What did the community like about the strategy?

1. Waterways and water features (e.g. lake, wetlands, pools).

2. Habitat restoration to cool the landscape and protect flora and fauna.

3. Opportunities for kayaking, canoeing and swimming.

What suggestions or improvements could be made?

1. Focus on waterway habitat restoration and water features.

2. Support increased interaction with water.

3. Create more natural spaces and less hard infrastructure.

#### Connected habitats

Revitalised ecosystems and restored habitats will draw wildlife back to the city and enrich our connection with nature. Forty-six per cent of respondents listed this in their top three strategies. 379 people contributed their feedback on this strategy.

What did Brisbane say?

The Brisbane community wants greater protection and expansion of natural areas and corridors through habitat restoration and tree planting. Reintroducing native plants and encouraging wildlife back into the city is a high priority. The community wants sustainability and outdoor environmental education opportunities. This includes green, quiet and shady spaces with

less concrete and hard infrastructure.

What did the community like about the strategy?

1. Protection of existing natural areas, fauna and flora.

2. Restoration of habitats with forests and wetlands.

3. Opportunities for environmental education.

What suggestions or improvements

could be made?

1. Expansion of wildlife habitat restoration areas for fauna and flora.

2. Improved links to ecological corridors outside the park.

3. Increased shade and tree coverage.

#### Health and recreation

Outdoor adventures will challenge people of all ages and abilities, inspire active lifestyles, offer a natural experience in the city and support reconnection with the natural world for mental health. Forty per cent of respondents listed this in their top three strategies. 400 people contributed their feedback on this strategy.

What did Brisbane say?

The Brisbane community told us they want a wide variety of sports and recreational activities in the park that are available for all ages and abilities, including spaces for dogs to play. While some of the community will miss the golf course, most people recognise the wider benefits of greater public access to the park and are happy some existing golf complex facilities will be retained.

The community supports an outdoor recreation focus throughout the park and in Adventure Valley, but also wants green, shady and quiet spaces for contemplation, meditation or just to relax and read a book. Accessibility of facilities was a priority for the community.

What did the community like about the strategy?

1. Outdoor recreation focus (e.g. Adventure Valley and high ropes course).

2. Activities for all ages and abilities.

3. Retaining greenspace for recreation.

What suggestions or improvements could be made?

1. Wide variety of sports and recreational facilities.

2. Retention of the golf course.

3. Less large, formal recreation facilities and more green, quiet spaces for passive recreation.

#### Connections

Going green will be the easiest way to get to the park, with walking, cycling, bus and train the modes of choice. Every journey in the park itself will be an experience. Thirty-nine per cent of respondents listed this in their top three strategies. 488 people contributed their feedback on this strategy.

What did Brisbane say?

The Brisbane community wants to travel to the park by convenient public and active transport, and a balanced approach to new parking spaces inside the park that minimises the loss of greenspace. The community want new pathway networks created inside the park and to surrounding neighbourhoods, with pathways designed to avoid conflicts between pedestrian, cyclists and other mobility device users. Accessibility for all is a high priority, particularly elderly community members and residents with limited mobility.

What did the community like about the strategy?

1. Prioritising public and active transport to access the park.

2. Comprehensive path network for pedestrians and cyclists through the park.

3. Easy and convenient access for all.

What suggestions or improvements could be made?

1. Decrease/increase car parking onsite.

2. Deliver an improved pedestrian and cycling path network.

3. Enhance access through improvements to the transport network outside the park.

#### Unique experiences

Peaceful, natural spaces in the park’s centre will be a striking counterpoint to its lively edge, where community life is played out. Thirty per cent of respondents listed this in their top three strategies. 258 people contributed their feedback on this strategy.

What did Brisbane say?

The Brisbane community supports having more to see and do in Victoria Park while maintaining

a quiet and peaceful core with more shady natural areas for animals and plants. The community wants the park to host community-oriented events and have other complementary uses to help them enjoy the place. Sustainability education opportunities, including improved access to locally grown food for local residents who have no space to grow themselves, or to provide nutritious food for our most vulnerable is of high value to the community.

What did the community like about the strategy?

1. A quiet and peaceful core.

2. Urban farming, education and sustainability opportunities.

3. Providing natural areas with native flora and fauna.

What suggestions or improvements could be made?

1. More urban farming opportunities.

2. Increase the amount of natural areas and shade.

3. Commercial activities should be limited and be complementary to the park.

#### Cultural landscape

The park will inspire sharing, the telling of stories and learning in the landscape with opportunities to understand and engage with Brisbane’s cultural heritage. Twenty per cent of respondents listed this in their top three strategies. 173 people contributed their feedback on this strategy.

What did Brisbane say?

The Brisbane community wants to put Victoria Park on the map as a place that acknowledges, reflects on and celebrates the cultural heritage, history and significance of the site to local Aboriginal people. The community wants the process of designing and operating Victoria Park to be a leading example of authentic reconciliation and empowerment of our First Nations people. The community wants Council to continue engaging with Traditional Custodians and heritage groups to incorporate appropriate Indigenous and non-Indigenous design elements, historical features, place names, stories, education, tourism and employment opportunities in the park.

What did the community like about the strategy?

1. Recognition and celebration of the cultural heritage significance of site.

2. Local Traditional Custodian culture and historical education opportunities, including interpretive signage.

3. Including cultural experiences and creative activities, including art, music and performance.

What suggestions or improvements could be made?

1. Greater focus on Aboriginal cultural education and awareness.

2. Engagement with Traditional Custodian groups.

3. Including Traditional Custodian design elements and spaces for cultural activities, performance, story telling, music and dance.

#### Creative expression

World-class architectural forms and unique public spaces will enable cultural expression, facilitate community gatherings and make the park a showcase for visitors from around the globe. Seventeen per cent of respondents listed this in their top three strategies. 156 people contributed their feedback on this strategy.

What did Brisbane say?

The Brisbane community wants public art, sculptures and architecture to blend with nature and outdoor experiences. They support the park having an iconic landmark, which could include a creatively designed building or structure, inspired by Indigenous or natural forms. The community also wants places and spaces for creative expression such as arts performances and community-orientated events.

What did the community like about the strategy?

1. Focus on creative design and architecture informed by Aboriginal culture.

2. Blend of art and architecture with nature and outdoor experience.

3. Providing public art, sculptures and spaces for creative expression.

What suggestions or improvements could be made?

1. Provide public art and the sculpture park.

2. Create an iconic landmark in the park.

3. Include spaces for community events, creative arts and performances.

#### Relationships and partnerships

Well-located links and thoughtfully designed facilities will invite neighbours to move through and explore the park, and adopt its spaces and places as their own. Nine per cent of respondents listed this in their top three strategies. 99 people contributed their feedback on this strategy.

What did Brisbane say?

The Brisbane community supported relationships being a key feature of the park so it is a place for all people or all ages and abilities. They support Victoria Park engaging with its neighbouring institutions, universities, schools and community groups, and peak groups on joint partnerships and project collaborations.

What did the community like about the strategy?

1. Encourages people of all ages, abilities and groups to come together in a shared space.

2. Supports relationships between people and nature, water, food, health and well-being.

3. Focus on working with local residents and neighbouring institutions.

What suggestions or improvements could be made?

1. Increase people’s relationship with nature by protecting greenspace, flora and fauna.

2. Build relationships and partnerships with the broader community.

3. Work with local residents to manage potential impacts (e.g. traffic, parking, noise, light).

### Local resident survey

In addition to the local residents surrounding Victoria Park responding to the initial citywide survey, there was a second survey conducted specifically for local residents.

This survey was open from 15 to 30 June 2020. Residents in the suburbs of Spring Hill, Herston and Kelvin Grove, which surround Victoria Park, were sent a letter from their local Councillor with an invitation to complete the online survey.

The survey was available online and in printed version where needed. Results showed that 75% of respondents had read the whole draft vision document, while 22% had read some of it.

In the local-resident-specific survey, 88% of respondents said they were either completely supportive of the draft vision or somewhat supportive. Local residents were supportive of complementary small-scale commercial uses.

However, there were some local concerns highlighted by residents responding to this survey, with the main concern being traffic and access including car parking.

Low-levels of concern were received for:

* noise
* lighting
* opening hours.

### Stakeholder briefings

Council held a total of 28 external stakeholder briefings during the draft vision engagement phase including 10 online briefings due to coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

This incorporates briefings with:

* Traditional Custodians
* Queensland Government
* schools
* various peak bodies
* residents
* lessees.

The Lord Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council, who had previously received a briefing on the project was given an update to show how their ideas had helped to shape the draft vision.

### Submissions

Eighty-nine submissions were received during the draft vision engagement phase. Formal submissions were received from a wide range of stakeholders including:

* government bodies
* residents
* community interest groups
* public and active transport interest groups
* sporting groups
* heritage groups
* schools.

Support for the draft vision was largely positive, with 39 submissions in support. In addition, there were 31 neutral submissions and 20 submissions that did not support the draft vision. Sixteen of the neutral submissions related to the retention of a mosaic wall recognizing hockey previously played at the site.

Submissions that did not support the draft vision related to keeping the golf course, use of Council resources, commercial expansion, heritage protection, traffic, noise, light, zoning and water concerns.

Overall sentiment and key issues of concern and support were coded to compare results with online survey results.

### Traditional Custodian groups consultation

Council has a genuine commitment to empower Traditional Custodians to self-identify appropriate cultural elements in the future park design including planting palettes and artwork. Employment opportunities could include events, education programs and ongoing park management.

As a measure to ensure continued engagement and thorough understanding of feedback from Traditional Custodians, Council engaged a specialist consultant with a deep understanding of the culture to receive feedback via a variety of methods.

This approach also ensured that ongoing engagement was strategically planned as requested by Traditional Custodians during the initial engagement period. Engagement was conducted using a variety of options including:

* flexible virtual meetings, allowing participants to gather information and meet at their own schedule
* information sharing via phone calls, virtual meetings and emails
* Traditional Custodians were encouraged to undertake their own face-to-face research activities to provide more detailed feedback and input to Council.

The Traditional Custodians provided input into the draft vision to ensure the authenticity of a cultural landscape emerges within an iconic public space.

These custodians:

* provided group research
* reported informed responses to the project and project landscape
* identified project proposals
* described cultural themes, elements and the actions, processes and stages of custodial visions.

Traditional Custodians were eager to see contemporary and innovative expression of

biocultural traditions. Their request was that these would have iconic appeal and relevance for residents and visitors, making Victoria Park a hub for Aboriginal cultural education and heritage

experiences.

Other suggestions included artworks, sensory discovery trails, performance, cultural festivals,

guided tours and interactive learning experiences, which could all offer possible vehicles to enhance visitors’ understanding of a millennia-old culture and landscape. Opportunities to understand Victoria Park’s history and preserve and promote Aboriginal cultural heritage were discussed with Traditional Custodians.

Traditional Custodians were supportive of the idea of a cultural place to welcome visitors and take them deeper into the natural environment and the park’s cultural heritage. They found value in having a place to gather and learn that could also provide information and talks from guides.

Traditional Custodians believe that the Victoria Park Vision can allow visitors to explore the park’s many layers of human contact with the landscape and the local Aboriginal people’s cultural connections to place.

The significant and extensive input provided by the Traditional Custodians will be used to shape a plan for engagement for the next 10 to 15 years.

## Consultation outcomes

An analysis of all feedback on the draft vision has identified key themes and issues for the overarching vision statement, principles, strategies and illustrative concept. Specific feedback suggestions and concerns were categorised into general themes and summarised. This feedback will help inform the next phase in preparing the Victoria Park Master Plan and Implementation Plan, including the scope for further detailed investigations and design activities.

Overall, feedback on the draft vision was positive, with high levels of support from the community and stakeholders. All feedback mechanisms indicated a high level of overall satisfaction with the public participation process and project. Survey participants and those who provided submissions were able to provide feedback directly on the draft vision.

Feedback from the draft vision engagement phase included the following key themes.

* Restore the waterways and native habitats, with more greenspace and trees, and less buildings and hard infrastructure.
* Keep Victoria Park as a public park with only small-scale commercial activities that complement the park experience such as a visitor centre, kiosks, small restaurants, outdoor recreation and community events.
* Consider impacts such as traffic, parking, dog off-leash area noise, lighting, events, security and opening hours.
* Provide safe and easy connection to and through the park for all ages and abilities.
* Reconsider car parking spaces (more/less). Minimise car parking footprint inside the park to maximize greenspace.
* Provide a unique destination and avoid duplication of facilities at Roma Street and South Bank Parklands to ensure value for money.
* Provide greater focus of the site’s importance to the local Aboriginal people and involve them in the park’s design and operation.
* Detailed comments on specific design and operational elements.
* Reconsider keeping the golf course.

Quotations of feedback received:

There’s not enough water spaces around Brisbane that aren’t a pool, so this is a great idea. Citywide survey

It will be good to have water back in the site, there is also lots of opportunity for water features to make the water come to life. Citywide survey

A lovely green space where we can all enjoy native animals and rare or endangered plant species together. Local resident survey

Increasing greenery is better for us and the environment. Getting people to reconnect with

nature has many health benefits – not just personal benefits. 100% in favour. Local resident survey

The redevelopment of Victoria Park will provide visitors and locals with a vibrant and enticing urban green space that they can embrace and enjoy, that will deliver a park which entices the people of Brisbane towards a healthier, more nature-based future. User advocacy organisation submission

I like how it allows different types of users to all use the park. Citywide survey

The location of the park is ideal to connect up the city, valley and suburbs. Citywide survey

As a city-wide asset, it (Victoria Park) will play a critical role in addressing future liveability and amenity for residents and visitors to Brisbane. Importantly it can become a signature piece of parkland that draws regional, national and international visitors. Submission

The potential is enormous to provide connection to nature and the history of Barambin and the greater Brisbane region. Connections within the local community can be strengthened and developed, impacting health outcomes, increasing understanding and mutual respect. Local resident survey

I think that it can bring more liveliness to Brisbane, and hopefully it can be a place where people can come to feel a sense of community. Local resident survey

I particularly like that it will be a place like South Bank whereby people are welcomed and are not required to spend money to have a good day out. The planning feels very inclusive. Local resident survey

Council listened to the feedback from the Brisbane community and has addressed them in the final Victoria Park Vision.

The table below details what the community said, and how the concerns and ideas were addressed.

### Key feedback themes and changes

| What Brisbane told us | What we are doing |
| --- | --- |
| The Brisbane community is overwhelmingly supportive of the draft vision overall at a citywide and local neighbourhood scale. | Council has created an overall vision statement and guiding principles and strategies will remain to inform future master planning. |
| The Brisbane community asked Council to restore the waterways and native habitats, with more greenspace and trees, and less buildings and hard infrastructure. | Greenspace area has been increased through reducing new building footprint area. Council will retain pathway and bridge infrastructure required for all-abilities access across the park. Current canopy cover is 10%. Following feedback, the future canopy cover target has been increased from 55% to 60%. |
| The Brisbane community asked Council to keep Victoria Park as a public park with only small-scale activities that complement the park experience (for example, visitor centre, kiosks, small restaurants, outdoor recreation, community events). | We removed the proposed function and events facility, and reduced the size and height of the Tree House lookout. Some buildings were retained to provide park visitor services and to allow for an appropriate level of park activation in line with community expectations. Community-oriented events will be held at The Green amphitheatre. |
| Local residents asked Council to consider impacts such as traffic, parking, dog off-leash areas noise, lighting, events, security and opening hours. | Further detailed studies will assist with refining the Victoria Park Vision and undertaking master planning. Additional engagement opportunities will be available to residents during this phase. Operational, traffic, parking and security strategies will be developed. Noise and light spill impacting residents and wildlife will be minimized through detailed design. |
| The Brisbane community asked Council to provide safe and easy connection to and through the park for all ages and abilities. | The Victoria Park Vision includes bridge, canopy walk and on-ground pathway infrastructure to allow pedestrian, wheelchair, pram and cycle access throughout the park. |
| The Brisbane community asked Council to  reconsider the provision of car parking spaces  (more vs less). Minimise car parking footprint  inside park to maximise greenspace. | Council will enhance the focus on improved public and active transport connections to and from the park. Further detailed studies will be completed and a transport strategy will be prepared in the next phase to inform a managed car parking strategy for the site. |
| The Brisbane community asked Council to provide a unique destination and avoid duplicating facilities at Roma Street and South Bank Parklands to ensure value for money. | Council will reinforce a unique identity for Victoria Park. This will include revegetated forests, native bushland pockets and waterholes that speak of the site’s original landscapes and people. Council will replace the original design’s large swimming pools found at other parks with a more nature-water play offer. |
| The Brisbane community asked Council to provide greater focus of the site’s importance to the local Aboriginal people and involve them in the park’s design and operation. | Council is committed to continuing engagement with Traditional Custodian groups to determine appropriate design features and future educational and employment opportunities. Council’s cultural landscape strategy expanded to show how the park acknowledges our history and celebrates our future, in a living landscape. |
| The Brisbane community provided Council with detailed comments on specific design and operational elements. | Comments not reflected in the Victoria Park Vision have been recorded and will inform the scope of further technical studies and detailed design of the master plan and future stages. |
| Retain as golf course. | The Victoria Park Golf Complex including the function centre, driving range and putt-putt mini-golf will continue to operate throughout planning, design and construction of new park upgrades. The 18-hole golf course will remain open while planning of the new park continues and is anticipated to close on 30 June 2021. |

## Changes to the illustrative concept plan

The illustrative concept shows how this feedback above was implemented as part of the final Victoria Park Vision.

An illustrative concept map, which shows how the Victoria Park Vision has been updated from the Victoria Park Draft Vision. The map highlights the following changes: 

New function centre removed. Function lawn retained.
Integrate amphitheatre into existing slope to reduce earthworks and retaining walls.
Cultural hub support buildings replaced with shade structures and more trees. Hard stand area reduced.
Herston Bus Station elevated plaza removed.
Pavilion building removed.
Lake Pavilion relocated.
Improved connection to future Cross River Rail Exhibiton station.
Heritage features such as retaining walls and mosaics retained.
‘Future investigation area’ identified for master plan phase.
Location of picnic pods and play areas optimised.
Community field and cricket nets arrangement to be reviewed in master plan phase.
Spring Hill water play removed.
Extra car parking area provided.
Farm Gate restaurant removed.
Location of community tennis courts to be reviewed in Additional screening to master plan phase.
Brisbane Boys Grammar tennis courts.
Tree house building and footprint size reduced.
Dog off-leash areas to be reviewed in master plan phase.
Swimming pools removed and replaced with nature and water play.
Canopy walks retained and optimised to provide wheelchair and pram access across hilly areas.
Kelvin Grove Bus Station elevated plaza removed.
Car parking areas to be reviewed in master plan phase.
Amendments to cycle paths across the park in response to user feedback.


## Next steps

The Victoria Park Vision will guide the park’s evolution into an amazing new public parkland over the coming years. Council will provide more opportunities for the Brisbane community to have their say on the future of Victoria Park in the years ahead.

The Victoria Park Vision will now inform further detailed investigations and design activities to prepare the Victoria Park Master Plan and Implementation Plan for further public engagement activities in 2021.

For more information on the Victoria Park Vision or to read the vision document,

call Council on 3403 8888 or visit brisbane.qld.gov.au and search ‘Victoria Park Vision’.

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