



# **CITY OF MOONEE VALLEY**

## **Riverside Sport and Recreation Precinct Plan Phase 2: Community Consultation Report**

SBP ADVISORY – NOVEMBER 2022



# Project Context and Consultation Overview

The City of Moonee Valley has appointed SBP and its project partners, The OCD and OCM to develop a Precinct Plan for the Riverside Sport and Recreation Precinct.

The purpose of this project is to guide the design, development and management of the site over the next 15 years. The precinct currently includes netball courts, tennis courts, a driving range, golf course, mini golf course, restaurant, car park and high ropes course.

The delivery of the Riverside Sport and Recreation Precinct Plan will ensure a multi-purpose community space that enhances the character, functionality and safety of the precinct.

The Draft Precinct Plan was displayed on the Moonee Valley City Council YourSay page for a four-and-a-half-week period over September 2022. In addition, an on-site drop-in session was held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September and 2,000 local properties were letter-boxed.

This resulted in 769 total visits to the YourSay page, and 101 people responded to the survey either via YourSay or on paper copies provided at the drop-in session or the local library. 11 emails were received and 16 comments were also received on social media.

This document provides an overview of the feedback provided by the community.

## Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land that the City of Moonee Valley is situated on, the Wurundjeri people, and recognise their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

Contents	Page
<b>Project Context and Consultation Overview</b>	2
<b>Executive Summary</b>	3
<b>Community Consultation Findings</b>	4
• Draft Vision	5
• Key Principles	6
• Strengths of the Precinct Plan	7
• Areas of Concern	8
• Ideas for Future Planning	9
• Respondent Profile	10
<b>Appendix: Community Survey Questionnaire</b>	11





### Objective

The objective of this engagement was to gauge community feedback and sentiment about the future vision and principles for the Riverside Sport and Recreation Precinct. Feedback was collected through the Council’s YourSay page which received 769 total visits and 91 survey responses. In addition, there were 10 paper surveys completed, 11 emails received and 16 comments on social media.



### Engagement Findings

- Overall, the Precinct Plan was positively supported for its focus on being inclusive to all, improving safety and continuing to value open green space.
- Future ideas for the site included establishing picnic and BBQ areas around play spaces, including more multi-use areas in the precinct and enhancing the environmental amenity of the site with plantings. There were also requests to include more types of sport and recreational offerings, particularly non-formal/passive recreation opportunities.
- Concerns were raised around flooding, lack of lighting upgrades, overdevelopment of the site and the increased traffic flow that may be caused in the car parking area.



### Strengths

- Multi-use precinct with the sport and recreation opportunities for all
- Focusses on safety and addresses the current issues across the site
- Recognises and builds on the environmental benefits and green open space



### Concerns

- Upgrades to key sporting areas (such as the golf course, driving range and courts) were a recurring topic throughout the consultation
- Current plan could have more emphasis on passive recreation opportunities
- Not enough focus on flooding and climate change impacts



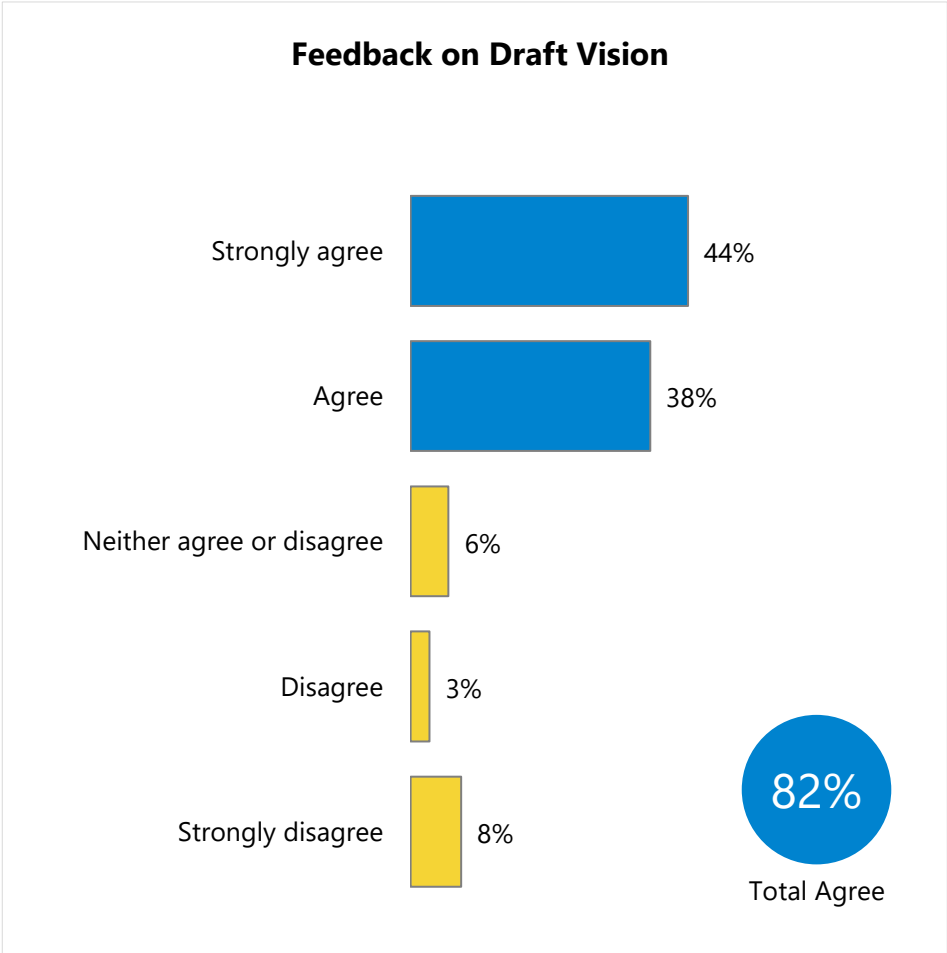
### Ideas

- Enhance the environmental elements of the site to mitigate the effects of climate change and provide natural habitat for birds and animals
- Investigate additional activities and infrastructure for all ages to share the space and ensure private operation does not exclude general community
- Improve traffic flow and congestion on the site

# Community Consultation Findings



Respondents were asked to indicate to what extent they agreed with the vision in the draft precinct plan. The vision was, “a welcoming place for community sport and recreation, and enjoyment of the river and natural environment.” Feedback on this question was overwhelmingly positive with 82% of respondents agreeing, or strongly agreeing, with the vision



Q. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the vision for the Riverside Sport and Recreation Precinct? Number of responses =63

### Community sentiment regarding future considerations

*“The riverside precinct is a beautiful area loved and adored by locals. Given that we live within 10 kilometres of the city, the precinct provides a much needed sanctuary to escape from city life. The great appeal of the area is its underdeveloped nature. Please, please please, do not change the nature of the area.”*

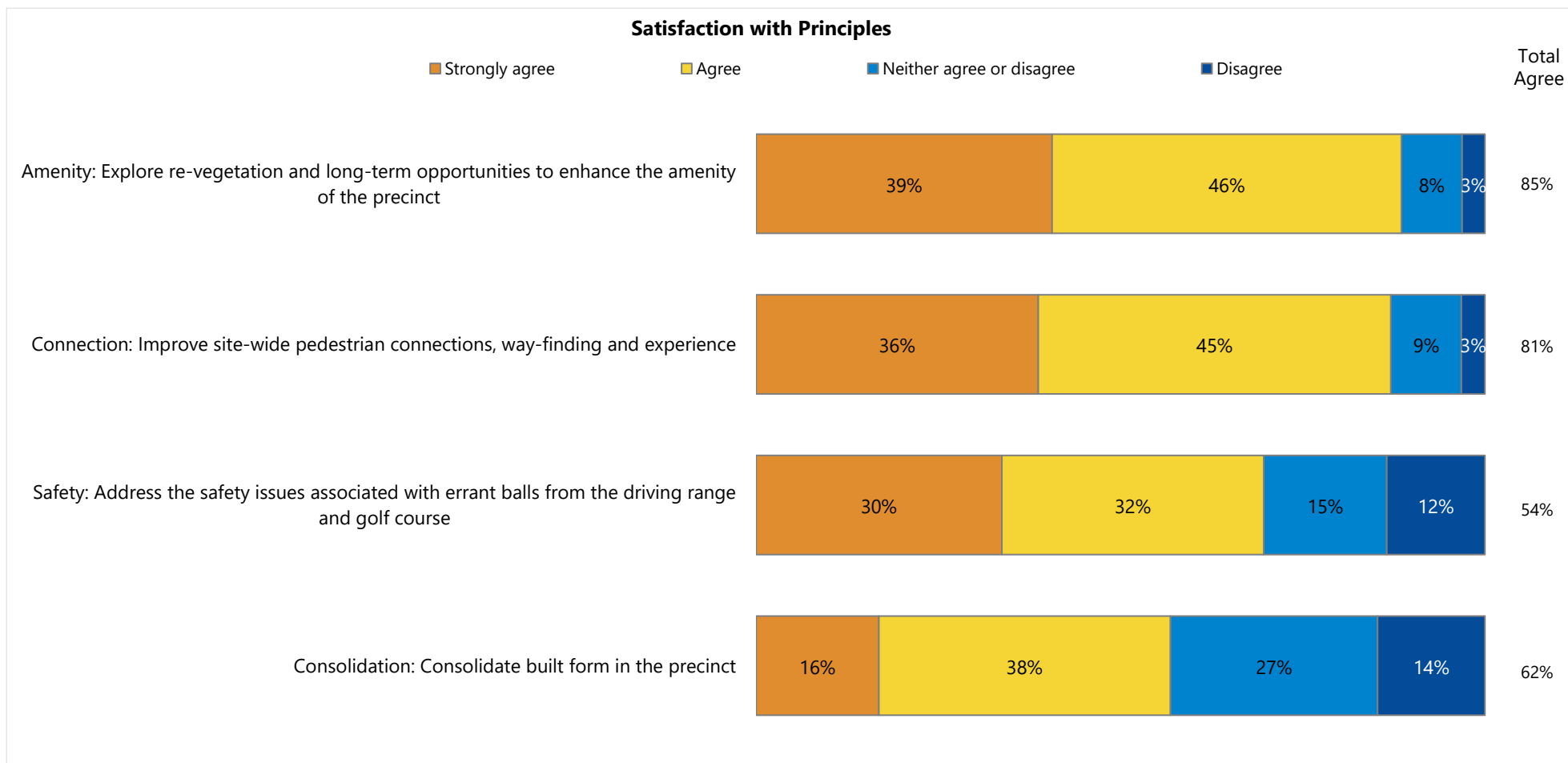
*“Ensure the safety of all individuals. Specially those who use the back tennis courts and are at risk of getting hit by a golf ball, which is very hazardous!”*

*“The Connection - it is a critical part of the trail along the river and used as part of a recreational loop. This connection needs to be maintained and future-proofed and include the appropriate access for bicycles and other micro-mobility.”*

Q. What is most important for MVCC to understand as it delivers on the vision and principles over the next 15 years? Number of responses =63

# Feedback on Key Principles

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the principles outlined in the draft precinct plan. Respondents were most supportive of the “Amenity” (85% total agree) and “Connection” (81% total agree) principles. The principle that resonated the least with respondents was “Safety” with only 54% of respondents in agreement.



Q. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the principles for the Riverside Sport and Recreation Precinct. Number of responses=64-66.

## Multi-use precinct with the sport and recreation opportunities for all

- The Riverside Spot and Recreation Precinct is well located within the City of Moonee Valley and the Precinct Plan enhances the value of this asset for the community.
- The Plan presents a great opportunity to build one of the leading sporting and recreation precincts in Melbourne.
- The plan provides children and adults with an opportunity to engage in many different sports.
- Upgrades to netball, tennis and golf facilities on the site are seen positively.

## Focusses on safety and addresses the current issues across the site

- The report addresses most of the key issues at the site, with a strong focus on safety.
- Plan successfully highlights the lack of central planning and coordination between the facilities, and under investment highlights the full potential of the site is not being realised.

## Recognises and builds on the environmental benefits and green open space

- The report clearly demonstrates that the green amenity of the area is highly valued.
- It has a balanced focus on enhancing greenspace and accessibility.
- Significant community desire for improving Riverside's environmental amenity and sustainability was captured as a key priority in the report.
- The vision of the Plan generally aligns with the community's vision for the site.

"We welcome the Precinct Plan Draft and are supportive of the outcomes as summarised in the report. In essence we agree that the precinct is not at it's potential but with some planning and investment, this parkland and recreational area can be the envy of other councils."

"It's a great space for the community to exercise, walk their dogs and practice sports. The park's greenspace has been neglected in the process, with a lot of focus being on buildings and infrastructure rather than in nature. Riverside/Fairbairn Park could be an amazing greenspace, with beautiful gardens that are well maintained and a good environment for the local wildlife. Garden beds were planted, and are now in set an forget mode, full of weeds, without any upkeep and maintenance."

"The riverside precinct is a beautiful area loved and adored by locals. Given that we live within 10 kilometres of the city, the precinct provides a much needed sanctuary to escape from city life. The great appeal of the area is its underdeveloped nature."

## **Upgrades to key sporting areas (such as the golf course, driving range and courts) were a recurring topic throughout the consultation**

- Little mention of lighting upgrades within the Precinct Plan.
- The driving range design must eliminate all current concerns around safety.
- Appears to be little reference to developing change facilities for women and girls.
- Ensure that the netball pavilion that has been planned and funded is addressed within the plan.

## **Current plan could have more emphasis on passive recreation opportunities**

- 50% of precinct users indicated that they use the space to walk/exercise their dog, and yet the precinct vision and principles don't seem to include any provisions to meet this.
- Some believe there is too much space dedicated for golf and land should be used as shared space.
- Questions were raised about whether the high ropes course needs to be retained.
- Traffic flow into and out of the carpark needs to be carefully considered within the plan.

## **Not enough focus on flooding and climate change impacts**

- The plan seems to give little consideration to the potential flooding of the site, and the possibility that buildings cannot be insured as a result of the threat of flooding.
- Sea/river rising levels were not highlighted and local environmental groups would have liked more input into the development of the plan.

"The area dedicated to the high ropes is key as it does not abut residential homes and would lend itself to a much more dynamic active recreation zone."

"We support consolidation of built form in the long-term, but not at the expense of the current and planned netball/tennis pavilion. Based on our understanding of Council's long term capital works plan and budget, we believe any consolidation of built form as flagged would likely be decades away. Given there is still no significant purpose-built facility for netball in Moonee Valley, it is essential that the planned netball/tennis pavilion proceeds."

"This entire area is a recognised flood zone, ear marked for flooding and sea water inundation from the river. It's a certified red zone on insurance climate maps. It's not going to be usable on a regular basis."

"The riverside area of this precinct looks neglected. We would like to see far more environmentally sound planting of trees and understory to provide habitat and enhance the riverside area in particular."



## **Enhance the environmental elements of the site to mitigate the effects of climate change and provide natural habitat for birds and animals**

- Include more information in Precinct Plan about climate change considerations and the environmental values and resilience of the site.
- Plant additional vegetation on the riverbank and throughout the site to enhance the area of native flora and increase the urban forest.
- Consider opportunities for engagement with traditional owners for future landscape upgrades and the use of Aboriginal names for different areas of the site.

## **Investigate additional activities and infrastructure for all ages to share the space and ensure private operation does not exclude general community**

- Include more amenity for walkers and cyclists such as additional seating, improved connections, lighting review for the Newson St extension and toilet access.
- Consider multi-sport activities in the community sports pavilion.
- Include the previously planned netball pavilion and existing cricket pavilion on the precinct plan.
- Consider including a reference to upgrading changeroom facilities to cater for the increasing number of women and girls who use the site.
- Create more passive recreation opportunities and diversify the non-formalised sport offerings.
- Identify possible alternative options for high ropes course area.

## **Improve traffic flow and congestion on the site**

- Ensure the car park provides safety compliance with peak traffic conditions.
- Include a drop-off point outside the car park to reduce congestion.

"It would be good to get some picnic/bbq's areas in the precinct so families can enjoy the space and the offerings.."

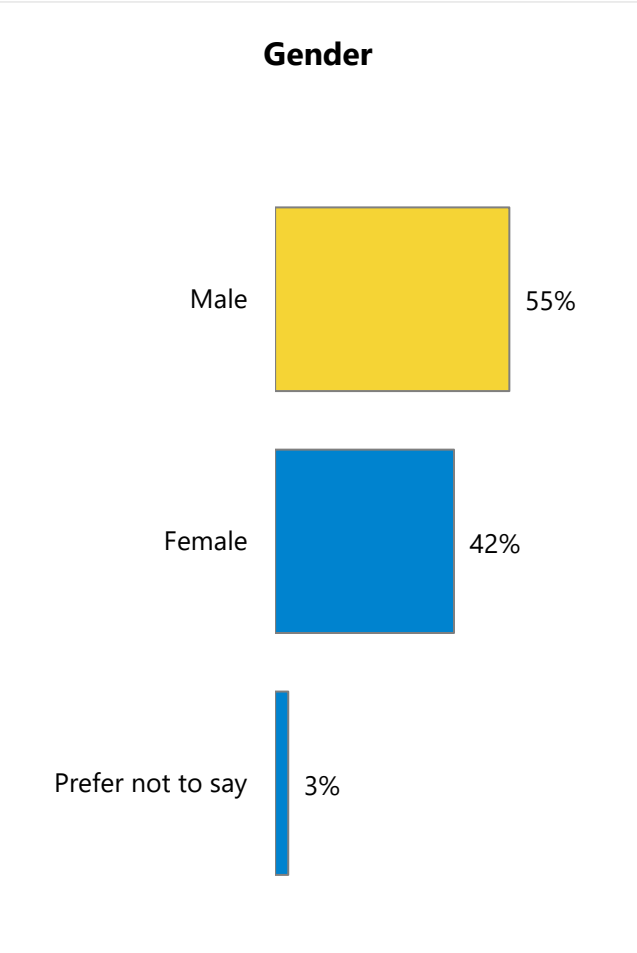
"People need natural environments. Spaces like this are even more important as urban density increases. Gardens are fast being replaced by more houses. Please reinstate the creek. Even with concrete, it supports a lot of fauna, especially the egrets that nest by the bridge. Plant more trees, and lots of understory. Please don't remove the trees the tawny frogmouths live in, [on the] Doncaster boundary."

"Lighting and safety for women at dusk walking dogs, wind breaks and better support for winter sports (indoor courts!)."

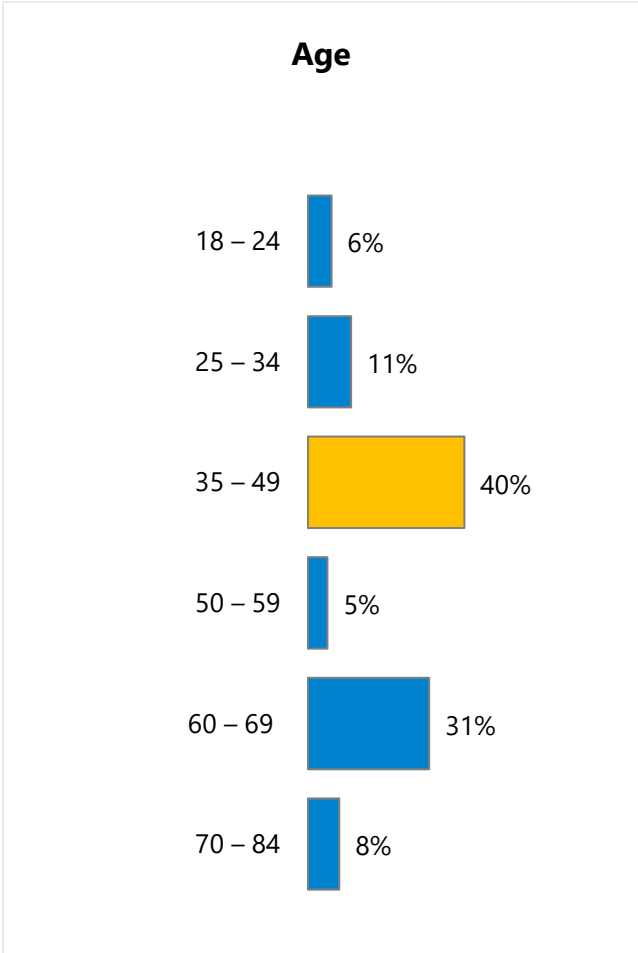
"Create nodes in the parkland to improve on safety. A node can be a cafe/restaurant that provides toilets. Food stalls. Get some small-scale commercial scattered throughout."

# Respondent Profile

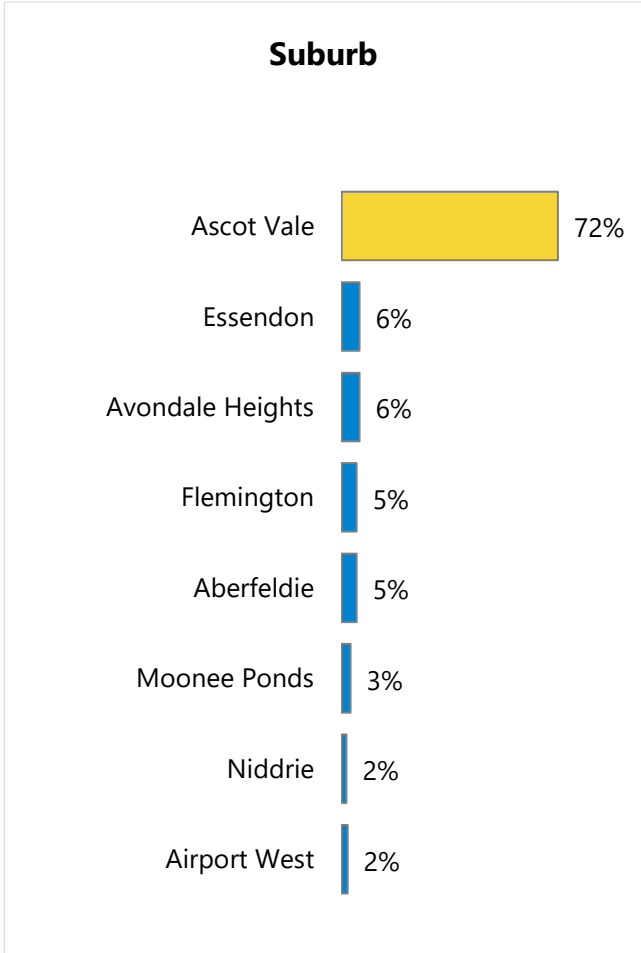
As demonstrated below, most respondents (72%) live in Ascot Vale and are local to the Riverside Sport and Recreation Precinct. 55% of respondents are male and 42% are female. The age bracket with the highest number of responses (40%) was 35-49-year-olds.



Q. What is your gender? Number of responses =65



Q2. What is your age? Number of responses =65



Q4. What suburb do you live in? Number of responses =64

# Appendix: Community Survey Questionnaire



# Survey Questionnaire

## SURVEY

Please return completed surveys to the Ascot Vale Library or via reply paid envelope



## Riverside Sport and Recreation Draft Precinct Plan

The Riverside Sports and Recreation Precinct is a sporting, recreation, leisure and open space precinct in Ascot Vale. It includes golf, netball, tennis and other facilities.

The Draft Riverside Sport and Recreation Precinct Plan was developed to provide a vision and set of principles to guide the future of the precinct. The vision and principles were informed by site investigations and findings from community and stakeholder engagement.

You can view a copy of the draft precinct plan at the Ascot Vale Library throughout September or online at [www.yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au/riverside](http://www.yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au/riverside)

### Privacy Statement:

A report that includes your feedback from this survey will be provided to Council. This report will not contain opinions or information that could lead to the identification of any individuals. Council is committed to ensuring that survey information remains confidential, in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic). If you have an enquiry regarding this survey, please feel free to contact Council's Advocacy, Grants and Engagement Team on 9243 8888.

The Vision for the Riverside Sport and Recreation Precinct is:

*"A welcoming place for community sport and recreation, and enjoyment of the river and natural environment."*

### 1. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the vision for the Riverside Sport and Recreation Precinct.

☐ Strongly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly agree

### 2. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following principles for the Riverside Sport and Recreation Precinct.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Amenity: Explore re-vegetation and long-term opportunities to enhance the amenity of the precinct.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety: Address the safety issues associated with errant balls from the driving range and golf course.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consolidation: Consolidate built form in the precinct.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connection: Improve site-wide pedestrian connections, way-finding and experience.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## SURVEY

Please return completed surveys to the Ascot Vale Library or via reply paid envelope



### 3. What is most important for MVCC to understand as it delivers on the vision and principles over the next 15 years?

---

---

---

### 4. What is your connection to Moonee Valley?

- ☐ I live here ☐ I work here ☐ I visit here  
☐ I study here ☐ I own property here ☐ I own a business here  
☐ I am associated with a community group / organisation. Please name: \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Suburb

- ☐ Aberfeldie ☐ Essendon ☐ Flemington  
☐ Airport West ☐ Essendon Fields ☐ Strathmore  
☐ Ascot Vale ☐ Essendon North ☐ Strathmore Heights  
☐ Avondale Heights ☐ Essendon West ☐ Travancore  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Gender

- ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Non-binary ☐ Prefer not to say

### 7. Age group

- ☐ Under 18 years ☐ 18-24 years ☐ 25-34 years ☐ 35-49 years  
☐ 50-59 years ☐ 60-69 years ☐ 70-84 years ☐ 85+ years

### 8. Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

- ☐ Aboriginal ☐ Torres Strait Islander  
☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ☐ Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander



