

Boeing Reserve Youth Space

Community Engagement Report – May 2015



Boeing Reserve Youth Space

Community Engagement - Summary

Initial Consultation

Mooney Valley City Council held consultation sessions with the community, the Moonee Valley youth forum 'Youth Voice' and students from Strathmore Secondary College and Strathmore North Primary School in February and March 2015. These sessions were conducted in collaboration with the project consultant's Playce. Additional information was also circulated to residents and schools in the Glenroy & Oak Park areas (City of Moreland) via council's 'Place Manager' in Glenroy. This was an important connection as Moreland City Council is looking to also develop a smaller skate facility in the future and both facilities will impact upon each other and therefore need to be complementary.

The following is a brief summary of the information from those consultation sessions.

Consultation with Moonee Valley 'Youth Voice' Forum

The first consultation session was held on 17th February 2015 with 8 representatives (2 girls & 6 boys from 16-18 years) from the Youth Voice Forum. Three questions were asked to the group for general discussion and the most prominent responses are included below:

Question 1. What examples of good public spaces to go to do you know and why do you like hanging out there?

- Rosehill Skate Park, East Keilor: love cool shelter, good to hang out in and protection from the elements
- Playground in Carlton Gardens (near Museum): good for older kids, fun
- Tall Towers are great – for looking out / most towers are too short for teens
- Birrarung Marr: love timber bridge and grass mounds
- Swings are really great – side by side if possible to hang out with friends
- Changeable public art
- Secure spaces
- Good public transport access
- Sports equipment for use in spaces
- Waterways popular – lakes and ponds

Question 2. There will be people of different ages using the area where the new Youth Space is to go at Boeing Reserve (including families, young people and older people). In your opinion how could the new space work best for a range of different ages and users?

- Include shade
- Include big games to integrate the public more (i.e. giant chess)

Question 3. Thinking about Boeing Reserve generally (as well as the new Youth Space) what would encourage local young people and you personally to go there?

- Good signage (so you know it's there)
- Bike racks
- Opportunities for schools to use the reserve for sports days
- Running track
- Food court / Space for food trucks
- Good public transport access

- Better advertising and use of facilities like Community Centre to get the word out

Community Consultation – Workshop #1

The first public consultation session with the community was a workshop held on 25th February 2015 at Strathmore Heights Community Centre. 11 residents attended ranging from approximately 12 years to 60 years.

Skate elements requested for the park were snake runs, spine and vert ramps, ledges and stairs and banks and hips. Other discussion centred on the inclusion of adventurous elements (i.e. climbing areas) and sculptural / interactive components (i.e. furniture).

Responses overall were directed towards the inclusion of skate elements within the park, improving and maintaining the attractiveness of the reserve, through a quality finished facility.

Residents completed surveys and participated in a discussion about the reserve. The most prominent ideas raised included the following:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| - Upgraded parking | - More bins |
| - A need for more toilets | - Exercise equipment |
| - After hours management | - More play for girls |
| - A leashed dog park | - Shelter |
| - A family focused park | - Community events |
| - Integration into the existing natural environment | - A space for the whole community |

Strathmore Secondary College - School Workshop #1

A further consultation session was held at Strathmore Secondary College on 3rd March 2015. Approximately 12 students from the Junior School Council (Years 7 & 8) participated in the session.

Of the Junior School Council student representatives, only 3 had been to Boeing Reserve and the female representatives had not been, as they thought there was no reason to go there. Further discussion with the students highlighted that transitional skate parks and BMX tracks were important for Boeing Reserve, as were basketball, social areas and events to make the space more functional and engaging overall.

Students were asked to rank their favourite ideas for the active youth space out of 10. The most popular ideas included the following:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| - Adventure play for older kids (10-17) | - Night time events |
| - A better skate spot | - Ball courts |
| - A maze | - Art walls |
| - Climbing | - Unique skate obstacles |
| - Shelter and seating | - A snake run |

Strathmore North Primary School – School Workshop #2

The final initial consultation session was held at Strathmore Primary School on 11th March 2015. Approximately 110 students (Grade 5 and 6) ranging from ages 10 – 12 years participated in the session.

The students participated enthusiastically in the session generating interesting and valuable responses. They were particularly responsive to transitional skate park elements, dirt and pump BMX tracks, parkour and adventure play. There was overwhelming support for a flying fox, water play / space and ropes courses. In addition to this, they also loved the idea of an outdoor cinema concept. Many of the children would like some kind of food component to encourage longer stays, as well as Wi-Fi for digital interaction.

Students were asked to rank their favourite ideas for the active youth space out of 10. The most popular ideas included the following:

- A flying fox
- A maze
- A ropes course
- Bike/skate jumps
- Playful sculptures
- A rebound wall
- Art walls
- Picnic areas
- Concerts and events
- A mini ramp

Summary of Initial Consultation

Some very positive discussion around different ideas and opportunities for the Boeing Reserve Youth Space from each of the consultation sessions

In summary, the ideas most supported for inclusion in the new design for the Youth Space include the following:

- Social spaces – shelter, sculptural elements, seating, BBQs, protection from wind, rain and sun.
- Play – unique play opportunities, sculptural elements, more adventurous play for older kids & all ages, flying fox, ropes course, basketball/multi-use court
- Skate – mini ramp, banks & hips, BMX jumps, rails and ledges.
- Community events – space for whole community to enjoy, other community events.

Draft Concept Design

Community Consultation – Workshop #2

The draft concept design was presented to the community on the 23rd March 2015 at Strathmore Heights Community Centre. This was then proceeded by small group discussion and the completion of surveys with a number of questions regarding the design. The following includes interesting and significant responses that came from the session:

- Include a rebound wall – the current one gets a lot of use
- Great that it's community focused
- Include dirt jumps
- Include BBQ areas
- Needs more shady areas
- Include Lighting
- Safety concerns
- Needs more facilities/exercise activities for girls
- Perhaps a bigger flying fox
- Include Parkour walls

Broader issues raised include the following:

- Parking
- Dog off-lead area
- Toilets
- Safety
- Traffic

Community Consultation – Community Open Day

A Community Open Day was held at Strathmore Heights Community Centre for the broader community; residents and sports clubs on the 18th April 2015. The Draft Concept Design was displayed and approximately 20 people visited to talk with staff and respond to the design by completing a feedback survey. For some it was their first introduction to the project, so it was a good opportunity to talk them through the consultation process as well as the design. Junior Baseball had matches that morning, so a number of people came across from the baseball game opposite.

They liked that the design was...

- Youth friendly
- Multi-purpose
- Inclusive of different groups
- Encouraging healthy activity
- A family space

Other ideas...

- Include multi-purpose tennis courts
- Consider placement of seating for mums
- Consider heritage interpretation signage
- Include vines to grow over shelters
- More climbing
- Consider WSUD for site drainage and education
- Include Public art walls
- Incorporate tennis courts
- Ambient lighting

Broader issues raised...

- Rubbish and noise
- Encourage public use of other spaces
- More toilets
- Safety
- Maintenance
- Lighting
- Parking
- Baseball upgrade

Overall the design was well received and we had some positive and constructive feedback to improve the concept.

Public Display and Local Resident Feedback (letter-box drop, emails, letters and phone calls)

The Draft Concept Design for the Boeing Reserve Youth Space was available for viewing on Moonee Valley City Council's website from the 31st March until 1st May 2015, during which time the public could provide feedback via email, telephone or mail. Approximately 900 local residents around Boeing Reserve received a copy of the draft design and a survey to complete and return to council. 9 responses were received. Residents also wrote letters, emails or called, some of the feedback includes the following:

- Consider unsupervised kids on skate ramp
- Consider graffiti management
- Consider parking
- Include plenty of seats
- Consider CCTV, lighting
- Include BMX facilities /opportunities
- Focus on families and those with a disability
- not skaters

Residents provided some valuable feedback that will be considered to improve the final concept design.

Moonee Valley 'Youth Voice' Forum Feedback

The Draft Concept Design was presented to the 'Youth Voice' forum and the representatives (about 8 young people, 3 boys and 5 girls from 16-18 years) for their feedback on 28th April 2015 . Some of the participants had been involved in the initial consultation and some had not, so the project background was revisited. After the presentation feedback forms were left with the group to be discussed and completed. Some of the feedback received includes the following:

- Diversity of equipment is good
- The design doesn't cater for upper end of youth age spectrum
- Design caters to large age range of people
- There were concerns over amount of space for ball courts

Conclusion & Key Feedback

Overall residents have been very interested in the project and keen to express their thoughts and a range of positive and constructive feedback has been received. The final concept design will take into consideration all the submissions to date to improve the overall functionality of the space to suit all users within the community.

Key feedback for inclusion in the final Concept Design includes:

- A family focus
- Further consideration of multi-purpose use
- Re-think size of ball courts
- Consideration of management of the space – including graffiti, rubbish etc.
- The inclusion of more seats and shelter

The final Concept Design for the Boeing Reserve Youth Space can be found on the following page:

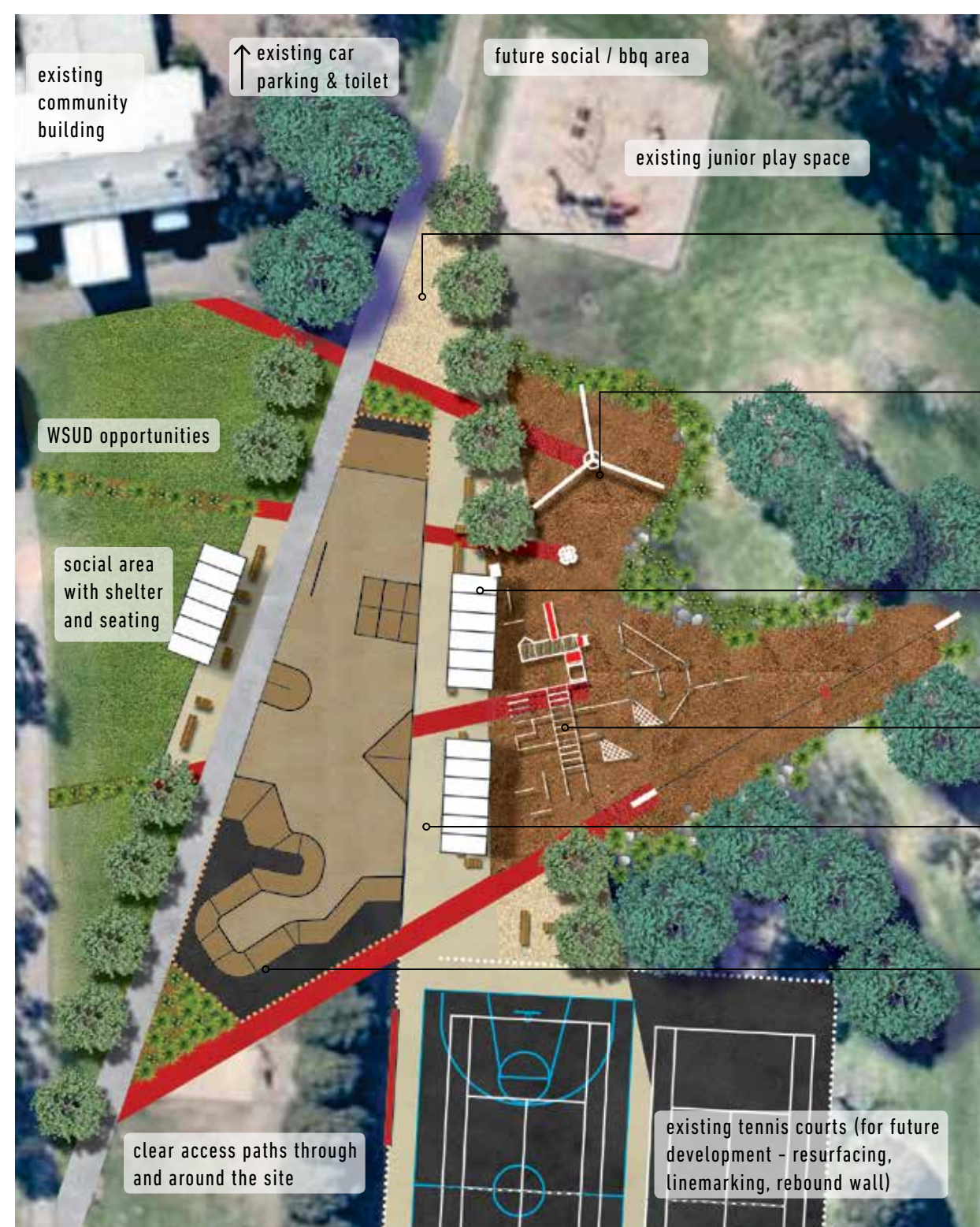
BOEING RESERVE YOUTH SPACE CONCEPT VISION MAY 2015

This following is a draft concept vision for Boeing Reserve Youth Space. It has been developed following extensive consultation with over 100 students from local Primary & Secondary schools and three public forums.

The space is designed as a multi-purpose recreational space with a range of opportunities for all ages including:

- skate area to replace the existing ramp
- adventure play with accessible areas
- fitness bars and climbing ropes
- shelters with social seating & event area.
- multi-sport ball court with rebound wall (future development)

Below: Key plan showing activity space in relation to adjacent carpark, baseball field and ovals



Entry plaza and access path through space with social seating, shelters, shade trees and access to both skate area and adventure play

Adventure play area includes flying fox, accessible play areas with basket swing, balance beams & climbing frames to cater for a wide range of ages & abilities (shown indicatively)

Curved shelters provide opportunities for social seating & viewing whilst also providing protection from wind, sun & rain

Climbing bars for older children & adult adventure play & fitness opportunities

Central access and viewing path with shelter delineates skate and social area, allowing access to existing tennis courts/multi-use court

Skate space includes mini ramp that flows into a street section with hips, rails & ledges providing opportunity for skate, scooter and bmx use (shown indicatively)

existing community building

↑ existing car parking & toilet

future social / bbq area

existing junior play space

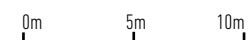
WSUD opportunities

social area with shelter and seating

clear access paths through and around the site

existing tennis courts (for future development - resurfacing, linemarking, rebound wall)

SCALE 1:500 at A4



PLA'CE