



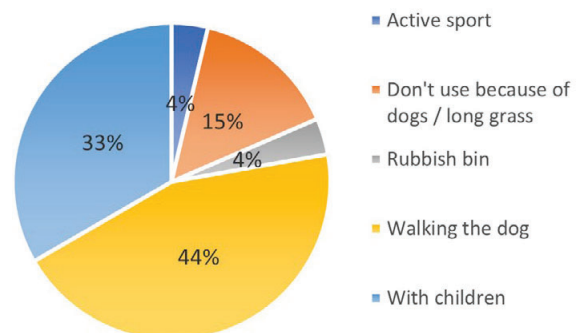
Gregory Street Park

Gregory Street Park, located in Soldiers Hill, received the most feedback with 22 completed surveys and X Drop in visitors. Gregory Street Reserve's chief function is as a detention basin for the Gnarr Creek. A detention basin holds flood waters of a waterbody like a creek or stream during a major storm event. By catching and slowing the water in an area where it can seep into the soil naturally, flooding and erosion to the surrounding and downstream properties and landscapes can be prevented or mitigated. Detention basins are a key part of drainage systems and must remain open to allow them to collect water. The secondary function of the reserve is as public open space.

How do you use Gregory Reserve?

The majority of users visit Gregory Street reserve with children (44%) to use the play area or with their dogs (33%) for play or exercise. While many supported the presence of dogs at the park, a number of respondents referenced the prevalence of dogs as a deterrent to their using the reserve due to dogs not being on lead, interfering with children or not under effective control.

Gregory Street Reserve is one of Ballarat's dog off leash areas but is not designated as a dog park with fencing or equipment suitable for exclusive use by pet owners. The two most popular uses for this reserve – with children and dogs – seem to have some friction amongst some users.

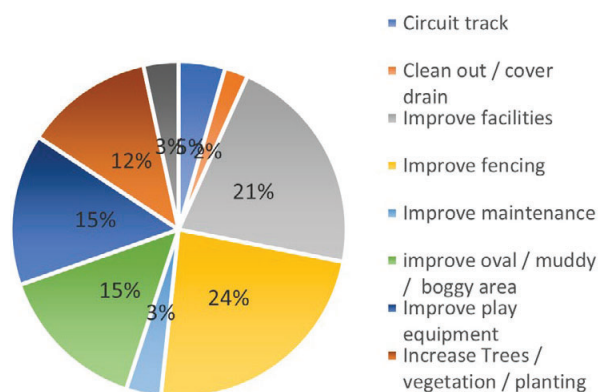




What would you like to see changed/added?

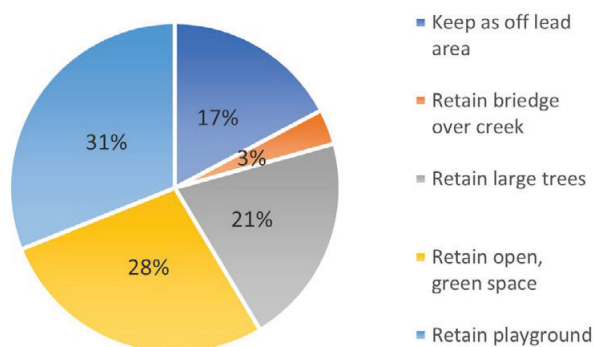
When asked what about Gregory Street Reserve should be changed, the most common answer was improved fencing (24%) followed by improved facilities (21%), improved play equipment (15%) and improved oval/boggy area (15%). Improvements to facilities references several categories of infrastructure including the most popular requests for seating, BBQ/picnic area and shade. Improvements to fencing included fencing to make the reserve a 'dog park', followed by fencing to keep dogs and children separate as well as a fenced play area. These requests further confirm that there is some conflict between the major activities that take place in Gregory Street Reserve.

Several of the comments about Gregory Street Reserve made clear that there is a low level of understanding amongst users about the function of the reserve as a detention basin. Because of this function, areas suitable for upgrade are limited to allow for unfettered collection and holding of storm water.



What would you like to see remain the same?

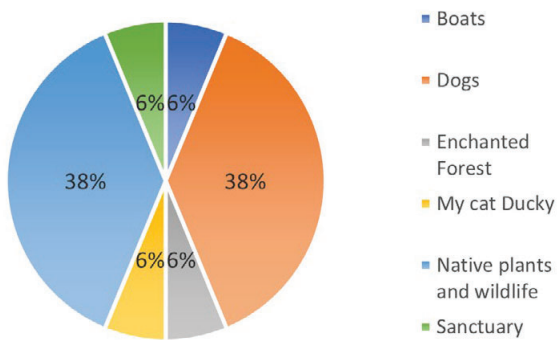
Respondents showed great appreciation for the reserve with strong support for the inclusion of play (31%), the open, uncluttered feel (28%) and the large trees (21%). There was also support for retaining the reserve as an off lead dog park.





Theme

The most popular recommendations for a theme for Gregory Reserve were boats and dogs.



Recommendations for Design

- Build understanding of the reserve's purpose as a detention basin.
- Enhance and add to the native planting around the reserve
- Provide information regarding dog off lead areas and dog parks
- Circuit path with increased tree planting for natural shade and seating
- Seating nodes with natural shade
- Improved playground setting
- Increased tree planting
- Barrier plantings to provide separation between the main user groups – children and dogs.