



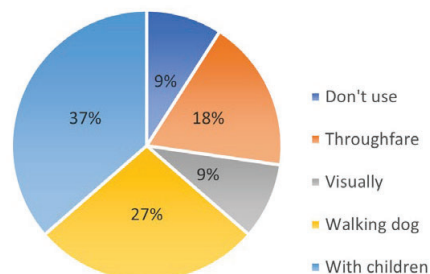
Victoria Street Reserve

Victoria Street Reserve is a large, natural park located in Sebastopol. The reserve has entrances from Victoria Street, Owen Close, Teague Court and a residential cul-de-sac. The seven acre reserve bounds on to several residential back fences and grades up to a naturalised area with many established trees. There is a small existing play space and some onsite parking. There was a low level of community response for Victoria Street Reserve with 8 (10.5%) completed surveys and 8 visitors at the drop in session most of whom were passing by when the engagement session was held. The reserve is close by to several other public open spaces including MR Power Park (well appointed, large open space), Sebastopol Dog Park, Teague Court Playground (low play value) and Bedgood Court Playground (low play value). This gives the opportunity to differentiate Victoria Park from those other reserves close by providing a unique experience not offered elsewhere.

How do you use Victoria Street Park?

The majority of people responding the survey used the reserve with children (37%), walking the dog (27%) or as a throughfare (18%). The reserve connects several residential areas and is probably used frequently by school children and pedestrians as part of their active transport commute.

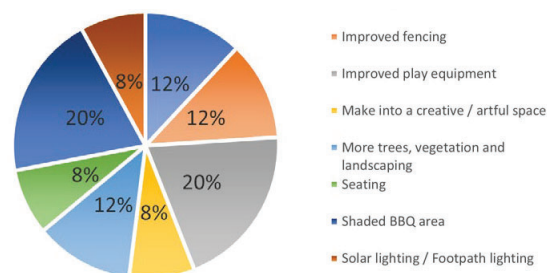
Victoria Street Park is shaped like a mound, having vantage into several of the surrounding backyards. This gives a sense of surveillance to the park user. There is no lighting in the reserve and it would be very dark at night.





What would you like to see changed in the reserve?

The majority of respondents would like to see improvements to Victoria Reserve's footpaths (20%), play equipment (20%), more trees (12%), shaded BBQ area (12%) and improved fencing (12%). The addition of footpaths includes a circuit walking path as well as footpaths to connect to each of the entrances. One high school aged student stressed the importance of paved paths as walking through the grass in the mornings led to wet, cold feet all day. Given the proximity to MR Power Park, improved play should be different from what is offered there perhaps having a natural feel to compliment the naturalised setting of the open space.



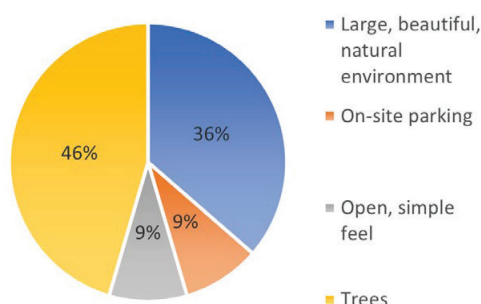
What would you like to see remain the same?

Of those that responded, there was overwhelming preference for the trees (46%) and the large, open and beautiful natural environment (36%). This clearly points to the preferred character of the reserve which is a natural, open space with trees, habitat and supports biodiversity.

Theme

Ideas for the theme of the reserve focus on the natural environment with nature, Aussie bush, native animals and colour being among the suggestions.

There is abundant bird life onsite and the sounds of the traffic are easily drowned out by birdsong and other sounds of nature.



Recommendations for Design

- Differentiate Victoria Street Reserve as a natural, green oasis with a focus on biodiversity, native planting and habitat planting
- Maintain the open feel by clustering trees and/or vegetation along a circuit path with connections to each of the surrounding streets
- Reimagine the play space to have a focus on natural, imaginative play with rocks, logs, planting, the natural grade of the land and trees incorporated into the play offerings
- Add additional seating nodes around the circuit path and a communal picnic area with shade
- Introduce wayfinding through a series of whimsical features or signs.