

Consultation Summary Report

Draft Hume Open Space Strategy



HUME CITY COUNCIL
OPEN SPACE STRATEGY
DRAFT 2024

July 2024



Acknowledgement of Country

Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung as the Traditional Custodians of this land.

Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the existing family members of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and to Elders past and present.

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1. Overview

The Draft Hume Open Space Strategy was released in May 2024. Community and stakeholders were able to review the Plan from 4 May to 16 June 2024 and provide their feedback.

This document summarises the feedback received as part of the consultation on the Draft Plan.

This consultation reached well over 6000 community members and input was received by over 275 people.

A summary of the key matters raised during the consultation period includes:

- Broad support for the directions in the Draft Open Space Strategy. This includes support for trails, shade, play, protecting nature and reflecting Traditional Owner cultural values
- Strong support by residents from across Hume to prioritise investment in the open space gap areas in the south of the municipality, such as Broadmeadows and Campbellfield.
- Helpful feedback on ways open space can better support multicultural communities and seniors.
- Different priorities emerging for different suburbs – for example, a strong emphasis for more spaces in Campbellfield, whereas Sunbury residents emphasised more trails, cultural heritage and nature protection. Roxburgh Park residents emphasised safety and park improvements, and Mickleham residents emphasised more linear walking connections. (Section 3.2)

See more discussion of key matters raised in Section 2 of this document.



Above: Place based pop up information sessions. See Section 2.4 for more information.

A range of methods were used to consult with the community and stakeholders including:

- A Hume Participate webpage with key messages of the Strategy (1545 unique visitors) and 302 downloads of the Draft Open Space Strategy
- An online survey seeking feedback on key strategy recommendations (27 responses)
- Quick polls on open space via face-to-face sessions and Hume Participate (197 responses)
- Nine pop-up events (Kalkallo, Sunbury (2), Craigieburn, Tullamarine, Broadmeadows (2), Roxburgh Park (2) spread across a range of weekdays, evenings and weekends (talking with approximately 300 people). Three drop-in times set aside at Broadmeadows Civic Centre (1 participant). Three online engagement sessions - two evenings and one lunchtime (7 attendees)
- Presentation and feedback with specialist groups and organisations including the Hume Interfaith Network and Hume Sustainability Taskforce. It also includes presentations to staff at Melbourne Water, Department of Transport and Planning, Parks Victoria, City of Whittlesea, City of Mitchell, and City of Merri-bek.
- Letters sent to public land managers and three submissions received providing general support and clarity to inform the final Open Space Strategy
- Posters installed in a range of libraries, community centres and shopfronts. This includes some posters translated into Assyrian, Arabic and Urdu.
- Postcards sent to 5000 households with a priority for suburbs with open space gaps and land acquisition will be necessary in future.
- Social media included posts including two feature posts on Facebook and Instagram and supporting follow up posts to promote events. The posts generated 47 comments.
- A public facing map of all open spaces was created for people to find all 588+ reserves.
- A partnership approach has been undertaken with the Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. This has provided valuable direction that informed the Strategy and the support of the Elders for the final version will be sought.

See more details of consultation activities and feedback in Section 3 of this document.

Ways to use this Consultation Summary Report:

- *Community members can review and understand how their feedback has been captured*
- *The Draft Open Space Strategy will be refined based on the feedback in this report. Changes to the Strategy will be outlined when the final is considered for Council endorsement (end 2024 or early 2025).*
- *Open Space related staff will use theme related feedback in their ongoing implementation work. For example, when addressing future work on play, public toilets, dogs.*
- *Communication materials and messaging in Appendices can be drawn upon for future community engagement programs*

2. Key Matters Raised

Community feedback raised some key matters that will inform the final Open Space Strategy. These matters are outlined with quotes over the next eight pages and include:

- **Cultural Heritage and Biodiversity**
- **Making Open Space More Accessible to more People** Including: Shortage of Open Space; Multicultural Considerations; Senior Considerations; All-Abilities Inclusion; Safety Considerations; and Public Toilet Provisions.
- **Visitor Experiences in Open Space** Including: Play; Other Visitor Experiences; Trees and Shade; Trails for Walking and Cycling; Organised Sports; Dogs; and Litter and Rubbish Dumping

2.1 Culture and Biodiversity

2.1.1 Cultural Heritage

3 survey responses on this subject.

6 comments also received via place based discussions and online feedback.

57% of quick poll responses valued 'Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Aboriginal values' as an important priority in parks. This was the 3rd most selected priority from the 6 options available.

55% of quick poll responses valued 'Heritage features showcasing past uses' as an important priority in parks. This was the 4th most selected priority from the 6 options available.

No comments were received on heritage features showcasing past uses.

All respondents were seeking greater protection of Aboriginal heritage and culture. There was one exception who felt this was favouring one part of the community only. Example comments included:

'We need more information in the community about Wurundjeri.' (Roxburgh Park)

'I would like to see protection of the Sunbury Rings'

'We should be recognising Wurundjeri more. It is their land.'" (Greenvale)

'I also would prefer confirmation that First Nations leaders agree with the statement, given much of the land Hume is using is being transformed with developments not necessarily consistent with first nations values.' (Jacana)

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC) representing the Traditional Owners have provided additional clarity and information edits to better reflect their priorities. In addition to the edits, the WWCHAC have requested additional initiatives including; park and waterway naming; advocacy to State Government for unassigned Crown land to be allocated to Traditional Owners; and cultural heritage management in open space.

Strong support for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung partnership from Merri-bek, Whittlesea, MCMC with opportunities suggested to link to shared initiatives. Picture below of galada tamboore.



2.1.2 Biodiversity

5 survey responses on this subject.

6 comments also received via place based discussions and online feedback.

75% of quick poll responses valued 'Plants and wildlife for biodiversity' as an important priority in parks. This was the most selected priority from the 6 options available.

All respondents were seeking greater protection of biodiversity and supporting more wildlife corridors.

Example comments included:

'Providing large parks dedicated to preserving the landscape and natural wildlife is essential. Maintaining native grasslands, waterways and flora and fauna is absolutely essential to protecting the biodiversity culture of Sunbury.'

'I love the thinking of connecting the biodiversity areas together, that's really really important and I'm really looking forward to Jacksons Creek Regional Park.' (Sunbury)

'LED light replacement and the white light are affecting the wildlife (mainly birds) instead of amber and finding suitable places to nest.' (Sunbury)

'I live in Craigieburn, and I really do not like people feeding birds and kids fishing in the water. It is not good for the birds and ducks. It is killing wildlife. We need big sign 'Do not feed animals' in different languages.'

'We need more protected spaces for native flora and fauna.' (Mickleham)

Support for biodiversity and edit suggestions for clarity were provided by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, Merri Creek Management Committee, Merri-bek City Council and Parks Victoria. There were also requests for greater recognition of regional collaborative groups and community groups in delivery of biodiversity goals.

2.2 Making Open Space More Accessible to More People

2.2.1 Shortage of Open Space

5 survey responses on this subject.

8 comments received via place based discussions and online feedback.

Only 4% of 197 quick poll respondents were unsupportive of investing in open space gap areas as a priority. 69% were strongly supportive.

Respondents on this matter supported more open space. This support aligned to the gap areas identified in the Strategy. No additional areas were identified. Some examples include:

'As a Broadmeadows resident I have to go to other suburbs e.g. Essendon for a park'

'The blue (gap) areas are absolutely spot on! Please go through with your plans! Would love to see more green space around!!!' (Broadmeadows)

'I live in Broadmeadows near Stanhope St. We only have Jack Roper but it's overused we need another park. It is okay to buy a house to create a park. If I was asked, I am happy to consider selling home if they pay me. It's good for the community. I am Lebanese and have shop in Olsen Place.'

'The Campbellfield area doesn't have a suitable local, large open space area that can be used for multi-activities like a concreted walking track, a lake with surrounding seats for quiet walks, bbq area, especially for those people who are either elderly, recuperating from illness & can't drive to areas like Somerton park, Coburg Park, Edwards Lake, Reservoir, etc. for many reasons.'

'More for Westmeadows not other regions already provided for.'

'Greater investment in our more established suburbs of Broadmeadows, Jacana, Coolaroo, Gladstone Park, Greenvale, Campbellfield, and Tullamarine will help rebalance this inequity' (Jacana)

‘It would be lovely to have more open space and meaningful parks all around us, similar to what I see in Dandenong Ranges. But if it costs us a fortune in rates, we have to think twice how to go about that. The more we have, the greater the costs to build and maintain!’ (Jacana)

‘We do need more open space for future generations to play, walk and amalgamate together’ (Campbellfield)

‘We need more protected spaces for native flora and fauna’ (Mickleham)

A submission from Department of Planning and Transport (Transport) highlighted the need to work collaboratively on new open spaces near road and rail, and also raised the potential loss of an area of open space for road expansion.

2.2.2 Multicultural Considerations

8 comments received via place based discussions and online feedback.

28% of quick poll responses valued ‘organised cultural events and activities’ as an important priority in parks. This was the 9th most selected priority from the 12 options available.

Respondents on this issue shared some different experiences from the perspective of a different cultural background. These reflections can inform better open space planning. Example comments include:

‘(We need) more spaces for our elderly, our parents from India. So they can sit there and relax. In Punjab, the villages have a village centre to meet people. There is less for the elderly migrants (our parents) to do here so more to do in meeting in parks would be good.’ (Craigieburn)

‘I don’t invite my family often because there’s not enough parks here’ (Campbellfield)

‘No meeting places in Campbellfield, they are too small for our...events. We have to go so far away to have gatherings. Bring closer to our home in Campbellfield. My family has 30 houses in Campbellfield.’

‘Large extended families can only meet in parks because of the amount of people’ (Campbellfield).

‘We don’t like dogs off leash in parks where families are, because when they lick there is process in the Muslim culture required to cleanse. Especially if they lick you on the hand and you are growing to pray’ (Dallas)

‘Council do not provide enough information in other languages for our multicultural communities to understand what options there are.’ (Roxburgh Park)

The Hume Interfaith Meeting held on 3 June 2024 spoke of the importance of open space that supports larger events and also maintains culture with art and festivals. The attendees also spoke of the importance of better park lighting for paths and barbeque areas, ensuring extended opening hours for public toilets during summer, and ensuring links between open space and transport including walking and cycling trails. The group also spoke of the open, often windy, nature of our parks and would prefer sheltered areas for their elderly community to sit comfortably in for extended time in parks.

2.2.3 Senior Considerations

5 comments received via place based discussions and online feedback.

26% of quick poll responses valued ‘equipment for seniors’ as an important priority in parks. This was the 10th most selected priority from the 12 options available.

Respondents on this issue suggested a range of improvements to provide more for seniors in open space. Example comments include:

‘We are a little elderly and migrant and we are looking for things to do in the community. Can we volunteer in parks. Just light duties’ (Craigieburn)

‘(We need) more spaces for our elderly, our parents from India. So they can sit there and relax. In Punjab, the villages have a village centre to meet people. There is less for the elderly migrants (our parents) to do here so more to do in meeting in parks would be good.’ (Craigieburn)

‘I use the new play space at Progress Reserve as fitness equipment. I am senior woman and because of the people that use the space I feel unsafe and now don’t use the space’ (Broadmeadows)

‘There needs to be a safe (footpath) connection between the Parkway, Albert Road Reserve, Spavin Lake and Kismet Creek linear reserve. The walk along Spavin Drive is uneven and not safe for the elderly nor pram friendly’ (Sunbury)

I live in Coolaroo. The park not big enough near my house. Need more for my grandchildren (Broadmeadows)

2.2.4 All-Abilities Inclusion

1 survey response on this subject.

2 comments also received via place based discussions and online feedback.

Respondents on this issue spoke of the need to improve all abilities access in the park. This ranges from play experiences to improved path connections. Example comments include:

‘Disability access needs to be approved’ (Campbellfield)

‘The footpaths surrounding reserves need to be improved. Paths need to be accessible and safe for wheelchairs. I want to help the reserves accessible for every ability’ (Mickleham)

Periodic community requests via ‘Hume Connect’ are also received for all-ability facilities in parks.

2.2.5 Safety Considerations

2 survey responses on this subject.

14 comments also received via place based discussions and online feedback.

Safety emerges as an issue for many respondents – this is primarily reflected as women not feeling safe in parks, and families worried about children being safe in parks. The comments concerning safety came entirely from respondents based in the southern suburbs. Examples comments include:

‘I take my baby to SF Hedger Reserve near the community house but not many people there. People not sure are allowed to go in there because hidden away. It has gates too which people shut.’ (Tullamarine)

‘I am senior woman and because of the people that use the space (anti-social behaviour in the park) I feel unsafe and now don’t use the space’. (Broadmeadows)

‘Children not using parks as they are at home gaming. Before children playing more sport. Now we can’t send children to park as too dangerous - we watch the news.’ (Dallas)

Support for ‘improving passive surveillance and the purchase of land (35 Sycamore Crescent) at William Canning Reserve so that you can see into the park and the playspace.’ (Campbellfield)

‘Lighting for parks. Lighting for walkways. Parks are dark. Path lights’ (Roxburgh Park)

‘Kirwan Reserve/Shanklands Linear Reserve is very dark and I feel unsafe at night.’ (Roxburgh Park)

Periodic community requests via ‘Hume Connect’ are also received for additional lighting in parks.

2.2.6 Public Toilet Provision

1 survey response on this subject.

8 comments also received via place based discussions and online feedback.

Most of these respondents requested more public toilets. Examples comments include:

‘A lot of the park toilet facilities aren’t kept clean or made from materials that will last. They need to be cleaned/sanitised often. Also there are many places that don’t have public toilets.’ (Broadmeadows)

‘Public toilets important also for catching the bus’ (Roxburgh Park)

‘I’m very lucky, the park near me on Greenvale Drive is great. It has ... toilets with beautiful artwork’

Regular community requests via ‘Hume Connect’ are also received for public toilets in parks.

2.3 Optimise - Visitor Experiences in Open Space

2.3.1 Play

4 survey responses on this subject.

19 comments also received via place based discussions and online feedback.

60% of quick poll responses valued 'play for children' as an important priority in parks. This was the 5th most selected priority from the 11 options available.

30% of quick poll responses valued 'play for teenagers' as an important priority in parks. This was the 9th most selected priority from the 11 options available.

Most of these respondents requested play improvements for either individual parks or more generally to raise the standard for all parks. Example comments include:

'More for small children and toilets for children and parents. I am yet to see a park with any kind of novelty above the bare minimum requirements of planning... can we incorporate elements of art, music, water play, cooperative play etc? (Westmeadows)

'I think equipment for teenagers should be considered. The Forrest Street Park upgrade was going to remove a basketball half court, but Council listened to the feedback and put one in. The park is very well used, and the space is well arranged with a great kick about space.' (Sunbury)

'Creating more attractive spaces with open parks, playgrounds, fixed exercising facilities within park areas, with improved walking tracks and added iconic artistic landmarks are all things that could add to the suburbs character. Such improvements would ultimately make the area a more desirable place to become a resident' (Broadmeadows)

'Parks either cater to children or teenagers, there should be parks that cater to both' (Craigieburn)

More water play please. Kick about area is not used all the time so more trees. (Roxburgh Park)

'As a Broadmeadows resident I have to go to other suburbs e.g. Essendon for a park. A local park would be valuable to improve my children's (2 and 4 year olds) independence and confidence. I often go to Jack Roper, but it is too big and overwhelming for small children. There isn't enough equipment for small-aged children.'

The recreation reserve is our primary communal gathering space, and its upgrade is crucial for our community. The old playground is unsafe, unsightly and inadequate when compared to others within Hume. This is our only communal space. (Bulla)

Parks specifically mentioned by respondents for improvements included – Bulla Recreation Reserve and Trap Street Reserve in Bulla; Salcey Road Park in Mickleham; Highlands area and Bank Street Reserve in Craigieburn; Tullamarine area; Maygar Grasslands, Jack Roper Reserve and Laura Douglas Reserve in Broadmeadows; Roxburgh Homestead Park, Silvester Parade Reserve and Redwood Close Reserve in Roxburgh Park; Canterbury Hills area and Maplestone area in Sunbury; Merri Creek and Seth Raistrick in Campbellfield.

Continual community requests via 'Hume Connect' are also received for playground upgrades across Hume.

2.3.2 Visitor Experiences

3 survey responses on this subject.

8 comments also received via place based discussions and online feedback.

In addition to suggestions about play and trails, several other suggestions were made for additional experiences in open spaces. Some example comments include:

'We need more lakes! Like the man made ones in Cairnlea and Caroline Springs. Those are beautiful and I enjoy walking around them as well as walking along creeks.'

'It would be good for Council to have more events in parks. And support community groups to say rent areas of parks to have yoga in the parks or other low cost positive program. We know local people can't afford gym memberships can our open space do more.' (Broadmeadows)

'Investigate a jetty at Spavin Lake for recreational fishing.' (Sunbury)

‘Stewarts Lane Nature Reserve would be an ideal location for Disc Golf.’ (Sunbury)

‘A botanic gardens at Jacksons Hill would be rad :)’ (Sunbury)

‘...and addition of local but meaningful addition of modern artistic features could all help make Broadmeadows a better place to live’ (Broadmeadows)

‘More community gardens should be set up in well-established areas to help feed the poor and needy all around us whilst encouraging residents to reduce waste, recycle everything and share excesses.’

‘I also feel strongly about upgrading or relocating the Aircraft Viewing Space, potentially incorporating it into the broader visitor experience offerings. This area holds great potential as a drawcard for both locals and visitors and quite frankly is quite an eyesore.’ (Bulla)

Periodic community requests via ‘Hume Connect’ are also received for waterplay, fitness equipment, and basketball hoops in parks.

2.3.3 Trees and Shade

2 survey responses on this subject.

10 comments also received via place based discussions and online feedback.

62% of quick poll responses valued ‘Trees and shade for neighbourhood’ as an important priority in parks. This was equal 3rd most selected priority from the 12 options available.

All respondents on this issue were supportive of additional trees and shade, except one comment from concerned about overgrown trees. Example comments include:

‘Shade is so important we need more trees everywhere. More shade over play spaces. Why do we talk about SunSmart when we don’t have shade.’ (Tullamarine)

‘Create more shade due to the urban heat island effect’ (Sunbury)

‘The industrial area is lacking trees, fresh air and open space and parks from Somerton to Campbellfield.’

Our parks are small and lacking, without providing canopy, waterways or biodiversity or habitats (Redstone)

The urban forest canopy cover is only 4% across Hume and greater tree planting in open space will help reduce heat impacts. This part shows how important to plan trees and have open space in urbanized areas (Jacana)

Nicely landscaped parks with trees, walking tracks, landscaped open spaces, playgrounds, and addition of local but meaningful addition of modern artistic features could all help make Broadmeadows a better place to live.

Not enough trees and nature in the area. (Broadmeadows)

‘Include shaded areas, barbecue facilities, walking paths and more trees (Roxburgh Park)

Periodic community requests via ‘Hume Connect’ are also received for more shade in parks.

The biggest open space related issue in the social media consultation was a debate for and against the use of native trees in parks, and the preference for the protection of trees due to concerns of overdevelopment.

2.3.4 Trails for Walking and Cycling

1 survey response on this subject.

15 comments also received via place based discussions and online feedback.

51% of quick poll responses valued ‘Connected trails for walking and cycling’ as an important priority in parks. This was the 4th most selected priority from the 12 options available. This question was not well written as many people that love walking trails find it stressful to share with cyclists. The reality is that for long trails these functions need to be shared.

All respondents on this issue were seeking more trails and better connections. Example comments include:

‘I would love to have more green areas for walking or cycling. Less the massive amount of litter’ (Somerton)

‘Create or improve on parks and open spaces to provide places to gather or be surrounded by nature, create places with walking paths, creating sanctuary away from...modern life...’ (Sunbury)

‘Link through Salesian College would be great. Because from Spavin Lake to Nook it’s lovely.’ (Sunbury)

‘I would like to see a Merlynston Creek bike path from Barry Road to Western Ring Road. Many people use the Upfield Path to get to and from city, and if the connection was made easier it would encourage more people to do it!’ (Broadmeadows)

‘Nicely landscaped parks with trees, walking tracks, landscaped open spaces, playgrounds, and addition of local but meaningful addition of modern artistic features could all help make Broadmeadows a better place to live.’ (Broadmeadows)

‘The Merri Creek path should be connected under Mahoneys Road to the section of it throughout Campbellfield that goes to the Whittlesea Gardens’ (Campbellfield)

‘Seeking connected parks through walking and cycling paths without crossing barriers like arterial roads and creeks with bridges, so children can travel safely’ (Craigieburn)

‘I like the Roxburgh Park area because of the walking tracks and waterways to walk around. I come from Craigieburn, but those parks are less connected, or they end too quickly’ (Roxburgh Park)

‘We who live in Mickleham areas of Botanical, Waratah, Annadale and the Woods don't have any walking or safe cycling access to Craigieburn. Only option is Forest Red Gum which has no walking or cycling provisions on either side’ (Mickleham)

‘Moreover, the lack of walking tracks around Bulla is a significant issue’ (Bulla)

A submission from Merri-bek Council provided additional suggestions for trails and links over and under the Western Ring Road to connect our communities.

2.3.5 Organised Sports

1 survey response on this subject.

2 comments also received via place based discussions and online feedback.

24% of quick poll responses valued ‘organised sports’ areas as an important priority in parks. This was the 10th most selected priority from the 11 options available.

Very few comments were made on organised sports. There were more comments for half-courts which are considered an informal sporting activity. Example comments include:

‘We call Leo Dinneen Park the ‘Footy and Cricket Ground’. Seen a massive resurgence at the ground over the last 14 months - bringing children. Probably because football is coming back in popularity here which may be because people with children moving into the area’ (Tullamarine)

‘I would like the open place areas to become sporting areas like footy ovals or soccer ovals’ (Kalkallo)

A submission from Merri-bek Council advised it will be upgrading the sporting facilities at Wallis Reserve which will provide additional services within a short distance to communities in Gladstone Park.

2.3.6 Dogs

1 survey response on this subject.

7 comments also received via place based discussions and online feedback.

19% of quick poll responses valued ‘off-leash dog areas’ as an important priority in parks. This was the 11th most selected option from the 11 options available.

Two respondents requested new dog areas. Example comments include:

‘Hard to understand dog off lead signs. It’s not clear.’

‘There are places to take our dog. Not technically off leash but no one is there. Made a submission to Emu Bottom re more dog area and I felt like Council listened.’ (Sunbury)

‘I have two dogs, but we don’t like dogs off-leash in parks where families are, because when they lick there is process in the Muslim culture required to cleanse. Especially if they lick you on the hand and you are going to pray.’

‘More dog off leash - happy for it to be hybrid with just hours for dog off leash.’ (Kalkallo)

Regular community requests via ‘Hume Connect’ are also received for additional dog off lead facility, or alternatively from people asking that dog owners better control and clean up after their dogs.

2.3.7 Litter and Dumped Rubbish

4 survey responses on this subject.

8 comments also received via place based discussions and online feedback.

These respondents were all concerned about rubbish dumping and litter in parks and waterways. Example comments include:

‘We need to see more cleaner open spaces, security measures such as cameras in parks, more education is needed to improve the rubbish being dumped in areas’

‘Councils look after a lot of parks and they do it very well. It’s important for neighbours to let authorities know about dumping or bad behaviour’. (Tullamarine)

‘Whenever there’s open land that becomes a garbage dump’ (Broadmeadows)

‘Dumping of rubbish in our parks and along waterways is a problem. Why do people do this?’ (Craigieburn)

3. Methods of Community Engagement

3.1 Quick Poll

The quick polls were open to the public from 4 May to 16 June 2024 and received 197 responses.

Most of the polls were filled in with the assistance of Hume staff at pop up sessions. This helped to reach people who would not normally provide open space feedback. Due to the nature of quick polls, we are unable to register the age, gender and cultural background of respondents.

The results of the quick poll revealed:

Question 1: Which three 'Protect' priorities are most important to you? (Select 3)

☐ Plants and wildlife for biodiversity	Selected by 75%
☐ Trees for shade and amenity	Selected by 64%
☐ Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Aboriginal values	Selected by 57%
☐ Heritage features showcasing past uses	Selected by 55%
☐ Healthy waterways	Selected by 31%
☐ Climate preparedness for heat, drought, fire, flood and storm damage	Selected by 16%

Anecdotally, it was noticed by assisting staff that there were a number of respondents who felt they were all important and felt limiting it to three was very difficult. There were also a number of respondents who found it hard to select three as none were really issues of concern.

Some minor differences were seen between suburb responses. For example:

- Biodiversity was strong generally and especially in the southern more urbanised suburbs (Campbellfield, Broadmeadows, Dallas along with Mickleham in the north)
- Gladstone Park participants were comparatively strong in prioritising climate preparedness
- Kalkallo/Mickleham participants were comparatively strong in prioritising Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung values.

Question 2: Which 'Optimise' priorities are most important to you? (Select up to 6)

☐ Sitting, walking through and relaxing in parks	Selected by 79%
☐ Enjoying nature	Selected by 64%
☐ Meeting friends or family in parks	Selected by 62%
☐ Trees and shade for the neighbourhood	Selected by 62%
☐ Play equipment for children	Selected by 60%
☐ Connected trails for walking and cycling	Selected by 51%
☐ Organised cultural events and activities	Selected by 28%
☐ Equipment for teenagers	Selected by 30%
☐ Equipment for seniors	Selected by 26%
☐ Organised sports	Selected by 24%
☐ Dog off-leash play	Selected by 19%

Question 3: The southern suburbs of Hume have less open space than suburbs in Hume's north and west. The Strategy recommends investigating options for new parks in these areas as a priority. How supportive are you of this direction?

☐ Strongly supportive	Selected by 69%
☐ Somewhat supportive	Selected by 17%
☐ Unsure/No opinion	Selected by 10%
☐ Somewhat oppose	Selected by 2%
☐ Strongly oppose	Selected by 2%

3.2 Place-Based Pop Up Sessions

A range of communications materials were created to help raise community awareness of the Draft Strategy. This includes posters, postcards, and Hume Participate webpage and emails. See Appendix A.

Nine pop-up events were held across multiple suburbs including Kalkallo, Sunbury, Craigieburn, Tullamarine, Broadmeadows, and Roxburgh Park.

The events were spread across a range of weekdays, evenings and weekends.

They were also scheduled to capture different types of residents. For example, we attended junior sporting activities, musical events, shopping areas, and libraries and community centres that were hosting English sessions, walking groups, elderly groups, and baby activity groups.

Saturday 4 May	11am-2pm: Kalkallo North Community Centre Open Day. 24 Koeks Vista, Kalkallo
Thursday 16 May	3-4pm: Sunbury Village Green. 12 Stawell Street, Sunbury 5-7.30pm: Sunbury Library. 44 Macedon Street, Sunbury (and if you feel like it, stay for the Sunbury Autumn Soiree)
Sunday 19 May	9.30-11.30am Aston Fields, 50 Vantage Boulevard, Craigieburn
Wednesday 22 May	11.30-3pm: Tullamarine Library. 58 Spring Street, Tullamarine
Saturday 25 May	10.30-1.30pm Dallas Dargie Court Shops. Outside 4 Dargie Court, Dallas
Monday 27 May	11.30am-1.30pm Olsen Place Shops. Outside 8 Olsen Place, Broadmeadows
Wednesday 5 June	10-1pm: Roxburgh Park Homestead Reserve. 20-30 Wiltshire Drive, Roxburgh Park 3-4pm: Roxburgh Park Homestead Centre (just near Foodworks) Corner Roxburgh Park Drive and Ravenhill Boulevard, Roxburgh Park

Staff spoke with more than 300 people through these activities. This included helping people fill in surveys and capturing other feedback on open space that may have been discussed. Different priorities emerged for different precincts.

Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4 Sunbury: 16 comments including many reflecting on walking trail priorities, cultural heritage protection, and the importance of parks and nature.

Precinct 5: Bulla and rural areas: 4 comments many reflecting the importance of Bulla Parkland upgrades

Precinct 6: Greenvale: 6 comments many reflecting the importance of Greenvale Reservoir upgrades

Precinct 7: Tullamarine, Gladstone Park, Westmeadows, Attwood: 8 comments many reflecting on improvement opportunities for different parks

Precinct 8: Broadmeadows, Jacana, Dallas, Coolaroo: 26 comments including requests for more spaces, cleanliness, safety and trail and park improvements

Precinct 9: Meadow Heights, Roxburgh Park: 12 comments including requests for more play and safety improvements through lighting and traffic improvements

Precinct 10: Campbellfield, Somerton: 7 comments including requests for more open spaces, bbqs, paths

Precinct 11: Craigieburn: 8 comments with many reflecting on walking links and park improvements

Precinct 12: Mickleham: 7 comments with many requesting walking, cycling and park improvements

Precinct 13: Kalkallo: 10 comments with many reflecting a mix of park improvement and use opportunities.

Comments provided by people have been captured and key issues reflected in Section 2 of this report.



Top Left: Vantage Boulevard Recreation Reserve (Aston Fields), Craigieburn 19 May 2024

Top Right: Dargie Court, Dallas 25 May 2024

Lower Left: Roxburgh Park. 5 June 2024

Lower Right: Olsen Place, Broadmeadows 27 May 2024

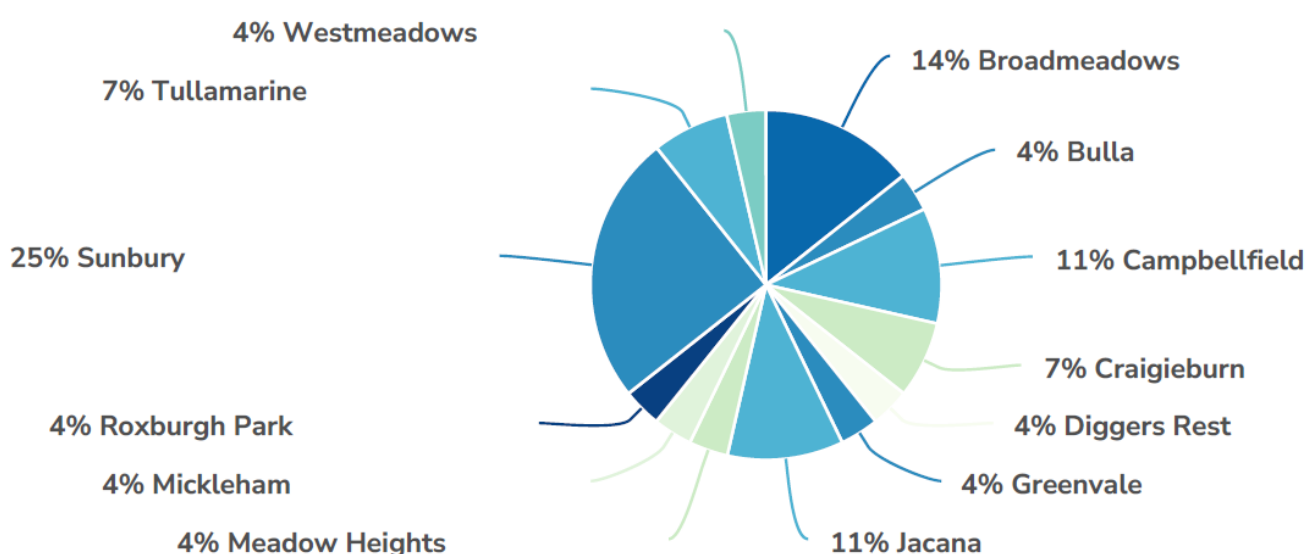
3.3 Online Survey

The online survey was hosted on the Hume Participate webpage and promoted widely.

The online survey was open to the public from 4 May to 16 June 2024 and received 28 responses.

Of the 28 respondents that provided their demographic information, there were:

- 70% females, 26% males and 4% preferring not to say
- The age groups represented were 45-54 years (30%), 25-34 years (26%), 55-64 years (18%), 35-44 years (15%), 65-74 years (7%), and 75+ years (4%)
- 18% of people identified as a person with a culturally or linguistically diverse background including Iraq, Italy, Lebanon and Hong Kong
- Residents from 13 suburbs completed the survey with the strongest representation from Sunbury (25% of respondents). These suburbs reflect all precincts except Kalkallo.



The results of the online survey revealed the following feedback for the Draft Open Space Strategy

Question 1: How do you feel about the vision of the draft Hume Open Space Strategy?

Hume's high-quality open space network supports the health and wellbeing of our diverse community and celebrates the waterways, natural values and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural values of our landscape

Is there anything you'd like to add about the vision?

50% of respondents (14) strongly support the vision with 21% somewhat supportive.

18% have no opinion or are unsure. 7% somewhat oppose and 3.5% (1) strongly oppose.

84% of comments on the vision supported the commitment to more open space. There were concerns to ensure that the vision will be implemented. Quotes are included in Appendix B.

Question 2: How do you feel about the 3 key directions, Protect, Optimise, Grow?



Is there anything you'd like to add about the 3 key directions? (optional)

Protect

74% of respondents (20) strongly support the 'protect' objectives with 15% somewhat supportive. 3.5% somewhat oppose and 7% (2) strongly oppose. Quotes are included in Appendix B.

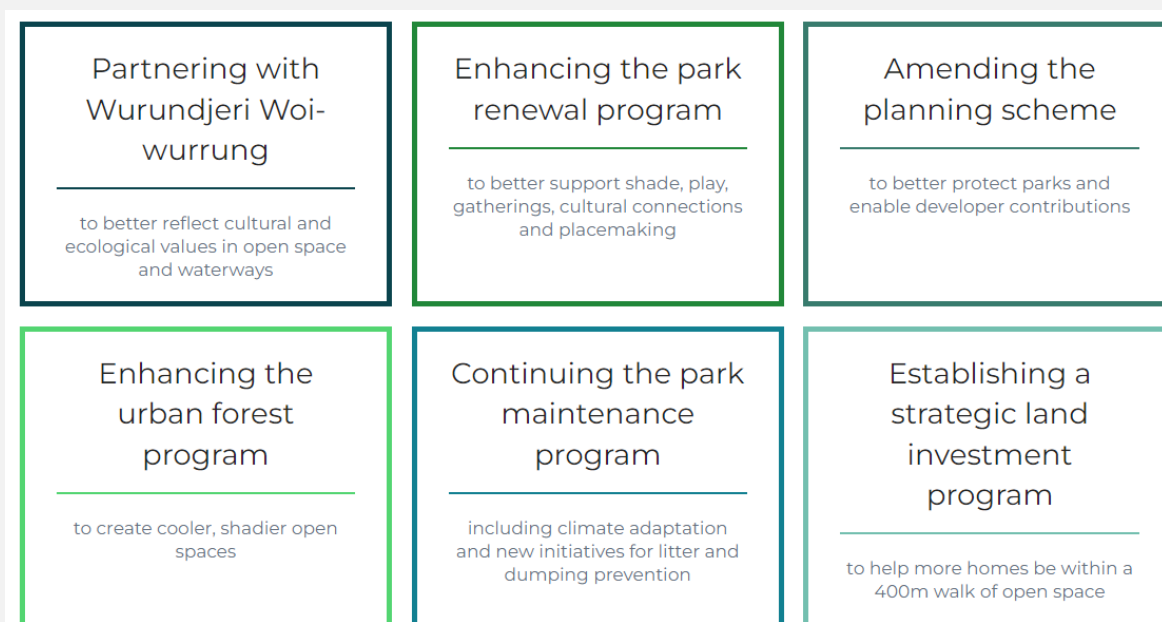
Optimise

70% of respondents (19) strongly support the 'optimise' objectives with 15% somewhat supportive. 7% somewhat oppose and 7% (2) strongly oppose. Quotes are included in Appendix B.

Grow

74% of respondents (20) strongly support the 'optimise' objectives with 15% somewhat supportive. 7% unsure/no opinion and 7% (2) strongly oppose. Quotes are included in Appendix B.

Question 3: How do you feel about the 6 Priority Actions?



Generally all actions were supported by between 73-92% of respondents with variation shown between those which are strongly supported and somewhat supported.

The level of unsure was high for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, planning scheme and land investment which likely reflects that it is harder to understand these actions without further information.

One respondent strongly opposed all actions and all strategic priorities.

Action 1: Partnering with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung

52% of respondents (14) strongly support the priority actions with 18% somewhat supportive. 26% are unsure/have no opinion and 3.5% (1) strongly oppose.

One comment reflected a priority that this is 'done in a respectful way'. Other comments felt this should not be a funding priority over other matters such as dog parks.

Action 2: Enhancing the Park Renewal Program

70% of respondents (19) strongly support the priority actions with 22% somewhat supportive. 7% (2) strongly oppose.

Comments to support this action including requests to target 'established areas such as Broadmeadows and Valley etc – some parks need to be fixed for their usefulness and landscape', and to address 'older unsafe playgrounds'. One respondent sought more involvement from local residents in park renewals.

Action 3: Amending the Planning Scheme

58% of respondents (15) strongly support the priority actions with 15% somewhat supportive. 19% are unsure/have no opinion and 7.5% (2) strongly oppose.

Comments to support this action include that 'we should absolutely ensure legislation and policy is updated and enabling' along with a request to highlight 'areas that need improvement'

Action 4: Enhancing the Urban Forest Program

67% of respondents (18) strongly support the priority actions with 18% somewhat supportive. 7.5% are unsure/have no opinion and 7.5% (2) strongly oppose.

Comments to support this urban forest action include that 'We all need the mental health benefits these spaces provide so there could be a lot more. Greensborough does this very well.' And 'Local flora and fauna needs to be protected so they can thrive' and the importance of green space for people in 'high rise buildings...especially in summer when heat strikes.' One comment strongly opposed the urban forest and over development.

Action 5: Continuing the Park Maintenance Program

85% of respondents (23) strongly support the priority actions with 7.5% somewhat supportive. 3.5% are unsure/have no opinion and 3.5% (1) strongly oppose.

Comments to support this park maintenance action include 'Keep reserves updated so all can safely access them', with the following concerns raised 'mow the paddocks and weed them so kids can play on them (eg Erinbank Crescent), 'have clean toilets in the parks', and 'illegal dumping, littering and social vandalism are the major issues when the parks become attractive and popular'

Action 6: Establishing a Strategic Land Investment Program

52% of respondents (14) strongly support the priority actions with 22% somewhat supportive. 18.5% are unsure/have no opinion and 7.5% (1) strongly oppose.

Comments to support this land investment action include 'more people should be able to access parks and open spaces within walking distance 10-15 minutes so that they may not get stuck at home all the time. They should be encouraged to come out, relax and have some fresh air and have a good break'. Concerns include 'locals need to be involved', 'stop the overdevelopment' and 'limit housing on environment for wildlife'.

Question 4: Are there any actions that you feel are missing from the Draft Strategy?

Feedback included that it would be lovely to have more open space but we need to 'think twice' about it if it 'costs a fortune in rates', more 'wildlife protection, request to 'upgrade the dog park' in Sunbury, and support 'dance of multi-faith'.

This question was also answered with a range of concerns about non open space matters such as suggestions to improve public transport in Campbellfield, reduce rubbish dumping, support better shops and reduce development pressures to allow more yard space for children on their own land.

Limitations: The survey had some limitations including small sample size, likelihood of questions answered without reading the Strategy. Three respondents (21%) were very distressed about bigger issues (religion, rates, overdevelopment) and this is reflected in all of their responses to questions.

3.4 Local Media, Newsletters and Social Media

Local media included an article Star Weekly on 13 May 2024 outlining key features of the Strategy and inviting the community of Sunbury and surrounds to have a say on the Draft.

Articles were provided in the Hume City Council community newsletter 'E-News' which reaches approximately 20,000 people, and an article was included in the Live Green Newsletter.

Social media included posts including two feature posts on Facebook and Instagram and follow up posts to promote events. The posts generated 47 comments. Of these 70% were negative across a range of Council services which reflects the dominant culture of social media. The biggest open space related issue was a debate for and against the use of native trees in parks, and the preference for the protection of trees due to concerns of overdevelopment.

Staff also promoted to industry colleagues via Linked In, and to broader Hume Staff via Hume Quarters Post.

See Star Weekly article and social media posts at Appendix C.

3.5 Online Info Sessions and Drop In Sessions

The Hume Participate webpage presented key components of the Draft Strategy to help the reader see issues as easily as possible. It included FAQs addressing likely matters on people's minds (Appendix D).

The website provided information on all face to face and online engagement sessions.

A suite of online engagement sessions were made available for community attendance. These were set on different weekdays, two in the evenings and one at lunchtime to provide a variety of time options. To make the most of online event preparation, participants were asked to name their suburbs of interest, and their themes of interest (eg biodiversity, play, trails, trees, dogs etc).

Only one online session was attended. This was an evening session, with 7 attendees, who were mostly from Bulla and Sunbury. The feedback included:

- The importance of upgrading Bulla Recreation Reserve as the community does not have any other open spaces or community facilities nearby.
- The importance of planning for street trees and protecting the environment and waterways
- Interest in community gardens and tiny forests

Three drop-in times at the Broadmeadows Office were made available in the final week of consultation. One person attended and provided input on Broadmeadows Valley Park and Meadow Heights.

3.6 Stakeholders

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (as a Registered Aboriginal Party representing the Traditional Owners of land known as City of Hume) are a rightsholder rather than a stakeholder. Elders from the Corporation provided a Position Paper prior to drafting the Strategy and are providing additional feedback throughout the process.

A wide range of stakeholders were emailed and invited to provide feedback on the Draft Strategy.

Letters were sent to public land managers including Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Yarra Valley Water, Greater Western Water, Department of Transport and Planning.

Online presentations and feedback discussions were held with Hume Interfaith Network, Hume Sustainability Taskforce, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands Partnership Group, marram baba Merri Creek Regional Parklands Partnership Group.

Written submissions have been provided by Parks Victoria, the Department of Transport and Planning, and the Merri Creek Management Committee. An officer email has also been received Merri-bek City Council. These are supportive of the Draft Strategy and list out additional matters for consideration and clarification.

3. Conclusion

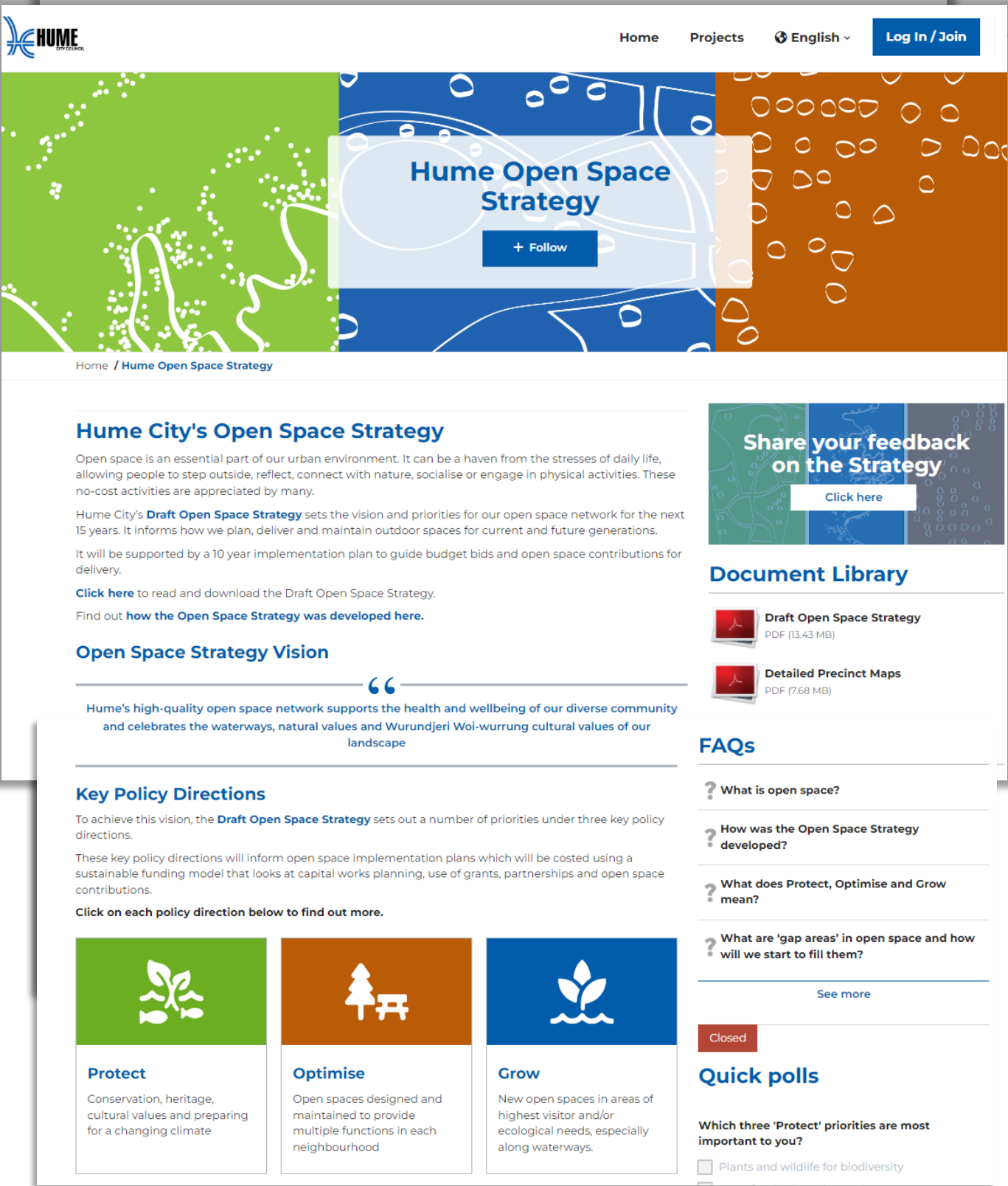
Planning for Hume's Open Space Strategy has now sought input and feedback from the community on multiple times. This includes:

- Community Surveys 2016-2018 data
- Ongoing Neighbourhood Park consultation and Hume Connect requests
- Parks Close to Home Survey 2021 including 200 face-to face surveys and 2000 online surveys
- Release of Background Paper – Hume Open Spaces Strategy in Jan-March 2023

This input helped to develop the Draft Strategy, and the feedback reflected in this Consultation Summary will be used to inform the final editing of the Draft Plan. This includes improving clarity, adding local details that we have learned, and reflecting the priorities that of the community. It will also be used to assist in implementation planning and prioritising.

Appendix A: Communication Materials

1. Screenshots of Hume Participate consultation webpage



2. Postcards

Postcards sent to 5000 households with a priority for suburbs with open space gaps and land acquisition will be necessary in future. These areas included:

1. **Tullamarine** - bounded by Sharps Rd, Broadmeadows Rd, Melrose Dve
2. **Gladstone Park** - bounded by Tulla Fwy, Gladstone Park Drive, Sth Circular Drive, Taylor Dve, Parnell Cr, Sth Circular, Elmhurst, Woodstock Drive.
3. **Broadmeadows (south)** - bounded by Camp Road, Gibson, Graham, Holbery St.
4. **Broadmeadows (north)** - bounded by Camp Road, Beaulah/ Goulburn, Kitchener, Railway Crescent.
5. **Jacana** - bounded by Pascoe Vale Rd, Johnstone St, Bamburgh St, Emu Pde/Fox Ct, Jacana.
6. **Meadow Heights** - 400m north of Dunkeld St, Roxburgh Park and 350m radius from 3 Parwan Court
7. **Campbellfield (west)** - between Sydney Road, Barry Road, and Rail Line and Gentles Avenue.
8. **Craigieburn** - between Candlebark Drive, Aitken Blvd, Kalorama St/Monteiro Ct, Lysterfield Drive



Have your say on the future of our parks

Hume City Council has written a Draft Open Space Strategy

We have over 580 parks in the City of Hume - some for play, for nature, for sport and more.

We are planning for parks now and in the future.

Your suburb is identified as needing additional open space in the long term and we welcome your feedback on this.

To share your thoughts

Scan the QR code on the back to:

- Find our Draft Open Space Strategy
- See maps of your neighbourhood
- Find out about our drop-in sessions
- Fill out the quick survey

Or visit participate.hume.vic.gov.au/hume-open-space-strategy



Find out more:

Visit Hume City Council's Participate page to have your say before **Sunday 16 June 2024**. You can also submit your feedback to:

-  participate.hume.vic.gov.au/hume-open-space-strategy
-  openspaceplanning@hume.vic.gov.au



If undelivered return to sender: Hume City Council, PO Box 119, DALLAS VIC 3047



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Za informacije na bosanskom	9679 9816	Para información en español	9679 9821
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Για πληροφορίες στα ελληνικά	9679 9818	Muốn biết thông tin tiếng Việt	9679 9823
		For other languages...	9679 9824



Hume City Council
Reply Paid 119
DALLAS VIC 3047

3. Posters installed in a range of libraries, community centres and shopfronts.

Have your say on the future of our parks

We are planning for parks
now and in the future including....



Protecting nature, waterways
and cultural heritage



Renewing more parks for
different visitor experience



New open spaces within easy
walking distance

Did you know?
Hume has over 580 reserves
– for play, for nature
for sport and more

Check out our **Draft Open Space Strategy** and find out what it says about your neighbourhood.

Find out how we are planning for play, trails, events, shade, nature, climate change and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture.

Be sure to fill in our survey before **16 June 2024** or join an information session.



Want to know more?
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Za informácie na kresnštinu	Mẫu hỏi thông tin tiếng Việt	9205 8823
Handspesprek inisi ekeget	For other languages...	9205 8824

participate.hume.vic.gov.au/hume-open-space-strategy

9205 2200

OpenSpacePlanning@hume.vic.gov.au



This includes some posters translated into Assyrian, Arabic and Urdu

Have your say on the future of our parks

We are planning for parks
now and in the future including....



Protecting nature, waterways
and cultural heritage



Renewing more parks for
different visitor experience



New open spaces within easy
walking distance

Did you know?

Hume has over 580 reserves
– some for play, for nature
for sport and more

ندعوک لمشاركة أفكارک حول کیف یمکن للمنتزهات والمناطق
الطبیعیة لدینا أن تدعم مجتمعک المحلي وثقافتک بشكل أفضل فی
المستقبل.

امسح رمز الاستجابة السريعة لمعرفة کیفیة الانضمام إلى اجتماعاتنا
وتقديم الملاحظات.

ہم آپ کو اس بارے میں اپنے خیالات بتانے کی دعوت دے رہے ہیں
کہ ہمارے پارک اور فطری مقامات مستقبل میں آپ کی کمیونٹی اور
کلچر کے لیے کیسے بہتر بن سکتے ہیں۔

کیو آر کوڈ سکین کر کے دیکھیں کہ ہماری میٹنگوں میں شامل ہونے
اور اپنی رائے دینے کا کیا طریقہ ہے۔

Sizi, parklarımızın ve doğa alanlarımızın gelecekte
topluluğunuzu ve kültürünüzü nasıl daha iyi
destekleyebileceğine ilişkin fikirlerinizi paylaşmaya
davet ediyoruz.

Toplantılarımıza nasıl katılacağınızı ve geri bildirimde
bulunacağınızı öğrenmek için kare kodu tarayın.

ہم آپ کو اس بارے میں اپنے خیالات بتانے کی دعوت دے رہے ہیں
کہ ہمارے پارک اور فطری مقامات مستقبل میں آپ کی کمیونٹی اور
کلچر کے لیے کیسے بہتر بن سکتے ہیں۔

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Za informacię na hrvatskom	Muđn bđđ thđng tin tiđng Viđt	9479 9923
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Appendix B: Online Survey Comments

The online survey was open to the public from 4 May to 16 June 2024 and received 28 responses.

The summary is provided in Section 3.3 of this report, and direct quotes for Q1 and Q2 provided below.

Question 1: How do you feel about the vision of the draft Hume Open Space Strategy?

Hume's high-quality open space network supports the health and wellbeing of our diverse community and celebrates the waterways, natural values and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural values of our landscape

Is there anything you'd like to add about the vision?

Comments reflecting support for open space and the strategy

'I value the importance of open spaces and being able to explore nature in a way that preserves and protects it'

'It is a holistic and well thought out strategy which prioritises areas according to demographic and a range of different needs'

'It is clear yet comprehensive.' 'Keep up the good work'

'Good for the community'

'Prioritising open spaces is essentially prioritising mental and physical health and I plan on doing my best to raise healthy children so the strategy aligns with our families values very closely'

'Open spaces create family friendly experiences an environment for children and adults to disconnect from the wired world an environment it's proven it's good for mental health and energy'

'We do need more open space for future generations to play, walk and amalgamate together.'

'There is a significant need to support the vision. Given there will be many people moving here and also the current population, the change would see an amazing revamp to the area, increase infrastructure, improvements to environment, local communities etc'

'Open space is extremely important to humans, however it is the habitat and home of our Australian wildlife and the flora must be protected. With major housing developments taking over, especially along the once prestige waterways, the invasion of humans to nature is becoming destructive especially with rubbish dumping and graffiti.'

'Great ideas. We need more open space with more seats, community gardens, playgrounds, BBQ and toilets.'

Comments requesting additional considerations and commitment to implement the vision

'We need more protected spaces for native flora and fauna.'

'Protect environment and historical landscape'

'I agree in principle, open space is beneficial, however curious about how the vision actually applies. I also would prefer confirmation that First Nations leaders agree with the statement, given much of the land Hume is using is being transformed with developments not necessarily consistent with first nations values.'

'We all need, green spaces in our daily lives. We need policies to regulate how these spaces will be provided and used.'

'To increase attraction for the area and increase sport.'

'Good idea but I only somewhat support I believe upgrading the dog park should be a priority as part of the vision. Like to see a dog park in Campbellfield, have to drive to several suburbs to go to one.'

'Not enough trash cans in green spaces and trash gets into the waterways.'

'Communication relating to the intention to maintain the spaces (rubbish dumping and overgrown grass/trees has become a huge issue in this area)'

'Hume Council have a vision, let's get serious about protection of what we have, both built and natural.'

'I live in highlands and the parks are old and dated need new play equipment for our kids'

'More facilities such as toilets, taps, bbq areas'

'The footpaths surrounding reserves need to be improved.'

'The messaging around the importance of community and enabling communities, particularly smaller ones, to engage, collaborate and build bonds should be emphasised.'

'Upgrading the dog park so it's not a mud bath or dust bowl. Separate sections for big/confident dogs and small/anxious dogs.'

'We need to see more cleaner open spaces, security measures such as cameras in parks, more education is needed to improve the rubbish being dumped in areas. Will be great to see some of the parks being developed which will hopefully attract more communities and feelings of being safe.'

Why is the focus only on one section of our community. We are supposed to be fully inclusive and whilst we need to respect areas of special significance everybody should be able to access and enjoy the area.'

Three comments were unsupportive of the vision. One concern related to overdevelopment, one concern was for loss of freedom in geofenced smart cities, and one concern preferences greater respect for God and his creation.

Question 2: How do you feel about the 3 key directions, Protect, Optimise, Grow?



Is there anything you'd like to add about the 3 key directions? (optional)

Protect

74% of respondents (20) strongly support the 'protect' objectives with 15% somewhat supportive. 3.5% somewhat oppose and 7% (2) strongly oppose.

Comments reflecting support for 'protect' objectives

'Sunbury has a strong history and many green spaces that make it very liveable. These should be protected and even enhanced'

'It is very important to protect our environment for future generations.'

'Especially culturally sensitive spaces fires of traditional owners once a month or clear the space'

Comments requesting additional considerations and commitment to implement the 'protect' objectives

'They are kind of conflicting, how can you protect, grow and optimise? Consider clarifying as they are all pulling in different directions'

'With new houses being built constantly, and land being subdivided for 2,3 or even 4 units, how can we conserve some peace and quiet in certain areas?'

'Stop the overdevelopment'

'Growing family population. More for Westmeadows not other regions already provided for'

'Paths need to be accessible and safe for wheelchairs.'

Optimise

70% of respondents (19) strongly support the 'optimise' objectives with 15% somewhat supportive. 7% somewhat oppose and 7% (2) strongly oppose.

Comments requesting additional considerations and commitment to implement the 'optimise' objective

'If the multiple functions are to be in place in disadvantaged areas such as Broadmeadows, Campbellfield, Jacana, Dallas, Gladstone Park and the like, I would support this option to be placed as No 1 and 2 priority.'

'More bins would be a great way to optimise functionality and beauty.'

'We do need to do more in our neighbourhood in order to amalgamate the different nationalities.'

'Stop the overdevelopment'

'I want to help the reserves accessible for every ability.'

Grow

74% of respondents (20) strongly support the 'optimise' objectives with 15% somewhat supportive. 7% unsure/no opinion and 7% (2) strongly oppose.

Comments requesting additional considerations and commitment to implement the 'grow' objective

'Sunbury is getting bigger and needs open spaces for people to thrive'

'Please grow and support green spaces and historical places. The Sunbury Jackson's Hill Art Precinct for example.'

'I am yet to see a park with any kind of novelty above the bare minimum requirements of planning... can we incorporate elements of art, music, water play, cooperative play etc?'

'Stop the overdevelopment'

'Encouraging local flora and fauna to thrive'

'I am not sure whether it is viable for it may cost us a fortune to get there'

Appendix C: Local Media and Social Media

Star Weekly Article 13 May 2024



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News

Opening up spaces

13/05/2024

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In the agenda, council said the strategy seeks to protect and grow Hume's open space assets by setting priorities for the next 15 years.

The Hume area is home to more than 588 reserves and 440 walkways covering more than seven per cent of the municipality.

At a meeting on April 29, councillor Jarrod Bell said across Hume almost 95 per cent of homes are within a 400 metre walk of an open space in the municipality.

"However, there are certain within our community that don't have that access," he said. "We have a draft plan to have a look at fixing that.

"This [strategy] updates our 2010 plan and talks about our plans and our priorities moving forward into the next 15 years.

"We need a plan and strategy to guide and lead us as a community, as an organisation into supporting [and] improving these open scapes, ensuring they continue to be relevant, useful and enjoyable places."

Cr Bell said the plan has been developed in conjunction with traditional owners, with a goal of protecting things like waterways.

"I encourage the community to take a moment, have a look at the document, consider what it means for you and your family and have your say to make this document... better," he said.

The draft strategy applies the framework of protect, optimise and grow. Council said it seeks to protect conservation, heritage and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung values, in addition to protecting open space against development and climate change.

Council said the strategy commits to designing and maintaining open spaces for a mix of visitor experiences, including increasing tree canopy in open space reserves to 70 per cent canopy cover by 2050.

In focusing on growth, council said the high proximity to open space falls to 69 per cent in the Somerton precinct and 79 per cent in the Broadmeadows precinct, and the strategy aims to address these inequities.

28

Social Media Posts

**Hume City Council**
May 30 at 2:30 PM · 🌐

Our Draft Open Space Strategy aims to set the vision and priorities for our open space network for the next 15 years 🌱

This month our team have been out meeting with locals to discuss the draft and gather your valuable feedback. Discover our plans for:

- 🚶 trails and playgrounds
- 🌳 shade, nature and park maintenance
- 💧 healthy waterways
- 🌍 climate change adaptation

Fill in the survey and find out about our drop-in sessions 📌 participate.hume.vic.gov.au/hume-open-space-strategy

Feedback closes on Sunday 16 June and your input helps shape the future of our community's open spaces 🌿



  You and 28 others

1 comment 2 shares



Hume City Council

May 7 at 7:01 PM · 🌐

...

Can anyone guess where these beautiful Hume City landscape photos were taken? 🌳

We are committed to protecting and growing our open spaces, waterways, environment, cultural heritage and visitor experiences for generations to come ❤️

That's why we have developed our draft Open Space Strategy and are keen to hear your thoughts and ideas 😊

Have your say now until Sunday 16 June 🗳️

participate.hume.vic.gov.au/hume-open-space-strategy



Most relevant ▾



Nancy Peplow

Plant more native trees and shrubs with weed control of European exotics that ruin our native landscape. Rabbit and fox control would also benefit. More benches to sit on. Also stop making small linear parks instead large area ones. Larger fenced dog areas like Brimbank have.

1w Like Reply Edited

2 👍



Cheryl Joy

Nancy Peplow Yes, natives. However, natives that are endemic to this area. That is, trees that have, for centuries, grown in this area. We are mainly red volcanic soil here, so the indigenous natives trees of yore are best suited to survive, especially with climate change impacting the capacity of trees & other plants to survive.

6d Like Reply



Mara Lee

Stop building awful jammed packed estates on every bit of green space we have left!! Done!

3d Like Reply Edited

2 👍



Liz Balfour

Local Cultural heritage includes the now deteriorating historically significant building situated in Westmeadows near the bridge. Council failed to acquire this site, along with a great opportunity to keep the green site around it. If you are serious about valuing history already identified in our municipality, this Gold Rush era gem is a no brainer to retain. Coach house, courthouse, police station now demolition by neglect. 😞

1w Like Reply

2 👍



Sally Maty

Why doesn't this council have man made lakes like the ones on the west side in Cairnlea and Caroline springs??? I need green spaces and parks that look appealing. Not another business park.

2w Like Reply

2 👍



Caroline Ann

Sally Maty I walked through Craigieburn yesterday (live in Greenvale) was so sunny and beautiful .. so many groups of people outside the shops and around the lake (near cafe) sitting and chatting, walking together, having a great time. Yes need more open spaces and places to sit and enjoy each other and the scenery.

4d Like Reply



Jodie Butler

Hume Hume City Council has an open space policy, proceeds to fill said open spaces with overcrowded housing estates 🙄

2d Like Reply



Chris Robins

Local councils are nothing more than pretend politicians who couldn't make it in real politics

1d Like Reply



Laraine Asciak

Same in a lot of places are deteriorating..

1w Like Reply

1 👍

 Lisa Buckland
I am always looking for a park to sit in and enjoy the fresh air, under a shady tree. Most parks are dusty, dry, bare open spaces - with not much, just gum trees and playgrounds. Have to wonder at the lack of planning in Hume, when you look at the lush eastern suburbs with their lovely trees. ...

2w Like Reply

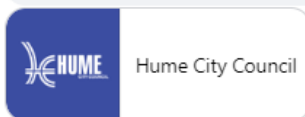
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 Cheryl Joy
Lisa Buckland Indeed. And it doesn't help when the Hume Council cuts down an established/big gum tree here at the top of Turner St. near intersection to Forman St. There was so much life sustained by that tree, not just the birds who visited & made their nests there. MEMO to HUME Council. STOP cutting down big established trees in our suburban streets. I can't see how this one was posing a problem at all. Also, pretty cranky when big trees are cut down on our nature strips because some property developer is going to build 3 crappy townhouses on a domestic block. I bet then, that all the trees on the block will be razed. So reducing green cover by overdevelopment. Ordering developers to plant trees on their project is window dressing, as only small to medium trees can fit on the site after development. Ergo, effectively denuding our old established suburbs of big trees. Totally shortsighted & impacts livability. ...

2w Like Reply Edited

2

 Russell Dean
Hume City Council should focus on roads rubbish and recreation ...



2w Like Reply

6

 Katee Emm
Russell Dean Parks are recreation. ...

2w Like Reply

 Russell Dean
Katee Emm it would be great if this was all about parks ...
But it's smoke and mirrors for other issues

2w Like Reply

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2w Like Reply

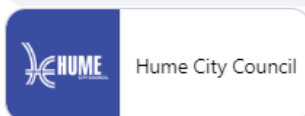
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2w Like Reply Edited

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2w Like Reply

Appendix D FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) were an important way to reach community members in a way that is less technical than reading a strategy.

The following FAQs were developed for the Hume Participate page.

No	FAQ	Answer
1	What is open space?	Open spaces can be • parks for social recreation • sporting reserves and facilities • conservation and cultural protection reserves • easements that allow public access • urban plaza in civic areas • linear reserves for walking and cycling.
2	How was the Open Space Strategy developed?	The Open Space Strategy has drawn from multiple sources including: • community input via surveys on parks and feedback on the Open Space Background Paper • needs assessment of community and open space needs • analysis of the key open space challenges and drivers for Hume City Click here to read more about this data and feedback.
3	What does Protect, Optimise, Grow mean?	These are our key policy directions. Protect the open space that we already have. This means • Protect conservation, heritage & Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung values • Protect continued access to parks by preparing for climate change • Protect open spaces from encroaching development, works and interfaces Optimise our open spaces by designing and maintaining them to provide a mix of visitor experiences in each neighbourhood Grow our open space network by investing in new open spaces in areas of highest visitor and/or ecological need, especially along waterways. This website sets out our Strategy using these different categories. The 'Protect-Optimise-Grow' framework aligns with Victoria's Open Space for Everyone Strategy
4	How can I find out about my local park?	You can find your local reserve listed in Appendix D along with its size and its primary functions. These key details can also be viewed using our online map to help find its correct name. With over 580 reserves, this Strategy is unable to give more detail on each reserve, but we do recommend you look at the Precinct map that includes your suburb and this will help show the bigger picture of how the open spaces link, where any gap areas are, and the main recommendations for your area.
5	I want to put in a suggestion for my local park. How can I do this?	The Strategy is looking at big picture planning for our open space network. Please fill in our survey on the webpage for your suggestions. If you have a maintenance request, you can report it by: • Using the Snap Send Solve app to report an issue to us using (available on Apple iPhone, Android Smart Phone, web app). Take a photo, fill in the details, and we'll take care of it. • Using the online form at Report an issue - Hume City Council • By phone: report your issue to our Customer Service team by calling 9205 2200 • By email: for non-urgent issues, you can report them by emailing contactus@hume.vic.gov.au • By mail: for non-urgent issues, you can send to: Hume City Council PO Box 119 Dallas Vic 3047

6	How does Council decide what goes into each park?	Residents request a wide variety of visitor infrastructure and nature enhancements in their local parks. With over 580 reserves it is necessary to spread park infrastructure so that some communities do not have more and less than others. To guide this park investment, Council uses a guide called 'Infrastructure Levels of Service'. You can see these in Appendix B of the Strategy. This guide helps explain why some parks have play equipment, some have barbeques, some have sporting facilities, and are simply for relaxing under some trees.
7	When should we expect new spaces and upgrades?	The timing of new spaces and upgrades is dependent on a funding allocation for each project in Council's Annual Budget. Read the precinct summaries to understand the priorities for your neighbourhood. Each playspace will be renewed within 20 years.
8	How will the projects be funded?	Funding for maintaining our parks and open spaces is derived from general rate revenue. New parks and upgrades can also be funded by developer contributions and government grants. Developers may contribute to infrastructure by: the payment of money; providing land; constructing infrastructure on behalf of public authorities.
9	Why does it take so long to upgrade parks?	Playspaces are renewed every at least every 20 years, with safety upgrades undertaken throughout this period. It can take a long time for several reasons: - We have over 580 reserves, 270 with playspaces and renewal is rotated within our annual budget processes. - For large areas, we consult the community on a big-picture Master Plan, however works cannot take place until a more detailed landscape concept design is undertaken. - Before works are done, we need to protect our ecological and cultural assets and investigations are an important and often lengthy first step that takes time
10	What are 'oasis areas' and 'tree reserves'?	The Open Space Strategy commits to more tree shade than ever before. Every park will have between 20-50% of tree shade by 2050. The only exceptions are for grasslands, sports ovals, and easements. Some parks have designated 'oasis areas' that will be at least 70% canopy cover that will be enjoyable to visit or walk through on even on hot days. Tree reserves are generally small reserves that will prioritise canopy growth and avoid infrastructure except for low-impact paths or seating. These sites will reach 50% canopy cover by 2050.
11	What about dogs?	Hume City Council is home to 47 dog off-leash areas, in addition to allowing dogs on-lead in most areas. New dog off-leash areas will be needed in some areas of Hume. This includes the new growth areas suburbs of Kalkallo, Mickleham, Craigieburn, Greenvale and Sunbury. Additional off-leash areas are also needed in Roxburgh Park. When seeking new dog off-leash areas, Council seeks large open areas that are not busy with people. This can include sports grounds during non-sport times, and easements. The Strategy does not name where new sites will be as this will require further analysis and consultation.
12	What are 'gap areas' in open space and how will we start to fill them?	94% of homes in Hume are within 400 metres of an open space reserve. There are some areas that have much further to walk to open space. This is most prominent in Broadmeadows and Campbellfield, and also in Dallas, Jacana, Coolaroo, Greenvale and Gladstone Park. The Draft Strategy proposes to invest in new parks to help fill some of these gaps. This will mean purchasing land after undertaking feasibility studies and community consultation. In some cases we propose upgrading a nearby park with additional infrastructure to acknowledge it is servicing a larger number of homes.

13	What does the hierarchy of open space mean?	The Strategy uses the four tier 'hierarchy' system to classify open spaces: • Regional - Largest open spaces. Substantial facilities for organised sport, play, social interaction, relaxation and enjoyment of nature. Typically attract visitors from 15km away or more who expect to stay for more than 2 hours. • District - Open space and recreation facilities that draw people from across a precinct. Generally over 5ha in size and people typically expect to travel up to 15 minutes to visit and expect to stay more than an hour. • Neighbourhood - Open spaces that serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighbourhood. Typically people expect to travel approximately 800m, or a 10-15 minute walk to visit, and expect to stay more than half an hour. • Local - Smallest open spaces that address immediate walkable catchment providing passive recreation and supporting a green network. Generally less than 1ha in size and people typically walk from home and expect to stay for a short time. The hierarchy of open spaces will influence park design, infrastructure and maintenance.
14	What does primary function of an open space mean?	Open spaces can serve different functions and this will influence their design. All open spaces are assigned a primary and secondary function. For example, a reserve on a waterway with a cycle path with have a primary function of 'drainage' and a secondary function of 'linear links and trail'. The functions are: social recreation, sport, environmental conservation, tree reserve, urban and civic, linear links and trails, drainage and ancillary. All open spaces have an urban greening function. These functions can help explain why some parks have play equipment and other don't. For more information on primary functions see Section 2.9 of the Draft Strategy.
15	What is the Hume Planning Scheme?	The Hume Planning Scheme directs how land can be used, developed and protected within Hume. Parks can be protected with a Public Park and Recreation Zone, a Public Conservation and Resources Zone, and different protection overlays for environment, landscape, flooding and more. Find out more and read the Hume Planning Scheme here.
16	Is there a glossary?	Yes. See page 51 of the Strategy. This includes many terms such as: Crown Land, Encumbered Open Space, Established Areas, Growth Areas, No Net Loss of Open Space, Levels of Service, Masterplan, Nature Conservation and Growling Grass Frog Areas, Nature-Based Experiences, Playspace Renewal, Restricted Open Space, Riparian Land, Social Recreation, Stony Rises, Traditional Owners, Urban Canopy Cover, Waterplay and more.

Appendix E: Previous Engagement Summary

Community input into Draft Hume Open Space Strategy

Community input informed the drafting of the Hume Draft Open Space Strategy via:

- Community Surveys 2016-2018 data
- Neighbourhood Park consultation and Hume Connect requests
- Parks Close to Home Survey 2021 including 200 face-to face surveys and 2000 online surveys
- Release of Background Paper – Hume Open Spaces Strategy in Jan-March 2023

Past engagement

2016-2018 Data

- The 2016/17 and 2018/19 Community Indicators Surveys were analysed for references to open space. Thirty-six respondents made comments that helped understand the community's priorities and concerns, which included:
 - the effect of housing density on the amount of open space
 - keeping the natural environment, both flora and fauna
 - maintenance and cleanliness of open areas.
 - a desire for walking/bicycling paths.
- The 2017/18 and 2019/20 Community Surveys were analysed for references to open space. Forty-nine respondents made comments that helped understand the community's priorities and concerns, which included:
 - keeping the existing natural environment
 - worries about open space being encroached upon by housing
 - cleaning up and maintaining parklands
 - an appetite for walking/biking tracks
 - the need for public toilets.
- The 2017/18 and 2019/20 New Household Surveys were analysed for references to open space. Thirty-three respondents made comments that helped understand the community's priorities and concerns. The majority of respondents enjoyed the parklands and country feel of some areas of Hume (n = 29). The abundance of walking tracks was appreciated by 7 respondents and four respondents liked the larger areas of bushland.

Neighbourhood Park Consultations

Council's Open Space and Recreation Planning team carry out consultation prior to the refurbishment of neighbourhood parks. The reports for the 36 neighbourhood park consultations carried out between 2017 and the end of 2019 were analysed. Twelve suburbs were represented, and a total of 1,094 people expressed their opinions and preferences for their local park upgrade.

These consultations revealed that play equipment and the park's amenity were important to those living nearby. There was a clear difference in preferences for play equipment when comparing the results of providing a list of options and the suggestions offered by respondents. When provided with a list, respondents chose slides, swings and climbing items, most of which are suitable for younger children. When asked for their suggestions, respondents opted for equipment that appealed to an older age range with the top three options being fitness equipment, a flying fox and basketball. When presented with a list of potential improvements to their local park's amenity respondents chose new park furniture, shady trees and rubbish bins. However, when making their own suggestions they chose seats, a drinking fountain and barbeque facilities.

Parks Close to Home Survey

In November 2021, the Parks Close to Home Survey was conducted. 225 responses were completed as intercept surveys in parks and 2000 responses were completed online.

A parks user intercept survey conducted in November 2021 surveyed 225 people and in summary identified:

- 9.9.1 Average satisfaction rating 86%
 - 9.9.2 Most important park features – cleanliness, security, grass maintenance
 - 9.9.3 Most satisfied park features – gardens/trees, paths/tracks & security
 - 9.9.4 Largest service gap – cleanliness, toilets & shade
 - 9.9.5 Reason for low use of open space in established areas – poor quality, lack of shade and unattractive
- 9.10 A municipal wide survey 'Parks Close to Home' also conducted in 2021 received nearly 2000 responses and identified the top five things people want to see in parks:
- 9.10.1 Shade 79.9%
 - 9.10.2 Seating/tables 66%
 - 9.10.3 Play equipment 59.2%
 - 9.10.4 Paths 53.6%
 - 9.10.5 Grass & open space 53.3%
- 9.11 According to the findings of the Parks Close to Home survey, 88% of respondents walk to the park close to their home and the most visited parks in Hume are regional and district level parks, large enough to provide a range of activities to service a diverse range of people, with access to nature being the primary motivation for people visiting parks in Hume.

Community Infrastructure and Open Space Consultation

In Jan – March 2023, the Community Infrastructure Plan and the Open Space Background Paper were published for feedback. Responses included:

Six emails received

- Email 1 requested more basketball courts
- Email 2 requested more shade especially around playgrounds
- Email 3 requested more connected bike paths preferably off road
- Email 4 raised concerns about safety in parks and misuse at night.
In reality, the concerns noted relate to perceived safety and lack of sleep.
- Email 5 worried about potential vandalism wants to educate dog walkers
- Email 6 from MAB Corporation seeking
 - stronger references to Merrifield Linear Park and Merrifield Park
 - change Precinct 12 map to reflect approved Merrifield Centre Development Coordination Plan and City West Precinct Concept Plan
 - greater collaboration by Melbourne Water to secure the Merrifield Park land
 - support to deliver indoor recreation facilities on active open space land.

2 of 6 emails congratulated Hume on the good work.

Key themes of the 30 social media comments directly related to open space were:

- Approx 23% of requested shade and trees
- Approx 20% felt parks were overgrown with weed problems
- Approx 17% felt parks have a litter problem
- Approx 13% requested more nature, native fauna, botanical gardens
- Approx 13% requested benches and tables and toilets
- 1 request was made for each of the following bbq, drinking fountain, pump track, play equipment

Other comments less directly about open space

- A lot of concern about 15 minute city
- Frustration that surveys and documents were too long and hard.