



# **U.T. Creek / Leckie Park Precinct**

Engagement Outcomes Report

**February 2024**



This report provides a summary of the input provided by the community into the management and future development of the U.T. Creek / Leckie Park Precinct within the Murrindindi Shire Council. Feedback was gathered between 11 November 2023 and 10 December 2023. The feedback received has been summarised within this report for the consideration of Council.

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## Engagement Snapshot

A period of community consultation was undertaken from 11 November 2023 to 10 December 2023.

Through the community consultation the following contributions were made:

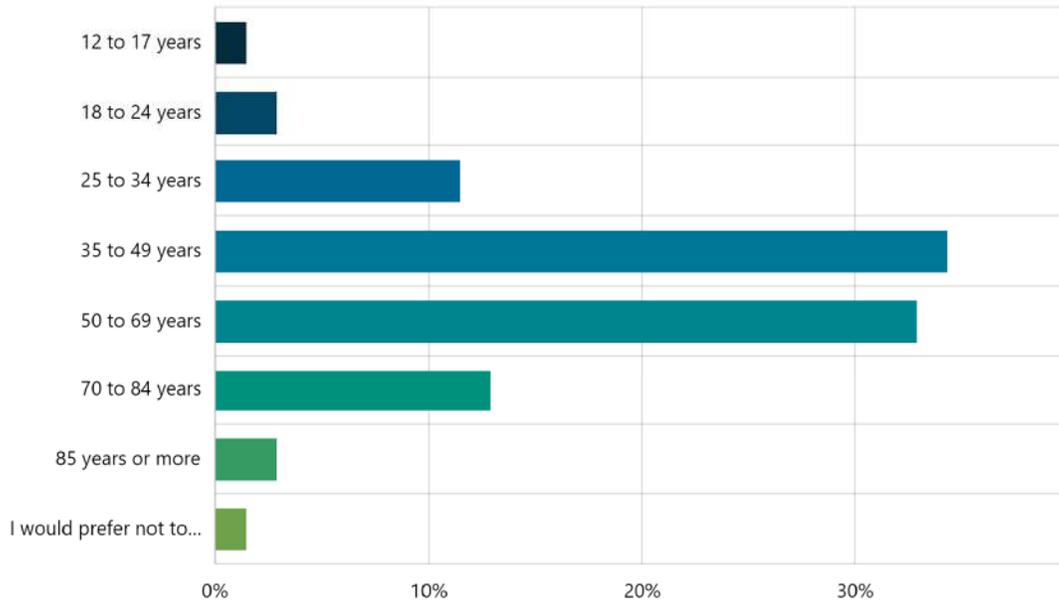
- 70 community surveys
- 11 social map pins
- Approximately 100 community members were engaged at two pop-up engagement sessions to promote the community consultation and provide opportunities to discuss the precinct.

## Who did we hear from

### Demographics

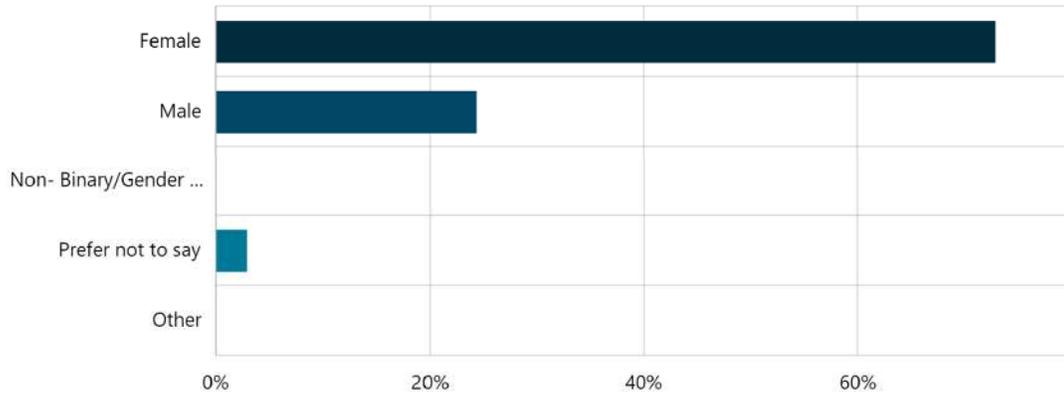
#### 19. What is your age group?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 70 (98.6%)



**20. What is your gender?**

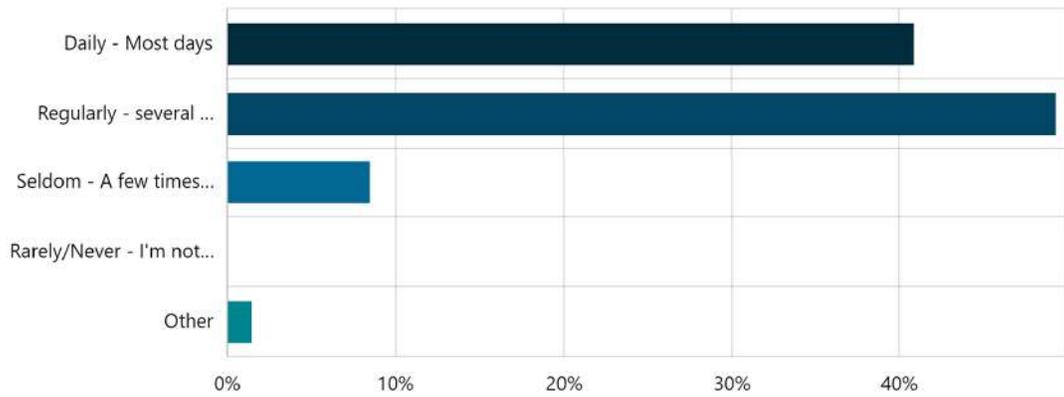
Multi Choice | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 70 (98.6%)



Usage Profile

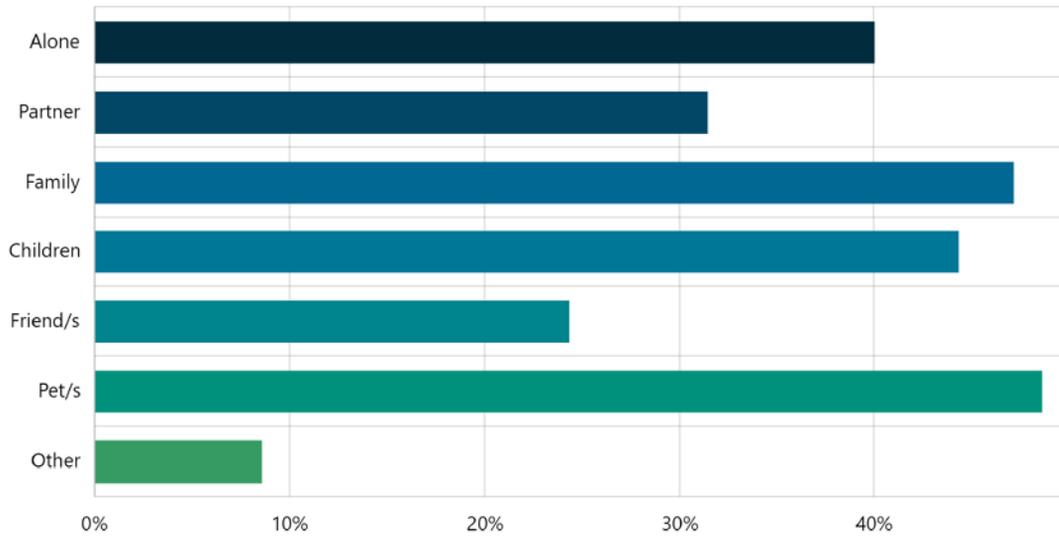
**1. How regularly do you usually visit the U.T. Creek / Leckie Park precinct?**

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 71 (100%)



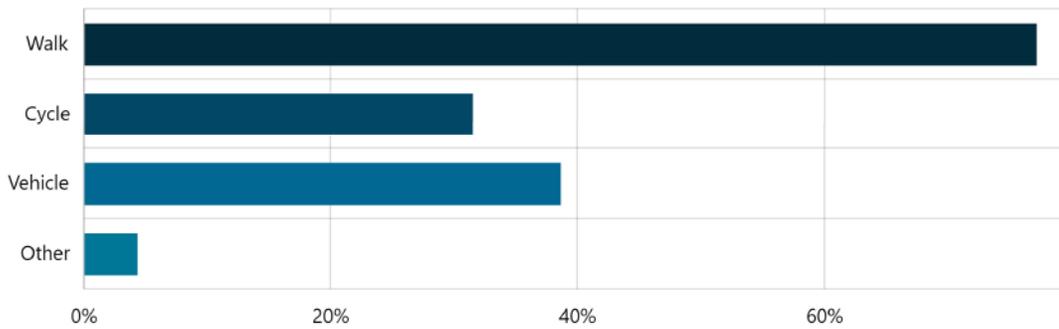
**2. Who do you usually visit the U.T. Creek / Leckie Park precinct with?**

Multi Choice | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 70 (98.6%)



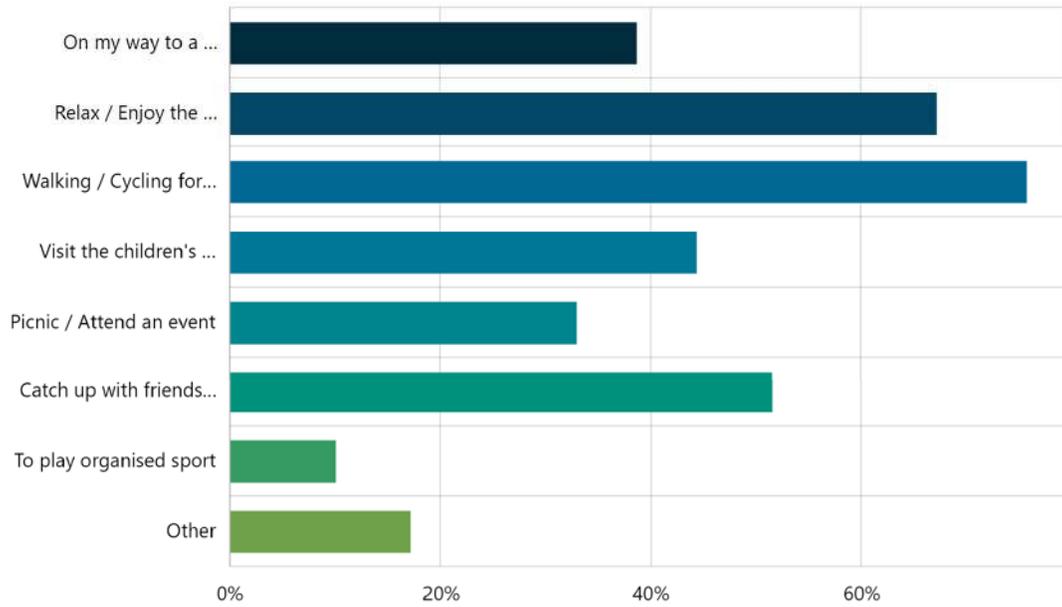
**4. How do you get to the park?**

Multi Choice | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 70 (98.6%)



**5. What do you do when you visit?**

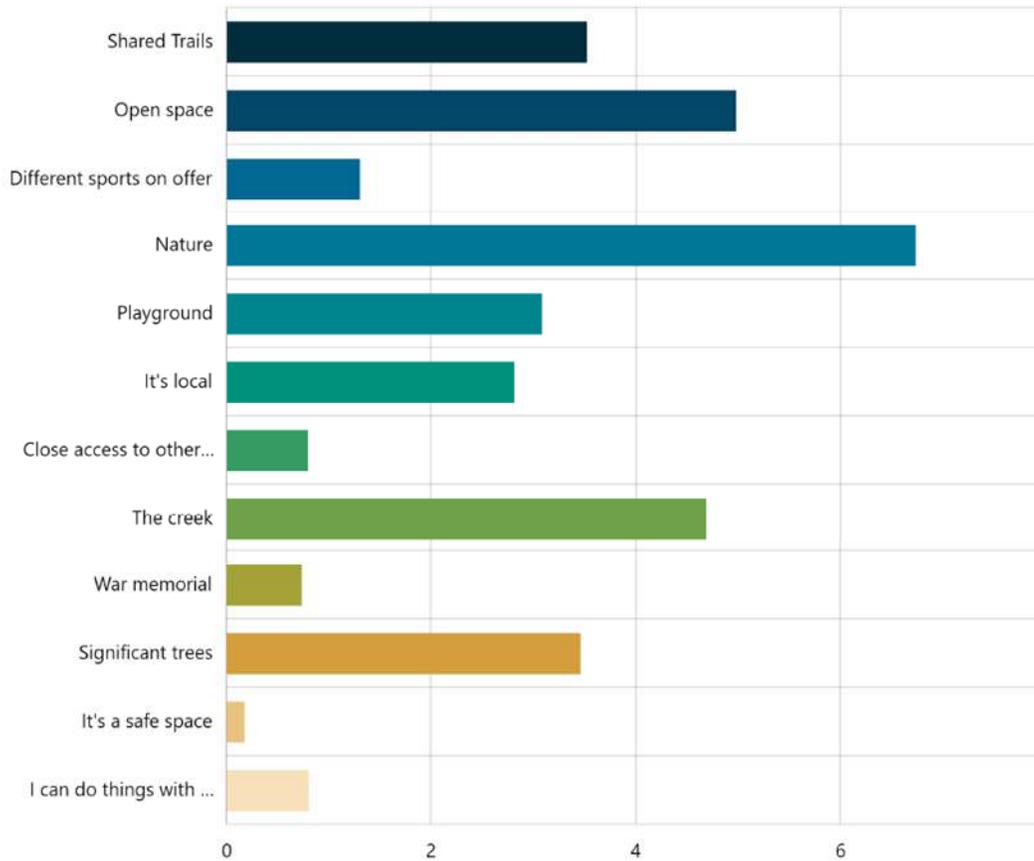
Multi Choice | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 70 (98.6%)



## What is valued in the precinct and current satisfaction levels

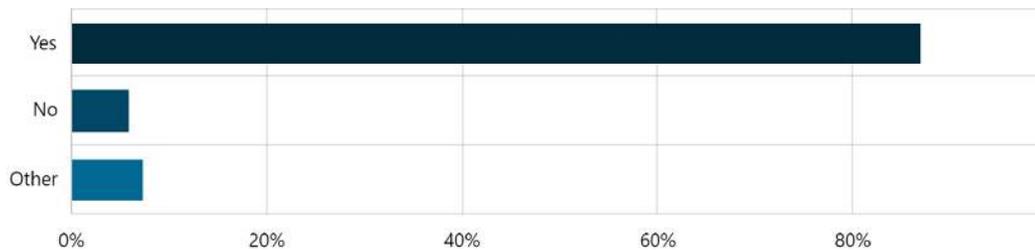
### 6. What do you love about the U.T. Creek / Leckie Park precinct?

Ranking | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 71 (100%)



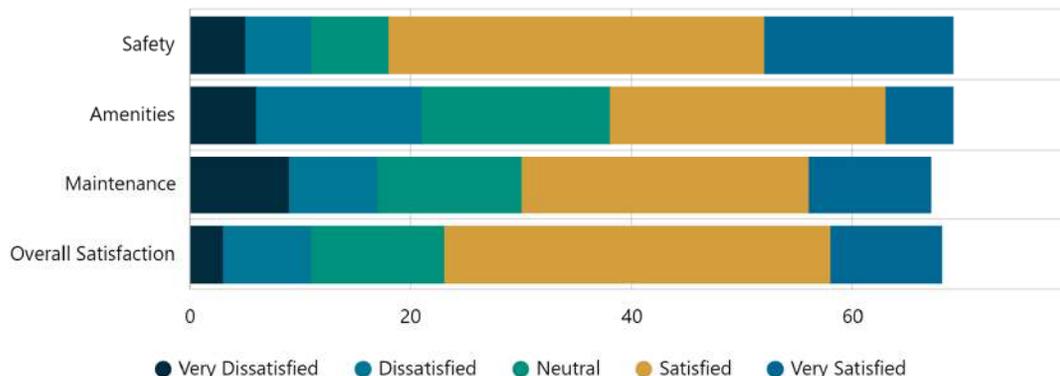
### 11. Do you consider biodiversity (e.g. native plants and animals) important in the U.T. Creek / Leckie Park precinct?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 69 (97.2%)



**13. How would you rate your experience of the following within U.T./ Leckie park precinct ?**

Matrix | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 70 (98.6%)



**What We Heard – positive, negative, suggestions**

The survey provided the opportunity for people to offer their thoughts, whether positive or negative and the opportunity to provide suggestions as to what could be done.

Category	# of comments	Summary of comments	Response to comments
Environment	45	Many comments sought to improve the environmental values in the precinct. There was a strong focus on enhancing the creek and banks and increasing the biodiversity in the precinct, particularly the use of native vegetation especially low and mid-level plantings around the existing mature trees.	It is proposed to seek Council funding for the enhancement of the environmental values in the precinct. There are opportunities to partner with community organisations and the community to add value to this concept through planting days etc.
Playground	33	There were many comments that the playground in Leckie Park was insufficient and that it would benefit from shade. There is also a lack of seating areas, bbq and toilets.	The playground at Leckie Park is identified as a Local playground in the Recreation and Open Space Strategy and plays a complimentary role to the larger playground at Rotary Park. When this playground is due for renewal it should be



Category	# of comments	Summary of comments	Response to comments
			designed to compliment Rotary Park and target younger children. It should also be developed with additional seating. A tree and vegetation program is proposed.
Pathways	24	There were many comments about the accessibility of the pathways throughout the park and the diverse range of surfaces	It is proposed that all pathways within the park should be accessible and that a program of replacement is required.
Dogs	23	There were many comments around the need for an off-leash dog area within the precinct. There were also many comments about the need to adequately manage dogs within the park, particularly dogs off leash and the management of dog waste.	It is proposed to investigate the opportunity for an off-leash dog park within the precinct. The most favoured location based on this community consultation would be the old de-commissioned tennis courts however further analysis of this option needs to be undertaken. The management of dogs within public spaces and the need for signage and education is to be considered with Council's Public Safety team under the Domestic Animal Management Plan.
Park Furniture / Signage	22	There were many comments about the need for additional bins, seats and picnic tables.	An audit of the precinct and the location of park furniture is to be undertaken to determine a future budget submission for additional park furniture.
Cars / Traffic / Parking / Safety	16	The uninhibited vehicle access to the majority of the parkland was a common issue. This presents risks for users of the precinct and also impacts on assets within the precinct.	A risk assessment should be completed to determine the levels of risk associated with vehicles having access to the park. This will help determine whether barriers are required.
Management	16	There were many comments about mowing (often linked to desire for improved environmental outcomes). There were also comments about the desire to not use herbicides within the precinct.	Discussions to be held with operations staff about management practices within the precinct.

Category	# of comments	Summary of comments	Response to comments
Using unused assets	10	Many people sought to make use of existing assets such as the de-commissioned tennis courts and the unused concrete pad.	These assets are to be considered in other proposals (e.g. off-leash dog park) and the future of the assets will be considered in the development of an asset management plan for community and recreation assets.
Other	23	Various comments.	Nothing to consider.

## Appendices

### All Comments Provided

This table provides a summarised version of all comments received in the sections about what is liked, what is disliked and suggestions for improvements or changes within the precinct. Not all comments are verbatim from those received and may have been simplified, clarified or split into separated comments. Comments have been categorised to allow for further analysis.

		Playground	Pathway	Dog	Enviro	Other	Do something with unused assets	General Comments	Operational / Management	Cars/ Traffic / Safety	Park Furniture/Design
1	It doesn't extend very well through from the rail trail / race club		1								
2	More bins, a better playground and no dog park	1									
3	Too manicured, sterile (lacking interest and fauna) and also no mid and ground storey flora.				1						
4	Needs shade cloth over playground	1									
5	Needs clear parking away from the edge of the road which impacts the health of the historic trees. I would suggest bollards to keep vehicle off the lawned areas.				1						
6	Needs to connect the creek with more native plantings and keep the natural, seasonal wetland areas.				1						
7	Artwork would create interest										1
8	Paths need to be smoother and more accessible for the elderly (Kellock residents) and the disabled (Dame Pattie Menzies people)		1								
9	Lawns are cut too short and frequently.							1			
10	Introduce mid and ground storey plantings				1						
11	Trees need to be surrounded by mulch and planted up with ground covers to decrease mowing and spraying				1						
12	Protect the playground from the heat of summer	1									
13	Park benches and picnic tables need revamping										1
14	Barricade vehicles from parking on the grass (make a clear area for parking)									1	
15	Ignorant dog owners (eg not putting dogs on lead when others are nearby)							1			
16	Don't like the swale section (just mow if there is plenty of habitate nearby.				1						

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17	Upgrade the playground with input from people who have kids, the Rotary Park playground is absolutely rubbish, too small, terrible for younger children (3m drop from play climbing hole), difficult for some parents to be able to interact with kids in equipment, wasted space with plants and logs (kids don't care about that stuff)	1									
18	Bitumen the rest of the walking track		1								
19	Bunderboweik Street so slippery in week – looking unsightly outside EOI – rough rd					1					
20	Bunderboweik needs to be graded for safety of users – native plants in clusters along pathways – couple more toilets.					1					
21	Very disappointed that the Council removed the swale trial. How can we learn if we don't try things. Must be very disappointing for the residents who supported this innovative project. A backward step in the fight against climate change.				1						
22	Let the swale trial be re-instated so there is something for me to look at and take an interest in.				1						
23	Improve paths for people with disabilities.		1								
24	Not being a constantly flowing creek to support wildlife eg platypus, fish, birds, frogs.				1						
25	No rail trail signage to inform cyclists that Perkins Street leads to the main town		1								
26	No nature play areas for children and no seniors areas improve their health	1									
27	Improve biodiversity, habitate and waterway health.				1						
28	Improve walkways and desirables spaces where people can relax and connect with people and the creek.		1								
29	Improve small children's play area next to the bowling club	1									
30	The playgrounds needs to be updated along with the picnic areas surrounding it. Otherwise the area is quite nice.	1									
31	The old tennis courts that are used by dog owners need to be upgraded to better facilitate dogs.			1							
32	No toilets near playground	1									
33	Playground is out dated and boring.	1									
34	Provide more seating and toilets at the helicopter end of the area.										1
35	Upgrade the area near the old tennis courts into a dog park.			1							
36	Water play area, better playground, build nature playground	1									
37	There should be a dog park			1							



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38	Playground has no cover. Equipment is either wet or too hot to touch in summer.	1									
39	The access is pretty ordinary, not always good for walking due to uneven surfaces.		1								
40	No shade over the play equipment or seating for adults	1									
41	Lack of diversity in plantings – smaller garden beds for smaller birds				1						
42	The multitude of signage										1
43	I like the natural look and feel of the space				1						
44	The shared space with cars at the south end of the cricket oval is not safe, this was in place when there was a toilet block in the area.									1	
45	Sealed parking space at the bowling club									1	
46	Closing off the small section of road which leads to the old toilet block and tennis court area.									1	
47	Link the old tennis courts with cross overs to form a learn to ride area for kids.						1				
48	It's already good							1			
49	Snakes					1					
50	Seal the walking tracks		1								
51	Puddles					1					
52	Not enough doggy do bins			1							
53	More seating										1
54	Off leash dog area space is not secure.			1							
55	The children's playground is small and needs to upgrade for older children/teens.	1									
56	People walking their dogs off leash – need signage controlling off leash dogs.			1							
57	Upgrade fitness track area					1					
58	Dirt path to the bridge opposite the rose garden needs regravelling. It is not accessible for mobility scooters		1								
59	More seats and shelters										1
60	The creek is degraded with erosion and weed problems and should be a green spine with activation and revitalisation of the area.				1						
61	No effort to invest in wayfinding strategy										1
62	Linkages to other trails and connections into town centre and waterway frontage.		1								



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		Playground	Pathway	Dog	Enviro	Other	Do something with unused assets	General Comments	Operational / Management /	Cars / Traffic / Safety	Park Furniture / Design
63	Not enough shade and interesting equipment at the playground. More shade and variety of equipment.	1									
64	The swale trial was not completed, the area was used as a carpark during the truck show.				1						
65	The old netball/tennis courts need to go.						1				
66	The crossing to Rotary Park at the bridge is dangerous.									1	
67	The old netball courts should be replaced with a wildflower / native grass area.				1						
68	Increased restriction on dogs			1							
69	Gravel paths need to be maintained better.		1								
70	There are not enough bins										1
71	Spraying of weeds with chemicals is not good, erosion of the creek banks. Have a plan for bank stabilisation.				1						
72	No easy and safe way to cross to Rotary Park.									1	
73	Create a friends of group to help the community own the space more and encourage working bees I the area wider than Landcare								1		
74	Concern about flooding from creek in some areas							1			
75	Not enough bins or bags to clean up pet poo										1
76	Create spectacular garden areas and continue planting shade trees.				1						
77	The playground in unsafe, exposed concrete, no shade, no fencing. No toilet and no seating	1									
78	Needs more native planting to support wildlife.				1						
79	Lack of seating										1
80	Activities to activate the park								1		
81	Interactive information					1					
82	Lack of use and direction with the unused tennis courts both on Vickery and Perkins Street, hard and grass courts.						1				
83	Lack of recognition of traditional owners, work with traditional owners to encompass cultural elements.					1					
84	Formalising dog park on old grass courts.			1							
85	The area should be used for more events or as part of existing events					1					
86	Playground needs updating, old gazebo needs updating. No rubbish bins.	1									
87	Limited playground only suitable for younger ages.	1									
88	The walking track is short		1								



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		Playground	Pathway	Dog	Enviro	Other	Do something with unused assets	General Comments	Operational / Management /	Cars / Traffic / Safety	Park Furniture / Design
89	Utilise the creek area for more picnic areas.										1
90	Dog poo			1							
91	Cars parking on grass – bollards to stop cars									1	
92	Lack of vegetation				1						
93	Facilities near playground	1									
94	Replace some grass with native vegetation, would reduce mowing.				1						
95	Lack of interactive artwork										1
96	Historical information – a trail of nature, art and history would be good for tourists										1
97	Weed and replace vegetation in creek area				1						
98	Lack of shade at playground	1									
99	No rubbish bins or proper fencing										1
100	More equipment at the playground	1									
101	Do something with the old tennis courts – a painted trike track						1				
102	The park space goes mostly unused – there must be something to do with the old concrete slabs – a community building.						1				
103	Toilets are needed at the bowls club end near the playground	1									
104	Too many dogs off leash			1							
105	Frisbee golf would be good					1					
106	Lack of habitat for a variety of birds and insects				1						
107	No use made of the natural watercourse				1						
108	Too much grass to mow – use native grasses and vegetation				1						
109	Create an off leash dog park to the east of the bowls club			1							
110	Fenced dog park would be great near the dump point on Station Street.			1							
111	Better connection to the showgrounds and caravan park – maybe via the rail trail ca park.		1								
112	A tidy up around the downstream end near Chookies is needed – weeds and unkempt in waterway.				1						
113	Better connection to the area around the old tennis courts.		1								
114	Trike track like the one at THornoton on the old basketball courts near the playground.						1				
115	Care and upkeep of the paths and they should be upgraded		1								
116	Toilets need upgrading					1					

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		Playground	Pathway	Dog	Enviro	Other	Do something with unused assets	General Comments	Operational / Management /	Cars/ Traffic / Safety	Park Furniture/Design
117	Need safer parking for events									1	
118	Need safer creek edging				1						
119	Embrace and enhance the course of the original creek				1						
120	Car parking control, reduce access to grassed and vegetated areas.									1	
121	Not enough creative use of the available space – biodiversity, differentiated mowing or planting, no fenced dog area					1					
122	Repair and revive the old tennis courts, perhaps outdoor table tennis or half court basketball.						1				
123	Need more places to sit and picnic areas										1
124	More interesting trails for kids to follow on their bikes/walking		1								
125	Maintenance – its dirty sometimes								1		
126	Basketball court needs something done with it						1				
127	The creek is a mess				1						
128	The exercise areas are accumulating weeds								1		
129	Overgrown scrub along parts of the creek – snakes has always been an issue.				1						
130	Need to build the levels again from the previous swamp filling in the 1960s					1					
131	Remove gravel on the beaches in the creek to decrease the chance for flooding				1						
132	Accessibility for disabled – path not useable for the whole track.		1								
133	There is no dog park – should be at old tennis courts			1							
134	No toilets on sports end – should be toilets at helipad end.					1					
135	Crossing the bridge to Rotary Park									1	
136	Trees that drop prickly seeds leaves at the sound shell stage.				1						
137	Dogs off leash and dog poo not being picked up			1							
138	Not maintained to enjoy – more shade and spaces to sit										1
139	Don't like how teenagers hang out on the stage and on the bridge								1		
140	The war memorial was sprayed with some fake colour rather than allowing the bronze patina to be exposed. Retore to natural condition,					1					
141	Don't like the community arguing over Leckie Park							1			
142	Signage to be improved										1
143	Safe secure space for off leash dogs			1							
144	The banks of the creek to be maintained				1						



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		Playground	Pathway	Dog	Enviro	Other	Do something with unused assets	General Comments	Operational / Management /	Cars / Traffic / Safety	Park Furniture / Design
145	Lack of barbecue facilities										1
146	Sewage dump point					1					
147	More events								1		
148	Better grass and/or maintenance of grass								1		
149	Opportunity to make the creek more flowing – beautify and reduce mosquitoes.				1						
150	More shade and places to sit										1
151	Add a flying fox for children with a pommel and chair which is accessible	1									
152	Attract more birds and wildlife.				1						
153	Aesthetics are as important as nature.					1					
154	A heritage train service from the end of the GVRT to Dove Cottage on weekends.					1					
155	Toilet near the playground	1									
156	Fully fenced off leash area			1							
157	Safe space for dogs to run around and socialise			1							
158	Picnic facilities										1
159	Improve the athletic sport facilities					1					
160	Improve vegetation along the creek				1						
161	More water in the creek				1						
162	Accessible pathways to walk closer to the water		1								
163	Drinking taps										1
164	Off leash dog area			1							
165	Kids splash and spray waterpark area	1									
166	Shade over playground	1									
167	Off leash dog area			1							
168	Improved playground	1									
169	Water play spaces	1									
170	The playground is small	1									
171	There is no fenced dog park.			1							
172	Turn the concrete pads near the playground into trike tracks.						1				
173	Add to the playground	1									

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174	Path in sections is poorly maintained – from Stadium to mower shop. Muddy swamp behind Bedrock and at the bridge.		1								
175	Traffic control in the park and the surrounding streets									1	
176	Permanently close the creek crossing – don't need it as a water point for CFA due to standpipes nearby.					1					
177	Seal the walking paths		1								
178	The playground isn't really that good and needs some added amenity	1									
179	Toilets closer to the playground	1									
180	Council mow too much creating dust in summer and mud in winter. Sad to see swale trial cut short				1						
181	Stop using herbicides								1		
182	An off-leash dog area			1							
183	Shade over playground plus chairs	1									
184	Car parking for playground is disjointed.									1	
185	Make sure that the significant trees are looked after – remove the option of car parking directly under them.				1						
186	Lack of diversity in planting				1						
187	Accessible pathways		1								
188	Shade tree planting for playground	1									
189	Too much mowing creating dust and mud								1		
190	Too much use of herbicides								1		
191	Too much car parking on park areas									1	
192	Encourage locals to be involved in environmental actions								1		
193	Plant a lot more trees and reinstate the swale and expand it				1						
194	Extend the pathway		1								
195	Too much grass – bring back the swale drain but bigger				1						
196	People drive their cars in to use picnic tables									1	
197	It is centred around sport					1					
198	More big rocks as landscaping – they look good										1
199	A mountain bike trail next to the creek to connect to new pump track.		1								
200	Concrete pad near Vickery Street needs something done with it.						1				
201	Off leash dog areas (unused tennis courts?).			1							
202	Needs more organised parking and reduce vehicles in the park areas									1	



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203	Weeds along creek				1						
204	More natural and native ground covers				1						
205	Put paths where they will be used		1								
206	Dog poo bag dispensers			1							
207	More birds and native vegetation				1						
208	Stop using herbicides and the constant mowing							1			
209	Remove car access to the park									1	
210	Lack of tree planting				1						
211	Lack of forward thinking for future needs of environment and community.								1		
212	Support locals that want to get involved								1		
<b>TALLY</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>