



July 2025

Mossfiel Community Garden Community Engagement Report

Project Background

Following the demolition of the Mossfiel Kindergarten (which was replaced by the new Integrated Family Centre on Heaths Road) Council proposed to convert the vacant area into a new community garden. A concept design was prepared and developed to turn this area into a new community garden, offering a welcoming space for people to grow their own produce, connect with neighbours, and build strong community connections.

Consultation on the proposed concept design occurred from November 18 to December 15, 2024. During the four-week consultation period the projects' 'The Loop' page received 399 page views, 233 total visitors to the page and 37 contributions.

The engagement process also included an Expressions of Interest (Eoi) component where interested individuals and organisations were asked to nominate their interest in the

Feedback and next steps

91.89% of Community responses supported the transformation of the Mossfiel site into a Community Garden. Via subsequent meetings, a Mossfiel Community Garden Group (MRCG) and Management Committee has been formed.

Please see the Appendix on page 8 for the full statistics.

Council has committed to the construction of the Garden for the Community Group contingent on the Community Group:

- Working toward incorporation;
- Becoming auspiced or obtaining their own insurances; and
- Taking on the management of the site via Council's standard Community Garden License Agreement.

If the Community Group is unable to meet the requirements set out in the Open Space Community Gardens Policy, the site will be transformed into open space.



Saturday 30th November



Sunday 2nd March



Thursday 13th March

Methodology

The below table outlines the various methods and techniques used to engage with the community.

Community engagement activities / tools	
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged
Project page on The Loop	399 page views 223 total visitors to the page
Online Survey	37 survey contributions
EOI Submissions	7 submissions
Hard copy / paper survey	0 copies completed
Pop up engagement session	Saturday 30 November, 12:30pm – 1:30pm (pop-up engagement) 6 attendees Sunday 2 March, 10-11am (Wyndham Community Garden Swap) 25+ attendees. Thursday 13 March, 6-7pm (follow-up engagement) 20+ attendees.
Customer Service Requests	1 person contacted Depot Admin

Communications / marketing activities	
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged
Online promotion (2 x Facebook - Advertisement)	1 st post, published November 20, 2024 - Reach: 5,340 - Link clicks: 20 - Engagements: 32 2 nd post, published December 11, 2024 - Reach: 1,362 - Link clicks: 2 - Engagements: 4
Additional communication methods	- Screen advertising at Hoppers Crossing Library - Fliers sent to Hoppers Crossing Family Centre - One face to face drop-in sessions offered during the campaign - On-site signage - Letter drop (1km radius)

Who we heard from

The below highlights who we heard from via The Loop survey during our engagement process.

Age Group

18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
5.41%	13.51%	21.62%	13.51%	29.73%	16.22%

Gender

Female	Male	Prefer not to say
67.57%	29.73%	2.7%

Suburb

Hoppers Crossing	Manor Lakes	Point Cook	Tarneit	Truganina	Werribee
48.65%	2.7%	2.7%	5.41%	5.41%	27.03%
Werribee South	Wyndham Vale				
2.7%	5.41%				

Self-identity

A person who speaks a language other than English	40%
A person with disability and/or someone caring for someone with disability	60%
An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person	6.67%
A person who identifies as LGBTIQA+	6.67%

Summary of feedback

Consultation results show 91.89% of contributors are in favour of turning the old Mossfiel site into a community garden (refer Appendix on page 8 for the full statistics).

We Asked: What do you think about the concept design of the planned Community Garden?	
You Said	We will
Gardens are a great way to give back to the community, volunteers who can't do gardening at their place love coming together to do it socially.	Thank you for the feedback.
Love the high fences, that parking is close by and that it is in a busy area, not isolated. Raised garden beds are ideal for those who struggle with health to bend low.	Thank you for the feedback.
I like the idea of planned community garden; we are already meeting up every month there to swap and discuss gardening. Having a dedicated area will help the community to dedicate more productive time there.	Thank you for the feedback.
1. Will the current fence/ gates be replaced and a security code for future garden users be installed and deter thieves/ vandals? 2. Where or what will council provide for water access? 3. Will there be a storage shed? compost area? extra wheelie bins for rubbish? 4. Who is responsible for insurance? 5. Shelter from rain? 6. Will existing rotunda remain? 7. Will new colourful trees replace the ugly/ dangerous gum trees at the front fence line?	1. The current fences and gates will be repaired to ensure they secure the site and are visually coherent. The managing Community Group will provide their own padlocks (keys or codes) and manage who has access to the garden. 2. There is an existing water tap on site; additional taps are proposed throughout the garden bed areas. 3. Yes, a new garden storage shed will be installed (item 3 on legend). Due to budgetary constraints a compost area and/or wheelie bins will not be delivered as part of this project but can be constructed later by the managing Community Group. 4. As per Wyndham Councils Community Garden Policy – Community Gardens will be the responsibility of an incorporated group, which will require Public Liability insurance. (https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/open-space-community-garden-policy) 5. Yes, a new picnic shelter will be installed as a sheltered gathering area. 6. Yes, the existing rotunda is being retained (item 8 on legend). 7. No existing trees will be removed as part of this project. Park trees will continue to be managed by Council. The managing

	Community Group may plant additional trees around the perimeter subject to Council agreement.
The ratio of trees (area 5) to fruits/veg (area 1) in my opinion should be reversed.	Raised vegetable planters are a priority for the space as they are the subject of a higher number of Community requests. The number and type of fruit trees will be determined in collaboration with the managing community group.
A compost or worm farm would also be nice.	This will be considered as part of the design and may be provided subject to budget constraints
I would like to see a bike rack located inside of the Mossfiel site.	A bike rack is not considered necessary. Bikes should not be left in the garden overnight or when the garden is unattended.
I only hope there is ample room for my wheelchair.	Yes, concrete paved access to and through the site is proposed. Raised planters will be spaced to ensure a wheelchair has access between them. Several raised garden beds and potting tables are proposed to cater to people in wheelchairs.
I'm wondering if there would be room and budget in there for a small nursery/ greenhouse to support people teaching each other some propagation techniques maybe?	A nursery or greenhouse is outside of the project scope and budget. However, the managing Community Group is welcome to pursue these ideas in the future.
Would help if at least one of the council gardeners could oversee and provide advice, along with the council provide some plants as well.	Council staff will oversee the initial construction of the garden. The managing Community Group is encouraged to grow and share seedlings and to reach out to surrounding businesses and nurseries to develop partnerships and ongoing support for plant supply.
Add tables and chairs and rainwater tank	The managing Community Group is encouraged to bring in their own chairs and tables and to set-up the space how they'd like it. A rainwater tank is not proposed as there will only be a very small area of shelter roof to collect water from. A recycled water connection is being explored.
I love the fact you've planned a separate area for an orchard and tree planting. I also love that there is a picnic area. Would you be able to include a public BBQ here as well?	Thank you for the feedback. Council cannot provide a BBQ for the exclusive use of garden members. There are public BBQs already located within the reserve. The managing Community Group will be able to bring their own BBQ to the site should they wish.
A waste of our rates. Far more urgent and useful for that site would be to increase the car parking area. During netball events etc.	Conversion of parkland into car parking is not part of the project scope. As much of the site is sloping and there are many mature trees the opportunity for car parking is significantly limited.

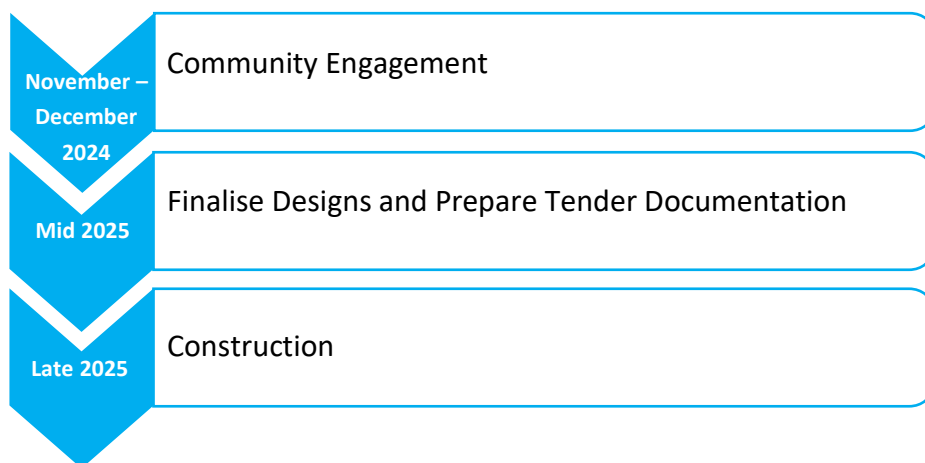
We Asked: Is there anything we missed?

You Said	We will
Recommend you have a sensory garden for children and neurodivergent folk	This project is focussed on delivering the infrastructure to accommodate a community garden. There are existing play and nature play elements on site which are unique to this space as it was a former kindergarten playspace. The managing community group and garden members are welcome to explore the creation of a sensory garden in future.
The existing Areas 9 and 8 are reasonably dilapidated. Are there plans to restore aspects of those structures so there isn't a stark difference between the beautiful new infrastructure and the old mildly hazardous area?	There are no plans to upgrade the existing areas. The site has been cleared of overgrown vegetation, loose and dilapidated elements have been removed, but all remaining items (gazebo, cubby, sand pit etc) will stay the same. Council can remove further items if the managing Community Group wishes.
Like that you are seeing if the community is interested before going ahead with it.	Thank you for the feedback. We are pleased that a Community Group has formed.
I work at Mossfiel primary school- if our families have access to this it will be incredible not only as an enjoyable place to visit/tend to the garden but especially if they're able to enjoy some of the produce.	This is a great idea. The managing Community Group can contact the Primary School to explore opportunities once the garden has been established.
Please consider making wider gap between planting bed for easy access.	This has been incorporated into the design.
I'd like to know what happened to the fundraising legacy pavers that families added to the gazebo? Can you keep them, and give opportunity for more to be added as part of this project?	The existing gazebo has been retained. Most of the legacy pavers are still under the gazebo (though some seem to have been removed, maybe by the families who sponsored them originally). The pavers will be left in place. The managing Community Group will determine whether the creation of more pavers are a priority or funding opportunity.
Are there previous cases where this concept has been successful in Wyndham?	Yes, Council supported the creation of the Penrose (Pasifika) Community Garden in Tarneit. https://theloop.wyndham.vic.gov.au/penrose-community-garden You can read about their success in the star weekly: https://wyndham.starweekly.com.au/news/pasifika-garden-flourishes/
I hope it's dog friendly	The managing Community Group will determine their own position on whether dogs are allowed. As per Council regulations, and as a public space, all dogs would be required to remain leashed while in the garden.
It would be nice to have a small space to store items as well.	A small shed will be installed to provide storage for gardening tools and equipment.
It would be great if this could link in with those who may be able show others how to	The managing Community Group has an existing connection to the Wyndham Garden Swap where knowledge, cuttings and shared.

use the produce. How about an on-site van where the produce could be cooked?	The lease agreement will allow the managing Community Group to host events which may include the cooking of produce grown on site.
I live pretty close by to this area so it would be great to have a community garden in this location. Love this plan!	Thank you for the positive feedback!

Next steps

STAGES OF THE PROJECT



HOW CAN PARTICIPANTS STAY INVOLVED/INFORMED?

Participants can stay informed by visiting the Loop page and selecting to “Follow” the project. Updates will be posted on The Loop and the project timeline will be updated to reflect project status.

Participants can also stay informed with updates available on Council’s Capital Works Dashboard www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/capitalworksdashboard.

Appendix



Figure 1. The graph illustrates community responses to the idea of transforming the Mossfiel Site into a community garden.