

# Joondanna Reserve Upgrade *at a glance*

## The City of Stirling undertook local engagement to inform landscape upgrades to Joondanna Reserve.

The City recognises Joondanna Reserve is highly valued by the local community and is planning to upgrade the amenities at this site to enhance recreational and play experiences.

The City has received a federal grant of \$500,000 to help fund this project and is committed to completing the upgrades in 2024. The City, undertook local engagement for four weeks throughout November and December 2023 to help shape the design of the upgrades. A range of feedback options were available during the engagement period including email, phone, survey, and two on-site drop-in sessions. Additionally, City Officers collaborated with Year 6 students from Tuart Hill Primary School to select the playground equipment which directly shaped the final design.

## You told us

### Engagement summary

50

Survey responses

1957

Letters distributed

246

Shaping our City  
page visits

65%

Sense of belonging

73%

Neighbourly rating

### Key insights identified during community engagement



Playground  
upgrades  
welcomed  
(23%)



More trees and  
greening  
(18%)



Public amenity  
is a priority  
(18%)



Focus on local  
business  
(17%)



Enhanced  
sense of safety  
(13%)



Effective dog  
control  
(11%)

### What it means to be 'a local' - facts



5,282

Joondanna  
population



2

Average number  
of people per  
household



37

Average age



\$1,681

Median weekly  
household income



43%

Households  
privately renting



434

Number of local  
business



## What makes a great playground?

"An element of discovery, all ages play and seating nearby to supervise children."	"Safety and sun shade for young children."	"A large space where young kids can kick a ball and run around."	"Functionality, safety and inclusion."
"Safe and clean"	"Interactive and clean equipment."	"Nature play, water play, fun slides, balancing, climbing, innovation, safe, sensory activities, spinning swing, cubby house, bridges, zipline."	"The variety and quality of play options and amenities such as picnic areas/bbq etc."
"Safe, clean, well lit at night. Recreation areas and play equipment for teenagers not just young children."	"Space for community gathering and organised community activity."		"Lots of shade from trees and shrubs."

## What is your reason for visiting Joondanna reserve?










### Aggregated score for each response

-  **22** To use the playground
-  **20** Walk the dog
-  **19** Walk, run, jog
-  **16** Sitting, resting, relaxing
-  **11** Picnic
-  **9** To play sport
-  **7** Wildlife observation

## Which of the proposed landscape upgrades will benefit you most?



### Aggregated score for each response

-  **21** New playground equipment with shade sails
-  **6** New globes to the existing footpath light poles
-  **5** Upgraded picnic facilities including a new large gazebo, replacement barbecue and picnic settings
-  **5** Planting of trees, shrubs and groundcovers in select areas
-  **4** New footpath connections
-  **2** New public toilet facilities
-  **2** New park furniture, including litter bins and bench seats



## Playground upgrades welcomed

The following comments related to the playground upgrade were provided via the community feedback survey

"More space for active living."

"Again, this small park could have a bit of an upgrade with more suitable play equipment for a wider range of small child thru to youth ages."

"Usable playgrounds within walking distance of children. The 3 "playgrounds" near me are not great."

"I am so glad you are doing this. I have always wanted to see an upgrade in that area. It would be lovely to be more in touch with nature with an upgraded playground."

"Please fence playgrounds."

"More facilities for older kids 13-18 in Joondanna."

"Please install a basketball hoop, the area has very few of them that aren't inside the grounds of a primary school. They don't take up much space, require very little maintenance, and encourage people of all ages to stay active and get outside."

"Shade over the play equipment is essential. Other features I like: fencing around playground and nature play based areas."

"A pleasant and welcomed surprise to hear of this upgrade. Thank you"

"Thanks for putting effort into planning and evolving this Park, its a missed opportunity as it has a great location and lots of families now live in this area and would be able to use the new facilities."

"Pathway for scooting and riding."

"Please look in to naturescape type play area, it is far better used by children than the metal climbing frames."

"More usable public open space. The space at the end of Kinsella Street for example would count towards public open space, but serves little community benefit and is mainly a thoroughfare."



### City response to community feedback

The Upgrades to Joondanna Reserves playground has been designed to meet the needs of all users and provide a range of activities that are accessible for children of all ages and abilities. Shade sails, seating, path connections for riding, and a drinking fountain have all been included as part of the playground upgrades.

The City will not be installing fencing around the playground as part of this upgrade. Considering the playground's setback from the road and the absence of hazards such as water bodies adjacent to the reserve, the risk level is not consistent with a requirement for playground fencing.

Leisure activities such as a basketball hoop, netball hoop, and skate facilities have not been considered as part of the upgrades due to the limited space available and Joondanna Reserve's proximity to Grenville Reserve and Robinson Reserve which already contain these facilities.

The City worked with Year 6 students of Tuart Hill Primary School to co-design the playground, as part of the playground upgrade. Students overwhelmingly voted for a flying fox, an activity unit comprising of a large slide, wobbly board, rock climbing wall, disc jump, and spider net along with a giant swing and spinner. Students from Tuart Hill Primary also told us that a soccer goal was something that they wanted to see in their local area and the City has since included this as part of this upgrade.



## More trees and greening

The following comments related to trees and greening were provided via the community feedback survey

"Fruit trees as street trees."

"Less clearing of trees for high density dwellings, Joondanna has an over abundance of this now."

"More pocket parks with native vegetation for the movement of pollinators through the landscape."

"More trees and greenery to make up for all the housing density happening."

"Please use native plants."

"Replace all Box Trees."

"Lots more plants and trees everywhere. Get rid of the verge lawns and put water wise plants and trees there. In years to come it will look amazing."

"More green spaces."

"Upgrade to the irrigation system for better lawn coverage would improve the park aesthetics the most."

"More new native trees and seats."



### City response to community feedback

The City is committed to plant and manage a diverse canopy to create attractive, green streets and open spaces. As part of the Joondanna Reserve Upgrades, the City is planting new trees and creating various native planted areas filled with native shrubs and groundcover. Over 3,000 trees and plants will be installed as part of the upgrade.

The City's Living Green Program will provide almost 30,000 free trees and plants to residents to help create cooler, happier, and healthier communities. This initiative is open to all eligible residents and tenants of the City of Stirling who reside at the address where the trees and seedlings will be planted.

In May of 1989 the Osborne/Lawley Community Recreation Advisory Committee established a Family Tree Project which aimed to encourage greater community involvement in the local park and enable resident to feel a greater sense of belonging. This was a highly successful project which saw 53 families take part. The City is planning a community tree planting day in May of 2025 to align with the Family Tree Project that took place at Joondanna Reserve on 27 May 1989.



## Public amenity is a priority

The following comments related to public amenity were provided via the community feedback survey

"Please don't install toilets at Joondanna reserve it will increase the dodgy characters hanging around in car park. Antisocial behaviour and drug deals seem to be regular. Poor lighting prevents me from feeling safe walking dog in dark winter mornings."

"I would like to see a large (5x7m) undercover gazebo designed for organized group classes like tai chi."

"No public toilet as it will increase or promote antisocial behaviour, possibly cctv to reduce the current drug issues."

"I would like to see a few more benches around the area I am happy with additional walkways Could we have local plants which are likely to attract birds and other wildlife chosen - not native hibiscus which is not native to WA Signage acknowledging local Indigenous mob."

"The Joondanna reserve is mostly used as a dog exercise area, you can see this if you visit any morning of the week. What would give this beautiful piece of land functional safety - is to designate the open area for dogs and purpose it for this. Allowing for safety fencing to either protect the playground area OR create a safety fence between the main road and the park area. We love sharing the space with dogs but small children are sometimes scared of large or energetic dogs. It is also not safe to have large dogs using the sand box as a toilet - which happens often. It would be great to see the funds allocated to this park be used effectively for the needs of all the neighbourhood users. Generally the bbq area with the sheltered bench seating is used as a drug trafficking area. I don't imagine having a nicer bbq area will change that. I have never seen anyone in all these years cook and eat food at the park. It is a transient park where people come to use it for half an hour and then walk home. Looking forward to the opportunity for this park to receive much needed love and attention."

"To hear there will be toilets is amazing! We can't wait for this project and to hold birthday parties and gatherings here."

"As an older Gentleman, additional public toilets are welcomed, so long as they are well maintained and locked off after dark to prevent unsavoury activity etc and to deter camping in the park precincts."

"I don't think the park needs public toilets, it's really not big enough. Plus it will attract more illegal activity to the park and the area, which we really don't need."

"I strongly oppose putting toilets at Joondanna reserve. toilets should be for places where a lot of people go - this is a small local park, with toilets very close by at Grenville reserve. The only time I feel unsafe in that park is when there are dodgy people hanging out at the bbqs (not BBQing). Toilets will encourage the wrong kind of people that don't live close by to stay and other people living in their cars. Especially now when housing is such as issue, people are sniffing out spots they can stay and toilets would put this reserve on the map for those people. Toilets are not needed for a reserve this small and local. if the city must invest in toilets they should be put at the community gardens where they will be less prone to misuse and have more people to make sure no one is just living in their car there. I know this doesn't fit with your grant guidelines! If the city was doing something great at the reserve to attract people - like putting in a viewing tower for that amazing view, then I would understand putting toilets in, but not for the existing proposed local users of the park esp when the other toilets are so close. Please don't just ignore this feedback because you've decided already. How many people have asked for toilets at this park specifically? I doubt if any. Please don't put toilets there, it will make the place much less safe and friendly regardless of what other changes are made, even if none were made."



## Public amenity is a priority

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The following comments related to public amenity were provided via the community feedback survey



### City response to community feedback

The City's most recent Community Infrastructure Plan identified that public toilets are the most valued community infrastructure type rated at 83 percent across the City. Public toilets support health, recreation, and leisure activities at nominated parks and reserves throughout the City, allowing for longer stay public open spaces for parks and reserves with barbecue and picnic facilities.

The City understands locals' concerns related to anti-social behaviour associated with public toilets. To mitigate this the City will be implementing one male ambulant and one female ambulant toilet with an autolock mechanism which will only open from 6am to 9pm. As part of the reserve upgrades the City's Community Safety team will also be hosting a Safety Check open to all locals to attend, more details will be available shortly.

During the community engagement period, locals told City Officers they wanted a new gazebo, BBQ facilities, and additional bench seats included in the reserve upgrades. This has all been included in the final design as a new larger gazebo with two picnic settings will be located near the playground. The existing BBQ will be replaced and additional benches with backrests, bike racks, drinking fountain and litter bins have all been included.

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## Focus on local business

The following comments related to local business were provided via the community feedback survey

"More small cafe / restaurant / bars"

"Add more cafes and restaurants and pubs to create a more sociable atmosphere."

"A coffee shop!!"

"Planning that nurtures local communities - a variety of housing so that people of all economic circumstances can live in the area, local shops and cafes (not in big shopping centres but in amongst residential areas) that allow people to shop locally and encourage a sense of community."

"There aren't any cafes/corner shops within a 15 minute walk of where I live."

"More cafes/hospitality options."

"A cafe/bar nearby on the old Powell st lunch bar. Need a proper coffee shop here."

"It would be nice to have a coffee truck or community food trucks"

"Too small for it but more cafes & restaurants."



### City response to community feedback

The City of Stirling is committed to supporting local businesses and working with locals to create liveable, connected communities and places. The City is committed to ongoing consultation with local business and stakeholders to identify strengths, areas for improvement and the City's role in ensuring vibrant centres. Our approach is grounded in the City's Economic and Tourism Development Strategy 2021 – 2025 and the associated action plan. The City's Local Engagement team supports the 'teams of locals' and engages directly with the community to ensure we listen and respond with a local focus.



## Enhanced sense of safety

The following comments related to safety were provided via the community feedback survey

"It's a great space already just needing a little TLC. Please don't build toilets. These only attract antisocial behaviour."

"Please don't install toilets at Joondanna reserve it will increase the dodgy characters hanging around in car park. Anti social behaviour and drug deals seem to be regular. Poor lighting prevents me from feeling safe walking dog in dark winter mornings."

"It needs a tiny local Cafe, off the beaten track that locals could support. I'd also love less drug related problems, from the neighbourhood drug dealer but that's every suburb these days so a cafe is my suggestion."

"The Joondanna reserve is mostly used as a dog exercise area, you can see this if you visit any morning of the week. What would give this beautiful piece of land functional safety - is to designate the open area for dogs and purpose it for this. Allowing for safety fencing to either protect the playground area OR create a safety fence between the main road and the park area. We love sharing the space with dogs but small children are sometimes scared of large or energetic dogs. It is also not safe to have large dogs using the sand box as a toilet - which happens often. It would be great to see the funds allocated to this park be used effectively for the needs of all the neighbourhood users. Generally the bbq area with the sheltered bench seating is used as a drug trafficking area. I don't imagine having a nicer bbq area will change that. I have never seen anyone in all these years cook and eat food at the park. It is a transient park where people come to use it for half an hour and then walk home. Looking forward to the opportunity for this park to receive much needed love and attention."

"Improved lighting is one of the biggest benefits we can see. An example of something similar you could model is Point Reserve in Bassendean if you wanted to check it out."

"No public toilet as it will increase or promote anti social behaviour. Possibly cctv to reduce the current drug issues"

"Safe to walk after sunset or before sunrise."

"I strongly oppose putting toilets at joondanna reserve. toilets should be for places where a lot of people go - this is a small local park, with toilets very close by at grenville reserve. The only time i feel unsafe in that park is when there are dodgy people hanging out at the bbqs (not bbqing). Toilets will encourage the wrong kind of people that don't live close by to stay and other people living in their cars. Especially now when housing is such as issue, people are sniffing out spots they can stay and toilets would put this reserve on the map for those people. Toilets are not needed for a reserve this small and local. if the city must invest in toilets they should be put at the community gardens where they will be less prone to misuse and have more people to make sure noone is just living in their car there. I know this doesnt fit with your grant guidelines! If the city was doing something great at the reserve to attract people - like putting in a viewing tower for that amazing view, then i would understand putting toilets in, but not for the existing proposed local users of the park esp when the other toilets are so close. Please don't just ignore this feedback because you've decided already. How many people have asked for toilets at this park specifically? I doubt if any. Please don't put toilets there, it will make the place much less safe and friendly regardless of what other changes are made, even if none were made."



### City response to community feedback

At the City's community Drop-in sessions two clear priorities were raised in relation to safety at Joondanna Reserve. Antisocial behaviour and lighting were the two main issues locals felt were impacting their sense of safety when visiting the park. To enhance the sense of safety at Joondanna Reserve, the City will be installing new lights across the path network to ensure greater visibility and safety during darker periods.

To support the community as part of the upgrades to this reserve, the City's Community Safety Team will be hosting a Safety Check at Joondanna Reserve to ensure every member of the community is equipped with the right knowledge and tools to stay safe when visiting Joondanna Reserve. The Safety Check will be advertised at the Reserve and across local community groups in the lead up to the event.





## Effective dog control

The following comments related to effective dog control were provided via the community feedback survey

"I would love to see a large fenced dog activity area to keep dogs away from the kids playground and keep the sand clean. Also love to see something for older kids like a pump track, skate park or ninja course (eg like Bunbury foreshore) to encourage kids out to play more."

"Dogs need to be kept on leads."

"I would love the off-leash dog area signage to be upgraded. Stating dogs must be "under control" is not sufficient. People continue to let their dogs with zero recall off leash there. I have a reactive dog who must be on a leash at all times. I have every right to walk him through the park as well and owners of off leash dogs must be able to recall their dogs away from mine if they get too close. I would love if the signs could be clearer on this. Instead of "under control" maybe it could state, "dogs must be under voice command" as I've seen signs with this before. Thank you."

"More bins in the area and doggy litter bags especially all along Powell street (no bins)."

"Please add another dog poop bag station."

"The Joondanna reserve is mostly used as a dog exercise area, you can see this if you visit any morning of the week. What would give this beautiful piece of land functional safety - is to designate the open area for dogs and purpose it for this. Allowing for safety fencing to either protect the playground area OR create a safety fence between the main road and the park area. We love sharing the space with dogs but small children are sometimes scared of large or energetic dogs. It is also not safe to have large dogs using the sand box as a toilet - which happens often. It would be great to see the funds allocated to this park be used effectively for the needs of all the neighbourhood users. Generally the bbq area with the sheltered bench seating is used as a drug trafficking area. I don't imagine having a nicer bbq area will change that. I have never seen anyone in all these years cook and eat food at the park. It is a transient park where people come to use it for half an hour and then walk home. Looking forward to the opportunity for this park to receive much needed love and attention."



### City response to community feedback

Joondanna Reserve is frequently utilised by the local community as an area to exercise dogs, with the second highest reason locals said they visit the reserve being to 'walk the dog'. Although Joondanna Reserve is not a designated on-leash reserve, dogs are required to remain under effective control at all times. As part of the upgrades signage will be installed at the playground to ensure dog owners are aware that all areas within 5m of the edge of the children's playground is not a dog exercise area and therefore dogs must be held by a leash.

The City will not be installing fencing around the playground as part of this upgrade. Considering the playground's setback from the road and the absence of hazards such as water bodies adjacent to the reserve, the risk level is not consistent with a requirement for playground fencing.