

MOLONGLO NATURE SPACE

LISTENING REPORT



MOLONGLO NATURE SPACE

A new nature space is planned for the Molonglo River Reserve and we wanted community to have their say on the draft designs.

Roughly the size of Black Mountain Peninsula at 35 hectares, the nature space is located within the newly formed Molonglo River Reserve. Whitlam and Denman Prospect will have more than 11,000 residents by 2024 who will benefit from direct access to the site.

The space is an important recreation and restoration hub for the local community. The area has some of Canberra's best river access and is home to a wide range of native plants and animals, including the threatened Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Superb Parrot and woodland habitat.



THE CONVERSATION

The Parks and Conservation Service engaged the community through various means.

These included a launch by Minister Gentleman, social media (Facebook posts), print media (e.g. The Chronicle, Our Canberra), television (7 News and WIN News articles) and radio (2CC article). A presentation and face-to-face meetings were held with the public at the Suburban Land Agency Molonglo Mingle information evening (June 2019). On Your Say, we ran a Quick Poll and provided opportunity for more detailed feedback, including comments and written submission options.

WHO ENGAGED

Over nine weeks from 19 June to 14 August 2019, 136 people contributed to the Your Say consultation material.

All major Canberra districts and age classes (18 to over 65 years of age) were represented. Approximately 62.5% of participants identified as female and 37.5% as male.

Key insights from the community

Bushwalking and connections

1. There is strong support for establishing accessible and robust pedestrian and cycling connections through the reserve, including walking tracks through nature areas.
2. Support also exists for the preservation, enhancement and restoration of habitat for wildlife in the area.
3. Restricted dog-on-leash tracks and dog prohibited areas along the river margin was a primary consideration given the conservation values of the site.

Amenities

4. Access to shade, toilets, bubblers (drinking fountains) and seating was considered important for the reserve.
5. Additionally, access to free parking nearby was also considered important.

River access

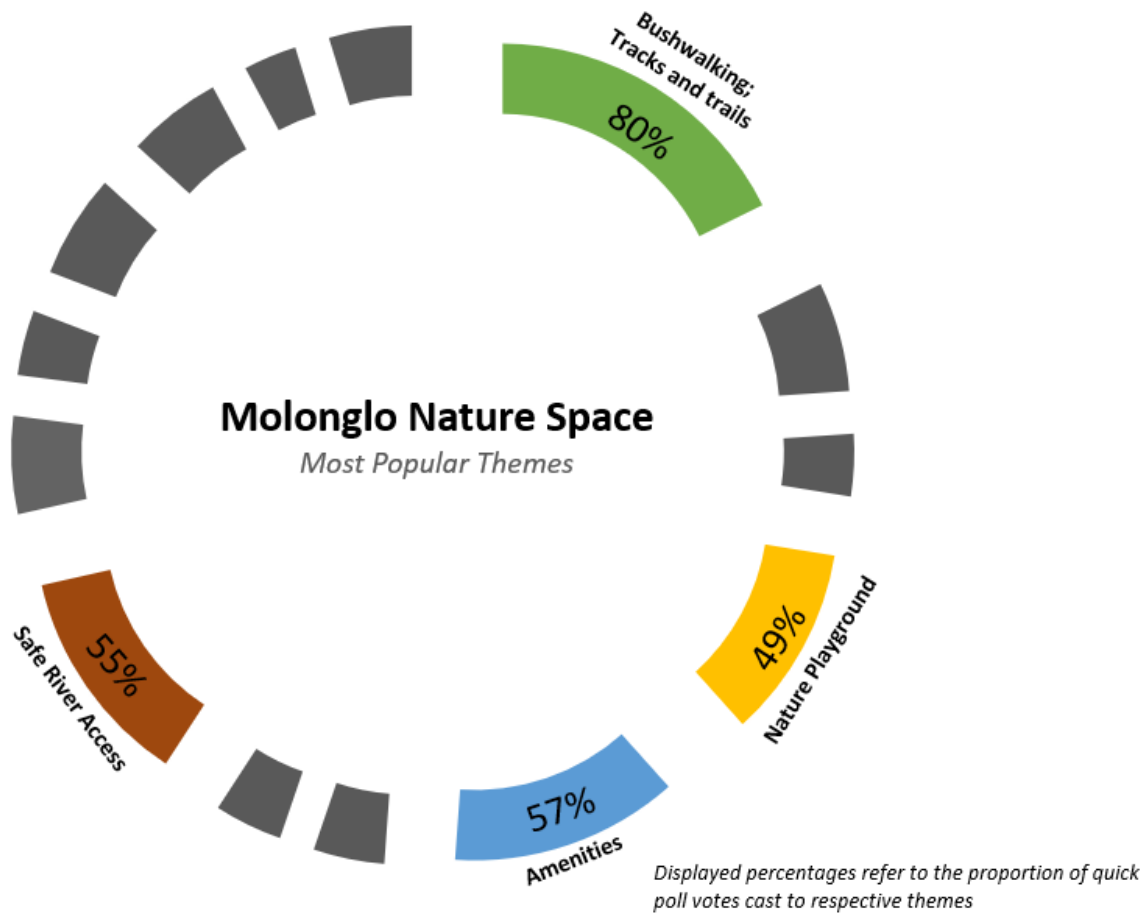
6. There was strong support for safe access to the river for a variety of recreational activities.
7. The Parks and Conservation Service note that swimming in the Molonglo River is not permitted due to water quality concerns and flood risks, however opportunities for passive recreation such as picnics and fishing would be considered.

Nature playground

8. Having a designated 'wilderness area' for kids of all ages to explore, learn and enjoy nature, was one of the most popular themes.
9. Valuable opportunities were identified for the nature space, including running children's education events, Parkcare activities and ranger-guided tours.

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WHAT'S NEXT?

The community voice has been key to the planning of the Molonglo nature space. The remediation and restoration of the site will be underpinned by research and evidence. The creative ideas and actions that emerged from this consultation will inform the establishment and ongoing management of the reserve.

The ACT Government will now consider the outcomes from this community engagement along with outcomes of other key government consultations. A full community engagement report will be released in coming months and site construction will begin.



Key Timings

April 2018 - May 2019 – Landscape design and internal consultation

Wednesday 19 June 2019 – Your Say consultation opened

Wednesday 19 August 2019 – Your Say consultation closed

September 2019 – Listening report released

November 2019 – Engagement report released

December 2019 – Final construction designs and approvals

Mid-late 2020 – Site construction commences

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

136

people contributed on YourSay

1861

people visited the YourSay pages

4038

views of the YourSay material