



21.10.22

Edenhope Playspaces Submission by Vision & Voice of Edenhope (Progress Association)

To James,

Vision & Voice of Edenhope would like to submit to the West Wimmera Shire Council the following Playspaces Feedback.

Overall

We are very happy with the draft plans, with a good balance between needs of many users, in particular having different experiences at each park, which encourages people to move around the open spaces in Edenhope, when balanced with other spaces not within the scope of the study (e.g. Lake Wallace walking track, Flora Reserve, Schools).

Our main concern is a high focus on tree planting to provide shade, rather than a combination of using trees and shade sails and leaving open spaces for sunlight. At Henley Park, the trees planted (over a period of time) 8-10 years ago still barely provide shade, so we believe a balance is a better outcome than choosing just trees. There are also many places in the town where people can go for a natural experience (e.g. flora reserve, golf club, lake Wallace, back swamp), so that does not have to be replicated in the main parks, where the parental priority is their children's safety.

We continue to note our preference for the plans to specify disabled parking locations and ensure there is accessible (concrete) paths to each playspace, as we have many people in our community with mobility issues (or use prams) who should be prioritised for any upgrades. An upgrade for someone with mobility issue will positively impact everyone else in almost all circumstances. We hope when the parks are constructed, other disabilities are also considered including vision, hearing and those linked to sensory processing.

We thank those involved for the work to date and hope that the implementation can begin sooner rather than later.

Specifically, we have identified some actions that could happen immediately at the end of our submission. We are aware that various groups, including ourselves would be interested in supporting investment with co-contributions to some extent, that may help establish many of the key features of each park.

Our priorities for investment are listed, along with some issues we have identified:



PRIORITY 1 Lions Park

As per submissions over the past two years, it is the preference of Vision & Voice of Edenhope that Lions Park is the top priority. This is both due to the high volume of users currently, the potential to attract more users and providing increased entertainment, amenity and safety for those attending of a type fit-for-purpose.

1A Toilet - Our highest priority is the installation of a public, accessible, toilet facility.

Our preference for the toilet is closer to the junior play area, so whether the toilet moved to the south east quadrant (near the existing fish) or if the junior play equipment could move closer to the south west quadrant where currently more passive recreation is shown).

We continue to disagree with any plans to install obstructions to creek flow in the drain (But do welcome interpretive information regarding the frog population – including sounds). Clear landscaping around the drain is preferred, for frogs and drainage, with an interpretive focus. We are very nervous about anything that would attract snakes to the parks.

Issues: (divided into the 4 quadrants)

South West –

1. Please remove the large unsafe pine tree that is leaning over near the skatepark (it would allow the toilet to potentially be a bit further to the south too).
2. Review the skatepark extension plans to ensure safety on the western side to ensure safety between concrete and the tree and creek fencing to prevent injuries. We overall support the plans, it is just the runoffs that are concerning.
3. Extend the Creekside footpath so there is direct access along the southern side from the smaller children's playground.
4. Add 1-2 bench seats near the skatepark (the current one is identified as being removed according to the plans)
5. Withdraw the number of additional trees, particularly near paths and over the skatepark as they may be a source of debris and root intrusions. (we suggest only 1-2 more near the skatepark, and none on the slide hill)
6. Consider citing for the undercover area closer to the skatepark (near the end of the slide) – note the current location does not provide any view of the skate park activities.

North West

7. As per south west, review tree planting, as the proposed trees will be dangerous along the footpath.
8. We actually liked the climbing cube that was proposed to the north east of the basketball court, if it could be returned to the plans as it seemed an older children's explore option (if crushed rock instead of grass blow it reduces mowing difficulty in that small triangle).
9. Please make sure all paths have angled connections (rather than square) where they meet other paths, so children and gophers can turn easily left or right (as there are on the north west corner).



10. Consider making that park area with more natives etc, and less lawn, as it is not going to obstruct parental views of their children. Trees most suitable to the north of the proposed new path (review the ash trees, as they took a hammering in the January storm). This could either support fruit trees or native trees and shrubs or both.

North East

11. Please upgrade the path from the flying fox to small children's play area to concrete for accessibility and scooters.
12. Please add a shade sail over key activities for young people (although ideally we would like the tower play equipment north of the path moved to the south east quadrant to be closer to the toilets. Having both halves one side would reduce issues from children cutting as often in front of the elderly.
13. If tower play equipment is moved, the north east quadrant, could provide some interesting landforming for more 'ambitious' scooter driving' (bumps in path). Some parents asked for a 'roadway' for kids to practice road rules on their scooters (wider path with dotted lines and double lines, stop signs etc). We note this design change as kids on scooters generally can get to a toilet quicker than toddlers walking from that location.

South East

14. Please upgrade the path that circles the junior playground and BBQ and seating to concrete to maximise accessibility.
15. Move the Tower Play equipment to the south. Will require some reconfiguration, so junior spaces are together and good view, and as per point 18. Consider future fencing if needed. Unless toilet moves to this quadrant.
16. Install a footpath from Lake Street nearer to the BBQ to the parks closer, to increase accessibility.
17. Remove seating along the footpath that runs from Elizabeth Street to the bridge, as we think it will make a hazard due to the speed the children exit the path on, keep the circles for off-ramps though.
18. Consideration for future years planning for junior play space fencing if the current plans don't meet needs of parents.
19. Plans to remove fish only after specific consultation, as to why, where and how.
20. Consult with tourism about the town information boards proposed to be moved. Maybe at tourism/near toilets.



PRIORITY 2 Henley Park

We greatly appreciate the changed focus for Henley Park, to remain focused on how adults will use the space, whether or not they have children with them. Families can play in large open areas and hosting outdoor entertainment remains a high priority.

Our preference is Option 2

This is because it uses a largely unused part of the park effectively. It is well suited to fencing. It is near the BBQ where most people gather for parties. It also has room for expansion if the community want to fundraise over time more equipment, or family seating.

Option 1 puts children on the opposite side of the road to their parents. It is more likely to have snakes coming from the lake. When families are at the lake, they want to face forwards, not back towards the road and/or away from ski areas. Feedback from mothers (more frequently) is when the kids are in a fenced area they specifically have to move there rather than participate in the water activities (this is less applicable if the fenced area is at the park, as you can still participate in the festivals and watch the kids).

Issues

We are concerned with more planting, as there is already a lot of trees in the area, and we don't want to obstruct views for parents into the fenced area, as we believe often the parents will not be in the fenced off area, but nearby.

Regarding Junior Playspace

1. Please make the fence a rectangle, so additional features can be considered in future upgrades.
2. We would like consideration of a viewing window from the shelter to be able to check on the kids
3. Please include a shade structure in the playground, at least over the boat structure.
4. Upgrade the path to concrete to the fenced area for accessibility, and to some of the seating within the fenced area and outside it (near the BBQ).
5. Allow an access point to playspace from Lake Street.
6. Table setting in fenced area.
7. Note power supply would need to move with Option 2 for Henley.

Remainder of Henley Park

8. Please add some seating around the north west shelter.
9. We don't know why long vehicle parking is put on Lake Street, when it also exists within the park, please remove the long vehicle parking.
10. If the Sound Shell is to be moved from the current location, please put the sound shell close to the south west corner, and provide parking.
11. Please show the parking spots for the current Sound Shell location and future location, the footpath should be built with both sites in mind.



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12. Please provide the yellow striped pedestrian crossing marks, one near the Jetty and one between the toilet and BBQ, with signage.
13. Please keep the foreshore clear of too many trees.
14. Please upgrade at least one of the outdoor seating to disability accessible.
15. Please upgrade the foreshore to have a sandy beach within the swim area (as we have had in the past).
16. Do not replace the huge tree that was damaged and removed, as it is now a great view.
17. Remove obstructions to Tom Wills Drive on the left side from the toilets (high shrubs, flags) and the centre divide that makes turning long vehicles difficult.
18. Remove grassed area close to road intersection (Tom Wills Drive) as overspray makes the path dangerous, use compacted rock to stabilise the area. It has a sharp turn for bikes/scooters and is a known spot where children have accidents.

If Option 1 is chosen

1. Please provide outdoor seating.
2. Please include a shade structure in the playground, at least over the boat structure.
3. Upgrade the path to concrete to the fenced area for accessibility, and to some of the seating within the fenced area and outside it (near the BBQ).
4. Remove grassed area close to road intersection as overspray makes the path dangerous, use compacted rock to stabilise the area.
5. Extend fenceline if seating can't fit in the fenced area, ideal to have one outside the fence though as well.

All other changes listed in Option 2 – Remainder of Henley Park remain relevant (as above) and to please be considered.

PRIORITY 3 Apex Park (sign/jinker only)

1. We would like the main priority to be just moving the jinker to the back of the park (please retain apex sign) and putting up the wonderful bird sculpture. All other plans should be longer term.
2. We don't agree with the removal of the existing play equipment.
3. We would still like some fruit trees installed, and don't understand why they were removed. If space is an issue, they could be installed at Lions Park near the Flying Fox
4. The rest of the park would be Priority 6.



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PRIORITY 4 Anne Street Park (swings only)

1. We would like the main priority to be upgrading the swings, and cleaning off the existing features
2. We do not support removing the exercise equipment.

PRIORITY 5 Anne Street Park (nature playspace)

3. Consider working with Landcare groups/Wimmera CMA to attract funding to implement the nature playspace aspect at Anne Street (also nature aspects at Lions Park – for the frogs and north side habitat).

PRIORITY 6 Apex Park (remainder)

6. We do not support removing existing equipment, unless it is for replacement of similar. This part is quite popular for short visits, where adults eat lunch/snack while little ones have a quick play on the 2 pieces there. It is popular for unsupervised play while adults are at Lake Wallace Hotel.
7. We still want a focus on the history of the park as the old school site, and the park as a history park, with interpretive signage to that effect (if a shelter installed over and around the jinker like at Federation Park in Apsley, and The Cutting in South Australia).
8. Including a sign that says why it is called Apex Park, near the school cairn.

Low cost/immediate possible activities don't need to await a grant

Lions Park

1. Please remove shrubbery to the east of the basketball court, it is unmaintained and unsafe, and has been for a long while.
2. Please remove the large unsafe pine tree that is leaning over near the skatepark
3. Please trim shrubbery around the shelter, so clear view of playground is returned and it is tidy.
4. Re-consider rose planting as not in keeping with a high use park with lots of children (high risk of injury, not native, don't provide shade, unrelated to other park aspects). Consider moving to nearer the hospital where other roses are if they have to be retained (or taking to Kaniva).

Henley Park

1. Prepare a sandy beach in time for summer, talk to local businesses about providing sand free of charge if council can't access.

You Sincerely, Helen Roll

Secretary, on behalf of Vision & Voice of Edenhope, 3318