

### Background

The Barkly Village Streetscape Improvement Plan, along with works to make the Clarke Street Pop-Up Park permanent, were both identified as part of the West Footscray Neighbourhood Plan.

The Plan aims to strengthen the identity of the West Footscray Neighbourhood Centre, promote the local daytime and evening economy, provide more public gathering places for the local community, better cater for active transport modes (cycling and walking), support public transport users, create a greener and cooler environment, and showcase local artists.

Specifically, it identified the opportunity for:

- streetscape upgrades in the Village, especially through greening
- provision of a central public open space on the corner of Barkly and Clarke streets

### Barkly Village Streetscape Improvement Plan

The Barkly Village Streetscape Improvement Plan seeks to ensure the Village continues to serve the growing community and remains a vibrant centre.

It reflects the features the almost **500** residents who engaged with the project in July 2022 said were important to them - specifically the inclusion of greenery and trees, safer walking and cycling, and places to sit, meet and relax to enhance the visitor experience.

The streetscape design also includes additional pedestrian crossings, new and improved accessible parking bays, and kerb extensions at bus stops to encourage traffic to slow down while also providing additional space for pedestrians and landscaping.

### Clarke Street Park

Transformed from a space for cars to a space for the community during the pandemic, a pop-up park was trialled on the corner of Clarke and Barkly streets as a place for the tight-knit West Footscray community to come back together in a COVID safe way.

At the end of 2022, with the original two-year trial coming to an end, we asked if the community wanted the park to become a permanent feature of Barkly Village - **98.88%** of the **637** respondents responded 'yes'.

At the time, the community also shared their desired improvements for a permanent park including more shade, plants and trees, more seating and the making the park bigger, if possible.

In line with this feedback, the Clark Street Park design includes:

- an extended park footprint
- additional trees in irrigated planters with seating
- a refreshed street library with a community noticeboard

- installation of additional solar-powered lighting
- an informal stage area with lighting and power access
- picnic areas and play elements
- refurbishment of existing seating and the installation of new seating along with moveable box seating.

## Methodology

From Tuesday 22 August to Sunday 24 September 2023, the community was invited to share their comments on the Barkly Village Streetscape Improvement Plan and the Clarke Street Park designs prior to both going to Council for endorsement.

Posters inviting visitors and the local community to view the designs and provide comment were installed at the Clarke Street Pop-Up Park and along Barkly Street. An invitation was also extended for two in-person events, with a link to the Your City Your Voice project pages where comments could be made.

The projects were further promoted through articles in the 2023 Spring edition of Maribyrnong Messenger, a blog post and a social media post.

## Overall Response

Almost 1,100 (**1,091**) people visited the Barkly Village Streetscape Improvement Plan and Clarke Street Park project pages:

- The Barkly Village page was visited **818** times.
- The Clarke Street Park sub-page was visited **273** times.
- **52** individuals attended the two in-person events.

A total of **50** contributions were received which included:

- **49** contributions collected via the form (**46** online, **three** completed at in-person events)
- **one** email sent directly to the City Design inbox.

The QR code on the posters which directed individuals to the Barkly Village project page on Your City Your Voice (and from there to the Clarke Street project page) was scanned **58** times.

## Your City Your Voice

**49** contributions were received. The Barkly Village Streetscape Improvement Plan was also downloaded **78** times, and the Clarke Street Park design **40** times.

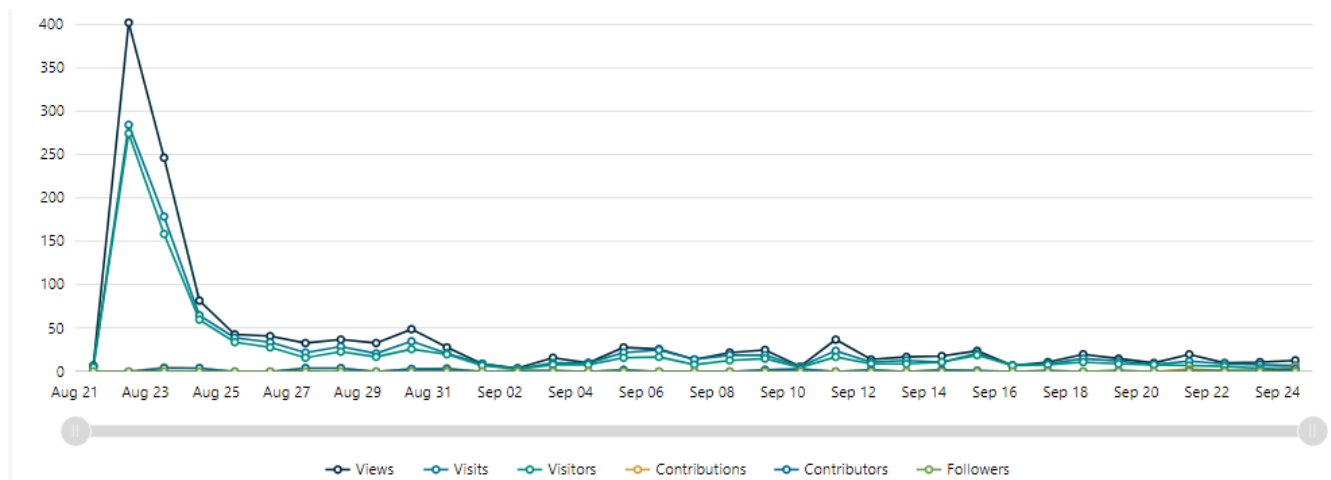


Figure 1: Digital engagement performance summary for Barkly Village Streetscape Improvement Plan during the engagement period (22 August to 24 September 2023)

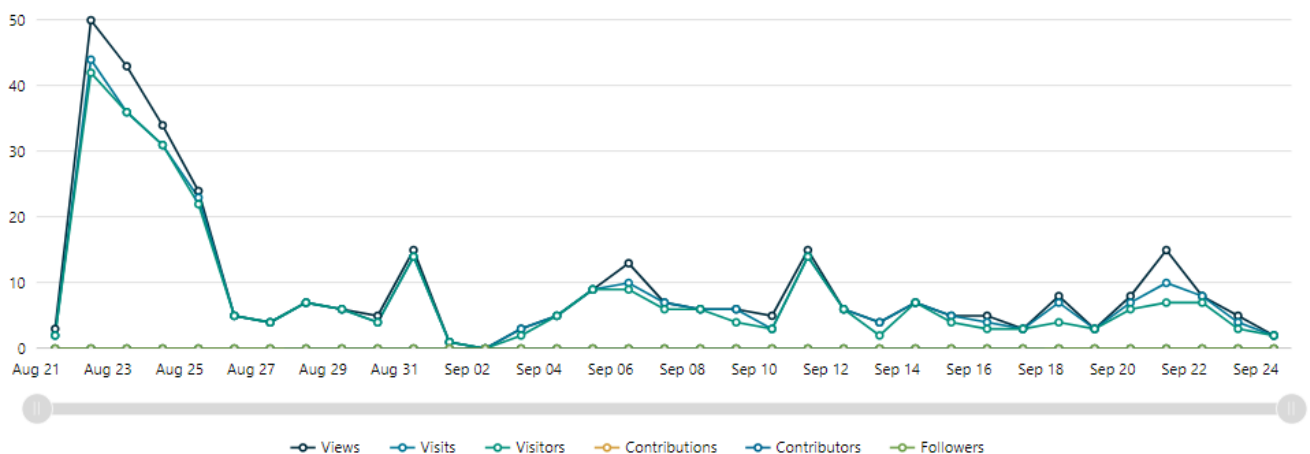


Figure 2: Digital engagement performance summary for Clarke Street Park during the engagement period (22 August to 24 September 2023)

## In-person events

**52** community members attended the two in-person events at the Clarke Street Park held on:

- Saturday 9 September 10.00am-12.30pm
- Friday 15 September 3.30-6.00pm

These events provided opportunity for community members to discuss the Barkly Village Streetscape Improvement Plan and Clark Street Park designs in greater detail, ask questions and share their ideas and concerns directly with the project team. Attendees were also invited to complete a hard copy form.

Feedback included:

- support for the improvements in Barkly Village and for the park becoming permanent
- requests for additional amenities such as barbeque/picnic facilities and bike hoops

- queries around the impact of the reduced speed limit on surrounding streets, e.g., pushing traffic to Essex Street
- the appropriateness of Chinese Elm trees / tree selection
- a suggestion for further car parking removal to accommodate wider footpaths / improved pedestrian amenity

## Email

**One** email was received supportive of the Clarke Street Park becoming permanent, however also requesting real turf and/or a paving treatment instead of synthetic turf and a preference for deciduous trees in the space to provide shade in summer and sunshine in winter.

## Findings

A total of **49** forms were completed with **46** responses online and a further **three** hard copy forms collected during in-person events.

The majority of comments challenging design elements related to the Improvement Plan.

**Question: Share your comments on the Barkly Village Streetscape Improvement Plan and/or the Clarke Street Park Design.**

Sentiment	Response	Sample Quotes
Supportive	26.5% (13)	<p><i>"Love the tree planting - we need more green and less concrete in this stretch of our neighbourhood - no reason why it shouldn't look and feel as great as Victoria St Seddon. I also like the seats for people waiting for the bus."</i></p> <p><i>"Love the widened footpaths and lower speed limit and better cycling amenities. Would love some areas for outdoor cafe seating."</i></p>
Liked aspects of the plan/ offered further additions	26.5% (13)	<p><i>"It would be fantastic if there could be a basketball ring here. There's a lack of outdoor basketball rings in the area."</i></p> <p><i>"It would be great if the trees were natives and provided good cover. The plantings should consider attracting pollinators and insects and providing homes for them. The additional lights between Blandford and Argyle are great too."</i></p>
Fell short of expectation/not ambitious enough	26.5% (13)	<p><i>"This is a huge missed opportunity to not make Barkly pedestrian and bike rider focused. Bandaid fixes. Remove car parking so there is space to make footpaths wider and a protected bike lane."</i></p> <p><i>"Disappointing proposal, piecemeal improvements. We need to get rid of parking spaces to make the space safer, aesthetically appealing and hospitable to pedestrians/cyclists. Footscray/West Footscray getting a very raw deal compared to Yarraville."</i></p>
Not supportive	10.2% (5)	<p><i>"We do not need parking spaces taken away by trees. Speed limits do not need to be reduced."</i></p>

Sentiment	Response	Sample Quotes
		<i>"The additional pedestrian crossing is not required. There are already 4 sets of traffic lights in the 3 blocks between Argyle Street and Summerhill Road. Signals disrupt traffic, increasing emissions and the risk to cyclists."</i>
Mixed	4.1% (2)	<i>"Pedestrian crossings are great. In lane bus stops are not great, and will further interrupt the flow of traffic. The more of that sort of thing that happens on what should be the main road, will push cars on to residential streets."</i>  <i>"It'd be nice to have real grass and not Astroturf (contributing micro plastics into the world for eons to come...) but I understand why it would be a compromise for now. This might be part of the Barkly St improvements, but given how many times the existing concrete bollards have been hit at the existing site, I think it's really important that trees are not used as the only vehicular protection for the street furniture."</i>
Other	6.1% (3)	<i>"I don't have any comments on the design but I can see people are smoking there all the time. If this continues I will not be interested to be there or bring my children. There needs to be clear and visible non-smoking signs around the area."</i>

## Demographics

48 respondents provided demographic details:

- 56.25% (27) identified as male, 44.75% (21) as female
- 29.20% (14) were aged 35-39, followed by those aged 30-34 (25% or 12)
- 95.83% (46) said their relationship to Barkly Village / Clarke Street Park as 'resident', 39.60% (19) said they are a 'shopper/visitor'<sup>1</sup>
- 16.70% (8) of respondents noted they are member of the LGBTQIA+ community, 10.42% (5) indicated that they speak a language other than English at home, 6.25% (3) indicated they are a person with a disability, while 4.2% (2) are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could select all that apply