

Results Data from Friends of Roseburn Park – A Vision for the Future Consultation

Background

The consultation was available online from 1 April 2016 and closed on 15 April 2016. In hard copy 1,000 fliers were distributed in the local area, and the survey was promoted through Friends of Roseburn's Park's Facebook page and website. Both online and hard copy versions were accompanied by a plan of the park marking various ideas to date. Although some respondents (17) identified that they go to school, a separate consultation exercise was undertaken with the classes at Roseburn Primary School. These results are identified separately below. Wherever it is not stated, the results refer to the main survey.

Make up of respondents

By the time the survey closed there were 141 respondents, broken down as follows:

	Num.
I am an adult	118
I go to school	17
Total ¹	135

Out of 141 responses, the percentage identifying with various kinds of park user was as follows².

	%
Dog Walker	19
Cyclist	29
Pedestrian	72
Jogger	13
Play team sport	6
Playground user	23
Home overlooks park	21
Other	14

Rating of main ideas

Respondents were asked to rate each idea with one of: Love It, Like It, Don't Mind It, Have Doubts, Dislike It. The table below combines Love It and Like It, and it combines Have Doubts and Dislike It. It is in descending order of popularity (Love or Like).

	Num. who answered	% Love or Like	% Don't Mind	% Doubt or Dislike
Refurbish toilet block into café with public toilet	141	89	4	7
Public shelter with seating near the cafe	138	80	12	8
New play park in sunny northeast corner for 2-12s	99 ³	80	17	3

¹ Not all respondents to the paper survey answered this question.

² Note that the respondent could tick as many as they wished. These percentages do not therefore sum to 100%.

³ Unfortunately this question was missing in the paper version of the survey due to an error.

	Num. who answered	% Love or Like	% Don't Mind	% Doubt or Dislike
Road marking at ice rink entrance bridge to warn of walkers and cyclists	140	79	16	4
Visually screen new flood walls with climbing plants	141	79	18	3
Tree seats / carved tree trunks at each entrance	140	77	17	6
Greater tree diversity (such as oak, blue cedar, fruit)	140	76	24	0
More picnic tables	140	74	20	6
Meadow area for wildflowers eg poppies, daisies, etc	140	74	19	8
More planted tubs with planting (such as communal herbs)	139	71	18	11
Alternative cycle routing (eg behind toilet block to remove blind spot)	141	71	21	8
Sculpture trail or other improvements along the river "corridor" from Roseburn to Saughton Park	134	67	26	7
Trim trail stations (such as wooden monkey bars or stepping logs)	141	65	27	8
Teen area at ice rink end of the park (inc shelter, basketball net/goal end)	138	64	17	19
New footbridge across the river at toilet block / cafe	139	61	26	13
Cycle speed bumps near the buildings in the park	139	58	22	20
Visually screen parts of new flood walls with mural or mosaic art	138	58	30	12
Adult gym stations (such as fixed bikes or cross-trainers)	138	57	27	16
BBQ concrete slabs	138	54	25	21
BMX track along southern boundary of park linking ice rink to new play area	139	43	29	27

Rating of new play park content ideas

Respondents were asked to rate each idea with one of: Love It, Like It, Don't Mind It, Have Doubts, Dislike It. The table below combines Love It and Like It, and it combines Have Doubts and Dislike It. It is in descending order of popularity (Love or Like).

	Num. who answered ⁴	% Love or Like	% Don't Mind	% Doubt or Dislike
Normal swings	85	88	11	1
Climber for children: seniors age 6-12	86	88	7	5
Climbing frame and slide for toddlers + juniors (Uni Mini Apista)	85	85	11	5
Basket swing	86	83	17	0
Picnic table	84	83	15	1
See-saw/ balance beam	85	82	16	1
Stepping logs	86	79	20	1
Baby swings	86	77	21	2
Play boulders	85	75	22	2
Play mounds	82	73	23	4
Clamber stack	86	73	24	2
Stilt walk	86	65	33	2
Play sand	85	55	19	26

⁴ Many fewer respondents answered this more detailed question about the contents of the play park.

School pupil consultation

Although the survey was open to people of all ages (and 17 respondents identified that they go to school) a separate exercise was conducted with the classes at Roseburn Primary School. There were 189 pupils in 8 classes who expressed views by show of hands about a list of items that might appear in a new play park. They expressed views only on whether they liked an idea, were unsure about it, or disliked it. Not everyone expressed a view in every case. In the table below is in descending order of popularity of the idea.

	% Loved	% Unsure	% Dislike	%No Vote
Wooden Structures	92	4	2	2
Swings	92	2	5	1
Seesaw / balance	78	9	11	2
Play Mounds	62	15	9	14
Large Climbing Frame ⁵	55	22	23	1
Boulders	51	17	13	19

Additional ideas suggested in the school pupil consultation

A range of additional ideas were put forward by pupils. These were:

More picnic benches, skate ramps, big slide, flying fox, spinning thing you hang off, more bins, net for climbing on, slack line, fitness route, dog agility items, Go Karts, tree house, foam pit, monkey bars, skate park, rope roundabout, trampolines, water and sand, swimming pool, spinning seesaw, pond with boats, spinning cone (witches hat), climbing rocks, tunnels, dome trampoline, tunnel slide, roundabout, little house, fireman's pole, spinning bowl, tyres on chains, games drawn on the ground, cannons, permanent football goal, basketball court, American football ground, sand pit, café, curly slide, climbing wall, track for little bikes, monkey bars, water slide, gigantic park with old and new bits joined, trees to climb on, chalk and drawing place, nesting place for birds, soft mat to jump and roll on, spider costume, ladder, big ball swing, climb up poles to monkey bars.

Comments and ideas recorded in the survey

Many free text comments and ideas were recorded in the survey. In the case of hard copy returns these have been transcribed as far as possible⁶. The comments and ideas received are below.

BMX bikes would be flying up and down the street on the way to the park. Too dangerous with elderly people and children in the area.

BMX trail bad idea. Interfere with everything else including cricket. Everything except alternative cycle routing and road marking at ice rink entrance bridge are unnecessary expenses.

An area of playpark for older children would be ideal, and love goal/BMX track idea. Other 'visual art ideas' great but only if budget allows.

BMX dangerous for children & dogs off lead, enough stress for older walkers dodging cyclists at present. Fear of over development a losing the tranquillity that exists at present.

⁵ Other questions were asked about larger/smaller climbing frames and climbing trees, depending on the class. These responses are not included here.

⁶ Can't find your comment or idea here? Please let us know.

Re: BMX track proposal – strongly object on HEALTH and SAFETY and CARE for vulnerable pedestrians grounds. BMX's do not belong with dogs, cricket balls, young children, vulnerable old people (e.g. blind, deaf etc). BMX track high risk to save use of park. If BMX track crosses path = accidents waiting to happen.

OTHER

All these ideas are great. It will bring our park ahead of other parks in Edinburgh. Cycle speed bumps or other idea to slow cyclists down going through the park.

Lots of good ideas. Part of the park should be allocated to gardening space for Roseburn Primary School / local nurseries.

River improvements yes, sculpture trail no

I think having bbq slabs is a great idea. BBQ slabs beside the playpark too.

Zipwire and roundabout for play area.

Flood wall camouflage. Artwork will attract graffiti. This must be climbing plants.

Strongly support the regeneration of the park. It's underutilised at the moment and could be a real asset. Combined with the new cycle path plans (from Leith and the canal) and the existing NEPN then the park could become a destination for cyclists, walkers and joggers which would be a real boost to the area and its businesses. Could additional meadow areas be included around the park? I'm not so sure about the idea of the adult gym equipment. Similar ones at Cramond and Wester Hailes don't seem to be well used so perhaps money could be better spent on other things. Rerouting cyclists behind the buildings isn't a good idea. There isn't enough room and it wouldn't be any safer. People would continue to use the current route. Speed bumps aren't that effective either.

Like the bridge idea very much

Very good

I have my doubts about the viability of the café building. While it is a nice idea I cannot see this being a self-supporting business. I doubt that there are enough customers for what this type of café could supply. The passing trade would be extremely sporadic and there are already several cafes in the streets nearby. I would not like to see the FORP take on a lease from the council and then not be able to re-coup this lease from a local business because there is no interested business (or a business starts with good intentions but then stops trading). I also question why there are 3 buildings in this area in various states of repair but seemingly with different tenants with limited co-operation between them. Surely the long term aim should be to get these 3 buildings to work together as a whole. I used to be a BMX rider when I was a teen and I cannot see the attraction of the BMX trail around the park. I wonder if this is 'adult thinking' without consideration to what 'youth' actually want. A true BMX track should be small and self-contained looping back on itself so that all participants are in the same area and all the racing can be viewed easily. I do not think that a true BMX track is really what FORP want for the park. I think the 'trial' would not be used by BMX so it would be better to think again on this idea.

I'm an avid city cyclist, commuting to work everyday by bike. My goal is not to be quick, improve my fitness or break records, I just cycle because it's my preferred method of transport in the city. I agree there are some nut cases, but often cyclists are stigmatised as reckless road users. I think Roseburn Park has a great attitude towards cyclists compared to other areas of the city and I hope that plans for the park will continue to take into account both park users and transient traffic in such a positive way.

Why ruin a safe cycle and scooter route with speed bumps. Remember children use the park to get to school and the objections to cycle lanes on roads. Cyclists are generally good citizens but seem to be being persecuted in the area for no reason!

As a walker and cyclist and mum with children on scooters and bikes through the park I don't feel speed bumps would be a good idea.

I think it is great that you have lots of new ideas for the new playpark. Our 3 children (8,10,12) are also submitting feedback.

Mostly sound good. I don't know if there is space to reroute the cycles behind the toilet block, though agree the blind corner is not desirable.

It would be great to have a playground suitable for the children attending Roseburn school and nursery, with equipment of interest for 3-12 year-olds, as well as options for their younger siblings! The current structure only interests a narrow age range. The proposed new location is meant to be sunnier. However has anyone looked into how much windier it will be, as it won't be sheltered by the stadium.

I think most of the ideas for the park look good. Given it's close proximity to NEPN, the proposed Roseburn to Leith cycle link and the Water of Leith, these ideas will make the park a great stopping off point for many people on foot and bike.

Keep things low maintenance. Plenty of bins if there are picnic tables. Need to consider if increased use means increased litter.

I love the idea of swings!

Moving the cycle route to behind the building would seem to create a new blind spot. Can we also have some restrictions on dogs in the park please eg at the play areas. Could some thought be given to a wider restriction eg a dedicated part of the park for dogs/dog owners to use and for dogs not to have the free rein they have now. This could help reduce fouling in the areas used by everyone else.

Play park should be the primary enhancement to the park in my view, and have sufficient budget. The existing tiny old one is in need of replacement, something like the saughton park would be ideal.

Like the idea of Play Park upgrade. Not sure of financial viability of café but love the idea.

Some doubts about whether there will be enough trade to sustain a cafe business all year round. As a dog walker using the park on dark winter nights, also some concern that a covered area with seating might be misused at night. I'd love the park to have as much greenery as possible with as few buildings, concrete and tarmac as possible. Maybe the toilet block should just be demolished?

Sand pits just get messy really quickly and are horrible when it gets wet (we live in Scotland after all); plus sand gets "lost" and your left with a wasted space.

As a previous home owner and parent of a small child, I am pleased that the play area is being moved. Even on sunny days, it was cold in the shelter of the trees. We still use the park after nursery pick up and think these improvements will make a big difference to the area in general. I would definitely make a trip back in the summer at weekends to use the park once completed as it is a lovely green space. 4/12/2016 12:17 PM View respondent's answers

Unsure of the safety aspect of introducing a teen area near to the ice rink.

Have reservations that a cafe in the park will be cost effective, perhaps only during summer.

Final question above re river corridor improvements - happy for improvements but not for sculpture trail.

Greater tree diversity: should be with native species typical of the area Measures should be designed to grow local pride and discourage unsightly graffiti and misuse of new areas-CCTV?

I only dislike the location of the play park, not the idea. I'd prefer it to be away from the riverside footpath - whilst there is roadnoise there, playing children would disturb the concept of the peaceful riverside setting a bit more shrilly! I largely feel spending money on cycle speed bumps or route diversions will be a waste as cyclists still manage to go fast over bumps and pay no heed to diversions. And unfortunately bumps are an obstacle for non-cyclists too! And with the other hand you're encouraging people to tear around the place on their bikes by creating a BMX track - people will not limit their activity to the regulated area. Road markings at the ice rink seem a bit nanny state and could ultimately be of no benefit - drivers are either careful in the first place, or they're not so things like this don't tend to help. If they even pay attention to markings, then they're being distracted from the actual hazards. I feel teen areas and shelters may lead to groups gathering and creating an air of intimidation for other park users. Whilst adult fitness areas could be a good idea, I rarely see the other ones in the city put to more than passing use, other than as another play area for children, so not the best use of any available money. It's a large park and I'd like to see it remaining looking as natural as possible so I'm not in favour of the artworks.

Cafe would bring the place to life and change the ambience for the better. Really want it to be a lovely green space in an urban environment.

Make it all accessible. No steps, barriers, gates, guardrails, bumps, smooth surface on paths. For people who can't walk well.

Great to have the cafe in the park, ideally with some outside space to sit with a coffee in the sunshine. Play park should cater for older children too (and teenagers who are likely to use it in the evenings).

I am concerned about the Teen area/BMX track and BBQ Slabs. The teens that usually hang-around the Ice-rink in the evenings should be encouraged to go back to Saughton Park where there are facilities to suit them. From seeing other parks with BBQ slabs they tend to not be cleaned out by previous users and only encourage (just as the Teen/BMX) the discarding of empty cans/bottles/packets on the ground and not into bins. My dog has already sliced her paw open on the old railway by Roseburn so keeping the park as clear and clean as possible should remain a priority.

1. I have serious doubts about the viability of the cafe. Who would be prepared to risk taking it on? 2. I am concerned that the shelters at the teen area and at the cafe will attract undesirables, particularly after dark. How is this to be controlled? 3. I think the idea of decorating some of the walls with murals or mosaic art is very tacky and will seriously detract from the ambience of the Water of Leith walkway.

Refreshing park layout with new tree planting seems a priority. Native species near river and ornamental within the park and nearer stadium. If the cafe is to work well, there is probably a need to totally redesign the space around it. In general, focus on getting a creative landscape architect on board!

The ideas are really great and will make the park very attractive for everybody. There is only one thing I'm strongly against: Speed bumps are terrible for wheelchair users, buggies and a trip hazard for everybody who needs a walking stick. Also they are ineffective as they don't stop antisocial cycling, but instead they deter all the responsible cyclists, for example families with

child seats on the bike, or people cycling home with their shopping in the basket. If you don't believe me, go to the Hermitage of Braid where the road has speedbumps (for cars) but they had to install diversions around them for the buggies and wheelchair users. The same is true for chicanes and barriers, by the way. Please don't go down the route of trying to block people, it doesn't work and has the opposite effect of deterring those you want to attract. In fact even in busy parks and paths I never thought cyclists are much of a problem. If the park is attractive to many diverse people, families etc., then antisocial behaviour will decline.

I'd hope that you can get advice on how to design the play park area to design it in a way that discourages adults/teens using it as an area for drinking (leads to antisocial behaviour, broken glass etc). E.g. Maybe benches outside the fence, no picnic table. I'd also want it not to be on a through path, so that you don't have conflict between cyclists and playpark users.

On the improvement plan, there are rugby & football pitches marked out - will these actually be marked on the ground, and will goalposts be put up on each pitch?

The more natural and adventure like, the better. Great to have a teenage area. Adult gyms are very short lived - all the ones I have seen end up lying empty after the novelty wears off or are broken. New footbridge is ideal and allows greater access. BBQ areas may attract large groups of drinkers especially around rugby time - most families would BBQ at home. The outdoor BBQ at yellowcraigs beach is full of broken glass and drink cans - nightmare for dogs. Trim trail at Innerleithen park is very popular and a great idea to have spaced out all round the park, not just in one area.

No need to reintroduce football pitches. The bad language used is inappropriate for a family park.

The sunny location of the playpark is a major plus, and the bridge entrance would encourage the Council to add a safe crossing on Corstorphine Rd to link up to Ormidale Terrace and the Church, which will also benefit elderly/disabled/everyone arriving by bus. It would make a much safer and more attractive route than the crossing to the west of Murrayfield Road for unaccompanied children using the Park or the Church Hall. The Council once upon a time had a scheme to add to/improve the tree planting along the Park riverbank, where the primitive/ugly steel fence currently restricts/damages trees: so I hope its well-designed replacement can also be included.

Like the idea of a small orchard, but prefer all trees to be native to Scotland,

The stepping logs would get boring

I'm really positive about these plans. The felling of the trees is very upsetting, but I hope that the redevelopment will do all it can to encourage as much wildlife and plants as possible. Even before the current works started, much of the park looked bare. It's possible to mix the sports facilities with some pleasant wildlife. - I really like the wildflower meadow. Could this be expanded, or similar planting done round the perimeter of the park? - some "formal" planting is also to be welcomed. Could this extend down either side of the centre path? - rather than painted warning signs on the entrance to the ice rink, physical measures to slow down drivers are needed. They should be made to feel like they are visitors to the park, and should behave accordingly. - relocating the cycle path to avoid the blind spot is a good idea. I use this route every day and try to be responsible, but some people don't. - if speed bumps are to be used, could you explore the use of the longer sinusoidal humps rather than the usual short raised ones? I believe these are used successfully elsewhere - they act to slow down speeding cyclists but are more friendly to less confident cyclists.

I'd consider whether having the playpark closer to the cafe would both benefit parents and also be a selling point for getting a lease for the cafe - The park should focus on being cyclist friendly, and encouraging those who do pass through to stop off. Consider offering cycle racks and a cyclist first aid station (mainly just a good cycle pump, maybe a puncture repair kit, etc) - Really like the idea of the sculpture trail going further up the river - could be a great linkage right the way up to the newly refurbished Saughton Park. - Don't think that murals/mosaics suit the look of park, not convinced the current one fits in either. - Think that it's important to get the right grouping of things in the centre of the park near the cafe - design is crucial here. Consider how the outside seating can best link in to surroundings and that this area looks joined up.

Think almost everything's been covered

Play sand messy and unhygienic

My main concern about the proposed improvements is the lack of "policing" of the park, especially in the evenings and perhaps at weekends. I realise that I may be generalising here but who would supervise the behaviour in a "teen area" ? I wouldn't want gangs of teenagers hanging around with nothing to do and, as a disabled person, that would actively discourage me from using the park in the evenings in particular. I don't necessarily object in principle to the idea of some art work but worry about the risk of vandalism (also applicable to the proposed public shelter and picnic tables). I think there would be less risk of vandalism with planting and it would encourage more wildlife to come to the park. What hours would you expect the café to keep in terms of access to the public toilet ? When you say "the income from the let will be used by FoRP" for improvements, do you mean the letting fee ? Also, I thought the toilet block was in the middle of the park and backed onto private houses on the other side of the river so where would people access a new footbridge to the café ?

Would be good to have a small enclosed area for dogs. Some dogs can't be left off lead in open areas (eg puppies, some sight hounds) but do need off lead time

Add more tree etc planting to riverbank Replace fence along river with better design. Screen bins at Murrayfield stadium

Improve the route to the shops in roseburn terrace so people have more choice for a coffee or lunch when out in the park. It's only a short way but the pavements are so narrow and there is no cycle path so I would never cycle over there with family.

Some sort of trial may be a good idea. Runners, walkers and dog walkers often do circuits of the park so something would be good for them. Using the edge of the park for 'rough terrain' for small animals (insect houses etc.) and wild flowers would be nice. More 'gym equipment' would be an idea so that these items form a fitness trail perhaps. I do not think BMX cyclists need something specific in Roseburn Park, especially with Saughton Park providing such a draw for them.

Would love to see a small area for petanque or boules. Similar to Inverleith park, but maybe not as closed off as theirs. Would be an activity that gets younger and older people mingling, can be played, in winter, wind not like the table tennis or chess tables. We could even have a roseburn park team that plays games against the inverleith park team.

If there is concern about cyclists through the park introduce a designated paved cycle lane In addition to the BMX track. There is ample space.

The park is a wonderful part of this area but one thing spoils it. My children play there regularly and there is often dog mess on the grass. I realise that this is a very difficult thing to police but it is a park that children play on every week yet people allow their dogs to mess all over it. Can we have some areas where dogs are banned?

Please could serious consideration be given to planting a much taller growing screening along the edge of the park in front of the Rugby Stadium. Since this stadium was redeveloped it has dominated the park. An attractive screening which took the eye away from this would enhance the park considerably. Lighting along ALL walkways rather than just the main thoroughfare so that the park can be used in the early mornings and evenings during the winter months. Cycle lanes marked out on the paths as in the Meadows, so that cyclists realise that the path is shared with pedestrians. It barbecue flags are to be put in, it would be good to put them where people would actually want to sit (ie not right next to footpaths). The ones on the Meadows are poorly sited as evidenced by the continued appearance of new burnt patches in more attractive locations after sunny days!

Is there any flat safe place for parents to teach their children to ride cycles - the equivalent of ski-ing nursery slopes? At the moment they're sharing the path with ordinary cyclists, which isn't desirable for either party. A piece of dead-end tarmac (ie not tempting as a cycle route or for BMXing) might be an idea.

It would be good to have plenty of benches at the play park.

A see saw that spins around

Need storage for School associated football. Currently cricket club kindly offer storage but asbestos issue could be included

I'd like to see car access to the sports pavilions stopped so that the park is a safe zone for children and dog walkers. From what I've witnessed, any sports equipment can be carried. Dog walkers seem to be the main user of the park for chunks of the year and it would be good if the final proposals mean that there is still good space for dogs to run about. Thanks for the hard work that must have gone into this. It'll be fantastic to see the park improved.

Nothing further to add - the ideas/plans look great!

Improved lighting throughout the park for improved safety at night.

Must be careful to make right mix of features/facilities/activities - balancing different types of users, and not cramming the space so there are no longer any restful areas.

More biodiverse area including planting for bees and butterflies; shelter corridors to reduce wind; wet areas etc

The circumference of the park is almost 1 kilometre - would be good to have a marked km for runners

The kids always like tunnels and dens and slides. Victoria Park play area is a good example of a play park. Swings can be a bit of a nightmare if not much room as kids can quite often be wiped out by them!

A space for gathering - small grass amphitheatre. Living willow sculptures and/or play structures. Reusing any of the wood from the trees that have been cut down would be wonderful - benches, stepping stones, shelters.

Keep up the good work!

Beware of trying to do too much in one place. Needs to be something that's going to be easy to maintain over the years or things are just going to fall into disrepair (I mean things like herb planters or sculpture trails)

I can't quite tell if this is already in the plan for the trim trail, but a path along the southern edge of the park by the fence to Murrayfield would make it a better park to walk around in a loop.

Like a giant rope type roundabout that the whole family can go on. Love the basket swing. Loved the outdoor table tennis tables - more please.

Cyclists ignore slow down signs. I'd prefer lane markings so that cyclists and pedestrians are separate. I'd like more control of dogs. I walk with small children who can be nervous about dogs without a lead.

The bridge (and a Park entrance feature of some kind?) should be the subject of a well organised design competition. It needs a clever and sensitive hand: personally I don't think a massive timber bridge like the one upstream would look right here. The fact that John Lennon often visited his uncle and aunt in Ormidale Terrace, and wrote some of his early songs there ('Rain' for example) - you can imagine him looking out into the Park as he waited at the bus stop - could add a dimension to the whole project, and perhaps generate greater -international?- sponsorship. Imagine indeed...! Also, the Chinese and Japanese consuls-general work and live (repectively) nearby - what might their input bring? Something wonderful perhaps.

Would like more exploration of public art work

Zip wire

Would it be possible to have some sort of paved informal performance area? While a bandstand would be unlikely to be feasible, it would be good to have something that could be used for events. At the festival last year there was an event with brass bands at various points along the Water of Leith and the park would make an excellent venue for something similar. A paved area would give flexibility for this and would make things less vulnerable to weather.

Thanks for your vision and taking it forward. With these improvements Roseburn Park will take strides forward and become an excellent local facility.

Would hope plenty mature trees planted to compensate for devastation caused by unnecessary destruction of trees.

I used to be a cyclist myself but, again, as a disabled pedestrian, I would prefer if cyclists could be kept entirely separate from pedestrian walkways as they come along at speed and just expect you to get out of their way which is not always easy if you have mobility problems or young children.