

# Koonung Survey Greenlink Box Hill

Date of Report: 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2001

By Lisa Birkett



## **Introduction**

Greenlink Box Hill is a voluntary organization that aims to enhance and preserve the natural environment. Much of the greenery in the Koonung Reserve (between Elgar Rd and Doncaster Rd, Box Hill North) has been planted by Greenlink, in conjunction with the City of Whitehorse, local schools and other members of the community.

In order to gauge community support for the group's activities in the reserve, a survey was carried out between 25<sup>th</sup> June and 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2001. Around three hundred questionnaires (see Appendix for a copy) were distributed to householders living in the streets surrounding the reserve, as well as individuals who were using it. The reserve users were either interviewed on the spot or given the questionnaire to complete and return later.

Apart from "home postcode", the questionnaire asked only open-ended questions to get as wide a range of original/unprompted responses as possible.

Greenlink received a total of 171 questionnaires. The responses have been typed verbatim, and this information analysed using NVIVO software.

## **Results**

### **Q1. Home Postcode**

3129 Box Hill North	15
3104 Balwyn North	4
3108 Doncaster	4
3128 Box Hill	2
3031 Flemington/Kensington	1
3103 Balwyn/Balwyn East	1
3106 Templestowe	1
3127 Mont Albert	1
3131 Forest Hill	1
3180 Knoxfield	1

i.e. only 31 people gave their home postcode.

**Q2. Do you use the Koonung Reserve?**

**Q2a. If Yes, how often?**

<b>Frequency of use</b>	<b>No.</b>
Daily	55
2-3 times/week	45
4-5 times/week	20
Weekly	22
A few times a month	12
Occasionally	12
	Total: 166

**Q2b. If Yes, for what activities do you use the reserve?**

Walking	109
Dogs	52
Cycling	43
Other	23
Ducks	15
Kids	15
Running	13
Sports	10
Relaxation	5
Railway	3
Playground	3
Rollerblading	2

Note: respondents may have said more than one of the above.

**Q2c. If No, is there any particular reason why not?**

There were 5 responses here. They either used another area, didn't know the reserve existed, had not had the opportunity or were not very mobile. One respondent did not use the reserve at peak hour due to speeding cyclists.

**Q2d. If No, would you like to use it at a later date?**

There were also 5 responses here, in the affirmative.

**Q3. If you are a local resident, how long have you lived in this area?**

Over 20 years	62
6-10 years	25
11-20 years	25
3-5 years	23
1-2 years	14
Less than 1 year	12
"whole life"	2

**Q4. In the time that you have been living in the area/visiting the reserve, how do you feel about the changes that have occurred in the Koonung Reserve?**

<p><b>Positive</b> e.g.  “Fantastic - a huge difference”.  “Always Improving”.  “Earlier years when my children were young it provided a free space for play and adventure which would not be so suitable in to-day’s culture. *To-days Koonung Reserve serves the whole community and visitors”  “Fantastic ! This area was car bodies and blackberries, dirt &amp; dust when we first came here. The paths, “lakes”, and tree planting have made a very pleasant area.”</p>	133
<p><b>Pleased about the vegetation</b> e.g.  “Very pleased, it is pleasure to see the creek in its “new design” very good. The wetlands, constant interest in its inhabitants and their life. Again, a good design. The planting, trees, shrubs, grasses fine, overall 85%”.  “Very impressed with the amount of re-vegetation.”  “Nice to see people taking care of the reserve, planting new trees”  “Wonderful - Have watched the tree plantings grow to the lovely “bushy” areas that have developed. This was a true development from the older reserve and privately appropriated land”</p>	30
<p><b>Mentioned freeway</b> e.g.  “The freeway has been the worst thing that has happened, however, the trees that have been planted are an improvement.”  “I hate the freeway, as I have very fond memories of what it was like in the past.”  “Its been opened up and developed for bikes, and landscaped I feel this is a good trade off for the freeway.”  “I think that they are good. I’ve been familiar with the reserve all my life. The creek and horse paddocks. I can’t complain about the freeway. I saw a family of robin red breasts the other day.”</p>	26
<p><b>Not aware of changes</b> e.g.  “I haven’t noticed any really. I don’t think I’ve been here long enough.”</p>	15
<p><b>Improved recreation</b> e.g.  “I can’t remember what it was like, say 3 years ago but now it is my favourite walk.”  “Good expansion of recreational activities.”  “Very pleasant to walk and see the greenery and variety”  “This area has turned into an excellent community resource”  “Today when I had a walk it was so peaceful, pretty, and lots of ducks, and two beautiful birds, very blue chests, always something to see, and to take friends to see.”</p>	12

<p><b>The water features</b> e.g.  “Much more attractive, the birdlife in the lakes, developing of the creeks”  ”The havens for ducks, geese, hen and divers is marvellous.”</p>	11
<p><b>The paths</b> e.g.  “They’re great! Love the paths”  “Great! Much more user friendly  more trees, walking paths better”</p>	5
<p><b>Wildlife and birds</b> e.g.  “Like them generally. Especially the native plant regeneration area - more wildlife is coming into the area - to replace that lost when the freeway went through - not blue wrens unfortunately”  “Today when I had a walk it was so peaceful, pretty, and lots of ducks, and two beautiful birds, very blue chests, always something to see, and to take friends to see.”</p>	4
<p><b>Neutral</b> e.g.  “Even in the short time I have lived in the area I have seen improvements”  “A lot of changes”  “Some good  Some not so good  Some bad very bad”</p>	3
<p><b>More accessible</b> e.g.  “The changes have made the area much more accessible and user friendly a vast improvement.”  “My husband and I think the changes have been excellent as prior to the freeway extension pedestrian access was limited &amp; the creek used to block access from the Doncaster side to the Box Hill side.”  “Its been opened up and developed for bikes, and landscaped I feel this is a good trade off for the freeway.”</p>	3
<p><b>Not happy about the vegetation</b> e.g.  “It seems to need more maintenance now eg weeds growing some inappropriate plants growing burrs growing catch on dogs fur”</p>	1

**Q5. List what you like about the Koonung Reserve:**

<p><b>The vegetation Mentioned:</b></p>	77
<p><b>a. Native</b> e.g.  “The Koonung reserve attracts many different birds and there a lot of native plants.”  “The greenery, flowering wattle &amp; flowering natives young birdlife each year.”  “Attractive, well kept area planted with local vegetation to a high degree. The return of many bird species”.</p>	20
<p><b>b. Trees</b> e.g.  “Even got married under the big river red gums near the glass wall.”  “The plants/trees look as though they’ve always been there”  “trees!! Still young but promising to be a healthily forested area”</p>	19

<p><b>c. Greenery</b> e.g.          “I like it because it is green”          “The tracks, it’s green and environmentally friendly and it’s here for us all to use and enjoy”</p>	14
<p><b>d. Bushland</b> e.g.          “Clean with natural bush”          “A small “bush” haven”          “Feeling of bush land.”</p>	9
<p><b>e. Plantings</b> e.g.          “interesting planting program.”          “The tree planting and revegetation effort... Some of the wildflowers now growing are not what I recall growing there but effective all the same.”</p>	8
<p><b>Paths</b> e.g.          “Well vegetated &amp; looked after paths and observation areas”          “Suitable for all ages. It is well used and suitable for prams/ strollers/ wheelchairs.”          ” Smooth walking track”          “It has become the neighbourhood “promenade” for the community”</p>	58
<p><b>Water</b> e.g.          “The “bush” and billabongs in 20 years we may have our own “Blackburn Lake” area !!”          “The manner in which the Vic Roads contractors created and shaped the two lagoons cascading to the creek and made the basis for ongoing planting and bird havens.”          “lake &amp; boardwalk”</p>	55
<p><b>Facilities</b> e.g.          “bike path          . parks for children          . ovals for recreation          . train for children”          “Waste bins”          “Area for dogs to run free”          “paths, bridges, tunnels under/ over major roads.”          “track, red bridge, dams, poo bins.”          “Good parking spots. Bins for dog droppings. Good recreation area.”</p>	53
<p><b>Birds/Wildlife</b> e.g.          “Fauna          Lakes with ducks”          “the birds, trees ducks, lizards, the water, the frogs”</p>	49

<p><b>Feeling</b> e.g.  “Calm, fresh, beautiful”  “Relaxing, quiet, country-like feel”  “Peaceful”  “the quiet, feel safe.”  “People seem to use it (the track) all day into the night - giving it a safer feel”  “Family atmosphere”  “nice chance to escape from the hustle + bustle of every day life.”  ” The atmosphere is friendly. The users always appear happy. It is a good environment for meditation, the variety of tracks allow for quiet observation of the natural world.”</p>	27
<p><b>Well maintained</b> e.g.  “Clean pathways. Well kept surrounds and some beautiful grassed areas.”  “Maintained very well”  “Always clean no rubbish laying around.”</p>	23
<p><b>People</b> e.g.  “Friendliness of users”  “Usually many people about”  “dog owners”  “That, in the main, it attracts like-minded people who enjoy being there.”  “...3 It’s use by families &amp; young people bike riding etc  “It’s doggies &amp; walkers - meet lots of people who are interesting including council workers  “I like watching the young people play football”  “Social aspect most people smile / interact with others. Regulars often stop &amp; speak.”</p>	21
<p><b>Open space</b> e.g.  “Pleasant space”  “openness”  “Area for dogs to run free”</p>	16
<p><b>Appearance</b> e.g.  “The scenery”  “Appearance in general”  “The plants/trees look as though they’ve always been there”</p>	4
<p><b>Location</b> e.g.  “I can enjoy a lovely walk so close to my home.”  “Well located for me”</p>	4
<p><b>Access</b> e.g.  “several accesses”  “Easy access to park”  “access to the ovals + playgrounds”</p>	3
<p><b>Improvements</b> e.g.  “How it has improved”  “all the improvements”</p>	2

<b>Suitable</b> e.g. “Suitable for all ages. It is well used and suitable for prams/ strollers/ wheelchairs.”	1
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**Q6. List what you don't like about the Koonung Reserve:**

<b>Bicycles</b> e.g. “Speeding cyclists. They don't sound a bell and I take fright. Some cyclists use the share paths as their own and are obviously timing themselves for repeating improvement. It is a total selfishness that offends me and is not suitable in the beauty of the Koonung Reserve.” “That the footpath has to be shared with bike riders. There are often dangerous situations between bike riders and walkers especially when small children are also on the footpath, because most bike riders go too fast, don't use their bell or don't have a bell as a warning so walkers can get out of the way in time.” <b>including:</b>	40
<b>a. Speed</b> e.g. “Freeway” for bikes the bitumen tracks encourage fast riding.”	27
<b>b. Sharing path with cyclists</b> e.g. “can be difficult at times with bikes going high speeds and pedestrians. Some riders go too fast and get mad at others using the path.” “Sharing with feral bike riders as distinct from the majority of courteous ones”	11
<b>c. Silent approach</b>	5
<b>d. Blind spots</b> e.g. “Positioning of tree clumps (copses) on bends of bitumen track. They are blind spots for fast cyclists, who may hit small children - we have seen near misses.”	3
<b>Vegetation including:</b>	20
<b>a. Too much vegetation</b> e.g. “-The ponds seem to be choking up. The reeds are taking over.” “Planting creeping like a cancer.” “Too Bushy” “In places to dence and safety risk involved.”	7
<b>b. Removal of</b> e.g. “deeply regret killing of three willow trees” “Cutting down trees” “I was rather shocked to see healthy mature trees go a few years back (from old plantings eg paperbark). I think they just should have been removed as they died. There has been no replacement plantings either.”	3
<b>c. Unsightly</b> e.g. “Native grasses – unsightly” “untidy overgrowth” “...wattle trees that are mainly unsightly...”	3

<p><b>d. Not enough</b> e.g.  “More tall trees needed near hockey field”  “Perhaps bushier areas separating the freeway &amp; the track, more plants &amp; more trees.”</p>	2
<p><b>e. Fire hazard</b> e.g.  “There is too much low grass &amp; small-dry shrubbery which pose a fire hazard in summer - it is too close to property fence-lines.”  “The area has become a fire hazard. In the past 12 months there have been four fire fortunately the fire brigade was available. On a bad day a fire would sweep down behind the houses and threaten residences. The long fluffy grass is highly inflammable.”</p>	3
<p><b>f. Bidgee-Widgee/Burrs</b> e.g.  “Some ground cover plants have burrs which cause great problems for dog-owners.”  “Ground cover which produces burrs - which are trapped in dogs fur ( or your socks)”</p>	3
<p><b>g. Close to back fence</b> e.g.  “Concern with trees getting so tall that are close to back fences.”  “There is too much low grass &amp; small-dry shrubbery which pose a fire hazard in summer - it is too close to property fence-lines.”</p>	2
<p><b>h. Hayfever</b> e.g.  “...wattle trees that are mainly unsightly &amp; are hazardous to hay-fever and asthma sufferers.”</p>	1
<p><b>i. Dead Trees</b> e.g.  “A lot of dead trees are left standing - a bit of an eyesore. Perhaps more pruning.”  “there was a really good healthy willow tree that now seems almost “dead” so there are possibly other species the same why? bluestone? freeway?”</p>	2
<p><b>j. Weeds</b> e.g.  “The weeds which are allowed to grow in some areas need more mulch...”</p>	1
<p><b>k. Pests on trees</b> e.g.  “All the weavles we see on the trees”</p>	1
<p><b>Litter/Pollution including:</b></p>	18
<p><b>a. Noise (Any reference to noise – mostly traffic/freeway related)</b>  e.g.  “Traffic noise”  “Closeness to freeway but noise is tolerable”  “Noise but can’t help that”  “there are not enough round barriers on the lake/pond side of the freeway. It is quite loud when echoing off the higher side of the freeway cutting. i.e. near the pedestrian footbridge overpass.”</p>	16
<p><b>b. Of Water</b> e.g.  “The dirty water”  “Does not like to see water discoloured” “On a few occasions there were large plastic bags (or something similar) dumped in the duckpond”  “The creek is still dirty - extremely. Filled with litter.”</p>	7 (5 re rubbish)

<b>Freeway (any reference to freeway – mostly noise related) e.g.</b> “Freeway. Noise and dust.” “Freeway”	14
<b>Droppings incl:</b>	17
<b>a. Dog e.g.</b> “the dog dirt” “Dog droppings not being picked up.” “Dog poo that doesn’t get picked up, although it’s a lot better now there are bins.”	15
<b>b. Duck e.g.</b> “Duck droppings on deck”	4
<b>Dogs off lead e.g.</b> “Dogs should be on leads” “The dogs off their leads and not under control” “We believe the decision to allow dogs off leads creates problems to small children and owners of small dogs who are harassed by off lead large dogs out of control.”	17
<b>Nothing don’t like e.g.</b> “Nothing” “Nothing there should be more places like this!” “Nil” “Everything is good Well Done!”	14
<b>Pests (8 of these were re. Rodents) e.g.</b> “Water rats” “Rodent problem where the ducks are means I can no longer take the children there.” “The increasing rat numbers. Also the feral goose population - as these unlike ducks can attack dogs, children and adults and are not native.” “All the weavles we see on the trees”	9
<b>Facilities e.g.</b> “1) Rules & regulation signs are not well placed. 2) not enough garbage bins 3) not lit at night” “Some benches in the park (between the bridge over the duckpond and near Jackson Ave) are too close to the footpath, and especially in summer in full sun so no one would find it comfortable to sit there in summer.” “Inadequate signage regarding the rules of the park ( ie picking up dog droppings etc) & speed limit for cyclists in some built up areas. Inadequate seating (we need more!). Inadequate supply of bins for dog droppings.” “not having a proper BBQ in the beautiful park”	9

<p><b>Other people</b> e.g.  “Dislike of cyclists by some pedestrians.”  “Some homosapiens who are scared of my dog.”  “I do not like the way people treat the area.”  “The people who walk the dogs leave the droppings along the track.  Sometimes it is not safe because at the same time people ride bikes, walk the dogs, push the prams with babies children walk in from school and joggers pushing through”</p>	6
<p><b>Motor Scooters</b> e.g.  “People allowed to ride motorised scooters along the bike track”  “Use of tracks by motorised scooters, especially after 4 pm, week-ends and school holidays.”</p>	5
<p><b>Vandalism</b> e.g.  “Vandalism of playground equipment”  “Grafitti”  “graffiti on fences and playground equipment”  “Vandalism, there used to an information box off Valda Avenue, this got damaged.”</p>	4
<p><b>Security</b> e.g.  “wonder if there’s safety issues if walking alone, most of the time I don’t see many people.”  “Feels a bit lonely / isolated at some parts of track”  “Rats on walkway, duck pooh on walkway, access for crime through back of house, youths at night in area”</p>	3
<p><b>Power lines</b></p>	1
<p><b>Lack of Maintenance</b> e.g.  “Lack of maintenance of wetlands, walkway thru wetlands &amp; rubbish in creek, maintenance of planted areas along creek areas of neglect...”</p>	1
<p><b>Creek Bank</b> e.g.  “Too much “bluestone” on the banks of the creek erosion of the sand on same that used to be there.”</p>	1

**Q7. Please list any suggestions for how the reserve may be improved:**

<b>Facilities</b> including:	48
<p><b>a. Seats/benches</b> e.g.  “One or 2 more park benches would be nice.”  “More seats near the end of Jackson Ave.”  “Also I would like 1 or 2 seats as near as possible to the creek”  “A few more benches for visitors to “sit &amp; ponder!””  “more seating around the lake area”  “The Jackson avenue seat position - move back, closer to trees. It is too close to bitumen surface. It is the most used seat too!”  “Another seat near the Jackson Ave entrance but away from the path would be wonderful.”  “Some seats in positions to eat lunch away from the track ie with a view of tress and plants not the tracks.”  “There should be more seating /rest areas along the walking path, that people may &amp; admire the view, under the shade trees.”</p>	21
<p><b>b. Dog Droppings</b> e.g.  “- facilities for dog owners to collect dog poo”  “more bags available for dog dirt”  “...also collection of dog droppings perhaps collection points”  “Install dog waste units like in Mont Albert Park on Union Road and more bins would give owners more incentive to clean up waste.”</p>	13
<p><b>c. Rubbish bins</b> e.g.  “additional rubbish bins”  “Bins at the sportsground because after sport on the oval there is often a lot of rubbish left behind ( eg. Plastic bottles, paper etc.)”  “Place more litter bins along the track (not just move from 1 place to another)”  “more regularly spaced rubbish bins”  “Rubbish bins no matter how much we like people to take their rubbish with them, it is left up to the locals to clean up!!”</p>	10
<p><b>d. Sporting</b> e.g.  “Upgrade hockey ground”  “Exercise bars equipment for stretching”</p>	2
<p><b>e. Lighting</b> e.g.  “lights along path at night”  “- install lights in carpark and at end of bridge”  “Odd lighting especially in car park area off Valda Ave.”</p>	6
<p><b>f. BBQ</b> e.g.  “- more BBQ facilities &amp; seating”  “proper BBQ”</p>	5

<p><b>g. Dog park/playground for dogs</b> e.g.  “Another suggestion for improvement of the park would be a fenced “playground” for dogs incl. A bin for dog droppings.”  “Victorias first dog park (fenced off area for K9 playground)”  “As a dog owner I would like to see an area near the Jackson ave area fenced off, where the dogs can run and play without causing problems to children an children, and to the abusive &amp; speeding bike riders.”  “A friend was knocked off his bike by a dog running out, and had injuries. I would like to see a place away from the walks for the dogs to run off leashes.”</p>	4
<p><b>h. Water on tap</b> e.g.  “Drinking water fountain”  “MORE WATER TAPS on the path”</p>	4
<p><b>i. Playground</b> e.g.  “Some more playing areas for the children.”  “- expansion of playground equipment would attract more families”  “Playground”</p>	3
<p><b>j. Toilets</b> e.g.</p>	2
<p><b>Vegetation incl:</b></p>	25
<p><b>a. More/other</b> e.g.  “Please plant more trees in your on-going program.”  “More vegetation. Less mowed lawns  Prefer “NATURAL” grassing to English lawns”  “More garden flowers”  “plant more trees and less shrubs”  “More trees &amp; flowers”</p>	6
<p><b>b. For shade</b> e.g.  “Planting more trees for shade.”  “plant leafy trees by the sides of the track to provide shade in the summer”  “A few more trees along the stretch between the duckpond and Jackson Avenue - this part gets very hot during the summer peak months.”</p>	6
<p><b>c. More native</b> e.g.  “Plant more blossoming native trees Bottlebrushes, Grevilleas etc.”  “Plant more clusters of slender gums, instead of unsightly wattles that are plagued by grubs, die &amp; fall over.”  “Plant a few flowering natives”</p>	4

<p><b>d. As buffer/screening</b> e.g.  “Keep up the plantings for the birds and a “buffer” zone to an increasingly noisy freeway - will get worse! This is a quiet haven amidst mad noisy traffic on Elgar Rd Belmore Rd &amp; the freeway. This has risen badly since the freeway opening . The city link tools have also bought traffic across from these roads to the Eastern Freeway and it’s pretty intolerable. This reserve keeps me sane!”  “Additional Tree Screening along freeway and rear of housing to reduce impact of these developments on the park reserve.”  “Also, some more trees near the edge / along the edge of the park where it meets the freeway to lower the noise level.”  “higher trees &amp; thicker foliage to block fwy-noise and enhance overall look on the north/high bank of the creek/fwy”</p>	4
<p><b>e. Remove</b> e.g.  “Remove ground cover along walkways that yields burrs”  “Remove native grasses”  “Greenlink take some respons for tidying up clearing away weeds, broken branches, thinning out overgrown grass areas.”  “- clear undergrowth from area between the paths &amp; back fences...  - trim lower branches of trees  - remove dead wood ...  - remove fire hazards around duck pond”</p>	4
<p><b>f. Replace dead trees</b> e.g.  “Dead trees taken out new ones”  “replace those fallen “paper bark” trees with something more asthetic (eg silver birch)”</p>	2
<p><b>Signage/Info incl:</b></p>	17
<p><b>a. Bikes</b> e.g.  “More signage on path etiquette cyclists and pedestrians...”  “Also signs for bikes to slow down at certain spots mainly to cross to get onto the bridge over freeway”  “Signs along walkways that urge cyclists to slow down and warn pedestrians of their approach.”</p>	9
<p><b>b. Dogs</b> e.g.  “Definitive list of where you can walk dogs without the lead”  “Put signs to ask dog walkers to put the dog droppings into the bins.”</p>	5
<p><b>c. Duck feeding</b> e.g.  “A strong assertive sign or signs near the lagoons to discourage duck and bird feeding due to worsening rat and other vermin infestation.”</p>	1
<p><b>d. Streets</b> e.g.  “Signposts indicating the streets on the south side so people can get their bearings.”</p>	1
<p><b>e. Risk of drowning</b></p>	1
<p><b>f. Warning of snakes</b></p>	1
<p><b>g. Board about area’s history</b></p>	1

<p><b>Continue present policy</b> e.g.  “Continuation of present policy”  “Very happy with the way it is.”  “Keep up the good work”  “I do not know of any way this area can be improved.This area is amazing being built so close to civilisation.”  “As far as I can judge the group of voluntary workers have achieved an amazing transformation and that is still happening. So I have to say except for a continuation of the same I have no suggestions.”  “I think the reserve is well used and well cared for from volunteers to council workers.”  “Don’t wreck it it’s great”  “Keep doing what you’re doing, it’s great work....*The plantings/reserve was a big factor in the purchase of our house.”</p>	16
<p><b>Maintenance</b> e.g.  “Increased maintenance of those areas set aside for public use, such as parks (playgrounds) and duck feeding areas.”  Including:</p>	14
<p><b>a. Wetlands/Creek</b> e.g.  Make sure creek doesn’t get polluted was some worry about this a while ago. Dead ducks were found.”  Maintain the certain fenced areas which provide protection to reed growth for bird reserve areas.”  Cleaner water”  ...The track on the edge of the creek is very popular ( no cyclist) could it be improved?...Drain boggy patch near boardwalk entrance (its a trap - try it!)”  Reeds in the lakes could be controlled ie cut back so they do not take over the lakes.”  Clean out the area where ducks are fed as this is where rats are located.”</p>	7
<p><b>b. Paths</b> e.g.  “Clean all footpaths”  “Keep mulch &amp; twigs off the cycle path.”  “lilydale topping on creek track”</p>	3
<p><b>c. Keep Clean</b> e.g.  “We should all keep it clean &amp; keep it green as well.”  “Keep maintained and free of litter”</p>	2
<p><b>d. More community involvement in</b> e.g.  “More involvement of local community in upkeep/planting in park.”  “Funding for regular maintenance would be suitable for a “work for the dole” project, if properly supervised.  We didn’t realise this was 100% maintained by volunteers.”</p>	2
<p><b>e. Mowing</b> e.g.  “Grass mowing more often in the growing period Box Hill Council used to do a better job we seem to be too far from the seat of govt with Whitehorse Council.”</p>	1

<b>No Suggestions</b>	7
<b>Bicycles including:</b>	
<p><b>a. separate cycles from pedestrians</b> e.g.</p> <p>“Separate the bike track from the walk track”</p> <p>“A <u>special</u> bicycle track.”</p> <p>“more walking paths for walkers only.”</p> <p>“For safety reasons it is strongly suggested that a separate bike path throughout the park would be an improvement and it makes it more comfortable to use for bike riders and walkers, especially on weekends.”</p> <p>“Bikes on l/h side of tracks. Pedestrians walk on r/h side of tracks. Then bikes and pedestrians face one another”</p> <p>“- separate path for bikes only , although I realize that this would probably be impossible.”</p> <p>“A path on the freeway side of creek to keep the walkers away from the speeding bikes.”</p>	8
<p><b>b. slow bikes down</b> e.g.</p> <p>“Speed humps and signs to slow down bikes and ask them to warn pedestrians as they approach. Casual riders are not the problem. Its the more athletic riders doing = 30 kph in a walking zone - with children &amp; dogs unsafe. Been hit twice by riders coming up silently from behind and then verbally abusing me and riding off. It’s a park not a highway.”</p>	6
<p><b>(i) Speed limits</b> e.g.</p> <p>“Slow the bikes up. Speed limits”</p> <p>“Speed limit for cyclists (maybe only when approaching people/dogs)”</p> <p>“Cycling speed limit signs at regular intervals.”</p> <p>“speed limit 20 kph,”</p>	7
<p><b>(ii) Speed humps</b> e.g.</p> <p>“Bumper pads at various intervals to encourage cycling slowdowns. These would not worry recreational cyclists but impede the speedsters.”</p>	4
<p><b>Dogs should be on lead</b> e.g.</p> <p>“Don’t like dogs not on a leash. “</p> <p>“We believe the decision to allow dogs off leads creates problems to small children and owners of small dogs who are harrassed by off lead large dogs out of control.”</p> <p>“Have dogs on leashes.”</p> <p>“Ban lead free zones”</p> <p>“Its Alright, as long as animal droppings are picked up. And animals are kept on leads. I am an animal lover. This is not biased.”</p> <p>“- Dogs to be kept on leads except on the ovals.”*</p>	6
<p><b>Keep Dogs off lead (*excluding those who said they would like a “dog park”)</b> e.g.</p> <p>“Keep dogs off lead”</p> <p>“- Dogs to be kept on leads except on the ovals.”*</p>	2*

<p><b>Freeway</b> e.g.  “Remove the freeway”  “provide better sound barriers”  “Also, some more trees near the edge / along the edge of the park where it meets the freeway to lower the noise level.”*  “higher trees &amp; thicker foliage to block fwy-noise and enhance overall look on the north/high bank of the creek/fwy”*</p>	4*
<p><b>Improve Security</b> e.g.  “The occasional police patrol to stop teenagers letting off firecrackers.”  “Regular night-time policing of car-park for hockey fields is also required. It appears to be a “business centre” for illegal activities after dark”  “Valda Ave carpark probably council matter- but the Sat. night lads (their syringes, condoms &amp; hooning) are not appreciated at 2.00am!!”  “Odd lighting especially in car park area off Valda Ave. Not happy with some of the night time activity that goes on. Feel a little insecure at times”</p>	4
<p><b>Motor Scooters</b> e.g.  “The use of the reserve by all motorised vehicles should be banned &amp; policed.”  “Ban motorised scooters”  “Sometimes motorized bicycles &amp; scooters try out on path.  O.K. I suppose but noise and smell unpleasant.”</p>	3
<p><b>Concerned about over-control</b> e.g.  “We’re concerned that over-control may ruin enjoyment eg. Trying to ban dogs, or feeding ducks, or bikes. These all have pluses and minuses.”</p>	1
<p><b>Creek bank</b> e.g.  “improve the banks of the creek to be more natural less bluestone or at least hide/camouflage it somehow”</p>	1
<p><b>Fire plan</b> e.g.  “A fire plan is essential and urgent...  - remove fire hazards around duck pond”</p>	1

**Miscellaneous:**

Some people included contact details, offering to be of assistance or wanting to become involved in Greenlink activities:

“Is there anyway of being involved with our kids .....tree planting etc.”

“Be happy to be of further assistance - please ring or write.”

“Would love to visit the nursery, but I don’t think it’s open weekends. Even if it’s a Saturday morning a month, it would help us 9 > 5 ers”.

Many respondents were appreciative:

“Congratulations to the volunteers”

“thanks”

“Well Done”

“P.S. Its good to see the occasional gardening Care being given along the creek bed etc.”

“And thankyou for making our Koonung Reserve so beautiful and all the hard work you put into it. ((drawing of Smiley Face))”

“Our family loves the reserve!!”

“I’ll be leaving this area soon & I will miss it terribly.”

“The plantings/reserve was a big factor in the purchase of our house.”