

CAMBRIDGE STREET RESERVE PLAY SPACE



Image credit: Cr Landes via Facebook



Prepared by: Streets Alive Yarra Inc.
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Foreword

Streets Alive Yarra is a non-profit, volunteer, resident and ratepayer action group with a vision for more trees, wider footpaths and vibrant businesses in thriving neighbourhoods. We see our streets being used by people from all ages, irrespective of whether they walk, roll on a wheelchair, cycle, use public transport or drive. Residents and shoppers should be able to move safely, comfortably, and conveniently around Yarra; and park near shops.



Image credit: OCULUS Landscape Architecture and Urban Design

Streets Alive Yarra was founded in 2017 and now has over 3,000 followers on Facebook. A network of local champions develops concepts and proposals for how to improve their local street or precinct. Streets Alive Yarra is also a member of the Victoria Walks Walkability Action Group network.

Further information is available at: streets-alive-yarra.org/about.

Summary

Council should not alter the Cambridge Street Reserve play space because neither side will be happy with the outcome:

- proponents of expanding the play space will not get back what was lost, and
- opponents of expanding the play space will not retain the green open space that they have now.

Instead, Council should build an entirely new dedicated children's play space in the near vicinity, larger than what existed before, because it would:

- be a win-win for both cohorts,
- deliver a much larger, more enjoyable playground,
- save two trees from removal,
- expand (not reduce) green open space, and
- align with the Community Vision, Council Plan, and the Transport Action Plan.

For a location, we suggest the northern section of Cambridge Street.



The proposed changes will not bring this back

Collingwood lacks a playground

Council should acknowledge that Collingwood lacks a children's playground (or play space) in the region of Cambridge Street.

Streets Alive Yarra has prepared a map of play spaces in Yarra, showing the lack of options (e.g. within 500 metres) for households in that area.



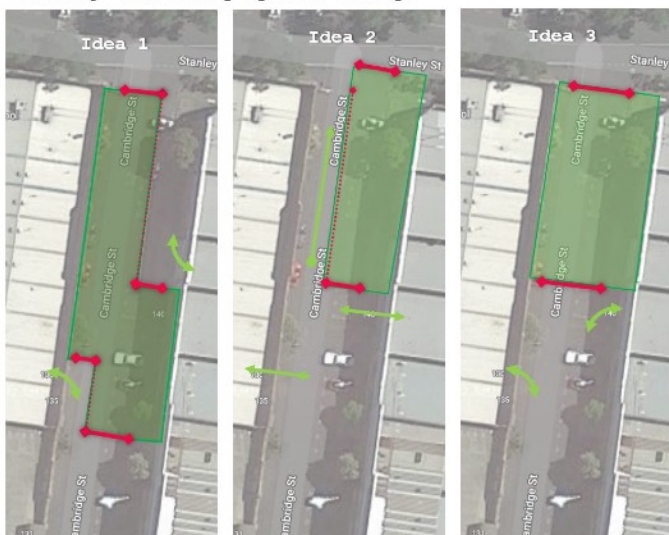
Map of play spaces in Yarra: <https://streets-alive-yarra.org/play-spaces/>

Proposal

Council should build an entirely new dedicated children's playground in the near vicinity, larger than what previously existed at the Cambridge Street Reserve.

For a location, we suggest the northern section of Cambridge Street, because it is central to the neighbourhood, and wide enough to offer a decent space. It's even possible to retain a narrow lane to support vehicle movements in either direction (although drivers may occasionally need to wait and take turns).

Cambridge Street Pop-up Park Concept



What could it look like?



Paint the street with art

Reusable temporary astroturf

Temporary trees

Planter boxes

What could it be used for?



Dog Park

Kids Activities

Community Garden

Outdoor gym/yoga and exercise

How do we do it?



Shut part of the street for a 12 month trial

Use temporary traffic barriers that are cheap, quick and reusable.

Suggestions for a large new park that could host a children's playground. Image credit: <https://streets-alive-yarra.org/cambridge-street/>

This proposal aligns with the Community Vision, Council Plan (Strategic Objective four - Place and Nature), and the recently adopted Transport Action Plan, which includes actions to 'investigate sites' and also 'deliver' the Roads to Parks Program:

NDW 13	Study Work	Investigate sites for the Roads to Parks program
NDW 14	Infrastructure	Deliver the Roads to Parks Program

Actions from the Transport Action Plan

This proposal would also:

- retain the original design intent for the expanded Cambridge Street Reserve, as developed by the landscape architect and sculptor,
- expand (not reduce) green open space, and
- save two trees from removal.



These two trees would be saved from removal. Image credit: City of Yarra, highlight from Streets Alive Yarra.

Concluding remarks

Streets Alive Yarra would be delighted to provide further detail or explanation of the themes raised in this document.

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