

# Beaumaris Scamander Survey Report



Version: 1 – Date: May 2024

## Introduction

Council received a proposal from the Beaumaris Community Group regarding the establishment of a native garden, among other things, at Beaumaris Park. Before making a decision on the proposal, Council wanted to give the community the opportunity to provide their input via a survey.

The survey provided Council with the opportunity to also understand who the users of Beaumaris Park are, as well as collate other feedback the community had for the redevelopment of the Park.

Another community project Council has been working on is the installation of outdoor exercise equipment in Scamander. The development of the Beaumaris Park survey provided the perfect opportunity for us to ask the community about their preferred location and feedback for this project as well.

**The survey was open from 15 April and closed on 6 May and received 143 responses.**

Responses were received, predominantly from the Scamander and Beaumaris communities. 126 of these were online with 17 hardcopies manually entered.

The survey was promoted in the following ways;

- Council's facebook page
- Council's website
- Council's newsletter
- Direct email to the Scamander/Beaumaris Township database
- Shared with the Beaumaris Community group to share with their members
- Posters including a QR code link to the survey as well as hard copies of the survey were dropped in to Scamander businesses including; Scamander Beach Hotel, River Mouth Café, Scamander Sports Complex, the Coffee Mug.
- Posters were also laminated and placed at Beaumaris Park, the River Mouth and the Western side of the River.

## Aims of Consultation

1. To understand what the communities of Scamander and Beaumaris use Beaumaris Park for and what developments they would like to see at the park.
2. To understand where the communities of Scamander and Beaumaris would like to see outdoor exercise equipment located in the area.

## Key Findings

- The survey reached its main audience who were the main respondents (residents from Scamander and Beaumaris (116 respondents)).
- The main users of Beaumaris Park are families.
- The community supports the Beaumaris community group's proposal so long as it does not come at the cost of the other recreational facilities and activities the Park is used for.
- Either the River Mouth or Western location would be supported by the community as a location for outdoor exercise equipment.

## Questions 1 and 2: Name

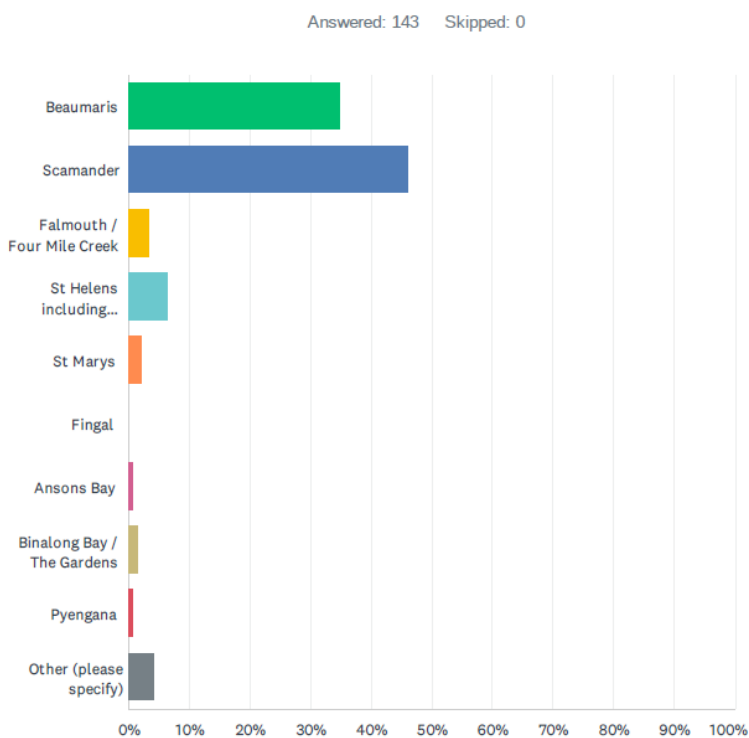
This question recorded the respondents first and last name. This question could be skipped if respondents wanted to remain anonymous.

## Question 3. What Break O'Day Township do you live or own a property in?

This question was compulsory and was included so that we could make sure that the communities of Beaumaris and Scamander were the main townships represented in the survey data. As the projects are located in these communities it was important to Council that their thoughts and voices were heard.

As shown below, more than 80% of respondents were from the Scamander and Beaumaris communities.

Responses to Other included: Upper Scamander, Goshen and Dianas Basin.



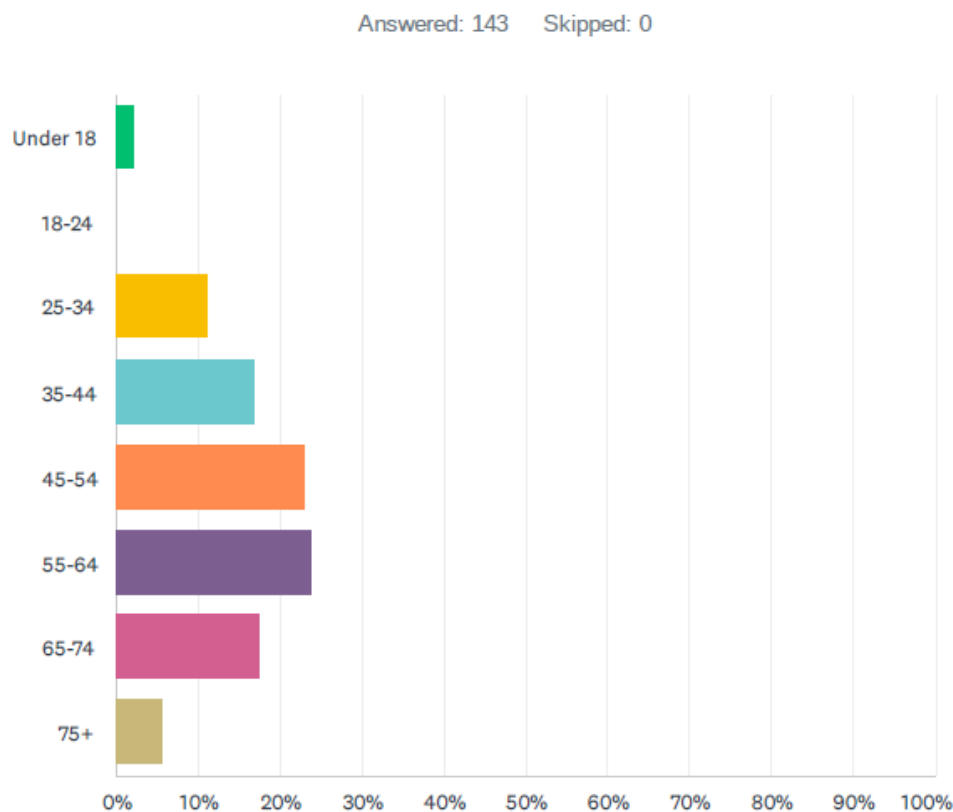
### Conclusions:

The survey was predominately answered by members of the Scamander and Beaumaris Communities. This shows that our promotion of the survey reached the right target audience.

### Question 4. Please select your age group

This question was included so we could identify and understand which age groups are using and accessing Beaumaris Park as well as ensuring these demographics were represented in the survey.

The responses to this question show a good spread of demographics which is further backed up by the responses to Question 8.



#### Conclusions:

The main user groups of Beaumaris Park are between the ages of 35 – 64 and are families with children

## Question 5. Email Database

This question is included on all Council surveys and aims to help us establish Township email databases so that we can directly communicate with township communities. These databases are used when we develop surveys such as this as well as sharing project and activity information affecting that township.

62 people have now been added to the Scamander and Beaumaris Township Email Database.

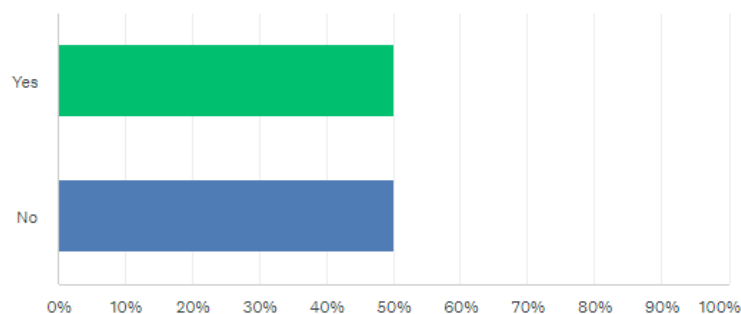
## Question 6. Do you use Beaumaris Park

This question was included so that we could make sure that those that use the park were represented in the survey.

As shown below, this was split 50/50.

Do you visit Beaumaris Park?

Answered: 142 Skipped: 1



### Conclusions:

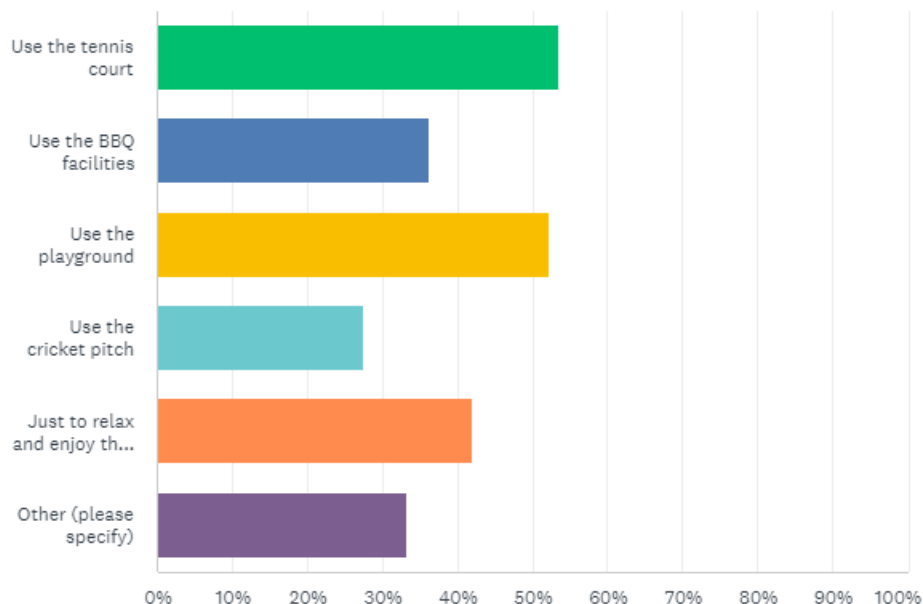
There were 71 respondents who answered NO to this question. The majority of these respondents (66.2%) were over the age of 55 and identified themselves as retirees (38% or single person or couple without children (29.58%).

## Question 7. What do you do when you visit the park?

This question was included so we could understand how Beaumaris Park is utilised by the community. We provided several options for respondents to consider as well as an *Other* option so that respondents could add any activities we may not have considered.

We reviewed the answers to this question twice, once by looking at all results and a second time by just looking at the Scamander and Beaumaris responses. Both subsets showed very little difference in the usage of the Park.

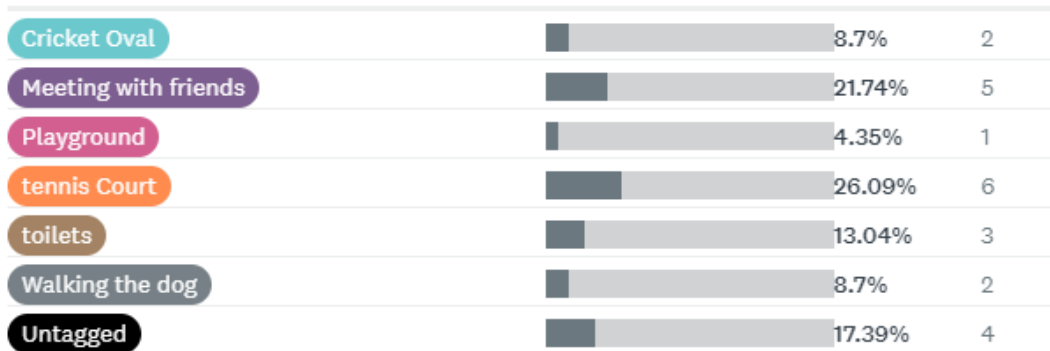
Answered: 69 Skipped: 74



From the responses provided the top activities were:

1. Using the tennis Court
2. Using the playground and,
3. Just relaxing

We went through the Other responses and grouped them by common themes as shown below.



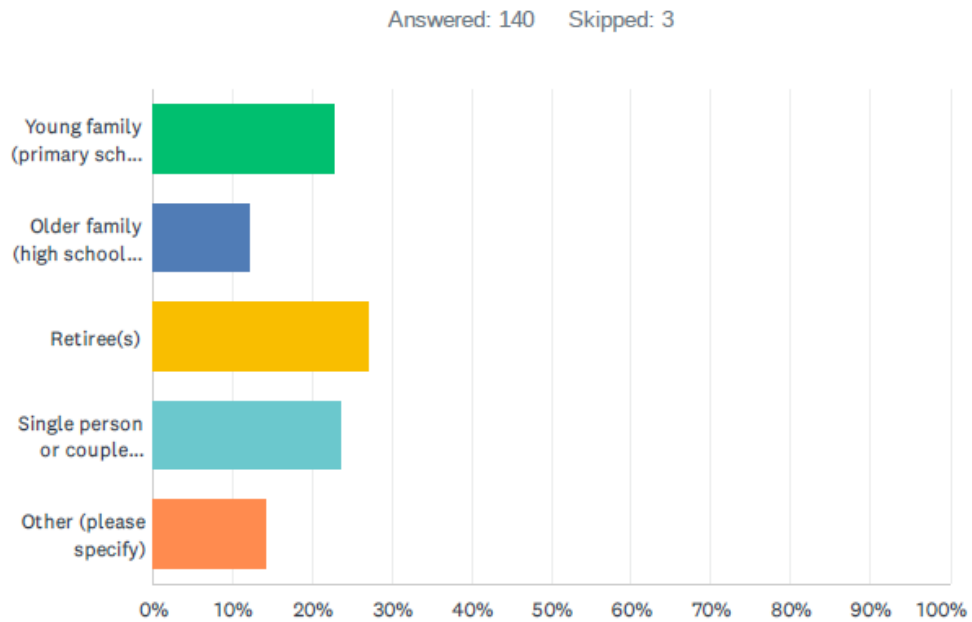
### Conclusions:

The main elements of Beaumaris Park that are used by the community are:

- Using the Court
- Meeting and relaxing with friends and family
- Using the playground

### Question 8. Which of the below statements best suits you.

This question was included so we could understand and validate who the main user groups of the park were. This was so we could ensure their voices were represented in the overall survey results.



Because there were 20 *Other* entries, we went through these responses and tagged them as follows:

Tag	Percentage	Count
Grandparents and grand...	20%	4
Older family	5%	1
Young Family	30%	6
Untagged	45%	9

#### Conclusions:

The main user groups of the Park are families and those with school aged children. This is backed up by the age question which showed that the main age groups were between 35 and 64.



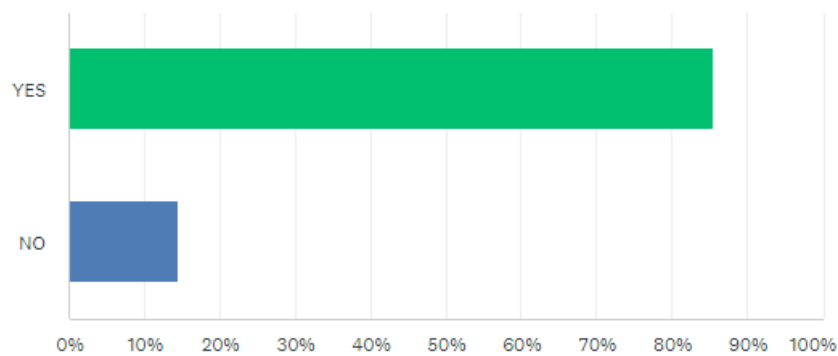
## Question 9. Do you support the Beaumaris Community Group’s plan for Beaumaris Park?

Council received a proposal for Beaumaris Park from the Beaumaris Community Group which we wanted to release to the community for their feedback.

To ensure that this feedback was relevant to the Beaumaris and Scamander communities we reviewed the responses three times, looking at all responses, looking at the responses of the Scamander and Beaumaris townships and thirdly, from families with children. This showed that 97% of respondents from both communities supported the proposal and 81% of the main user groups also supported the proposal.

Is the above something that you would support?

Answered: 138 Skipped: 5

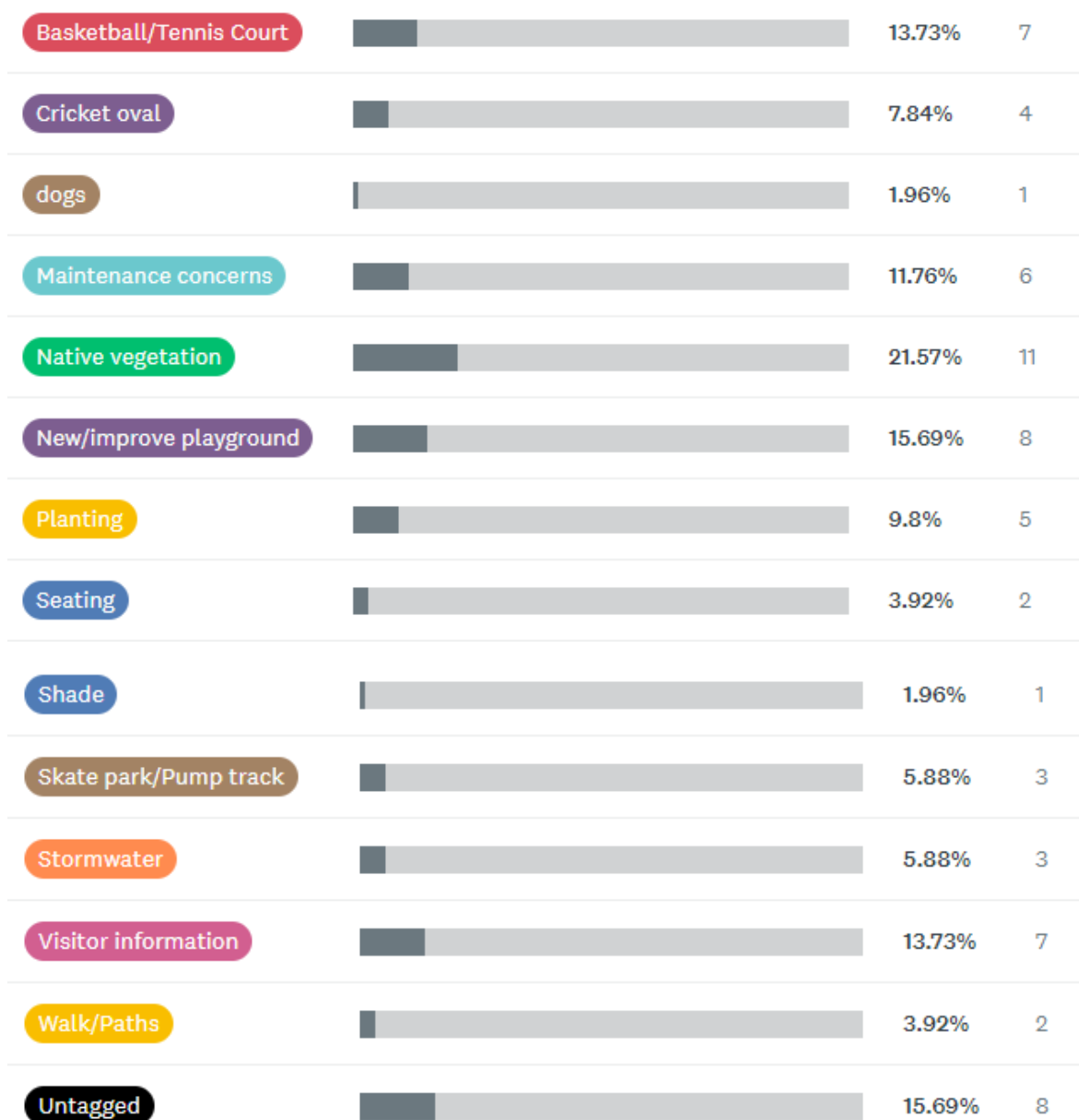


### Conclusions:

The community overall supports the Beaumaris Community Group’s proposal for Beaumaris Park. The main users of the Park support the proposal.

## Question 10 – Do you have any further feedback regarding the Beaumaris Community Group’s proposal

This was an optional question but received 51 responses. We went through these responses and found common themes. These are presented below. We will be passing on all the feedback and comments, with any personal data removed, to the group for inclusion in their proposal. Council will also use this information to future plan for the Park.



The majority of feedback received from the community was related to the landscaping and vegetation, the playground, the court and oval areas.

We reviewed these statements together and have provided a summary statement on the three main themes:

**Native vegetation and plantings:**

The survey responses show a mix of opinions regarding the future development of Beaumaris Park. Many participants support the idea of incorporating more native vegetation to help restore the environment and provide educational opportunities. However, they emphasise the need to balance this with maintaining the park's recreational areas, such as the playground, tennis courts, and cricket pitch, which are vital for community engagement and family activities.

There is a strong desire to enhance the park's natural environment without compromising its recreational and social functions.

**Playground:**

Many respondents support the idea of improving the playground, suggesting expansions and additions such as a zip line, larger slides, and nature-based play areas. There is a consistent theme of integrating play opportunities with the natural environment, reflecting a preference for a balance between conservation and active use of the park space.

While respondents appreciate the importance of regenerating the heathland, they emphasise that the open fields and play areas should be retained and potentially improved to better serve the community.

**Court and oval area**

The survey responses reflect a strong desire to maintain and enhance the existing recreational facilities in Beaumaris Park, particularly the tennis courts, playground, cricket pitch, and other family-friendly amenities. Many respondents emphasise the park's role in community connection and express concern that increasing native vegetation or creating a native garden should not come at the expense of these popular features.

There are calls for repairing and improving current facilities, such as the tennis court, basketball hoop, and cricket pitch, and for adding new amenities like a pump track.

While there is some support for environmental improvements, the prevailing sentiment is to prioritise the park's recreational and social functions.

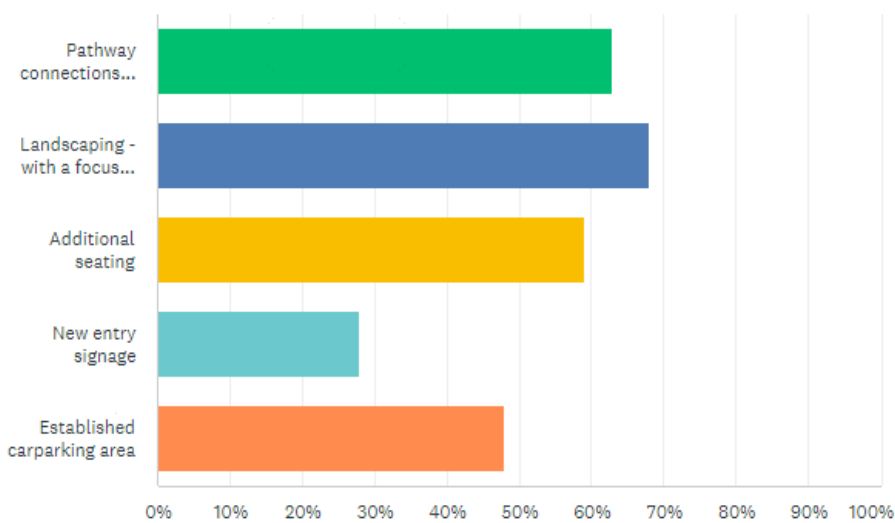
**Conclusions:**

The community supports the Beaumaris community group's proposal so long as it does not come at the cost of the other recreational facilities and activities the Park is used for.

Council will need to work closely with the group to ensure that this community sentiment is reflected in their approach. Council also need to consider the other upgrades the community has raised and how these can be scheduled and budgeted for.

## Question 11. Do you have any further feedback regarding the development of Beaumaris Park.

This question was included so respondents had a final opportunity to provide any other feedback or suggestions on the development of the Park. This question also had an *Other* option which received 37 responses. We went through these responses and grouped them together in common themes.



Dogs	8.11%	3
drinking water	8.11%	3
footpaths/connections	10.81%	4
maintenance /safety	8.11%	3
Play Equipment	29.73%	11
seating	8.11%	3
Shade	5.41%	2
Signage	2.7%	1
Skate Park/ pumprack	13.51%	5
Sports Equipment	29.73%	11
Untagged	10.81%	4

We then broke out the main themes of play equipment, sports equipment, skate park /pumptrack and have provided a summary statement.

### **Play Equipment:**

Responses indicate a strong community desire for enhanced recreational facilities and better amenities in the park. Many respondents suggest updating and expanding the play equipment to include features like sandpits, balance stepping stones, and themed play structures. There is also interest in adding new amenities like drinking water fountains and better signage for the park's visibility. Additionally, some respondents propose incorporating educational elements, such as bird identification signage and historical information about the park's features.

The community values the park and seeks improvements that cater to both recreational and educational needs.

### **Sports Equipment**

Many respondents emphasise the need for upgrades to the tennis courts, including resurfacing and multipurpose functionality for activities like netball and basketball. Suggestions also include adding new amenities such as basketball hoops and football goals. There is a consensus on the importance of ensuring safety and functionality in the infrastructure, with proposals for seating areas, flat surfaces for various sports, and the addition of a pump track for biking and scootering.

The community seeks practical enhancements to create a welcoming and versatile space for residents of all ages to enjoy various recreational activities.

### **Skate Park / Pumptrack**

The survey responses indicate a strong community interest in the establishment of a skate park within the park area, with multiple respondents expressing a desire for facilities similar to those in nearby locations like Bicheno. Additionally, there is a consensus on the need for pump tracks for biking and scootering.

### **Conclusions:**

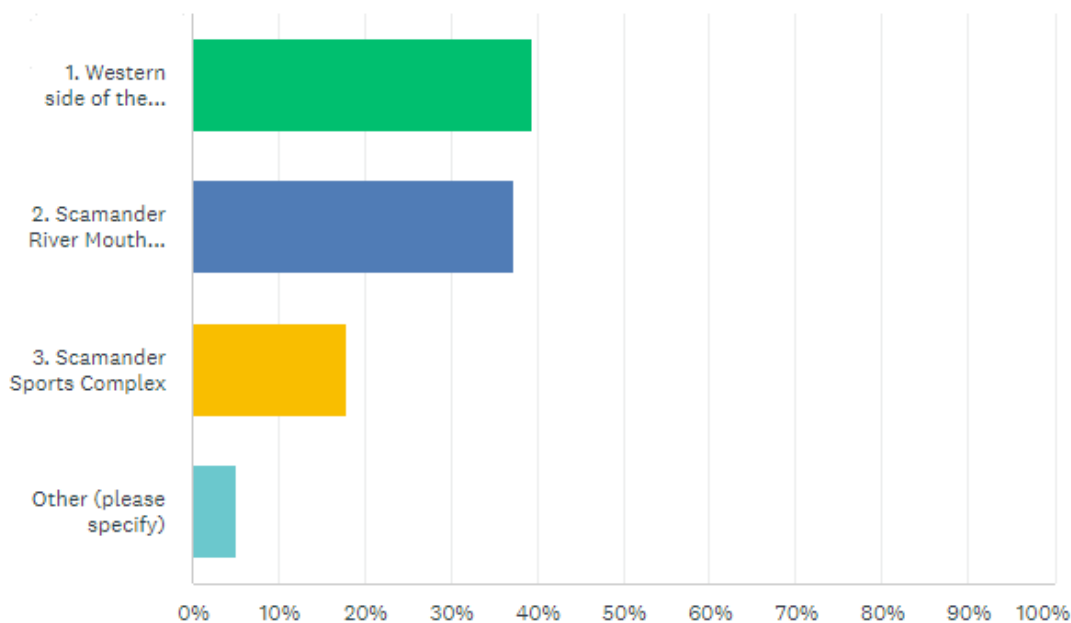
The community supports the Native Garden proposal but would also like Council to consider upgrades to the existing infrastructure including the 4 playground, court area and cricket pitch. They would also like to see improved signage, and more seating.

It is important to note here that while a skatepark and pumptrack are desired by the community Council does not support the replication of facilities in each township. For example, less than 10 minutes up the road in Scamander there is a Skatepark and 10 minutes to the north there is more than 77km of bike tracks with a pumptrack currently being constructed.

## Scamander Exercise Equipment Location:

### Question 12. Which of the following locations do you think outdoor exercise equipment should be located?

Based on previous conversations with the Scamander community we provided three options for the location of outdoor exercise equipment as well as an *Other* option, which received seven responses.



The majority of responses in *Other* related to either not having an opinion or not wanting the exercise equipment at all.

As the community responses for the Western and Eastern side of the River locations were so close, we have broken out the comments specifically related to each site for Councillors to consider when making their decision.

#### Conclusion

Either the Western or River Mouth locations will be supported by the community.

**Community Feedback specifically related to the Western side of the River was as follows:**

1. The western side already looks tacky with those signs that have been put up. The outdoor exercise equipment is st helens never gets used as most people don't want to do this in public. Why not build a gym and pool centre instead that can be used even in winter? None will want to use the scamander gym equipment if it is placed at the river like it is in st helens. Just my honest thoughts. Listen to what the younger generations want.
2. Yes a toilet block if established near pontoon and seating.
3. It is great to have one park (the pontoon park) which is passive - without exercising people, lots of children... Its just a nice place to sit quietly and enjoy the river and peace. Not many open spaces like this left. We don't have to fill everything up.
4. Being central, Location 1 would be accessible yet private enough to do exercise away from prying eyes of café patrons and tourists. The complex is too far away. You could possibly consider at the bottom of Thomas Street where there is ample space along waterfront with a concrete slab that could be used for equipment circuit.

**Summary:**

The comments suggest that the western side looks tacky and outdoor exercise equipment is underused due to lack of privacy, proposing a gym and pool center instead. There's support for a toilet block and seating near the pontoon. A peaceful, passive park like the pontoon park should be preserved. Location 1 is recommended for exercise equipment due to its central, private location, with an alternative suggestion of Thomas Street for its ample space.

**Community Feedback related to the Eastern side of the River was as follows:**

1. Please create some native planting and habitat around the Scamander River. Trees for shade, bushes and grass for birds.
2. I believe that near the Mouth Cafe will be suspect to high salt damage and possible damage from yahoos that have too much alcohol.
3. I consider the two areas at the river mire suitable as there are already established pathways in each direction to allow elderly to walk to use equipment
4. It makes sense keeping the skate park, kids play equipment and exercise equipment all together.
5. Sitting it near the existing skateboard and play equipment may encourage use by parents and older children, as well as providing role models and progression in use for younger members of the community and visual oversight.

6. I believe having the exercise equipment along side the playground would benefit families being able to workout and play in the same place. Who would be paying for this ? And I believe a community pool is needed and wanted more.
7. Considering the toilets are near the playground, it'd be a silly idea to put them across the road, and as not everyone uses the sports complex that's a ridiculous idea to have it there, would of been a better idea to do the Wrinklers picnic area as residents have already waited years for that to be done and have the fitness equipment in that space, even maybe a awesome walkway from the river mouth around to Diana's basin on the top of the reserve so ppl can walk or ride there bikes /scooters etc whilst enjoying a ocean view like most other beach side towns
8. Keep it all together at the Rivermouth so parents can use it while the kids play
9. Be nice for mums to have the chance to exercise while the kids play.
10. Nobody wants to work out in front of people sitting in cafe looking at them.
11. I think it needs to be close to the toilets and would benefit parents having it close to the playground. Parent groups could use the equipment while kids play. The pontoon side is more for dogs to have a run around or families to have picnics.

### **Summary:**

Respondents advocate for native planting around Scamander River for habitat and shade. Concerns are raised about high salt damage and potential vandalism near the Mouth Cafe. The river mouth is considered suitable due to established pathways. There's strong support for keeping exercise equipment near the skate park and playground to benefit families and provide oversight. The equipment should be close to toilets and the playground for convenience. Lastly, there's a preference for avoiding placement near cafes to maintain privacy.

### **Conclusions:**

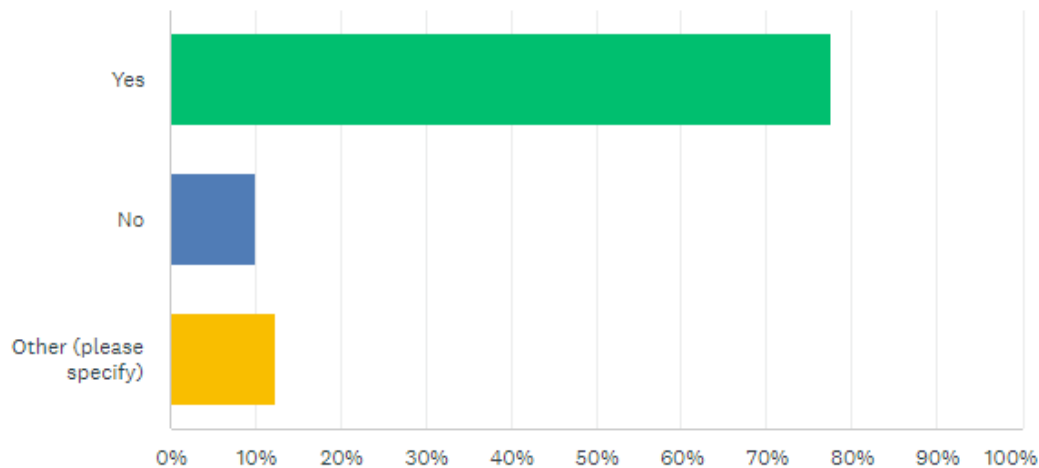
The Western side of the Scamander River has the highest preference by a very narrow margin of 2.24%.

Considering the closeness of the two main preferred locations it is recommended that Council carefully consider the commentary around each location which has been provided above.



### Question 13. Do you support landscaping at the Western side of the River?

Council received feedback from the Scamander community that they would like to see some landscaping at this site so we included it in this survey so we could gauge community sentiment.



There were 16 responses under *Other* which we summarised as follows:

The survey responses reflect a range of opinions regarding the proposed landscaping of the area. Some respondents express support for the idea, particularly if it enhances the community space while ensuring visibility and safety.

Suggestions include incorporating native plants and species to maintain the natural environment. Others, however, oppose the idea or express indifference, citing concerns about cost, maintenance, and potential loss of visibility or functionality. Some respondents propose alternative uses for the space, such as creating a dog park or focusing on exercise equipment.

Overall, while there is some support for landscaping, there are also reservations and diverse preferences regarding how the space should be utilized and maintained.

#### Conclusion:

Landscaping of the area is supported but the community prefers that this be native vegetation.

## Question 14. Do you have any other feedback, suggestions or considerations for us regarding the location of the outdoor exercise equipment.

This question was included so respondents could provide any other ideas and feedback they had for the selected location for the Outdoor exercise equipment. This question had 62 responses which we grouped in common themes and summarised as follows:

### **Location Preference:**

Concerns were raised about the visibility and accessibility of the equipment, with some suggesting that it should be placed away from crowded areas or areas prone to vandalism.

### **Usage and Practicality:**

Questions were raised about the potential usage of outdoor exercise equipment, with some expressing scepticism about whether it would be utilised by the community.

### **Amenities and Infrastructure:**

Requests were made for additional amenities and infrastructure improvements in conjunction with the installation of exercise equipment, such as upgraded toilets, seating areas, and better footpaths. This was particularly the case for the Western location.

### **Environmental Considerations:**

Suggestions were made for incorporating native vegetation into the landscaping around the exercise equipment to maintain the natural beauty of the area and provide habitat for wildlife.

Some concerns were also raised about potential environmental impacts, such as the attraction of snakes or the disruption of existing ecosystems.

### **Conclusions:**

Either the River Mouth or Western location would be supported by the community as a location for outdoor exercise equipment. Council will need to consider all commentary before making a decision. If the Western location is selected, the community would support native landscaping in the area. This could also act as screening which would assist in the privacy concerns raised by the community.