



# COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT

## SOUTH EAST SPORTS COMPLEX – DRAFT MASTER PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

The South East Sports Complex Draft Master Plan outlines a comprehensive, long-term strategy to address the future needs and demands of the precinct. Informed by community consultation, stakeholder input, and established landscape design principles, the plan provides an integrated framework to guide staged implementation over time.

The purpose of the engagement was to gather informed feedback on the key elements of the Draft Master Plan, including whether the opportunities and constraints identified are accurate and complete, and whether the proposed staging and action plan is practical, achievable, and aligned with community expectations.

The feedback received through this engagement process will be used to refine the Draft Master Plan and support decision-making for the future development of the complex, ensuring it reflects community values and delivers long-term benefits.

### ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Workshop with user groups at the South East Sports Complex to discuss the strategy and staging in detail.

Online survey open to all community members, with targeted questions based on the above themes.

Pop-up consultation session at local shopping centre to reach broader audiences.

Direct email to governing peak bodies.

Promoted via our usual channels – Sorell Times newspaper, social media, E-News, website.

### PARTICIPATION

Workshop attendees = 8 people representing 6 sporting clubs, plus 4 Councillors and Council staff.

Online Survey = 11 respondents

Social Media reach = 13,768 views across two Facebook posts

Stakeholder categories include community members, sporting clubs, governing bodies.

### WHAT WE HEARD – KEY THEMES AND FEEDBACK

**Key Themes Summary** (Online Survey and Workshop Feedback)  
Feedback Attached in Appendix A

**Planning for the Future**

People generally support the direction of the Master Plan but want to make sure it truly reflects how the community will use the precinct in years to come, with strong interest in a wider mix of facilities, including indoor and inclusive sports like gymnastics and indoor tennis.

### **Growth and Capacity Pressures**

There's clear feedback that participation is growing, particularly in netball, basketball and junior AFL, and that existing courts, ovals and storage areas are already under pressure, with more space likely needed within the next 5–10 years.

### **Parking, Access and Watching Sport**

Parking came up again and again, especially around Oval 2 and during big events, with people emphasising the importance of parking close to the action, accessibility for older spectators and those with mobility needs, and keeping the option to watch sport from vehicles.

### **Everyday Amenities and Practical Needs**

Many people pointed out gaps in basic amenities like public toilets, seating, undercover areas, umpire facilities and storage, and stressed that these everyday comforts are just as important as new playing surfaces.

### **Lighting, Scoreboards and Tech**

There was strong support for better lighting, electronic scoreboards, PA systems and time-keeping facilities to improve safety, ease the load on volunteers and make game days run more smoothly.

### **Walking, Fitness and Informal Use**

Walking tracks were seen as a positive, but walkers, joggers and Parkrun participants felt they need better recognition, including safe, uninterrupted paths away from traffic and a few simple extras like bins, seating and meeting points.

### **Timing, Staging and Priorities**

While the staging generally feels sensible, people said it's hard to judge without clear cost and funding information and felt some current issues—like basketball training space, parking and amenities—should be tackled sooner.

### **Turf Wickets and Sport-Specific Concerns**

There were mixed views about turf wickets, with some questioning whether they're needed now and suggesting they could be delayed so more immediate community needs can be addressed first, alongside other sport-specific matters such as cricket infrastructure, oval use, and requests to include pickleball through permanent line markings on existing courts.

### **Environment, Layout and Shared Spaces**

Some feedback focused on getting the balance right between different users and the environment, including dog parks, horse-riding areas, drainage, foreshore access and protecting natural and cultural values.

## **HOW THE FEEDBACK WILL INFORM THE STRATEGY**

This feedback forms part of the second round of community consultation and will be analysed and sent to the consultant to inform the final Master Plan. The Master Plan will be presented to Council for endorsement in early 2026.

## NEXT STEPS

Council staff are preparing a staged delivery plan that sets out the timing and sequence of works identified in the Master Plan, and how these will be rolled out over time.

The Master Plan and Staging Plan will be presented to Council for endorsement in early 2026.

## APPENDIX A

### South East Complex Draft Master Plan

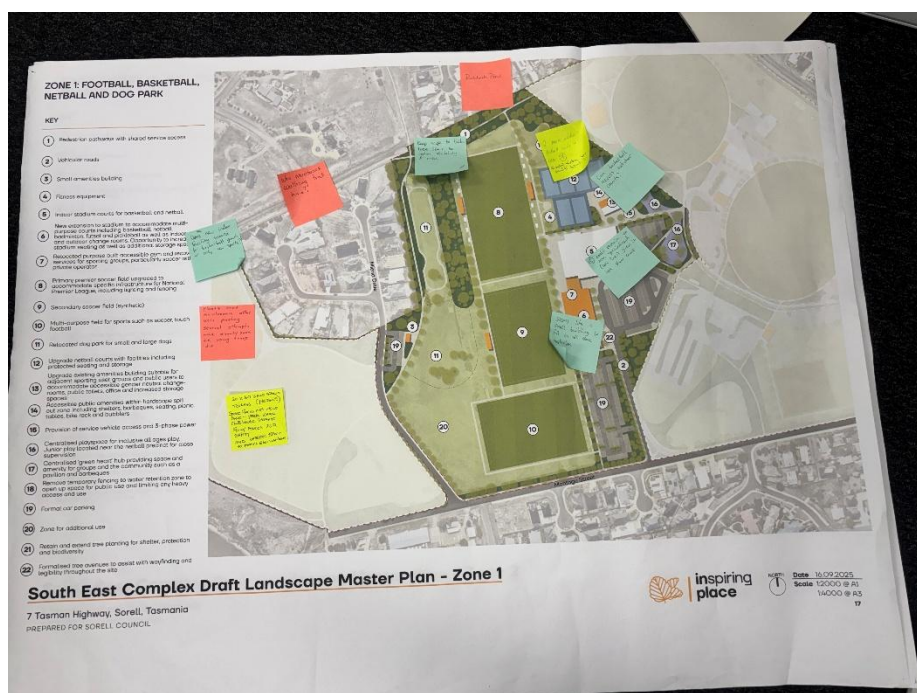
#### ZONE 1 - Football, Basketball, Netball and Dog Park - Feedback received

Numbers correspond to KEY on zone map

1. Pedestrian pathways with shared services
  - Who maintains walking track here?
  - Keep scope to thicken tree lines to reduce visibility and noise.
  - Rubbish Bins
5. Indoor Stadium courts for basketball and netball
  - Could remain more specialised (less lines) given it has show court
6. New extension stadium....
  - Does the new indoor facility account for account for basketball growth or only new sports?
  - Seems like a small building to fit all those facilities.
12. Upgrade Netball Courts with facilities including protected seating and storage
  - Can basketball access outdoor courts?
18. Remove temporary fencing to water retention zone to open up space for public use and limiting any heavy access and use
  - Two (2) more outdoor netball courts in area 18
  - Could extra (courts) be multi sport?

#### Outside of zone

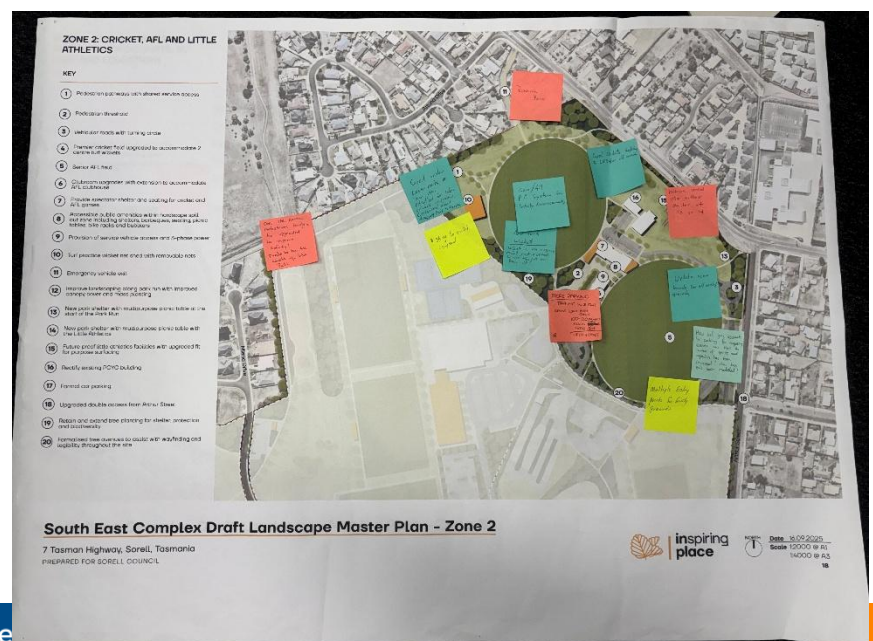
- Plants need maintenance after moss planting. Several attempts have already seen the young tree die.
- 20 x 60 Sand Arena (for horses) Same facility as we have – Yards, Water, Club House, Storage. Fully Fenced for Safety and larger space to match what we have.



## ZONE 2 – Cricket, AFL and Little Athletics – Feedback received

Numbers correspond to KEY on zone map

1. Pedestrian pathways with shared service access
    - Rubbish Bins
  4. Premier cricket field upgraded to accommodate 2 centre turf wickets
    - Zone / All PA system for safety announcements.
    - No turf wickets. What is the ongoing maintenance cost and upkeep? Would this put our fees up?
    - Good update lighting to LED for all ovals
  5. Senior AFL field
    - Update score boards for all ovals / grounds
    - Multiple entry points for forty grounds.
    - How will you account for parking for competing events now that the number of sports and capacity has been increased? How has this been modelled?
  10. Turf practice wicket net shed with removable nets
    - Good unclear cover nets, all year use.
    - Potential for indoor cricket competition.
    - Concerned about dragging equipment to the area.
    - Storage for cricket equipment.
  13. New park shelter with multipurpose picnic table at the start of the Park Run
    - Parkrun could use wither shelter at 13 or 14
  17. Formal Car Parking
    - More parking.
    - Traffic in and out, game day both ovals, 100 – 120 players cars each time slot, up to 4 games
- Outside of zone
- Can the narrow pedestrian bridge be upgraded to improve safety? Needs to be the width of the path.





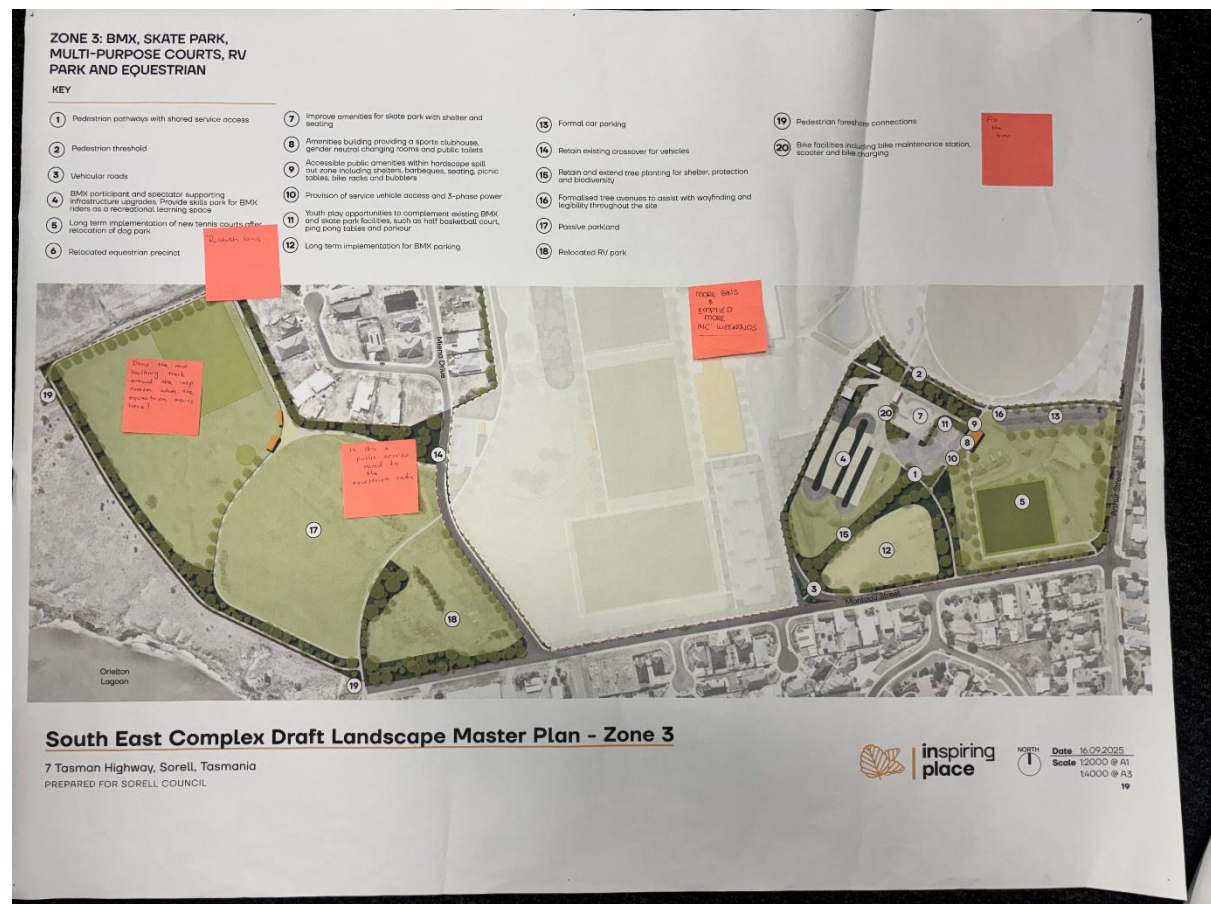
## ZONE 3 – BMX, Skate Park, Multi-Purpose Courts, RV Park and Equestrian – Feedback received

Numbers correspond to KEY on zone map

1. Pedestrian pathways with shared service access
  - Rubbish Bins
6. Relocated equestrian precinct
  - Does the new walking track around the loop remain when the equestrian moves here?
14. Retain existing crossover for vehicles
  - Is this a public access road to the equestrian centre?

Outside of zone / general

- More bins and emptied more including weekends



## Consultation Questions from November Workshop

### 1. Do you think the Master Plan reflects the right opportunities and constraints for the precinct? Why or Why Not?

- Timelines for expansion impacts growth currently.
- Turf wicket – used by Cricket Tas but not local club at this stage.
- Accessible walking tracks through precinct.
- Ability to maintain facilities to high standards.
- Timeline – need notice of move. Impacts requirements to maintain and upgrade current facility.

### 2. Does the plan meet the future needs of our growing and changing community?

- Potentially – 5 to 10 years could need more outdoor courts.
- Netball – growth, growth, growth.
- Netball and Basketball competing for court space.
- DFHRC moving – will there be a requirement to move again?
- AFL – Two ovals is a challenge for growth of SEGJFC. Multiple teams training on one oval.
- Storage requirements.

### 3. Does the staging and action plan feel realistic and appropriately prioritised? Why or Why not?

- Timing seems realistic, but hard to know without costing and estimated funding plan.
- Prioritisation doesn't address current issues for lack of basketball facilities; many teams are training at school gyms due to competition.
- Turf wickets could be pushed out to 10 – 20 years.

## Feedback received from Website Feedback Form - 11 responses received

### Q1. Do we have the opportunities and constraints right?

1. Opportunities outlined are great, I'd like to see tennis moved up the list, every school and oval allows AFL and Cricket, its everywhere. The bathroom facilities at Sorell Tennis Club would boarder on non compliant, the fence is not safe. Why can't sorell be the leader in the pack for tasmania and have at least 1 or 2 indoor tennis courts? Not one in Tasmania anymore!
2. not really
3. somewhat but a few issues that will actually create more problems
4. Yes with some exceptions. Primarily the need/impact of a turf wicket...
5. Yes
6. ??
7. "From Gymnastics Australia's perspective, one key opportunity that is currently understated is the significant participation demand for indoor, entry-level, inclusive sports, particularly gymnastics, in the Sorell region.  
Gymnastics offers a unique community benefit by providing foundational movement development, early-years participation, and inclusive programs for children, young people, and people with disability. While gymnastics was noted during the consultation phase, the final plan does not appear to reflect this opportunity within the facility footprint or future development considerations. We believe its omission is a missed opportunity to diversify participation options and support broader physical literacy outcomes for the community."
8. yes
9. N/A
10. We believe so. We view this as a terrific precinct, but one with opportunity and scope to become even better. This master plan captures some of the great opportunities present at the site, and I commend Inspiring Place and Sorell Council on their work to this point.
11. Concerned with parking availability for Oval 2. When STJFL hosts finals at the Pembroke complex using both ovals we currently have both ovals ringed with vehicles as well as double row parking on the ring road. Having nil or very little parking near the no 2 oval may be detrimental to the older grandparents that attend and support grand children, also vehicles offer a degree of comfort in inclement weather as there is no supportive volume of undercover seating on offer.

### Q2. Is the staging and action plan realistic?

1. As above, I'd love to see tennis moved foward.
2. didn't get that far
3. somewhat
4. Yes
5. Yes
6. ??
7. To strengthen the plan, we recommend including flexibility within Stages 2 or 3 for an indoor multi-purpose space capable of accommodating gymnastics programs. Incorporating gymnastics does not need to shift the staging timeline but should be



reflected as a viable future inclusion or partnership opportunity to avoid limiting options later in the precinct's development.

8. yes
9. N/A
10. Believe so.
11. Overall looks reasonable, needs to address the overall parking concerns though. More under cover seating would be ideal for both ovals. Additional toilet facilities would be favourable.

### **Q3. Does the plan prepare us well for the future?**

1. Sports identified are great, not having indoor tennis would be a missed opportunity
2. it depends
3. it creates new issues
4. Somewhat
5. Yes but I don't see why we need more tennis courts. We need more open play spaces
6. No, car park too close to the ground
7. National trends show increasing demand for activities that support early childhood development, physical literacy, and low-impact participation. Gymnastics programs strongly align with these outcomes and would complement the precinct's existing offerings. Including gymnastics within the future facility options would significantly strengthen the plan's capacity to meet diversifying participation needs over the next 20+ years.
8. yes
9. Need to also focus on the present (now). Having NO public toilets open for the general fitness/lifestyle public is not acceptable.
10. Yes, however, we do view that the comments listed below would help future-proof the venue.
11. Does the upgrade on oval 2 provide for a time keeping and scoreboard controller enclosed facility.  
Scoreboard upgrades required on both ovals to electronic / video screens.

### **Q4. Do you think we have missed anything?**

1. Indoor tennis
2. the point?
3. "yes- Lighting for the senior oval has been upgraded but its a quick fix (whilst appreciated) is still not to safety standards for senior mens competitive football. no public address system (simple pa that would be able to announce around each oval or each zone in case of emergency, lost children, car issues, emergency access etc.  
scoreboard upgrade whilst noted is not included?  
around the ground parking is significantly reduced and the new car park will detract from the local sports culture, spectators enjoy sitting in or by their cars to watch, not all spectators enjoy drinking and socializing and prefer to watch as they have for the past 100 years. this is an urgent change please  
still a lack of seating, the area of the car park would be better served as some smaller tiered seating and remaining fence car parks.

4. 1. Score board, football and cricket are desperate for an electronic scoreboard. 2. Lighting to be up to night time cricket standard.  
3. Somewhere with power and elevation for frog box in the cricket season
5. We need a bike park like the old bmx park where we can have smaller children ride. The current bmx park is restricted to only bmx bikes rather than kids balance bikes or just normal bikes. Similar to Kingston park or Lindisfarne north primary school.
6. Score board upgrade and lighting upgrade for main ground
7. Yes. We believe the plan misses an opportunity to incorporate gymnastics as a future facility inclusion or potential anchor indoor sport. Gymnastics is one of Australia's largest participation sports for children aged 0–12, with strong growth in Tasmania and rising demand in outer-urban regions such as Sorell.  
We recommend that the Master Plan explicitly include:  
Consideration of a dedicated or shared indoor facility suitable for gymnastics in a later stage; and  
Engagement with Gymnastics Australia and Gymnastics Tasmania to assess future demand, programming options, and feasibility.  
This would ensure that the precinct remains adaptive and capable of supporting sports and activities beyond traditional field-based offerings."
8. The opportunity to inform the public about the RAMSAR site ...pedestrian access and native vegetation on the foreshore,.
9. YES...You have totally forgotten about the largest participation sport in the country...that is, joggers and walkers. We run a weekly ParkRun (Pembroke Parkrun) every Saturday morning and there is NO mention of this in the Master Plan. We need an uninterrupted pathway that has NO traffic access, and this has not been taken into consideration.
10. We view that there are some other considerations that should be looked at for AFL at the site. Namely:
  - Current goal posts are very short, should be a consideration for these to be replaced with AFL Community standard posts (9m goal, 6m behind). Existing goal posts could be repurposed for a local park or school.
  - Lighting upgrades to future proof the venue should be looked into. Although recent upgrades were appreciated by the club, it is still not clear if these lights meet the AFL's recommended lux provision.
  - An upgraded scoreboard has been flagged by the club as a priority, with the existing scoreboard a burden on volunteer time and capacity.
  - PA system has been flagged as an opportunity to support the management of large crowds and from a safety / emergency management perspective.
  - Additional seating. A small grandstand should be considered to better support patrons.
11. Umpire changeroom is currently very small when hosting games at both ovals,

**Q5. Do you have any other feedback you would like to add? Please provide any other suggestions here.**

1. Skipped question
2. These questions aren't that helpful if you want feedback.  
1) Is the new proposed dog park area the same size as the current one? Have you engaged with a dog behavioural specialist to make sure that the site is appropriate. It seems to me that a narrower park could be more of an issue than

the current squarish one we have now. It would be good not to have a walking track on the boundary of the dog park (is that in the proposal), because it creates issues. The narrow walk way between the current dog park and the caravan area is problematic. It's too narrow. It would be better if it was away from the boundary of the dog park. More people own dogs than play soccer/Aussie rules/netball/tennis.

2) Relocation of the horse-riding area. It makes sense to move this away from the BMX and soccer areas to improve safety outcomes for riders and their horses. Will the proposed site have the same area as the current site? Will Council be paying for the ground to be worked on to make it suitable for horse-riding? It isn't suitable currently. Will Council provide toilets at this site? Also will Council include an all-weather area, due to the potential for waterlogging at the proposed site? Will the site be fully fenced? Will there be adequate safe parking (within the fence) for horse-floats?

3) Has Council undertaken any biodiversity assessments and/or cultural heritage assessments for the proposed changes? There are (or were) threatened plant species in both the dog park and the current horse-riding area. There are also threatened species along the foreshore.

4) One thing that I feel is missing from the sports complex is a 400 m running track. Why not plan to have one of these to be fully inclusive of field sports?

3. most of my feedback has been communicated to Ben Buckland previously

4. 1.No info on new nets

- could we have power and a storage shed there

- How many nets

- Do they back onto the ground for longer run ups

- Could the nets be undercover or part thereof for all weather training

2. What is Cricket Tas plans to ensure this isn't like Brighton who's cricket club proceeded to fold and now have no local cricket options after going to turf.

3. What will happen to sorell cricket clubs large junior population and lower level men's cricket sides, where will they play without the second oval being synthetic.

4.Has consultation happened with local cricket players to see if there is any interest in entering the premier league... yet again will this end up financially ruining the club and therefore all cricket

5. Public bbq's will undermine clubs canteen... do not install any public BBQs!!!

6. Parking around ground is incredibly important for any and all use of the grounds, this includes the second oval

7. Why the wasted space in that turning circle.

8. More information on club room upgrades ensuring consultation with all parties interested and ensuring it remains a club room and not a corporate lifeless function room like what happened at Brighton.

5. Skipped question

6. Skipped question

7. Gymnastics Australia welcomes the opportunity to partner with Sorell Council in further exploring how gymnastics could be incorporated into the South East Sports Complex as the project progresses. We can provide technical facility specifications, participation data, workforce development insights, and support with community program modelling.

We commend Council on its vision and long-term approach and strongly encourage the inclusion of gymnastics as part of the precinct's future indoor sport planning to enhance community access, inclusivity, and participation outcomes.

8. Is there a formal registration table for the Park Run?

9. See response to question 6. This is very important, especially for a positive, healthy lifestyle community as well as for the local business community. Thank you.

10. The club had some feedback on the proposed carpark:

- parking around the ground needs to be kept to a maximum so patrons can still watch from their vehicles.

- a lack of seating anywhere but in front of the changerooms makes access difficult for those with mobility challenges.
- the proposed car park beside the clubrooms will take away valuable seating opportunities.
- Overall, this Master Plan is really exciting for the precinct. I know the football club are eager to discuss opportunities moving forward to help inform the future direction of the site with some of the priorities identified that would benefit club and community.

11. Is there plans to substantially upgrade the drainage on and around oval two. Currently this oval is very poorly drained.

### **Other generic feedback**

when a picnic table, rubbish bin and dog poop bin could be installed near the Parkrun start (Little Athletics area)