Summary Responses from Community Consultation:

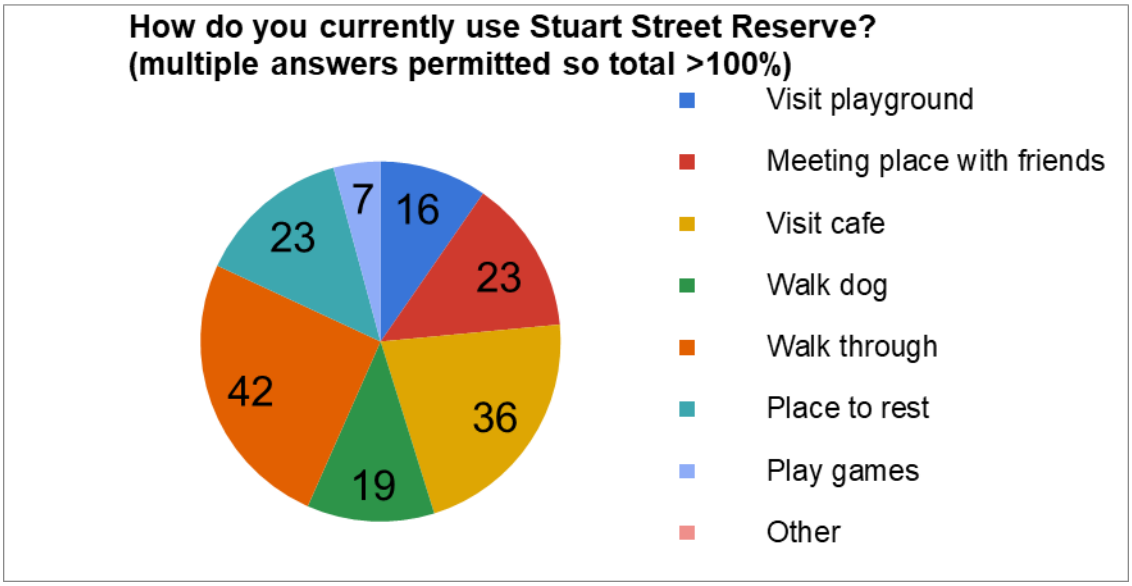
Rewilding Stuart Street Reserve: April 2026

https://bit.ly/rewildstuart

58 Respondents (as of 14 April 2026) to 11 questions.

Graphs presented as percentages.

1. **How do you currently use Stuart Street Reserve?**
   - ☐ Visit playground
   - ☐ Meeting place with friends
   - ☐ Visit cafe
   - ☐ Walk dog
   - ☐ Walk through
   - ☐ Place to rest
   - ☐ Play games
   - ☐ Other



2. **What do you enjoy about the park?**

Gemini summary

Based on the feedback provided, the community's appreciation for the park centers on its role as a "green oasis" within an urban environment. Residents value the balance between natural tranquility and its function as a vibrant social hub.

The feedback can be summarized into the following key themes:

1. Natural Environment & Climate Relief

The most frequently cited benefit is the park's **natural character**.

- **Tree Canopy:** The "grand" trees and the huge fig tree are highly valued for providing deep shade, beauty, and a "cool haven" during heatwaves.
- **Biodiversity:** Many users enjoy the presence of birdlife (such as mudlarks) and the inclusion of "natural" elements like large logs and deadwood.
- **Green Space:** It is seen as a vital "urban lung" that mitigates the heat-sink effect of the surrounding built-up city.

2. Community & Social Connection

The park serves as a primary **gathering spot** for the Northbridge/Perth local area.

- **The Cafe Influence:** The adjacent coffee shop is credited with creating a "community vibe," though one resident noted it has made the area busier and impacted parking.
- **Safety & Visibility:** Users feel safe due to the "eyes on the street" and the presence of other people engaging in activities like picnicking.
- **Social Vibe:** It is described as a welcoming, friendly space where locals, visitors, and even the Police mounties interact.

3. Recreation & Play

The park's **versatility** allows for a wide range of uses across different age groups:

- **Children:** Young families value the playground equipment and the "bushes" and "open grass" for imaginative games like hide-and-seek.
- **Pet Owners:** It is a popular destination for dog walking, with specific mention of dogs enjoying the angled tree stumps for climbing.
- **Relaxation:** Many residents visit specifically for "peace and quiet," using the space for reading, sitting on milk cartons/logs, or simply resting on the grass.

4. Aesthetic & Character

The park is valued for its **"unspoilt" and "simple"** nature.

- **Minimalist Design:** There is a strong preference for the park remaining a "living environment" rather than being overdeveloped with too many "hard surfaces" or branded structures.
- **Heritage Vibe:** Some users appreciate how the park fits the "light-industrial" and "character area" aesthetic of the surrounding neighborhood.

3. What would you like to see changed or improved in the park?

Gemini summary

The feedback regarding desired changes and improvements for the park reveals a strong community desire to move toward a more sustainable, native-focused landscape while balancing the needs of different user groups.

The suggestions can be summarized into the following five key themes:

1. Biodiversity & "Rewilding"

The most consistent request is for a shift from traditional lawn to a more ecologically functional space.

- **Native Planting:** A high volume of requests for endemic (local) trees and plants to provide food and nesting for birds, specifically **Black Cockatoos**, and habitat for **bobtails**.
- **Less but Better Lawn:** Many residents suggest reducing the total area of grass to save water and improve the quality of the remaining "healthy" turf.
- **Bird Welfare:** Specific suggestions include installing **bird hollows, nesting boxes, and "cockitroughs"** (water troughs) for local birdlife.

2. Infrastructure & Amenities

While users value the park's simplicity, they identified several gaps in current facilities:

- **Seating & Shade:** Widespread calls for more benches and natural seating (rocks/logs) positioned specifically under tree canopies.
- **Accessibility & Paths:** Suggestions for a **wheelchair-accessible path** (wide enough for two people) and "winding paths" through new native garden beds. However, some residents strongly cautioned against a path through the middle, preferring it stay to the edges to keep the grassed area continuous for sports.
- **Lighting & Safety:** Requests for better night-time lighting and regular checks for "drug needles" or syringes in the bushes to ensure the park remains safe for families.

3. Play & Recreation

Opinions on play equipment are split between those wanting upgrades and those preferring nature-based play.

- **Nature Play:** A preference for "nature play" elements over traditional plastic equipment to better suit the park’s aesthetic.
- **Dog Management:** Suggestions range from a **dedicated fenced area for small dogs** to stricter enforcement of on-lead rules and better management of dog waste.
- **Maintenance:** Requests to remove graffiti from existing playground equipment and ensure play areas are kept "clean and safe."

4. Maintenance & Environment

There is a notable concern regarding the current upkeep of the park's natural assets.

- **Water & Irrigation:** Residents noted "poor efficiency" in current reticulation and suggested a move toward **water-wise native plants** to reduce dependency on watering.
- **Tree Canopy:** Urgent requests to replace mature trees that have died or been removed (e.g., the "big fig") to restore the canopy.
- **The "Cafe Impact":** While many like the cafe, some suggested paving the area around it to prevent the grass from being "hammered" by heavy foot traffic.

5. Urban Management

Several suggestions extended to the park's borders and its impact on the neighborhood:

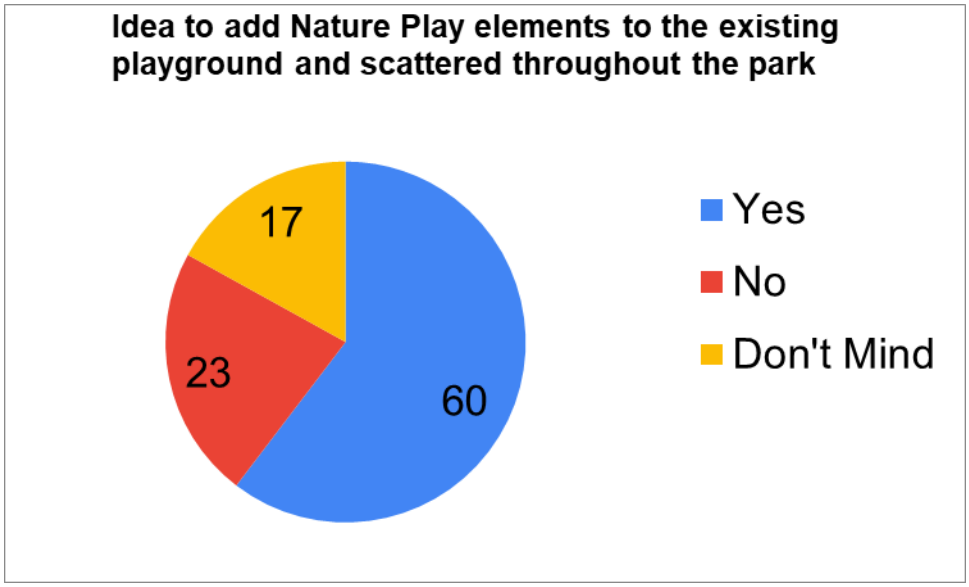
- **Parking & Traffic:** Significant frustration regarding **parking abuse** (workers ignoring time limits) and a request for traffic calming on Palmerston Street to improve the park's "ambience."
- **Education:** A desire for signage regarding the history of the area and local plant/animal species.

Summary Table: Desired Improvements

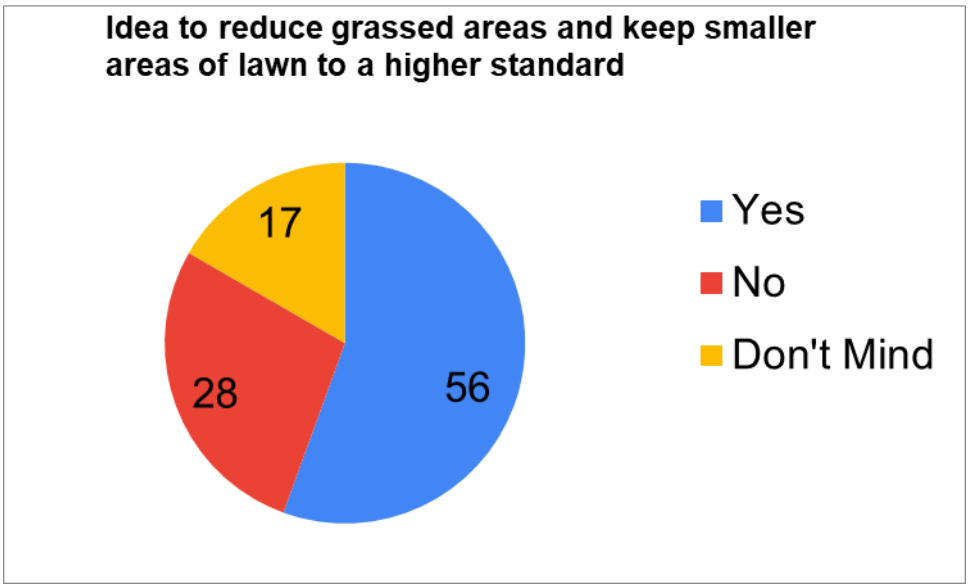
Category	Top Priority Suggestions
Vegetation	More native/endemic trees, bird-friendly plants, and less lawn.
Facilities	Increased seating, better lighting, and accessible paths.
Play	Nature play areas and/or a fenced dog sub-section.
Management	Fixing irrigation, addressing parking issues, and graffiti removal.

Overall Trend: The community is largely in favor of a "light touch" upgrade that prioritizes **ecological restoration (native plants and birds)** and **human comfort (shade and seating)** over heavy construction or over-development.

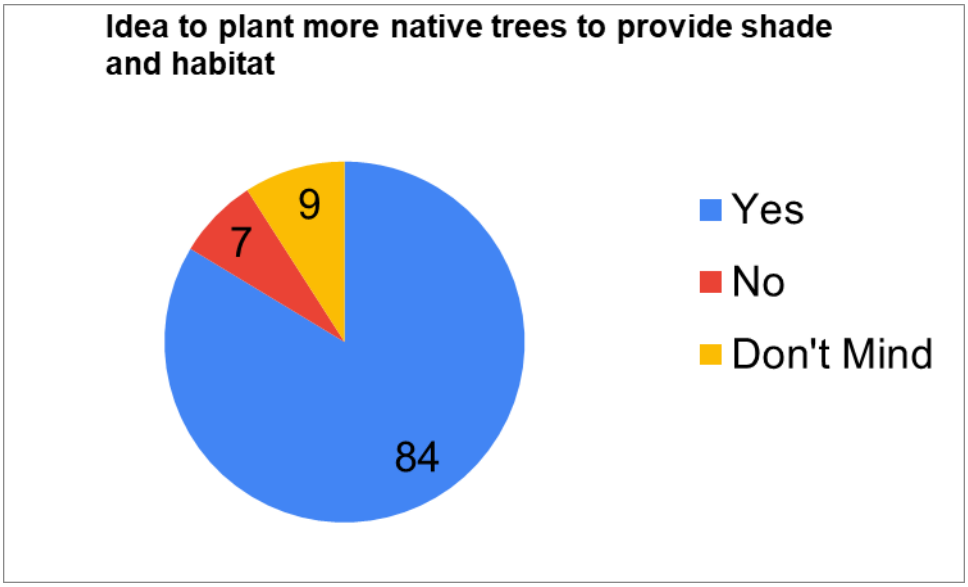
4.


Idea to add Nature Play elements to the existing playground and scattered throughout the park
17
23
60
Yes
No
Don't Mind

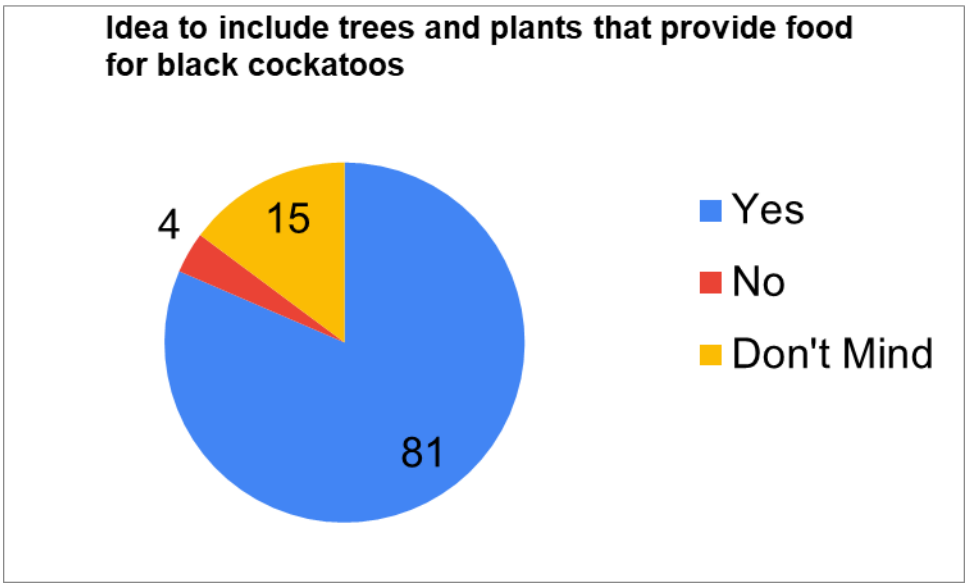
5.


Idea to reduce grassed areas and keep smaller areas of lawn to a higher standard
17
28
56
Yes
No
Don't Mind

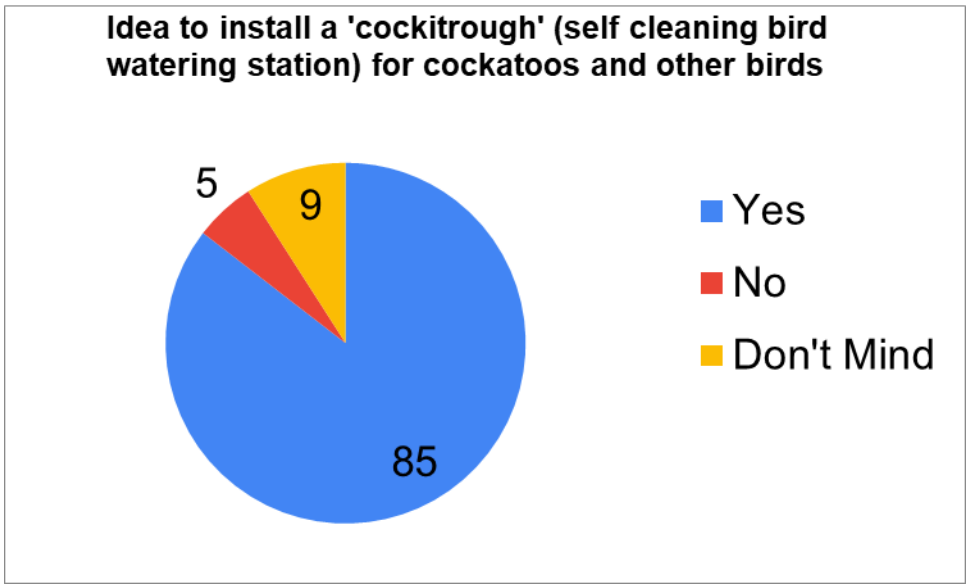
6.


Idea to plant more native trees to provide shade and habitat
9
7
84
Yes
No
Don't Mind

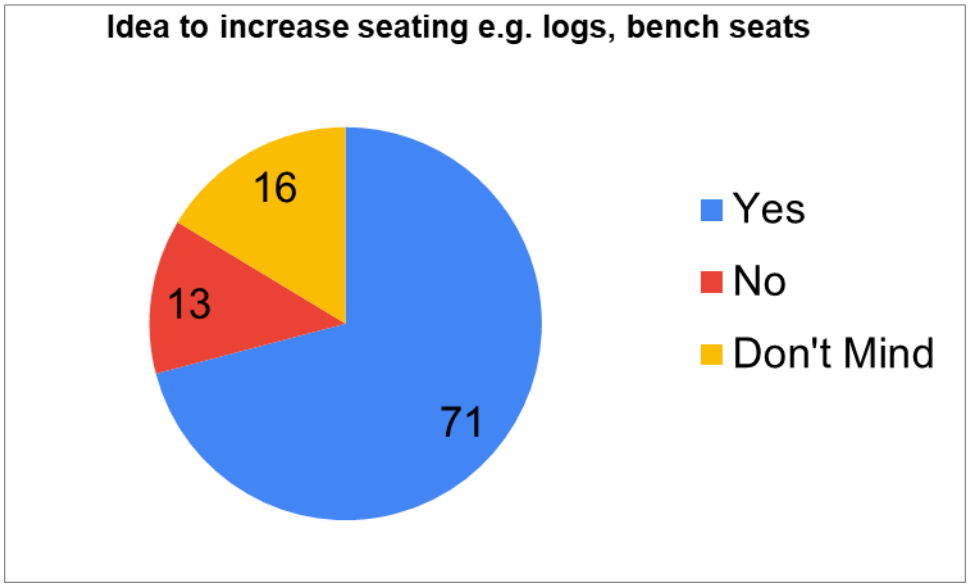
7.


Idea to include trees and plants that provide food for black cockatoos
4
15
81
Yes
No
Don't Mind

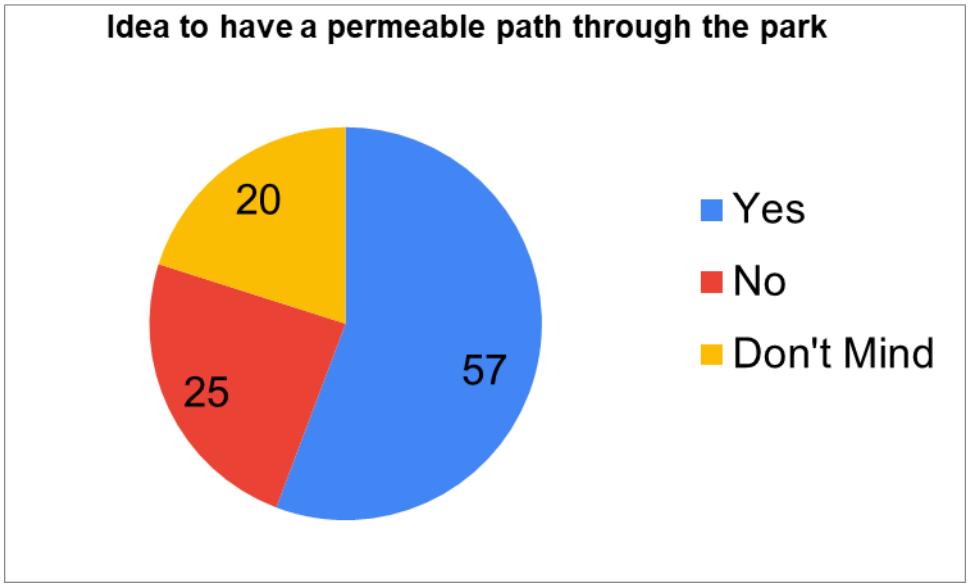
8.


Idea to install a 'cockitrough' (self cleaning bird watering station) for cockatoos and other birds
5
9
85
Yes
No
Don't Mind

9.


Idea to increase seating e.g. logs, bench seats
16
13
71
Yes
No
Don't Mind

10.



The "**Any other comments**?" section reveals a community that is largely excited but protective of the park's existing character. While there is strong support for "rewilding," there is a clear divide regarding how "designed" or "active" the park should become.

The responses can be summarized into the following key perspectives:

1. Enthusiastic Support for Rewilding & Community

Many residents expressed that the proposal to "breathe new life" into the park gives them "hope and happiness."

- **Social Resilience:** The rewilding process is seen as a way to foster neighborly connections and resilience, similar to the community spirit seen during COVID-19.
- **The Cafe as a Hub:** There is strong praise for the "Parkside cafe," with residents urging the council not to do anything that might discourage this successful community hub.
- **Educational Opportunities:** Suggestions were made for plaques or displays detailing the park's history (such as its role in W.E. Bold's plan for Perth) and its biodiversity values.

2. Concerns Over "Over-Activation" and Aesthetics

A significant portion of the feedback warned against over-designing the space.

- **Anti-"Activation":** Multiple respondents pushed back against the term "activation," fearing it leads to replacing greenery with "loud, colourful equipment" or "hard surfaces."

- **Adult-Friendly Spaces:** Several residents emphasized that not every park needs to be "child-centric." They expressed a desire for a "calm, considered" space that appeals to adults and single-household residents, rather than just young families.
- **The "Yellow Log" Debate:** There was specific, vocal criticism regarding recent "rewilding" trends in the area that involve painting logs in garish yellow or pink. These were described as "visual pollution" and an "eyesore" that contradicts the "natural" goal of rewilding.

3. Preservation of History & Form

The park's heritage and layout are highly valued by long-term residents.

- **Historical Ties:** One resident suggested planting a small orange or lemon grove to reference the area's history as an 1800s orange grove (hence Orange Ave).
- **Grass & Vistas:** Strong pleas were made to maintain the "continuity" of the grass for ball sports, as there are few other suitable spaces nearby.
- **Development Interface:** Residents noted the importance of ensuring the park interfaces well with the upcoming "139 Lake" and "Willing" developments.

4. Operational & Management Issues

Safety and maintenance remain top-of-mind for those living immediately adjacent to the park.

- **Dog Control & Rangers:** A recurring theme is the need for "proper enforcement" of on-lead rules. Residents cited concerns about off-lead dogs defecating and deterring the very wildlife the rewilding project aims to attract.
- **Safety & Lighting:** Suggestions included ensuring lighting is adequate to "deter undesirable activity" at night.
- **Inclusion:** A request was made for more benches to assist elderly residents or those with mobility issues who cannot easily sit on the ground.

Key Takeaway for Planners

The community is **pro-nature but anti-clutter**. They want a "healed" landscape that supports birds and insects, but they are wary of "overbearing" play structures or "garish" artistic elements that might ruin the park's simple, tranquil, and historic "inner-city oasis" vibe.