

Exploring a potential wheel park for the City of Burnside

Council seeks your input on the possibility of creating a wheel park in our City



What is a wheel park?

To be more inclusive of all youth, Council is exploring an opportunity for a wheel park. A wheel park is a purpose built recreational environment made for skateboards, scooters, rollerblades or bikes (usually BMX bikes). These recreational facilities encourage youth to be physically active, improve youth mental health and improves city vibrancy.

An Australian study* shows that people aged under 18 made up 78.2 per cent of users, while 11–15 year olds made up 48.3 per cent of users of wheel parks.

Why are we exploring this?

Seventeen per cent of the City of Burnside’s residents are aged 5-17 years old*. By 2026, the largest age group in the City is likely to be 15-19 year olds*.

Council conducts a yearly community survey and the results are fully representative of our community’s opinions. In the 2017 survey*, Council asked the community if services for youth were important. Seventy three per cent of our community believe that having services for youth is important.

Of this 73 per cent, 38 per cent (unprompted) said that these services should be in the form of a ‘wheel park’, and 18 per cent said that more recreation facilities for youth are needed in our City.

Following a petition to Council seeking a wheel park for Constable Hyde Memorial Garden, Council resolved to explore the need for a wheel park in Burnside, and to work with wheel park groups to explore suitable locations for a wheel park in the City.

Some benefits of wheel sports & wheel parks



Accessibility

- An affordable activity
- Open to any age, background and skill level
- Multiple sports – skateboard, scooter, BMX, rollerblades
- No set days or rules



City Vibrancy

- A positive impact on the local economy
- Increases patronage to local businesses
- Provides a public space for events
- Safe spaces for skating



Health and Wellbeing

- A positive impact on mental health
- Improves balance, coordination and flexibility
- Provides a physical activity alternative
- Combats rise in obesity

Wheel park Myths

Council has investigated the common concerns that communities raise when wheel parks are being considered in their area and would like to share with you this information that is based on research and lessons learnt from other similar parks in Australia*.

“Wheel parks are noisy – you hear people cheering and clapping and the clack of the skateboard wheels against concrete and metal surfaces”

A wheel park noise study conducted by the City of Portland*, Oregon in 2001 concluded that skateboarding noise was negligible at a distance 15 m from the park, with the sounds from some tricks reaching 54–71 decibels (60 decibels is equivalent to a busy general office, and 70 is equivalent to a passenger car driving by at 60 km/h*). In general, the study identified that a wheel park is about as noisy as a playground.

By locating a wheel park in a space that is not immediately adjacent to houses and designing the park with some surrounding vegetation, any noise will be reduced. At wheel parks located near arterial roads, the traffic noise is likely to be a lot louder than the noises that the wheel park generates.

“Wheel parks encourage graffiti and litter”

Graffiti can be an issue in any location – on signs, street furniture, playgrounds, fences, buildings and at wheel parks. Establishing a zero-tolerance policy towards graffiti as soon as a wheel park opens is the best way to ensure that the park remains clean. Locating a wheel park in an area with plenty of passive surveillance can help to reduce this behaviour, while removing graffiti as soon as it appears denies vandals a showcase of their work.

“There will be more traffic and parking issues if a wheel park is built near me”

The majority of wheel park users make their way to a wheel park by riding there on their bikes, scooters or skateboards, or by using public transport. Some people will drive, especially parents accompanying their child at the park.

For this reason, a key criteria for a suitable site is the availability of nearby car parking that will have minimal impact on residents. There will be a higher amount of traffic during school holidays and when competitions and events are held at the wheel park. However, this is no different to any sporting match which can generate a high number of cars parking in the area, or a popular playground.

“Wheel parks encourage antisocial behaviour like vandalism, drinking, drugs and swearing”

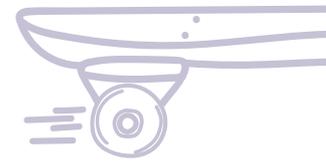
Providing a designated space for positive activities is the best way to curb unlawful behaviour among youth. Active adolescents are less likely to engage in risky behaviour such as smoking and drinking. The Tony Hawk Foundation* supports this: ‘A skate park full of kids who are there to skate is a skate park full of kids not getting stoned... Skaters are there for a reason, and are generally very good at policing each other about behaviour that interferes with their enjoying the park... Skate parks where the skaters have trouble with non-skating drug users and delinquents showing up are typically located in secluded areas, where casual supervision is infrequent or doesn’t exist. It’s an unfortunate situation, but it’s one that the skaters suffer from, rather than create themselves.’

Designing a wheel park that is suitable for all ages and has family friendly amenities, as well as passive surveillance, can assist the space to be welcoming for all. A wheel park in the City of Playford* engaged a group of volunteers aged 12 – 22 to promote volunteering, mentoring peers and running skate workshops. Since the program’s inception in 2008 there has been a steady decline in anti-social behaviour and violence at the wheel park.

Passive surveillance occurs when the park is visible to passing traffic, pedestrians, residents, other park users.



*See [engage.burnside](#) for the references of the studies referred to in this letter Strategic Community.



Where would the best wheel park sites be in our city?

“What if you build a wheel park and no one uses it?”

It is intended that the design of a wheel park will be created by expert wheel park designers with the assistance of skaters and local youth.

There are four locations that are the most suitable in our City and, should a wheel park proceed, consultation on these locations will involve everyone in the community, with youth encouraged to have their say.

“Wheel parks are dangerous and children can get injured”

Injuries occur in every sport and on playgrounds. Using a wheel park should be viewed as another similar activity. A report from NSW* demonstrated that falls from playgrounds resulting in hospitalisation are far greater in numbers than falls involving ice skates, skis, roller skates, skateboards and scooters.

Advocates for wheel parks argue that ‘If your city doesn’t have a skate park, your city is a skate park’* and that the availability of a place to skate or scooter will reduce death or injury to skaters. In 2011 in the US*, 42 skateboarders died, with 71 per cent of the deaths involving or being directly caused by a vehicle. In 2014 28 skateboarders died, with 82 per cent hit by cars. A good way to keep injuries down is to provide safe, designated spaces to pursue skating and scooter riding, rather than forcing skaters to the streets.

For a wheel park to be successful, its location is of utmost importance. In addition, there are some other key requirements which include:

- Sufficient passive surveillance (ideally near arterial road)
- Access to drinking water and toilet facilities
- Accessible by public transport
- Adequate car parking
- Minimal impact on residents and existing site users
- Size of site (no less than 750m² for a District Level Facility)
- Provision of other facilities nearby (eg playground, courts, barbecue, seating).

Council considered 133 open space sites in the City and measured each against the above criteria for their potential suitability to support a wheel park.

Council also considered topography, existing infrastructure, flood zones, demographics, and the family-friendliness of the locations to identify four potential sites as the best locations, should a wheel park proceed.

Location	Strengths
J B Ware Reserve, Portrush Rd, Glen Osmond	
Kensington Gardens, The Parade, Kensington Gardens	
Mellor Reserve, Howard St, Beulah Park	
Penfold Park, The Parade, Magill	

Have your say

You can have your say on a wheel park in a number of ways

- Complete the survey over the page and return using the enclosed Reply Paid envelope
- Complete the survey and post to Reply Paid 9, Glenside SA 5065 (no postage cost)
- Complete the survey online at engage.burnside.sa.gov.au



Attend an Information Session

Council is committed to listening to all relevant stakeholders as we embark on this project. We will be engaging with a wide range of individuals across our community, including residents, schools, the City of Burnside Youth Committee, and the skating community.



Come along and talk to council representatives and wheel park experts; free barbecue and a come-and-try pump track at the Mellor Reserve and Kensington Gardens Reserve sessions.

Information Session Times

J B Ware Reserve,
588 Portrush Road
Glen Osmond

Saturday 4 May
11 am – 1 pm

Penfold Park,
591 The Parade
Magill

Saturday 11 May
11 am – 1 pm

Mellor Reserve,
12 Howard Street
Beulah Park

Saturday 18 May
11 am – 1 pm

Kensington
Gardens,
The Parade
Kensington Gardens

Saturday 25 May
11 am – 1 pm

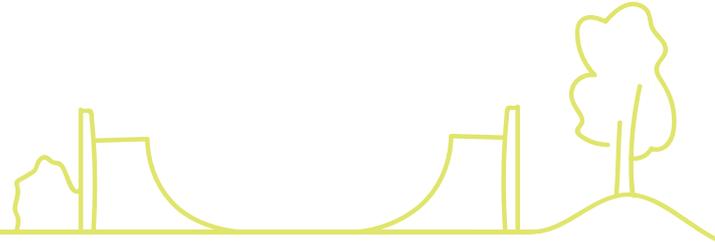
More Information

More background information and links to the research can be found at engage.burnside.sa.gov.au

You can also contact Council's Strategic Community Engagement Officer, Bernie Auricht, on 8366 4200



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Have your Say

Council seeks your input on the possibility of creating a wheel park in our City. Four locations have been identified due to their potential suitability to support a wheel park.

Would you or any of your family members use a wheel park? (please tick)

- Yes
- No

What would concern you about a new wheel park in your neighbourhood? (tick all that apply)

- I don't have any concerns
- Noise
- Antisocial behaviour
- Graffiti or litter
- Increased traffic
- On-street parking issues
- The safety of wheel park users
- Other (please explain):

At which locations would you support a wheel park?

- J B Ware Reserve, 588 Portrush Road, Glen Osmond
- Kensington Gardens Reserve, Kensington Gardens
- Mellor Reserve, 12 Howard Street, Beulah Park
- Penfold Park, 591 The Parade, Magill
- None of the above
- Other location:

Do you have any other feedback?

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Please provide your contact details below

Please note that individual responses and your contact details remain confidential.
Anonymous responses will **not** be included in the results.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Please return your comments by **5 pm Friday 14 June 2019**
Thank you for your feedback.

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