



The nature-inspired vision for the Selwyn District Park

Grassy open spaces, green leafy trees, moving through natural areas, the feedback is in, people want to be immersed in nature, a vision that the Selwyn District Park aims to bring to life.

Between February and March 2024, more than 1,650 people gave their feedback on what they would like to see in the Selwyn District Park.

The feedback showed people wanted four priorities to develop natural space with trees, tracks, trails, and open spaces with a range of play opportunities.

Overwhelmingly, people wanted to be immersed in nature to hear birds, smell the flowers and see green leafy trees. They also wanted tracks and trails for enjoying walking, running, cycling or scooting, large grassy open spaces to play and a range of play opportunities with a trend towards natural play opportunities and play trails, allowing our youth and young at heart to interact with nature and get in touch with the environment.

With a large area to work in, the Selwyn District Park has the space for plenty of green areas, from walking tracks underneath large tree canopies to gardens filled with native and exotic flora, picnic areas and shade will allow everyone in the community to access nature, Council Executive Director of Infrastructure and Property, Tim Mason says.

“It’s a great opportunity with a blank space to get creative and we were pleased to see how engaged people were and the good ideas coming through. We’re excited to now be in the master planning stage and share these plans with our community.”

The Council is now in the master planning stage for the development of the Selwyn District Park. Planning is looking at trails with different surfaces to give a range of experiences in enjoying the natural areas, a mix of spaces for informal recreation such as kicking a ball or flying a kite, as well as large community events, such as Selwyn Sounds and the Selwyn Fireworks Spectacular, which are increasing in popularity.

Other play areas will include nature play, a small water play area with items such as splash pads or interactive fountains, small court surfaces for informal games such as 3 on 3 basketball or pickleball and some provision sports fields to cater for growth, though the award-winning Foster Park will remain Selwyn's premier sports park.

Following support through the Long-Term Plan 2015 – 2025 the Selwyn District Council secured 99 hectares of land on the eastern outskirts of Rolleston in 2018, to transform it into a large-scale public park to accommodate the needs of our rapidly growing community. The park will be developed in stages, beginning with stage one of 35 hectares on the northern side of the park.

Three options will be presented to Council in November 2024, and there will be further consultation with the public in early 2025 on stage one on what should be included and where. The aim is to begin park development works in 2026.

For more information people can visit, selwyn.govt.nz/plantapark

Contact:

Selwyn District Council Media

027 273 7911

media@selwyn.govt.nz

