

MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMUNITY REIMAGINES MOONEE PONDS CREEK AS VIBRANT, NATURAL WATERWAY

The community has spoken and voted to transform a 500-metre section of concrete lined Moonee Ponds Creek into a natural design to restore waterway health and improve recreation.

As part of the Victorian Government's \$7 million Reimagine Moonee Ponds Creek project at Strathmore and Oak Park, over 300 community members voted on three design concepts. The winning design includes the removal of some concrete, creation of six rock weirs, a new pond near Oak Park reserve, additional community access points and seating.

The design also creates separate pedestrian and cyclist paths along Brosnan Crescent between Lebanon Reserve and the Margaret Street Bridge.

Melbourne Water is leading the project on behalf of the Chain of Ponds Collaboration Group and in partnership with Moreland City Council, Moonee Valley City Council, Greater Western Water and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

The project will now progress to the detailed design phase with construction scheduled to begin in early 2022.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Water, Lisa Neville

"Our Government is improving waterways, creeks and greening community spaces across Melbourne, because we know how much the community values spaces that have social, recreation and environmental purposes."

Quotes attributable to Member for Essendon, Danny Pearson

"Not only are we going to transform a section of Moonee Ponds Creek from a concrete channel into a visually appealing inner city waterway, we're improving its biodiversity and water quality."

"The preferred design would enhance the appeal of Moonee Ponds Creek."

Quotes attributable to Melbourne Water's Community Engagement Manager, Greg Bain

"It's extremely important for Melbourne Water to involve the community in this process, so we were excited by the number of people who joined the online information sessions and voted on their favourite design."

"Melbourne Water's 'Your Say' page enabled the community to get involved and provide insights into the value of local waterways and the recreation benefits they offer."