

Concept Plan Feedback Summary Report: Queens Parade Reserve Playspace Design

Executive Summary

This report summarises the community engagement feedback to the draft concept plan for Queens Parade Reserve playspace, Ashwood.

This site is considered a local-level playspace, catering to residents living within 500 metres. Local playspaces typically include 5 to 8 items of play equipment for younger age groups, from pre-schoolers to primary school. They are usually used by nearby residents who spend up to 1 hour per visit. Amenities are generally limited to bench seating and accessibility features.

Construction of the playspace will be considered as part of the 2025/26 annual budget process.

The key themes of the feedback are outlined below and will be discussed in this report.

1. Pathway and accessibility:

Users requested improvements to pathways and connectivity, including a new bridge over the creek and enhanced access to Gardiners Creek Trail.

2. Playground enhancements:

Positive feedback was received on the new play equipment, including the jumping jacks, a climbing net, and a swing set. A few users requested an active recreational space for older children, such as a basketball court, and changes to the proposed local sculpture fauna.

3. Fence and amenities:

Request the installation of a fence around the playground to separate it from dogs, and the addition of facilities such as toilets and a parents' room to enhance safety and convenience.

This feedback will be carefully considered in the design refinement stage. Please turn to page 3 of this report to read Council's responses.

Summary of Feedback

Methods of engagement and stakeholders

The consultation period for this engagement ran from **18 November to 15 December 2024**.

The key stakeholders targeted were residents living within a 400m radius of the reserve, local community networks, Councillors and relevant internal departments.

Methods used to contact and engage these stakeholders include:

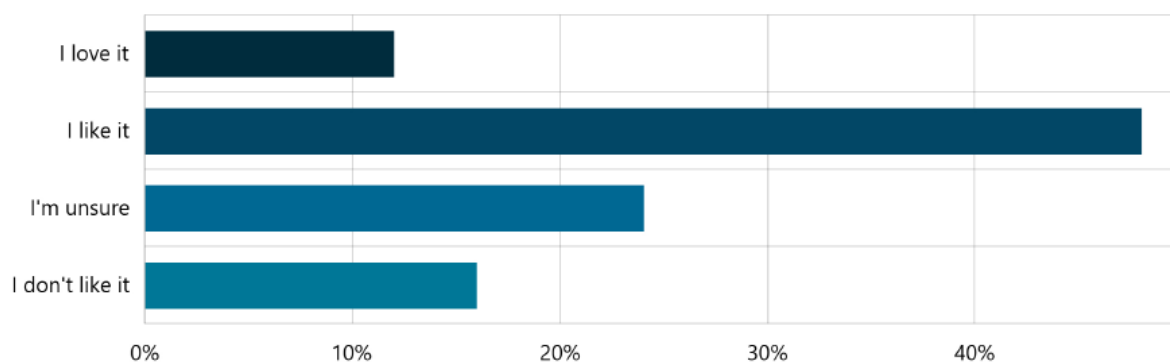
- Council's internal newsletter
- *Monash Bulletin*

- a letter drop to residents within a 400m radius of the reserve
- social media posts on Council's channels
- English language and Simplified Chinese posters displayed in key community hubs and networks
- Correspondence with key community organisations about the consultation
- Power Neighbourhood House on-site consultation during storytime
- a survey on the Shape Monash engagement platform, and email notification to project followers.

Response to questions

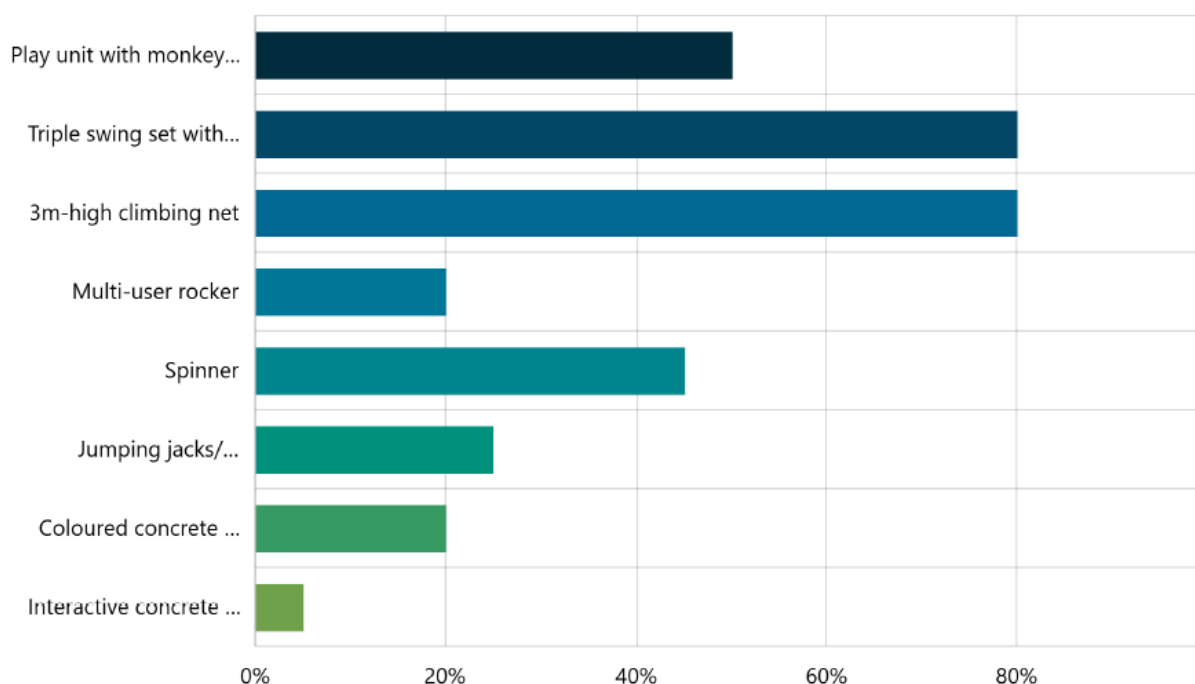
We received 25 responses online as well as 6 responses at our on-site session. Below is a breakdown of the feedback, as well as Council's responses to the key themes identified.

Question – How do you/your child feel about the draft concept plan? (online only)



The majority of the on-site consultations at Power Neighbourhood House were positive, with participants expressing strong support and enthusiasm for the proposal.

Question – What are your/your child’s favourite elements on the draft concept plan? (online only)



Online survey: We received 20 responses to this question, with the triple swing set and 3m-high climbing net being the most frequently selected, followed by the play unit with monkey bars, spinner, jumping jacks, multi-user rocker, coloured concrete steppers, and concrete play sculpture.

Power Neighbourhood House consultation visit: Six parents with toddler-aged children voted for their favourite play equipment. The triple swing set was the top choice, followed by the multi-user rocker, play unit and seating. Feedback emphasised the need for easier access and more shade for toddlers and younger children.

Question – Do you have any further feedback on the draft concept plan?

Online survey: 13 respondents answered this question.

The majority of respondents appreciated the proposed upgrade to the Queens Parade Reserve playspace and were excited about the variety of new play equipment. A few respondents requested more play challenges for older children, an active recreation area, and maintaining the natural environment with fewer built structures.

The key themes of feedback are addressed below:

Theme	Our response
Pathway and accessibility	<i>This playspace is classified as a local-level playspace. Improvements to pathways and connectivity, including a new bridge over the creek and enhanced access to Gardiners Creek Trail, fall outside the scope and budget of a local playspace upgrade.</i>

Playground enhancements	<i>Local playspace upgrades target younger age groups, from pre-schoolers to primary school children, and typically includes up to 8 items of play equipment. Active recreational spaces fall outside of this scope; however, such facilities, including a basketball court and outdoor fitness equipment, can be found approximately 1km away at Electra Reserve playspace, which is a neighbourhood classification. The concrete sculpture fauna will be revised to feature another local species.</i>
Fence and amenities	<i>Queens Parade Reserve requires all dogs to be on a leash, making a fence around the playground unnecessary. The local playground upgrade does not include new toilets, as it is designed for residents within a 500m catchment area, with visits typically lasting up to 1 hour.</i>

Who we heard from

We asked respondents some demographic questions in the online survey, which are summarised below. Data from the Power Neighbourhood House consultation visit is not included.

- **Age group:** 52 per cent of respondents completed the survey on behalf of a child. Of these, 50 per cent were primary-school aged, and 41 per cent were preschool or younger aged. Among the adult respondents, the majority were aged between 35 and 49 years old (33 per cent).
- **Gender:** 75 per cent of adult respondents were women. Among those who completed the survey on behalf of a child, 50 per cent were for boys and 42 per cent for girls.
- **Suburb:** Majority of respondents (92 per cent) live in Ashwood, with the remainder of respondents located in Mount Waverley and Mulgrave.

Next steps

Thank you to everyone who provided their feedback for the concept design of the Queens Parade Reserve playspace upgrade.

This report, and the underlying feedback, will be used by the project team and the designers to refine the design in line with the project's budget and scope.

The designer will finalise the playground upgrade details by mid-2025. Funding for the construction will be considered by Council as part of the 2025/26 annual budget process. If confirmed, we will share the final concept plan before construction.

- This report, and other updates on the project, will be shared on the Shape Monash project page: <https://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/playspace-2025-26>