

Feedback Summary Report:

Queens Parade Reserve Playspace Design

Executive Summary

The purpose of this playspace engagement is to consult with residents and seek their feedback on the upcoming upgrade design for Queens Parade Reserve playspace, Ashwood.

Council has committed to upgrading the playspace based on its current condition and suitability as outlined in the Monash Playground and Playspace Strategy 2025-2035. This engagement aims to gather community input on how the upgrade should be designed. The project seeks to meet the current and future needs of the community and deliver on Council's commitment to provide flexible, sustainable, accessible and quality community playground facilities.

A concept plan will be prepared, and a second community consultation will occur with the report to follow. Construction of the playspace is planned for 2025-26 pending budget allocation.

There were 41 respondents to the survey. The key themes of the feedback are outlined below and will be discussed further within this report.

1. Seating and shade:

A significant portion of respondents emphasised the need for bench/table seating for parents, believing this would help facilitate social interaction. Additionally, there was a strong desire for shade or shaded areas.

2. Site visibility and accessibility:

The community emphasised the importance of improving the visibility and accessibility of the playspace's entry points, especially from Queens Parade and High Street Road. Enhancing these aspects would maximise supervision opportunities, ensuring a safer and more welcoming environment.

3. Upgrade of play equipment:

Several respondents expressed the need for upgraded play equipment. There was a particular interest in improving the swings, a strong desire for a trampoline, and the use of logs for natural fencing and seating.

4. Fencing and dog dispenser bags:

Many respondents to the survey suggested placing fencing around the playspace, and public bins with a dog dispenser bag dispenser for the public to use to clean up after their pets.

This feedback will be carefully considered in the development of the concept design, ensuring that the upgraded playspace meets the expectations and needs of the community it serves.

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 1 July to 4 August 2024.

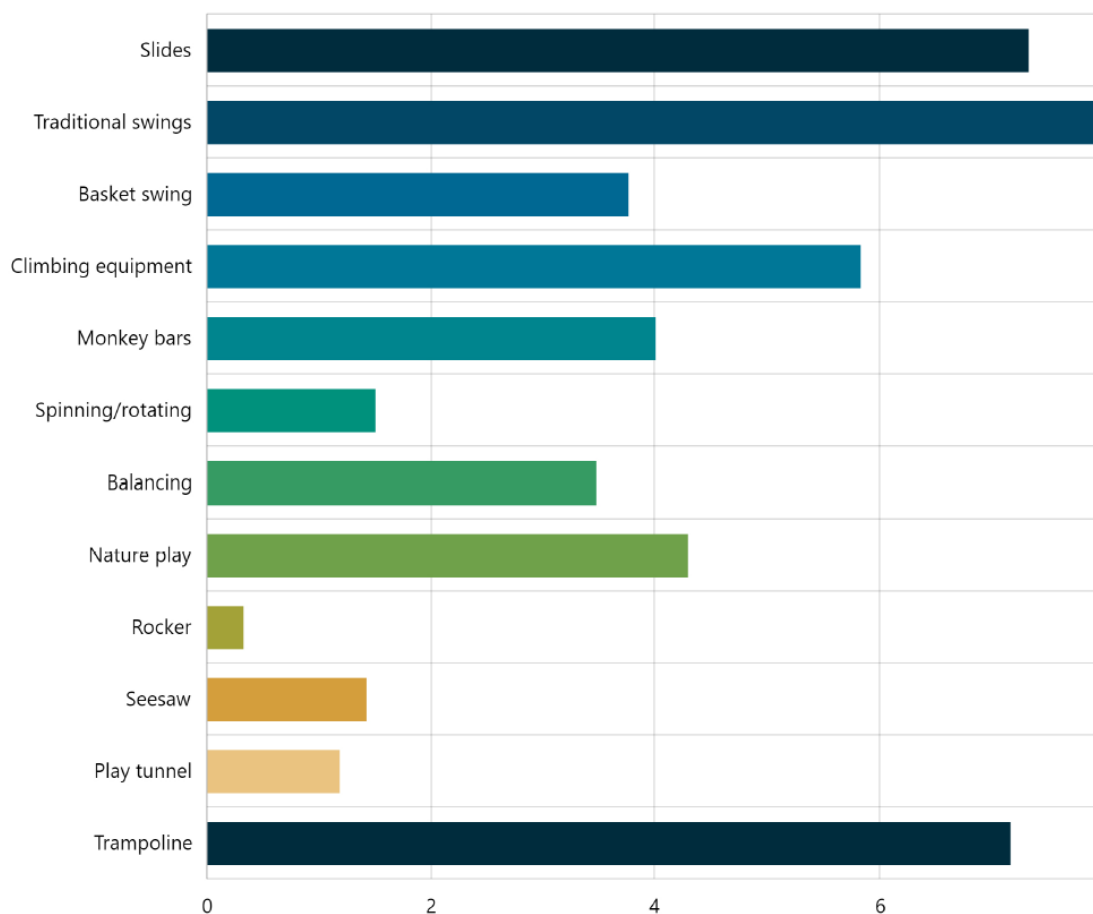
The key stakeholders targeted included broader community residents, Councillors and relevant internal departments.

Various methods of engagement were used to contact and engage with these stakeholders, including Council's internal newsletter, an article in the *Monash Bulletin*, a letter drop to nearby residents, social media posts on Council's channels, a survey on the Shape Monash engagement platform, and an onsite consultation session with Council staff held at the playspace on Thursday 18 July 2024.

Response to questions

Below is a breakdown of the feedback received from each question, as well as Council's responses to the key themes identified.

Question 1 – Which play elements would work best?



We received 38 responses to this question, with traditional swings being the most frequently selected, followed by slide, trampoline, climbing equipment, nature play and balancing.

Question 2 – Is there anything you would like to tell us about this playground or its location?

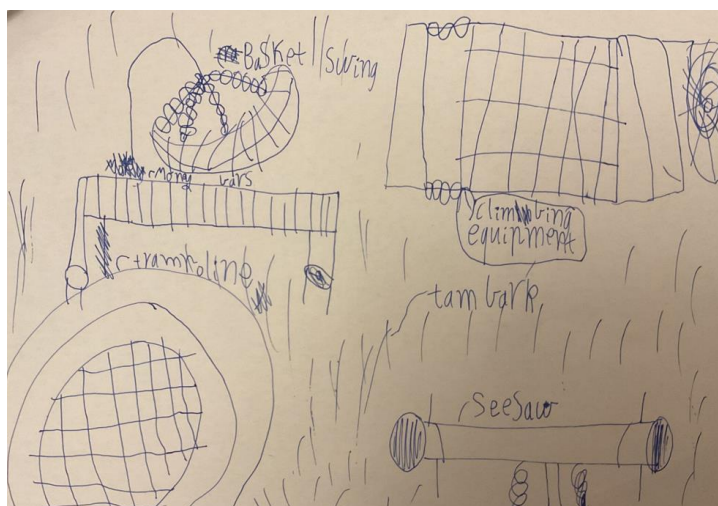
29 respondents answered this question.

Many respondents felt positively about the proposed upgrade improvement to Queens Parade Reserve playspace.

The key themes of feedback are addressed below:

Theme	Our response
Seating and shade	<i>Seating arrangements will be incorporated into the concept design, within the project scope and budget. The existing trees on the western side provide natural shade, and the design layout will optimise this shade while allowing eastern sunlight to dry any water or dampness on the play equipment.</i>
Site visibility and accessibility	<i>The design will include new playspace signage at entry points and improvements to the current pathway around the new playspace through strategic layout, creating a safer and more inviting environment.</i>
Upgrade play equipment	<i>Queens Parade Reserve playspace is classified as a local park. As such, it will feature a standard service provision, including 5 to 8 items of play equipment, bench seating and accessible features. We will also look to add value adding elements, such as rocks or boulders for garden edging, casual seating and balance play, as well as a pathway to ensure inclusivity and usability.</i>
Fencing and dog dispenser bags	<i>Queens Parade Reserve is an on-leash area, and regulatory signage will be installed at both entries. Dogs must be kept on a leash along the trail and in the reserve. Under the Dog Control Order, dog owners are legally required to manage their pets, especially within 20 metres of an occupied children's playspace. Due to accessibility limitations posed by fencing, we generally avoid enclosing play areas. Dog dispenser bags and bins are not required and will not be provided in the playground upgrade works.</i>

Please see below some feedback drawings we received:





Who we heard from

We asked respondents some demographic questions, which are summarised below:

- **Age group:** 39 per cent of respondents were adults, 37 per cent were primary school age, 22 per cent were pre-school or younger age and two per cent were secondary school aged.
- **Gender:** 64 per cent of respondents are women or girls, and 36 per cent are men or boys.
- **Suburb:** Majority of respondents (more than 87 per cent) live in Ashwood, with the remainder of respondents located in Chadstone, Mount Waverley, Mulgrave and Wheelers Hill.

Next steps

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

This report, and the underlying feedback, will be used by the project team and the designers for the concept plan, in line with the project's budget and scope.

Once a draft concept plan is prepared, we will share it for a second stage of community consultation. Construction of the playspace is planned for 2025-26 pending budget allocation.

We will share this report, and updates on the project, via the Shape Monash project page: shape.monash.vic.gov.au/playspace-2025-26