

# Community Consultation Report

## Monash Playground Strategy

Recreation Services

City of Monash

October 2019

## Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction .....	3
Marketing & Promotion.....	3
Community Consultation & Engagement .....	4
Importance of Playgrounds.....	5
2.0 Key Findings.....	6
2.1 Playground Strategy Community Survey .....	6
Who completed the survey.....	6
Access & Use .....	6
Play Equipment.....	6
Supporting Infrastructure .....	7
Playground Themes .....	7
Future Needs.....	7
Communications.....	7
2.2 Monash 2021 and beyond Community Survey (2017).....	9
Appendix 1: Community Survey Results.....	13
Appendix 2: Advisory Groups and Workshops .....	22
Appendix 3: Submissions from Individuals and Organisations.....	24

## 1.0 Introduction

This Report provides the results from the community consultation and engagement undertaken as part of the development of the draft Monash Playground Strategy (2019) which has been designed to help determine the future direction for playground provision and standards in Monash.

The Report provides the detailed results from each of the consultation and engagement tools implemented and explores the implications for the development of a new Playground Strategy for the City of Monash.

## Marketing & Promotion

To make the community aware of the consultation and engagement program, a large-scale marketing and promotion strategy was implemented including:

- Ongoing promotion of the survey through Council's website and social media.
- Information in Council's Monash Bulletin (refer Image 1: August 2019 Bulletin).

**Image 1: August 2019 Bulletin (excerpt)**



**HAVE YOUR SAY ON...  
Playspaces in Monash**

**Council regularly upgrades local playspaces to make them more interesting and fun for families.**

Over the last five years Council has upgraded more than 30 playspaces around Monash.

We are developing a new Playground Strategy to ensure we have a planned, equitable and sustainable approach to the provision and management of playgrounds in Monash and we are keen to hear from you. The Strategy will provide a future direction for the provision of playspaces based on:

- » Our strategic priorities, as identified in A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021 and the Monash Open Space Strategy 2018
- » Industry best practice e.g. Australian Standards for playground design
- » Community feedback.

**The new Strategy will outline:**

- » A clear vision that ensures Monash playspaces offer high quality, creative play opportunities for different age groups and abilities across the municipality
- » Clarity around playground provision and service levels and a variety of play experiences for the community i.e. from larger regional destination playspaces to smaller local playspaces
- » Clarity around future demand for playspaces in Monash, identifying gaps and possible new sites for the development of playgrounds.

This will help us provide more equitable access to quality playgrounds.

**We are keen to hear from you.** Your feedback will guide Council on the best ways to improve our playgrounds in Monash, considering the play needs of you and your family, both now and into the future.

Please encourage all members of your family to take the survey and provide their own feedback. The views of children and young people are especially welcomed for this playground review.

All survey responses and submissions will be considered in the development of the Monash Playground Strategy.

**Consultation open until 23 September 2019**

- » **ONLINE:**  
www.monash.vic.gov.au/playgroundstrategy  
Recreation Services: 9518 3581
- » **EMAIL YOUR FEEDBACK TO:**  
recreation@monash.vic.gov.au
- » **HARD COPIES OF THE SURVEY:**  
Civic Centre, Oakleigh Service Centre, Aquatic and Recreation Centres (Glen Waverley and Clayton) and all branches of Monash Libraries.

**PLANNED CLOSURE  
MARC 50m Outdoor Pool**

The 50 metre outdoor pool at Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre (MARC) in Glen Waverley will close for 6 weeks - from Monday 23 September to Sunday 3 November - for scheduled maintenance.

Works include painting, tile and shade sail repairs and have been programmed for the warmer months to minimise the chances of weather conditions delaying maintenance.

We appreciate pool users' understanding and patience while we undertake these essential works.

For more info: 9265 4888  
www.monashaquaticrecreationcentre.com.au

- Emails and distribution to various Council databases and community groups such as Monash Playgroups, Primary and Secondary schools, Monash Age Friendly Ambassadors, Positive Ageing Seniors Network and local schools.
- Providing hard copies of surveys at key community venues including Council’s customer service centres, libraries, and aquatic leisure facilities.
- Attendance at targeted forums such as Council advisory groups and networks to consult directly with those groups and make the community aware of and encourage them to complete the various surveys.

### Community Consultation & Engagement

The community consultation and engagement program included:

- **A community survey** available in hard copy and Council’s online consultation platform, ‘Have Your Say’. Playgroups and school students were also directly targeted and encouraged to complete a shorter version of the online survey. In total 204 people completed the survey (refer to Appendix 1).

#### Surveys Completed

Online Survey (12 questions)	111 responses
Hard Copy Survey (7 questions) for students & playgroup participants	93 responses
<b>Total Surveys</b>	<b>204 responses</b>

- **Discussions with Council’s advisory groups and networks** including the Disability Advisory Committee, Young Persons Reference Group, Positive Ageing Reference Group, Multicultural Advisory Committee, and Gender Equity Advisory Committee (refer to Appendix 2).
- **Written submissions** – 3 written submission were received (refer to Appendix 3).
- **Staff Workshop** - a staff workshop was held with a group of key officers from Horticulture, Strategic Planning, City Design and Children’s and Family Services from the organisation on Wednesday 31 July, 2019 (refer Appendix 2).
- **Targeted consultation with key internal services** - targeted consultation was undertaken with Council officers to understand the key issues and opportunities that must be considered and responded to in a Playground Strategy. Throughout the development of the Playground Strategy, regular discussions were held with Council officers from the Active Monash team and key meetings held with:
  - Strategic Planning – 12 June 2019
  - Sustainable Monash 15 July 2019
  - Horticulture Services – 15 July 2019
  - Strategic Asset Management – 22 July 2019

- **Targeted consultation in Monash schools and playgroups** – surveys and submissions from individuals and organisations visited including:
  - Wellington Secondary College 3 September 2019 (Workshop)
  - Waverley Meadows Primary School 9 September 2019 (Workshop)
  - Glendal Primary School 6 September 2019 (Workshop)
  - Wheelers Hill Primary School 13 September 2019 (Survey)
  - Cabena & Legend Park Playgroups September 2019 (Survey)

### Importance of Playgrounds

Play provides the opportunity for children to engage with other children, be active and learn, extend and adapt their skills. Playgrounds are an essential tool for physical, social, cognitive and emotional development in children and are critical to children being able to reach their full potential. Overall feedback from the consultation demonstrates the community’s understanding of the significant impact play has on the growth and development of children. Responses highlight the community’s priority for access to high quality, adequately designed, safe and accessible playspaces to enable children and families to engage in positive experiences.

## 2.0 Key Findings

### 2.1 Playground Strategy Community Survey

The Playground Strategy community survey was open between Friday 26 July 2019 and Monday 23 September 2019. The survey was available through the Council's website and in hard copy in Council libraries, customer service centres and aquatic and leisure centres. Playgroups and school students were also directly targeted and encouraged to complete a shorter version of the online survey. In total 204 people completed the survey.

Online Survey (12 questions)	111 responses
Hard Copy Survey (7 questions) for students & playgroup participants	93 responses
<b>Total Surveys</b>	<b>204 responses</b>

#### Who completed the survey

Of the 204 survey respondents:

- The majority were female (71%)
- A large majority also had grandchildren (83%)
- The majority were aged 25-49 years (64%)
- The majority lived in Glen Waverley (38%), followed by Oakleigh (13%) and Mulgrave (10%).

#### Access & Use

Of the 204 survey respondents:

- 45% walk to playgrounds and 33% drive or come by car and 11% bicycle
- 35% frequent a playground 1-2 times per month and 26% frequent a playground 1-2 times per week
- 8% visit a playground daily and 15% more than 3 times per week.

#### Play Equipment

Of the 204 survey respondents the top 4 most important playground pieces were:

- Swings & slides (24%)
- Youth play opportunities (20%)
- Climbing Structures (18%)
- Space & equipment for ball games (13%).

### Supporting Infrastructure

Of the 204 survey respondents the top 4 most important playground infrastructure requirements were:

- Public Toilets (20%)
- Shelters e.g. shade sails over play areas (16%)
- Water fountains (15%)
- Rubbish bins (14%)

### Playground Themes

Of the 204 survey respondents the top 4 play features or themes they would like to see more of in Monash were:

- Adventure Play (25%)
- Water play & features (18%)
- Nature play and education (16%)
- Play opportunities for all ages (12%)

### Future Needs

Of the 204 survey respondents:

- 58% think existing playgrounds in Monash **sometimes meet** their family's and the community's needs
- 23% think existing playgrounds in Monash **currently meet** their family's and the community's needs
- 16% think existing playgrounds in Monash **do not meet** their family's and the community's needs

The top 4 things respondents would like to see changed or improved:

- Improve play equipment and maintenance (32% + 4% = 36%)
- Better play opportunities for all ages and families (13% + 1% = 14%)
- Exercise and fitness equipment (11% + 1% = 12%)
- Improve Toilets (10% + 2% = 12%)

### Communications

Of the 204 survey respondents:

- 8 respondents had received direct communication regarding playground upgrades.

Image 2: Playground Strategy Feedback featured in *Monash Student Space* Newsletter

(Summer Edition 2019, p.6)



## Playground Strategy feedback

**Earlier this year a number of Monash students provided Council with feedback on Monash parks and playgrounds.**

Most young people surveyed said that fitness equipment, basketball rings, flying foxes, swings and slides were very important features to include in future play spaces.

Thank you for your feedback!

The draft Playground Strategy will be presented for approval at a Council meeting early in 2020 including your feedback.

If you would like regular updates on this project please subscribe to: [www.monash.vic.gov.au/playgroundstrategy](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/playgroundstrategy)



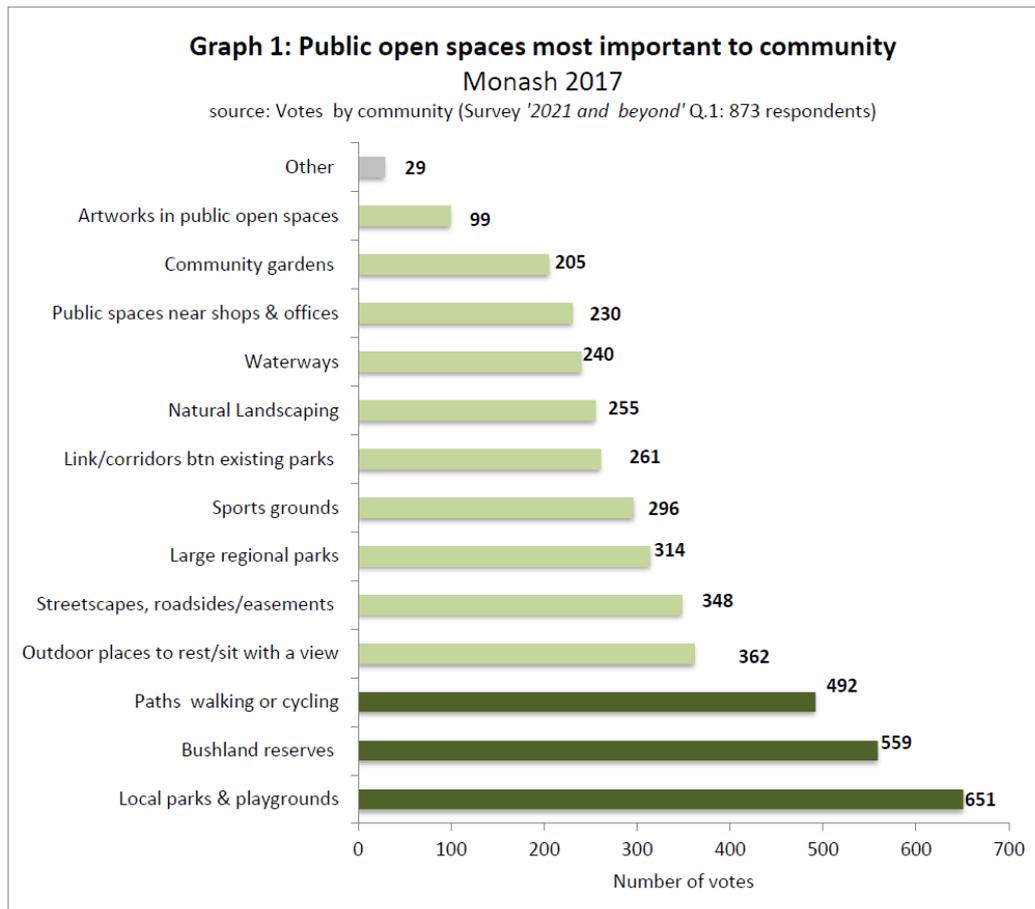
6 MONASH STUDENT SPACE - NOVEMBER 2019

## 2.2 Monash 2021 and beyond Community Survey (2017)

*Monash 2021 and beyond* was a survey for Monash community members, undertaken in February and March 2017. Just over 900 community members responded to this survey (700 people completed surveys online and an additional 200 people completed hard copy surveys).

The *Monash 2021 and beyond* summary report identified:

- 2.2.1 Local parks and playgrounds were considered the most highly valued public open space (refer Graph 1: Public open spaces most important to community).



- 2.2.2 The top most important health and wellbeing priority for Monash community members is:

- Getting outdoors to use parklands, reserves or playgrounds
- *67% respondents selected this (or 554 votes)*

- 2.2.3 The second most frequently used recreational facility in Monash (after walking paths or cycling trails) was:

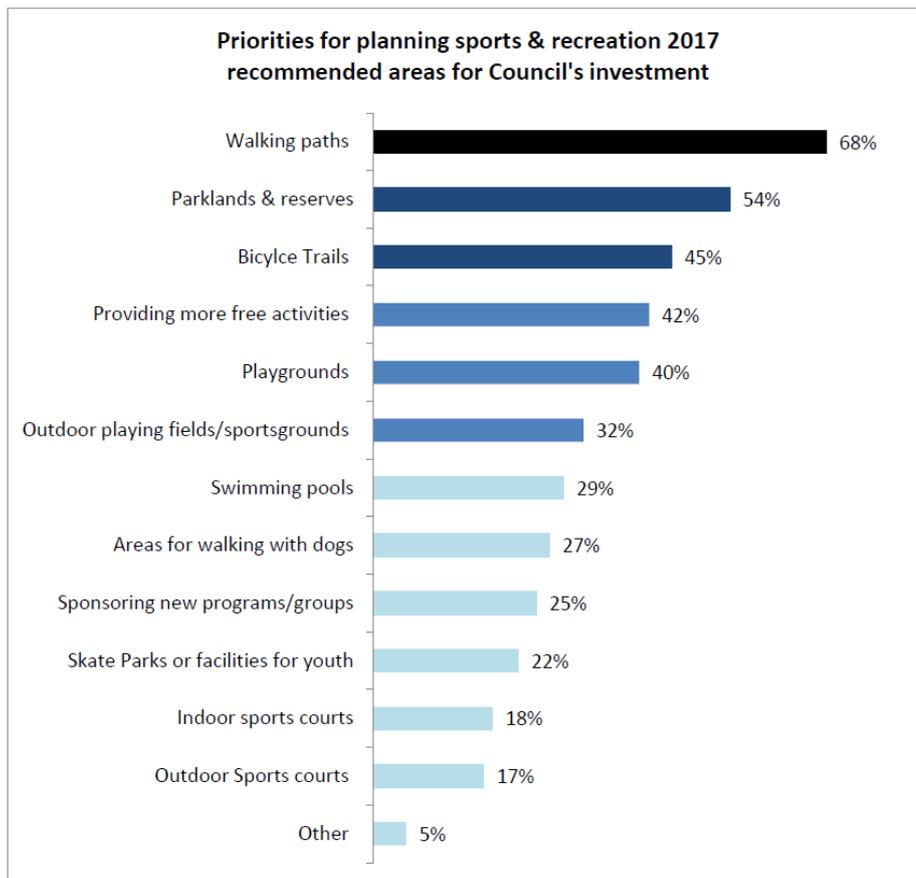
- Local parks, reserves and playgrounds – with three-quarters (76%) of respondents reporting using local parks, reserves and playgrounds, and more than half (56%) reporting using them ‘frequently’.

- 2.2.4 To encourage people to use public open spaces more, the most highly recommended strategies for Council were:

- Continuing to invest in updating and reinvigorating these areas, including interesting child-friendly spaces
- Keeping all our public open spaces well-maintained and very clean
- Adding seating and park furniture
- Focusing on paths and trails to link-up our open spaces
- Promoting and publicising the spaces more.

2.2.5 Playgrounds are popular community facilities – 40% of respondents considered playgrounds a priority area for Council investment (refer Graph 2: Priorities for planning sports & recreation 2017 recommended areas for Council investment and Table 1: Targets for Investment of resources for sport and recreation in the future).

**Graph 2**



**Table 1**

**Targets for investment of resources for sport and recreation in the future**  
**Monash City Council - 2021 And Beyond Survey**  
*(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)*

Response	Monash		Male	Female
	Number	Percent		
Walking paths	568	68.2%	65.5%	71.3%
Parklands and reserves	447	53.7%	59.3%	52.0%
Bicycle trails	374	44.9%	52.1%	41.9%
Providing more free activities	346	41.5%	32.1%	48.2%
Playgrounds	333	40.0%	33.4%	44.9%
Outdoor playing fields / sports grounds	263	31.6%	41.7%	26.4%
Swimming pools	238	28.6%	26.9%	30.5%
Areas for walking dogs	221	26.5%	21.4%	30.5%
Sponsoring new kinds of programs or groups	204	24.5%	20.0%	28.0%
Skate parks or facilities for young people	182	21.8%	15.2%	26.6%
Indoor sports courts	149	17.9%	20.7%	16.7%
Outdoor sports courts	138	16.6%	20.7%	14.0%
Other	41	4.9%	6.2%	4.3%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>3,504</b>		<b>1,204</b>	<b>2,211</b>
<i>Respondents identifying at least one target to invest resources</i>	<i>784</i>		<i>280</i>	<i>481</i>
	<i>(94.1%)</i>		<i>(96.6%)</i>	<i>(94.7%)</i>

2.2.5 Encouraging people to be physically active was the top health promotion priority for Council with 53% respondents ranking this as their first or second priority. Male respondents were more likely to rank this as the number one issue. Some key actions recommended for Council to achieve some positive change here included:

- Continuing to provide parks and gardens with walking tracks – perhaps including exercise bars/rails and community exercise times in these local parks
- Improving the appearance and maintenance of public facilities across Monash where these activities occur.

2.2.6 Frequency of Use (refer Table 2: Frequency of using selected Council Facilities and Table 3: Frequency of using local parks, reserves and playgrounds by age group):

- **Local parks, reserves and playgrounds** - three-quarters (75.5%) of respondents at least infrequently use local parks, reserves, and playgrounds, and more than half (56.3%) frequently use these facilities.
- **Regional parks, reserves and playgrounds** – more than half (53.2%) of respondents at least infrequently use these facilities, and approximately one-quarter (24.4%) frequently use them.
- **Outdoor tennis courts, outdoor gym equipment, and bowling green** – more than ninety percent of respondents only irregularly or never use these facilities.

**Table 2**  
**Frequency of using selected Council facilities**  
**Monash City Council - 2021 And Beyond Survey**  
*(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)*

<i>Response</i>	<i>Daily</i>	<i>Weekly</i>	<i>Fortnightly</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Irregularly</i>	<i>Never</i>	<i>Not stated</i>	<i>Total</i>
Walking paths or cycling trails	36.2%	28.0%	5.7%	8.3%	17.4%	4.3%	1	<b>833</b>
Local parks, reserves or playgrounds	19.2%	37.1%	8.9%	10.3%	20.7%	3.8%	73	<b>833</b>
Large regional parks, reserves or playgrounds	4.6%	19.8%	10.8%	18.0%	39.4%	7.4%	132	<b>833</b>
Sports grounds outdoors	3.8%	20.6%	4.1%	6.1%	32.3%	33.1%	198	<b>833</b>
Outdoor Tennis courts	0.7%	5.6%	0.5%	2.8%	19.8%	70.6%	231	<b>833</b>
Bowling Green	0.8%	2.7%	0.7%	0.5%	15.0%	80.3%	234	<b>833</b>
Swimming Pool Centre	1.8%	16.7%	6.1%	9.0%	35.4%	30.8%	181	<b>833</b>
Indoor Sports Centre	1.2%	8.6%	25.9%	2.8%	0.0%	61.6%	226	<b>833</b>
Fitness Centre or Gym	6.6%	15.7%	2.9%	2.3%	18.5%	54.0%	216	<b>833</b>
Outdoor gym equipment	1.0%	2.4%	2.2%	1.7%	25.8%	66.9%	247	<b>833</b>

**Table 3**  
**Frequency of using local parks, reserves or playgrounds by age group**  
**Monash City Council - 2021 And Beyond Survey**  
*(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)*

<i>Frequency</i>	<i>16 to 25 years</i>	<i>26 to 45 years</i>	<i>46 to 65 years</i>	<i>66 to 75 years</i>	<i>76 years and over</i>
Daily	16.0%	12.5%	21.7%	24.3%	18.3%
Weekly	28.0%	45.3%	34.1%	39.9%	25.6%
Fortnightly	8.0%	12.5%	8.8%	5.8%	7.3%
Monthly	20.0%	12.5%	11.6%	6.4%	3.7%
Irregularly	24.0%	15.6%	18.9%	20.8%	36.6%
Never	4.0%	1.6%	4.8%	2.9%	8.5%
Not stated	3	5	15	12	27
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>109</b>

## Appendix 1: Community Survey Results

*Q1: How frequently do you visit a playground?*

<b>Frequency of visiting a playground</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of Responses</b>
Daily	16	8%
3 or more times per week	30	15%
1-2 times per week	53	26%
1-2 times per month	71	35%
Once every few months	22	11%
Not applicable	1	1%
I don't visit playgrounds	8	4%
Other	2	1%
<b>TOTAL Answered</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SKIPPED Question</b>	1	

*Q2: How do you usually travel to visit a playground in Monash?*

<b>How do you usually travel to visit a playground?</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of Responses</b>
Walk	128	45%
Drive/car	93	33%
Public transport	5	2%
Bicycle	31	11%
Jog/run	17	6%
Not applicable	9	3%
Other	1	0%
<b>TOTAL Answered</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SKIPPED Question</b>	0	

Q3: For you, what are the most important playground features?

Most important playground features (top 3)?	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Swings & slides	131	24%
Climbing structures	99	18%
Toddler play equipment	58	11%
Youth play opportunities	106	20%
Space & equipment for ball games	68	13%
Exercise & fitness stations, balancing & stretching bars	58	11%
Other		
• Spider web	1	0%
• Monkey bar	4	1%
• Soccer nets	1	0%
• General fencing	1	0%
• Bike trail	1	0%
• Toddler/child security fences, fences	2	0%
• More seating	1	0%
• Open spaces for non-structured play	1	0%
• Skate park	1	0%
• Handicap accessible	1	0%
• Trampoline/Inflatable Bounce mat	2	0%
• Flying fox	1	0%
• Tree shelter from sun	1	0%
<b>TOTAL Answered</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SKIPPED Question</b>	<b>3</b>	

Q4: What are the most important supporting facilities?

Most important supporting facilities (top 3)?	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Bench seat	87	13%
Shelter e.g. shade sail over play areas	108	16%
Picnic table	48	7%
Public toilets	137	20%
Bike racks	26	4%
Off-street parking	31	5%
Water fountains	103	15%
Rubbish bins	94	14%
Other		
Lighting	2	1%
Toilet with nappy change facilities	1	0.5%
Toilet large enough to push in a pram	1	0.5%
Cafe	1	0.5%
Gaming room/arcade	1	0.5%
Natural shade trees	2	1.5%
Gymnastic equipment	1	0.5%
Fences	1	0.5%
Big flying fox	1	0.5%
<b>TOTAL Answered</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SKIPPED Question</b>	0	

Q5: Are there any playground features or 'themes' that you would like to see more of in Monash? (choose your top 3)

Playground features or 'themes' people want more of (top 3)?	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Nature & play education	98	16%
Skate parks	47	8%
Adventure play	150	25%
Water play & features	106	18%
Informal recreation e.g. basketball hoops	65	11%
Beach with sand play	32	5%
Play opportunities for all age groups	70	12%
Wellbeing activities e.g. stretching, meditation	25	4%
Other		
• Exercise equipment to promote public health	2	0.5%
• Soccer pitch/nets	2	0.5%
• Sports stuff	1	0%
<b>TOTAL Answered</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SKIPPED Question</b>	2	

Q6a: Do you think the existing playground facilities in Monash meet the needs of your family and your community?

Do existing playgrounds meet your needs?	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Yes	46	23%
No	32	16%
Sometimes	117	58%
Can't Say	3	1.5%
Not Sure	3	1.5%
<b>TOTAL Answered</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SKIPPED Question</b>	3	

Q6b: If no or sometimes, why not? What would you like to see changed or improved?

Suggested Changes and/or Improvements?	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
<b>No</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playground equipment: new, safe, clean and more equipment (monkey bars, flying fox, swings, tree house, water slides, climbing structures, toddler friendly play areas)</li> </ul>	7	4%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More exercise / fitness equipment / areas</li> </ul>	1	1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve toilet facilities (cleanliness &amp; family friendly, nappy change)</li> </ul>	2	1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve comfortability and safety (lighting, shelters, seating)</li> </ul>	2	1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cater for all age groups and families</li> </ul>	1	1%
<b>Sometimes</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playground equipment: new, safe, clean and more equipment (monkey bars, flying fox, swings, tree house, water slides, climbing structures, toddler friendly play areas)</li> </ul>	53	32%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More exercise / fitness equipment / areas</li> </ul>	19	11%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More bins (including recycle)</li> </ul>	5	3%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better accessibility for children and adults with disability</li> </ul>	2	1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve toilet facilities (cleanliness &amp; family friendly, nappy change)</li> </ul>	16	10%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve comfortability and safety (lighting, shelters, seating)</li> </ul>	24	14%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other (skating areas, less tanbark, more large adventure style playgrounds)</li> </ul>	10	6%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make more accessible by transport (public transport, bike)</li> </ul>	3	2%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cater for all age groups and families</li> </ul>	21	13%
<b>TOTAL Answered</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SKIPPED Question</b>	52	

Q7a: Have you received previous communications from Council about upgrades to a playground in your area?

Age Categories	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Yes	33	30%
No	77	70%
<b>TOTAL Answered</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SKIPPED Question</b>	1	
<b>Survey did not include this question</b>	93	

Q.7b: Comment if you wish.

Comment	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Bad experience with communication	2	25%
Provided feedback when notified	1	13%
Found out about updates through Monash Bulletin	1	13%
Requesting upgrades e.g. for exercise equipment, playground	3	38%
Wasn't notified about local upgrades	1	13%
<b>TOTAL Answered</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SKIPPED Question</b>	103	
<b>Survey did not include this question</b>	93	

Q8: Which Age Group are you?

Age Group	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Under 8 years	7	6.5%
9-12	1	1%
13-17	2	2%
18-24	7	6.5%
25-49	69	64%
50-59	4	4%
60-69	8	7%
70+	10	9%
<b>TOTAL Answered</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SKIPPED Question</b>	3	
<b>Survey did not include this question</b>	93	

Q9: What is the postcode where you live?

Postcode	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
• 3128	1	1%
• 3147	3	2%
• 3148	2	1%
• 3149	18	9%
• 3150	73	38%
• 3153	1	1%
• 3162	1	1%
• 3166	24	13%
• 3167	8	4%
• 3168	4	2%
• 3170	20	10%
• 3178	2	1%
• 3192	1	1%
• Others	29	15%
• Not sure	4	2%

<b>TOTAL Answered</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SKIPPED Question</b>	13	

*Q10: Which gender are you?*

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of Responses</b>
Male	32	29%
Female	77	71%
Other	0	0%
<b>TOTAL Answered</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SKIPPED Question</b>	2	
<b>Survey did not include this question</b>	93	

*Q11: Do you have children/grandchildren etc. that you take to playgrounds?*

<b>Do you have grandchildren/grandchildren?</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of Responses</b>
Yes	90	83%
No	18	17%
<b>TOTAL Answered</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SKIPPED Question</b>	3	
<b>Survey did not include this question</b>	93	

Q12: Additional Comments and suggestions for improving playgrounds in Monash?

Comments & Suggestions	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Add another playground (Suggested locations: opposite Camelot Drive Primary School, along King Arthur & Knights Drive, & Argyle Reserve on Kinrade Street)	6	10%
Improve basketball facilities (e.g. basketball ring at Fregon Reserve & Herriotts Blvd, better markings on courts, nets on basketball rings)	5	8%
More playground equipment (e.g. monkey bars, climbing ropes, swings, flying foxes etc.)	3	5%
Cater for older kids (swings, monkey bars, slides)	4	7%
Add an outdoor gym / exercise area to cater to older kids and adults	3	5%
Improve maintenance and condition of playgrounds e.g. improve safety, play experience & hygiene (i.e. empty bins) at Jells Park, Winbourne Rd, Madison Court, David Crawford Playground, Brynor Crescent Reserve, Strelten Avenue, Argyle Reserve, Warrawee Park, Brickmakers Park, Waverley Park, Dunoon Court Reserve	16	27%
More Facilities e.g. public toilets, BBQs, water fountains, rubbish bins etc.	7	12%
Having an open grass area for free play	1	2%
More seating areas	1	2%
More paths	2	3%
More indoor playgrounds	1	2%
Play equipment that promotes learning and education (about the environment, science etc.)	4	7%
More bike paths	2	3%
Better lighting	2	3%
Stop using weed killers	1	2%
Accessibility by adding sensory & tactile markings	1	2%
<b>TOTAL Answered</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SKIPPED Question</b>	39	
<b>Survey did not include this question</b>	93	

## Appendix 2: Advisory Groups and Workshops

Discussions were held with several of Council’s advisory groups and networks including the Disability Advisory Committee, Young Persons Reference Group, Positive Ageing Reference Group, Multicultural Advisory Committee, and Gender Equity Advisory Committee. The purpose of the discussions was to inform them about the consultation and engagement program and encourage them to complete the community survey or a written submission to help inform development of the Playground Strategy.

The key messages from the discussions with Council’s advisory groups and networks were:

Group	Date	Opportunities Identified
Monash Staff Workshop	12pm Wednesday 31 July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more elements for toddlers in large scale playspaces</li> <li>• Avoid congested site planning (e.g. Tally Ho Reserve)</li> <li>• Ensure community ‘buy-in’</li> <li>• Plan for diversity of play within sites e.g. fitness and basketball etc.</li> <li>• Leverage playspaces as ‘social spaces’ and include opportunities to educate the community about biodiversity, site history (e.g. Brickmakers Reserve – brick factory, Valley Reserve – indigenous history scar tree etc.)</li> <li>• Themed playspaces e.g. skink link</li> <li>• Vegetation protection e.g. trees (avoid tree root damage e.g. Galbally Reserve)</li> <li>• Playground construction – avoid soft woods which rot easily</li> </ul>
Multicultural Advisory Committee	6.30pm Thursday 8 August 2019 Monash Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nil in meeting</li> </ul>
Young Persons Reference Group	7pm Wednesday 14 August 2019 Monash Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expression swings &amp; basket swings</li> <li>• Safety – CPTED design principles</li> <li>• Elements for youth e.g. climbing, skate parks, basketball hoops and tennis hit-up walls etc.</li> </ul>
Disability Advisory Committee	6pm Thursday 15 August 2019 Monash Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More accessible playgrounds – accessible basket and liberty swings and accessible paths under equipment (i.e. not tan bark)</li> <li>• Variety of accessible seating options e.g. bench seats with handles to assist people to get up &amp; down, wheel chair access to picnic tables</li> <li>• Use brighter colours and more engaging designs</li> <li>• Sensory playgrounds and equipment for children with autism</li> <li>• Circular paths around playgrounds</li> <li>• Include cover/shade</li> <li>• Water play and drinking fountains</li> </ul>
Gender Equity Advisory Committee	6pm Monday 19 August Monash Civic centre	<p><b>What are the key principles that need to be captured?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More benches to sit down near the playground to catch up with more friends while the children play in all types of parks.</li> <li>- Accessibility for pram access</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safety – sight lines. Adequate street lighting</li> <li>- Adult fitness equipment are great near playgrounds</li> <li>- Water bubblers</li> <li>- Where there are public toilets, please consider unisex bathrooms, safety, operating hours, sanitary bins</li> <li>- Playground placement next to sports ovals that have good sightlines</li> <li>- Fencing to avoid ‘runners’ (children running away)</li> </ul> <p><b>Do the existing playground facilities meet the needs?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes the large regional parks are great</li> <li>- ‘The current pocket parks are not accessible and have limited equipment. At the moment I use the school playgrounds instead.’</li> </ul> <p><b>How can we improve playground provision in Monash?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More benches to sit down near the playground to catch up with more friends while the children play in all types of parks</li> <li>- More adult exercise stations especially close to sports clubs.</li> </ul>
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## Appendix 3: Submissions from Individuals and Organisations

No. & Date	Submission
<p><b>#1</b> <b>Received</b> <b>18/07/19</b></p>	<p><b><u>Submission 1:</u></b> In Glen Waverley we are very fortunate to have an amazing natural space - Bushy Park Wetlands. The track, cows and birds are wonderful. I grew up riding along the track to Jells Park almost every weekend as a child and teenager. I am now a new mum and look forward to taking my kids along same track!</p> <p>I do however, have always thought one thing is missing. A playground along the track for young children would be wonderful. A place for families to gather and play alongside the track. There is an open space opposite Camelot Rise Primary School (King Arthur Dr) that would be perfect.</p> <p>There are some amazing playground ideas that are natural and would add to the calm and scenic environment. I have attached a few photos of my favourite ideas.</p> <p>I would be more than happy to assist in any way. I am a qualified kindergarten teacher (and mum!) and love adapting natural playspaces that promote children’s abilities, wellbeing and love of nature. I am very passionate about how playing outdoors impacts children’s physical health and emotional development. A playground in this area would work beautifully! (images of playgrounds provided)</p> <p><b><u>Officer acknowledgement &amp; response emailed 22/07/19:</u></b> Thank you for your written submission. Please be assured your feedback, along with all consultation findings, will be considered in the development of the Playground Strategy.</p> <p>Soon, we will be providing more information and regular updates on Council’s website at: <a href="http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/playgroundstrategy">www.monash.vic.gov.au/playgroundstrategy</a> (please note this site is currently being developed and we expect it to go live by the end of this month).</p> <p>Thanks again for taking the time to provide us with your considered feedback – it is much appreciated.</p>
<p><b>#2</b> <b>Received</b> <b>22/08/19</b></p>	<p><b><u>Submission 2:</u></b> Can I ask please if this strategy is being conducted by a consultant or employees of Monash Council? In the Monash Bulletin no name is given of any person who is in charge of this strategy.</p> <p>I note that the article in The Bulletin says that all survey responses and submissions will be considered in the development of the Monash Playground Strategy. I have for a number of years written to Council regarding playgrounds and each and every time I have had my suggestions replied to by, what I perceive, as the entrenched ideas of current Council employees.</p> <p>The Bogong Avenue playground is one such space I have repeatedly written about to have Council consider its relocation, etc. to make this playspace more visible and consequently safer and more hygienic for young children to always have it returned as saying there would be a need to cut down trees and such other ridiculous things.</p> <p>The linear park playgrounds are another point I have been trying to get Council to attend to in regard to the “little” notices nobody reads regarding having dog on leads within a certain area of children being in the playground. Council tries to address this in a piecemeal fashion with “little” temporary signs which nobody reads and saying the budget doesn’t allow for permanent signs of a significant size.</p>

No. & Date	Submission
	<p>Before wasting my time on doing a submission I would like to know something about this proposed Strategy, who is conducting it etc. I would very much like to contribute to having Monash have a programme of great playspaces in its own municipality so that residents didn't have to visit the great playspaces neighbouring Councils provide.</p> <p><b><u>Officer acknowledgement &amp; response emailed 26/08/19:</u></b> Thanks for your email regarding the Playground Strategy currently being developed for the City of Monash.</p> <p>This strategy is being developed in-house by Council officers - there is a project working group leading the strategy development consisting of representatives from Recreation, Strategic Planning, City Design and Capital Works that is accountable to a project control group (senior management).</p> <p>We are keen to hear from our community on how we can improve playgrounds in Monash to ensure you and your family's play needs are being met now and into the future. I acknowledge your comments regarding Bogong Ave playspace and linear parks and encourage you to provide more detailed feedback. I assure you all survey responses and submissions will be reviewed as part of the consultation process, and wherever possible and reasonable to so, will be considered in the development of the new Strategy (subject to Council adoption).</p> <p>Please also note, in addition to this feedback, we will also consider carefully the feedback on the playgrounds already received at our Council Listening Posts and recent community surveys. You can Have Your Say via:</p> <p><b><u><a href="#">Online survey</a> or Hardcopy Survey (copy attached FYI)</u></b></p> <p><b>Written submissions</b> <b><i>Mail to:</i></b> Recreation Services Monash Council 293 Springvale Road Glen Waverley VIC 3150 <i>or</i></p> <p><b><i>Email:</i></b> <a href="mailto:Recreation@monash.vic.gov.au">Recreation@monash.vic.gov.au</a></p> <p><b>Draft Strategy</b> The draft Strategy will also be displayed on Council's website for community feedback before being presented to Council for consideration at a Council Meeting early in 2020.</p> <p>Please note the indicative timelines for the development of the new strategy are outlined below:</p>

No. & Date	Submission
	<p>Timeline 2019-2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Stage 1: June - August</b> Research and Data Review</li> <li> <b>Stage 2: July-Sept</b> Community Consultation</li> <li> <b>Stage 3: Oct-Nov</b> Data Analysis and Synthesis</li> <li> <b>Stage 4: Early 2020</b> Exhibition of Draft Strategy</li> </ul> <p>Council knows that playgrounds and green open spaces are very important to our community and I look forward to receiving your submission. For more information and to subscribe for regular updates on this project please visit: <a href="http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/playgroundstrategy">www.monash.vic.gov.au/playgroundstrategy</a></p>
<p><b>#3</b> <b>Workshop</b> <b>03/09/19</b></p>	<p><b><u>Wellington Secondary College Workshop</u></b></p> <p>Additional student feedback submitted via Child &amp; Young Person Friendly Project Officer from Playground Strategy workshop with the year 8 students from Wellington Secondary College (50 students):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the children made a few references to not liking 'kids'. The way I interpret this is they don't want to share the same playspace with younger children such as toddlers.</li> <li>• Nearly all respondents mentioned that although they want toilets and water fountains – they need them to be clean.</li> <li>• Also, most of these students lived on the fringes of Monash – with a handful in Mulgrave.</li> </ul>