

November 2019

Alexandra Reserve Playground Upgrade



Community Engagement Report

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Introduction

As part of our Let's Play Strategy, Council asked the local community for feedback on a proposal to upgrade the Alexandra Reserve children's playground.

Community feedback has highlighted that the space is not fit for purpose and requires attention. We are proposing that the playground be renewed to include more traditional playground structures for families to enjoy, and asked for input on what play elements the community would like to be included in conceptual designs.

As with the development of the existing playground in 2012, we would like to work directly with the local community to understand what you like about the park currently and what play equipment could be included in the new space.

Given the size of Alexandra Reserve, certain equipment such as large swing sets cannot be safely included. Council's landscape architect, Gabriel Sicari, has undertaken a site assessment in order to understand the best way to situate potential equipment and concept designs will be shared with the community once initial ideas are submitted.

The project budget is \$140,000 for the playground. With construction beginning in early 2020, we are aiming to open the playground again by the end of June 2020.

Promotions

- Collaborate Canada Bay survey asking residents to rank elements by priority and provide ideas and inspiration for the equipment
- Site signage at Alexandra Reserve
- On site drop-in session:
 - 2 November 10-11AM
- Letter to residents on 18 October 2019:
 - 220 residents on Alexandra Street
- Inner West Courier Mayoral Column on 29 October
 - 40,000 readership
- November Council What's On e-Newsletter
 - 981 recipients
- Social media: 5,623 reach
 - Facebook x 2

Feedback Overview

183
visitors to
Collaborate
survey



46,604
people reached
through
promotions



35
submissions
made by
community



9
drop in session
attendees

Community Feedback

Feedback from 16 respondents found that the community likes the location of the park and the natural shade provided by the trees, however most feel the equipment is in need of refreshing and that the current playground is unsafe for children to play in.

When asked when they liked about the current playground, feedback included:

- Location (x 8)
- Nothing/very little (x 4)
- Brings the community together (x 2)
- Different to other playgrounds in the area (x 2)

When asked about what they would like to change about the park, overarching feedback included:

- Removal of some or all of the sand (x 8)
- Keep sand (x 3)
- Fence the playground (x 5)
- Introduce some rubber soft fall (x 2)
- More climbing equipment needed (x 3)
- More for older children (x 2)

Participants were asked to “fund” (prioritise) the piece of below equipment that was most important to the in the new playground:

Climbing structure	Combination slide & climbing structure	Slide
8	10	1



Detailed Community Feedback

When asked to rank various play themes, elements and equipment by priority, feedback was as follows:

	Animal sculptures	Water play	See saw	Mushroom seats	New totem poles	Sand play	Tower with fireman's pole	Balancing circular logs or timber beams	Sandstone stepped seating wall	Timber climb trail	Art chalk boards
High priority	0	6	3	2	0	6	4	7	5	4	0
Like	3	5	8	3	1	3	9	5	6	8	6
Neutral	7	0	3	4	5	0	1	1	3	0	4
Dislike	2	1	0	5	3	2	0	1	0	2	2
Strongly dislike	2	3	0	1	6	4	0	0	1	1	3

Key findings:

- Participants are divided on sand play. Some believe it is important and fun for children to play with, while others believe it is dirty, dangerous and not working within the setting. 9 chose sand play as “high priority” or “like”, while 6 chose sand play as “dislike” or “strongly dislike”. Written feedback included:

“The sand breeds spiders - my child was bitten several times from a spider in the sand. NOT FUNCTIONAL”

“Remove the sand. Level it more so it’s safer for younger kids.”

“No sand, or only a small portion of sand.”

- Waterplay, though popular, was also highlighted by 4 residents as inappropriate for the space due to existing issues with mosquitos in the space:

“I would strongly not be recommending waterplay as the playground site continuously is plagued with mosquito issues.”

“Love water play but not sure it’s appropriate here given shading/sand (mess) and potential for mosquitoes”



New totem poles
are the least
popular suggested
equipment among
participants

Ranking of equipment feedback

*The following equipment is either a high priority or liked by most participants:
(figures next to each item denotes the sum of participants who chose “high priority” or “like”)*

- Water play (11)
- See saw (11)
- Sand play (9)
- Tower with fireman’s pole (12)
- Balancing circular logs or timber beams (12)
- Sandstone stepped seating wall (11)
- Timber climb trail (12)

*The following equipment is neutral, disliked or strongly disliked by participants:
(figures next to each item denotes the sum of participants who chose “neutral”, “dislike”, or “strongly dislike”)*

- Animal sculptures (11)
- Mushroom seats (10)
- New totem poles (15)
- Chalk boards (10)

Other community input

One resident expressed concern for the safety of the playground:

"The trees and bushes on the nature strip of Alexandra St block all visibility of the reserve from the street. As such, children and young mothers who use the reserve are invisible to passes-by/neighbours, if they are being attacked by paedophiles/rapists. The bushes and limbs of trees on the nature strip up to a height of 2 metres need to be removed to enhance visibility. To be clear, the reserve as it is currently configured is not a safe environment and this is why I do not use it."

The same resident also suggested removing the turning circle at the rear of the playground.

"The car parking at the rear should be removed. Now that the council has introduced 2 hour parking in the local area there is always ample parking near to the reserve. The existing car park should be replaced with grass. The garbage bins on site need to be removed as provide residents with an opportunity to dump there rubbish when there own bin is full. The reserve should have a bin such the bin which has been installed in Queen Victoria Reserve."

The need for equipment for older children 6 and above was raised twice:

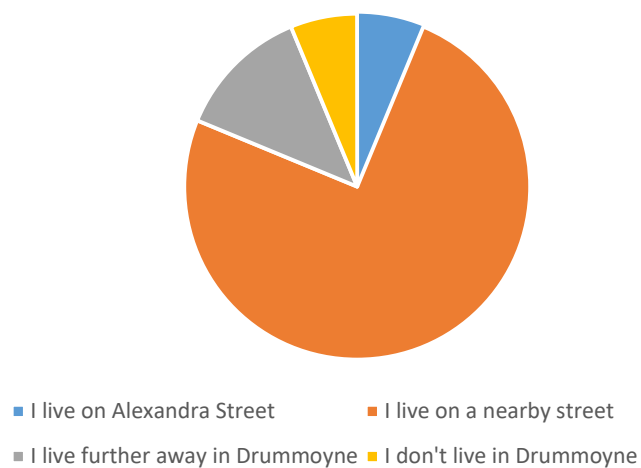
"Unfortunately we don't use the playground regularly now as there is nothing that interests our older kids (8 and 10 year old). Too much sand and baby play. Needs to incorporate a section for older kids as well. I would strongly recommend an area where a basketball ring be installed. (When I asked my kids what they would like to be installed in the new playground, they responded by asking for a basketball ring).

"This playground is really designed for young children which is great! However there are many playgrounds in the area that cater to young children (7 and under) but not to the next age bracket 7-12 years. This means I have to travel out of my community to find play equipment suitable. It would be interesting to research the projected growth / age of the Drummoyne population in the future and perhaps tailor the playgrounds better to suit varying age groups. There is some equipment currently that is decorative but not able to be played / climbed on! A small water park would be great but better suited to the beach area nearby."

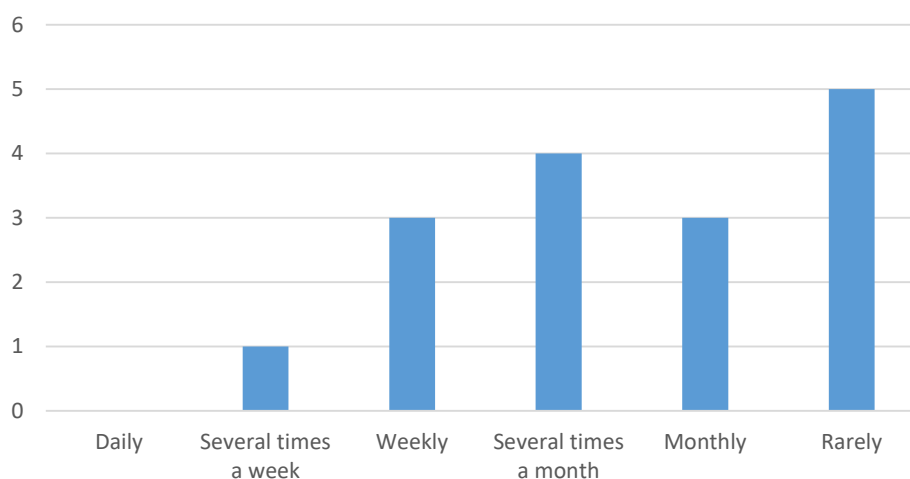


Who's Talking?

Where do participants live



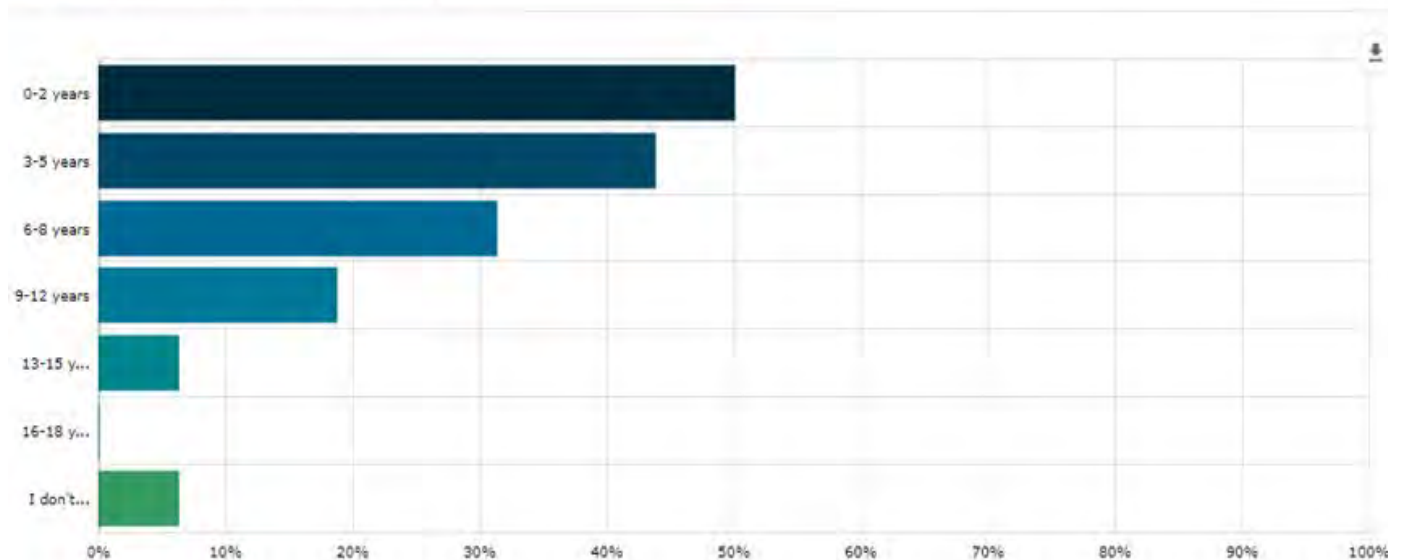
Visitation



Who's Talking cont.

3 How old are the children you visit with? Required

Multiple Checkbox | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 16 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
0-2 years	50.00%	8
3-5 years	43.75%	7
6-8 years	31.25%	5
9-12 years	18.75%	3
13-15 years	6.25%	1
16-18 years	0.00%	0
I don't visit with children	6.25%	1

Promotional material



Dear Resident,



Alexandra Reserve Playground Upgrade

As part of our Let's Play Strategy, we are proposing to upgrade the playground at Alexandra Reserve, Drummoyne.

We are committed to work closely with the community to understand what you like about the park currently and what you would like to see in the upgraded playground.

Our budget is \$140,000 for the playground, with construction planned to commence early in 2020 and an expected delivery in August 2020.

We invite you to contribute your preferences and ideas for the playground, to inform initial concept designs.

To have your say, visit our Collaborate website at <http://bit.ly/alexandrareserve> before **8 November 2019**. The project team will also be on site at the playground to discuss your feedback on Saturday, 2 November 2019 from 10-11am.

If you have any other questions, you can contact our Landscape Architect, Gabriel Sicari on 9911 6372.

Promotional material

