



Community Engagement Results Report

Revitalising The Parade Playground, Northcote

Background

The Parade Playground is a pocket park located at the southern end of Darebin. It is situated at the eastern end of Walker Street in Northcote and is bordered on one side by Merri Creek. It is a tucked away gem, located deep within shaded residential streets.



Location: The Parade Playground, Northcote

Each year, the Parks and Open Space team review park assets throughout the municipality and allocate funds to complete important renewals and upgrades. The Parade has been identified as a priority site for an upgrade.

This upgrade will provide modern, new equipment and a more inviting space that can meet the diverse needs of the local residents and encourage more park participation. Considerations that officers have needed to consider throughout this project have been:

- Community feedback
- Budget
- Existing site constraints and terrain (including ability for inclusive design, flooding potential and safety from the creek and adjacent shared-trail path)
- Availability and suitability of equipment

Participation Analysis & Consultation Process

Council has actively engaged the community, targeting subject areas in which the community was able to contribute to this project.

A single stage community consultation was planned to achieve this outcome, through the *Your Say* page. This consultation occurred from 4th – 29th September 2023.

The following table is a description of the engagement methods used by Council for *Revitalising The Parade Playground, Northcote*.

Engagement Activity	Number of participants/ people engaged	Targeted group	Demographic information
Letter drop	174	Local residents	Letters with a summary of the project and a QR code to the <i>Your Say</i> page were sent to: • 174 Local residents within the selected catchment area of the playground including; • CALD groups in the local area including a number of language groups: Cantonese (15), Vietnamese (16), Greek (21), Italian (13)
Posters		General community	Posters (3 no.) with a QR code to the <i>Your Say</i> page were displayed on-site and at each end of the adjacent shared-trail path.
Stakeholder Email			Emails with poster attachments and links to the <i>Your Say</i> page were sent to: - Nicki's Clever Cookies Childcare & Kindergarten - Jika Jika Northcote Neighbourhood House

The engagement aimed to have 50 visits to the Your Say page and 20 survey completions. It achieved 136 visits to the Your Say page and 28 survey completions. One phone call was received, and an additional two emails were sent to the project manager regarding the revitalisation.

Participants were largely from Northcote. Only 38% of participants were from other suburbs. The table below demonstrates where each participant is from.

Suburb	Percent	Count
Northcote	62.07	18
Thornbury	13.79	4
Preston	13.79	4
Reservoir	0	0
Bundoora/Kingsbury	3.45	1
Macleod	0	0
Alphington/Fairfield	0	0
Other	6.90	2

Engagement Results

An open-text question was the first question asked to participants. It was;

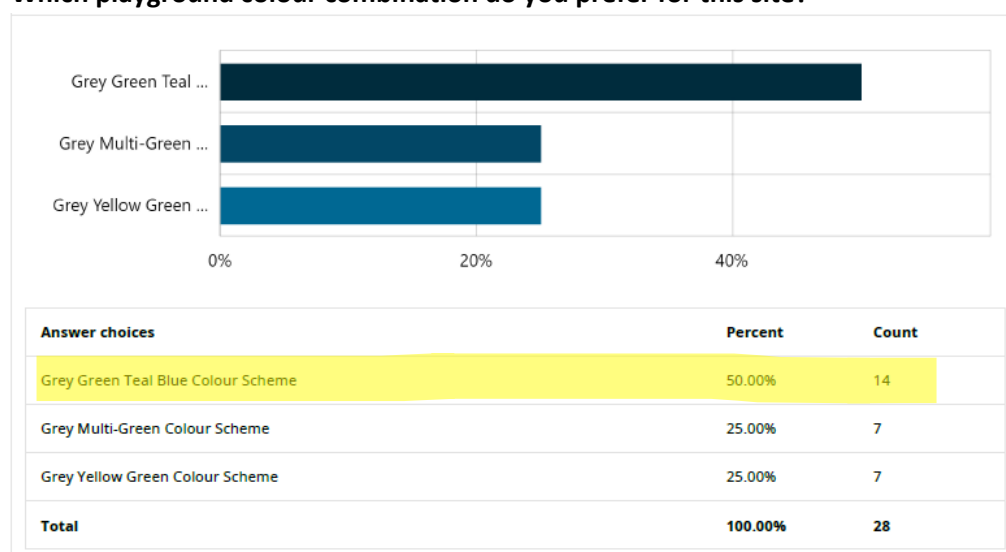
1. Which component of the existing playground equipment do you like the most?

Many participants used this question as an opportunity to express their feelings and ambitions of requiring more and better improve equipment at The Parade Playground. Of those who responded to the question regarding the existing equipment, their views can be categorised into the two main following groups:

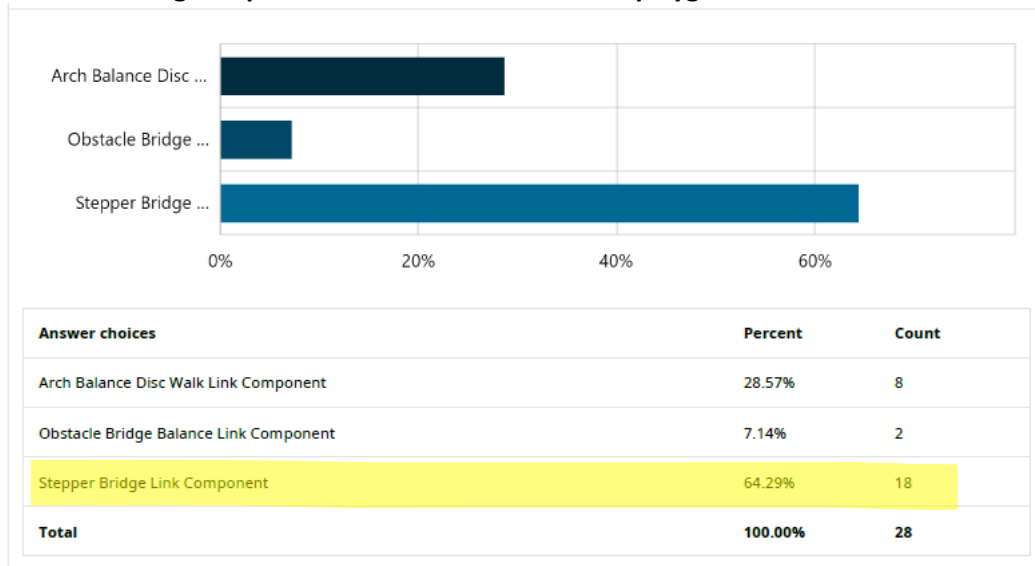
- the slides
- the landscape; including the trees, seating, shade, and the creek.

The next three questions were multiple choice with supportive imagery. The sought to find the participant's preferred equipment and colours. The questions and responses were as follows:

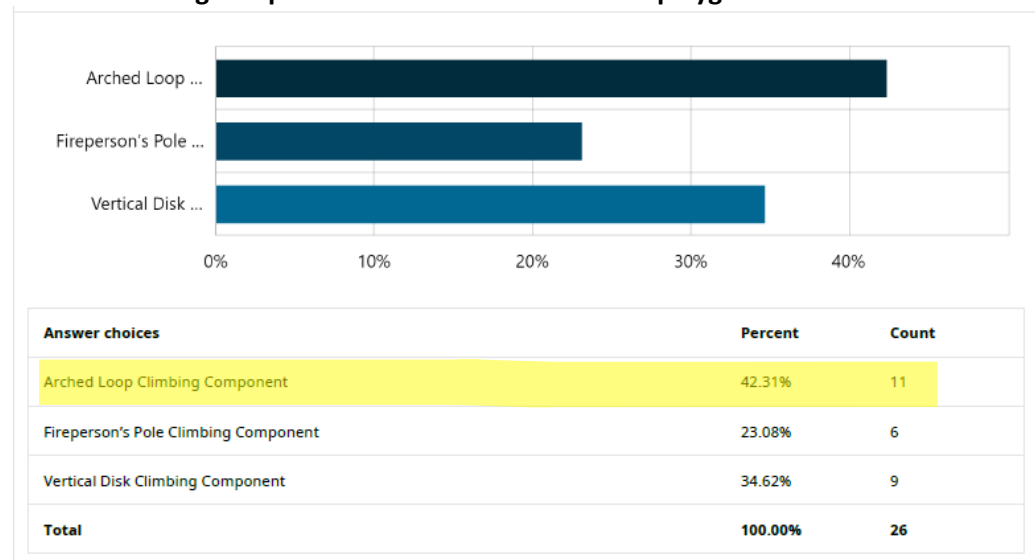
2. Which playground colour combination do you prefer for this site?



3. Which linking component would like to see in this playground?



4. Which climbing component would like to see in this playground?



Recommendations and Next Steps

Community feedback from this survey will be incorporated into the design of the new playground equipment. While all of the feedback received will not be able to be integrated into the final design, Officers will achieve a balance between site constraints, stakeholder needs and project budget.

Officers will be finalising the equipment selection in November 2023 with the aim to start demolition on site in April 2024. The project will be completed by July 2024.