

7.2.1 MONASH PLAYGROUND AND PLAYSPACE STRATEGY REFRESH 2025-35

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Responsible Manager: | Tony Oulton, Manager Active Monash |
| Responsible Director: | Russell Hopkins, Director Community Services |

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the Playground and Playspace Strategy Refresh 2025-2035 as presented in Attachment 1.

INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the consultation findings following public exhibition of the draft Playspace and Playspace Strategy Refresh 2025-2035.

COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Sustainable City

Ensure an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable municipality.

Inclusive Services

Renew our community assets to deliver contemporary services.

Enhanced Places

Improving open spaces, bushland, and street trees, including prioritising biodiversity and community engagement.

BACKGROUND

At the 28 November 2023 Council meeting, Council resolved to:

1. Approve the *draft* Playground and Playspace Strategy Refresh 2025-2035 for public exhibition and invite community feedback on the draft.
2. Note the following consideration of the consultation findings, a *final* Playground and Playspace Strategy Refresh 2025-2035 will be presented for Council endorsement in early 2024.

The draft Playground and Playspace Strategy Refresh 2025-2035 was subsequently exhibited on Shape Monash from 5 December 2023 to 9 February 2024.

The consultation findings have since been reviewed and, where considered reasonable and feasible to do so, community feedback has resulted in some changes to the draft Strategy Refresh as outlined in this report.

A final Strategy Refresh, considerate of community feedback, is presented in Attachment 1 for endorsement.

DISCUSSION

Council and government authorities (Parks Victoria, Crown Land Authority, VicRoads and VicTrack) provide a diverse array of play opportunities in Monash for children and families throughout a network of 139 playgrounds located in public parks and reserves. The Strategy Refresh will guide playground service standards and ensure a planned and sustainable approach to the future provision and management of playgrounds in Monash.

Monash's existing Playground and Playspace Strategy was adopted in 2020 and sunsets in 2025. A new strategy is required to inform play provision and playground upgrade priorities from July 2025.

The Strategy Refresh continues to focus on providing sustainable and equitable future playground provision and seeks to reaffirm Council's vision, service levels and infrastructure provision standards for playgrounds for the period 2025-2035.

CONSULTATION

Initial Consultation

An initial community consultation to identify playspace needs and opportunities for improvement ran from 25 May 2023 to 27 August 2023. During the consultation period, there were 80 contributions to the Shape Monash page, eight written and 12+ MYzone middle year participant submissions received.

The findings of the initial consultation were presented to Council at the 28 November 2023 Council meeting.

Public Exhibition of the Draft Strategy - Community Feedback

Community consultation on the draft Monash Playground and Playspace Strategy Refresh was open for over 2 months from 5 December 2023 to 9 February 2024.

Various engagement opportunities were promoted including:

1. Shape Monash – 19 contributors and 21 contributions received on the draft Strategy Refresh via [Playground Strategy Refresh | Shape Monash](#)
2. Direct Email – Monash playgroups, pre-schools, school contacts and sports clubs were directly emailed and encouraged to complete the on-line survey and/or make a submission.
3. Ongoing promotion of the on-line survey through Council's website and social media.
4. Project page subscription registration – subscribers received regular project updates.

5. Articles in Monash Bulletin distributed to all households in Monash - July & August 2022. Monash Bulletin articles were also translated into Simple Chinese, Greek & Italian.
6. Communications to existing networks e.g. direct emails to members of Council networks and community groups.
7. Direct communication and/or presentation to Monash's advisory groups - Disability Advisory Committee, Young Persons Reference Group, Positive Aging Reference Group and Gender Equity Advisory Committee & Multicultural Advisory Group.

Feedback on the draft Strategy Refresh

At the close of consultation on 9 February 2024, 21 on-line survey responses and 25 written submissions were received.

Key findings from the on-line survey include:

- 62% of respondents take their children/grandchildren to playspaces in Monash
- 84% of respondents supported the key directions of the draft strategy
- The cohort with the most respondents was 35-49 years
- 24% of respondents were children

Some of the key themes from the written submissions include:

- Shade (sun-protection over play equipment) is considered an important playground feature
- Inequity of play provision across the municipality
- Animal education, regulation, and enforcement where dog owners do not have their dogs under effective control within 20m of an in-use playspace in accordance with Dog Control Order No. 6
- Consideration of climate change and biodiversity e.g. enhancing garden character and reducing urban heat
- The importance of nature play, accessible play equipment and active recreation opportunities
- Overall support for the draft Strategy Refresh as indicated by comments such as:
 - *Great to see a priority on nature and nature-based play*
 - *We believe most of the plan goals are achievable*
 - *I like the idea that they are being redesigned to provide multiple experiences*
 - *Very happy Council is keeping abreast of current views*
 - *I like that you are engaged with current views on playgrounds*
 - *It's a great initiative overall.*

Changes made to the draft Strategy Refresh

Following the review of feedback received on the draft, the following recommended changes have been noted in the Consultation Report (attachment 2) and incorporated in the final Strategy Refresh:

1. New Recommendation
Recommendation #30 (p. 53) - Council to advocate to Suburban Rail Loop Authority (SRLA) to identify opportunities for new pocket parks in Clayton for integration into the State Government's Precinct Vision and Structure Plan resulting from the SRL Clayton East Station development.
2. Playground Upgrade Program (Appendix 2)
Finch Street Playspace has been elevated in the Playspace Upgrade Program (p. 62) from year 4 (2028/29) to year 2 (2026/27).
3. Key action
Playground Project Working Group to visit site and consider need for a shade sail or advanced canopy tree planting at Fraser Street playspace.

Refer to *Attachment 2 - Consultation Report* for more information on the consultation findings and officer responses.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Over recent times, Council has progressively removed and replaced outdated playgrounds to ensure compliance with Australian Standards and contemporary expectations.

Over the last 11 financial years, 68 playgrounds will have been upgraded across Monash at an estimated cost of \$18 million.

Ongoing implementation of Council's Annual Playground Upgrade Program, in accordance with the playground classifications and renewal priorities will continue to be considered as part of Council's annual budget process.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Strategy Refresh focuses on providing sustainable and equitable future playground provision and seeks to reaffirm Council's vision, service levels and infrastructure provision standards.

The Strategy Refresh aligns with key Council strategies and plans such as the Council Plan, Municipal Public Health Plan, Monash Open Space Strategy and Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Playspaces are important destinations for communities to gather. They encourage interaction, understanding, physical activity and community health and wellbeing.

Accessible, inclusive, and well-designed playspaces bring people together, enhance community cohesiveness and assists children's cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and sensory development.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The United Nations (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 31) states that:

'...every child has a right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child, and to participate freely in cultural life and arts.'

The Good Playspace Guide (Sport and Recreation Victoria, 2007) acknowledges the importance of play and confirms:

...All children need to play. All children have the right to play. When children play, they are not just filling in time, they are learning to interpret their world. Play facilitates the learning of life skills, and for this reason, the provision of quality outdoor playspaces is vitally important in local communities.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A gender impact assessment has been undertaken as part of this work as this policy/program/service is considered to have a direct and significant impact on the Monash community.

CONCLUSION

The Playground and Playspace Strategy Refresh 2025-35 will guide the planning, provision, design, and management of playgrounds in Monash post June 2025. The Strategy Refresh is a high-level strategic document that seeks to identify the playground needs of existing and future residents and aims to redress potential gaps in playspace provision.


The Strategy Refresh also reinforces the key directions and actions identified in the Monash Open Space Strategy and carries forward any relevant recommendations from the current Council-endorsed Playground and Playspace Strategy which ends in 2025.

The Strategy Refresh is aspirational, and not all the recommendations may be achieved over the life of the Strategy (2025-2035). Implementation relies on a range of factors including, but not necessarily limited to: Council budget approval, external funding, project prioritisation, the pace of redevelopment and population growth, and the availability of land to purchase in gap areas.

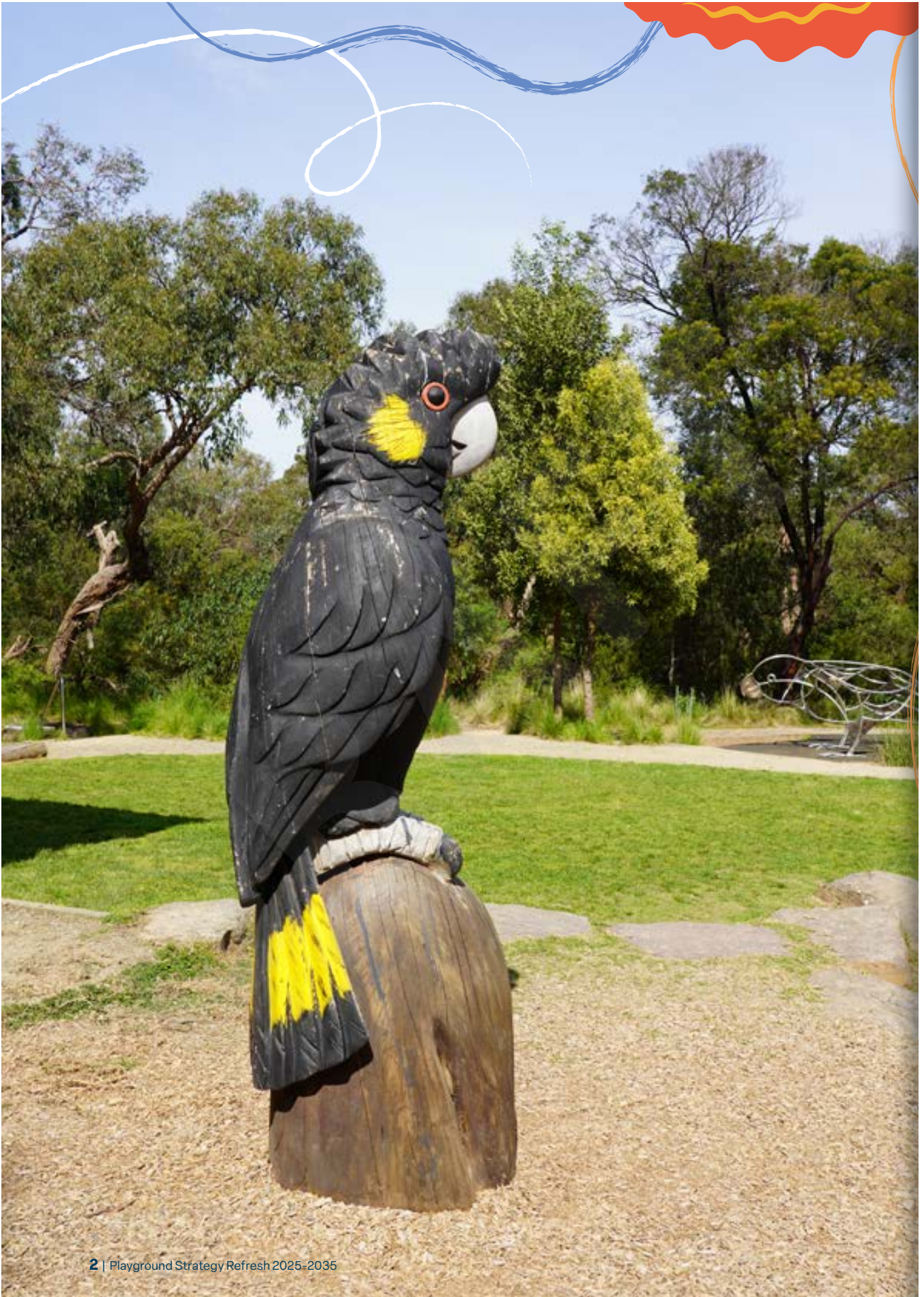
Following consideration of community feedback received on the draft, officers recommend Council endorse the final Strategy Refresh as presented in Attachment 1 - Monash Playground and Playspace Strategy 2025-35.

ATTACHMENT LIST

1. Attachment 1 - Playground and Playspace Strategy Refresh 2025-2035 [7.2.1.1 - 64 pages]

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2. Attachment 2 - Consultation Report [**7.2.1.2** - 46 pages]





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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Monash Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.





INTRODUCTION

Monash Council provides a diverse array of play opportunities for children throughout a network of 139 (soon to be 141) public playspaces located in parks and reserves.

This refresh of the *Playground and Playspace Strategy 2020* has been undertaken to ensure Monash has a proactive, sustainable and evidenced-based approach to the ongoing provision and management of playgrounds and playspaces in the City of Monash.

Play is important for children's physical, cognitive, social, emotional and sensory development. Through play, important life skills are learnt using interaction, risk-taking, imagination, socialising and self-expression. Playing allows children to learn about themselves and others.

Playgrounds and playspaces provide environments where children can explore,

create, imagine, interact and reflect. Successful playgrounds enable children of all ages to take calculated risks, interact with others and be physically active. Playgrounds have evolved from simple slide and swing sets to integrated equipment that incorporate a range of features, challenges, themes and experiences.

Monash is a desirable area to live; as a result more people are choosing to stay in smaller houses and units to raise a family. As urban density intensifies and private open space is reduced, the importance of public open space increases. This places pressure on open space realms to provide high-quality experiences for a range of ages, abilities and interests. The continual improvement of quality passive and active open space, including playgrounds, will promote community participation in physical activity and improve health and wellbeing.

BACKGROUND

The *Monash Playground and Playspace Strategy Refresh 2025* (Strategy Refresh) expands on the *Playground and Playspace Strategy 2020* and reaffirms the service levels, provision and design standards for the development and renewal of playgrounds in the City of Monash.

All recommended actions in the Strategy Refresh are important as they improve the quality, safety, appeal and value of playgrounds across the City of Monash. The implementation of the Strategy Refresh and upgrade of future playspaces is an ongoing and evolving process. The Strategy Refresh will ensure that a high standard of playgrounds is delivered in priority order in accordance with the *Active Monash Capital Works Prioritisation Framework 2018*.

Capital Works Prioritisation Framework

This prioritisation framework identifies capital works priorities for the next 10+ years for recreation assets (including playgrounds) in a transparent and equitable manner. Under the framework, projects are ranked in order of priority for upgrade based on a clear and justifiable assessment methodology:

- 1** Strategic justification (10%)
- 2** Physical environment (35%)
- 3** Community benefit (35%)
- 4** Economic benefit (10%)
- 5** Environmental assessment (10%)

Playgrounds that have been identified as high priority for upgrade under this framework feature in the aspirational 10-year playspace upgrade program commencing 2025/26 (**Appendix 2**).

The Active Monash Capital Works Priorities Framework spreadsheet is a dynamic document and will be reviewed and updated annually before each capital works planning cycle to ensure the top capital works priorities remain relevant and reflect current conditions and community needs.

Playground hierarchy and classifications

A playground hierarchy is used to classify the scale and primary design focus for each playground. A playground's classification directly informs its scope and size and it also guides the level of service and infrastructure provision.

Monash has five (5) playground classifications that range from small pocket parks through to large regional destination playgrounds :

- Pocket
- Local
- Neighbourhood
- District
- Municipal/Regional.

The design focus of the playspace should reflect:

- The anticipated target group(s) who will primarily use the playground
- The extent of play elements and experiences to be provided
- The indicative duration of stay and mode of travel to the playground
- The distinctive features of the park and/or reserve.

Hierarchy considerations

If a district- or regional-scale playground is located in a neighbourhood, a series of smaller pocket or local playgrounds for toddlers should also be provided in the local area. This will enable small children to have a place to play without potentially feeling intimidated by older children rushing about them.

The nature of the suburb may influence the type of playground developed. If the house blocks are small or if the 'backyards' are small, there is a greater need for access to a quality playspace in a local park.

Other factors which should be considered include:

- Site suitability
- Existing gaps in provision i.e. where residents have to travel more than 400 metres to access a playground
- Current and future demand – using demographic data to identify the current and projected number of children living in a precinct
- The number, variety, quality and classification of nearby playspaces
- Strategic fit and alignment with relevant Council strategies and plans.

Service levels

For each classification level, Monash has established minimum service levels and provision standards for playspaces. These include:

- Primary design focus and target group
- Indicative catchment area
- Indicative duration of stay (visit time)
- Indicative number of play pieces including nature play elements
- Recommended inspection/maintenance check schedule.

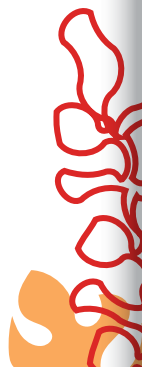
TABLE 1: Monash playground classifications and inspection program

| Playspace classification | Primary design focus and target group | Indicative catchment area | Indicative duration of stay | Indicative no. of play pieces (incl. nature play) | Recommended inspection/maintenance check schedule |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Regional | Intergenerational* | 10km | 2+ hours | 15+ pieces | 2 inspections per week |
| District | Intergenerational* | 2.5km | 1+ hours | 8-12 pieces | 1 inspection per week |
| Neighbourhood | Preschool - secondary school | 1km | Up to 2 hours | 8-12 pieces | 1 inspection per week |
| Local | Preschool - primary school | 500m | Up to 1 hour | 5-8 pieces | 1-2 inspections per fortnight |
| Pocket | Toddlers - preschool | 400m | Up to 30 mins | 3-5 pieces | 1 inspection per fortnight |

***NOTE:** In the intermediate and teenage age groups there is a shift away from playgrounds to other active recreational facilities that allow for sport and active recreation. The *Monash Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy*¹ identifies strategic priorities for the planning and delivery of outdoor active recreation infrastructure such as fitness stations, basketball half courts, skate parks etc.

Intergenerational play also supports the active participation of adults accompanying or supervising children at playgrounds.

¹ www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/edms/things-to-do/sport-recreation/active-recreation-opportunities-strategy.pdf



Minimum infrastructure provision standards

Minimum playground infrastructure provision standards for each playground classification also apply as outlined in Table 2. These minimum standards may be exceeded at certain sites where a legitimate need for additional infrastructure can be demonstrated.

TABLE 2: Minimum playground infrastructure provision standards

| Playspace classification | Double BBQ (incl. paving and sheiter) | Shade sail (over play area) | Public toilets (within 250m of playspace) | Accessible picnic table | Water fountain | Rubbish bins | Bike rack | Accessible features | Bench seating |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|
| Regional | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Neighbourhood | | | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Local | | | | | | | | Yes | Yes |
| Pocket | | | | | | | | Yes | Yes |

The playground classifications, service levels and provision standards inform the design brief, project scope and budget for playspaces and enable Council to deliver a sustainable, equitable and feasible playground program. They also:

- Provide clarity and consistency around playground provision levels
- Provide a variety of play experiences for the community i.e. from larger regional destination playspaces to smaller local playspaces
- Ensure our playspaces offer the community with a broad range of high quality, creative play opportunities for different ages and abilities
- Prioritise the development of new playspaces in gap areas to enhance equity of access
- Demonstrate responsible asset management, based on an understanding of future asset renewal costs and obligations based on existing provision standards
- Ensure consistent quality playground design by embedding Monash’s Playspace Design Principles and Considerations in playspace design briefs.

Aspirational minimum playground provision standard

Monash Council aspires to meet a minimum provision standard of having a playground within a 400 metre radius (as the crow flies) of 95% of all residential dwellings.

The level of playground provision varies from precinct to precinct and is directly affected by the amount of public open space available. Large areas of land in Monash are utilised by industry and technology, private golf courses and tertiary institutions (e.g. Monash University Clayton Campus) and this directly affects playground provision in parts of Monash.

IMPROVING PLAYSPACES

Council has progressively removed and replaced outdated playgrounds, often no longer compliant with Australian Standards or consistent with contemporary standards.

From 2014 to July 2025, Council will have upgraded a total of 68 playgrounds across Monash at an estimated cost of \$17.8 million (Table 3).

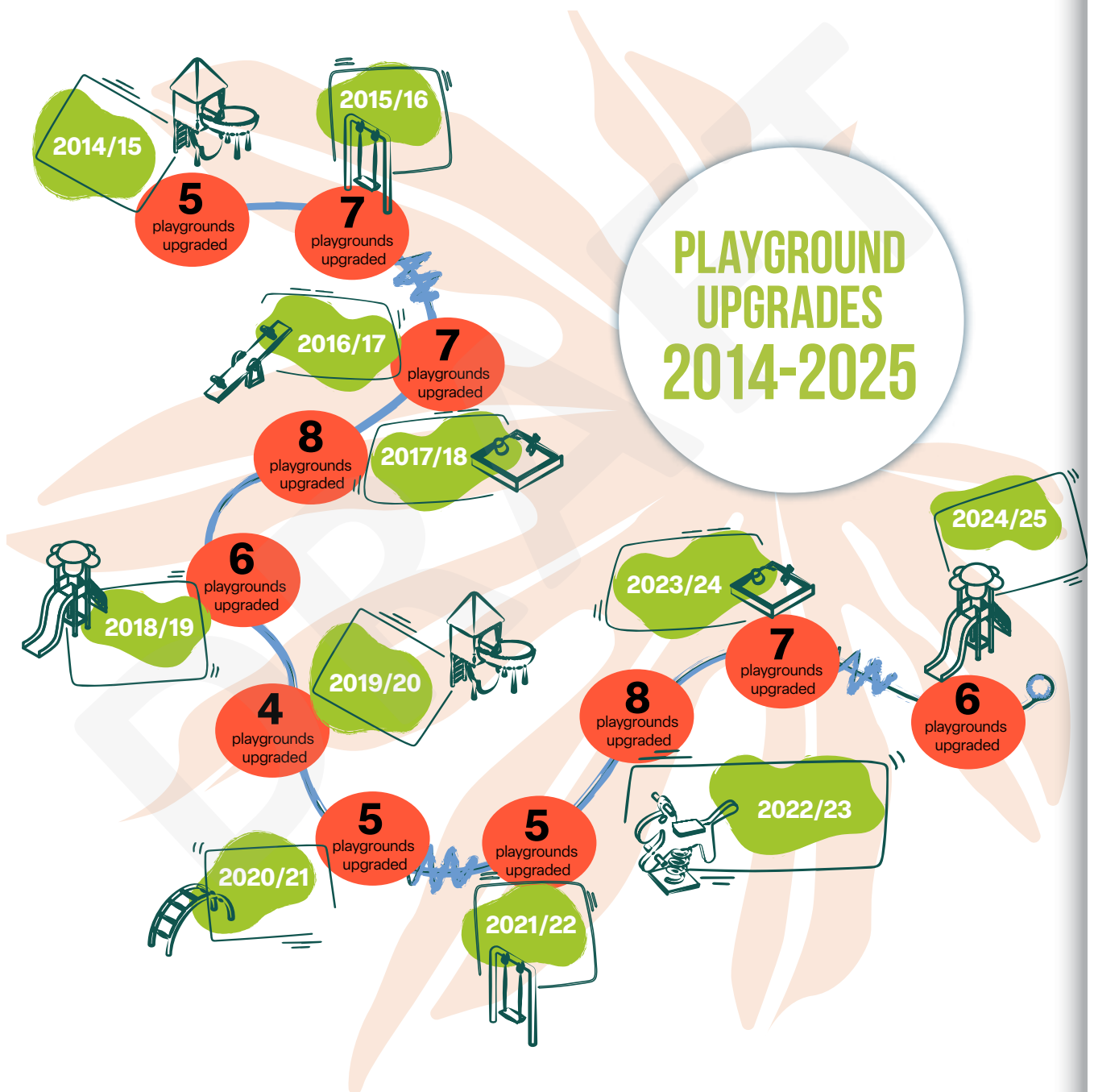


TABLE 3: Playground upgrades 2014-2025

| Year | Sites | Number of Sites | Total cost p.a. (incl. grants) |
|--|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 2014/15 | Valley Conservation Reserve, Wellington Reserve, Ashwood Drive Reserve, Beverley Grove Reserve (Mount Waverley Linear Reserve), Brandon Park Reserve. | 5 | \$1,150,000 |
| 2015/16 | Reg Harris Reserve, Marykirk Drive (Ronston Court) Reserve, Tally Ho Reserve, Woodlea Drive Reserve, Viewpoint Avenue Reserve, Mackellar Avenue Reserve, Bailey Street Reserve. | 7 | \$995,000 |
| 2016/17 | Dirigo Drive Reserve, Burlington Street Reserve (Burlington Square), Mayfield Park Reserve, Portland Street South Reserve, Davies Reserve, Napier Park, Jingella Reserve fitness station. | 7 | \$980,000 |
| 2017/18 | Pascall Street Reserve, Fiander Avenue Reserve, Netherby Avenue Reserve, Arthur Street Reserve, Samada Street Reserve, Murumba Drive Reserve, Freeway Reserve, Essex Heights Reserve fitness station. | 8 | \$1,050,000 |
| 2018/19 | Glen Waverley North Reserve, Mannering Drive Reserve, Catherine Avenue Reserve, Dennis Street Reserve, Adrian Street Reserve, Galbally Reserve. | 6 | \$1,350,000 |
| 2019/20 | Melissa Street Reserve, Evelyn Street Reserve, Electra Reserve, Wellesley Road Reserve. | 4 | \$900,000 |
| 2020/21 | Wilma Avenue Reserve, Bayview (Madison Court) Reserve, Danien Street Reserve, Capital Reserve, Whitehaven Crescent Reserve. | 5 | \$1.07m |
| 2021/22 | Garnett Street Reserve, Carlson Reserve, Gardiners Reserve, Botanic Drive Reserve, Petronella Avenue Reserve. | 5 | \$1.64m |
| 2022/23 | Herriotts Boulevard (England Road) Reserve, Atheldene Drive Reserve, Flora Road Reserve, Cambridge Street Reserve, Progress Park and Cameron Avenue Reserve, Westerfield Drive Reserve, Rivett Crescent Reserve, Samada Street Reserve improvements. | 8 | \$3.5m |
| 2023/24 | Talbot Park, Cambro Road Reserve, Mount Waverley Reserve, Diamond Avenue Reserve, Highview Park, Rembrandt Drive (Gainsborough Avenue) Reserve, Portland Street North Reserve. | 7 | \$2.35m |
| 2024/25* *subject to budget provision | Princes Highway Reserve, Mulgrave Reserve, Orchard Street (David Crawford) Reserve, Argyle Reserve, Westbrook Street Reserve (proposed), Centre Road West Skyrail (proposed). | 6 | \$2.8m |
| TOTAL | Average \$270k per playspace | 68 | \$17.8m |





*To be upgraded by 30 June 2025 – subject to budget approval

SCOPE OF STRATEGY

Playground definition

For the purposes of this Strategy Refresh a playground is defined as:

“...any accessible area used for outdoor play or recreation which contains recreational play equipment such as slides and swings which is typically found in a public park or reserve.”

A playground forms part of a playspace which may incorporate additional infrastructure and features such as picnic shelters, public toilets,

drinking fountains, basketball half courts and public tennis facilities.

Monash currently has 139 public playgrounds. Two new pocket playgrounds are also due for completion mid-2025. This will bring the total number of playspaces up to 141.

Refer to **Appendix 1: Playgrounds in Monash** for a comprehensive list of public playgrounds in the City of Monash.



Outdoor active recreation infrastructure

While the scope of this Strategy Refresh focuses on playgrounds, it is important to note that Council also provides outdoor active recreation hubs and active recreation infrastructure in public parks and reserves such as:

- Fitness stations or exercise equipment
- Multi-sport courts with basketball, netball and/or futsal goals
- Community tennis facilities such as public tennis courts, hit-up tennis walls and table tennis tables
- Bocce courts
- Skate parks and pump tracks
- Bouldering and climbing walls.

In cases where recreational infrastructure is integrated into the playspace, as opposed to stand-alone active recreation infrastructure, it will be considered and treated as part of the playspace.

“ **...any accessible area used for outdoor play or recreation which contains recreational play equipment such as slides and swings which is typically found in a public park or reserve.** ”

¹ www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/edms/things-to-do/sport-recreation/active-recreation-opportunities-strategy.pdf

Active recreation opportunities strategy

The *Monash Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy*¹ identifies strategic priorities for the planning and delivery of outdoor active recreation infrastructure such as fitness stations, basketball half courts, skate parks etc. to enable residents to participate ‘in their own way.’

The City of Monash has delivered a range of active recreation facilities across its open space network, including outdoor fitness equipment, circuit paths and trails, basketball courts and cricket practice facilities. The *Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy* aims to increase the diversity of opportunities for physical activity and balance the provision of facilities across the network.

The establishment of a series of neighbourhood ‘active recreation hubs’ will complement the provision and upgrade of playspaces by:

- Increasing the diversity of facilities
- Creating destinations for play, active recreation and physical activity
- Providing intergenerational elements so people of all ages and abilities can play, recreate and be active together e.g. children, parents and grandparents
- Providing new opportunities for residents to be physically active.





Our vision for playspaces:

The City of Monash will provide a diverse range of quality, fun, accessible, well designed and maintained playspaces that assist children’s cognitive, physical, social, emotional and sensory development as well as providing a community gathering space that encourages interaction, understanding, physical activity and community health and wellbeing.

This Strategy Refresh aims to ensure the continued holistic and systematic approach to playground developments and provides:

- A clear vision that ensures Monash playspaces offer a broad range of high-quality, creative play opportunities for different age groups and abilities
- A playground classification framework and minimum infrastructure provision standards that deliver clarity around provision and services levels and a diverse range of play experiences
- An understanding of future demand for playspaces in Monash, and identifies gaps in provision and potential sites for the development of new playgrounds
- Equitable access to playgrounds
- A responsible and sustainable approach to managing playground renewals with the view to reducing the playground renewal gap to under 20 years.

The objectives of the Strategy Refresh are:

- Confirm the strategic direction for the planning, development and upgrade of playspaces in the City of Monash for the next 10 years
- Ensure future playground developments are relevant and responsive to community needs
- Maintain a safe play environment for children in our parks where children can take calculated risks
- Reaffirm Monash’s playground design standards, classifications and service levels and minimum infrastructure provision standards
- Provide play environments and equipment that offer children recreation opportunities that contribute to their physical, emotional, cognitive, social and sensory development
- Provide a variety of creative, high-quality play opportunities for children and their families to enjoy and recreate together.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAYGROUNDS

The United Nations has stated that:

...every child has a right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child, and to participate freely in cultural life and arts.¹

The Good Play Space Guide acknowledges the importance of play as follows:

All children need to play. All children have the right to play. When children play they are not just filling in time, they are learning to interpret their world. Play facilitates the learning of life skills, and for this reason, the provision of quality outdoor playspaces is vitally important in local communities.²

Through play children develop qualities necessary in adulthood, such as:

- Problem solving
- Independence
- Self-awareness
- Creativity
- Resilience
- Spatial knowledge
- Flexibility and ability to deal with change.³



¹ *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 31*

^{2,3} *Sport and Recreation Victoria, The Good Space Guide 2007*



Inclusive play

Besides the obvious benefits of movement, exercise and fitness, physical play provides the building blocks to children's complete development, from balance, vision and hearing, to tactile learning and sensory integration. Play benefits young children, young people and the young at heart, and inclusive design needs to consider all ages, cultural backgrounds and abilities.

What is an inclusive playspace?

*Everyone Can Play: A Guideline to Create Inclusive Play*¹ defines an inclusive playspace as:

...easy to access, easy to move around in, provide a range of play types and challenges, and are equipped with appropriate facilities, in a comfortable environment. Inclusive playspaces allow everyone to stay as long as they choose.

Inclusive playspaces remove the obstacles and barriers that prevent people from participating in play. They provide access to a variety of play experiences and consider as many people's needs as possible.

Accessibility vs. Inclusivity

The *Everyone Can Play* guideline encourages playspace planners, designers and users to think beyond accessibility needs, so that everyone can realise the joys of play. Accessibility is commonly associated with mobility standards and safety compliance. Accessibility refers to the physical ability of people to access a place or thing. Accessible design predominantly addresses the movement needs of those with disabilities.

When designing for playspaces, complying with accessibility standards across equipment, surfacing and support facilities, is key to creating a playspace for all.

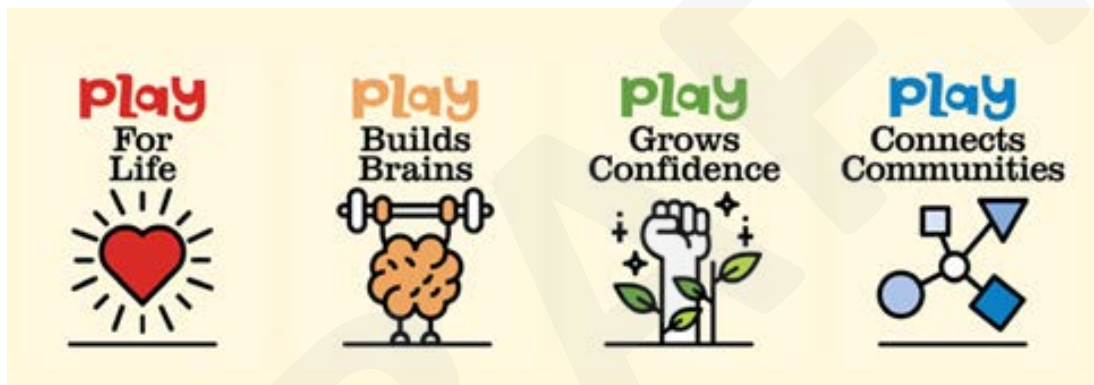
¹NSW Government, *Everyone Can Play A Guideline to Create Inclusive Play, 2023*

Social gathering places

Quality playspaces provide venues for community events, activities and social gatherings. They often become the social hub for local communities, particularly for those with young children, and contribute to the landscape appeal of individual settings.

Playspaces provide a broad range of benefits for local communities, including:

- Facilitating opportunities for social interaction
- Contributing to a sense of community connectedness and wellbeing
- Contributing to community pride and appreciation of the natural environment
- Encouraging participation in physical activities (which derives a range of physical and mental health benefits).



Growth and development

The City of Monash is experiencing significant population growth that is predicted to continue in the future. The 2021 estimated residential population for the City of Monash was 203,501. The population forecast for 2023 is 204,213, and is forecast to grow to 250,219 by 2041 (or 22.53%).²

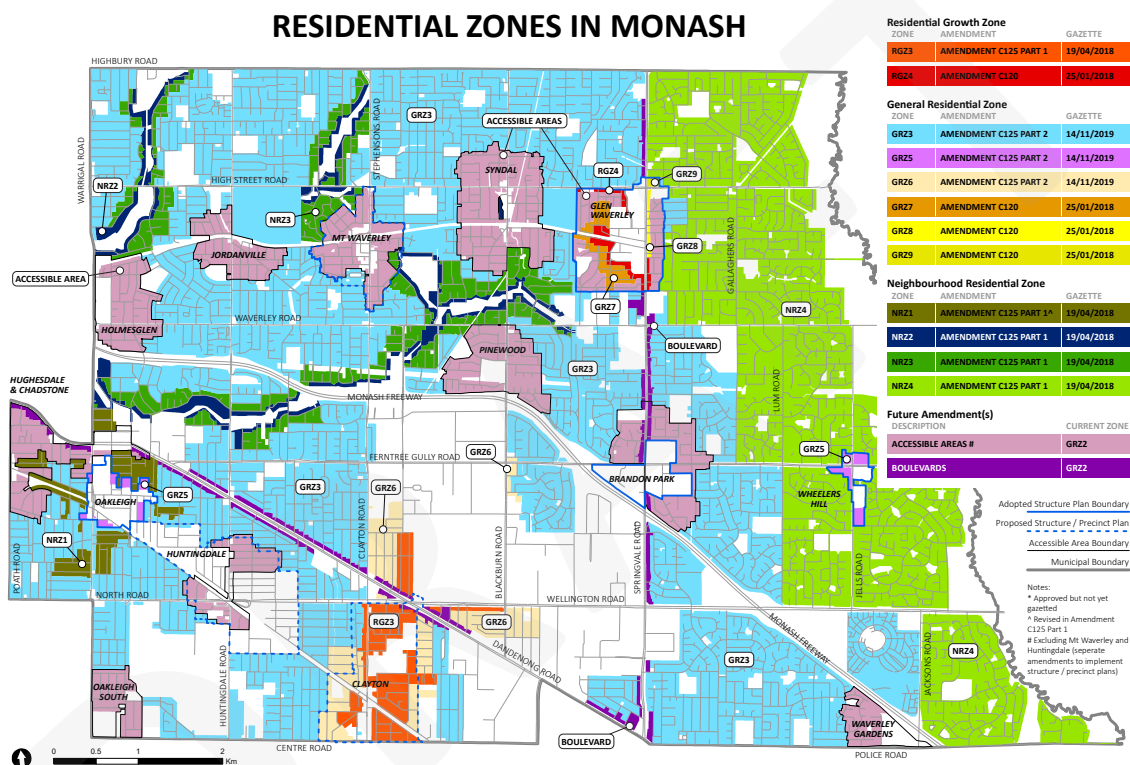
¹ Image from Play Australia website retrieved from www.playaustralia.org.au

² Profile ID, City of Monash Population Forecast retrieved 11 April 2023

Monash is also experiencing a significant amount of residential development, particularly in areas such as Glen Waverley and Clayton (refer Map 1: Residential growth zones).

In many property developments, older housing stock is being replaced with high-density apartments, often leading to a loss of private gardens in the neighbourhood. This loss affects the amount of space children have for play, while increasing urbanisation impacts on opportunities to connect with nature (hence the importance of nature play and the use of natural materials and plantings).

MAP 1: Residential growth zones (orange and red areas)



Obesity

Obesity is a world-wide issue that contributes to physical, psychological and metabolic health problems. Australia has one of the highest rates of obesity in the world. In 2017-2019 Australia ranked fifth among OECD countries with 31% of Australian adults living with obesity. About **14 million Australians are living with overweight or obesity** - that's 2 in every 3 adults, and 1 in 4 children.¹

Without further action we face a future with more weight-related chronic diseases and early death, greater vulnerability to infectious diseases, and significant costs to health care, economic development, and community wellbeing. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has shown that people with obesity or chronic diseases get sicker and are more likely to die from infectious diseases. There is also evidence that COVID-19 continues to influence Australians' eating and sedentary behaviour patterns.

Our environments and lifestyles have also made us less physically active. More machines and technologies, as well as traditional urban design, encourage us to drive and have led to more sedentary work and leisure activities, and much more screen time.

The Australian Government's *National Obesity Strategy 2022-2032* (the Strategy) sets out a vision for an Australia that encourages and enables healthy weight and healthy living for all.

The Strategy's goal is for more people to maintain a healthy weight, through achieving two targets:

- Halt the rise and reverse the trend in the prevalence of obesity in adults by 2030
- Reduce overweight and obesity in children and adolescents aged 2-17 years by at least 5% by 2030.

These are aspirational targets require a societal and sustained approach for change. One way local government can realise the Strategy's goals is to create environments that make it easier for people to lead healthier lives.

It is widely acknowledged that it is important to instil participation in physical activity and healthy eating in children before they develop poor physical and nutritional habits. Children have unique needs, as do different segments among children (young and adolescent, boys and girls), so it is important that these issues are acknowledged when designing playspaces to encourage a physically active community.

¹ *Australian Government National Obesity Strategy 2022-2032*





GENDER IMPLICATIONS FOR PLAY

Physical activity

The Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition¹ at Deakin University, through their 'public open spaces' research, has confirmed the importance of providing children with access to public open spaces. Young boys and adolescent boys with access to playspaces in their local park had a greater level of physical activity than those without. The same was not seen among girls. Features important to adolescent girls included trees that provide shade, water features and signage regarding dogs.

The study also found that neither adolescent boys nor girls performed the recommended one hour of moderate-to-vigorous-intensity physical activity per day. This highlights the need for features that promote physical activity for various age groups and genders – in particular, the inclusion of interesting and age-appropriate play equipment.

Parks

UK advocacy group Make Space for Girls identifies park infrastructure for young people consists almost entirely of facilities such as skate parks, multi-use games areas (e.g., fenced pitches, basketball courts) and BMX tracks and that these spaces are generally seen as meeting the needs of all young people when in fact they are places dominated by boys.

It has been shown that boys tend to dominate the space in existing teen play areas, and that this is often done by deliberately excluding girls. Probably as a result of this, girls are less active when there are groups of boys present. Girls will often avoid using spaces when boys are present, only going to some spaces at times of day when they know they will be empty [...] The researchers suggest that public playgrounds need to provide several smaller areas to prevent girls becoming marginalised in big open spaces. Other work shows that girls are much more likely to use well-kept play areas which supply the kind of experiences they want, and they are more likely to linger in this kind of play area .

¹ Deakin University (Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition), *Public open spaces – what features encourage children to be active?*



Health

The lack of park facilities for girls, and the barriers excluding them, also has an impact on their health. From age 10, activity levels drop significantly in girls, until by 13-15, only 8% of girls are meeting activity guidelines. By age 16, the pattern of exercise in adult years has usually been set, so this decline has lifetime impact.

The role of play and playgrounds in meeting this need, however, has not been much studied, but they are a free setting for physical activities which don't have to be competitive. For example, a U.S. study found that swings were the best providers of moderate physical activity for teenage girls in parks.

Safety and security

Make Space for Girls identifies that 'not feeling safe' is a key barrier which stops girls using parks.

Teenage girls also interpret safety more widely than adults do. To them, it means more than not being attacked, it also includes not being judged or disapproved of or stared at. This feeling contributes to their absence from parks and other spaces.

The lack of appropriate facilities can also contribute to this – if teenage girls try to use what play equipment there is, they are often made to feel unwelcome by the parents. Other park users can also be a significant safety issue for teenage girls, most of all groups of boys or men.

Playspace equipment

Boys and girls have different play preferences and design considerations, and equipment selection should include elements that are popular with all genders such as balancing, music, social spaces (benches facing each other), basket swings and signage that reinforces equitable play and belonging in shared community play spaces.

Yorkshire Sport asked 456 teenagers what would help them be active in a park, with the top three elements for girls being age-appropriate swings, trampolines and play/adventure equipment, compared with trampolines, outdoor gym equipment and playing fields for boys.¹

In Australian schools, 'in-between' or peripheral places have also been found to extend playing territory for girls, which can be limited in formal spaces by boys.²

Intersectionality

Girls from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are less likely than other girls to participate in physical activity³, and girls from non-white backgrounds are also more likely to be the targets of sexual harassment and of race discrimination in general which again affects their ability to use public spaces⁴. It is also worth noting that park design and provision often may not take into consideration the requirements of some members of other ethnic and religious groups - for example by not recognising their wish to be segregated from dogs.

Much of the data available on gender and play, or gender and physical activity, is binary in nature. While we use this data to show the gendered implications, we recognise that this does not represent the gender diversity of the population.

^{1&4} Walker & Clarke (2023), *Make Space for Girls - The Research Background 2023*

² Aminpour, Bishop & Corkery (2020) 'The hidden value of in-between spaces for children's self-directed play within outdoor school environments', *Landscape and Urban Planning* 194.

³ Reece et al. (2017) *Women and Girls in Sport, Active Recreation and Physical Activity - A Participation Review*.

Reimagining play

Play must look beyond the typical play equipment associated with traditional playgrounds. Traditional playgrounds provide physical opportunities for play, but often fail to cater for the full spectrum of a child's developmental needs.

Table 4 outlines the key developmental needs of children and the types of play opportunities and space that provide for these needs. It highlights the relevance and importance of more unique play environments, rather than typical physically focused play equipment.

TABLE 4: Developmental needs of children and relationship to play experiences

| Development need | Play experience |
|---|---|
| <p>COGNITIVE Opportunity for exploration, manipulating objects, problem solving, imaginative play. Most important for really young children.</p> | Gardens, logs, rocks, sand, natural elements that allow for touch. Focus on unique textures, things that can be manipulated or create sounds or music. Mazes or puzzles are also important. |
| <p>PHYSICAL Opportunity for movement, balance, coordination, jumping, hanging, climbing, sliding, rocking, swinging. Important for all ages of children however the physical challenge required increases with age and mobility.</p> | Traditional play equipment such as swings or rope climbing that challenge children physically. Important that there is a range of opportunities for older children to also engage with more difficult or complex physical challenges to enable progression and keep children engaged. |
| <p>SOCIAL Opportunity for communication, teamwork, interactive play. Most important for preschool and above however it's important for all ages.</p> | Consideration of elements that allow for shared use such as cubbies, seating, basket swings. Elements that promote interaction and assistance with others such as pulleys and structures. |
| <p>EMOTIONAL Opportunity for appropriate risk-taking, self-direction and self-regulation. Most important for preschool and above however it's important for all ages.</p> | Play elements that are more challenging and not so prescriptive. These elements enable progression, challenge and a sense of achievement when mastered. Elements could include high rope climbs or balance beams. |
| <p>SENSORY Opportunity for sensory stimulation (sound, sight, touch, smell). Most important for really young children.</p> | Gardens, logs, rocks, sand, natural elements that allow for touch. Focus on unique textures, things that can be manipulated or create sounds or music. |

A successful playground is defined by the amount of usage it gets. Children come back time after time to a playground that can sustain their interest – and this means designing playspaces to delight, entertain and engage them. Similar sized equipment or a limited choice of activities will not meet all their developmental needs and not result in frequent return visits. Hence it is important to deliver a diversity of opportunities across a range of playspaces as no one site can realistically deliver on all of these developmental needs for all stages of a child's growth.

POLICY CONTEXT

The Strategy Refresh provides Council with a vision for playground provision and identifies playground development priorities for the next 10 years.

It is important to note that the Strategy Refresh is aspirational and does not commit Council to implementing all recommended actions or delivering the playground upgrade priorities as detailed in Appendix 2. Funding for playground upgrades is subject to the annual adoption of Council's capital works budget and considerate of broader capital works priorities and asset renewal programs.

However, the Strategy Refresh will guide Council in improving and managing playspaces in Monash with the view to:

- Improving overall community health and wellbeing
- Encouraging physical activity and participation
- Providing opportunities for intergenerational play
- Catering for the future needs of our diverse community.

Existing Council policies and plans provide an important framework for the Strategy Refresh such as the *Council Plan*, *Health and Wellbeing Plan* and *Open Space Strategy*.

Monash Council Plan 2021-2025

The *Monash Council Plan* is a medium-term strategic document. It describes strategic priorities in the broader context of the longer-term aspirations of the community, as documented in the *Community Vision - Monash 2040*. **The Strategy Refresh contributes to strategic objectives such as:**

- Enhanced Places - Improving open spaces, bushland and street trees, including prioritising biodiversity and community engagement
- Sustainable City - Ensure an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable municipality
- Inclusive Services - Fostering an equitable, just and inclusive Monash
- Good Governance - Ensure a financially, socially and environmentally sustainable organisation.

The provision of accessible, safe and inviting playspaces for the community is important to Council achieving its strategic objectives. Equitable access to social and family recreation opportunities and playspaces is instrumental in supporting our community to live healthy, active lives. These accessible spaces provide not only for the wellbeing of individuals but also enhance the sense of community and connection.

Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025

The *Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021- 2025* is dedicated to maximising the health and wellbeing of people who live, work, study and play in Monash.

All three pillars of the *Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan* (illustrated below) apply to the Strategy Refresh, in particular Pillar One (Active and Healthy - A city dedicated to optimal health and wellbeing for its community) and the promotion of inclusive healthy environments.

Providing quality contemporary playspaces fulfils key themes in the Plan, such as active living and equity and fairness for all abilities. Playspaces provide increased participation outcomes for the community across all ages and ability levels.

Pillar One

ACTIVE AND HEALTHY

A city dedicated to optimal health and wellbeing for its community.



HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

1. Active Living
2. Healthy Eating and Preventing Obesity
3. Harm Prevention



HEALTHY MINDS

4. Loneliness
5. Mental Health
6. Strong Connected Families and Resilient Young People
7. Age-Friendly



HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

8. Built Spaces
9. Open Spaces and Green Spaces
10. Climate Change and Health

Pillar Two

ENGAGED, CONFIDENT AND CONNECTED

A city which actively listens, engages and values community voice in shaping its own future.



CONNECTED

11. Active Community Engagement
12. Creative Expression and Community Events
13. Lifelong Learning
14. Strengthening Neighbourhoods and Communities



SUPPORTED

15. Accessible and Affordable
16. Homelessness and Social Housing
17. Assertive Outreach

Pillar Three

SAFE AND RESPECTFUL

A city where every member of the community is valued and respected.



ADVOCACY

18. Advocacy and Policy



INCLUSIVE FOR ALL

19. Addressing All Forms of Discrimination
20. Equitable Communications
21. Fair For All Abilities
22. Gender Equity
23. LGBTIQ+ Inclusion
24. Celebrating Diverse Communities
25. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation



SAFE COMMUNITIES

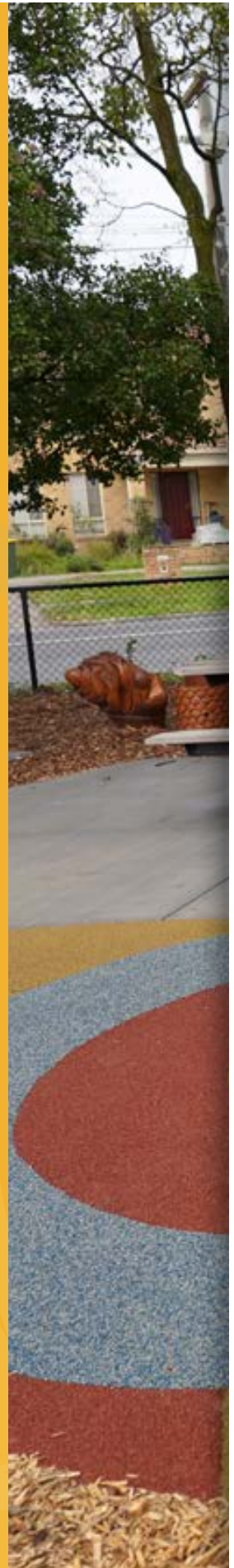
26. Preventing Violence Against Women and Children
27. Community Safety

Monash Open Space Strategy

The *Monash Open Space Strategy* aims to address shortfalls of open space in precincts that have current or future projected gaps of open space.

This has implications for the provision of playgrounds. **Key open space recommendations that affect future playground provision include:**

- Address current and projected future gaps in the provision of open space and prioritise the development of new or improved open space to areas with the greatest shortfall, including: Hughesdale, Oakleigh East, Clayton, Notting Hill and Chadstone Precincts
- Promote more diversity of playspaces, and better efficiency of existing open space
- Provide for shortfalls of open space by maximising the capacity and diversity of existing open space by:
 - ▶ Promoting the development of multi-use social family recreation and migrate selected spaces to social/family recreation sites
 - ▶ Providing a range of open space function types and landscape setting types in each precinct
 - ▶ Ensuring that a range of facilities are provided on parks. Examples of facilities may include playground, kick-about areas, small court areas (i.e. basketball half-courts), low level casual hard courts or sports provision, exercise equipment, skate, BMX and/or dog off-leash facilities
 - ▶ Enhancing the diversity, play value and inclusiveness of open space and playspaces
 - ▶ Using service provision standards to inform the planning, design, infrastructure provision and maintenance standards for open spaces to ensure viability and fit for purpose of the size, quality and diversity.
- Improving the inclusiveness of parks in Monash by:
 - ▶ Improving the amount of destination playspaces in Monash that provide accessibility and inclusion to all, especially families, older adults, teenagers and young people and regardless of ability, cultural background or gender
 - ▶ Introducing a range of universal design features to selected parks
 - ▶ Reducing the number of smaller pocket playspaces, in favour of larger destination playspaces (district and regional playspaces) that can be used by multiple age groups, people of all abilities and for family social recreation.





POPULATION FORECASTS

City of Monash

The City of Monash is located in the established eastern suburbs of Melbourne and includes the suburbs of Ashwood, Burwood (part), Chadstone, Clayton, Glen Waverley, Hughesdale, Huntingdale, Mount Waverley, Mulgrave, Notting Hill, Oakleigh, Oakleigh East, Oakleigh South (part) and Wheelers Hill. The municipality is residential, although there is a significant industrial belt stretching from Mount Waverley through Clayton-Notting Hill to Mulgrave and there are major commercial centres at Glen Waverley, Oakleigh, Clayton and Mount Waverley.

Demographic analysis

The 2021 estimated residential population for the City of Monash was 203,501. The 2023 population forecast for City of Monash is 204,213. Between 2023 and 2041, the population for the City of Monash is forecast to grow to 250,219 which is an increase of 46,006 persons (or 22.53%), at an average annual change of 1.25% per annum.

Population growth is expected across all suburbs in Monash from 2021 to 2041, however significant population increases are forecast in existing residential growth zones such as Clayton (48.4%) and Glen Waverley (31.6%). This will continue to place pressure on local infrastructure, such as playgrounds, in these areas.

The population increase across suburbs between 2021 and 2041 is also mirrored across all age groups.

GRAPH 1: Forecast age structure – 5 year age groups

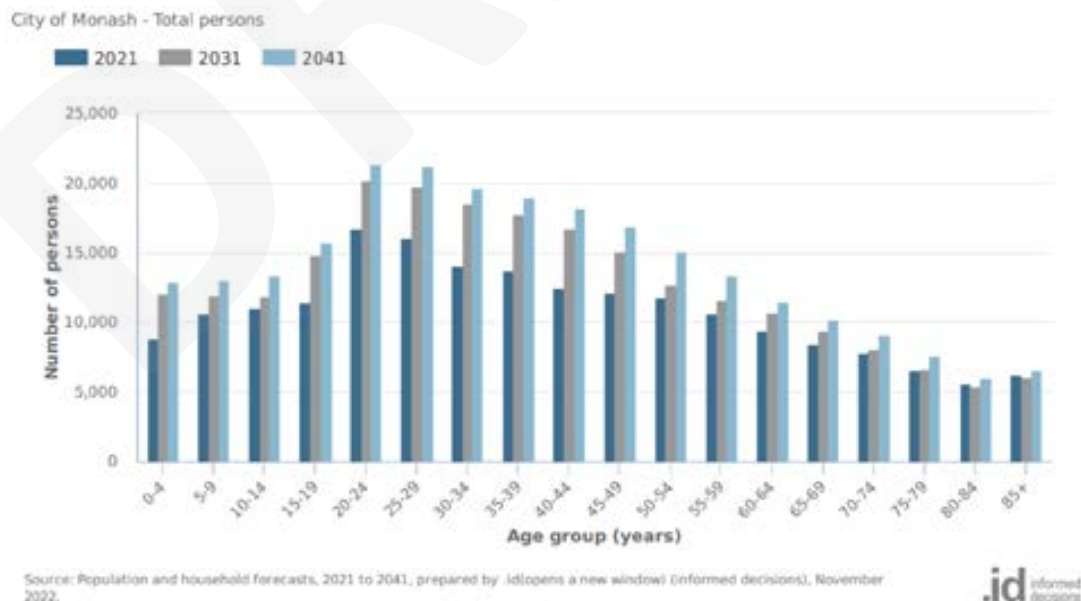


TABLE 5: Forecast age structure – service age groups

| City of Monash - Total persons | 2021 | | 2031 | | 2041 | | Change between 2021 and 2041 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Age group (years) | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number |
| Babies to preschool (0 to 4) | 8,787 | 4.6 | 12,062 | 5.3 | 12,885 | 5.1 | 4,098 |
| Primary school (5 to 11) | 15,039 | 7.8 | 16,557 | 7.2 | 18,254 | 7.3 | 3,215 |
| Secondary school (12 to 17) | 12,886 | 6.7 | 15,114 | 6.6 | 16,538 | 6.6 | 3,651 |
| Total persons | 36,712 | 19 | 43,733 | 19 | 47,677 | 19 | 10,964 |

Source: Population and household forecasts, 2021 to 2041, prepared by .id (informed decisions), November 2022.

The area with the greatest increase in persons aged 0 to 17 years between 2021 and 2041 in the City of Monash is Glen Waverley.

Knowing when and where to deliver age-based services is an essential part of local government planning. Mapping the distribution of selected age groups across the City of Monash provides the evidence-base for efficiently targeting and delivering these services.

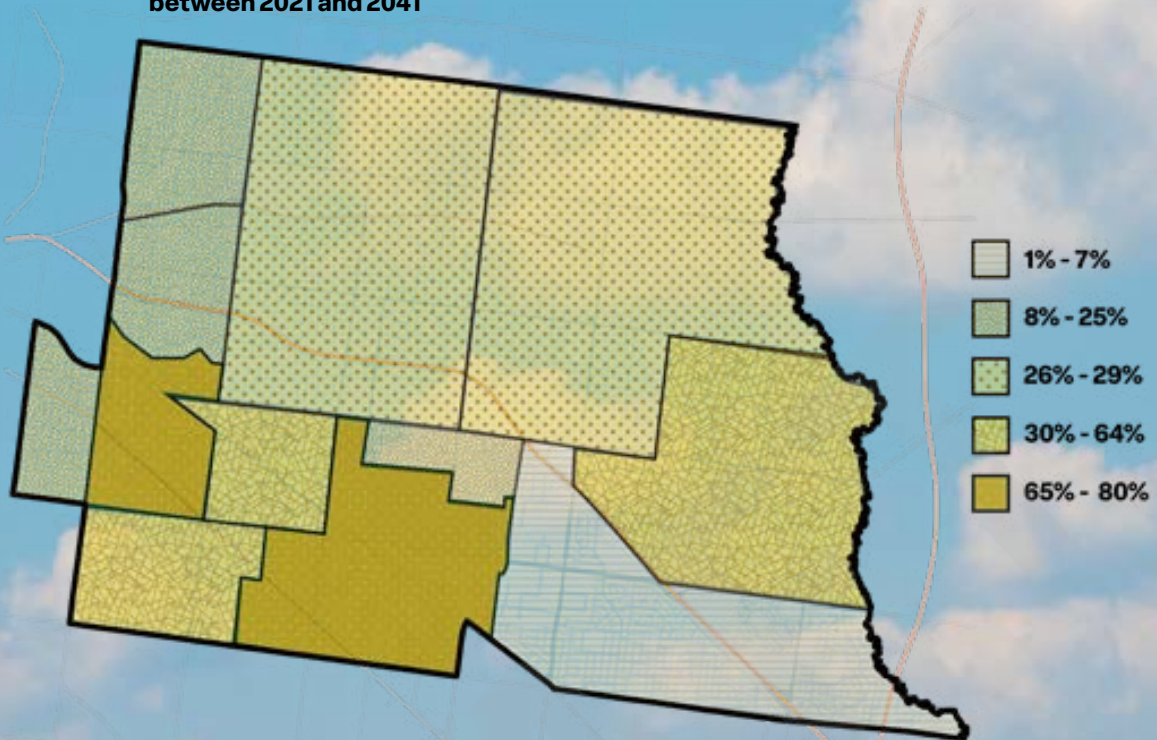
Of particular note is the significant increase in the percentage of children (aged 0-17) in Monash from 2021 to 2041. Over this period, the 0 to 17 year cohort is forecast to grow by a total of 10,964 children. This will result in an increase demand for playgrounds across Monash, particularly in the south-west of the municipality, where the numbers of persons aged 0 to 17 years are expected to increase by 79.7% in Clayton, 77.4% in Oakleigh and 63.9% in Oakleigh South.

TABLE 6: Monash population and age structure – persons aged 0 -17 years (Profile ID)

| City of Monash | 2021 | | 2041 | | Change between 2021 and 2041 | |
|-----------------------------|--------|------|--------|------|---------------------------------|-------|
| Area | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| City of Monash | 36,712 | 19.0 | 47,676 | 19.1 | +10,964 | +29.9 |
| Ashwood - Burwood | 2,115 | 20.9 | 2,341 | 19.2 | +226 | +10.7 |
| Chadstone | 1,804 | 18.6 | 2,261 | 19.6 | +457 | +25.4 |
| Clayton | 1,875 | 9.6 | 3,370 | 11.6 | +1,495 | +79.7 |
| Glen Waverley | 8,987 | 20.8 | 11,580 | 20.4 | +2,593 | +28.9 |
| Hughesdale | 1,429 | 18.7 | 1,598 | 17.7 | +169 | +11.9 |
| Mount Waverley | 7,548 | 21.1 | 9,602 | 22.1 | +2,054 | +27.2 |
| Mulgrave | 4,219 | 21.0 | 4,504 | 20.2 | +285 | +6.7 |
| Notting Hill | 490 | 16.6 | 530 | 16.3 | +40 | +8.2 |
| Oakleigh | 1,457 | 17.0 | 2,585 | 17.0 | +1,128 | +77.4 |
| Oakleigh East - Huntingdale | 1,669 | 18.8 | 2,193 | 17.8 | +524 | +31.4 |
| Oakleigh South | 1,227 | 21.1 | 2,011 | 21.8 | +784 | +63.9 |
| Wheelers Hill | 3,892 | 18.7 | 5,101 | 19.7 | +1,209 | +31.1 |

Source: Population and household forecasts, 2021 to 2041, prepared by .id (informed decisions), November 2022.

MAP 2: Monash population and age structure - increase of persons aged 0-17 between 2021 and 2041



Between 2021 and 2041, Clayton (79.7%), Oakleigh (77.4%) and Oakleigh South (63.9%) are expected to see a 60-80% increase in persons aged 0-17, putting greater pressure on the provision of open space and playgrounds in these areas.







COMMUNITY NEEDS

Monash 2021 and Beyond community survey

The findings of the *Monash 2021 and Beyond community survey* indicate the importance of parks and playspaces to Monash residents. Respondents identified local parks and playgrounds as the most important public open spaces to community, followed by bushland reserves and shared pathways for walking and cycling.

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

1. Continuing to invest in updating and reinvigorating these areas, including interesting child-friendly spaces
2. Keeping all our public open spaces well-maintained and very clean
3. Adding seating and park furniture.

Local parks, reserves and playgrounds were also identified as the second-most frequently used recreational facility in Monash (after local walking paths/cycling trails), with three-quarters (76%) of respondents reporting using local parks, reserves and playgrounds, and more than half (56%) reporting using them 'frequently.'

Playground Strategy Refresh community survey

The findings of the Playground Strategy Refresh community survey (August 2023) indicate important play priorities and community needs with regards to future play provision.

The key findings of this survey include:

Playground visits

Most survey respondents indicated they visit playgrounds three or more times a week and elect to walk to playgrounds in Monash.

Of the survey respondents, 79% identified as female, 20% as male and 1% preferred not to say.

Play equipment

The top 4 most important playground pieces were:

1. Swings and slides (66%)
2. Climbing structures (61%)
3. Youth play opportunities e.g. adventure play structures such as bouldering walls, pump track, parkour facilities (47%)
4. Toddler play equipment e.g. rockers, junior slides, expression and junior harness swings, spinners, educational play panels (46%).



Supporting infrastructure

The top 4 most important playground infrastructure requirements were:

1. Shelters e.g. shade sail over play area (69%)
2. Public toilets (61%)
3. Bench seats (40%)
4. Rubbish bins (35%).

Future needs

The top 4 play features or themes they would like to see more of in Monash were:

1. Adventure play e.g. flying foxes, climbing walls, balance beams (73%)
2. Nature play e.g. log steppers, dry creek bed, insect hotel, gardens (58%)
3. Water play and water features e.g. water spouts, 'beach areas' for sand play (53%)
4. Social play e.g. shared play opportunities such as basket swings (31%).

Survey respondents indicated:

- 61% think existing playgrounds in Monash sometimes meet their family's and the community's needs
- 18% think existing playgrounds in Monash currently meet their family's and the community's needs
- 21% think existing playgrounds in Monash do not meet their family's and the community's needs.

With increasing numbers of households with both parents in the workforce, grandparents are tending to take on the role of carers and require local parks and playgrounds to take grandchildren (87% of survey respondents indicated they had children/grandchildren they take to playgrounds). An aging population in Monash may place greater importance on the design of play provision. This may have an influence not so much on the type of play equipment to be provided, but developing appropriate supporting facilities to these areas such as seating, shade, amenities etc.



"I would love it if playgrounds were more wheelchair accessible including pathways. Suggestions include liberty swings, sensory play areas and having fully accessible toilet and changing place facilities."

"I would like to see: a bigger flying fox, swings for older children, shade sails, big swirly slide, giant rocks for imagination play near a dry creek bed, nest swing, water play area. I would also like a mini forest approximately two metres square with mixed native shrubs and trees. Thank you."

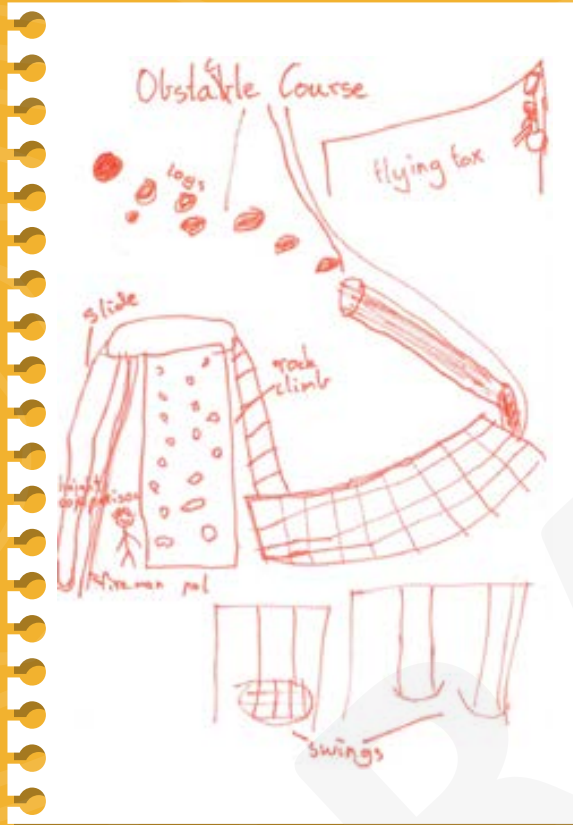
QUOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY

(from the Playground Strategy Refresh survey)

"An all abilities playground would be very much appreciated. Wood chip is great for neurotypical kids but a safety hazard for neurodiverse kids and it's hard to access for people with mobility challenges (in wheelchairs or with walkers). Facilities for all abilities can be used for years to come and everyone is included, people with disabilities, elderly, carers etc."

"A water park or a small creek to play water in. A sensory garden [and] sensory footpath would be great! Scooter parks if space allows will be much-loved too."

Children's drawings of their favourite playgrounds, Playground Strategy Refresh survey, August 2023





EXISTING PROVISION

The City of Monash has 141 designated playgrounds inclusive of two new playgrounds expected to be completed within the next few years.

TABLE 7: Playground classifications

| | Pocket | Local | N'hood | District | Regional | Sub-total |
|--------------|--------|-------|--------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Total | 47* | 56 | 22 | 13 | 3 | 141* |

*Inclusive of two new proposed pocket parks – 2A Westbrook Street, Chadstone and Centre Road West Skyrail, Clayton

There is a high number of existing pocket- and local-scale playgrounds across Monash.

With a limited number of high-quality district (13) and regional (3) playgrounds across the municipality, a key direction of the Strategy Refresh is to improve the quality of existing playgrounds to provide an equitable distribution of destination playspaces across the municipality.

TABLE 8: Precinct population and playground analysis - Monash Open Space Strategy

| Precinct | Population 2021 | % Monash population | Monash community open space (Ha) | Haper 1,000 residents | No. of playspaces | No. of residents per playspace |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Ashwood/Burwood | 10,431 | 5.1% | 42.6 | 4.1 | 8 | 1304 |
| 2. Chadstone | 10,208 | 5.0% | 17.8 | 1.7 | 5 | 2042 |
| 3. Clayton | 22,689 | 11.1% | 12.0 | 0.5 | 8 | 2836 |
| 4. Glen Waverley | 44,530 | 21.9% | 106.7 | 2.4 | 29 | 1536 |
| 5. Hughesdale | 8,509 | 4.2% | 4.5 | 0.5 | 3 | 2836 |
| 6. Mount Waverley | 36,298 | 17.8% | 129.3 | 3.6 | 23 | 1578 |
| 7. Mulgrave | 20,425 | 10.0% | 64.9 | 3.2 | 20 | 1021 |
| 8. Notting Hill | 3,339 | 1.6% | 1.7 | 0.5 | 3 | 1113 |
| 9. Oakleigh South | 5,870 | 2.9% | 16.3 | 2.8 | 5 | 1174 |
| 10. Oakleigh | 9,921 | 4.9% | 33.0 | 3.3 | 9 | 1102 |
| 11. Oakleigh East/ Huntingdale | 8,930 | 4.4% | 10.6 | 1.2 | 6 | 1488 |
| 12. Wheelers Hill | 22,531 | 11% | 72.8 | 3.3 | 22 | 1024 |
| TOTAL | 203,501 | | 512.1 | 2.5 | 141* | |



Local Government benchmarking

Benchmarking against other Local Governments Areas (LGAs) was undertaken in 2022 to seek information about playground provision trends and service standards.

The comparative statistics between authorities were similar with approximately 1 playspace per 1,400 head of population and 1 playspace per 275 head of children between the ages of 0-17 years. Both of these benchmarks only measure against the number of playspaces provided in each local government area.

TABLE 9: Local Government Playground: Population Benchmarking 2022

| Local Government Area (LGA) | Est. resident population (ERP) 2021 | No. of playspaces | Ratio - playspaces per total population | Total population of children (0-17 years) ERP 2021 | Ratio - playspaces per child | Service level - minimum distance to a playground |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--|------------------------------|--|
| Monash | 203,501 | 141 | 1:1,443 | 35,827 | 1:254 | 400m |
| Stonnington | 106,278 | 76 | 1:1,398 | 14,637 | 1:193 | n/a |
| Glen Eira | 150,685 | 47 | 1:3,206 | 31,287 | 1:666 | 500m |
| Knox | 160,484 | 211 | 1:760 | 32,684 | 1:154 | 400m |
| Casey | 340,419 | 299 | 1:1,138 | 80,804 | 1:268 | 400m |
| Manningham | 134,608 | 160 | 1:841 | 24,600 | 1:154 | 400m |
| Boroondara | 167,896 | 101 | 1:1,662 | 34,116 | 1:338 | 400-500m |
| Maroondah | 117,498 | 127 | 1:925 | 24,543 | 1:193 | 400m |
| Whitehorse | 169,346 | 174 | 1:973 | 32,901 | 1:189 | 400m |

Monash's aspiration to provide a playground within 400 metres of 95% of all residents is consistent with the playground provision service level for neighbouring metropolitan Councils. Most Councils aspire to provide a playspace within a 400-500 metre radius of every residential property. Although challenging to achieve, this benchmark provides a guide for **identifying gaps** in playground provision and assessing community needs and access to existing playspaces.



Gaps in open space

The *Monash Open Space Strategy* sets the minimum open space provision standard for open space to be within a 400 metre radius of every residential property. In accordance with the *Monash Open Space Strategy*, it is recommended that Council aspires to meet a minimum playground provision standard of within a 400 metre radius (as the crow flies) of 95% of all residential dwellings. Map 3 highlights the location of residences in relation to playgrounds for Monash.

Note: This benchmark does not allow for playspace facilities that may be located within close proximity to a Monash resident, but are located in a neighbouring local government area.

In most instances, playgrounds are located in public open space. Gaps in playground provision will typically mirror gaps in open space provision.

The *Monash Open Space Strategy* assesses the amount of open space available in Monash precincts. Across Monash there is currently around 2.5ha provided per 1,000 people provision of community open space.

Five precincts have a significant shortfall (or undersupply) in open space:

- **Precinct 8:**
Notting Hill 5m² per capita (0.5ha per 1,000 people)
- **Precinct 3:**
Clayton 5m² per capita (0.5ha per 1,000 people)
- **Precinct 5:**
Hughesdale 5m² per capita (0.5ha per 1,000 people)
- **Precinct 11:**
Oakleigh East/Huntingdale 12m² per capita (1.2ha per 1,000 people)
- **Precinct 2:**
Chadstone 17m² per capita (1.7ha per 1,000 people).

In order to address gaps in playground provision, gaps in open space in these five precincts will need to be redressed.

¹ *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* - www.planning.vic.gov.au/guides-and-resources/strategies-and-initiatives/plan-melbourne

Potential gaps in provision

It is important to note that a large majority of residents in Monash currently live within 400 metres of a playspace.

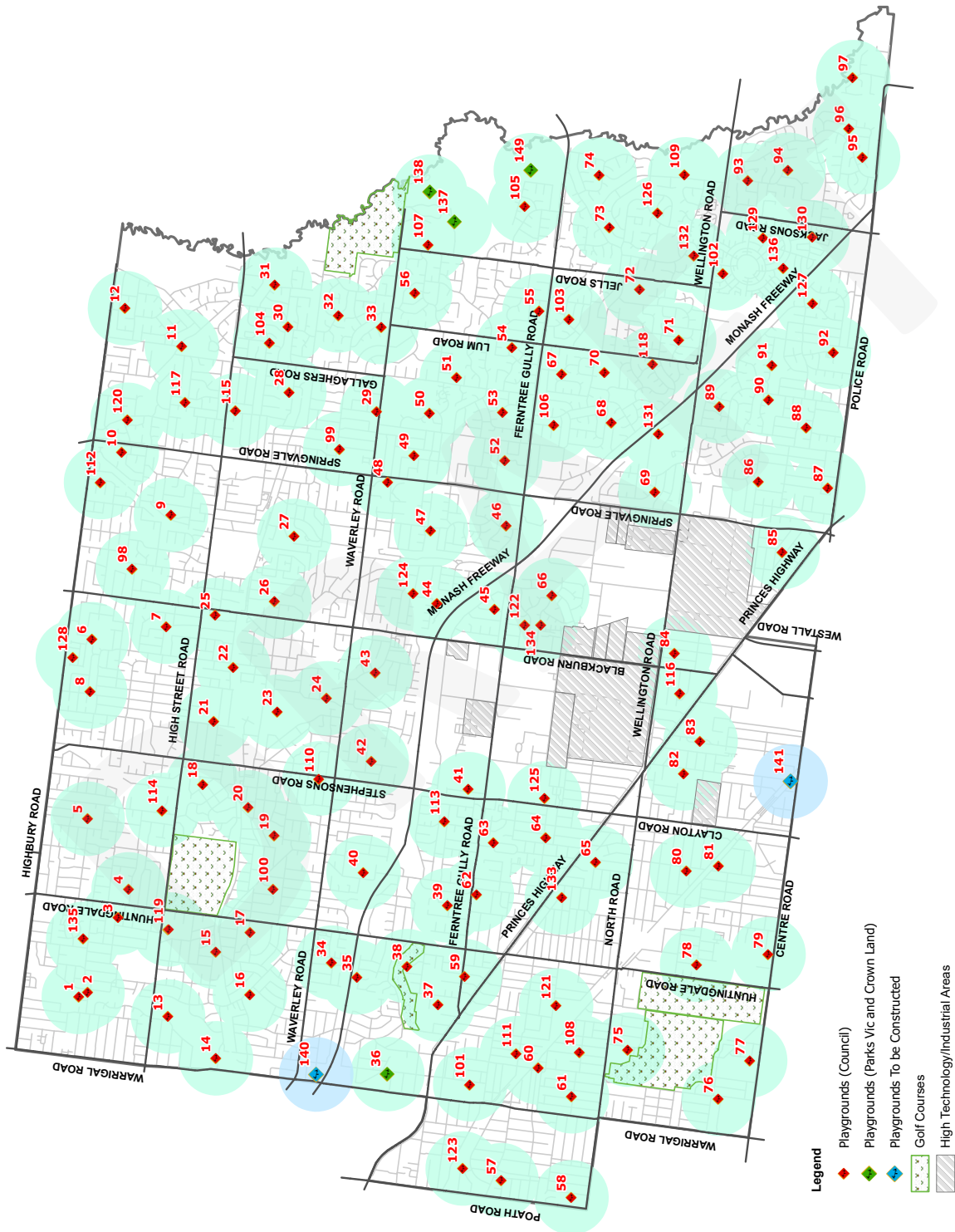
There are some areas within Monash that are not fully serviced by the 400 metre benchmark. Many of these areas do not have residential properties due to large parcels of land being restricted use, such as private golf courses, tertiary institutions (Monash University, Clayton Campus), industrial and high technology areas.

A 400 metre benchmark would also ensure Monash playgrounds are accessible in terms of Plan Melbourne's concept of 20-Minute Neighbourhoods¹. The 20-Minute Neighbourhood is all about 'living locally' - giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute walk from home, with safe cycling and local transport options.

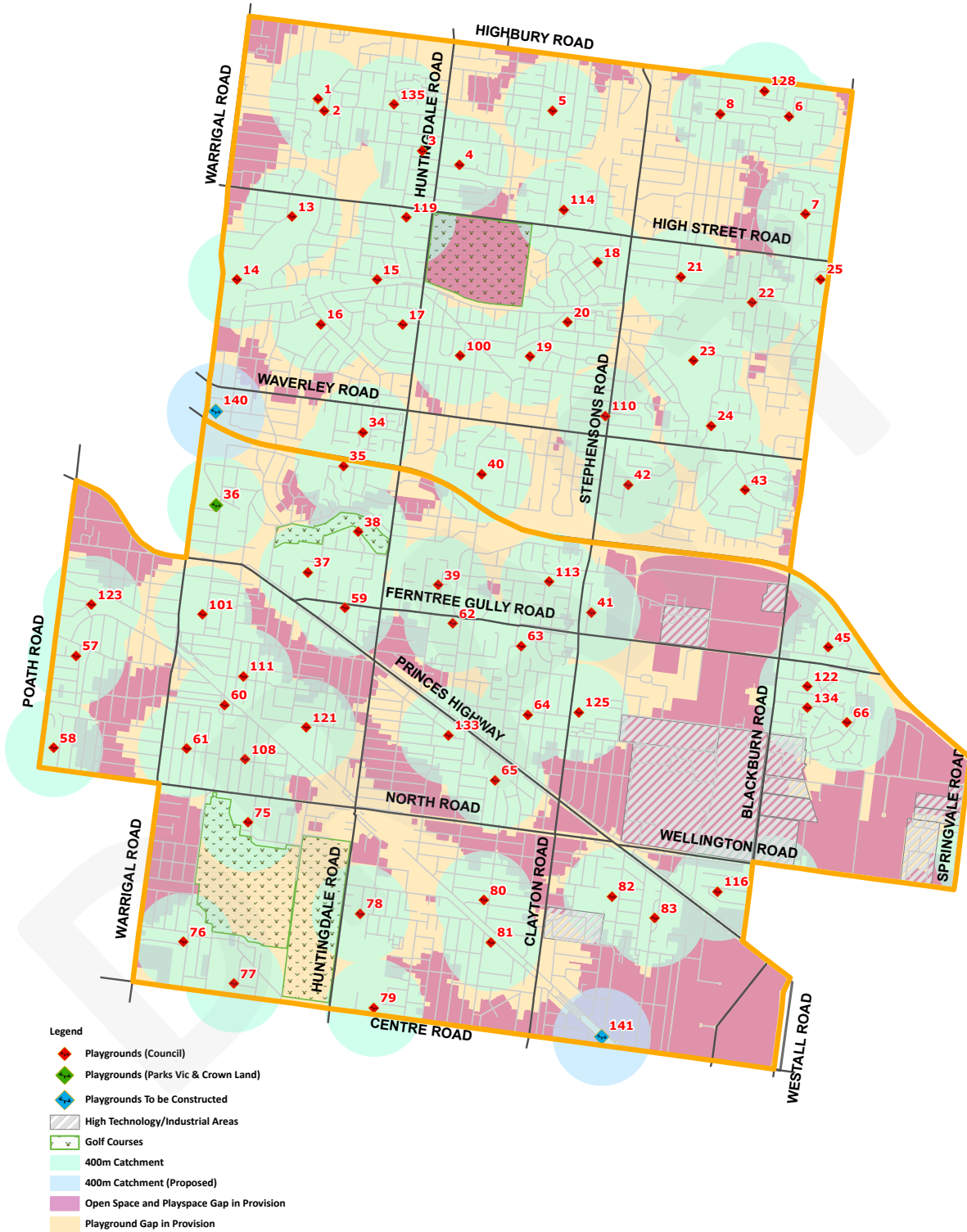
Council should explore opportunities to increase the provision of playspaces within areas that fall outside the 400 metre catchment areas (or buffers) and prioritise the development of new playgrounds in gap areas.

Refer to **Map 4 and Map 5**: Monash open space and playground provision gaps.

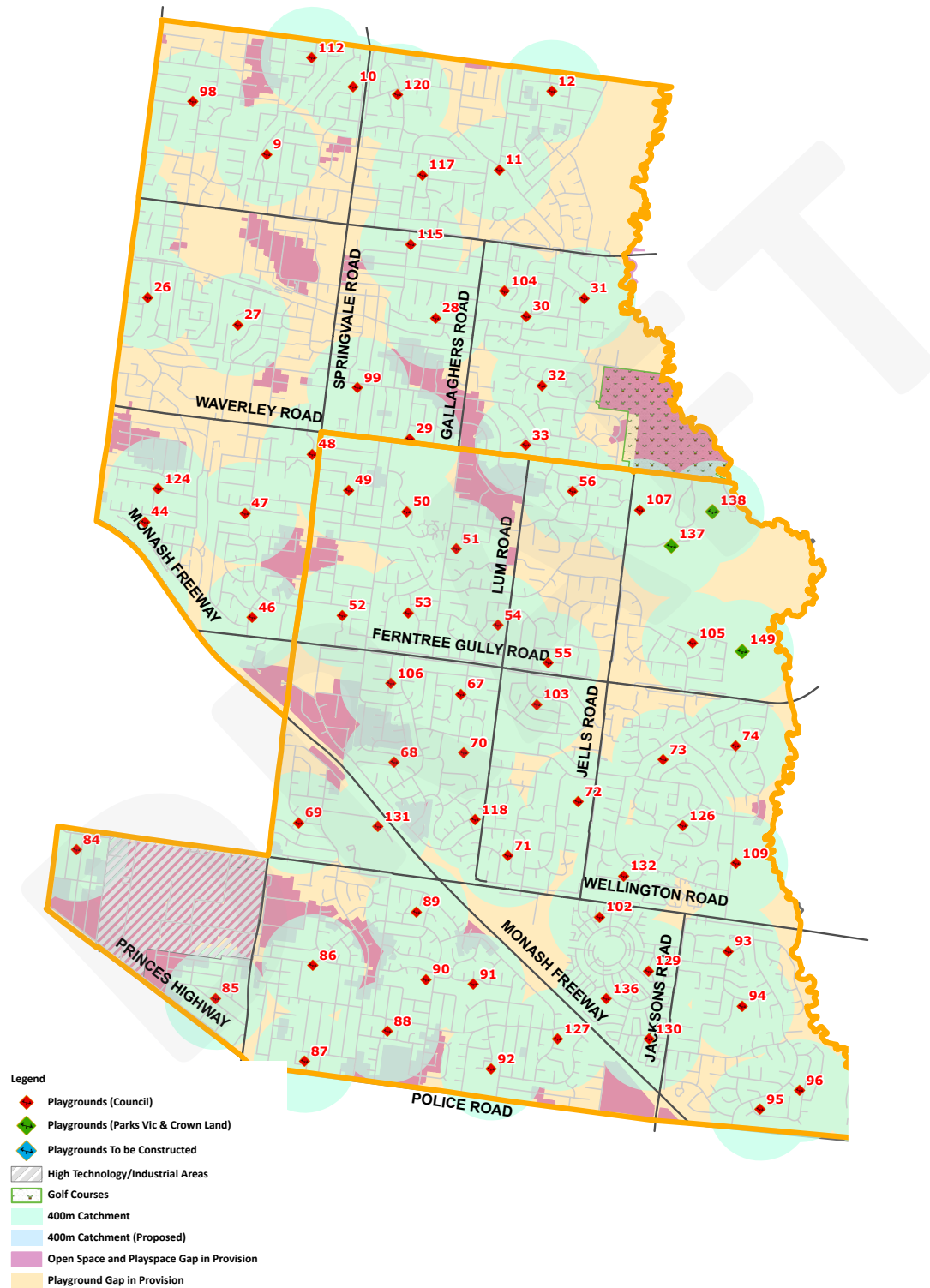
MAP 3: Location of residences in relation to playgrounds for Monash



MAP 4: MONASH (EAST) - OPEN SPACE AND PLAYGROUND PROVISION GAPS



MAP 5: MONASH (WEST) - OPEN SPACE AND PLAYGROUND PROVISION GAPS



PLAYGROUND UPGRADE PROGRAM 2025-2035

The Playground Upgrade Program 2025-2035 (Appendix 2) identifies playground upgrade priorities by applying the methodologies outlined in the Active Monash Capital Works Priorities Framework and the Monash Playspace Classifications and Service Levels. **Additional considerations used to inform this program and playground works include:**

1. Replacement of play equipment removed after previous safety audits
2. Replacement and rotation of play panels during maintenance or upgrades
3. Meeting the localities' age demographics
4. Range of play experience currently provided
5. Age, type and attractiveness of existing equipment
6. Issues relating to maintenance of existing equipment
7. Proximity to other features i.e. preschool, maternal and child health centres, shops, sporting grounds and other playgrounds
8. Reserve masterplans
9. Monash *Open Space Strategy* Implementation Plan
10. Significant gaps in open space and playground provision.



IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

The Strategy Refresh focuses on playground renewal and outlines an aspirational 10-year playground upgrade program from 2025-2035.

In accordance with the *Monash Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy*, the development of destination playspaces (regional and district playspaces) will also consider the suitability of the site to cater for additional outdoor recreation infrastructure. Such activities include: ball sports (basketball, tennis, bocce and table tennis), wheeled sports (skate boarding, in-line scootering and bike riding) and exercise stations (fitness and stretching equipment).

Adhering to the hierarchy

A key focus of this document is ensuring a sustainable and implementable plan for playground renewals. One of the key issues that has become apparent through recent playground upgrade consultations is growing community expectations to see 'their' local playground increase in scale and complexity.

A transparent and strategically formulated scaled playground hierarchy that clearly classifies playgrounds from pocket through to regional, will assist in managing 'scope creep' and growing community expectations with regards to what should be contained within playspaces, especially in smaller local and pocket playspaces.

Monash has a disproportionately larger number of pocket (47*) and local (56) playgrounds (totalling 103 or 73% of all playgrounds). Unregulated 'scope creep' across these smaller playspaces will have a significant impact on future capital and operational budgets which is unsustainable. A greater investment into suitable larger and strategically positioned sites will provide a greater level of community benefit for larger segments of the population.

Focus on regional, district and neighbourhood playspaces

Given the higher maintenance implications of more complex and larger playspaces, it makes sense to provide improved playspaces in accessible and suitable locations, rather than spreading the maintenance burden across smaller parks and play environments.

Larger playspaces can better cater for people of all abilities and ages (e.g. intergenerational, tweens, people of differing abilities) and become an important destination place for longer stays and extended play experiences that support family social gatherings, picnics and barbecues.

Residents are more likely to travel further to destination playgrounds as they provide additional facilities such as public toilets, shelters, barbecues, picnic tables, off-street car parking and intergenerational play opportunities. Destination playspaces, such as district and regional playspaces, typically attract visitors who stay longer and travel further than visitors to pocket, local and neighbourhood playspaces.

**Inclusive of two new proposed pocket parks – 2A Westbrook Street, Chadstone and Centre Road West Skyrail, Clayton*

What about SPARCs?

The 'SPARC' Principles¹ outline Monash's approach to the development of intergenerational active spaces. These principles will particularly inform the design of large-scale playground developments such as regional and district playgrounds by providing socially inclusive, playful, active, relevant and connected playspaces that provide intergenerational play opportunities for all ages and abilities e.g. tweens, teens and older adults.

S

..... **Socially inclusive**

Socially inclusive spaces are welcoming and accessible places that provide for people of all ages and abilities at all times of the day. They are places that all community members, no matter what age, gender, level of ability or cultural background, can safely and freely enjoy with others or on their own.

P

..... **Playful**

Playful spaces are fun, vibrant, engaging, interesting, educational, creative, quirky, challenging and adventurous.

A

..... **Active**

Active spaces attract people to exercise and play, and are important local destinations where people can be vigorous and expend energy. People of all ages need exercise and activity. For children, opportunities to be active and lively are essential to development.

R

..... **Relevant**

Relevant spaces are fit for purpose, both in location and in the range of activities or activity spaces they provide, and enable different people to do different things in a space they can call their own.

C

..... **Connected**

Connected spaces are accessible and available, promote wayfinding, and provide opportunity for community members to share space and support each other.

¹ Putting a SPARC in Your Park, PLAYCE Report, May 2015

OPEN SPACE AND PLAYSPACE PRINCIPLES

It is important to note that the Strategy Refresh is aspirational, and it is acknowledged that not all of the recommendations will be implemented in the life of the Strategy Refresh.

Implementation relies on factors including budget, external funding, the level of development and the availability of open space in appropriate locations (i.e. gap areas).

Like the *Monash Open Space Strategy*, the Strategy Refresh supports the development of quality, diverse and accessible playspaces to drive the liveability, health and wellbeing of our community by:

- Meeting the current and future needs of the community - close to where people live, work and play
- Having a diversity of functions for social, physical and environmental experiences for the whole community
- Strengthening the 'Garden City Character' of residential, commercial and industrial areas
- Ensuring an appropriate level of access to playgrounds is available for all residents regardless of where they live, their age, gender, income, ethnicity, education or ability
- Continuing to provide playgrounds across Monash where there is a demonstrated need (i.e. in gaps) to ensure an appropriate level is available for all residents
- Ensuring quality playspaces (fit-for-purpose) - the playspace is well-designed and meets the needs of the primary target group
- Including sustainability in the design, development and management of playspaces
- Understanding cohorts are more dependent on playgrounds and playground designs should have a primary focus on these cohorts (e.g. children)
- Protecting canopy trees, habitat, flora and fauna and waterways in and around playspaces, to ensure environmental protection, enhancement and appreciation.

In line with Monash's *Council Plan* priorities and Monash's *Open Space Strategy* principles, the development of quality playspaces is of vital importance to ensure these spaces remain relevant and attractive to our community. Playspaces provide opportunities for physical activity and forming social connections that have flow-on benefits for our health and wellbeing. New and exciting playspaces will facilitate an increase in physical activity levels in the community and increase community participation in recreation.



RECOMMENDATIONS - PLAYSPACE UPGRADES

Playspace Upgrades

| # | RECOMMENDED ACTIONS | TIMING | BUDGET | RESPONSIBLE Lead in bold |
|---|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Reaffirm the playground classifications (Table 1) and playground infrastructure provision standards (Table 2) and use these to inform future capital works budget bids for playground upgrades. | ONGOING | Open Space Reserve | Active Monash |
| 2 | Implement the Playground Upgrade Program 2025-35 (Appendix 2) over the next 10 years to upgrade existing playgrounds (subject to Council budget approval). | MEDIUM-LONG TERM (4-10 years) | Open Space Reserve | Active Monash |
| 3 | Undertake playground condition audits every four years and use condition audit data to proactively identify play equipment in need of renewal and inform future playground capital works priorities in accordance with the <i>Active Monash Capital Works Prioritisation Framework</i> | ONGOING (Every 4 years) | Existing operating budgets | Strategic Asset Management Active Monash |
| 4 | In accordance with Council-endorsed masterplans, upgrade the playspaces at Mulgrave Reserve and Gladeswood Reserve to district-level playgrounds. | SHORT TERM (1-3 years) | Open Space Reserve | Active Monash |
| 5 | Subject to site suitability and strategic justification, increase the scale and complexity of select playgrounds with the view to reducing the total number of pocket playspaces and providing more flexible, multi-use, destination playspaces. | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash Statutory Planning |
| 6 | Prioritise playground upgrades in larger social/family recreation parks that can be used by multiple age groups, people of all abilities and for physical, social and environmental activities e.g. regional, district and neighbourhood playspaces. These playspaces have the potential to attract visitors from a wider catchment and deliver a greater community benefit. | ONGOING | Existing operating budgets | Active Monash City Design Capital Works |

| # | RECOMMENDED ACTIONS | TIMING | BUDGET | RESPONSIBLE Lead in bold |
|----|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7 | Cater for shortfalls in playground provision by maximising the capacity and diversity of existing playspaces by providing a range of inclusive playspace experiences, themes, function types and landscape setting types. | SHORT TERM (1-3 years) | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 8 | Prioritise the improvement of existing playspaces in the five precincts identified in the <i>Monash Open Space Strategy</i> that have a significant shortfall in open space: Notting Hill, Clayton, Hughesdale, Oakleigh East/Huntingdale and Chadstone. | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 9 | Improve signage in playspaces by more universally applying Monash's signage suite and design palette for naming, directional, interpretive information and risk management signs especially at regional, district and neighbourhood scale playgrounds. | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 10 | Incorporate more interpretive, environmental (nature-play) and educational elements in playspace designs. | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 11 | Activate and celebrate new playspaces and encourage physical activity by delivering free community programs (Active Communities) in and around playspaces and scheduling opening events for large playground developments such as district and regional playgrounds. | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 12 | Aim to deliver a sensory-themed playspace (where the primary design focus targets people with additional needs) in each major precinct i.e. in Mulgrave and Mount Waverley precincts to complement the Wellesley Road Reserve Sensory Playspace (Glen Waverley precinct) and Westerfield Drive Sensory Playspace (Oakleigh precinct). | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |

| # | RECOMMENDED ACTIONS | TIMING | BUDGET | RESPONSIBLE Lead in bold |
|----|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 13 | In accordance with recommendation #12, investigate the potential for Pinewood Reserve Playspace in the Mount Waverley precinct to become the next sensory-themed playspace. Include signage/information for different needs e.g. Access Key, communication boards, different languages, and statements around everyone being welcome. | SHORT TERM (1-3 years) | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 14 | Ensure playspace designs are inclusive of the needs of women and girls - apply a gender lens to playspace designs and engage women and girls in playground consultations. Collect disaggregated data wherever possible to ensure the needs of women and girls have been considered. | ONGOING | Existing operational budgets | Active Monash |
| 15 | Consider relocating or reviewing the location within reserves of existing playgrounds that are due for upgrade where their 400 metre catchments significantly overlap (e.g. shared catchments >75%) to redress gaps in provision. | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 16 | Following the completion of condition audits every four years (recommendation #3), ascertain which discrete play elements and/or pieces of equipment are at end-of-life or no longer fit-for-purpose and replace with a like-for-like replacement. | ONGOING | Reactive Playground Budget | Active Monash Horticulture Services Capital Works |
| 17 | Consider the development of destination playspaces in residential growth zones to support growing populations such as Bogong Reserve Playspace in Glen Waverley. | SHORT-MEDIUM TERM (1-7 years) | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |



Recommendations – New Playspaces

| # | RECOMMENDED ACTIONS | TIMING | BUDGET | RESPONSIBLE Lead in bold |
|----|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 18 | Prioritise the development of new playgrounds (with a focus on improving open space for social family recreation) in areas where the minimum playground provision standard of within a 400 metre radius (as the crow flies) of 95% of all residential dwellings is not met i.e. in playground gaps areas. | ONGOING | Open Space Reserve | Active Monash |
| 19 | Prioritise the development of new playgrounds in the five precincts identified in the <i>Monash Open Space Strategy</i> that have a significant shortfall in open space being Notting Hill, Clayton, Hughesdale, Oakleigh East/Huntingdale and Chadstone. | MEDIUM-LONG TERM (4-10 years) | Open Space Reserve | Active Monash |
| 20 | Investigate the development of new and innovative themed playspaces in gap areas to provide a greater variety of play experiences for the community e.g. adventure play, water play, nature play and education and sensory playgrounds. | SHORT TERM (1-3 years) | Existing operating budgets | Active Monash |
| 21 | Fund the strategic acquisition of land in open space and playground gap areas from the Open Space Reserve. | MEDIUM-LONG TERM (4-10 years) | Open Space Reserve | Strategic Planning Property Services |
| 22 | Wherever possible investigate options for developing public playspaces in gap areas on other agency land (e.g. VicTrack, VicRoads, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Department of Education). | ONGOING | Existing operating budgets | Active Monash Property Services |
| 23 | Ensure there is no net loss of playspaces through land disposal or development unless there is a clear net community benefit and playspaces are already over-provided in the surrounding area and of a high standard. | ONGOING | Existing operating budgets | Active Monash |
| 24 | Ensure Monash's Playspace Design Standards and Furniture Design Standards are used to inform and are integrated into playspace designs and tender specifications. | ONGOING | Playspace design budgets | Active Monash City Design Capital Works |

| # | RECOMMENDED ACTIONS | TIMING | BUDGET | RESPONSIBLE Lead in bold |
|----|---|---------------------------|---|--|
| 25 | Develop a new pocket playspace in a gap area located at 2A Westbrook Street, Chadstone (VicRoads lease). | SHORT TERM (1-3 years) | Funded from sale proceeds from former North Oakleigh Tennis Club site | Active Monash City Design Capital Works |
| 26 | Develop new pocket playspace at Centre Road West Skyrail Community Playspace in partnership with Vic Track and as agreed with the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA). | SHORT TERM (1-3 years) | External funding (LXRA) | Active Monash City Design Capital Works |
| 27 | District- and regional-scale playspaces to have an intergenerational design focus and provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to play and recreate together. Active recreation opportunities and infrastructure such as fitness equipment, basketball hoops, climbing and bouldering walls, pump tracks, multi-sport courts etc., should be incorporated in future designs for regional- and district-scale playground projects in accordance with priorities identified in the <i>Monash Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy</i> | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 28 | Investigate the possibility of upgrading suitable existing playgrounds to a regional playspace in the Oakleigh and Glen Waverley precincts to complement existing regional playspaces in Wheelers Hill (Jells Park and Waverley Park Lake Playspaces) and Mount Waverley (Valley Reserve Playspace) and provide residents in these precincts with more equitable access to a large-scale destination playground. | LONG TERM (8-10 years) | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 29 | Undertake proactive maintenance inspections of Council-owned and managed playspaces in accordance with the recommended inspection and maintenance check schedule outlined in Table 1 . | ONGOING | Operating Budget | Horticulture Services |
| 30 | Advocate to Suburban Rail Loop Authority (SRLA) to identify opportunities for new pocket parks in Clayton for integration into the State Government's Precinct Vision and Structure Plan resulting from the Suburban Rail Loop Clayton East Station development. | SHORT TERM (0-3 years) | Operating Budget | Active Monash |

APPENDIX 1: PLAYGROUNDS IN MONASH

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification * Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features * Planned |
|---------|---|---|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Octavia Court Reserve (Gardiners Reserve) | 7-8 Octavia Court | Burwood | Local | |
| 2 | Ashwood Drive Reserve | 71-73 Ashwood Drive | Ashwood | Local | |
| 3 | Parkhill Drive Reserve | 18-26 Parkhill Drive | Ashwood | Local | |
| 4 | Essex Heights Reserve | Outlook Road | Mt Waverley | Local | Fitness Equipment |
| 5 | Federal Reserve | 2 Federal Street | Mt Waverley | Neighbourhood | |
| 6 | Tally Ho Reserve | 42 Bennett Avenue | Mt Waverley | Neighbourhood | |
| 7 | Baily Street Reserve | 32-34 Baily Street | Mt Waverley | Local | |
| 8 | Pascall Street Reserve | Cnr Leeds Road and Pascall Street | Mt Waverley | Local | |
| 9 | Glen Waverley North Reserve | Chesterville Road | Glen Waverley | District | Fitness Equipment |
| 10 | Highview Park | 51-85 Springvale Road | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 11 | Capital Reserve | 85-95 Capital Avenue | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 12 | Le Fey Court Reserve | 6-7 Armour Close | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 13 | Queens Parade Reserve (west of Ashwood Reserve) | Queens Parade (104-106 High Street Road) | Ashwood | Local | |
| 14 | Holmesglen Reserve | Power Avenue | Ashwood | District | |
| 15 | Salisbury Reserve | 50-60 Salisbury Road | Ashwood | Local | |
| 16 | Batesford Reserve | Power Avenue (94 Batesford Road) | Chadstone | Neighbourhood | |
| 17 | Jordan Reserve | 12-22 Burton Street | Chadstone | Local | |
| 18 | Bowman Street Reserve | 2-10 Bowman Street | Mt Waverley | Local | |

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification * Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features * Planned |
|---------|--|--|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 19 | Beverley Grove Reserve (Mount Waverley Linear Reserve) | 12 Beverley Grove | Mt Waverley | Local | |
| 20 | Winbourne Road Reserve | 25A Winbourne Road | Mt Waverley | Pocket | |
| 21 | Mount Waverley Reserve | Cnr St Albans Street and Charles Street | Mt Waverley | District* | |
| 22 | Lawrence Road Reserve | Lawrence Road (34 Blues Hill Avenue) | Mt Waverley | Pocket | |
| 23 | Valley Conservation Reserve | 80 Waimarie Drive | Mt Waverley | Regional | |
| 24 | Regent Street Reserve | 46-48 Regent Street | Mt Waverley | Pocket | |
| 25 | St Clair Crescent Reserve | 4-6 St Clair Crescent | Mt Waverley | Local | |
| 26 | Flander Avenue Reserve | 21 A and 23A Flander Avenue | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 27 | Bogong Reserve | 49-77 Bogong Avenue | Glen Waverley | District* | |
| 28 | Hinkler Reserve | 69-77 Hinkler Road | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 29 | Viewpoint Avenue Reserve | Cnr Viewpoint Avenue and Waverley Road | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 30 | Wellesley Road Reserve | Cnr Wellesley and Glen Tower Roads (40-42 Glen Tower Road) | Glen Waverley | Local | Sensory |
| 31 | Napier Park Reserve | 23-27 Torwood Avenue | Glen Waverley | Neighbourhood | Fitness Equipment |
| 32 | Atheldene Drive Reserve | Atheldene Drive (3 Pentland Court) | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 33 | Paxton Drive Reserve | 27 Paxton Drive | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 34 | Rosemary Street Reserve | 24-26 Rosemary Street | Chadstone | Pocket | |
| 35 | Adrian Street Reserve | 19 Adrian Street | Chadstone | Neighbourhood | |
| 36 | Allen Street Reserve (Scotchmans Creek Linear Park) (Crown land) | Cnr Allen Street and Drummond Street | Oakleigh | Local | Fitness Trail |

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification * Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features * Planned |
|---------|--|--|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 38 | Gillon Court Reserve | 1 Gillon Court | Oakleigh | Pocket | |
| 39 | Melissa Street Reserve | 11-17 Melissa Street | Mt Waverley | Local | |
| 40 | Mayfield Park | 35-38 Mayfield Drive | Mt Waverley | Neighbourhood | |
| 41 | Kingsley Grove Reserve | 24A Kingsley Grove | Mt Waverley | Pocket | |
| 42 | French Street Reserve (Fairway Reserve) | Cnr French Street and Fairway Avenue (6 French Street) | Mt Waverley | Pocket | |
| 43 | Pinewood Reserve | 7-13 Pinewood Drive | Mt Waverley | Local | Sensory* |
| 44 | Herriotts Boulevard (England Road) Reserve | 6 Herriotts Boulevard | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 45 | McKenna Road Reserve | 18-20 McKenna Road | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 46 | Woodlea Drive Reserve | 12-14 Woodlea Drive | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 47 | Fraser Street Reserve | 43-51 Fraser Street | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 48 | Central Reserve | 690-724 Waverley Road | Glen Waverley | District | Skatepark |
| 49 | Botanic Drive Reserve | 35 Botanic Drive | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 50 | Manning Drive Reserve | 33-35 Manning Drive | Glen Waverley | Local | Fitness Equipment |
| 51 | View Mount Road Reserve | 52-58 View Mount Road | Whealers Hill | Local | |
| 52 | Brandon Park Reserve | 649-659 Ferntree Gully Road | Glen Waverley | Neighbourhood | |
| 53 | Brentwood Reserve | 11-31 Maylands Crescent | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 54 | Bowden Court Reserve | 7-8 Bowden Court | Whealers Hill | Local | |
| 55 | Trafford Court Reserve | 5 Trafford Court (4 Irene Court) | Whealers Hill | Pocket | |
| 56 | Garrick Court (Sheldon Place) Reserve | 3 Garrick Court | Whealers Hill | Pocket | |

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification * Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features *Planned |
|---------|--|--|---------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 57 | Bowmore Street Reserve | Cnr Kelvinside Street and Bowmore Street (2A Kelvinside Street) | Hughesdale | Pocket | |
| 58 | Argyle Reserve | Kinrade Street (240-260 Poath Road) | Hughesdale | Local | |
| 59 | Cheel Street Reserve | Cnr Cheel Street and Fern Tree Gully Road (34 Ferntree Gully Road) | Oakleigh East | Pocket | |
| 60 | Cambridge Street Reserve | Cambridge Street (38-40 Houghton Road) | Oakleigh | Neighbourhood | |
| 61 | Schoolhall Street Reserve | Cnr Schoolhall Street and Hatter Street (Schoolhall Street Road Reserve) | Oakleigh | Pocket | |
| 62 | Reg Harris Reserve | Cnr Carmichael and Ferntree Gully Roads (108-112 Ferntree Gully Road) | Oakleigh East | District | |
| 63 | F E Hunt Reserve | Cnr Highland Avenue and Turbull Avenue | Oakleigh East | Local | |
| 64 | Strelden Avenue Reserve | 8-10 Strelden Avenue | Oakleigh East | Pocket | |
| 65 | Princes Highway Reserve | 1658-1660 Dandenong Road | Oakleigh East | District* | Fitness Equipment* |
| 66 | Westerfield Drive Reserve | 33-37 Westerfield Drive | Notting Hill | Local | Sensory |
| 67 | Ainslie Drive Reserve | 5-13 Ainslie Drive | Whealers Hill | Pocket | |
| 68 | Mackellar Avenue Reserve | 35-37 Mackellar Avenue | Whealers Hill | Pocket | |
| 69 | Rivett Crescent Reserve | Cnr Rivett Crescent and Burnet Street (2 Burnet Street) | Mulgrave | Pocket | |
| 70 | Lum Reserve | 231-259 Lum Road | Whealers Hill | Neighbourhood | |
| 71 | Netherby Avenue Reserve | Netherby Avenue (69-71 Chancellor Avenue) | Whealers Hill | Local | |
| 72 | Columbia Park Reserve | Columbia Drive (245-269 Jells Road) | Whealers Hill | Neighbourhood | |
| 73 | Marykirk Drive (Ronston Court) Reserve | Ronston Court and Marykirk Drive (13-15 Craig Hill Drive) | Whealers Hill | Local | |

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification * Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features * Planned |
|---------|--|---|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 74 | Haversham Avenue (Fernly Court) Reserve | 29-33 Haversham Avenue (Fernly Court, Pinewood Close and Landscape Court) | Whealers Hill | Local | |
| 75 | W A Scammell Reserve | Guest Road (1216 North Road) | Oakleigh South | Neighbourhood | |
| 76 | Progress Park Reserve and Cameron Avenue Reserve | 1-7 Cameron Avenue and 9-15 Cameron Avenue | Oakleigh South | Neighbourhood | Pump Track |
| 77 | Murumba Drive Reserve | 25-31 Murumba Drive | Oakleigh South | Local | |
| 78 | Davies Reserve | Wallace Avenue (410A Huntingdale Road) | Oakleigh South | District | Fitness Equipment |
| 79 | Talbot Park | 1261 Centre Road | Oakleigh South | District* | Fitness Equipment* |
| 80 | Flora Road Reserve | 7-9 Flora Road | Clayton | Local | |
| 81 | Meade Reserve | Houghton Road (2A Faulkner Street) | Clayton | Local | Fitness Equipment |
| 82 | Fregon Reserve | Browns Road | Clayton | Neighbourhood | |
| 83 | Evelyn Street Reserve | 16-42 Evelyn Street | Clayton | Local | |
| 84 | Cambro Road Reserve | 9 Cambro Road | Clayton | Pocket | |
| 85 | Wilma Avenue Reserve | 36-38 Wilma Avenue | Mulgrave | Pocket | |
| 86 | Wellington Reserve | 36-42 Mackie Road | Mulgrave | Neighbourhood | Fitness Equipment |
| 87 | Dunoon Street Reserve | 1-3 Dunoon Street | Mulgrave | Pocket | |
| 88 | Knell Street Reserve | 26 Knell Street | Mulgrave | Pocket | |
| 89 | Opal Court Reserve | 4-5 Opal Court | Mulgrave | Pocket | |
| 90 | Albany Drive Reserve | 68-72 Albany Drive | Mulgrave | Pocket | |

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification * Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features * Planned |
|---------|---|---|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 91 | Whitehaven Crescent Reserve | 20-30 Whitehaven Crescent | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 92 | Southern Reserve | 35-37 Huxley Avenue (Police Road) | Mulgrave | Neighbourhood | |
| 93 | Grantham Terrace Reserve | 13-17 Grantham Terrace | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 94 | Gladeswood Reserve | Grantham Terrace | Mulgrave | District* | Fitness Equipment* |
| 95 | Portland Street South Reserve | 7-11 Portland Street (Dunrossil Close) | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 96 | Portland Street North Reserve | 63-73 Portland Street | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 97 | Oliver Court (Blanton Drive) Reserve | Cnr Blanton Drive and Oliver Court (36A Blanton Drive) | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 98 | Orchard Street (David Crawford) Reserve | 13-17 Orchard Street | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 99 | Wilson Road Reserve | 8-12 Wilson Road | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 100 | Bayview (Madison Court) Reserve | 16 Madison Court | Mt Waverley | Neighbourhood | Fitness Equipment |
| 101 | Warrawee Park | 99 Drummond Street | Oakleigh | District | |
| 102 | Lansdowne Circuit Reserve | 4 Lansdowne Circuit | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 103 | Rembrandt Drive (Gainsborough Avenue) Reserve | 7 Rembrandt Drive and 5 Gainsborough Avenue | Whealers Hill | Pocket | |
| 104 | Brynor Crescent Reserve | 16 Brynor Crescent | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 105 | Petronella Avenue East Reserve | 63-65 Petronella Avenue | Whealers Hill | Local | |
| 106 | Jacaranda Road Reserve | 20-22 Jacaranda Road | Whealers Hill | Pocket | |
| 107 | Waverley Womens Sports Centre | 2-30 Jells Road (Jells Road) | Whealers Hill | Neighbourhood | |
| 108 | Wilson Street Reserve | Cnr Wilson Street and Bishop Street (38A Bishop Street) | Oakleigh | Pocket | |
| 109 | Mulgrave Reserve | Garnett Road | Whealers Hill | District* | |

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification * Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features * Planned |
|---------|---|---|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 110 | Charlton Street Reserve | Cnr Charlton Street and Stephenson Road (389-391 Stephenson Road) | Mt Waverley | Local | |
| 111 | Burlington Street Reserve (Burlington Square) | Cnr Downing Street and Burlington Street (31 Dowling Street) | Oakleigh | Local | |
| 112 | Canova Drive Reserve | 11 Canova Drive | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 113 | Catherine Avenue Reserve | 62 Catherine Avenue (Ian Grove) | Mt Waverley | Local | |
| 114 | Damper Creek Conservation Reserve | Cnr Park Road and Norman Court | Mt Waverley | Neighbourhood | |
| 115 | Danien Street Reserve | 10-12 Danien Street | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 116 | Dennis Street Reserve | 12-20 Dennis Street | Clayton | Local | Fitness Equipment |
| 117 | Diamond Avenue Reserve | Diamond Avenue (13-15 Brighton Street) | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 118 | Dirigo Drive Reserve | Dirigo Drive (214-220 Brandon Park Drive) | Wheeters Hill | Pocket | |
| 119 | Electra Reserve | 21A Electra Avenue (High Street Road) | Ashwood | Neighbourhood | Fitness Equipment |
| 120 | Grantley Drive Reserve | 31-33 Grantley Drive | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 121 | Jack Edwards Reserve | 22-38 Edward Street | Oakleigh | Pocket | |
| 122 | Finch Street Reserve | 20 Finch Street | Notting Hill | Pocket | |
| 123 | Galbally Reserve | 19 Arthur Street (Freda Street) | Hughesdale | District | Fitness Equipment |
| 124 | Janice Road Reserve | Cnr Janice Road and Sandgate Avenue | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 125 | Carlson Reserve | 64-72 Clayton Road | Clayton | District* | Fitness Equipment |
| 126 | Grandview Road Reserve | 107-109 Grandview Road | Wheeters Hill | Local | |

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification * Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features * Planned |
|---------|--|--|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 127 | Grovelands Drive Reserve | 2-6 Grovelands Drive | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 128 | Cinnabar Avenue Reserve | Cinnabar Avenue | Mt Waverley | Pocket | |
| 129 | Manchester Place Reserve | Manchester Place | Mulgrave | Pocket | |
| 130 | Brunton Crescent North (Ellis Park) Reserve | Cnr Brunton Crescent, Ellis Park Avenue and Newport Drive (1 Brunton Crescent) | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 131 | Freeway Reserve | Kernot Avenue (361-415 Wellington Road) | Mulgrave | Pocket | Fitness Trail |
| 132 | Rata Street Reserve | 15-21 Rata Street Reserve | Wheeler's Hill | Pocket | |
| 133 | Greville Street (Garnett Street) Reserve | Cnr Greville Street and Garnett Street (59 Greville Street) | Huntingdale | Local | |
| 134 | Samada Street Reserve | 24 Samada Street | Notting Hill | Neighbourhood | Fitness Equipment |
| 135 | Arthur Street Reserve | 27-29 Arthur Street | Burwood | Pocket | |
| 136 | Waverley Park Lake Regional Playspace | Cavenagh Boulevard | Mulgrave | Regional | |
| 137 | Yabby Hill Regional Playspace, (Jells Park, Parks Victoria) | Waverley Road (38-72 Jells Road) | Wheeler's Hill | Regional | |
| 138 | Jell Park North (Jells Park, Parks Victoria) | Waverley Road (38-72 Jells Road) | Wheeler's Hill | Local | |
| 139 | Jells Park South (Jells Park, Parks Victoria) | Ferntree Gully Road (38-72 Jells Road) | Wheeler's Hill | Local | |
| 140 | PROPOSED Westbrook Street Reserve (VicRoads) | 2a Westbrook Street | Chadstone | Pocket* | |
| 141 | PROPOSED Centre Road West Skyrail Community Playspace (VicTrack) | Cnr Centre Road and Houghton Road | Clayton | Pocket* | |

APPENDIX 2: PLAYSPACE UPGRADE PROGRAM 2025-2035

The 10-year Playground Upgrade Program is subject to Council budget adoption for the financial year and has been directly informed by playground priorities identified in the *Active Monash Capital Works Priorities Framework*.

| Year | Playground | Suburb | Classification |
|-------------------|---|----------------|----------------|
| Year 1 2025/26 | Albany Drive Reserve | Mulgrave | Pocket |
| | Winbourne Road Reserve | Mount Waverley | Pocket |
| | Gladeswood Reserve | Mulgrave | District |
| | Queens Parade Reserve (west of Ashwood Reserve) | Ashwood | Local |
| | Pinewood Reserve | Mount Waverley | Local Sensory |
| Year 2 2026/27 | Wilson Road Reserve | Glen Waverley | Pocket |
| | Regent Street Reserve | Mount Waverley | Pocket |
| | View Mount Road Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Local |
| | Hinkler Reserve | Glen Waverley | Local |
| | Gillon Court Reserve | Oakleigh | Pocket |
| | Finch Street Reserve | Notting Hill | Pocket |
| Year 3 2027/28 | Salisbury Reserve | Ashwood | Local |
| | Le Fey Court Reserve | Glen Waverley | Pocket |
| | Jacaranda Road Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Pocket |
| | Bogong Reserve (subject to Suburban Rail Loop Authority's review of the Glen Waverley Activity Centre Structure Plan) | Glen Waverley | District |
| Year 4 2028/29 | Wilson Street Reserve | Oakleigh | Pocket |
| | Ainslie Drive Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Pocket |
| | Grandview Road Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Local |
| | Knell Street Reserve | Mulgrave | Pocket |
| Year 5 2029/30 | Columbia Park Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Neighbourhood |
| | Kingsley Grove Reserve | Mount Waverley | Pocket |
| | Grovelands Drive Reserve | Mulgrave | Local |
| Year 6 2030/31 | McKenna Road Reserve | Glen Waverley | Pocket |
| | Charlton Street Reserve | Mount Waverley | Local |
| | Batesford Reserve | Chadstone | Neighbourhood |



| Year | Playground | Suburb | Classification |
|--------------------|---|----------------|----------------|
| Year 7 2031/32 | Lawrence Road Reserve | Mount Waverley | Pocket |
| | Oliver Court (Blanton Drive) Reserve | Mulgrave | Local |
| | Haversham Avenue (Fernly Court) Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Local |
| | St Clair Crescent Reserve | Mount Waverley | Local |
| Year 8 2032/33 | Dunoon Street Reserve | Mulgrave | Pocket |
| | Allen Street Reserve (Scotchmans Creek Linear Park) | Oakleigh | Local |
| | Bowden Court Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Local |
| | Fregon Reserve | Clayton | Neighbourhood |
| Year 9 2033/34 | Parkhill Drive Reserve | Ashwood | Local |
| | Cheel Street Reserve | Oakleigh East | Pocket |
| | Bowmore Street Reserve | Hughesdale | Pocket |
| | Warrawee Park | Oakleigh | District |
| Year 10 2034/35 | Garrick Court (Sheldon Place) Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Pocket |
| | Janice Road Reserve | Glen Waverley | Pocket |
| | French Street Reserve | Mount Waverley | Pocket |
| | Rosemary Street Reserve | Chadstone | Local |
| | Streliden Avenue Reserve | Oakleigh East | Pocket |
| | Opal Court Reserve | Mulgrave | Local |

CITY OF MONASH

ACTIVE MONASH

Monash Civic Centre | 293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley, 3150 | 8.30am to 5pm | Monday to Friday
Oakleigh Service Centre | 3 Atherton Road, Oakleigh, 3166 | 8.30am to 5pm | Monday to Friday
9518 3555 | www.monash.vic.gov.au | mail@monash.vic.gov.au | NRS 1800 555 660

Monash Interpreter Service

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| 普通话 | 4713 5001 | Việt Ngữ | 4713 5003 | हिंदी | 4713 5005 | 한국어 | 4713 5010 | தமிழ் | 4713 5021 |
| 廣東話 | 4713 5002 | Ελληνικά | 4713 5004 | Italiano | 4713 5008 | සිංහල | 4713 5020 | Other languages | 4713 5000 |

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [v](#)



Draft Monash Playground and Playspace Strategy

—
Consultation Report
February 2024



Monash Playground & Playspace Strategy Refresh - Public Exhibition of Draft

Initial Consultation

An **initial community consultation** to identify community needs and opportunities for improvement ran from *25 May 2023 to 27 August 2023*. During the consultation period, there were 80 contributions to the Shape Monash page, 8 written and 12+ MYzone middle year participant submissions received. The initial consultation included:

1. Shape Monash online survey – 83 on-line contributions received via Shape Monash at [Playground Strategy Refresh | Shape Monash](#).
2. Direct Email – to existing community networks including Monash sporting clubs, neighbourhood houses, playgroups and advisory committee members were directly emailed and encouraged to complete the online survey.
3. Project page subscription registration – for regular project updates.
4. Monash Bulletin July 2023 and August 2023 – articles in the Monash Bulletin distributed to every household in Monash translated into Chinese, Greek and Italian.
5. Written Submissions – 7 written submissions received via Shape Monash and 1 written submission via Facebook (total of 8 written submissions).
6. MYzone Middle Years Group – drawings and/or written feedback from 12 MYzone participants (Monash Youth Services) on their 'perfect playground'.
7. Youth Services Program Participants - distributed information to parents and other younger participants at youth services programs.
8. Social Media post on 23 August 2023 – 1,418 accounts reached, 147 engagements from people who liked, commented, shared, clicked through to our Facebook page, or just opened the photo for a more detailed look.
9. Playspace Strategy Refresh Poster - posted on public noticeboards in Monash libraries, customer service centres and aquatic centres.
10. General feedback received from residents in relation to individual playground upgrade projects at onsite meetings and/or online design consultations.

The findings of the initial consultation were detailed in a [Consultation Report \(Aug 2023\)](#) and presented to Council at the November 2023 Council meeting.


Public Exhibition of the Draft Strategy - Community Feedback


The community consultation and engagement program for the draft Monash Playground and Playspace Strategy Refresh ran for over 2 months from 5 December 2023 to 9 February 2024.


Various engagement opportunities were promoted including:


1. **Shape Monash** – 19 contributors and 21 contributions received on the draft Strategy Refresh via [Playground Strategy Refresh | Shape Monash](#)
2. **Direct Email** – Monash playgroups, pre-schools, school contacts and sports clubs were directly emailed and encouraged to complete the on-line survey and/or make a submission.
3. **Ongoing promotion** of the on-line survey through Council’s website and social media.
4. **Project page subscription registration** – subscribers received regular project updates.
5. **Articles in Monash Bulletin distributed to all households in Monash** - July & August 2022 Monash Bulletin articles were also translated into Simple Chinese, Greek & Italian.
6. **Communications to existing networks** e.g. direct emails to members of Council networks and community groups.
7. **Direct communication and/or presentation to Monash’s advisory groups** - Disability Advisory Committee, Young Persons Reference Group, Positive Aging Reference Group and Gender Equity Advisory Committee & Multicultural Advisory Group.


Communication Tools and Reach – Stage 2 Draft Strategy

| Reach | Tool |
|--|--|
| <p>20 Jan 2024</p> <p>Combined</p> <p>3.1K reach</p> <p>115 engage</p> <p>3.7% conversion</p> | <p>Social media (organic post)</p> <p>A post was featured on Council’s Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages promoting the consultation.</p> <p>https://facebook.com/694594079513976</p> <p>https://www.instagram.com/p/C2Tz95_IULx</p> <p>https://twitter.com/MonashCouncil/status/1748571069789671445</p>  <p>The screenshot shows a social media post from 'monashcouncil'. It features a photograph of a playground with a prominent yellow bear-shaped sculpture. Below the photo are icons for heart, comment, share, and bookmark. The caption reads: 'monashcouncil What do you value about playgrounds in Monash? Last year we consulted on a refresh o... more'.</p> |

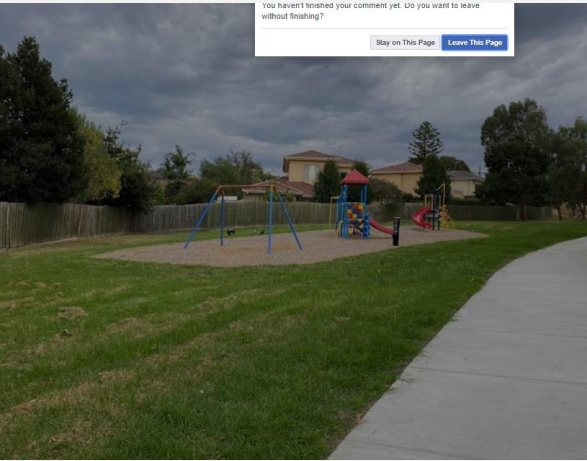
| Reach | Tool |
|--|---|
| <p>27 Jan 2024</p> <p>Combined</p> <p>3.4K reach 245 engage 7.3% conversion</p> | <p>Social media (organic and paid Facebook post)</p> <p>A post was featured on Council’s Facebook and Instagram pages.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/698594485780602 https://www.instagram.com/p/C2IFd-6NQ11</p>  <p>monashcouncil</p> <p>monashcouncil Playspaces have come a long way and provide a diverse array of play opportunities 🧒 ... more</p> |


| Reach | Tool |
|--|--|
| <p>5 Feb</p> <p>Combined</p> <p>1.8K reach 110 engage 5.9% conversion</p> | <p>Social media (organic post)</p> <p>A post was featured on Council’s Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/703732295266821 https://www.instagram.com/p/C28OSYqNgEK https://twitter.com/MonashCouncil/status/1754258549616570580</p>  <p>City of Monash Published by Meltwater Engage • February 5 at 8:40 AM · 🌐</p> <p>Have you given your feedback on our Draft Playground and Playspace Strategy yet? Our consultation ends Friday this week, with submissions closing on 9 February.</p> <p>Let us know your thoughts at https://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/playground-strategy-refresh</p> <p>(Pictured: Flora Road Reserve, upgraded 2023 under the Playground and Playspaces Strategy 2020)</p> |

| Reach | Tool |
|--|---|
| <p>Jan 2024</p> <p>1,722 recipients</p> <p>20 clicks, 13 unique clicks on URL</p> | <p>E-newsletter – Digital Bulletin Jan issue</p> <p>Council sends an e-newsletter each month to 1.7K subscribers.</p> <div data-bbox="667 386 1393 884" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Tell us what you think of our playground strategy</p> <p>Do you use the playgrounds in Monash? We've refreshed our Playground and Playspace Strategy and want to hear your thoughts. The refresh provides future direction for the provision of playspaces using a holistic and systematic approach. We will be considering all feedback before a final strategy is presented to Council in 2024 for adoption.</p>  <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px;">Have your say before 9 February</p> </div> |

| Reach | Tool |
|---|---|
| <p>Feb 2024</p> <p>1.7K recipients</p> <p>13 clicks, 8 unique clicks on URL</p> | <p>E-newsletter – Digital Bulletin Feb issue</p> <p>Council sends an e-newsletter each month to 1.7K subscribers.</p> <div data-bbox="667 386 1384 852" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Last chance to have your say on playground strategy</p> <p>If you use the playgrounds in Monash, now is your chance to tell us what you think of our refreshed Playground and Playspace Strategy. The refreshed strategy provides future direction for the provision of playspaces using a holistic and systematic approach. We will consider all feedback before a final strategy is presented to Council this year for adoption.</p>  <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px;">Have your say before 9 February</p> </div> |


Section 1 - Submissions

| Submission no. | Date | Submission | Officer Response | Recommended Action or Change to Draft Strategy |
|----------------|-------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1 | Facebook comment 5/2/24 | <p>Finch street playground - hasn't been updated since the 90s - a pocket playground - aimed at toddlers and preschoolers - Yet became an "off-leash dog park" mid last year.</p> <p>The toddler playground is not fenced from off-leashed dogs.</p> <p>In an area that the strategy states is the precinct that has the most "significant shortfall in open spaces" - a precinct that has only three playspaces - with many apartments, townhouses and units recently built it really ought to be looked at as a priority not in 2028/2029.</p> <p>https://www.google.com/.../amp.abc.net.au/article/102842684</p>  | <p>Thank you for taking the time to express your thoughts. Please consider submitting this in your feedback to the draft strategy survey on Shape Monash if you haven't done so already. We understand you've been in touch with our Recreation Services team as well, and they will be in touch with you directly for a more detailed response.</p> <p>Refer to detailed response in submission 2.</p> | <p>Amendment to Strategy Appendix 2: Elevate Finch Street Playspace upgrade to year 2 (2026/27) of the Playspace Upgrade Program (Appendix 2)</p> |

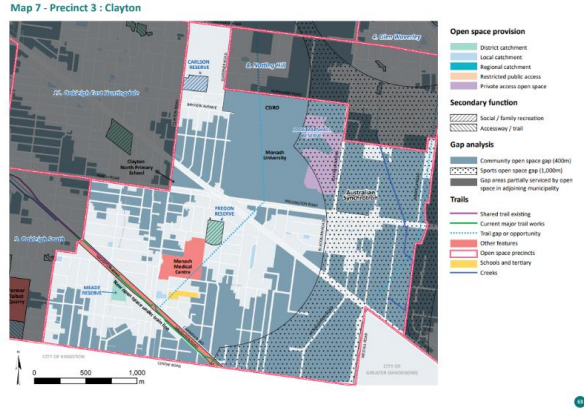
| Submission no. | Date | Submission | Officer Response | Recommended Action or Change to Draft Strategy |
|----------------|--------------|---|---|---|
| 2 | Email 1/1/24 | <p>Dear Recreation Monash,</p> <p>I love the updated playgrounds and that Monash is looking into refreshing the strategy and plan. I'm writing about the playground strategy and upgrades pertaining specifically to Finch street playground.</p> <p>As you can see from the following link, Finch street playground is an aged playground. According to your strategy, it hasn't been updated since the 90s:</p>  <p>It is in an area where there are only three playgrounds:</p> | <p>Thank you for your email regarding draft Playground Strategy Refresh and in particular, the Finch Street playspace in Notting Hill.</p> <p>We appreciate the time and effort that has gone into preparing your detailed submission. Your feedback is important to us, and Council welcomes and encourages feedback from our residents on how we can improve our open space, parks and reserves and playspaces.</p> <p>In response to your email, I can advise that Council is well-aware of the undersupply of public open space and playgrounds in Notting Hill. Monash's Open Space Strategy recognises that overall Notting Hill is significantly under provided in terms of community open space provision. Although there is a high number of people that have access to open space within 400m, this is an anomaly due to the precinct being small and half of the precinct being located within an employment area that does not have people living within it.</p> <p>Please note that Council has implemented a range of significant improvements to open space in the Notting Hill precinct, including the recent addition of 500m2 of public open space to the precinct. Recent key improvements include:</p> <p>Westerfield Drive Reserve City of Monash (Notting Hill)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New and expanded sensory playspace which won the Best Playspace in Australia (in the under \$500,000 category) at the Parks and Leisure Australia (PLA) 2023 National Awards of Excellence. This award recognises the playspace for its dynamic array of play elements that engage children's senses of sound, sight, touch and smell. Sensory pieces such as musical items, sculptures and a water pump blend with traditional and nature play elements, including a trampoline, slides and swings, chess table and an insect hotel. The play equipment is complemented by a vibrant mural co-designed by Hayden Dewar and First Nations artist Ashleigh Pugh, with input from the local community. An Access Key and Social | <p>Recommended Change - Elevate Finch Street Playspace upgrade to year 2 (2026/27) of the Playspace Upgrade Program (Appendix 2)</p> |

| Submission no. | Date | Submission | Officer Response | Recommended Action or Change to Draft Strategy | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|--------------|-----|----|----|----|---|------|----------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------|------|------|-----|---|------|--------------|--------|------|------|-----|---|------|------------|--------|-------|------|-----|---|------|------------------|--------|-------|-------|-----|----|------|---------------|-------|------|-----|-----|---|------|-------------------|--------|-------|-------|-----|----|------|-------------|--------|-------|------|-----|----|------|-----------------|-------|------|-----|-----|---|------|-------------------|-------|------|------|-----|---|------|--------------|-------|------|------|-----|---|------|-------------------------------|-------|------|------|-----|---|------|-------------------|--------|-----|------|-----|----|------|--------------|----------------|--|--------------|------------|-------------|--|---|--|
| | | <p>EXISTING PROVISION</p> <p>The City of Monash has 141 designated playgrounds inclusive of two new playgrounds expected to be completed within the next few years.</p> <p>TABLE 7: Playground classifications</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Pocket</th> <th>Local</th> <th>N'hood</th> <th>District</th> <th>Regional</th> <th>Sub-total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>47*</td> <td>56</td> <td>22</td> <td>13</td> <td>3</td> <td>141*</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Inclusive of two new proposed pocket parks – 2A Westbrook Street, Chadstone and Centre Road West Skyrail, Clayton</p> <p>There is a high number of existing pocket- and local-scale playgrounds across Monash.</p> <p>With a limited number of high-quality district (13) and regional (3) playgrounds across the municipality, a key direction of the Strategy Refresh is to improve the quality of existing playgrounds to provide an equitable distribution of destination playspaces across the municipality.</p> <p>TABLE 8: Precinct population and playground analysis - Monash Open Space Strategy</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Precinct</th> <th>Population 2021</th> <th>% Monash population</th> <th>Monash community open space (Ha)</th> <th>Ha per 1,000 residents</th> <th>No. of playspaces</th> <th>No. of residents per playpace</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1. Ashwood/Burwood</td><td>10,431</td><td>5.1%</td><td>42.6</td><td>4.1</td><td>8</td><td>1304</td></tr> <tr><td>2. Chadstone</td><td>10,208</td><td>5.0%</td><td>17.8</td><td>1.7</td><td>5</td><td>2042</td></tr> <tr><td>3. Clayton</td><td>22,689</td><td>11.1%</td><td>12.0</td><td>0.5</td><td>8</td><td>2836</td></tr> <tr><td>4. Glen Waverley</td><td>44,530</td><td>21.9%</td><td>106.7</td><td>2.4</td><td>29</td><td>1536</td></tr> <tr><td>5. Hughesdale</td><td>8,509</td><td>4.2%</td><td>4.5</td><td>0.5</td><td>3</td><td>2836</td></tr> <tr><td>6. Mount Waverley</td><td>36,298</td><td>17.8%</td><td>129.3</td><td>3.6</td><td>23</td><td>1578</td></tr> <tr><td>7. Mulgrave</td><td>20,425</td><td>10.0%</td><td>64.9</td><td>3.2</td><td>20</td><td>1021</td></tr> <tr><td>8. Notting Hill</td><td>3,339</td><td>1.6%</td><td>1.7</td><td>0.5</td><td>3</td><td>1113</td></tr> <tr><td>9. Oakleigh South</td><td>5,870</td><td>2.9%</td><td>16.3</td><td>2.8</td><td>5</td><td>1174</td></tr> <tr><td>10. Oakleigh</td><td>9,921</td><td>4.9%</td><td>33.0</td><td>3.3</td><td>9</td><td>1102</td></tr> <tr><td>11. Oakleigh East/Huntingdale</td><td>8,930</td><td>4.4%</td><td>10.6</td><td>1.2</td><td>6</td><td>1488</td></tr> <tr><td>12. Wheelers Hill</td><td>22,531</td><td>11%</td><td>72.8</td><td>3.3</td><td>22</td><td>1024</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>203,501</td><td></td><td>512.1</td><td>2.5</td><td>141*</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Which is in a precinct that is consistently reported to have the most significant shortfall in open spaces.</p> | | Pocket | Local | N'hood | District | Regional | Sub-total | Total | 47* | 56 | 22 | 13 | 3 | 141* | Precinct | Population 2021 | % Monash population | Monash community open space (Ha) | Ha per 1,000 residents | No. of playspaces | No. of residents per playpace | 1. Ashwood/Burwood | 10,431 | 5.1% | 42.6 | 4.1 | 8 | 1304 | 2. Chadstone | 10,208 | 5.0% | 17.8 | 1.7 | 5 | 2042 | 3. Clayton | 22,689 | 11.1% | 12.0 | 0.5 | 8 | 2836 | 4. Glen Waverley | 44,530 | 21.9% | 106.7 | 2.4 | 29 | 1536 | 5. Hughesdale | 8,509 | 4.2% | 4.5 | 0.5 | 3 | 2836 | 6. Mount Waverley | 36,298 | 17.8% | 129.3 | 3.6 | 23 | 1578 | 7. Mulgrave | 20,425 | 10.0% | 64.9 | 3.2 | 20 | 1021 | 8. Notting Hill | 3,339 | 1.6% | 1.7 | 0.5 | 3 | 1113 | 9. Oakleigh South | 5,870 | 2.9% | 16.3 | 2.8 | 5 | 1174 | 10. Oakleigh | 9,921 | 4.9% | 33.0 | 3.3 | 9 | 1102 | 11. Oakleigh East/Huntingdale | 8,930 | 4.4% | 10.6 | 1.2 | 6 | 1488 | 12. Wheelers Hill | 22,531 | 11% | 72.8 | 3.3 | 22 | 1024 | TOTAL | 203,501 | | 512.1 | 2.5 | 141* | | <p>Story published by Council and Access Ability Australia provides families with an accessibility guide to the playspace's features.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The playspace was also praised for its achievement in increasing play opportunities for families in an area of Monash with an undersupply of public open space. With the support of funding from the State Government's Pocket Parks Program, Council was able to provide additional open space to the site, working with the adjacent Notting Hill Neighbourhood House to increase the playspace's footprint from approximately 250m² to over 750m². Elements of the Westerfield Drive sensory playspace include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensory play - Musical items, water pump, nature play Quiet imaginative play – Cubby, play table and chairs, major sculptural play piece Traditional play - Junior and senior slides, sling swing, infant swing and basket-swing, small spinner, trampoline Social Play - 'Village green' open space for games, picnics and relaxing, chess table, social seating, mural Nature Play - Landscaping and plantings to attract birds, bee hotel, rock and wood steppers. <p>Samada Street Reserve City of Monash (Notting Hill)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New playground constructed in 2018 and additional infrastructure was added in 2022/23 to enhance the community's use of this valued open space. The park has lots for children to explore, including swings, slides, rock-climbing wall, spinning seesaw rocker, rock and log steppers and a wood carved animal play structure. There are also tables, seating, a BBQ and drinking fountain, making it great for a family outing. <p>In regards to Finch Street, the playspace here has been identified for upgrade in year 4 (2028/29) of the new 10 year Playground Upgrade Program in the draft Strategy. The 10-year Playground Upgrade Program has been developed using Council's adopted Capital Works</p> | |
| | Pocket | Local | N'hood | District | Regional | Sub-total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 47* | 56 | 22 | 13 | 3 | 141* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Precinct | Population 2021 | % Monash population | Monash community open space (Ha) | Ha per 1,000 residents | No. of playspaces | No. of residents per playpace | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Ashwood/Burwood | 10,431 | 5.1% | 42.6 | 4.1 | 8 | 1304 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. Chadstone | 10,208 | 5.0% | 17.8 | 1.7 | 5 | 2042 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Clayton | 22,689 | 11.1% | 12.0 | 0.5 | 8 | 2836 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. Glen Waverley | 44,530 | 21.9% | 106.7 | 2.4 | 29 | 1536 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. Hughesdale | 8,509 | 4.2% | 4.5 | 0.5 | 3 | 2836 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Mount Waverley | 36,298 | 17.8% | 129.3 | 3.6 | 23 | 1578 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. Mulgrave | 20,425 | 10.0% | 64.9 | 3.2 | 20 | 1021 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. Notting Hill | 3,339 | 1.6% | 1.7 | 0.5 | 3 | 1113 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. Oakleigh South | 5,870 | 2.9% | 16.3 | 2.8 | 5 | 1174 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10. Oakleigh | 9,921 | 4.9% | 33.0 | 3.3 | 9 | 1102 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11. Oakleigh East/Huntingdale | 8,930 | 4.4% | 10.6 | 1.2 | 6 | 1488 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12. Wheelers Hill | 22,531 | 11% | 72.8 | 3.3 | 22 | 1024 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 203,501 | | 512.1 | 2.5 | 141* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | | <p>Gaps in open space</p> <p>The Monash Open Space Strategy sets the minimum open space provision standard for open space to be within a 400 metre radius of every residential property. In accordance with the Monash Open Space Strategy, it is recommended that Council aspires to meet a minimum playground provision standard of within a 400 metre radius (as the crow flies) of 95% of all residential dwellings. Map 3 highlights the location of residences in relation to playgrounds for Monash.</p> <p>Note: This benchmark does not allow for playspace facilities that may be located within close proximity to a Monash resident, but are located in a neighbouring local government area.</p> <p>In most instances, playgrounds are located in public open space. Gaps in playground provision will typically mirror gaps in open space provision.</p> <p>The Monash Open Space Strategy assesses the amount of open space available in Monash precincts. Across Monash there is currently around 2.5ha provided per 1,000 people provision of community open space.</p> <p>Five precincts have a significant shortfall (or undersupply) in open space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Precinct 8: Notting Hill 5m² per capita (0.5ha per 1,000 people) ○ Precinct 3: Clayton 5m² per capita (0.5ha per 1,000 people) ○ Precinct 5: Hughesdale 5m² per capita (0.5ha per 1,000 people) ○ Precinct 11: Oakleigh East/Huntingdale 12m² per capita (1.2ha per 1,000 people) ○ Precinct 2: Chadstone 17m² per capita (1.7ha per 1,000 people). <p>In order to address gaps in playground provision, gaps in open space in these five precincts will need to be redressed.</p> <p><small>¹ Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 - www.planning.vic.gov.au/guides-and-resources/strategies-and-initiatives/plan-melbourne</small></p> <p><small>40 Playground Strategy Refresh 2025-2035</small></p> <p>Mid last year, it was changed into an off-leash dog park: https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Things-to-Do/Parks-Recreation/Finch-Street-Reserve</p> | <p>Potential gaps in provision</p> <p>It is important to note that a large majority of residents in Monash currently live within 400 metres of a playspace.</p> <p>There are some areas within Monash that are not fully serviced by the 400 metre benchmark. Many of these areas do not have residential properties due to large parcels of land being restricted use, such as private golf courses, tertiary institutions (Monash University, Clayton Campus), industrial and high technology areas.</p> <p>A 400 metre benchmark would also ensure Monash playgrounds are accessible in terms of Plan Melbourne's concept of 20-Minute Neighbourhoods¹. The 20-Minute Neighbourhood is all about 'living locally' - giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute walk from home, with safe cycling and local transport options.</p> <p>Council should explore opportunities to increase the provision of playspaces within areas that fall outside the 400 metre catchment areas (or buffers) and prioritise the development of new playgrounds in gap areas.</p> <p>Refer to Map 4 and Map 5: Monash open space and playground provision gaps.</p> <p>Priorisation Framework. This prioritisation framework identifies capital works priorities for the next 10+ years for recreation assets (including playgrounds) in a transparent and equitable manner. Under the framework, projects are ranked in order of priority for upgrade based on a clear and justifiable assessment methodology. Playgrounds that have been identified as a higher priority for upgrade than Finch Street under this framework are scheduled for upgrade earlier. To elevate Finch Street in the upgrade program would potentially mean dropping a higher-ranked playspace down the list.</p> <p>You feedback regarding Finch Street is acknowledged and will be considered, along with all community feedback received during the consultation process, in the development of a final Playspace Strategy that will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption in mid-2024.</p> <p>Please also note, that Council continues its endeavours to strategically address existing gaps in open space and play provision, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft Playspace Strategy reiterates the need to remedy gaps in play provision in Notting Hill, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation #9 - Prioritise the improvement of existing playspaces in the five precincts identified in the Monash Open Space Strategy that have a significant shortfall in open space: Notting Hill, Clayton, Hughesdale, Oakleigh East/Huntingdale and Chadstone. • Recommendation #18 - Prioritise the development of new playgrounds (with a focus on improving open space for social family recreation) in areas where the minimum playground provision standard of within a 400 metre radius (as the crow flies) of 95% of all residential dwellings is not met i.e. in playground gaps areas • Recommendation #19 - Prioritise the development of new playgrounds in the five precincts identified in the Monash Open Space Strategy that have a significant shortfall in open space being Notting Hill, Clayton, Hughesdale, Oakleigh East/Huntingdale and Chadstone. | |


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| | | <p>As you can see, the toddler/preschool playground is in the middle of the dog-leash area. Every part of the area is within 20m from this playspace. The playground is not fenced in.</p> <p>This is a huge risk and hazard to toddlers and preschoolers. Many of which are smaller than the dogs that come to the park and are terrified of the dogs. Many of these dogs are not well trained and do not recall.</p> <p>It is a hazard and a lawsuit just waiting to occur.</p> <p>I certainly understand that the increased density from the units and apartments and townhouses require parks to be of multiuse, however I beseech you to move Finch street playground to be updated as a priority, prior to 2028/2029.</p>  <p>Thanking you kindly for reading this.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation #21 - Fund the strategic acquisition of land in open space and playground gap areas from the Open Space Reserve. • Recommendation #22 - Wherever possible investigate options for developing public playspaces in gap areas on other agency land (e.g. VicTrack, VicRoads, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Department of Education). • The MOSS Implementation Plan identifies potential future land acquisition opportunities and outlines Council’s aspirations to develop new and improve existing parks and reserves, with the view to delivering an additional 9,100 m2 of open space and open space improvements in Notting Hill at an estimated cost of approx. \$19,856,500. <p>Please rest assured with the knowledge that Council recognises the existing gap in open space and play provision in Notting Hill and is proactively working to remedy this in accordance with its adopted strategies and plans such as the Monash Open Space Strategy and Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Thank you again for your considered submission.</p> | |
| 3 | Email 1/1/24 | <p>Dear Monash Council Recreation Team,</p> <p>Responding to the call for community feedback from Monash Council, i.e. HELP SHAPE THE VISION FOR MONASH PLAYGROUNDS (Consultation closes 27 August 2023). I made my proposal submission on 25 August and the proposal was successfully submitted (Please refer to the Shape Monash email below and my proposal attached to this email).</p> <p>However, up to date, I haven’t heard from the Council after my successful submission. Is my proposal submission is still alive?</p> | <p>Thank you for your Playground Strategy Refresh submission dated 25 August 2023, and for following up with officers again on 28 December to check-in re the status of your request that Council consider converting the existing outdoor fitness equipment site located within the Clayton Community Centre into a children’s playground. We appreciate the time and effort that has gone into preparing your detailed submission. Your feedback is important to us, and Council welcomes and encourages feedback from our residents on how we can improve our open space, playspaces and facilities.</p> | <p>New recommendation: Council to advocate to Suburban Rail Loop Authority (SRLA) to identify opportunities for new pocket parks in Clayton for integration into the State Government’s Precinct Vision and Structure Plan resulting from the SRL Clayton East Station development.</p> |

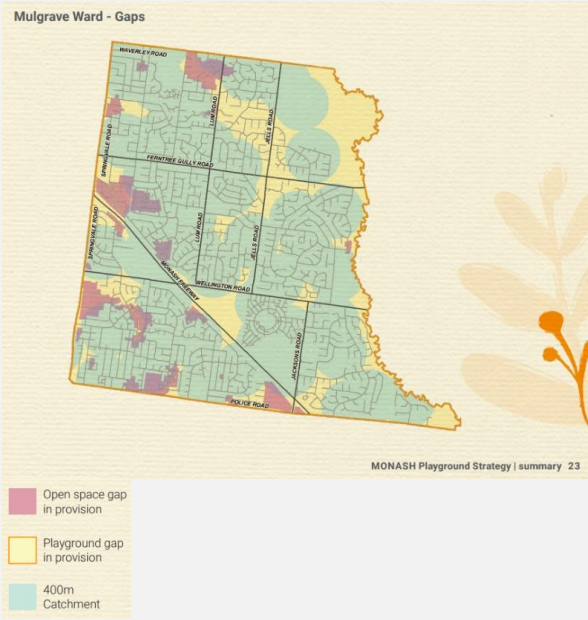
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| | | <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>25 August Submission:</p> <p>Dear Monash Council Recreation Team, I submit this proposal in responding to a council call "HELP SHAPE THE VISION FOR MONASH PLAYGROUNDS". "We are refreshing the Monash Council Playground and Playspace Strategy and want to hear from the people who use them the most." (see the appendix) Proposal of converting CCC outdoor gym site into a children's playground The proposal is to convert the existing outdoor gym site into a children's playground. The outdoor gym site is located at Clayton Community Centre (CCC) as shown in the photograph below. The rationales of the above CCC playgrounds proposal are listed below: 1, No adjacent playgrounds attached to Clayton Community Centre 2, The existing outdoor gym ground attached to the Clayton Community Centre building complex is underutilized, as the facility hasn't been active for more than a decade as far as we know. 3, Clayton Community Centre has rich indoor children's services such as Maternal Child Health (MCH) services, Public Library services, playgroups, kindergarten, and Link Health and Community. However, there is not a single children's facility outside Clayton Community Centre. After attending children services in CCC building complex, children have nowhere to go and spend time outside the building complex, i.e. Indoor service rich and outdoor service poor. 4, Other community centres all have children's playgrounds attached to the building complex, with examples include. (1), Noble Park Community Centre has a superb playgrounds attached to it. Ross Reserve All Abilities Play Space in Noble Park as preferred excursion destination. https://www.melbourneplaygrounds.com.au/ross-reserve-playground-memorial-drive-noble-park-2 (2), Rowville Community Centre has a newly developed playgrounds located on its adjacent premises. Rowville Adventure Playground, Fulham Rd, Rowville (3), Mulgrave Neighbourhood House has a well-established playground just outside the building. Wellington Reserve Playground Mackie Road Mulgrave https://www.melbourneplaygrounds.com.au/wellington-</p> | <p>For your information, the outdoor fitness equipment area identified in your submission constitutes part of the Clayton Aquatic and Health Club (CAHC) which is co-located with the Clayton Community Centre (CCC) at 9-15 Cooke Street, Clayton. This site is owned by City of Monash, zoned General Residential Zone (GRZ2) and sits within a Significant Building Overlay (Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation). Currently, only paying users and members of the CAHC can use the outdoor fitness equipment. This area is fully fenced and can only be accessed via the CAHC customer service entry. Importantly under Monash's Open Space Strategy (MOSS 2021) this area is not considered public open space and is a designated part the aquatic and recreation centre.</p> <p>In response to your email, I can advise that Council is well-aware of the undersupply of public open space and playgrounds in Clayton. Monash's Open Space Strategy recognises that overall Clayton is significantly under provided in terms of community open space provision with only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents (5sqm per person) • 50% of the population within the precinct has access to open space within 400m • 0 Social/ family recreation parks (however 2 have Social /family recreation as a secondary function) • 4 Play parks (1.2ha total) • 3 Council owned sports parks (9.4ha total) • 3 Accessway / trail (0.3ha), 1 relaxation contemplation (0.5ha) and 1 memorial park at Clayton Hall that will become an entrance to the Clayton Suburban Rail Loop Station. <p>Key actions identified in the MOSS for Clayton include a strong focus on social / family recreation and local parks</p> <p>1. Clayton is a priority precinct to undertake improvements or additions of open space provision, including within employment areas. Future development of social family</p> | |

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| | | <p>reserve-playground-mackie-road-mulgrave (4), The recently opened Monash Pinewood Child and Family Hub has a brand new playground built next to the Hub. https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Community/Children-Family/Pinewood-Child-and-Family-Hub In contrast, there is no playground facility at Clayton Community Centre premise. It is obvious that there is COMMUNITY FACILITY SERVICE GAP in Clayton CBD because outdoor children’s services are lacking in this area in Clayton. The gym site outside CCC hasn’t been actively in use probably since it was built 20+ years ago. The playgroup coordinator has been working at Clayton Community Centre every week for more than 13 years. I have hardly seen people using this outdoor gym. It is fair to say that this community space is under-utilized. Please refer to the attached gym site photos. The costs of converting the gym site into a playground is minimum by just adding a swing and slide to the site. The existing fence can be kept as it is. A self-lock door needs to be installed to ensure children’s safety at the site. Clayton Community Centre is a key community congregation point located in a busy Clayton CBD precinct. Every inch of space needs to be fully utilized but not under-utilized or even unused. Converting this under-used outdoor gym into a popular children’s playground will be a game changer transforming a real hot spot for children and families and it will further improve the popularity of Clayton Community Centre services. Expected Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor playground will provide opportunities for children to spend time immersed in nature for fresh air and sun which help with their body (eye, bone and lung) development, and many more benefits. • Bring children and families together at CCC as informal social gathering. • Meeting with other children and adults for social and mental wellbeing. • Better outcomes for community engagement. | <p>recreation and parks should be prioritised in the areas identified as a gap in Map 7 (below)</p> <p>2. Support and advocate for improvements to path and connections in the area and promote safe off-road connections where possible.</p>  <p>Source: Monash Open Space Strategy 2021 p. 63 available at: monash-open-space-strategy-2021.pdf</p> <p>To help address existing gaps in provision, Council has developed a MOSS Implementation Plan that identifies potential future land acquisition opportunities and outlines Council’s aspirations to develop new and improve existing parks and reserves, with the view to delivering an additional 76,100 m2 of open space and open space improvements in Clayton at an estimated cost of approx. \$235m.</p> <p>As outlined your email, more open space and playspaces are needed in Clayton. Unfortunately, it will take some time for Council to remedy</p> | |

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| | | <p>• Benefit all communities in City of Monash and beyond.</p> <p>A small change will make a big difference. If Clayton Community Centre playground is built, it will attract more families to attend Clayton Community Centre-based services. More families will join Active Monash services. CCC will become a more popular child-friendly community centre facility featured with future perspective. Numerous research findings indicated that outdoor playground is hugely important for children’s growth, development, health and wellbeing (https://www.miracle-recreation.com/blog/why-are-playgrounds-important/?lang=can). Victorian state government set requirements that pre-schoolers should spend at least 180 minutes (3 hours) a day doing a variety of physical activities spread throughout the day, including active and outdoor play. The more the better (https://www.acecqa.gov.au/latest-news/blog/what-research-telling-us-about-childrens-physical-activity-early-years)</p> <p>As a long term resident in City of Monash, I submit this proposal as a personal lobbying for the best interest of the community achieving optimum cost effect outcomes. Parents and families are overwhelmingly support this proposal and they have sent me their letters of support and very keen for this initiative to happen. In addition, I have consulted with a number of Council staff and community services professionals and they see this proposal as a great idea and they are happy to provide their advice to advocate this proposal. We are lobbying this proposal for our children who cannot speak for themselves and their needs should be addressed. Please advise me if you need the written support information which are needed by the decision makers in City of Monash.</p> <p>Kind regards, XXXXXX A long term resident in City of Monash</p> | <p>this and implement the actions in accordance with the Monash Open Space Implementation Plan.</p> <p>The outdoor fitness equipment area identified in your submission is not considered strategically suitable for a public playground for a range of reasons such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site forms part of Clayton Aquatic and Health Club and this area includes a plant room that is regularly accessed by maintenance/delivery vehicles and is considered integral to the future aquatic and recreation offerings at this centre • The site has not been identified a future potential open space site in the MOSS Implementation Plan • The site is heavily constrained by existing services and car parking, presenting potential risk management and safety concerns. <p>However, you may be interested to note that a range of significant improvements to open space in/around Clayton is planned or currently underway such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a new playspace at Centre Road Skyrail, Clayton • Recently completed upgrade of playspaces at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora Road Reserve, Clayton • Carlson Reserve, Clayton • Dennis Street, Clayton • Evelyn Street, Clayton • Murumba Drive, Oakleigh South • Davies Reserve, Oakleigh South • Planned upgrade of playspaces at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talbot Park, Oakleigh South • Cambro Road Reserve, Clayton | |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Princes Highway Reserve, Oakleigh East <p>Also for your information, the new draft Playground Strategy is currently being publicly exhibited on Council’s website for community feedback at: Playground Strategy Refresh Shape Monash</p> <p>The draft strategy reiterates the need to remedy gaps in play provision in Clayton, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation #9 - Prioritise the improvement of existing playspaces in the five precincts identified in the Monash Open Space Strategy that have a significant shortfall in open space: Notting Hill, Clayton, Hughesdale, Oakleigh East/Huntingdale and Chadstone. • Recommendation #18 - Prioritise the development of new playgrounds (with a focus on improving open space for social family recreation) in areas where the minimum playground provision standard of within a 400 metre radius (as the crow flies) of 95% of all residential dwellings is not met i.e. in playground gaps areas • Recommendation #19 - Prioritise the development of new playgrounds in the five precincts identified in the Monash Open Space Strategy that have a significant shortfall in open space being Notting Hill, Clayton, Hughesdale, Oakleigh East/Huntingdale and Chadstone. • Recommendation #21 - Fund the strategic acquisition of land in open space and playground gap areas from the Open Space Reserve. • Recommendation #22 - Wherever possible investigate options for developing public playspaces in gap areas on other agency land (e.g. VicTrack, VicRoads, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Department of Education) • Recommendation #26 - Develop new pocket playspace at Centre Road West Skyrail Community Playspace (Clayton) in partnership with Vic Track and as agreed with the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) | |

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| | | | <p>Consultation on the draft Strategy closes on 9 February 2024 and we welcome further feedback from you on the draft.</p> <p>Please rest assured with the knowledge that Council recognises the existing gap in open space and play provision in Clayton and is proactively working to remedy this in accordance with its adopted strategies and plans such as the Monash Open Space Strategy and Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Thank you again for your considered submission.</p> | |
| 4 | Facebook comment 18/7/23 | <p>Please upgrade the play area at Fraser Street Reserve.</p> <p>The one next to the child care centre needs a sunshade and better outdoor equipment for the kids who play there.</p> <p>Thanks.</p>  | <p>Whilst natural shade is preferred at pocket, local and neighbourhood playspaces, upon renewal playground sites are assessed to determine their suitability for shade sails and these are routinely provided at larger playspaces that have minimal tree canopy cover.</p> <p>The playspace at Fraser Street Reserve is a pocket playspace with no shade provision.</p> | <p>Comment: Playground Project Working Group to visit site and consider shade sail and/or canopy trees given height restrictions that apply under powerlines.</p> |

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| 5 | Email 16/4/23 | <p>Dear concerned</p> <p>We, a family of four, live on the Whalley Drive in Wheelers Hill. While taking our evening strolls, we walk across the Whalley Drive reserve (59 Whalley Dr, Wheelers Hill VIC 3150) and feel that it is an ideal place for a small playground. Also, there is no playground on this long street.</p> <p>Can I request the council to please explore this possibility.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> | <p>Thank you for your email dated 16 April and for taking the time to contact us and share your idea regarding the open space on Whalley Drive. Council is always keen to hear from residents on how we can improve our open space and parks and get people more active.</p> <p>Future playground developments and improvements in Monash are guided by the provision standards and recommendations detailed in Council's adopted Playground and Playspace Strategy 2020.</p>  <p>The Strategy identifies the playground needs of existing and future residents of Monash and identifies potential gaps in the provision and opportunities to address those gaps. The open space at 59 Whalley</p> | |

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| | | | <p>Drive, Wheelers Hill is not located in an identified playground gap area and this part of Wheelers Hill is considered well-provided for in terms of playground provision with a number of playspaces located within a 1km radius of this open space including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rata Street Reserve • Grandview Road Reserve • Mulgrave Reserve <i>(please note – this playspace will soon to be upgraded to a destination or district-scale playspace in 2024/25 subject to Council budget approval)</i> • Ronston Court (Marykirk Drive) Reserve • Chancellor Drive Reserve • Lansdowne Circuit Reserve <p>At this point in time, based on the strategic assessment of broader community needs and existing playground gap areas, the development of a new playspace at 59 Whalley Drive would not be supported.</p> <p>Thank you again for your email.</p> | |
| 19469 | Feb 07, 2024, 01:24 PM | <p>I like the concept of playgrounds as a place of social gathering and interaction - tackles social isolation issues, better than going to shopping centres.</p> <p>Encouraging outdoor play and activity by adults in the exercise equipment is also important for overall health.</p> <p>Glad that the strategy bears in mind open space provisions. Love the 20minute neighbourhood concept. Perhaps playgrounds should be closer to strips of shops (not too close to prevent congestion), to encourage business to those shops and start to implement the 20min neighbourhood concept.</p> <p>Try to maximise the number and coverage of shrubs and trees, it is a waste to have a playground that no one can use because of hot weather (extreme heat adaptation needed). Reduce loss of greenery at Monash.</p> | <p>We agree that encouraging outdoor play and activity by adults is important and recognise the need for active spaces and places. Council has recently endorsed and Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy which identifies existing and proposed active recreation hubs/nodes across Monash and considers facilities such as outdoor fitness/exercise equipment, outdoor basketball hoops and courts, futsal, bocce courts, circuit paths, multi-sport courts, tennis hit-up walls etc.</p> <p>A complete list of outdoor exercise equipment in Monash is available on Council's website at Active Communities Programs City of Monash – Fitness hubs in parks and reserves where you can view our range of exercise equipment.</p> <p>We note and thank you for your suggestions and advise that these opportunities and/or any similar suggestions will be considered as part</p> | |

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| | | <p>Glider boxes and other biodiversity initiatives should be implemented at playspaces as a way to indirectly educate users about the importance of biodiversity. Consider using play spaces as a means to educate the community (adults as well as children) about all aspects of sustainability, council's talking trees program, gardens for wildlife etc. Not enough people know about these, use QR codes e.g. "plant natives for free in your garden through Council".</p> <p>Is it possible to have edible gardens at playspaces? Some playgrounds only have 1 slide and 1 swing too small (e.g. along Huntingdale wetland creek), almost not worth the effort to go there, or to even put a playground there. Maybe better off with a sand pit or something where more children or more age groups can play.</p> <p>St Alban's Rd playground is too close to leash-free dog area, some dogs run towards the playground.</p> <p>Would be good to have more shaded seats for parents to watch kids.</p> | <p>of any future playground upgrade consultations that are considered appropriate for specific sites.</p> <p>Also please note, dogs must be on-lead and under effective control of all in-use playspaces. Please contact our Community Laws team for animal education, regulation and enforcement matters.</p> <p>Council recognises the importance of shade for playspaces. Shade sails are provided at all new destination playspaces (district and regional playspaces) in accordance with Council's minimum provision standards.</p> <p>Canopy tree planting is also encouraged wherever possible to provide natural shade over equipment, play areas and seating.</p> <p>Whilst natural shade is preferred at pocket, local and neighbourhood playspaces, upon renewal playground sites are assessed to determine their suitability for shade sails and these are routinely provided at larger playspaces that have minimal tree canopy cover.</p> | |
| 19468 | Feb 06, 2024, 09:11 PM | <p>The Ashwood area has not been included enough. Only 3 playground updates is very poor. The area needs more.</p> <p>Yes invest more in playground/basketball courts/family-friendly areas in Ashwood.</p> <p>Ashwood needs more.</p> | <p>Three (3) playspace upgrade priorities have been identified in Ashwood that feature in the new 10 year Playspace Upgrade Program in the Strategy Refresh (subject to Council budget approval):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queens Parade, Ashwood (est. construction 2025/26) • Salisbury Reserve, Ashwood (est. construction 2027/28) • Parkhill Drive Reserve, Ashwood (est. construction 2033/34). <p>Council recognises the need for active spaces and places and has recently endorsed and Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy in 2021. This strategy identifies existing and proposed active recreation hubs/nodes across Monash and considers facilities such as outdoor fitness/exercise equipment, outdoor basketball hoops and courts, futsal, bocce courts, circuit paths, multi-sport courts, tennis hit-up walls etc.</p> | |

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| | | | A complete list of outdoor exercise equipment in Monash is available on Council's website at Active Communities Programs City of Monash – <i>Fitness hubs in parks and reserves</i> where you can view our range of exercise equipment . | |
| 19466 | Feb 06, 2024, 07:07 PM | I'd like to name a playgrounds in needs of upgrade - Jacaranda playground, Wheelers hill | Based on its priority ranking, Jacaranda Road Reserve playspace is scheduled for upgrade in Year 3 (est. construction 2027/28) of the new 10 year Playspace Upgrade Program in the Strategy Refresh (subject to Council budget approval). | |
| 19464 | Feb 06, 2024, 03:40 PM | <p>Great to see a priority on nature and nature based play. It would be great to focus on natural materials with less formal "playspace" only areas constructed from plastics. I see lots of unused formal play structures.</p> <p>A great example is Galbally Reserve, there are as many children scrambling on logs or playing the in dry creek bed space as there are using the slides and constructed climbing areas.</p> | <p>We are prioritising nature and nature based play in our contemporary playspace designs. Natural and environmentally sustainable products are preferred over non-renewables in accordance with our Environmental Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy.</p> <p><i>Section 1.7 Nature Play Designs</i> of Monash's Playspace Design Principles & Considerations outlines Monash playspaces should offer nature-based play opportunities for open-ended, imaginative and creative based play. These should encourage exploration of textural materials and natural forms. Natural materials typically include rocks, logs and plantings and creates opportunities for suitable nature play areas amongst existing established vegetation on site and new plantings as part of a playground upgrade. These can also serve as quiet spaces for exploration and imaginative play away from the main activity areas of a playspace.</p> | |
| 19463 | Feb 06, 2024, 02:19 PM | Council needs to focus on increase of canopy, biodiversity and nature play spaces. There are far too many playgrounds in Monash that are not utilised and focus needs to be evaluation of current playspaces and playgrounds that have play equipment. For any new playground installed, this strategy should focus on turning unused play spaces into nature settings which encourage nature play and teaching children the importance of biodiversity from a young age. Instead of barren play settings that are hot and devoid of shade, incorporate nature playspaces instead. Focus from Recreation should be evaluation of hard surfaces causing increase in heat and emissions, increase canopy | <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Council has an Urban Biodiversity Strategy that guides the management and enhancement of bushland and reserves in the municipality. Monash is home to a broad range of significant bushland reserves, wetlands and waterways. Council manages more than 260ha of bushland, which is contained mainly in the 42 reserves across Monash. These areas are of high biodiversity value, offering natural places to enjoy and explore while providing essential ecosystems functions.</p> | |

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| | | <p>and biodiversity in unused baren playgrounds and turn spaces into nature play spaces and increase growth and decrease heat supply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of all existing playspaces, playgrounds and parcels of land that contain play equipment in Monash. • Weekly inspections of existing playspaces to ascertain whether existing spaces are being used and if not, remove old equipment and return these spaces into nature spaces for children that prefer a more natural play space. • Assessments of all recreational spaces including carparking around the facilities to ascertain whether the increase in concrete and bitumen is being offset by increase in biodiversity, tree canopy and nature spaces. • Focus should be on reducing concrete, bitumen and play equipment and increase tree canopy, natural shade and increase in working towards reducing heat. | <p>The strategy looks at a range of threats such as habitat loss or fragmentation, pest plants and animals, population increase, climate change and impacts to water quality which can affect biodiversity. The strategy identifies opportunities to enhance biodiversity and a range of initiatives to minimise these threats.</p> <p>The strategy builds upon the recommendations for Urban Ecology, which is a key priority of Council’s Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026. The Urban Biodiversity Strategy complements the Open Space Strategy and the Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy, and together they provide a suite of actions to improve Monash’s Garden Character, increase tree canopy, provide natural shade and reduce urban heat.</p> <p>Nature Play <i>Section 1.7 Nature Play Designs</i> of Monash’s Playspace Design Principles & Considerations outlines Monash playspaces should offer nature-based play opportunities for open-ended, imaginative and creative based play. These should encourage exploration of textural materials and natural forms. Natural materials typically include rocks, logs and plantings and creates opportunities for suitable nature play areas amongst existing established vegetation on site and new plantings as part of a playground upgrade. These can also serve as quiet spaces for exploration and imaginative play away from the main activity areas of a playspace.</p> | |
| 19461 | Feb 06, 2024, 11:46 AM | <p>We believe most of the plans goals are attainable.</p> <p>Crime Prevention - Consider appropriate signage e.g. Adult Supervision Required. Many of playgrounds lack 'natural surveillance' due to the infrequency of people walking past.</p> | <p>Council routinely considers and incorporates Crime Prevention through Sustainable Design (CPTED) principles in all its playspace designs but ultimately carers are responsible for actively supervising children at all times.</p> <p><i>Section 1.15 Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)</i> of Monash’s Playspace Design Principles & Considerations outlines key CPTED principles routinely considered as part of any playspace design process:</p> | |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the passive surveillance of playspaces by ensuring play and social areas are visible from surrounding streets and neighbouring residences. • Ensure good visibility in and around all access paths and play areas. • Select and position plantings to ensure sightlines are not blocked. | |
| 19459 | Feb 05, 2024, 09:17 AM | <p>There needs to be toilet facilities and shade at all playspaces. The shades are for safety and support health and wellbeing. Play spaces get very hot... even when they are plastic.</p> <p>The shelters can be booked for functions. Create more spaces like Phoenix Park in East Malvern where there is a cafe onsite, plus opportunity to book a room for a party. I'm a Monash resident and use facilities in other councils.</p> | <p>The provision of new public toilets in Monash will be in accordance with Monash's Public Toilet Strategy.</p> <p>Council recognises the importance of shade for playspaces. Public toilets and shade sails over play areas are provided at all new destination playspaces (district and regional playspaces) in accordance with Council's minimum provision standards.</p> <p>Canopy tree planting is also encouraged wherever possible to provide natural shade over equipment, play areas and seating.</p> <p>Whilst natural shade is preferred at pocket, local and neighbourhood playspaces, upon renewal playground sites are assessed to determine their suitability for shade sails and these are routinely provided at larger playspaces that have minimal tree canopy cover.</p> | |
| 19458 | Feb 05, 2024, 09:09 AM | More seating for exhausted grandparents supervising their grandkids. | <p>Bench seating should be located at all playgrounds to support supervision of play. At least one bench seat should be provided with backrest and armrests and connecting paths (where applicable) should be wheelchair accessible. Additional opportunities for casual seating with rocks, logs and timber platform decks is also supported.</p> <p>Bench seating is a standard provision item for all playspace upgrades across all classifications of playgrounds i.e. all pocket, local, neighbourhood, district and regional playspaces in Monash should include bench seating.</p> | |
| 19456 | Feb 01, 2024, 10:16 PM | <p>Playgrounds in the City of Monash need updates.</p> <p>Prioritisation should go towards playgrounds that are aged and in areas in need.</p> | The age and strategic location of playgrounds do contribute to their overall ranking or prioritisation in the playground upgrade program. | |

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| | | | The Strategy Refresh aims to ensure that a high standard of playgrounds is delivered in priority order in accordance with the <i>Active Monash Capital Works Prioritisation Framework 2018</i> . This prioritisation framework identifies capital works priorities for the next 10+ years for recreation assets (including playgrounds) in a transparent and equitable manner. Under the framework, projects are ranked in order of priority for upgrade based on a clear and justifiable assessment methodology. | |
| 19451 | Jan 28, 2024, 10:39 PM | <p>Obesity is an issue. Built up areas and subdivisions including apartments have made it so that we require more council playgrounds and parks to exercise, socialise and absorb vitamin D reducing isolation and mental health issues.</p> <p>You've advised Notting hill, precinct 8 as the top area to have limited open space. It has only three playspaces. 1 of which - Finch Street Reserve (48) is a small pocket playground that was built over 24years ago (95-99). Many of the houses have been subdivided, apartments built along Blackburn roads. Late last year it was also declared an off-leash dog park. This playground is mainly targeted for toddlers! It is not fenced and is very old and poorly maintained for its residents...and is anticipated to commence works in 28/29. This is quite poor in terms of prioritisation.</p> <p>It is a quick win to work on Finch Street Reserve. It's a great little space for young kids to play and is fine to have a dog off leash area if the playground is fenced. There are many poorly trained dogs that do not recall to their owners and it would be terrible if Monash council was to suffer a liability issue from poorly maintained toddler playground or a toddler being mauled as a toddler playground is not fenced and also declared a dog off leash area.</p> | Refer officer response for Submission No. 2 | Recommended Change - Elevate Finch Street Playspace upgrade to year 2 (2026/27) of the Playspace Upgrade Program (Appendix 2) |
| 19447 | Jan 21, 2024, 09:09 AM | The play spaces need more shaded areas! For all new and current playspaces. | Council recognises the importance of shade for playspaces. Shade sails over play areas are provided at all new destination playspaces (district and regional playspaces) in accordance with Council's minimum provision standards. | |

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| | | | <p>Whilst natural shade is preferred at pocket, local and neighbourhood playspaces, upon renewal playground sites are assessed to determine their suitability for shade sails and these are routinely provided at larger playspaces that have minimal tree canopy cover.</p> <p><i>Section 1.12 Shade & Wind Protection</i> of Monash's Playspace Design Principles & Considerations recognises: Access to winter sun and summer shade is important for seating, social spaces and particularly for young children's play areas. Provision of shade can influence the length of time visitors will spend at a playspace. Shade structures such as shade sails or picnic shelters should be routinely included in district and regional playspaces and neighbourhood playspaces if budget permits. However, due to budget constraints provision of shade will be largely reliant on natural shade and wind protection from trees. Where possible, site equipment and play areas to take advantage of natural shade from existing mature trees, and/or specify advanced trees to provide future shade. Carers can proactively protect children from the sun by having a healthy approach to UV exposure and heeding SunSmart recommendations.</p> | |
| 19446 | Jan 20, 2024, 09:35 PM | <p>I didn't read the whole draft strategy but I implore council to think about building more All ability playgrounds so that the most vulnerable in our community have somewhere to take their kids. And all playgrounds should be fully fenced off.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>1. Inclusivity and Community Well-being: - All-ability playgrounds create an inclusive environment, fostering a sense of community where families of all backgrounds can come together. - Catering to children with neurological disorders ensures that families facing unique challenges find a supportive space to engage with others.</p> <p>2. Safety and Security: - A fully fenced-off playground provides an added layer of safety, preventing children, especially those with neurological disorders like ASD or ADHD, from wandering off and ensuring their security.</p> | <p>We fully support the installation of more all abilities playspaces and accessible play equipment across Monash.</p> <p>Council routinely provides accessible features as part of all playground upgrades and is committed to developing an all ability playspace in each of the four major precincts in Monash being Oakleigh, Mount Waverley, Glen Waverley and Mulgrave.</p> <p>In the Strategy Refresh, Council proposes to deliver new sensory, all abilities playspaces in Mulgrave and Mount Waverley accordance with the following recommendations:</p> <p>#12. Aim to deliver a sensory-themed playspace (where the primary design focus targets people with additional needs) in each major precinct i.e. in Mulgrave and Mount Waverley precincts to complement the Wellesley Road Reserve Sensory Playspace (Glen Waverley precinct) and Westerfield Drive Sensory Playspace (Oakleigh precinct).</p> | |

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| | | <p>- This safety feature is crucial for families who may experience difficulties in keeping their children within a confined area.</p> <p>3. Promoting Physical and Cognitive Development: - All-ability playgrounds are designed to accommodate a variety of physical abilities, promoting not only physical but also cognitive development for all children, including those with neurological disorders. - The diverse play equipment can aid sensory integration and motor skills development, contributing positively to the well-being of children with special needs.</p> <p>4. Enhancing Social Skills: - Such playgrounds facilitate social interactions among children of different abilities, fostering understanding and empathy from an early age. - Families with children who have neurological disorders often face social isolation; an all-ability playground becomes a platform for them to connect with others who share similar experiences.</p> <p>5. Community Engagement and Support: - Investing in all-ability playgrounds demonstrates the council's commitment to the well-being of all residents, garnering support and engagement from the broader community. - It aligns with the principles of social responsibility and inclusivity, showcasing the council as an advocate for the needs of families with special circumstances.</p> <p>6. Long-Term Cost Efficiency: - While initial investments may be higher for all-ability playgrounds, the long-term benefits, including reduced healthcare costs and improved community well-being, outweigh the initial expenses.</p> | <p>#13. In accordance with recommendation #12, investigate the potential for Pinewood Reserve Playspace in Mount Waverley precinct to become the next sensory-themed playspace. Include signage/information for difference needs e.g. Access Key, communication boards, different languages, and statements around everyone being welcome.</p> | |
| 19445 | Jan 20, 2024, 04:10 PM | <p>I like the idea that they are being redesigned to provide multiple experiences.</p> <p>I would like to see fully enclosed play spaces. Some of the playgrounds are near main roads or at least busier residential roads. Often I've seen kids taking off towards the road with a parent in hot pursuit.</p> | <p>Fences around playspaces within reserves are not considered standard and generally will not be included in budgets and designs for playground upgrades. Safe playground experiences result from a combination of safe equipment and supervision by caregivers. Carers should actively supervise children at all times to ensure their safety.</p> | |

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| | | <p>I'd also like to see multi-sensory and inclusive spaces like water play, and play, etc.</p> | <p><i>Section 1.16 Supervision of Play and Fencing</i> of Monash's Playspace Design Principles & Considerations advises: In general, Council does not support enclosure of playspaces with fencing as it can reduce accessibility. It is the responsibility of carers to actively supervise young children's play. Fencing or barriers are generally only used when a safety concern cannot be managed with effective design e.g. to prevent children running out onto busy roads. Council does, however, provide a limited number of fully fenced playspaces to support families that have children with special needs who require the security of fencing for safety reasons e.g. Wellesley Road Reserve, Westerfield Drive Reserve, Viewpoint Reserve, and Cheel Street Reserve playspaces. If required, safety fencing to be in accordance with Monash Design Standards - Furniture Category (F702.01-02), which is typically installed around sensory themed playspaces, where the primary focus targets children with additional needs.</p> | |
| 19433 | Jan 05, 2024, 08:11 PM | <p>I like that you are engaged with current views on playgrounds however, popping it on your website does not engage the whole community. The majority of residents would be unaware this strategy exists, please send correspondence in mail to engage all community.</p> <p>I believe all playgrounds should prohibit dogs from entering as many councils in Victoria enforce & greater transparency of this process to learn of community views.</p> | <p>The initial community consultation to identify community needs and opportunities for improvement ran from <i>25 May 2023 to 27 August 2023</i>. During the consultation period, there were 80 contributions to the Shape Monash page, 8 written and 12+ MYzone middle year participant submissions received. The initial consultation included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shape Monash online survey – 83 on-line contributions received via Shape Monash at Playground Strategy Refresh Shape Monash. 2. Direct Email – to existing community networks including Monash sporting clubs, neighbourhood houses, playgroups and advisory committee members were directly emailed and encouraged to complete the online survey. 3. Project page subscription registration – for regular project updates. 4. Monash Bulletin July 2023 and August 2023 – articles in the Monash Bulletin distributed to every household in Monash translated into Chinese, Greek and Italian. | |

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| | | | <p>5. Written Submissions – 7 written submissions received via Shape Monash and 1 written submission via Facebook (total of 8 written submissions).</p> <p>6. MYzone Middle Years Group – drawings and/or written feedback from 12 MYzone participants (Monash Youth Services) on their ‘perfect playground’.</p> <p>7. Youth Services Program Participants - distributed information to parents and other younger participants at youth services programs.</p> <p>8. Social Media post on 23 August 2023 – 1,418 accounts reached, 147 engagements from people who liked, commented, shared, clicked through to our Facebook page, or just opened the photo for a more detailed look.</p> <p>9. Playspace Strategy Refresh Poster - posted on public noticeboards in Monash libraries, customer service centres and aquatic centres.</p> <p>10. General feedback received from residents in relation to individual playground upgrade projects at onsite meetings and/or online design consultations.</p> <p>This initial feedback informed development of the draft Strategy which was publicly exhibited on Shape Monash for over 2 months from 5 December 2023 to 9 February 2024. Various engagement methods were used including website, social media, targeted emails to advisory groups and community networks (e.g. playgroups), existing subscribers and Monash Bulletin articles to every household as outlined earlier in this Consultation Report.</p> | |
| 19432 | Jan 05, 2024, 08:01 PM | <p>Very happy that council is keeping abreast of current views.</p> <p>I would like dogs prohibited from all playgrounds keeping in unison with many other Victorian councils.</p> | <p>In accordance with Monash's Dog Control Order No. 6 it is a legal responsibility for dog owners in Monash to bring their dog <i>...under effective control by means of a chain, cord or leash (not exceeding 1.5 metres in length) held by the Owner and attached to the dog, if the dog is within 20 metres of:</i></p> <p><i>(a) an arena or ground whilst being used for an organised sporting or practice event;</i></p> <p><i>(b) a children's play equipment area that is being used;</i></p> | |

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| | | | <p>(c) the location of an organised public meeting; and (d) a barbeque or picnic area that is being used.</p> <p>Please contact our Community Laws team for animal education, regulation and enforcement matters.</p> | |
| 19428 | Jan 02, 2024, 04:13 PM | We need more outdoors exercise equipment in parks as Kingston and Richmond councils do. | <p>Council recognises the need for active spaces and places and has recently endorsed and Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy in 2021. This strategy identifies existing and proposed active recreation hubs/nodes across Monash and considers facilities such as outdoor fitness/exercise equipment, outdoor basketball hoops and courts, futsal, bocce courts, circuit paths, multi-sport courts, tennis hit-up walls etc.</p> <p>A complete list of outdoor exercise equipment in Monash is available on Council's website at Active Communities Programs City of Monash – Fitness hubs in parks and reserves where you can view our range of exercise equipment.</p> | |
| 19427 | Jan 02, 2024, 12:30 PM | I would love to see shade sails or other significant shade over play equipment at all playgrounds. Shade sails are a key thing I look for when deciding whether to go to a playground. Without shade sails I find the play space unsuitable, particularly during summer when I'm more conscious of direct sun exposure. I also find the shade sails can provide some protection from light rain, making the space usable during winter days as well | <p>Council recognises the importance of shade for playspaces. Shade sails over play areas are provided at all new destination playspaces (district and regional playspaces) in accordance with Council's minimum provision standards.</p> <p>Whilst natural shade is preferred at pocket, local and neighbourhood playspaces, upon renewal playground sites are assessed to determine their suitability for shade sails and these are routinely provided at larger playspaces that have minimal tree canopy cover.</p> <p><i>Section 1.12 Shade & Wind Protection</i> of Monash's Playspace Design Principles & Considerations recognises: Access to winter sun and summer shade is important for seating, social spaces and particularly for young children's play areas. Provision of shade can influence the length of time visitors will spend at a playspace. Shade structures such as shade sails or picnic shelters should be routinely included in district and regional playspaces and</p> | |

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| | | | <p>neighbourhood playspaces if budget permits. However, due to budget constraints provision of shade will be largely reliant on natural shade and wind protection from trees. Where possible, site equipment and play areas to take advantage of natural shade from existing mature trees, and/or specify advanced trees to provide future shade. Carers can proactively protect children from the sun by having a healthy approach to UV exposure and heeding SunSmart recommendations.</p> | |
| 19425 | Dec 18, 2023, 11:11 AM | <p>It's a great initiative overall.</p> <p>Tally Ho Reserve play space was part of the 2015/2016 upgrade and is not fit for purpose. It is a huge reserve that holds cricket, tennis and soccer games. It is also a designated off-leash park for dogs. The play space was relocated to another area of the reserve which is totally inappropriate. Usage levels have increased considerably, particularly since Covid and the facilities fall short of community expectations. It doesn't make sense to have a playground next to a carpark. It doesn't make sense to have a children's playground next to a basketball area with teenagers and heavy balls. Lastly the playground is hopelessly inadequate, particularly when you consider Monash's updated play spaces. The older playground provided more opportunities for play. The current playground is very small and the equipment is inadequate for the number of children and families using the area.</p> | <p>Thank you for your feedback on Tally Ho playspace.</p> <p>The design and location of this neighbourhood scale playspace was determined following consultation with the local community and input from experienced landscape architects and in accordance with the minimum provision standards for neighbourhood playspaces as detailed in the Monash Playground and Playspace Strategy.</p> <p>Playspace designs endeavour to provide a variety of fun, challenging and inviting play experiences that cater to a range of play types and abilities. Designs should respond positively by providing a range of opportunities for age-appropriate risk taking while having due regard for the well-being of all playspace users and offer a variety of graded challenges that give children the opportunity to acquire and extend their skills progressively and at their own pace.</p> <p>All Monash playspaces are designed to meet current Australian Standards for playspace design, including AS 4685.1:2021 General safety requirements. It is standard procedure to have an independent safety audit report prepared on the final design and again at Practical Completion prior to handover of upgraded playgrounds to ensure the playspace complies with the standards and is considered fit-for-purpose. At the time of construction this playspace complied with the relevant design and provision standards.</p> <p>Safe playground experiences result from a combination of safe equipment and supervision by caregivers. Carers should actively supervise children at all times during play.</p> | |

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| 19424 | Dec 07, 2023, 10:23 PM | <p>As always I would like to see Council talk more about both Climate and Biodiversity Crisis. While they are touched on, I think they deserve a greater consideration. All playgrounds should maximize the opportunity to plant canopy trees and provide more biodiversity.</p> <p>Having playgrounds on their own is really a missed opportunity. Having equipment for kids to play on and exercise equipment in the same space is always going to make it more attractive to visit and stay. I know this is touched on in the plan. We need to think a lot more about these being multi-purpose, mixed use spaces.</p> | <p>Climate & Biodiversity Council has an Urban Biodiversity Strategy that guides the management and enhancement of bushland and reserves in the municipality. Monash is home to a broad range of significant bushland reserves, wetlands and waterways. Council manages more than 260ha of bushland, which is contained mainly in the 42 reserves across Monash. These areas are of high biodiversity value, offering natural places to enjoy and explore while providing essential ecosystems functions.</p> <p>The strategy looks at a range of threats such as habitat loss or fragmentation, pest plants and animals, population increase, climate change and impacts to water quality which can affect biodiversity. The strategy identifies opportunities to enhance biodiversity and a range of initiatives to minimise these threats.</p> <p>The strategy builds upon the recommendations for Urban Ecology, which is a key priority of Council’s Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026. The Urban Biodiversity Strategy complements the Open Space Strategy and the Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy, and together they provide a suite of actions to improve Monash’s Garden Character , increase tree canopy, provide natural shade and reduce urban heat.</p> <p>Play & Active Recreation Council provides a diverse range of play and outdoor active recreation opportunities across the city. Many playgrounds incorporate active recreation elements and/or have active recreation hubs/nodes located nearby.</p> <p>Council recognises the need for active spaces and places and has recently endorsed and Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy in 2021. This strategy identifies existing and proposed active recreation hubs/nodes across Monash and considers facilities such as outdoor fitness/exercise equipment, outdoor basketball hoops and courts,</p> | |

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| | | | <p>futsal, bocce courts, circuit paths, multi-sport courts, tennis hit-up walls etc.</p> <p>A complete list of outdoor exercise equipment in Monash is available on Council’s website at Active Communities Programs City of Monash – <i>Fitness hubs in parks and reserves</i> where you can view our range of exercise equipment.</p> | |
| 19418 | Dec 05, 2023, 04:03 PM | <p>Healthy young bodies encourage more adventurous and enquiring minds.</p> <p>As a child of the late 40's, without electronic media and toys we would physically play for hours, form our own teams to play with a bat and ball, and we were not deterred by the chance of an accidental injury, nor were our parents.</p> <p>We appear now to be so overawed by the chance of litigation if there is an accident that we back off, councils are looking over their shoulders for fear of litigation.</p> <p>Somewhere along the way the community has to accept the fact that when children play there will be accidents and injury and not look at these as a money grabbing exercise for lawyers.</p> <p>I love what you have drawn up, and you have covered all age groups. Due to so many social changes over the past 30-years team sports and activities drop off as teenagers need to get part time jobs.</p> | <p>Thank you for you feedback.</p> <p>Section 1.4 of Monash’s Playspace Design Principles & Considerations acknowledges risk and states:</p> <p>Children have an innate desire to seek out opportunities to take increasing risks, and this is an essential part of their development and learning. Designs should respond positively by providing a range of opportunities for age-appropriate risk taking while having due regard for the well-being of all playspace users. Risk-benefit management and independent safety auditing are important tools in this process.</p> <p>Monash takes pride in providing quality playgrounds for children, and all play equipment installed adheres to Australian Standards. It’s essential to allow children some degree of risk in their play, as minimising all risks can negatively impact their freedom to explore, play, and push their developmental limits. Safe playground experiences result from a combination of safe equipment and supervision by caregivers. Carers should actively supervise children at all times and assess a child's ability to use a particular piece of equipment based on their age and capability before allowing them to play.</p> | |

Section 2 – Shape Monash On-line Survey Results

Shape Monash

Report Type: Form Results Summary
 Date Range: 05-12-2023 - 07-02-2024
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Draft Playground and Playspace Strategy Refresh 2025-2035
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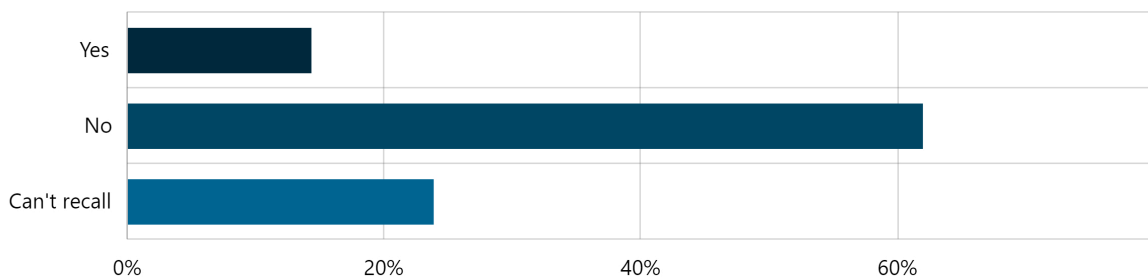
19
Contributors

21
Contributions

Contribution Summary

1. Did you provide feedback during the first stage of consultation on the draft Strategy?

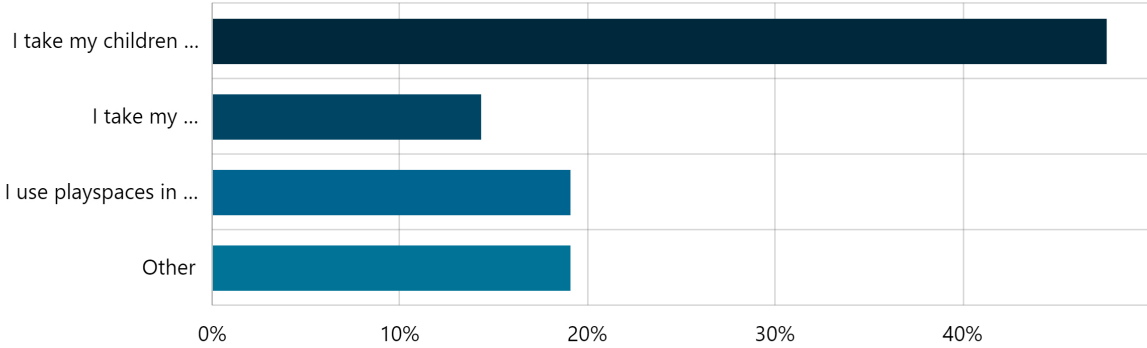
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 21 (100%)



| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Yes | 14.29% | 3 |
| No | 61.90% | 13 |
| Can't recall | 23.81% | 5 |
| Total | 100.00% | 21 |

2. What is your connection to playspaces in Monash?

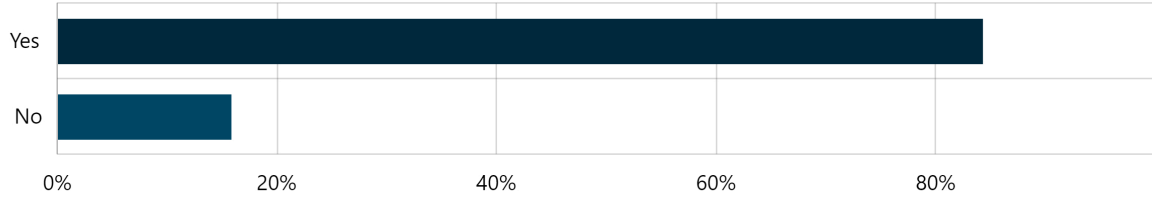
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 21 (100%)



| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|---|----------------|-----------|
| I take my children to playspaces in Monash | 47.62% | 10 |
| I take my grandchildren to playspaces in Monash | 14.29% | 3 |
| I use playspaces in Monash | 19.05% | 4 |
| Other | 19.05% | 4 |
| Total | 100.00% | 21 |

3. Overall, do you support the key directions in the draft Strategy?

Select Box | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 19 (90.5%)



| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Yes | 84.21% | 16 |
| No | 15.79% | 3 |
| Total | 100.00% | 19 |

4. Please explain why you do like the directions below.

Long Text | Skipped: 12 | Answered: 9 (42.9%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

5. Please explain why you don't like the directions below.

Long Text | Skipped: 18 | Answered: 3 (14.3%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

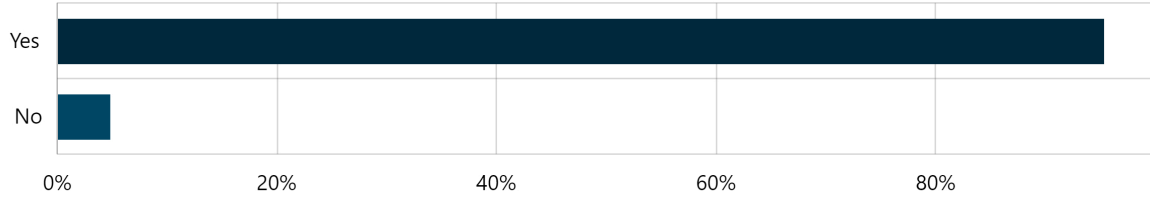
No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

6. Are there any additional recommendations or actions you would like to see considered in the final Strategy?

Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 21 (100%)



| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Yes | 95.24% | 20 |
| No | 4.76% | 1 |
| Total | 100.00% | 21 |

7. If yes, please add your suggested recommendation/s

Long Text | Skipped: 3 | Answered: 18 (85.7%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

8. Please use the space below to provide any additional comments on the draft Strategy

Long Text | Skipped: 13 | Answered: 8 (38.1%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

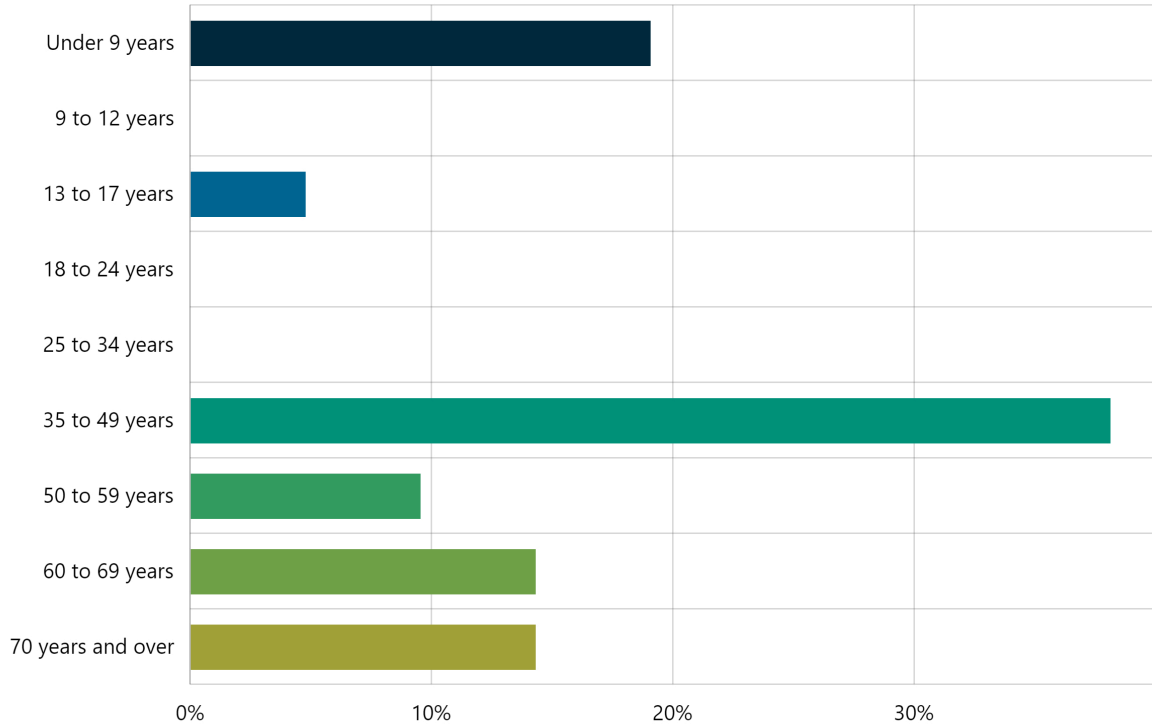
No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

9. What is your age group?

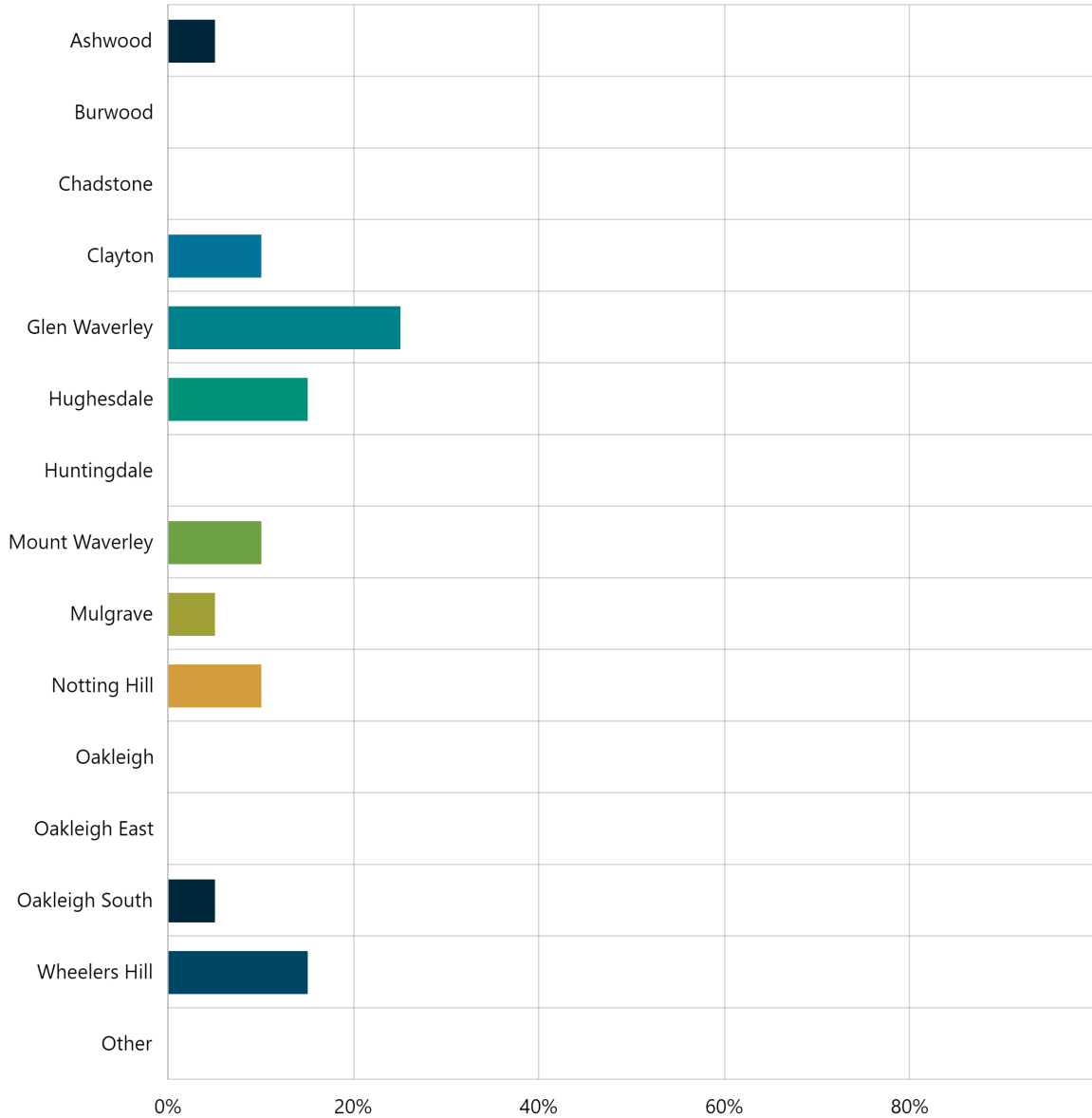
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 21 (100%)



| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Under 9 years | 19.05% | 4 |
| 9 to 12 years | 0% | 0 |
| 13 to 17 years | 4.76% | 1 |
| 18 to 24 years | 0% | 0 |
| 25 to 34 years | 0% | 0 |
| 35 to 49 years | 38.10% | 8 |
| 50 to 59 years | 9.52% | 2 |
| 60 to 69 years | 14.29% | 3 |
| 70 years and over | 14.29% | 3 |
| Total | 100.00% | 21 |

10. Your suburb

Select Box | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 20 (95.2%)

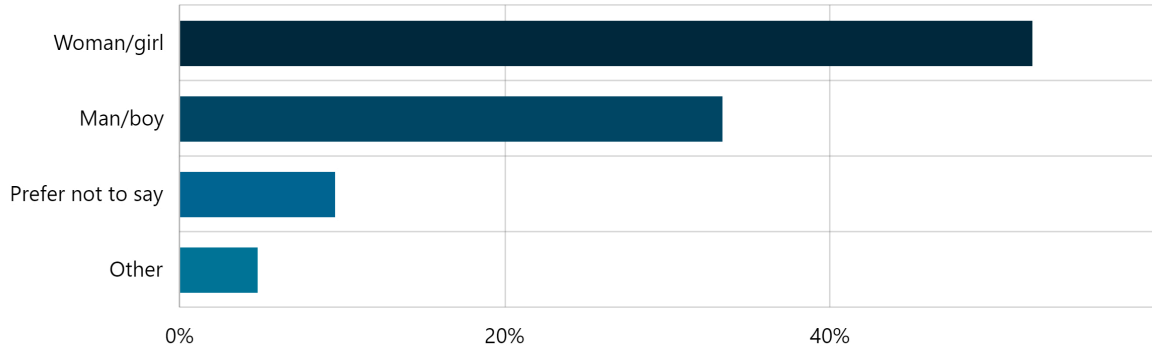


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|----------------|---------|-------|
| Ashwood | 5.00% | 1 |
| Burwood | 0% | 0 |
| Chadstone | 0% | 0 |
| Clayton | 10.00% | 2 |

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Glen Waverley | 25.00% | 5 |
| Hughesdale | 15.00% | 3 |
| Huntingdale | 0% | 0 |
| Mount Waverley | 10.00% | 2 |
| Mulgrave | 5.00% | 1 |
| Notting Hill | 10.00% | 2 |
| Oakleigh | 0% | 0 |
| Oakleigh East | 0% | 0 |
| Oakleigh South | 5.00% | 1 |
| Wheelers Hill | 15.00% | 3 |
| Other | 0% | 0 |
| Total | 100.00% | 20 |

11. Your gender

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 21 (100%)



| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Woman/girl | 52.38% | 11 |
| Man/boy | 33.33% | 7 |
| Prefer not to say | 9.52% | 2 |
| Other | 4.76% | 1 |
| Total | 100.00% | 21 |