



MONTROSE RECREATION RESERVE PLAYSPACE RENEWAL

Initial Community
Engagement Report
March 2026

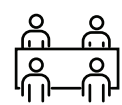
PROJECT BACKGROUND

Yarra Ranges Council is developing a draft concept plan for renewal of Montrose Recreation Reserve Playspace, which was constructed by the Montrose community in 2008. The draft concept plan aims to support improving accessibility and inclusiveness of play equipment, replacing old and unsafe play equipment with new ones whilst maintaining the character of Montrose.

An initial community engagement was held in November and December 2025, seeking feedback on what the community would like to see for the renewal. Given this playspace was constructed by the Montrose community, there were many comments regarding which play elements the community would like to see retained.

This Engagement Report summarises the feedback provided by the community during this consultation, and offers a snapshot of the design initiatives Council is developing based on the feedback. The result will be a draft concept plan to guide the renewal of Montrose Recreation Reserve Playspace. This draft concept plan will be presented to the community for their review and further feedback.

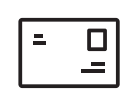
WHO WE SPOKE TO



A pre-engagement briefing session was held on 30th October 2025 and met representatives of key Montrose community groups



31 days engagement period for Montrose Recreation Reserve Playspace Renewal was undertaken (6th November 2025 - 7th December 2025)



2375 postcards were delivered to Montrose postcode area to inform the community about the engagement, provide details about the project and the open period for feedback.



2827 emails were sent to the Montrose community providing information on the renewal and collect feedback.



A school drop-in session at Billanook primary school was held on the 3rd December 2025.



3 On-site and Town Centre face-to-face sessions were conducted on 18th, 20th and 29th November 2025



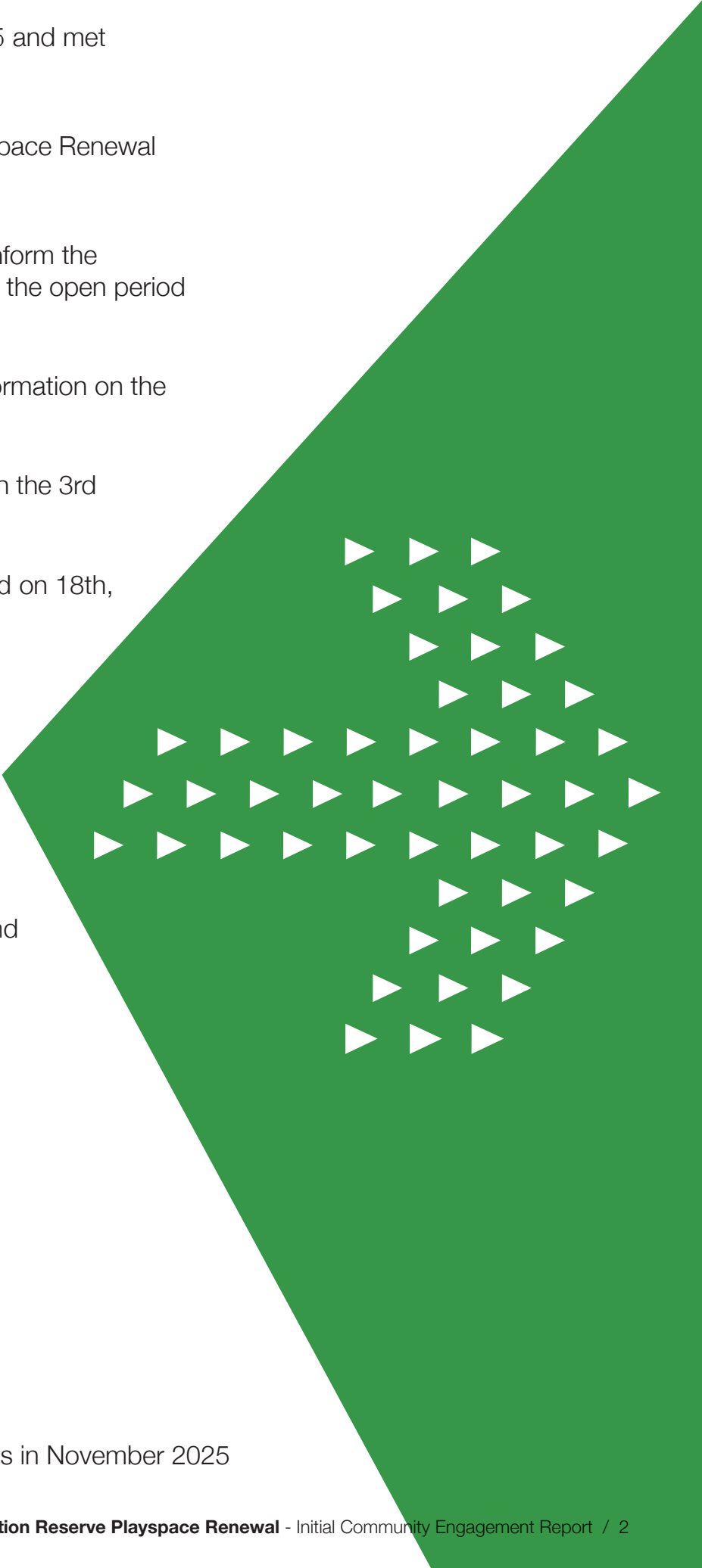
1684 page views of the Shaping Yarra Ranges: Montrose Recreation Reserve Playspace page from 1326 unique visitors



394 contributions through the Shaping Yarra Ranges: Montrose Recreation Reserve Playspace page from 379 unique contributors.



Website visitors came from Direct to Shaping Yarra Ranges 26%, Social Media Channels 32%, Campaigns 35% , Search Engines 5% and Websites 3%



One of the on-site sessions in November 2025

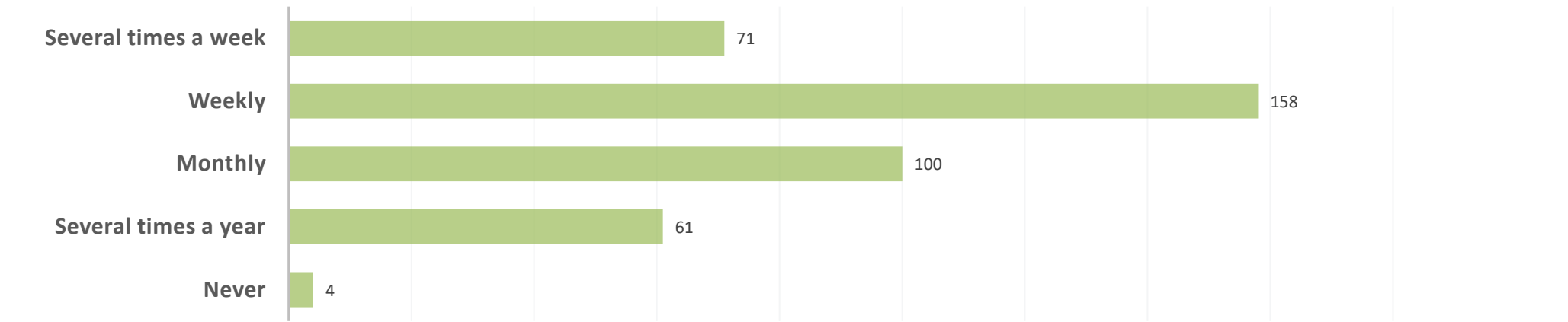
WHAT WE HEARD

394 contributions were analysed and identified frequent key words in bar charts as below. These frequent words and phrases will guide popular elements that the community would like to be included in Montrose Recreation Reserve Playspace Renewal. Results are shown here in the order of the questions appeared in Shaping Yarra Ranges webpage.

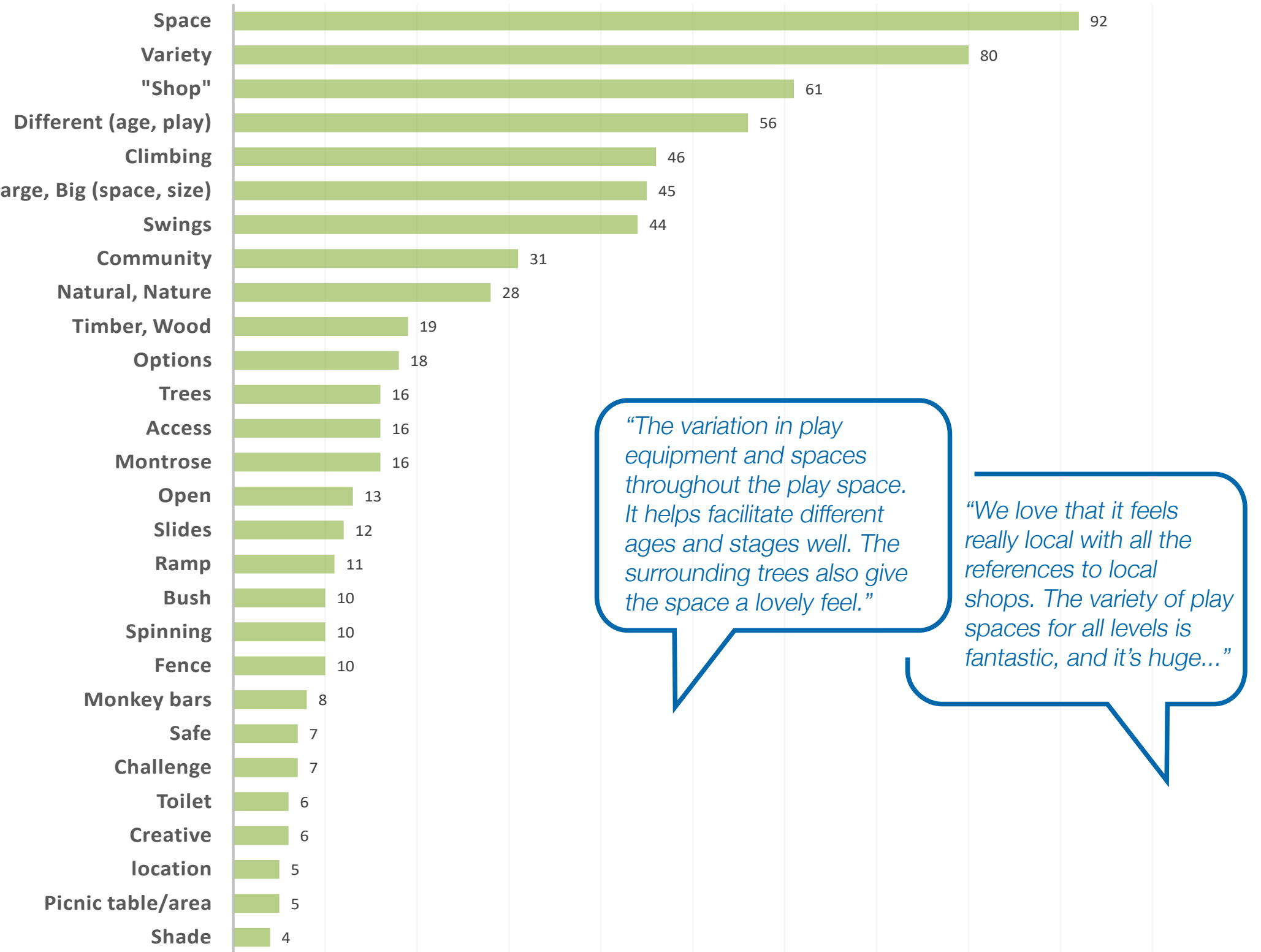
How important are parks and playspaces to you/your family’s health and wellbeing?

387 responded. Scored average 95.84 point out of 100 point.

How often do you visit the playspace?



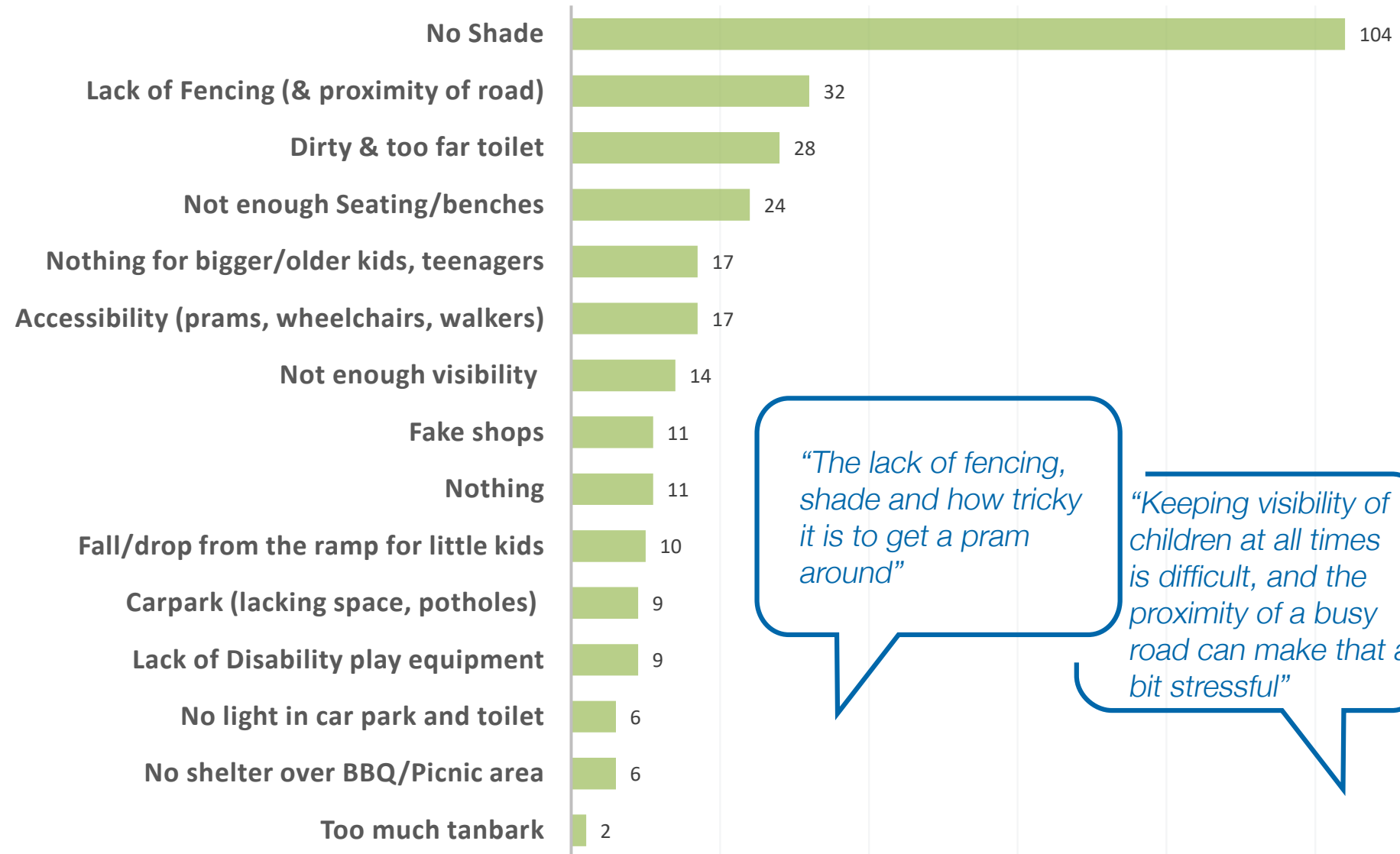
What do you like most about the current playspace?



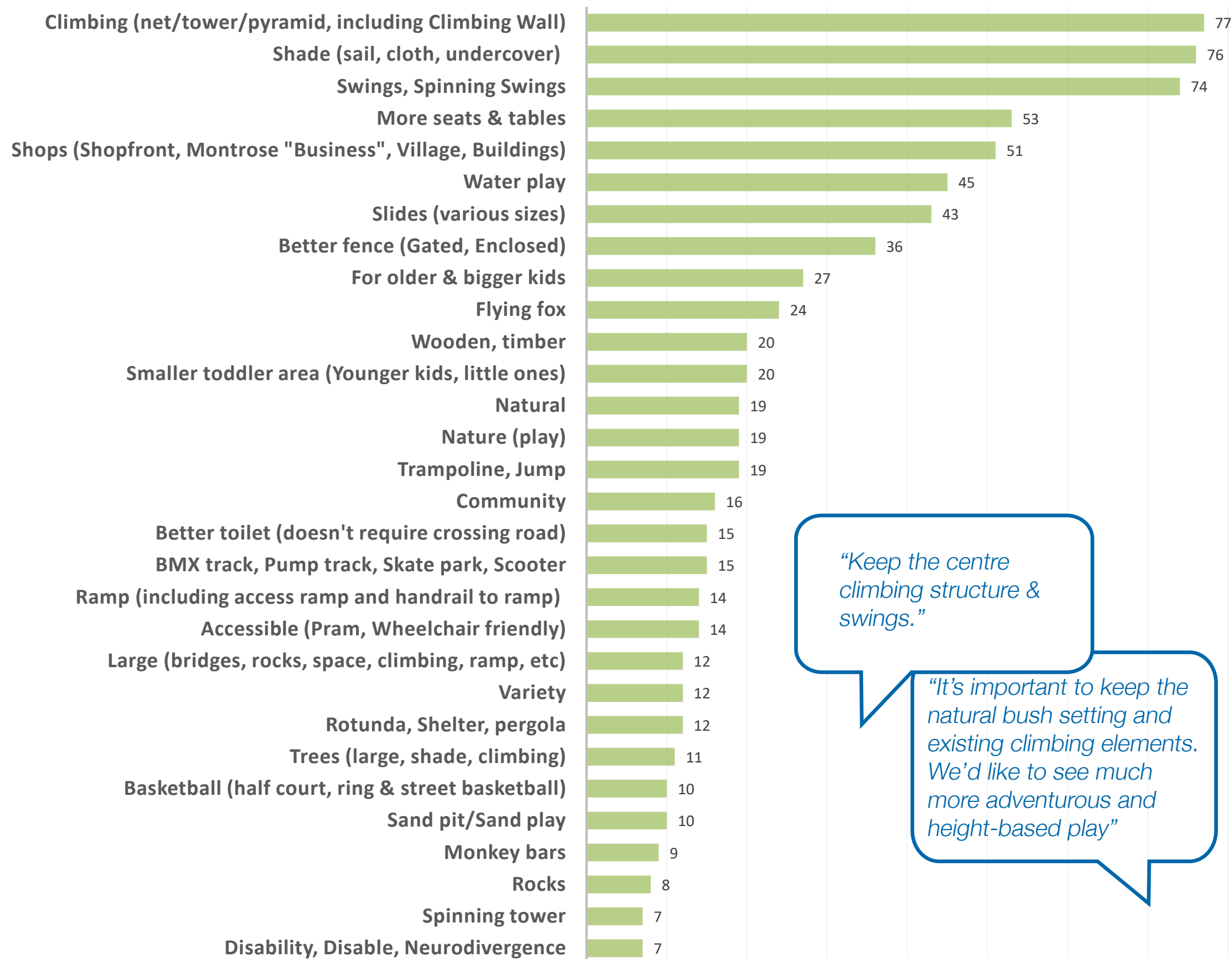
“The variation in play equipment and spaces throughout the play space. It helps facilitate different ages and stages well. The surrounding trees also give the space a lovely feel.”

“We love that it feels really local with all the references to local shops. The variety of play spaces for all levels is fantastic, and it’s huge...”

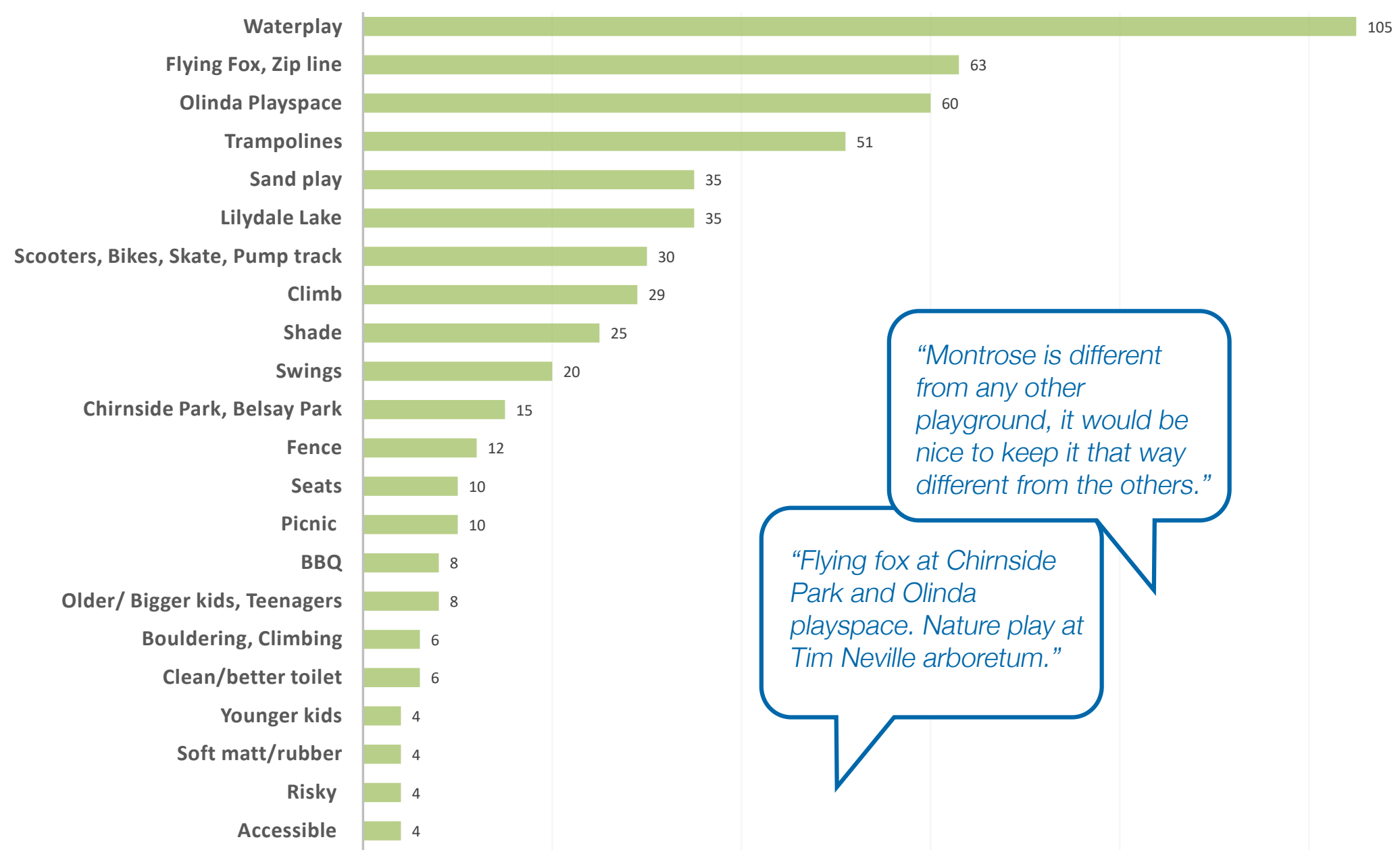
What do you like the least about the current playspace?



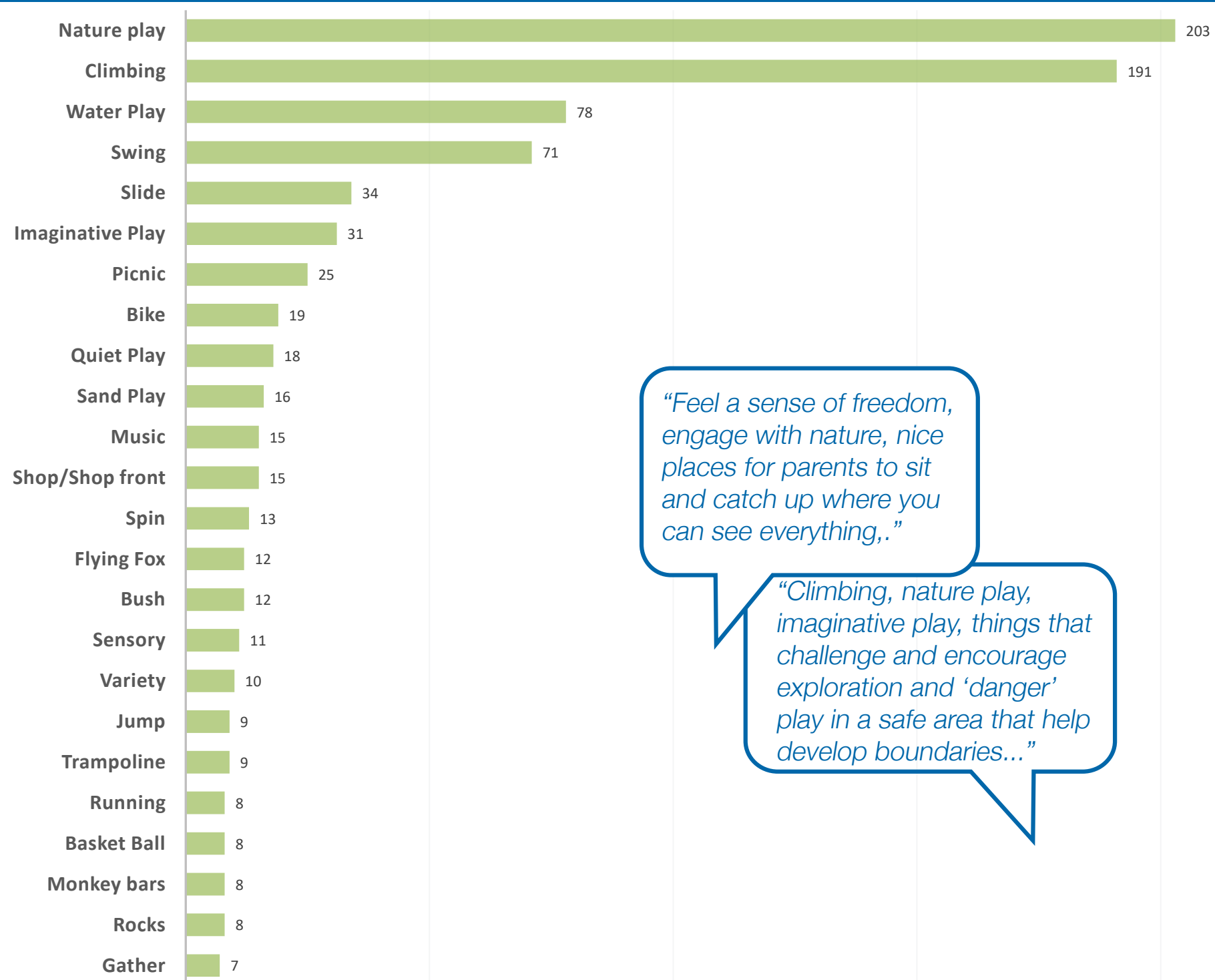
What do you think is important to include in this playspace?



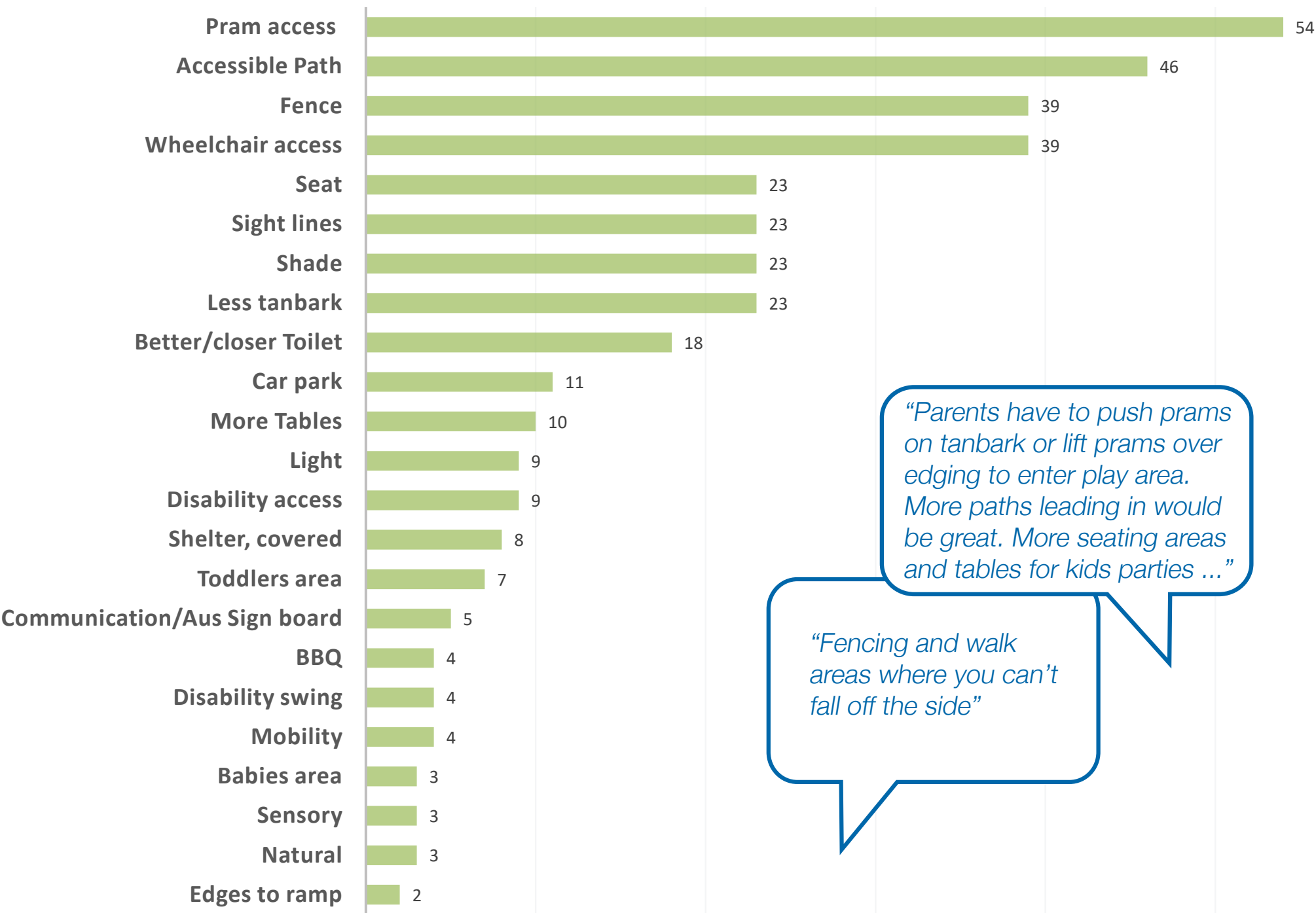
Can you think of any elements you liked at other playspaces, that might be worth considering for this space?



What activities would you like children/users to be able to do at this space?



Do you have any suggestions to make this space more accessible and inclusive for all users?

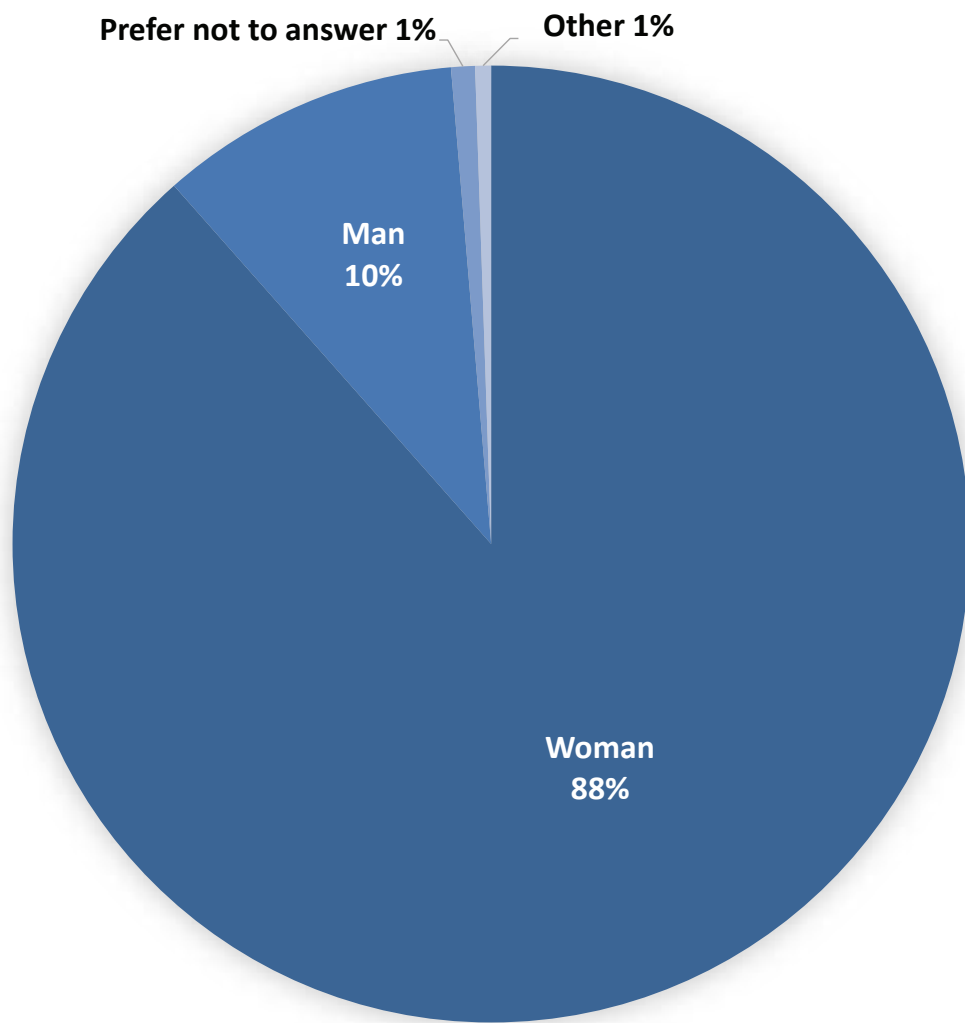


Do you have any other comments or questions about the proposed upgrade for this playspace?

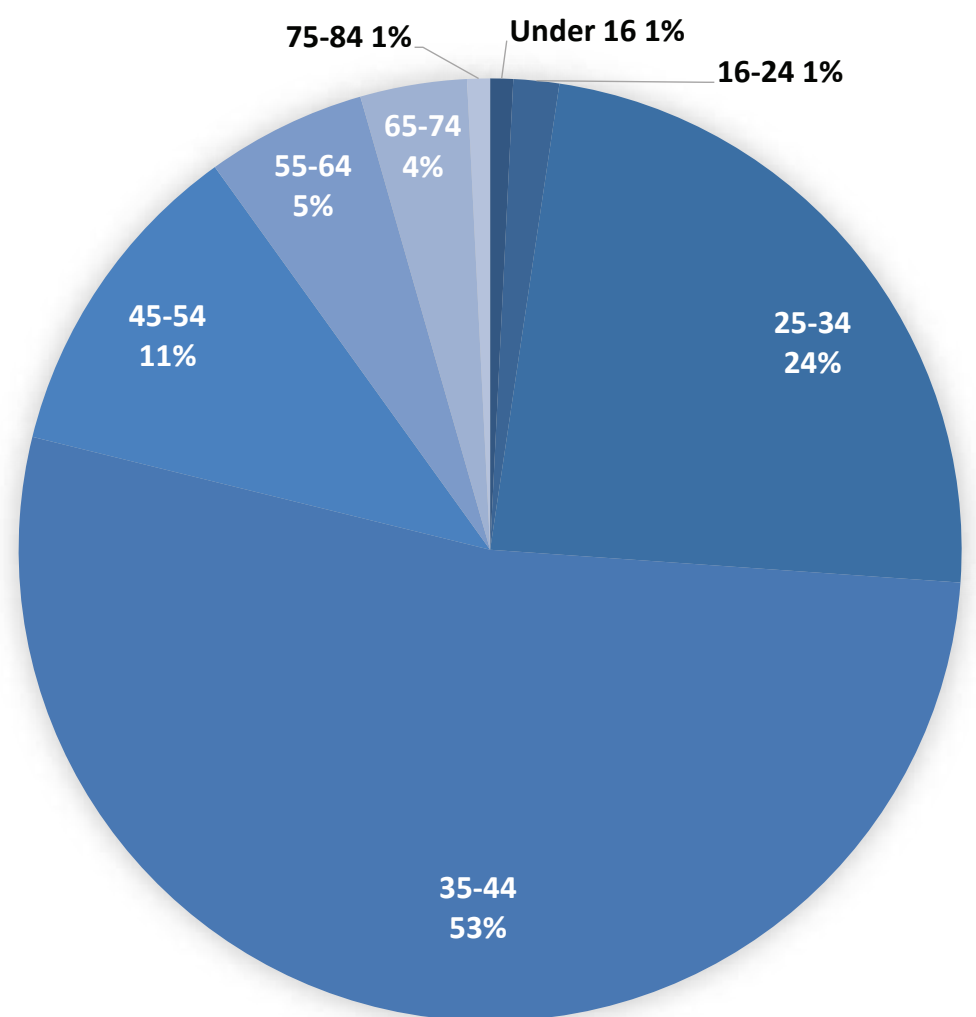
There were fewer answers to this question overall, with many respondents indicating they had already shared their views or had nothing further to add. The feedback expressed appreciation for the opportunity to ‘have a say’ in the renewal of the much-loved playspace, requests to keep specific features of the playspace and preserve the Montrose community character.



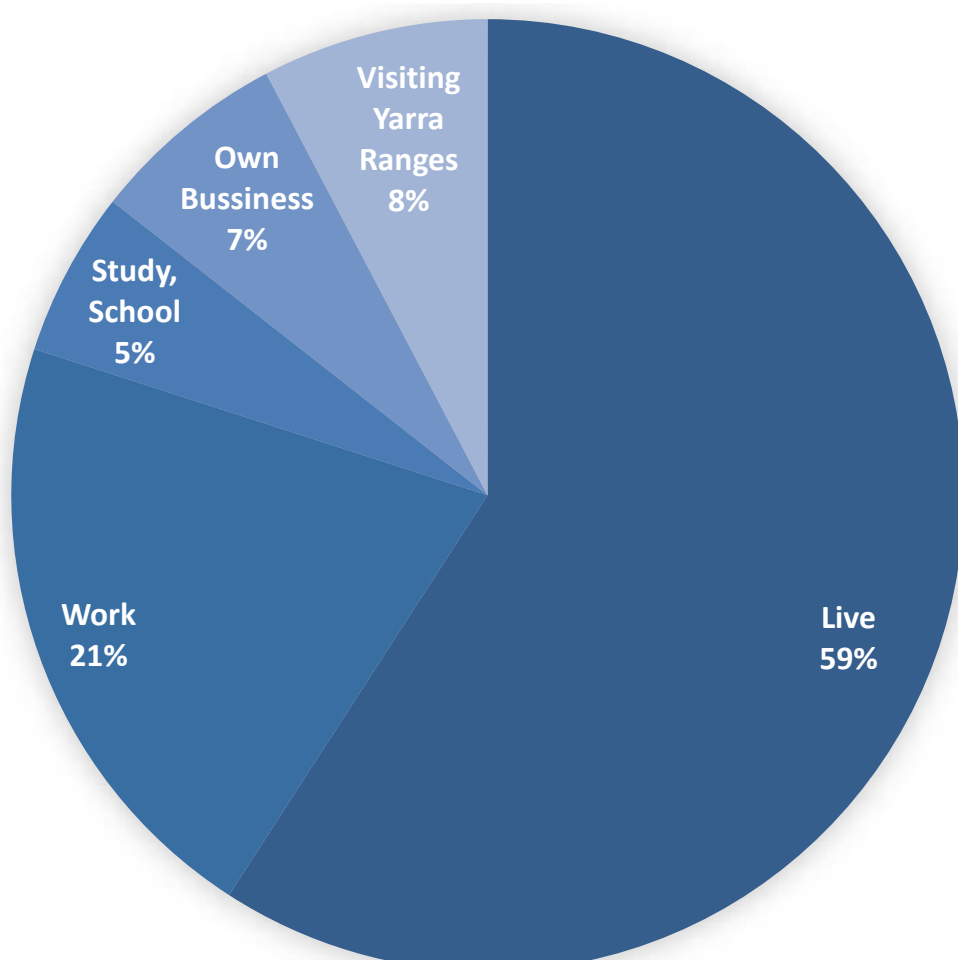
How do you identify?



What is your age group?



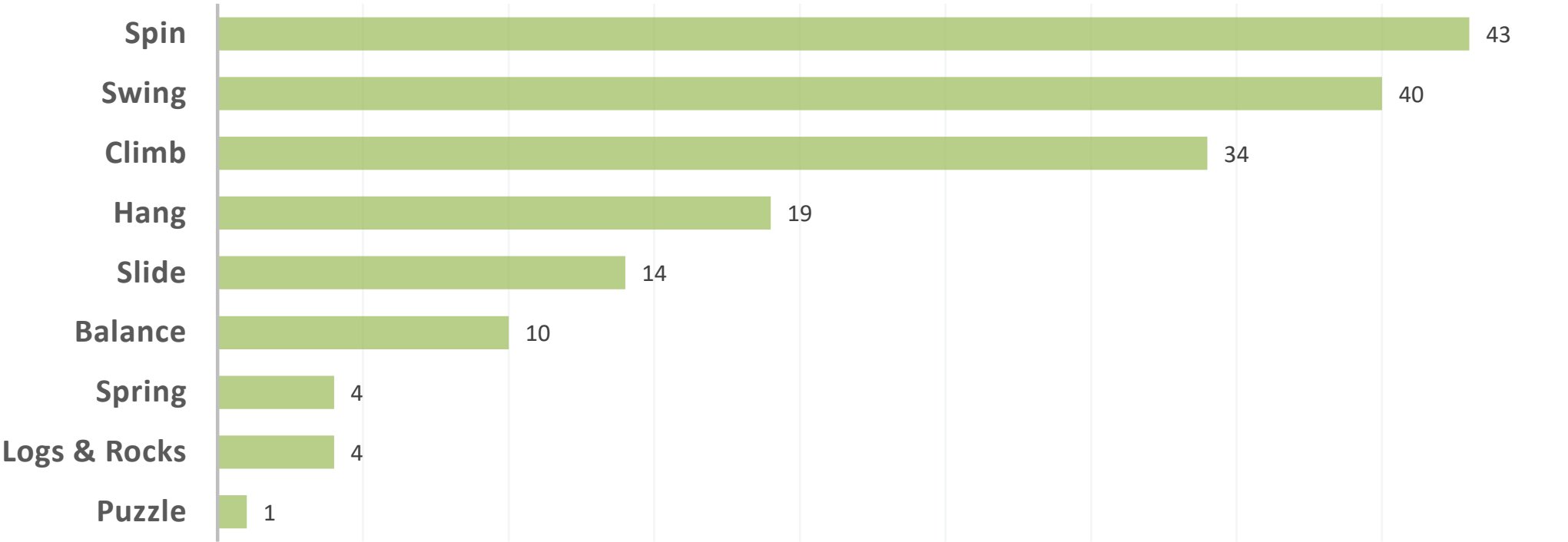
What are your connections to the Yarra Ranges?



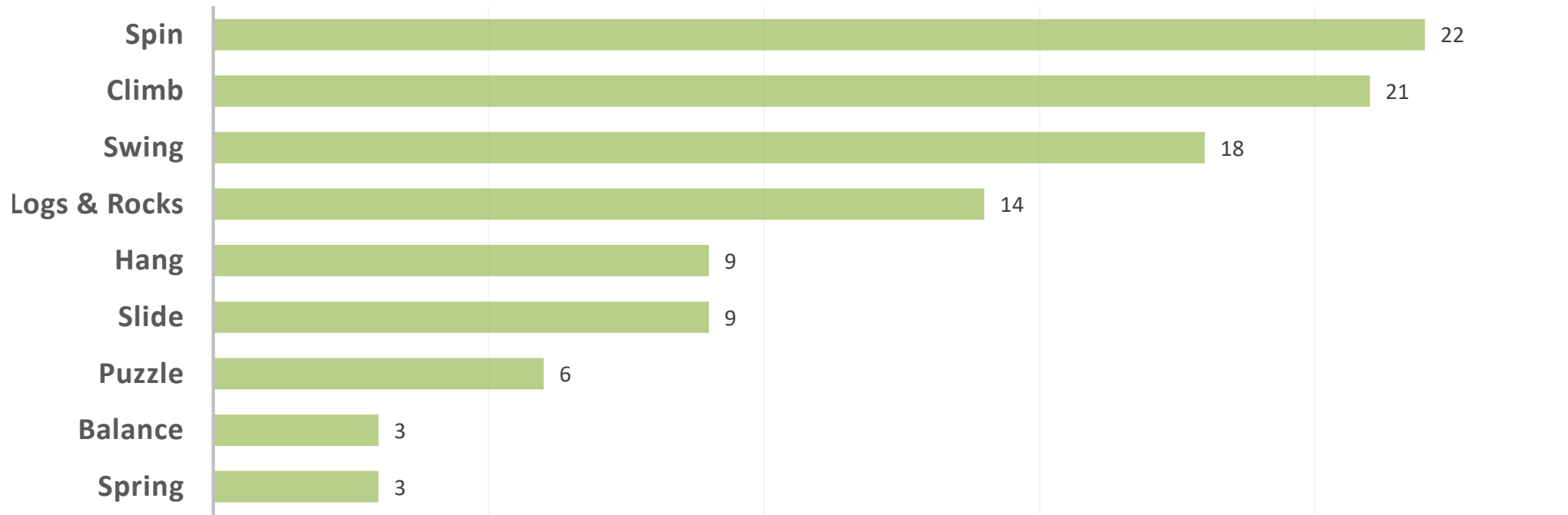
Face-to-face sessions - Put your dots on what you love!

Total 274 dots were placed on the image board showing 9 play activities at a drop-in session at Billanook Primary School (169 dots) and pop-up sessions in the town centre (105 dots).

Billanook Primary School



Town Centre



One of the town centre sessions in November 2025

NEXT STEPS:

After reviewing the results captured from the community engagement, we are investigating key design initiatives to produce a framework to guide the draft concept plan for the renewal of Montrose Recreation Reserve Playspace.

KEY DESIGN INITIATIVES

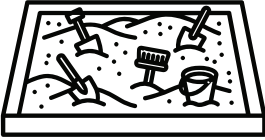
PLAY ACTIVITIES



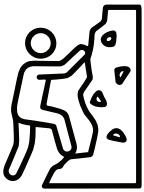
FLYING FOX



WATER PLAY



SAND PLAY



CLIMBING



NATURE PLAY



TRAMPOLINE



SWINGS



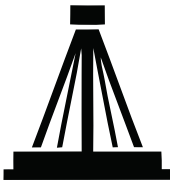
SLIDES



HANG/MONKEY BARS



MONTROSE SHOPS

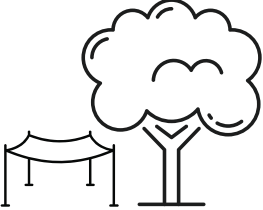


SPIN

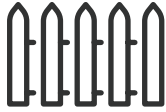


SPACES FOR TEENS,
OLDER KIDS & TODDLERS

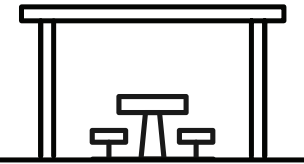
AMENITIES



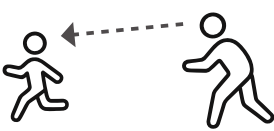
SHADE



FENCE



SHELTER, TABLES
& SEATS



CLEAR SIGHT LINE

ACCESSIBILITY



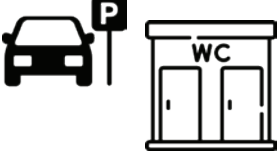
ACCESSIBLE PATH,
WHEELCHAIR &
PRAM ACCESS



INCLUSIVE PLAY
EQUIPMENT



SIGN COMMUNICATION
BOARD



ACCESSIBLE CAR
PARK & TOILET

A draft concept plan will be developed which will take into account the community values and priorities in this report as well as cost and maintenance considerations, safety and space available.

The next steps in the preparation of the Draft Concept Plan are outlined below.

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graph LR; A(Consultation Phase 1) --> B(Feedback review); B --> C(Engagement Report Released); C --> D(Draft Concept Plan Design Phase); D --> E(Present Draft Concept Plan to Community for Comment);
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