



STUART RESERVE PLAYSPACE RENEWAL

Initial Community Engagement Summary

April 2026

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Yarra Ranges Council is progressing plans to renew the playspace at Stuart Reserve, Lilydale to better meet the needs of local families and the wider community. The existing playspace is ageing and no longer adequately caters for different age groups, inclusive access, or contemporary play opportunities.

Between 11 February and 11 March, 2026, community engagement was undertaken to understand how the reserve is currently used, what people value about the space, and what improvements they would like to see incorporated into the renewed playspace.

All community feedback received during the initial consultation period is collated in this Engagement Summary. The results will help shape the proposed concept plan for Stuart Reserve Playspace.



HOW WE ENGAGED

-  4 weeks engagement period for Stuart Reserve Playspace Renewal were undertaken (11 February 2026 - 11 March 2026).
-  230 flyers were hand delivered to mail boxes along streets in the immediate vicinity of Stuart Reserve Playspace) to advertise the community consultation period and direct community to the Shaping Yarra Ranges Stuart Reserve Playspace Renewal page.
-  2,467 email recipients received our direct email campaign, generating 70 click throughs to the Shaping Yarra Ranges Stuart Reserve, Lilydale Playspace Renewal page to leave feedback.
-  478 page views of the Shaping Yarra Ranges Stuart Reserve, Lilydale Playspace Renewal page from 335 unique visitors.
-  62 contributions through the Shaping Yarra Ranges Stuart Reserve, Lilydale Playspace Renewal page; 25 contributions through the primary school engagement session. A total of 87 contributions.
-  5 posters seeking feedback through the Shaping Yarra Ranges page were placed at Stuart Reserve Playspace and Victoria Road Primary School.
-  School drop-in engagement session with parents and carers of students at Victoria Road Primary School during school pick-up.
-  Youth engagement session with 15 children in grades one to six at Victoria Road Primary School where students participated in activities to share their thoughts and ideas.
-  Website Visitors came from: direct to Shaping Yarra Ranges page (52%); email campaign (25%); search engines (9%); social media channels (7%); and external websites (7%).

WHAT WE HEARD

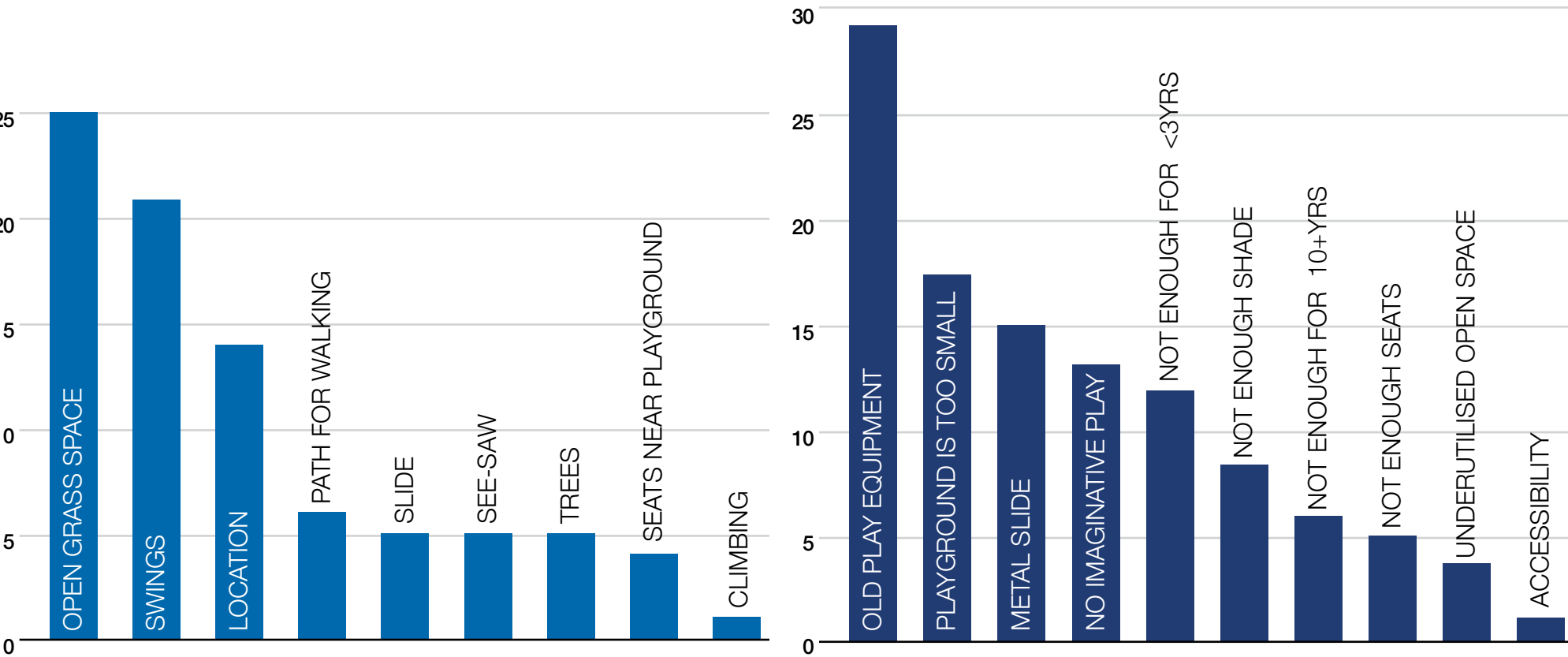
We received 62 contributions for the online survey of the initial Stuart Reserve Playspace Renewal engagement. The majority of the comments are categorised into relevant themes, then tallied and summarised as bar charts below. The school drop-in session results are summarised on the following page.

Feedback received through the online community survey and the school drop-in engagement session was consistent, providing clear and aligned insights into how the Stuart Reserve playspace is currently experienced and what the community would like to see prioritised in its renewal.

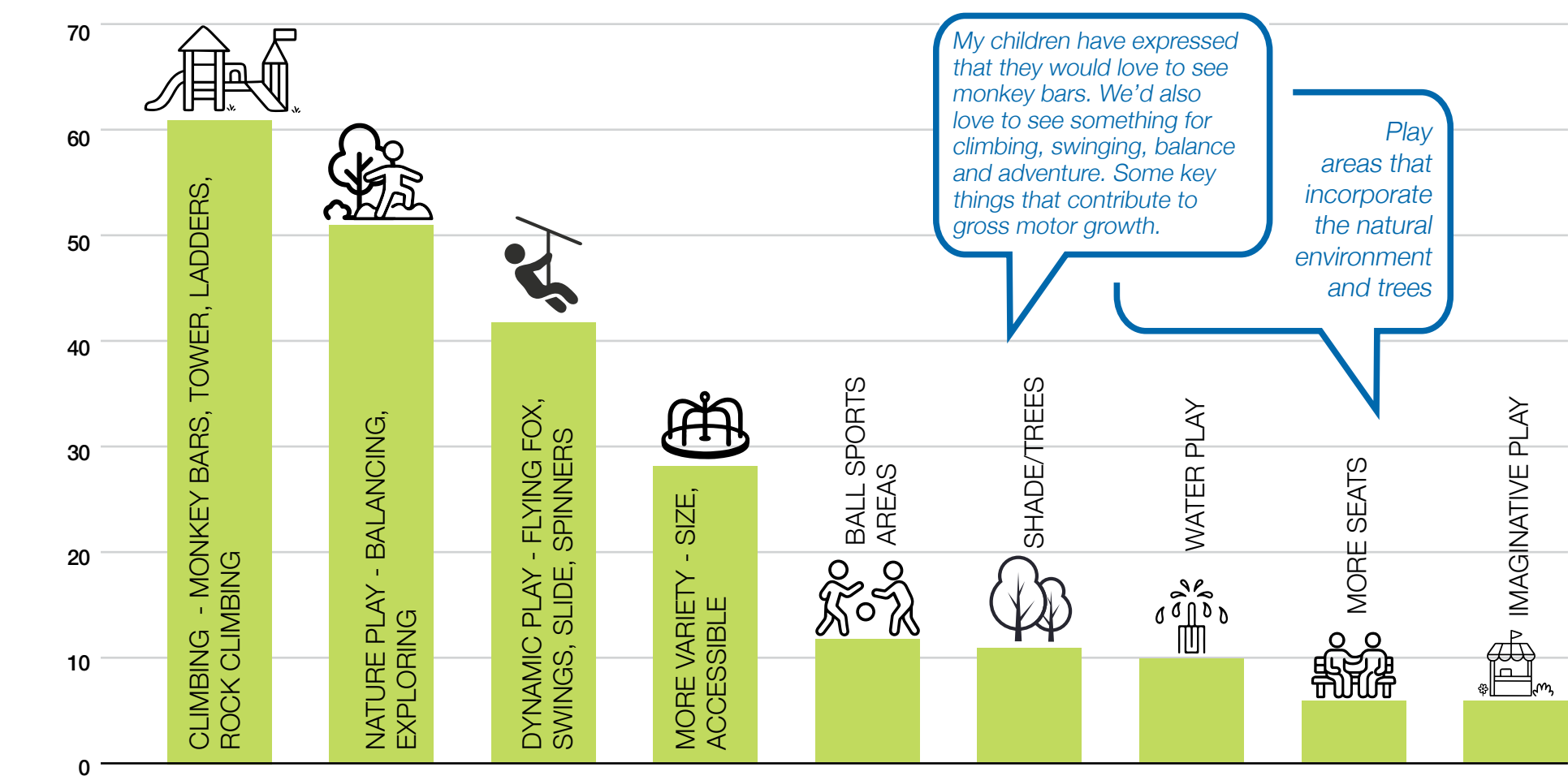
Across all engagement activities, participants emphasised the importance of creating a playspace that is active, inclusive, well-shaded and capable of catering for a broad age range, while making the most of the site's generous size and open character.

CURRENT PLAYSPACE: WHAT DO YOU LIKE?

CURRENT PLAYSPACE: WHAT DO YOU DISLIKE?



FUTURE PLAYSPACE: WHAT PLAY ELEMENTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

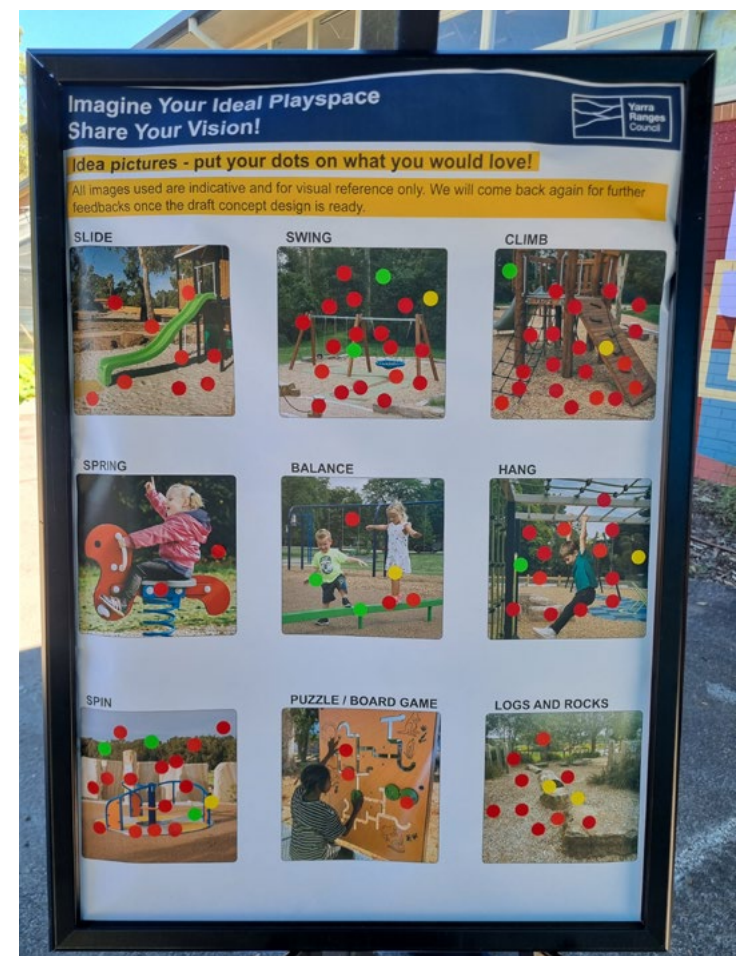
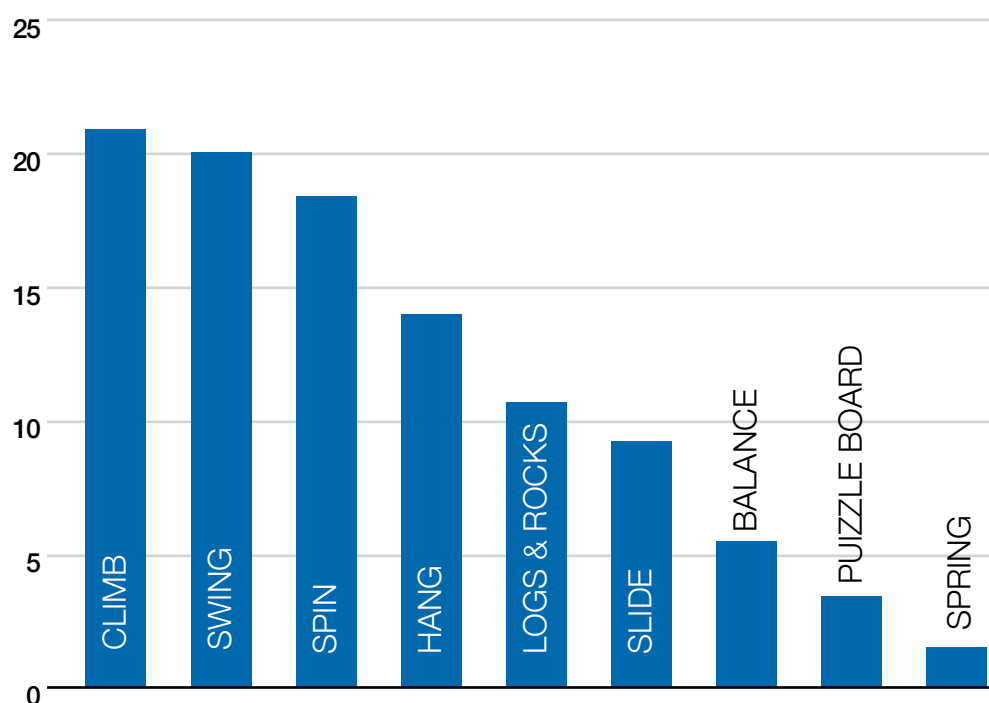


YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

As part of the school drop-in engagement session, children and some of their parents/carers were invited to participate in a structured play equipment voting activity.

A visual board displaying different types of play equipment was presented under the prompt “Imagine Your Ideal Playspace – Share Your Vision!”. Children were asked to place stickers next to the equipment types they would most like to see included in the renewed Stuart Reserve playspace.

STICKER VOTING ACTIVITY: WHAT WOULD YOU LOVE?

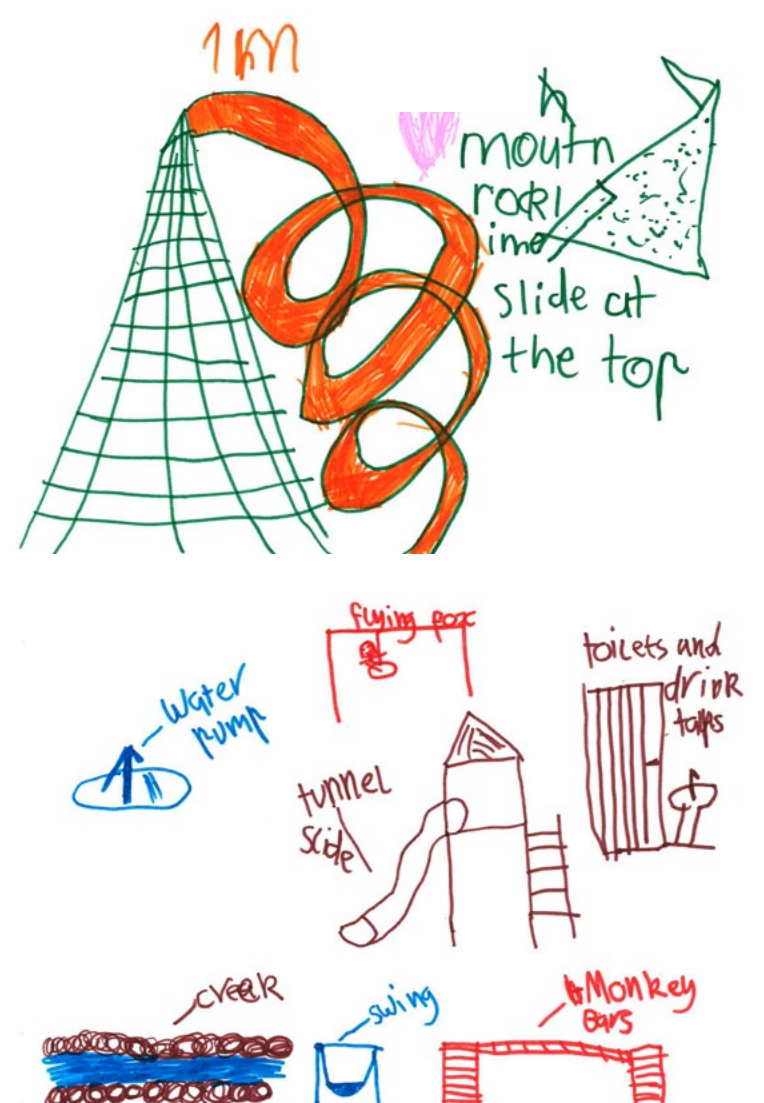
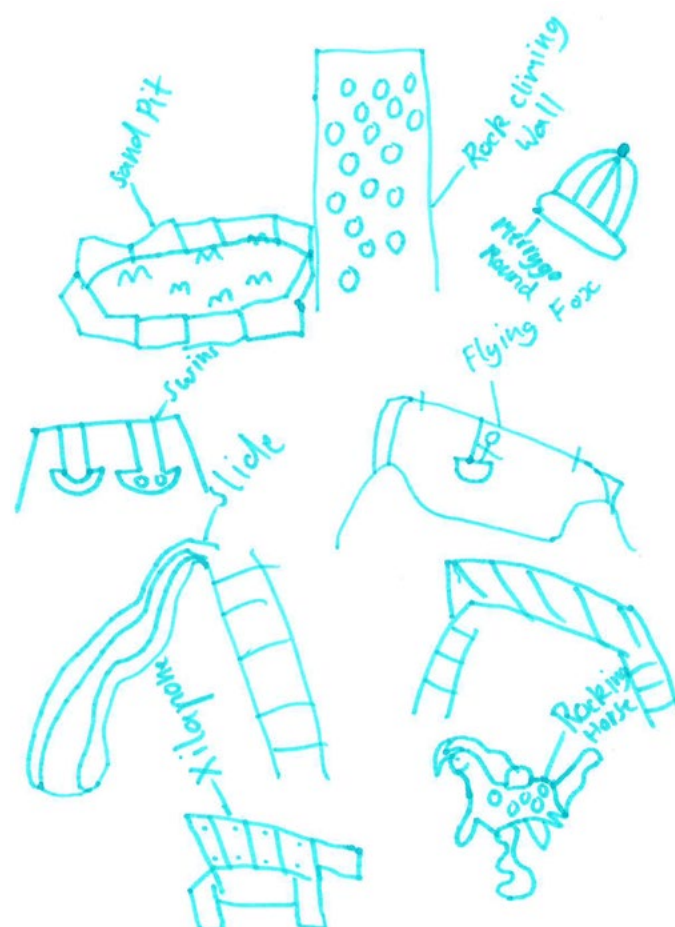


Imagine your new playspace! Sketch out your ideas

A small group of 15 students from grades 1 to 6 were also invited to sketch their ideas for the future playspace.

Children’s drawings and conversations showed a clear desire for play spaces that are adventurous, social and physically engaging, with strong emphasis on fun, movement and variety.

Engaging directly with children ensured that the future playspace reflects the needs, imagination and play preferences of its primary users.

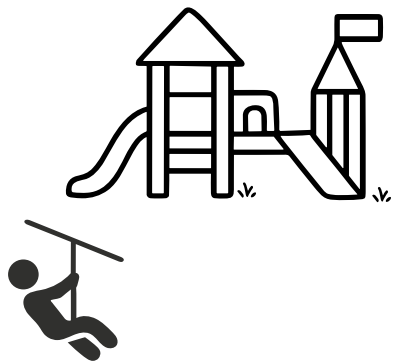


NEXT STEPS

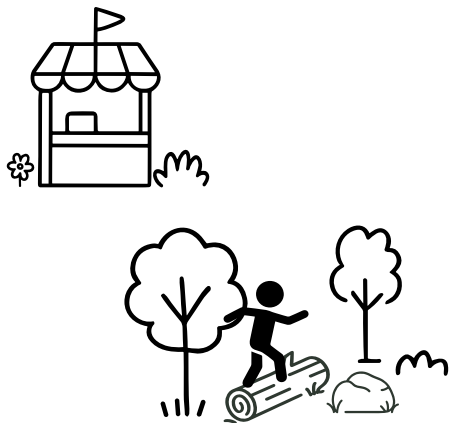
After reviewing the results captured from the initial community engagement, we are designing a concept for the renewal of Stuart Reserve Playspace applying the following key design moves.

KEY DESIGN MOVES

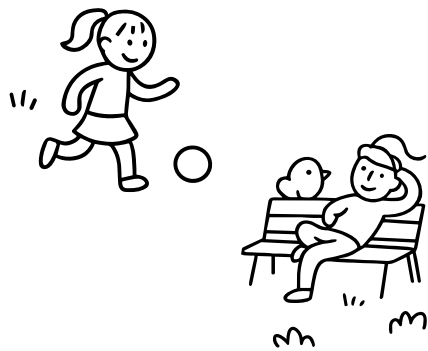
Update play opportunities for more age groups



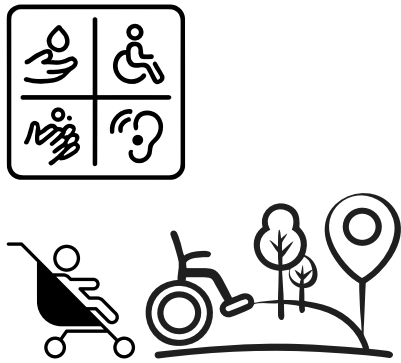
Inspire imagination and exploration



Keep some open grass area for picnics/ ball games



Improve accessibility and inclusivity



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.

