

Manning Park Playground Community Feedback

The central playground at Manning Park in Hamilton Hill has been a well-loved and well-used part of Cockburn, and has been earmarked for an update in the Manning Park Master Plan as part of a Lakeside Recreational Hub. The City engaged local residents and park and playground users in September and October 2024, to understand how they use the space and what they desire for the future space.

How we promoted the consultation

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Comment on Cockburn webpage
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Signs around Manning Park and neighbouring playgrounds
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Pop-ups at Manning Park, Teddy Bears Picnic event, and Froggy's Fun on the Green
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Facebook and Instagram posts
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Flyers to nearby households, childcare centres, and Spearwood Library



Who we heard from



1,405
visits to Comment on Cockburn



39
people provided feedback via our online survey



189
responses via the online quick poll



52
entries to the 'Design your Dream Playground' competition for 5–18-year-olds



7
contributions to our online map, pinpointing examples of favourite playgrounds



208
chats to adults and children at various pop-ups



Key Findings



Playground elements

Across the quick poll, survey, and in person discussions, the key elements that were identified as favourite things to do at a playground were:

- Swings
- Water play
- Flying fox
- Slides
- Monkey bars.



Playground users

Age groups were ranked according to need for specifically designed areas within the playground. The rankings were:

1. Pre-school years (3-5 years)
2. Toddlers (0-2 years)
3. Primary School (6-11 years)
4. High School (12-17 years).



Playground materials

The survey asked people how important it was to them that the new playground be built with **natural products**, with a ranking from 0-100. The average response was 77.8, showing that the use of natural products is of **medium to high importance for people**.



Accessibility needs

Respondents identified key accessibility considerations for the new playground:

- **Accessibility:** Ensure wheelchair, pram, and sensory-friendly access, with equipment suitable for all abilities and ages
- **Age-appropriate zones:** Separate areas for toddlers and older children, each with suitable play options
- **Safety and flooring:** Durable, non-sand flooring for comfort and accessibility, and safe pathways to parking and facilities
- **Natural integration:** Incorporate nature play elements that align with Manning Park's environment, respecting local wildlife
- **Additional amenities:** Include shaded seating, water fountains, bins, dog-friendly zones, and diverse play equipment like a flying fox and musical elements.



Incorporate elements from the wetlands and add nature play/ environmental learnings.



Playground inspiration

At our pop-ups and in the survey, we asked people where their favourite playground is. The most commonly mentioned parks were:

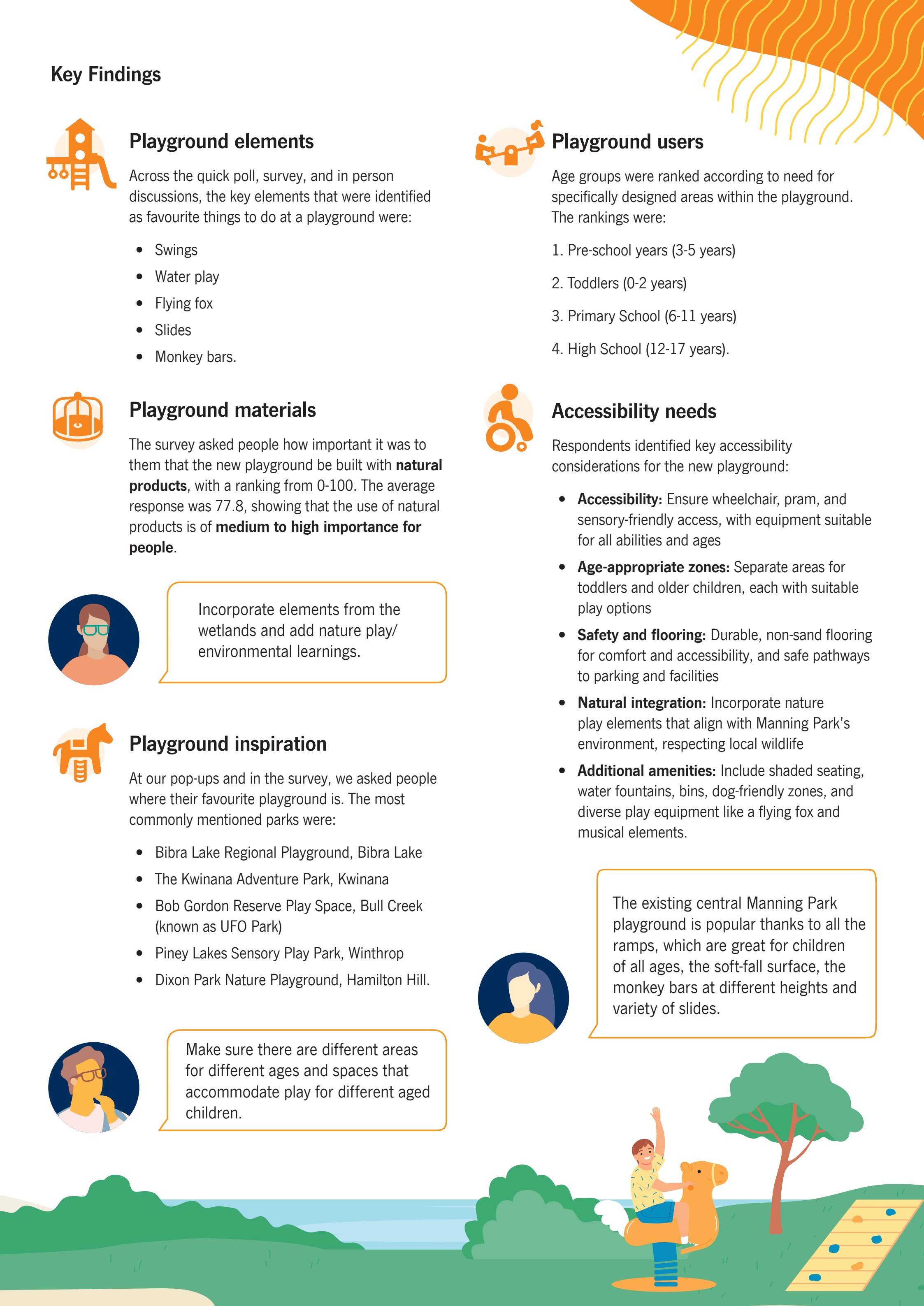
- Bibra Lake Regional Playground, Bibra Lake
- The Kwinana Adventure Park, Kwinana
- Bob Gordon Reserve Play Space, Bull Creek (known as UFO Park)
- Piney Lakes Sensory Play Park, Winthrop
- Dixon Park Nature Playground, Hamilton Hill.



The existing central Manning Park playground is popular thanks to all the ramps, which are great for children of all ages, the soft-fall surface, the monkey bars at different heights and variety of slides.



Make sure there are different areas for different ages and spaces that accommodate play for different aged children.





Local character, identity, culture, and history

Respondents were asked how the new playground can celebrate the unique character and identity of Manning Park, and could include elements of local culture or history. Feedback included:

- Consider a natural, eco-friendly playground
- Honour local wildlife and cultural heritage
- Focus on the region's flora and fauna
- Celebrate Aboriginal culture through references to Dreamtime creatures, culturally significant carvings (potentially climbable for children), and consultation with Indigenous advisors
- Reflect the area's history and significance, both First Nations and settler heritage, potentially connecting to nearby landmarks like the Omeo Wreck
- Provide water play areas and nature-themed equipment
- Explore opportunities for incorporating Nyungar seasons and language, and environmental education about the wetlands
- Incorporate flags or artwork from various cultures key to the area, such as European, Nyungar, Chinese and English influences
- Create a family-friendly space with shaded picnic areas, benches, and a rentable kitchenette for gatherings.



What to avoid

Respondents were asked what should be avoided in the design of the new playground:

- Plastic and artificial materials
- Excessive risk play elements
- Crowded spaces and too many age groups in one area
- Impact to the natural environment and natural beauty of the space
- Lack of shade
- Complicated play elements
- Play elements that could attract anti-social behaviour
- Unsuitable ground materials i.e., woodchips, sand, or artificial matting.



Further information and next steps

The City of Cockburn would like to thank the community for their involvement in the community consultation process for Manning Park Playground. Community feedback will be taken into consideration in the design and development of a concept plan for the new Manning Park Playground. Next steps, as well as any outcomes or decisions about this project will be published on the Comment on Cockburn website when available.

For further information, please contact the City of Cockburn **08 9411 3444** or email comment@cockburn.wa.gov.au