



Nature Play Area: Tapper Park, Atwell

Community Engagement Summary
December 2021 – April 2022

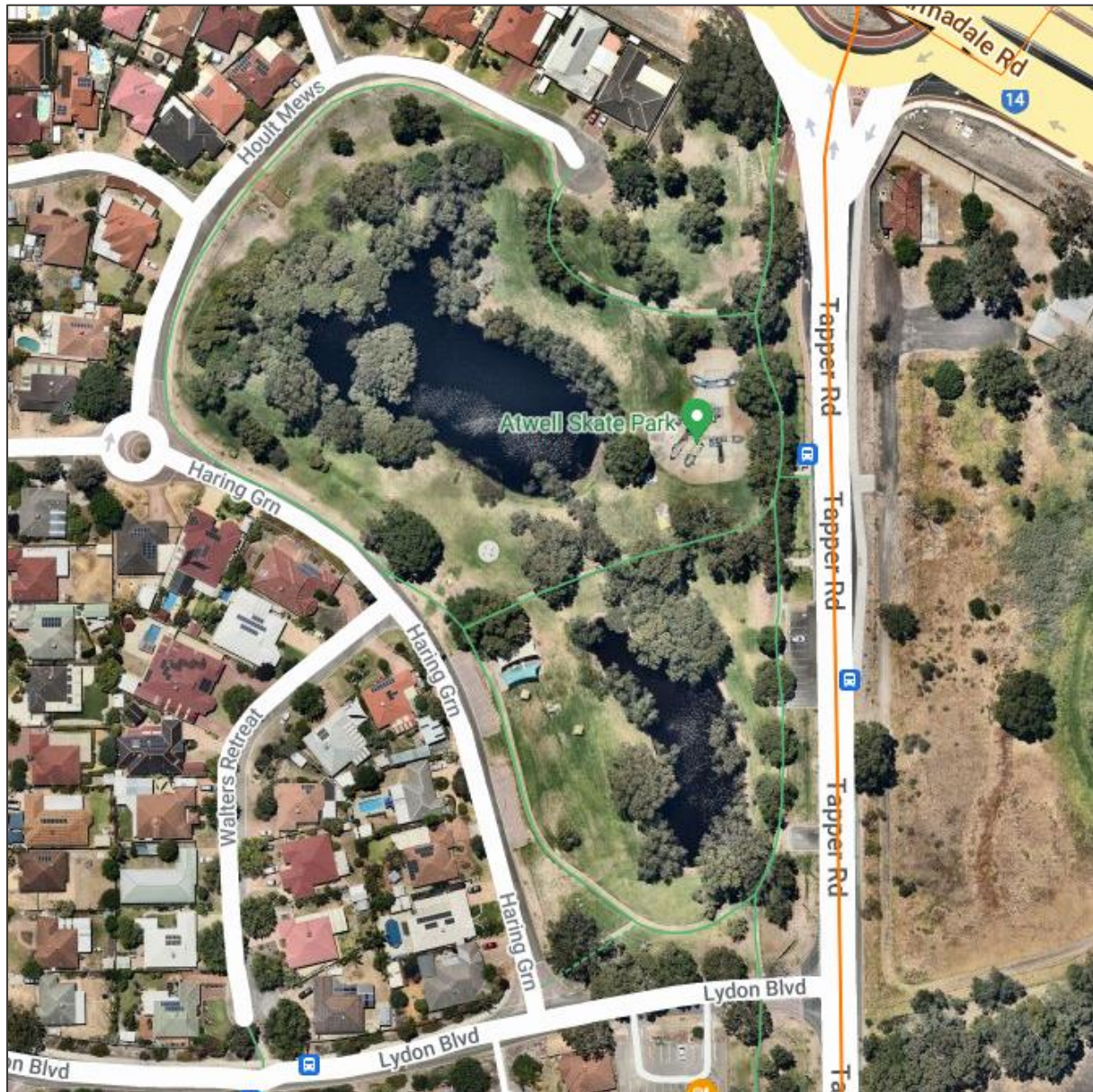
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1. Overview

The City of Cockburn has received \$530,000 in State Government election funding to improve 13 local parks. A budget of \$50,000 was allocated to creating a small nature play area in Tapper Park.

Tapper Park is located between Tapper Road, Haring Green and Hoult Mews in Atwell. Under the City's [Public Open Space Strategy](#), Tapper Park is classified as a neighbourhood open space.



Above: Aerial image of Tapper Park.

Neighbourhood open spaces serve as places of leisure and social interaction for the community, offering a variety of recreational activities and facilities. These open

spaces frame community facilities and can function as community spaces, such as town squares.

Developments within neighbourhood open spaces range from primary to advanced levels of embellishment. Basic embellishments, such as bins and playground equipment, ensure the park is functional and provides a range of recreational infrastructure for the community. Advanced embellishments, such as skate parks and drinking fountains, support an increase in social interaction and recreational pursuits based on a park's location within a suburb.

Existing embellishments at Tapper Park include:

- Barbeque area and picnic settings,
- Drinking fountain,
- Fitness equipment,
- Skateboard track,
- Half-basketball court, and
- Children's (six to 12 years) playground.

To inform planning for the new nature play area, the City engaged with local residents. Feedback was considered alongside project and site constraints to guide decision-making on:

- Design priorities,
- Equipment selection, and
- Playground location.

This document provides a summary of the engagement process and feedback received.

2. Engagement Summary

The engagement process was undertaken in two phases:

- Phase 1: Early visioning (December 2021)
- Phase 2: Concept design development (March 2022)

Phase 1: Early visioning

The City adopted a 'collaborative' engagement approach under the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Participation, by partnering with the Atwell Community Association (ACA) to seek advice and potential solutions for the nature play area.

The ACA held discussions with local residents at schools, playgrounds and their Annual General Meeting. Key findings include:

- Playground fencing is a top priority for parents of young children.
- The playground should be targeted to the needs of younger children (amenities of this kind are lacking in Atwell).
- Parents prefer play equipment to be co-located with other park amenities such as drinking fountains, barbeques and picnic settings.

Phase 2: Concept design development

Findings from phase 1 were used to inform the design parameters - the play area will be fenced and designed for younger children.

To guide further design considerations, input from nearby residents and the broader community was invited on:

- Where to position the play area, and
- Which equipment, within the available budget, to include.

The City communicated the project in the following ways:

- Signage at the park,
- E-newsletter to Comment on Cockburn subscribers who live in Atwell,
- E-newsletter shared by the ACA, and
- Letters dropped to houses within approximately 100-150m of the park.

To mitigate the spread of Covid-19, feedback was invited through the following channels:

- Comment on Cockburn website:
 - Mapping tool,
 - Community guest book, and
 - Feedback form.
- Hard copy feedback form (distributed with the letterbox drop and available on request),
- Email, and

- Phone.

Key findings include:

- The Comment on Cockburn page was visited 372 times.
- The City received feedback from 105 people (103 feedback forms, one email and one phone call).
- The preferred primary play features for the play area are:
 - Mini boat, and
 - Infant swing.
- The preferred secondary play features for the play area are:
 - Interactive panel,
 - Balance log and rope, and
 - Stepping logs.
- The majority of respondents said they would use the new nature play area.
- Just under half of respondents identified a preferred play area location.
- The majority of respondents who did identify a preferred play area location chose the western side of the park, nearby the existing amenities (barbeque, picnic settings, parking and fitness equipment).
- Key reasons why respondents prefer the western side of the park include:
 - It is away from the busy road (Tapper Road) and skate park,
 - There are better amenities for parking and family gatherings,
 - It is near the existing playground.

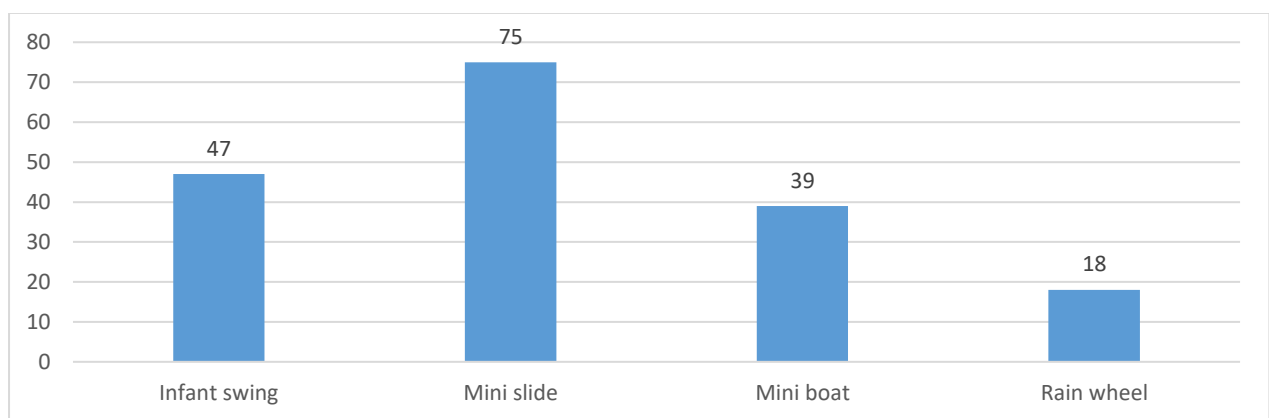
3. Results

Phase 2: Concept design development

Please note, in the interest of transparency responses are as received and therefore spelling and grammatical errors may exist.

Feedback Form

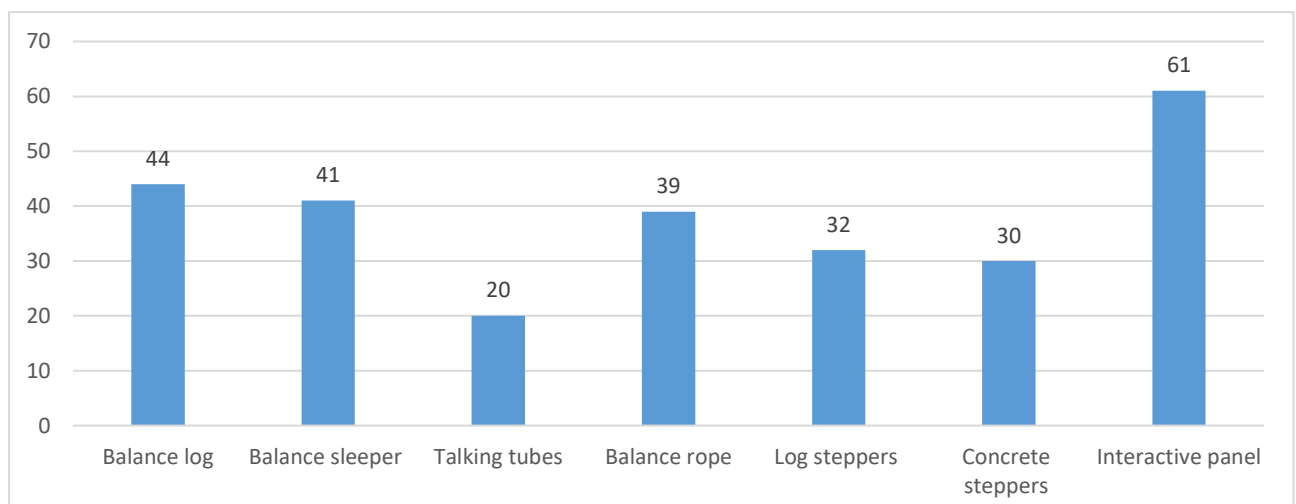
Which TWO options do you like best for the main features of the nature play area?



Other comments:

- Water play
- Obstacle course
- Zipline/Flying Fox
- Castle
- Basket swing

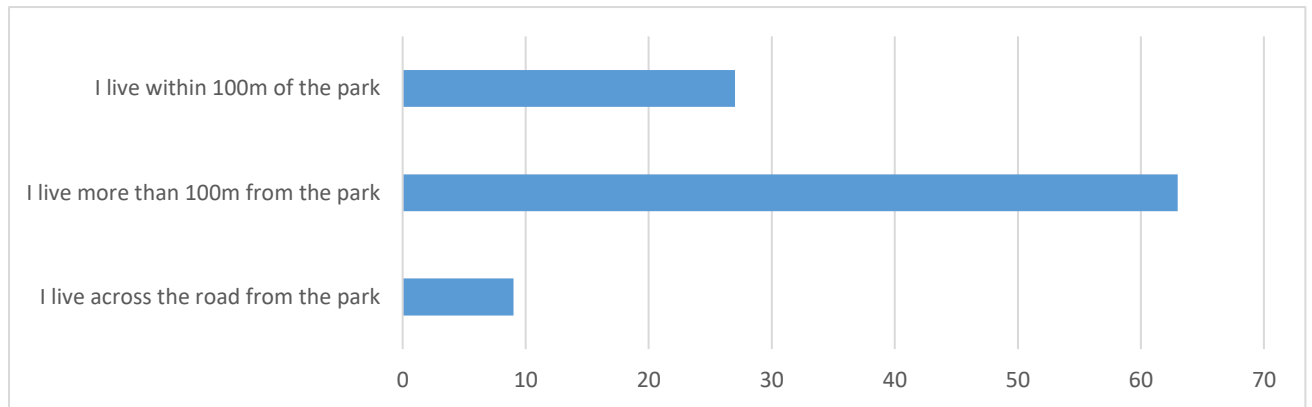
Which THREE options do you like best for the remaining space in the nature play area?



Other comments:

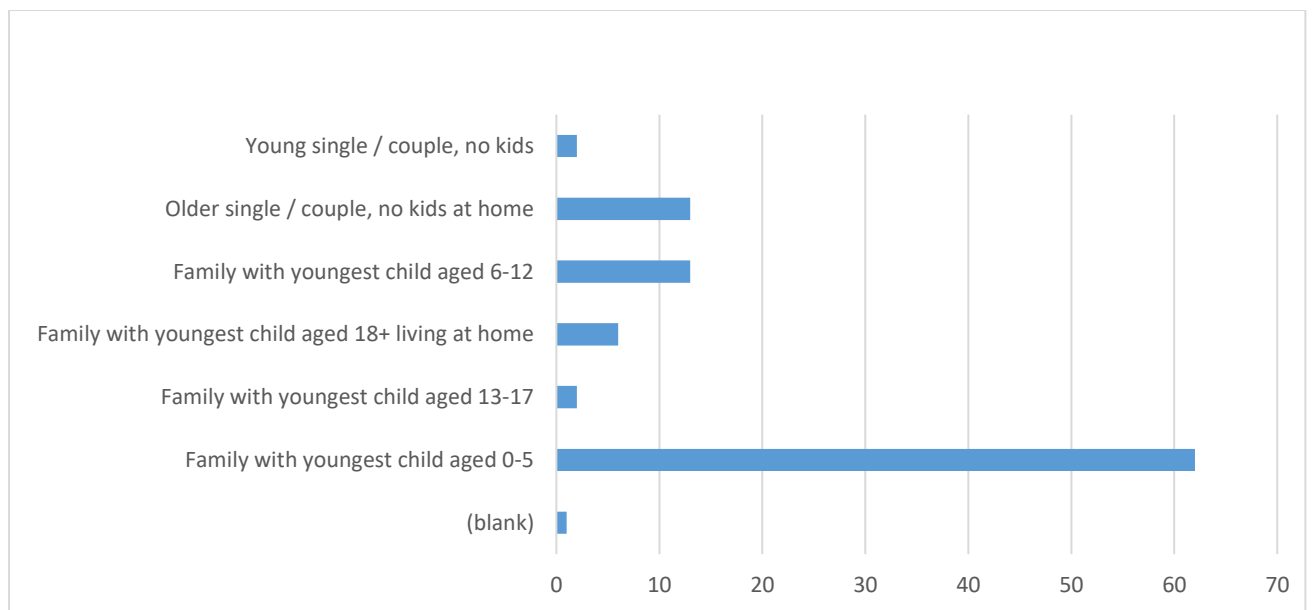
- More sensory play
- Musical equipment
- CCTV

Where do you live in relation to Tapper Park?

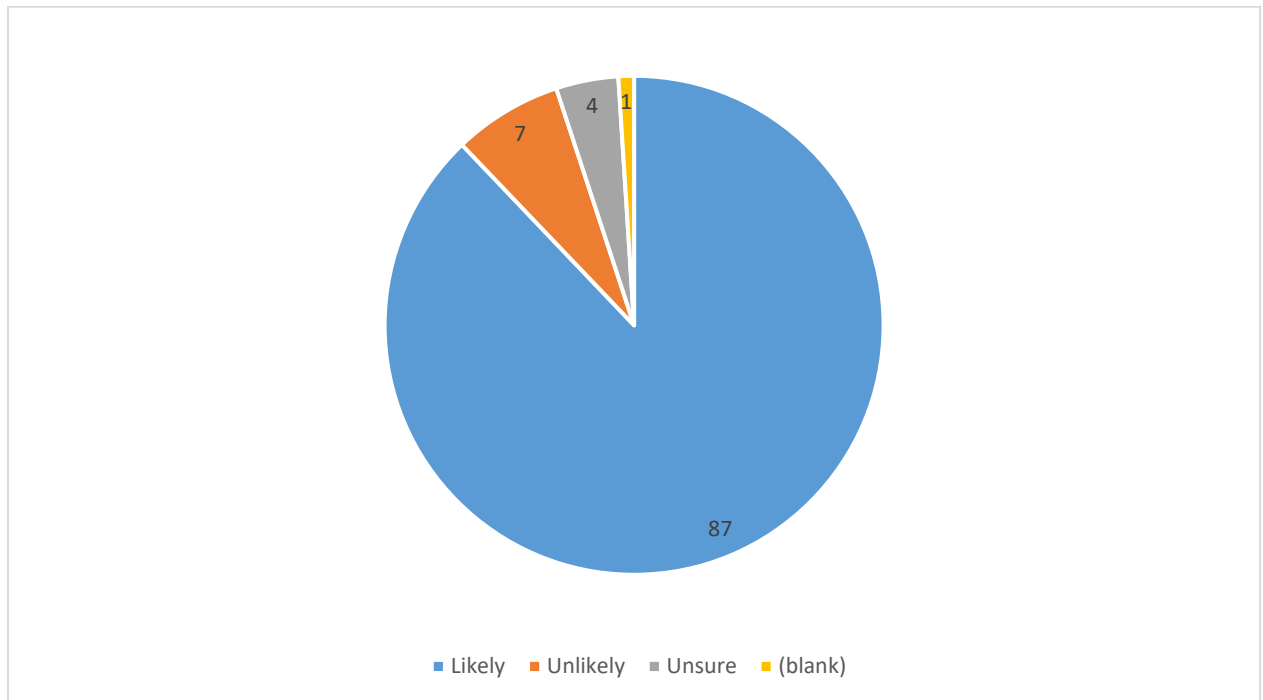


Note: All respondents live in Atwell.

Which best describes your household?



Are you (or your family) likely or unlikely to use the new nature play elements?



Mapping Tool

Where in Tapper Park should the new nature play area go?



Above: Preferred locations and number of responses received for each. Please note locations within close proximity have been clustered together and allocated a colour for ease of future reference.

Please explain why:

Green location <i>(refer to colour code on above map)</i>
Adjacent to the current children's playground. Away from busy Tapper Road. There is parking and other recreation facilities adjacent. *Please no toilets.
Where the existing park is. Why: Shade and parking
Next to existing playground Why: next to existing, easy for parental supervision [illegible] Close to car park Ample room for future expansion Need enough to test kids abilities
Next to current play ground or exercise area. Why: close to current play ground, - easy for parent to look after - close to car park - less traffic than other side
Even if fenced, preferably away from the busy tapper road side.
Most open spot away from traffic
Away from Tapper Rd would be my preference
Here!
Prefer away from Tapper Rd side
Keep playgrounds that suit younger children together - away from the skate park which can attract an older age range.
With toilet facilities and drink fountains please
Next to older kids playground and larger parking area
away from tapper road and the skate park
away from the skate park and older kids who use that area
Better and safer parking here than on tapper Rd
Better parking and family facilities
not near the TAPPER RD side
Much safer parking on this side of the park, and away from the old gumtrees that are always dropping large branches when it gets windy
More parking on this side and much safer/less traffic than on Tapper Rd. Great area for hosting bbqs and picnics for children of all age groups
Great idea for Atwell, and the fenced option would be safe for our little ones. Like the idea of close car bays too.
Here looks good. Maybe a swing like the round circle ones where you can fit 1-3 small kids on it. Bench seating close by for Parents?
We love this area. Quieter street for parking and happy to have a safe fenced playground for our kids to play on age appropriate equipment. Asked about ideas for this playground by a member of the community association last year and pleased to see it's finally happening.
How awesome would this have been as kids
I would love to have something like this for my when my kids grow up
It's about time something fresh came to this park. Growing up nothing has really changed. Great idea!
Great location with some cool wildlife around. Would be great fun for kids

A flying fox would be awesome!
Away from the skate and scooter area
More parking and and not too close to the skatepark please
Una gran manera de entretener a nuestros hijos!
This position will extend the range of play items available, and is close to current parking bays.
In this area would be perfect
Next to the other playground so my older children can play alongside my younger children. More parking on this side.
What a great idea! Thanks to all those who have made this happen. Can't wait to take my young grandbabies to use the new nature play.
Yellow Location (refer to colour code on above map)
Next to the exercise equipment. Why: Because the area near the barbeque is great for kicking a footy or playing games. Older children and parents can go on the exercise equipment whilst the younger children play.
On the other side of the path from the current playground to take advantage of shade trees.
this looks good
Blue Location (refer to colour code on above map)
Near the skate Park, to able to watch children playing on both
Either side of the skate park where there is shady trees Why: So parents with older kids can use the skatepark + the nature play area. Please NO sand!! Softfall or woodchips please. [Entered by City of Cockburn Admin on behalf of a written submission]
amazing spot for it
Near the skate Park, to able to watch children playing on both
☺
Here!
Orange location (refer to colour code on above map)
In this quiet section of the park that can be secluded and gated. Why: Does not affect the other users of the park (dog walkers, skate board users, picnic people + sandy play area. Shady, away from main drag of car park and easy to fence.

Guest Book

Young children need toilet and changing facilities. If you aren't going to add them to the area you should move it to the community centre where facilities already exist.

This will be a great addition to the park, making it a 'hub' for local families as there are activities for every age group. Love that there is plenty of parking available on Haring Green because Tapper Rd is too busy to be getting toddlers in and out of cars. Would be great to have it near the BBQ area, so handy for family gatherings and birthday parties. Wouldn't like it near the skate park and the older kids, don't need to be hearing bad language or being around smokers.

I understand this is for younger children however many families have younger and older children... it would be good to have areas for both age groups. Is there a large enough area to incorporate a BMX track, Flying Fox and Obstacle Course for the older kids in a non-fenced location close by? The younger kids could then still have the fenced nature play area. A free build cubby area would be good for both age groups.

We don't agree with this location, there was no consultation with local residents who use the current park / facilities, and believe there is multiple better locations for this park in Atwell. The consultation was done with a targeted market, how can this be conclusive?

A fenced playground is such a great idea, especially for parents like us who have toddlers who like to run! Not a fan of it being next to the skate ramp as the language often heard there is not for small ones ears.

Wish a fenced playground had been put here years ago. It will be a great area for families of all ages.

Toilets are needed in this park if it's to be expanded

But also agree with other comments that this location is not ideal for toddlers / young children with the parking on tapper road being a danger to getting young children in and out of the car, and a lot of teenagers at the skate park swearing. There are quite a few other sad looking parks in Atwell and I would rather one of the others be replaced (with toilets)

There are no other fenced playgrounds catering for toddlers anywhere near here. I was asked about this by the residents group and I'm so pleased they listened to my opinion. There will be less stress for Mums knowing their children are in a secured area and not going to run to the pond when their back is turned while dealing with a sibling.

This is not the right park for this structure and it's sad that it has made it this far. ...it says that all involved thus far are not fully considerate of the dangers of a deep lake and slippery banks for 1-6 year old children renowned for suddenly being where they are not supposed to be, inviting a tragedy that will have dire impact on this Community. Wake up all of you it's not worth the risk, decline the funding or have it reassigned to a safer location.

please organize shading and make sure there is adequate signing to not feed the birds and bins around if this goes ahead. the most popular proposed location is a common area for locals to also pay with their dogs, therefore cutting off a different loved activity, due to this I would suggest near the skate park or the other side of

the park with the shading trees. however, I would also suggest more sitting room for parents and room for prams in between if this was the case. I live directly across the road from the park with our dog.

What a wonderful addition this will be to the area. We often use the BBQ at weekends with our grandchildren but always worry they will run to the water. A fenced playground will be ideal for those with little ones

This area would also be great for a fenced dog park. atwell really needs a fenced dog park. I'm sure lots of residents would agree. don't put it near the gumtrees that are well known for losing branches as that would be dangerous

Do not like the idea of a fenced area. The proposed area of the nature play equipment has not specified. The limited useful open areas need to be maintained for all users and age groups who frequent the park.

Whilst I am all in favour of a fenced nature play area..... Tapper Park is NOT the best location for it.

Haring Green is deceptively busy. Large trucks have been known to use it as means to turn around. Some other vehicles use it as a race track. At times, without a nature play area, the park is very busy. Getting children in and out of cars at the park can at times be hazardous. Parking would also be a huge issue. Yes, there is parking on Haring Green..... but not much, which would possibly mean people parking on the verge. Parking at the Tapper Road side would possibly not be used unless the equipment was on that side. There are NO ablution facilities at the park in it's current state. Which for a very long time has concerned me, especially after the addition of the Skate Park..... where do people go to the toilet..... a necessary bodily function for everyone..... especially children under 6 years of age!!

A fenced nature play area would be better directed to another of the wonderful parks we have within the Atwell & Aubin Grove areas.

I agree no fenced in areas unless it was a protection fence along part of Tapper Road. I'd like to utilise some water play if possible so children could catch tadpoles (especially boys) with stepping stones where the lakes/ponds are. Playgrounds such as what Atwell Primary School and Piara Waters Primary School has would be great. I hope you can keep the current playground as it is great, and are adding to it.

Please don't put a playground designed for our younger children under the gumtrees at this park. So often I drive past here and see huge branches lying around by the skatepark. I would love to have it near the BBQ area as there must be about 20 car parks on that side. I would prefer it not to be near the skate park or basketball court because it's mostly older kids there. Being along the current playground makes much more sense

A fenced playground is a dream for parents of toddlers. This is a great idea. Hopefully not near the skatepark or like others have mentioned, under gum trees for safety reasons. A toilet would be great as well. We would use this playground several times a week as my older child can play on the big kids playground and my toddlers in the fenced area. I find it hard to have 2 toddlers on the bigger playground as the tend to run in opposite directions and it's not designed for their age group

Really excited about this project! Atwell desperately needs a play space for our younger children that allows them to safely explore in a unique space (not the standard play equipment). Thank you!

This is the perfect location for this idea. Atwell doesnt have a fenced playground in it and as much as its been discussed over years nothing ever eventuated from it. Glad to see that the fenced option has been considered as the lake is very close by, who knows how deep it is and the steep hill im sure over the years has had many kids roll down it. haha

Cant wait to see it up and running for the kids of Atwell

Looking forward to seeing this playground take shape. Will be a great asset to the area

Perfect place to take my 2 year old grandson. I wish more playgrounds were fenced. This is a lovely area for families of all generations

asked about this new playground when I was at the community centre with my grandchildren.much easier for an oldie like myself to have them in a safe fenced area.makes my fun time with them less worrisome as I know they can't run off

A toilet at this park would be awesome

Email Submissions

[REDACTED] . I would like to remain anonymous.

In addition no where does it say the size of the park or why a non fenced location hadnt been proposed. Poor kids having to stay fenced in because someone has chosen to put the park for small children near a lake as opposed to the many parks that dont have water. No one has consulted local residents who live by the park either. I play footy here with my girls and husband frequently. We need this space so much. We used the play park from when my girls were 2 til about 12 years old. It's incorrect to say the current play area doesnt cater for this age group. Never in 14 years have we had an issue with the water. Probably because we interact with our children and dont sit on our phones. Im just desperate not to lose the open area. Makes me so upset no one thought of us who actually need and use this space currently. No one around this area asked for this. Looking at the Comment on Cockburn it appears to be a done deal. Feel heart broken. I thought community consultation was supposed to happen before hand??

Phone Submissions

Safety - The lake gets up to 4m deep in winter. The addition of a new nature play area will bring a higher population of young children to the park. The play area's proximity to the lake may lead to higher risk of drowning.

There is a blind spot close to where the original positioning of the play area. Caller says they have seen near misses. Caller feels a higher influx of young children may result in a serious traffic accident and suggests traffic calming measures.

Impact of other park users – Caller feels the election funding consultation does not consider their needs. An additional play area for children may detract from the space and disrupt other park users and how they use the space.

Allowing space for distancing – Caller feels the early conceptual designs he saw on social media were too condensed (both play areas were too close). Caller suggests there should be space between the two areas so that people can sit on the grass inbetween.

4. Next Steps

Thank you to everyone who shared their views on the new nature play area for Tapper Park.

Feedback will be reviewed by the project team. Key findings will be considered alongside project and site constraints to develop the final design for the nature play area.

Project outcomes will be available on the Comment on Cockburn website in due course.

The City expects construction of the nature play area to commence around mid-2022, weather and site conditions permitting. For further information please contact the City of Cockburn on 08 9411 3444 or customer@cockburn.wa.gov.au.

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