



City of Parramatta
Phase 1 Engagement Outcomes Report
Shannons Paddock Landscape Masterplan

March 2022

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All care has been taken to prepare this report for the City of Parramatta Council

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Photography by Being Agency.

Contents

Acknowledgement

Executive Summary

Who participated in the consultation?

What did we hear?

About the project

Vision 1 – A fun place with lots of different activities and play equipment

Vision 2 – A place for adventure and discovery through the natural landscapes

Vision 3 – A community gathering place for picnics and events

Community vision for play space

Where to from here

Appendix A – Online survey analysis

Appendix B – Email Submissions

Acknowledgement

This document acknowledges that Parramatta is on Aboriginal land where the traditional custodians have been caring for Country for more than 70,000 years.

We pay our respects to the traditional owners of this land, their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the continued rich culture and heritage of all Aboriginal people on this land.

“...recognition of the past to help everyone understand (the park’s) passage through time to the current day, starting with the Dharug inhabitants. Recognise their language and the way they would have utilised the space.”

– Survey participant

Executive Summary

The City of Parramatta is drafting a landscape masterplan for Shannon’s Paddock, a project funded under Council’s Better Neighbourhoods Program (BNP). The first round of consultation consisted of an online survey, which was hosted on Council’s community engagement platform, Participate Parramatta, and promoted via Council’s social media platforms, as well as onsite posters around the park during February 2022.

Overall, community members saw a need for the proposed park upgrades, and participants expressed opinions and ideas that were passionate, creative, and largely positive. It was evident that community members were eager for improvements made to their local park and the expansion of the children’s play space to accommodate for the growing community, and the increased foot traffic through the space. These ideas along with the community vision for the space have been captured in this Engagement Outcomes Report

Who participated in the consultation?



985 total site visits



51 people participated in the online survey

84% live within 10 minute’s walk of the park



774 unique users



Participants **ranged in age from 15-74 years of age**



97% were local residents
90% living in 2145, mostly Westmead
10% in neighbouring suburbs



54% female



36% male

10% preferred not to answer

N.B. Demographic statistics relating to online survey

What did we hear?

Top three visions for Shannons Paddock were



A fun place with lots of different activities and play equipment



A place for adventure and discovery through the natural landscapes



A community gathering place for picnics and events

Top priorities were:

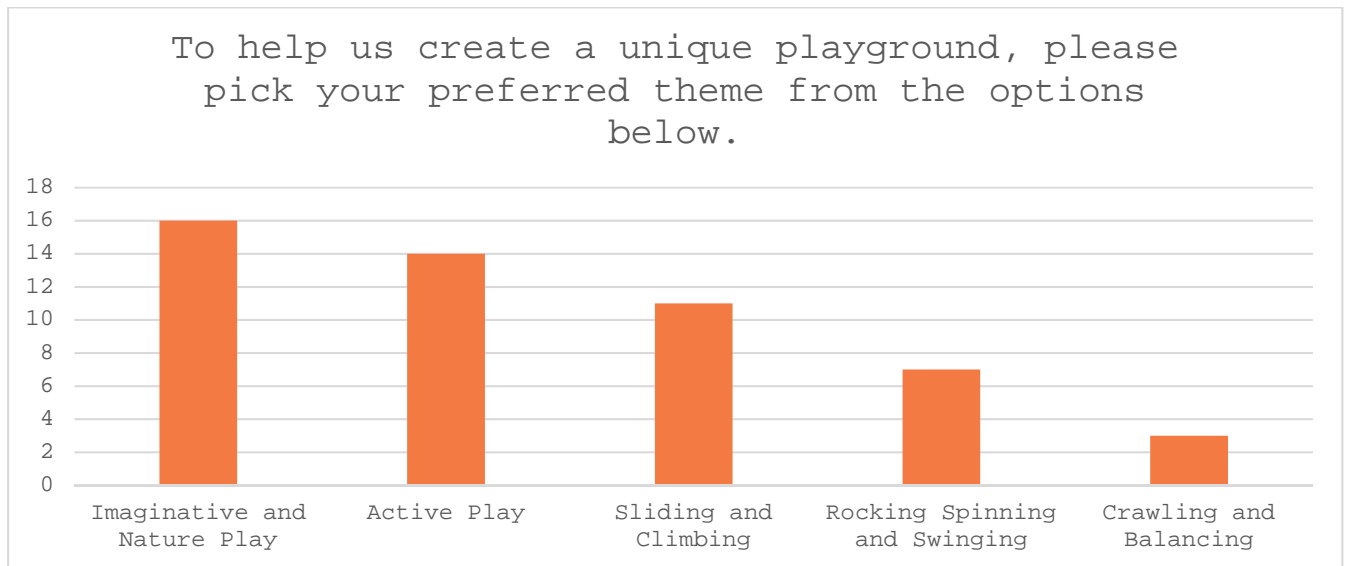
- Building a healthier, happier, more creative community through opportunities to play and get active.
- Revitalising the natural landscape to deliver a cool and open space for relaxation, celebration, and education.
- Strengthening the community's connection to place and landscape by bettering accessibility through and into the park.
- Facilitating a park that is welcoming and safe for all members of the community at all hours of the day.

Common ideas for improving Shannons Paddock:

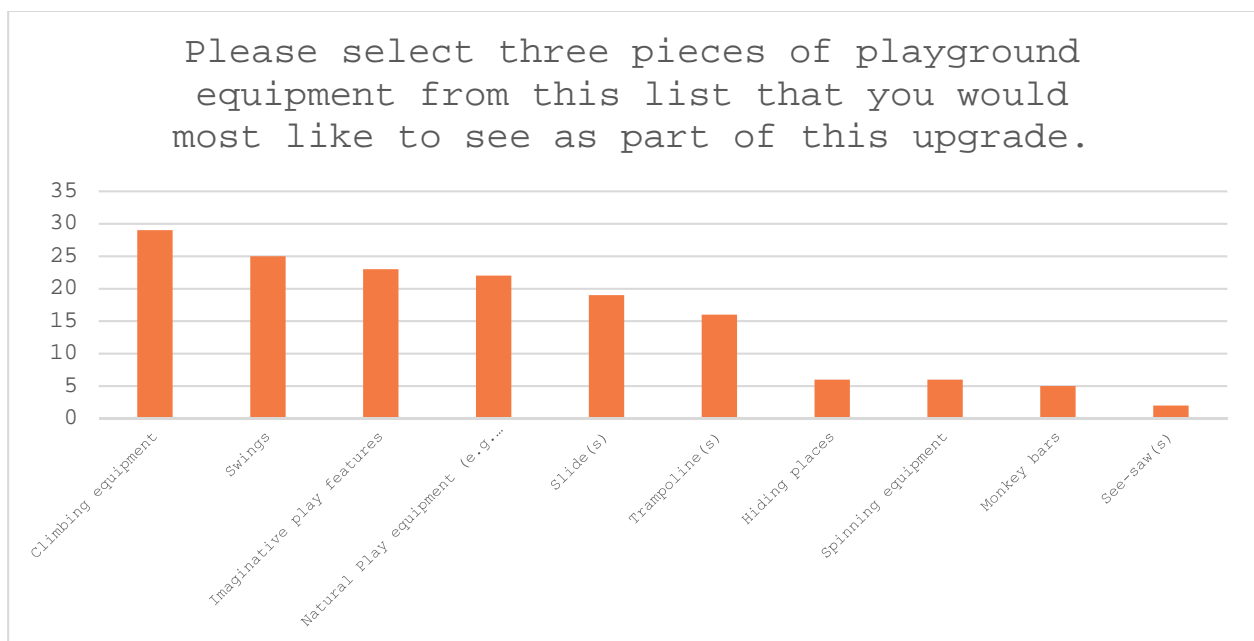
- Upgrading the children's play space to encourage imaginative play and exploration
- Increasing the tree planting and landscaping to create more shaded areas
- Improving the park amenities for social and family gatherings e.g. tables, shade, bins
- Connected cycleways, bike trails and walking trails
- Additional park lighting

The community's vision for the play space

This phase of engagement captured a community vision for a unique playground that has imagination and nature play at the core of its design. Alongside encouraging active play, participants wanted to see a playground that incorporates sliding and climbing in its design, including climbing equipment and swings, alongside natural play elements.



When asked what pieces of play equipment they would like to see within the final play space, participants nominated a combination of classic play equipment interweaved with elements of nature play that encouraged children to use their imagination:



These play features were further emphasised by the findings from the engagement that was undertaken with local children at two local pre-schools, who also nominated a flying-fox or zipline as an additional feature for consideration.

Project risks and considerations:

As an existing and already well-utilised space for the community being used on a daily basis, the upgrades being made to the park need to address the community's concerns. The following themes were identified during Phase 1 of community engagement and should be addressed by the City of Parramatta Council, to ensure continued support for the Shannons Paddock Landscape Masterplan.

Safety

Shannons Paddock acts as a popular shortcut and walking track for much of the community, but many participants expressed that the park felt unapproachable at times, especially at night. Participants recognised that increased lighting throughout the park would make the space more accessible later in the afternoon, and feel safer, especially for families in the community.

- "During the day, I walk through the park to get home quicker and at night I walk past it as it's just too dark to walk" – Survey Participant

Another concern raised was that many participants reported feeling unsafe as a result of anti-social activity that takes place in the park. Along with increased lighting for visibility, security measures like CCTV cameras were suggested by participants.

- "It needs much better lighting and security at night to stop unauthorised use that disrespects the time, money, effort, and dignity of the community who have made the park a happy place for families and children." – Survey Participant

Concentrated user hours

About 42% of participants would visit the park from 4pm onwards, and feedback was that at peak times the playground, especially, feels congested. Participants want to see additional park seating as well as an expansion of the playground, being mindful that the shade needs to also expand in relation to any upgrades made.

Furthermore, it can be inferred from the data that this peak time period also coincides with users commuting through the park, highlighting a need for increased capacity on the walk-ways and paths through the park.

- "Keep it spacious so that people aren't on top of each other, particularly in the playground i.e. spread out the equipment and activities." – Survey Participant

About the project

Background

City of Parramatta Council is delivering a landscape masterplan for Shannons Paddock. With Shannons Paddock sitting adjacent the Westmead Innovation District and surrounded by dense suburbia, the landscape masterplan will identify a strategic approach to guide future park upgrades which respond to the diverse and rapidly evolving community.

Development of the landscape masterplan will be funded under City of Parramatta Council's Better Neighbourhood Program (BNP). BNP funding has also been allocated for the first phase of masterplan implementation and will include the construction of a new 'district' level playground, as identified in Council's Community Infrastructure Strategy.



Purpose of engagement

The purpose of the first round of engagement was to better understand the community's aspirations for Shannons Paddock. It focused on gaining an understanding of community values, as well as gaining insight into how the community wants to use the space, the facilities needed in the park to support their desired activities, and the general community sentiment around the project. The engagement was motivated by a desire to create a high-quality open space that is aligned with the needs and characteristics of the local community.

In total, 51 people were engaged through the online survey, while an additional 8 written submissions were received from residents or local organisations. The design of the survey questions and engagement approach explored community values and asked for the community's big ideas, led by the following call to action: *"Help us shape the vision for the future of Shannons Paddock!"*

This report consolidates the feedback received by the community for consideration by the design team in preparing preliminary concepts for further engagement.

What we heard

Introduction

The community insights captured through the Phase 1 engagement, highlighted the current importance of Shannons Paddock as a play space, gathering point, thoroughfare, and key transport linkage for the local community. However, participants also recognised and highlighted that the evolving and growing local community are placing new priorities and demands upon this space, which the Masterplan is well suited to respond to.







The natural beauty and importance of retaining this green, open space were emphasised by all engagement participants who wished to see this element of the park leveraged to provide opportunities for play, activity, transport, and gathering that are grounded in the respite provided by the natural environment.

The word cloud, created using the most common phrases on the survey convey the community's desired features and visions for the upgrade to Shannons Paddock.



Visions:

The community feedback can be grouped under three key priority themes –

	<p>A fun place with lots of different activities and play equipment</p> 	<p>Building a healthier, happier, more creative community through opportunities to play and get active.</p>
	<p>A place for adventure and discovery through the natural landscapes</p> 	<p>Leveraging the natural beauty of the site as a foundation to deliver an open space for play, relaxation, celebration, and education.</p>
	<p>A community gathering place for picnics and events</p> 	<p>Strengthening a sense of community by providing the facilities needed for people to celebrate and entertain together</p>

The following pages further outline each of these visions, along with the challenges and opportunities identified by the community, and the design implications of the engagement findings.

Vision 1 – A fun place with lots of different activities and play equipment

“Colour, imaginative, and inspiring play equipment to encourage role playing games and exploration.”

– Survey participant

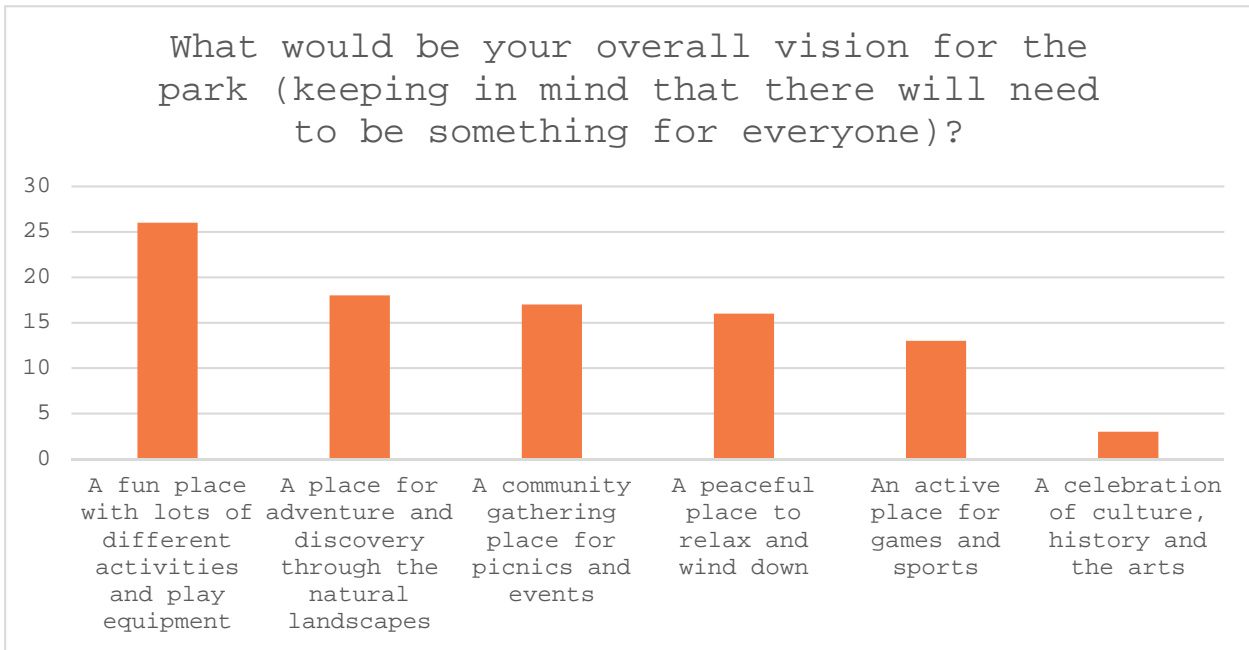
Shannons Paddock is the local park for families in the area with people visiting the park with children and loved ones, and the need to accommodate for this growing demographic within the community was the highest priority identified during the first round of community engagement. The community wish to see a variety of activities available for all ages, with creative and imaginative play weaved throughout the play areas and facilities.



What people said

The upgraded *Shannons Paddock as a place for play, activity, and discovery* was the number one vision shared by engagement participants. When asked to select a theme for the upgraded playground, the top two responses were those of a Shannons Paddock that encouraged attendees to play and get active:

1. A fun place with lots of different activities and play equipment - 28%
2. A place for adventure and discovery through the natural landscapes – 19%



The number one priority captured during the engagement was the need to upgrade and expand the children’s play space. Participants also wanted to see these play facilities be safer and more diverse, allowing for other sporting activities like bike tracks, and multi-purpose ball courts. There was a general agreement across the engagement the park needs to provide opportunities for people of all ages to get active and offer an enjoyable experience for parents accompanying young children.

Specific community aspirations relating to an overall desire for active and fun spaces are described in more detail below.

1. Playground

The need for better quality and larger play space was a common theme identified during the engagement. With about a third of participants visiting the park with children and 41% of visitors visiting after school hours, participants saw a need for a larger play space to accommodate for these busy peak hours.

Increasing the safety of the play space was a common theme, including the use of soft fall and natural materials. Furthermore, both submissions from the local day care and pre-school providers emphasised the importance of comprehensive fencing around the play space, in order for parents to utilise the space with full confidence and enable them to feel a sense of respite by knowing their child is safe when in Shannons Paddock

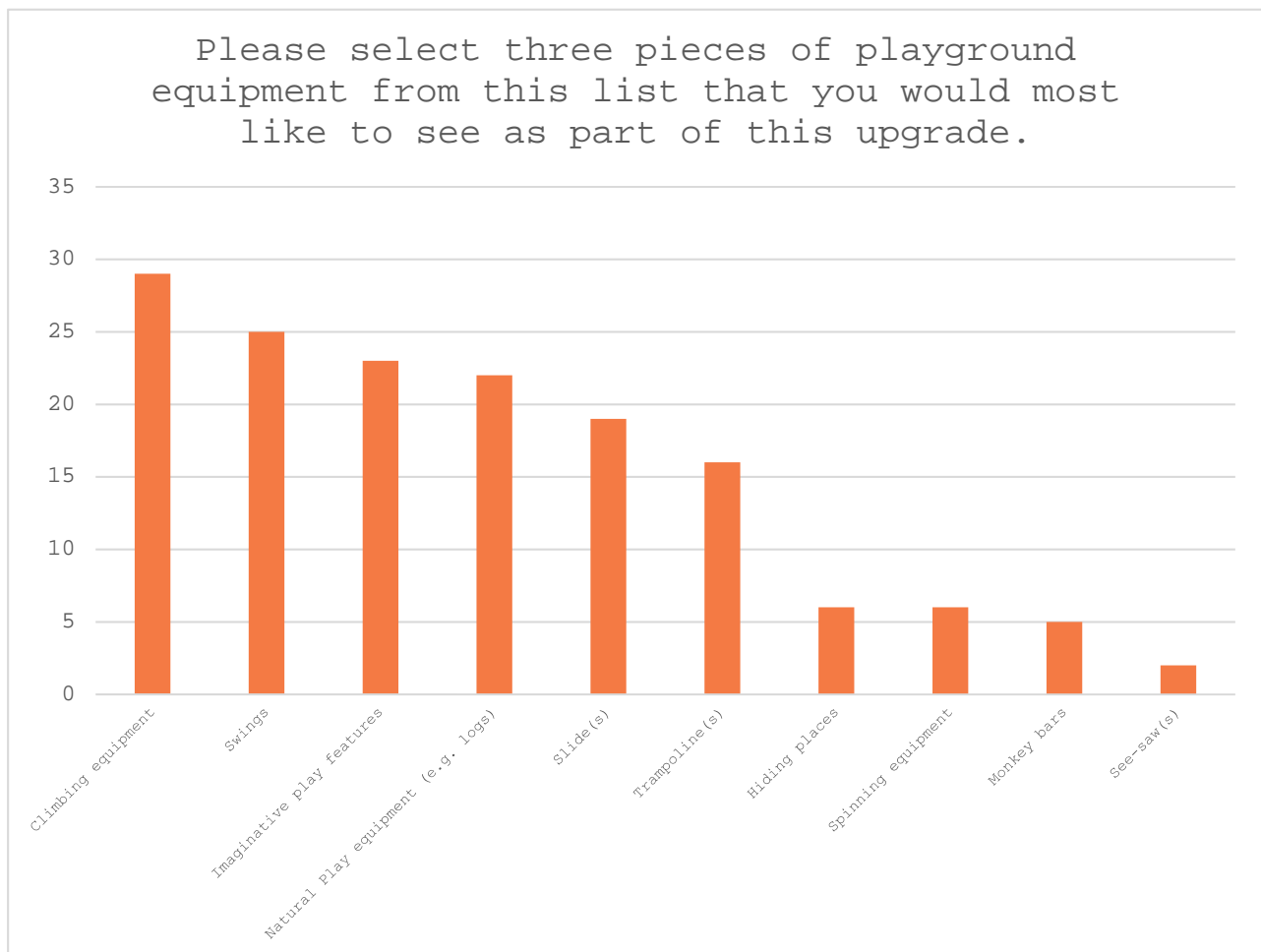
The expansion of shade was also a top three priority for participants when asked about essential elements for the play space. The co-location of adequate seating, shading, and possibly food and beverage alongside the play space was highlighted as being an essential consideration for creating a play space that not only enabled children to play, but also provided opportunity for parents and minders to socialise and take respite whilst in the park

- “Any improvements to build a bigger playground will be largely wasted as so many of the other local playgrounds are virtually unusable in summer (prime example being at Parramatta Park).” – Survey Participant

A playground that harnessed nature play and encouraged imagination play were visions that were shared by 31% of survey participants. With the growing density of the surrounding suburbs and built form, survey comments highlighted the opportunity for the play space to create a sense of escape:

- ‘It would be nice to have a natural-looking playground, since it’s surrounded by apartments.’ – Survey Participant

The engagement data also highlights the need for the play space to cater for a wide age group, as participants indicated that they are currently visiting the park with children aged between 0-12 years old. This diverse user base was reflected in the variety of play features that participants nominated for the space:



In addition to this, the written submission prepared by KU Preschool Wentworthville emphasised these as top features along with the inclusion of a flying fox, and a “learn to ride” bike track (which was a top priority also nominated by Westmead Early Education Centre).

2. Activities – sports, being active (bike tracks, walking track)

Across all engagement methods participants highlighted the opportunity for Shannons Paddock to offer a diverse range of active uses for local residents of all ages. Alongside the playground, participants indicated a bike track as one of the top three improvements that could be made to the park, accommodating both beginner and expert bike riders that could also connect to a regional cycle network.

Other common active facilities that were nominated, included dog-friendly spaces, exercise equipment, multiuse courts, and features that would activate open spaces (such as goal posts). Participants noted that there was a need for facilities that suited older people, as not only was this a space for children but for the whole community that needs a communal backyard to be active within.

- “There are many apartments in the area. It would be beneficial to have an open space where adults can exercise.” – Survey Participant

3. A place to move through

The importance of active transport links to and through Shannons Paddock was most strongly indicated throughout the survey, with 87% of participants indicating that they walk to the park. Furthermore, when asked “*why do you visit Shannons Paddock?*”, 32% of respondents selected “*To walk around/through the park*” making it the most popular response - participants indicated that Shannons Paddock was commonly included in their walking routes, and often used as a shortcut away from the busy Darcy Road.

For this reason, increased accessibility into the park was something raised by participants who wanted to see more access points into the park and to the play spaces. Access throughout the park - like bridges over the creek and around grassy areas - was also a consideration that was raised.

- “Integration of the park to the streets that it sits within – Shannon’s paddock has real potential to become a community hub.” – Survey Participant

Overall, the engagement identified that the paths and tracks are integral to the current visitor experience, but open comments highlighted the opportunities for improvement. Participants chose “*Better footpaths to provide access*” as being one of the top five features of the park that needed the most improvement, wanting safer pedestrian access within and around the park, and for the paths to have increased capacity. The separation of the bike and walking tracks was something requested by several participants, to allow people to walk safely especially at park peak hours when the path is shared.

Opportunities and design ideas

Participants made the following suggestions to utilise the park efficiently.

- Increased lighting across the park for safe access into the park at all hours of the day
- Accessible exercise equipment/station
- Expansions to the footpath to accommodate for growing community use
- Multipurpose courts for other uses of the park
- Utilising natural materials for the play space
- Leveraging the natural environment and incorporating play amongst nature
- Extending shade, including through tree canopy
- Exercise equipment for adults
- Building a bridge over the waterway to connect the two sides of the park
- Improving wayfinding into the park for cyclists and walkers

Visions 2 – A place for adventure and discovery through the natural landscapes

“A place of nature where people can come out of their units and enjoy the environment” – Survey participant

The community engagement highlighted the need for high quality open spaces in the Westmead area. The community value Shannons Paddock as open and green space, and the community recognises that enhancing the natural surroundings would enable more opportunities to engage with the landscape, in this rapidly evolving urban environment. The community valued the green open space and its ability to provide respite and a sense of escape from the day to day.



What people said

High quality open space is of increasing importance especially in recent times, and the immediacy of this need was evident in the engagement findings. Shannons Paddock as a place of play has its appeal in its greenery, and survey participants wanted to see a prioritisation of maintaining and enhancing the natural environment within the space for people to explore and enjoy for generations.

1. Enhancing the natural landscape

Participants deeply valued the existing natural landscape and wished to see more. Tree planting was the top improvement that participants suggested would increase the number of times they would visit Shannon's Paddock, and a need to improve the existing cool and natural shade was a general sentiment made across the engagement. In addition to tree planting, survey participants also suggested more shrubbery and man-made bird nests, inviting small birds and native fauna back into the site.

- "Planting lots of trees and natives to encourage natural environment and shade. Habitat for animals. Please do not cut down existing trees." – Survey participant

Participants across all engagement methods recognised the element of water that is currently a dominant feature in the park and wished to see this integrated in a more interactive way throughout the park. Beginning with reversing the channelizing of the creek that has previously taken place in Shannons Paddock, a number of written submissions highlighted the long-term opportunities to creek natural ecosystems that served as nature-based solutions for drainage and waterways management, whilst also creating a wildlife corridor through the park.

4. Retaining the open space

As an already well-utilised space, survey participants noted that the existing open space was important to maintain, considering the park's popularity and the need to space out the activities.

- "The open space on the eastern side of Finlayson's Creek, between the creek and the footpath, is well utilised by children for various sports, so this is important to retain." – Survey participant

Creating dog-friendly spaces was also suggested by a few survey participants. Fully enclosed off-leash dog park areas would make play safer for both dog owners and other community members to enjoy the park simultaneously.

Opportunities and design ideas

Participants made the following suggestions for Shannons Paddock:

- Establishing a park that promotes wellbeing through interaction with nature
- Designing the landscape that showcases local species within Cumberland
- Regular maintenance and cleaning of the park
- Increased tree planting, especially natives and flowering trees
- Walk paths in and around the natural landscape
- Dog-friendly spaces distanced from the play space and picnic facilities

Vision 3 – A community gathering place for picnics and events

"Overall, a space for everyone that they can treat as a 'haven' since there are lots of the residents needing that extra outdoor space." – Survey participant

The densely populated Westmead community want to see open spaces that encourage people to come together and create greater connection. As housing density increases, the community recognise the importance of high-quality open spaces as the venue for tomorrow’s barbecues, picnics, and playdates.



What people said

Creating a community gathering place was the third most common vision captured from survey participants. Not only does the community want the park to be enjoyable for the children using the playground, it needs to also be welcoming and inviting for older community members as well.

1. Improving the Amenities

Across the engagement, participants expressed a desire for additional park furniture and amenities that can improve the overall park experience. 46% of survey participants highlighted the need for improvements and additions to the current facilities, including simple elements such as increased drink water, rubbish bins, and upgraded bathrooms. When asked to specify what could deliver a greater user experience and encourage community to use the space more often, *“More picnic facilities, like tables and shelters”*, was the second most recommended feature.

- *“Please have more bins. More instructions to the community on how to keep the park clean.”* – Survey participant
- *“Improve the equipment and seating to encourage people to come to the park. The current equipment and seating spaces are very old and not great to use.”* – Survey Participant

Increased shading across the park was not only the number one improvement recommended by survey participants, but open responses reiterated that increased shading was about creating a space that responded to the challenge of urban heat, and helped build a more resilient community.

- *“Shade, shade, shade. Western Sydney is a hot place. Shade will protect us from excess heat, keep the area cool and protect us and our children from the sun.”* – Survey participant

3. Community involvement

A common idea captured across the survey and written submissions was to engage the community within the space in more formal ways, through community-led activities that bring people together. Some specific ideas raised were yoga, tai-chi, and other group activities for people to meet with the rest of the community. While this is obviously a programming consideration, many participants recommended the inclusion of a versatile, multi-use space that enabled community to activate the park in a variety of ways.

Opportunities and design ideas

- Additional shaded tables and seating
- Increased number of bins and signage
- Improved amenities, like bubblers and toilets
- Versatile, multi-use space that enabled community-led recreation and activation
- Community garden plots

Where to from here

The intention to upgrade Shannons Paddock has been well received by participants throughout the engagement. Through the course of community engagement, a shared vision for the park was identified along with ideas and elements for consideration by the design team.

These engagement findings will provide a firm foundation for the development of a draft Landscape Masterplan for Shannons Paddock.

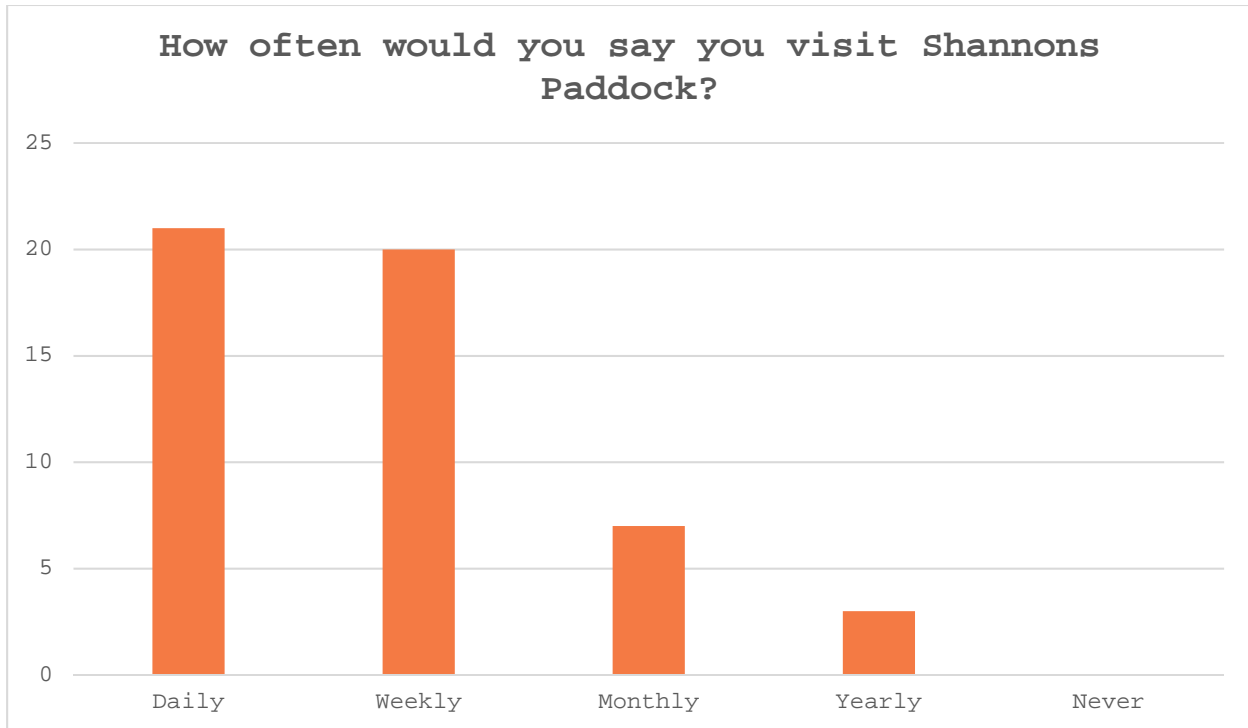
Next steps

- The findings from this report will be used to inform the design team as they prepare the Detailed Concept Design for the playground upgrades, as well as the draft Concept Design for the broader Masterplan.
- Both draft designs will be the basis for a second round of community engagement that will aim to capture community feedback on how the plan responds to community needs and priorities that were captured during the first round of engagement

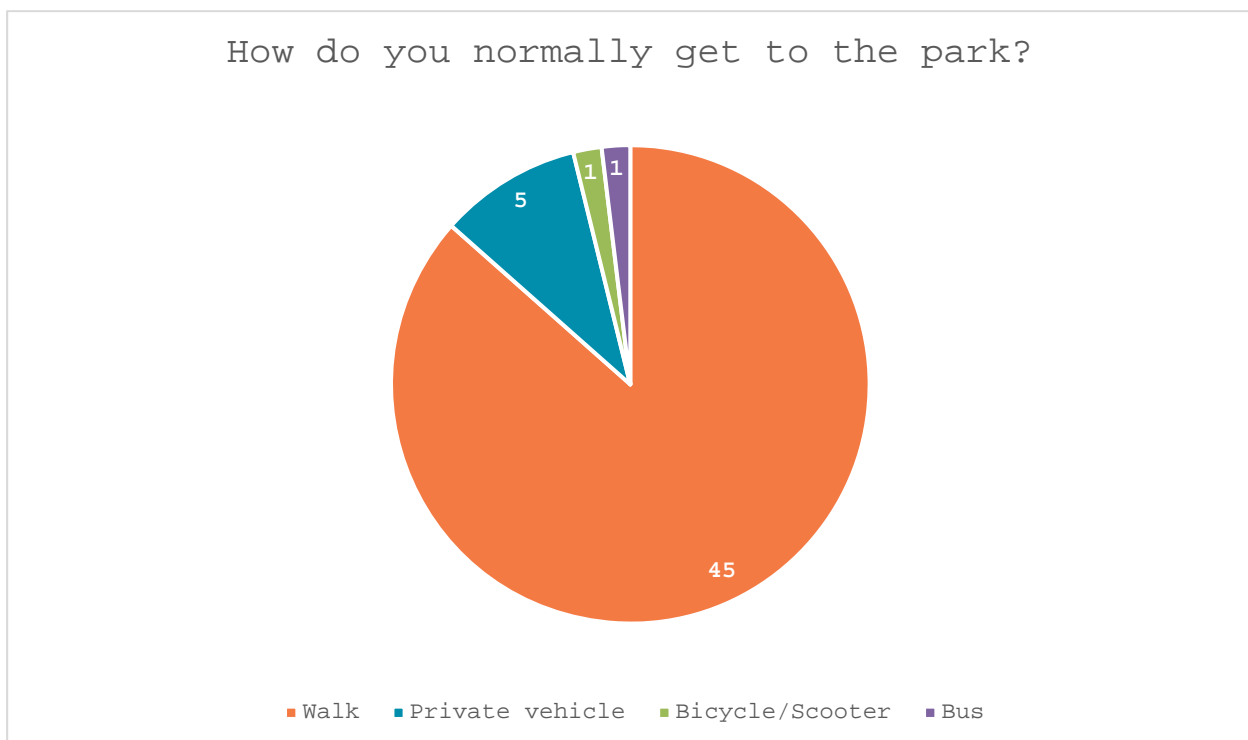
Appendix A

Survey data

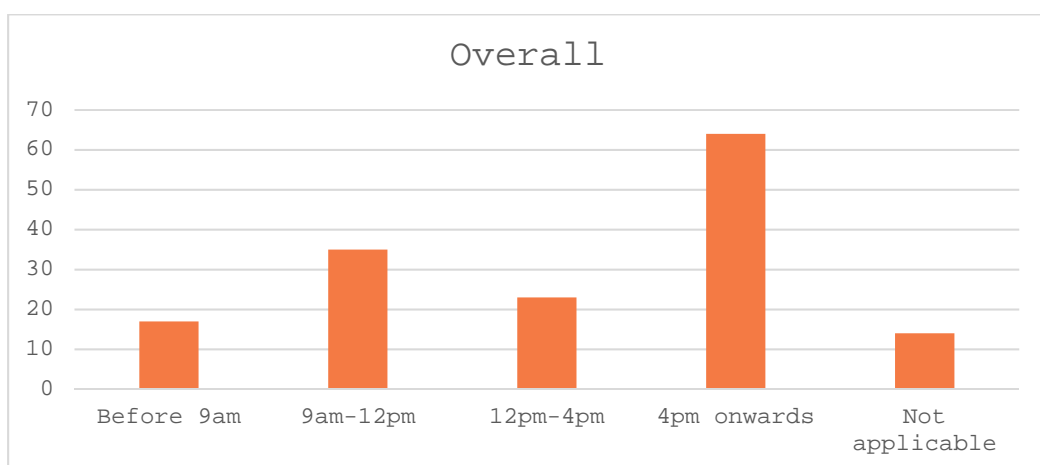
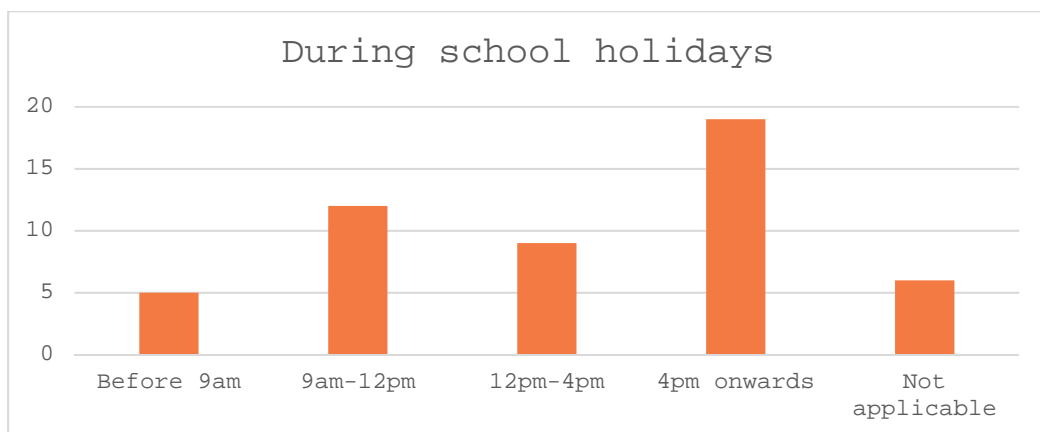
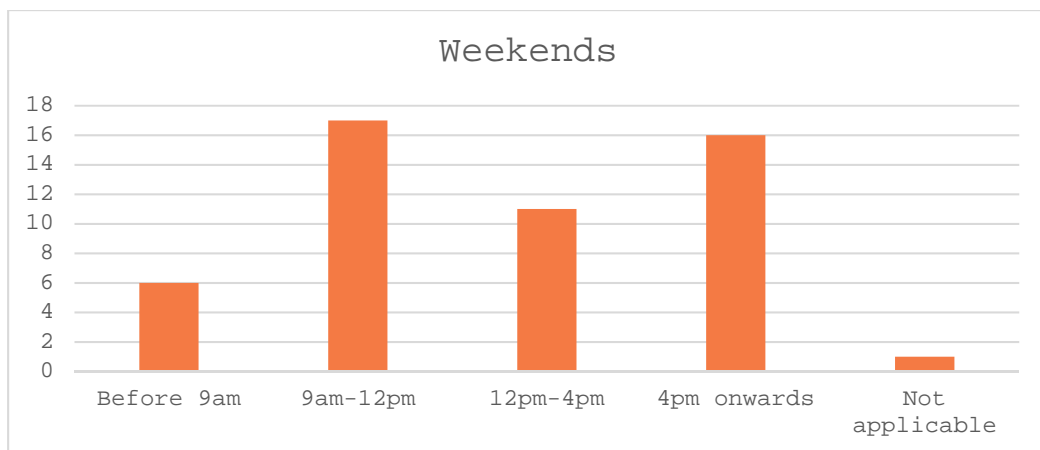
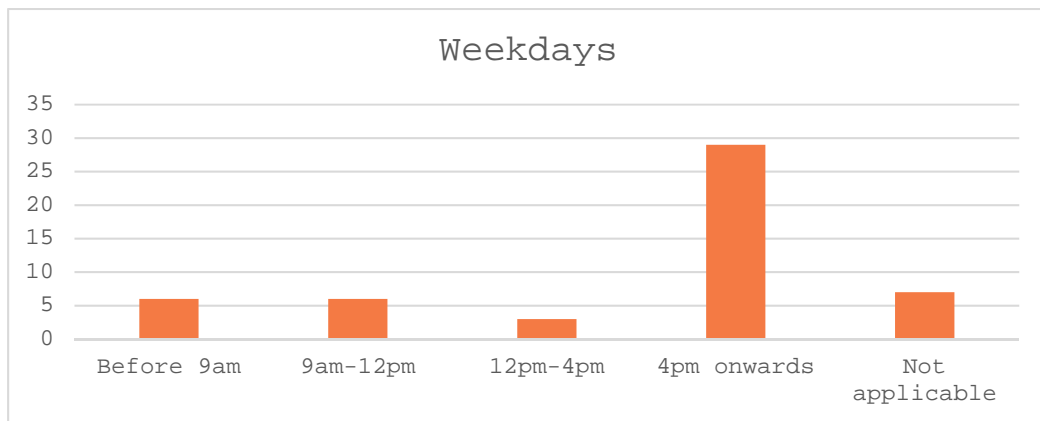
Q1 How often would you say you visit Shannons Paddock?



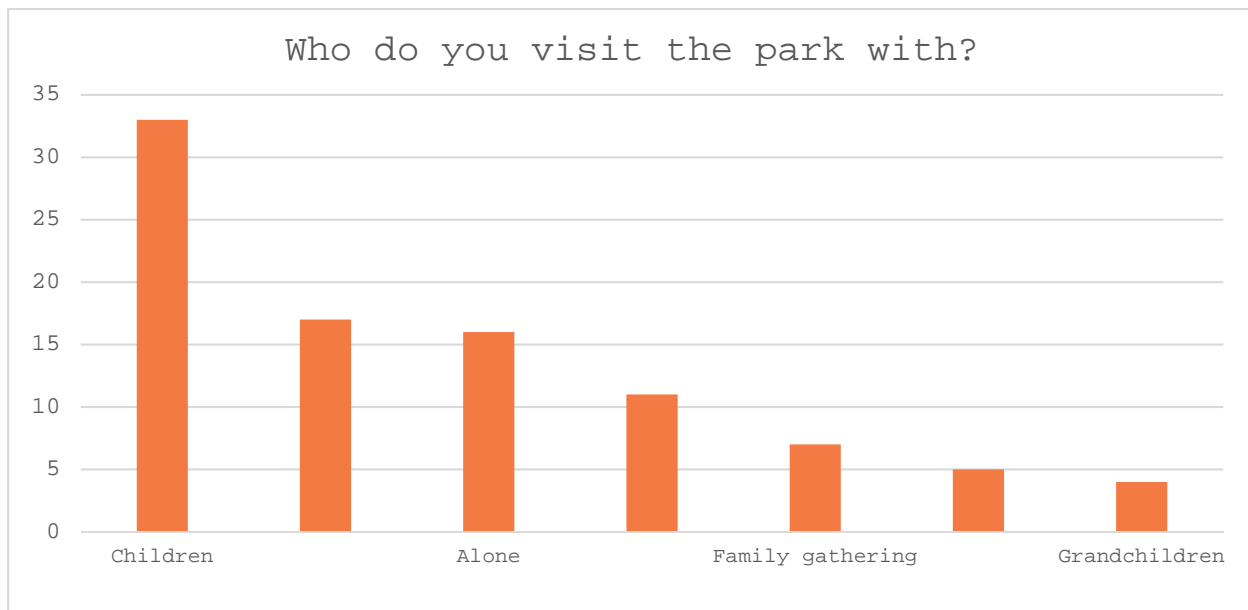
Q2 How do you normally get to the park?



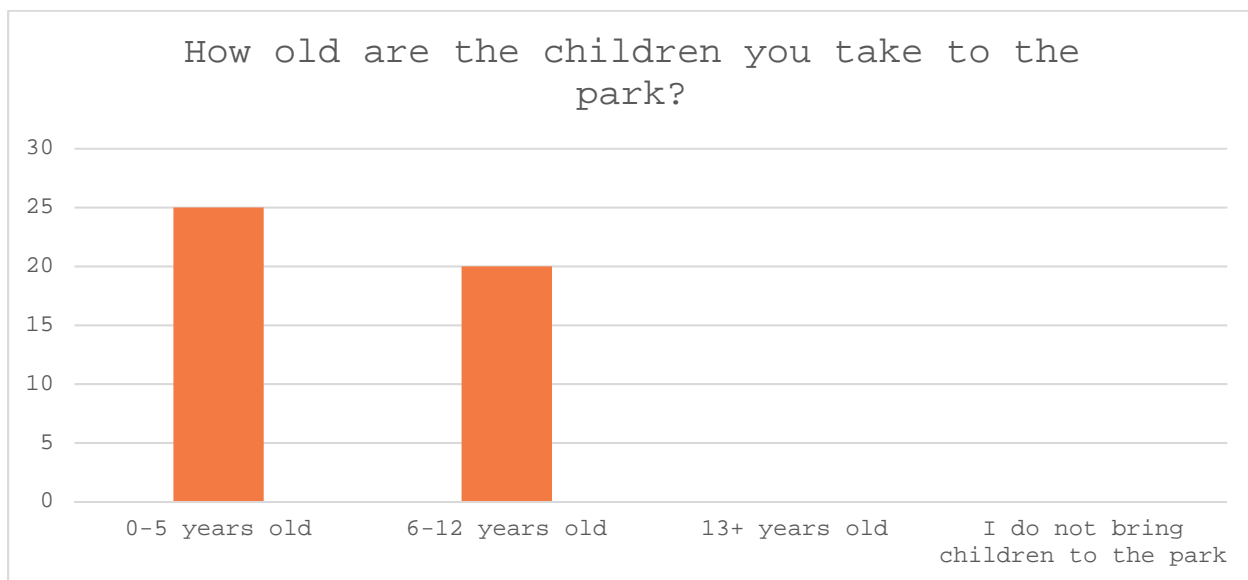
Q3 When do you mainly visit the park?



Q4 Who do you visit the park with? (n=93)



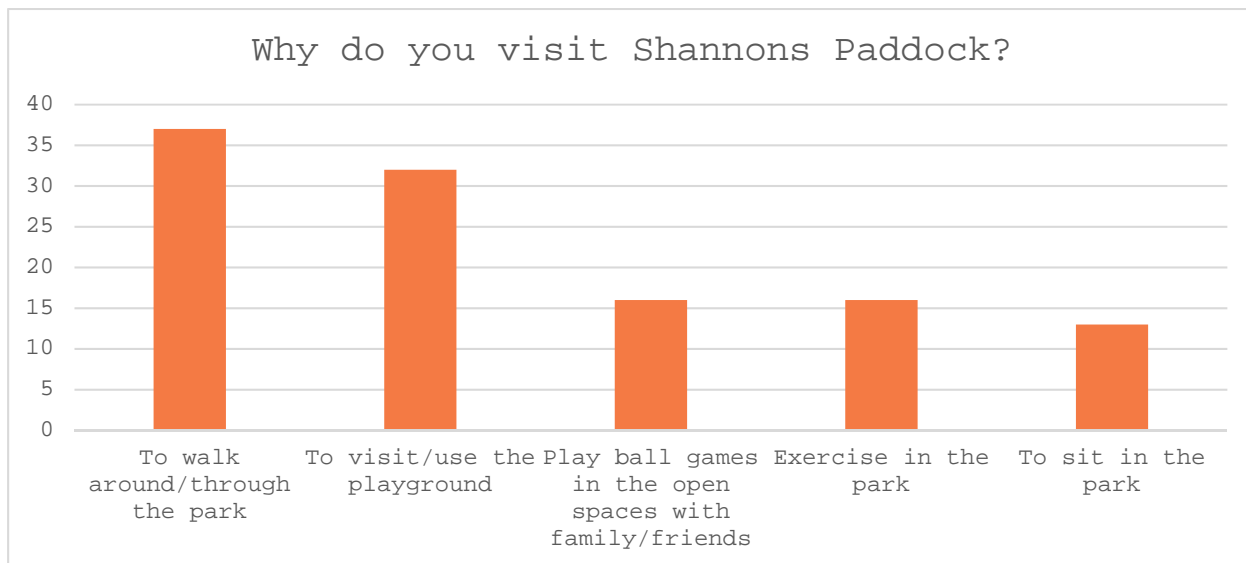
Q5 How old are the children you take to the park?



Q6 On a scale of 0 to 10, how likely are you to recommend this park to a neighbour or friend?

Out of 51 respondents, 12% (6 votes) of participants were likely to promote the park, while 67% (34 votes) would not. 22% (11 votes) felt passively about the park. The net promote score was -55.

Q7 Why do you visit Shannons Paddock?

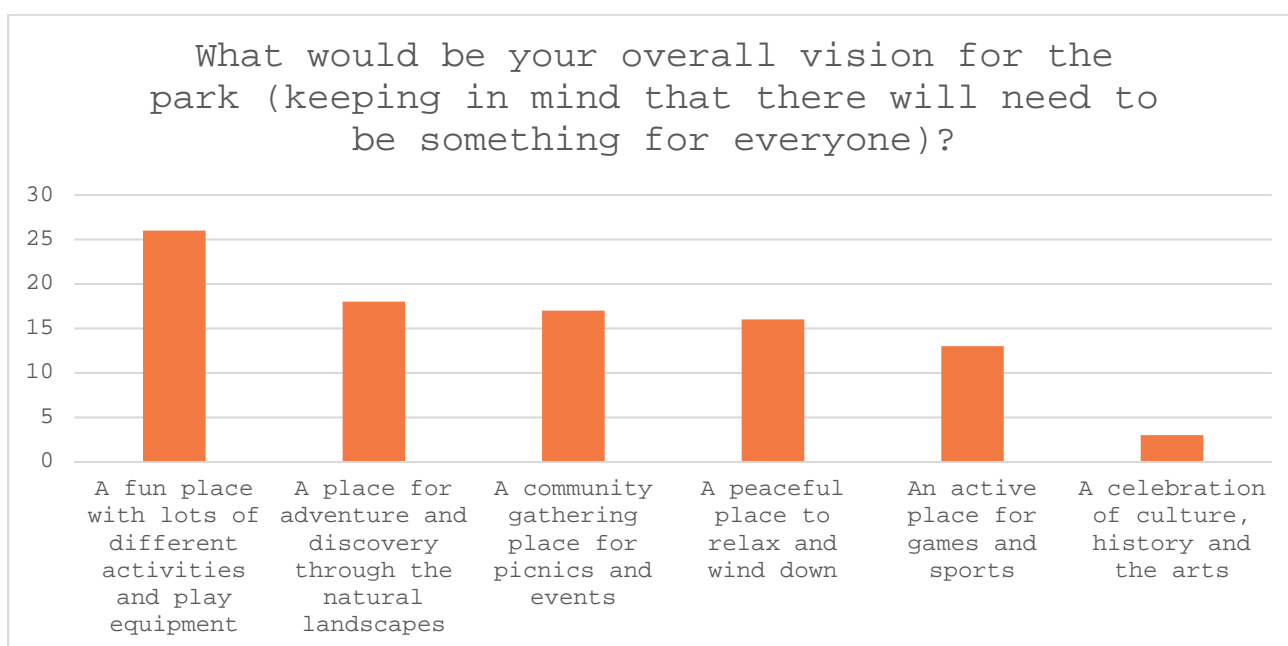


Q8 Which of the existing elements of the park need the most improvement? (n=51) (nominate your top two priorities)

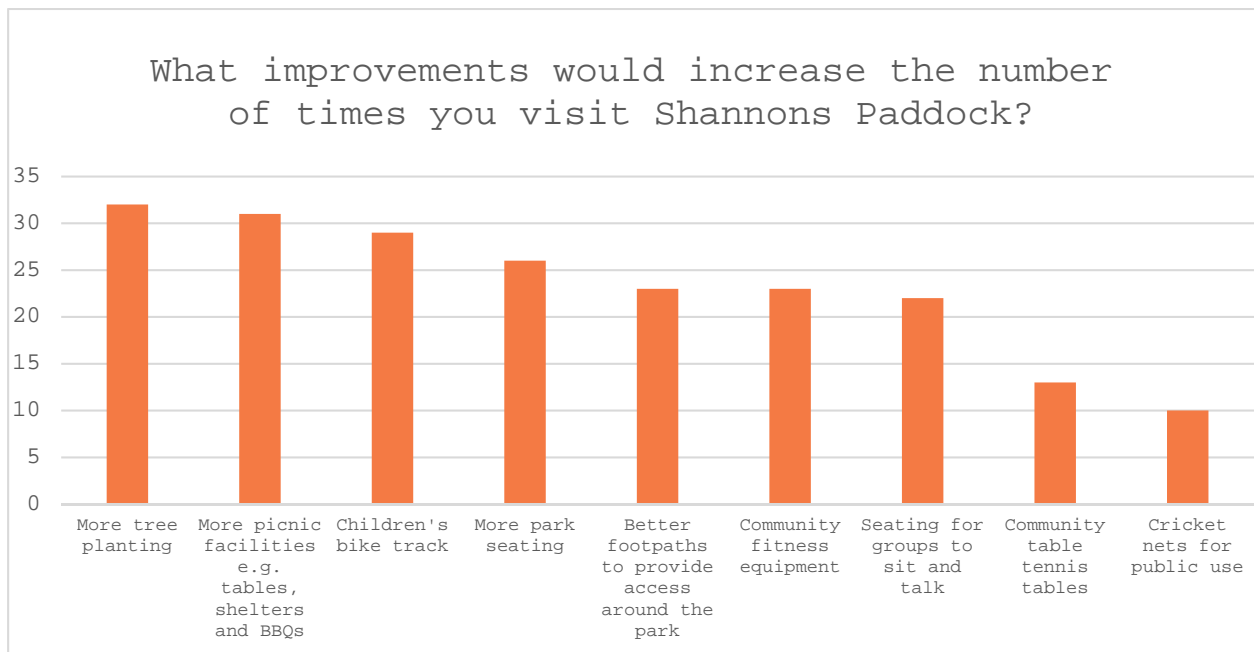
In order of priority, participants wanted to improve:

1. Playground/play spaces (Selected by 31 participants)
2. Shade trees (Selected by 24 participants)
3. Park furniture (Selected by 22 participants)
4. Lighting (Selected by 16 participants)
5. Pedestrian footpaths (Selected by 8 participants)
6. Parking (Selected by 2 participants)

Q9 What would be your overall vision for the park (keeping in mind that there will need to be something for everyone)?



Q10 What improvements would increase the number of times you visit Shannons Paddock?

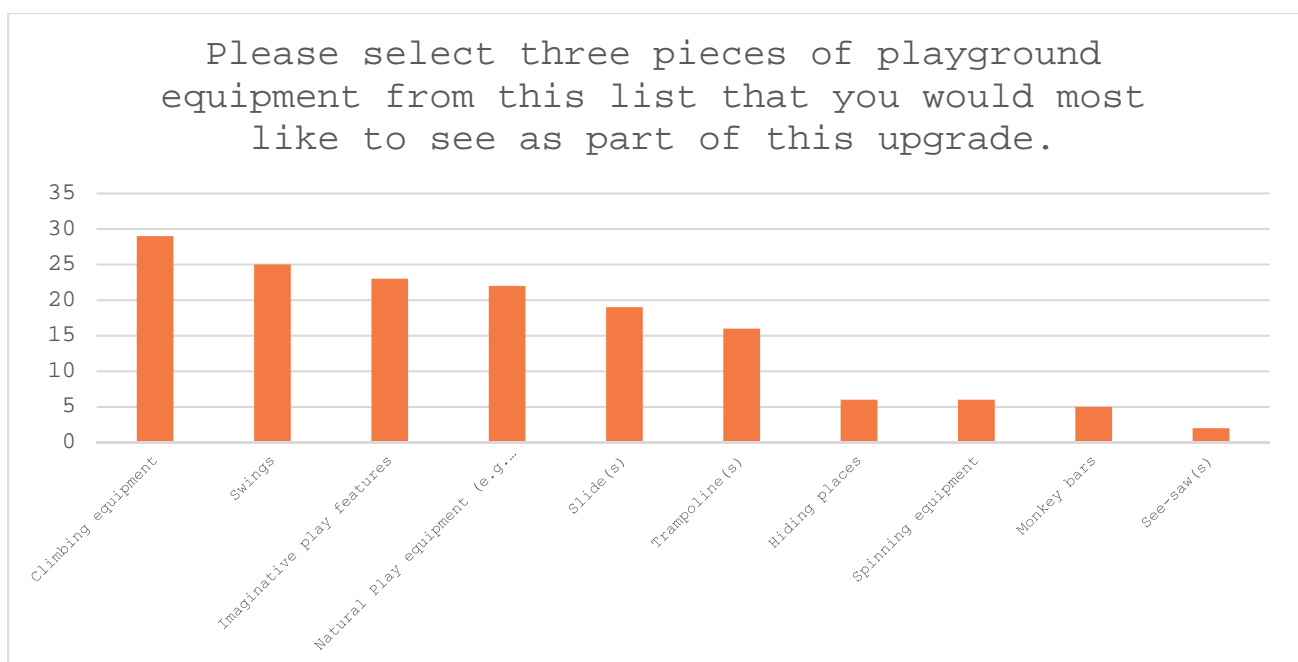


Q11 What parts of a playground are most important to you? (nominate your top two priorities) (n=51)

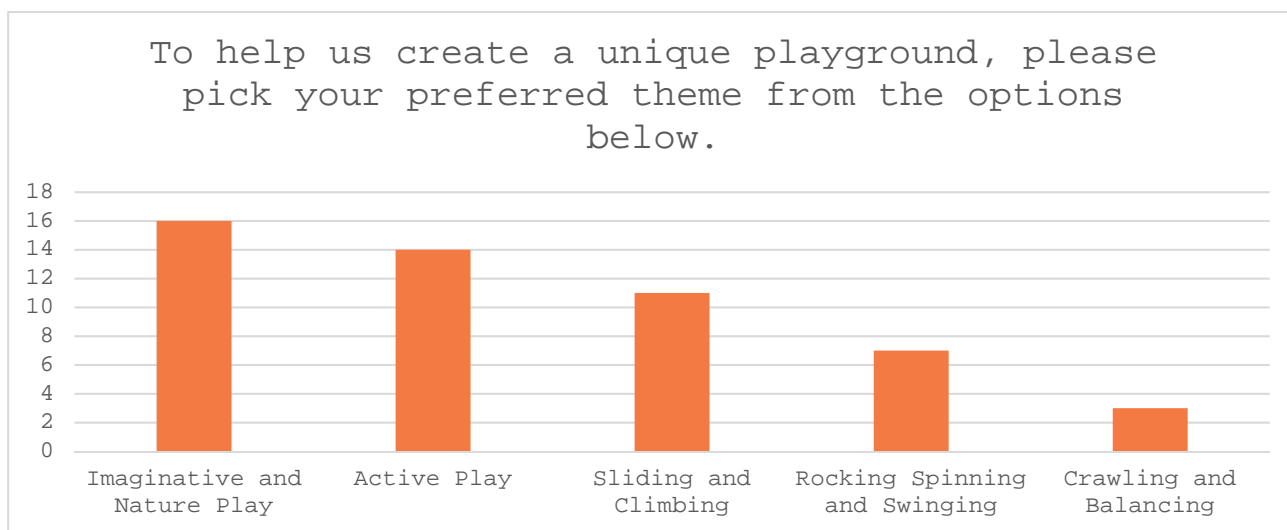
In order of importance, participants said the following:

1. Play equipment (Selected by 24 participants)
2. Tree Planting/Landscaping 18 (Selected by 18 participants)
3. Shade structures (Selected by 16 participants)
4. Amenities such as bubblers and bins (Selected by 14 participants)
5. Safety Fencing (Selected by 13 participants)
6. Seating (Selected by 8 participants)

Q12 Please select three pieces of playground equipment from this list that you would most like to see as part of this upgrade.



Q13 To help us create a unique playground, please pick your preferred theme from the options below.



Q14 What is your number one big idea to make Shannons Paddock an amazing space for our community?

More than tree planting, a landscape design that showcases the local species for the Cumberland Plain River Flat Forest and acknowledges the form of the land as it was. Recognising the original form of Finlayson's creek line. The unique history of the local area with Shannon's industrial pursuits.
I would LOVE to see this space be one of the greenest and most natural in town (even though it will be constructed)!
Flowers tree shades and calming space with kids playing
To create a play space where families can be active together and where they feel safe. Somewhere that is clean and has terrain that can be enjoyed in all weather conditions. No bark but soft fall. A safety fence around the area. Equipment that is safe for all children and abilities to use e.g., inclusive. and for a wider age group. On the other side of the creek there could be the cricket nets, basketball nets, maybe some soccer goals and adult exercise equipment as there are often adults exercising in this open space throughout the day. This is where you could also have picnic tables and barbeques.
Will be nice to see Tai Chi classes, Yoga something where the community too can come together
Increase the number of play activities and seat with shades
A footbridge over the canal and relocate play area away from Darcy Road
More picnic tables with shade and a running track oval
Back road access
Great play equipment with plenty of shades
Bike track around the outside of the park, and sensory things for leaning and exploring
Put lights so kids can play more longer
Dedicated handball courts for kids to play on rather than having to use the footpath
Flying fox, sand pits, cricket nets
An awesome playground

More play equipment, as of now congested with the number of people and children around. And also, please think of the pets too.
Better, safer pedestrian access and picnic/seating options
The area south of the existing playground and west of Finlayson's Creek is underutilised and has poor accessibility. A bridge over the creek in the southern end of the park, near Water Street, would open up this area and improve its usage.
The Shannons paddock is a place for community to gathering and children playing in the park. Most unique features this park could have been an active play area but less equipment's as equipment's gets damaged and they take a while to get repaired to need places where children can play active sports, but no equipment's are needed or equipment's which are low maintenance.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A little water fun would be great. (Water splashing equipment's) 2. New equipment's we must need as current ones are very risky and noisy. 3. A big trampoline would be great 4. seating arrangements with shades would be great. 5. proper bin and drinking water. 6. Some equipment's for little ones, some for bigger kids. As the age range in the park is between 0-14.
Add more space and equipment for children, connect 2 sides with walking bridge for easy stroll and make BBQ and seating
You need some sort of bridge over the storm water and a way to make a feature out of it that adds to the sense of discovery.
<p>Play Equipment for older kids</p> <p>More bins provided especially on the grassy side</p>
More trees.
A fenced area for dog play off leash
A playground with a theme such as a medieval castle or a maritime theme will enable children to engage in more imaginative play such as playing at being knights or pirates. More equipment that expands or builds on the existing equipment that is available as the playground is already very popular with children (retain popular features such as the bridge). Aboriginal themes or artwork would be another thematic idea.
It would be nice to have a natural-looking playground since it's surrounded by apartments and the playground will cater to all ages from 0-12 since there are lots of children living in the surrounding apartments. A scooter/bike track would be nice and that caters to most ages and more challenging equipment's with variety would also be nice and also a community exercise space for the adults which they could use while the children are playing.
A place of nature where people can come out of their units enjoy the environment.
Separate cycle/scooter and pedestrian paths around the perimeter to allow people to safely walk and kids to ride bicycles and scooters. A dedicated area with soft ground for kids learning to scooter/bike or skate.
Cafe with outdoor seating next to kids' area
More play facility for kids
Include fitness stations for adults as well - press ups, cycling, bars etc. There are many apartments in this area. It would be beneficial to have an open space where adults can exercise
Basketball courts
Fully enclosed off leash dog park area. With so many apartments it would be amazing for the local dogs and their families to have a safe space to run around free and socialise. Fenced area would ensure the park is safe for small children
Keep it spacious so that people aren't on top of each other, particularly in the playground. I.e., spread out the equipment and activities.

As this is only park reachable for complete Wentworthville public so it would fetch more visitors for every day. Due to less space specially, children can't enjoy.
Improve the equipment and seating to encourage people to come to the park. The current equipment and seating spaces are very old and not great to use.
Natural items that Bring native animals back to the area. Flowering trees small, protected shrubbery for small birds man-made birds' nests.
Amenities block in the upgrade.
Make it disability accessible/inclusive, so that children with disabilities don't have to miss out. Possibly a water park as well? On the other side with open land, possibly a basketball court OR skate park, it'll be an attraction that will keep local young people out of trouble and engaged in sport/basketball/skating etc. Our local community will be better off for it and for future generations, especially with the basketball court. We don't have one in this area, the only 2 public ones I know if are in Parramatta city & down next to Parramatta High.
Add a basketball court.
Having a great adventure play space for kids.
Water features
new playground
Sports access - Cricket Nets, Lawn Tennis, Volleyball Nets.
I would love love love it to be a water park. There are so many units nearby and so many kids in the surrounding schools that this should be an imperative.
Colour, imaginative and inspiring play equipment to encourage role playing games and exploration.
Integration of the park to the streets that it sits within - Shannon's paddock has real potential to become a community hub. Also, integration of the waterway into the parkland - it's very unattractive currently.

Q15, Have you got any other suggestions or ideas for making Shannons Paddock even better?

Make it completely unique for that site in recognition of the past to help everyone understand its passage through time to the current day starting with the Dharug inhabitants. Recognise their language and the way they would have utilised the space.

<p>I would LOVE to see this space be one of the greenest and most natural in town (even though it will be constructed)! If we had a bridge over the channel, and reinvented the channel to include some meander and some natural features (rocks, logs) areas for overflow, this would not only create habitat, which then enhances an area's natural values, but links to echoes of the past (Dharug usage (Finlayson was meant to be one of the best spots for fishing and habitat pre-colonial days), natural freshwater creek, riparian tree lined shady features etc) It will also reduce stormwater drivers and velocity (which will assist further downstream). It could link this space to the Milson Park work that is occurring downstream and pre empty the natural enviros in Milson Park wetlands and add further connectivity to the landscape reducing fragmentation in natural habitat, desperately needed as we move South along Finlayson's Creek). Mass tree plantings, and a few established trees first are desperately needed right across this site. Get community involved. Mulched areas reduce run off and increase absorption and create microclimates, and in turn cool the area, in addition to shade, amenity and aesthetics. Urban heat is increasing annually in Western Sydney - and with so many locals needing cool spaces to play meet and relax, this could be an absolute showcase of best practice re-invention- shading and cooling for people, and reclamation of natural habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>There is also opportunity to tell Freshwater Dharug Stories and connect the First Nations people and their usage of spaces to new local inhabitants via art, storytelling interpretation and use of Dharug language for features, trees, water birds and places e.g.: seating spaces, meeting places etc Multicultural meeting.</p>
<p>Small flower bed along the walk with fragrant flowers gives a calming influence on the mind</p>
<p>A footpath that runs from water street to the play area as there is a lot of foot traffic along this area, and it is very difficult for prams and children riding scooters in the long grass. A lot of families visit the park before and after KU Wentworthville Preschool and this would be a great meeting/play space for families. Some signage would also be good, so people know how to locate the park from Water and surrounding streets as there are a lot of units in this area and the park is hidden. People could also park in Water Street and then walk to the park instead of walking down busy Darcy Road.</p>
<p>Nice, clean, safe, picnic chairs and tables, playground good activities and lovely gardens always draw the crowd</p>
<p>More shade</p>
<p>More light and seating with shade and basketball court!</p>
<p>bike paths connecting to regional cycle network</p>
<p>Put more lights can't go through nights More benches to sit Shades Barbecues</p>
<p>The paddock is in dire need of rubbish bins near the seating along the footpath. I walk through or sit in the park multiple times a week and there is nearly always rubbish littered around the park benches, including glass bottles which can cause a risk to the kids playing there.</p>
<p>It should definitely have some toilets and drinking water facilities.</p>
<p>Pets' areas</p>
<p>Cricket NETs set a fantastic idea</p>
<p>The open space on the eastern side of Finlayson's Creek, between the creek and the footpath, is well utilised by children for various sports, so this is important to retain.</p>
<p>Though it's a public place I haven't seen any CCTV cameras as I have seen sometimes some anti-social people having alcoholics drinks there. It should have more lights as well.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A little water fun would be great. (Water splashing equipment's) 2. New equipment's we must need as current ones are very risky and noisy. 3. A big trampoline would be great 4. Seating arrangements with shades would be great. 5. Proper bin and drinking water. 6. Some equipment for little ones, some for bigger kids. As the age range in the park is between 0-14. 7. We also need footpath to walk and also safe place for kids to ride bikes
<p>It needs a toilet facility and cleaning facility of some sort. It also needs much better lighting and security at night to stop unauthorized use in a way that disrespects the time, money, effort and dignity of the community who have made the park a happy place for families and children. Please no more permits for evangelicals with microphones talking about buying a boarding pass to God. While parking on Darcy road a bit challenging it really should remain a mostly local park and from what I can see the amount of persons within walking distance meets or exceeds the capacity of the park at peak times.</p>

Drinking in the park is common. In the past, they've troubled children here as well. Random police patrols to keep out undesirable elements would make this safer.
Establish gardens. Better and more frequent maintenance and upkeep.
Dog friendly, please
Amenities block needs to have toilets. This will enable families to stay for longer and use the space. It is one of the most well-shaded playgrounds around so any opportunities to retain existing shade and expand on it would be essential. If the works involve less shade, any improvements to build a bigger playground will be largely wasted as so many of the other local playgrounds are virtually unusable in summer (prime example being at Parramatta Park).
We hope you use not just the space where the playground is now but also the other free spaces which would no doubt benefit not just the children but also the adults. Overall, a space for everyone that they can treat as a 'haven' since there are lots of the residents needing that extra outdoor space.
Please think about more trees and shrubs for shade and to encourage birds and other small animals.
Planting lots of trees and natives to encourage natural environment and shade. Habitat for animals. Please do not cut down existing trees. Build a bridge over the waterway to connect the two sides.
Please consider walking access bridges at two points across the channel - remove the divide between the two sides of Shannon's paddock. Community garden plots
Having bathroom facility at park. Too many kids are playing and forced to do vivi in park's common area due to no bathroom facility available around this area and park.
Include more native landscaping, it's very bare at the moment. Include a running track. Include an interpretive board or display about the history of the paddock. Include Indigenous acknowledgement, history or information.
Basketball courts
Lighting is a real issue. I walk through the park at night with my dog and it is almost pitch black, doesn't feel completely safe. More pathways around the park/circuit for exercise
Shade, shade, shade. Western Sydney is a hot place. Shade will protect us from excess heat, keep the area cool and protect us and our children from the sun.
Add washrooms for sure and Bins. Add more walking paths and exercise equipment. Larger space for children to play.
More community events
Ensure shade included, or in summer will not be able to use much equipment due to heat.
Toilet facilities would be great and really good lighting, especially at night it's risky walking past, to get home. I will say having the basketball court may deter young people from sitting there in the night and drinking (which I find is happening more frequently). During the day, I walk through the park to get home quicker and at night I walk past it as it's just too dark to walk through.
A pump track/bike track for kids would be fantastic
Please have more bins. More instructions to community on how to keep the park clean.
Create one space for sporting activity with kids' playground. As there are different age people attends the park.

More smooth services for skating, skate boarding, cycling, bicycling, and scooting.

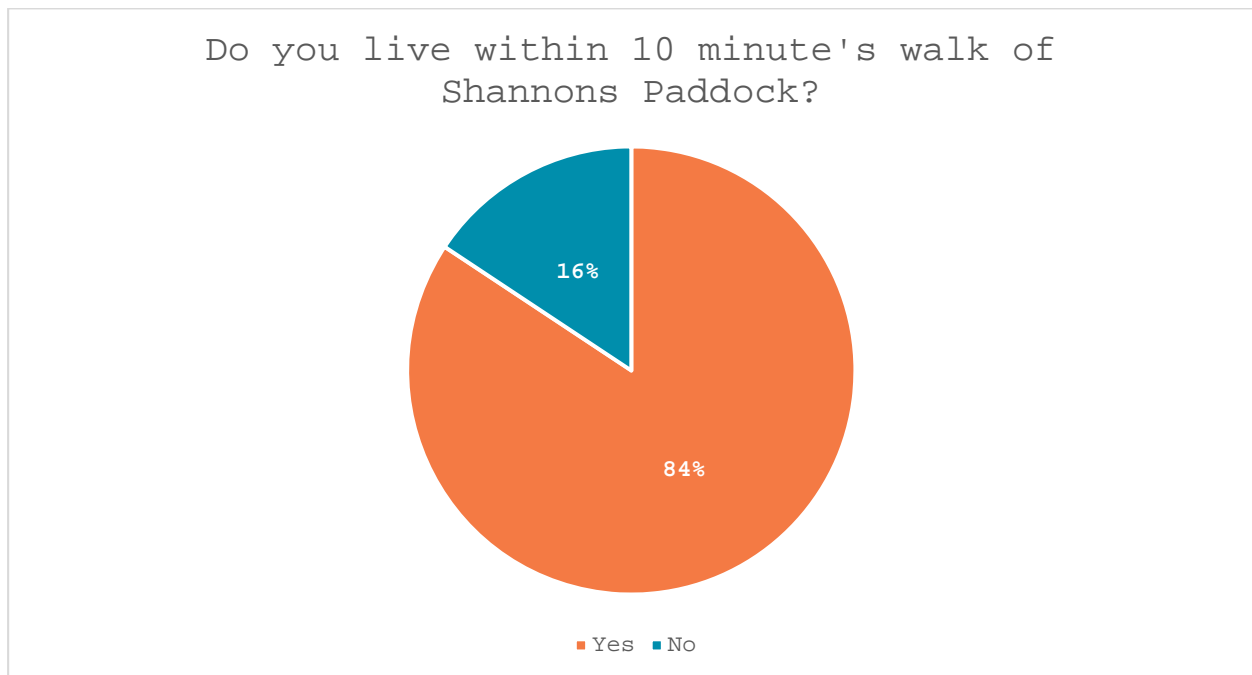
It would be great to incorporate a 'hospital' theme so kids can pretend to be driving ambulances, be doctors and health care workers like the Westmead Hospital up the road. There could be an "x-ray" machine which essentially is a blackboard that kids can stand behind, whilst others draw their imaginative ideas of what's inside.

You could also include a search game for kids to find images of the parts of the body hidden around the play equipment.

The inclusion of bins will go a long way to resolving some of the issues.

The playground is very outdated and tiny for the population that use it - I'd really like to see Shannon's paddock become a shared backyard for the properties that surround it.

Q16 Do you live within 10 minutes' walk of Shannons Paddock?



Q17 Postcode?

Majority of respondents reside in Westmead and Wentworthville, followed by Northmead and Toongabbie. Other suburbs include Parramatta, Constitution Hill, Giraween, Mays Hill, South Wentworthville, and North Rocks.

Postcode

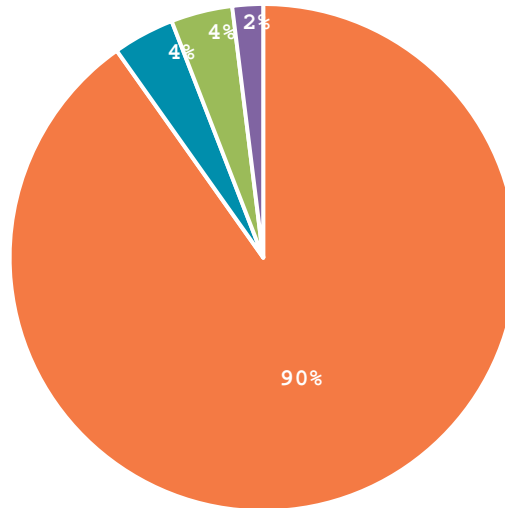
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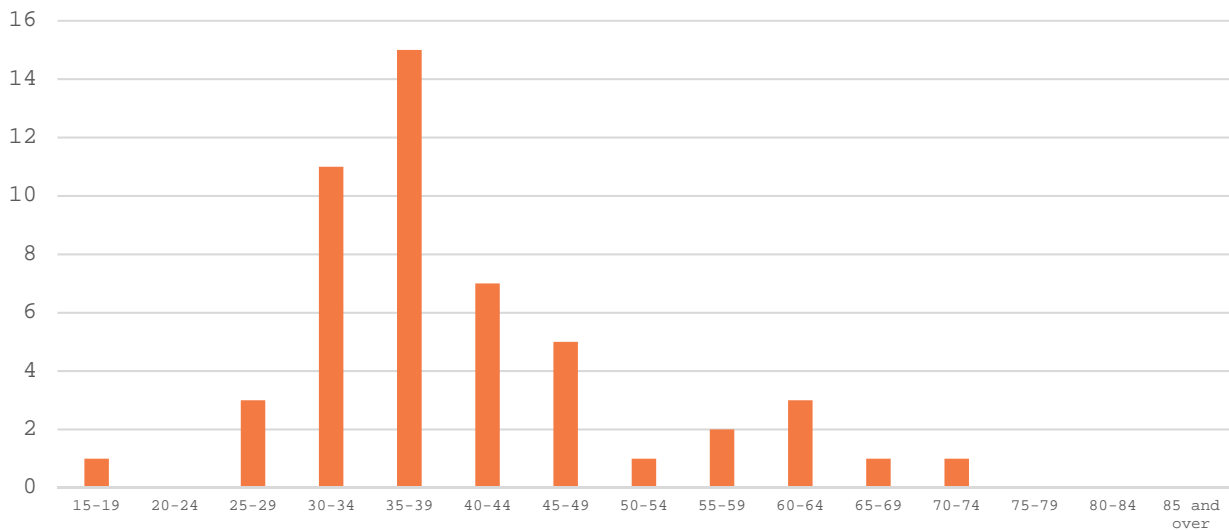
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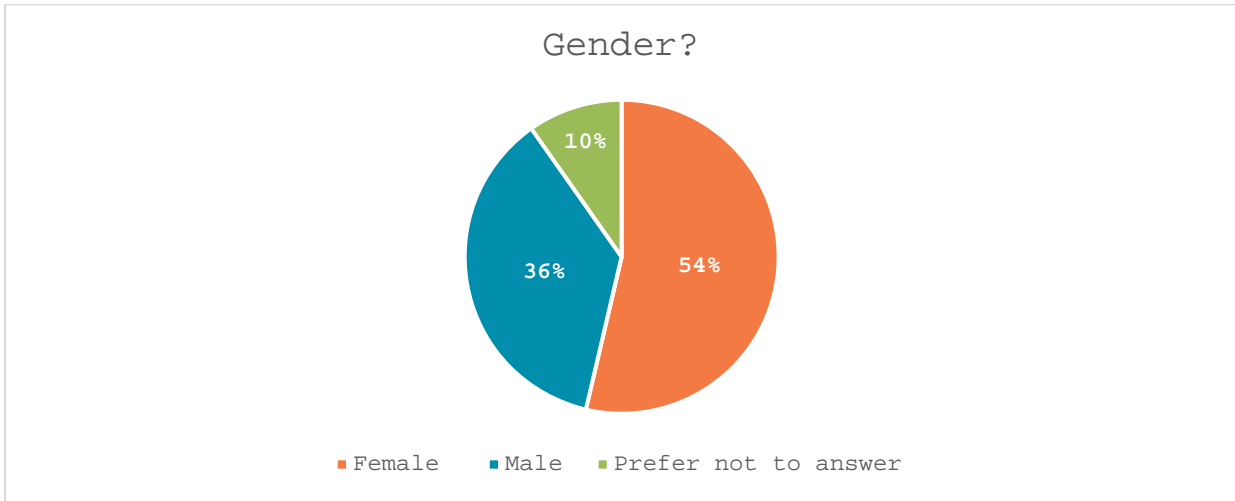


Q18 Age Group?

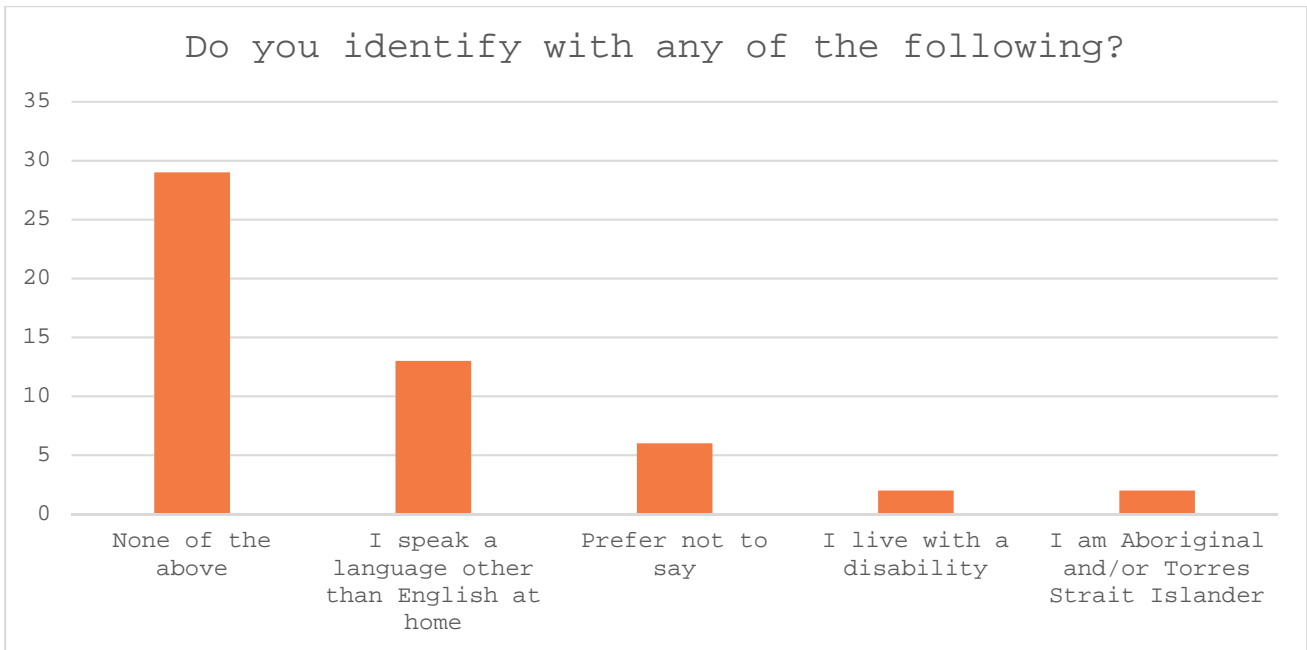
Age Groups



Q19 Gender?

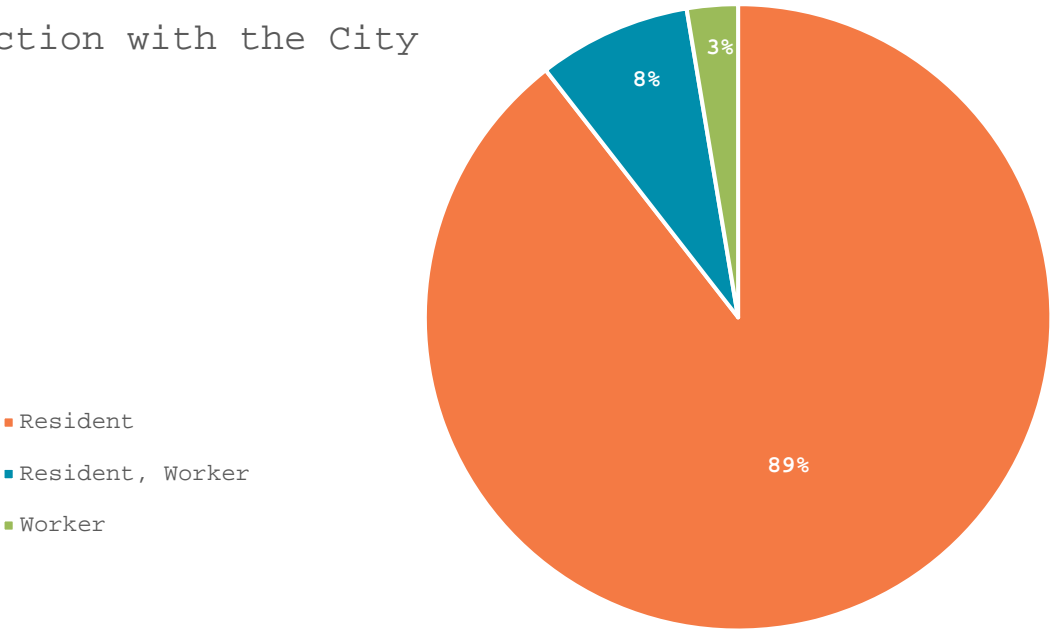


Q20 Do you identify with any of the following?



Q21 Connection with the city?

Connection with the City



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