



# **Bowker Oval Playspace Renewal**

## **Engagement Findings Report**

**Elena Pereira**  
Digital Engagement Partner

**Melissa Priest**  
Youth and Recreation Coordinator

## Introduction

On 18 January, Council sought the feedback of the community on the renewal options for Bowker Oval Playspace. Bowker Oval is a popular reserve for local residents, sporting and community clubs, and Paringa Park Primary School families. The existing play equipment has reached the end of its asset life and it is time to replace it with new play equipment and landscaping that will create a space for families to enjoy for years to come.

All submissions have been collated and are available upon request.

## Brief Description of Engagement Methodology

This community engagement ran from 18 January to 08 February 2022, a total of 21 days.

The views of the community were collected via:

- Council's website - the council's engagement website ([www.yourholdfast.com](http://www.yourholdfast.com))
- Email submissions, phone calls and letters.

And promoted through:

- A registered user update - via email to a 1800+ database.
- Emails sent to community and sporting groups located at Bowker Oval and local primary school, asking them to spread the engagement information amongst their members and families. These groups included; North Brighton Community Garden, Coastal District Little Athletics, Southern Districts Junior Soccer Association and Paringa Park Primary School.
- Letter drop to approximately 600 residents within a 300m radius of Bowker Oval
- City of Holdfast Bay's Twitter account every week for the duration of the engagement
- Corflutes onsite
- Posters/displays at the Brighton Civic Centre and libraries
- Facebook posts
- News article in Holdfast News
- Newsfeed on the City of Holdfast Bay's council and engagement websites

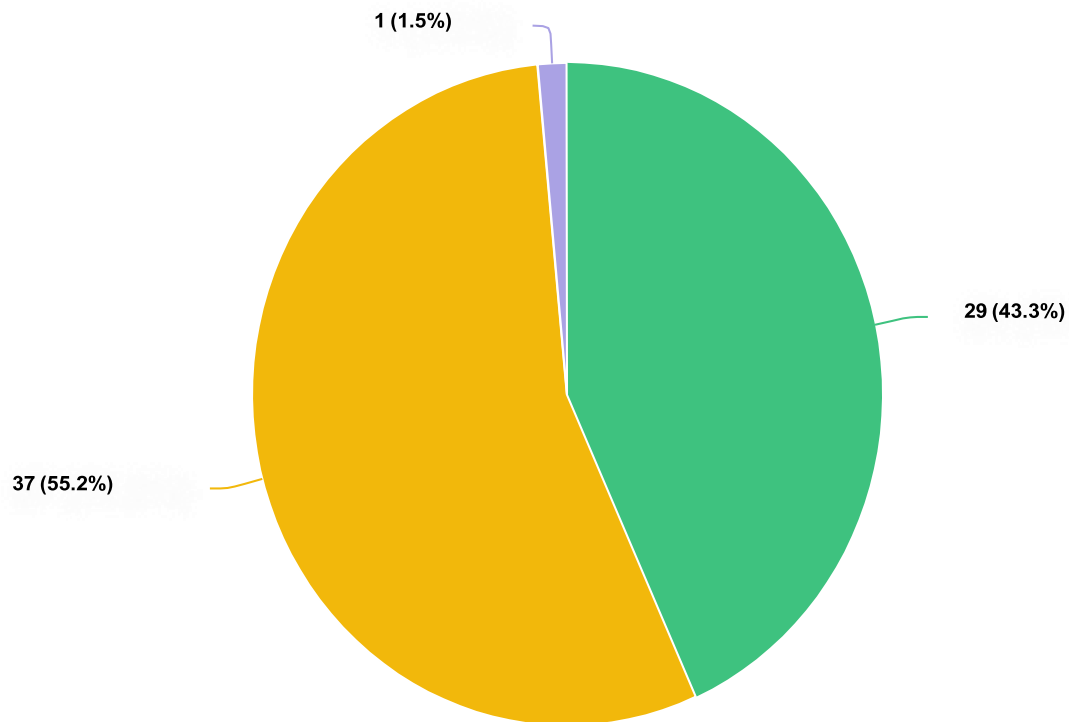
## How the feedback was received

67 people provided feedback. 65 participated in the online survey, two participants complete a hardcopy form.

- 65 surveys were received online via YourHoldfast.com.
- The project page was visited 2455 times by 586 visitors.
- 63 visitors read the FAQs.
- The majority of traffic to the website came equally via the Yourholdfast engagement database email and the council Facebook page.

## SURVEY RESULTS

**Q1** Please select your preferred concept design



Question options

● Option 1 ● Option 2 ● NA

**Q2 What are your reasons for selecting Option 1**

(all comments are written verbatim)

1. Looks like more play equipment and better layout
2. Trampoline
3. It's different to what is already there. The other is like for like.
4. looked like the cheaper alternative. The holdfast council spend way too much of council rates on playgrounds.
5. The trampoline
6. better for 5-10yr olds. More risk based play. balancing, hand eye and strength tasks.
7. More equipment that my kids would like/ use
8. better layout
9. Better design, and those encased slides in Option 2 are disgusting.
10. Trampoline, smaller play cafe.
11. Takes into account more accessibility. Seems to have better sensory
12. Looks like more play -equipment and better layout
13. Trampoline
14. It's different to what is already there. The other is like for like.
15. looked like the cheaper alternative. The holdfast council spend way too much of council rates on playgrounds.
16. The trampoline
17. better for 5-10yr olds. More risk based play. balancing, hand eye and strength tasks
18. More equipment that my kids would like/ use
19. better layout
20. Better design, and those encased slides in Option 2 are disgusting.
21. Trampoline, smaller play cafe.
22. Takes into account more accessibility. Seems to have better sensory and imagination play.
23. There seems to be more 'items' for children in option 1 (yellow) and a better use of space.
24. Opportunity for creative play incorporating climbing, communicating etc. I also like the flow of this option
25. Better for older children more challenging
26. Trampoline, looks more suitable for younger ages
27. According to my 12 year old, the trampolene, listening posts and spinna make this attractive.
28. liked the natural timber look
29. Better flow
30. I believe it has more appeal for young children.
31. Option1 is more suitable for little kids/toddlers aged 1-5. Especially the inground trampoline, spinner and rocker.
32. Trampoline and larger slides
33. There are more activities than in option 2.
34. I think the in-ground trampoline would be a real asset

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**Q3 What are your reasons for selecting Option 2?**

(all comments are written verbatim)

1. Better use of space
2. It appears to have more space between equipment
3. At least one more tree. Less symmetrical so more interesting.

4. No reason. Both designs are lacking in Shade structures and sufficient seating for adults bringing children to park are there water taps for refreshments? More bench seats and shaded area, trees not sufficient  
Better flow and view through play area
5. more and varied physical activity opportunities
6. It looks the most enjoyable for my childrens ages. Also it was my 7 year old sons first choice.
7. It has an extra tree (and most potential shade) and three swings, and two shareable play spaces.
8. Basket swing, seperate play cafe, tunnel slide
9. I often take children here when I'm nannying, swings are always the most popular option when playing , what I also like about the current
10. playground that there's two slides one small one for younger children in my care and a big one for older children in my care and I believe option 2 provides a great upgraded version of the current playground
11. Basket swing included and separate play cafe. Basket swing and spinners are great for self soothing for disabled as well as brilliant for young children
12. Our 3 children 8,6,3 y.o. prefer design # 2. Love the fireman's pole and basket swing.
13. Looks more inviting an possibility of being more disability friendly
14. The activities and facilities in Option 2 are more versatile for various age groups and play styles and interests. I also prefer the green, which blends in with the environment. The yellow is not a pleasing colour at all.
15. The play cafe and the basket swing
16. Like the round swing addition and the different style slides
17. The basket swing & colour. I think the talking tubes could be an infection control risk given covid times.
18. I have young children who like to climb, the climbing option look best for younger children. The kids love nest swings.
19. Curved slide instead of 2 straight ones
20. More options for different age groups. Also the addition of the basket swing.
21. More spread out
22. More diverse play space for younger and older children. Younger child friendly swing
23. My kids love those net swings & prefer the tube slippery dip.
24. Like the big swing and looks like it would suit a larger age range
25. Basket swing is very popular with kids
26. More spread out and less ropey.
27. I like the swings closer to the oval not behind the play space like option 1 Trees in each corner of the playspace, more trees that option 1
28. More variety
29. More greenery and prefer the layout
30. it looks more environmentally friendly
31. prefer the enclosed slide,climbing and swings looks better
32. Curly enclosed slide
33. Both little and big kids would suit this and we enjoy the round tube slide and basket swing. Not sure on the cafe table, kids said they wouldn't use them.
34. Variety - basket swing, 2 different slides - and looks to suit older children which is a positive. My 3 year old and one year old can always play on bigger equipment. But bigger kids will find it hard to play on junior equipment.
35. Better cafe with table, better swings, tunnel slide, no one uses the speaking tubes and they are unhygienic.
36. The tunnel slide is more interesting
37. Like separate play cafe + seat set to allow creative play away from physical aspect of playspace. Basket swing allows flexibility in no of children to engage. Has extra tree included for shade. Tunnel slide more appealing to older children.

**Q4 Are there any changes you would like to suggest to improve Option 1?**

(all comments are written verbatim)

1. No tunnel
2. It would be nice to have a water feature similar to the one in George St playground at Marion.
3. Shade sail over equipment
4. leave the existing playground
5. Remove the chair rocker - Hazardous. Include an element that is inclusive for disabled users. water play
6. Include a net swing and include more trees and a shade structure.
7. none
8. I would like to see the basket swing of option 2 included on the Option 1 though. It could squeeze into the design fine. More than 1 Tramp, there's plenty of ground space to add at least 1 or 2 more. It's quite a Popular playground, kids would be lining up to all have a go. Shade sails, should be a must on all playgrounds. The north/east trees will do buggar all. The heat of the westerly setting sun will beam in still.
9. Remove sensory talking tubes and use funds towards another item, such as the swinging basket
10. Maybe the bridge could be a different style to make it more accessible for ages that are in between junior and senior and are developing.
11. Would love to incorporate a scooter path either around the outside of the playspace or elsewhere in the Bowker St oval area. Will there be shade for the playground and is there a possibility of toilets on this side of the oval/replacement of the old but on the play ground/garden side of the oval? How many bench seats for adults to sit on while watching children? A water fountain for drink refills? (or is there one under the bbq pergola?) If more space is needed could some of the bbq space be used? Will there be fencing around the playground?
12. Some kind of small water play would be wonderful - kids always love a water play feature - doesn't have to be huge. From option 2 I do like the tunnel slide - always good for a junior slide. I also like from option 2 the basket slide, but I think the inground trampoline would get more use than the basket slide. Thank you
13. Yes , I would add the circle swing ... more than one child can use this so good for social interaction
14. Water play
15. Add music elements eg there's this great xylophone in a park in Hallet Cove that kids love. Add a small bike track with hills. Add a tunnel for smaller kids.
16. There is a strong desire to see a basket swing included in the design
  - a. this is more fun because more than one child can go on the swing at once. Without this, it is actually not possible for two friends or siblings to swing alongside each other because you have one swing that is a baby seat and one normal swing. Likewise with the trampolene - it is more fun if there are two and this is how they are enjoyed at your Glenelg / Mosely Sq playground and this is what you want to get out of a playground - children playing alongside each other and doing things together.
  - b. no
17. Plus Include the round swing in option 2 design. Both kids and adults like to chill out on the round swing and it's a favourite. Also SA has the harshest sun and the world and skin cancer is epidemic, we need to help protect our kids. The design does not address issues with lack of site shade. Whether it be a shade/sail, or picking appropriate shady trees this would rectify the issue
18. I would like to see a baby swing that is completely safe, that could be used from about 6 months old. Prospect Memorial Park have a great swing. I could supply a photo if you would like
19. I was a bit unsure of the "swinging in the air" bridge apparatus. I would not like a child to fall from there. I couldn't see how it was attached to any other piece of apparatus. From Option 2 the separate play café with adjoining table and chairs could be incorporated into Option 1.
20. adding a Basket swing would make it perfect! Also given lot of primary aged kids around the oval, a lowered basketball hoop would be greatly beneficial!

21. I think there needs to be a flying fox like the playground at Da Costa reserve. Also doesn't seem to consider older kids this seems very orientated to younger kids and there are plenty of playgrounds close by which are focussed on younger children. Could be a lot better IMO given the bowler oval is enjoyed by families of all ages.
22. Yes. It would be great if the equipment was more exciting, like the addition of a flying fox, monkey bars and some exercise equipment.
23. We would prefer less bark surface and more rubber surface to avoid splinters when falling over. A fenced area to protect children from dogs in the oval would also be an improvement.
24. Shade cloth would be a bonus and much appreciated.

#### **Q5 Are there any changes you would like to suggest to improve Option 2?**

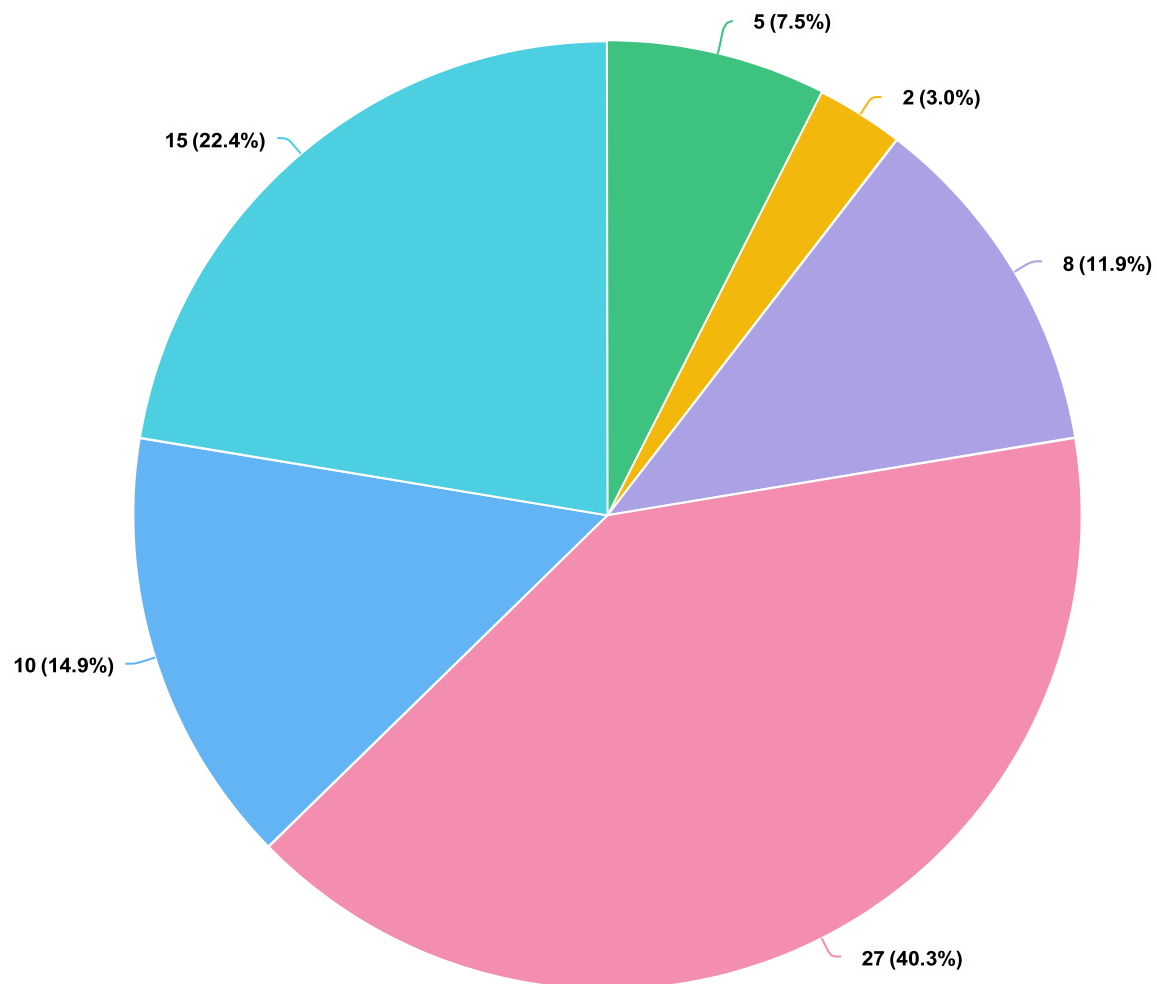
(all comments are written verbatim)

1. Shade sail for UV protection
2. Toilets and shading are paramount in any playground. I am unable to see on these plans if these are being provided. Please ensure that both are provided.
3. Add some seating under the trees
4. Increased Adult bench seats, water fountain, tap for refreshments, shaded area.
5. Low level, attractive fencing around play area - so that small toddlers cannot run to the road and are protected from dogs. I would like the trampoline option and the rope bridge option from option 1 (yellow) to be included. I would also like the incorporation of more natural structures, such as large climbing logs, sitting stones, sculptures, water play area.
6. You could add the in-ground trampoline, rocker and/or spinner to option 2.
7. Remove rubber- which will break up and become microplastics and rubber.
8. What I like about option one is safer in the climbing connections where as option 2 has more open spaces where younger children may fall when climbing. Maybe less ropes in option two and also provide a clear younger children end of the playground and older children end of playground. More seesaws and rockers as they are also very popular when we go to the park.
9. Possible to add the trampoline from option 1 to option 2?
10. Make the play space disability friendly for children in the local area - access and equity for all
11. Swap the tube slide to a normal slide. Tube slides can be dangerous and not suit children with anxiety or who may be frightened. It can also collect rubbish / germs. Easier for a normal slide to stay clean.
12. In ground trampoline
13. Please add the trampoline in on option 2 and also add in monkey bars...it would save a lot of parents money buying monkey bar sets and having them in our yards, front and back, lots of kids love monkey bars. The tunnel that is there now near the little slide is a favourite hidey spot for lots of kids, would be great if you could add something similar. The adult gym equipment like at Somerton and Wrigley would be a hit in this park too if you can find room, so many people come down to exercise and kids like having a go at that equipment too. Maybe it could be behind the book nook, near the car park on the southern side.
14. Possibly the in ground trampoline.
15. Larger climbing net
16. There is a seesaw that the bigger kids use & they stand on, that's at a playground on Cecelia street, north Brighton, all the kids love using this. That would be good to see in this.
17. Add a floor trampolines
18. add the trampoline from option 1
19. I think the Jitterbug rocker needs to be replaced with the inground trampoline as shown in Option 1
20. More equipment
21. mini trampolines
22. include inground tramp?!
23. Nature playground. More items More natural

- 24.** Swap the cafe table for a rocking animal seat or something for smaller kids.
- 25.** I would position the equipment the same way the YELLOW option 1 equipment is facing (long ways across the court). Would also like the trampoline added.
- 26.** In ground trampoline, steering wheel, shaded bench as I am breastfeeding and it's often hard to find a seat in the shade, easy access to the little slide (often playgrounds have tricky ways to get up and doesn't allow toddlers to independently go up to slide- Leicester st playground in Parkside has great steps up that my daughter could climb even before she was walking)
- 27.** Inclusion of trampoline + talking tubes if this can be included in the available space + budget.



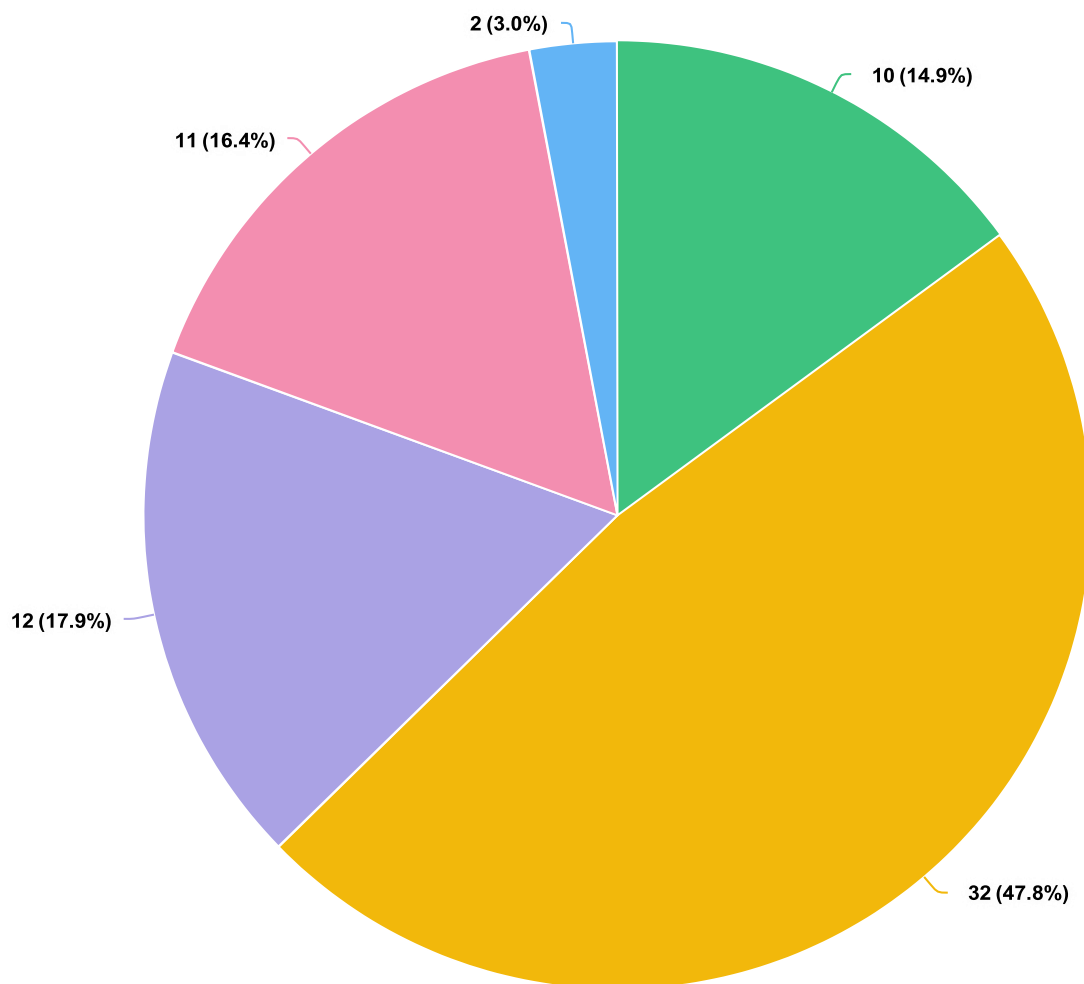
**Q6** Age group



Question options

● 12 years or under ● 13 to 25 years ● 26 to 35 years ● 36 to 45 years ● 46 to 60 years ● 60+ years

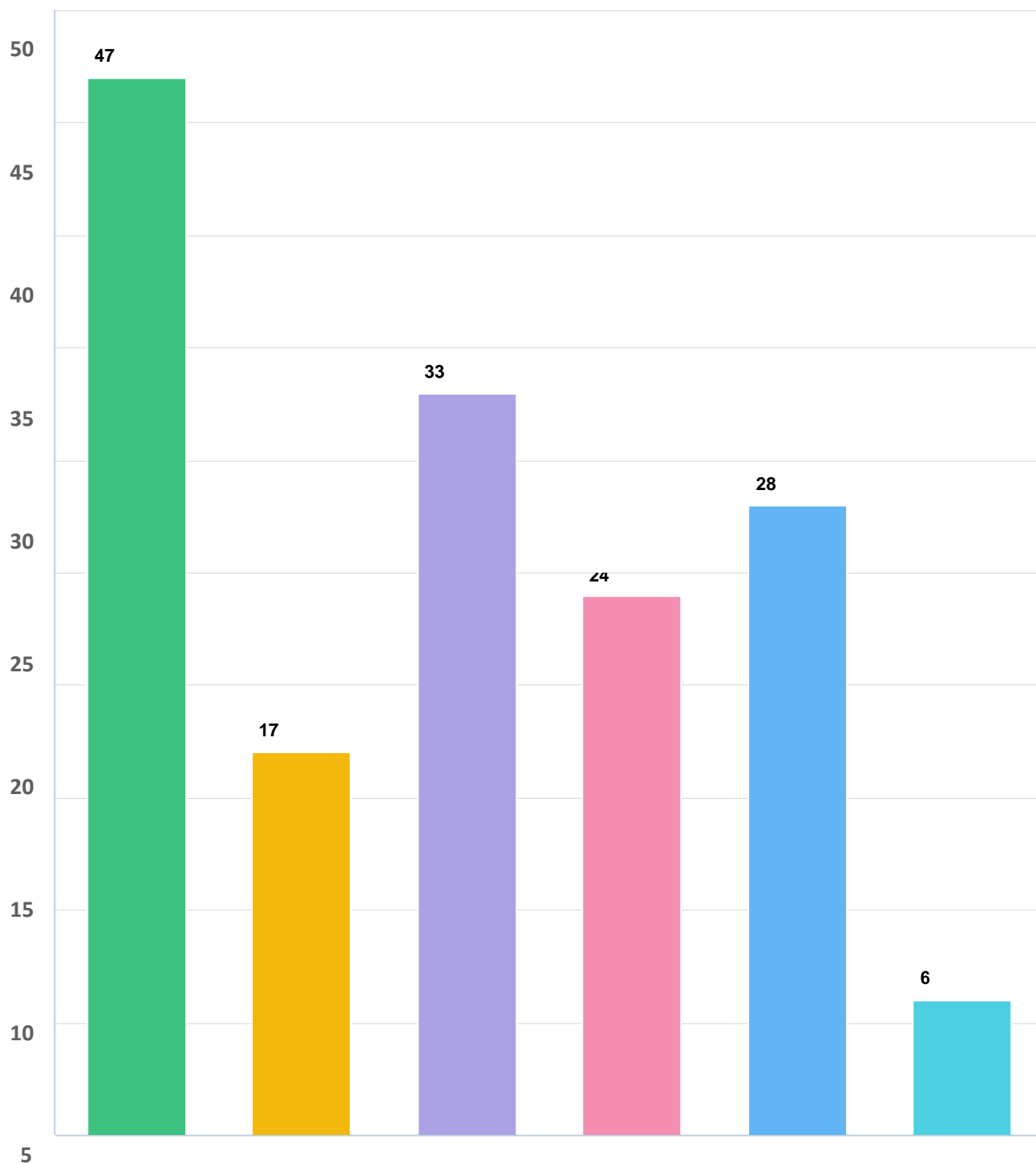
**Q8** How often do you visit Bowker Oval Playspace?



Question options

● Daily ● At least weekly ● At least monthly ● Occasionally ● Not at all

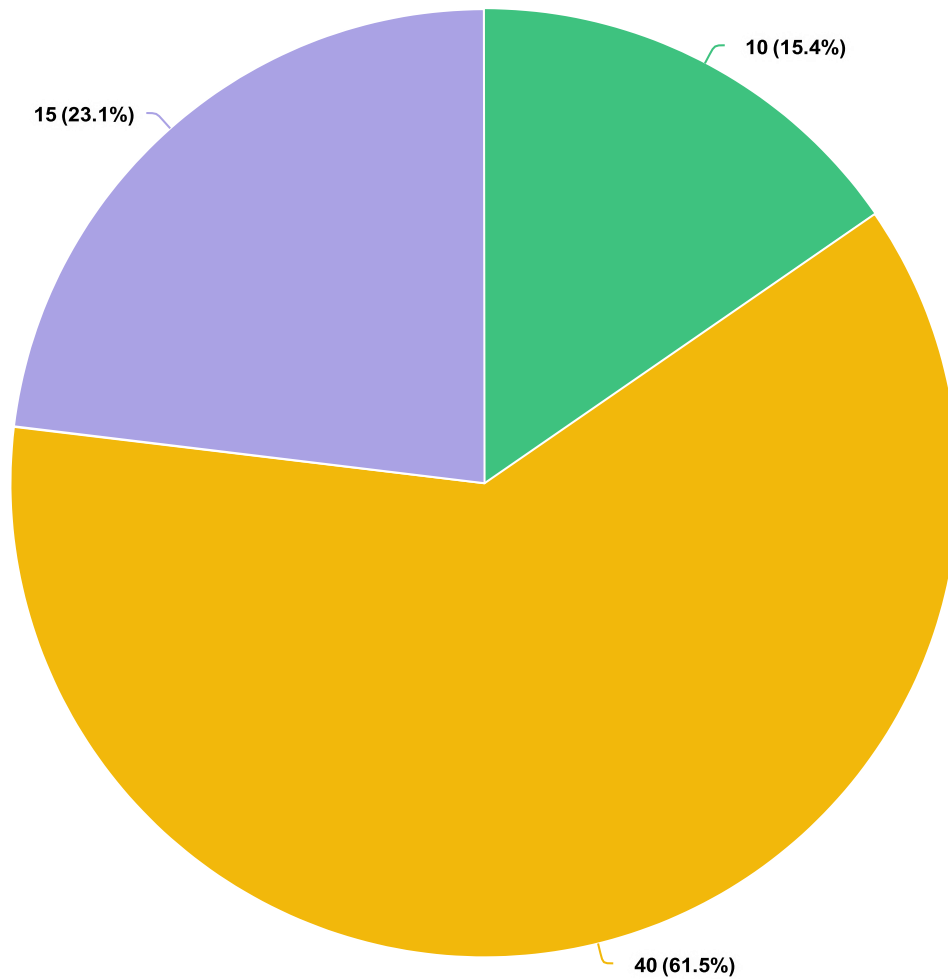
**Q9 For what reasons do you visit Bowker Oval Reserve and Playspace?**



**Question options**

- To access the play equipment   ● For sporting activities   ● For exercise/recreation
- To walk my dog/s   ● To visit the community garden   ● Other (please specify)

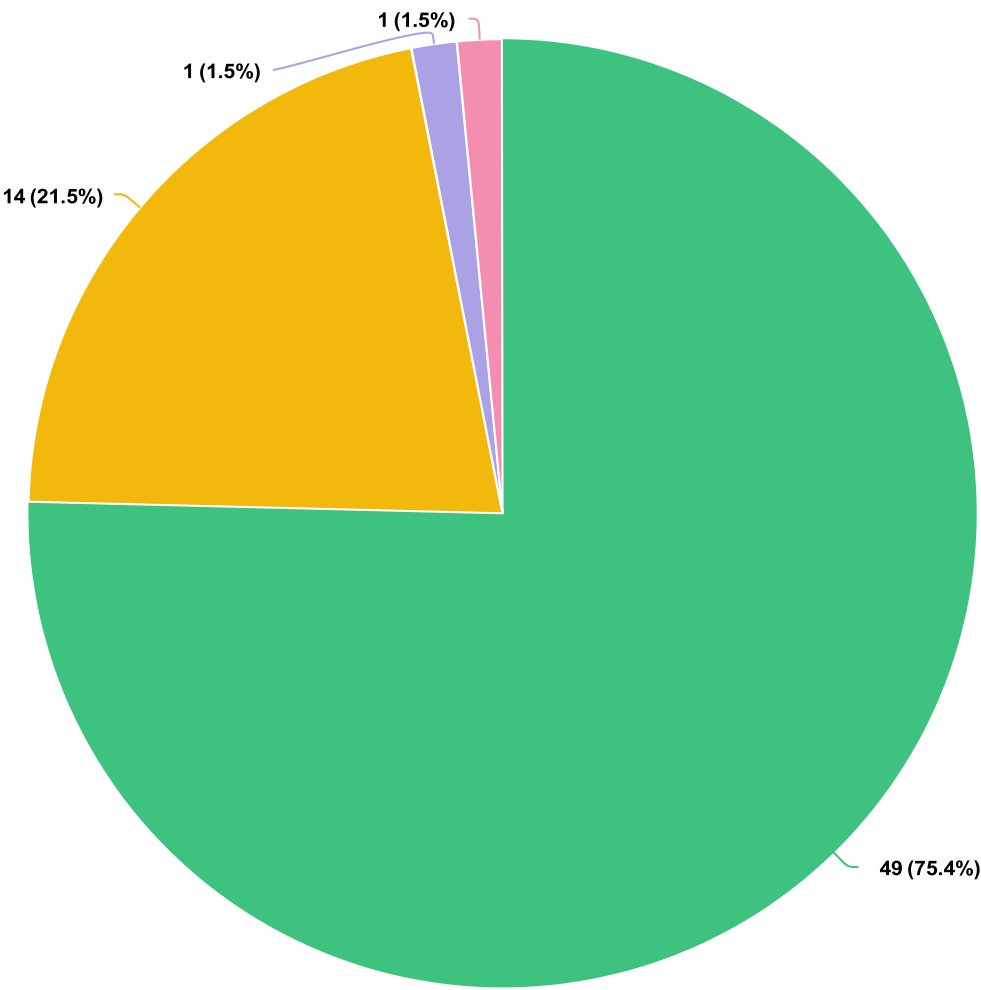
**Q10** How long do you usually stay at Bowker Oval Playspace



**Question options**

● Less than 30 minutes    ● 30 minutes to an hour    ● An hour or more

Q11 How do you normally travel to Bowker Oval Playspace?



Question options

- Walk
- Car
- Ride or scooter
- Other (please specify)

### Q13 Any other comments or feedback

(all comments are written verbatim)

1. This is not a child and adult friendly design. Why not add a couple of adult exercising pieces of equipment also.
2. Please incorporate fencing and natural elements, like climbing rocks/logs.
3. why the need to update all the existing Holdfast bay playgrounds? Is someone on the board or with power in council also own a playground business??
4. Please include a shade structure. The play equipment isn't utilised enough now as it's way too hot in the direct sun for most of the day. The proposed trees are needed but still not going to solve the problem of the direct sun for most of the day.
5. the community garden is amazing children in my care love the sensory garden and fairy garden and the accessibility for prams, bikes and something for all ages, could that community feel be influenced in playground ?? Nature play is popular as well. meeting places too, shade is vital and benches for picnics and lunch.
6. Please don't remove the excellent water fountain!
7. This is good it's being updated, would love you to consider some of my suggestions as we go to this park very very frequently, live on Hopkins crescent and often show people the space and meet people there, I have 3 young children under 8 years
8. If the playground could incorporate nature play, wooden play & the natural environment that would be amazing, given the community garden next door & encouraging sustainability & natural play materials. Really glad to hear the playground is being refurbished, we are expecting our baby boy in April 2022. Although we live in Marion council we are a 2 minute walk to the oval where we walk the dog daily.
9. Bowker oval is a fantastic resource for young families, with the sandpit, garden, book nook and sandpit available. Unfortunately it is made less desirable by dogs that are allowed off lead and under ineffective control. I have had many occasions where dogs have run up to my child while they are in the sandpit, on the playground or walking. These are the dog owners that normally respond with it's ok my dog won't hurt when they see my child is upset and don't perceive it as an issue even though the dog is larger than my child. On occasion I have had a dog jumping up at me whilst holding my child to reach them, I've had an owner tell me to pick my child up so that the dog won't jump at them. It would be ideal if barriers or at least signage could be put in place around the play to remind owners that off leash is for dogs under effective control and what that expectation is. These experiences have resulted in my children having a fear of dogs and less usage of the oval than we otherwise would.
10. It would also be ideal to have a path from Bowker Street to the play space for children to access on the bikes or scooters rather than using the road which is shared with cars.
11. Not sure if the play equipment will be from the same provider as that on Cecilia Sts Dulcie Perry Park but feel that lacked accessibility between ages and is quite cramped. Also wasn't made for children of larger body types. It was also not finished properly with some screws missing originally.
12. Thank you for upgrading the space. It would greatly benefit from an improvement.
13. I feel the space being updated is very small though - wouldn't the space near the small carpark, or even using the carpark (small one near the community garden) be a bigger space? There are no big playgrounds nearby so this would be a drawcard to the area if it was done bigger and better rather than just updating the same small area.
14. Thank you for upgrading the playground. We would not recommend having bark on the ground. Recycled plastic soft ground is best.
15. I have sent in a email as well, this form did not allow my partner to also put in her preferences. She likes option 1 because of the trampoline. In my email I sent in I also mentioned the paths to the southern car park should be looked at as it is not pram or disability friendly. If funds permit the project should look at fixing the footpath access as this new playground will be highly utilised.

16. I am pleased to see that this area is finally being upgraded, I am however disappointed that the community garden area was not utilised as the playground area it is a bigger and better situated and a larger playground would have enhanced the oval in a better way. After all it is a sporting area not a garden area for the community.
17. Please make sure there is better shade and slides etc aren't positioned/ made of equipment that gets too hot to use in the sun
18. A playground aesthetic and materials that complement the natural, organic feel of the community garden and the lovely wide green space of the oval would be appreciated. Primary coloured plastic has had its day.
19. I don't have kids, and I'm sure either design would be fine. My main reason for completing the survey is to suggest that grown ups need play equipment too! More specifically, outdoor exercise equipment. It would be great to have something like this at Bowker over <https://aspace.com.au/a-space-to-fitness/> (I have no commercial interest in this company; just came up on a google search, are Australian and look to provide some good options). It would also be great to see the cricket nets (which are currently in a sad state of disrepair) fixed up.
20. A recreation space with a community garden, play equipment for kids, the book exchange AND functioning cricket nets + exercise equipment for adults (along with the facilities for sport and dog walking etc. offered by the existing green space) would be truly 'multi-generational' and pretty great.
21. Bowker oval is already an excellent facility for building community, but exercise equipment for adults would in my view make it even better. Thanks for all your good work and for the opportunity to have some input.
22. Upgrade of the tennis court would be awesome!!
23. No shade in general, the play area is a harsh site to enjoy during the day. Not enough trees.
24. I think the Community Garden is an absolute success and a credit to the people who thought up the idea and implemented it. The little open day/fete held at the end of 2021, with the barbeque and the Uke Band playing and the visits to the garden was really, really great and lots of the community supported it. I live very close to the oval. It is used all the time - informally by people walking their dog or playing tennis or basketball or walking or running on the oval and used by all the junior sporting groups (soccer, cricket, football, little athletics). It is used as soon as the sun comes up to when the sun goes down. You see families before and after tea walking to the oval. It is such an informal community hub and such a wonderful asset for the people in the area. It is so fantastic for junior sport. If the community wants children to play sport, there has to be areas for them to play. Bowker is a wonderful oval for children's sport. It may need the council workers to do a weekly inspection of the area (probably already happens). Sometimes youth think it is a good idea to bring people's hard rubbish to the area - like lounge suites, chairs. There has been fireworks and crackers let off at the oval in the night time, which the Police have been informed about. This is an intermittent problem which the Council cannot really do anything about. Overall it is great that the Council has been pro-active in improving the Bowker Oval for the community.
25. as mentioned earlier adding a lowered basketball hoop for primary school aged children would benefit the local community. during the pandemic when the school grounds was off limit, it was hard for 5-8 yo shoot/engage in physical activities such as basketball with an adult hoop. also the aging cricket nets and exposed steel cables are great concerns for the kids safety. it would be fantastic if the nets can be developed as part of the project. improved lighting to the BBQ and kids play area (at least 6pm-9pm during winter months) would be great, especially during winter when sunset early. this will help community enjoy outdoors during winter as well.
26. Please no metal slides! Shade over the playground would be great too.
27. Thank you for consulting with us :)
28. I live 300m away from this proposed new playspace and i dont think either proposal is a significant improvement to what is currently there.
29. The fence around the playground is really important to me so I can feel safe from dogs that are on the oval. It also helps reduce the dog poo in that area. The bark chips also splinter my hands and feet when I play and fall over. Some other equipment that may be exciting are a rock climbing wall, an obstacle course, a flying fox, a higher section of equipment and a bigger slide. Some more swings are good too as I don't get a turn when it's busy :-(. I really like the ground trampolines idea. Thank you for building a new playground. Yours sincerely.

- 30.** P.S My parents would like more benches to be able to sit on and watch us play.
- 31.** Book Nook on oval is an excellent idea and increases sense of community. Seen mothers reading to children however frequent comments occur on dark appearance of tiles. it does not add any colour/brightness. Square design means climbing. Good to see holes have been drilled in cement surfaces as due to slop when raining + use of sprinkler which is very close the area in front of books has a large puddle which prevents users from using the library. Is there anyone monitoring number + content of books. I have removed some inappropriate books. Books found on oval as litter. Children area needs segregation so books remain upright as they are lighter + frequently fall over + become messy. Perspex constantly falls out. Currently lower section not in place. Book user told me over a week ago had contacted council. Rubbish/Dumping on oval. Officer chairs + broken chairs have been next to bins for 3 weeks despite council workers being in this area. Western entrance to over near Balmoral needs to be removed. Sloping, have to jump puddles when rains.
- 32.** Thank you for being such a great council.
- 33.** Age group 4,7,8,15 I couldn't select more than one age bracket.



## **Bowker Oval Email Summary**

During the engagement period 21 email enquiries were received from 11 community members. Due to COVID-19 restrictions a drop-in session was not possible for this engagement which increased the number of enquires received via email.

Three of the enquiries received were relating to issues accessing the online form or requesting a hard copy form. Three requests suggested equipment they would like to see and a further three requests related to upgrading the adjoining tennis and basketball courts and cricket net and pitch which is outside of the project scope. Three requests related to the need for a shade structure to be constructed over the play area. Two requests related to current drainage issues on site and a further two requests were to improve the path from the carpark to allow pram and wheel chair access. Individual requests related to the want for native trees to be selected and no reductions to dog exercise space.

## **Bowker Oval Playspace Renewal Engagement Summary**

Sixty six community members completed the online and hard copy survey selecting their preferred concept design for the new Bowker Oval Playspace and detailing why this was their preferred option and any ideas they had to improve this option. One further survey responded did not select a preferred option. Of the 66 respondents, 29 (44%) selected Option 1 and 37 (56%) selected Option 2. These results show a preference from our community for council administration to progress with concept design Option 2 for the new Bowker Oval Playspace.

Of the 37 people who selected Option 2, a significant number (14) indicated that to improve Option 2, they would like to see an in-ground trampoline included if possible. Council administration spent time looking into the possibility of including a trampoline within the existing playground layout and budget. Unfortunately there wasn't the opportunity to achieve this without removing a number of pieces of play equipment to create the space and funds required, which was deemed counterproductive.

In conclusion, council administration will progress with the supply and construction of Bowker Oval Playspace Option 2 as per the current concept design. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in this engagement.