

## FIVE PLAYGROUNDS UPGRADE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY October 2017

Council invited feedback through the [Your Say Inner West website](#) and carried out information sessions on-site for the five playgrounds.

### How You Responded:

Through the online survey forms we received 91 submissions

These submissions included:

- 35 comments about Marr Reserve Playground
- 9 comments about Stimson Reserve Playground
- 23 comments about Orange Grove Playground
- 14 comments about Pine Square Playground
- 19 comments about Colgate Reserve Playground

Many detailed and articulate responses were received which showed the playgrounds are highly valued by residents. They included a range of suggestions and priorities for the upgrading as summarised below.

### **MARR RESERVE PLAYGROUND**



**Marr Reserve Playground** is valued for the wide range of play facilities which includes preschool and primary school age groups.

The most popular priorities for play equipment are swings, slides, climbing rope and spinning equipment with a few requests for monkey bars and trampoline. There are also suggestions to provide inclusive play for children of all abilities

More than half also requested for nature based play elements, followed by imaginative play, hiding places and meeting places.

Other comments/suggestions:

- |                         |                           |                          |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| - dog poo bag dispenser | - community veggie garden | - water feature          |
| - netball hoop          | - community tiled wall    | - fence near to roadside |
| - sandpit               |                           | - shade                  |

**PINE SQUARE PLAYGROUND**

**Pine Square Playground** is thought to be well suited to toddler play, being fenced and gated. It is also a bit of a secret garden as it is located in the midst of houses and not visible from the main street.

It is valued for the range of play facilities which includes preschool and primary school age play equipment. It also has a grassed open space, good for running or kicking a ball around. However, it has limited toddler play.

The most popular priorities for playground equipment are swings, slides, climbing rope with a few requests for spinning, see-saw and monkey bars. There are also suggestions to provide more multi-age play equipment and inclusive play for children with limited mobility.

More than half also request for imaginative play, followed by nature based play elements and hiding places

Other comments/suggestions:

- tree roots are a trip hazard
- netball hoop
- shade needed
- picnic table
- dogs are in playground
- swings are in the wrong location

There are a number of requests to remove the big fig tree due to its invasive surface roots. There is also an equal number noting that the tree/s are highly valued.

## ORANGE GROVE PLAYGROUND



**Orange Grove Playground** is considered an important social place, being popular for parents and their children to interact with other young families. The playground is valued for its proximity to school and cafes, is shady and has ample seating for parents to sit and watch the children play.

Its location is highly convenient as it is enroute to Orange Grove School, making it very popular for before and after school play. The current play equipment caters mainly to toddlers and preschool children.

The most popular priorities for playground equipment are slides, climbing rope and swings with a few requests for monkey bars, spinning play, see-saw and 1 request for trampoline. There are a few requests to include new equipment for school age kids i.e. 6 years and older.

More than half also request for imaginative play, followed closely by nature based play elements and hiding places.

Other comments/suggestions:

- fencing on the car park side to make it safe
- inclusive play equipment which is accessible from a wheelchair
- accessible bubbler
- wheelchair accessible ground surface
- expand the play area to include the grassed area



**STIMSON RESERVE PLAYGROUND**

**Stimson Reserve Playground** is valued for the natural shade provided by the park trees and the lush planting. It is a small pocket park set next to houses. Currently the play equipment caters to toddler and preschool age groups.

The most popular priorities for playground equipment are swings, slides, spinning play and with a few requests for climbing rope, monkey bars and see-saw.

More than half also request for imaginative play, followed by nature based play elements and meeting places.

Other comments/suggestions:

- level the sloping playground area to make it more useable
- expand the play facility to include the grassed area
- provide fence/barrier to the low side of the sloping grassed area which is adjacent to the road to make it safe for play
- bubbler
- it is known as the 'mozzie park'; need to prune the understorey vegetation to reduce mosquito breeding
- at the northern end, there is a broken brick wall leaning into the park, making it unsafe for play
- park planting needs regular maintenance
- owners not picking up dog poo

**COLGATE RESERVE PLAYGROUND**

**Colgate Reserve Playground** is valued for its location, being close to the harbour, boats and beach. It adjoins the Palmolive apartment development, making it very popular for the apartment residents with children and grandchildren. The play facility is limited to two rockers.

The most popular priorities for playground equipment are slides, climbing rope and spinning play features. There are a few requests to include infant swings, cubby house and a request for older kids (6 years +) play.

More than half also request for imaginative play, followed by nature based play elements and meeting places

Other comments/suggestions:

- playground currently under-utilised, expand the range of play equipment
- raised timber edging around the play area is uninviting and some parts have rotten away
- seating for parents and grandparents to watch the children play
- match the colour of the equipment to the apartment building
- avoid putting in equipment that teenagers can use in the night e.g. large swings and roundabouts

The great number of web views (680) and submissions (91) suggest that residents are very interested in their parks and playgrounds. The common thread running through all the 5 playgrounds feedback is that playgrounds are highly valued community facilities; they should cater to a range of age groups, include nature based play and are ideal social spaces for the communities to interact.

Where to from here:

Designs for the playgrounds are being prepared based on the comments received, the characteristics of the sites and available budgets. Unfortunately not all suggestions will be able to be included in the current upgrade, however they will be considered for future upgrades.

Concepts for the playgrounds will be finalised in the next few weeks (November) and will be notified on-site and available for viewing online.

Construction is planned for March-June 2018 and will require closure of the playgrounds. Construction will be staged with closure of the each playground typically 6 to 10 weeks. Notification of the work will be provided closer to the time.