Golden Square Playground Community Engagement Report

This report provides information on the community consultation for the Golden Square Playground project and reports on the engagement outcomes. The consultation opened on Monday 8 July and closed at 9am on Monday 5 August 2024.

Overview

Project background

We're upgrading the current playground at Golden Square Bicentennial Park. The play space could be better designed to achieve:

- a wider variety of play uses for a more diverse range of ages
- better accessibility options for park users
- providing nature play elements.

The Golden Square Bicentennial Park Masterplan provides a high-level framework for improvements in the area and includes a suggestion for a new playground upgrade among other recommendations.

During consultation for the Masterplan in 2021 and 2022, the proposal to upgrade the existing playground received high levels of support from the community and was listed as an early priority.

The Masterplan was adopted at the Council Meeting on Tuesday 18 July 2023. Since then, funding has been secured to progress with concept and detailed design work in 2024 for a proposed new play space.

The draft concept design includes the proposed layout and design of the playground, nature play additions and other improvements. We sought community feedback on the draft Concept Design from 8 July 2024 to Monday 5 August.

Objectives of this engagement

1. Inform the community and stakeholders about the plan to create a new playground at Golden Square Bicentennial Park.
2. Seek feedback from the community on the draft Concept Design and learn more about any local issues to consider, specifically:
    - To what extent they agree that the proposed design:
        - improves accessibility options
        - offers diverse play opportunities for a wider range of ages
        - creates a stronger connection to the Fairy Tree
        - embeds nature play elements in this space.
    - Any other feedback or comments they might have about the draft Concept Design.

Level of community influence

1. The feedback from the community can help the project team to understand whether the proposed play equipment provides diverse play options for people of different ages and abilities, offers nature play elements and meet the needs of the community and park users.
2. The feedback from the community will inform the project team of any local issues or other perspectives to be considered.
3. The community can also provide any comments they may have regarding the draft Concept Design

Engagement methods:

- Online survey tool hosted through Your Say Yarra engagement platform
- 2 x place-based pop-ups at the following locations:
    - Golden Square Bicentennial Park on Saturday 20 July from 1pm to 3pm
    - Golden Square Bicentennial Park on Wednesday 24 July from 10am to 12 midday.

Engagement questions:

1. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about the draft Concept Design. (scale: strongly disagree to strongly agree):
    - The proposed design improves accessibility for park users.
    - The proposed design offers diverse play opportunities for a wider range of ages.
    - The proposed design creates a stronger connection to the Fairy Tree.
    - The proposed design embeds nature play elements in this space.
2. Do you have any comments about your answers above?
3. Do you have any other comments about the draft Concept Design?

Engagement reach

Engagement promotion includes:
Social media channels reaching over 5,500 people.
Council email newsletters including Yarra Life and Your Say Yarra email newsletter. We also conducted direct outreach to participants who wanted to be informed of the outcomes of the Golden Square Masterplan consultation in 2021 and 2022. This reached a total of 8075 subscribers.
News story on Yarra City Council's website.
Mail outs of postcards to 226 property owners and occupiers of residences and businesses within 200 metres of the park.
Radio advertisements for our multicultural community run through 3ZZZ

Your Say Yarra project page:

The success of the Your Say Yarra page is tracked against the following metrics:

- **Views** - The number of times the page was seen.
- **Visitors** – The number of unique visitors that saw the page.
- **Responses** – The number of feedback responses that were submitted.

Views	Visitors	Responses
778	557	74

In person engagement opportunities:

In-person session (including date and location)	Approximate number of people we spoke to	Responses
Golden Square Bicentennial Park on Saturday 20 July from 1pm to 3pm	6	0
Golden Square Bicentennial Park on Wednesday 24 July from 10am to 12 midday.	10	0
TOTAL	16	0

Engagement results

Who did we hear from?

Demographic data was collected via the 74 hard and online copies of the engagement tool.

What's your connection to Yarra?	Numbers	Percentage
I live in Yarra	69	93.24%
I work in Yarra	15	20.27%
I visit Yarra	3	4.05%
I study in Yarra	2	2.7%
I own a property or mortgage in Yarra	28	37.84%
I rent in Yarra	4	5.41%
I own a business in Yarra	3	4.05%
What gender do you identify as?	**Numbers**	**Percentage**
Man	31	43.06%
Woman	38	52.78%
Self-described	0	0%
I prefer not to say	3	4.17%
What is your age range?	**Numbers**	**Percentage**
Under 11	1	1.37%
12 to 17	2	2.74%
18 to 24	0	0%
25 to 34	11	15.07%
35 to 49	42	57.53%
50 to 59	5	6.85%
60 to 69	7	9.59%

70 to 84	4	5.48%
85 and older	0	0%
I prefer not to say	1	1.37%

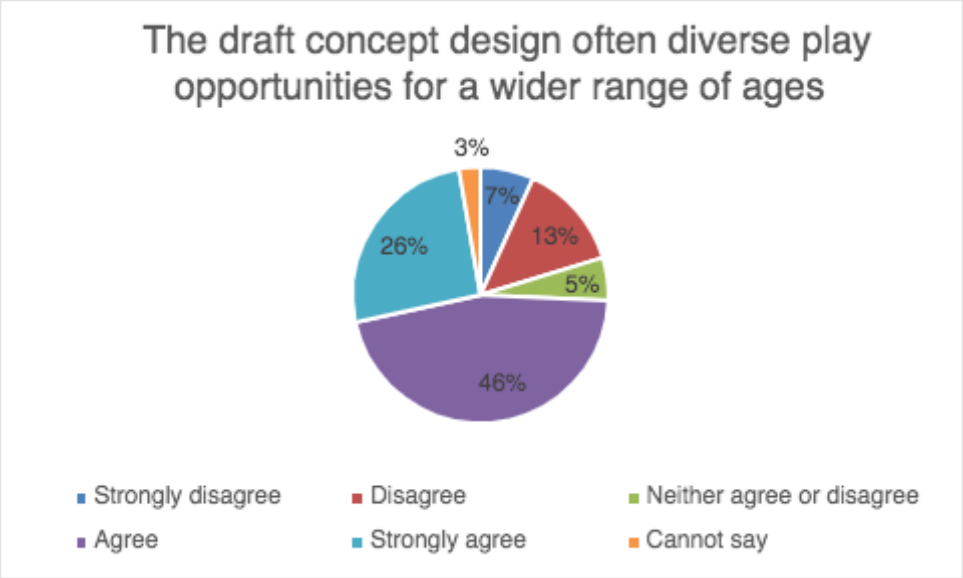
What suburb do you live in	Numbers	Percentage
Abbotsford	2	2.7%
Alphington	0	0%
Burnley	36	48.65%
Carlton North	0	0%
Clifton Hill	0	0%
Collingwood	0	0%
Cremorne	2	2.7%
Fairfield	0	0%
Fitzroy	3	4.05%
Fitzroy North	0	0%
Princes Hill	0	0%
Richmond	28	37.84%
I live outside of Yarra	3	4.05%

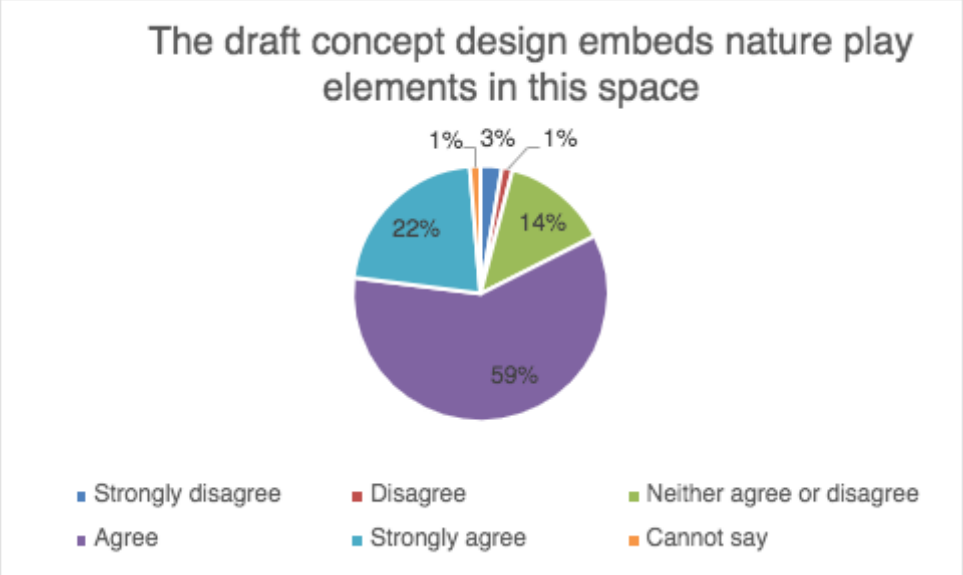
Select all that apply. I am….	Numbers	Percentage
Someone who speaks a language other than English at home.	6	8.33%
A person living with a disability.	5	6.94%
A member of the LGBTIQA+ community.	5	6.94%
Someone of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.	2	2.78%
None of the above.	46	63.89%
I prefer not to say.	13	18.06%

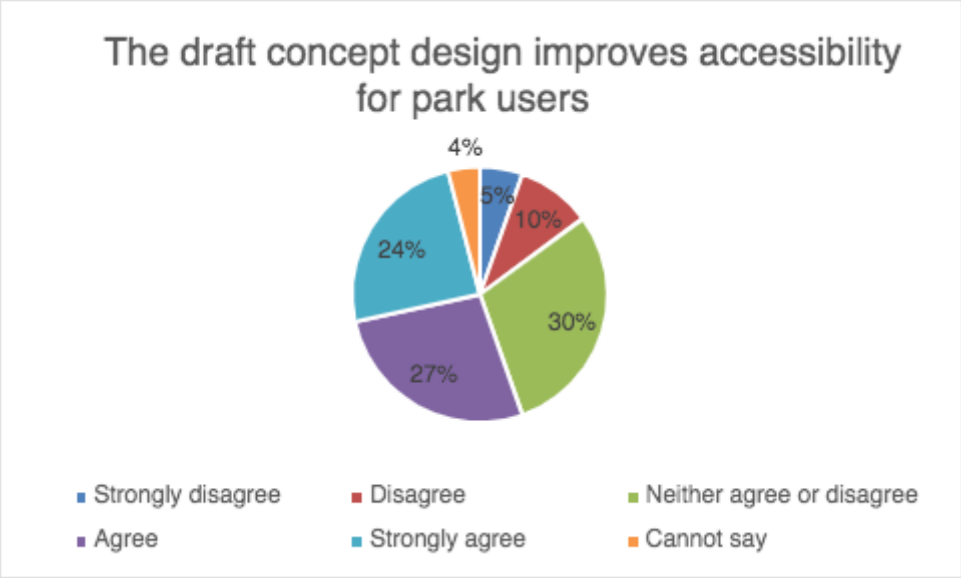
What did we hear?

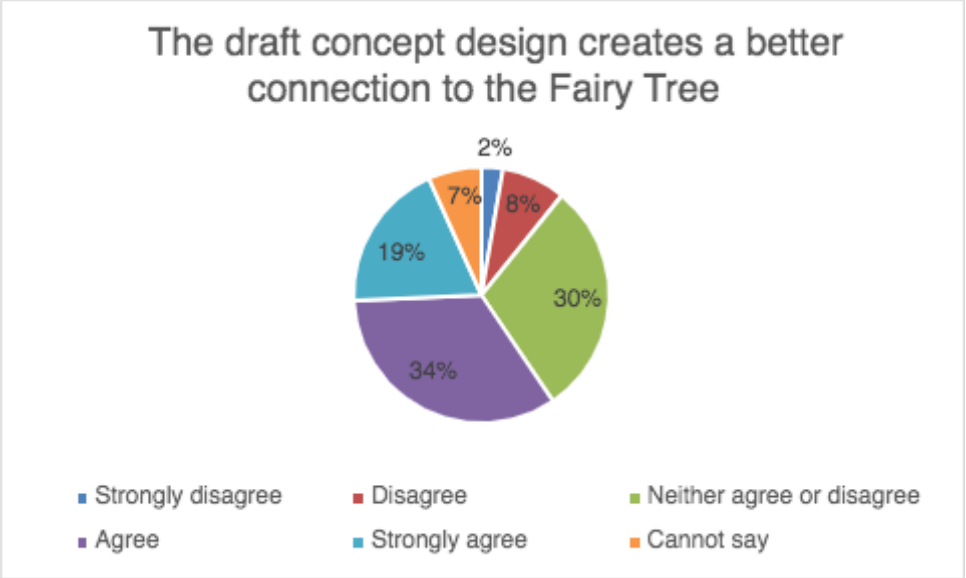
While we did not have many visitors at the pop ups, all those who attended mentioned that the consultation had been shared on various street WhatsApp groups, and that all the locals knew it was taking place.

The survey asked people to respond to four main statements which are represented in the pie charts below.









All of the questions received significant support from respondents with the question about Diverse Play Opportunities receiving the greatest level of disagreement. This was echoed in the comments where people suggested the play offering for older children would not extend them enough. The key themes from the open comments are summarised below.

Feedback Theme 1 - Fairy Tree integration	
What did we hear	**Our response**
"It is great that the fairy tree is being recognised and preserved but hard to see how the concept design interacts with it."	Council recognises the local significant of the 'Fairy Tree' and the playground design aims to recognise the tree while respecting the area under the tree as its own special place in the park.

Feedback Theme 2 - Shade	
What did we hear	**Our response**
"It's important for children to play outside and more shading will encourage more people"	Council understands the need to provide shaded play spaces and will be strategic in both the selection of species and the placement, to ensure future canopy cover.

Feedback Theme 3 – Older Children	
What did we hear	**Our response**
"It is difficult to see how challenging the equipment for older children and the rock balance is. Most playgrounds are built too easy for older kids (age 8 and up)	Council will review the play equipment offering for older children (upper primary) and provide equipment better suited for climbing and social seating. We note that Barkley Gardens is a 10 minute walk away, and provides play equipment for a wider range of children.

Feedback Theme 4 - Cubbies	
What did we hear	**Our response**
"I find that public cubby houses tend to become home to spiders" *"The cubby is brilliant"*	We received mixed feedback on the proposed Cubby. Some respondents loved the proposal, while others were concerned it would be a challenge to keep pest free. We will review the material selection, and access to better allow for regular cleaning.

Feedback Theme 5 - Dogs	
What did we hear	**Our response**
"Dogs take over the park and shouldn't be near children in the playground"	Dogs are prohibited within playgrounds at any time and must be kept on-leash within 10 meters of playground areas. As part of the playground design, garden beds and partial walls will be around the playground area to form a natural barrier between the playground and the open area.

Feedback Theme 6 - Swings	
What did we hear	**Our response**
"Please put in more swings - two swings is not enough."	The Concept Design suggests three swings: one junior, one youth and one basket swing. This will increase the total amount of swings provided, and also the accessibility of the swings by a wider range of children.