

Central Park Playground Upgrade



Community Consultation Report

May 2024

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Background

Council is proposing to upgrade the playground in Central Park, Concord. The upgrade is in line with the Let's All Play Strategy, and the aim is to create a play space that is inclusive, accessible, and respects the heritage of the park.

This consultation sought community feedback on the types of play equipment that should be included in the space.

Consultation ran from 1 April - 12 May 2024 and feedback is summarised in this report. Feedback will be used to develop a concept design for the upgrade, which will be shared with the community for further feedback later this year.

Consultation methods

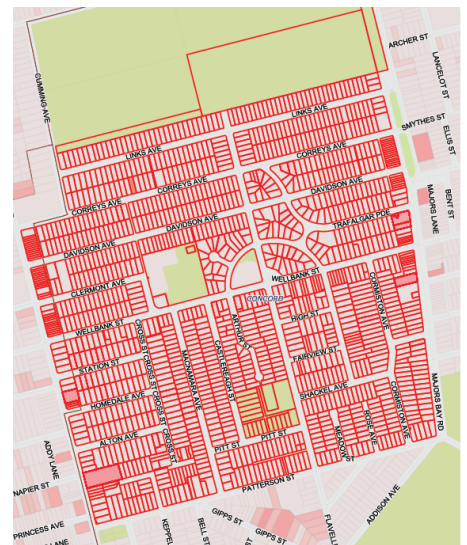
- Online survey hosted on Collaborate (see appendix A):
<https://collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/central-park-upgrade>
- Kids drawing activity (see appendix B)
- Drop-in at Central Park on Wednesday 8 May 2024
- Email/phone feedback

Notification methods

The following methods were implemented to notify the community of this consultation:

- Collaborate page:
<https://collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/central-park-upgrade>
- Email to 2,062 Collaborate members
- Notification letter delivered to 1,627 nearby properties
- 2 x site posters
- Email to nearby schools and childcare centres
- Kids activity sheets distributed at Concord Library
- Council print newsletter and enews
- Social media

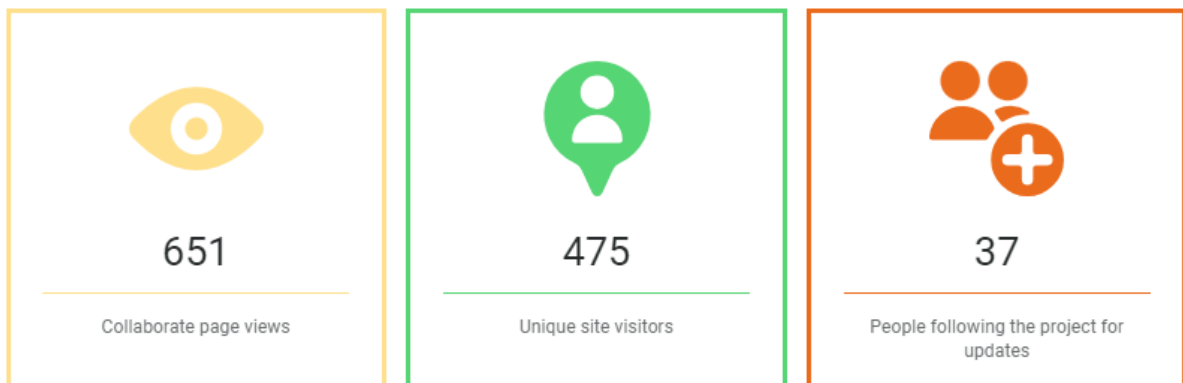
See appendix C for more details.



Notification letter distribution area

Consultation summary

Collaborate reach



Digital promotions reach



See appendix D for more details.

Results

In total 70 submissions were received on the proposed upgrades:

- 48 surveys
- 16 kids drawing activities
- 5 emails
- 1 letter
- 1 submission collected at the drop-in session (this submission was removed as the respondent had completed the online survey)

Feedback summary

In general, the community likes the trees at the existing playground and the natural shade cover they bring. Some respondents (10%) believe more shade is needed in the space, with a few suggesting a shade cloth.

Most respondents would like to see swinging play equipment (56%) and climbing play equipment (54%) incorporated into the playground upgrade. Some respondents, including children, also highlighted a preference for a flying fox and slide.

11% of respondents would like to see play elements for a range of ages, with a few respondents specifically mentioning the need to include play equipment for older children/teenagers and people with a disability.

Many respondents were concerned with the proximity of the playground to Wellbank Street, with 23% suggesting a fence be installed either around the entire playground or along the side closest to the road.

Many respondents expressed concerns with the mulch at the playground, with 23% noting a preference for rubber soft fall, including a few respondents who noted this would increase accessibility. The inclusion of rubber soft fall was a top priority for 21% of survey respondents (14% of total respondents).

Community survey results – 48 submissions

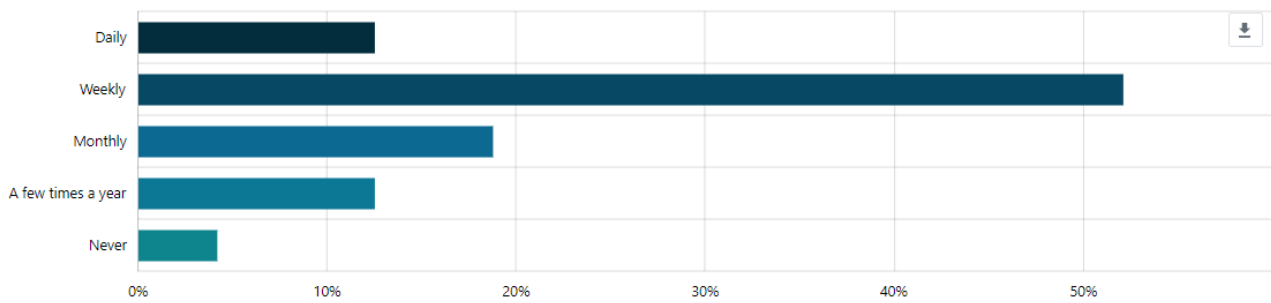
Park visitation

On average, most respondents (52%) visit the playground weekly. Some visit daily (13%) and some monthly (19%).

5

On average, how often do you visit Central Park?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 48 (100%)

**Respondent demographics**

82% of respondents noted they are a parent, grandparent, guardian, or carer of a child that visits the playground. Of these:

- 39% visit the playground with a child aged 0-3 years
- 23% visit with a child aged 4-5 years
- 26% visit with a child aged 6-12 years

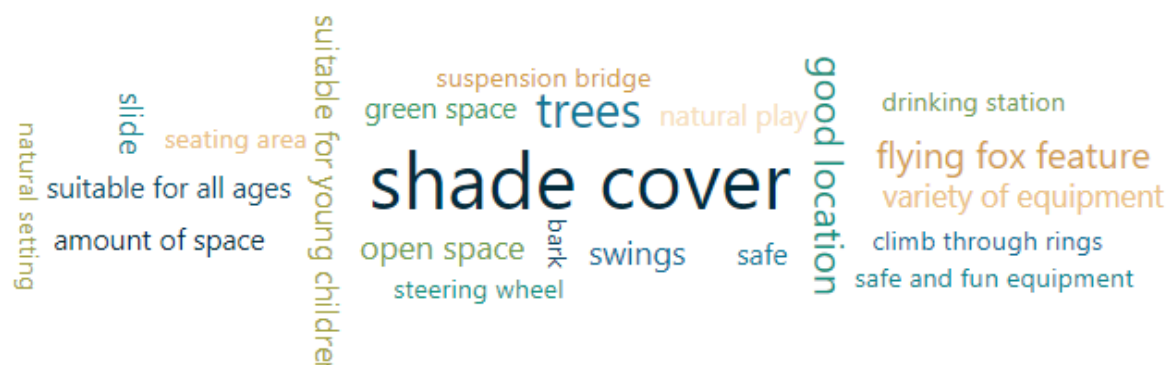
11% of respondents noted they visit the playground with a person living with a disability.

Suburb

- 67% of respondents live in Concord
- 17% live in North Strathfield
- 25% live in other suburbs in the City of Canada Bay

What people like about the current playground

Respondents were asked what they like most about the current playground, with the most responses referencing the shade cover and trees. Specific pieces of play equipment were also mentioned including the flying fox, swings, and slide. Ideas mentioned by two or more respondents are summarised in the word cloud and table below.



Tag	Percent	Count
shade cover	56.25%	27
trees	25%	12
good location	14.58%	7
flying fox feature	12.5%	6
swings	8.33%	4
open space	8.33%	4
variety of equipment	6.25%	3
slide	6.25%	3
suitable for young children	6.25%	3
suitable for all ages	4.17%	2
green space	4.17%	2
natural play	4.17%	2
amount of space	4.17%	2
safe	4.17%	2

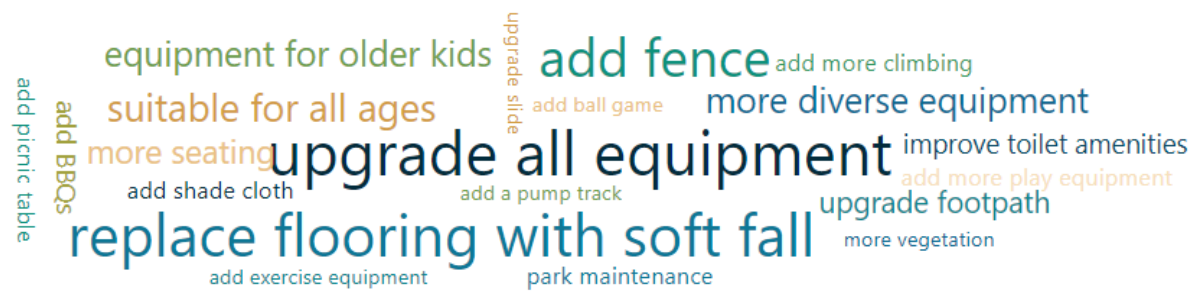
Other responses include:

- Seating area
- Toilet amenities
- Steering wheel
- Suspension bridge
- Climb through rings
- Drinking station
- Distance from the road
- Natural setting
- Mulch
- Accessibility

Suggested improvements

Respondents were asked what they think needs to be improved about the playground. The most common responses were to upgrade all play equipment, replace mulch with rubber soft fall and to

fence the area to increase safety. Suggestions mentioned by two or more respondents are summarised in the word cloud and table below.



Tag	Percent	Count
upgrade all equipment	33.33%	16
replace flooring with soft fall	31.25%	15
add fence	27.08%	13
suitable for all ages	16.67%	8
more diverse equipment	14.58%	7
equipment for older kids	14.58%	7
more seating	12.5%	6
upgrade footpath	10.42%	5
add BBQs	8.33%	4
improve toilet amenities	8.33%	4
add more climbing	6.25%	3
add more play equipment	6.25%	3
add shade cloth	6.25%	3
park maintenance	6.25%	3
add picnic table	6.25%	3
upgrade slide	4.17%	2
more vegetation	4.17%	2
add a pump track	4.17%	2
add ball game	4.17%	2
add exercise equipment	4.17%	2

Other responses include:

- Equipment:
 - Balancing equipment
 - Upgrade swings
 - Ninja course
 - Goal posts
 - Zipline
 - Monkey bars
 - Ping pong table

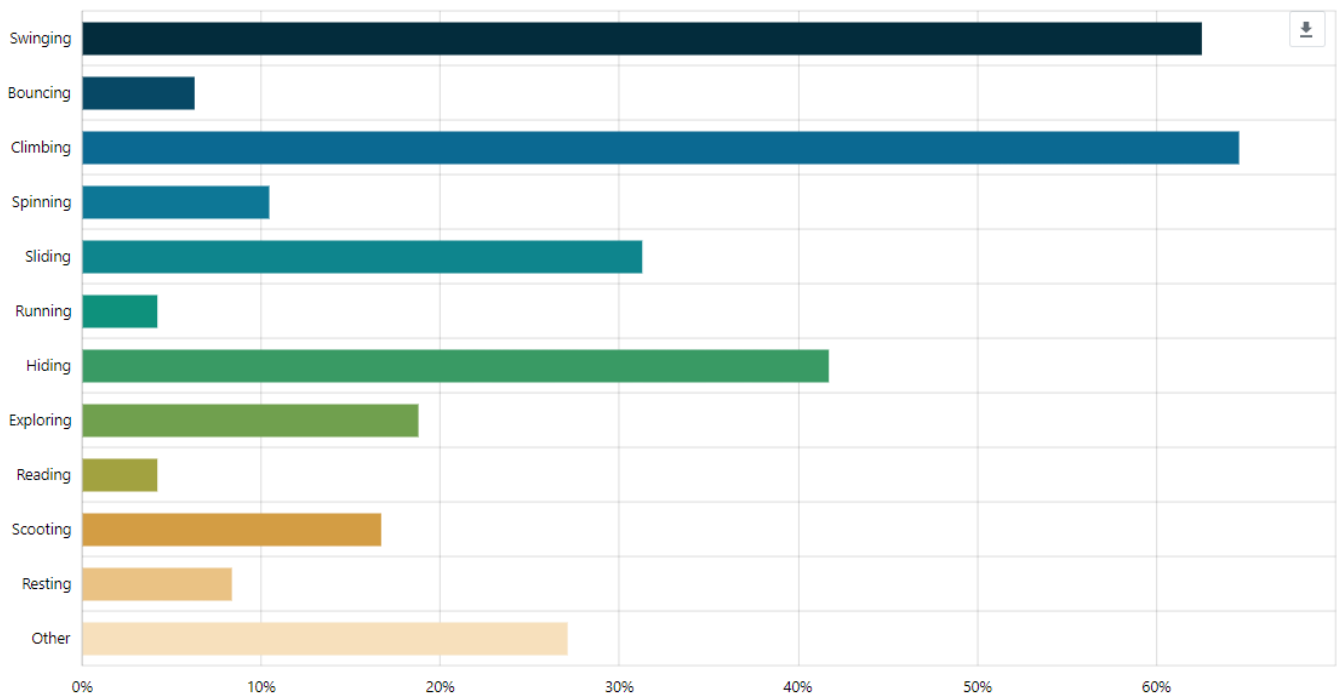
- Basketball court
- Trees:
 - Keep trees
 - Remove trees
- Integration of a bike path
- Art mural
- Lighting and CCTV
- Improve access to the playground
- Drainage
- Improve landscape
- Drinking station
- Relocate playground away from the road
- Increase the size of the park
- Make the space more suitable for toddlers

Preferred play equipment

Respondents were asked to select the top three types of play equipment that they would like to see in the space. Overall, climbing (65%), swinging (63%), and hiding (42%) were the top preferences.

3 What types of play equipment would you like to see in the space?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 48 (100%)



27% of respondents selected 'other', with many mentioning specific pieces of play equipment that were recorded in other sections of the survey. Ideas include:

- Water features/play (mentioned twice)
- Zipline
- Miniature soccer goals
- Equipment for older kids

- Equipment for adults
- All play options
- Flying fox
- Basketball court
- Balancing equipment
- Play shop
- Monkey bars

Priorities

Respondents were asked what they would like Council to prioritise when designing the playground upgrade with the most common priorities being to replace the mulch with rubber soft fall and to keep the trees/shade. Suggestions mentioned by two or more respondents are summarised in the word cloud and table below.



Tag	Percent	Count
replace flooring with soft fall	22.22%	10
keep trees	13.33%	6
keep shade	8.89%	4
add fence	6.67%	3
shade cover	6.67%	3
safety	6.67%	3
more diverse equipment	6.67%	3
upgrade footpath	4.44%	2
add more play equipment	4.44%	2
suitable for young children	4.44%	2
upgrade all equipment	4.44%	2

suitable for all ages	4.44%	2
accessibility	4.44%	2
natural setting	4.44%	2
equipment for older kids	4.44%	2
add monkey bars	4.44%	2
seating	4.44%	2

Other responses include:

- BBQs
- Road safety
- Flying fox
- Improve lighting
- Suitable for people with a disability
- Ninja course
- More native vegetation
- Sports court e.g. basketball/netball
- Aesthetics
- Scooter route
- Climbing equipment
- Swings
- Nature play
- Park maintenance
- Increase the size of the park

Of the 11% of respondents who visit the park with a child or adult with disability, the top priorities for the development of the playground upgrade are:

- Trees (mentioned twice)
- Softfall (mentioned twice)
- Make it suitable for people with disability
- Fencing
- New play equipment
- Nature play

Additional feedback

Respondents were asked to provide any additional comments or feedback to inform the upgrade. Ideas expressed were synonymous with responses to other questions in the survey and are listed below.

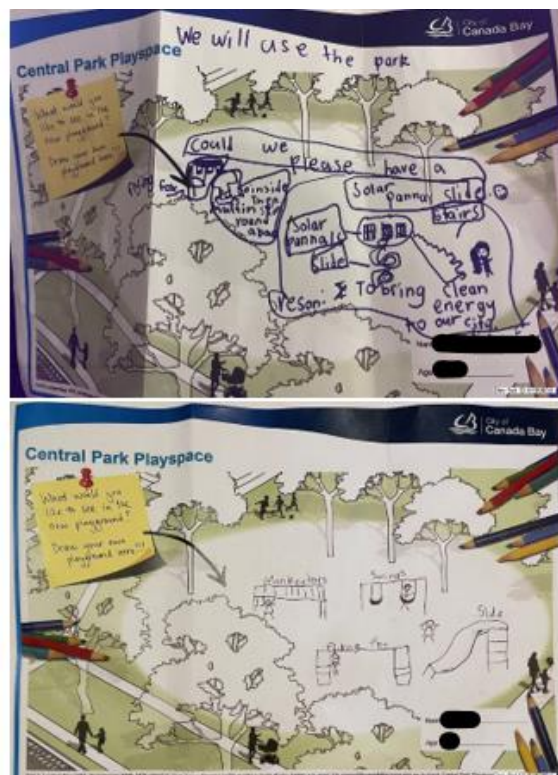
Tag	No. of mentions
Replace flooring with soft fall	3
Add fence	3
More seating	2
Upgrade all equipment	2
Suitable for adults	2

Waterplay	2
Park maintenance	2
Natural setting	2
More vegetation	1
Prioritise accessibility	1
Equipment for older kids	1
Add BBQs	1
Drinking station	1
Green space	1
Cycling track	1
Goal posts	1
Exercise equipment	1
More diverse equipment	1
Spider web	1
Keep shade	1
Good location	1
Link from playground to library	1
Prioritise safety	1
Suitable for young children	1
Keep trees	1
Add sensory activities	1
Mosquitos	1
Upgrade swing	1
Upgrade footpath	1
Improve amenities	1
Picnic table	1

Kids drawing activity feedback – 16 submissions

Kids were asked to draw a picture of the type of playground they would like to see in the space. Most respondents drew pictures of swings, climbing frames/walls and slides. The types of play equipment represented in the drawings are summarised in the table below and a copy of submissions can be found in appendix E.

Play equipment	No. of mentions
Swings	8
Climbing frame/wall	7
Slide	7
Flying fox	6
Monkey bars	5
Roundabout/spinner	4
Water play	4
Sand pit	4
Goal posts	3
Statues	3
Flowers	2
Lighting	1
Picnic area	1
Drinking station	1
Sitting area	1
Greenery	1
Music play	1
Bike circuit	1
Tic tac toe	1
Mini Harbour Bridge	1
Dinosaur themed park	1



Examples of drawing activity submissions

Feedback via email/mail – 6 submissions

Six submissions were received via email and mail, with most respondents highlighting the need for more shade cover. Ideas include:

- Shade cover (4)
- Flying fox (2)
- Fence (2)
- Improve footpath connections
- Softfall
- Skatepark
- Nature play
- Upgrade all equipment
- Suitable for young children
- Bins
- Swings
- Slides
- Drinking station
- Improve toilet amenities

Appendices

A. Survey questions

01. What do you like most about the current playground?

02. What do you think needs to be improved about the playground?

03. What types of play equipment would you like to see in the space?

Please select up to 3 choices.

Select between 1 and 3 answers
☐ Swinging
☐ Bouncing
☐ Climbing
☐ Spinning
☐ Sliding
☐ Running
☐ Hiding
☐ Exploring
☐ Reading
☐ Scooting
☐ Resting
☐ Anything else? (Please specify)

04. What would you like us to prioritise when designing the playground upgrade?

05. On average, how often do you visit Central Park?

Select one answer only
☐ Daily
☐ Weekly
☐ Monthly
☐ A few times a year
☐ Never

06. What is your relationship with Central Park?

Select between 1 and 2 answers
☐ I live in Concord
☐ I live in North Strathfield
☐ I live in the City of Canada Bay
☐ I don't live in the City of Canada Bay (Please state which suburb)

07. Are you a parent/grandparent/guardian/carer of a child that visits the playground?

Select one answer only
☐ Yes
☐ No

08. If yes, what age range is the child in?

Select one answer only
☐ 0-3 years
☐ 4-5 years
☐ 6-12 years
☐ Other

09. Do you visit the playground with a person living with a disability?

Select all that apply
☐ Yes - Child
☐ Yes - Adult

☐ No
☐ I'd rather not say

09. Please share any additional feedback here.

10. Email: **Required**

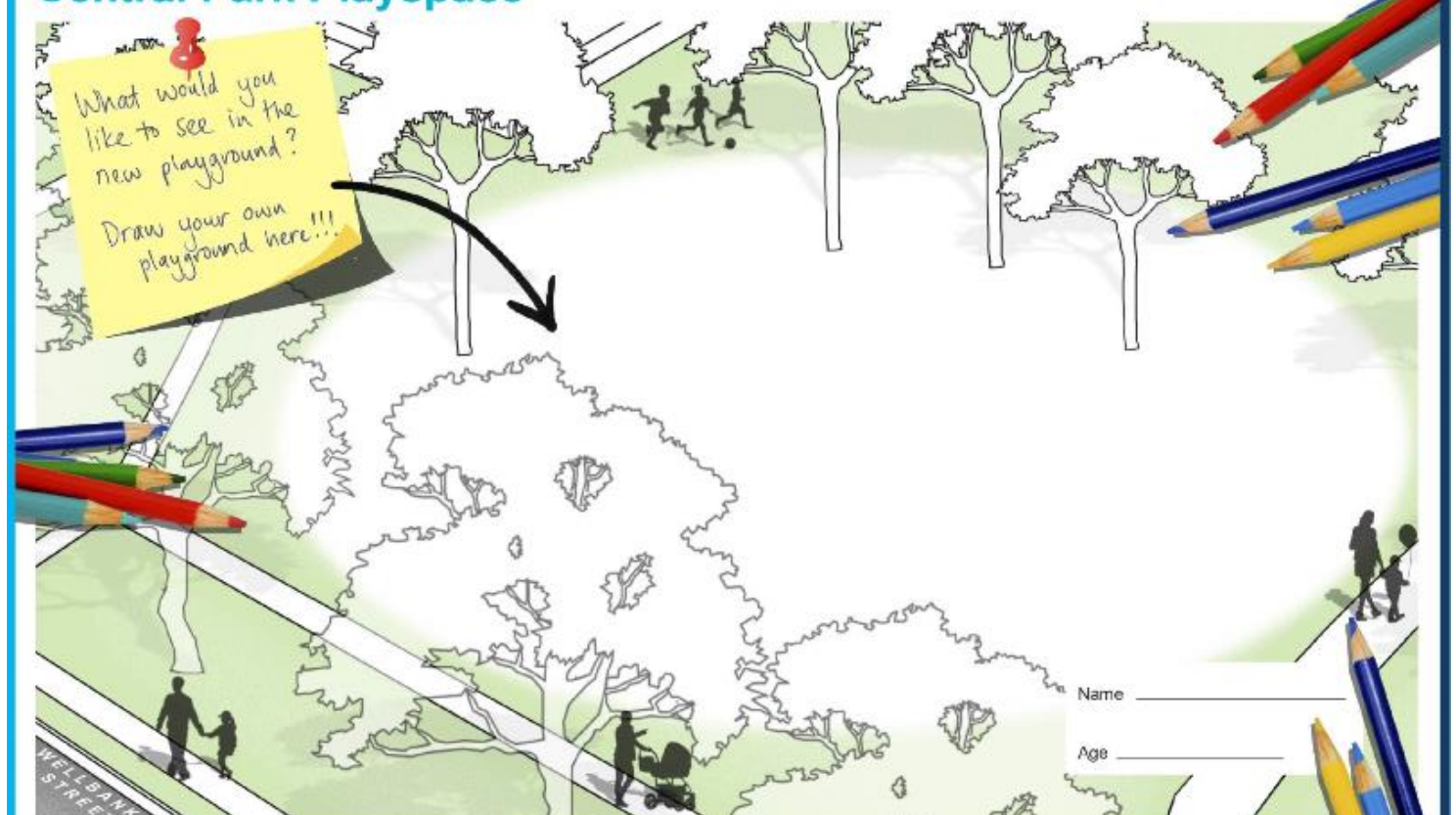
B. Kids drawing activity


**City of
Canada Bay**

Central Park Playspace

What would you like to see in the new playground?

Draw your own playground here!!!



Name _____
 Age _____

Mail to Locked Bag 1470, Drummoyne NSW 1470 (attention: Open Space Planning team) or take a photo of your design and email it to council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au (subject: Central Park Playspace upgrade)

C. Notification methods

Notification letter



05 April 2024

The Resident
Concord NSW 2137

Dear Resident,

Central Park Playground Upgrade – Help us design the new playground!

In line with Council's Let's All Play Strategy, we're proposing to upgrade the playground in Central Park, Concord. The aim is to create a play space that is inclusive, accessible, and respects the heritage of the park.

Before the designs are drafted, you're invited to share your ideas for the new playground. We're asking for your input on:

- Your current usage of the park
- Ideas for improvement
- Preferences for play activities

We also want to hear from the children who will use the new playground. The attached activity sheet asks kids to draw and describe their ideal playground.

For more information visit collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/central-park-upgrade or scan the QR code.

We invite your ideas and feedback until Sunday 12 May 2024 in the following ways:

- Online at collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/central-park-upgrade (or scan the QR code)
- Email: council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au (subject: Central Park Playground Upgrade)
- In-person: Council officers will be at the existing Central Park Playground on **Saturday 4 May 2024** from **10am-12pm** to talk about the project and collect feedback.
- Mail: Locked Bag 1470, Drummoyne NSW 1470 (Attn: Open Space Planning team)

If you have any questions, please contact Senior Landscape Architect Nick Brown on 9911 6336.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Megna".

Mayor Michael Megna
City of Canada Bay



Site poster

Central Park Playground Upgrade

Community consultation
5 April - 12 May 2024

Council is proposing to upgrade the playground at Central Park in Concord to make it a more accessible and inclusive play space. Let us know what types of play equipment you'd like us to consider.

Have your say

📍 collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/central-park-upgrade or scan the QR code

✉ council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au

☎ 9911 6336

🗣 Talk to us at Central Park Playground on Saturday 4 May from 10am - 12pm





D. Communications report

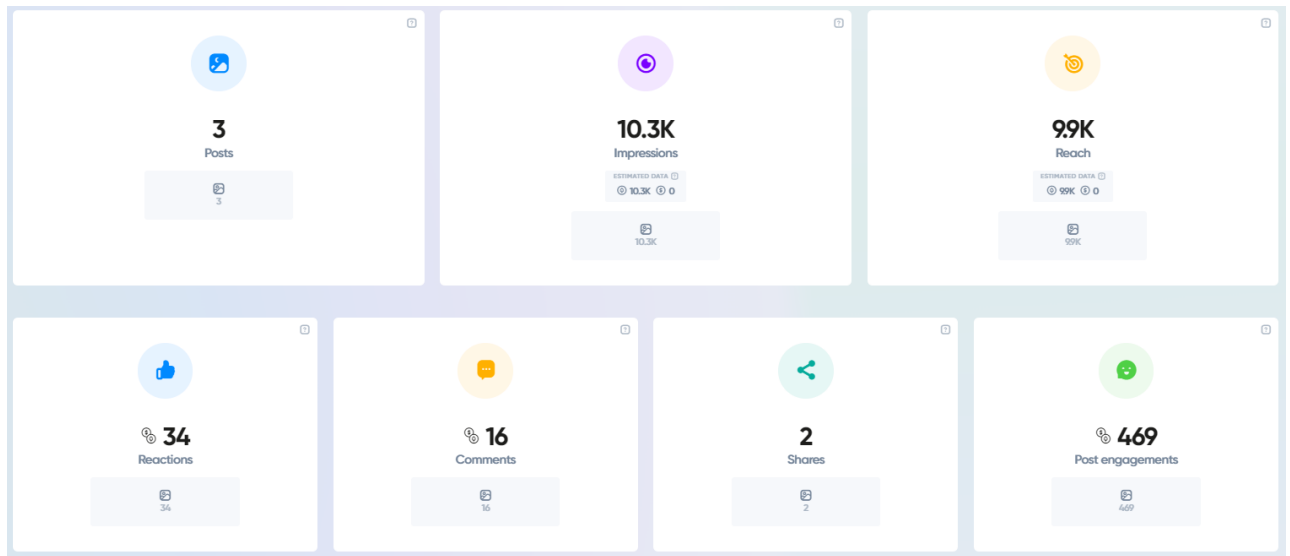
Communication channel reporting

Date	Channel	Reach
1/04/2024	CCB Newsletter April	33,000
4/04/2024	Facebook post	5,501
29/04/2024	Facebook post	2,279
29/04/2024	Instagram post	1,673
1/05/2024	What's On May newsletter	1,673
8/05/2024	Facebook post	2,147

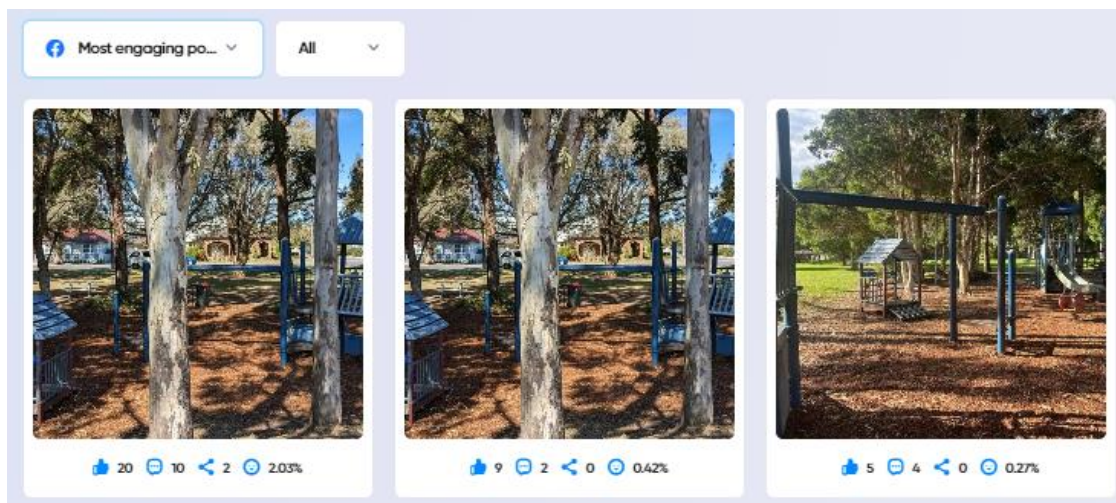
Total reach: 46,273

Online communications

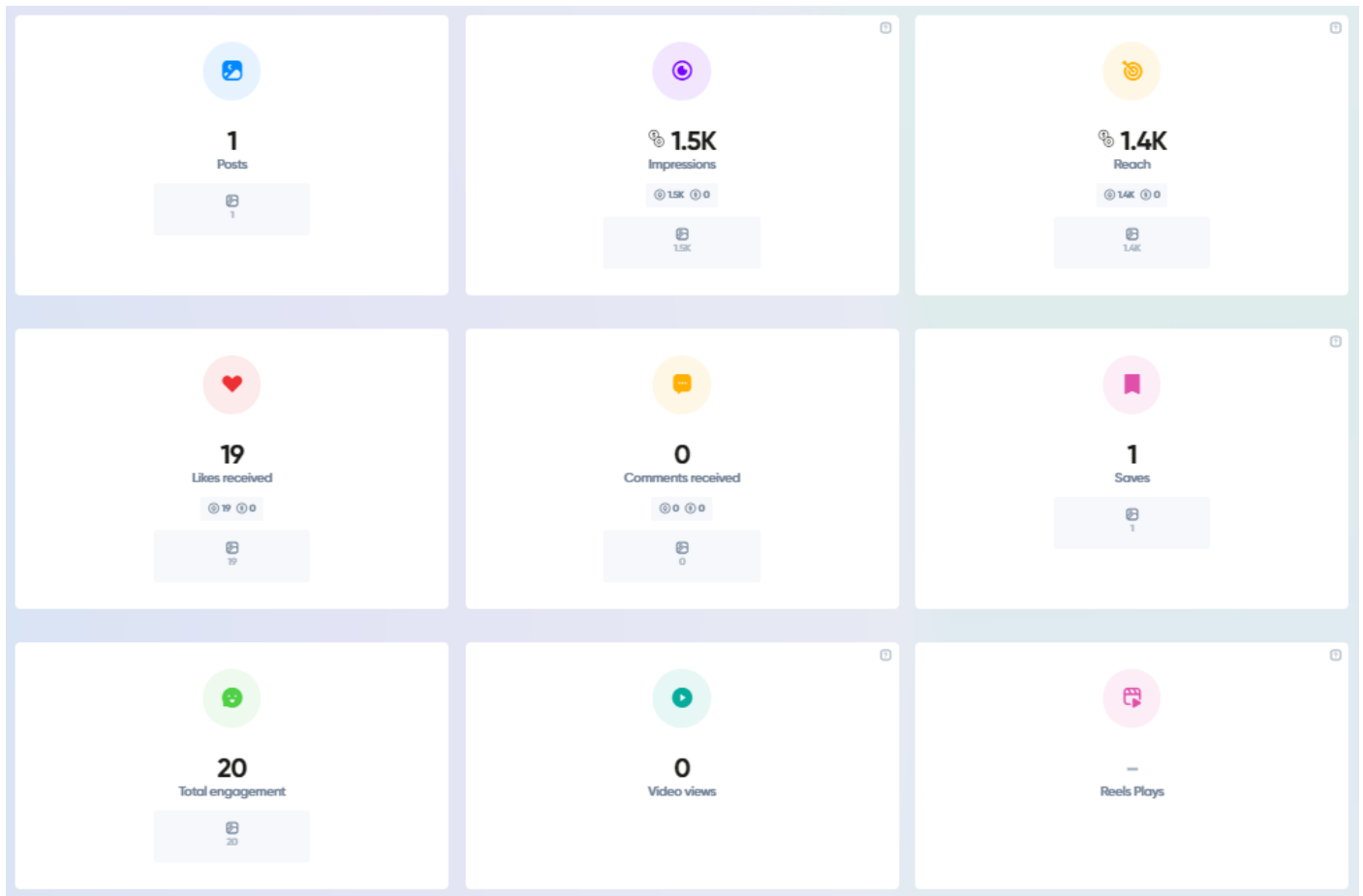
Facebook:



Most engaging posts:



Instagram:



canadabay



19 likes

canadabay We're planning to upgrade the playground in Central Park, Concord, to create a new playspace that is inclusive, accessible and respects the heritage of the park 🗣️

We are asking the community to have their say on its design, location, and accessibility. To share your thoughts head to bit.ly/centralparkupgrade before submissions close on Sunday, 12 May 2024.

29 April

Enewsletter

April 2024 What's On:

Playground upgrades



We're upgrading playgrounds across the City of Canada Bay and want your input! Come and learn about the plans for Coralie Reserve in Wareemba and Central Park in Concord and provide feedback in person to the project teams. Council officers will be on site at each playground this weekend.

- Central Park: Saturday, 4 May between 10am–12pm. You can also provide feedback online by [clicking here](#).
- Coralie Reserve: Sunday, 5 May between 10am–12pm. You can also provide feedback online by [clicking here](#).

Print communications

April CCB Newsletter:



Playground upgrades

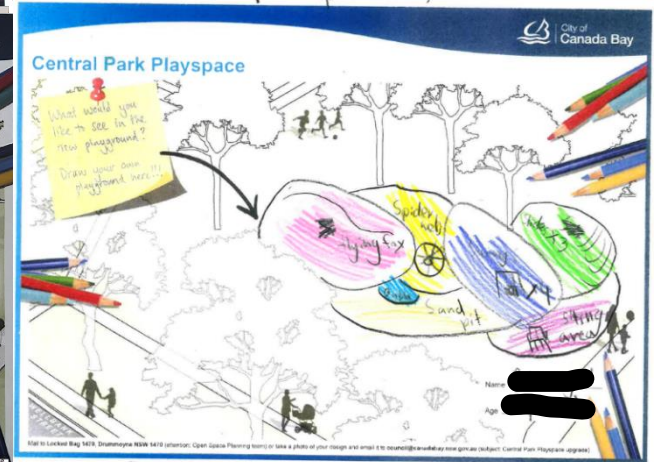
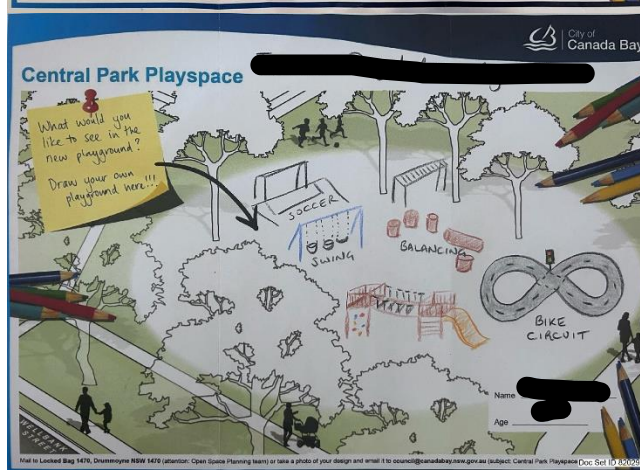
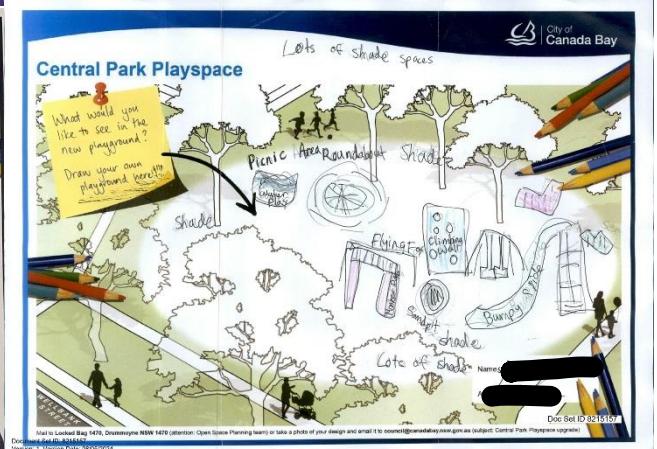
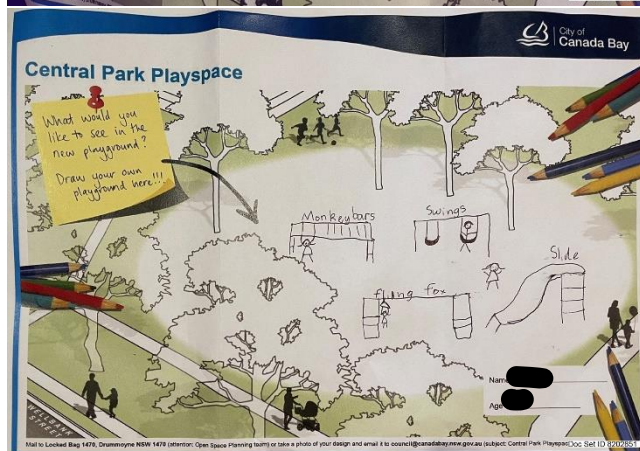
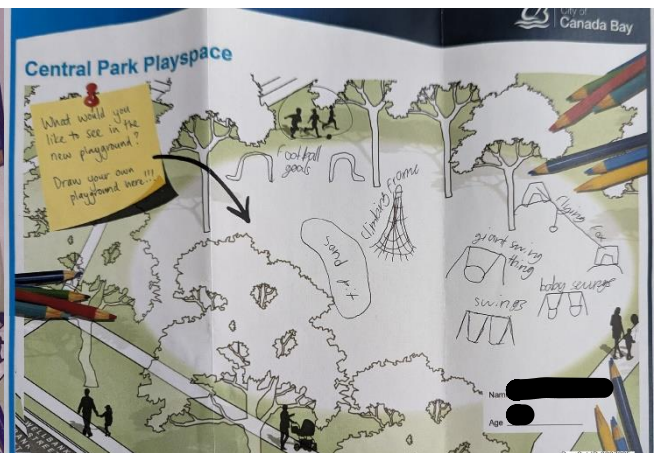
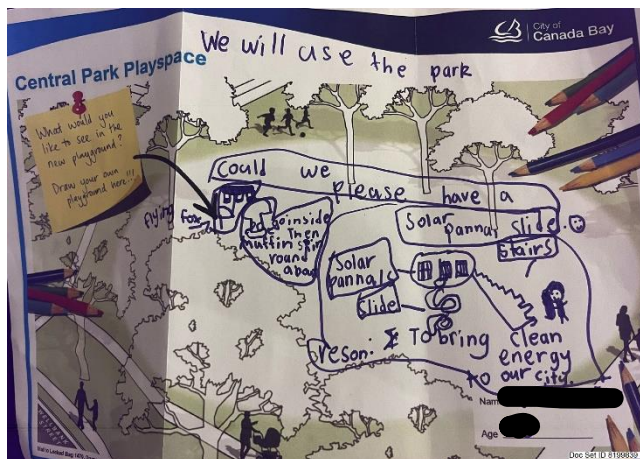
Council is proposing to upgrade two playgrounds in the area – Central Park in Concord and Coralie

Reserve in Wareemba. The aim is to create play spaces that are inclusive and accessible for our whole community to enjoy. Scan the QR code to

read about our plans and provide feedback before submissions close on 12 May 2024.



E. Kids drawing activity submissions (examples)



F. Collaborate traffic report

