

Adventure Playgrounds update

- May 2022



Our much-loved Adventure Playgrounds have been established to promote risky (but safe) and imaginative play and social connection for children.

The Playgrounds are 40 years old and need investment to keep the playgrounds exciting, risky, fun and safe. Council has provided \$3.445 million for adventure playgrounds upgrades in the 10-year financial plan.

Trampoline Replacements

The new trampolines are on their way!

To ensure everyone's safety we will need to close the sites while works happen

Planned closures for Trampoline replacements:

- Skinners – will be closed from Monday 16 May
- StKilda – will be closed from Monday 23 May

Works are expected to take a minimum of 4 days at each site - we'll reopen each site as soon as possible.

Opening Hours will return when works are complete

St Kilda

- **Mondays – closed**
- **Tuesday – Friday:** 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm
- **Weekends:** 12 midday to 4.30 pm

Skidders

- **Monday – Friday:** 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm
- **Weekends:** 12 midday to 4.30 pm

Opening hours are subject to change due to extreme weather events (heat, wet weather, and storms) and staff availability.

Both sites closed on Public Holidays.

Programs

Council operates a range of programs at both Playgrounds that returned as soon as the Covid restrictions lifted. Programs restarted during the extended opening hours trial and continue today offering:

- Programs open to everyone: Homework Club, Dinners, Ceramics and Free Play
- Programs for members: Breakfast and School drop off, Boys Group, Girls Group, Dinners and the 3182 Crew
- Membership is free just ask the friendly staff on how you can engage in our programs.

For further information on programs at the playgrounds

Call: 03 9209 6777

See over for some Q and A updates on the Extended Opening Hours Trial



Q and A updates on the Extended Opening Hours Trial

Q: What was the Extended Opening Hours Trial and when did it occur?

A: When covid-19 restrictions meant that staff could not be on site to run the usual programs, Council trialed opening both Adventure Playground from dawn till dusk from 26 September 2021 until the end of Summer School Holidays (30 January 2022).

Q: What data was collected during the trial?

Two strategies were used to collect data during the trial; general feedback was sought through Council's Have Your Say online engagement platform and onsite fieldwork. The onsite fieldwork undertook intercept surveys with playground users and observations of how many and when people attended the sites.

Q: Can I still contribute to the extended opening hours trial consultation?

A: The Have Your Say and Consultation has now closed; however, we encourage general feedback about Council sites and Services at any time. You can contact Council via: [Contact us - City of Port Phillip](#)

Q When will the consultation information be made publicly available?

A: Council considered a report on the consultation findings at a meeting on the 4 May 2022 – all reports including consultation findings are available on Council's website at: [2022 meetings and agendas - City of Port Phillip](#) (scroll down to the Wednesday 4 May 2022 meeting).

Q: What does this mean for the Adventure Playgrounds / will there be any changes?

A: Council considered the consultation findings at the Meeting on 4 May and reiterated its recognition of the value and benefit of Adventure Playgrounds and its commitment to them.

This commitment includes:

- \$300,000 in the draft 22/23 budget for immediate rectification works at the Skinners South Melbourne Playground – to remove the end of life equipment and have it replaced in the short term
- An operational budget in the draft 22/23 to maintain staffing and programs at the current level for both St Kilda and Skinners
- \$3.445 million in the 10-year financial plan for upgrades at both St Kilda and Skinners

The only planned changes from here are improvements.

Q: There's a lot of playground equipment at Skinners that can't be used now, when will it be fixed?

A: Some of the much-loved equipment at Skinners has reached the end of its life, to ensure everyone's safety we have had to make some equipment off limits. If equipment that is unsafe cannot be repaired, it will be removed and replaced.

There is \$300,000 in the draft 22-23 budget to do these immediate rectification works. The \$300,000 allocation for Skinners is in addition to the \$3.445 million that has been allocated to upgrades for both Skinners and St Kilda in the 10-year financial plan.

Q: Did the extended opening hours trial impact on or cease the Council's programs that operate from the Adventure Playgrounds?

A: Once covid restrictions allowed; Adventure Playground programs ran as usual. There were no changes because of the extended opening hours trial but ongoing covid impacts did effect staff availability from time to time.

Q: Why are the parks closed on public holidays when most parents are home and have time to take their children to the park?

A: The CoPP staff who work at the adventure playgrounds during staffed programs do not work on public holidays and hence the playgrounds are closed at these times.

Q: What happens next?

A: Over the next year, Council will work with the community, most importantly with children and young people in the City of Port Phillip, to get feedback that will inform the upgrades. In the meantime, Council will complete the trampoline replacements at both sites. While at Skinners, any unsafe equipment that cannot be repaired will be removed and replaced.