

Play Space Strategy

2011



*Madeline.
Grade 2k.*

The slides are long and swirly, the swings fit four people at a time.

I like play spaces where the fun never ends and you're giggling with delight.

I like adventurous, secret play spaces, where you can scramble, twirl and fly.

I like squiggly, squirmy monkey bars that are colourful all the time.

This strategy was developed in partnership with Insight Leisure Planning and Fitzgerald, Frisby Landscape Architecture, using the results of extensive community consultation undertaken in 2010. Consultation included telephone, online and in-person surveys and workshops with children. Consultation with key stakeholders, council staff and councillors was also undertaken.

Council would like to acknowledge the input of all the people who contributed to this strategy:

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Executive Summary

Why a Play Space Strategy?

The Play Space Strategy sets the vision, policy context and framework for future development of play spaces in the City of Port Phillip and prioritises future play space works.

The Strategy reflects an evolution and increasing sophistication in Council's approach to play spaces with a focus on provision of 'play spaces' rather than playgrounds and of spaces that act as social gathering spaces that offer respite from surrounding urbanisation.

The Strategy encompasses those spaces that contain traditional playground infrastructure as well as more informal nature based play spaces that consist of 'green' open space and natural play elements.

What do the community think about our play spaces?

Council consulted the community between September to November 2010 using a variety of techniques to ensure as many children, young people and adults had a chance to have their say.

Consistent with the previous Playground Strategy (2007) community consultation results of the consultations were very positive and confirmed relatively high levels of satisfaction with the quality and distribution of play spaces throughout the municipality. However, feedback emphasised a desire to improve the standard and condition of support facilities and amenities, including shade and park furniture such as seating and drinking fountains.

What is the current state of our play spaces?

Quality of play

An assessment of play spaces undertaken in 2010 on behalf of Council found that play spaces within the City of Port Phillip are predominantly of medium to high quality, providing an extensive range and diversity of play space opportunities throughout the municipality.

Distribution

The majority of residents have access to a play space within 400 metres walking distance to their homes and there is a fairly even distribution of neighbourhood and regional parks throughout the municipality that offer more extensive play opportunities than local play spaces. Formal play spaces are supplemented by extensive open space that supports play such as the beaches, dunes and St Kilda Botanical Gardens.

Creative and nature based play

Quite a number of play spaces have been upgraded over the last five years including Jacoby Reserve and Garden City Reserve. These play spaces in particular offer a range of creative and nature based play and are well integrated into the surrounding landscapes.

Access all abilities

Play spaces need to provide play opportunities for all ages, abilities and backgrounds. The City of Port Phillip aims to provide access for all abilities, particularly at neighbourhood and regional facilities to achieve equitable access to play spaces across the municipality.

The Australian Standards for Access and Mobility AS 1428 are recognised standards for design, building and infrastructure and are used by the City of Port Phillip with the Australian Standards for Playgrounds to ensure play spaces are appropriately designed and constructed.

Catering for all ages

There appears to be an appropriate distribution of play spaces across the city that cater for younger age groups (0-12 years), however, there are gaps in the provision of play spaces that cater for older age groups (13+ years). Currently there are only five sites that target older age groups across the city. This gap in play provision will need to be addressed in the future.

There are also significant differences in some planning areas between the proportion of total play space provision compared to the proportion of 0-17 year olds in each area. This may lead to increased pressure on play facilities in those areas in the future as the population increases.

What are we going to do in the future?

The play space vision and objectives will guide all future development of existing or new play spaces in the City of Port Phillip at the strategic level.

Infrastructure and Design Guidelines

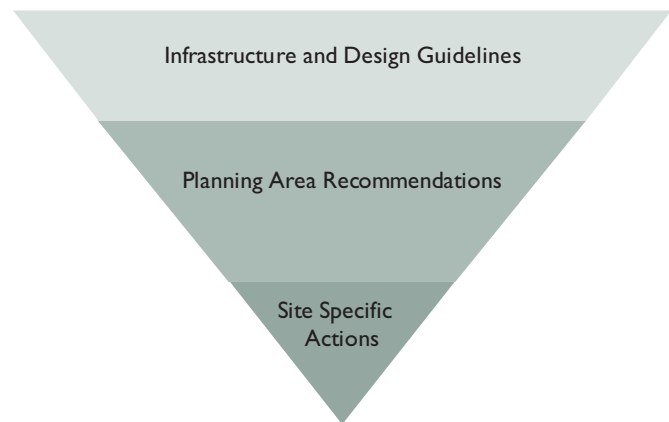
The Play Space Strategy also contains a set of *Infrastructure and Design Guidelines* that describe Council's position regarding all aspects of play space development, including such things as provision of shade, seating, water fountains, play infrastructure and fencing.

Planning Area Recommendations

The issues and opportunities identified through the site assessment and community consultation process have been used to develop a set of Planning Area Recommendations for future play space upgrade, renewal or development of new play spaces. These are recommendations for future work for specific areas within the City of Port Phillip.

Site Specific Actions

From this information, Site Specific Actions have also been developed to address particular issues for specific play spaces. These recommendations and actions have been prioritised into an implementation plan that will be undertaken as funding becomes available.



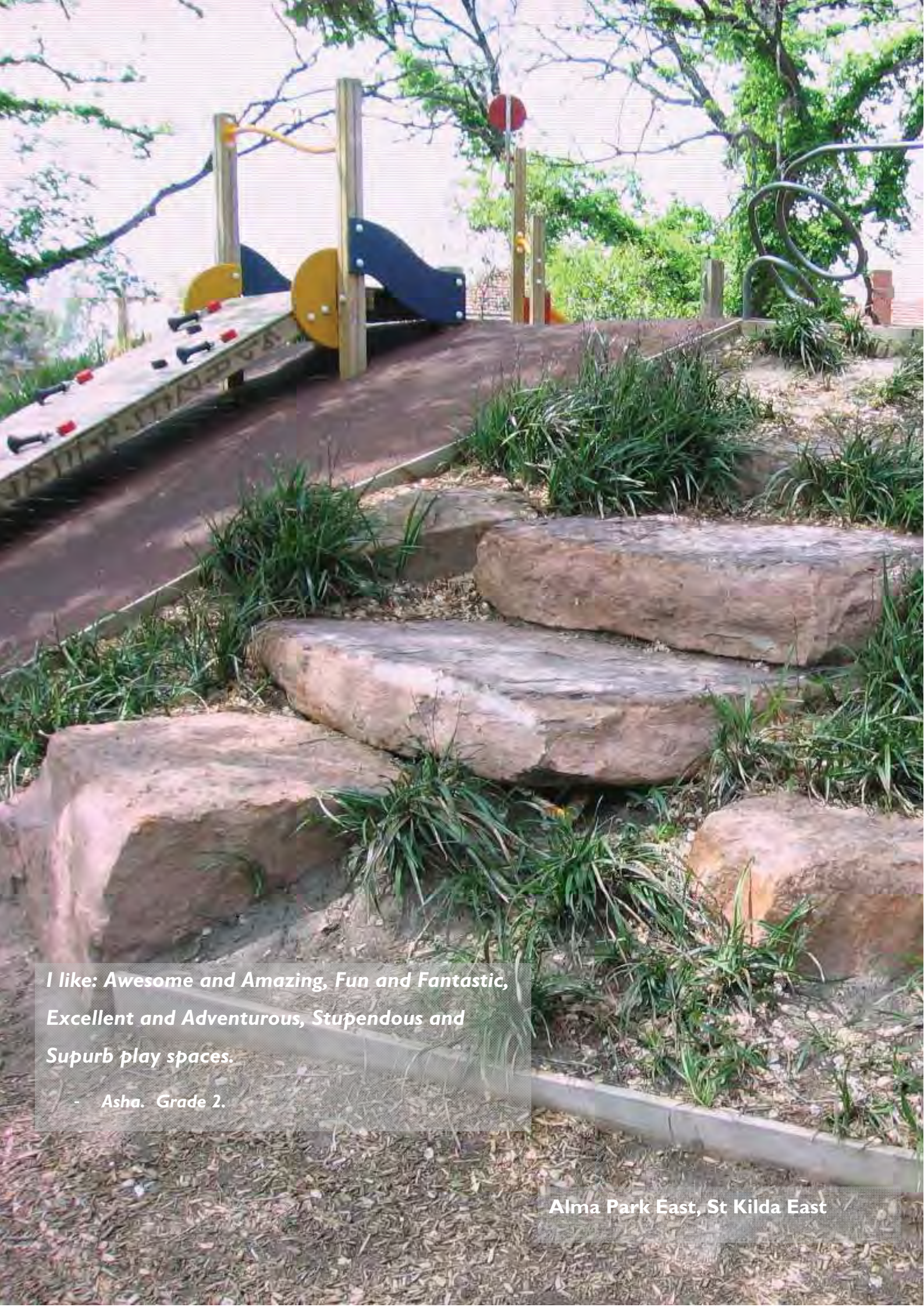
Infrastructure and Design Guidelines: Page 65-70

Planning Area Recommendations: Page 72-74

Site Specific Actions: Page 76-84

Key priorities for future development of play spaces include:

- Upgrade and develop existing play spaces over the creation of new play spaces, based on the findings of the assessment that current distribution of play spaces is quite good.
- Upgrade play infrastructure and support facilities at play spaces identified as not 'fit for purpose' in the assessment.
- Enhance existing facilities in play spaces to encourage use of the space by children, young people and carers and the community.
- Incorporate nature based play elements into play spaces as they are redeveloped in future with elements that provide sensory experiences and allow children to manipulate and shape their environment.
- Continue to offer adventure play opportunities and opportunities for children to manipulate their environment through the two existing adventure playgrounds.
- Increase the number of play opportunities available for older children across the municipality.
- Increase access for all abilities and backgrounds to play spaces across the municipality.
- Specify the lifecycle of each set of playground equipment as part of future play space renewal planning to ensure renewal is undertaken in a timely fashion based on the life expectancy of the equipment.



*I like: Awesome and Amazing, Fun and Fantastic,
Excellent and Adventurous, Stupendous and
Supurb play spaces.*

- Asha. Grade 2.

Alma Park East, St Kilda East

Vision

Well designed and maintained play spaces facilitate local communities to socialise and build networks as well as providing opportunities for young people to play and develop socially, physically, emotionally and mentally.

The vision for the future is:

“The City of Port Phillip will provide and maintain vibrant outdoor play spaces that create opportunities for fun, adventure and learning for all.”

Objectives

Council will achieve its play space vision by:

- Creating shared spaces for children, young people, carers and the local community to play, socialise and relax together.
- Developing inspiring and well designed play spaces that encourage physical, creative and inventive play, provide an appropriate level of challenge and promote a sense of adventure.
- Providing a diversity of dynamic, adventurous and fun play spaces for all abilities, backgrounds and ages.
- Integrating play spaces into the landscape through location, linkages, infrastructure, trees and landscaping.
- Providing opportunities for contact with nature in combination with built play infrastructure.
- Ensuring equitable distribution of play spaces throughout the municipality.
- Ensuring an appropriate level of consultation and engagement with young people in the design, development or renovation of play spaces.

Measuring our success

We will measure progress toward achieving the City of Port Phillip play space vision using two key indicators.

Indicator	Desired Outcome	Measure – reported every five years
Play space quality	An increase in the overall quality of play spaces.	70% of high priority play spaces have received improvement works.
Community satisfaction with play spaces	The City of Port Phillip community is satisfied that the range of play spaces in the municipality predominantly meets their needs.	75% of residents are satisfied that the range of play spaces predominantly meets their needs.

Introduction

The previous City of Port Phillip Playground Strategy was completed in 2007. Since that time there has been a growing recognition of the need to provide opportunities in the public open space for both structured and unstructured physical activity, contact with nature and time outdoors (ARACY 2009). Over the last few years there have been many national and international studies undertaken that show a strong relationship between the health and long term development and well being of children and children's access to play opportunities, particularly outdoor unstructured nature play.

In 2010, the City of Port Phillip was successful in securing a grant from Sport and Recreation Victoria from the Community Facility Funding Program to develop a new Play Space Strategy. The Play Space Strategy provides a framework for future development of play spaces that reflect the needs and desires of children, young people and adults of all backgrounds, ages and abilities.

The City of Port Phillip

The City of Port Phillip is located on the northern shore of Port Phillip Bay, south of Melbourne's city centre and encompasses an area of approximately 21 square kilometres.

It is one of the oldest areas of European settlement in Melbourne is dominated by highly urbanised industrial, residential and commercial landscapes bounded by Port Phillip Bay on one side and by the Melbourne City Council, Stonnington City Council and Bayside City Council on the other boundaries.

The City of Port Phillip has 11 kilometres of foreshore, 110 parks and open space reserves including the foreshore and 52 formal playgrounds. There are also two Adventure Playgrounds and a number of playgrounds located in Council run facilities.

Scope of this strategy

The Play Space Strategy includes all play spaces that are managed by Council specifically for play and are freely accessible to the public at all times.

The strategy does not include playgrounds located within Council run facilities, schools, high rise developments or Parks Victoria playgrounds, although locations of the three playgrounds located in Albert Park Lake (Parks Victoria) were considered in the analysis of availability of playgrounds within 400m walking distance. It also does not include those open spaces that provide play opportunities but are managed for a range of purposes, not specifically play, such as the foreshore.

Provision of a range of play options for children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities is a key driver of this strategy. However, it is recognised that play spaces have a key role as community gathering places and need to also cater for parents, carers and the general community.

Approximately 10% of people who visit the City of Port Phillip play spaces do so without children to relax and enjoy the open space.

Adventure playgrounds

There are two Adventure Playgrounds located within the City of Port Phillip, Skinners Adventure Playground in South Melbourne and the St Kilda Adventure Playground. They represent two of five existing adventure playgrounds in Australia.

They are special purpose staffed facilities that have restricted opening hours. Designed as big 'backyards' for the local children in public housing, St Kilda and Skinners Adventure Playgrounds began in 1981 and 1978 respectively.

For many families, the playgrounds are more than just a 'backyard'. While primarily an exciting place to play, adventure playgrounds are a place where vulnerable families can access service information and referral to a broader wellbeing support network within the community.

Adventure playgrounds are unique environments that provide a recreation space for children to explore, use their imagination, and play in a space that encourages risk taking within safe boundaries. The St Kilda Adventure Playground is the most popular play space in the city and attracts visitors from across Melbourne.

Definition of adventure playgrounds

For the purpose of this report the definition of Adventure Playground is one receiving funding from the Youthlink program, Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). An adventure playground is a fully supervised informal playground where children can develop their own ideas of play and where they are given an opportunity to undertake individual or group activities that would not be otherwise available to them.

Attributes of adventure playgrounds

Adventure playgrounds differ from public playgrounds for the following reasons:

- They are only open at certain times.
- Children are supervised at all times the playground is open.
- Generally there is less emphasis on the provision of manufactured play equipment.
- There is a greater emphasis on creative, social and cognitive play types. This could be through unstructured experimental play or through the delivery of structured activities.
- Activities with greater elements of risk are acceptable and encouraged within the boundaries of a safe community space.
- They provide an increased level of engagement with the community and family.
- They are often referred to as communal backyards.
- They often have a haphazard, uncoordinated appearance.
- Adventure Playgrounds often incorporate animals, water features, community buildings and informal landscapes.

Services and access

The adventure playgrounds receive annual funding from FaHCSIA to provide a service to local families and their children aged 5 –12 years that would usually be unable to access cultural and recreational activities due to social or financial constraints. The playgrounds provide referral services for young people and their families. They are also funded by the City of Port Phillip and receive payments for group visits, parties and some donations from the community.

The adventure playgrounds at South Melbourne and St Kilda are open after school hours, weekends and during school holidays. The adventure playgrounds offer supervised and unsupervised play facilities and structured programs.

Infrastructure provision and maintenance

Early in 2006 a Physical and Service Guidelines for Federally Funded Adventure Playgrounds document was released with the aim of providing a set of guidelines for the maintenance of infrastructure and provision of services. This document does not replace Australian Standards for the Establishment and Administration of Adventure Playgrounds AS25555 (1982) but assists in the maintenance of these unique playgrounds.

Visitors

Skidders Adventure Playground

- Skidders operate as a local playground with the majority of its users living in the South Melbourne area in the local housing estates.
- The majority of the children who use the playgrounds are aged 6-12 years and on average visit the playground 5+ times per week.
- During school term 75% of users live within the City of Port Phillip, this changes during the school holidays, with only 54% residing within the municipality.
- On average visitors stay longer than 2 hours, which is reflective of the local children using the playground as a 'backyard'
- The local children site the main reason they attend Skidders is that it is their 'home' and own space where they can meet with friends.
- Visitors from outside the local area state the main attraction to Skidders is the unique environment and play experience.



St Kilda Adventure Playground

St Kilda Adventure Playground

- The St Kilda Adventure Playground is operating as a regional facility with high visitation numbers indicating it is the most popular playground in the City of Port Phillip.
- Currently 40,000 people visit St Kilda Adventure Playground per year.
- The main age group of children using St Kilda Adventure Playground is 6 to 11 years.
- During the school term 54% of visitors are from within the City of Port Phillip, this changes significantly during school holidays with 81% of visitors residing outside the municipality.
- Most visitors use the car to visit, which reflects the visitation from across Melbourne, especially during school holidays.
- High number of longer stays, which reflects the long distances, travelled to get to St Kilda Adventure Playground and the variety of activities.
- The unique play facilities and environment are the main attraction.
- Word of mouth recommendations are the main way visitors find out about the facility.
- The City of Port Phillip recognises the regional role St Kilda Adventure Playground plays and will explore multiple funding modes, if required to keep this very popular facility open into the future.

The future

Over time, there has been increasing pressure on the adventure playgrounds from visitors from all over Melbourne and other parts of Victoria who wish to access the unique supervised adventure play environments the two sites offer.

Both the adventure playgrounds play an important role in providing opportunities to local children who would not otherwise be able to access cultural and recreational activities due to social or financial constraints.

This focus on supporting local children is critically important, particularly at Skinners, as this provides a safe play space for local children and offers referral services to local agencies that can support the children and their families.

A planning process is being undertaken in 2011 to engage with the communities, adventure playground staff and other stakeholders to determine how best to develop and manage the two sites to balance local needs with wider demand and to ensure that these special and unique play spaces are maintained into the future.

Achievements of the previous Playground Strategy

The 2007 City of Port Phillip Playground Strategy presented a precinct analysis of playground provision and an audit of all playgrounds in terms of general condition and play value. The Strategy recommended 15 capital works playground projects be undertaken over a five year period. 10 projects were scheduled for the first three years (2006/2010). Of these 10 renewal and upgrade projects, 8 have been completed and one is underway. The 10 projects are:

- J.L. Murphy Reserve – works delayed until major redevelopment of the reserve is complete
- William St, East St Kilda – Complete
- Adventure Playgrounds, South Melbourne and St Kilda – Underway
- Alma Park, St Kilda East – Complete
- Jacoby Reserve, St Kilda West – Complete
- Catani Gardens, St Kilda – Complete
- Garden City, Port Melbourne – Complete
- Danks St, Albert Park – Complete
- Ashworth St, Middle Park – Complete
- Eastern Rd, South Melbourne – Listed in the capital works program for 2011/2012

The five capital works projects recommended for the last two years of the strategy have been scheduled for works as part of the Site Specific Actions and Priority (Page 76-84). These playgrounds are:

- St Kilda Botanical Gardens
- St Vincents Gardens
- Te-Arai Reserve East St Kilda
- Julier Reserve Port Melbourne
- Buckingham Reserve

Plum Garland Reserve was not listed in the strategy as a priority capital works project. However, routine inspection of the condition of the playground found that the infrastructure had deteriorated much more quickly than anticipated due to the site conditions on the foreshore and the playground was prioritised for renewal. Community engagement and design of the playground was undertaken in 2010/2011 and construction is scheduled for 2011/2012.

Playground cleaning and maintenance

Playgrounds are regularly inspected to make sure they are safe for children to play

Playgrounds must be maintained to the highest quality to ensure the safety of the children both using and watching play activity. Playground standards are established and defined by AS/NZS 4486.1 1997 Playgrounds and Playground Equipment. In the context of playground asset management the playground includes all play equipment, under surfacing safety areas, fencing and edges.

A contractor undertakes regular inspection, maintenance and upkeep of all playgrounds within the City of Port Phillip on behalf of Council according to a strict contractual agreement to ensure the safety of the equipment for children and to adhere to national playground standards.

Maintenance

The maintenance of playgrounds and play equipment includes:

- A weekly inspection to check condition, defects reporting and undertake maintenance as necessary.
- Immediately repair or take out of service any unsafe equipment.
- Check all moving components for the correct movement.
- Check and maintain the soft landing area around the equipment.
- Check and maintain the landing area edging.
- Remove all litter, needles and rubbish from within the playground and surrounds.
- Immediate reporting of graffiti and removal of all bills posted.
- Prepare a monthly condition report.

Reporting

An annual Inventory and Maintenance Report is prepared by an independent auditor for Council. This document provides data for Council's asset management database as well as highlighting any repairs to equipment and safety works to address hazardous conditions, replacement of aging equipment or topping up of undersurfacing in fall zones.

Strategic framework

The Play Space Strategy provides the strategic framework and policy context for the development and management of play areas in the City of Port Phillip.

Key strategies, policies and plans

Council has a number of strategic planning documents and policies that influence or inform the Play Space Strategy. The key documents include:

- Council Plan 2009-2013 (Year 2 Review)
- Community Plan 2007-2017
- Open Space Strategy 2009
- Municipal Early Years Plan – Creating a Child Friendly Port Phillip 2005-2009
- Kids Plan 2010
- Health and Wellbeing Plan 2007-2011
- Sport and Recreation Strategy 2008
- The City of Port Phillip Playground Strategy 2007
- Bike Plan (Draft)
- Walk Plan (Draft)

There are also a number of key external documents that influence or inform the Play Space Strategy. These are:

- The Good Play Space Guide: “I can Play Too”, 2007.
- Routes To Play: A Guide for Local Authorities. “How to Ensure Children and Young People Can Get To Play Spaces Actively and Independently”, 2009.

Figure 1 shows the relationship between key Council Plan strategies, the Play Space Strategy objectives and other key strategies and policies.

City of Port Phillip Council Plan 2009-2013 (Year 2 Review)

The City of Port Phillip Council Plan outlines directions, strategies and actions for Council over the next four years. The Council Plan was developed with four key strategic directions:

- Engaging and Governing the City.
- Taking Action on Climate Change.
- Strengthening our Diverse and Inclusive Community.
- Enhancing Liveability.

In the context of play space development and management, the City of Port Phillip places an emphasis on providing a diverse range of play opportunities across the city for children and youth. The objectives of the Play Space Strategy reflect key priorities and strategies in the Council Plan and other key strategic documents described below.

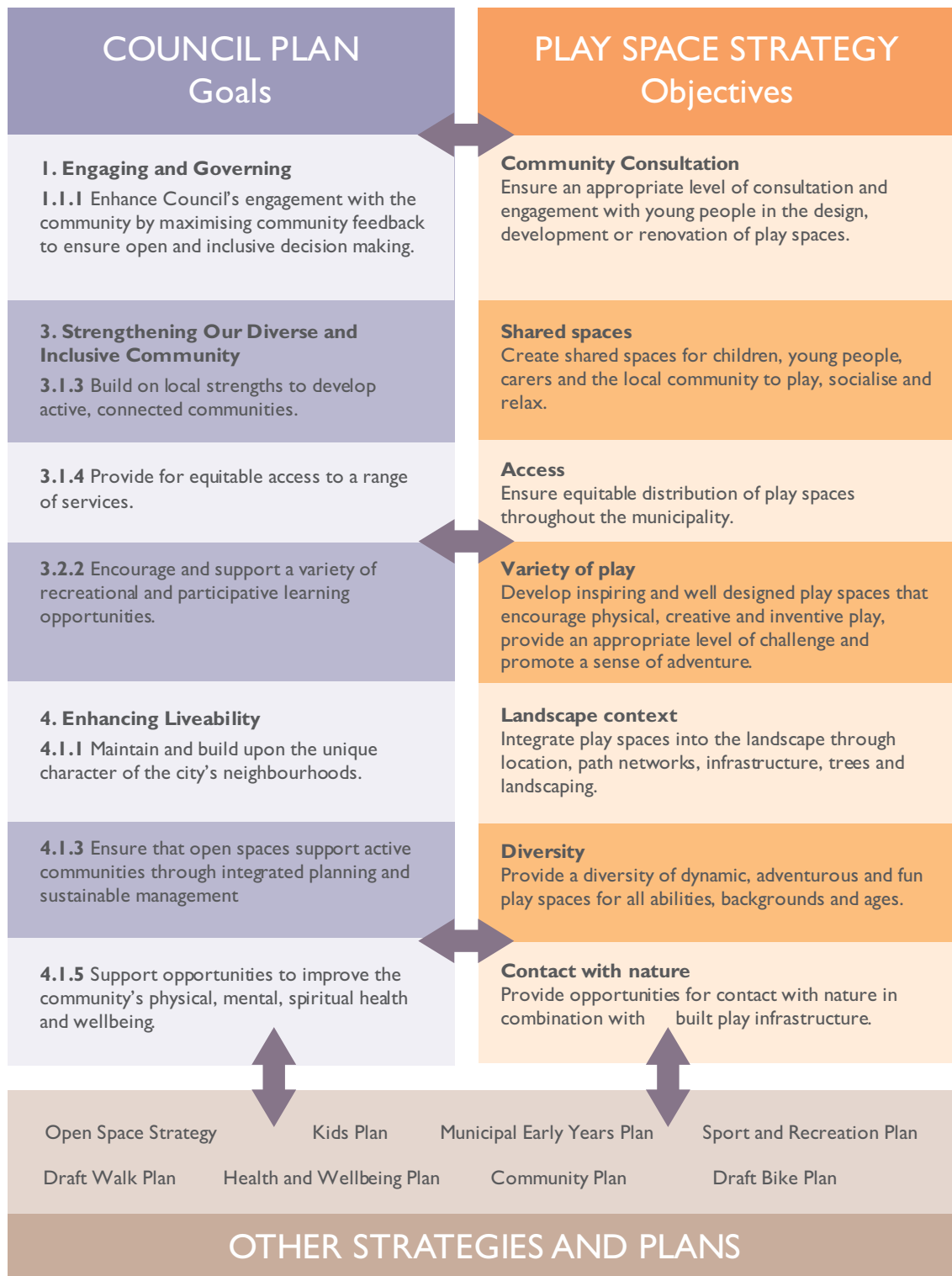


Figure 1 Relationship between key Council Plan strategies, Play Space Strategy objectives and other key Council strategies and policies.

Community Plan 2007-2017

The Community Plan is a ten year planning and action framework designed to respond to community agreed priorities for the decade 2007 - 2017. The priorities and actions will help manage inevitable change while protecting what the community values most.

Strategies in the Community Plan relevant to the Play Space Strategy include:

- Encourage the highest quality urban design in public spaces to promote community health and well being.
- Ensure that new and existing public realm spaces include trees and/or structures that provide shade from the sun.
- Promote activities that encourage positive interaction across different age groups.
- Implement the priority actions in Council's Youth Development Framework.
- Implement the priority actions in Council's Early Years Plan, such as the promotion of a wide range of children's health services.
- Manage water use and re-use, planting and park usage for prolonged drought.
- Create more open space.
- Continue to improve infrastructure that aims to increase pedestrian priority, movement, access and safety; particularly in high demand walking routes.

Development of the Play Space Strategy is consistent with Community Plan vision and priorities.

Open Space Strategy

The Open Space Strategy provides strategic direction for the supply and development of all public open space within this City. Open Space Strategy principles directly relevant to the Play Space Strategy include:

- optimum provision of open space
- safe access to public open space
- access for all
- sustainable open spaces.

Development and enhancement of existing open space to improve their play value will help contribute to the aims and objectives of the Open Space Strategy.

Specific recommendations/directions in the Open Space Strategy relevant to the Play Space Strategy include:

- Turville Reserve: Upgrade as teenage play space to compliment Graham Street overpass – concept plan developed 2011, construction to be undertaken in 2012.
- Murphy Reserve: Playground upgrade and major landscape upgrade including boundary fencing and BBQs. Upgrade the sporting capacity of the Reserve – Reserve master plan completed in 2011. Playground upgrade to be undertaken as part of the Master Plan implementation.
- Small reserves such as Ashworth, Neville, Little Page, Finlay: Review use of small play spaces and redesign to provide maximum use – Ashworth Reserve was upgraded in 2010. Little Page Reserve recommended for removal due to location and size.
- Johnstone Reserve: Upgrade playground and landscape – No action taken.
- Dank Street median: Redesign median and playgrounds to function more as a linear park and upgrade playgrounds and facilities – Completed in 2010.

Municipal Early Years Plan – Creating a Child Friendly Port Phillip 2005-2009

The Municipal Early Years Plan provides a framework for action to develop...

“... a city where childhood is honoured and all children are cherished and supported as active citizens with a voice of their own, secure in their identity and culture; where they are able to play, learn and contribute to their environments, surrounded by nurturing adults and supportive communities.”

The Plan provides a strategic approach to the promotion of new ways of thinking about children and new ways of developing policies and services that give more attention to their rights, interests and needs.

Key strategies in the Plan are:

- Recognise and respond to children as active citizens of Port Phillip.
- Increase opportunities for children's participation in Council and community decisions-making processes that affect them.
- Seek the views and contributions of all children.

Sport and Recreation Strategy 2008

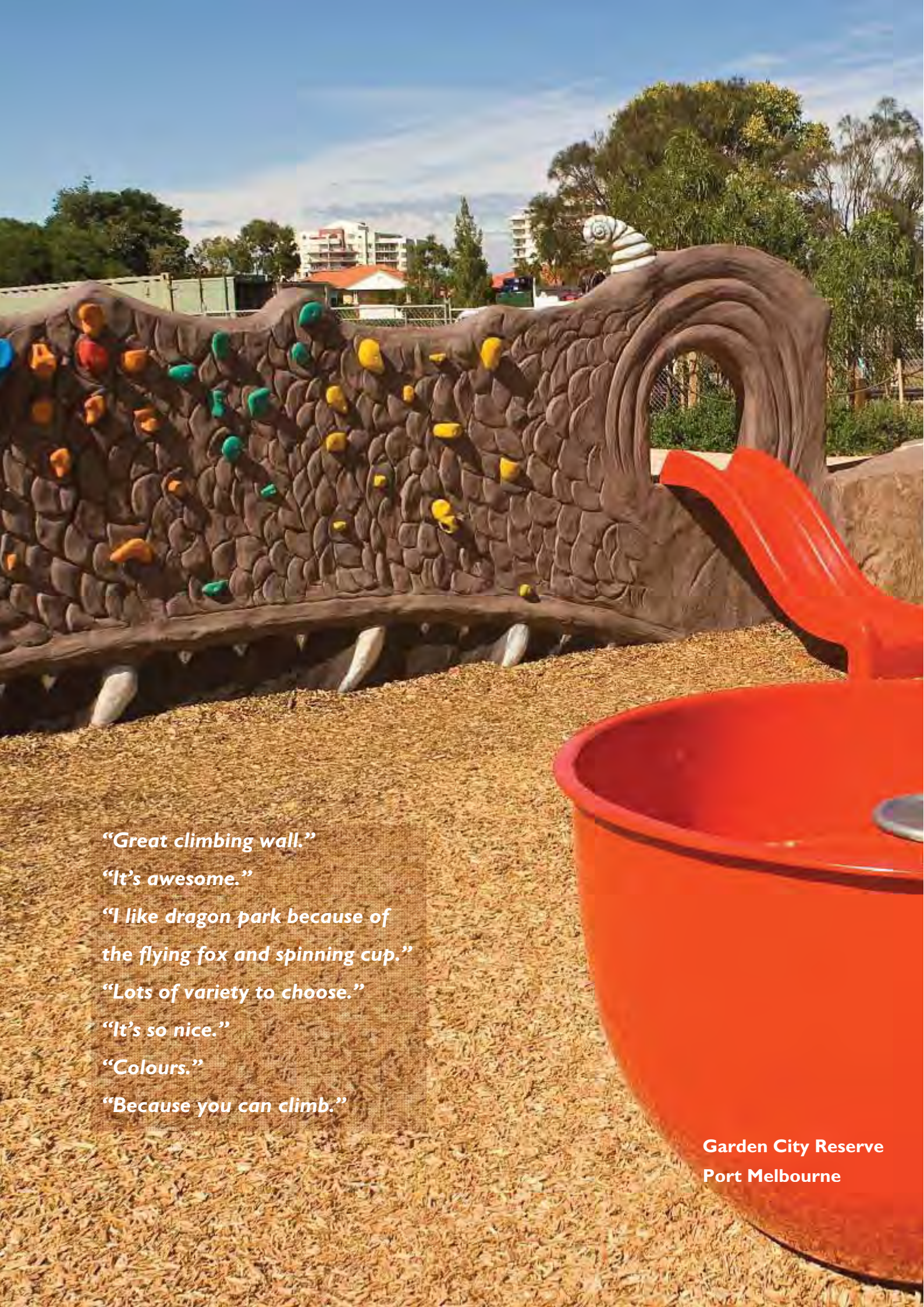
The Sport and Recreation Strategy aims to encourage and support participation in sport, leisure and recreation activities for all abilities at all stages of life across the City of Port Phillip. Enhancement of play spaces throughout the city is consistent with objectives of the Sport and Recreation Strategy to provide facilities fit for use and that encourage participation in a range of physical activities.

Kids Plan 2010

The City of Port Phillip's Kids' Plan is a plan written by kids for kids that will be part of the new Municipal Early Years Plan, 'Creating a Child Friendly Port Phillip, 2010-14'. It talks about Council's promise to kids together with kid's views and opinions about their lives in Port Phillip and what Council will do in response to their suggestions.

Key themes listed in the Kids Plan identified via consultation with children include:

- Parks and playgrounds are highly valued for their play value, experiences and opportunities for social gatherings and interaction.
- Trees and important for natural shade and picnicking.
- Effective litter and waste management is valued by all ages.
- Kids like colourful landscaping and flowers.
- Quality path surfaces for walking and bike riding are important.
- Open space areas for informal ball sports are highly valued.
- Additional park furniture (tables and chairs) may be needed in public parks.
- There may be demand for additional skate parks.
- Need play equipment to cater for older age groups (e.g. larger swings).
- Need more trees, including climbing trees.



“Great climbing wall.”

“It’s awesome.”

“I like dragon park because of the flying fox and spinning cup.”

“Lots of variety to choose.”

“It’s so nice.”

“Colours.”

“Because you can climb.”

**Garden City Reserve
Port Melbourne**

The role of play in childhood development

Great play spaces enable children to create their own play experiences. Through these play experiences children develop essential life skills.

There are many ways that play contributes to children's development. Grouped by developmental area, they are described under three categories in The Good Play Space Guide: "I can play too" (SRV, 2007). These are:

Physical or active play – all kinds of physical movement and motion including climbing, balancing, hanging, running, swinging, and rocking.

Cognitive play – using the imagination, ordering, categorising and manipulating objects to construct or create, sensory experience, and problem solving.

Social play – experiences which involve another child or group of children, often involving games of the imagination, dramatic role play, rules, and creative or physical activity.

The challenge is to provide interesting and adaptable play spaces that entice children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to engage with other children and their surrounds, playing in different ways each time they visit to help them develop physically, emotionally, cognitively and socially.

The way play spaces are used by children for the development of different skills include: (SRV, 2007)

Mastering particular skills or challenges

Mastering new skills and learning to deal with challenges are critical elements of a child's development. Through mastering a particular skill or challenge a child can develop a sense of achievement, satisfaction and independence.

Play spaces need to provide opportunities for children to master physical challenges, such as completing a circuit, hanging by the arms, reaching the top, learning to ride a bike, constructing something or maintaining balance.

They also need to provide alternative opportunities for children to master skills and challenges that match their individual capabilities, such as sitting independently on a rocker or composing something on a musical panel.

The greater the variety of ways a play space can be utilised increases the opportunity for children of all ages and abilities to master a skill or challenge.

Enjoying particular types of physical activity and movement

Children generally find pleasure in physical activity and movement as it is a big part of both their individual and social play.

Apart from being fun, different types of movement are considered essential to children's physical, sensory, cognitive and emotional development and are linked to prevention of cardiovascular and related diseases.

Movements influences development through:

- Inner ear development, balance and coordination.
- A sense of where the body is in space, sense of extremities and spatial awareness and how to move the body in a defined space.
- Use of the large muscle groups, promoting strength and coordination.
- Use of the fingers and hands for finer tuned tasks.

- Activities such as throwing and catching, reaching, grasping and coordinating movements such as climbing.

Play spaces need to contain adaptable pieces of play equipment that allow children of all ages and abilities to engage in active play in ways conceived by the children.

Experiencing the sensory qualities of the outdoors

Children learn about the world through sensory experiences. Play spaces can provide opportunities for sensory experiences through the use of different textures, sounds, colours, smell, patterns, lights, space and motion.

Sensory experiences in play spaces can provide stimulating alternative activities to active play and can be particularly useful for engaging children who are unable to use more physically orientated play equipment.

Sensory qualities in a play space can deepen the play experience by inviting exploration through reward for effort, such as a sound being linked to the completion of a physical activity, or through the use of texture and colour to encourage a child to follow a challenging route.

Sensory elements can be used to guide the use of a space by assisting with orientation and enhancing safety through the use of such things as textured and colour contrasted paths and coloured hand grips.

Using the environment as a prop for play

Children's use of a play space can often be based on their imagination, with formal play equipment and other elements within a play space being a 'prop' for the game, rather than the focus of the play.

This type of play can be solitary or social, reflective or highly physical. To facilitate imaginative play, children need to be able to move through the physical environment as the game progresses, using some of the play elements as props in the game.

The physical elements of a play space can facilitate the imagination by providing complex spaces that encourage play between equipment and natural elements such as trees, shrubs and rocks, combined with loose objects that can be moved around and manipulated by children, such as water, leaves, sticks or sand.

Natural play elements can contribute to a child's cognitive and creative development as well as providing learning opportunities in and about nature. These natural play spaces provide a constantly changing environment of textures, sound, light, smell, colour and temperature that sparks the imagination and encourages children to explore and discover.

Children are able to interact with natural play elements in a more complex way than is possible with constructed play equipment. The complexity, flexibility and manipulability of natural play elements encourage children to undertake behaviours significant to their development such as role playing, cause-effect actions and constructive play.

Loose materials such as water, leaves, sticks and stones, allow children to manipulate their environment in different ways to fit their play, rather than having to constrain their play to fit the environment.

Loose natural elements within a play space can be utilised in play by children of all abilities and for all types of play, thus increasing the attractiveness, inclusiveness and quality of a play space.

Engaging in social play as an end in itself

A key function of play spaces is as a hub for social interaction between children and adults. It is critical that play spaces are designed to enable children, young people and adults of all backgrounds, ages and abilities to physically access these social spaces and feel part of the action.

Social interaction provides children with a sense of belonging, provides role modelling, practice with communication, a sense of participation regardless of ability, promotes cooperation and practice of social skills, promotes awareness of others needs and interests and promotes a sense of self in relation to others.

Opportunities for social interaction can be achieved through: cooperative play, such as children working together to move and place loose materials such as sticks, leaves, water and sand; providing places to sit where children and adults of all abilities can watch the action, chat and rest; and designing complex spaces that encourage games of chasing, running, wheeling through and hiding and games of imagination.

Play Space planning context

Why is play important?

The United Nations (UN) has stated that

“every child has a right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child, and to participate freely in cultural life and arts” (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 31).

The Good Play Space Guide (SRV, 2007) acknowledges the importance of play as follows:

All children need to play. All children have the right to play. When children play they are not just filling in time, they are learning to interpret their world.

Play facilitates the learning of life skills, and for this reason, the provision of quality outdoor play spaces is vitally important in local communities.

The qualities that children develop through play that are necessary in adulthood include:

- problem solving
- independence
- self awareness
- creativity
- resilience
- spatial knowledge
- flexibility and ability to deal with change (SRV, 2007).

Play provides the opportunity for children to engage with other children, be active and learn, extend and adapt their skills. It is an essential tool for physical, social, cognitive and emotional development in children and is critical to children being able to reach their full potential.

Social gathering places

Quality play spaces provide venues for community events, activities and social gatherings and often become the social hub for local communities, particularly for those with young children, and contribute to the landscape appeal of individual settings.

Play spaces provide and facilitate a broad range of benefits for local communities, including:

- Facilitating opportunities for social interaction.
- Contributing to a sense of community connectedness and well being.
- Contributing to community pride and appreciation of the natural environment.
- Encouraging participation in physical activities (which derives a range of physical and mental health benefits).

Growth and development

The City of Port Phillip is experiencing significant population growth that is predicted to continue in the future. It is anticipated that the population will grow approximately 20% by 2031. Port Phillip is also experiencing a significant amount of residential development, particularly in areas close to the foreshore. In many of these developments, older housing stock is being replaced with high density apartments, often leading to a loss of private gardens in the neighbourhood.

Large development sites have been identified in Port Melbourne, St Kilda and St Kilda Rd, while Middle Park, Albert Park, Elwood and Ripponlea are expected to grow more moderately with most development coming from small site and infill type developments. As a result, demand for play spaces in Port Melbourne, St Kilda and St Kilda Road are likely to increase more significantly than Middle, Park, Albert Park, Elwood and Ripponlea.

Changing population demographic

The total number of young people aged 0-17 years living in the City of Port Phillip are expected to increase by approximately 1,900 by 2031, an increase of 15% from 2011 numbers. This is likely to create increased pressure on existing play spaces.

In 2006, 4.6% of Port Phillip's population was aged between 0-4 years of age, which was below the metropolitan average of 6.3%. This is expected to increase by approximately 7% by 2031. This age group is expected to experience the lowest overall increase in numbers during that time.

In 2006, the areas with the highest numbers of pre-schoolers were Port Melbourne, Middle Park and Albert Park. The geographic focus of this age group is likely to shift to Port Melbourne, South Melbourne and St Kilda Road over the next 10-15 years.

The largest increases in numbers of young people will occur in the 10-14 year age group (24%), 15-19 years (20%) and 5-9 year olds (14%). Based on these figures, it seems likely that demand for future play space provision will largely be driven by older age groups including young teenagers.

Changing play opportunities

Growing population densities and an increase in the proportion of people living in high density housing within the municipality is resulting in diminished access to private back yards and an increasing reliance on public open space to fulfil community recreation/leisure needs.

Community behaviour in urban centres has also changed over the last few decades. For example, it is no longer common for parents of young children to allow them to ride or walk long distances unaccompanied to access play spaces. There is also a growing awareness of safety and risk issues and associated increased litigation frequency.

It is important that contemporary play spaces respond to these changing community behaviours and access to private open space.

Play spaces need to provide avenues for exploration, play and physical activity which may have historically been undertaken in private back yards such as informal ball sports, tree climbing and social games.

An appropriate range of play spaces need to be provided within close walking distance to all residents, with safe access routes such as off-road walking and cycling trails, for larger neighbourhood and regional play spaces. Regional play spaces need to be able to cater for extended stays along with facilities that support carer/parent comfort, interaction and active involvement.

Nature play and landscape settings

Associated with the changing behaviours and settlement types within urban communities, there is an increasing recognition of the importance of facilitating opportunities for play that are integrated with the natural environment.

As private backyards become smaller and parents are increasingly reluctant to allow children to freely explore natural/semi-wild settings, the importance of integrating natural elements into play spaces becomes increasingly important in order to provide a 'safe and controlled' substitute. Enhanced integration with the natural environment is also likely to improve the overall amenity, appearance and appeal of play space settings.

Based on community feedback, Council has a strong foundation on which to further enhance this aspect of play space planning and development across the municipality.

The community consultation results suggest that there is a high level of satisfaction with the current play space provision in relation to this planning aspect, specifically:

"The most commonly identified best aspects of Port Phillip Play Spaces were "natural environment, including connection with nature", "play equipment facilities available" and "atmosphere and environment."

Access and inclusion

Council supports the principle of access for all abilities and backgrounds and will endeavour to incorporate the principle of access and inclusion into the planning, design and physical development of play spaces across the municipality so that all people will have opportunities to participate and play.

We know that different parts of the community access public open space in different ways and the more vulnerable members of our community can perceive barriers to accessing play spaces that are not obvious to other members of the community. The City of Port Phillip is committed to assisting all members of the wider Port Phillip community to enjoy the benefits of our play spaces through working with the community to identify and overcome barriers through programs and infrastructure development.

The Good Play Space Guide (SRV, 2007) provides the following context and strategic objectives for access and inclusion:

Inclusive communities are those where all people are equally valued and have the same opportunities for participation. A culture of inclusion implies an environment where all people are welcome.

In an inclusive environment all children are given the opportunity to develop their skills, interests and abilities and are supported to reach their full potential.

Universal design means that environments, services and products are useable and accessible for people of any age and ability. Universal design improves the quality of life for everyone. Conventional design caters for the 'average' person, while universal design recognises that people have a range of capabilities.

The following points describe how a user of a play space might define each term (summarised from SRV, 2007):

Access:

- Able to physically get there from the street and from the car.
- There is seamless access to the main activities and through the space.
- There are contrasting elements and landmarks that help me find my way around.
- There are manageable grades at level changes.
- There is enough headroom to fit underneath.

Inclusion:

- Welcomed by signage and details that make me think others want me here.
- Able to be included with everyone else, although I might not be able to do what others can do.
- There is space for me at tables and drinking fountains and in swing seats and at things that move.

Participation:

- Able to take part in activities alongside and equally with everyone else, and do them to the best of my ability.

- I can reach movable items, and main points of interest;
- I can get my knees under counters, tables and the like;
- I can use gadgets; and
- I can choose what I can do and where I can go.

Equity:

- I am able to use the same entrance as everyone else;
- I am able to sit where everyone else sits, next to my friends;
- I am not excluded by the design; and
- I am able to play with other children in my neighbourhood just like they can.

Dignity:

- I am not made to feel uncomfortable and that all attention is on me, or that anyone has to make a fuss to let me do things.
- I am not made to feel embarrassed.

Source: SRV Good Play Space Guide.

Age appropriate play

Understanding the developmental stages of children is important in play space design to ensure play opportunities reflect children's:

- physical size
- skill levels
- behavioural patterns
- play interests
- ability to perceive hazards.

It is unlikely that individual play space sites will be the sole domain of individually defined age groups. Whilst consideration needs to be given to the developmental stages of different age groups it is evident that determining the age groups and range of play experiences provided by a play space are both highly subjective judgments.

In attempting to define the age categories that each play space caters for the inherent limitations of this approach need to be acknowledged and any classification of play spaces for age viewed as an indicative guide only. For example, two year olds can easily play on equipment designed for 8-12 year olds.

The age ranges also do not necessarily reflect what is available in a play space as there only needs to be one item in a playground that suits an age range for it to be identified as catering for that age range.

Assessing the range of play experiences provided by each play space also has similar limitations. Whilst playground equipment can be designed to stimulate one or more of the four key activity themes, that is, physical (gross motor), social (dramatic play), creative or cognitive (intellectual) activities, the range of play experiences within a broader play space setting may only be limited by the individual users imagination.

Despite the difficulties, Council remains committed to ensuring access for the community to an appropriate range of play spaces located equitably across the municipality that provide opportunities for children and young people of all ages to play.

Safety and risky play

Play space providers are faced with the difficult task of balancing the safety needs of users, compliance with a range of Australian Standards and encouraging creative play, exploration and providing elements that test the limits of individual development.

The Good Play Space Guide (SRV, 2007) notes that *“play spaces have many inherent physical challenges which pose risks to some users. As challenge is a crucial element in play, the elimination of risk-taking is highly undesirable”*.

Providing opportunities for risk taking in unsupervised play is now recognised as an essential element of play. It enables children to test their abilities, learn new skills and experience a sense of adventure. Risk taking also helps children to build self-confidence and resilience, which are now known to be two key protective factors for mental health.

As a provider of play opportunities the City of Port Phillip must provide environments that integrate nature play to structures. By creating imaginative and physically challenging environments, children will extend their limits and explore the world around them.

The incorporation of 'risky' play components, integrated with the natural setting and within a controlled environment must be provided to help children develop to their full potential.



*My favourite play space is the Adventure Playground.
It's fun, fast, twirling and swirling.
I like it because it's never ending, fantastic, fun and
cool.*

- Annie. Grade 2.

William Street Reserve, East St Kilda



Alma Park Playground, St Kilda East



Elwood Foreshore, Elwood

Play Provision Model

A play provision model has been developed that provides a framework for the provision and management of play spaces within the City of Port Phillip.

Play spaces are public open space that are specifically managed for play and incorporate playground equipment and other landscape elements within open space, such as Plum Garland Playground, Jacoby Reserve and Alma Park East in the City of Port Phillip.

Consistent with the City’s Open Space Strategy, play spaces have been classified as:

- Local play spaces
- Neighbourhood play spaces
- Regional play spaces.

The play provision model (Figure 2) describes the purpose, appropriate distribution and type and level of infrastructure and facilities to be provided for Local, Neighbourhood and Regional play spaces.

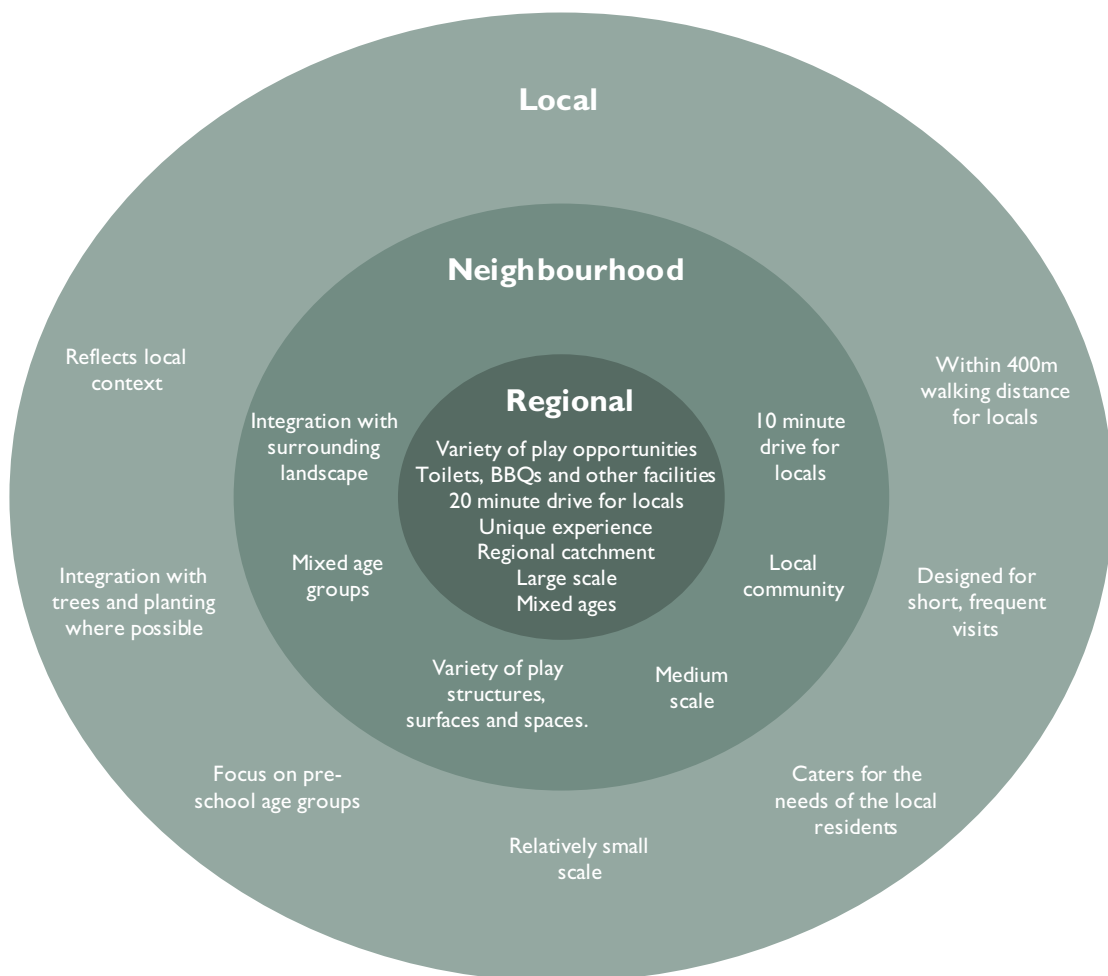


Figure 2 City of Port Phillip Play Provision Model



Local Play Space Example: Danks Mazda Playground, Middle Park

Local Play Spaces

Local play spaces are intended to be used primarily by people who live within walking distance of the spaces. If the play space meets their needs, the local target audience is likely to access the same play space regularly, and are likely to feel a strong sense of ownership over the space. Local play spaces are partly defined by their size, being at the smaller scale both in overall area as well as in the play elements provided.

The local nature of these spaces provides the opportunity to customise them to their local context. This includes referencing the local context of the space in the selection of materials and themes, as well as focussing the facilities provided upon the needs of the local community. This might be based on the target age profile, or by the particular needs or interests of motivated local residents or groups.

Due to the small size of local play spaces and the limited number of play elements able to be incorporated, the age group focus needs to be relatively broad. However, there should generally be an emphasis on younger age groups, particularly the pre-school years (0-4 years). School children are likely to have more of their play needs met at school, and spend less of the daylight hours in their local neighbourhood.

As children get older they are also more likely to develop specific play interests, be more able to transport themselves (e.g. bicycle or walking), and also be more likely to play in social groups. For example a twelve year old boy may ride his bike to an oval to kick a ball with friends, rather than play on the local swing. All of these tendencies suggest that older children are more likely to play in neighbourhood and regional facilities.

Local Play Space Summary:

- relatively small scale
- a particular focus upon pre-school age groups (although can cater for other age groups as appropriate)
- an opportunity to reflect local context, provided through off the shelf equipment
- opportunity to respond to local interests
- basic facilities to cater for short stays and a small numbers of visitors
- access approximately 400m walking distance
- integration with trees and planting where opportunity exists.



Edwards Park, Port Melbourne is an example of a Neighbourhood Play Space



Plum Garland Playground is an example of a regional play space.

Neighbourhood play spaces

Neighbourhood play spaces are intended to be used by people from a wider catchment than local play spaces, but still with a focus upon local users who access the space by foot or bicycle. They are defined by being larger and providing more play opportunities than a local play space. They also have more scope to provide facilities focussed upon particular age groups or interests.

The specialisation of different neighbourhood play spaces within an area combine to provide a wide range of play experiences and meet particular requirements, such as providing some play spaces that are fully fenced.

It is important that older age groups are also well catered for at neighbourhood facilities. The larger size of neighbourhood facilities makes open grass spaces for ball sports and other informal play possible, as well as hard paved areas providing opportunities for ball sports and wheeled play including scooters, bikes and skate boards.

Neighbourhood Play Space summary:

- medium scale
- mixed age groups
- an opportunity to take advantage of larger open spaces sizes by providing complementary spaces such as mown grass and hard paved areas
- provide a variety of play structures and facilities
- access within approximately ten minute drive to residents
- designed to provide maximum integration with surrounding landscape by drawing in local landscape character
- interesting use of texture and foliage to stimulate play.

Regional play spaces

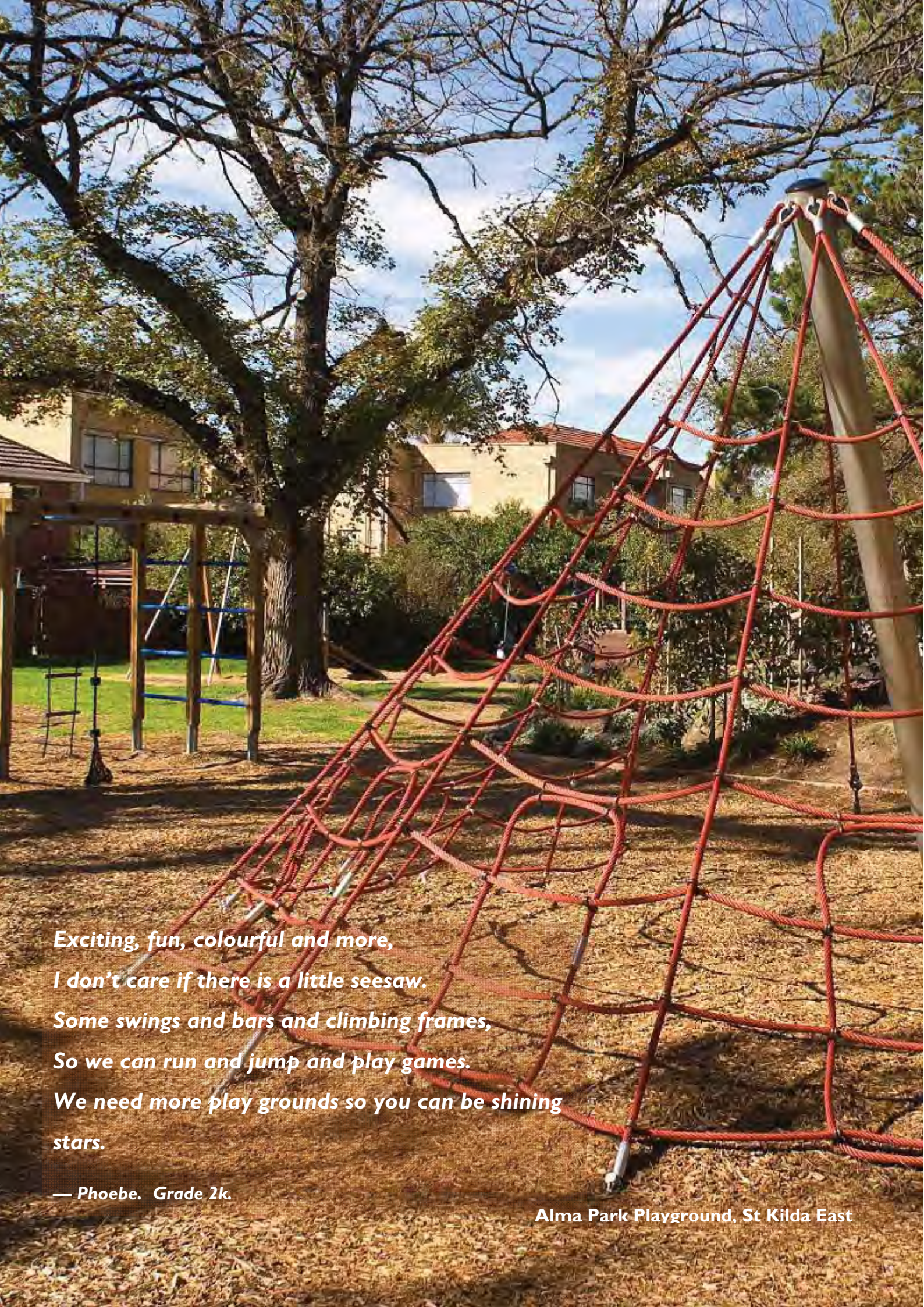
Regional play spaces are intended to be used by people from a wider catchment than both local and neighbourhood play spaces while remaining accessible, attractive and responsive to a local and neighbourhood catchment.

In general, a higher proportion of people are expected to access regional play spaces by means other than by foot or bicycle. This means that both car parking and public transport accessibility need to be taken into account in planning, designing and managing regional play spaces. Regional play spaces will commonly be used by groups of people as a gathering place, rather than predominantly by individual users.

In the City of Port Phillip, the beaches are a natural asset that draw people from a broad catchment. Many foreshore playgrounds therefore are, or have the potential to be regional play spaces. Play spaces that attract a regional catchment outside the foreshore zone need to provide a scale, range and/or uniqueness of play experiences, as well as support amenities including car parking, barbecue and picnic facilities, shelter and public toilets that support a regional status.

Regional Play Space summary:

- large size and range of play facilities, and/or a uniqueness of play experience provided
- provision of complementary facilities that support a regional catchment
- specialised play experiences for mixed aged groups
- facilities such as BBQ, toilets, and seating to cater for large groups and/or longer stays
- access within approximately twenty minutes drive to residents
- designed to provide unique setting where landscape is explored to full potential to ensure children experience texture, foliage, scent and colour.



*Exciting, fun, colourful and more,
I don't care if there is a little seesaw.
Some swings and bars and climbing frames,
So we can run and jump and play games.
We need more play grounds so you can be shining
stars.*

— Phoebe. Grade 2k.

Alma Park Playground, St Kilda East

Play space site assessment

A play space site assessment was undertaken during 2010 on behalf of Council. All public open space parks and reserves within the City of Port Phillip were reviewed for their play potential as part of the play space site assessment.

The information collected is used for the classification of play spaces, to describe existing play space provision and to identify issues and opportunities to be addressed. The assessment considered a number of factors (Table 1, Page 34) which included the following core play space elements:

- opportunities for participation
- diversity of play opportunities
- physical conditions
- amenity/attractiveness
- play opportunities
- support amenities
- access and circulation.

Refer to Appendix I for the site assessment sheet that contains all of the assessment criteria.

The information from the site assessment is presented by planning areas. These are:

- Port Melbourne
- South Melbourne
- Middle Park/Albert Park
- St Kilda Road, St Kilda
- St Kilda East
- Elwood/Ripponlea.

Play spaces in the City of Port Phillip

All public open space parks and reserves within the City of Port Phillip were reviewed as part of the play space site assessment undertaken in 2010 on behalf of Council. The assessment found:

- 57 play spaces with formal play equipment and facilities within the City of Port Phillip. This includes two adventure playgrounds and three playgrounds within Albert Park managed by Parks Victoria.
- 40 open space sites have the potential for informal play but are managed for a range of uses, not specifically as play spaces. These sites provide opportunities for activities such as kite flying, kicking the footy and playing hide-and-seek.
- Four of these open space sites were identified as having potential for development as nature based play spaces in the future.
- 54 other open space sites were identified as not suitable for play due to current use, size or proximity to traffic. These are not considered further in this document.
- There are four play spaces located outside the boundary of Port Phillip that provide important play opportunities for Port Phillip residents .

A full list of play spaces, open space with potential for play and play spaces managed by other authorities within or adjacent to Port Phillip is contained in Table 2 (Page 35 & 36). The map (Figure 3) on Page 37 shows the locations of all of the sites listed in Table 2.

Table 1 Play space assessment data fields

Assessment Area	Criteria
Diversity of Play	<p>Opportunity for physical/active play on play equipment (i.e. gross and fine motor development).</p> <p>Opportunity for cognitive play to challenge the intellect (i.e. games, exploration and observation).</p> <p>Opportunities for creative play (free play or manipulation of objects/materials).</p> <p>Opportunities for social play with places and equipment encouraging interaction and cooperation with others.</p>
Range of Ages	<p>Multiple age groups and abilities are provided for within the play space.</p> <p>Other play spaces nearby offer different opportunities and experiences.</p> <p>Play opportunities for multiple age groups are integrated into the play space site.</p>
Physical Condition	<p>Physical condition of structures and equipment (i.e. general assessment of its age and visual appearance).</p> <p>The number and type of formal equipment pieces.</p> <p>Play equipment is well placed/located within the overall play space setting.</p> <p>The play space appears safe, welcoming and inviting for all.</p> <p>Shade and shelter facilities are provided (natural or man-made).</p>
Originality	<p>General appeal of the play space.</p> <p>Provision of unique features including natural materials, artistic elements and features developed by the community.</p> <p>Multi-use/flexibility (i.e. ability to use equipment/structures for a range of physical, social or creative play experiences).</p> <p>Creativity and imaginative development (e.g. movable and manipulative environments, spatial orientation, exploration).</p> <p>Social play opportunities are provided for (e.g. working with others, talking and cooperative play elements).</p>
Inclusiveness and Accessibility	<p>Appropriate connectivity via defined pathways to the play space and to/from key activity nodes or destination points.</p> <p>Inclusion of accessible play elements.</p> <p>Parents and carers are able to interact with children within the play space.</p> <p>Support amenities provided, such as water fountains, toilets, bike parking and picnic tables, are accessible to all.</p>
Surrounding Environment	<p>Surrounding natural features (e.g. trees, creeks, landscape and topography are appropriately incorporated into the play space).</p> <p>Built structures (e.g. pathways, bridges, skate area, BMX track, ball game area, half court, etc.) support or facilitate additional play opportunities.</p> <p>Provision of support amenities (e.g. toilets, picnic areas, shade/shelter, seating, drinking taps).</p>

Table 2 List of play spaces and open space with potential for play within the City of Port Phillip. Refer to the map on Page 37 for the locations of the play spaces and open space with potential for play.

No.	Name	No.	Name	No.	Name
Adventure Playgrounds		Albert Park/Middle Park		Elwood/Ripponlea	
1.	*Skinner's Adventure Playground	26.	Ashworth Park	52.	Burnett Gray Gardens
2.	*St Kilda Adventure Playground	27.	Danks St Mazda Playground	53.	Clarke Reserve
Port Melbourne		28.	Danks/Victoria St Playground	54.	Elwood Beach House Playground
3.	Beacon Vista Park	29.	Frank & Mary Crean Reserve	55.	Elwood Park Playground
4.	Buckingham Reserve	30.	Gasworks Park	56.	Elwood School Reserve
5.	Centenary Park	31.	H.R. Johnson Reserve	57.	Elwood St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre
6.	Crichton Reserve	32.	Little Finlay Reserve	58.	Point Ormond Reserve
7.	Edwards Park	33.	* Little Page St Reserve		
8.	* Fred Jackson Reserve	34.	Neville St Reserve		
9.	Garden City Reserve	35.	Plum Garland Memorial Playground		
10.	George Sangster Reserve	St Kilda			
11.	Graham St Skate Park	36.	Catani Gardens		
12.	J. L. Murphy Reserve	37.	Jacoby Reserve		
13.	* Lagoon Reserve	38.	Church Square Reserve		
14.	Letts Reserve	39.	Charnwood Reserve		
15.	Morris Reserve Tennis Club Playground	40.	J. Talbot Reserve		
16.	* Park Square	41.	Jim Duggan Reserve		
17.	R. F. Julier Reserve	42.	Peanut Farm Reserve		
18.	* Turville Place Park	43.	Rotary Gardens		
19.	Walter Reserve	44.	Renfrey Playground		
20.	Sandridge Reserve	45.	St Kilda Botanical Gardens Playground		
South Melbourne		46.	Waterloo Crescent Reserve		
21.	Ludwig Stamer Reserve	91.	* Marina Reserve		
22.	Lyell/Iffla Reserve	St Kilda East			
23.	Park St Eastern South Reserve	47.	Alma Park East		
24.	Sol Green Reserve	48.	Hewison Reserve		
25.	St Vincent Gardens Playground	49.	Pakington St Reserve		
		50.	Te Arai Reserve		
		51.	William St Reserve		

* Notes: The location of the Adventure Playgrounds is not shown on the maps. Refer to www.portphillip.vic.gov.au for more information.

Site 33 has been recommended for removal.

Site 8, Site 13, Site 16, and Site 18 have the potential to be developed as nature based play spaces in the future.

Site 91 is to be constructed in 2012.

Table 2 List of play spaces and open space with potential for play within the City of Port Phillip. Refer to the map on Page 37 for the locations of the play spaces and open space with potential for play.

No.	Name	No.	Name
Open space with potential for play - Port Melbourne		Open space with potential for play - Albert Park	
59.	Australis Circuit Gardens	80.	Albert Park Beach
60.	Coogee Place Park	81.	Beaconsfield Parade Reserve
61.	Cook Reserve	82.	Fraser St Dunes
62.	Edina Close Park	83.	Middle Park Beach
63.	Elder Smith Reserve	84.	Pickles Street Foreshore
64.	Gill Reserve	85.	West Beach
65.	Hester Reserve	Open space with potential for play - St Kilda	
66.	Howe Reserve	86.	O'Donnell Gardens
67.	Leith Crescent Reserve	87.	Pier Road Beach
68.	Orcades Mews Park	88.	St Kilda Foreshore
69.	Orion Mews Park	89.	The Green (South Beach)
70.	Page Reserve	Open space with potential for play - Elwood/Ripponlea	
71.	Perce White Reserve	90.	M.O. Moran Reserve
72.	Port Melbourne Beach – Beach St Foreshore	91.	*Marina Reserve
73.	Port Melbourne Football Ground Surrounds	92.	Robinson Reserve
74.	Princes St Dunes	Play spaces within or adjacent to but not managed by the City of Port Phillip	
75.	Sandridge Foreshore	01.	Albert Park Lake
76.	Smith Reserve	02.	Elsternwick Park
77.	Turner Reserve	03.	Fawkner Park
Open space with potential for play - South Melbourne		04.	Jessamine Avenue Gardens
78.	Cecil/Bridport St Reserve	05.	Royal Botanic Gardens and surrounds
79.	Cecil/Park St Reserve		

Refer to Page 33 for definition of open space with potential for play.

* Note: Marina Reserve to be constructed in 2011/2012 in accordance with DSE Coastal Consent Permit

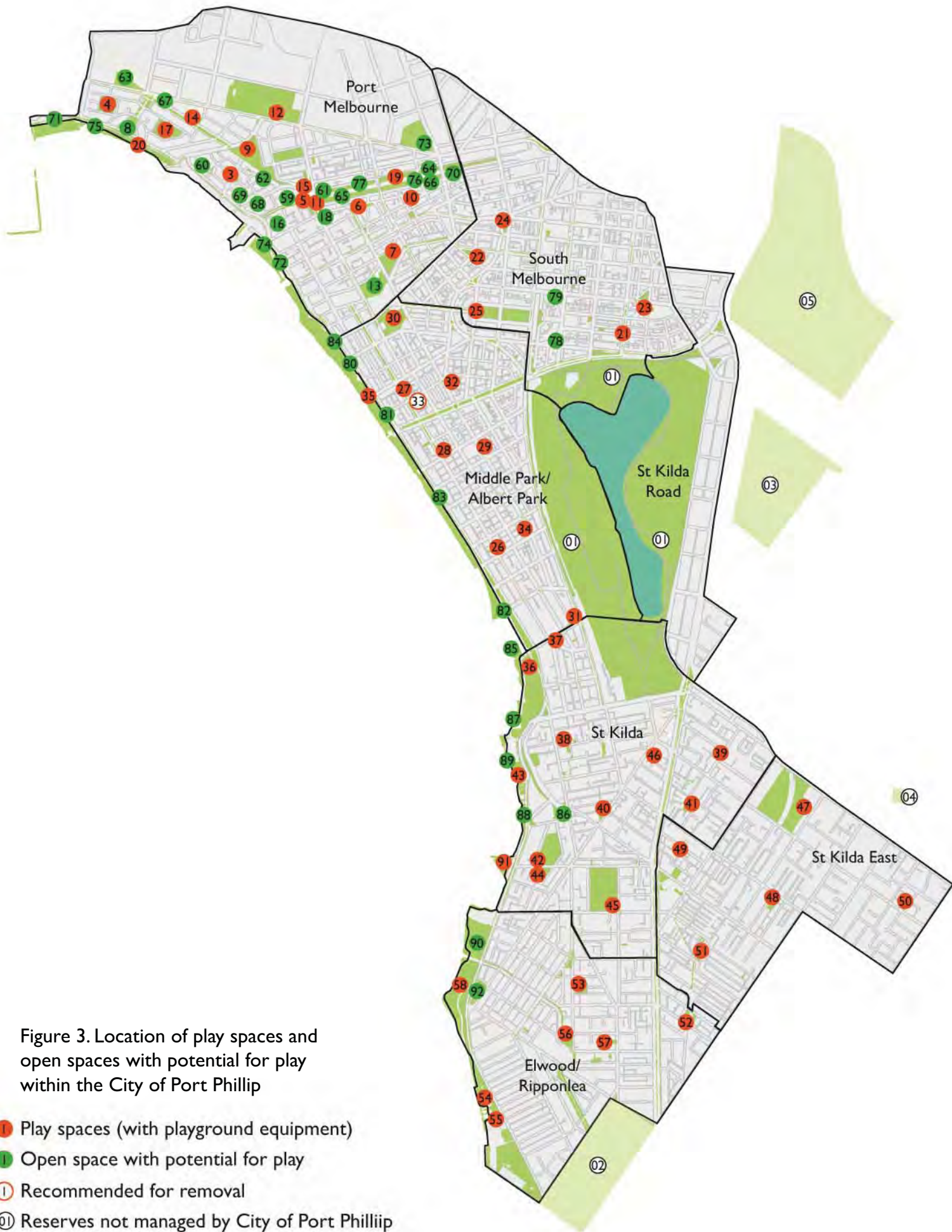


Figure 3. Location of play spaces and open spaces with potential for play within the City of Port Phillip

- ① Play spaces (with playground equipment)
- ② Open space with potential for play
- ③ Recommended for removal
- ④ Reserves not managed by City of Port Phillip
- ⑤ Parks and Reserves

Refer to page 35-36 for list of play spaces

Summary of key findings

Key themes to emerge from the site assessments are summarised below. Refer to Page 46-57 for the full analysis of the results. Site assessment data for each play space is contained in the Play Space Inventory, which will act as a reference document for council officers.

General themes

Play opportunities

- Quite a number of play spaces have been upgraded over the last five years including Catani Gardens and Garden City Reserve. These play spaces in particular offer a range of creative and nature based play and are well integrated into surrounding landscapes.
- Whilst many play spaces offer contact with nature, opportunities have been identified to develop a number of Nature Based Play Spaces across the City.

Distribution

- The geographic distribution of play space sites across the City allows the majority of residents to be within 400 metres walking distance to a play space.
- Gaps exist in St Kilda East and the north-west portion of Port Melbourne and South Melbourne. The areas containing gaps in play space provision in Port Melbourne and South Melbourne areas are largely business/industrial areas, which reduces the immediate priority for addressing these gaps.
- When major pedestrian barriers such as main roads are considered, there are many more gaps in provision of play spaces within 400 metres. However, distribution was not identified by the community as an issue.
- Aside from the St Kilda Road planning area, St Kilda East and South Melbourne contain the equal lowest number of play space sites in the City (i.e. 5 in total).
- The limited provision in St Kilda East reflects the housing market and development patterns of the area, which includes a high proportion of young adults and tertiary students. It will be important in the future to ensure that existing sites in these areas are well developed, including the provision of an appropriate diversity of play experiences.

Facilities

- Port Melbourne and Elwood/Ripponlea are well serviced by regional play spaces (3 sites each). Demand for future regional standard facilities is likely to come from other planning areas, most notably South Melbourne. There may also be an opportunity to upgrade one of the existing local play spaces in Middle Park/Albert Park to a higher standard.
- Along with St Kilda Road, South Melbourne is the only other planning area that does not include a Regional play space.
- Elwood/Ripponlea planning area does not contain a Neighbourhood standard play space, however it does include 3 Regional spaces. There may be opportunities to upgrade one of the existing 4 Local spaces to Neighbourhood standard.

Quality of provision

- The vast majority of all play spaces were rated as high quality, 26%, or medium quality, 58%, based on the quality ranking system. Only 16% or 9 sites, rated as low.
- Aside from St Kilda Road, all planning areas included at least two play space sites which rated as high.

Access for all abilities

- It is acknowledged that there is a need for distribution throughout the municipality of play spaces that cater for all abilities. Many of the older play spaces are not designed to facilitate access for all abilities. As they are upgraded, accessibility principles will be considered as part of the design process.
- A number of play spaces across the municipality will be prioritised for provision of facilities that cater for all abilities.

Catering for all ages

- There appears to be an appropriate distribution of play spaces across the City that cater for younger age groups (i.e. 0-7 years and 1-12 years).
- There are gaps in the provision of play spaces that cater for older age groups (i.e. 13+ years). In total there are only five sites that target older age groups across the City. Gaps in provision for older age groups include:
 - Port Melbourne
 - Middle Park/Albert Park
 - St Kilda
 - Elwood/Ripponlea.
- There are significant differences in some planning areas between the proportion of total play space provision compared to the proportion of 0-17 year olds in each area.
 - St Kilda East accounts for only 5% of total play space provision, however accommodates over 17% of all 0-17 year olds.
 - Elwood/Ripponlea accounts for around 11% of all play space sites, however is home to almost 20% of all 0-17 year olds.

Issues and opportunities for play space elements

For a number of play space elements, specific issues and opportunities were identified in the site assessment and are summarised here. These are:

1. play space fencing
2. shade provision
3. integrated play
4. access
5. creative play
6. older aged children.

I. Play space fencing

Issues

- Currently a variety of fencing treatments are being utilised including:
 - Fully enclosed playground fence with child safety gate.
 - Fully enclosed fence without safety gate.
 - Partial fencing and other treatments.
- Some of the older fencing treatments reduce the overall amenity.
- Fencing of some play spaces provides an unnecessary barrier between open space and the play space.



Waterloo Crescent Reserve – rail fencing to reserve frontage provides partial fencing.

Opportunities

- Consider removal of playground fences where safety considerations do not justify them.
- Where a road barrier is required consider partial or alternative fencing treatments including:
 - Earth mounds.
 - Thickly planted garden beds combined with safety gate if required.
 - Seating walls.



Jim Duggan Reserve - partial fence treatment to Canterbury Rd.

2. Shade provision

Issues

- Shade provision in many play spaces is currently insufficient to provide adequate coverage to play areas at most times of the day.
- Shade is mostly provided in the form of tree canopies adjacent to play equipment.
- Shade sails are expensive to install and maintain and can attract vandalism. They have been used in only a few locations.



Jim Duggan Reserve – shade provided by combination unit roofs.

Opportunities

- Implement a shade tree planting program to play spaces where shade is inadequate.
- Where shade tree planting is impractical for the site, provide natural shade structures using creepers and vines.
- In some instances, e.g. foreshore reserves where shade tree planting is difficult, consider installing shade sails as a solution.



Crichton Reserve – Established elm trees provide adequate shade.

3. Integrated play

Issues

- In older play spaces, play elements are often segregated from picnic and planting areas.
- Play areas are often divided into age appropriate areas and seating is not provided to allow ease of carer interaction.
- Natural elements are generally not integrated into play areas apart from play spaces upgraded in recent years.



St Kilda Botanical Gardens - Play equipment is segregated from other play equipment and experiences.

Opportunities

- Integrate siting of play and seating/picnic areas.
- Utilise natural elements to link areas and create interesting spaces and extend play opportunities e.g. sand pits, wetlands, rock walls/banks/clusters, native shrub/tree areas.
- Provide flexible play elements that appeal to multiple ages and physical abilities and provide multiple experience types.
- More recently installed/upgraded playgrounds provide good examples of integrated play and these provide the basis for upgrading older play areas.



Danks Mazda Playground, provides natural elements that enhance play.

4. Access

Issues

- Many play spaces rated low in relation to path linkages and accessibility including recently upgraded reserves.
- Pram crossings are often not provided into parks.
- Paths are generally not provided between key elements e.g. picnic areas, play spaces.
- Paths are not generally provided to the base of play equipment.



H R Johnstone Reserve – no paths provided between key elements.

Opportunities

- The addition of linking paths (concrete or well compacted/maintained gravel/granitic sand, rubber) between major elements provides greater accessibility.
- Paths, particularly circuit paths, also provide wheeled play opportunities.
- Better links between play spaces, public transport and accessible parking.
- Bike parking available.



Jacoby Reserve – paths provide good external access and linkages between major park elements.

5. Creative play

Issues

- Whilst opportunities for physical and social play rated well, creative play was generally rated low.



Beacon Vista Reserve Playground – off the shelf equipment located in a small space limits creativity.

Opportunities

- Creative play opportunities can be encouraged by:
 - Providing opportunities for role play/make believe.
 - Providing elements that can be manipulated.
 - Providing elements and spaces with open ended opportunities and flexible use.
- Garden City Reserve and Lyell Iffla Reserve provide good creative opportunities - thick mulch under shrubby trees creates an organic play environment.



Alma Park - Custom equipment provides open ended play opportunities.

6. Older aged children

Issues

- Assessments revealed limited provision for children over 13 years of age particularly in local play spaces.



Lyell Iffla Reserve – typical play equipment does not provide for 13+ age group.

Opportunities

- Incorporate areas for active/physical play.
- Incorporate social spaces to 'hang out'.
- Incorporate risky play elements e.g. flying foxes.



Peanut Farm Reserve - The existing facilities could be enhanced for older age groups.

Site Assessment Results

Play space distribution

The distribution of play space provision generally matches population concentrations, with the exception of St Kilda East which contains a significantly higher proportion of the population compared to the number of play spaces provided. Refer to Figure 9 (Page 51) for a comparison of population distribution and play space provision.

- Port Melbourne dominates overall play space provision in Port Phillip, accounting for approximately 27% of all play spaces and approximately 15% of the total population.
- South Melbourne and St Kilda East both contain 10% of play spaces within Port Phillip and accommodate 8% and 16% respectively of the total population. These areas have the least amount of total open space within Port Phillip.
- Middle Park/Albert Park contains 19% of play spaces within Port Phillip, St Kilda 21% and Elwood/Ripponlea 13%. Population numbers within these areas are 12%, 22% and 15%.
- St Kilda Road contains approximately 10% of the total population. Play spaces are located in Albert Park and Fawkner Park, however these are not managed by the City of Port Phillip.

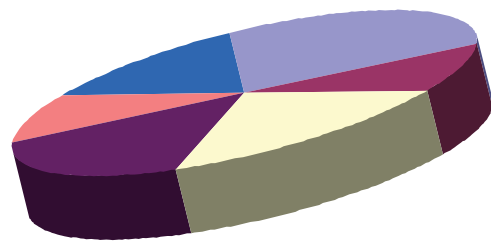
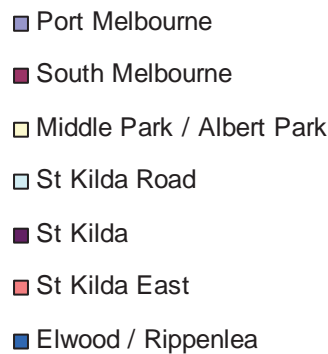


Figure 4 Distribution of play spaces by planning area.

Most areas within the City of Port Phillip are within 400 metres walking distance to a play space as well as within 400 metres of train or tram stations (Figure 5, Page 47). The exceptions are small pockets of commercial/industrial areas on the north/west side of South Melbourne and Port Melbourne, as well as a small area in St Kilda East.

There are a number of play spaces that have pedestrian barriers such as major roads, light rail and Albert Park Lake, that have the potential to restrict the catchment area for users of those spaces. Where the 400 metre radius intersects a pedestrian barrier, the radius has been modified to reflect the barrier, as shown in Figure 6 (Page 48). The map illustrates the gaps in play space distribution increases considerably when pedestrian barriers are accounted for. Interestingly the community survey results did not indicate the need for additional play facilities.

Due to limited open space within Port Phillip available for new play spaces to address access issues, future effort should be directed at reducing the impact of pedestrian barriers to enable safe pedestrian and bike crossing. Where pedestrian barriers cannot be overcome, consideration should be given to the development of new playgrounds. New playgrounds should only be considered when existing play facilities have been upgraded to meet community expectations.

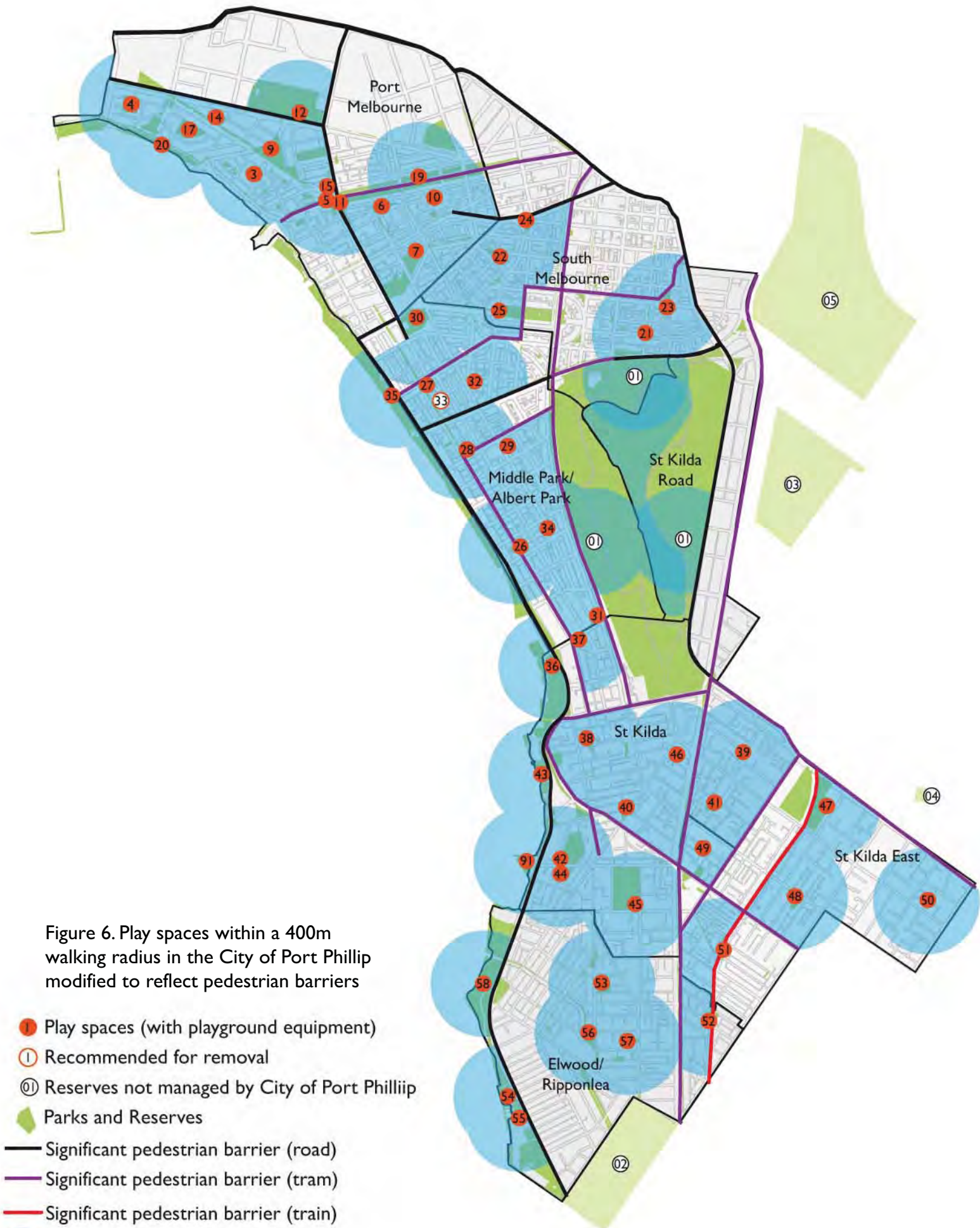


Figure 6. Play spaces within a 400m walking radius in the City of Port Phillip modified to reflect pedestrian barriers

- ① Play spaces (with playground equipment)
- ① Recommended for removal
- ① Reserves not managed by City of Port Phillip
- Parks and Reserves
- Significant pedestrian barrier (road)
- Significant pedestrian barrier (tram)
- Significant pedestrian barrier (train)
- 400m walking radius

Where 400m radius intersects a pedestrian barrier, the radius has been modified to reflect the barrier.
 Refer to page 35-36 for list of play spaces

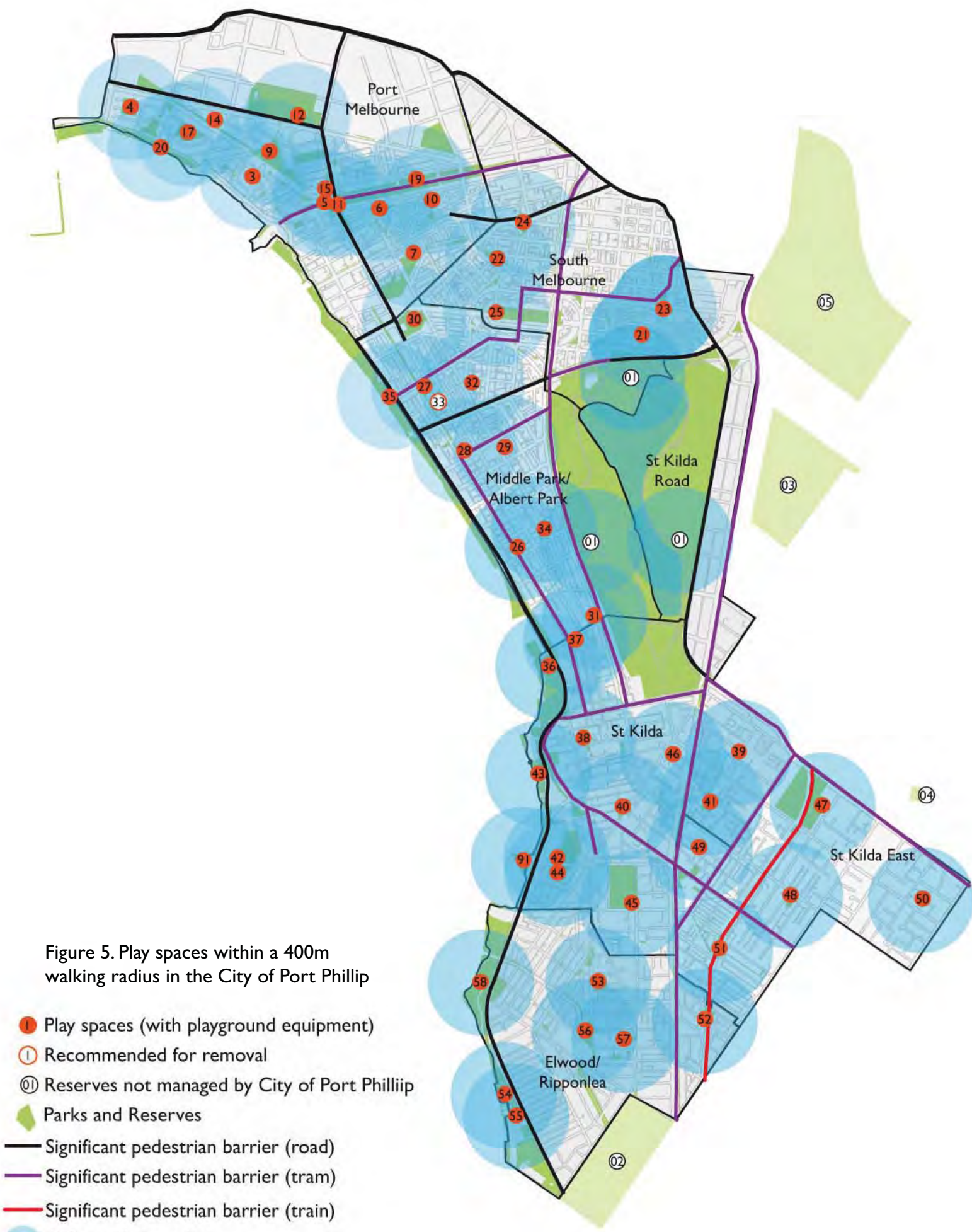


Figure 5. Play spaces within a 400m walking radius in the City of Port Phillip

- 1 Play spaces (with playground equipment)
- 1 Recommended for removal
- 01 Reserves not managed by City of Port Phillip
- Parks and Reserves
- Significant pedestrian barrier (road)
- Significant pedestrian barrier (tram)
- Significant pedestrian barrier (train)
- 400m walking radius

The full extent of the 400m radius is shown in all cases including intersection with a pedestrian barrier.

Refer to page 35-36 for list of play spaces



Figure 7. Play space accessibilities in the City of Port Phillip using public transport

- 1 Play spaces (with playground equipment)
- 1 Recommended for removal
- 01 Reserves not managed by City of Port Phillip
- Parks and Reserves
- Significant pedestrian barriers (excluding tram and train lines)
- 400m tram line radius
- 400m train station

Refer to page 35-36 for list of play spaces

Proportion of play spaces to open space

Looking at the proportion of play spaces to open space across the City of Port Phillip gives an indication of the opportunities in different areas for formal playgrounds to be supplemented with nature based play opportunities in public open space.

- Port Melbourne contains an appropriate proportion of play spaces to other open space – play spaces (38%) and open space sites with opportunities for play (62%). Port Melbourne has significant areas of open space including the foreshore.
- South Melbourne contains a higher proportion of play spaces (71%) than other open space (29%). The area has a smaller proportion of play spaces than other areas within Port Phillip and there is not much other open space with opportunities for play to supplement this limited supply of play spaces. Extending play space provision will be difficult due to limited availability of open space.
- Middle Park/Albert Park contains a slightly higher proportion of play spaces to open space (44%). Play spaces with formal playground infrastructure are well supplemented by open space with opportunities for play that provides nature based play opportunities.
- The St Kilda Road area includes two open space sites that have been identified as having opportunities for play, although not primarily managed for this purpose.
- St Kilda contains a higher proportion of play spaces (73%) to open space (27%). The foreshore provides significant nature based play opportunities that supplement the formal provision of play equipment.
- St Kilda East has no open space with opportunities for play to supplement its limited supply of play spaces. This will limit opportunities for extending play space provision in the future.
- Elwood/Ripponlea contains a similar proportion of play spaces to open space as St Kilda, play spaces 70% and open space with opportunities for play 30%. The foreshore within this area also provides significant nature based play opportunities that supplement formal provision of play equipment.

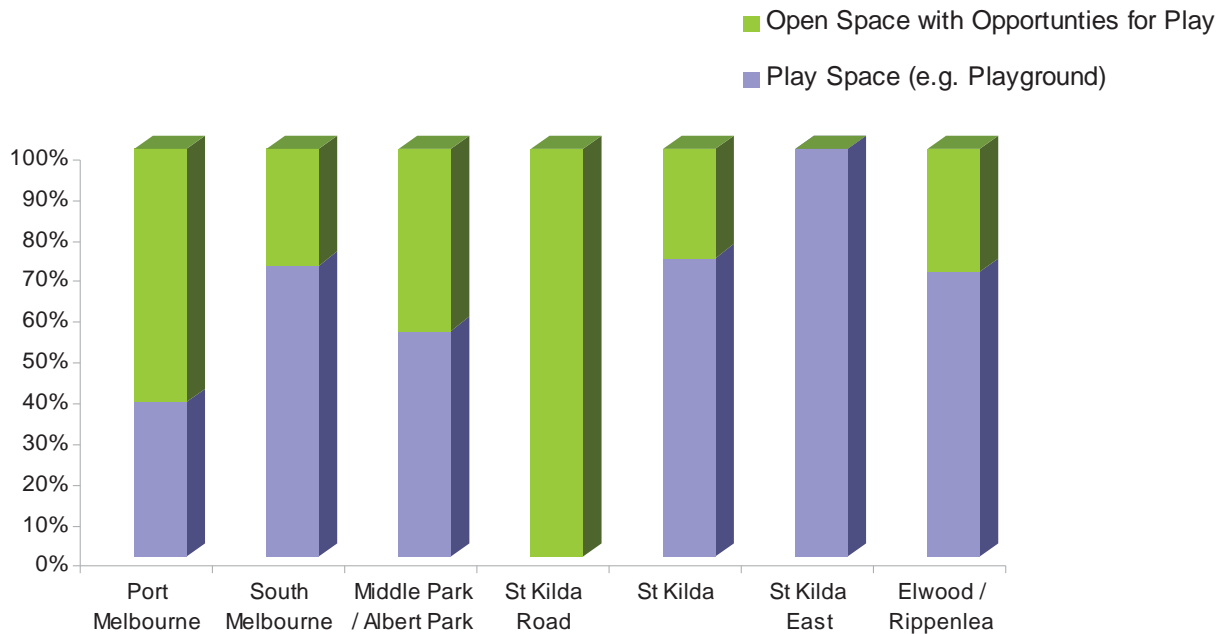


Figure 8 Percentage of play space categories within each planning area as a proportion of total public open space

Distribution of play spaces and 0-17 year olds

There appears to be an appropriate distribution of play spaces across the city that caters for younger age groups, 0-12 years (Figure 9). There are gaps in the provision of play spaces that cater for older age groups, 13+ years, particularly in Elwood/Ripponlea, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne/Middle Park and along the foreshore. In total there are only five sites that target older age groups across the City. Refer to the map on Page 52 (Figure 10) that shows the distribution of play spaces and the age ranges they are predominantly designed for.

Existing provision of play spaces is adequate to accommodate current demand for younger children and in most planning areas there are similar proportions of play space provision for 0-17 year olds. There are significant differences in St Kilda East and Elwood/Ripponlea between the proportions of total play space provision and 0-17 year olds. If current population trends continue in the future, these areas in particular will experience higher levels of pressure on play facilities.

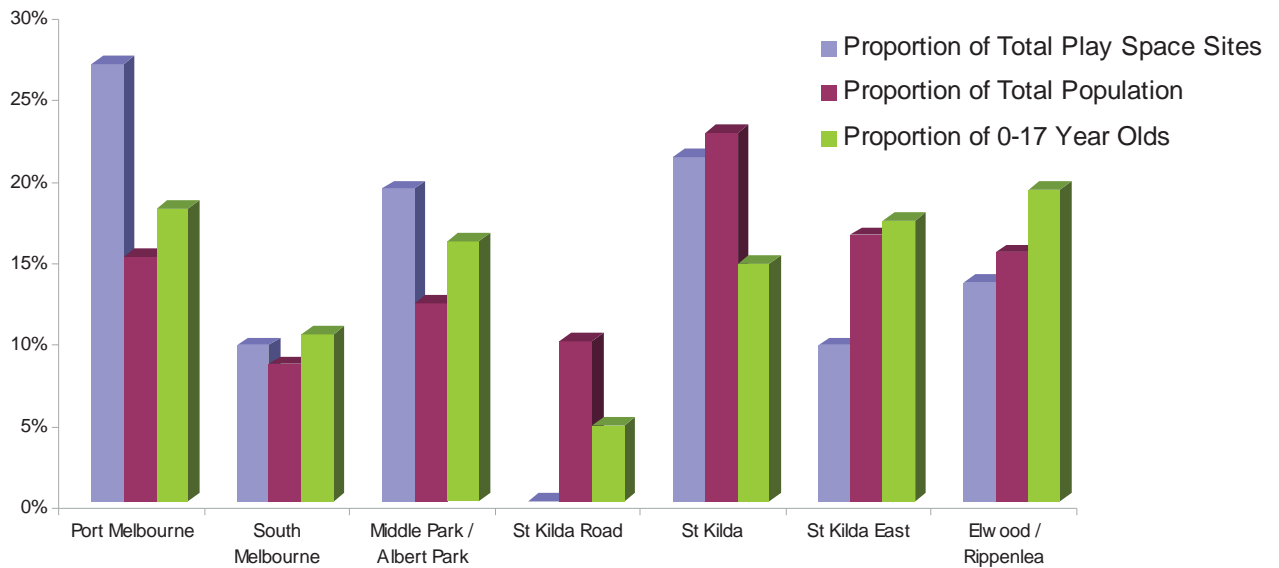
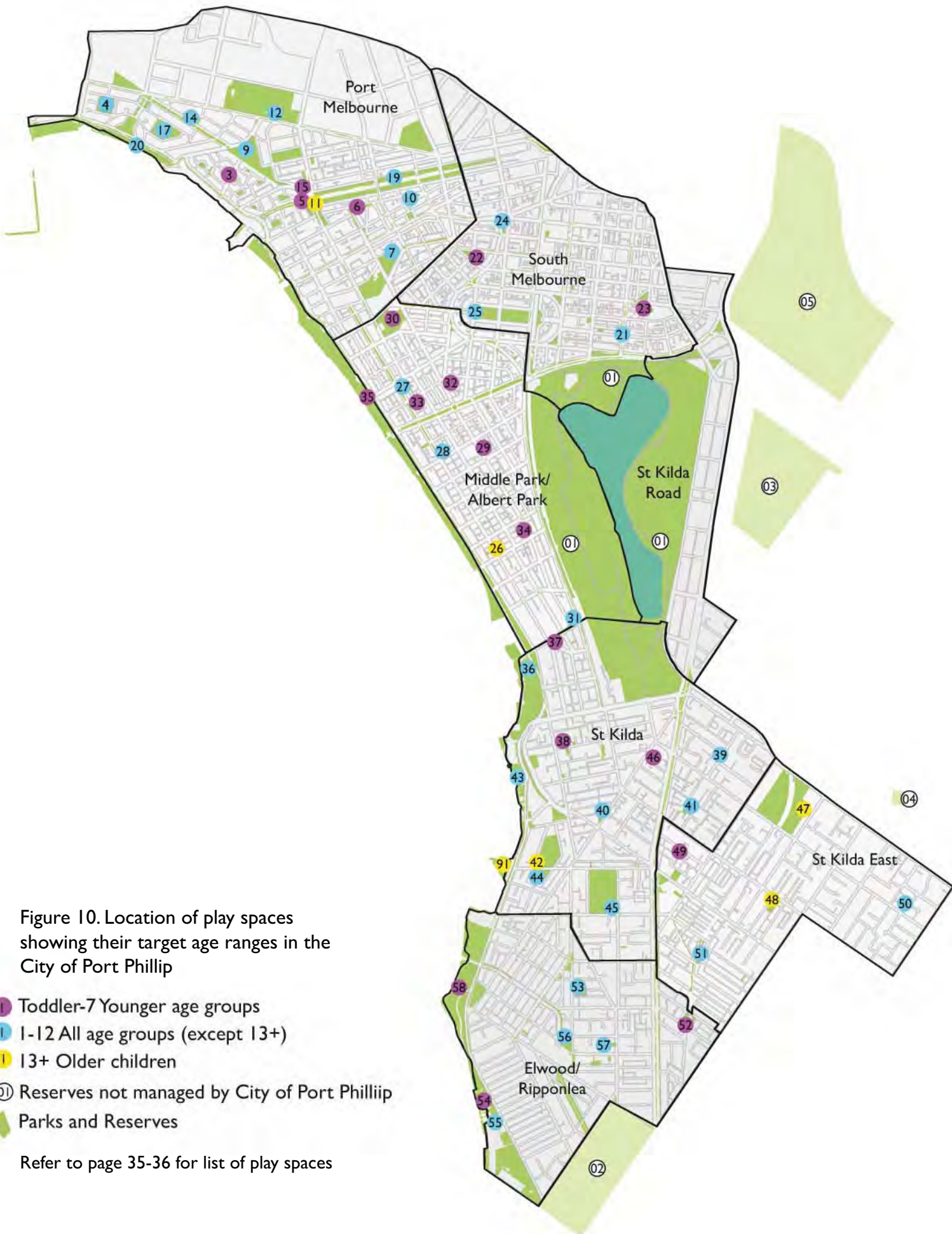


Figure 9 Proportion of play spaces in each planning area compared to total population and proportion of 0-17 year olds.

- Port Melbourne contains 27% of all play spaces within Port Phillip and 18% of all 0-17 year olds. There may be demand to upgrade one of the existing sites to cater for older age groups targeting 13+ years.
- South Melbourne contains 10% of all play spaces and 10% of 0-17 year olds. South Melbourne does not include a play space that targets older age groups, 13+ years.
- St Kilda East accounts for only 10% of total play space provision and accommodates over 17% of all 0-17 year olds. St Kilda East contains two of the City's five sites targeting 13+ year olds, which is appropriate given the age profile of the community.
- Middle Park/Albert Park contains 19% of total play space provision and 16% of 0-17 year olds. The area has a high proportion of sites targeting toddler age groups, 0-7 year olds. There may be opportunities to review existing sites in order to cater for older age groups, including 13+ year olds.
- St Kilda Road Planning Area has less than 5% of all 0-17 year olds and access to Albert Park and Fawkner Park, both managed by other organisations.
- St Kilda contains 21% of total play space provision and approximately 15% of those aged 0-17 years. There may be opportunities to review existing sites and/or establish a new site for older age groups.
- Elwood/Ripponlea contains 13% of all play space sites and accounts for 19% of all 0-17 year olds. The area does not contain any sites that target 13+ year olds despite a high proportion of this age group in the community. There may be opportunities to review existing sites and/or establish a new site to cater for older age groups.



Play Space classification

Each play space has been classified as a local, regional or neighbourhood play space. Refer to Page 27-31 for the definitions. Figure 11 shows the proportion of local, neighbourhood and regional play spaces within the City of Port Phillip. Figure 12 shows the proportion of each class by planning area. The map on Page 54 (Figure 13) shows the distribution of each play space class across the municipality.

- The majority of play spaces in the City of Port Phillip are Local play spaces, 66%. Neighbourhood play spaces comprise 15% and Regional play spaces 17%.
- This distribution is consistent with the roles of the different types of play spaces as described in the Play Provision Model (Page 21).
- All planning areas are dominated by Local play spaces, generally accounting for upwards of 60% of the supply in individual planning areas.

- Local play spaces
- Neighbourhood play spaces
- Regional play spaces

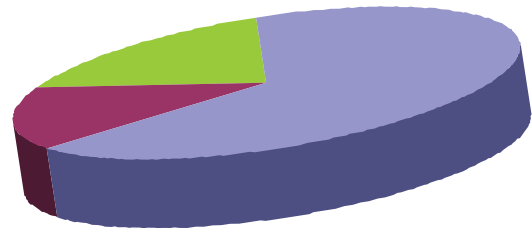


Figure 11 Proportion of Local, Neighbourhood and Regional play

- Port Melbourne has 3 Regional, 3 Neighbourhood and 13 Local play spaces.
- South Melbourne has 2 Neighbourhood and 3 Local play spaces.
- Middle Park/Albert Park has 1 Regional, 1 Neighbourhood and 8 Local play spaces.
- St Kilda Road does not include any play space sites (i.e. playgrounds) provided by the City, however there is access to play facilities provided by others including Parks Victoria (i.e. Albert Park) and City of Melbourne (i.e. Fawkner Park).
- St Kilda includes 2 Regional, 2 Neighbourhood and 7 Local play space sites.
- St Kilda East includes 1 Regional, 1 Neighbourhood and 3 Local play spaces.
- Elwood/Ripponlea includes 3 Regional, 0 Neighbourhood and 4 Local play spaces. This planning area is only one of two that does not include a Neighbourhood play space (the other being St Kilda Road).

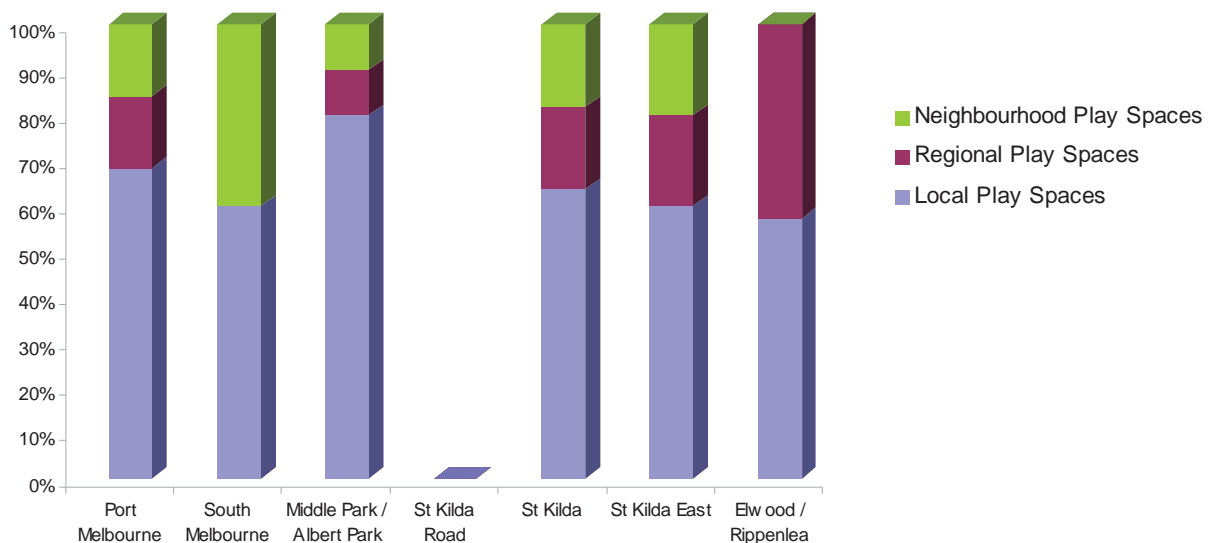
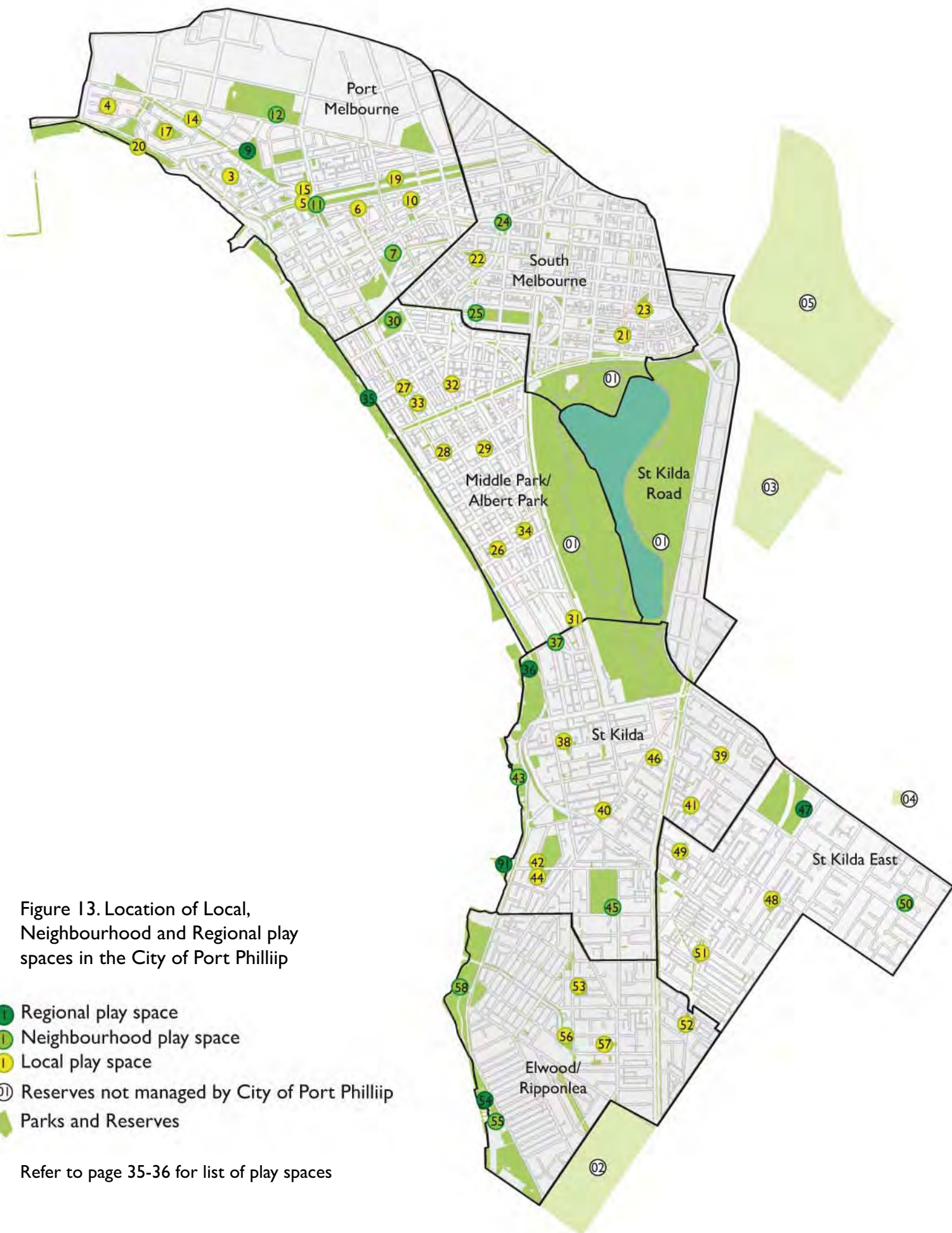


Figure 12 Proportion of Local, Neighbourhood and Regional play spaces in each planning area.



Play Space quality assessment

Quality assessment method

Each play space was assigned a play space quality score during the site assessment. The purpose of the play space quality score is to enable comparison of one space to another and thereby help guide Council priorities for action. The play space quality ranking system is based on four criteria (Table 3).

Each of the four criteria are given a qualitative score of high, medium or low (3, 2 or 1) relative to each play space. The score for each criteria is then added to identify an overall quality score using the Play Space Quality Rating Matrix (Table 4). The maximum possible score for a play space is 12 points.

Table 3 Play Space Quality assessment criteria

Criteria
Appearance/appeal/condition of play equipment.
General appearance, appeal, condition of the overall site.
Quality of landscape setting.
Use of natural features to provide play opportunities.

Table 4 Play Space Quality Rating Matrix

Score	Rating
4-6	Low
7-9	Medium
10-12	High

Quality assessment results

Figure 14 shows the proportion of low, medium and high quality play spaces within the City of Port Phillip, Figure 15 shows the play space quality ranking distribution within each planning area and Figure 16 (Page 57) shows the distribution of low, medium and high quality play spaces across the municipality.

- The vast majority of all play spaces rated positively - 84% rated as either Medium quality, 58%, or High quality, 26%, based on the quality ranking system.
- Only 16% or 9 sites, rated as Low quality.
- The High quality play spaces are distributed fairly evenly across the municipality.
- Aside from St Kilda Road, all planning areas included at least two play space sites which rated as high quality.

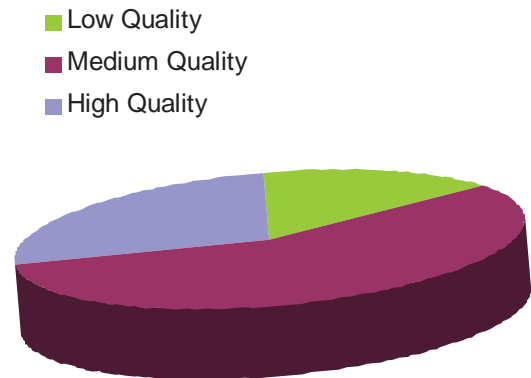


Figure 14 Proportion of Low, Medium and High Quality play

- Port Melbourne (5 sites), Middle Park/Albert Park (3 sites) and St Kilda (1 site) included play spaces that rated as Low.
- No play spaces in Elwood/Ripponlea, St Kilda East and South Melbourne rated as low.
- Port Melbourne includes the lowest proportion of play spaces that rated as high (10%) and the second highest proportion of play spaces that rated as low (26%).
- Play spaces that rated as Low in Port Melbourne and Middle Park/Albert Park are in relatively close proximity, thereby potentially limiting the play experiences available to near-by residents.
- These findings reflect the consultation survey results which indicate that less than 5% of respondents consider that Play Spaces in the City of Port Phillip do not currently meet their needs.

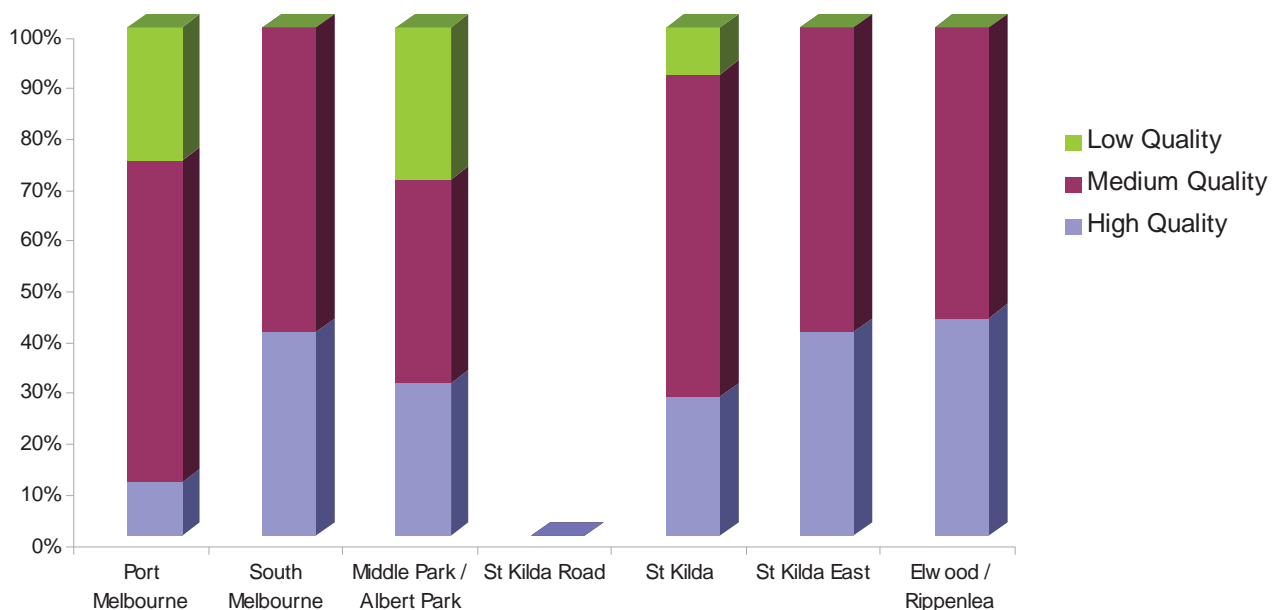


Figure 15 Play space quality ranking distribution within each planning area

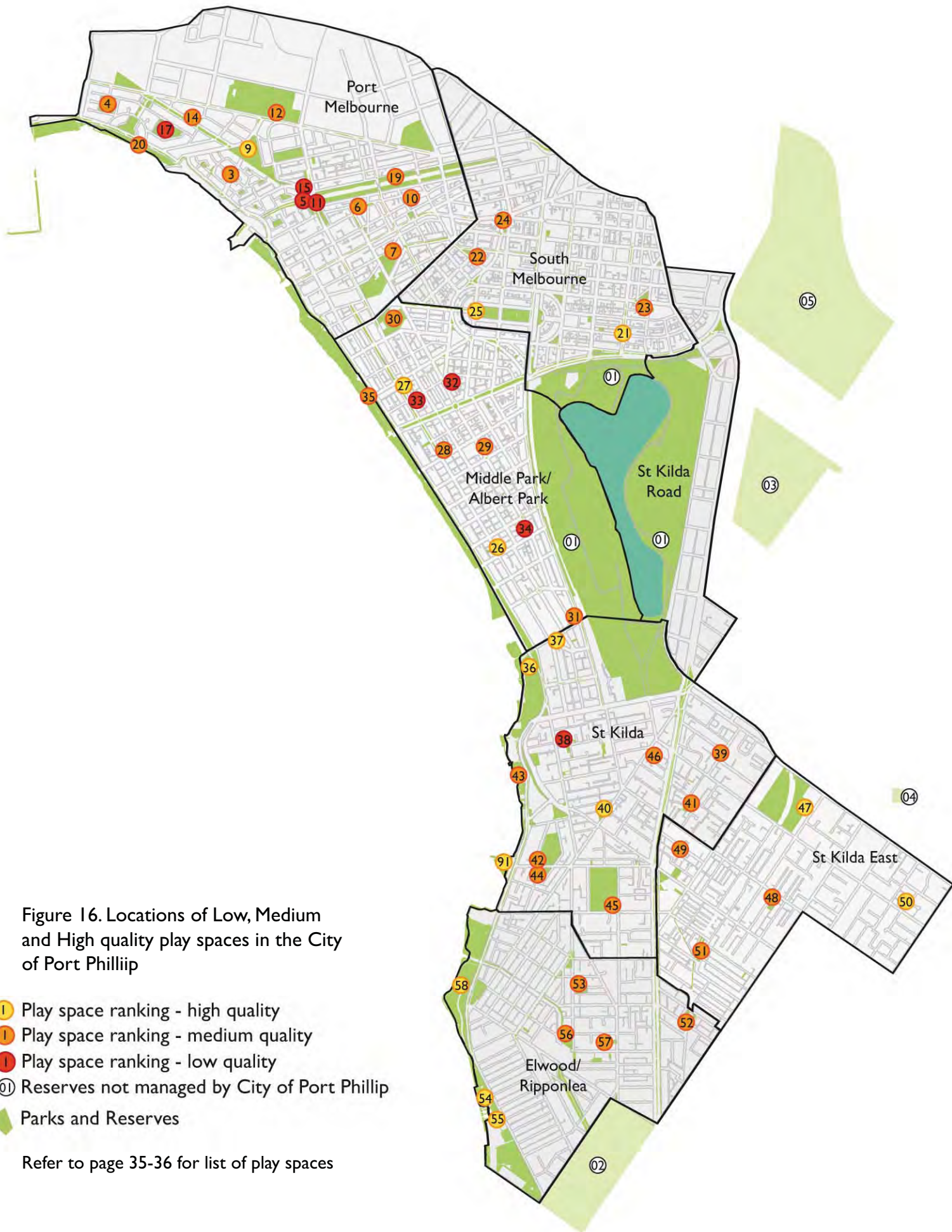


Figure 16. Locations of Low, Medium and High quality play spaces in the City of Port Phillip

- Play space ranking - high quality
- Play space ranking - medium quality
- Play space ranking - low quality
- ⓪ Reserves not managed by City of Port Phillip
- Parks and Reserves

Refer to page 35-36 for list of play spaces

Community consultation

Initial consultation with the community regarding the Play Space Strategy occurred in November 2010. In order to ensure that a representative number of individuals, groups and opinions were represented, Council requested information from the community through a variety of mediums. These included on-line and in person surveys, workshops, on-line forum and post cards.

Community consultation included:

- Eight workshop sessions at childcare centres and after school care programs using techniques tailored to consulting with children. Children were asked to 'vote' for their favourite playground. A child friendly survey was also distributed.
- 3,000 post cards advertising the online survey and forum were sent out to high schools, primary schools, kindergartens, child care centres, vacation care programs and other Council run family care centres. 15 online surveys were completed.
- 247 interview-style surveys of 5 to 10 minutes duration were conducted in 24 playgrounds distributed throughout the municipality including a range of playground types and sizes. The range of play spaces included in the study was provided by Council and are largely, but not entirely the same play spaces included in the 2006 survey. A total of 6 hours survey time was allocated to each play space in the study, with generally 4 hours surveying conducted over the weekends and 2 hours on a weekday.
- 200 interview-style surveys of approximately 5 to 10 minute durations were conducted with residents living in the City of Port Phillip, including children and young people. Surveys were conducted in 20 randomly selected census collector districts (CCD) from across the municipality, with 10 surveys conducted in each CCD. 50% of surveys were undertaken at residences within 150 metre radius of play spaces and 50% undertaken at residences greater than 150 metre radius from play spaces.
- A Have Your Say page on the Council website with an online survey and forum advertised in the local papers and Divercity.
- Two workshops with key internal and external stakeholders including consultation with Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV), Playgrounds and Recreation Association of Victoria (PRAV), Joint Councils Access for All Abilities (JCAAA), Children Services, Parks and Open Space, Youth Services, Adventure Playgrounds, Sport and Recreation, Environment and Sustainability and Animal Management.

All of the information collected from the community was used to inform the development of the Play Space Strategy. Refer to Appendix 2 for the full report on the resident and on-site survey. The report is also available on council's website at www.portphillip.vic.gov.au.

Key themes from the surveys

The City of Port Phillip commissioned Metropolis Research to conduct a survey of adults with children conducted in playgrounds within the City of Port Phillip, and a door-to-door survey of households. Information on playgrounds visited is contained in the full report (Appendix 2).

The main aims of the survey were:

- To determine patronage of a range of play spaces across the municipality.
- To measure the proportion of households in the City of Port Phillip with children who utilise play spaces and which play spaces they visit.
- To determine respondents reasons for visiting a particular play space and their requirements of play spaces.
- To measure respondents' level of satisfaction with various aspects of play spaces within the City of Port Phillip.

Key themes to emerge from the residential and on-site surveys include:

Meeting needs

- There was a clear and unambiguous message from survey respondents that play spaces in the municipality are generally of a very high standard and that few have serious concerns.
- Those with concerns are focused most often on practical issues particularly facilities such as drinking fountains. This theme was also highlighted strongly in the 2006 survey, which suggests that these concerns are long standing.
- Three quarters of respondents believe that Port Phillip play spaces meet their needs either completely (55.4%) or somewhat (21.5%). Less than 5% of respondents consider that play spaces do not meet their needs.

Visitors

- The overwhelming majority of residential respondents (85.0%) visit Port Phillip play spaces at least rarely and more than half the survey respondents (55.8%) visit play spaces at least once a week.
- Two-thirds of survey respondents visit play spaces with 1 or 2 children and more than half the children visiting play spaces with on-site survey respondents were aged between 2 and 4 years.
- Almost one-third of respondents visit play spaces for an average of less than 30 minutes, with half visiting on average for between 30 minutes and 1 hour.
- 14.8% of on-site survey respondents visit play spaces without any children, highlighting the importance and appeal of these sites for casual recreation and passive enjoyment.

Non-users

- The main reasons for not visiting Port Phillip play spaces were children too old (6.5%) or too young (3.5%), or a lack of time to take/supervise children (8.5%).
- Very few respondents identified improvements to encourage use, with the most commonly identified improvements relating to range or quality of play equipment (5.5%).

Important aspects of play spaces

- The most important aspects of play spaces include “feeling safe and secure”, “shaded areas”, “rest areas”, “close to home”, “age appropriate play equipment” and “connection with nature” - all rated at 8 or more out of a potential 10.
- The least important aspects of play spaces include “play spaces that allow dogs” and “close to school/ kindergarten”; less than 6 out of 10.

Satisfaction

- Residential survey respondents rated satisfaction with aspects of Port Phillip play spaces at levels best categorised as varying between “solid” for the facilities available and “excellent for number and distribution of play spaces locally.
- Play space users survey respondents rated satisfaction with aspects of the play space in which they were surveyed as varying between “good” and “excellent” with the exception of the facilities available (toilets, drinking fountains, etc), which were rated “poor”.

Best and worst aspects and improvements

- The most commonly identified best aspects of Port Phillip play spaces were “natural environment, including connection with nature” (24.5%), “play equipment facilities available” (22.8%) and “atmosphere and environment” (16.5%).
- The most commonly identified worst aspects of Port Phillip play spaces were “facilities, including play equipment” (19.0%), “amenities including toilets, benches, drinking fountains” (17.7%), “issues around safety and security” (9.7%) and “issues around shade” (7.6%).
- The most commonly identified improvements include “amenities” (30.8%) and “facilities, including play equipment” (25.7%).

Key themes from the kids consultation

Workshops with schools and child care centres

The City of Port Phillip ran an on-site exercise with 4 primary schools and child care centres where large image boards with different playgrounds and play spaces were presented to students.

They were asked to put stickers on their favourite images to 'vote' for them and were also given the option of writing what they liked or didn't like about the play spaces. A copy of the 'voting' results and verbatim comments are included in Appendix 3.

The images chosen were a mixture of playgrounds and play spaces from within the City of Port Phillip and outside the municipality. The images were a mix of what are regarded as high quality play spaces and those in need of maintenance or replacement. The images were also chosen to include more or less open space and different types of play equipment. Images of more naturalistic play spaces with little or alternate playground equipment were also chosen as well as images in alternate surroundings, e.g. beaches, parklands, suburban reserves etc. Students were not told which spaces they were looking at or where the play spaces were located.

The most popular play spaces were:

- Plum Garland Playground, Albert Park 28 votes
- Garden City Reserve, Port Melbourne 26 votes
- nature based play space, internet image 13 votes
- a playground containing a climbing structure, internet image 11 votes
- Edwards Park Playground, Port Melbourne 9 votes
- David Garcia Drejens Playground, Denmark 9 votes.

The common element with all of these play spaces, is that they contain colourful and interesting play elements that include climbing walls, nets, ladders or other structures that encourage creative play and provide opportunities for children to test and expand their skills.

It is interesting to note that a play space image from the internet that contains a climbing wall using a natural rock wall only received 4 votes. The Garden City Reserve image, which also contains a climbing wall, but is very colourfully designed, received 26 votes. Identification with a local space could have influenced this outcome, or colour could have been a key design element for attracting children to Garden City Reserve over a more naturally coloured but similarly designed space.



Image from the internet – 4 votes



Garden City Reserve –26 votes

Child friendly survey

A child friendly survey was made available for children to fill in as part of the kid's consultation. Children had the option of drawing a picture or writing answers to the four questions. Refer to Table 5 for the questions and answers.

Table 5 Child friendly survey questions and answers

Kids survey question	Response
What is your favourite playground and why?	<p>"Dendy Park- shade secure, good for all ages"</p> <p>"I like to sit on the grass when I need a rest or a drink" (Prep/Grade 1)</p> <p>"We like lots of adventure stuff like "flying fox" climbing and we love sandpits" Group of 5 children, grades 1 & 2</p> <p>"There is a park that has musical things that you can play but it's very far away" Group of 5 children, grades 1 & 2</p> <p>"Middle Park Community Playground- it has lots to climb and hide and activities and it's fun"</p>
What do you like to do at the playground?	<p>"Climbing and playing games on the equipment" (Grade 3) x3</p> <p>"I like playing tiggey on the equipment" (Prep)</p> <p>"Monkey bars are great" (Grade 4)</p> <p>"I don't like it if there is no shade because it hurts my eyes" (Grade 1)</p>
What do you want more of at the playground?	<p>"Please more nature-based play-river scapes, water activities, digging, plants, rocks etc. Our urban children need it!! ! (E.g., Children's garden at Royal Botanic Gardens)"</p> <p>"Sand pits" (Prep 3) x3</p> <p>"Climbing Walls" (Grade 5/6) x4</p> <p>"Monkey bars" (Grade 5/6) x4</p> <p>"Shaded areas for parent & grandparents with/without prams" Parent comment x5</p> <p>"Shaded "chill" zones to sit and have a snack with children" Parent comment</p> <p>"Dynamic rides e.g see saw"</p> <p>"A laser fort"</p>

Submissions

A number of submissions were received from children and adults. Refer to Table 6 for a summary of the submissions.

Table 6 Summary of Submissions

Submission by:	Key comments, issues or suggestions.
Primary School Student: Annie.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My favorite play space is the Adventure Play ground. It's fun, fast, twirling and swirling. I like it because it's never ending, fantastic, fun and cool. That's why I like it.
Primary School Student: Madeline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dear council, I read the article about the play spaces and it looked interesting, so I decided to write back. I like adventurous, secret play spaces where you can scramble, twirl and fly. I like play spaces where the fun never ends and you are giggling with delight. The slides are long and swirly, the wings fit four people at a time. I like squiggly, squirmy monkey bars that are colorful all the time. I hope you liked my poem.
Primary School Student: Thomas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dear Council, I have a description for Elsternwick Parks Skate Park. I like it because you can do EXTREME tricks, great grinds and have awesome rides. I go there each weekend. I love going to the skate park.
Primary School Student: Duke.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dear Council, I saw your article and thought it was very interesting so I wanted to tell you about my favorite play space the adventure playground. I like it because you can bring friends with you. I also like it because it is made out of recycled materials. I enjoy going there thank you for allowing it to be built in the first place. PS I really like how it used to be more dangerous because I think it's more exciting.
Primary School Student: Gus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dear Council, I read your article. I am writing to tell you my favorite play space. My favorite play space is...kids space because there are so many slides and kids to play with. I like the drop slide and the most because you go straight down.
Primary School Student: Phoebe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dear council, I read the Port Phillip newsletter and wanted to give my opinion on a playground I like. I wrote a little poem for you: Exciting, fun, colorful and more, I don't care if there is a little seesaw. Some swings and bars and climbing frames, So we can run and jump and play games. We need more playgrounds so you can be shining stars.
Primary School Student: Luc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My favorite play space is the adventure playground. I like it because it has a trampoline.
Primary School Student: Asha.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm 8 years old. I like: Awesome and Amazing, Fun and Fantastic, Excellent and Adventurous, Stupendous and Superb play spaces. My favorite play space is the Adventure playground because it is all of those things!
Carla, resident.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What makes a great play space for my family at the moment are the following two things - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A secure/fenced playground (I have 3 boys aged 2, 3 & 4, the 3 year old likes to wander off if he can!). Play equipment that if it may be dangerous for toddlers, it has a gate or something to restrict them entering it. An example of this is the big slide play equipment in Edwards park, the slide isn't an issue, the height of the play equipment is. My 2 year old follows the others up the stairs and stands on the edge of one of the sides that has no barrier (rope/climbing equipment). I have been told by another mother at the park that a toddler did fall from the equipment and was concussed. Because of this I avoid the park unless I have another adult with me.



“Lots of shade.”

“Secured with fencing.”

“Stuff for different ages.”

“Lots of things to play.”

“Nice and shady.”

“That sand pulleys to pull up sand.”

“I like it because its near the beach.”

Recommendations

Strategic guidelines, recommendations and actions have been identified (Figure 17) to guide Council's future resource allocation and priorities for play spaces across the municipality.

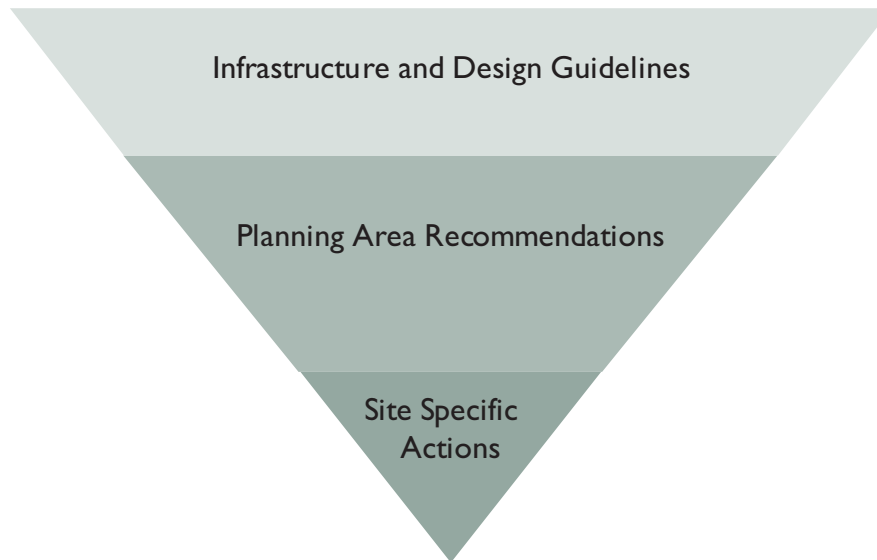


Figure 17 Relationship between guidelines, recommendations and actions.

Infrastructure and Design Guidelines

A number of guidelines direct all development and maintenance of play spaces within the City of Port Phillip. They were developed through a combination of consultation with stakeholders and the community and adherence to relevant national and state regulations, standards and guidelines.

The infrastructure and design guidelines are designed to help Council achieve the Play Space Strategic vision and objectives (Page 7).

The 20 guideline areas set out guidelines and specific actions. The guidelines are to be used as a check list when designing playground upgrades, establishing a new play space or undertaking maintenance, to ensure that all activities work towards the achievement of the strategic vision.

The actions state specific work that will be undertaken by Council to implement the guidelines.

Reference documents such as the "The Good Play Space Guide: I can play too" developed by the Department for Victorian Communities (SRV) should also be considered when developing play spaces.

Planning Area Recommendations

Planning Area Recommendations provide strategic direction for play space development for each planning area based on current provision and anticipated future need.

Site Specific Recommendations

The Site Specific Recommendations detail specific actions for each individual play space identified through the site assessments undertaken in 2010 on behalf of Council.

The actions are prioritised into three categories: low, medium and high, which will guide the order in which they are implemented.

Infrastructure and design guidelines

Guidelines and actions have been identified (Table 7, Page 66-70) for the following themes:

1. Access and inclusion
2. Active, social and creative play
3. Aesthetics
4. Catering for young people
5. Distribution
6. Diversity and age appropriate play
7. Drinking fountains
8. Fencing
9. Infrastructure and support facilities
10. Landscape integration and connection with nature
11. Linkages
12. Park furniture
13. Public art
14. Public toilets
15. Quality play spaces
16. Safety and risky play
17. Shade
18. Surfaces
19. Sustainability
20. Water as a play element.

Table 7 Infrastructure and Design Guidelines

Guideline	Action
1. Access and inclusion	
1.1	<p>Council will provide accessible and inclusive play spaces for all abilities, backgrounds and ages.</p> <p>Incorporate access and inclusion considerations into planning, design and physical development of each play space site so that all people will have opportunities to participate and play.</p> <p>Ensure an appropriate level of involvement of all relevant officers from across the organisation in order to ensure the best possible outcome for all e.g. Open Space Planning, Recreation Planning, Landscape Design, Asset Maintenance, Arboriculture and Risk Management, Joint Council Access All Abilities.</p>
2. Active, social and creative play	
2.1	<p>Play spaces will be designed and constructed to provide opportunities for children to develop key skills and behaviours through active, social and creative play.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for active play for children to test and develop their capabilities and skills.</p> <p>Incorporate play elements designed for climbing, running, balancing, hanging, swinging, and rocking.</p> <p>Consider the inclusion of bike circuits within or around play spaces to provide additional active play opportunities.</p> <p>Incorporate play elements that encourage children to use their imagination and that allow them to order, categorise and manipulate objects to construct or create sensory experiences and problem solving.</p> <p>Incorporate play elements that encourage social play through children playing games of imagination, dramatic role play, rules, and creative or physical activity.</p>
3. Aesthetics	
3.1	<p>Play spaces will be designed and constructed to complement and enhance the look and feel of the existing open space and with the intention to be visually inspiring for play space users.</p> <p>Use play materials that compliment the look and feel of the park.</p> <p>Prioritise the use of natural materials such as rocks, logs and vegetation.</p> <p>Integrate new play equipment with existing trees, garden beds, mounds, historic or other features.</p> <p>Prioritise the use of custom made play equipment for neighbourhood and regional play spaces.</p>
4. Catering for young people	
4.1	<p>Provide well designed structured and unstructured play spaces for young people (i.e. 13 – 18 year olds) throughout the municipality.</p> <p>Develop play spaces for young people as per the planning area and site specific recommendations.</p> <p>Locate play spaces for young people close to public transport, near high schools (e.g. Albert Park College and Elwood High), community centres for youth (e.g. Sol Green), areas of disadvantage and at destination places such as the Foreshore (e.g. Marina Reserve).</p> <p>Ensure play space designs that target young people incorporate an appropriate level of risk and adventure that challenge individual development.</p> <p>Ensure play spaces targeting young people incorporate spaces and support facilities and infrastructure which facilitates social gatherings and informal physical activity.</p> <p>When planning for the provision of play spaces for young people, issues to be considered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type of activities. • Proximity to public transport. • Proximity to shops and schools. • Size and location of the site, (i.e. capacity to accommodate an effective range of equipment, support facilities and space for active play). • Opportunities for casual surveillance. • Potential impacts on neighboring residents and surrounding areas.

Guideline	Action
5. Distribution	
<p>5.1 Council's play space resource allocation will prioritise the upgrading, refurbishment and/or replacement of existing play sites ahead of the creation of possible new sites.</p> <p>5.2 Development of new play space sites will only be considered in order to respond to specific facility infrastructure gaps and/or to address the needs of specific target audiences (i.e. 13+ year olds).</p>	<p>Prioritise upgrade and/or renewal of existing play sites ahead of the creation of new sites.</p> <p>Undertake works to play spaces as recommended in the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Develop new play space sites as recommended in the implementation plan or in response to a specific need that is identified through another planning or community consultation process.</p>
6. Diversity and age appropriate play	
<p>6.1 Future development and/or upgrade of play space venues will provide diversity in play experiences for a range of age groups, abilities and backgrounds.</p>	<p>Undertake detailed site planning and community engagement for play space upgrade or renewal to promote diversity in play experiences for a range of age groups, abilities and backgrounds.</p> <p>When upgrading or renewing a play space, develop a site-specific plan that considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the target age ranges • providing a diversity of play experiences including adventurous, active, social and creative play • landscaping to maximise integration with nature incorporating local character • accessibility of space and equipment. <p>Play spaces should be designed with the developmental stages of children in mind as it reflects childrens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical size • skills • behaviour • play interests • ability to perceive hazards.
7. Drinking fountains	
<p>7.1 Drinking fountains will be provided at all regional and neighbourhood play spaces.</p>	<p>Provide drinking fountains within easy access of regional and neighbourhood play spaces as per the site specific recommendations. Not required at local play spaces.</p> <p>Locate drinking fountains outside key play area in close proximity to play space.</p> <p>Do not include a dog bowl in the water fountain design for any water fountain located within five metres of a play space.</p> <p>Provide accessible fountains for children of all ages and abilities.</p>
8. Fencing	
<p>8.1 Fencing of play spaces will be undertaken in response to site specific safety issues and where fencing is found to be necessary, low impact alternatives will be investigated.</p>	<p>Fencing around play spaces to be installed in response to site specific safety issues only, such as proximity to busy roads and other conflicts with adjacent use of space.</p> <p>Research indicates that fencing can reduce adult supervision and should only be installed at strategic locations throughout the municipality.</p> <p>Fenced play spaces to be provided at strategic locations throughout the municipality.</p> <p>Where fencing is required, alternative forms of fencing to be investigated and the following points to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fenced play spaces limit the points of access to play facilities and reduces opportunities for connection between the play space and surrounding

Guideline	Action
	<p>(often complementary) elements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fences create an aesthetic impact that is at odds with the idea of open space. Fences can encourage carers to take less responsibility for the supervision of children. <p>Existing fencing to be reviewed as part of any play space upgrade or renewal and alternative types of fencing to be investigated as part of the site planning process.</p>
<p>9. Infrastructure and support facilities</p>	
<p>9.1 Council will provide fit for purpose facilities and infrastructure at all play spaces based on their function as a local, neighbourhood or regional play space.</p>	<p>Prioritise the upgrade of facilities and amenities at existing play spaces as per the site specific recommendations and as funding becomes available.</p> <p>Design and construction to comply with relevant Australian Standards.</p>
<p>10. Landscape integration and connection with nature</p>	
<p>10.1 Future development and/or upgrade of play space venues will create more adventurous and creative play spaces and opportunities for nature based play.</p>	<p>Through site specific planning, create a natural flow between play infrastructure and landscaping to maximise integration of play space infrastructure with natural and other elements within the park i.e. green open space, toilets, gardens.</p> <p>Incorporate the following elements in play space design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated siting of play and seating/picnic areas. Utilising natural elements to link areas and create interesting spaces and extend play opportunities e.g. sand pits, wetlands, rock walls/banks/clusters, native shrub/tree areas. Flexible play elements that appeal to multiple ages and physical abilities and provide multiple experience types. <p>Enhance nature based play elements within existing play spaces and develop new nature based play space sites as per the site specific recommendations.</p>
<p>10.2 Play spaces will be designed to complement the neighborhood character and be better connected to adjacent infrastructure and attractions.</p>	<p>Site specific planning to be undertaken for all upgrade or renewal of play spaces to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflect local neighborhood character. Maximise linkages with infrastructure and attractions adjacent to or in proximity to the play space such as cafes, libraries and public transport.
<p>11. Linkages</p>	
<p>11.1 Provide safe options for access to play spaces for all ages, abilities and backgrounds through walking/bike track networks, appropriate parking formats and safe road crossings.</p>	<p>Implement the site specific recommendations.</p> <p>Consider improving bike tracks, walking paths and safe road crossings where appropriate to improve access to play spaces for children.</p>
<p>12. Park furniture</p>	
<p>12.1 Park furniture will be provided to support the use of play spaces in alignment with the play space hierarchy that maximises opportunities for community use and enjoyment of play space settings.</p>	<p>Undertake a site assessment to determine placement and location of park furniture to respond to the specific character, topography and landscape of each setting and maximise opportunities for surveillance and interaction with active users.</p> <p>Park furniture must be designed and installed according to relevant policies and guidelines.</p> <p>Park furniture should be appropriately designed and installed, including path connections and hard surfaces under high use areas.</p>

Guideline	Action
13. Public art	
13.1 Council will create opportunities for public art to be incorporated into play spaces wherever possible to enhance the space and promote community involvement.	Consider the inclusion of public art that responds to the natural character of the setting, enhances play opportunities, general amenity or expresses cultural identity at the planning stage of upgrade or renewal projects in play spaces.
14. Public toilets	
14.1 Toilets will be provided as per the recommendations in the Toilet Strategy	Locate toilets within easy access of play spaces in which people are expected to stay for extended periods as per the recommendations of the Toilet Strategy. This includes regional play spaces and some neighbourhood play spaces depending on site. Ensure toilets are designed and sited to minimise potential antisocial behaviour associated with toilets.
15. Quality play spaces	
15.1 Council will continue to provide a range of high quality play spaces across the municipality.	Ensure that high quality play spaces are maintained and distributed equitably across the municipality. Undertake upgrade and renewal works for play spaces as per the site specific recommendations and as funding becomes available. Specify the lifecycle of each set of playground equipment as part of future play space renewal planning to ensure renewal is undertaken in a timely fashion based on the life expectancy of the equipment. Undertake regular maintenance as per the maintenance schedule as well as responding in a timely manner to repair broken or damaged equipment.
16. Safety and risky play	
16.1 Council supports the incorporation of 'risky' play components within play spaces in order to provide opportunities for challenging the limits of play space users and ultimately help children develop to their full potential.	Incorporate into play space design an appropriate level of risk and adventure that challenges individual development. Incorporate public safety considerations in the design and provision of play spaces, including *CEPTED principles and compliance with relevant Australian Standards. *CEPTED stands for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.
17. Shade	
17.1 Provision of shade to specific places where intensive play occurs is a key priority in all play spaces.	Undertake shade tree planting in and around play spaces. Where practical, shade to be provided by trees located around or within play spaces. Consider planting short lived, quick growing trees to provide shade in the short term whilst slower growing trees are maturing. Where shade cannot be effectively provided by trees due to site conditions (e.g. difficulty in establishing trees in exposed foreshore locations, or space constraints), the provision of shade from built structures may be considered. Installation of natural shade structures using creepers and vines as well as shade sails can be considered where shade from trees is not an option. While shade structures have the benefit of providing immediate shade that can be designed to suit requirements, it is noted that the provision of shade in this form is less desirable for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built structures are visually less sympathetic to the open space context of most play spaces. • Built structures are relatively expensive to install compared to trees and installation of shade may mean less money available for investment in other play space infrastructure or experiences. • Built structures can attract vandalism and also require regular maintenance to make good normal wear and tear. • Built shade structures do not provide season specific shading (e.g. more shade in summer and less in winter) that can be achieved using deciduous trees.

Guideline	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built shade structures do not normally provide play potential, where-as trees can provide a range of play opportunities (including tree climbing and imaginative play with leaves/sticks/seeds/fruit etc). <p>Mature trees in the vicinity of play spaces to be regularly monitored by Council arboricultural staff to ensure structural integrity and to pre-empt any potential associated safety issues.</p>

18. Surfaces

<p>18.1 Choice of play space surface will be 'fit for purpose' and selected based on current and proposed use and the nature of the surrounding area. Priority will be placed on surfacing around play equipment in the 'fall zones' where standards and regulations apply.</p>	<p>Identify the appropriate surface for play spaces as part of the site planning process when a play space is upgraded or renewed.</p> <p>Prioritise surfacing in play spaces around play equipment in the fall zones.</p> <p>Implement surfacing around play equipment and in fall zones according to applicable standards and regulations.</p> <p>Consider disability access to some equipment by provision of appropriate surfaces.</p>
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19. Sustainability

<p>19.1 The environmental impact of play equipment will be minimised through the design, choice of materials and manufacture process.</p>	<p>Consider the environmental impact of play equipment at the planning and design stage of play space upgrade and renewal projects.</p> <p>Minimise maintenance requirements where possible by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimising the use of mown lawn areas and instead using garden beds or other surfaces (except where the mown lawn areas are well used for play or other purposes). Minimising the extent of soft fall materials, while ensuring ongoing compliance with relevant Australian Standards.
<p>19.2 Encourage the use of sustainable transport.</p>	<p>Encourage the use of sustainable transport to and from play spaces by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locating new play spaces within close proximity to public transport. Providing or improving bike and pedestrian path linkages to play spaces where possible. Providing bike parking.

20. Water as a play element

<p>20.1 Opportunities for incorporating water play into regional play space design will be considered as part of the play space design process.</p>	<p>Investigate opportunities for incorporating water play elements into play space design when regional play spaces are being upgraded or renewed.</p> <p>Consider the following issues when investigating the incorporation of water play elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety issues, including the potential for drowning as well as the potential for illness caused by contact with water-borne bacteria or unclean water. Maintenance issues, including the potential for leakages, the potential for malfunction of pump and/or filtration systems and the need to ensure that the water is kept free of litter, algal growth and other foreign matter. The requirement for pump and/or filtration systems will normally require power inputs, increasing operational costs.
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“Looks cool, also has cool things.”

“There is a lot of space.”

Catani Gardens, St Kilda

Planning Area Recommendations

Planning area recommendations for the development of play spaces (Table 8, Page 74) will guide future play space development decisions in those areas. This section is followed by specific recommendations for each individual play space based on the site assessments undertaken as part of this project.

Planning Area Summary

Port Melbourne

- Port Melbourne contains the highest number of play spaces (#15) and informal play spaces (#23) compared to any other planning area.
- Play Spaces and informal play spaces in Port Melbourne account for approximately 42% of the total number of play space sites available in the city.
- Local play spaces account for 81% of the total provision within the planning area.
- Port Melbourne has the highest number of individual sites that rated as Low (i.e. 5 sites), however it also has the second highest proportion of play spaces that rated as High (i.e. 4%, or 3 sites).
- There are gaps in provision in the north-west area of Port Melbourne, however it is largely industrial in nature.
- Based on planned residential developments, demand for play spaces in Port Melbourne, St Kilda and St Kilda Rd are likely to increase more significantly than Middle Park-Albert Park and Elwood-Ripponlea.
- The areas with the most pockets of concentration of pre-schoolers were Port Melbourne and Middle Park-Albert Park, but the geographic focus of this age group (0-4 years) is likely to shift to Port Melbourne, South Melbourne and St Kilda Road over the next ten years as more young families move into new developments in these areas.

South Melbourne

- Contributes approximately 9% of the total play space sites available across the City.
- There is a very limited number of Informal play spaces provided in South Melbourne (i.e. 2).
- Along with St Kilda Road and St Kilda East, South Melbourne does not include a regional play space. In addition, South Melbourne

includes only two neighbourhood play spaces. Hence there may be opportunities to upgrade one of the seven local play spaces to a higher standard (i.e. neighbourhood or regional level).

- South Melbourne has a higher proportion of local play spaces than any other planning area (i.e. 87%).
- None of the play spaces in South Melbourne rated as High, however only 1 site rated as Low.
- The proportion of pre-school aged children is expected to increase in South Melbourne over the next ten years.

Middle Park/Albert Park

- Contributes approximately 16% of the total play space sites available across the city.
- The area contains more regional play spaces (#4) than any other planning district, accounting for 26% of all play space provision in the planning area.
- Approximately two thirds (i.e. 66%) of play spaces are local within the planning area.
- Middle Park/Albert Park contained the highest proportion (and number) of play spaces that rated as High (i.e. 36%, or 4 sites), but also the highest proportion that rated as Low with 27% (or 3 sites).
- Population growth in Middle Park/Albert Park is expected to be more modest than other areas within the City. In addition, there will be a reduced concentration of children aged 0-4 years, thereby suggesting that facilities for older age groups will become increasingly important.

St Kilda Road

- The area does not include any play space sites provided by the City, however there is access to play facilities provided by others including Parks Victoria (i.e. Albert Park) and City of Melbourne (i.e. Fawkner Park).
- St Kilda Road residents may also have the option to access the St Kilda Botanic Gardens which offers a range of 'play' and exploration opportunities for children.
- There are limited opportunities for Council to provide new play space sites to accommodate possible population growth along St Kilda Road due to a lack of appropriate open space.
- The geographic focus of 0-4 year olds is likely to shift to Port Melbourne, South Melbourne and St Kilda Road over the next ten years.

St Kilda

- Contributes approximately 15% of the total play space sites available across the City.
- There is a limited number of informal play spaces provided in the area (i.e. 4), however the beach and foreshore facilitate significant play opportunities.
- St Kilda contains 1 regional, 5 neighbourhood and 8 local play spaces. In percentage terms this represents (approximately) 7% regional, 35% neighbourhood and 57% local.
- Only 1 site rated as High and 1 site rated as Low, hence the majority of sites were rated as Medium.
- Anticipated population growth in St Kilda is likely to increase demand for access to play space sites.

St Kilda East

- Aside from the St Kilda Road planning area, St Kilda East contains the lowest number of play sites in the city (i.e. 5 in total). St Kilda East lacks provision of informal play spaces.
- The limited provision in St Kilda East reflects the housing market and development patterns of the area, which includes a high proportion of young adults and tertiary students, hence demand for play spaces is likely to be lower than in other areas of the city.
- This emphasises the importance of ensuring that the existing sites are well developed, including the provision of an appropriate diversity of play experiences.

Elwood/Ripponlea

- Contributes approximately 12% of the total play space sites available across the city.
- The area contains 1 regional, 2 neighbourhood and 8 local play spaces. In percentage terms this represents (approximately) 9% regional, 18% neighbourhood and 72% local.
- 1 site rated as High, while 2 sites rated as Low, hence the majority of sites rated as Medium.
- Large development sites have been identified in Port Melbourne, St Kilda and St Kilda Rd, while Middle Park-Albert Park and Elwood-Ripponlea are expected to grow more moderately with most development coming from small sites and infill type developments. As a result, demand for play spaces in Port Melbourne, St Kilda and St Kilda Rd are likely to increase more significantly than Middle Park-Albert Park and Elwood-Ripponlea.

Table 8 Planning Area Recommendations

Area	Planning Area Recommendations
Port Melbourne	<p>Resource allocation to concentrate on improving the standard, condition and play experiences offered by existing sites, particularly those currently rated as Low Quality (5 sites). Due to the number of play spaces currently within the area, development of new play space sites in this area is not a priority.</p> <p>Further develop play opportunities for 0-4 year olds to cater to the predicted increase in this age range in future.</p> <p>Monitor residential development trends within the north-west section of Port Melbourne.</p>
South Melbourne	<p>Consider opportunities to upgrade one of the existing local play space sites to neighbourhood standard, including enhanced provision for older age groups.</p> <p>Proactively upgrade existing local play space sites in order to improve their quality ranking and capacity to cater for the anticipated growth in 0-4 years olds.</p>
Middle Park/Albert Park	<p>Resource allocation to concentrate on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the standard, condition and play experiences offered by existing local sites, particularly by those that are currently rated as Low Quality (3 sites). Enhancing the capacity of existing spaces to accommodate older age groups, particularly the existing regional play space sites. <p>Longer term consideration may need to be given to upgrading one of the existing local sites to neighbourhood standard, incorporating space for informal play, ball sports, social spaces and activities for older age groups.</p>
St Kilda Road	<p>Advocate for improved play facilities with the City of Melbourne (i.e. Fawkner Park) and Parks Victoria (i.e. Albert Park) to service residents within the St Kilda Road area.</p>
St Kilda	<p>Resource allocation to concentrate on improving the standard, condition and play experiences offered by existing sites, including enhanced integration with nature and inclusion of social spaces for older age groups.</p>
St Kilda East	<p>There is no evidence of demand for additional play space sites in the area. Monitor change in demand for play space venues over time.</p> <p>Longer term consideration of opportunities to upgrade one of the existing sites to neighbourhood standard (possibly close to the border with Elwood/Ripponlea) in order to cater for higher levels of use and diversity of experiences.</p>
Elwood/ Ripponlea	<p>Continue to systematically upgrade facilities, amenities and play experiences offered at existing sites.</p> <p>Support the development of a regional play space targeting young people (i.e. 13+ years) at Marina Reserve as a key destination for informal active play and social interaction.</p>



Nature play in the Melbourne Royal Botanical Gardens

Site Specific Recommendations

The table (Table 10) on the following pages (Pages 77-84) lists each individual play space site assessed as part of the planning process and identifies:

- play space name
- play space type - Regional, Neighbourhood and Local. Refer to Page 27-31 for definitions
- play space quality rating – Low, Medium, High. Refer to Page 55 for the definition
- site specific actions
- priority for implementation of each action – Low, Medium, High.

Prioritisation of actions

A range of influences have been considered in determining individual priorities and are summarised in Table 9.

Table 9 Prioritisation criteria

Priority	Considerations
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Quality ranking Identified community demand (consultation results) Population profile e.g. high proportion of young families Anticipated population growth Gap in current provision Opportunity for facility or site enhancement
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low or Medium Quality ranking Consultation results e.g. community suggestion or aspiration Population profile e.g. average proportion of young families or those likely to provide secondary care Modest anticipated population growth Gap in current provision Opportunity to improve site appeal or usage
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Quality ranking No/limited identified community demand Population profile e.g. low proportion of young families or those likely to provide secondary care Low anticipated population growth No gaps in current provision Limited opportunities to improve site appeal or usage.

Table 10 Site specific actions and priority

No.	Name	*Quality Rating	*Type	Action	Priority
Adventure Playgrounds					
1.	Skidders Adventure Playground, South Melbourne	N/A	Adventure Playground	Implement the master plan developed in 2011.	High
2.	St Kilda Adventure Playground	N/A	Adventure Playground	Implement the master plan developed in 2011.	High
Port Melbourne					
3.	Beacon Vista Park	Medium	Local	The space provides views and quiet seating opportunities. Provide additional seating.	Low
4.	Buckingham Reserve	Medium	Local	Design and upgrade aged play equipment and seating. Incorporate play elements with weeping tree planting.	High
5.	Centenary Park	Low	Local	Increase planting to the perimeter to improve visual integration of playground into the site. Improve waste management. Trees and planting beds to be provided to the playground perimeter to provide natural features and extend play opportunities.	High
6.	Crichton Reserve	Medium	Local	Lack of space limits possibilities. Create a densely planted, mulched tree thicket between the playground and mown grass area to provide additional play opportunities. Provide fencing or barrier adjacent to roads.	Medium
7.	Edwards Park	Medium	Neighbourhood	Any development of the play space to align with the heritage design of the park. As part of future upgrades consider play linkages using natural materials and planting between play age zones.	Low

*Refer to Page 27-31 for the definition of Regional, Neighbourhood and Local play spaces. Refer to Page 55 for the definition of Low, Medium, High Play space quality.

No.	Name	*Quality Rating	*Type	Action	Priority
8.	Fred Jackson Reserve	Medium	Local	<p>Develop a landscape plan for entire park that includes development of a nature play area.</p> <p>Site suited to supporting participation by young people.</p> <p>Improve natural amenity with additional tree planting to entire site.</p> <p>Install seating to site.</p> <p>Consider shifting path adjacent to kindergarten fence to allow planting to kindergarten fence to act as a buffer between the reserve and the high fence.</p>	Low
9.	Garden City Reserve	High	Regional	<p>Upgraded in 2010. This space is a good example of play space design providing integrated play opportunities and utilising natural elements.</p> <p>Install a hedge between the playground and path to discourage off lead dogs.</p>	Low
10.	George Sangster Reserve	Medium	Local	<p>Retain fence given the age group targeted and the size of the space and add elements for cognitive and creative play.</p>	Low
11.	Graham St Skate Park	Low	Neighbourhood	<p>Provide landscaping to soften this space.</p> <p>Improve frequency of cleaning regimes.</p>	High
12.	J. L. Murphy Reserve	Medium	Neighbourhood	<p>Upgrade planned in alignment with the Murphy Reserve Master Plan including relocation to new site.</p> <p>Install hard paved path to central picnic/playground area.</p> <p>Complete replacement of furniture and playground infrastructure required.</p>	High
13.	Lagoon Reserve	Medium	Local	<p>Provide a path network to support play opportunities such as learning to ride a bike.</p>	Medium
14.	Letts Reserve	Medium	Local	<p>Relocate away from roadways when playground is renewed in future and provide facilities for young people.</p> <p>Install additional paths to provide greater pedestrian linkages and circuit path for wheeled play.</p> <p>Undertake additional native planting to perimeter areas to match character of central median planting on adjacent Howe Parade.</p>	Medium
15.	Morris Reserve Tennis Club Playground	Low	Local	<p>The play equipment is tired and unappealing. A review of this open space is required to determine future development.</p> <p>Consider removal of playground and return to open space due to passive surveillance issues and proximity to other playgrounds. If playground is to be retained, consider incorporating nature play elements.</p>	High
16.	Park Square	Medium	Local	<p>Although there is potential for development in this park given its proximity to other local play spaces, no formal play area required.</p>	Low

*Refer to Page 27-31 for the definition of Regional, Neighbourhood and Local play spaces. Refer to Page 55 for the definition of Low, Medium, High Play space quality.

No.	Name	*Quality Rating	*Type	Action	Priority
				Consider installation of BBQ and additional seating to encourage family use	
17.	R. F. Julier Reserve	Low	Local	Undertake concept plan for reserve that addresses landscaping and location of infrastructure. The existing toilet block detracts from the overall amenity of the site. Consider upgrade or facelift. Develop opportunities for physical play for older children with additional play equipment and other elements e.g. skateboard ramps for this age group and 13+ age group.	High
18.	Turville Place Park	Medium	Local	The current condition of the site is unappealing. Implement the landscape master plan for this site. Consider formally extending adjacent skate facilities into this site.	High
19.	Walter Reserve	Medium	Local	Upgraded in 2005. Install additional seats facing playground along shared path. Integrate native planting into playground area. Provide proper edging to playground area.	Low
20.	Sandridge Reserve	Medium	Local	Upgraded in 2010. Install additional shade trees. Consider installing shade sails.	Low

South Melbourne

21.	Ludwig Stamer Reserve	High	Local	There are no recommendations for this space.	Low
22.	Lyell/Iffla Reserve	Medium	Local	Bushland area for nature play. Closely planted native trees for climbing etc. Extend bushland planting around playground and integrate playground into landscape. Provide increased diversity in play equipment.	High
23.	Park St Eastern South Reserve	Medium	Local	Develop park plan to integrate play area, planting and passive recreation facilities. Plant additional shade trees for afternoon shade to play equipment. Play equipment is spread out and could be contained within a smaller footprint with integrated spaces. Upgrade existing shelter to more aesthetically pleasing design with additional furniture to improve functionality. Consider a buffer to the road edge such as a fence or landscape treatment.	High

*Refer to Page 27-31 for the definition of Regional, Neighbourhood and Local play spaces. Refer to Page 55 for the definition of Low, Medium, High Play space quality.

No.	Name	*Quality Rating	*Type	Action	Priority
24.	Sol Green Reserve	Medium	Neighbourhood	Improve integration of play area into landscape including cognitive and creative play elements.	Low
25.	St Vincent Gardens Playground	High	Neighbourhood	Formalise edge to playground. Provide seating in closer proximity to play equipment (also noted in the previous report) especially around areas for younger age groups. Manicured lawns and garden beds are not suited to intensive physical play or ball games in eastern section of the gardens and there it is recommended that only the area west of the tennis courts be categorised as a play space.	Low
Albert Park/Middle Park					
26.	Ashworth Park	High	Local	Upgraded in 2010. Provide directional street signage to highlight location.	Low
27.	Danks St Mazda Playground	High	Local	This playground was upgraded in 2010 as per Playground Strategy 2007 recommendation. Consider provision of better pedestrian access including pram crossings.	Low
28.	Danks/Victoria St Playground	Medium	Local	Install additional seats to provide for carer interaction. Consider provision of better pedestrian access including pram crossings. Consider installing a connecting pathway connecting the equipment to make the playground more accessible.	Low
29.	Frank & Mary Crean Reserve	Medium	Local	Upgraded in 2007. Plant additional shade trees. Make the space more accessible by installing entry paths and improve connections to/from the play equipment and picnic area. Extend shrub planting and provide natural features such as rocks and/or sand into 'play areas' to add value to play opportunities.	Low
30.	Gasworks Park	Medium	Neighbourhood	Many dog walkers use this space. Develop a design for new playground including identification of the best site location. Play equipment values are relatively low however significant nature/creative play opportunities are provided through the wider physical environment. There are opportunities to extend dedicated play experiences through the installation of custom designed play elements within this space which respond to the creative context. (Pending outcomes from site contamination investigations).	High

*Refer to Page 27-31 for the definition of Regional, Neighbourhood and Local play spaces. Refer to Page 55 for the definition of Low, Medium, High Play space quality.

No.	Name	*Quality Rating	*Type	Action	Priority
				<p>Note: This park received a medium quality rating due to the high quality of the surrounding park. The actual play equipment however is quite poor quality and thus it has received a high priority for works.</p>	
31.	H.R. Johnson Reserve	Medium	Local	<p>Develop a plan for the reserve including play elements for young people.</p> <p>Location of swings breaks up mown grass open space. Consider relocating play elements to provide a connection to the picnic area.</p> <p>Improve connections to the picnic area.</p> <p>Consider installing additional play pieces.</p> <p>Consider extending adjacent native planting around play area.</p> <p>Noise from traffic is an issue in this reserve and should be taken into account.</p> <p>Consider using a partial fence treatment.</p> <p>Consider road closure to increase reserve size.</p>	Medium
32.	Little Finlay Reserve	Low	Local	<p>The small size of the space restricts its development.</p> <p>Although play integration is low, the size of this park does not warrant extending equipment to additional age groups.</p> <p>If the space is to be retained as a playground:</p> <p>Remove timber bollards. Provide barrier between the play space and the roads by fencing or landscape buffer.</p> <p>Plant additional shade tree/tree and planting and/or sand pit around the play equipment to enhance its amenity.</p> <p>Consider a picnic table or seating for integrated usage.</p>	High
33.	Little Page St Reserve	Low	Local	<p>Given the small size of this playground and poor natural surveillance it has very limited value. Closure of playground recommended.</p> <p>Define the future use of the site.</p>	High
34.	Neville St Reserve	Low	Local	<p>The small size of the space restricts development opportunities.</p> <p>Although play integration is low, the size of the park does not warrant extending equipment to cater for additional age groups.</p> <p>Consider low shrub planting to provide a creative/natural play element.</p> <p>Consider improving access to the playground via installation of a pram crossing point.</p>	Low

*Refer to Page 27-31 for the definition of Regional, Neighbourhood and Local play spaces. Refer to Page 55 for the definition of Low, Medium, High Play space quality.

No.	Name	*Quality Rating	*Type	Action	Priority
35.	Plum Garland Memorial Playground	Medium	Regional	Master plan under development 2011. Implement master plan.	High
St Kilda					
36.	Catani Gardens	High	Neighbourhood	Upgrade undertaken in 2010. Shade sails installed in 2011. Consider additional picnic tables near playground.	Low
37.	Jacoby Reserve	High	Regional	Upgrade undertaken in 2010. The existing garden beds are not designed as play elements, it is recommended that council provide an area of shrubby play between trees. Access from 90 degree car parking on perimeter of park requires users to walk onto roadway to entry, as the natural strip area is planted out. It is recommended that crossing points into the park be installed and consider installation of additional pram crossing points and/or marked location for pram parking near entries.	Low
38.	Church Square Reserve	Medium	Local	Site managed by Council under lease agreement with the Church. Consider removing sign restricting play to young children. Consider provision of additional shade trees or planting as existing quantity of eucalypts do not provide adequate shade.	Medium
39.	Charnwood Reserve	Low	Local	Develop a plan for the upgrade of the play space. Consider providing garden bed planting to the perimeter of the safe fall area to provide natural play opportunities and linked park elements.	Medium
40.	J. Talbot Reserve	High	Local	Backdrop of theatre wall and mural provide interesting backdrop. Large sprawling peppercorn trees provide play opportunities. Provide additional seating near playground.	Low
41.	Jim Duggan Reserve	Medium	Local	Provide additional shade to play area.	Low

*Refer to Page 27-31 for the definition of Regional, Neighbourhood and Local play spaces. Refer to Page 55 for the definition of Low, Medium, High Play space quality.

No.	Name	*Quality Rating	*Type	Action	Priority
42.	Peanut Farm Reserve	Medium	Local	The hard courts and hit up wall provide play opportunities for young people. Provide additional play elements to complement these activities such as junior BMX track circuit potentially utilising the redundant road area or other options. Provide more seating to this end of the hard courts.	Low
43.	Rotary Playground	Medium	Local	Consider relocating play area adjacent to Sea Baths on the South lawn to provide access for all. Provide edge planting to play area to provide linkages with surrounding plant character Provide shade trees to playground that do not detract from the heritage values of the Catani Arch and 'oval' area. Provide cognitive and creative play when upgraded.	Medium
44.	Renfrey Gardens	Medium	Neighbourhood	Install a circuit path around the playground area to provide additional play opportunities.	Medium
45.	St Kilda Botanical Gardens Playground	Medium	Neighbourhood	Only the playground area is categorised as a play space. Implement recommendations in the St Kilda Botanical Gardens Future Directions Plan.	Medium
46.	Waterloo Crescent Reserve	Medium	Local	Implement plan for play space upgrade developed in 2011.	High
St Kilda East					
47.	Alma Park East	High	Regional	Upgraded in 2010. An excellent example of an integrated play space incorporating creative and natural elements.	Low
48.	Hewison Reserve	Medium	Local	Upgraded in 2006. When play area next upgraded integrate fence better through partial seating and landscape treatment.	Low
49.	Pakington St Reserve	Medium	Local	Install a curved hard paved path that circles equipment to provide for toddler aged wheeled play and additional accessibility to play equipment. Undertake additional planting in areas adjacent to the playground equipment to provide nature play opportunities.	Low
50.	Te Arai Reserve	High	Neighbourhood	Well used, attractive and 'hidden'.	Low
51.	William St Reserve	Medium	Local	Upgraded in 2008. The 'stage' provides multiple integrated play opportunities. Install concrete pad to base of basketball ring. Plant additional shade trees within the circuit area.	Low

*Refer to Page 27-31 for the definition of Regional, Neighbourhood and Local play spaces. Refer to Page 55 for the definition of Low, Medium, High Play space quality.

No.	Name	*Quality Rating	*Type	Action	Priority
Elwood/Ripponlea					
52.	Burnett Gray Gardens	Medium	Local	Due to the wider gardens function as a decorative entry to the railway station. It is recommended that the playground only be categorised as a play space and not the wider gardens. Provide more diverse play equipment. Provide additional shade trees to the playground.	Medium
53.	Clark Reserve	Medium	Local	Expand the edge shrub planting into the playground area integrating natural elements into play space.	Low
54.	Elwood Beach House Playground	High	Regional	This play space provides an imaginative play environment for younger aged children. Consider upgrading the proprietary play equipment or replacing with custom elements and providing connecting paths within the site to increase accessibility.	Low
55.	Elwood Park Playground	High	Neighbourhood	This playground provides extensive play opportunities for middle to older aged children. Extend play opportunities through the addition of a hard court area in the vicinity.	Low
56.	Elwood School Reserve	Medium	Local	General use is restricted to outside school hours. Plant additional shade trees. Provide additional bench seating.	Low
57.	Elwood St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre	Medium	Local	Remove existing basketball ring to accommodate community garden. Improve the amenity of the gardens through new planting such as: planting of new trees to screen neighbouring houses, provision of additional shade trees and provision of natural planted areas to reserve edges.	Medium
58.	Point Ormond Reserve	High	Neighbourhood	Consider additional seating adjacent to play equipment. Additional shrubby planting to the edges of play areas, e.g. Sheoak would enhance play opportunities. Upgrade and provide shade trees to picnic areas.	Medium
91.	Marina Reserve	N/A	Regional	Playground to be developed as part of the Marina Reserve Master Plan implementation in 2011/2012.	High

*Refer to Page 27-31 for the definition of Regional, Neighbourhood and Local play spaces. Refer to Page 55 for the definition of Low, Medium, High Play space quality.

References

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Metropolis Reserarch Pty Ltd (2011) City of Port Phillip 2010 Play Space Users and Residential Survey.

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Sustrans (2009) Routes to play: A guide for local authorities. “How to ensure children and young people can get to play spaces actively and independently”. Sustran, UK.
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United Nations (1989) Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 31.

Appendix I Play space site assessment criteria

Introduction

Determining the age groups and range of play experiences provided by a play space are both highly subjective judgments. For example, two year olds can easily play on equipment designed for 8-12 year olds. Furthermore, the age ranges do not necessarily reflect what is available in a playground as there only needs to be one item in a playground that suits an age range for it to be identified as catering for that age range. The task is even more difficult where no formal play equipment is provided within a broader play space.

For example, if a playground includes a cradle swing it would be identified as catering for the 0-3yo age range; likewise if there was spring rocker. Another example which highlights the limitations of defining age groups is that a small playground with a single piece of equipment e.g. double swing (junior seat and toddler seat) would be identified as catering for 0-3, 4-7 and 8-12 year olds. Whereas, a playground with a large combination unit might only be identified as catering for 4-7 and 8-12 year olds. In most instances it can be assumed that children of all ages would much rather play at the latter (larger) playground, even those under 4 years old.

Therefore in attempting to define the age categories that each play space caters for, we acknowledge the inherent limitations of this approach, and therefore view this information as an indicative guide only.

Assessing the range of play experiences provided by each play space also has similar limitations. That is, whilst playground equipment can be designed to stimulate one or more of the four key activity themes, that is, physical (gross motor), social (dramatic play), creative or cognitive (intellectual) activities, the range of play experiences within a broader play space setting may only be limited by the individual users imagination.

Site Assessment Template:

1. General Information

Play Space Number:	
Park/Playground Name:	
Address:	
Suburb:	
Melway Ref:	
Current Level of Usage:	Council to provide
Current Play Space Category:	Regional, District, Local.

2. Site Description:

Describe the following:

Setting/location:	
Dominate character:	
Landscape theme/s:	
Key uses and activities undertaken in the reserve/area:	
Unique features, aspect or qualities of the site:	
Does the site include formal playground equipment?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <i>If 'yes', answer all questions, if 'no', go to question XX.</i>

3. List the scope of playground equipment?

- List to be inserted from council's inventory.

4. Primary age group/s catered for by existing play equipment.

Toddler 1-3yrs	Junior 4-7 yrs	Senior 8-12yrs	Teenagers 13+ yrs	Mixed

Site Assessment Rating Guide¹:

5. Sites with existing playground equipment:

Assessment Area	Sub Area	Rating Scale (1-5) and Guidelines:		
		1 (low)	3 (medium)	5 (high)
Diversity of Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for physical / active play on play equipment (i.e. gross and fine motor development). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No provision for physical / active play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited provision for physical / active play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive opportunities for physical / active play.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for cognitive play to challenge the intellect (i.e. games, exploration and observation). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No provision for cognitive play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited provision for cognitive play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive provision for cognitive play.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for creative play (free play or manipulation of objects/materials). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No provision for creative play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited provision for creative play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive provision for creative play.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for social play with places and equipment encouraging interaction and cooperation with others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No provision for social play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited provision for social play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive provision for social play.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple age groups and abilities are provided for within the play space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play space limited to one target age group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play space caters for two or more age groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play space caters for multiple age groups.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play opportunities for multiple age groups are integrated into the play space site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age specific play equipment is separated, with no (or little) relationship between facility components. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play space design encourages relationship between age specific facility or activity components. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well designed and integrated relationship between all activities and facility components.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other play spaces nearby offer different opportunities and experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no (or limited) difference between near-by play spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Near-by play spaces differ, although similar experiences are catered for. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are significant differences between near-by play spaces (catering for different age groups or offering different activities).
Physical Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical condition of structures and equipment (i.e. general assessment of its age and visual appearance). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment and structures are old and unappealing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment and structures are showing signs of age (wear and tear) and has limited appeal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment and structures are near-new, look bright, interesting and appealing.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number and type of formal equipment pieces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited to one or only a few minor pieces of traditional equipment. Play space offers limited appeal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The play space may offer a limited amount of equipment, however equipment provided caters for a modest variety of users or activities and maintains overall appeal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple equipment catering for a variety of ages and activities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play equipment is well placed/located within the overall site play space setting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment is poorly located on site and fails to respond / relate to the surrounding environment, including connections. Play space may not adequately consider possible conflicts with vehicles and/or other reserve users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited integration of equipment into the site. Limited consideration of possible conflicts with vehicles and/or other reserve users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment is well placed and integrated to create flow through the space. Equipment integrates well with the surrounding landscape. Play space design appears to consider possible conflicts with vehicles and/or other reserve users.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The play space appears safe, welcoming and inviting for all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The space is unattractive, unappealing and not welcoming. Poor visual surveillance and / or poor landscaping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited casual surveillance. Adequate connections. Modest landscape appeal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The space is open, attractive and inviting. There is good casual surveillance, connections and accessibility.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shade and shelter facilities are provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no provision for shade or shelter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is limited provision for shade or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are well designed/integrated

¹ We have modified and adapted the above Site Assessment Rating Guide to suit application by the City of Port Phillip, we would like to acknowledge the original source of this approach as the Surf Coast Shire (Playground Strategy 2010).

Assessment Area	Sub Area	Rating Scale (1-5) and Guidelines:		
		1 (low)	3 (medium)	5 (high)
	(natural or man-made).		shelter.	shade and shelter facilities provided.

Assessment Area	Sub Area	Rating Score (1-5)	Comments
Diversity of Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for physical / active play on play equipment (i.e. gross and fine motor development). 	•	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for cognitive play to challenge the intellect (i.e. games, exploration and observation). 	•	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for creative play (free play or manipulation of objects/materials). 	•	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for social play with places and equipment encouraging interaction and cooperation with others. 	•	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple age groups and abilities are provided for within the play space. 	•	
Range of Ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play opportunities for multiple age groups are integrated into the play space site. 	•	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other play spaces nearby offer different opportunities and experiences. 	•	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical condition of structures and equipment (i.e. general assessment of its age and visual appearance). 	•	
Physical Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number and type of formal equipment pieces. 	•	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play equipment is well placed/located within the overall site play space setting. 	•	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The play space appears safe, welcoming and inviting for all. 	•	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shade and shelter facilities are provided (natural or man-made). 	•	

6. All Play Spaces:

Assessment Area		Rating Scale (1-5) and Guidelines:		
Sub Area		1 (low)	3 (medium)	5 (high)
Originality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General appeal of the play space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional (older) play equipment with no additional unique or appealing features. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play space offers limited appeal, however but may be showing signs of aging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High level of attractiveness and appeal, including good integration with the surrounding environment.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of unique features including natural materials, artistic elements and features developed by the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older style 'off-the-shelf' play equipment. There is no evidence of community developed features or artistic elements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporates some unique features and / or natural elements, including public art. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporates several unique features and / or natural elements, including public art.
Inclusiveness and Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-use / flexibility (i.e. ability to use equipment / structures for a range of physical, social or creative play experiences). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No ability for multi-use or play flexibility available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited ability for multi-use or play flexibility available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive ability for multi-use or play flexibility available.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creativity and imaginative development (e.g. movable and manipulative environments, spatial orientation, exploration). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creativity or imaginative play opportunities are not actively encouraged / facilitated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creativity or imaginative play opportunities are actively encouraged / facilitated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creativity or imaginative play opportunities are actively encouraged / facilitated across a range of equipment or settings.
Surrounding Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social play opportunities are provided for (e.g. working with others, talking and cooperative play elements). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social play opportunities are not actively encouraged / facilitated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social play opportunities are actively encouraged / facilitated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social play opportunities are actively encouraged / facilitated across a range of equipment or settings.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate connectivity via defined pathways to the play space and to/from key activity nodes or destination points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play space lacks defined pathways. There are no connections to key activity nodes or destination points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathways are available, although limited in their connectivity. There are limited connections to key activity nodes or destination points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathways are well defined, constructed and offer good connections to surrounding areas and to/from play equipment. There are extensive connections to key activity nodes or destination points.
Surrounding Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of accessible play elements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play equipment / spaces are not accessible for all abilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some play equipment / spaces are accessible for all abilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of play equipment / spaces are accessible for all abilities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents and carers are able to interact with children within the play space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No ability for parents and carers to interact with children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited ability for parents and carers to interact with children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive ability for parents and carers to interact with children.
Surrounding Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support amenities provided, such as water fountains, toilets and picnic tables, are accessible to all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support amenities and not accessible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited accessibility to support amenities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All support amenities are accessible.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surrounding natural features (e.g. trees, creeks, landscape and topography are appropriately incorporated into the play space). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The play space has no regard or relationship to the surrounding natural features. There are few items or features of natural appeal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The play space has limited regard / relationship to the surrounding natural features. The play space integrates well with what is available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The play space has extensive regard / relationship to the surrounding natural features and integrates seamlessly with the surrounding area.
Surrounding Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built structures (e.g. pathways, bridges, skate area, BMX track, ball game area, half court, etc.) support or facilitate additional play opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no built structures supporting the play space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are limited built structures supporting the play space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are extensive built structures supporting the play space.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of support amenities (e.g. toilets, picnic areas, shade/shelter, seating, drinking taps). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no support amenities provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are limited support amenities provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are extensive support amenities provided.

Assessment Area	Sub Area	Rating Score (1-5)	Comments
Originality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General appeal of the play space. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of unique features including natural materials, artistic elements and features developed by the community. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-use / flexibility (i.e. ability to use equipment / structures for a range of physical, social or creative play experiences). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creativity and imaginative development (e.g. movable and manipulative environments, spatial orientation, exploration). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social play opportunities are provided for (e.g. working with others, talking and cooperative play elements). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate connectivity via defined pathways to the play space and to/from key activity nodes or destination points. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of accessible play elements. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and carers are able to interact with children within the play space. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support amenities provided, such as water fountains, toilets and picnic tables, are accessible to all. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	Surrounding Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrounding natural features (e.g. trees, creeks, landscape and topography are appropriately incorporated into the play space.) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built structures (e.g. pathways, bridges, skate area, BMX track, ball game area, half court, etc.) support or facilitate additional play opportunities. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of support amenities (e.g. toilets, picnic areas, shade, seating, drinking taps). 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate connections are provided to key activity nodes and/or destination points. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

6. Recommendation/s

Recommendation/s	Priority	Indicative Capital Cost	Responsibility

Appendix 2 Play space residential and on-site survey



Port Phillip Council
2010 PlaySpace Users & Residential Survey

January 2011

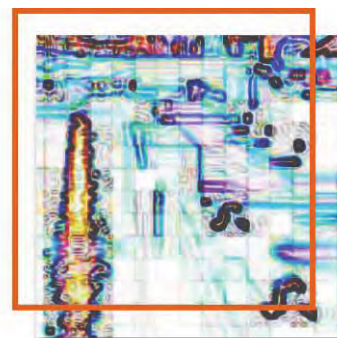
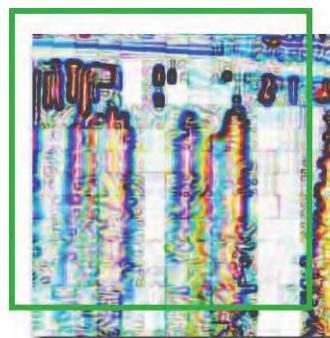


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Introduction

The Open Space Planning Unit at Port Phillip City Council commissioned Metropolis Research to conduct this survey of PlaySpaces users and residents of Port Phillip.

This project is the second PlaySpaces survey conducted by Metropolis Research for the City of Port Phillip, the first being conducted in March 2006 to inform the development of the previous *Port Phillip City Council - Playground Strategy*. This second survey builds on the information contained in this previous research, albeit with a somewhat different emphasis and outcomes.

The survey consists of two components, a survey of adults with children conducted in playgrounds within the City of Port Phillip and a door-to-door survey of households with children visiting regularly or living in the City of Port Phillip.

The main aims of the survey were:

- ⊗ To determine patronage of a range of PlaySpaces across the municipality
- ⊗ To measure the proportion of households in Port Phillip with children who utilise PlaySpaces and which PlaySpaces they visit
- ⊗ To determine respondents reasons for visiting a particular PlaySpace and their requirements of PlaySpaces
- ⊗ To measure respondents' level of satisfaction with various aspects of PlaySpaces within the City of Port Phillip.

The survey was developed to assist Council as it develops the new *PlaySpaces Strategy*.

Methodology

PlaySpace user survey

A total of 247 interview-style surveys of 5 to 10 minutes duration were conducted in 24 PlaySpaces in the City of Port Phillip by trained Metropolis Research field work staff. The range of PlaySpaces included in the study was provided by officer of Council and are largely, but not entirely the same PlaySpaces included in the 2006 survey.

A total of 6 hours survey time was allocated to each PlaySpace included in the study, with generally 4 hours surveying conducted at the weekends and 2 hours on a weekday.

Residential survey

A total of 200 interview-style surveys of approximately 5 to 10 minutes duration were conducted by trained Metropolis Research field work staff.

Surveys were conducted in 20 randomly selected census collector districts (CCD) from across the municipality, with 10 surveys conducted in each CCD.





Response rate



There is no response rate available for the user survey as accurate records cannot be collected using this methodology. In completing the resident survey, a total of 1,150 households were approached to participate. Of these 555 were unattended at the time, 395 refused to participate and 200 participated - providing a response rate of 33.6%.

Glossary of terms

Measurable: Measurable is used to describe the difference between two results presented in the report. A measurable difference is one where the difference between the two numbers being compared is sufficiently large to ensure that they are in fact different results. This is due to the fact that survey results are subject to a margin of error or an area of uncertainty.

Statistically significant: Statistically significant is the technical term for measurable difference as described above.

Significant result: Metropolis Research uses the term “significant” result to describe a change or difference between results that is sufficiently large so as to be considered important. This is because often results can be measurable but are not of significant interest in a policy context.

Satisfaction categories:

Metropolis Research typically categorises satisfaction results into a range of categories including poor, solid, good, very good and excellent. These ranges have been developed over many years as a guide to the index scores presented in the reports and are designed to give a general context to each score.

These categories are not entirely fixed but vary somewhat depending on the nature of the question, but in general terms are categorised as follows:

Poor:	Scores less than 6 are typically categorised as poor
Solid:	Scores between 6 and 6.5 are typically categorised as solid
Good:	Scores between 6.5 and 7.25 are typically categorised as good
Very good:	Scores between 7.25 and 7.75 are typically categorised as very good
Excellent:	Scores of 7.75 and above are typically categorised as excellent

Governing Melbourne

Governing Melbourne is a new service provided by Metropolis Research in 2010. *Governing Melbourne* is a survey of 1,000 respondents drawn in equal numbers from every municipality in metropolitan Melbourne. *Governing Melbourne* provides an objective, consistent and reliable basis on which to compare the results of the *Port Phillip City Council – 2010 PlaySpaces Survey*. It is not intended to provide a “league table” for local councils, rather to provide a context within which to understand the results.



Key findings

PlaySpace patronage

- ⊗ The overwhelming majority of residential respondents (85.0%) visit Port Phillip PlaySpaces at least rarely
- ⊗ More than half the respondents (55.8%) visit PlaySpaces at least once a week
- ⊗ Two-thirds of respondents visit PlaySpaces with 1 or 2 children, whilst 14.8% visit without any children
- ⊗ More than half the children visiting PlaySpaces with respondents were aged between 2 and 4 years
- ⊗ Almost one-third of respondents visit PlaySpaces for an average of less than 30 minutes, with half visiting on average for between 30 minutes and 1 hour
- ⊗ The PlaySpaces included in this study have an average of 14.5 visitors per hour.

Non-users of Port Phillip PlaySpaces

- ⊗ The main reasons for not visiting Port Phillip PlaySpaces were children too old (6.5%) or too young (3.5%), or a lack of time to take or supervise children (8.5%)
- ⊗ Very few respondents identified improvements to encourage use of Port Phillip PlaySpaces, with the most commonly identified improvements relating to range or quality of play equipment (5.5%).

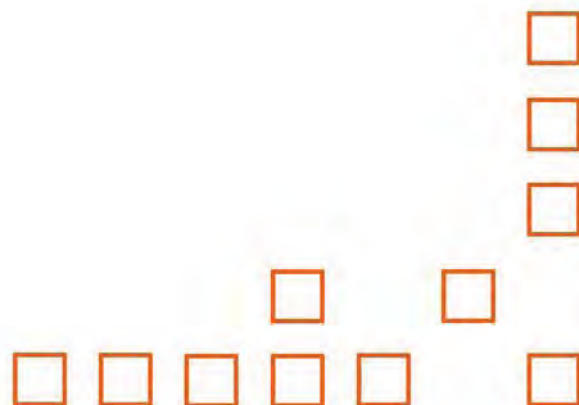
Aspects of Port Phillip PlaySpaces

Importance

- ⊗ The most important aspects of PlaySpaces include “feeling safe and secure”, “shaded areas”, “rest areas”, “close to home”, “age appropriate play equipment” and “connection with nature” - all rated at 8 or more out of a potential 10
- ⊗ The least important aspects of PlaySpaces include “PlaySpaces that allow dogs” and “close to school/kindergarten”; both rated at less than 6 out of a potential 10.

Meeting needs

- ⊗ Two-thirds of respondents believe that Port Phillip PlaySpaces meet their needs either completely (55.4%) or somewhat (21.5%).





Satisfaction



- ⊗ Residential survey respondents rated satisfaction with aspects of Port Phillip PlaySpaces at levels best categorised as varying between “solid” for the facilities available and “excellent” for number and distribution of PlaySpaces locally
- ⊗ PlaySpace Users survey respondents rated satisfaction with aspects of the PlaySpace in which they were surveyed as varying between “good” and “excellent” with the exception of the facilities available which was rated at 5.73, or “poor”
- ⊗ With the exception of the facilities available at PlaySpaces (e.g. toilets, drinking fountains, etc), respondents appear quite satisfied with Port Phillip PlaySpaces.

Best and worst aspects and improvements

- ⊗ The most commonly identified best aspects of Port Phillip PlaySpaces were “natural environment, including connection with nature” (24.5%), “play equipment facilities available” (22.8%) and “atmosphere and environment” (16.5%)
- ⊗ The most commonly identified worst aspects of Port Phillip PlaySpaces were “facilities, including play equipment” (19.0%), “amenities including toilets, benches, drinking fountains” (17.7%), “issues around safety and security” (9.7%) and “issues around shade” (7.6%)
- ⊗ The most commonly identified improvements include “amenities” (30.8%) and “facilities, including play equipment” (25.7%).



PlaySpace patronage

PlaySpace visitor numbers

Metropolis Research field-work staff observed approximately 1,862 visitors to the PlaySpaces over the 128 hours of survey time, at an average of approximately 14.5 visitors per hour.

A significant degree of variation in the visitor numbers per hour is clearly apparent in the results, with Alma Park averaging 41.5 visitors per hour compared to Clarke Reserve which averaged just 0.8 per hour.

Observed visitor numbers
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces User Survey
(Number of visitors)

<i>PlaySpace name</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Visitors Adults</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Visitors per hour</i>
Alma Park	76	173	249	41.5
Edward Park	97	103	200	33.3
St Vincents Gardens	59	140	199	33.2
Hewison St	51	90	141	23.5
St Kilda Botanical Garden	64	55	119	19.8
Jim Duggan Reserve	36	54	90	15.0
Catani Arch / Rotary Playground	35	54	89	14.8
Garden City Reserve	43	46	89	14.8
Jacoby Reserve	31	55	86	14.3
Eastern Reserve	18	57	75	12.5
Beacon Sqaure Park	28	43	71	11.8
TE-Arai Reserve	34	37	71	11.8
Lyall lffla Reserve	27	42	69	11.5
Plum Gardens	35	25	60	10.0
Williams St	31	26	57	9.5
Buckingham Reserve	10	45	55	9.2
J.L. Murphy Reserve	12	43	55	9.2
Dank Street Mazda Playground	8	15	23	3.8
Little Page St	9	12	21	3.5
Catani Garden	5	12	17	2.8
Elwood Beach House	8	6	14	2.3
Church Square	4	3	7	1.2
Clark Reserve	10	38	5	0.8
Total	731	1,174	1,862	14.5



Frequency of visit



User and Residential survey respondents were asked:

“How often do you usually visit this PlaySpace?”

The majority of PlaySpace respondents (55.8%) report visiting the PlaySpace at least once per week. This is slightly lower than the proportion from the 2006 survey (69.1%), although it unlikely to reflect a change in frequency of patronage to PlaySpaces in Port Phillip.

Frequency of visit to PlaySpace
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Users and Resident Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

Frequency	2010		2006
	Number	Percent	
Everyday	60	14.5%	27.1%
Every few days	105	25.4%	33.3%
Once a week	66	15.9%	8.7%
Once a fortnight	47	11.4%	9.7%
Once a month	23	5.6%	4.5%
Rarely (<i>quarterly or less often</i>)	54	13.0%	3.1%
First visit	26	6.3%	13.6%
Never visit Port Phillip PlaySpaces	15	3.6%	0.0%
Never visit PlaySpaces	18	4.3%	0.0%
Can't say	23		5
Total	437	100%	489

The following table provides frequency of visit by PlaySpace type for respondents to the user survey. As is clearly evident, local PlaySpaces are more frequently visited than are neighbourhood PlaySpaces, which are in turn more frequently visited than regional.

Frequency of visit to PlaySpace by type
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Users and Resident Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

Frequency	Regional	Neighbourhood	Local
Everyday	0.0%	10.0%	18.0%
Every few days	0.0%	34.4%	14.8%
Once a week	20.0%	16.3%	14.8%
Once a fortnight	40.0%	9.4%	11.5%
Once a month	0.0%	5.6%	8.2%
Rarely (<i>quarterly or less often</i>)	0.0%	14.4%	23.0%
First visit	40.0%	10.0%	9.8%
Can't say	1	4	1
Total	11	164	62



Number and age of accompanying children

User survey respondents were asked:

“How many children do you usually bring to this PlaySpace and what are their ages?”

A small number of user survey respondents report visiting PlaySpaces alone (14.8% in 2010 and 20.6% in 2006). The vast majority of respondents however visit PlaySpaces with either one or two children. This pattern has remained relatively consistent between the two surveys. The age of accompanying children are also included in the following tables, although some caution is recommended in the interpretation of variation between the age structure results from 2006 and 2011 given the relatively small sample size.

Number of children taken to PlaySpace
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Users Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

	2010		2006
	Number	Percent	
No children	35	14.8%	20.6%
One child	109	46.0%	36.2%
Two children	68	28.7%	31.7%
Three children	23	9.7%	9.5%
Four children	1	0.4%	2.1%
Five or more children	1	0.4%	0.0%
Total	237	100%	243

Age of children
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Users Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

Age of child	2010		2006
	Number	Percent	
Less than one	18	6.4%	4.5%
One	21	7.5%	12.1%
Two	50	17.8%	11.8%
Three	55	19.6%	15.7%
Four	46	16.4%	16.6%
Five	26	9.3%	10.3%
Six	17	6.0%	8.2%
Seven	13	4.6%	5.4%
Eight	11	3.9%	3.0%
Nine	10	3.6%	4.8%
Ten	2	0.7%	3.0%
Eleven	5	1.8%	2.1%
Twelve	5	1.8%	2.1%
Thirteen	1	0.4%	0.3%
Fourteen	1	0.4%	0.0%
Total children	281	100%	331



Length of visit



User survey respondents were asked:

“How long do you usually stay each visit to this PlaySpace?”

There is a remarkable degree of similarity between the two surveys regarding the average length of visit. It is clear that approximately two-thirds of respondents visit the PlaySpaces for an average of up to one hour, with most of these visiting for more than half an hour.

Average length of visit
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Users Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

<i>Period</i>	<i>2010</i>		<i>2006</i>
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	
Less than 30mins	68	28.8%	24.3%
30 mins to 1 hour	115	48.7%	46.9%
1 - 2 hours	48	20.3%	24.3%
More than 2 hours	5	2.1%	4.6%
Not stated	1		4
Total	237	100%	243

There is some minor variation in these results based on the type of PlaySpaces; however Metropolis Research does advise some caution in the interpretation of the results particularly relating to regional PlaySpaces given the relatively small sample size.

Average length of visit by type
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Users Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Regional</i>	<i>Neighbourbor</i>	<i>Local</i>
Less than 30 mins	36.4%	23.2%	42.6%
30 mins to 1 hour	63.6%	49.4%	44.3%
1 - 2 hours	0.0%	25.0%	11.5%
More than 2 hours	0.0%	2.4%	1.6%
Not stated	0	0	1
Total	11	164	62



Group visiting PlaySpace

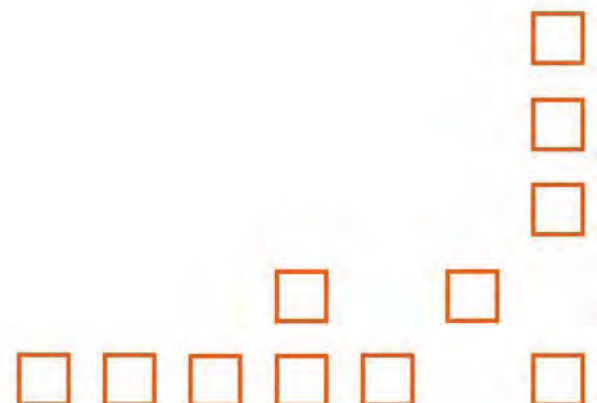
User survey respondents were asked:

“With whom do you usually visit this PlaySpace?”

Respondents surveyed in the PlaySpaces overwhelmingly visited the PlaySpaces with their own children and or as a group of friends. These results are very similar to those recorded in the *Port Phillip City Council - 2006 Playground Users Survey*.

Children with whom respondent visit playgrounds
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Users Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

Visitors	2010		2006
	Number	Percent	
My own children	173	73.0%	78.5%
Grandchildren	13	5.5%	7.0%
Relative's children	16	6.8%	7.9%
Other people's children	13	5.5%	12.4%
As group of friends	72	30.4%	26.9%
Mother's group	16	6.8%	6.2%
Come alone	24	10.1%	7.0%
Other	19	8.0%	7.0%
Total responses	346		242
<i>Total respondents providing response</i>		<i>237 (100%)</i>	



Other PlaySpaces usually visited

User survey respondents were asked:

“Are there any other PlaySpaces you usually visit, and if yes, which ones?”

The following table provides a list of the other PlaySpaces respondents report “usually visiting”.

Other PlaySpaces respondents usually visit
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Users Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

Playspace	2010		Playspace	2010	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Albert Park	20	8.4%	Como Park	1	0.4%
St. Vincent Gardens	20	8.4%	FI Dawkins Reserve	1	0.4%
Beach	17	7.2%	Gasworks Park	1	0.4%
Local n.f.d	15	6.3%	Grattern St.	1	0.4%
Alma Park	14	5.9%	Johnson Reserve	1	0.4%
Parks outside Port Phillip n.f.d	13	5.5%	Kooyang Park	1	0.4%
Elsternwick Park	8	3.4%	Liardet St Park	1	0.4%
St Kilda Botanical Gardens	7	3.0%	Maray St	1	0.4%
Dank St	7	3.0%	Mazda Park	1	0.4%
Peanut Farm Reserve	7	3.0%	Moran Reserve	1	0.4%
Elwood Beach House	6	2.5%	North Road Park, Brighton	1	0.4%
Beacon Cove / Vista	5	2.1%	Nott Street park	1	0.4%
Catani Gardens	5	2.1%	Park on Avans St and Bridge St	1	0.4%
Edwards Park	5	2.1%	Park St	1	0.4%
Middle St. Park	5	2.1%	Phoenix Park	1	0.4%
Caulfield Park	4	1.7%	Queens Park	1	0.4%
Cowderoy St. Park	3	1.3%	Robinson Reserve	1	0.4%
Duggan Reserve	3	1.3%	Ross St. Reserve	1	0.4%
Evan St. Reserve	3	1.3%	Victoria Park	1	0.4%
Garden City Reserve	3	1.3%	Adventure Playground	1	0.4%
Richardson St.	3	1.3%	Beaconsfield Parade	1	0.4%
Clark Reserve	3	1.3%	Darling Gardens	1	0.4%
Various other locations n.f.d	2	0.8%	Hewett Reserve	1	0.4%
Adventure playground on William St	2	0.8%	Letts Reserve	1	0.4%
Carlton Gardens	2	0.8%	Malvern Gardens	1	0.4%
Edinburgh Gardens	2	0.8%	Knott St.	1	0.4%
Harleston Park	2	0.8%	Tucker Avenue	1	0.4%
Julier Reserve	2	0.8%	Park Reserve	1	0.4%
Lagoon	2	0.8%	Skidders Playground	1	0.4%
Landcox Park	2	0.8%	Beach St. Reserve	1	0.4%
Murphy Reserve	2	0.8%	Buck St.	1	0.4%
Pirate Park	2	0.8%	Fawkner Park	1	0.4%
Plum Garland	2	0.8%	Riverside Skate Park	1	0.4%
Princes St Reserve	2	0.8%	Union St. Reserve	1	0.4%
Soul Green	2	0.8%	White St.	1	0.4%
Flying Fox Park	2	0.8%	Toorak Park	1	0.4%
Orange Grove	2	0.8%			
Orronge Park	2	0.8%			
Castle Park	1	0.4%			
Collingwood Children's Farm	1	0.4%			
			Total responses		246
			<i>Total respondents providing response</i>		<i>145 (61.2%)</i>

PlaySpaces outside Port Phillip

Resident survey respondents were asked:

“Are there any PlaySpaces outside the City of Port Phillip you regularly visit, and if so, which ones?”

The following table displays the PlaySpaces identified by respondents to this question.

PlaySpaces outside the City of Port Phillip
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Residents Survey
(Number of responses)

<i>PlaySpace</i>	<i>Number</i>
Botanical Gardens	4
Hay's Paddock, Kew	3
Albert Park	2
Alma Road park	2
Adventure playground	1
Alexander Gardens	1
Alison Park in Elsterwick	1
Behind Southern Cross Station	1
Birrarung Marr	1
Camberwell	1
Caulfield Park	1
Central Gardens - Rocket Park	1
Dendy Park	1
Elesterwick St	1
Elwood	1
Federation Square	1
Geelong Gardens	1
Harmony Park, Moreland	1
Indoor Play Centre in Prahran	1
Mordialloc	1
Murong Park	1
Paid playgorunds (e.g. Mazes)	1
Peanut Farm Park	1
Rathdowne St, Carlton North	1
Riverside Skate Park	1
Royal botanical	1
Schools - kindergardens	1
Wangaratta	1
Wombat Bend	1
Yarraville Gradens	1
Total	37



Non-users of Port Phillip PlaySpaces



Reasons for not visiting PlaySpaces in Port Phillip

Residential survey respondents not visiting Port Phillip PlaySpaces were asked:

"If you do not visit PlaySpaces in the City of Port Phillip, what are all the reasons?"

Respondents to the residential survey who did not visit PlaySpaces in the City of Port Phillip were asked the reasons why they do not. A comparison is provided to the 2006 results. The 2006 percentage results have been adjusted to reflect the presentation of the 2010 results and are not the same as previously published, although based on the same number of respondents.

The most commonly identified reasons for not visiting PlaySpaces remain that the respondents' children were either too old (6.5%) or too young (3.5%).

As reported in the 2006 survey, the overwhelming majority of residential survey respondents who had children living at home or visiting regularly reported visiting PlaySpaces in the municipality and this holds true in 2010. This is important to bear in mind as the results presented in this question relate to a very small minority of households with children.

Most importantly, Metropolis Research notes that as recorded in 2006, very few respondents reported concerns over quality, access or facilities as reasons for not visiting PlaySpaces. A small number of respondents in 2010 however did comment on the poor facilities as a reason, albeit a very small number.

Reasons for not visiting PlaySpaces in the City of Port Phillip
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Users Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

Number	2010		2006
	Number	Percent	
Children are too old (<i>or too young*</i>)	13	6.5%	9.4%
Don't have time to supervise children	10	5.0%	0.0%
Don't have time to take children	7	3.5%	0.0%
Children are too young	7	3.5%	*
Children don't enjoy PlaySpaces	6	3.0%	0.4%
Poor facilities (e.g. toilets, rest areas)	5	2.5%	0.0%
Concern about safety in PlaySpaces	3	1.5%	0.0%
Lack of disability access	1	0.5%	0.0%
Concern about quality in PlaySpaces	1	0.5%	0.0%
PlaySpaces are not convenient	1	0.5%	0.4%
Not aware of any close by	1	0.5%	0.0%
Total responses	55		28
<i>Total respondents providing response</i>	<i>31</i>		<i>26</i>

() In 2006 - "children too young and/ or too old were combined as single response*



Improvements to encourage use of PlaySpaces in Port Phillip

Respondents not visiting Port Phillip PlaySpaces were asked:

“Is there anything that could be changed or improved to encourage you to use PlaySpaces in the City of Port Phillip?”

The most commonly identified improvements that may encourage residential respondents not currently utilising PlaySpaces were improved play equipment and improved facilities. It is important to note however that these suggestions were made by a very small minority of respondents and that the majority of residential respondents with children not currently utilising PlaySpaces do not because they have no interest (mainly due to the age of their children).

In other words, there are very few households in the City of Port Phillip who are not currently utilising PlaySpaces because of a deficiency in the PlaySpaces offered. This is an important finding and one that should not be overlooked.

Improvements to encourage use of Port Phillip PlaySpaces
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Residential Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

Number	2010		2006
	Number	Percent	
Improved play equipment	11	5.5%	0.8%
Nothing/not interested	11	5.5%	3.3%
Improved facilities	5	2.5%	0.0%
Improved safety in PlaySpaces	4	2.0%	0.0%
More nature based play	3	1.5%	0.0%
Improved cleanliness	2	1.0%	0.4%
Improved disability access	2	1.0%	0.0%
Improved amenities	1	0.5%	0.4%
Playgrounds closer to me	1	0.5%	0.8%
Other	0	0.0%	2.0%
Total responses	40		19
<i>Total respondents providing response</i>		26	26





Aspects of PlaySpaces

Importance of aspects of PlaySpaces

Respondents were asked:

“On a scale of 0 (very unimportant) to 10 (very important), how important are each of the following when choosing to visit a PlaySpace?”

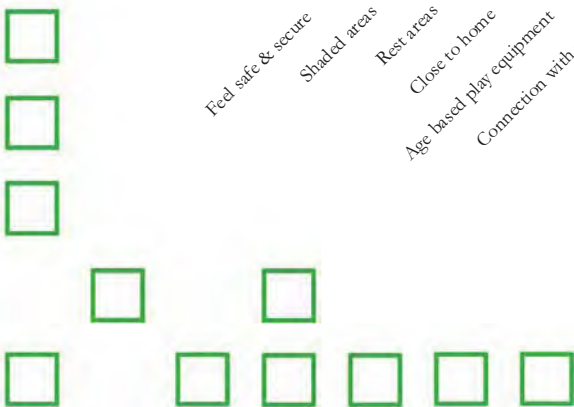
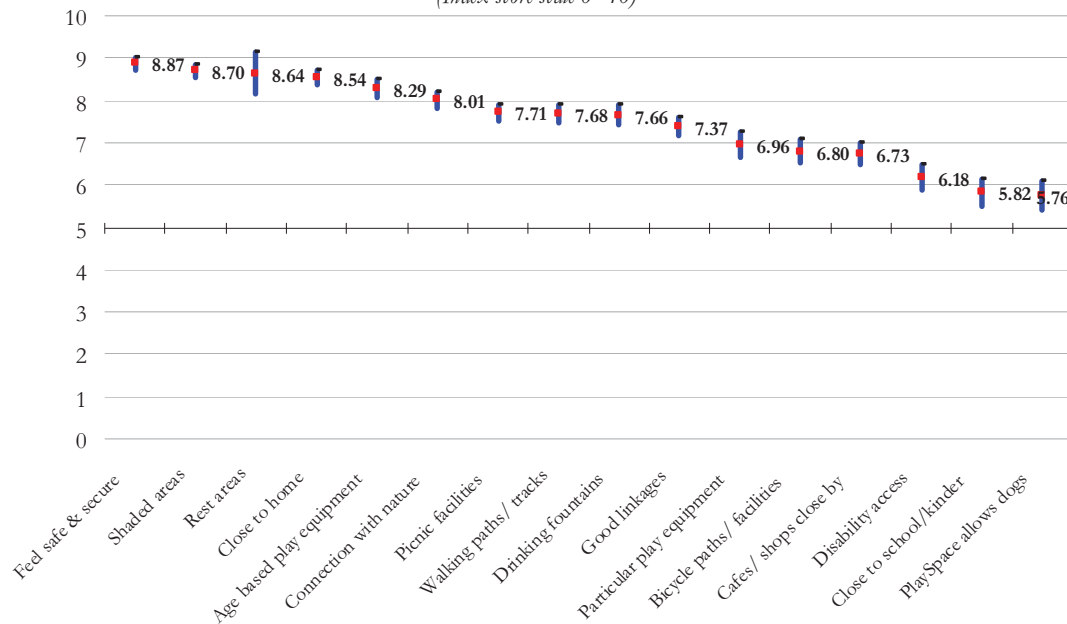
This section of the report provides the average importance to both residential and user survey respondents of a range of aspects of PlaySpaces. These results provide the strongest indication of respondents’ views regarding the relative importance of various aspects of PlaySpaces and should form the basis of any analysis of community views.

The five most important aspects of PlaySpaces are “feeling safe and secure”, “shaded areas”, “rest areas”, “that they are close to home” and “age based play equipment”. These five aspects are all measurably more important than the other eleven.

The aspects of least importance to respondents relate to PlaySpaces that are “close to school/kindergarten” and “PlaySpaces that allow dogs”, although these aspects are still on average considered somewhat important.

By way of comparison *Governing Melbourne* recorded average importance across metropolitan Melbourne of all local government services as 8.07, with the least important service “Council advertising in local newspapers” rated at 6.69 and the most important “weekly garbage collection” rated at 8.92. *Governing Melbourne* also rated the importance of “services for children” at 8.26 and “provision of parks and gardens” at 8.36.

Importance of selected aspects of PlaySpaces
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Users & Residents Survey
 (Index score scale 0 - 10)



The following table displays the proportion of respondents rating the importance of each aspect as low (0 - 4), medium (5 - 7) or high importance (8 - 10).

Attention is drawn to the large minority of respondents who do not consider “disability access”, “close to school/kindergarten” or “PlaySpaces that allow dogs” as important aspects of PlaySpaces.

Interestingly there was no meaningful variation in the results for disability access when split between households with a member with a disability and households without.

Importance of selected aspects when choosing to visit a PlaySpace
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Users Survey
(Number & index score scale 0 - 10)

Aspect	Can't say	Importance		
		Low (0 - 4)	Medium (5 - 7)	High (8 - 10)
Feel safe & secure	57	0.9%	12.8%	86.3%
Shaded areas	58	1.4%	14.8%	83.8%
Rest areas	58	1.9%	21.2%	76.9%
Close to home	56	2.9%	15.7%	81.4%
Connection with nature	58	3.7%	28.7%	67.6%
Particular play equipment	68	4.6%	22.4%	73.0%
Walking paths/ tracks	59	6.4%	31.0%	62.6%
Picnic facilities	58	6.5%	29.3%	64.2%
Good linkages	65	7.0%	36.0%	57.0%
Drinking fountains	62	8.9%	27.6%	63.5%
Bicycle paths/ facilities	60	15.7%	36.3%	48.0%
Age based play equipment	102	15.9%	32.5%	51.6%
Cafes/ shops close by	56	18.2%	35.7%	46.1%
Disability access	90	21.3%	40.9%	37.8%
Close to school/kinder	93	26.9%	35.9%	37.2%
PlaySpace allows dogs	64	30.9%	28.4%	40.7%





Range of PlaySpaces meet needs



Respondents were asked:

“Does the range of PlaySpaces currently available in the City of Port Phillip meet you and your families needs?”

More than three-quarters of respondents consider that the PlaySpaces in the City of Port Phillip meet their needs, either “completely” (55.4%) or “somewhat” (21.5%). Less than 5% of respondents consider that PlaySpaces in the City of Port Phillip do not currently meet their needs.

PlaySpace meets needs
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Users and Resident Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

Response	2010	
	Number	Percent
Yes - completely	242	55.4%
Yes - somewhat	94	21.5%
No	20	4.6%
Can't say	81	18.5%
Total	437	100%

Ways in which Port Phillip PlaySpaces do not currently meet needs

Respondents were asked:

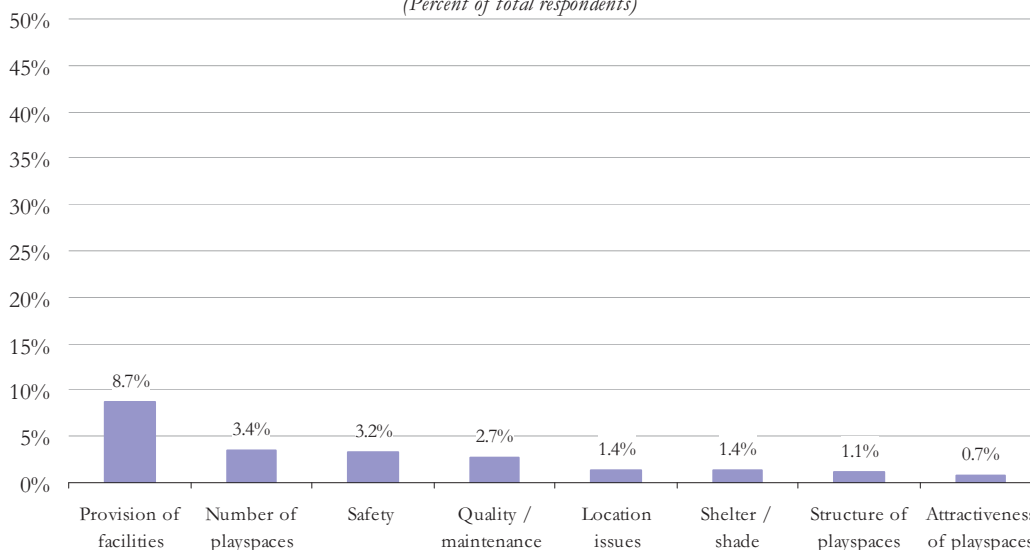
“In what way does the range of PlaySpaces currently available in the City of Port Phillip not meet your families’ needs?”

The following table displays the open-ended comments received from respondents who considered that PlaySpaces do not currently meet their needs. Metropolis Research advises caution in interpreting these results as they reflect the views of less than 5% of the community. Over-emphasis of the issues identified in this section is a concern.

The most commonly identified ways in which the range of PlaySpaces in the City of Port Phillip do not currently meet respondent needs relates to the provision of facilities. This is a strong theme throughout this report and again highlights the importance of facilities to respondents’ satisfaction with PlaySpaces in the municipality.



Ways in which PlaySpaces do not meet needs
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Survey
 (Percent of total respondents)



Ways in which PlaySpaces do not meet needs
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Survey
 (Number of comments)

Comment	Number
<i>Quality / maintenance of PlaySpaces</i>	
Dogs poo in the park	1
Equipment in neighbourhood park need repair	1
Grass	1
More trees	1
Not looked after enough	1
Quality of the equipment	1
Slides are broken	1
Always can be improved	1
Cleanliness, constantly maintained, secure and safe	1
Improve orange groove	1
Need consistent standards	1
Want better quality parks - not all the same	1
<i>Safety / security</i>	
Unsafe	1
Change the Playspaces gate to a child proof gate, because it is dangerous	1
Local ones are unsafe	1
More shaded, enclosed space and safety surface	1
Neville St - safety: gates are broken, kids can get out if not supervise	1
Not age appropriate, not safe and many broken glass	1
Not enough gates in playspaces	1
Parks are unsafe in some area	1
Safety - need places away from bars/ clubs	1
Safety - new report of attacks and many drug addicts in the area	1
Safety issues	1
Safety of the equipment and over-crowded	1
Tanbark is treated wood - health hazard	1
Want some more safe for kids nearby	1

Ways in which PlaySpaces do not meet needs (continued)

Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Survey

(Number of comments)

<i>Comment</i>	<i>Number</i>
<i>Provision of facilities</i>	
Lack of variety of play equipment	1
Need cafe nearby and no fence around	1
Not enough play equipment	1
Not suitable for lower age group	1
No activities for older children	1
Age ten years or older not enough facilities catering for their needs	1
BBQ area for the family	1
Could be better variety of play equipment	1
Disability toilets, picnic tables	1
Don't have equipment for older children	1
Don't have somersaults and some not ideal for disabled kids	1
Equipment for babies and toddlers	1
Good except provide more picnic tables	1
Hewison Reserve does not have equipment for older kids and not enough facilities	1
More BBQ facilities. Bigger spaces and more creative	1
More variety - interesting features. More beaches & toilets. Danks St slide not coated in plastic.	1
Need more facilities for 8-12 years old kids. More beaches, esp. Danks St one	1
Need to provide toilets and more beaches, provide safety feature to the equipment	1
No toilets around the playspaces	1
Not a lot of equipment my child can use because of physical disability	1
Not enough for smaller kids	1
Not enough for younger kids - no play equipment in the area	1
Not many facilities such as basketball court or football grounds	1
Not much picnic and BBQ areas	1
Picnic tables and shade	1
Provide Picnic tables with shed, BBQ area, toilets to all playspaces	1
Public facilities such as toilets near the Playspaces and well maintained the Playspaces	1
Shaded area, public toilets and BBQ area	1
Should have toilets near the playspaces, children are easy to hide in the bushes	1
The play equipment are very old and run down	1
To have more picnic areas, facilities and shade	1
Toilet facilities at Richardson St. Connection to nature	1
Toilets and drinking facilities	1
Too few equipment on the Playspaces	1
Too much developed, no place to fly a kite or other activities	1
Want more kids equipment	1
Want more play equipment in Peanut Farm Reserve	1
Would be better quality equipment, all pretty old	1

Ways in which PlaySpaces do not meet needs (continued)

Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Survey

(Number of comments)

<i>Comment</i>	<i>Number</i>
<i>Structure and attractiveness of PlaySpaces</i>	
Combination in a park for all ages kids	1
More opportunities for kids to be creative - less structured	1
Park designated for dogs to go to	1
Some areas need to be more developed	1
Would like to have combination of open spaces with playground	1
Not very attractive	1
The play equipment is not so creative	1
Playgroup initiated by Council.	1
<i>Number of PlaySpaces</i>	
Could be more	1
Need playspaces for older kids between 8-15 yrs old	1
Not enough	1
Not enough for children age between 6-13	1
Not enough purpose built children's parks	1
Not enough playspaces in my area	1
Not much playspaces in the surrounding area	1
There could be a big park instead of lots of small ones	1
Too few playspaces	1
Not enough playgrounds	1
Some of the playspaces too small	1
Sometimes it is too crowded, kids don't fully enjoy the Playspaces	1
Too crowded and just a few parks in this areas	1
Too crowded sometimes, need to have more playspaces or extended the exist one in this area	1
Would like to access playground in Middle Park Primary School	1
<i>Shelter / shade</i>	
Lack of shelter	1
Need to be more shelter	1
Shaded area	1
Need more shelter in the playground for parents	1
Not enough shade nearby	1
Too crowded and shades needed for sun and rain	1
<i>Location issues</i>	
A little too far from home	1
Proximity of large parks	1
Alma Park is too far and not enough other parks close by	1
No playground in the immediate area - too far to walk across Albert Park	1
The good one not within walking distance	1
None within walking distance	1
Should have built on the big playground at LFK	1





Satisfaction with aspects of PlaySpaces in Port Phillip



Residential survey respondents were asked:

“On a scale of 0 (very dissatisfied) to 10 (very satisfied), how satisfied are you with the following aspects of PlaySpaces in the City of Port Phillip?”

Residential respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with a range of aspects of PlaySpaces in the City of Port Phillip in general, rather than a specific PlaySpace. The average satisfaction scores are presented in the following graph.

Satisfaction with “facilities (e.g. toilets, drinking fountains, etc)” was rated at 6.47, a level best categorised as “solid”. Drinking fountains in particular were identified in the 2006 survey as facilities of most concern and Metropolis Research again advises attention to this important practical aspect of PlaySpaces. In the 2006 survey, satisfaction with facilities was rated at 4.30 by residential survey respondents and 4.47 by user survey respondents.

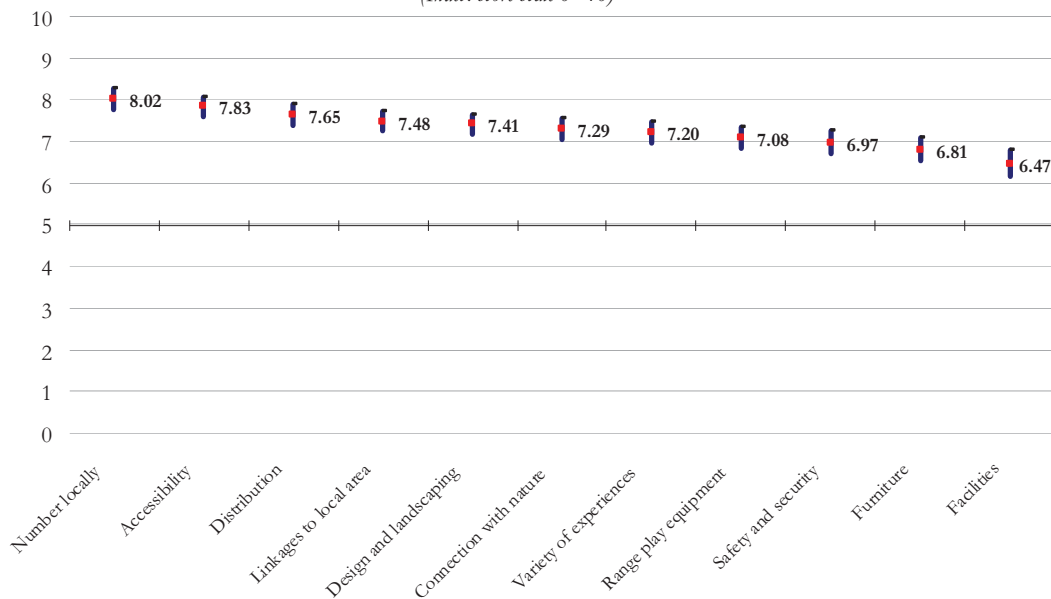
Satisfaction with the number of PlaySpaces available locally and “accessibility of PlaySpaces” were both rated at levels best categorised as “excellent”. The associated aspect of “the distribution / location of PlaySpaces in the City of Port Phillip” was rated at a level best categorised as “very good”. These results when taken together strongly suggest that the community is overwhelmingly satisfied with the basic provision of and access to PlaySpaces.

The other aspects included in the question were rated at levels best categorised as varying from “good” to “very good”. These results strongly imply that residents in the City of Port Phillip are generally quite satisfied with the broad range of aspects of PlaySpaces in the municipality.

Satisfaction with aspects of Port Phillip PlaySpaces

Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Survey

(Index score scale 0 - 10)



The following table displays the proportion of respondents rating satisfaction with each aspect as dissatisfied (0 - 4), somewhat satisfied (5 - 7) and very satisfied (8 - 10).

Attention is drawn to “furniture (e.g. benches, picnic tables, etc)” and “facilities (e.g. toilets, drinking fountains, etc)” with which more than ten percent of respondents were dissatisfied.

Satisfaction with aspects of Playspaces in the City of Port Phillip
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Users Survey
 (Number & index score scale 0 - 10)

Aspect	Can't say	Satisfaction		
		(0 - 4)	(5 - 7)	(8 - 10)
The number of PlaySpaces locally	55	2.1%	33.1%	64.9%
Accessibility	54	2.7%	37.7%	59.6%
The distribution/location of PlaySpaces	58	3.5%	38.7%	57.8%
PlaySpaces linkages to the local area	63	1.4%	48.1%	50.3%
Design and landscaping	55	4.2%	44.9%	51.0%
Connection with nature	61	2.1%	51.1%	46.7%
Variety of experiences offered by PlaySpaces	57	3.5%	53.9%	42.7%
The range of play equipment provided	55	6.2%	54.5%	39.3%
Safety and security	55	2.1%	51.1%	46.7%
Furniture	56	10.5%	62.6%	37.5%
Facilities	56	12.6%	59.8%	27.8%

Satisfaction with selected aspects of visited PlaySpace

PlaySpace survey respondents were asked:

“On a scale of 0 (very dissatisfied) to 10 (very satisfied), how satisfied are you with the following aspects of this PlaySpace?”

Respondents to the user survey were asked to rate their satisfaction with a range of aspects of the particular PlaySpaces in which they were surveyed. The results are outlined in the following graph and table.

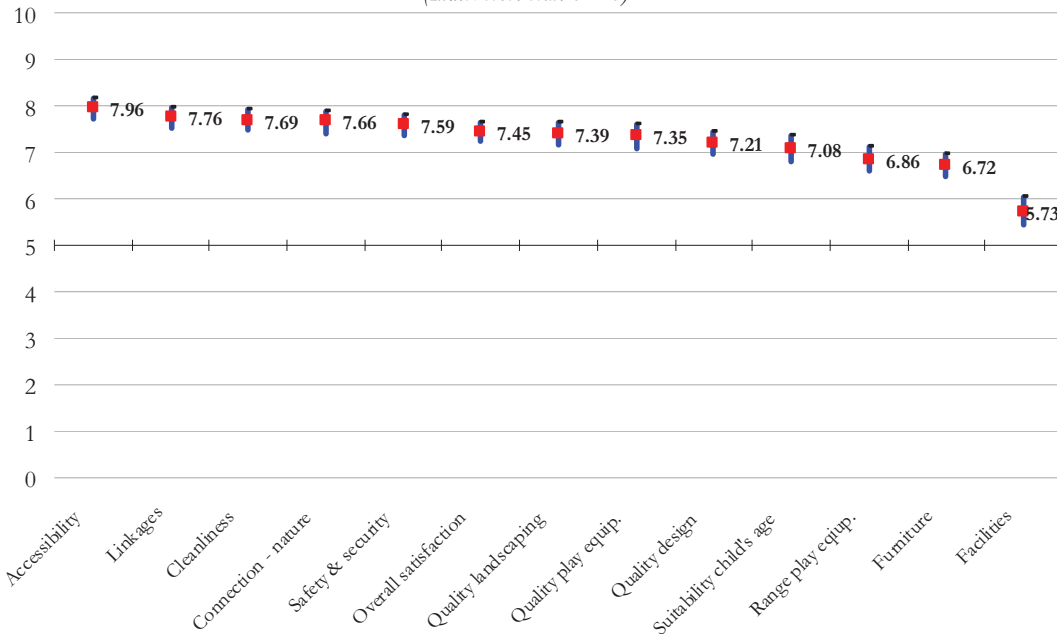
Overall satisfaction with PlaySpaces was rated at 7.45, a level best categorised as “very good”. By way of comparison, *Governing Melbourne* recorded average satisfaction with local government across metropolitan Melbourne at 6.46, or a level best categorised as “solid”. *Governing Melbourne* recorded average satisfaction across metropolitan Melbourne with “provision and maintenance of parks and gardens” at 7.17 and “services for children” at 7.19, both scores best categorised as “good”.

Satisfaction with “facilities (e.g. toilets, drinking fountains, etc)” was rated at 5.73, a level best categorised as “poor”. It is worth noting that facilities were also identified by respondents to the residential survey as the aspect with which they were least satisfied.

In 2006, satisfaction with facilities was rated at 4.30 by residential survey respondents and 4.47 by user survey respondents. Metropolis Research notes that although the satisfaction with facilities has increased measurably, both residential and user survey respondents continue to have a relatively poor level of satisfaction with this most important aspect of PlaySpaces.



Satisfaction with aspects of PlaySpace
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Users Survey
(Index score scale 0 - 10)



One-quarter of user survey respondents were dissatisfied with facilities (25.1%). This is a very large proportion and clearly indicates that practical facilities such as drinking fountains are an aspect of PlaySpaces currently not meeting user preferences. Other aspects with which a significant proportion of respondents were dissatisfied include the range of play equipment (11.5%), furniture (12.2%) and suitability for children's age (10.7%).

Satisfaction with selected aspects of PlaySpace
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Users Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

Aspect	Can't say	Satisfaction		
		(0 - 4)	(5 - 7)	(8 - 10)
Accessibility	10	2.6%	29.1%	62.6%
Connection - nature	6	6.5%	33.8%	59.7%
Linkages	15	2.4%	39.6%	58.1%
Safety & security	6	5.6%	36.8%	57.6%
Cleanliness	6	4.7%	37.7%	57.5%
Quality landscaping	5	9.4%	37.1%	53.5%
Overall satisfaction	11	3.5%	46.4%	50.1%
Suitability child's age	22	10.7%	42.4%	47.0%
Quality play equip.	12	6.6%	46.7%	46.7%
Quality design	6	7.8%	46.3%	45.7%
Range play equip.	12	11.5%	51.6%	37.0%
Furniture	6	12.2%	53.2%	34.7%
Facilities	10	25.1%	53.3%	21.6%

The following table displays the satisfaction with aspects of PlaySpaces by type of PlaySpace. Some variation in the results is observed, although some caution should be exercised in interpretation of these results given the relatively small sample size, particularly for regional PlaySpaces.

Satisfaction with aspects of Play Spaces by type of Play Space
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 Play Space Survey
(Index score scale 0 - 10)

Aspect	Type	Satisfaction		
		Lower	Mean	Upper
Accessibility	Regional	6.58	7.64	8.69
	Neighbourhood	7.66	7.94	8.21
	Local	7.69	8.07	8.45
Linkages	Regional	5.88	6.64	7.39
	Neighbourhood	7.48	7.75	8.02
	Local	7.60	8.00	8.40
Cleanliness	Regional	5.67	6.64	7.60
	Neighbourhood	7.50	7.76	8.03
	Local	7.20	7.70	8.19
Connection - nature	Regional	6.32	7.27	8.23
	Neighbourhood	7.37	7.67	7.97
	Local	7.28	7.71	8.14
Safety & security	Regional	6.93	7.73	8.53
	Neighbourhood	7.30	7.58	7.85
	Local	7.16	7.61	8.06
Overall satisfaction	Regional	6.46	7.18	7.91
	Neighbourhood	7.19	7.43	7.67
	Local	7.17	7.56	7.95
Quality landscaping	Regional	4.49	5.91	7.33
	Neighbourhood	7.33	7.62	7.91
	Local	6.55	7.03	7.52
Quality play equip.	Regional	6.23	6.82	7.41
	Neighbourhood	6.98	7.30	7.62
	Local	7.14	7.59	8.04
Quality design	Regional	5.85	6.91	7.97
	Neighbourhood	7.02	7.30	7.57
	Local	6.55	7.02	7.48
Suitability child's age	Regional	6.70	7.82	8.94
	Neighbourhood	6.70	7.04	7.38
	Local	6.49	7.06	7.63
Range play equip.	Regional	5.68	6.55	7.41
	Neighbourhood	6.46	6.78	7.10
	Local	6.61	7.12	7.63
Furniture	Regional	5.15	6.18	7.21
	Neighbourhood	6.55	6.82	7.08
	Local	6.01	6.55	7.10
Facilities	Regional	5.17	6.09	7.01
	Neighbourhood	5.56	5.90	6.24
	Local	4.47	5.19	5.92



Best aspects of PlaySpace



User survey respondents were asked:

“What do you think are the best aspects of this PlaySpace?”

The most commonly selected best aspects of PlaySpaces related to “natural environment”, facilities (including play equipment), atmosphere and environment as well as location. These results confirm the major themes identified throughout this report, that being that the overwhelming majority of PlaySpaces users consider those available in the municipality to be accessible (i.e. locational issues), and to have strong connections with nature and be a pleasant environment.

Best aspects of Playspace
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Users Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

<i>Aspect</i>	<i>2010</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Natural environment (open space, connection to nature, etc)	58	24.5%
Facilities (play equipment, etc)	54	22.8%
Atmosphere and environment	39	16.5%
Location- other amenities (cafe, beach, etc)	30	12.7%
Location- home	25	10.5%
Accessibility	24	10.1%
Other	21	8.9%
Safe and secure	18	7.6%
Trees and vegetation	14	5.9%
Location- n.f.d	12	5.1%
Shade	12	5.1%
Amenities (toilets, seats, etc)	8	3.4%
Clean / well-maintained	8	3.4%
Total responses	323	
<i>Total respondents providing response</i>	<i>204 (86.08%)</i>	



Worst aspects of PlaySpace

Respondents who visited the PlaySpace were asked:

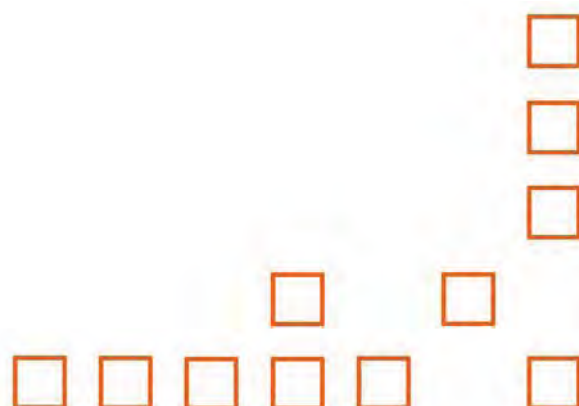
“What do you think are the worst aspects of this PlaySpace?”

The most commonly identified worst aspects of PlaySpaces include facilities (including play equipment) and amenities (toilets, benches, drinking fountains, etc). This is a strong and consistent theme throughout this report, that being that the most critical issues identified by respondents relate to the provision of facilities and or amenities in PlaySpaces, the most clear of which is drinking fountains.

Metropolis Research cannot stress strongly enough the clear and unambiguous message from respondents that PlaySpaces in the municipality are generally of a very high standard and that few have serious concerns. Those with concerns are focused most often on practical issues particularly facilities such as drinking fountains. This theme was highlighted strongly in the 2006 survey as well which suggests that these concerns are long standing.

Worst aspects of Playspace
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Users Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

Aspect	2010	
	Number	Percent
Facilities (play equipment, etc)	45	19.0%
Amenities (public toilets, benches, etc)	42	17.7%
Not safe / secure	23	9.7%
Other	20	8.4%
Lack of shade	18	7.6%
Trees / vegetation	15	6.3%
Natural environment and surroundings	13	5.5%
Atmosphere	12	5.1%
Close to road	10	4.2%
Cleanliness / Not maintained	10	4.2%
Location	4	1.7%
Dogs and animals	4	1.7%
Parking	2	0.8%
Total responses	218	
<i>Total respondents providing response</i>	<i>162 (68.35%)</i>	





Suggested improvements to PlaySpace



Respondents who visited the PlaySpace were asked:

“Are there any improvements you believe could be made to this PlaySpace?”

The following table displays the suggested improvements to the PlaySpaces in which respondents were surveyed. The sample size is insufficient to provide a meaningful breakdown of these results by PlaySpaces; however the sample is more than sufficient to provide guidance as to the major issues for PlaySpace users.

It is clear in these results that the two major aspects of PlaySpaces that respondents prioritise relate to amenities and facilities. This is the major, unambiguous theme of this report and its importance to the community of PlaySpace users should not be under-estimated.

Suggested improvements to Playspace
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Users Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

<i>Improvement</i>	<i>2010</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Amenities (toilets, seats, BBQs, etc)	73	30.8%
Facilities (play equipment etc)	61	25.7%
Safety and security	23	9.7%
Natural environment (open space, connection to nature, etc)	18	7.6%
Atmosphere and environment	15	6.3%
Clean / maintenance	15	6.3%
Shade	14	5.9%
Other	7	3.0%
Total responses	226	
<i>Total respondents providing response</i>	<i>155 (65.41%)</i>	



Favourite PlaySpace

Respondents were asked:

“Do you or your children have a favourite PlaySpace, if so, which one?”

The following table displays the favourite PlaySpaces as identified by respondents to both the residential and user surveys.

Favourite Play Space
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 Play Space Users & Residents Survey
(Number and percent of total respondents)

<i>Play Space</i>	<i>2010</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Plum Garland	36	8.2%
Sun Playground, St Vincent's Gardens	25	5.7%
Garden City Reserve	17	3.9%
Alma Park	16	3.7%
Hewison Reserve	8	1.8%
Beach	8	1.8%
Jacoby Reserve	8	1.8%
Danks St Playground	7	1.6%
Clarke Street	6	1.4%
Gasworks Park	6	1.4%
MSAC	6	1.4%
Frank and Mary Crean Reserve	5	1.1%
Royal Botanical Gardens	5	1.1%
Edwards Park	4	0.9%
Peanut Farm Reserve	4	0.9%
Elwood Park	4	0.9%
Beacon Cove Park	3	0.7%
Elsternwick Park	3	0.7%
St Kilda Botanical Gardens	3	0.7%
Close to home	3	0.7%
St Kilda Adventure Playground	3	0.7%
Park St/Eastern Reserve	3	0.7%
Elwood Beach House	3	0.7%
Collingwood Children Farm	2	0.5%
Hays Paddock	2	0.5%
Hotham St	2	0.5%
HR Johnson Reserve	2	0.5%
Buckingham Reserve	1	0.2%
Catani	1	0.2%
Empty lot on Chapel St	1	0.2%
Howe Crescent Park	1	0.2%
Neville St	1	0.2%
Ormond Road	1	0.2%
Rotary Park	1	0.2%
Skinnners Adventure Playground	1	0.2%
Sol Green	1	0.2%
Other PlaySpaces outside Port Phillip	16	3.7%
Total favourite Play Spaces	219	50.1%

Reasons for favourite PlaySpace

Resident survey respondents were asked:

“Why is this your favourite PlaySpace?”

Respondents identifying a favourite PlaySpace were asked why the particular PlaySpace was their favourite. The results have been categorised as presented in the following table.

It is clear from the results that the most important aspects PlaySpaces are the facilities (including play equipment), the location and to a lesser extent the natural environment / atmosphere of the PlaySpace.

This consistent theme of respondent focusing their attention and preferences towards practical aspects such as equipment, facilities and amenities cannot be overstated in this report.

Reasons for favourite PlaySpace
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Resident Survey
(Number and percent of total respondents)

Reason	2010	
	Number	Percent
Facilities (<i>play equipment, etc</i>)	41	20.5%
Location - home	23	11.5%
Natural environment (<i>open space, connection to nature, etc</i>)	19	9.5%
Atmosphere and environment	10	5.0%
Location - other amenities (<i>cafe, beach, etc</i>)	5	2.5%
Accessibility	5	2.5%
Safe and secure	3	1.5%
Trees and vegetation	3	1.5%
Amenities (toilets, seats, etc)	3	1.5%
Shade	1	0.5%
Other	5	2.5%

Total responses **118**



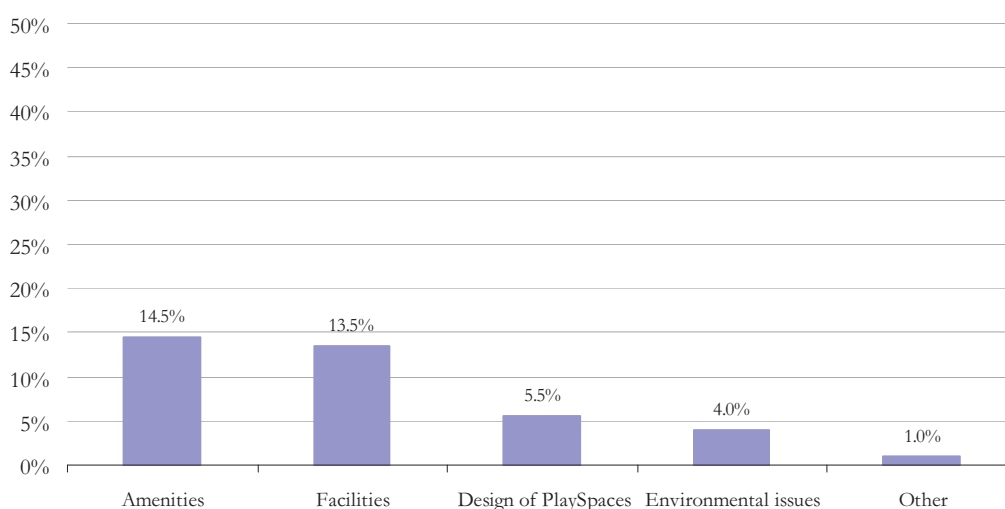
Desired aspects of favourite PlaySpace

Respondents were asked:

Is there anything at that PlaySpace that you feel should be provided at this one?"

The following tables display the open-ended comments received from respondents in relation to desired aspects of favourite PlaySpaces. When summarised, the results reinforce the theme developed throughout this report, that being that PlaySpaces users are focused on the provision of practical aspects such as amenities and facilities first and foremost.

Desired aspects of favourite PlaySpaces
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Residents Survey
 (Percent of total respondents)



Aspects of favourite PlaySpace desired for Port Phillip PlaySpaces
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Survey
 (Number of comments)

Comment	Number
<i>Design of PlaySpaces</i>	
Extra park beach	3
PlaySpaces for all types for children	2
Big size playground and good for special visits	1
Community built and very creative	1
More creativity for the playgrounds	1
More spaces for the PlaySpaces	1
Potential on beachfront to have a adventure playground	1
Unique	1
<i>Other</i>	
Need to have concrete pathways	1
Road sign for car around children playground	1

Aspects of favourite PlaySpace desired for Port Phillip PlaySpaces
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Survey
(Number of comments)

<i>Comment</i>	<i>Number</i>
<i>Facilities</i>	
More facilities & equipment	6
Climbing apparatus & frame	3
Equipment suitable for all age and more variety	3
Better facilities and equipment	2
Flying fox in St Kilda	2
Modern and updated equipment	2
Additional slides	1
Basketball court	1
Chain , tube equipment	1
Climbing. The fake boulders are great.	1
Big open space for footy	1
More sport facilities such as soccer and basketball courts	1
Round 'bowl' for swinging around in suitable for disabled	1
Skate Board facilities and basketball rings	1
Spinning things	1
<i>Amenities</i>	
BBQ facilities should be provided	8
Shaded area	7
Fence	3
Drinking fountains	2
Toilets (especially for children)	2
Access to cafe	1
Adequate picnic tables	1
More rubbish bins	1
Provide more sunscreen in other PlaySpaces	1
Seatings	1
Shaded area and toilet facilities for Sol Green Park	1
Provide more beaches and BBQ area for adults to enjoy as well as the kids	1
<i>Environmental issues</i>	
More trees	2
Olive trees or other trees for shading	2
Good gardening	1
Good plants	1
Healthier natural environment	1
Nature: natural tree with big swing	1

Respondent Profile

The following tables display the demographic profile of respondents to the *Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Users & Residents Survey*.

Gender

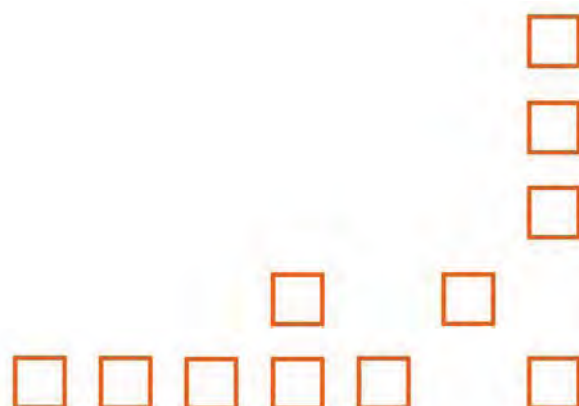
Gender
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Users and Resident Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

Gender	2010		2006
	Number	Percent	
Male	128	31.1%	32.0%
Female	283	68.9%	68.0%
Not stated	26		7
Total	437	100%	488

Age group

Lifecycle stage
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Users and Resident Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

Lifecycle stage	2010		2006
	Number	Percent	
15 to 19 years	7	1.7%	2.3%
20 to 35 years	149	36.0%	25.3%
36 to 45 years	188	45.4%	51.5%
46 to 75 years	67	16.2%	20.3%
76 years and over	3	0.7%	0.6%
Not stated	23		6
Total	437	100%	488





Household structure



Household Structure

Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Users and Resident Survey

(Number & percent of total respondents)

Structure	2010		2006
	Number	Percent	
2 parent family (youngest 0 - 4 yrs)	200	48.2%	54.5%
2 parent family (youngest 5 - 12 yrs)	108	26.0%	21.1%
2 parent family (youngest 13 - 18 yrs)	26	6.3%	3.5%
2 parent family (adult children only)	11	2.7%	3.1%
1 parent family (youngest 0 - 4 yrs)	9	2.2%	2.5%
1 parent family (youngest 5 - 12 yrs)	13	3.1%	3.3%
1 parent family (adult children only)	5	1.2%	0.9%
Group household	7	1.7%	2.3%
Sole person	8	1.9%	1.4%
Couple only	27	6.5%	6.8%
Other	1	0.2%	0.6%
Not Stated	22		5
Total	437	100%	488

Disability

Household member with permanent / long term disability

Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Users and Resident Survey

(Number & percent of total respondents)

Response	2010	
	Number	Percent
Yes	16	3.7%
No	418	96.3%
Not stated	3	
Total	437	100%



Language

Language spoken at home
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpace Users and Resident Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

Language	2010		2006
	Number	Percent	
English	324	78.3%	81.4%
Spanish	9	2.2%	0.6%
Chinese, n.f.d	8	1.9%	0.2%
Greek	8	1.9%	2.9%
German	7	1.7%	0.4%
Italian	7	1.7%	3.1%
All other languages	5	1.2%	0.0%
French	5	1.2%	1.4%
Mandarin	5	1.2%	0.6%
Russian	5	1.2%	0.0%
Turkish	4	1.0%	0.6%
Arabic	3	0.7%	0.4%
Thai	3	0.7%	0.0%
Hebrew	2	0.5%	0.6%
Indonesian	2	0.5%	0.0%
Japanese	2	0.5%	0.4%
Polish	2	0.5%	0.6%
Portuguese	2	0.5%	0.0%
Swedish	2	0.5%	0.6%
Cantonese	1	0.2%	1.0%
Cebuano	1	0.2%	0.0%
Croatian	1	0.2%	0.2%
Dutch	1	0.2%	0.2%
Gaelic	1	0.2%	0.0%
Indo-Aryan, n.f.d	1	0.2%	0.0%
Maori (Cook Island)	1	0.2%	0.0%
Oceanic Pidgins and Creoles, n.f.d	1	0.2%	0.0%
Tamil	1	0.2%	0.0%
Multiple	0	0.0%	1.4%
Not stated	23		5
Total	437	100%	488



Suburb

Suburb of residence of playground visitors
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Users Survey
(Number & percent of total respondents)

Suburb	2010		2006
	Number	Percent	
Port Melbourne	46	19.8%	5.6%
St Kilda East	40	17.2%	3.0%
Albert Park/Middle Park	25	10.8%	27.4%
Elwood	25	10.8%	9.4%
St Kilda	24	10.3%	14.1%
South Melbourne	17	7.3%	3.0%
Brighton	6	2.6%	2.6%
Prahran/Winsor	5	2.2%	1.7%
Ascot Vale	4	1.7%	0.0%
Elsternwick	3	1.3%	1.7%
Malvern	3	1.3%	0.4%
Melbourne	3	1.3%	0.4%
Bayswater	2	0.9%	0.0%
Clayton	2	0.9%	0.0%
Sandringham	2	0.9%	0.4%
Southbank	2	0.9%	0.0%
Williamstown	2	0.9%	0.9%
Altona	1	0.4%	0.0%
Armadale	1	0.4%	0.0%
Ballarat	1	0.4%	0.0%
Barwon Heads	1	0.4%	0.0%
Brunswick	1	0.4%	0.9%
Bundoora	1	0.4%	0.0%
Caulfield	1	0.4%	1.7%
Camperdown	1	0.4%	0.0%
Caulfield North	1	0.4%	0.0%
Carlton	1	0.4%	0.0%
Carnegie	1	0.4%	0.0%
Cheltenham	1	0.4%	0.0%
Clifton Hill/Fitzroy North	1	0.4%	0.9%
Essendon	1	0.4%	0.4%
Geelong	1	0.4%	0.0%
Hillside	1	0.4%	0.0%
Kew	1	0.4%	0.4%
North Melbourne	1	0.4%	0.0%
Reservoir	1	0.4%	0.0%
Richmond	1	0.4%	0.4%
Werribee	1	0.4%	0.4%
All other suburbs	0	0.0%	24.4%
Not stated	4		9
Total	236	100%	243

General comments

The following general comments were received from respondents.

<u>General comments</u>	
<u>Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Users & Residents Survey</u>	
<i>(Number of comments)</i>	
<i>Comment</i>	<i>Number</i>
<i>Provision of facilities / amenities</i>	
Great to have coffee shops or coffee vendor	3
More equipment and shade	2
Could have more equipment when they renovated the park 6 months ago	1
Could we have a drinking fountain or even just a water tap in the park?	1
I like the two separate areas, great shade but needs a little update and could use a mini cafe here	1
Kid & parent friendly parks great, nearby cafe is the key attraction, more picnic tables and toilet please	1
More water facilities	1
Most parks in area have good equipment	1
Need more shaded tables	1
Picnic tables and water fountains needed	1
Sand pit	1
Would like to have a water tap/fountain installed in park	1
BBQ areas would be fantastic	1
Age appropriate equipment for small kids. Fences and sand.	1
Basketball ground is too high	1
Don't want bbq	1
Hope city council can invest more money in the playground for equipment for older kids	1
Jacoby Reserve needs shade to cover equipment. Middle Park Adventure needs shade to cover picnic tables. Catani gardens should have more equipment and seating	1
Jacoby Reserve needs more equipment - too small and crowded	1
Need more basketball courts for older children	1
Looking forward to Skate Park at Albert Park Lake being built. Also believe there should be a 400m running track at Albert Park to foster children's athletics. St Vincent Gardens Park is fabulous except for aged toilet facility	1
More equipment for 6-13yo is needed	1
Need more childcare in Port Phillip	1
Need more exciting equipment for older kids - more challenge	1
Need new facilities - new table, water fountain	1
Need showers for the beach in Port Phillip	1
Please look at Gas Works Park as a priority - other areas and parks throughout Port Phillip have shade provision, water fountains and amenities	1
Plum Garland Playground's equipment is simple and busy for kids and parents, it was better before when it was more challenging than now	1
Council can put more equipment into Little Page St	1
Council provides good facilities	1
Toilet needs to be cleaner	1
Would go to playground more often if the equipment are suitable	1
Would like a fence around Albert Park Adventure Playground and a cafe night there	1
<i>Number of PlaySpaces</i>	
Hope there will be more parks in the City of Port Phillip	1
More dog parks	1
More small local one	1
Not enough local parks in Port Melbourne. Quality of parks need to be improved	1



General comments (continued)
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Users & Residents Survey
(Number of comments)

Safety and security

Dogs are a big problem, dangerous to children. Should be better policing, rules & warnings for owners	2
Need to be mindful of proximity to very busy road - security fencing?	1
Please ban dogs from this park. Dogs have made Gas works Park - which is our closest park- impossible for our children to play in. Dogs can have one week but ban them from this park.	1
Please reduce speed limit and monitor traffic around sun playground.	1
Dogs are many and widespread from house across the road which makes me afraid to send children there alone as it is dangerous	1
Footpaths need to be fixed up because kids usually fall down, put a playground along station street	1
Great to have park for dogs and children but sign to keep dogs 5m from playground impractical as my dogs can't read. If you are concerned about keeping dogs away from equipment put a fence up	1
Make playgrounds safer for kids	1
Should put frames around playgrounds to protect children from the road as there are a lot of young children in the area	1

Quality and maintenance

It is time for a renovation	1
Park could do with a clean up	1
People come to clean it very often which is good	1
Please protect all grassy areas and children's parks.	1
Some equipment -such as the spider webs - need repair	1
The area is always clean and well kept.	1
The lade needs a proper treatment	1
Would love to see it upgraded	1
Lots of rubbish in St Kilda	1
Also use the beach as a playground, it needs to be cleaner. Filter for drainage needs more maintenance. Pier at beach needs bins	1
Clean streets of elwood would be better	1
Cleaning and repair of playgrounds needs to happen more often	1
Fix the parks	1
Local playground needs to be updated - Little Finlay St and Danks St	1
Maintenance and cleanliness should be better	1
Maintenance of Neville St Playground - paint	1
More fencing needed at parks near roads	1
Retain all playgrounds for the benefit of children and local community	1
They should have someone pick up all the cigarette butts	1
Upgrades soon would be fantastic	1

Locational issues

It is nice to have a park nearby	1
Want a larger playground nearby	1



General comments (continued)
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Users & Residents Survey
 (Number of comments)



<i>Shelter / shade</i>	
It is a good playground just needs more shade	1
New trees or shade cloth needed at captain gardens- no shade.	1
Catani garden - please have more shade	1
Put more trees for shade for the climbing areas	1
Importance of shades	1
Mroe shade in Dank St	1
Shade issue is a big problem	1

<i>Structure / attractiveness of PlaySpaces</i>	
Build a bridge that connects with dog park	1
Love the idea of sand instead of tan bark	1
Make poo patrol - absolutely sick of stepping in dog poo on nature strip or at the park.	1
More green/some colour- Jacarandas, Roses. Would like it to be dog friendly	1
Path around playground was taken away which has made accessibility more difficult.	1
The park is very small, would ideally like to see more benches	1
The park should allow dogs, if the owner can show control of the animal at all times. A little paint would make the play equipment new	1
Yes it's about time to improve this park if there will be more for kids to do here then you'll see more kids coming	1
Fence at playground for dogs, community events for teenagers (13-17yrs)	1
Leave the open space alone. Need as much space or open space as possible	1
Less plastic, more natural fibres, community gardens included	1
Older children just not interested in playgrounds	1
Too simple compared to other playgrounds. Too boring for boys	1
Need more little green park for children like london	1

<i>Other comments</i>	
Park has good, secure fencing, should allow dogs off lead	3
Council could sponsor family-friendly events in playground during the week and on weekends to encourage community building, could involve families in building/planning new structure to facilitate sense of ownership, park makes me so happy to live here	1
More playgrounds like this one	1
It is hot today in Melbourne	1
Council needs to explore more parks	1
Survey too long as I am looking after a 1yo. Pity small shrubs are in the sun in summer. Love the big tree and one off play equipment.	1
Car parking is a more critical problem	1
Children too old	1
Children too young	1
Hope you do some surveys in the Station St Reserve	1
I am a runner and take the baby in stroller with me	1
Just moved to area so don't really know parks yet	1
Need survey on parking	1
Parks are important and would like to keep the parks	1
Put a ban on smoking in parks	1
The bark in the playground is not good for children's skin, it is better to have grass	1
The kids used to love the equipment when they were young	1
Good to see graffiti on equipment has been painted over but can't use equipment because paint is still wet	1





General comments (continued)
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Users & Residents Survey
(Number of comments)

<i>General positive comments / suggestions</i>	
Good to see council is taking an interest	2
Great park	2
Keep up the good work, this playground is always very clean and inviting	2
Love the park	2
Good getting to do surveys	2
A great playground and helpful staff	1
Better than England	1
Enjoyable experience	1
Good playground	1
Grandchildren love coming to this park	1
Great job, keep it up!	1
I have lived in Elwood for 11 years, I love this park and now I have a son I use it more and more	1
I think this is a lovely park for kids and we are lucky to have something so well tended in the inner city	1
It is a fabulous park, clean, fence, good view	1
It is a valuable space to improve community cohesiveness	1
It is better when the water is running into the pond	1
It is good that the council upgraded park 6 months ago	1
Just keep doing wonderful things like this park, thank you	1
Love living in an area with so many great, clean, well maintained parks	1
Love this playground to bits	1
My child always likes to come here	1
Overall this is a great place, lovely surrounds	1
Should build more gardens like this one in Victoria	1
Thanks for fixing up the sol green playground it is much better	1
The park is a vibrant space where many in the community meet and where the kids can play safely on the equipment or grass.	1
We love the botanical gardens, good job! Thank you	1
All the parks in the area are fantastic	1
Generally happy with nearby playgrounds	1
Generally very good	1
Great facilities. Very clean and good playgrounds. Thanks port phillip.	1
Ideally - safe, clean and close	1
City of port phillip has the playgrounds for small kids and so many interesting and exciting ones for the older kids over 5	1
Parks are great here. Really like Elwood Park but miss the old slide	1
Playgrounds have improved in Port Phillip. Good job	1
The park is fantastic and I will take my daughter there when she is older	1
Very well catered for	1



General comments *(continued)*
Port Phillip City Council - 2010 PlaySpaces Users & Residents Survey
(Number of comments)

General negative comments

Get rid of those stupid looking plastic/tin rings around the palm trees, let mother nature sort it out	1
I feel this park has been neglected over time and because of this people go to other parks	1
Our house backs on to park and changes effect us directly. The park is overcrowded on weekends and so often unenjoyable. The playground is pleasant but expansion would spoil that (i.e. bib, toilet facilities). Would like to be kept up to date	1
I am disappointed about not having input in parks because I don't have children. Use of reserves for running, exercise, dogs is also very important especially re julier reserve which would benefit from exercise equipment and tracks.	1
Don't charge ever to get into adventure playground	1
How does the 5m limit for dogs work at Plum Garland Playground -as 5m would almost put you on the road or the beach?	1
My 9yo enjoyed both Beaconsfield Pde and Gas Works Park before they were renovated. Now they are aimed at younger children. He finds them understimulating and will not use them	1
Parks in Elwood are not very good except for Elsternwick Park	1
We would like to use the beach near Kerferd Rd Pier - however the amount of broken glass in the sand along the shell line is very high - dangerous	1
Why doesn't council pay more attention to families? This should have been done years ago	1

											<input type="checkbox"/>
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Appendix One: Survey form



Port Phillip City Council - 2010 Play Spaces User Survey

Play Space name :

Day **Time**

1

How often do you usually visit this PlaySpace?

Every day	1	Once a month	5
Every few days	2	Rarely (<i>every few months or less often</i>)	6
Once a week	3	First visit	7
Once a fortnight	4	Can't say	9

2

How many children do you usually bring to this PlaySpace and what are their ages?

Child 1	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	Child 3	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
Child 2	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	Child 4	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>

3

How long do you usually stay each visit to this PlaySpace?

Less than 30 minutes	1	1 - 2 hours	3
30 minutes to 1 hour	2	More than 2 hours	4

4

With whom do you usually visit this PlaySpace?

(please circle as many as appropriate)

My own children	1	As a group of friends	5
My grandchildren	2	As part of a mother's group	6
A relative's children	3	I come alone	7
Other people's children	4	Other (<i>please specify</i>) _____	8

5

Are there any other PlaySpaces you usually visit, and if yes, which ones?

<input style="width: 300px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	1	<input style="width: 300px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	5
<input style="width: 300px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	2	<input style="width: 300px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	6
<input style="width: 300px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	3	<input style="width: 300px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	7
<input style="width: 300px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	4	<input style="width: 300px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	8

6

On a scale of 0 (very unimportant) to 10 (very important), how important are each of the following when choosing to visit a PlaySpace?

(please circle one number for each aspect)

	Very Unimportant			Neutral				Very Important			Can't say	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
1. That it is close to home	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
2. That it is close to child's school / kinder	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
3. That there are cafes / shops close by	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
4. That there is a connection with nature	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
5. That there are good linkages to the surrounding areas	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
6. That there is disability access	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
7. That I feel safe and secure there	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
8. That there are picnic areas / facilities	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
9. That there are drinking fountains	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
10. That the PlaySpace allows dogs	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
11. That there are bicycle paths / facilities	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
12. That there are walking paths / tracks	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
13. That there are shaded areas	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
14. That there are rest area (e.g. park benches)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
15. That there's age appropriate play equipment available	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
16. That a particular play equipment is available at the PlaySpace	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
If 16 rated 5 or more, please name equipment :												

7

Does the range of PlaySpaces currently available in the City of Port Phillip meet you and your families needs?

Yes - completely meet our needs (go to Q.9)	1	No - do not meet our needs	3
Yes - somewhat meet our needs	2	Can't say (go to Q.9)	9

8

In what way does the range of PlaySpaces currently available in the City of Port Phillip not meet your families needs?

9

On a scale of 0 (very dissatisfied) to 10 (very satisfied), how satisfied are you with the following aspects of this PlaySpace?

(please circle one number for each aspect)

	Very Dissatisfied			Neutral				Very Satisfied		Can't say		
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
1. Quality of play equipment	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
2. Range of play equipment	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
3. Quality of layout/design	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
4. Quality of landscaping	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
5. Furniture (e.g. benches, picnic tables etc)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
6. Facilities (e.g. toilets, drinking fountains etc)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
7. Suitability for child's age	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
8. Accessibility of the PlaySpace	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
9. Cleanliness	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
10. Its linkages to the surrounding area	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
11. Its connection with nature	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
12. Its safety and security	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
13. Overall satisfaction with this <i>PlaySpace</i>	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99

10

What do you think are the best aspects of this PlaySpace?

Aspect One :	
Aspect Two :	

11

What do you think are the worst aspects of this PlaySpace?

Aspect One :	
Aspect Two :	

12

Are there any improvements you believe could be made to this PlaySpace?

Improvement One :	
Improvement Two :	

13

Do you or your children have a favorite PlaySpace, if so, which one?

--

14

Is there anything at that PlaySpace that you feel should be provided at this one?

15	Gender (fill in)			
	Male	1	Female	2

16	Please indicate which of the following age groups best describes you?			
	15 to 19 Years	1	46 - 60 Years	4
	20 - 35 Years	2	61 - 75 Years	5
	36 - 45 Years	3	76 Years or Over	6

17	What is the structure of your household?			
	Two parent family (<i>youngest 0 - 4 yrs</i>)	1	1 parent family (<i>youngest 13 - 18 yrs</i>)	7
	Two parent family (<i>youngest 5 - 12 yrs</i>)	2	One parent family (<i>adult child only</i>)	8
	Two parent family (<i>youngest 13 - 18 yrs</i>)	3	Group household	9
	Two parent family (<i>adult child only</i>)	4	Sole person household	10
	One parent family (<i>youngest 0 - 4 yrs</i>)	5	Couple only household	11
	One parent family (<i>youngest 5 - 12 yrs</i>)	6	Other: _____	12

18	Do any members of your household speak a language other than English at home?			
	English	1	Other: _____	2

19	Do any members of your household have a permanent or long term disability?			
	Yes	1	No	2

20	What is your area of residence?		
	Suburb		

21	Do you have any other comments you would like to make?		

Thank you for your time and your feedback

Port Phillip City Council - 2010 Play Spaces Resident Survey

1

Does this household have children that live here or visit regularly?

Yes (*go to Q2*) 1 No (*discontinue survey*) 2

2

How often do you usually visit a PlaySpace in the City of Port Phillip?

Every day	1	Approximately once a month	5
Every few days	2	Rarely (<i>every few months or less often</i>)	6
Approximately once a week	3	Never visit Port Phillip PlaySpaces	7
Approximately once a fortnight	4	Never visit PlaySpaces (<i>go to Q.13</i>)	8

Survey staff note: If respondent visits PlaySpaces in Port Phillip go to Q.5, if they do not go to Q.3

Respondents NOT currently visiting PlaySpaces in Port Phillip

3

If you do not visit PlaySpaces in the City of Port Phillip, what are all the reasons?

(Please circle as many as appropriate)

Don't have time to take children	1	PlaySpaces are not convenient	8
Don't have time to supervise children	2	Children are too young	9
Poor facilities (<i>e.g. toilets, rest areas etc</i>)	3	Children are too old	10
Lack of disability access	4	Children do not enjoy PlaySpaces	11
PlaySpaces are too far away to visit	5	Not aware of any close by	12
Concerns about safety in PlaySpaces	6	Use facilities outside Port Phillip	13
Concerns about quality of Play Spaces	7	Other (<i>specify</i>) _____	14

4

Is there anything that could be changed or improved to encourage you to use PlaySpaces in the City of Port Phillip?

(Please circle as many as appropriate)

Playgrounds closer to me	1	Improved cleanliness	6
More nature based play	2	Improved disability access	7
Improved play equipment	3	Nothing/not interested	8
Improved facilities (<i>e.g. rest areas, toilets</i>)	4	Improved safety in PlaySpaces	9
Improved amenities (<i>e.g. cafes, shops</i>)	5	Other (<i>specify</i>) _____	10

Respondents currently visiting PlaySpaces in Port Phillip

5

Which PlaySpaces do you usually visit in the City of Port Phillip?

	1		3
	2		4

6

On a scale of 0 (very dissatisfied) to 10 (very satisfied), how satisfied are you with the following aspects of PlaySpaces in the City of Port Phillip?

(please circle one number for each aspect)

	<i>Very Dissatisfied</i>			<i>Neutral</i>				<i>Very Satisfied</i>		<i>Can't say</i>		
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
1. The number of PlaySpaces locally	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
2. The distribution / location of PlaySpaces in Port Phillip	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
3. The variety of experiences offered by PlaySpaces in Port Phillip	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
4. The range of play equipment provided	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
5. Furniture (e.g. benches, picnic tables etc)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
6. Facilities (e.g. toilets, drinking fountains etc)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
7. Design and landscaping of PlaySpaces	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
8. Accessibility of PlaySpaces	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
9. PlaySpaces linkages to the local area	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
10. PlaySpaces connection with nature	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
11. Safety and security in PlaySpaces	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99

Respondents currently visiting PlaySpaces anywhere

7

On a scale of 0 (very unimportant) to 10 (very important), how important are each of the following when choosing to visit a PlaySpace?

(please circle one number for each aspect)

	<i>Very Unimportant</i>		<i>Neutral</i>						<i>Very Important</i>		<i>Can't say</i>	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
1. That it is close to home	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
2. That it is close to child's school / kinder	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
3. That there are cafes / shops close by	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
4. That there is a connection with nature	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
5. That there are good linkages to the surrounding areas	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
6. That there is disability access	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
7. That I feel safe and secure there	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
8. That there are picnic areas / facilities	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
9. That there are drinking fountains	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
10. That the PlaySpace allows dogs	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
11. That there are bicycle paths / facilities	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
12. That there are walking paths / tracks	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
13. That there are shaded areas	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
14. That there are rest area <i>(e.g. park benches)</i>	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
15. That there's age appropriate play equipment available	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
16. That a particular play equipment is available at the PlaySpace	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
<i>If 16 rated 5 or more, please name equipment :</i>												

8

Does the range of PlaySpaces currently available in the City of Port Phillip meet you and your families needs?

Yes - completely meet our needs <i>(go to Q.10)</i>	1	No - do not meet our needs	3
Yes - somewhat meet our needs	2	Can't say <i>(go to Q.10)</i>	9

9

In what way does the range of PlaySpaces currently available in the City of Port Phillip not meet your families needs?

10

Are there any PlaySpaces outside the City of Port Phillip you regularly visit, and if so, which ones?

	1		2
--	---	--	---

11

Do you or your children have a favorite PlaySpace, and if so, which one?

12

Why is that your favorite PlaySpace?

13

Is there anything at that PlaySpace that you feel should be provided elsewhere?

14

Gender (fill in)

Male 1 Female 2

15

Please indicate which of the following age groups best describes you?

15 to 19 Years	1	46 - 60 Years	4
20 - 35 Years	2	61 - 75 Years	5
36 - 45 Years	3	76 Years or Over	6

16

What is the structure of your household?

Two parent family (<i>youngest 0 - 4 yrs</i>)	1	1 parent family (<i>youngest 13 - 18 yrs</i>)	7
Two parent family (<i>youngest 5 - 12 yrs</i>)	2	One parent family (<i>adult child only</i>)	8
Two parent family (<i>youngest 13 - 18 yrs</i>)	3	Group household	9
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One parent family (<i>youngest 0 - 4 yrs</i>)	5	Couple only household	11
One parent family (<i>youngest 5 - 12 yrs</i>)	6	Other: _____	12

17

Do any members of your household speak a language other than English at home?

English 1 Other: _____ 2

18

Do any members of your household have a permanent or long term disability?

Yes 1 No 2

19

Do you have any other comments you would like to make?

Thank you for your time and your feedback

Appendix 3 Outcomes of the Kid's consultation workshops

What makes a great play space?

Shade?

Location?

Plants?

Tell us what you think!

Equipment?



Introduction

The City of Port Phillip ran an on site exercise with 4 different schools and child care centres where large image boards with different playgrounds and play spaces were presented to students. They were asked to put stickers on their favourite images to 'vote' for them and were also given the option of writing what they liked or didn't like about the play spaces.

The images chosen were a mixture of playgrounds and play spaces from within the City of Port Phillip and outside the municipality as well. The images were a mix of what are regarded as high quality play spaces and those in need of maintenance or replacement. The images were also chosen to include more or less open space and different types of play equipment. Images of more naturalistic play spaces with little or alternate playground equipment were also chosen as well as images in alternate surroundings. E.g, beaches, parklands, suburban reserves etc. Students were not told which spaces they were looking at or where the play spaces were located.

Students were also given the option to fill in a simple questionnaire with 3 key questions to consider:

What is your favourite playground and why?

What do you like to do at the playground?

What do you want more of at the playground?

The schools and centres which participated in the exercise were:

St. Michael's Junior School

Port Melbourne Primary After School Care

Port Phillip Specialist School

Elwood Playgroup

Upon collecting the completed image boards and surveys, council also found that parents had made some comments and suggestions in the survey which we found very helpful and have compiled as well.

The following document compiles the verbatim responses from students of the 4 different schools and centres.



Votes: 8

Comments:
"Alma Rd Park"

Alma Park- COPP



Votes: 8

Comments:
"I like the crazy web"
"Web looks azome"

Caulfield Grammar



Votes: 4

Comments:
"Looks cool, also has cool things"
"There is a lot of space"

Catani Gardens Playground- COPP



Votes: 28

Comments:

"Beaconsfield Parade"

"Lots of shade"

"Secured with fencing"

"Stuff for different ages"

"Lots of things to play"

"It's right next to my house"

"Nice + shady"

"Boring"

"The sand-sand pulleys to pull up the sand"

"I like it because it is near the beach"

Plum Garland Playground- COPP



Votes: 4

Comments:

"William St"

"It's pretty"

"It's cool and pretty cool underpants"

William Street Reserve- COPP



Votes: 2

Comments:

"This looks boring"

Little Page Street Reserve- COPP



Votes: 8

Comments:

"Spinning is fun"

"So Boring!"

"I'd like to climb in the round thing"

David Garcia Drejens Playground- Denmark



Votes: 9

Comments:

"It's fun"

"Spider web looks fun"

"This is next to my house"

"The equipment"

Edwards Park Playground- COPP



Votes: 4

Comments:

Natural Playground Internet Image



Votes: 13

Comments:
"Nature-based play"
"Having a river is cool"
"Awesone"
"Boring"

Natural Playground Internet Image



Votes: 4

Comments:
"So, so boring"
"I like it for the trees and the rocks, it looks relaxing"

Natural Playground Internet Image



Votes: 6

Comments:
"Dangerous- low branches"
"Dirty, cigi butts, bottles, rubbish, smells sewage"
"Has a fish and not many works"
"Have a fish"
"I think a spinning pole looks good"
"Colourful"
"I like the slide"

Elwood Beach House Playground- COPP



Votes: 4

Comments:

"That's all!"

"Because I really like this swing"



Votes: 5

Comments:

"Play games on and around wooden car"

"So boring"

"I like the grass/ bushes"

"I like the big shady trees"

Alma Park Playground- COPP



Votes: 2

Comments:

"It looks cool :)"

"Slides and swings"

Jim Duggan Reserve- COPP



Votes: 3

Comments:
"Looks cool"

Hewisson Reserve- COPP



Votes: 7

Comments:
"Variety, colours and shade"
"Different equipment and has shaded areas"
"Lots of things on it"
"It is lovely, also lots of people like it"
"Great play equipment"



Votes: 5

Comments:
"A variety of equipment"
"So boring!"
"Cause I like the dinosaur"

Chrichton Reserve- COPP



St Kilda Adventure Playground- COPP

Votes: 4

Comments:

"The set up, trees and oval grass area"



Renfrey Gardens- COPP

Votes: 5

Comments:

"Rock climbing, this is right next to my house"



St Kilda Botanical Gardens Playground- COPP

Votes: 6

Comments:

"Looks pretty, like the bridge"

"I like the trees and the slide"

"Cause Kristen and I just like it and the two slides- we've seen it before cause we always go there"



Climbing Structure Internet Image

Votes: 11

Comments:

"All ready got it, so boring"

"I like the spiderwebs"

"I like to climb high"

"I like climbing"



Danks Street Playground- COPP

Votes: 7

Comments:

"I like this park, it has a moving train"

"I like it beacuse it has good stuff"

"This one is cool, all of it is, I would not change it"

"Because it has a taxi"

"Train!/Tram"



Garden City Reserve- COPP

Votes: 26

Comments:

"Great climbing wall"

"It's awesome"

"I like it because it's more fun for other kids! :) Lots of variety to choose. The spinning tea cup makes me sick"

"It's popular"

"I named it!"

"I like dragon park because of the flying fox and spinning cup"

"It's right next to school"

"This playground has an awesome flying fox but needs a tree house but the tea cup is awesome"

"Because you can climb"

"It's so nice"

"Colours"



Votes: 1

Comments:

"This play ground is nice it is near my house and it is simple and relaxing"

Beacon Vista Reserve Playground



Votes: 1

Comments:

"Climbing equipment"



Votes: 4

Comments:

"Colourful fishy slide, cafe close by for parents"

"So boring"

"Super boring"

"Like crocodile"

"Like lizard"

Elwood Beach House Playground- COPP



Votes: 4

Comments:

"Very boring"

"Natural equipment"

The Integrated Institution Murergården på Nørrebro- Denmark

Verbatim responses to questionnaire

What is your favourite playground and why?

"Dendy Park- shade secure, good for all ages"

"I like to sit on the grass when I need a rest or a drink" (Prep/Grade 1)

"We like lots of adventure stuff like "flying fox" climbing and we love sandpits" Group of 5 children, grades 1 & 2

"There is a park that has musical things that you can play but it's very far away" Group of 5 children, grades 1 & 2

"Middle Park Community Playground- it has lots to climb and hide and activities and it's fun"

What do you like to do at the playground?

"Climbing and playing games on the equipment" (Grade 3) x3

"I like playing tiggey on the equipment" (Prep)

"Monkey bars are great" (Grade 4)

"I don't like it if there is no shade because it hurts my eyes" (Grade 1)

What do you want more of at the playground?

"Please more nature-based play- river scapes, water activities, digging, plants, rocks etc. Our urban children need it!!! (E.g., Children's garden at Royal Botanic Gardens)"

"Sand pits" (Prep 3) x3

"Climbing Walls" (Grade 5/6) x4

"Monkey bars" (Grade 5/6) x4

"Shaded areas for parent & grandparents with/ without prams" Parent comment x5

"Shaded "chill" zones to sit and have a snack with children" Parent comment

"Dynamic rides e.g see saw"

"A laser fort"



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www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/trees

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