



Gilmour Street Reserve playspace upgrade

Community engagement report

This Colyton playspace is getting an upgrade as part of a grant from the NSW Government to upgrade 21 playspaces across Penrith.

To help inform the design for this project and ensure it meets the needs and expectations of the community, we conducted community consultation from 23 April – 12 May 2024.

We targeted 556 households within a 500 metre radius of the site with a flyer drop, as well as playspace users with on-site signage, and the local community with posters put up in the nearby convenience store, chemist, and Colyton Neighbourhood Centre. Consultation information was also shared with Team Colyton, a local community group, and Community Junction to share with their networks.

E-newsletter channels and both organic and paid social media were utilised to share our message with the broader community and relevant groups, such as Children's Services.

Council received 25 contributions including 22 survey responses, two vision board contributions, and one email response. The community shared their thoughts on the current playspace, what they'd like to see in the new playspace, and ideas for equipment and supporting infrastructure. Feedback has been captured within this report and used to identify priorities for the development of the playspace design.



Who we engaged with

In consultation for the Gilmour Street Reserve playspace upgrade, we invited contributions from the community with an online survey and vision board, as well as options to provide feedback via email, phone call, or in person.

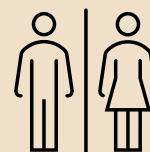
Community consultation ran for almost three weeks from 23 April – 12 May 2024. During this time, we received **25 contributions**, including 22 survey responses, two vision board contributions, and one email response.

Survey respondents included:



100% Colyton residents

Female 77%
Male 18%
Non-binary 5%

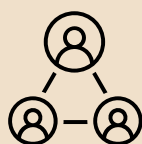


Local residents 59%*

Grandparents 14%
Parents/carers 23%
Children/teens 5%



20% parents/carers have a child living with a disability



5% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander residents

59% visit this playspace at least once a week



How we engaged

To ensure we reached a diverse audience, we undertook the following activities:

Communication Activities

Website

Your Say Penrith page: 171 views, 136 visitors, 3 new followers

Flyers

556 distributed to residents within 500 metres of site

Social media posts

1x Facebook post, 1x Instagram post and 3x Instagram stories (posts reshared by Children's Services)

16,325 impressions, 30 engagements, 87 link clicks

Posters/corflute

1x corflute on site

3x posters in local businesses

E-newsletters

1x Our Place

Engagement Activities



Online survey (22 surveys completed)



Online vision board (2 contributions)



Email (1 received)

What we heard

When survey respondents were asked on a scale of 1–10 how much they currently like the existing playspace, the average response was 2.62.

When asked what they would like to see changed in the playspace, the most common requests from all respondents were picnic tables and/or seating (40%), artificial and/or natural shade (32%), outdoor fitness equipment (28%), swings (24%), a scooter or bike track (24%), and a variety of modern equipment (20%).

A few residents requested a basketball or multi-purpose court. One resident and member of Team Colyton requested we retain the local mosaic artwork, which aligns with our current plans.

Two respondents mentioned the need to stop cars parking in the reserve.



*Email contribution: Bungarribee Park in
Western Sydney Parklands*

Parents and carers

Parents and carers were asked what they think their children would like to be able to do in their new playspace. The highest scoring responses were that their children would like to climb (7.67), slide (7) and accessible equipment (7).

Parents and carers of children living with a disability said their children would like to use their imagination, accessible equipment, slide, and play in nature.

"My child has developmental coordination disorder so physical skills are tricky for him. Things such as low to the ground balance beams (not ropes or wires as they are too tricky) trampolines and stepping stones to aid him in developing his coordination and balance skills as well as aiding him in developing his physical skills such as jumping. As well as being able to interact better with his peers."

"A bike track to little ones that are learning to ride have a safe space to play and practice encouraging balance and coordination. An area that is able to entertain under 5s whilst also keeping older siblings entertained."

Grandparents

When grandparents were asked what they think their grandchildren would like to be able to do in their new playspace, the highest scoring responses were climb (7), swing (7), slide (7), and rock (7).

"Equipment for little ones, more seating, a space for toddlers to play in like a smaller slippery dip, swings with harnesses for little children, a flying fox."

Children and teenagers

Only one respondent, representing 5% of total survey respondents, was under 18. The respondent is aged between 15–19 years old and is autistic. When asked what they would like to be able to do in their new playspace, their top responses were accessible equipment, to swing, climb, and spin. They also said "no woodchips they are horrible in playspaces".

Local residents

Outdoor fitness equipment was the most common request from local residents (38%), followed by shade (31%), picnic tables and/or seating (31%), and a bike or scooter track (31%).

"This park has big space to add new things and what I would like is for that space to be filled with many different equipments that my children can play with."

"Thank you for listening and considering our thoughts and ideas."

"It will also be good to have adult and senior exercise gym equipments. With the cost of living gone up and people cannot afford gym membership it will give our community an opportunity to stay fit and keep healthy."

"Quiet shaded areas with tables suitable for picnics or even quiet study, providing a healthy relaxing outdoor environment."

"Play equipment that is suitable for all ages its so hard to find a park that is suitable for under 5s but also able to keep older siblings entertained."

Where to from here?

Feedback and ideas received during community consultation will be used to help inform the design for the playspace in Gilmour Street Reserve, Colyton. The final design will be shared with the community.

PRIORITY #1 Climbing, swinging, sliding, and accessible equipment for a range of ages and abilities.

PRIORITY #2 Picnic tables, seating, retention of existing shade structure, and additional shade provision are the highest priorities for supporting infrastructure.

PRIORITY #3 Retain the local mosaic artwork. Explore potential for signage to explain artwork.

PRIORITY #4 Opportunities for outdoor fitness equipment and/or a track for bikes and scooters in the future.

