

A photograph of a park playground. In the foreground, there is a grassy area with some fallen leaves. In the middle ground, there is a swing set with two swings and a seesaw. The background is filled with dense green trees and bushes. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

Ranfurly Park Playground Refresh Insights Report

13 May - 3 June 2025



**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kīrikiriroa

Background

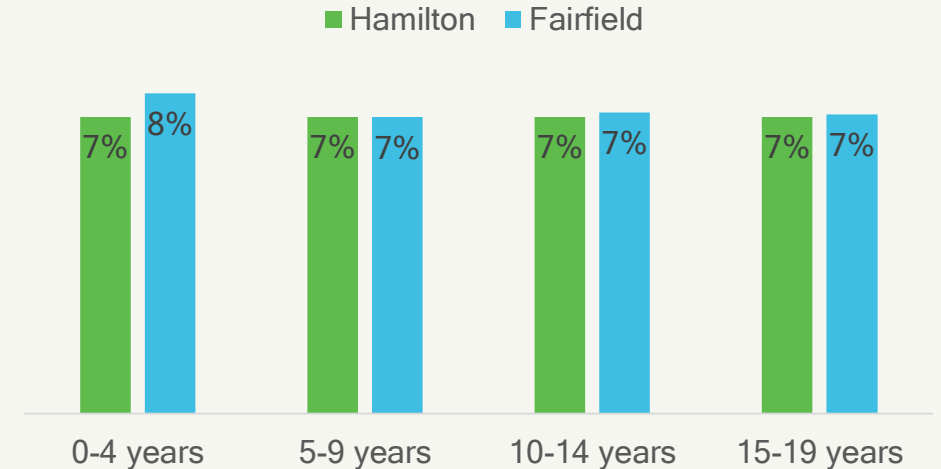
- This refresh is a part of our ongoing playground renewals programme; this programme means we look after the play spaces we have, so they will be in a good condition for the community to enjoy for years to come.
- The aim of this consultation was to hear what the community would like to see at Ranfurly Park playground. We want to make sure their voice is factored into the playground design, within our renewal guidelines.
- We sought out community views via a survey; this was available for all Hamiltonians but included targeted tactics aimed at Ranfurly Park locals.
 - Targeted tactics: letter drops to local residents, geotargeted social media advertising, signage installed at Ranfurly Park, Antenno notice to Fairfield residents, information drop-in session held at the park.
 - Widespread tactics: survey hosted on Council website, hardcopies made available in libraries and the reception of the Council Municipal building.
- This survey was live from 13 May to 3 June 2025. We received 34 responses in total.

Background

Census Facts - Fairfield

- Ranfurly Park sits in Fairfield, a suburb home to 7,986 Hamiltonians - including 1,023 families*
- About half of Fairfield's families have at least one dependent child under the age of 18
 - 306 couples with children and 255 single parents
- Compared to the rest of Hamilton, Fairfield has slightly more toddlers
 - 8% of Fairfield residents are four or younger, vs 7% of all Hamiltonians
- Fairfield residents are demographically very similar to other Hamiltonians in terms of age distribution

Proportion of population per age group



	Total population size	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years
Hamilton City	174,741 (100%)	12,075 (7%)	11,958 (7%)	12,540 (7%)	12,231 (7%)
Fairfield	7,986 (100%)	603 (8%)	558 (7%)	567 (7%)	564 (7%)

Learn more about Fairfield's population makeup [here](#) (population stats) and [here](#) (family stats)

*A family is defined by Census as a couple with or without child(ren), or one parent and their child(ren) whose usual residence is in the same household

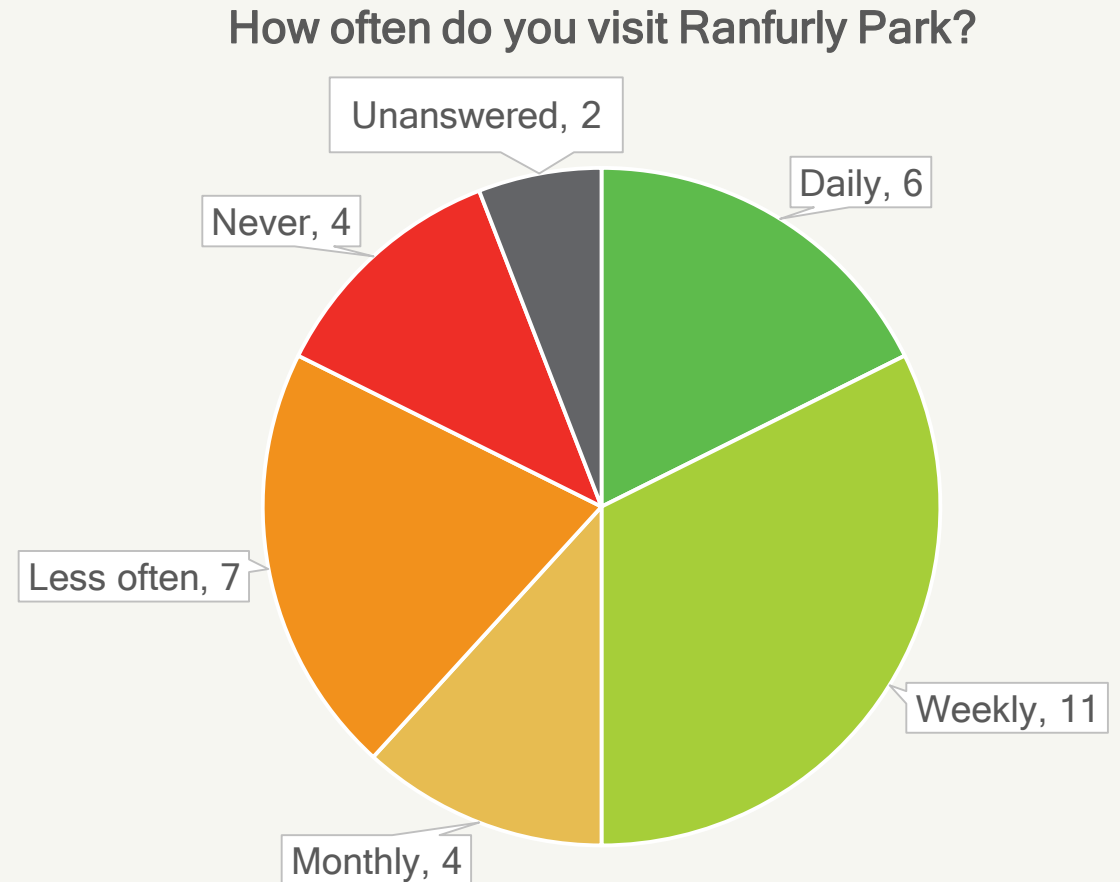
Processing feedback

- Any emails or hardcopies were entered into our online survey tool
- Duplicate responses were combined when name and email matched
- Any attachments were manually checked
- Counts and percentages were calculated using Microsoft Excel



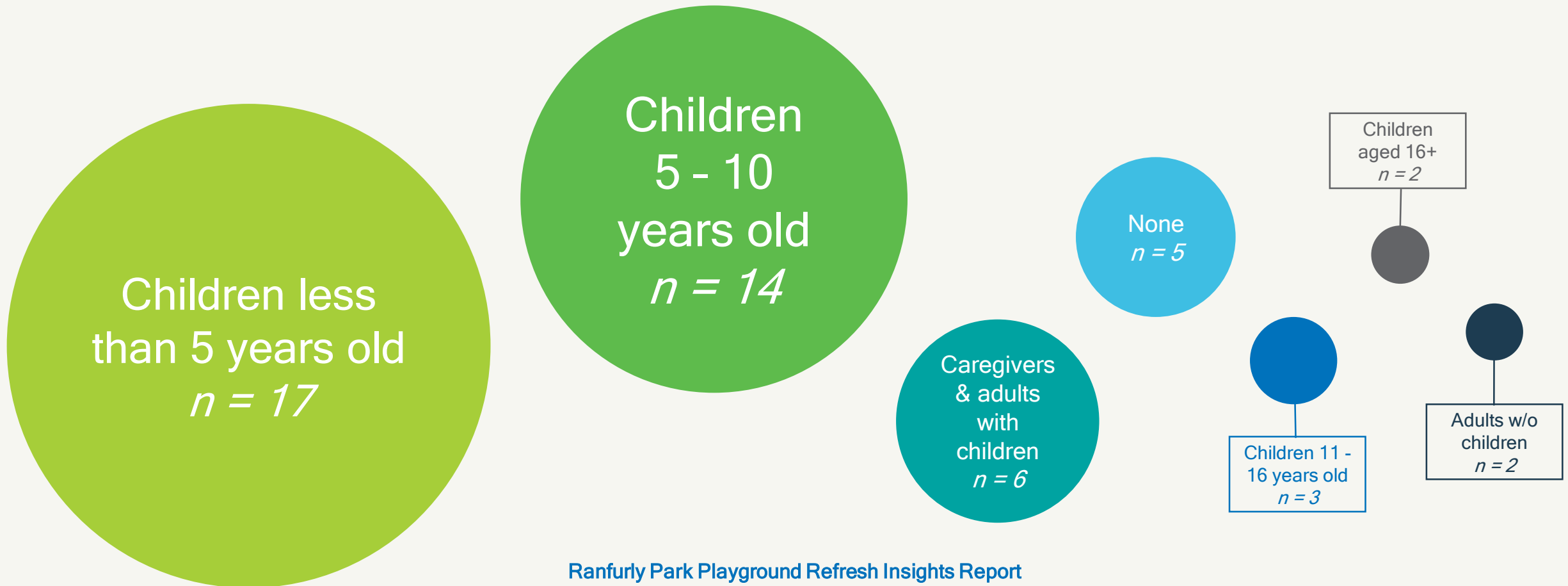
Who did we hear from?

- Most respondents (97%, n = 31) live nearby to Ranfurly Park
- About half of respondents (53%, n = 17) visit Ranfurly Park at least weekly



Who did we hear from?

“Who in your household uses Ranfurly Park playground?”



Who did we hear from?

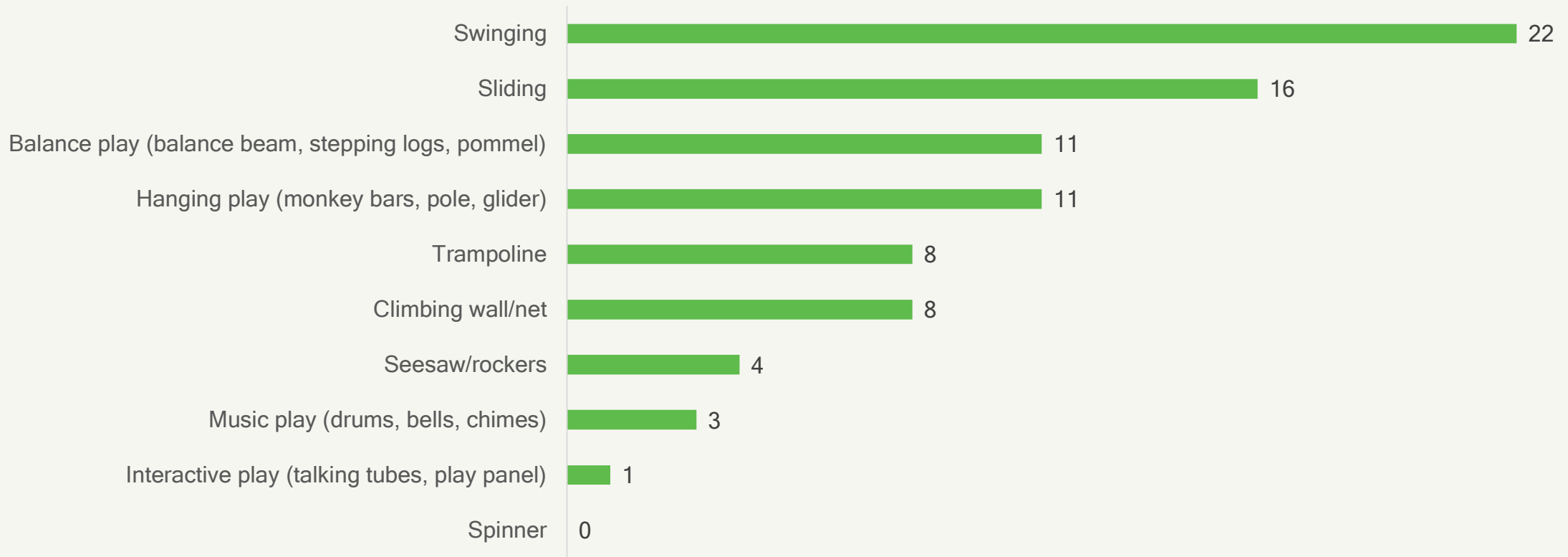
Disability

- One respondent indicated someone in their household who uses a playground has a disability or special needs.
- We asked this respondent to share some of the difficulties experienced, or may be experienced in accessing or using the park or play elements
- Their disability-specific feedback was: *“No even ground to walk over.”*



Preferred play equipment

“What play activities would you most like to see included at Ranfurly Park?”



Number of respondents who selected the play equipment in their top three picks

Preferred play equipment

By answer to “Who in your household uses Ranfurly Park playground?”



Children less than 5 years old:
Swinging



Children 5 - 10 years old:
Swinging or sliding



Children 11 - 16 years old*:
Swinging, hanging play or balance play



Children older than 16 years old*:
Swinging, hanging play or balance play



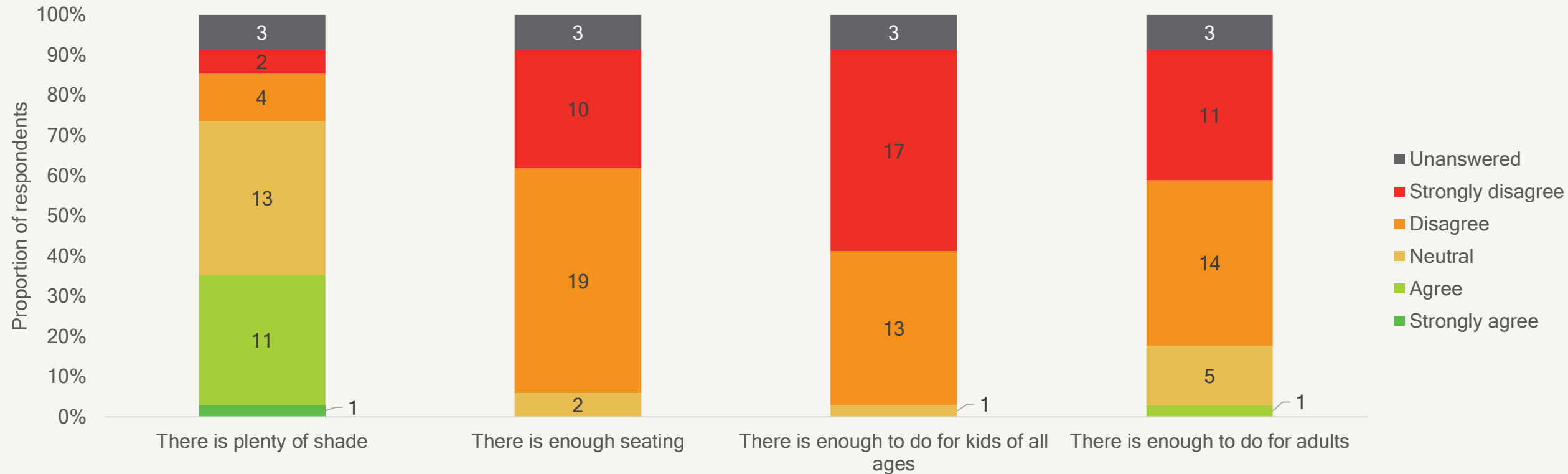
Caregivers/adults with children:
Swinging



Adults without children*:
Climbing wall/net

Views of current park

“How much do you agree with the following statements about Ranfurly Park?”



Commentary

“Do you have any other comments about the playground renewal?”



Upgrade is overdue/
anything would be an
improvement

n = 9

*“It’s always so creepy there.
A refresh would be great for
the community.”*



Concerns about
vandalism/antisocial
behaviour

n = 8

*“It would be good if it was
fenced better from the gully
or have a footpath with a
light/ camera to stop people
doing drug deals in the park/
graffiti-ing of bus stop.”*



Playground needs
more colour/fun

n = 7

*“I think it also needs more
colour! My kids always ask to
go to Woodstock school as
that playground looks
colourful and fun whereas
Ranfurly park looks super
sad and abandoned”*



Add more for young
children/toddlers

n = 6

*“Would be great to see this
playground upgraded to be
more suitable for
toddler/preschooler
children. It would be great to
see something for the
younger kids in the area.”*

Feedback from organisations

Submission by Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) New Zealand

We received only one submission from an organisation, which was the Disabled Persons Assembly New Zealand. Their key recommendations for the playground refresh were:

Recommends that all playground equipment is diverse, inclusive and accessible for everyone, including disabled children.

Hard surface footpaths from footpath to play equipment is essential in providing good accessibility for everyone, including disabled children, within these playgrounds.

Recommends the installation of a sensory hut, ideal for use by neurodiverse children.

Asks that accessible toilets and changing facilities be installed at the playground.

Recommends that, if picnic tables are installed at the playground, that at least one is made accessible for wheelchair and mobility aid users.

Recommends that seating of various heights is installed at the playground. This will assist with people being able to get on and off benches/seating easily.

Asks that at least one mobility parking space is created in any car parks associated with the playground.

Feedback from community meetings

Information drop-in session hosted at Ranfurly Park

- Three individuals attended
- Attendees were provided with hardcopy submission forms, and these were compiled with other hardcopy and digital survey responses for analysis
- Attendees also provided some general verbal feedback. The themes from these comments were:
 - Desired seating
 - Often see kids waiting by the playground to get picked up from Woodstock School
 - Felt the trees around the playground were unsafe
 - Vandalism is frequent in the area; it would be good to have fire-proof equipment and secured seating
 - Excited for the playground upgrade and appreciative of Hamilton's playground provision

Summary of key findings



Mostly heard from locals with young kids who visit the park at least monthly



Most desired play equipment pieces:
Swinging, sliding, balance play, hanging play



Ranfurlly Park is near the Woodstock School playground - some believe this makes the upgrade unnecessary; others argue it's an opportunity to introduce play equipment catered to under-five-year-olds who can't use Woodstock School's playground, which is currently more tailored to older kids



Safety was a major concern. Vandalism, antisocial behaviour and a road nearby made respondents nervous about using the playground

What's next?

Council will consider this feedback when designing a refreshed playground for Ranfurly Park, within our renewal guidelines.

The final playground design is expected to be confirmed September 2025, with construction scheduled for February - April 2026.