



Ashurst Park playground refresh survey results

1 July – 22 July 2026



**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

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 Ashurst 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 Ashurst Park (Pukete) locals.
 - Targeted tactics: letter drops to local residents, geotargeted social media advertising, signage installed at Ashurst Park, Antenna notice to Pukete 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 1 July to 22 July 2026. We received 96 responses in total (94 individuals and 2 organisations).

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
- Free text comments are reported in full

Background

Census Facts - Pukete

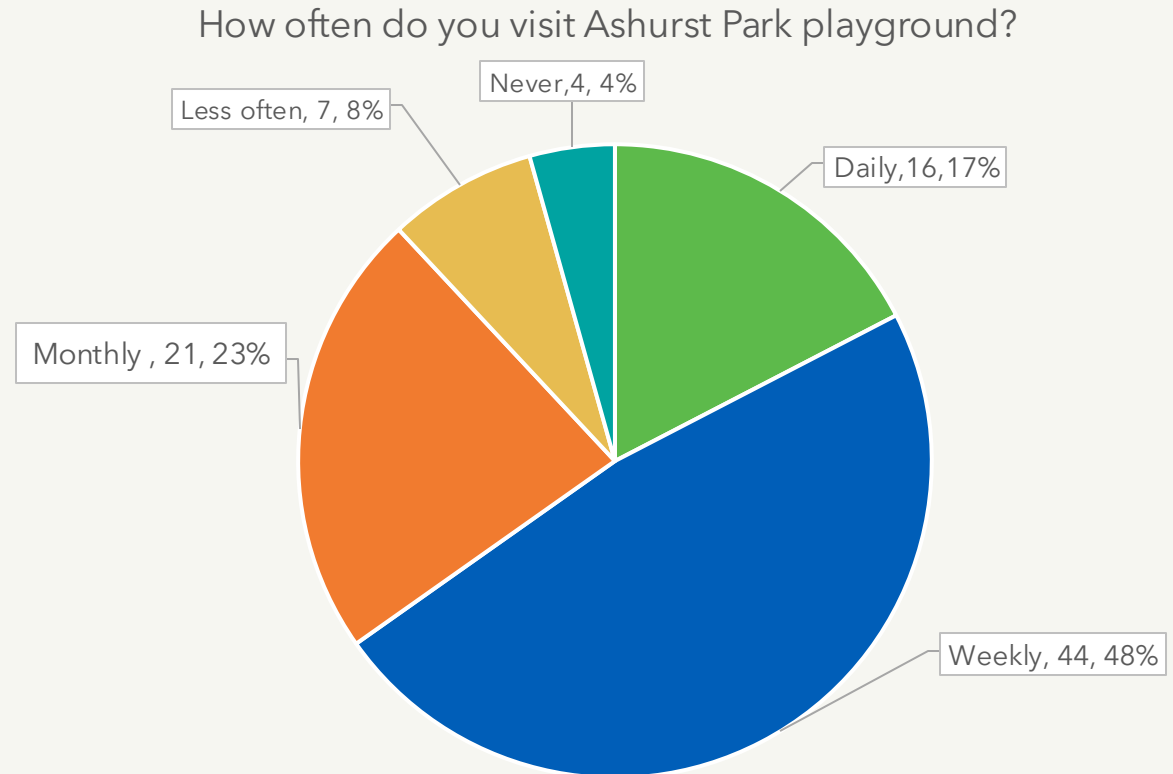
- Ashurst Park sits in Pukete, a suburb home to 4,716 Hamiltonians – including 1,284 families*
- About half of families have at least one dependent child under the age of 18
- Pukete's makeup of children is demographically very similar to other Hamiltonians in terms of age distribution

	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%)
Pukete	4,716 (100%)	330 (7%)	387 (8%)	348 (7%)	330 (7%)

*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

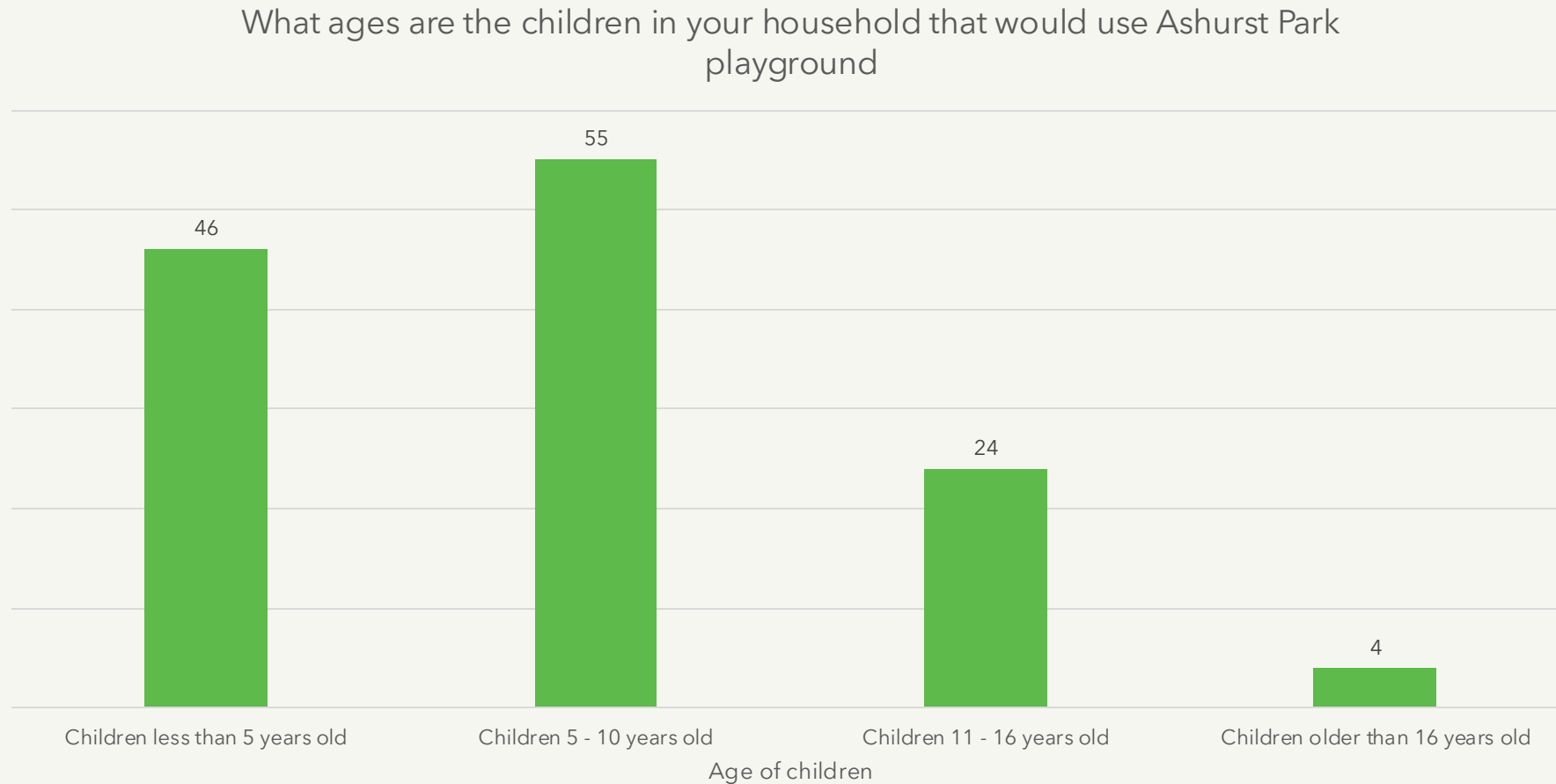
Who did we hear from?

- 91% of respondents (n = 85) live nearby to Ashurst Park
- 65% of respondents visit Ashurst Park at least weekly



Who did we hear from?

Age of children



Who did we hear from?

Disabilities

- Two respondents indicated someone in their household who uses a playground has a disability or special needs.
- Their disability-specific feedback was:

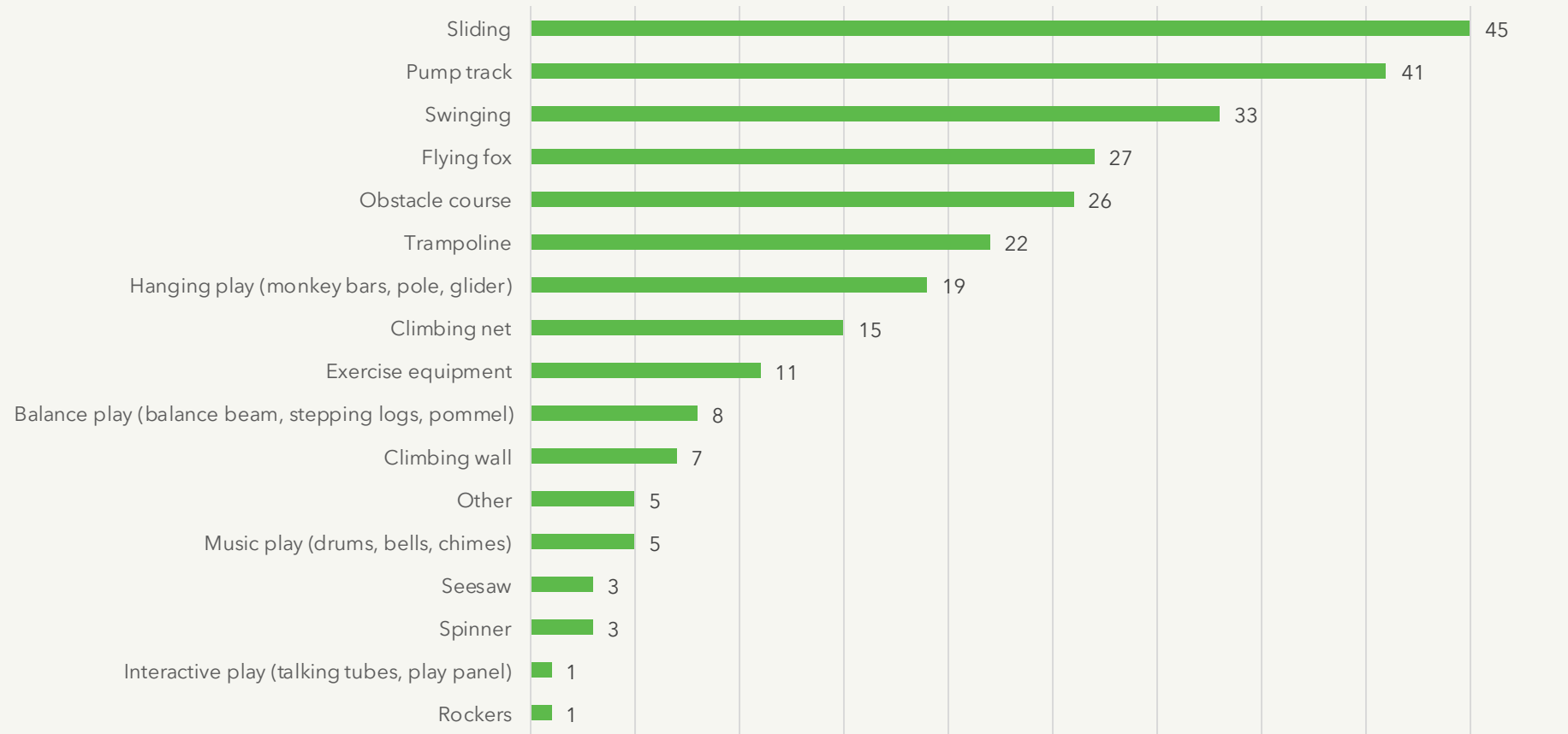
I care for a child in a wheelchair and a child with ASD who is a runner

just wanting it to be more accessible with tactile markers etc, clear pathways, maybe even tactile path?

totally blind, having clear pathways and areas that are safe to play in

Preferred play equipment

Which play activities would you most like to see included at Ashurst Park playground?



Preferred play equipment

Top three preferences by respondent's child's age



<5 years old

- Sliding (n=31)
- Pump track (n=22)
- Swinging (n=21)



5 – 10 years old

- Sliding (n=31)
- Pump track (n=27)
- Obstacle course (n=20)



11 – 16 years old

- Sliding (n=18)
- Pump track (n=18)
- Trampoline (n=11)



16+ years old

- Pump track (n=7)
- Sliding, swinging, flying fox, obstacle course (n=5)

Do you have any other comments about the playground renewal?

All comments

Didn't know there was a toilet here - want for signage to let people know there is a toilet at the park
Grateful for the playground and gets lots of use

I would like to see more shade
Better marked scooter track crossings where track intersects main path through playground
Flying fox - please keep and make it a bit easier for kids to get on and take it back up to the top - 7 year old cannot bring it back to top or get on without parental help
Likes the corkscrew fireman's pole to slide down
Like playing shops at the shop window in the module

Pump track is cool, and the wide open fields. More for smaller children to do, swings are good but swings plus the green cricket are about the only thing for babies/toddlers. Please keep the flying fox, but can you put some rubber around the pole? I live right next door to the park and kids continually bang the seat against the pole, after the first hour on a sunny Saturday I'm over the noise! Was awful trying to get my child to sleep when she was a baby!! Can you also implement something so the dirt bikes can't get into the park?? They go into the park almost every weekend in summer, drive around kids and dogs, zip up the road and past the playground really fast. I've seen them intimidate park patrons and almost hit children on multiple occasions!

Toilet block?

This is our nearest playground from home but it is very old and sad, we would love if it got a refresh! Please keep the biketrack. Pukete kindy also have a family picnic night once a year here its so great! The flying fox is too high to get onto, i even see older kids having to help eachother use it. A very busy playground for sure.

Please keep the flying fox! It's the part me and my kids look forward to at the park the most

My kids would like to keep the lay out very similar flying fox, scooter track, swings etc as we spend many hours there but I think it could benefit with some slides and some form of playground. Also I would recommend keeping the space quite open as unfortunately there can be some antisocial behaviour there on a semi regular basis.

Do you have any other comments about the playground renewal?

All comments

i would like thought and action put in to a versatile space for all ages, having space like basketball space and exercise equipment will help support all ages and a place for rangatahi to hang out in a positive way with friends, exercise equipment for adults to improve health and wellbeing. Definitely need more rubbish bins. leaving the space open as it is not gated!

This playground is due for a major refresh. We have been living here for over 8 years and in its current design it's suited for over 12s and under 2s. There is not much for the inbetween ages. We find ourselves going to rototuna library playground instead which is meaning a drive instead of a short walk. There is plenty of space for an epic sized playground and pump track. This would get utilized way more especially over winter with the northern united football teams families around on the weekends

I have a 5 month old baby. Would be great to have equipment included for young children under 5 to use

My kids love the monkey bars. But I don't know what the extension is after they get bored with monkeying. Is there a playground activity for kids who want to take monkey barring to the next level? If so, could that please be added to the list.

Ashurst went from having a playground that everyone was envious of to this current one. A lot of the equipment there isn't used as kids don't enjoy it. The main things they like is the flying fox, swings, the climbing nets in the middle and the tractor. It seems more aimed for older kids. The bike track round it is good except for the fact that it goes through the exits and entrances which can make it quite dangerous with little kids

I think bike/scooter racks would be a good idea as family's bike there to just kick a ball around.

Save \$\$ Keep the flying fox (rare for playgrounds), climbing frames, swings and little pump track please. Add on to this pump track theme with a train track you have the perfect concrete loop in the middle to do so already. The tractor is dangerous for toddlers (needing a parent to quickly transit around all four sides and often vandalised).

Would love to see better parking spaces and a scooter track

Do you have any other comments about the playground renewal?

All comments

Child request: Dual flying foxes, Improved scooter track, Seesaws, Outdoor gym equipment, Frisbee golf cages around the entire Ashurst park. With the size of the park space there, please make it like one of the big cool destination playgrounds (Callum Brae, Crawshaw, etc) rather than the piddly mini ones (Cullimore, etc). In doing so, could probably get away with making one side of it a carpark.

Maybe a skateboard bowl, a drinking fountain

A basketball hoop would cater to all ages. Even though a pump track is present, as a user it hasn't been designed correctly. So a better designed pump track would be great.

Be lovely to have refreshed playground with some equipment for children of all ages. Would be nice to have shade sail on anything that gets super hot in summer (like slides/metal bars). The flying fox is well liked as is bike/pump track - would be good to keep these features, just refreshed.

The separate areas are great, but there's no safe baby swing, there is no slide, and there should be a toddler area as well as an older primary aged area. Separating by specific areas of play is better than age separation as most families have children of different ages.

Please ensure good shade and rubbish facilities

The flying fox currently at the park is fantastic. All other play equipment is great for kids under 10ys old. The only thing it currently lacks is a trampoline. The one thing that would be great is a toilet (just a single one) open every day during daylight hours

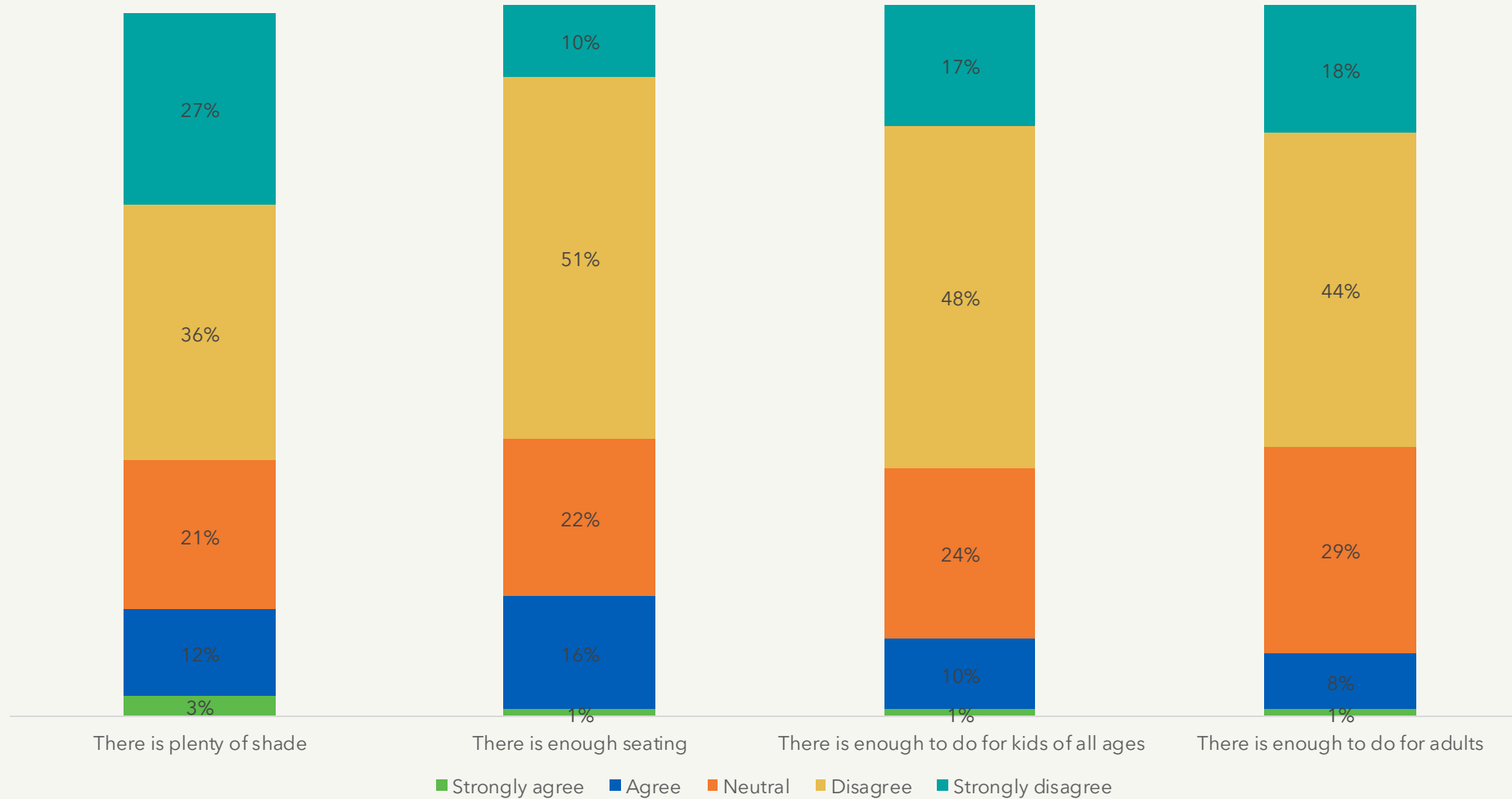
Please keep the pump track, the flying fox is also really cool. Those are the two main things we use regularly.

It's a great space for children with a lot of potential it'd be nice to see new things the kids could play on.

The lack of any shade at Ashurst playground is a real issue. We live just around the corner but in the heat of summer we never visit the playground. The main reason for this is that the playground is unusable in the hot weather, due to there being zero shaded areas. The play equipment gets burning hot. It would be great to have some parts of the playground under a shade sail, so it could be enjoyed in every season. Thank you.

Views of current park

How much do you agree with the following statements?



n=92

Do you have any other comments about the playground renewal?

All comments

Love the bike track already there. Needs a slide.

Would like to see more shade around the park please. A slide would be nice for the kids as well as trampolines.

just wanting it to be more accessible with tactile markers etc, clear pathways, maybe even tactile path?

We play here daily and take our dogs a water fountain for humans and igs would be awesome to have as well more shade too as the couple of trees around isnt enough shade for family's maybe even a bbq at this park could be a great way to bring more family's to the park. My daughter has requested money bars. The pump track that is there is great for adults and kids alike so as long as they dont down grade it to make it smaller for kids as it surrounds the whole park and keep the flying fox that's there its a great flying fox

Why are you spending on this project when the city is broke. Cease all unnecessary spending until the cost of living crisis is under control. Learn to say NO.

I received mail in the post tonight about my thoughts on the planned refresh for Ashurst Park Playground. As someone who often walks through it on daily walks, I believe its current state is fit for purpose and does not require any refresh. As a rate payer, I do not support the use of my rates (which are ever increasing year to year) being used to support these projects when we haven't got the essentials sorted such as basic infrastructure (safe roading), Public transport and water services. It was disappointing to see again how our rates are being used to support projects such as these when rates are being hiked +10% or more each year. Understandable if these funds are pre-planned however could be better used to get the basics sorted, maybe then we could consider the extra frills such as playground refreshers. As it stands now, no, absolutely not.

My daughter's syndicate (year 3 and 4) at Te Rapa Primary often visit Ashurst Park Playground as part of Friday Fun (free choosing), so it would be great if the elements of the new playground were age appropriate and able to cater to a whole class of children.

I have one that I really would like to see put there, toilets would be awesome, saves children who live near by having to rush home or peeing in the bushes. My sons said that they wished there was slides and more things to climb, they love using bike track.

It would be great to see a mix of equipment that is for a range of ages especially since young children go there under 4 and then also older, the flying fox is a massive attraction and it would be great to continue to have that there as well, as all ages can enjoy this. More shade and a more family friendly environment would be great.

More for little people under 5. This is a great playground on many levels. Keep the scooter track, flying fox and climbing centre structure. Just do up the middle ring to include a range of levels for under 6.

Do you have any other comments about the playground renewal?

All comments

This park does have a good range of equipment for different ages however they are outdated & there is plenty of space to utilize, also some shaded seating & eating areas would be nice.

This has the space to be a destination playground. Tall slides, epic obstacles, things kids love, i selected musical stuff over obstacles in the above. Selecting only three is a bit short sighted too. One of my child's favorite playgrounds in hamilton is callum brae park

Please make toddler friendly (under 2s)

My kids love the flying fox, if we could get a playground that kids under 5 could play on - maybe some slides more things for kids to play on and maybe exercise machine for us adults to join in :) we love Ashurts Park its only a 5 minute walk from home.

The flying fox is one of our favourite parts of the park

Please try putting more play elements, shades, also keeping an eye as some thing look little rusty and mouldy.. thanks for all the hard work you put in keeping the community safe and happy..

It's time you stopped inventing new ways to squander Ratepayer money. Upgrade it by all means, but DO NOT go over-the top like you've done for many other projects!!!

A proper shaded area please.

Needs some more shade and a seating area for pram and adults. Seperate flying fox with wall or planting like Claudelands/caluum brae

We need more shades, definately need bike track.

Would love to keep the Flying fox that is already there. Toilets are a necessity. More activities for a wider range of ages. More shade around the actual playground area

This is a great park and the flying fox is very popular. Thanks for maintaining our park!

This park needs an update. It is a great space but very boring for the ammount of kids that use it there are lots of locals that would use it a lot more if there was more to do!

My 5 year old absolutely loves riding his bike/scooter on the existing track, please keep that! Currently no slide, so please add one for toddlers and one for older kids.

Do you have any other comments about the playground renewal?

All comments

There is so much space to use why not use lots as there are the fields at the back. Could have different areas like the old wooden days. Where are the slides!! It's currently very designed for smaller children. Shade sail picnic areas be nice. Perhaps a toilet that's not a huge walk over to PNH

My 5 year old absolutely loves riding his bike/scooter on the existing track, please keep that! Currently no slide, so please add one for toddlers and one for older kids.

We rarely ever visit because there is so little for small children to do and the park is often in such disrepair that it's pointless. If it was clean with no dog faeces smeared all over the playground (this has happened on multiple occasions) we would visit more. There is opportunity to make it a great park for multiple age groups

A feature like what Fairfield Park has got skate/scooter bowl and basketball court/hoop would really benefit the community and wider community..bit more shading and seating as well, and some exercise equipment for the public to use would also be a big advantage, some slides and seesaw for the toddlers and an obstacle course for all ages except babies and toddlers of course. I have lived in Pukete for 20yrs and I really believe these things would be very beneficial to the community and wider communities as well

This is long overdue our only good park nearby is The Base and ideally we don't have to go to a shopping complex to get outside.

Drinking fountain, shade and toilet facilities would be good. More signage encouraging people to pick up their dog poop too.

It's great it is happening but maybe something closer to PNH would be better.

Excited about a refresh it's long overdue. We could do with a decent fence at the entrance to keep motorbikes and vehicles out. My children love climbing the nets but recently were reluctant to let them on as they are in such disrepair.

Will need more rubbish bins, as there is only one bin which always overflows.

I think too many people have their dogs off leash at Ashurst Park. Maybe more signage and stronger policing?

Need toilets. The amount of kids I've seen disappearing into the bushes to go to the loo is disgusting. Definitely toilets.

Already a great park with a wide range of activities.

Do you have any other comments about the playground renewal?

We have Swinging, flying fox and others, please remains.

Are you able to update more of the following please?

- 1) Extra one Flying fox- Made it triple lines (two standards/normal, one for disability with sitting)
- 2) Trampoline x 2
- 3) Exercise equipment for adults and senior / disability
- 4) BBQ areas, under the trees, close to the files
- 5) 2m high Solar panel of water sprinkles
- 6) Extending the scooter/bike traps
- 7) Skateboarding, close to the front road
- 8) High sliding with claiming rocks, money bars, obstacle course, like Nawton but better one
- 9) Duo- Riding a (an Old) bicycle to create solar energy
- 10) Public toilets x2 + disable wheelchairs access.

Feel free to contact me via email only

It's sad there's no slide, the rocket is a nice touch and is used very well by many it just needs a slide coming off it. A pump track and basket ball hoop put there would definitely minimize the amount of times the local children use pukete primary schools bike track and basketball court in the after hours, and also who doesn't love an exercise gym added to the playground where adults can also enjoy .. personally, my children love all the above plus the running wheel that is at rototunas calum brae park .. ashurst is becoming very popular now with the wonderful well looked after with our sports players, love it!

1. Slide/Aluminum type like the one at lake, they're the best type
2. Pump track/ you must see the one at pukete school it is very impressive, would love that kind of track merging into a more advanced track.
3. Exercise gym merge into small obstacle course or something.
4. BasketBall hoop
5. Running wheel x2, one is not enough but must be like calumbraes wheel not like the ones at the base
6. Interactive play. A wall connect four, We really enjoy playing connect four, there is one at Callumbrae it is the best, the one at claudland's used to be better, but it was removed once the new playground upgrade took place.

These are the 6 things I would love to see put in place but it's more like 5 things, because the slide shouldn't be counted as an option it should just already be there as well as public toilets.

Thankyou,
Kind regards
Rawinia Keefe

1 Keep the flying fox, in fact having 2 side by side would be great fun for children to race their friends. People come from all over Hamilton for the flying fox.

The ½ families also enjoy it.

2 I would love to see 2 new slides replaced with a long one like the slide at Hamilton lake and a small one for smaller children.

3. A cycle track around the outside of the park or nearby would be great for 9-15 year olds, as many of the children in the area are growing older. The scooter track is still a favorite with many.

4. A theme would be great for Ashurst park

Perhaps a pirate ,wildlife ,or somewhere something else you think would be good?

Whoever has been refreshing many of the Hamilton park have shown some great ideas.

Eg. A slide could come down a ' back and children could climb up inside the giraffe.

5. Exercise stations could be set up with instructions around the outside of the park.

Te Rapa School children might enjoy also enjoy these activities.

6. The swings like the flying fox have children waiting to have a turn.

Keep them or update them.

7. Different height of wood which make different drum sounds and they could walk on them.

Feedback from community drop-in

One-hour information drop-in session hosted at Ashurst Park playground

Attendees:

Approximately 13 individuals (three families with kids under 10, and three residents bordering park without kids)

Feedback:

- Was informed by a few different attendees that there are groups that come to the playground.
- Was told the playground is used by a wide range of ages.
- All attendees gave great feedback for the pump track and the flying fox, and requested these items are kept.
- Some people are not aware there are toilets attached to the changing room - feedback was that it would be helpful to have signage to let people know there is a toilet at the other side of the park.

Feedback from organisations

Te Kohao Health

"Make the No Vaping signs more prominent and clearly visible throughout Derby Park. Consider also reinforcing the existing No Smoking and No Vaping policy across all Hamilton City Council-owned properties, parks, and the CBD through consistent, highly visible signage. Enhance the park's cultural identity by incorporating meaningful Māori art and te reo Māori throughout the space. Consider using pūrākau (traditional historical narratives) from Ngāti Māhanga to celebrate the area's history, strengthen cultural connections, and create a more engaging and educational environment for visitors."

Mr Twist

"Why is there a need to change this playground? My kids love it just as it is, the surfboard the zip line the climbing tower and round swings. I own Mr Twist ice cream shop in Garden place and the CBD is in desperate need of a playground outside the library in garden place. I understand one is getting built on the outskirts on the old founders site which will have little benefit to the struggling CBD shops not to mention surrounded by very busy roads. How is there money to be re-doing playgrounds that are perfectly fine but none for where a new playground is actually needed to try bring families back to the CBD"

Summary of key findings



Mostly heard from locals with kids under 10 who visit the park at least weekly



Sliding, pump track and swinging were most the popular play equipment people want to see in the park



Many respondents say there is not enough shade at the park, or seating.

Engagement

Tactics + results

Engagement tactics



Love to play?
Have your say!

Ashurst Park playground refresh
Visit hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay by 22 July 2026.



Love to play?
Have your say!

We are planning to refresh the playgrounds at **Derby Park** in Nawton, **Donny Park** in Chartwell and **Ashurst Park** in Pukete, and want to hear your thoughts!

How do you currently use the playgrounds?
What play equipment would you like to see?
Have your say by 22 July 2026.



Love to play?
Have your say!

We will soon be refreshing the playground at **Ashurst Park** in Pukete and would love to hear what you want included.

Have your say by 22 July 2026:

- online at hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay
- at your local library or the Council building on Anglesea Street
- at our drop-in session at Ashurst Park playground on **Saturday 18 July, 10am-11am**

Or scan me!



07 838 6699
info@hcc.govt.nz
HamiltonCityCouncil
hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay



Love to play?
Have your say!

We will soon be refreshing this playground and would love to hear what you'd want included.



Scan the QR code or visit hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay by 22 July 2026.

07 838 6699
info@hcc.govt.nz
HamiltonCityCouncil
hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay



Engagement results

Reached

Heard about the consultation

- Letter drop to 320 nearby properties
- Signage in park
- Meta advertising targeted to surrounding area
- Antenno message to suburb
- Posters and letters delivered to nearby schools and ECEs
- Posters in libraries

Engaged

Sought more information

- 118,958 impressions and 929 link clicks on Meta ads
- 99 views and 30 link clicks on Antenno message
- 170 views on our consultation page

Heard

- 94 individuals provided feedback
- 2 organisations provided feedback

What's next?

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

The final playground design is expected to be confirmed in October/November 2026, with construction scheduled for March to May 2027.