



Caernarvon Park Playground Refresh Insights Report

13 May - 3 June 2025



**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kīrikiriroa

Background

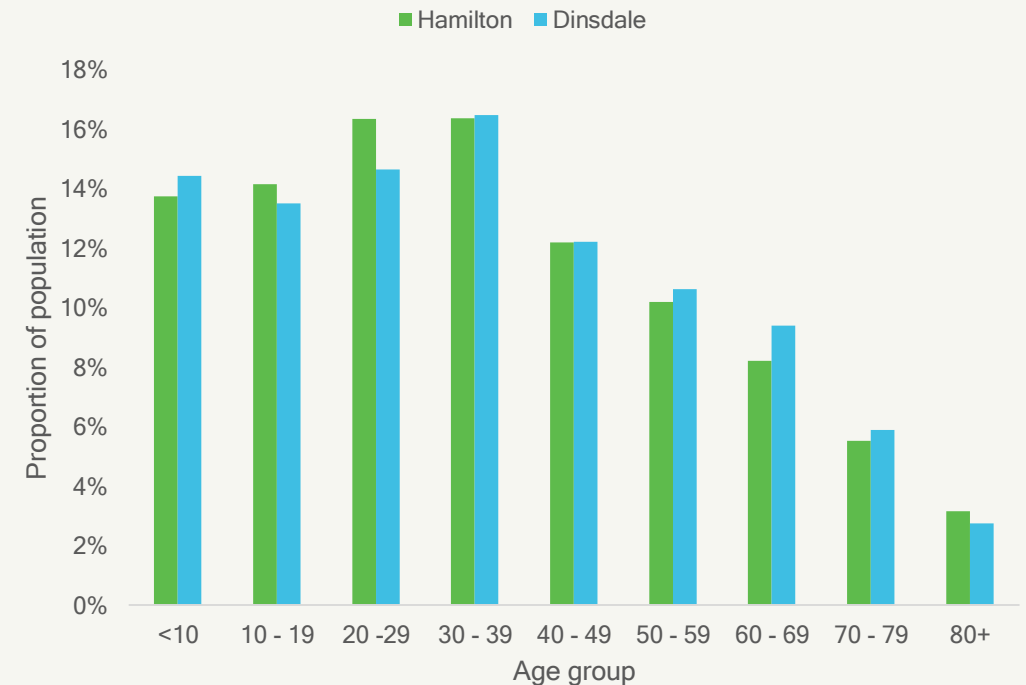
- This refresh is a part of our ongoing playground renewals programme; this programme means we look after the play spaces we have, so they will be in a good condition for the community to enjoy for years to come.
- The aim of this consultation was to hear what the community would like to see at Caernarvon 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 Caernarvon Park locals.
 - Targeted tactics: letter drops to local residents, geotargeted social media advertising, signage installed at Caernarvon Park, Antenno notice to Dinsdale 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 47 responses in total.

Background

Census Facts - Fairfield

- Caernarvon Park sits in Dinsdale, a suburb home to 8,100 Hamiltonians - including 2,052 families*
- About half of Dinsdale's families have at least one dependent child under the age of 18
 - 729 couples with children and 279 single parents
- Dinsdale's children are of a similar age to the rest of Hamilton
- Dinsdale residents generally tend to be older than other Hamiltonians
 - 29% of Dinsdale residents are in their fifties and older, compared to 27% of all Hamiltonians

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%)
Dinsdale	8,100 (100%)	588 (7%)	582 (7%)	579 (7%)	516 (6%)

Learn more about Dinsdale'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

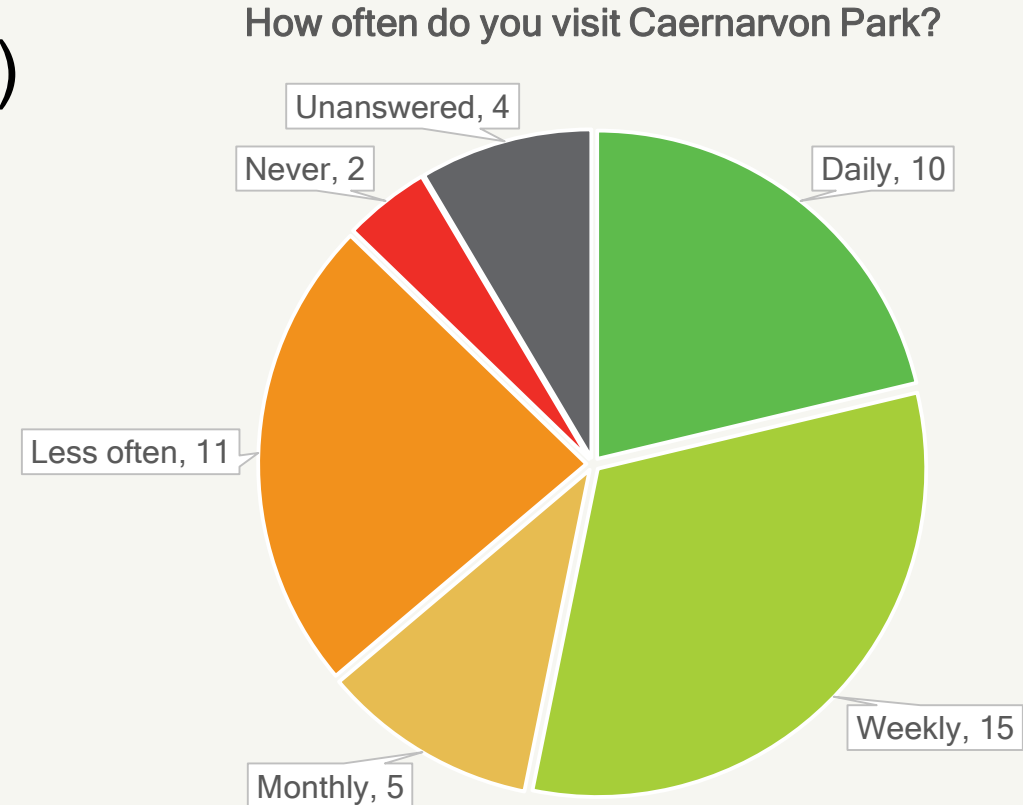
Processing feedback

- 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



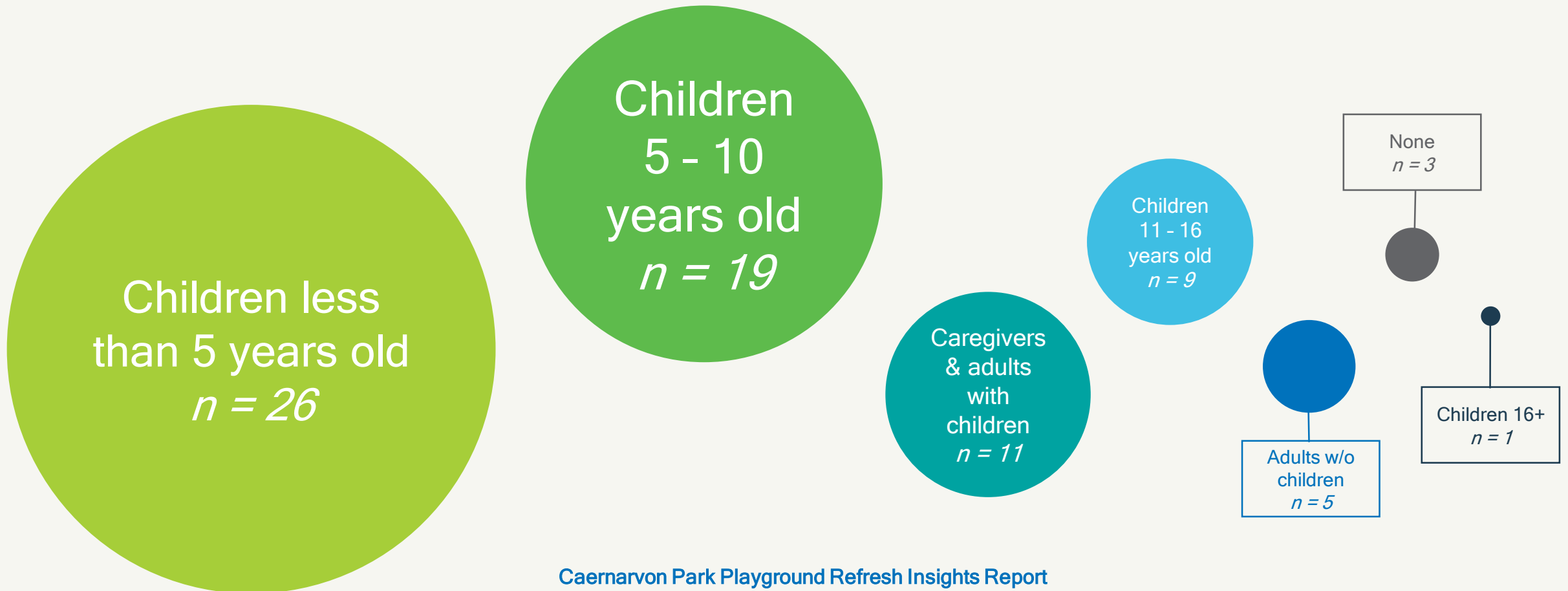
Who did we hear from?

- Most respondents (94%, n = 44) live nearby to Caernarvon Park
- About half of respondents (57%, n = 27) visit Caernarvon Park at least weekly



Who did we hear from?

“Who in your household uses Caernarvon Park playground?”



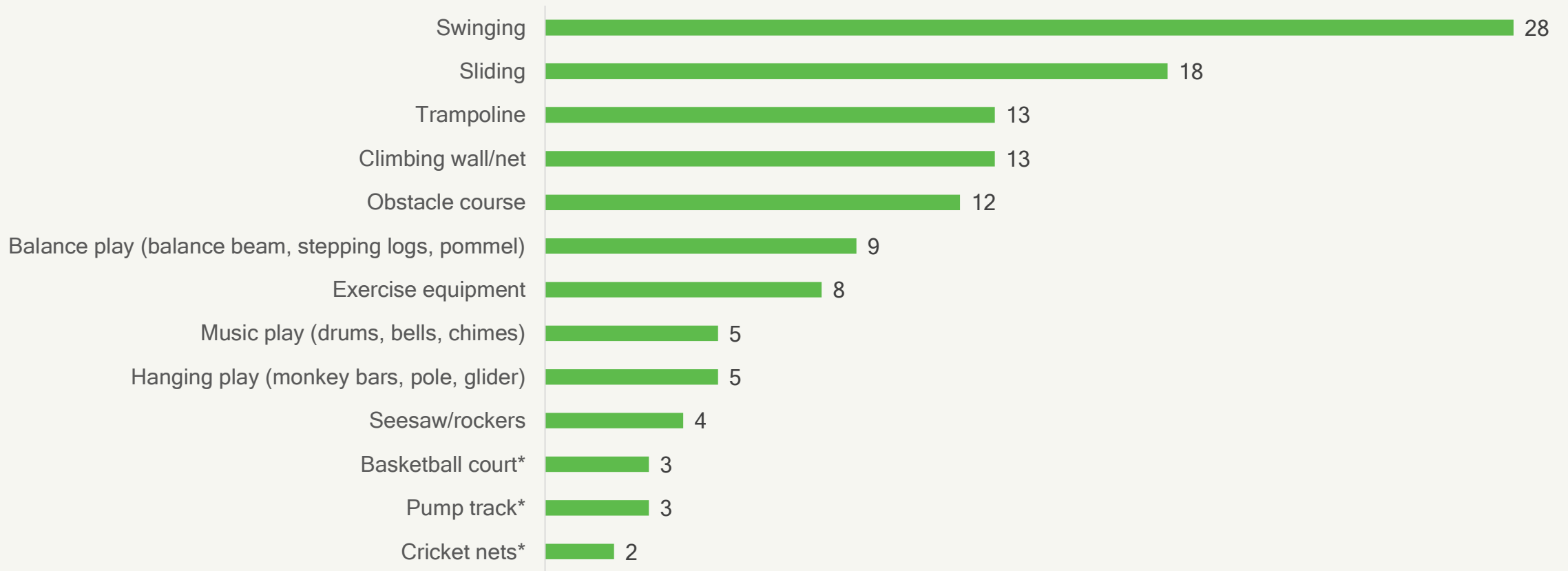
Who did we hear from?

Disability

- Two respondents 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:
 - *“We prefer to come to Caernarvon Park, rather than Swarbrick which is closer to us, as it is a lot safer and easier (especially concerning parking) with our autistic children.”*
 - *“It’s such a tiny pathetic playground. There’s a huge amount of space for it to be bigger and better. It should be fully fenced so it is safe from dogs and for kids who have no safety awareness.”*

Preferred play equipment

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



Number who selected the play equipment in their top three picks

Preferred play equipment

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



Children less than 5 years old:
Swinging



Children 5 - 10 years old:
Swinging



Children 11 - 16 years old:
Swinging, climbing, obstacle course, exercise equipment



Children older than 16 years old*:
Basketball court



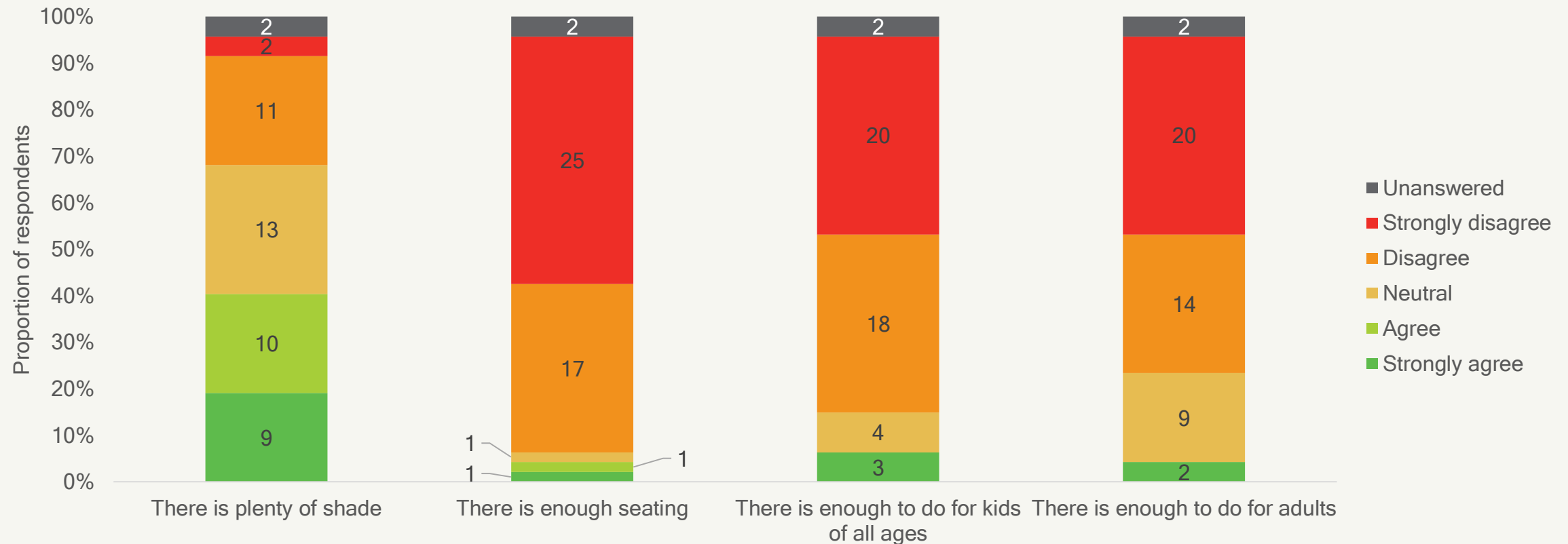
Caregivers/adults with children:
Swinging



Adults without children:
Swinging, trampoline

Views of current park

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



Commentary

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



Upgrade is overdue/ excited for the refresh

n = 17

“The park is in a great location, be great to have more than a little wooden playground. Thanks”



Desire for seating or a picnic area

n = 12

“Personally I think the current playground is great and would be enhanced by adding a few extra elements like a bench seat and a picnic table or two”



Love the trees/the shade

n = 6

“please DON'T remove the amazing shade trees that surround the playground. Please incorporate these trees into your playground plan.”



Add more for young children/toddlers

n = 6

“Given there are a couple of schools and kindergartens close by activities that would cover pre-school through to primary school age kids would be great.”



Add a pump track

n = 5

“There are a lot of kids that ride bikes and scooters around our neighbourhood so it might be worthwhile considering some kind of bike track or something for them.”

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 Caernarvon Park

- Four groups 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:
 - Liked the shade by the playground with the existing trees
 - Liked the open space
 - It would be a good idea to have seating under the tree shade
 - 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, trampoline, climbing wall/net



Seating or a picnic area was the most common request from respondents, ideally under the shady trees



There is a lot of excitement for the upgrade, with many saying the park is in a great spot but needs some TLC

What's next?

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

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