



Parana Park playground refresh Insights Report

13 January – 10 February 2026



**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

Background

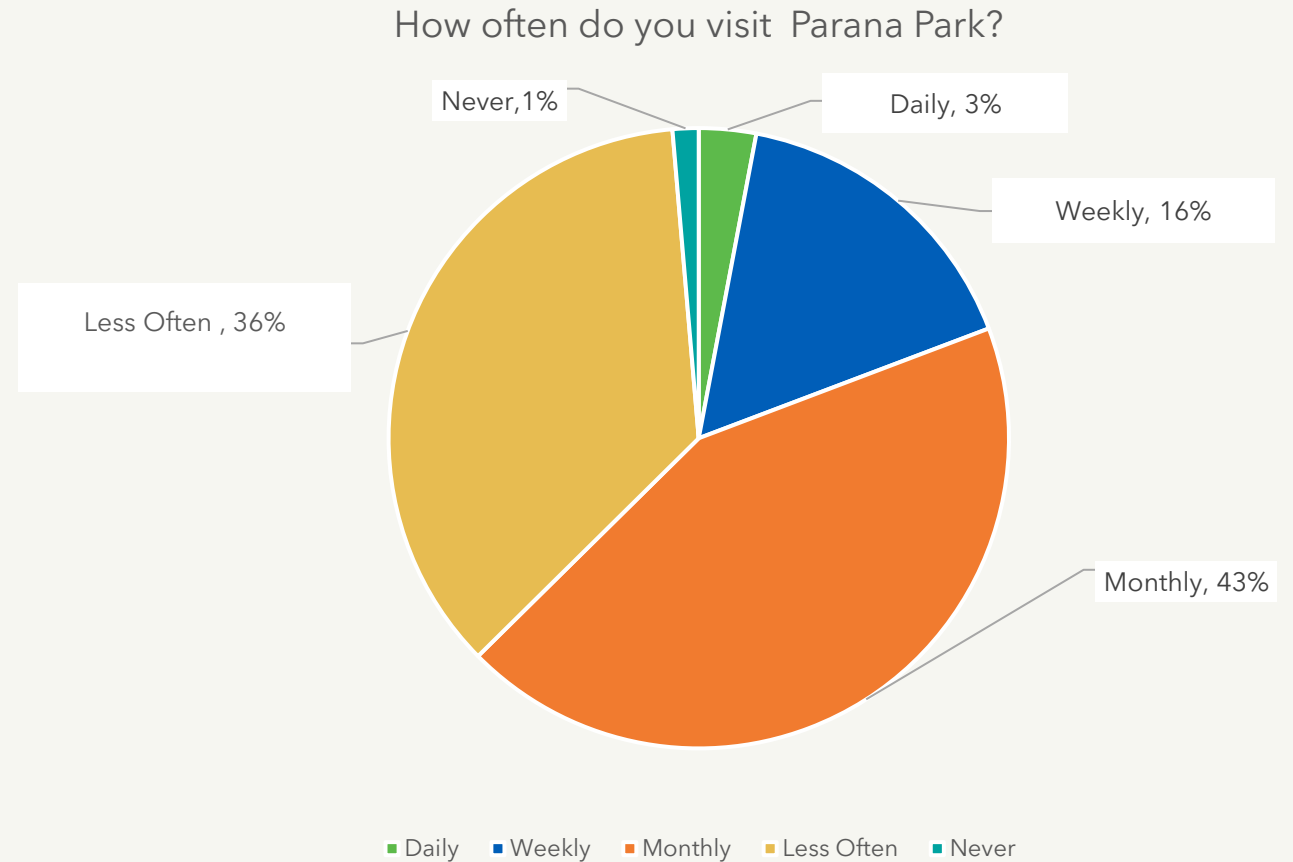
- Parana Park is one of Hamilton's most popular destination playgrounds, last refreshed in 2012.
- As part of Council's Playground Renewals Programme, it is now due for an update to ensure it remains safe, fun, accessible, and high-quality for years to come.
- The aim of this consultation was to hear what the community would like to see at Parana Park playground. We want to make sure their voice is factored into the playground design, within our renewal guidelines.
- We sought community views via a survey; this was open to all Hamiltonians and supported by targeted outreach to Parana Park users and neighbouring residents.
- Targeted tactics: letter drops to local residents, geotargeted social media advertising, Antenno alert, signage installed at Parana Park, and two information drop-in sessions 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 consultation was live from 13 January 2026 – 10 February 2026.
- We received a total of **373 submissions** – from 370 individuals and 3 representatives of organisations.

Processing feedback

- Any emails or hardcopies were entered into our online survey tool.
- The majority of our submissions were made through our online survey tool, hosted on Council's Have Your Say page.
- Any attachments were manually checked
- Copilot was used to analyse comments with all findings reviewed and quality- assured by a Research & Insights Advisor.
- Counts and percentages were calculated using Microsoft Excel. Text comments were grouped into themes.

Who did we hear from?

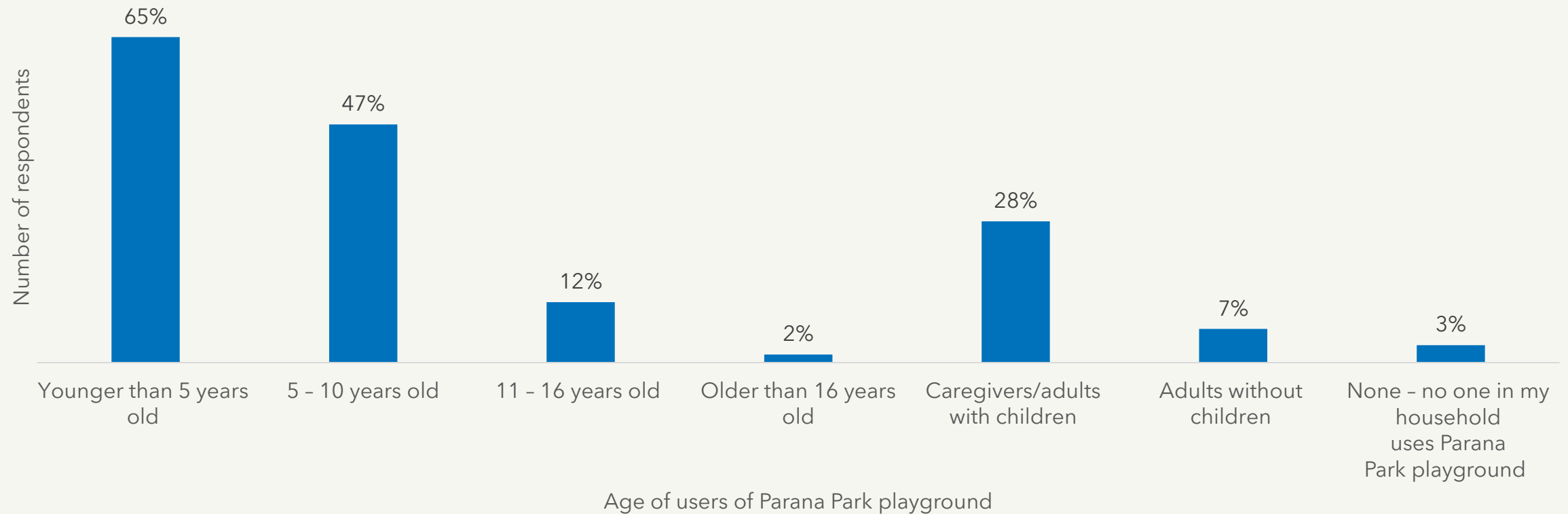
- 34% of respondents (n = 128) live nearby to Parana Park
- Almost half (43%, n = 160) of respondents visit Parana Park at least monthly



Who did we hear from?

Users of Parana Park playground

Who in your household uses Parana Park playground?

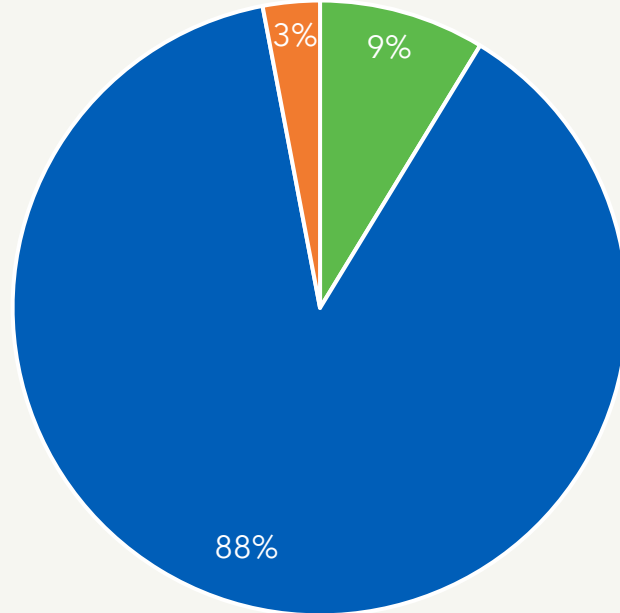




Disability insights

Who did we hear from?

Does anyone in your household who uses a playground have a disability or special needs?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Prefer not to say

Who did we hear from?

Disability or special needs

- 32 respondents indicated someone in their household who uses a playground has a disability or special needs.
- They shared with us some of the difficulties experienced in accessing or using the park or play elements:

My 3-year-old who has cerebral palsy loves visiting the birds here but as she can only crawl there isn't much 'fun activities' for her at this park.

No equipment for wheelchair users

Difficulties experienced

Could you share with us some of the difficulties experienced, or may be experienced, in accessing or using the park or play elements?



Toilets-proximity,
accessibility &
usability

n = 8



Sensory environment

n = 7



Inclusive play
equipment and
access
(wheelchair/transfer)

n = 9



Need more seating,
tables and shade

n = 3



Safety concerns
*Fencing & safety for
runners and kids*

n = 4



Play modernisation

n = 5



Signage, maps &
communication boards

n = 3



Water quality &
hygiene

n = 2

Submission insights

Individual responses

Preferred play equipment

Significant differences in preferences by respondent's child's age



<5 years old

- Top pick: rockers



5 – 10 years old

- Top pick: obstacle course



11 – 16 years old

- Top pick: obstacle course



16+ years old

- Top pick: rockers

Preferred play equipment

"What current play elements do you love at Parana Park and want to see refreshed?"



Children younger than 5 years old:

Rockers, Double junior slide, Trampoline



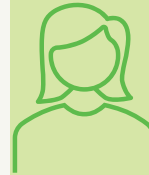
Children 5 - 10 years old:

Spinner , Obstacle course, Water features



Children 11 - 16 years old*:

Rockers , Swinging, Obstacle course



Children older than 16 years old*:

Rockers, Calyx hut, Seesaws



Caregivers/Adults with children:

Spinner, Obstacle course

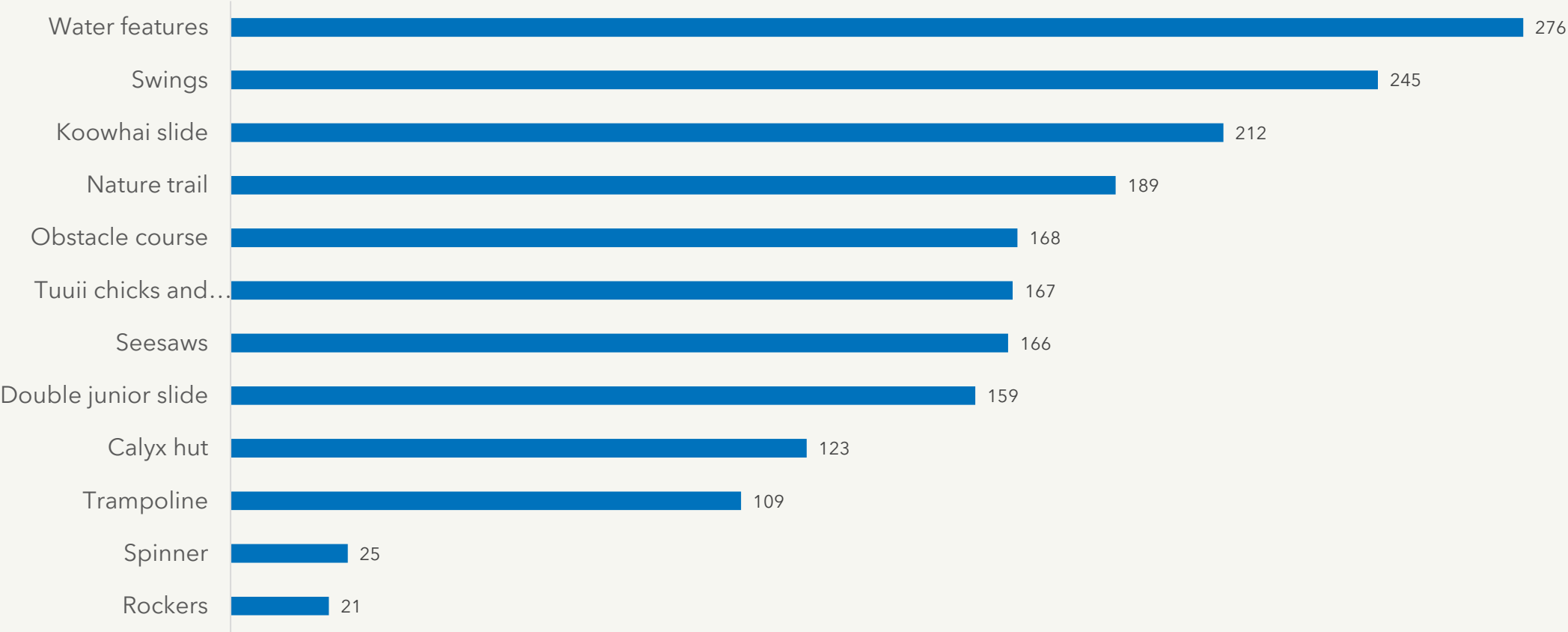


Adults:

Trampoline, Obstacle course

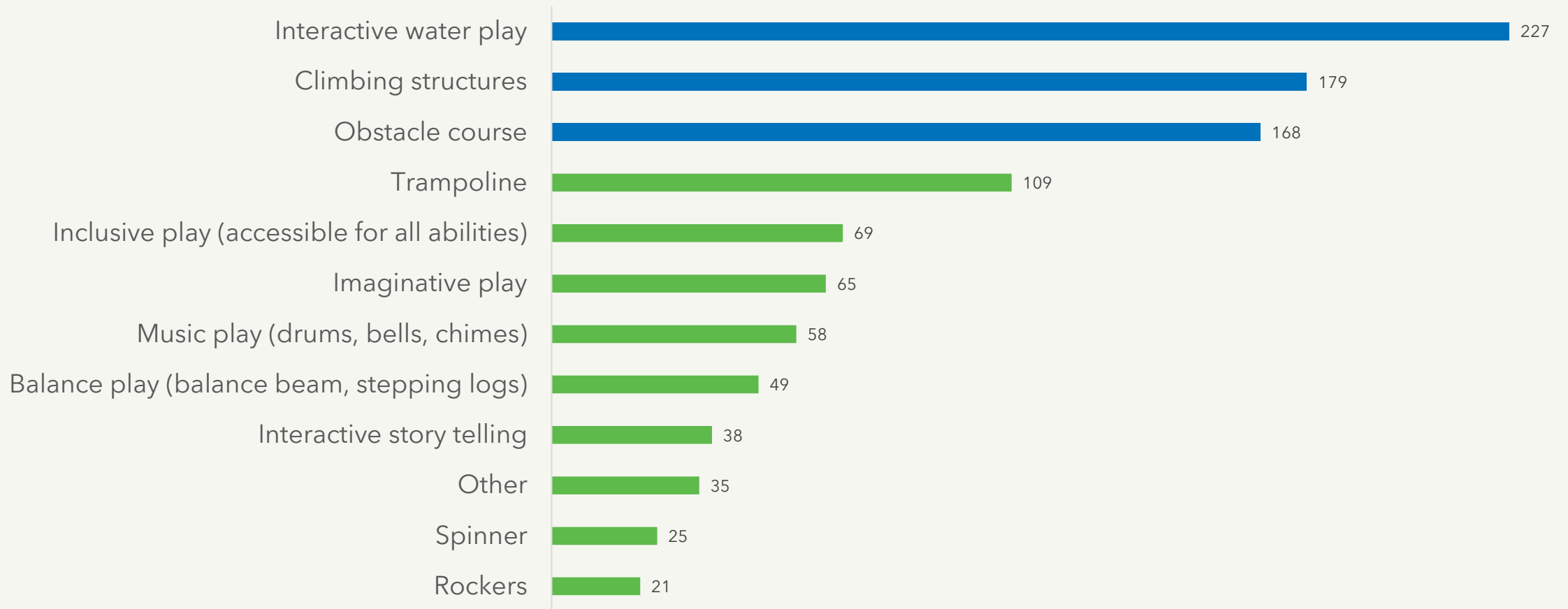
Refresh play equipment

What current play elements do you love at Parana Park and want to see refreshed?



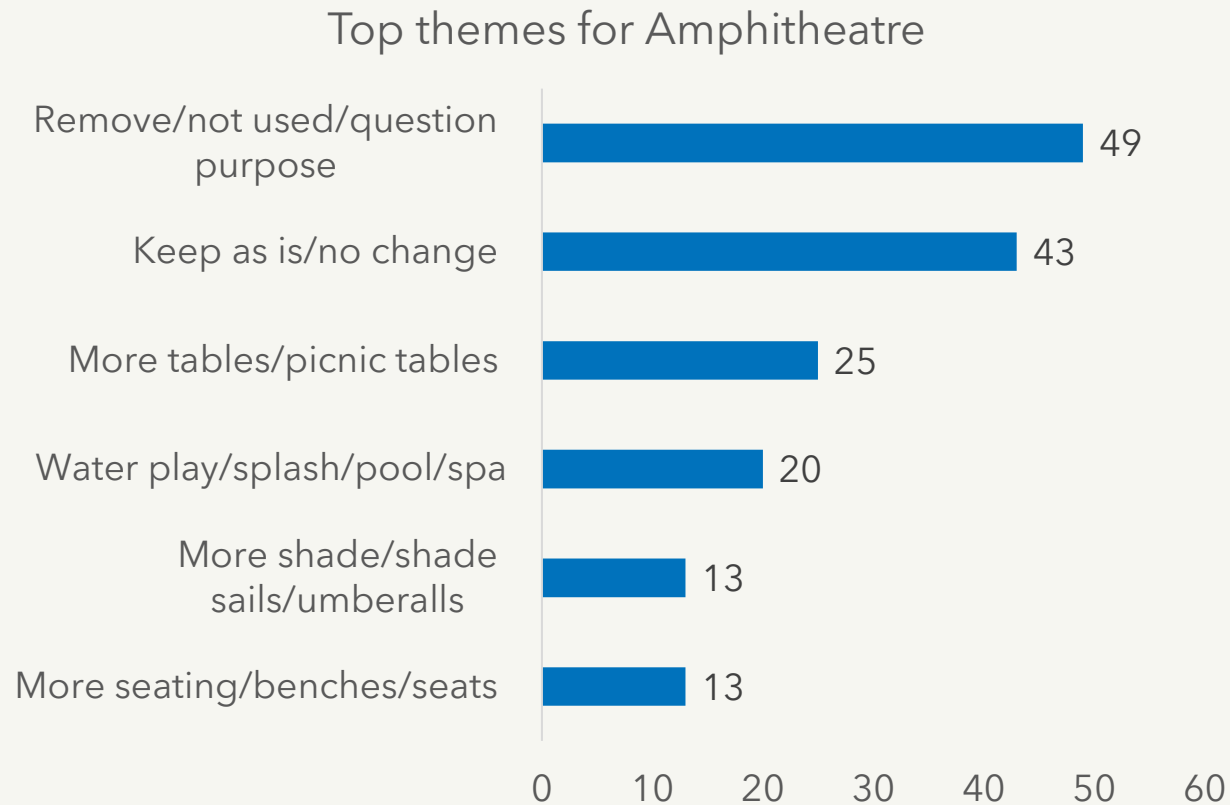
Preferred play equipment

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



Top themes: Improvements to features

What improvements would you like to see for the amphitheatre?



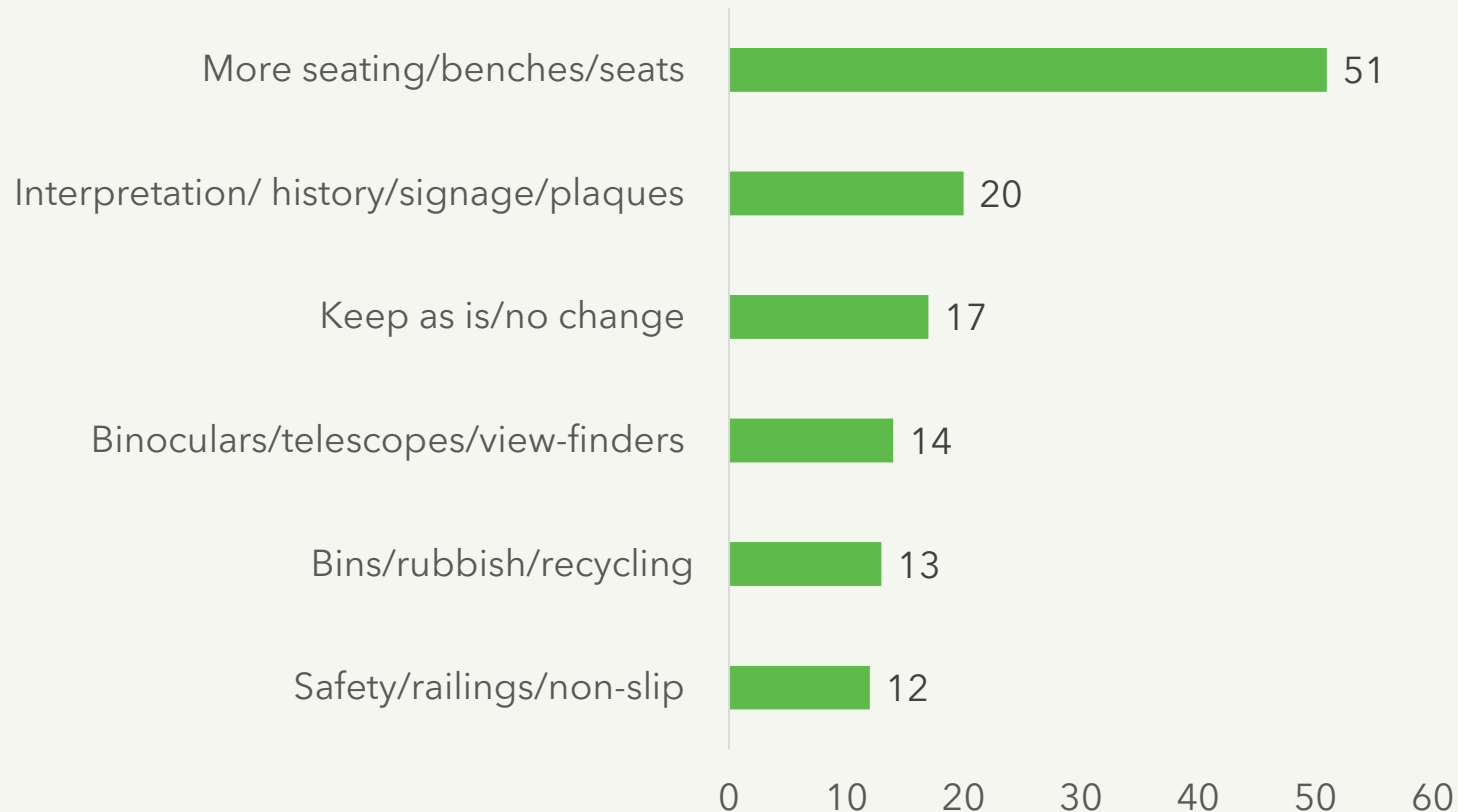
"I don't like the Amphitheatre because the seats get hot and you burn your butt..."

"Nothing, HCC has no money. Please maintain the current equipment and save money"

Top themes: Improvements to features

What improvements would you like to see for the viewing deck overlooking the river?

Top themes for viewing deck overlooking the river

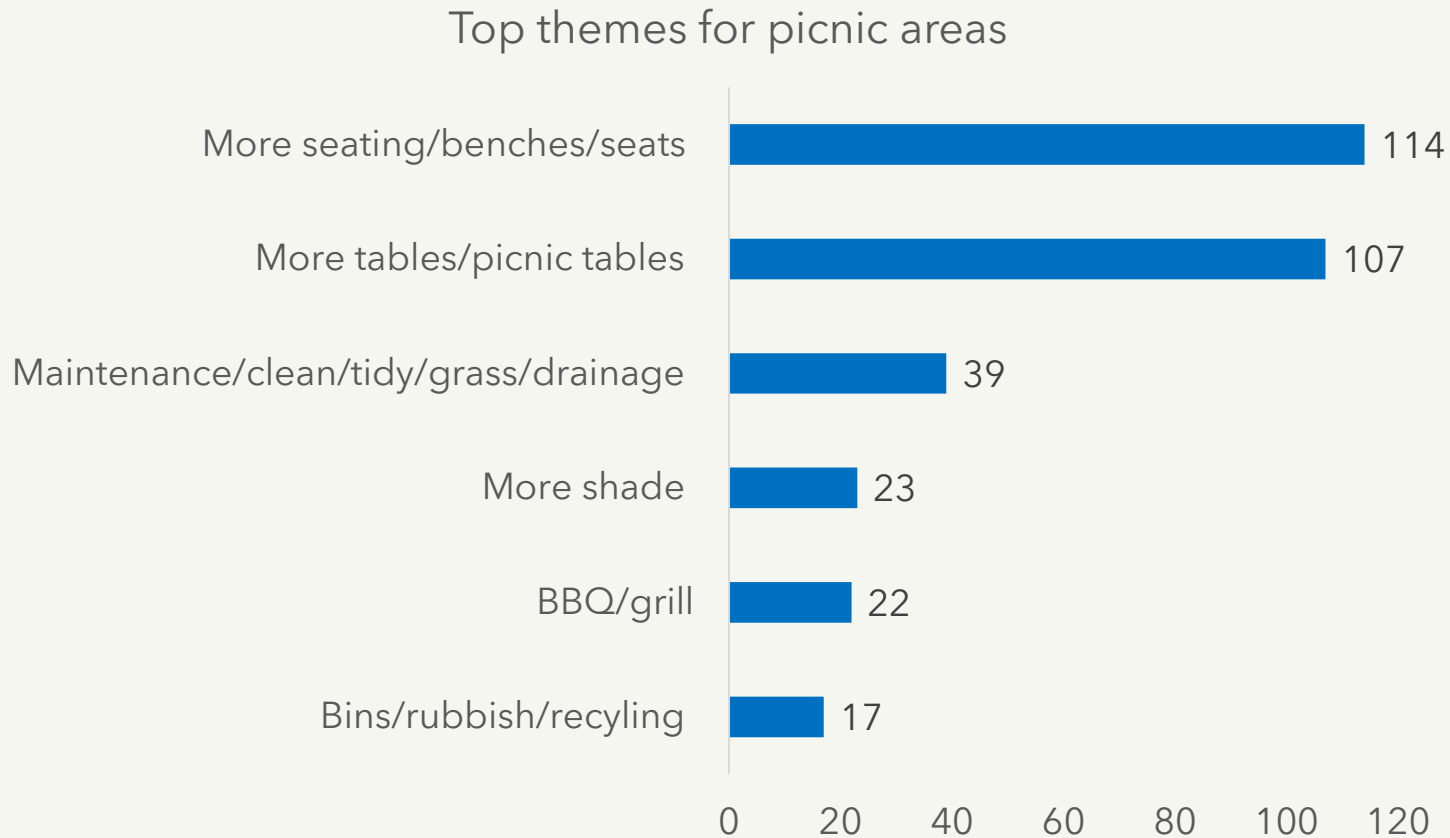


"make a story about the taniwha in the interactive story"

"I love it, but it needs some seats"

Top themes: Improvements to features

What improvements would you like to see for the picnic areas?

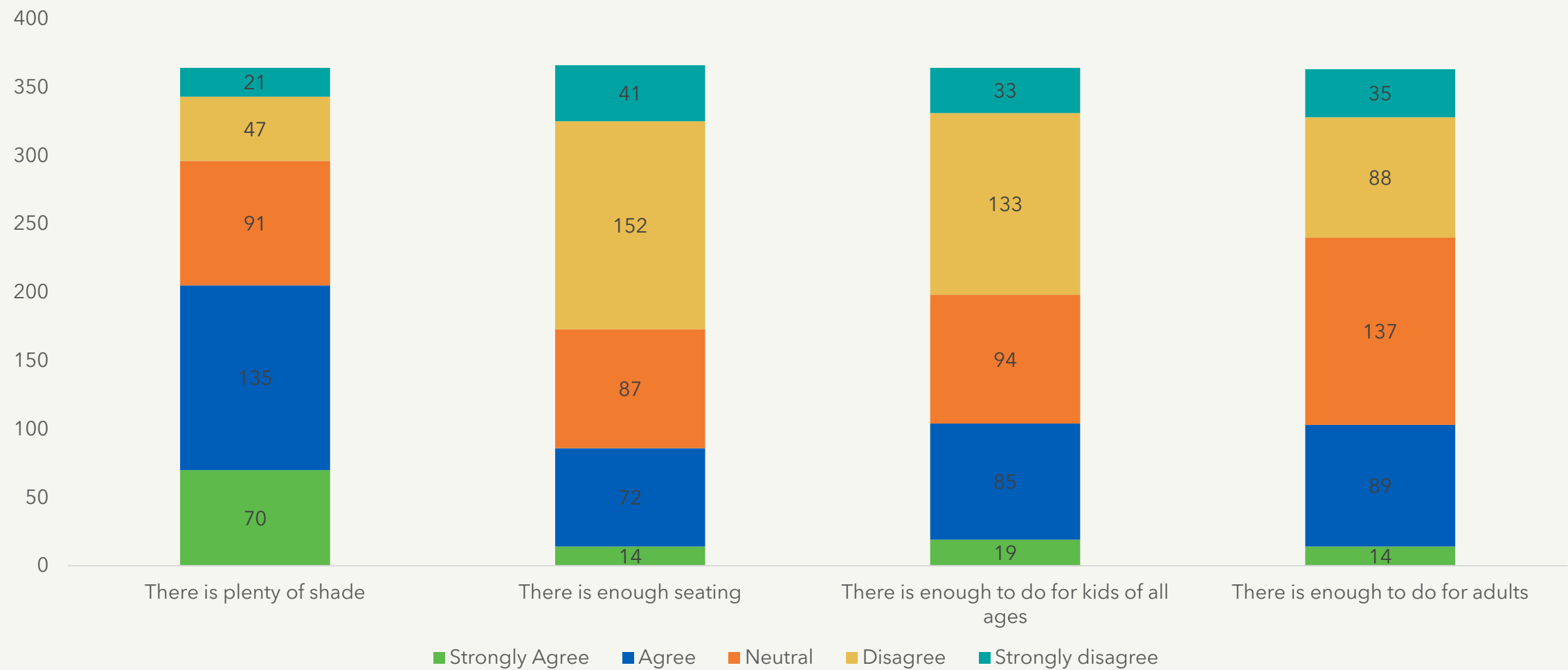


"I don't like it ... because it has no picnic tables and it's so small"
"uneven surfaces... grass fleas"

"uneven surfaces... grass fleas"

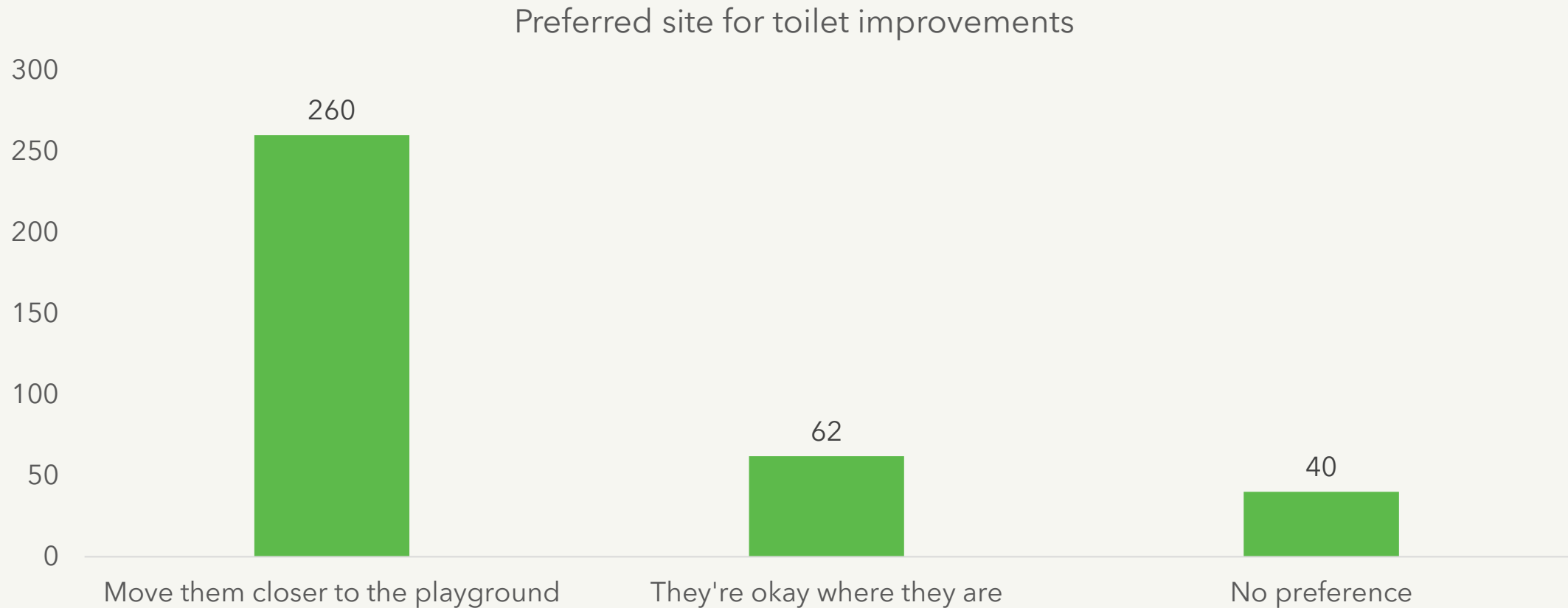
Views of current park

How much do you agree with the following statements?



Park improvements

We're considering making changes to the public toilets. Would you rather see them refreshed where they are now in Memorial Park, or moved closer to the playground into Parana Park?



Comments

Do you have any other comments about the playground renewal at Parana Park?

More play equipment for older kids, climbing and obstacles	37
More shade, keep trees	35
Toilets (closer, child friendly and changing room)	32
Water quality & hygiene	30
Aviary / birds & natural character	21
Fencing / containment & dogs	16
Signage & communication	14
Depth & drowning safety	13
Accessibility & inclusion	7
Anti-social behaviour & security	6
Parking/access roads	3

Feedback from community meetings

Information drop-in session hosted at Parana Park

- Two drop-in sessions were held
- Approx 10-12 community members attended
- Attendees were provided with hardcopy submission forms, which were compiled with other digital survey responses
- Generally, attendees really wanted the slide to be kept

Summary of key findings



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



Solve toilet proximity and accessibility



Most desired play equipment pieces:
Swinging, water features and sliding



Enhance safety (fencing , visibility and dogs)



Improve seating, shade and picnic amenities



There is a strong community attachment to keep and improve water ponds



Engagement

Tactics and results

Engagement tactics



Love to play?

Have your say!

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

The playground's much-loved awa, tuuui and koowhai theme, water play and custom-built equipment will stay and there will be some new play elements added - **what would you like to see in this space?**

Scan the QR code or visit hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay by 10 February 2026 for more information and to share your views.

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

Hamilton City Council
Te Kauhthera o Kiriakira



Hamilton City Council
13 Jan · 🌐

Have your say! 🗣️ ... more

Love to play?

Have your say!

Parana Park destination playground refresh

Visit haveyoursay.hamilton.govt.nz by 10 February 2026

Hamilton City Council
Government organisation

Learn more

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Love to play?

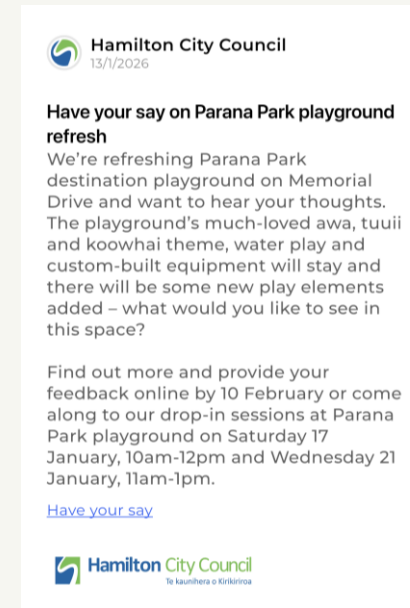
Have your say!

We're refreshing **Parana Park destination playground** and want your thoughts!

The playground's much-loved awa, tuuui and koowhai theme, water play and custom-built equipment will stay and there will be some new play elements added - what would you like to see in this space?

Share your feedback online at hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay by 10 February 2026

Hamilton City Council
Te Kauhthera o Kiriakira



Hamilton City Council
13/1/2026

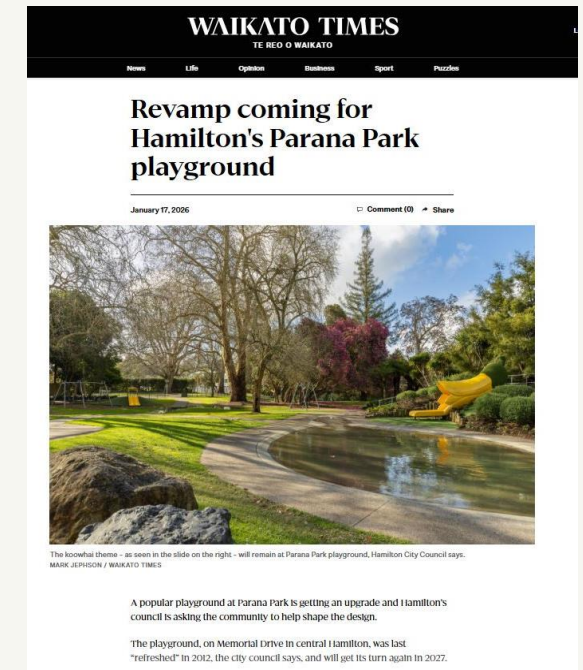
Have your say on Parana Park playground refresh

We're refreshing Parana Park destination playground on Memorial Drive and want to hear your thoughts. The playground's much-loved awa, tuuui and koowhai theme, water play and custom-built equipment will stay and there will be some new play elements added - what would you like to see in this space?

Find out more and provide your feedback online by 10 February or come along to our drop-in sessions at Parana Park playground on Saturday 17 January, 10am-12pm and Wednesday 21 January, 11am-1pm.

[Have your say](https://haveyoursay.hamilton.govt.nz)

Hamilton City Council
Te Kauhthera o Kiriakira



WAIKATO TIMES

TE KEO O WAIKATO

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Revamp coming for Hamilton's Parana Park playground

January 17, 2026 Comment (0) Share



The koowhai theme - as seen in the slide on the right - will remain at Parana Park playground, Hamilton City Council says. MARK JEFFERSON / WAIKATO TIMES

A popular playground at Parana Park is getting an upgrade and Hamilton's council is asking the community to help shape the design.

The playground, on Memorial Drive in central Hamilton, was last "refreshed" in 2012, the city council says, and will get its turn again in 2027.

Feedback from social media

Comment analysis from Meta posts

- We put one post on Instagram about this consultation, which received no comments
- We also posted one Facebook advertisement, which received 13 comments from community members. Themes from the community member comments were:

Water play expansion

5 comments

Playground equipment upgrades
(slides/swings/climbing)

4 comments

No need to refresh

3 comments

Engagement results

Reached

Heard about the consultation

- Letter drop to surrounding residents
- Signage displayed in park
- Meta advertising across Hamilton
- Citywide Antenno alert
- Posters displayed in libraries
- Engagement reported on in Waikato Times

Engaged

Sought more information

1751 visits to our consultation page

Heard

373 survey responses

What's next?

Council will consider this feedback when designing the playground refresh at Parana Park, within our renewal guidelines.

The final playground design is expected to be confirmed around October 2026, with construction to begin around late February 2027.