

# Community Engagement Report

## Executive Summary

The overall aim of the Stud Park All Abilities Playspace project is to upgrade the existing playspace to an exciting and engaging all abilities playspace, with the outcome being increased community use of Stud Park.

The engagement process objectives were to provide the community the opportunity to actively participate in the design process and feel they are part of the renewal process. With particular focus on co-design with people with disability and children.

Following extensive consultation across a range of activities, over 500 people contributed to the design development. With approximately 100 participants being between 3-15 years old.

Following a review of participant responses, this report has identified the key themes as:

- Diversity of ages - providing equipment that suits a range of ages (toddler to young teens)
- Equitable use – providing a range of equipment that is suitable for people with diverse abilities. Equipment that can be used by all at the same time and same level.
- Safety – providing perimeter fencing and gates that are secure but accessible.
- Seating and Socialisation – providing a variety of areas for people to congregate or spread out.
- Adult's accessibility needs – for those who are supervising children in the playground, using bbq or disability parking.
- Indigenous Culture
- Shade in the playground
- Water play elements

A key consultation partner was the Knox Disability Advisory Committee (KDAC), who's community members represent those in the Knox Community living with disability or caring for someone with disability. Their feedback suggested the need for an 'All Abilities' playspace to be design when replacing the existing playspace. Their suggestions formed the basis of the concept design along with other community feedback.

Reflecting on the consultation process, there was difficulty in engaging with the community during the first and second phase of consultation. The Covid-19 pandemic restricted Council's ability to engage face-to-face with the community. Additionally, the removal of the existing playspace at the commencement of the project meant that there were less visitors to the park and the publicity of the engagement phases weren't as wide spread.

Other challenges were around engaging with specific user groups. We were unable to engage with specialist schools for autism, even after multiple attempts and a variety of engagement methods proposed. This was also the case for a number of local primary schools.

We looked at alternatives such as providing activity packs for childcare groups, which proved to be very successful and supported by the early childhood educators.

We heavily relied on the feedback from the KDAC, who provided feedback on the various stages of design. Their co-design contribution assisted with the inclusion of many accessible features that are not widely used in playground design.

## 1. Background

Stud Park is one of four regional playgrounds in Knox (Open Space Plan 2012-2022). The playground is much loved by the local and regional community, and has one of the highest visitation rates as it is next to the Rowville Community Centre and Stud Park Shopping Complex. We want to ensure our re-design captures the wants and needs of the community now and into the future.

The existing playground was constructed in 2008 and had been specifically designed to cater for children and adults of all abilities to play and participate in social activities without compromising on supervision. In 2015 a Masterplan was endorsed for the site. The masterplan included additions such as accessible ramps, picnic areas, outdoor gym equipment and upgrades to the basketball courts.

Since then, the Open Space team has delivered 3 stages of upgrades as part of the endorsed masterplan. The playground re-design is part of the 2020-21 Capital works program as part of the 1014- Playspace Renewal Program.

In October 2020, a structural and playground safety audit was conducted by external consultants. The ageing playground was deemed unsafe for public use. A large percentage of the timber structure posts had decomposed, there was multiple areas of subsidence and railing and structures were breaking off. The playground was subsequently close off access the public and dangerous areas demolished.

The following financial year, funds were requested to re-design the existing playground and construct a new All-Abilities Playspace at Stud Park.

## 2. Engagement objectives

<b>Decision Statement</b>	To upgrade the existing playspace to an exciting and engaging all-ages playspace, involving the local community in the design process. With the outcome being increased community use of Stud Park.
<b>Engagement Objectives</b>	<p>To provide the community the opportunity to actively participate in the design process and feel they are part of the renewal process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek the community's initial thoughts and ideas on the existing playspace and what they would like to see as part of the playspace upgrade.</li> <li>• Increase community awareness of the Stud Park playspace upgrade and encourage feedback on the design of the playground.</li> <li>• Using the feedback to design an exciting and engaging all-abilities playspace. With the outcome being increased community use of Stud Park.</li> </ul>

## 3. Engagement Methods

Engagement outlet	How we engaged	Who we engaged	When we engaged
Have Your Say Digital Platform	<a href="https://haveyoursay.knox.vic.gov.au/stud-park-playground">https://haveyoursay.knox.vic.gov.au/stud-park-playground</a>	Total number following project: 72	First consultation: 25 <sup>th</sup> February –31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021

First consultation: 298 visitors, 36 contributions  
Second consultation: 822 visitors, 27 contributions  
Third consultation: Total number following project: 8  
 444 visitors, 17 contributions

Second consultation: 4<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021  
Third Consultation: 20<sup>th</sup> July – 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Social Media	<p><u>First &amp; Second Consultation</u>          All posts on Facebook were above average with highest ranking post by reach on 14.10.21 which was the first post detailing the new concept plan for the work. It also received 208 link clicks which exceeded the average for the last 6 months also. The image assisted strongly, with 179 photo views, but also the park is a very popular one. On Instagram the update on the tower dismantling was the most popular.</p> <p><u>Third Consultation</u>          The first post(20.7.22) that detailed the features of park had the highest reach on Facebook of 14.6k. There was a lot of interest in the water feature. The following 2 posts were a submission ends reminders with an average of 2k reach.</p>	<p><u>First &amp; Second Consultation</u>          Facebook: 54,600 views, 319 link clicks, 385 likes, 256 comments and 25 shares          Instagram: 1,141 views, 41 likes, 0 comments and 4 shares</p> <p><u>Third Consultation</u>          Facebook: 14.8k reach, 101(likes+ shares+ comments) and 129 link clicks          Instagram: 285 reach, 10(likes+ shares+ comments) and 5 link clicks</p>	<p>First consultation: 25<sup>th</sup> February – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021          Second consultation: 4<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021          Third Consultation: 20<sup>th</sup> July – 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022</p>
Letters to the resident	Mailed to 1444 residents within 500m radius of Stud Park, Rowville.	Residents of Rowville	<p><u>First Consultation:</u> Date posted was 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.  <u>Third Consultation:</u> Date posted was 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022.</p>
Knox Disability Advisory Committee (KDAC)	Open Space Team representative attended KDAC via Zoom. Purpose of the meeting was to engage with the advisory committee members about how we can design a better playspace that caters to all the community's needs. Feedback from the engagement session helped	Knox Disability Advisory Committee: Community Representative (living with disability or family with disability) Councillors	May 2021

create the Stud Park All Abilities Playspace project.

Disability service providers

Primary School Workshop

Interactive classroom based activity. Students were provided stickers to vote on their favourite type of play and playground equipment. They were then given the opportunity to be creatives and draw an image of what their 'perfect' park would include.

Grade 1&2 students from Heany Park Primary School

21<sup>st</sup> May 2021

On site signage



Visitors to Stud Park Reserve

Large on site sign was erected October 2021

Councilor workshop

Workshop session to showcase the detailed concept design.

Ward Councillors

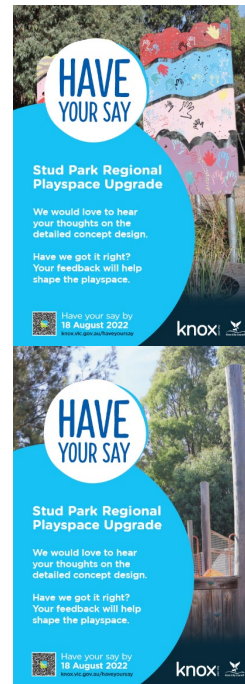
June 2022

On site signage

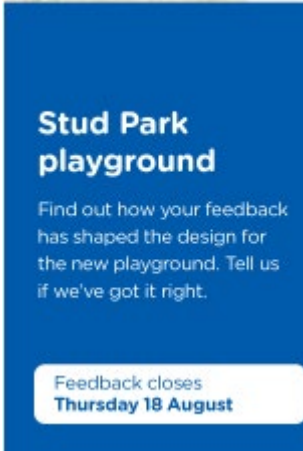
Large A1 corflute signage was erected at four locations on site

A3 posters were also displayed at the following locations:

- Rowville Community Centre
- Rowville Library



July 2022

Newsletter Advertisement	<p>A newsletter advertisement encouraging feedback from the primary user groups of the playspace.</p> <p>The advertisement was posted in the following user group newsletters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accessing Knox e-Newsletter</li> <li>- Rowville Primary School</li> <li>- Heany Park Primary School</li> <li>- Park Ridge Primary School</li> <li>- St Simons Primary School</li> <li>- Eastern Ranges School</li> </ul>		August 2022
Preschool Activity Packs	Local preschools were provided with an activity pack allowing children the opportunity to have their say on the equipment proposed for the renewal of the Stud Park Playground	<p>The following preschools participated in the activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Park Ridge Preschool</li> <li>- Murrindal Kindergarden</li> <li>- Taylors Lane Kindergarden</li> <li>- Eildon Parade Preschool</li> </ul>	July – August 2022
Pop-Up Feedback Sessions	<p>The pop-up sessions provided an opportunity for people to clarify any aspects of the plans and to express concerns about any of the proposals. Holding the sessions on site also helps to raise awareness with park visitors who may come from outside Knox or may not previously have been aware of the planning.</p>	Residents and visitors to the Rowville and Lysterfield Area	<p>Pop-up sessions were held at the following times and locations:</p> <p><b>Friday 5 August, 2.30 pm to 4 pm</b> at Stud Park Playground, 40 Fulham Road, Rowville</p> <p><b>Saturday 6 August, 9.30 am to 11 am</b> at Stud Park Playground, 40 Fulham Road, Rowville</p> <p><b>Saturday 6 August, 12 pm to 1.30 pm</b> at Wellington Shopping Village, 1100 Wellington Road, Rowville.</p>
Internal Stakeholder Engagement	Emails sent to internal Knox staff to provide feedback on the detailed concept design	Internal Knox City Council Staff including:	July – August 2022

- Park's maintenance
  - Rowville Community centre staff
  - Leisure
  - Facilities
  - Family and Children's Services
  - Disability and Inclusions team
- 

## 4. Summary of Engagement and Key findings

### First Consultation

The first round of community engagement was held between 25<sup>th</sup> February –31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The primary goal for this stage of consultation was to inform the community about the project and to better understand their concerns about the current park design and preferences for the new playspace.

There was a total of 36 responses to the first round of community engagement. All of which were through the online 'Have Your Say' platform.

The vast majority commented that the current playground catered for a wide variety of ages groups but lacked in other common playground amenities such as shade and seating.

Most people shared similar thoughts on what they would like to see included as part of the playspace renewal. Key items of areas that the community would like to be improved included:

- Additional shade structures
- More seating
- New playground equipment for a wide age group
- Water play elements

Some of the comments included:

*"I loved that it was a park that covered all ages and not focused on a certain age group like most. The interactive components were amazing but shade sails are a must. And a few more benches for the adults that use the barbecues."*

*"We love this playground for the trees and shade. A few more shade sails wouldn't go astray. It's amazing how many playgrounds in Knox provide very little shade."*

*"I love Rowville park and think this is the perfect park while getting Redone to make Knox Council's first water splash park like Warburton and Lilydale lake. They are such a hit and would help bring business to community also these a fair amount of shade here too so another reason it would be perfect."*

These themes carried into the poll which community members had the opportunity to vote on their favourite playground pieces from the existing playground.



The most selected items were wobble bridge and music pieces (78%), the flying fox (71%) and the timber structures (71%).

## KDAC Meeting

Open Space Team representative attended the May 2021 KDAC committee meeting via Zoom. Purpose of the meeting was to engage with the committee members about how we can design a better playspace that caters to all the community's needs. Their feedback suggested the need for an 'All Abilities' playspace to be design when replacing the existing playspace. Their suggestions formed the basis of the concept design along with other community feedback.

## Second Consultation

The second round of community consultation ran from 4<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021. During this consultation an update on the first consultation and project timeline was given. This included the number of people who engaged, as well as what the key themes were.

The main goal of the second round of community consultation was to seek the community's view on a draft concept design. The design showed the new features proposed for the playspace.

The community were given the opportunity share their thoughts on each zone of the proposed concept plan and provide an overall rating of the design for each playspace zone.

A total of 27 comments were received, all via the online 'Have Your Say' platform.

Overall the majority of comments were positive with some highlighting areas of the concept design that required a little more consideration. Some of the feedback we received included:

*"Area needs more joined equipment, like existing equipment with elevated paths etc for kids to explore and play tiggy or hide and seek etc instead of separate free standing areas!"*

*"Looks like fun, and I love the farm elements being incorporated."*

*"Great elements here with key criteria for all ages and ability access, but one of the best bits about that playground was its extensive structure!*

*What you've proposed is seriously lacking in actual equipment it should be something that rivals Wally Tew."*

## Third Consultation

The third round of community consultation ran from 20<sup>th</sup> July –18<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

During this consultation an update on the previous rounds of consultation and project timeline was provided. This included how many people were part of the engagement as well as what the key themes came out during the consultation.

The primary objective of the third round of community consultation was to seek feedback from community and primary user groups on the detailed concept design. The community and user groups were given the opportunity share their thoughts on selection of equipment and elements proposed in the detailed concept plan and comment on anything that requires more consideration.

- 17 contributions were received via the online 'Have Your Say' platform.
- 16 contributions were received via the on-site Pop-up Sessions.
- 4 preschools completed an activity pack.

Overall the majority of comments were supportive of the detailed concept design.

## 5. Detailed Community feedback

### [Knox Disability Advisory Committee \(KDAC\)](#)

Representatives from the Open Space Team attended the Knox Disability Advisory Committee held on Tuesday 4th May 2021, via Zoom.

Feedback from this meeting helped co-design the Stud Park project and led the way for it to be designed as a 'All Abilities' playspace.

Specific feedback from community representatives included:

- including accessible transport options
- Consider adult's accessibility needs who are supervising children in the playground and disability parking.
- A quiet, chill out space and resting spaces
- Include different textures and sounds and smells and include wheelchair swings
- Changing places toilet
- Upgrade footy change rooms and pathways nearby
- Consider distance to toilet
- reflexology path
- fun and funky design
- unlocked play equipment
- wide paths 2.5m
- rubbish bins nearby and multiple toilets available
- perimeter fencing
- Double entry gates. 2 access points
- Staggered S formation entry
- Information panels with pictures and brail
- an app like Parks Vic app
- Consider assistance dogs
- indigenous art and culture in design
- multiple shelters
- sense of ownership by community
- teenagers catered for in design

### [First public consultation](#)

The first round of public community consultation was held 25<sup>th</sup> February –31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

The project was hosted on Knox 'Have Your Say' webpage as well as links through social media post and general Knox City Council website.

Letters to local residents were posted which contained a link to the Knox 'Have Your Say' webpage.

The following survey questions were proposed:

#### [Q1. What do you love about the Stud Park Playground?](#)

There were a total of 11 responses to Q1 of the online survey. The main themes can be seen in the below word cloud (figure 1).





figure 1. Word cloud based on community response to what they currently like about Stud Park

What the community members loved the most about the current playground at Stud Park was that it catered for a number of different age groups. Some community members expressed that they felt the area lacked in common playground amenities such as shade structures and seating. Others would like to see water play elements incorporated into the design

## Q2. What are your favourite parts of Stud Park Playground?

Community members were given the opportunity to vote on their favourite playground pieces from the existing playground. A total of 14 contributions were received. A summary of the results can be seen in the table below (table 1).

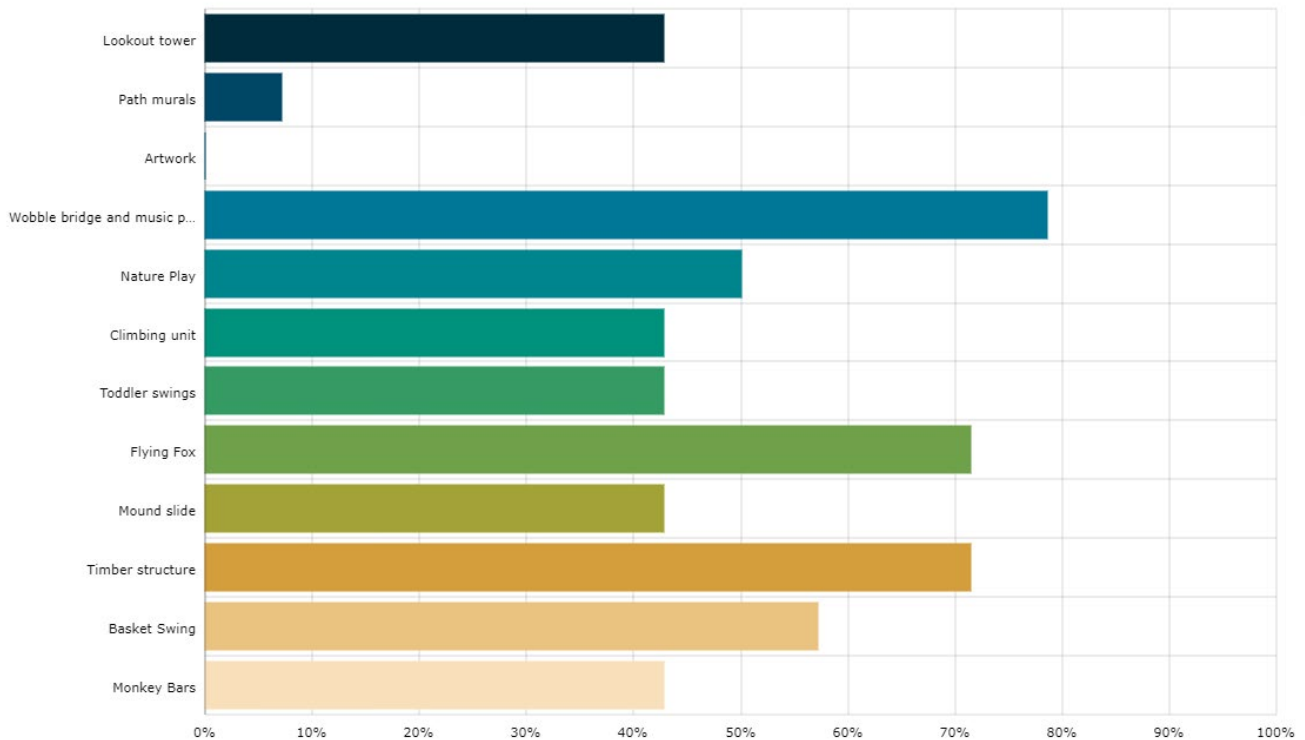


Table 1. Results from Q2. What are your favourite parts of Stud Park Playground?

### Q3. Share your ideas for the new Stud Park Playspace?

Community members were given the opportunity to provide input as to what type of equipment they would like to see incorporated into the new design. A total of 8 contributions were received. The main themes can be seen in the below word cloud.



## Second public consultation

The second round of community consultation was held between 4<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.

The concept design was displayed on the Knox 'Have Your Say' webpage as well as links through social media post and general Knox City Council website.

Letters containing a link to the Knox 'Have Your Say' webpage were posted to local residents within 500m of Stud Park.

The community was invited to provide comment on each of the proposed play space zones.



Figure 3. Concept design presented for community comment

### 1. Share your thoughts on the Adventure Play plans.

A total of 19 comments were received. Some of the key themes can be seen in the below word cloud.



Key items that the community would like to be improved included:



- Improve the play equipment for a wide age group
- Big slide, swings, bridge, climbing nets, monkey bars
- More seating and picnic tables; shelter/shade cover needed
- Site visibility is not ideal
- More natural look
- Larger map/visualization needed
- In-ground trampoline
- Ensure edges and surfaces are safe

## 2. Share your thoughts on the All Abilities Play plans.

A total of 9 comments were received. Some of the key themes can be seen in the below word cloud.



### 3. Share your thoughts on the Junior Play plans.

A total of 9 comments were received. Some of the key themes can be seen in the below word cloud.



### 4. Share your thoughts on the Sensory Play plans.

A total of 8 comments were received. Some of the key themes can be seen in the below word cloud.



### 5. Share your thoughts on the Sand Play plans.

A total of 10 comments were received. Some of the key themes can be seen in the below word cloud.



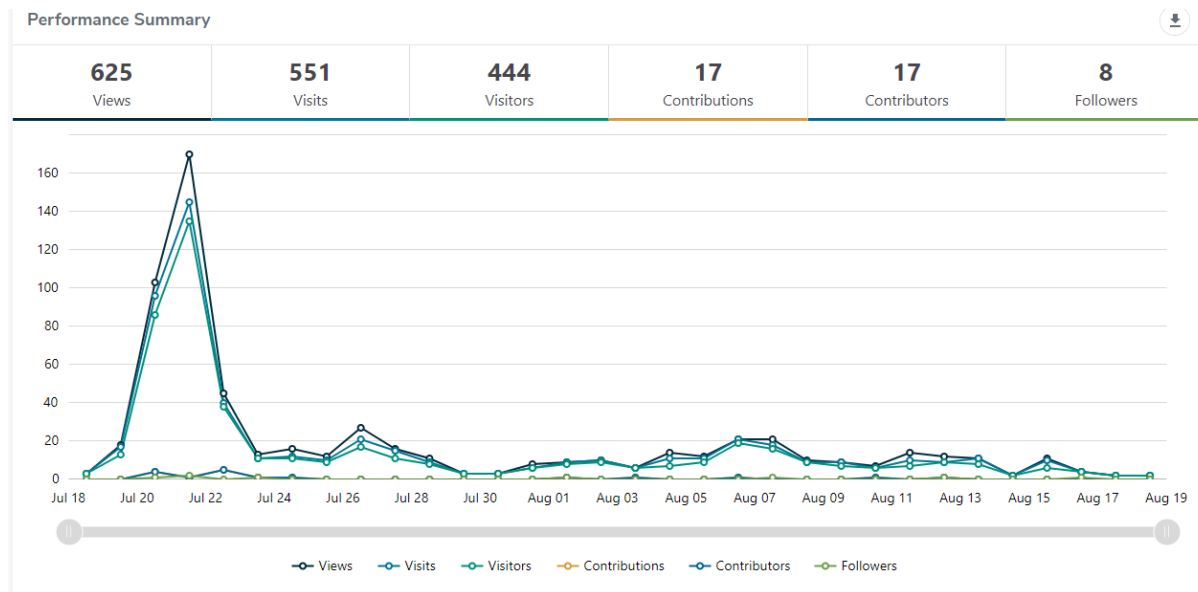
Key items that the community would like to be improved included:

- Some concerns on the sandpit (too high; bigger kids jump off to the sand pit; small kids jump around)
- Like the idea
- Dislike the idea
- Incorporate water in to the sand pit
- Shade

### Third Consultation

### 'Have Your Say' Webpage

Council's 'Have Your Say' webpage received, 625 views of the page by 444 community members, 17 community members participated in giving their feedback via a survey and an open-ended text field. The detailed concept was open for feedback from 20<sup>th</sup> July –18<sup>th</sup> August 2022.



The following survey questions were proposed:

#### Q1. What do you like most?

Community members were given the opportunity to vote on five of their most preferred playground elements proposed in the detailed concept design (image below).

## Stud Park Regional Playspace Upgrade

### HAVE YOUR SAY

- New accessible pathway from car park to playspace
- Gateway to new fence with expanded accessible pathway
- New fence around entire space
- Clusters of newly planted native trees for shade and aesthetic
- Singular newly planted exotic trees for shade in summer and sun in winter
- Farm style large entryway
- Seating locations with a mix of platform seats and seats with backs and arms
- Proposed new shelter (provisional) to accommodate increased usage with accessible picnic setting
- Elevated sandpit with two wheelchair bays set into slope to allow all to play in same sandpit. Accompanied with handpump to horse trough style water course to sandpit
- Section of new path that has animal imprints (both native and farm animals) in concrete
- Build your cubby style gurney for weaving natural materials to make a shelter
- Accessible musical element
- Cow and punbin seats overlooking toddler play elements on artificial turf
- Pioneer-style farm structure with huge play value including tube slide (sheep run), sliding pole, rope bridges, climbing frames, rock scramble, road underpass tunnel, wide slide, water tank, interactive panels and discovery panels and discovery elements
- Accessible farm truck with interactive panels
- Sheep rocker and pig rocker on artificial turf
- Dog's boots selfie opportunity overlooking toddler play elements on artificial turf
- Four bay perpendicular swings with accessible harness, toddler seat, strap seat and rigid seat
- Single 360-degree basket swing
- Iconic pioneer-style windmill structure
- Re-locate existing basket swing
- Accessible wobble bridge with in deck musical step chimes
- Curved monkey bar unit
- Accessible carousel
- Accessible in ground trampoline
- Kangaroo spring rocker adjacent to trampoline so kids can jump together
- Exposed aggregate trike and scooter track for small, wheeled toys
- Open space level turf area for picnics, gathering, and informal games
- Inclusive chat boards for conversing with non-verbal people using a farm living theme
- Accessible water drinking fountain draining to herb garden
- Accessible bbq
- Handy, perennial herbs for use on the bbq
- Charging station
- Discovery elements with farm theme throughout site
- Re-located ceramic art domes for gathering
- Additional shade structures subject to future funding
- Additional water play subject to future funding



A total of 17 contributions were received. A summary of the results can be seen in the table below (table 1).

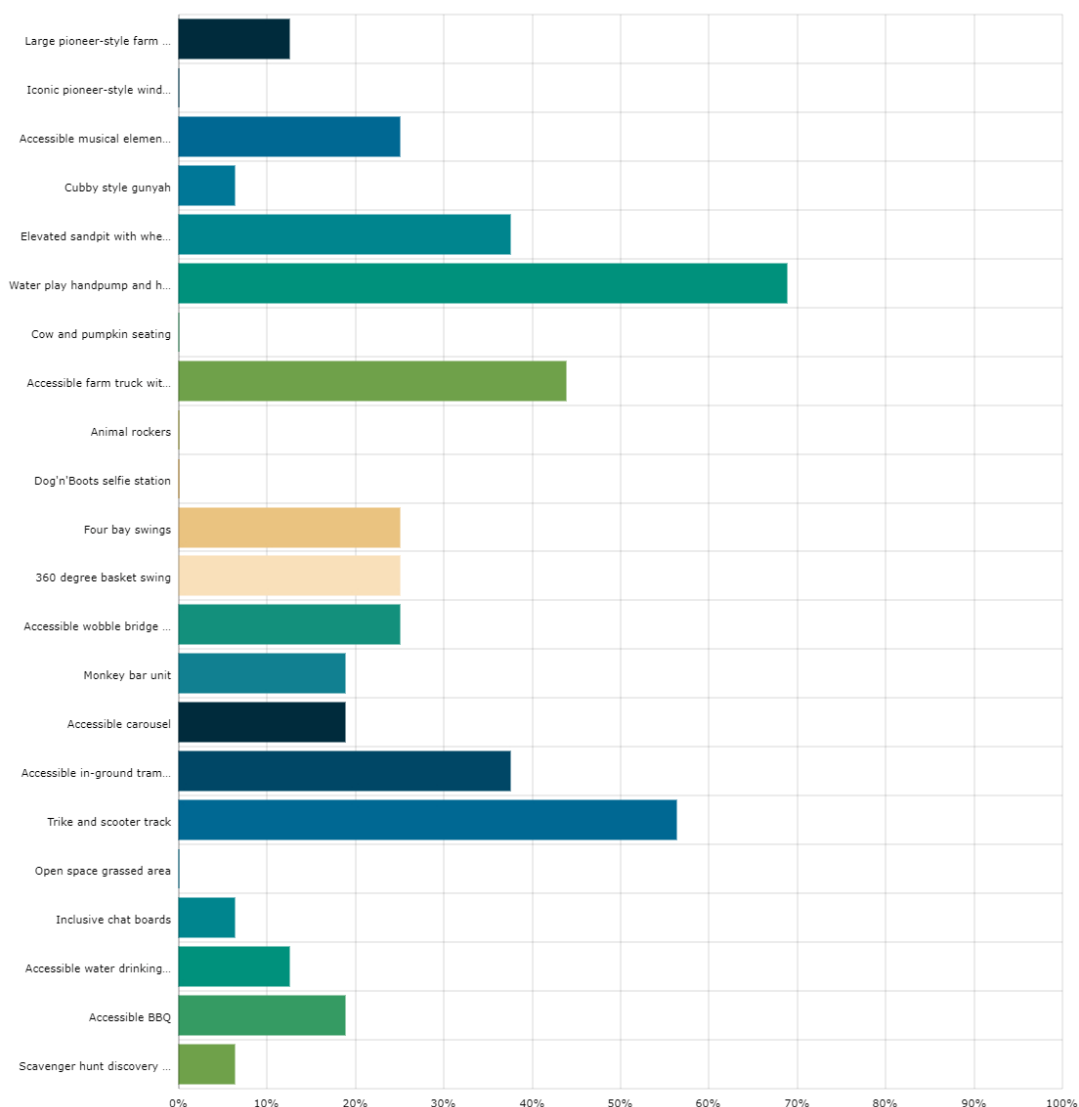


Table 1. Results from Q1. What do you like most?

## Q2. Have we missed anything?

Community members were given the opportunity to provide feedback via an open-ended text field. A total of 14 contributions were received.

The following provides a summary of some of the comments provided:

- Another slides and more elements to climb on
- Additional water play
- Additional swings, particularly baby swings
- More than one in-ground trampoline
- More shade elements/structures
- Health and fitness training station
- Additional rubbish bins
- More traditional playground equipment such as a seesaw

## Pop-Up Feedback Sessions

The pop-up sessions provided an opportunity for people to clarify any aspects of the plans and to express concerns about any of the proposals. Holding the sessions on site also helped to raise awareness with park visitors who may come from outside Knox or may not previously have been aware of the planning.

Pop-up sessions were held at the following times and locations:

- **Friday 5 August, 2.30 pm to 4 pm** at Stud Park Playground, 40 Fulham Road, Rowville
- **Saturday 6 August, 9.30 am to 11 am** at Stud Park Playground, 40 Fulham Road, Rowville
- **Saturday 6 August, 12 pm to 1.30 pm** at Wellington Shopping Village, 1100 Wellington Road, Rowville.

A survey was conducted asking the same questions proposed on the Knox 'Have Your Say' webpage. Children were also given the opportunity to select their favourite equipment by placing a sticker on the image of the playground piece they most preferred. A total of 16 contributions were received. A summary of the results can be seen in the table below (table 2).

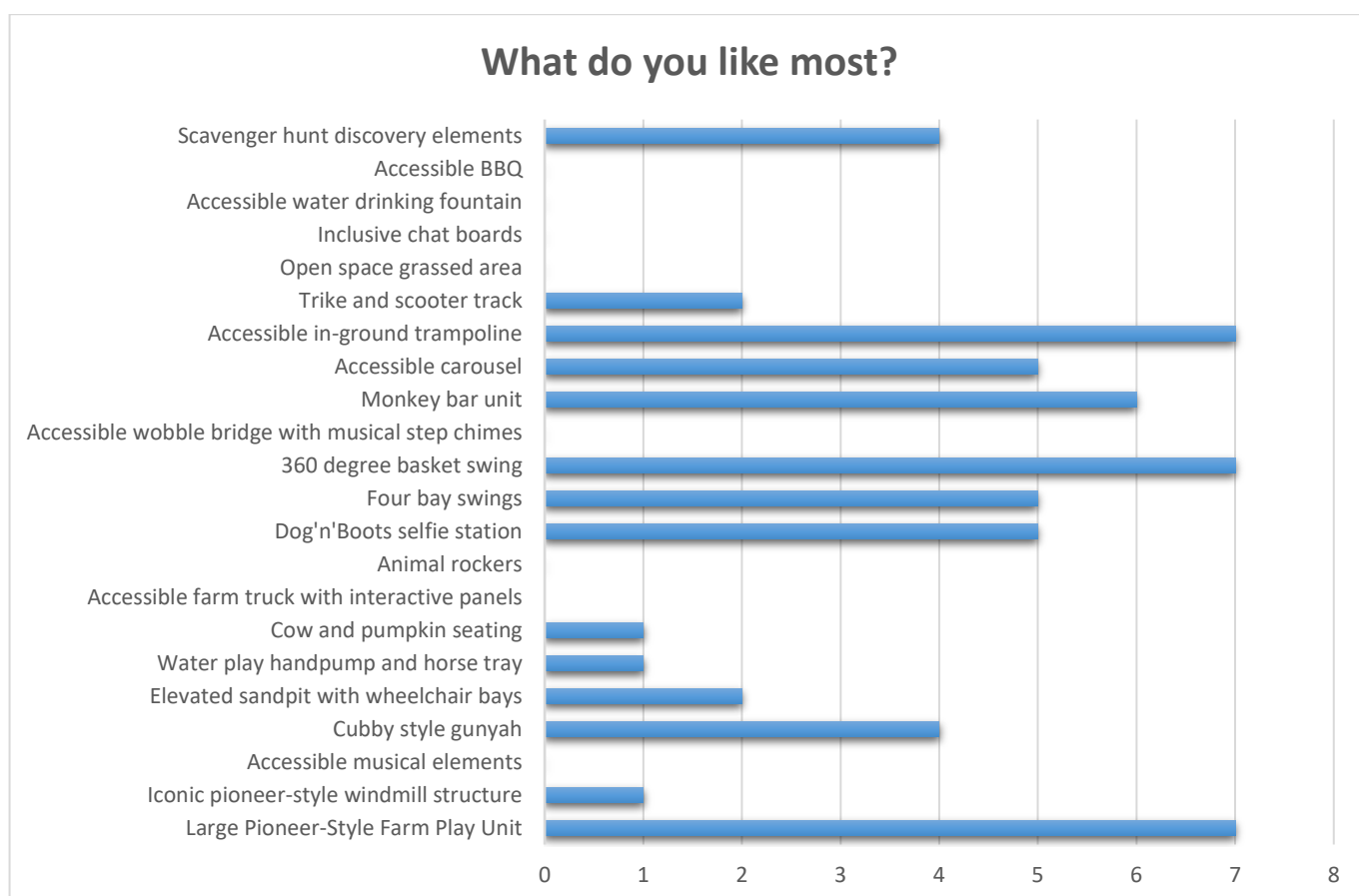


Table 2. Results from the pop-up sessions.

## Preschool Activity Pack

Local preschools were provided with an activity pack allowing children the opportunity to have their say on the equipment proposed for in the new Stud Park Playground.

The following preschools participated in the activity:

- Park Ridge Preschool
- Murrindal Preschool
- Taylors Lane Kindergarten
- Eildon Parade Preschool

A summary of the results can be seen in the tables below (table 3,4,5,6).

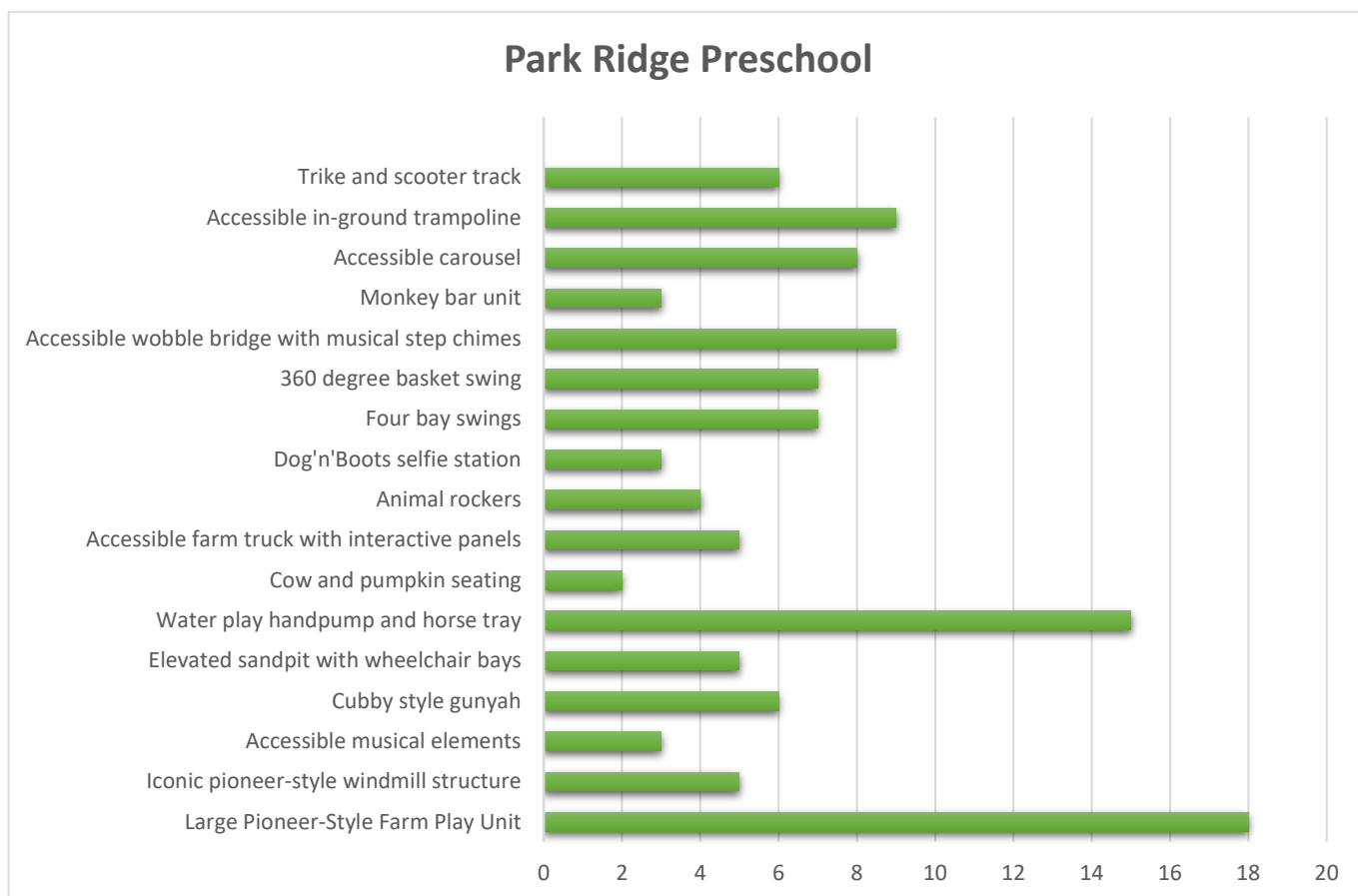


Table 3. Results from the activity pack provided for Park Ridge Preschool to complete.

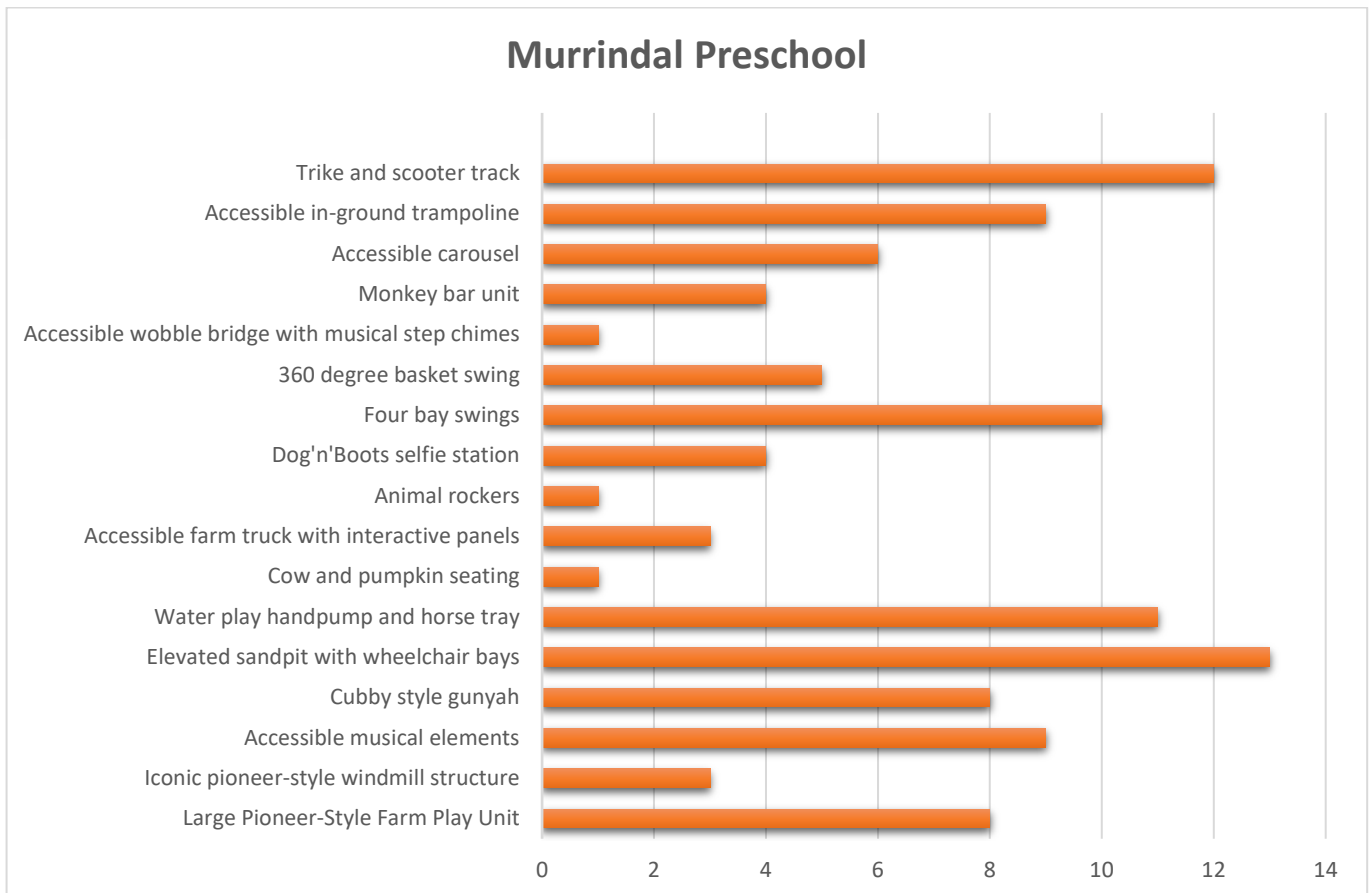


Table 4. Results from the activity pack provided for Murrindal Preschool to complete.

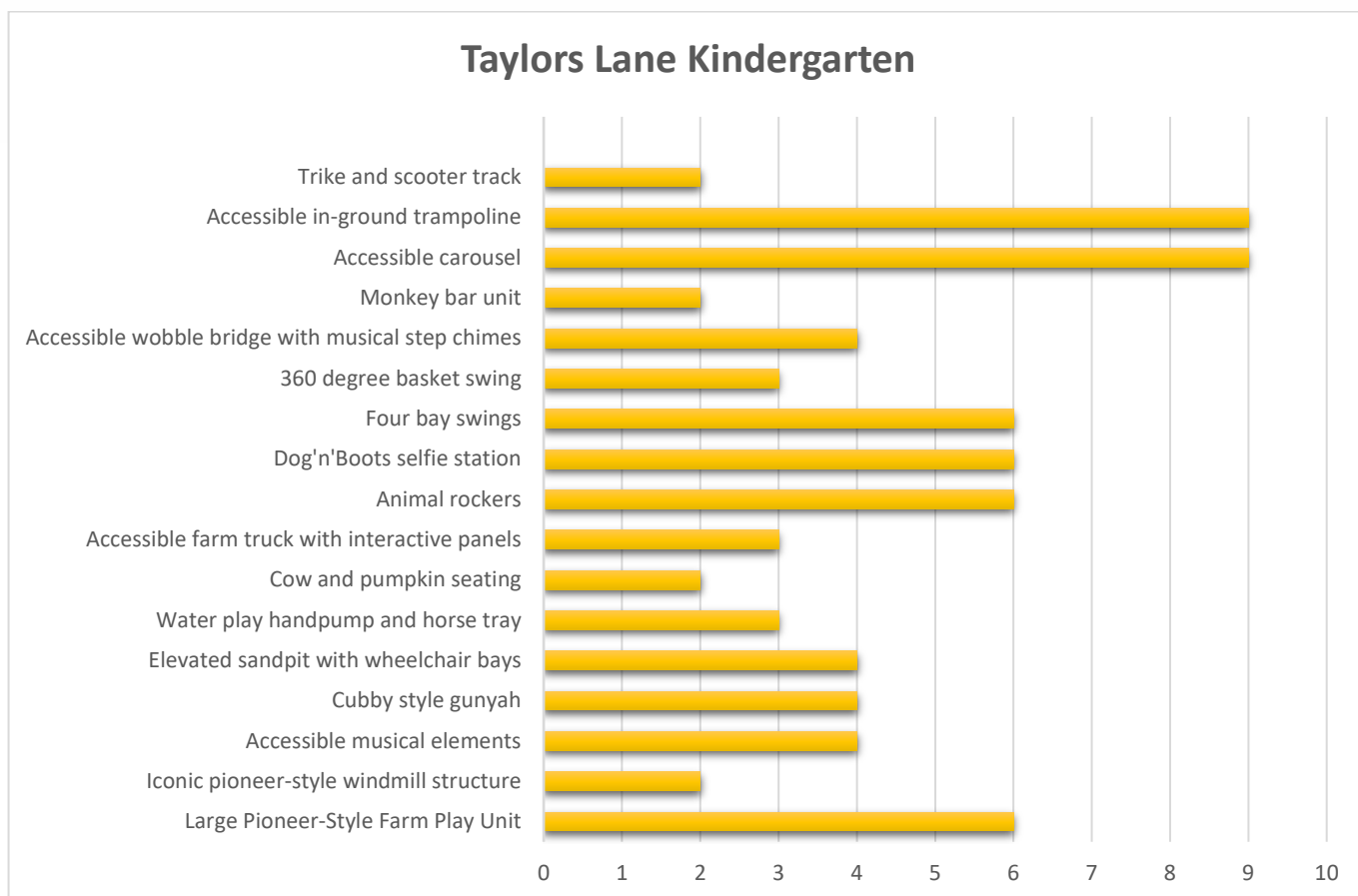


Table 5. Results from the activity pack provided for Taylors Lane Kindergarten to complete.

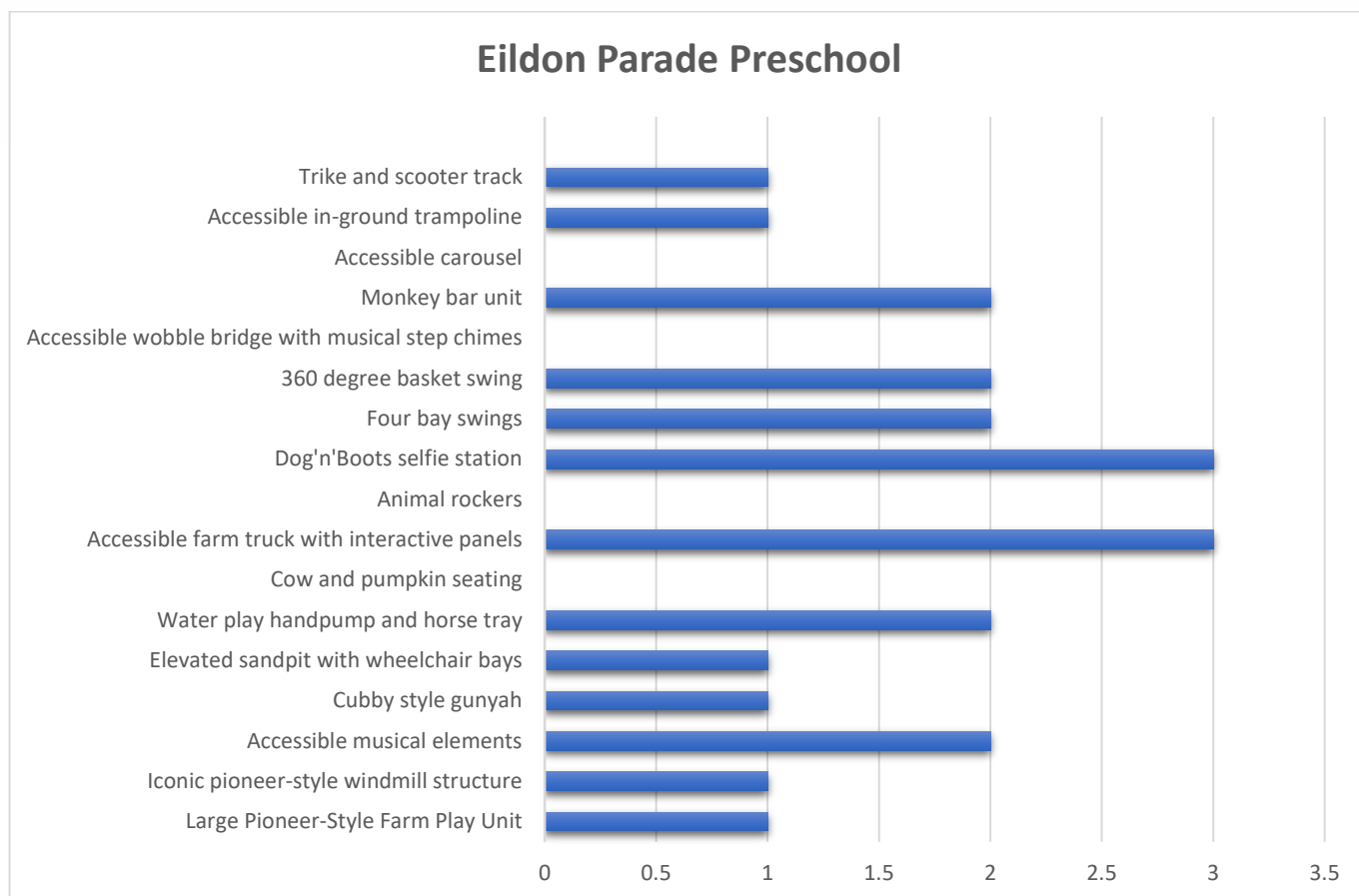


Table 6. Results from the activity pack provided for Eildon Parade Preschool to complete.

## 6. Outcomes from the engagement and next steps

We would like to thank all participants who provided input to this community engagement and helped to shape the new playspace at Stud Park, Rowville.

The community and stakeholder views and ideas highlighted in this report will assist Council to design and plan for the new playspace at Stud Park.

Input from this engagement process will also help to inform a range of other strategic planning, community development, asset management and capital works activities over the coming years.

Council will continue to update the community on the progress of the project via the 'Have Your Say' platform.

## 7. Appendix

Appendix 1 – On site signage

Appendix 2 – Knox Have Your Say Page

Appendix 3 – Social Media Report