

## Stud Park Playspace Upgrade

### 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.

The current timber fort style playground was constructed in 2008. In 2016 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. Council want to ensure our re-design captures the wants and needs of the community now and into the future.

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 March 2021, the first round of community engagement for the playspace upgrade was conducted. This included an online project engagement page, on-site signage and letters to surrounding residents.

In October 2021 the concept design for the new playspace was presented to the community for comment.

### 2. Purpose of this report


The purpose of this document is to share the feedback and key themes of the views presented across different platforms as found during the two consultation periods for the Stud Park Playspace project.

### 3. Engagement objectives and approach

The engagement objectives were to:

- 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.
- Increase community awareness of the Stud Park playspace upgrade and encourage feedback on the design of the playground.
- Using the feedback to design an exciting and engaging all-abilities playspace. With the outcome being increased community use of Stud Park.

Engagement outlet	How we engaged	Who 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> First consultation 25 <sup>th</sup> February –31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	Total number following project: 72 First consultation: 298 visitors, 36 contributions

	Second consultation 4 <sup>th</sup> October – 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2021	Second consultation: 822 visitors, 27 contributions
Social Media	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.	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
Letters to the resident	Mailed to 1444 residents within 500m radius of Stud Park, Rowville. Date posted was 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2021. All were residents of Rowville.	
On site signage	Large on site sign was erected October 2021	

## 4. Summary of Engagement and Key findings

Community engagement was conducted for the Stud Park Playspace Upgrade project to increase community awareness of Stud Park project and encourage feedback on the design of the playground and family gathering space.

The consultation was conducted in two stages. 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 councils 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%).

The feedback from the first round of community consultation assisted with the development of the concept design.

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 how many people were part of the engagement as well as what the key themes came out during the consultation.

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."*

Taking into consideration the comments from the second round of consultation, a final design will be prepared.

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## 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).

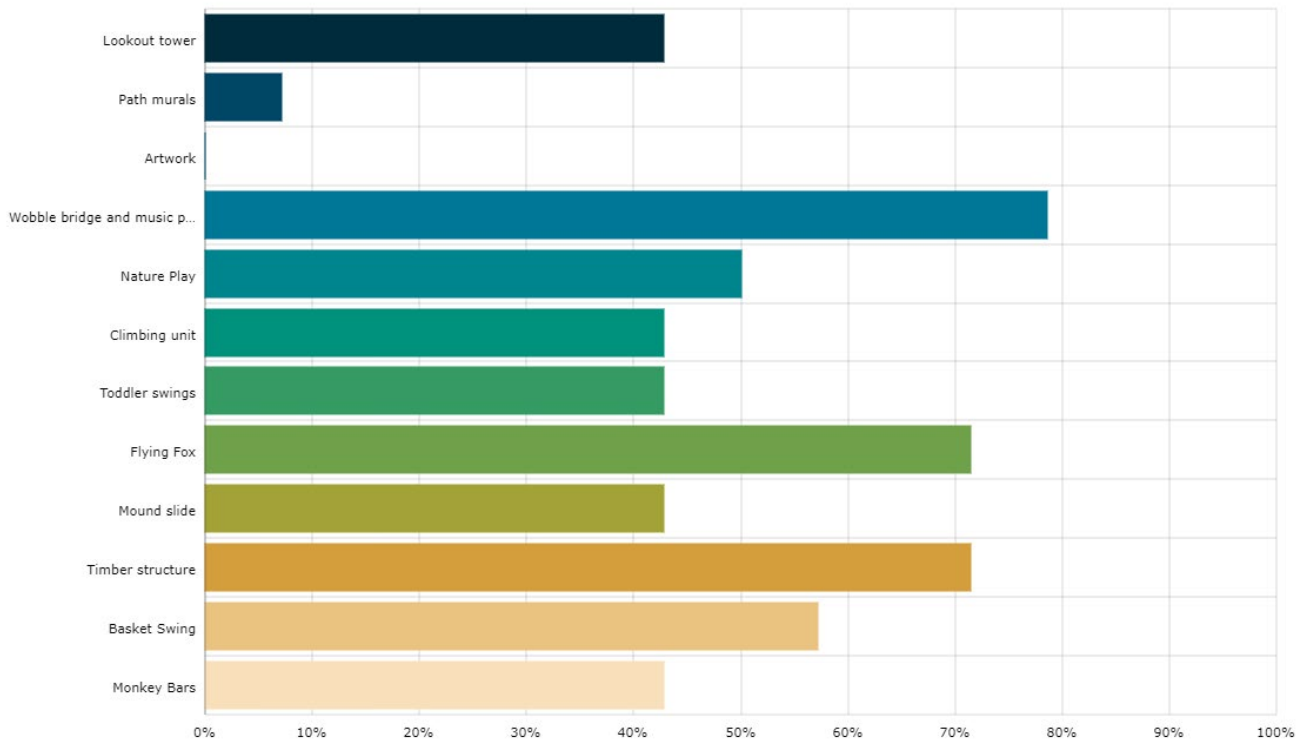


Table 1. Results from Q2. What are your favourite parts of Stud Park Playground?

## 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 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

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



- 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







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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

## 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 – Letter to Resident (second round consultation)

Appendix 2 – On site signage

Appendix 3 – Knox Have Your Say Page

Appendix 4 – Social Media Report