

Community Engagement Report

Heslehurst Reserve

Council publicly exhibited the concept design for the playspace renewal at Heslehurst Reserve from 27 January to 24 February 2023.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to provide feedback on the design. Below is a summary of the feedback received and Council's responses to the key suggestions and issues raised.

Play equipment

Swings and play equipment

A 2-bay swing set is included which contains 3 swings – an inclusive wide basket seat, toddler seat and flat seat. Inclusive swing seats cater to a range of ages and abilities.

Play value will be greatly improved with the inclusion of 2 play units comprising multiple climbing and sliding options, a spring rocker and other sensory and nature play items. Based on feedback, a fun mirror will be included as a sensory play item. The play units also include climbing and hanging opportunities for upper body strength.

Provide slides and steps to slides for very young children

There are several options to access the slides for various ages and abilities, including stairs.

Provide inclusive play equipment

Council's playground designs are guided by the State Government's "Everyone Can Play" guidelines, which ensure designs are accessible and inclusive. The guidelines encourage playgrounds that cater to children of all abilities to the greatest extent possible within site constraints and allocated budget.

The play units are low to the ground and the swings include an inclusive basket swing. Most of the playground is on an even, firm surface of new rubber and there are places to park prams etc.

Park furniture

Provide more seating and a drinking fountain

Two backed seats are provided as well as incidental sandstone seating throughout. Seating options will be in the shade at various times of the day. Space for pram parking will be adjacent to the seats. A wheelchair-accessible drinking fountain with a bottle refill is included.

Playground layout

Shade

The existing shade sail is new and is being retained. The remainder of the playspace receives very good shade from the existing large, mature canopy trees.

Light-coloured playground undersurfacing is included to reduce heat absorption and will include fun patterns to enhance play value.

Safety/uneven ground surface

The existing rubber playspace safety surfacing will be replaced with new rubber surfacing on a level, stable base. Mulch surfacing will be installed closer to the existing trees. Nature play elements are included in the mulched area. Seats and pram parking is located on concrete surfaces.

Landscaping

Landscaping will be incorporated within the fenced area, species included will ensure sightlines in and around the playground are maintained to ensure passive surveillance. Edging under the fence will be included to retain soil and landscaping where required.

Requests for bird nesting boxes have been referred to Council's Arborists team for review will be included if deemed suitable in this particular park.

Next steps

- Detailed design is progressing.
- Play equipment has been ordered.
- Construction is anticipated to commence in late winter 2023.