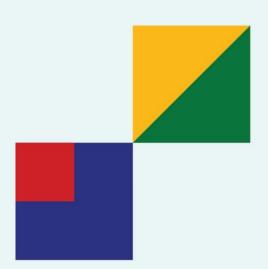


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

Montgomery Reserve Playground Proposal Stage 2: Design



Contact: Caitlin Tierney
Community Engagement Officer,
Open Space, Recreation and Property

PH: 08 8408 1132

ctierney@charlessturt.sa.gov.au

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We engaged with the community from Monday, 6 March 2023 to Monday, 27 March 2023 on stage two of the Montgomery Reserve Playground Proposal: Draft Design.

The purpose of this engagement was to:

- Inform the community of the level of support for the construction of a new playground in Montgomery Reserve, Flinders Park and feedback on how the reserve is used following stage one engagement (on the playground proposal).
- To share a draft design for the playground and seek community feedback.
- To understand the level of community support for the draft design, including what proposed features they liked most and least, and to develop a more accurate cost to construct the playground, to be considered by Council when determining how the project will proceed.

Engagement was undertaken in accordance with Part 3 of Council's Public Consultation Policy and, accordingly, the public consultation steps for this project have been determined by Council on a discretionary basis. The level of engagement was **'consult'**. The engagement outcomes detailed in this report will inform the Council's decision making by highlighting the community sentiment surrounding the playground proposal and design.

We posted 193 and emailed 21 consultation packs to the consultation catchment area and published a latest news post on our public website at the commencement of the engagement period with a link to the Your Say Charles Sturt project page. We received a total of 19 responses to the feedback form (8.9% participation rate) - 15 in hardcopy and 4 online. This is down from a 24% participation rate in response to the stage one playground proposal consultation. We also received 3 email submissions during the engagement period.

Support for the playground design from feedback form respondents was high, with 90% (17) indicating that they liked the draft design. The remaining 10% (2) participants indicated that they did not like the design (1) or did not provide a response (1).

2. BACKGROUND

Following requests from residents, an Elected Member budget proposal was submitted for consideration in Council's 2022/23 budget process to gather community sentiment for a new playground at Montgomery Reserve, Flinders Park, and the development of an initial concept design. The proposal was endorsed in Council's 2022/23 Annual Business Plan and Budget and funding was allocated to undertake community engagement and initial concept design in the current year.

Stage one community engagement was undertaken between Friday, 23 September 2022 and Friday, 14 October 2022. The purpose of the engagement was to inform the community about a proposal to construct a new playground in Montgomery Reserve and to understand if the community supported this idea or not, how they use the space, and potential playground features they might like to see.

While just over 70% of the contributors supported the new playground proposal, those who did not felt there were already a number of other playgrounds in close vicinity to Montgomery reserve and/or they enjoyed the existing open space of the reserve in its current state.

Alternative suggestions for the space (other than a playground) were offered for Council's consideration, and it was apparent many people enjoy the reserve for ball games, sports, and open activities.

The outcomes of engagement were reported to the Asset Management Committee of 20 February 2023 and noted by the Committee. A resolution was made and subsequently endorsed by Council, "That the draft concept design for the proposed new playground at Montgomery Reserve, Flinders Park...be endorsed for further community engagement and the results presented back to Council in April 2023 to inform consideration of funding in Council's 2023/24 budget preparations."

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

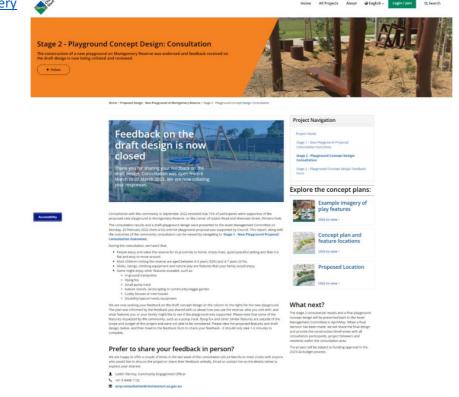
The stage one community engagement approach, objectives and scope was replicated for stage two, including engagement with the same consultation catchment area and interested parties, with the additional inclusion of the stage one consultation participants. Community was once again invited to share their feedback in hardcopy (within the catchment area) and online via Your Say Charles Sturt, with the option of providing in-person feedback by requesting an onsite meeting, if preferred.

In stage one engagement communication, we advised that that, at this time, we will not be considering features such as shade structure, shelters, toilets, BBQs, a drinking fountain, or irrigation as part of the playground proposal. These features were specified as outside of the scope and anticipated budget for this project.

4. ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLES

Your Say Charles Sturt – Stage 2 Playground Concept Design page:

https://www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/proposed-new-playground-montgomery-reserve/stage-2-montgomery



Onsite Signage:



Consultation Pack:



NEXT STEPS

Page 2 of 2

Caitlin

WOULD YOU PREFER TO MEET US IN PERSONS

MONTGOMERY RESERVE PLAYGROUND - DRAFT DESIGN

Hard copy to my postal address. If selected please complete postal details below

YOUR FEEDBACK

1. Do you like the draft design of the play space and surrounds, generally?

Yes, I like the design and proposed features. No, I don't like the design and proposed features.

Please turn over the page to complete the final question

FLINDERS PARK NEW PLAYGROUND CONCEPT PLAN

Place a number from 1 to 8 (scale below) in the blue boxes next to the key features to domnotrate what is most important to you.

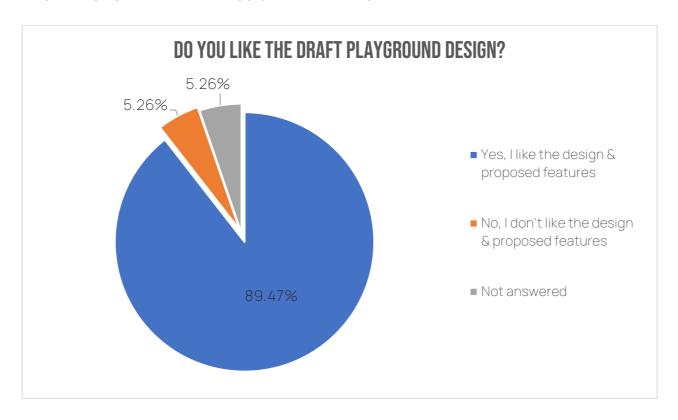


MONTGOMERY RESERVE



MONTGOMERY RESERVE FLINDERS PARK NEW PLAYGROUND CONCEPT PLAN

5. ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS & KEY THEMES



We received 19 unique responses to the feedback form and 3 email submissions during the period of the engagement. Of the 19 feedback form respondents, 17 liked the draft playground design, 1 did not like the draft design and 1 person did not respond. No one responded that they didn't mind about the design either way.

Positive Sentiment

Many people commented that they liked the design and activities, and the natural look & feel of the space as well as the natural-looking play elements. Many of the respondents who liked the design commented on elements that they particularly liked, and also made requests for specific considerations or suggested other/additional play elements (refer 5.2). Others commented that this was a good use of the space and was in a good location in the reserve.

Negative sentiment

Negative sentiment from those who supported the design included concerns about the music play (2) or suggested removing it (1), and concern expressed about safety/injury about the stone steppers/nature play elements (1). A respondent also noted their preference for the space to remain open.

One respondent to the feedback form indicated that they did not like the design, and we also received two email submissions (refer Appendix A) containing negative sentiment for the playground proposal. Important to note, however, was that these responses against the proposal (3 total) related less to the design of the playground, and more to the favourable consideration being given to its construction (related to stage one engagement).

The key themes of the comments that were not supportive of the playground proposal or design included:

- Feeling that the playground is not required given other playgrounds in proximity to the neighbourhood.
- Concern over retention of existing trees.
- Ongoing concern about exacerbated school issues such as traffic, parking, child and resident safety, and littering.
- Proximity to residential housing.
- Concern regarding who was consulted with and who supported the proposal (eg were they local, what children will use it etc).

5.1 Ranking of Proposed Features – Most Important to Least Important

Survey respondents were asked to rank the 8 proposed playground/play space features from 1 through to 8 where 1 would represent 'Most Important', 4 would represent 'Somewhat Important', and 8 would represent 'Not Important at All'. While there were 4 hardcopy form respondents who did not complete this activity correctly (used a different rating system), we were still able to interpret, adjust and collate their results. For the purposes of transparency, the incorrectly ranked results were calculated separately, but resulted in the same outcome as the correctly ranked responses. These results are demonstrated below .

Most important

Somewhat important

Least important

4

8



1. Inclusive Swings



5. Bench Seating



2. Inground Trampoline



6. Nature Play



3. Garden Beds & Trees



7. Bike Rack Node



4. Play & Rest Hammock



8. Musical Play

5.2 Other requests

Other equipment or feature requests in response to the draft playground design were:

- Flying Fox (3)
- Slide (2)
- Retain or remove and replant existing trees, if required (2)
- Spinning (1)
- Climbing structure (1)
- Sandpit (1)
- Basketball ring (1)
- Riding track in and around the play space (1)
- Native plants (1)
- Exercise equipment (1)
- Open space for ball sports (1)
- Seating type with back support (1)

One email submission was made from an individual, in addition to submitting a feedback form (Appendix B). The individual suggested some other ideas and play features that might make this playground more exciting for children. This feedback was collected by the individual from their own, and other children and the suggestions made are captured in the list above.

5.3 Out of scope requests

Other feedback and requests received on reserve features that were not within the scope of this consultation for future consideration by Council were:

- A community garden (1)
- BBQ & Picnic setting (1)
- Toilets (1)

6. NEXT STEPS

The Asset Management Committee will review the outcomes of community engagement on the proposed playground design for Montgomery Reserve, as detailed in this report, and consider the findings when determining how to proceed. Other factors that will inform final decision making may include the weight and merit of the initial request, expert advice, and other historical, cultural, social, environmental, or economic factors (such as budget), in addition Council's discretionary view.

Following a decision of Council, all participants of the consultation, residents & property owners in the consultation catchment area, and other identified communities of interest will be informed of the decision through direct notification. The wider public will be notified via our online platforms including Your Say Charles Sturt and our public website, as appropriate. Notification will include the consultation outcomes and project decisions, including final playground scope, design, and construction timeframes/conditions, if approved.

APPENDIX A - MONTGOMERY RESERVE PLAYGROUND DESIGN CONSULTATION COMMENTS SUBMISSIONS

| Ref | Feedback Form Comments | Staff Response |
|-----|---|---|
| 1 | I like the nature play, keeping the area more natural. | Comment noted. |
| 2 | We like the nature play and seating. We like the trampolines. We would like the inclusion of a slide and a zipline (from my 6 year old). My husband would like a basketball ring. | A slide and flying fox have not been included, due to the available space, cost, and proximity of these features in other playgrounds, including John Keeley Reserve located 500 metres from Montgomery Reserve. There were a low number of requests for a slide, and in addition, these items are included at other nearby reserves. A basketball court/ring is also not recommended due to the close proximity of other courts at Ross Reserve (800m) and River Park Reserve (1km). The proximity to residents (20 metres) is also a consideration. A basketball ring could be considered at Flinders Park Oval in the future. |
| 3 | Remove Music Play Remove understory planting and tree planting and replace with community veggie garden (keep irrigation). Add flying fox. | Quieter' musical instruments are proposed in the final design. A community garden is not proposed at this stage, as these require a high level of input from council staff and ongoing support from the community. If you can demonstrate community support for a community garden where local community are happy to administer and maintain a garden, you can visit https://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au/environment/sustainable-lifestyles/community-gardening/community-gardens or contact Council's Open Space Community Planner to explore this further. Space and irrigation is available for future implementation. A flying fox is not proposed due to the available space, cost and proximity to the flying fox at John Keeley Reserve. |
| 4 | Seating we would prefer some as listed and a few that are now in parks with back support more comfortable flying fox are very popular. | Seating with a back rest has been included in the amended concept design. |
| 5 | I like the design & hope it encourages families to bring their young children to get out the house and enjoy the facility. | Comment noted. |
| 6 | We like the concept plan. Planting greenery, concrete path and mulched ground. I am very positive that kids will enjoy Swings and Trampoline. Seating bench is good as well for parents and grand-parents to sit and watch while kids are playing. We personally did not like the big stones/ nature play idea as we have personally experienced small kids falling and hurting them self on the sharp rough edges. Overall we liked the plan. | Comment noted. Logs and rocks will be engineered to ensure rough or sharp edges are minimised, similar to other playgrounds within the council area. |
| 7 | I'd prefer to have kept this space open however I'm glad there will be garden beds planted. Hopefully with a variety of plants native to the area? Also there are two recently planted trees in the space of the proposed playground, I'm hoping the council will be able to accomodate them into the design or move them successfully. | Native plants will be incorporated into the playground design. The existing juvenile trees will be incorporated into the design, or relocated to a more suitable location nearby. |
| 8 | I like: swings, log traverse, trampoline and hammocks what we would add: an exciting climbing feature, maybe a wooden structure to go with the theme. Maybe also a large sandpit (as per playground on greville). I'd also add a track around the playground for ride on vehicles. Thanks:) 08/03 - Phone call with this respondent follwed by an email submission, also suggested the following equipment: • Some kind of exciting climbing facility that is almost exciting/scary. Anything tall that they can climb (eg rope pyramid in the playground at South Terrace - enclosed picture of castle structure - refer Appendix B). o Flying Fox (like at John Keeley reserve). It is a big hit and good for different ages. It's so low that it tailors to each child's age and ability. o BIG slides o Dry cleaners spinning rack that the kids can hang onto. Love that too. | Comment noted. Ideas such as flying fox, climbing and spinning features are included at John Keeley Reserve and not recommended due to cost and available space. It is also noted that the playground at Flinders Park Oval (800m away) is recommended for renewal in 24/25, subject to Council approval. |
| 9 | I would like to see included a barbecue set up (cooktop, table & seats) and a toilet. | BBQ and toilet not proposed as these facilities are recommended at larger district and regional reserves. These facilities are also located at Ross Reserve (800m away), Tedder Reserve and River Park Reserve (both 1km away). |
| 10 | There is not "Slippery Dip" for the kids to slide down, in the current design. | A slippery dip has not been included, due to the available space, cost, and proximity of these features in other playgrounds, including John Keeley Reserve located 500 metres from Montgomery Reserve. In addition, only a small number of comments were received requesting a slide. |
| 11 | I do not feel the playground is required given there are other playgrounds in close proximity. I am also worried about how many mature trees will be removed to facilitate the playground. I think the grassed area is best left as it is. | Following consultation in September and October 2022 that found 72% of respondents support the proposal, Council has endorsed a second round of consultation on the draft design of the new playground. In addition, the project will have no impact on existing mature trees. |
| 12 | Music play may impact on close neighbours. | Comment noted. |
| 13 | Will be great for community members and families by the river. Good use of green belt | Quieter' instruments are proposed in the updated design. Similar instruments are installed at other locations around Adelaide. The example shown is from Bristow Smith Reserve, Goolwa. |
| 14 | Concise and inclusive | Comment noted. |
| 15 | I like the design proposed for the planned playground. We also hope that benches are provided for seating and weather any exercise equipment can be | Comment noted. |
| 16 | implemented that adults and children can use. I generally think the design is good and it is in the right location within the park. Might be nice to have some open grass area too for kicking a ball | Comment noted. Fitness equipment is not included due to the proximity of fitness equipment at John Keeley Reserve. Fitness equipment |
| | around. Bit concerned about how loud the music play might be and if bigger kids will muck around with it at night. | may be included at Tedder Reserve in a future upgrade, subject to Council approval. |
| 17 | All activities are good | The design aims to retain large open areas within the reserve (for ball kicking, etc), both close to the playground, and to the west, adjacent to Wirringga Street. 'Quieter' musical instruments are proposed in the final design. |
| 18 | We like the nature play and natural feel of it. | Comment noted. |

| Ref | Email submissions | Staff Response |
|-----|---|---|
| 19 | I'm struggling to understand your process here , I understand 71% of people voted in favour for this project . | The initial proposal was raised in 2021 by an Elected Member, who had received requests from numerous families with younger children. |
| | Who are these people as very few of them are residents of flinders park. | The proposal was then endorsed by Council for consultation design in the current financial year. Whilst the playground proposal received |
| | You probably have all the Nazareth parents voting for this park so their younger kids can be entertained during collect times, as we have around 60 -70 | 71% support in stage 1 of the consultation, suggesting Council proceed further with design and stage 2 consultation, the proposal is still |
| | plus cars roll in every arvo . | subject to further consideration and endorsement by Council. |
| | It's a literally a night mare for all concerned. | Salper to relative constitution and endoscinents, eventually |
| | Especially the angry, frustrated parents and students ,tooting horns , spinning wheels , at excessive speeds , parking across our driveways & the constant | All residents within approx. 300m were issued with a consultation pack and the opportunity to provide feedback and comment. The |
| | litter , tissues cigarettes wrappers & food scraps That we the residents cleanup every second day or so . | general public can also be involved via the YourSay page and website/socials promotion, however 80% of respondents to the stage 1 |
| | You are about to ruin a lovely open space for kids to run and play freely , without concern . | survey were from Flinders Park and, of those 80%, 75% were in support of the proposal to construct a playground in Montgomery |
| | Couples picnic, riders, joggers, walkers take a rest under the big shaded tree canopies. | Reserve. You can review the deatils and results in closer detail here: |
| | The visibility through the park is clear and unhindered. | https://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf file/0034/1296376/Agenda-Asset-Management-Committee-Meeting-20-February- |
| | None of the existing residents want this development to go ahead as the park is too small and the playground is already too close to residential dwellings | |
| | Notice of the existing residents want this development to go aread as the park is too small and the playground is already too close to residential dwellings | 2023-put (community engagement results from page 41). |
| | Is this a suggestion from Nazareth school ? | Nazareth school have been provided an opportunity to provide input during the consultation period, however we have not received any |
| | Who are you consulting about this play ground , who is pushing this unwanted agenda? | specific requests from them at this stage, nor would we rate their needs to be a higher priority than the overall needs of the local |
| | Why is no one consulting with the immediate residential population. | community. |
| | The catholic school has manipulated and suppressed our voice since it's inception , we are wary of its own ignorance and stupidity. | Community. |
| | The eathors sensor has manipulated and suppressed out voice since it's inception, we are wary on to own ignorance and staplancy. | The feedback supported a natural play area with increased tree and vegetation planting. Elements of open space for recreation were |
| | | retained, while adding play areas for children and other areas for quiet enjoyment and biodiversity. |
| 20 | We recently received notification re the Montgomery Reserve Proposal. Possibly, we were absent from home if any previous notifications were | We undertook engagement to understand the level of support from the surrounding community (broader public had opportunity to be |
| - | presented but, though we have never before commented on Council's proposals in our 57 years of living in Weemala Street, Flinders Park, we wish to | involved if of interest/trelevance to them) from Friday, 23 September 2022 and Friday, 14 October 2022. |
| | make comment on this one. | |
| | We are of the original families to build our home in Weemala Street, and have lived here since moving in – 1966. At that time, our block was the back | A small number of juvenile trees will be relocated in close proximity to the new playground. Council's reserves are currently irrigated |
| | end of celery gardens, the major part being later sold for University buildings. We then witnessed those buildings being bulldozed and sold for the | according to SA Water guidelines, and trees are regularly inspected. In addition, a BBQ is not proposed at this location, as these facilities |
| | housing project that now exists and later the area now Nazareth College. During those years, we, with many other young families who also built new | generally require toilets to cater for longer visitation periods. BBQs are also located at nearby reserves. |
| | homes, reared our children, from babies to teenagers to adults. We saw the River Torrens widened and fenced, and were promised it would be dredged | Beneath, require to least to take in longer installar periods. |
| | on a regular basis), to prevent flooding (which came very close in 1981)! This has NEVER been done! Then we witnessed the greening and tree planting | 71% of participants who responded to the stage one playground proposal feedback form (50 individuals/families in total) supported the |
| | of the Riverbank and have seen the present mighty gum trees grow from tiny plants to the massive trees they are today. At that time, the grass was | construction of a playground in Montgomery Reserve and requested it be in keeping with the reserve character, have a natural, open feel |
| | watered regularly and mowed. That doesn't happen now! At that time also, our families were young and we were asked by Council if we wanted any | and asked that we retain valued areas of open space, too, for ball games and activities. Of those who supported the playground proposal, |
| | 'equipment' on that area. We requested a B.B.Q. and a few seats. That never happened. | 75% were from Flinders Park. The other 25% of supporters were from Kidman Park & Lockleys, and single respondents from Allenby |
| | That is a brief outline of the history of this area. NOW to the present proposal. It is beyond us to think the people most affected by this proposed | Gardens & West Lakes Shore. You can review the details and results in closer detail here: |
| | playground have approved of it!? It is beyond us to think that children 0-3 are having a 'say'! at least through their parents or grandparents? (as | https://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf file/0034/1296376/Agenda-Asset-Management-Committee-Meeting-20-February- |
| | suggested by your Stage 2 paperwork). In Weemala Street, there are only two children of the age that MIGHT benefit,one is 6 years of age and the | 2023.pdf (community engagement results from page 41). |
| | other just 3 months. | 2023.put (community engagement results from page 41). |
| | We only know of two children in Wirringa Street, (possibly three), and they live in a Rental Property that has, in the last 20 years had at least 8 different | Transport officers previously advised that the most current traffic statistics demonstrate that the surrounding roads are very quiet outside |
| | family Occupants., not all with children. (in other words, it has not had permanent occupation for many years, most people only staying a year or two. | of school drop/pick times. |
| | We only know of two children in Gaskin Road, and they are close to teen years. The fact is that the district is at present, mainly older people who have | of school dropy pick times. |
| | NO desire or use for such a commodity just now. We would be most happy to see our trees preserved, our verges mowed, the area watered and mowed | |
| | more often, and perhaps some more seating. We have no objection to a swing, but not a full playground. It is entirely unnecessary for the area, and we | |
| | | |
| | have NO desire to have increased Rates to pay for it!! Many of us are now pensioners, and even our grandchildren are past 'playground' interest. | |
| | | |
| | Lastly, it is entirely the wrong place for children to be encouraged to play. PLEASE, would someone from the Council come and stand on the corner of | |
| | Weemala and Gaskin Roads on a week day when school closes between 3 and 4 pm. We have NEVER complained but there is a constant bottleneck of | |
| | traffic on weekdays on this corner at parent pickup times. To fence the playground area would not help with safety, as young children would still be | |
| | confused by the three-way intersection. It is even now, an accident waiting to happen! As it is, we get cars parked over our driveway, and parents in | |
| | large vehicles with windows wound up and airconditioners on, parked in precarious places, and quite unaware of the hazards they are causing. We | |
| | have had two occasions just this last year where ambulances were unable to get down the street, and another where they were unable to enter a | |
| | driveway to collect a sick patient because of the traffic during these hours. Cars travel in all directions. We have to time our comings and goings to avoid | |
| | these times so we can enter and exit our own property. A small child eager to enter the playground space could find themselves in mortal danger. One | |
| | would have to askWHY THEREIU??? | |
| | In your next communications to us, please explain to the Long Term residents why THAT space has been chosen for this project. Surely the intersection | |
| | of three Roads simply doesn't make any sense. If you are relying on a few people bringing their 3 year olds from other areas, can we assume they | |
| | | |
| | might have need to park their cars also? Where do you suggest? Have we not enough with the school traffic? Are the other nearby playgrounds so | |
| | congested that we need another one, especially on this dangerous corner? Let us hope for everyone's sake this proposal doesn't end in a tragic injury or | |
| | death! | |

APPENDIX A - MONTGOMERY RESERVE PLAYGROUND DESIGN CONSULTATION COMMENTS SUBMISSIONS

| Ref | Late submission - Not included in consulatation results | |
|-----|---|--|
| 21 | Looking good. Can you add a Slippery Slie to the design? Kids love it. Otherwise, looking good. | |

APPENDIX B - IMAGES OF EXAMPLE PLAY STRUCTURE RECEIVED IN EMAIL SUBMISSION

Example images of a climbing structure received as part of an email submission (Refer **Appendix A**, comment reference number **8**) made from a participant in the consultation process who supported the playground design but made some additional suggested features for the playground, for consideration.



