

Retired and Archived 23 Feb 2021 Council Meeting item AO 034-21

Burnie Regional Playspace

Consultation Report

April 2018



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Purpose of the Report

The aim of the consultation report is to present the findings of the consultation process that Burnie City Council engaged Playstreet Landscape Architects to run over a series of engagement workshops with the local community to document their thoughts, aspirations and ideas for a proposed adventure playground in Burnie.

The responses to each event have been collated and a summary made which is expected to inform the development of a design brief for the future playground.

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge all of the community members, schools, students and community groups who took time to contribute to the consultation process with their ideas and their participation over the three events. We would also like to acknowledge the people and groups who assisted in the set up of the pop up park event as well as the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects who donated consultation time to the event.



Executive Summary

The data gathered from the consultation has indicated a correlation across all three events. While there are some minor differences and in the case of the second consultation session, some other issues covered, in general there has been enough data to show a clear direction for the type of future playground desired by the community and the top three sites the community consider suitable.

In all three sessions the theme that came across the strongest was the desire that the playground be designed for all ages and all abilities. Despite the fact that the majority of respondents were young families the focus was on providing a playground that also catered for families to gather and picnic and that it cater to toddlers, primary aged children, teenagers and adults.

The preferred type of playground that came out of the consultation was for a more traditional style of playground, i.e off shelf equipment mixed with nature based play. The play items seen as having most priority were a big set of swings, a large slide, climbing frames or nets and in ground trampolines and nature based play. There were 20 other play items that have been filtered from the data as being important to the playground and these are listed in the Appendix as second tier priority inclusions.

Three sites stood out very clearly from the list of suggestions. These were Burnie Park, the area in front of the Makers Workshop and anywhere along the beachfront. The reasons given for site preference were that it was easy for everyone to get to, there was somewhere to park and it was near amenities.

Burnie has a passionate community who see a great need for a regional type playground in their city. As such it is recommended to keep the lines of communication open throughout the entire process of the development of the playground.

A suggestion from a community member at the Pop up park was for the establishment of a facebook page dedicated to the new playground where the progress could be updated.

It will be beneficial as part of the brief writing to include a period for community consultation once a draft design has been developed. This will be to make sure the design is accountable to the results of the initial consultation. The facebook page would be an ideal platform for this purpose.



Overview of Consultation Process

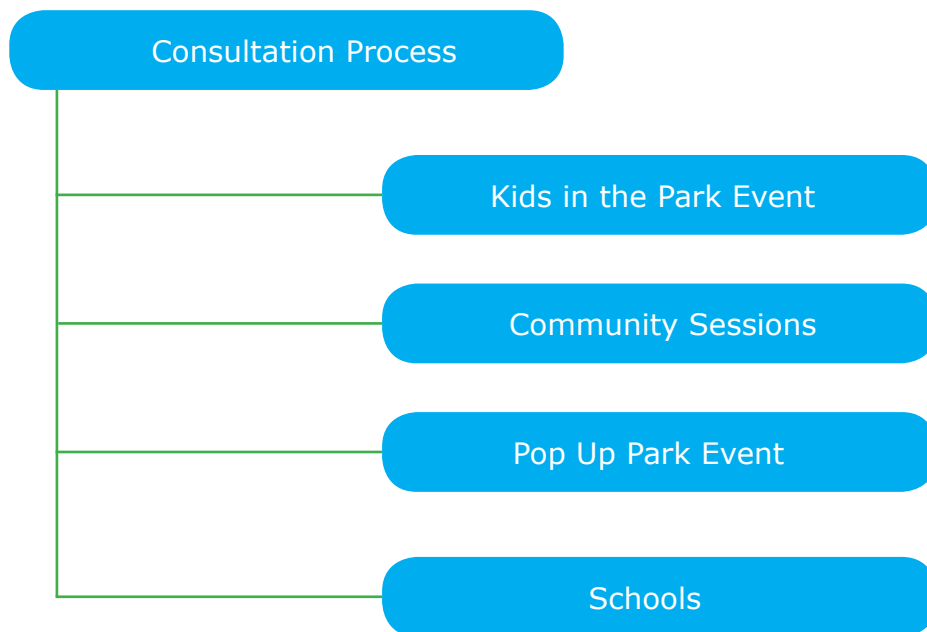
Objectives

The consultation had two aims:

- Determine the type of playground the community wants
- Determine the best site for the new playground

Engagement Events

The following events were held as part of the process. Schools within the city were invited to participate in the engagement sessions with additional data also received from Burnie Primary School and Stella Marist Catholic School. Data from the facebook page relating to the consultation has also been used as part of the analysis.



Community Responses

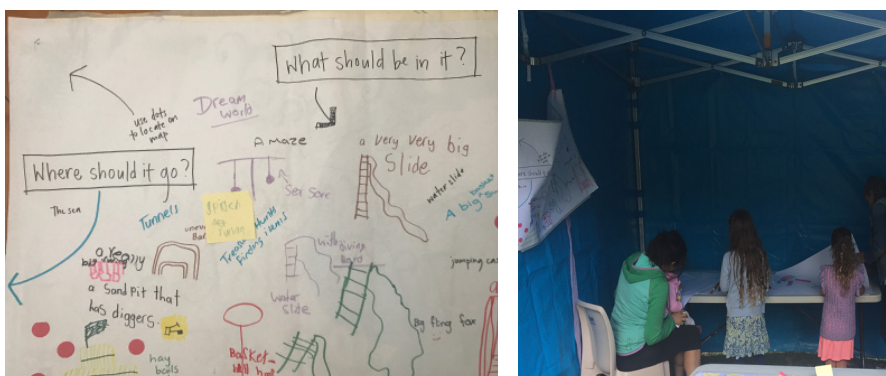
Kids in The Park Event Easter 2017

The Kids in the Park event held on Easter Sunday 2017 provided an ideal opportunity to engage with families and the local community. A marquee was set up with large newsprint paper, drawing items and sticky notes along with an aerial plan of central Burnie and beyond.

Participants were asked to write down or draw their thoughts and ideas and to locate on the aerial where they thought a suitable site for an adventure playground might be.

Initial responses were really positive with many happy that it was being considered by Council. Between 100 and 150 either gave verbal responses or wrote on sticky notes or drew pictures. From that approximately 70% were adults and 30% were children.

The following pages list the ideas and the summary of the consultation for the Kids in The Park Event.





10 TOP IDEAS

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|--------------|---|--|----------------------|
| 13 | | Giant slide | 4 | | In ground trampoline |
| 10 | | Swings | 4 | | Swimming pool |
| 6 | | Maze | 4 | | Basket swing |
| 5 | | Spinning | 3 | | Monkey bars |
| 4 | | Climbing net | 3 | | Flying fox |

Community Responses

Kids in The Park Event Easter 2017

The ideas gathered from conversations, the sticky notes and the drawings on paper were collated and ordered in terms of repetition with the following list representing the top ten most popular ideas:

1. Giant slide
2. Swings
3. Maze
4. Spinning
5. Climbing net
6. In ground trampoline
7. Swimming pool
8. Basket swing
9. Monkey bars
10. Flying fox

A number of locations were suggested by both children and adults although none of the areas really stood out as being more popular than another, and during general conversation no location suggested was seen as being absolutely ideal, with all of them having pros and cons.

The main comments concerning location were that there would be adequate parking and proximity to amenities.

Some of the areas suggested were:

- Romaine Reserve
- Oakleigh Park
- Shorewell Park
- Brickport Road
- Where the Farmers market is held
- Burnie Park
- West Park



Community Responses

Community Sessions 2017

There were two community sessions run over a day at the Bayviews Restaurant in Burnie November 2017. Prior to these sessions the Basalt Columns Carpark had been raised as a suitable site. A linear play experience had been discussed as a scenario for the Burnie Foreshore and this would be a possible site for one of the spaces, also linking it to the Coastal walkway currently under construction.

Session One

The first session involved community members, members from Council, Council Aldermen, and representatives from playgroups. There were around 21 people who attended the first session.

The first session initially had a strong focus on the carpark site. For the following reasons the site was seen as undesirable.

- Noise for the residents in the adjacent apartment complex.
- Proximity toxic fumes from the ships.
- Vandalism from Beach Hotel patrons on the way home.
- Obscuring of the columns.
- Location on a busy road considered an added risk.

The rest of the session was a brainstorming session amongst 4 small group tables with the information recorded on sheets of paper and notes made from conversations.

Session One also involved a walk to the area in front of the Makers Workshop and an onsite discussion of the sites suitability for a playground. From the group who attended the walk there was a unanimous positive response to the site.

Session Two

Session two was a smaller group of 8 people and as such was more of a conversation around a table with open discussion on types of play, sites and how much a playground of this nature would cost. There were members from the community, Council Aldermen and a representative from the Fairy Godmothers Association.



Community Responses

The ideas from the two sessions were collated with the following points being the main items raised as ideal playground characteristics:

- Near a cafe/ shops where parents/carers can enjoy a coffee or potentially shop
- Natural & open, nature based play
- Close to toilets
- Creative, meaningful active play
- Spaces where families can come together
- All abilities
- Sensory processing (enclosed difficult, nature much better)
- Play for all ages eg bars for parents to exercise
- Swings, big slide, flying fox
- Shelter/ roof in tassies weather (decent covered space)
- Unique to Burnie
- Following makers theme in Burnie
- Horizontal bars so adults can work out while children play
- Risk Taking - exploring, building resistance
- City of playful spaces : Whole city, along bike path
- Variety of activities
- Enclosed by fence

The following were discussed as sites:

Makers Workshop:

If exposure can be managed the site had the advantage of being highly visual from the foreshore and with the connection of the bike path a clear destination point. It was next to an existing cafe and there is potential for parking. The site has an incredible view of the ocean and back towards the foreshore and is close to the CBD.

Romaine Reserve:

This was considered a good option because of the amount of open space and the natural setting that would enhance an adventure style type of playground.

Multistorey Plaza:

The rooftop of the carpark was discussed as a possible site. There is a large amount of space, its accessible by lift and it has an amazing outlook over the city.



Community Responses

Pop Up Park 2018

A fabulous community event was organised in February to bring the community together to enjoy a range of free events (and ice-cream) and to capture as many thoughts as possible on the new playground. It was a very well attended event and many people stopped by to fill out a questionnaire or give feedback.

Overall we had 92 questionnaires filled out and many more ideas on sticky notes. The predominant age groups that contributed to the data were adults in their 30's and the age group 0-3 (children of the adults) The second largest category was early and upper primary.

The play elements that came out of the consultation (see Appendix) indicate the preference for a more traditional style of playground with items of play equipment combined with an area for nature based play.

Three sites emerged as clear favourites:

Makers workshop (35%)
Burnie park (20%)
Foreshore (18%)

It was important that they were accessible, near free parking and amenities.



Community Responses

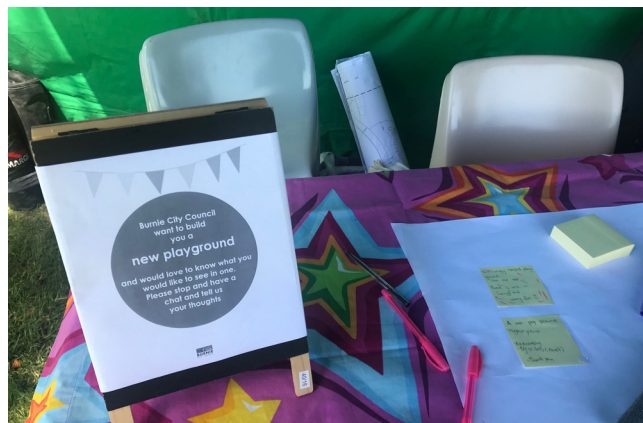
Pop Up Park 2018

The community were asked about what amenities they considered important to support a playground. These are listed below (in order)

- Toilets
- Shade/ shelter
- Close to parking
- Seating/ picnic tables
- Fence
- BBQ's
- Baby change room
- Drinking Fountain
- Safety
- Rubber Softfall
- Nighttime Play
- Adequate lighting
- Bike hire
- Food hire
- Sculpture

The factors that were considered most undesirable were (in order)

- Pine bark as a softfall mulch
- Smoking
- Metal toilets
- Metal playground equipment



Possible Sites

A number of sites were identified over the consultation period as being suitable for a new playground. While sites such as Romaine Reserve and Oakleigh Park were mentioned this was more in the context of an adventure playground which, while being considered a great future project was not seen as the highest priority for the majority of the community. The three sites that were consistently popular over all three sessions are discussed below with dots representing identifiable key features desirable to support a regional type playground.

Key: • Need to address • Adequate •• Meets Needs

Makers Workshop

The site adjacent to the Makers Workshop has come out on top in popularity according to the data received. The proximity to the University provides an added synergy and will provide a passive surveillance of the space.

- Easily Accessible
- Free Parking (some time controls and managed by UTAS)
- Access to amenities (toilets, cafes etc)
- Visually prominent space
- Space to support a playground of this type
- Access to services/ infrastructure
- Land Ownership (UTAS)

Burnie Park

It was clear during the consultation that the community have an attachment to Burnie Park and would like to see the existing facilities enhanced. The slope near the amphitheatre was mentioned frequently as being suitable for large slides.

- Easily Accessible
- Free Parking
- Access to amenities (toilets, cafes etc)
- Visually prominent space
- Space to support a playground of this type
- Access to services/ infrastructure
- Land Ownership (BCC)



Possible Sites

The Foreshore

The foreshore is an important part of Burnie's identity and a place seen as being able to provide a range of play experiences that build on what is currently there as well as being accessible to everyone. It was mentioned that school children waiting for buses of an afternoon would benefit from play close to the city.

- Easily Accessible
- Free Parking (close proximity & paid)
- Access to amenities (toilets, cafes etc)
- Visually prominent space
- Space to support a playground of this type
- Access to services/ infrastructure
- Land Ownership (BCC)

Playground Brief

There are a number of key issues to be considered in the development of the brief for the playground that have arisen from the community consultation.

Firstly, it will be important that the playground is designed as an inclusive play space catering to the needs of a range of abilities and age groups. The types of play experiences should be varied and there should be opportunities for imaginative, risk taking and challenging play as well as more passive, reflective play.

The playground should be unique in nature, and should be easily identifiable as belonging to Burnie. It would be great to engage school children in the entire process from concept to construction.

The playground should provide spaces for all types of weather events, especially rain and wind.

The play elements as listed in the Appendix should be used as the basis for the design.



Appendix

Most Popular play items or themes from Pop Up Park

Most popular:

- Large Swings
- Big Slide
- Climbing Frame
- Trampolines
- All Abilities
- Nature Based Play

It is important that the above items are incorporated into a new playground as the majority of respondents identified these elements as their number one preferred item.

The other ideas that scored multiple answers are listed below. It is recommended that these are given high priority in the design brief in the order they appear below as they are all desirable features.
Second tier Priority (in order)

- Monkey Bars
- Spinning
- Castle/ Fort
- Cubby
- Flying Fox
- Bike Park
- Water Play
- Tunnels
- Kick About Lawn
- Sand Play
- Music/ sensory play
- Basketball
- Balancing Beams
- Car zooming area
- Wobbly bridge
- Maze
- Animal Habitat
- Birds Nest
- Risky play
- seesaws



Appendix

Notes from Interview with Kathryn Fordyce (NW Autism Centre Manager)

Design Elements

- Fences are critical, especially if playground is near water. Higher fences would be preferable.
- Safety is paramount
- Spaces for solitary small group play, pockets and nooks of space.
- Edible plants, non toxic planting
- Softfall important
- Natural elements
- Different zones for different types of needs
- Separation of noisy play from quiet spaces for retreat
- Design to encourage parallel play
- Calming spaces very important, screening to allow visual participation but allow for solitary play if feeling overwhelmed
- Spaces up high to look down on other spaces
- Peek in spaces
- Spaces that allow the child's back against something to eliminate fear of someone coming from behind
- Thresholds for entering different spaces
- Touch, senses important
- Swinging
- Spinning
- Safe climb and crash (deep pressure from crashing is very regulating)
- Trampoline
- Water play, sensation of pouring
- Sensory wall
- separately fenced bike area on edge of playground
- Opportunities for movement
- Open space needs to be away from entry, coralling into space is better, not so overwhelming
- loose play
- balancing, rotating equipment for balance

Communications:

- QR codes to help with literacy, both children & adults and will help for the user to take the park experience away with them.
- Giant outdoor timer to help with parents leaving and turns on play equipment. preferably one for each piece of equipment where turn taking is required
- Symbols for both children & adults, rules are important but not too prescriptive
- A playworker would be a fantastic asset to a playground



Appendix

Questionnaire used at Pop Up Park

PLAYGROUND QUESTIONNAIRE

What play features would you like? List as many as you can.

Do you have a favourite playground that you have been to? Why did you like it?

Where do you think would be a good place for a playground in Burnie?

What other features (i.e toilets, seating, shade, etc) are important to you in a playground?

Is there anything that should not be in the playground?

