



Sherry Park, Mylor Play Space Upgrade Engagement Outcomes Report

Image of current play space located at 325 Strathalbyn Rd, Mylor

1 Summary of the consultation

A huge thanks to all those who contributed to the Sherry Park Play Space Consultation which was undertaken between 6 July and 18 August 2023.

We received 85 responses via survey, email, school session and market drop-in session. All feedback has been collated and will form part of the tender briefing for the playground designer and construction team.

It is important to note that consultation processes often highlight a diverse range of thoughts and opinions that may be in conflict with one another.

Council staff have a responsibility to provide considered analysis of information received from consultation processes; coupled with an obligation to provide safe and well-designed play spaces for the community. Some ideas and concepts received in this consultation process may not work for the Sherry Park site and will therefore be omitted from the project scope.

1.1 How was the consultation promoted?

Anyone with an interest in the playground was encouraged to provide feedback. Promotion of the project was via:

- AHC Social media (Facebook and Instagram)
- AHC website
- Hills Voice (eNewsletter)
- Targeted emails to community groups, local schools + Mylor residents
- Signage at playground
- Flyers/posters distributed to main street local businesses
- Article in Courier Newspaper

1.2 How could feedback be provided?

- Using the tools available on the online engagement portal which featured: a survey and ideas tool (engage.ahc.sa.gov.au)
- Emailing the project team (engage@ahc.sa.gov.au)
- Posting a letter (63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling SA 5152)
- Calling the project team 8408 0400
- Attending the specific engagement event held on site at Mylor Market on Sunday 6 August 2023
- School engagement session undertaken 10 August 2023 at Mylor Primary School.

1.3 How did we hear from people?

85 people participated in the consultation.

Table 1: Response numbers

Feedback type	Number of responses/ attendees
Email/Phone calls/Letter	6
Online survey	59
Face to face engagement event	10
School engagement	10
Total	85

1.4 What did we hear?

We heard from local school children, families from Mylor, grandparents and local community groups.

Themes that emerged across all feedback was:

Landscaping and amenities:

- Accessible and inclusive for all (children and parents) – suitable for wheel chair users
- Incorporating creek and water play
- Landscaping that considers play, learning and biodiversity
- Maintaining serenity and natural feel
- Keeping trees (pruning slightly) (grateful for the shade they provide)
- More seating and space for picnicking – a shelter for celebrating and a BBQ
- Public toilets closer to the play space
- Recognising local history and original donors of the land
- Linked paths from play space to oval and BMX track to oval (all weather)
- Revitalising the green open space by addressing draining and turf to allow for picnicking and festivities
- Edible plants
- Fairy garden
- Mounds to climb

Play:

- A play space that considers pre-teens and teens (older children)
- Nature play – play that is unstructured Tower / something tall
- Incorporating tress into play
- Monkey bars (ring/loops/regular)
- Extreme/Adventure swing
- Climb/ladder/rockwall
- Twisty loop slide
- Cubbies
- Swings (multiple)

- Fort
- Balance beams
- Ninja warrior course
- Half-court basketball
- Mini skate park
- Castle like climbing unit (including tunnel, rope bridge, multi-level area, etc)

**Note some ideas are outside the project scope*

Images submitted for design inspiration:



Over the next few sections we provide more detail on the feedback we heard via the different consultation opportunities.

1.5 School session

We visited Mylor Primary School on 10 August 2023 to chat with the children about what they would like to see in the upgraded play space.

Children had the chance to provide feedback using the survey tool and the results with the highest votes were:

1. Something tall & Something to hang from
2. Somewhere to sit & A swing
3. Something to climb & Something to crawl through
4. Logs, sand and big rocks

Extra words (interpreted from images)

- Tower with ladder and slide. Ring monkey bars. ZigZag ring monkey bars with loops. Tree and plants.
- Ring Monkey bars. Tall tower with ladder and circle holes. Tree. Edible plants.
- Swings. Adventure swing. Ladder. Fort.
- Twisty loop slide. Swings. Monkey bars. Cubby house with kitchen. Rock climbing wall.
- Monkey bars. Bridge. Tunnel. Pole. Slide.
- Twisty loop slide. Rock climbing wall. Swings. Ladder. Benches. Monkey bars.
- Fort with cubby house at the top and slide from the top.
- Trampoline. Climbing. Paths. Slide. Swing.
- Climb. Slide. Swing.

1.6 Online survey responses

We received 59 responses to the online survey. The online survey had a mix of 10 open and closed questions to gain an understanding of who the current play space users are, what they value about the play space and what they would like to see in an upgraded play space. Users could also submit photos as part of their response. 278 people visited the project engagement page.

Snapshot of response data:

- There was an even distribution of responses to those who lived within 300m of Sherry Park (45%, n=27) and the wider Adelaide Hills Council Area (48%, n=29) and a small number said they were visitors (7%, n=4)
- 37 people live in Mylor, 6 are from Bridgwater and 4 from Aldgate
- Most respondents were parents (n = 41)
- 7-10 year olds were the biggest age category that the respondents said they visit the playground (n=27) and this was closely followed by the 3-4 (n=25) and 5-6 age category (n=23)
- Most people who come to the playground said they drive (n=32) compared to walking, skipping, wheelchair or stroller (n=23)
- Most people said they visit the playground once a month (n=27)

- The top three elements people enjoy the most about the play space were: the quiet and natural environment (n=44), using the play space equipment (n=41) and areas to picnic, read and relax (n=30)
- People said the play equipment their children enjoy the most was: imaginative or sensory play elements, freestanding equipment, somewhere to sit and balance beams or monkey bars.

We asked people what makes this play space **special** to them and they told us:

- History and personal connection
- Location and proximity to oval, school, post office, creek, “off the beaten path”
- Natural environment – spaciousness, beauty, quietness, creek, oak trees, mushrooms, shade
- Suitable for the whole family – and the space should continue to cater for older children
- Amenity - quiet and safe from the road, easy parking, access to toilets, swings

People also told us what they don't like:

- The space feels old and worn out
- Space is currently boring for older children
- Space feels small when multiple children visit
- The central space is boggy in winter and dry and weedy in summer

In their words:

- *It's a great space with the ability to utilise the oval, the creek and bushland as well as the playground. Keeps the whole family happy with different things to do. The toilets are a bonus also. My daughter is in a wheelchair and it would be great if the playground could be accessible as we love to play on the oval, flying kites and using our remote control car, it becomes difficult to include her on the playground as its not very accessible for her wheelchair. It would be great to have some wheelchair friendly equipment and for the playground to be fully accessible, without bark chips and edging all around as wheelchairs cannot get over them and bark chips make the wheels spin!*
- *The big oak trees with mushrooms under them and dense leaf litter. Saying 'baa' to the llamas next door. Even with a young toddler we can play games making little cubbies for acorns and climbing some of the smaller trees. We like to look at the cute doors in the trees. Babbling creek nearby for nature play, trying to find frogs and jumping in puddles. Watching big kids on the bike jumps. Proximity to cafe for morning tea. I can let my son run around and not worry about cars. Proximity to oval to kick a ball and watch dogs.*
- *At the moment it is special as it is part of our local community. We love being able to use it and engage with locals as well as use other services close by such as the cafe, general store, post office and coopers. However the space is very basic and run down meaning we often opt not to use it.*
- *My nieces were actually more enamoured with the trees and the pretend monster hiding in the bush rather than the playground equipment! The natural setting and tree rich area has so much potential. It is naturally shaded and cool, meaning children not at risk of sunburn and no ugly sail cover needed (sail not suitable for Mylor in any case, as would very quickly become covered in mould). I would highly object to Council removing trees in order to erect something artificial.*
- *We love coming to the playground to 'run off some steam', use the bike track and say hi to the alpaca next door!*

- *Location - I play cricket so having the play space so close makes game day easier, keeping the kids entertained*
- *This space offers a community hub that brings families together and encourages kids of all ages to share and play in a space in a beautiful environment. The addition of the bike track has been fantastic for our family and local friends. The creek line offers nature play at its best and the nearby oval means big kids can kick the footy or play cricket while the younger ones can swing on the swings and play on the playground.*

We asked people what their **vision** is for this play space and to think about what they would like to do here in the future.

- **General play design comments:** large green space, inclusive and accessible for everyone (children, parents and grandchildren), a nature play space, open-ended, versatile equipment that will challenge, engage and interest children constructed of natural materials and group play opportunities such as tunnels, slides, forts, climbing frames and shared seating.
- **Amenities:** A shelter for sitting and celebrating (two one for bike track and one for playground), a picnic area, toilets closer by, more seating around bike track,
- **Landscaping:** with stepping stones, balance challenges and hiding and chasing opportunities, incorporating trees into playground design, water play linked to creek, tie in education element with creek and conservation park, diversity in planting, fairy garden (given the local fairy doors amongst the trees), increase biodiversity.
- **Structural considerations:** Walking tracks easily accessible via prams and wheelchairs, storm water channels between the park and the oval should be more structured, bank of Aldgate Creek left grassed like the bank of the oval, and a walking track along the creek to both Coopers and Goyder reserves be considered, addressing water logging in the centre of the park in winter and dry weeds in summer (needs leveling and returfing)
- **Maintenance:** pressure clean equipment to avoid mould build up
- **Specific equipment requests:** At least one baby/toddler swing, spiral shaped slides, 'shop counter' (for play), large net swing, climbing items, balance logs, climbing equipment for older kids, linear trail around the park and oval, small skate park, half-court basketball ring, pickle ball court, mounds to climb, multiple slides, hard surface which can be adapted, eg for hopscotch, something musical - chimes, xylophone etc
- **Considerations outside immediate scope:** Pedestrian access via cross street to the park area from the local village is an ongoing safety concern and I would encourage the council to consider a dedicated pathway on one side of the road or could there be speed bumps introduced on the downhill of Cross Street into Mylor town to ensure traffic is slowed. Request for dogs to continue to be allowed to use the space.
- **Accessibility:** ramps, no bark chips and equipment suitable for wheelchair users

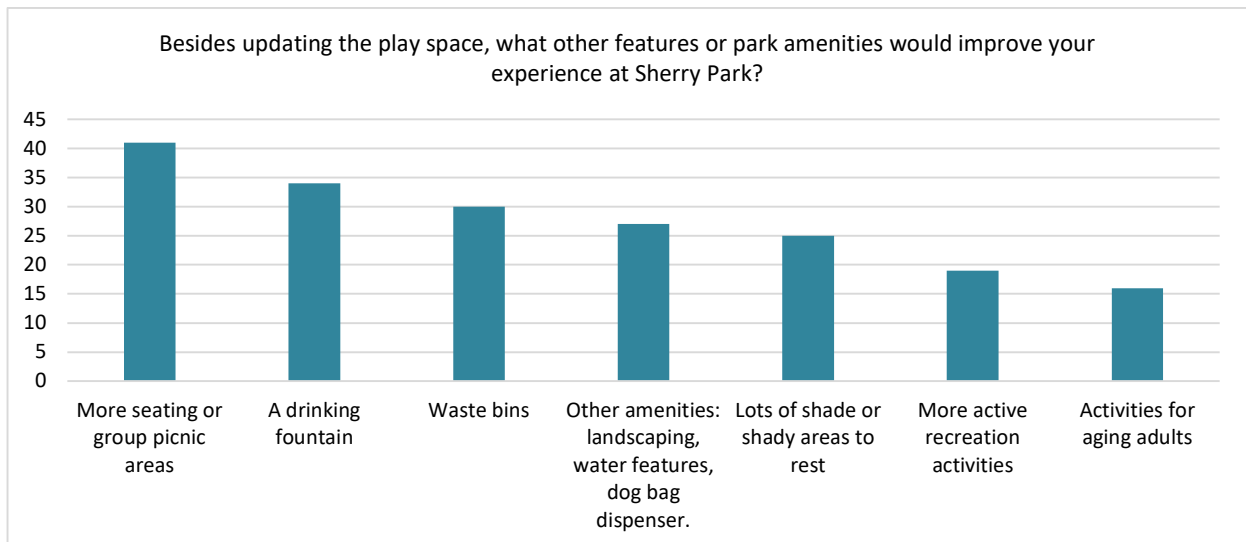
Other play spaces mentioned:

- Anembo Park in Mt Barker
- Balaklava, Goolwa ship, the steam roller at Steamroller Park
- Charleston
- Mt Torrens
- Lameroo
- Skate Park Avenue Rd in Cumberland Park
- Richards Park Norwood (shade)
- Ridge Park in Glen Osmond

In their words:

- *It would be great to have a fully accessible playground. Get rid of the bark and edging so that wheelchairs can drive onto the play area. Some wheelchair accessible equipment like the roundabouts, even an accessible swing would be great. Ramps onto the play equipment. Net swings so those with physical impairments can lay on them instead of sitting up. It would be great to have some picnic areas with shelter.*
- *Would be a great place for teens to meet as there are already so many areas for younger children but not for youth. It would mean they would be encouraged to stay local and not go "down the hill" for entertainment. We don't need another playground for little kids.*
- *It would be good to remain not too designed. Open, informal spaces encourage imaginative play. It could be cool to incorporate some whimsical wood carving sculptures of animals e.g. frogs and echidna, to link in with the cute doors already there. They could be hidden amongst the creek and oak trees. We should always be looking for ways to engage local artists in the upgrades to our parks.*
- *Something that accommodates both kids and older youth. Not a generic, plastic, 'safe' playground. Something that allows for creativity.*
- *I think it's important for it to be unique, to appeal to children, rather than almost a cookie cutter replication of another playground. The beautiful tree rich area lends itself to something really special and it would be amazing to see the trees be incorporated ie. wooden platforms encircling the tree trunks (little 'tree houses') with mid-air walking platforms between the trees linking them up. The kids would be absolutely enthralled if you created them a playground with connected tree houses.*
- *Would love some open ended/imaginative play equipment - a boat/cubby house, tunnels, climbing etc. it would also be great to have some water or sand area to play in/explore with bridge/footpath - the small waterway that runs alongside generally is just very muddy and difficult to cross.*

Besides updating the play space, **what other features or park amenities** would improve your experience at Sherry Park?



Additional comments included:

- Closer toilets (this was the most requested amenity)
- Shade cover over the play area
- Walking trail on stock road improved/maintained so can walk there.

- Adult exercise equipment
- Still leave plenty of room for English Ale and burning the wicker man
- Multi-generational play spaces
- Maybe chess or draughts tables
- Need more bins, bbqs and a drink fountain to fill up water bottles while using the pump track
- More seating
- Improve drainage or build up central section of the park so it can be used for picnics and ball games etc
- Please leave the red seat and shelter alone

1.7 Face to face event

Approximately 10 people provided their feedback at the Mylor market event on Sunday 6 August. The team had materials for providing feedback and the most popular was the sticky dot voting exercise with results shown below:

Voting sticky dot summary:	Number
Used by many	6
Hang - like monkey bars	6
Swing on	5
Climb on	5
Sit together	5
Crawl through	5
Interesting to touch	5
Bouncy	5
Balance	4
For little ones	3
Slide down	3

Additional comments provided included:

- Would prefer carpark removed
- Kwin and adventure playground with kitchen, outdoor furniture.
- Connectivity of oval and playground with bridge over creek
- Upgrading shelter with roof and BBQ
- Exercise equipment for adults
- Improve drainage and possibly carpark
- Refurbish seat under current shelter

1.8 Emails received

We received six emails and feedback can be summarised as:

- New play space equipment suitable for teenagers (e.g. flying fox)
- Do not dominate the space with equipment, allow for water play, climbing, stepping stones, logs and different types of trees and bushes from which they can collect seed pods, flowers etc, and also which they can climb through and hide and chase around.

- Images submitted with: Hamster Wheel. Slide. Swing. Ninja warrior course. Water pump. Sandpit. See-saw. Water pump. Swing. Hamspter wheel Ninga Warrior course. Slide.
- Fitness playground. A few chin bars, dip bars etc. Similar work has been done at Ridge Park in Glen Osmond
- Summary of Mylor branch of Australian Red Cross submission:
 - An acknowledgment of our past members including Mrs Sherry & Mrs Feder in gifting the land upon which the park stands today.
 - The park bench be retained and be securely placed within the new precinct and in an accessible location
 - If the existing shelter has to be removed that you allow our members to dismantle and relocate same.
 - Refreshed and contemplative park with improved drainage, improved wheelchair access including all weather paving.

"Sherry Park was effectively gifted to the Adelaide Hills Council by Mrs Sherry – her daughter Mrs Feder attended at Sherry Park in 1988 as part of Australia wide Bi centenary Celebrations and the elm tree that she planted on that occasion thrives not far from the bootmakers cottage. In 1989 the local Red Cross branch members fabricated and then erected the existing shelter. Members also paid for and laid the cement slab. The park bench adjacent to the playground and underneath the shelter was purchased through Adelaide Hills Council and also gifted to the community. Both the shelter and the bench seat have served the community well over the years through successive generations. From time to time our Red Cross members have maintained both the shelter and the bench seat."

- Summary of Mylor Oval Management Inc. submission:
 - Zoned area is underutilized
 - Trees: The area between the existing playground shelter and the road has a mixture of trees, primarily of an introduced variety. Many of the trees have been self-seeded over the years and not maintained. The result is that the area is rarely used in summer and is not particularly inviting in the wetter month. With appropriate pruning ample space would be created for children to engage in a variety of play related adventure activities. The trees would not only add to the ambience but provide plenty of shade during summer, while during the autumn and winter periods, as the trees are deciduous, ample light would be available.
 - Adventure play: Examples of the type of adventure play equipment that could be seen in this area could include (by way of example only): castle like climbing unit (including tunnel, rope bridge, multi-level area, etc), tee pees, climbing logs, etc. While a timber theme would be great it is recognized that a more durable material, preferably in muted, natural colours may be more suitable. Swings that can be used by adults (example provided of local adult with autism who uses the swing regularly)
 - Shelter: Shelter should be retained, BBQs would be great for families (committee is willing to work with council to fundraise for this). A new contemporary shelter and table be constructed. This would provide a useful amenity for people using both the BMX track and the green space.
 - Drainage and green space: A modest green space area between the equipment and the BMX access path would allow picnicking in close proximity to the play area. Need to fix two drains. The retention of the open green space is seen as essential to the proper functioning of the park (for children to kick balls and for local festivities). However drainage and turf maintenance need to be addressed.

- Car parking: The existing car park zone is inadequate for the needs of the park. It is also poorly laid out and does not provide for efficient use of the parking area, with people parking in an odd assortment of ways. By squaring up the area and using the space immediately behind the Boot Maker's Cottage (not currently utilized) extra car parking can be available for the park.
- Linking paths: There needs to be a safe linking path between Sherry Park and the oval (for access from the car park and for access to toilets). Link from BMX to oval should be considered. BMX track access pathway (address draining issues) - all-weather BMX access path from the Sherry Park carpark is the most pragmatic solution. It is requested that the reshaping be finalized by ensuring the access path stays as close as possible to the play zone and then hugs the property boundary all the way to the BMX track (see diagram).

"The boot maker's cottage is a small single construction dating back to the early 1900s. The cottage was restored to its current state just over 10 years ago through the efforts of the local history group and funding from various sources, including the AHC. The cottage has a large hedge in front of it along. The cottage, the hedge and the small area of grounds around the cottage used to be maintained by the history group; however no active maintenance work has been carried out for quite some time."

2 Summary and next steps

A huge thanks to all who participated in this first stage of the consultation.

In broad terms the next steps will be:

- Council to update stakeholders
- Council to select concept plan (ensuring it reflects community engagement data and fits within the budget) and for it to be available to view on our website.
- Finalise design
- Construction of play space upgrade
- Play by 30 June 2024