

# W.L.J CROFTS RESERVE, ALTONA NORTH

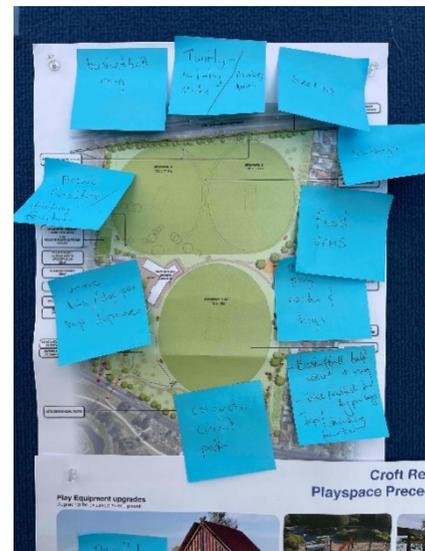
## LOCAL PLAY SPACE UPGRADE – WHAT WE HEARD (JUNE 2021)

### The play space at W.L.J Crofts Reserve in Altona North is due to be upgraded to the standards of other Local Play Spaces across Hobsons Bay in early 2022.

This is the final package of works due to take place as part of the W.L.J Crofts Reserve Improvement Plan.

As a first step, we sought feedback from the local community to better understand what types of equipment and features, furniture and landscaping they would like to see in the upgraded play space and surrounds.

Thank you to everyone who shared their ideas throughout April and May 2021. Whether you joined us on our park day, submitted a survey online or by mail, or contacted us directly, all feedback has been collated and a summary of what we heard is presented below.



### The community engagement process

The community were asked to provide feedback on the local play space upgrade at W.L.J Crofts Reserve in Altona North from 30 April to 28 May 2021.

As a part of this process, participants were given the opportunity to provide feedback specific to equipment and features, park furniture, access and pathways, and if there was anything else they would like considered as part of the upgrade works.

Both in-person and digital engagement activities were on offer, including a community drop-in session at G.J Hosken Reserve, an online survey and a pre-paid postcard. Additional feedback was invited to be shared with the project team via email and phone calls.

These community engagement opportunities were shared via Council's digital platforms, emailed to followers of the project on Participate Hobsons Bay, tenant sporting clubs on the reserve, and to those who left feedback on other works to W.L.J Crofts Reserve previously. Pre-paid postcards were also distributed to 580 identified stakeholders.

### Who got involved

A community drop-in session was held in a COVID-safe manner on Saturday 8 May, 10am-12pm at G.J Hosken Reserve in Altona North. Participants were invited to chat with Council officers, comment on upgrade works to W.L.J Crofts Reserve and G.J Hosken Reserve and enjoy a free coffee. Approximately 40 people attended this drop-in session.

We received 103 survey submissions over this time from 20 contributors and one email sharing feedback. However, when analysing the survey submissions received, it was identified that multiple submissions were received from some individual participants. This has resulted in 27 survey contributions being accepted, including one pre-paid postcard.

The majority of participants were between 35 and 54 years of age and from Altona North.



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### What we heard

Council officers facilitated constructive discussions with community members during a community drop-in session on Saturday 8 May 2021.

During the community drop-in session, participants suggested specific play equipment to include in the local play space upgrade, and enquired about the pedestrian access to and within the reserve.

Of the comments and feedback received through both in-person and digital methods, the most common comments related to play equipment, sports equipment, a picnic area, perimeter pathways, the overall design and seating.



### Play equipment and features

The most common equipment and feature requests were for swinging equipment (i.e. monkey bars, swings), a basketball half-court or ring, a flying fox, age appropriate and all abilities equipment, and climbing equipment (i.e. jungle gym).

Some additional play equipment suggested included a seesaw, a slide, an in-ground trampoline, parallel bars and nature play equipment.

### Park furniture

Requests were made for a barbeque, picnic area, park benches and a drinking fountain.

Some requests specified to provide a shade structure over the picnic area or include a shaded area within the overall design.

Additional requests were made to install bins and to use natural timber materials.

### Access and pathways

When asked if participants had any feedback relating to getting in and around the reserve, the most common request was that a perimeter pathway be installed around the reserve that connects to G.J Hosken Reserve, Altona North across Blackshaws Road.

Comments were also made relating to the material and uses for this pathway, along with other access suggestions.

### Additional comments

Relating to the overall design of the play space, comments were made to install perimeter fencing around the play space, ensure play structures blend in with surrounds and are open for passive surveillance, and that equipment is linked to encourage users to move from one point to another.

Other specific requests were made for bicycle storage, tree planting to provide shade, provision of a dog poo bag dispenser and other amenities within the park.

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### Next steps

Thank you to all community members who got involved and shared ideas for the local play space upgrade of W.L.J Crofts Reserve in Altona North.

Ideas and feedback received will help Council shape the concept design of the park which will be shared for further comment from the community in the coming months.

Keep an eye on the project website for more information at [participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/WLJcrofts](https://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/WLJcrofts)



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