

Sylvan Reserve Playground Renewal

Engagement Findings Report

How we engaged

Engagement on the project commenced on 20 April 2026 and closed on 17 May 2026. The project was seeking local knowledge to better plan for and design a new playground at Sylvan Reserve, Montmorency. 65 people participated in the following ways:

- 41 people completed a survey online
- 14 people dropped a pin / s on a map to share how they use the space
- 1 email
- 8 adults and 1 child attended a pop up conversation at the playground on 2 May 2026

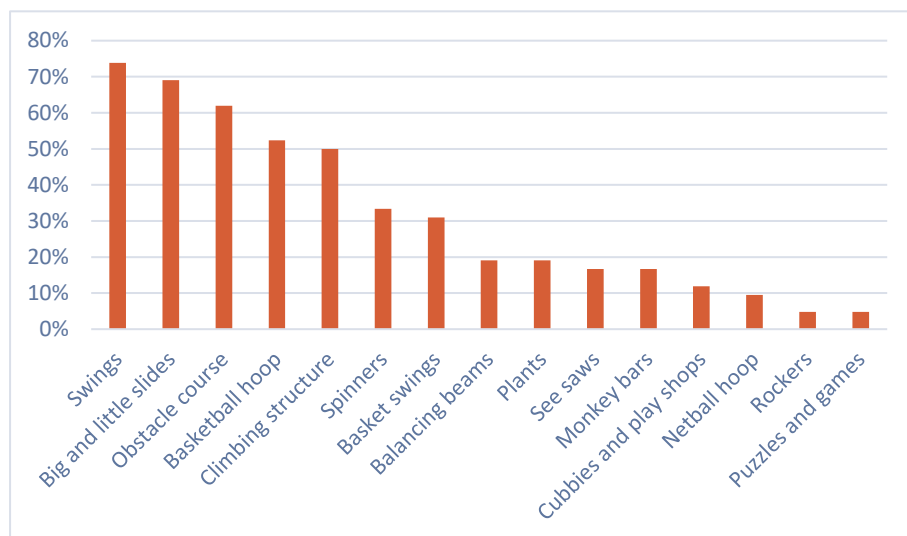
In addition to the above active involvement, 286 people visited the Shaping Banyule page to view the plans and the social media campaign had a reach of 3,368 people.

The project engagement was promoted through the following methods – on site signage, flyer drops to residents within a 400m walking distance, a story in Banyule Banner and a social media campaign and contacting local schools. 98% of the respondents were local, from Montmorency.

What we heard

- 76% of respondents visit the Reserve at least once a week. In comparison, 60% of respondents visit the playground at least once a week.
- 98% of respondents feel safe at the Reserve. Those that don't feel safe, stated it was due to off lead dogs in the playground.
- The most popular ways to use the Reserve and playground are playing at the playground (76%) and passing through – a link between places (50%). A number of residents suggested that the park is currently unused as a commuter cut-through to Montmorency station.
- 69% of respondents felt there is enough path access to the park. A large number of people suggested a diagonal path was required from the north-west corner of the park (Alban St) to the south-east corner of the park (Sylvan St x Coventry St), via the playground.
- Respondent's favourites things about the Reserve are:
 - The nature and trees
 - Open space with a quiet community feel
 - Locality – close to home and links streets together
 - The playground and basketball court

- Respondents were asked to select up to five activities that them, or a child in their life, enjoy the most. Below outlines the results of this questions. Some respondents recommended activities not listed, including musical instruments, four square / downball, exercise equipment, wide and curved slides, play bridge, nature play, table tennis, flying fox / track ride, sandpit, waterplay and in ground trampoline.



- 50% of respondents wanted to keep the basketball hoop and an additional 36% of respondent wanted to also add a netball hoop.
- Respondent's shared the following ideas to better deliver the renewal and understand the Reserve:

Celebrate and work with the Reserves nature and topography:

- Plant more trees
- Celebrate the undulating nature of the park and include planting, rocks and logs
- Gardenbeds
- Improve drainage to north-west corner of park and implement flood mitigation

Improve play opportunities for all:

- Play equipment that is accessible for younger, pre-school age children
- Play equipment that caters to older primary school aged children and provides challenge e.g. an obstacle course, climbing / balancing
- A design solution to mitigate the ball rebounding down the hill from the basketball court e.g. fencing or moving the basketball tower
- A path around the playground for kids to ride bikes
- Shade
- Increase the size of the basketball area

Increase amenity for all community:

- Public toilet
- Fence the whole park
- BBQ area
- More seats and picnic table
- Small enclosed dog run
- Move the bin away from the playground due to smell
- More lighting
- Tidy shrubs

Access and Equity

Of the participants were access and equity attributes were recorded, this was the level of participation:

- 67% were woman or female, 33% man or male
- 55% aged between 35-49 years and 2% aged between 12-17 years
- 10% live with a disability, including mental illness
- 7% identify as part of the LGBTIQA+ community
- 12% identified as carers
- 5% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Straight Island descent

Next Steps

This information will inform the draft concept design for this project, which will be shared with community for feedback in mid 2026.