



Where is Rapanea Community Forest Playground?

Rapanea Playground is located within Rapanea Community Forest Reserve in Dundas Valley. Nestled amongst remnant forest and bushland walking tracks, the playground sits in a quiet, well-shaded setting that offers a natural escape for local families and visitors.





About the project

The playground renewal project at **Rapanea Community Forest Reserve** in Dundas Valley forms part of the City of Parramatta Council's ongoing investment in creating high-quality, inclusive, and nature-connected play spaces across the local government area. With almost 150 playgrounds maintained city-wide, these upgrades ensure that local families have access to safe, engaging, and well-designed places for outdoor recreation.

Situated within one of the area's most significant patches of remnant forest, **the reserve is home to tall native trees, bushland walking trails, and a rich diversity of flora and fauna.** The playground sits gently within this natural setting, offering a shaded and tranquil space where children can explore and play while connecting with nature. **The surrounding forest character provides a sense of retreat and discovery,** making it a valued destination for the Dundas Valley community.

Following many years of use and having reached the end of its typical lifecycle, **the playground will be renewed to improve safety, accessibility, and play value for children aged 0–12 years.** The design will respect the site's bushland setting through the appropriate use of natural materials, earthy colours, and play elements that encourage imagination and adventure.



Whats involved?



1. Consultation

We start the design process by gathering ideas and feedback from local residents about **how they currently use the playground and what they would like to see improved**. This input helps identify community priorities and preferences for the playground.



2. Site Analysis

We undertake a **detailed review of the site** to understand its existing conditions, including **vegetation, topography, access, visibility, and relationship to surrounding open spaces and homes**. Together with your consultation input, this analysis informs the design's layout and opportunities for improvement.



3. Concept Design

Using insights from the community and site analysis, **an initial concept design is developed to illustrate how the new playground could look and function**. The design explores options for play equipment, materials, planting, and seating.

We are here
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4. Consultation

The draft concept design is presented back to the community for feedback. Residents are invited to comment on the proposed layout, play elements, and overall design direction before final plans are prepared.



5. Detailed Design & Construction

Following the consultation phase, the design will be **refined and documented for construction**. This includes preparing detailed drawings, specifications, and coordinating approvals to ensure quality and compliance. Once construction is complete, the renewed playground will be opened to the public!

What you told us:



The current playground is tired and worn out

Community feedback for Rapanea Community Forest Reserve highlighted a strong desire to **replace the existing play equipment**, which many described as old, tired, and no longer inviting for families.

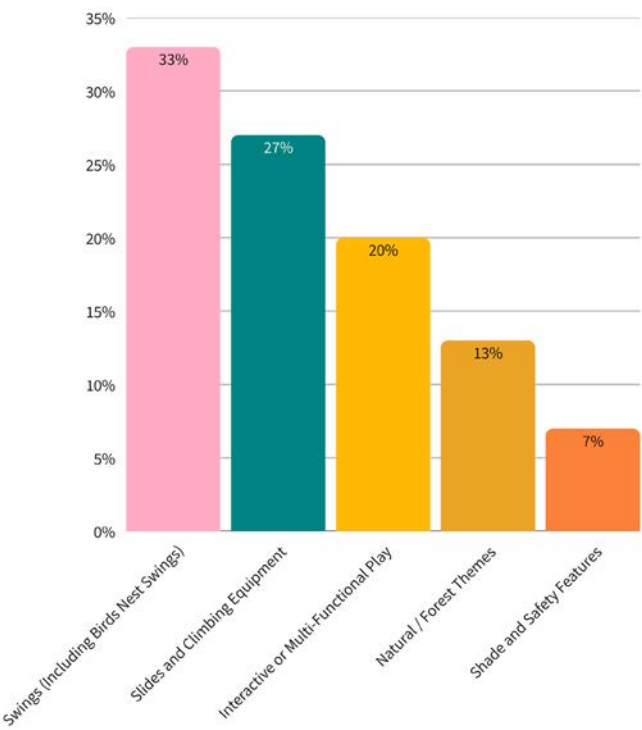
Respondents expressed that **the current playground feels underused due to its worn condition and lack of modern features**.

There was a clear call for the space to be renewed with high-quality equipment, improved safety and cleanliness and better connected to the surrounding forest setting.

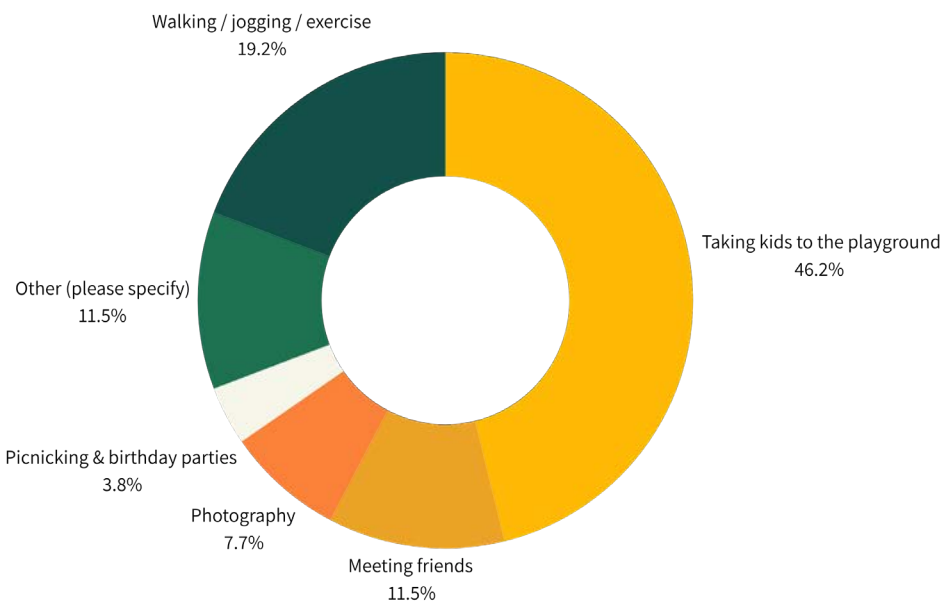
What do the kids want?

Children’s feedback focused on **active and dynamic play—particularly swings, slides, and climbing structures**.

There was a strong preference for interactive, multi-functional equipment set within a natural setting, along with requests for shade and soft-fall surfacing to improve safety and comfort year-round.



Why do people visit the park?



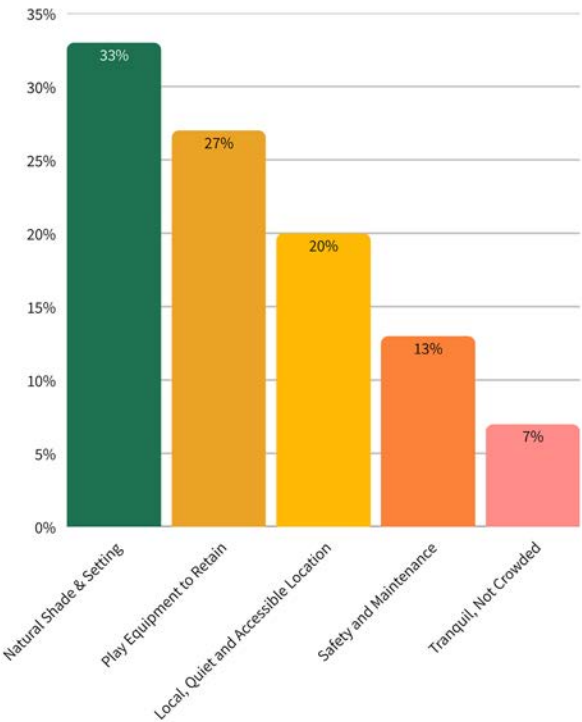
What you told us:

What do residents like about the playground?

The most valued qualities of Rapanea Community Forest Reserve’s existing playground are its **natural, shaded setting and peaceful location**, which make it a comfortable and accessible place for local families.

Respondents also highlighted specific play elements worth retaining, such as **climbing structures, balance beams, and the concrete edging wall used for play**.

Overall, **feedback shows a strong preference for maintaining the reserve’s quiet, green character** while upgrading facilities and equipment to match community expectations.



Its all about the setting!

The forest backdrop at Rapanea is one of its greatest strengths, and we’re working carefully to ensure the new playground feels embedded within the landscape, using natural materials and a layout that complements the surrounding trees and topography.



So whats next?

Overall, the **feedback points toward a playground that feels fresh, safe, and family-friendly** — a place that encourages active play while **respecting the natural character** of Rapanea Community Forest Reserve.

The community expressed a strong desire for **modern, high-quality equipment, improved maintenance, and a more inviting layout** that makes the most of the site’s shade and forest setting.

We’ve developed a concept design that includes swings, slides, and climbing structures, along with accessible paths, seating, and shaded areas to make the playground enjoyable for a wider range of ages and abilities.

Check out our first concept design on the next page!

Legend

①	New rubber softfall surfacing
②	Retaining wall and concrete edge to be retained
③	New climbing structure, with climbing nets and steppers
④	Triple swing, including infants swing, regular swing and basket swing
⑤	2 new bench seats with concrete pad
⑥	New rubbish bin enclosure
⑦	Existing trees to be retained
⑧	Potential future path connection to Mckillop Place





Concept Design

Overall, the feedback points toward a playground that feels modern, safe, and inviting — a space where children can play freely while families enjoy the surrounding bush setting.

The proposed design includes swings, climbing structures, and a slide, alongside natural materials and the potential for a new path connection to Mckillop Place.

The playground aims to blend seamlessly with the existing landscape and offers a relaxed, nature-connected play experience.





