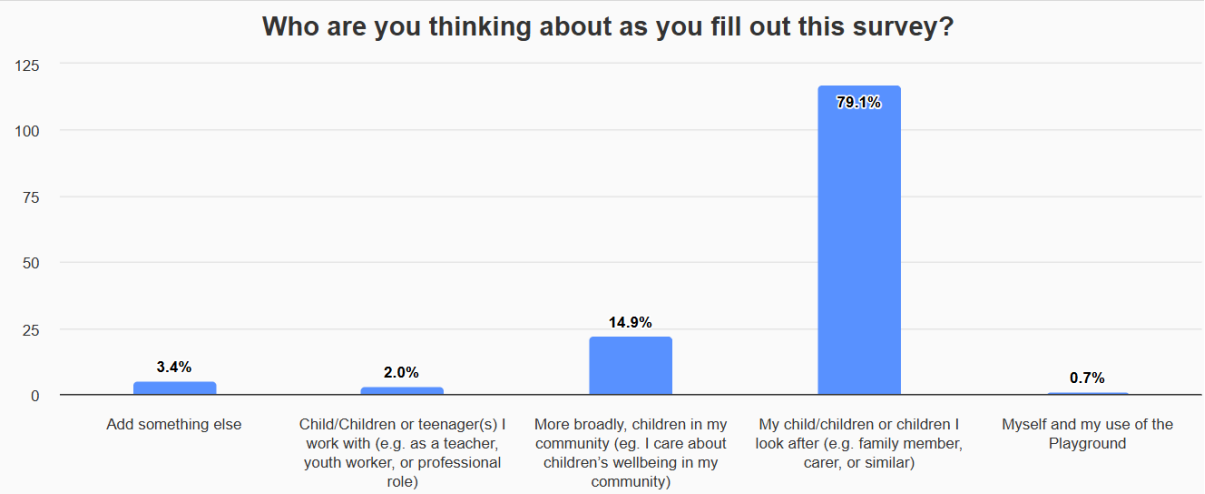
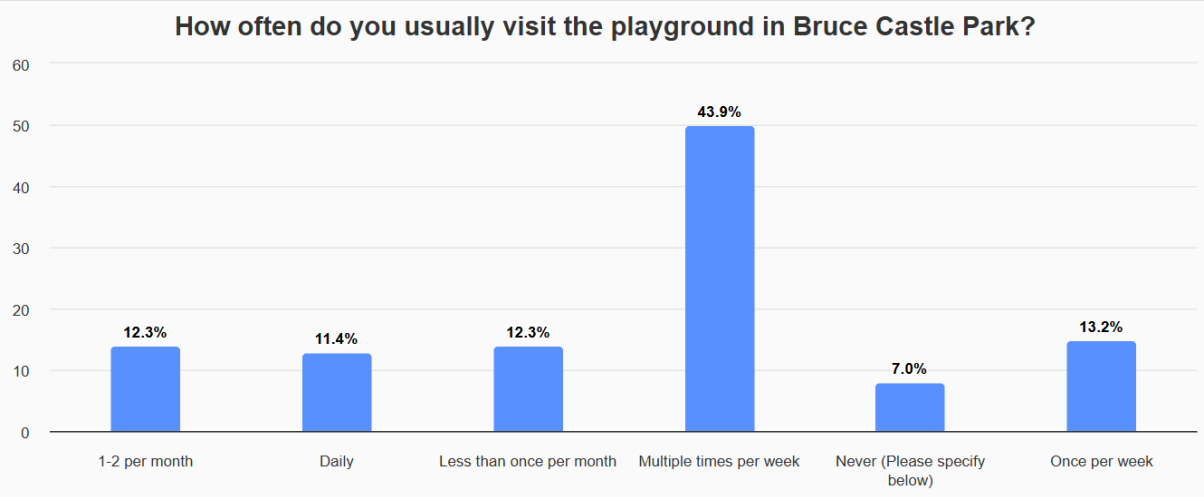
Bruce Castle Park Tottenham Parks Engagement Summary

Number of respondents to playground consultation via commonplace: 150





If Never, we would still value your responses, but would like to understand why you don't currently visit the playground

Responses included:

Other local playground are better

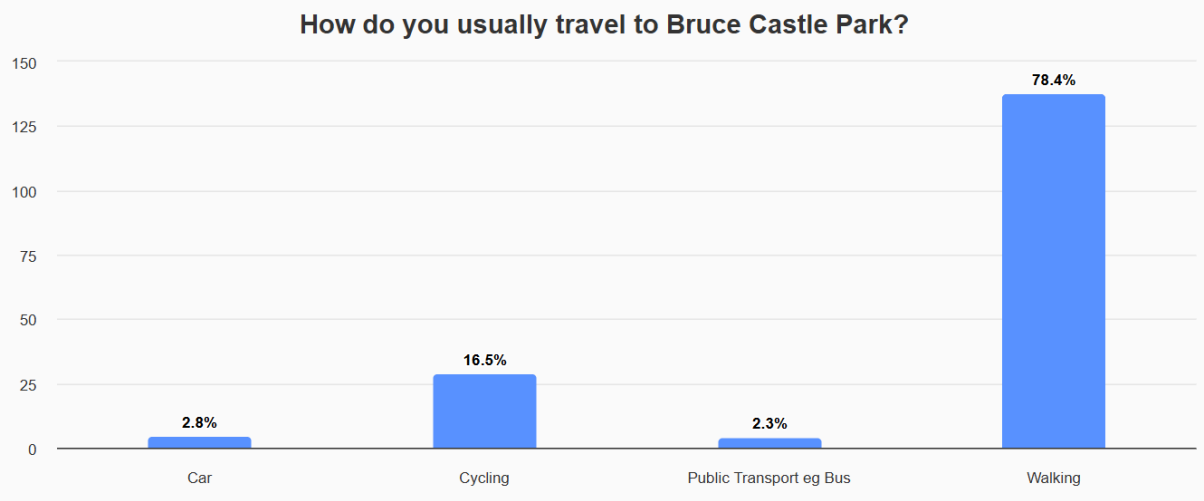
Children are currently not old enough to use the playground

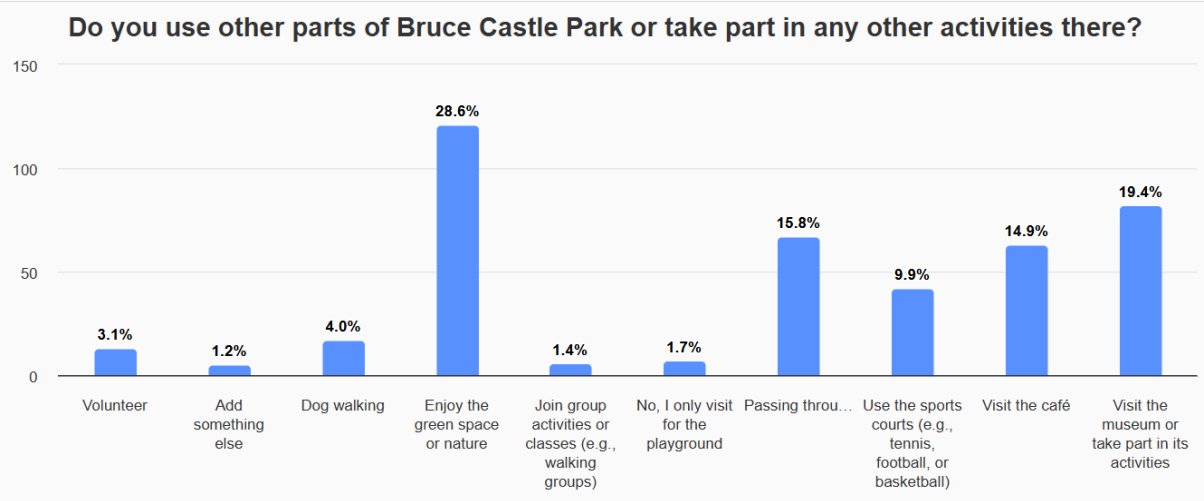
Do not have children

Uses the park/playground when child attend scouts

Feel it is unsafe

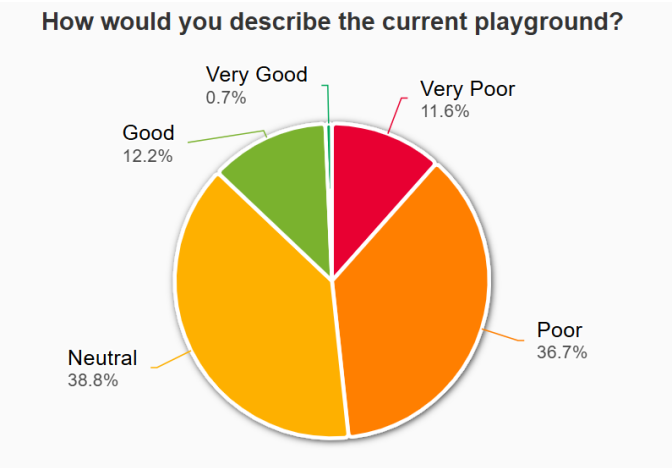
Children are now too old

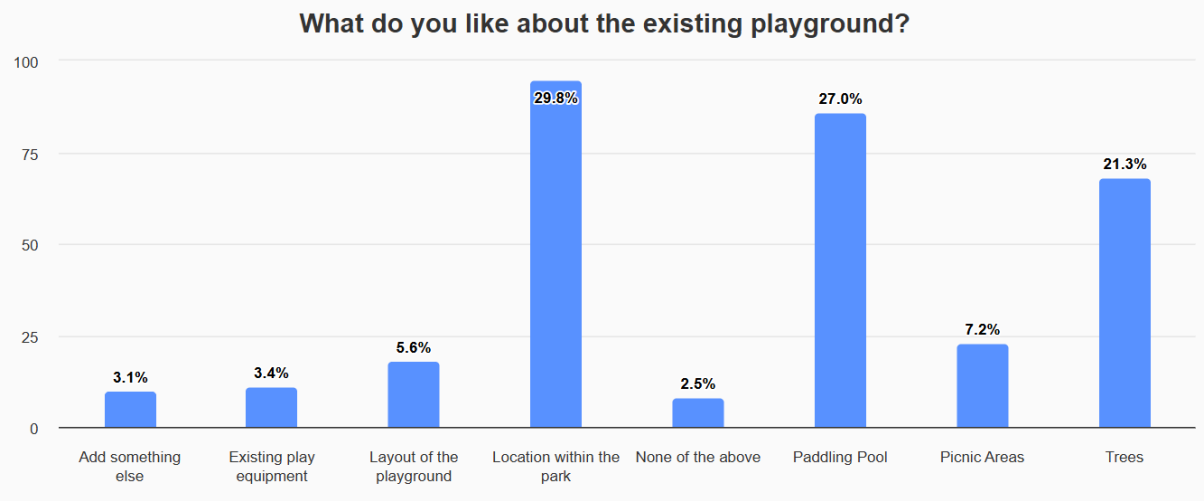


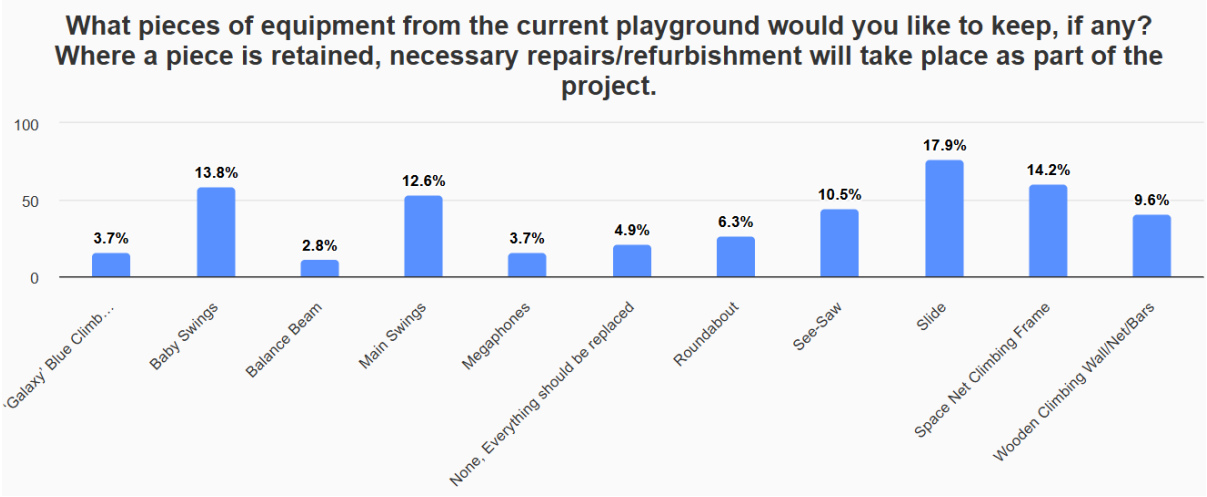


Something else:

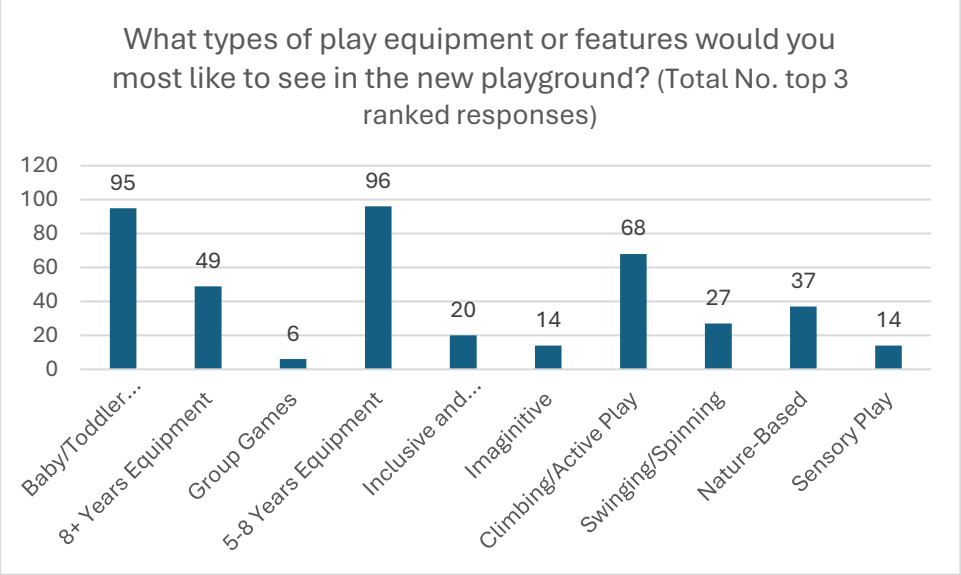
House backs onto the park







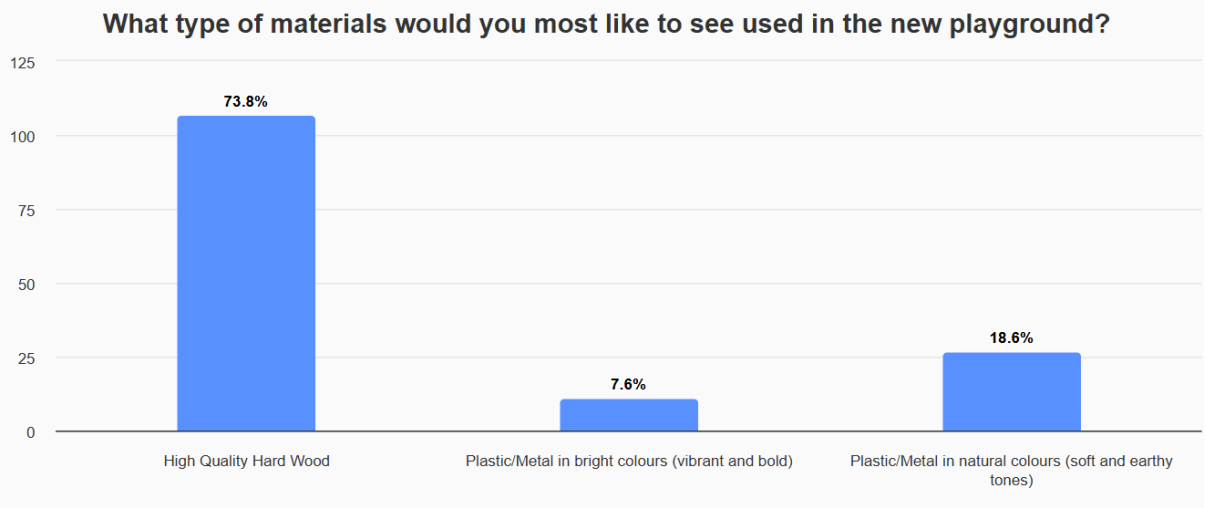
What types of play equipment or features would you most like to see in the new playground?



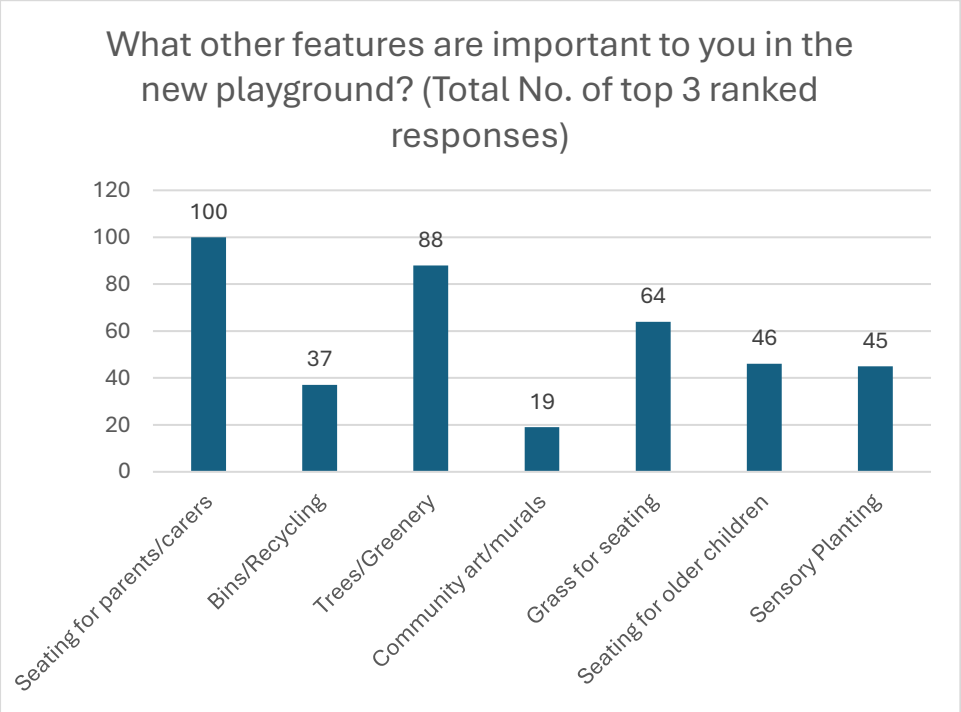
If there are other types of play or specific items of play equipment you would like to see, please list them here:

Sand
Water play/splash pad
Trampoline
Multiple slides
Swings (particularly toddler swings)
Areas to hide
Flying fox play piece
Roundabout
Climbing for under 4s
Slides for under 4s
Balancing
Zip Line
Larger climbing frame
Naturalised spaces
Suitable for multiple ages
Pirate Ship/Climbing Tower/Castle including nets and bridges
Imaginative Play eg train, house
Open slide, not tunnel slides
Shaded spaces
Range of ages
Bike track eg Lordship Model Traffic Area
Open/flexible play pieces
Group swings
Musical play
Monkey Bars
Less prescribed play- informal, naturalised and incidental through planted areas
High challenge and adventure
Thermoplastic markers
Spinning bucket
Rope climbing frame

<u>Other:</u>
Gym equipment
Café/ Seating area
No dogs in playground/dog walking area
Vegetable/growing area
Paddling pool refurbishment



What other features are important to you in the new playground?



How would you make the new playground more accessible and inclusive?

Accessible swing
Play equipment at variety of heights/multiple routes of entry
Sensory Play
Testing designs with local SEN departments within Schools
Remove large slide
Seating for parents
Level access and continuous surfacing
Nooks/cubbies/quiet areas for play
Design of slide suitable for younger children
Tactile paving
Areas/activities suitable for wheelchair users
Separate areas using hedges/sensory planting
Equipment for under 4s
Easier/wider gates
Ramps/wheelchair accessible equipment
Sand Pits
Trampolines
Bike/buggy park
Trees for shade
Seating areas for carers/picnic areas
Non-prescriptive play
Swings/roundabouts which parents can use with children
Sensory play features
Inclusive swings
Play panels
Sensory planting at wheelchair height
Toilets/Changing Places
Cognitive floor surfacing
Bright colours on the floor can overstimulate
Consider both Proprioception which is an awareness of location and body movement and Vestibular, which is the awareness of balance and spatial orientation as well as the touch smell sound and sight.
Areas to take breaks and relax
Retain fencing surround
Conscious of colour scheme
Benches to have side transfer
Easy activities for children with special needs. I have a little sister who suffers from epilepsy and learning difficulties, and whenever we take her to BCP, she cannot use the

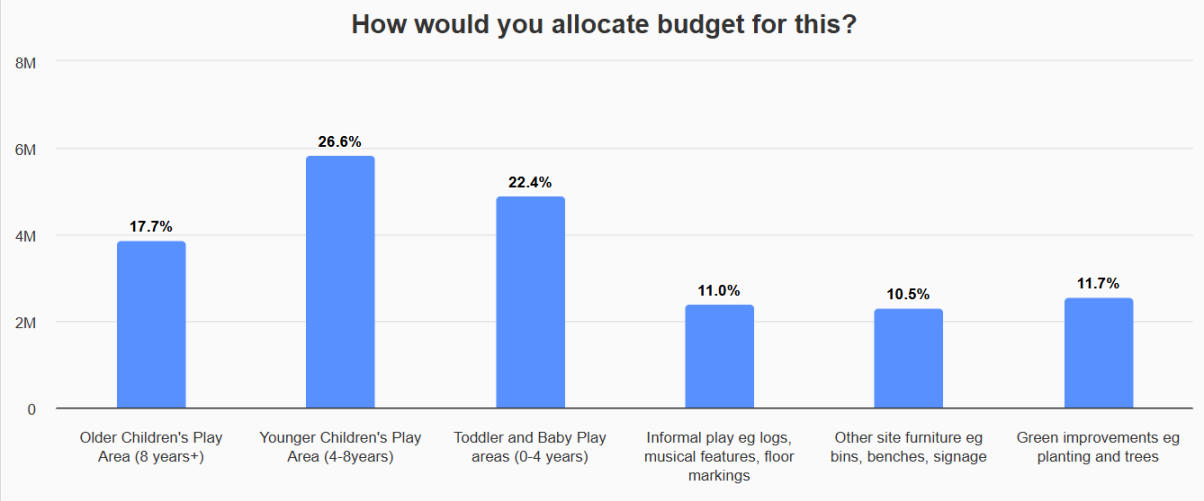
equipment that's already available. We would like to see older children equipment and ones that are more accessible for special needs kids.
Improve footpaths throughout the park
Accessible seats on swings
Fix roundabout
Benches not picnic tables due to accessibility. Include back rests and arm rests.

What other specific improvements would you like to see for the new playground?

Toilets
Quality equipment to reduce maintenance burden
Remove trip hazards
Remove issues with surface water flooding
Self closing gates/fully fenced
Improved lighting
Conscious of surfacing to reduce smell sensitivity
Rat problem
Café/coffee kiosk with activities for children
Concerns over vandalism
Paddling pool surface can be slippery
Skate Park/bike riding elements
Improved seating
Shaded seating spaces
Cohesive design which reflects all ages
Maintenance budget/plan for repairs
Adventure and high challenge for all ages
Focus on landscape design
Water fountain for drinking
Increased number of bins/ issues with littering
No smoking/dogs
Sand pit
CCTV
Privacy screens for paddling pool changing
Lock space at night
Willow arches/natural structures

Are there any other playgrounds in London that you enjoy visiting?

Gunnersbury Park
Stationers Park
Clissold Park
Downhills Park
Lloyd Park
Meridian Water
Lordship Recreation Ground
Highgate Wood
Stoke Newington
Vetchling Way
Finsbury Park
Olympic Park
Victoria Park
Pymmes Park
Tumbling Bay- Stratford
Russel Park
Regents Park
Haggerston Park
Whittington Park
Down Lane Park
Princess Diana Park/playground
Barnard Adventure Playground
Hartington Park
Hackney Downs
- Please note the above is not exhaustive and is made up of the most common responses.



ages 8+	17.7%	£	35,223.00
ages 4-8	26.6%	£	52,934.00
ages 0-4	22.4%	£	44,576.00
Informal	11.0%	£	21,890.00
Site furniture	10.5%	£	20,895.00
Green improvements	11.7%	£	23,283.00

Schools

Student research task with Lancasterian Primary School

Students were asked to create a tally for their classes to answer the below questions. The totals are shown below:

How many students said their favourite colours for the playground were:

Red	Yellow	Green	Blue	Pink	Purple
49	34	56	141	49	18
Beige	Brown	Grey	Mixed		
10	8	29	107		

To show what students' favourite and least favourite piece of play equipment is in the current playground:

Play Piece	Most Favourite	Least Favourite
Main Swings	63	7
Baby Swings	13	38
See-Saw	19	11
Roundabout	17	51
Slide	120	16
Wooden Climbing wall/net/bars	21	34
Galaxy climbing equipment	13	47
Megaphone	2	59
Space net climbing frame	34	10
Balance Beam	14	97

<u>Comments summary from engagement session:</u>
Would like to see a large climbing frame structure. Were keen on many different options and generally drawn to more adventurous pieces. Specifically mentioned the large structure at meridian water.
Would like to see accessible pieces included, specific reference to wheelchair see-saw.

Liked options which saw many children using a single piece at any one time eg spinning net piece
Would like to see an extra large climbing tower with slide (Tunnel slide)
Reference to the large rope swing in White Hart Lane.
Including a zip line, similar to the one at Finsbury Park
Were keen to incorporate re-greening, planting and bug hotels.
Would like to see the round about fixed
Inclusion was a big theme, including interactive pieces, attracting users with different needs/more children and musical play pieces
Floor markings fade quickly and therefore are less popular.

In Person Parks pop-up feedback

Number of forms completed: 14

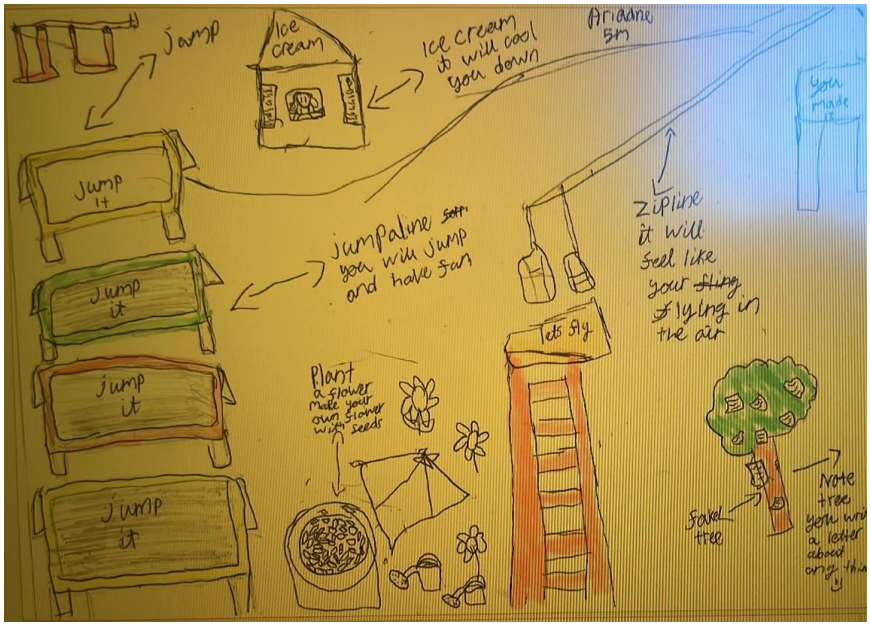
Comments below:

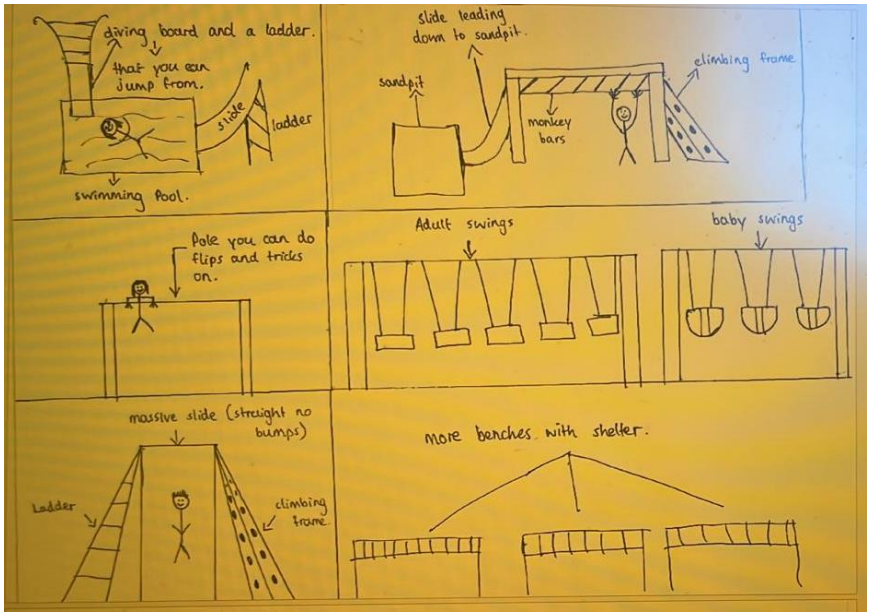
Would like to see a new slide
Paddling pool retained, improved and increased maintenance
More toddler equipment
Pathways throughout the wider park could make it difficult for people with mobility issues to access the park/playground
Mix of wood and metal equipment
Mix of different age ranges
More equipment in general
More seating for parents
Smaller slide for younger children
Internal fencing to separate younger childrens play
Wet pour flooring
Should cover 6months- 10 years
Tunnel slide
Climbing ropes/net/climbing wall
Picnic benches
Reduce number of trees because of the issue with falling leaves
Blue climbing frame is child's favourite
Swings and slide to be retained
Would like to see bright colours but more calming choices
Would like carousel to be working
Low level monkey bars
Include sensory play eg textures/sounds
Low maintenance garden spaces
Naturalistic feel

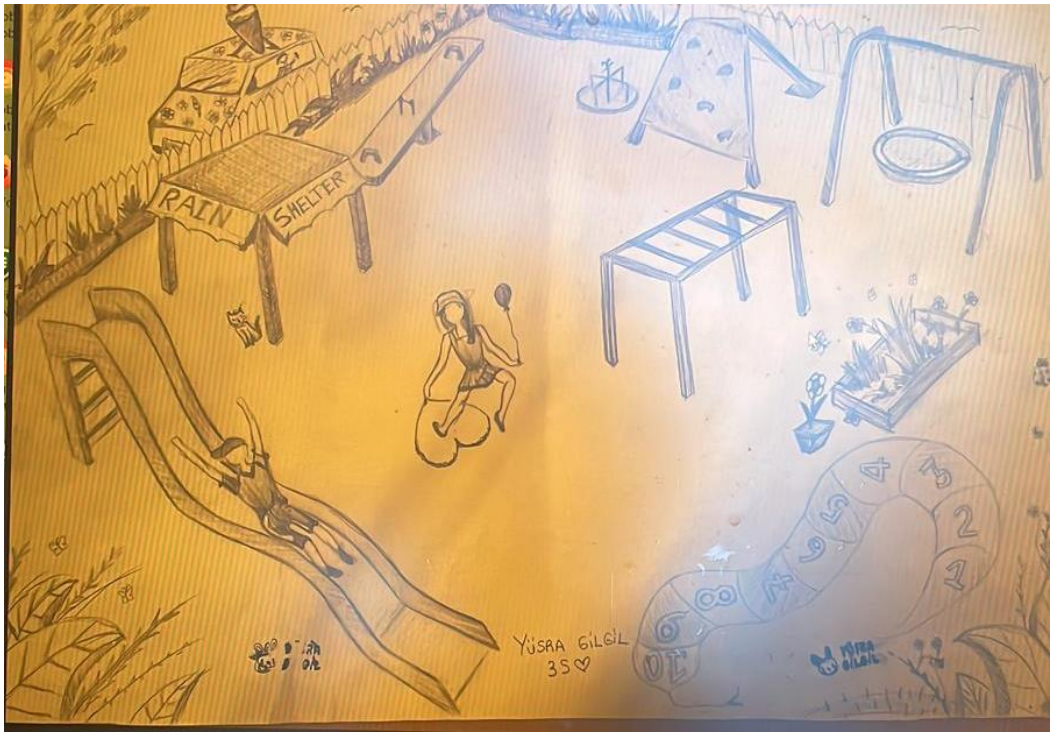
Wood- does not get so hot in the summer months
Incorporate green spaces/grass
Areas for football
Multipurpose for older children
Avoid trampolines
Café at downhills has toys to play with outside
More swings as they are very popular
Water bottle filling station
Examples include Meridian Water, Stoke Newington Common, Lloyd Park, Priory Park, Clissold Park, Finsbury Park
Incorporate quiet spaces
Include accessible toilets
Zip line
Enforcement within the park eg dogs
More for older children
Incorporate model traffic area
Equipment for children with disabilities
Remove bark
Activation for older children
Improve aesthetic with flowers/planting
Colour coded games/floor markings
Tunnel slide- similar to Down Lane Park
Coffee cart

Previous engagement undertaken by the Play Improvement Group with Risley Avenue Primary School:




Jump
Ice cream
Ice cream it will cool your down
Ariadne 5m
Jump it
Jump it
Jump it
Jump it
Jumpalene soft, you will jump and have fun
Ziplire it will feel like your flying in the air
Lets fly
Plant a flower make your own flower with seeds
Note tree
Fake tree


diving board and a ladder.
that you can jump from.
slide
ladder
swimming pool.
slide leading down to sandpit.
climbing frame
sandpit
monkey bars
Pole you can do flips and tricks on.
Adult swings
baby swings
massive slide (streight no bumps)
Ladder
climbing frame
more benches with shelter.


RAIN
SHELTER
YUSRA GILGIL
35


Sila!
(NOTE: Over 5 benches
please!)
Sideline
Bench
trees!
I didn't
want to
draw multiple
so I here
will be)
TOILETS!
slide
starts
to top
(NOT
SAFETY
HAZARD
Swings
(with mat)
Bench
Pool!
Bench



Summary:

Although there was a mixed response, respondents generally were drawn to a more naturalistic feel for the playground, with largely wooden equipment and landscaped areas, ensuring a connection to green space is created. There were also a number of people who were happy to consider metal or plastic equipment to ensure longevity, but would still like to achieve a naturalistic feel overall.

When children were asked about look and feel, they generally leant towards brighter colours for surfacing e.g. Blue and mixed vibrant colours, but still focussed on environmental and landscape features e.g. bug hotels and trees

Children were generally drawn to pieces which provided greater challenge or more adventure e.g. zip lines, large slides, swings and climbing pieces, whereas parents were more conscious of having a variety of age ranges catered for, specifically incorporating toddler play much more heavily within new designs.

There was a desire to maintain a large slide within the park, as this came through consistently, however there were a number of concerns around safety, specifically for younger children and periods where it is particularly busy.

Other comments from users looked to encourage group play, through equipment which allowed multiple children to use at once or encouraged non-prescriptive play or imaginative play.

There were a number of comments concerning ongoing maintenance, issues with cleanliness and rats within the playground. These issues will be picked up internally.

Friends of Bruce Castle Park and BCP Playground Improvement Group (PIG) Engagement Meeting

- Expressed an interest in informal play and the importance of green space in the play area, particularly in the south of the area (to be extended)
- Would like to keep the large slide, would prefer it to be integrated into mound to make safer; however, earth works to be kept to a minimum (cost, tree roots). See-saw is another item that could be kept in the design
- Different slides for different ages
- Cautiously supported the inclusion of a zip line within the playground and emphasised the importance of robust structure and straightforward maintenance (zip line in Chestnuts Park was flagged as an example that has been out of use for too long)
- Trampoline was highlighted as item that was high in votes, some attendants noted they break easily however. Parks team clarified install of rectangular shapes no longer supported, only circular and partly infilled with sand to avoid damage
- Supported the inclusion of a prominent landmark element, while noting that its play value is not solely determined by scale
- 'Adult' swings – need to make sure there is sufficient space
- Consider artificial climbing boulders to be integrated into topography or support zoning if applicable
- Expressed concerns regarding overlooking from new residential on Church Lane, suggested additional screening planting in southwest of playground (extension)
- Seating in shade and long seat without back next to paddling pool, to allow sitting on both sides, were mentioned
- Potential for climbers along fence by paddling pool for screening and shade
- Natural play area: suggested monkey bars, a trim trail, informal seating; the extension would require additional fencing and gate, and needs coordination with regards to fire safety at the north side of Bruce Castle
- Cycling was flagged as one of main modes of travel of playground users – support inclusion of additional cycle racks e.g. at western entrance from Church Lane
- Concerns regarding maintenance of rubber mulch (broken glass) and play equipment being used for nighttime dog training sessions were voiced, but not considered a significant issue
- Ecology/the ancient oak tree: Tree root zone to be considered in the playground design and integrated within proposed rubber mulch surface (to be coordinated with Russell Miller)
- An error in the budget distribution table within the draft summary report was flagged up, this has been corrected

- Generally supported the zoning proposal diagram presented by the Parks project team
- Subsequent walk-about in the playground where further ideas were localised/put forward; these ideas have been labelled on the zoning diagram below
- Post-meeting: PIG produced an indicative playground ‘wish list’ proposal. A small list of items with lower priority were identified to allow for flexibility if the budget available should be exceeded considerably and/or equipment needs to be compressed to fit in with root protection zones (RPZs).
- The Parks project team will seek Friends, PIG’s and local schools’ feedback regarding final tweaks once the winning design bid has been identified; school for children with learning difficulties was mentioned in particular
- Accessibility is of particular importance; it was suggested to run an internal accessibility audit

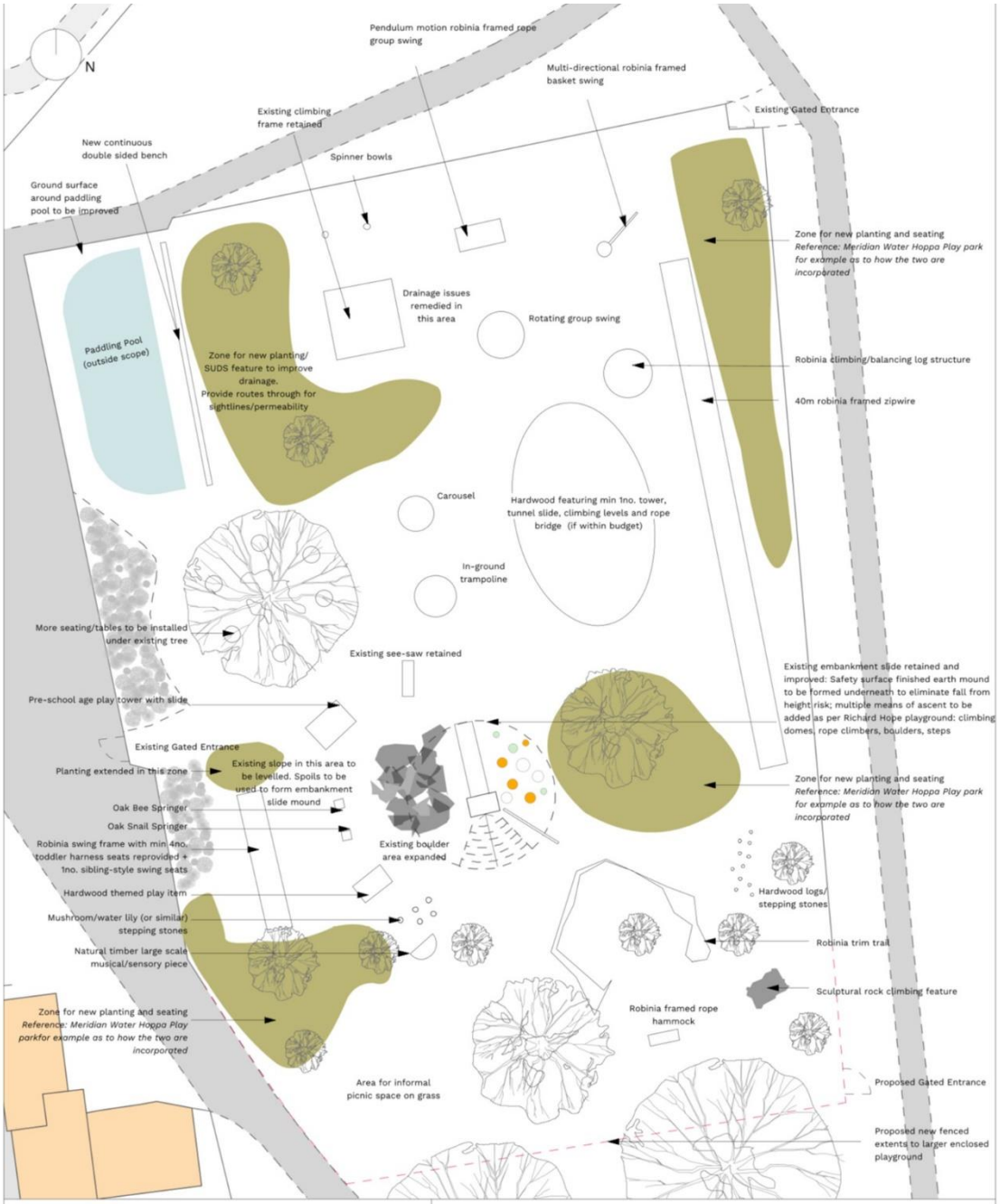
Bruce Castle Park - Zoning proposal diagram



1. Careful integration of existing gate
2. Existing boundary fence incl. proposed south extension
3. Current extent of south boundary fence
4. Additional gate in extended section of playground
5. Existing trees
6. Potential for new tree planting
7. Potential to extend planting along edge of play area
8. Minimal reshaping of existing mound if applicable
9. Seating by paddling pool
10. Area for natural/informal play, seating, low shrub/groundcover planting and round trail
11. Consider tree root zones, refer to tree survey for veteran oak and other trees marked in particular

All locations indicative/approximate

Bruce Castle Park Playground – BCP Playground Improvement Group (PIG) Proposal



Notes:

- All existing trees to be retained.
- Unless stated as 'existing/retained' all equipment shown is proposed.
- Proposed trees not shown but intended to be located in zones labelled as 'planting'.
- Proposed seating not shown in all cases but intended to be located within zones labelled 'planting and seating'.
- Proposed bins not shown but intended to be located adjacent to seating.
- Safety surfaces (extent to shown) to be light-toned, natural-coloured rubber mulch. *Reference: Down Lane Park.*

Bruce Castle Park Playground
Proposed Plan
1:150/A1
Rev C: 11.10.25

For Information

Bruce Castle Playground Improvement Group

High-Level Proposal Bruce Castle Park Playground

Remove all existing play pieces except for the ones listed under 'To be retained'.

Levelling, landscaping and resurfacing is needed throughout. To ensure the best flow and to avoid the final design to appear to be piecemeal, the recommendation is to look at the space holistically incl. relocation of pieces to be retained within the space if necessary.

To be retained:

It was suggested during consultation to retain existing pieces that are still in working order but require repairs. They include e.g.

- the large slide, with sides integrated into a mound to reduce the fall height; existing boulders to be integrated into new levels design;

Other items to be retained are

- the existing blue climbing frame (space net) and
- the seesaw

Existing play equipment to be reused elsewhere:

No play equipment has been identified to be carefully removed, set aside and relocated in other parks. Please note that the playground features an existing accessible carousel which preferably would be replaced. It could be repaired but is not currently included in retained items.

Extend play area to include some of the southern grassed area (towards the museum) for natural play area and a small part of the toddler play. Consider requirement for additional fencing panels and one additional gate.

All existing trees to be retained and their root protection zones (RPZs) to be protected during the works; particular care re. the RPZ of the veteran oak extending inside the play area, the beech and hazel tree within the playground area and the cedar currently outside the play area which will sit within the proposed extended area. Trees/RPZs to be integrated within proposed rubber mulch and other permeable surfaces or soft areas and works to be coordinated and agreed with local tree officer and operational staff. A tree survey for the four trees named above has been requested by the tree officer and organised by the Parks team to be carried out before publication of the tender.

Indicative items to be included:

Levelling and resurfacing throughout:

Recommendation mixed light colour brown/cream tiger mulch throughout to give naturalistic colour palette (reference: new Down Lane Park play area).
In particular -
Remediation of drainage issues east of paddling pool area (consider planting area, levels etc).
Slight relevelling of existing topography to accommodate 3m tall mound around existing slide (if can be reused), safety surface finish to be formed underneath.
Ground surface around paddling pool to be improved.

Planting

Provide additional planting beds, and tree pits for columnar/ornamental trees in strategic locations for more shade (plants not included within the budget).

Older children's play equipment to include ages 6-12:

4x additional individual benches or 1x long seat along paddling pool area, 1x picnic table
Focal piece: to feature a main high tower, 1 smaller tower, 2 or 3 climbing levels (max height 4.0m), 1 tunnel slide (winding), a vertical climbing net, climbing wall, ladders, a swaying rope bridge (if within budget – if not reduce features appropriately)
Multiple means of ascent to earth mound: climbing domes, rope climbers, boulders, steps (reference: Richard Hope playground)
Zip Line/Cableway
Accessible carousel (if within budget - if not then existing carousel to be added to retained items to be repaired within budget)
2x Spinner bowls
Robinia framed rope pendulum group swing (please note no standard older children's swings in proposed design due to possible spatial constraints; fall heights and area allowance would need to be ascertained to understand area required)
Bucket swing
In-ground trampoline
Rotating group swing (if possible within the space and budget)
Robinia climbing/balancing log structure (if possible within the space and budget)

Baby & Toddler play:

2x benches

2x Hardwood Springers
Toddler tower with slide (e.g. including tunnel feature, castle themed)
Robinia swing frame with toddler harness seats + combined junior/adult swing seat
Plant themed stepping stones
Robinia imaginative play item, e.g. vehicle
Planting bed along fence

Nature play/sensory area:

Informal grassed area for flexible use, e.g. picnic space, storytelling area or similar; provides an opportunity for placing/integrating additional informal seating and sensory features, e.g. musical/sensory piece. Any musical feature to be placed at sufficient distance from neighbouring residential area to avoid complaints.
Small loop path in rubber mulch.
Hardwood logs / stepping stones
1x bench (designed as 'quiet space')
Trim trail feature including e.g. climbing nets and ropes, parkour ropes, balancing ropes and balance pods, stilts, top beam (if possible within space and budget, to be fully outside of RPZs)
Sculptural climbing feature (if possible within space and budget, to be fully outside of RPZs)
Planting beds for landscaped low shrub/groundcover/sensory planting around cedar.
Education panel and materials for bug hotel, both to be developed with input from e.g. Risley Avenue Primary School

Other:

2 additional bins (near nature play and paddling pool seating)
2x bike racks near western entrance gate

Optional:

(repeat of items highlighted in red above) -
Rotating group swing
Robinia climbing/balancing log structure
Trim trail feature including e.g. climbing nets and ropes, parkour ropes, balancing ropes and balance pods, stilts, top beam – potential to reduce features for budgetary reasons and to avoid foundations in RPZs
Sculptural climbing feature – to be fully outside of RPZs
Also: Fence repairs