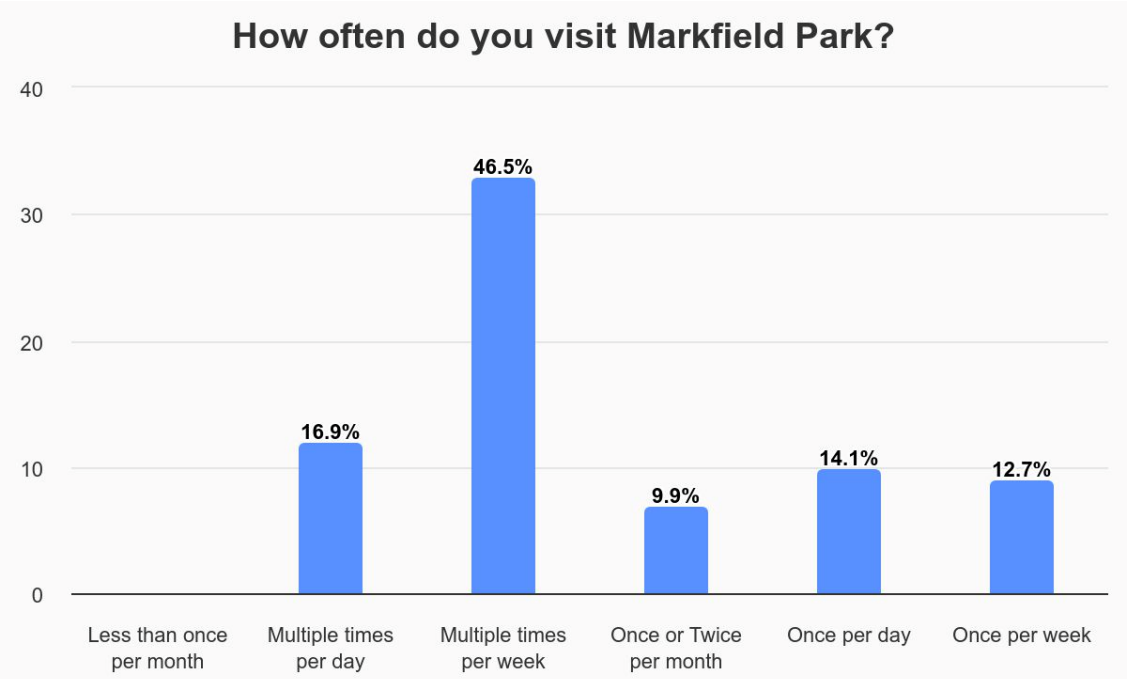
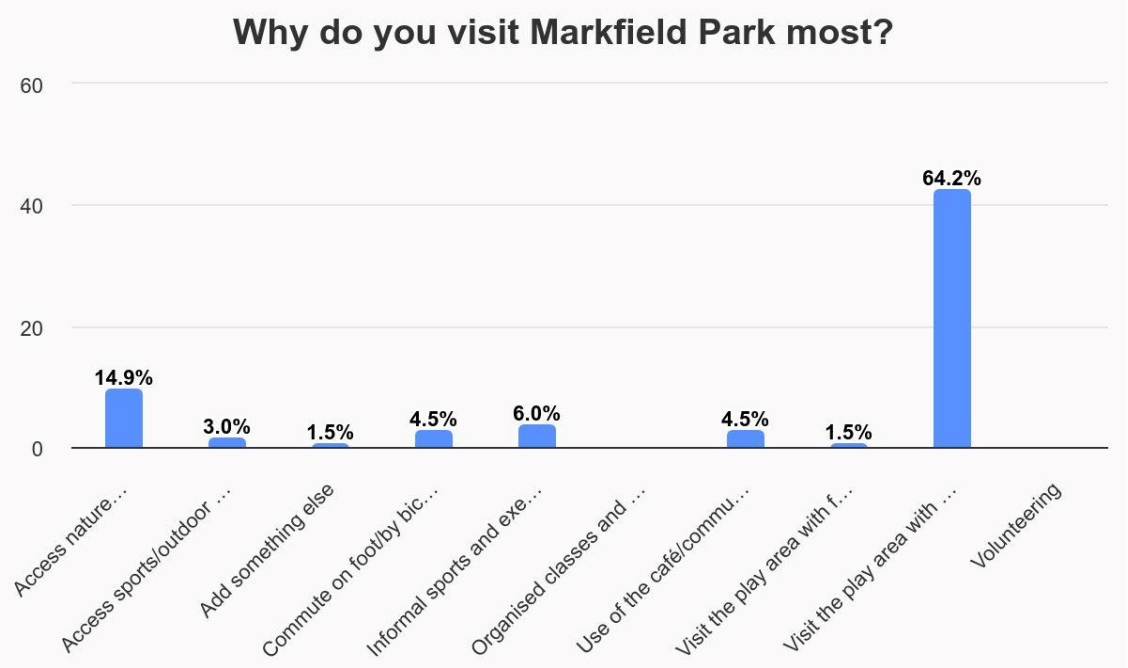
Markfield Park- Playground Feedback and Data Analysis

Online consultation responses

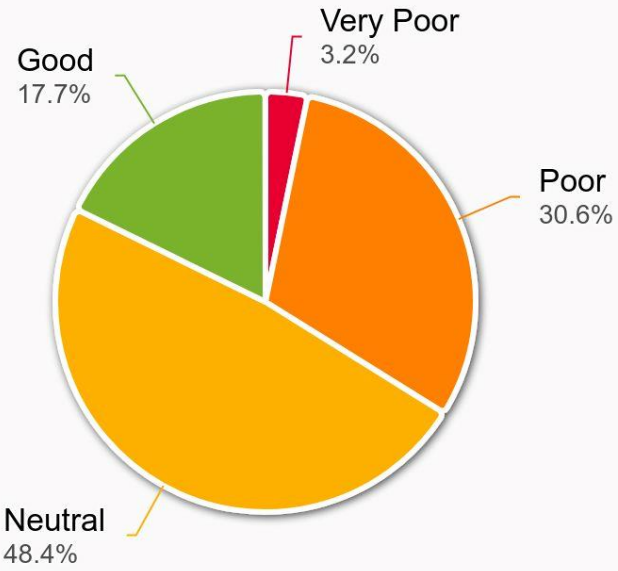


All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.



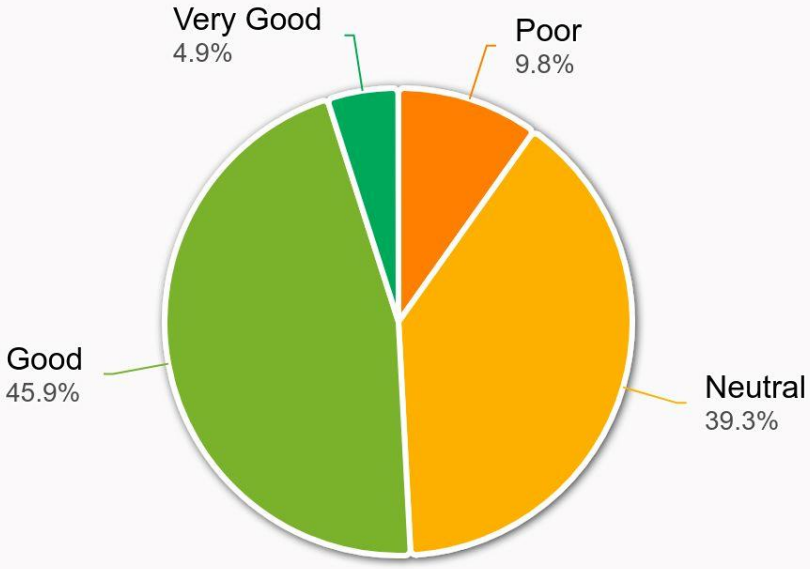
All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

How would you describe the current play area?

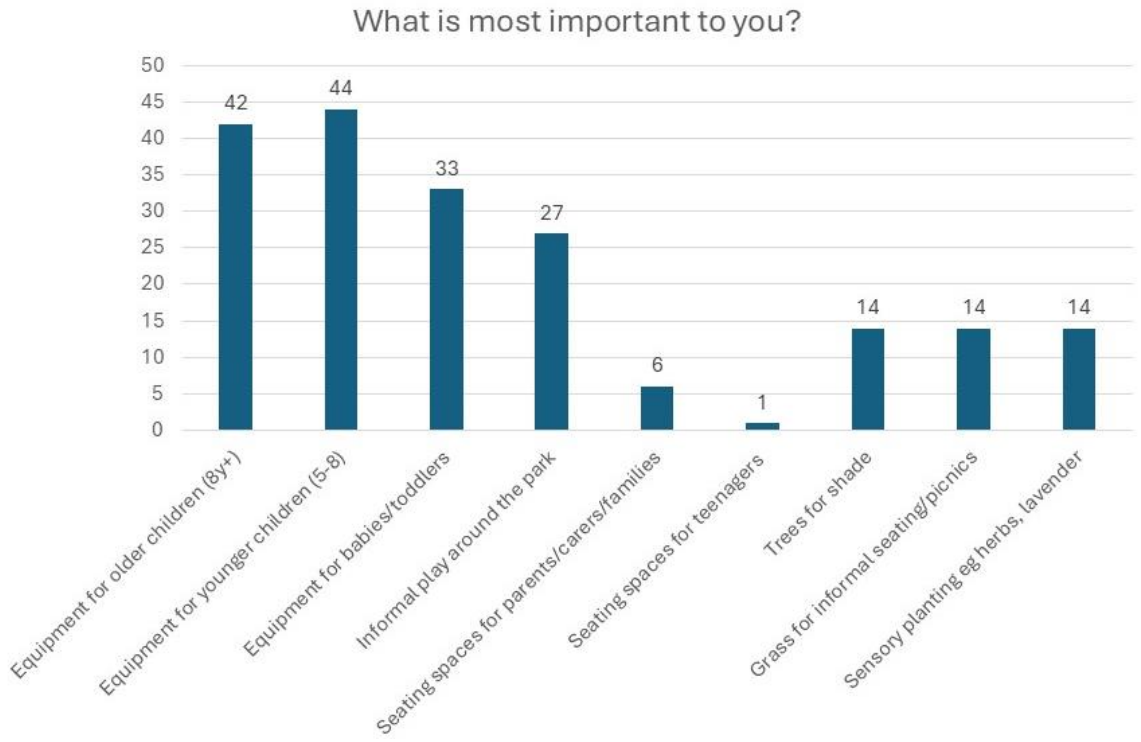


All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

How would you describe the overall park?



All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.



Please note, the above is taken from the total of the top three most important ranking slots.

What would you specifically like to see improved in your play area and what play pieces would you like to see retained (if any)?

Comments have been condensed and added below. Most common answers have been highlighted in **bold** for ease.

Swimming pool with sea chairs, bars etc

More free activities for children and adults

Reinvigorate current playground equipment

More **swings** and **zip line** for older kids

Update play equipment and upkeep of flooring

Resolve issues due to dust/truck traffic

Playground footprint should expand, often too full after school especially Fridays

Space outside playground unavailable on weekends due to football events and commercial use

Play area great for small children but sparse for over 4s

Awful smell in playground, drainage and waste facility concerns

Toddler swings need replacing, more general play equipment needed

More toys (play equipment) for all kids and **more seating**

Glide-along feature suggested

Big slide should stay, rest needs to be redone

Repair accessible play equipment, more for under 5s

Play area tired, needs replacement, **new climbing equipment**, pirate ship idea

New play equipment, fence around play area should be kept for safety

Cleaning, new toys (play equipment)

Keep or **improve shade**

Swings, **slides, rope climbing feature** popular

Zip wire and **wooden climbing frame**s wanted

Replacement equipment where swing was knocked down, fix broken key go ring, better **lighting**

Younger children's play area often dirty, **sewage smell**

Overflow toilet waste in baby playground, broken climbing stuff, carousel broken for years

Pathways and play areas

More swings and zip line, climbing frame for bolder children

Sewerage pipe backups contaminate play area, ground surfaces need repair

Better equipment for specific age groups, more grass and **sensory areas**

Better quality play equipment

Play area surface

Large round swing for multiple children

Brighter colours and stronger swings, round fabric-bottomed swing for older children

Swings, seesaw, talk-through equipment popular, more bright colours and older kids features

Dedicated play and seating areas, focus on biodiversity and **nature** conservation

Smaller kids playground good, keep swings and climbing platform, splash pad for summer

Add **trampoline**, employ cleaning staff, park and play area very dirty

All equipment needs upgrading, swing set removed after storm never replaced

Improve floor finish, creative surfaces, cycling and scootering skills, timber equipment, **water play**

Retain climbing structure, small kids play area, tower with slide, improve swings, remove spinner

More space for younger children, area overused

Climbing frames ok but need spruce up, more swings and interactive play like sandpit

Equipment for disabled children needed, inspired by Lloyd Park and Hackney Downs

Climbing apparatus good but could be more varied, need to attract teenagers positively

Pool and vending machines with toys

Playground should be safer, enclosed area for 0–6 year olds, sewage system repair

Avoid metal play equipment that heats up, more seating, shade from trees or canopies

Fake grass and sponge ground to avoid mud

Almost all equipment tired and damaged, trampoline and water play for summer suggested

More benches, lights

More play equipment and swings for kids

Markfield entrance under bridge feels unsafe, dark, no cameras, antisocial behaviour

Break down walls, add CCTV cameras, clean up graffiti, prevent moped crime

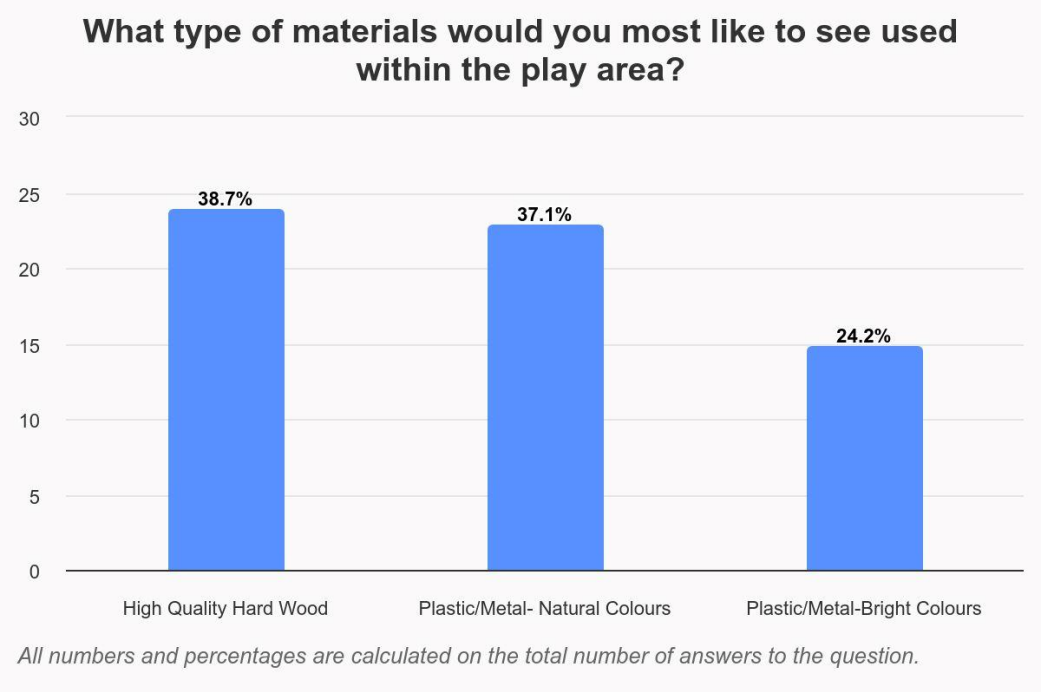
Strong need for modernisation, more swings and climbing structures, better maintenance

Larger slide for older children, improved sensory zones, nature-related play features

Inspired by Finsbury Park, Clissold Park, Hackney Downs for adventurous and **inclusive play**

Safety concerns, outdated facilities, inadequate provisions for older children and inclusive play

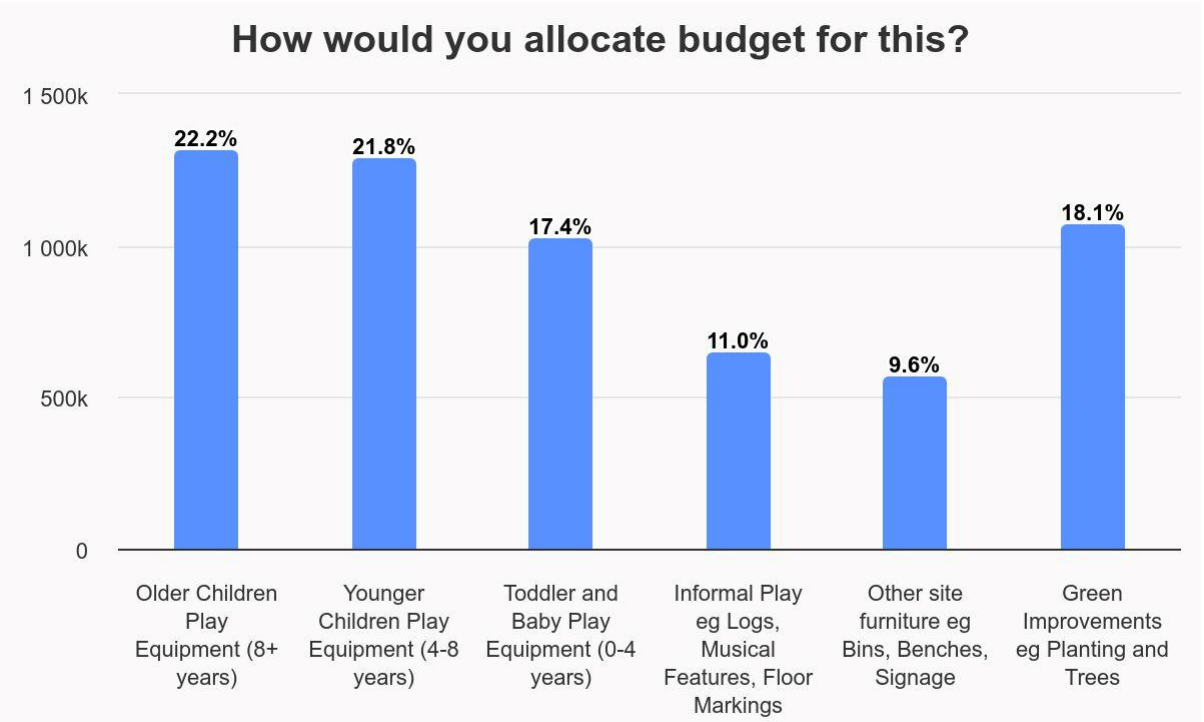
Consultation responses highlighted a strong desire for modernisation and more efficient use of the available play area, with repeated calls to update and repair existing equipment. Suggestions for more swings, climbing structures, and inclusive features for younger and older children were particularly frequent. Some noted that the current playground is getting very busy after school and on weekends and lacks variety for children from various age groups. Safety and cleanliness were recurring concerns, including issues with sewage smells, broken equipment, and antisocial behaviour near the park entrance. Further suggestions included sensory zones, shaded seating areas and nature-based play, with inspiration drawn from other well-regarded parks/play areas. Overall, consultees expressed enthusiasm for improvements that would make the park more accessible, engaging, and safer for all users.



How could we make this play area more accessible and inclusive?

Consultation responses on inclusivity and accessibility at Markfield Park highlighted the need for more seating, including family-friendly and integrated options, and additional play areas to reduce overcrowding. Many respondents called for accessible equipment such as basket swings and a new roundabout, as well as sensory play and level flooring. Maintenance was a recurring concern, with broken accessible features and litter impacting usability. Suggestions included engagement with local communities to e.g. foster shared responsibility with regards to litter. Some proposed nature-inspired designs to make the space more welcoming.

It is worth noting that the above made up a limited number of responses, with many people choosing not to answer.



All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

	£ 123,125.00	
ages 8+	22.2%	£ 27,333.75
ages 4-8	21.8%	£ 26,841.25
ages 0-4	17.4%	£ 21,423.75
Informal	11.0%	£ 13,543.75
Site furniture	9.6%	£ 11,820.00
Green improvements	18.1%	£ 22,285.63
Safety surfacing	N/A	£ 65,000.00

Are there any play areas you have visited that you would like to replicate at Markfield Park?

Most common responses:
Clissold Park
Finsbury Park
Lloyd Park
Clapton Common
Springfield Park
Princess Diana Memorial

Handwritten consultation responses

Questions identical to online survey (3 filled in surveys)

Q1: How often do you visit Markfield Park?

2x Multiple times per week

1x Once per week

Q2: Why do you visit Markfield Park most?

1x Use of café

2x Access nature/green space

2x Visit the play area with friends and their children

Q3: How would you describe the current playground?

2x Good

1x Neutral

Q4: How would you describe the overall park?

3x Good

Q5: What is most important to you?

Top three most important ranking slots:

1 – Sensory planting (1x), Informal play (2x)

2 – Equipment for older children (8 years+) (1x), Equipment for younger children (5-8 years) (1x), Seating for parents/carers and family (1x)

3 – Equipment for older children (8 years+) (1x), Equipment for younger children (5-8 years) (1x), Trees for shade (1x)

Q6: What would you specifically like to see improved and what play pieces would you like to see retained?

Monkey bars to be repaired

Carousel to be kept

Swing and slides to be kept

Toddler area in pretty good shape and can be retained

Health and safety

Slide

Q7: What specific type of equipment would you like to see within the playground?

Zip wire, zip line

Nest swing

Overground/underground (tunnel?)

Q8: What type of materials would you most like to see used within the playground?

High quality hardwood

Plastic/Metal – Natural colours (2x)

Q9: How could we make this play area more accessible and inclusive?

Chairs, benches

Ramps on climbing frames and accessible slides

Q10: Are there any play areas you have visited that you would like to replicate in Markfield Park?

-

Q11: How would you allocate budget for this project?

Older children's play equipment, younger children's play equipment, 8x pieces of informal play equipment

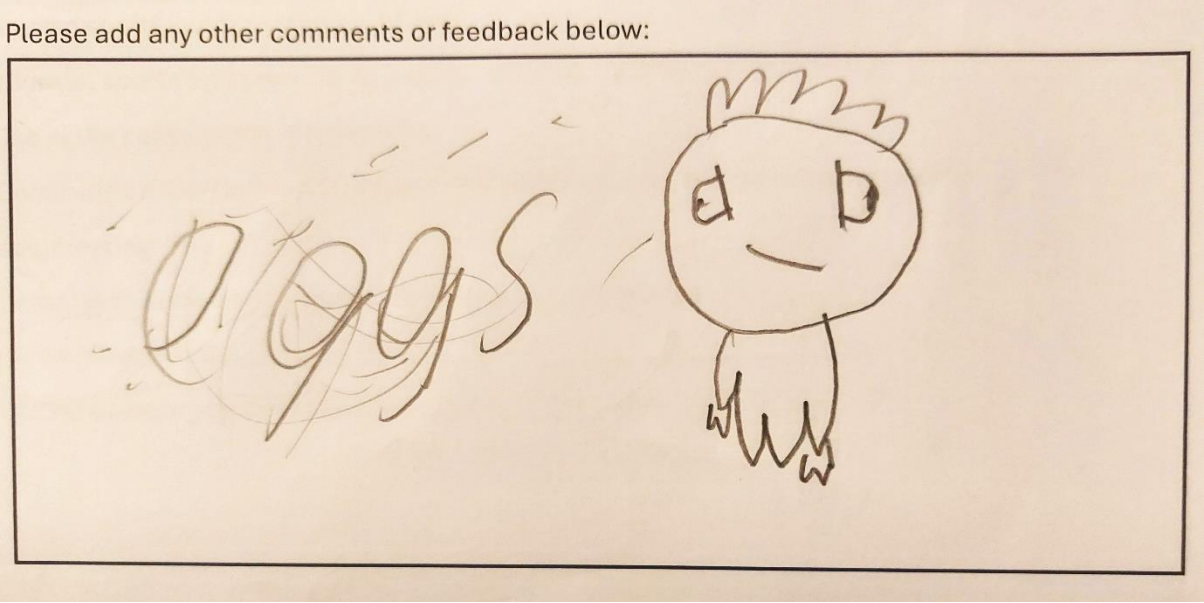
Older children's - £40k; young children's play equipment - £73k; Baby and toddler play equipment - £2k; Green improvements - £8k

Most of budget for informal play

Other comments:

A lot of the current equipment is in good condition, this does not need to be replaced. Or it could be sold generating more funds to use on park improvements.

Seating area with shade from rain/sun.



Alternative simplified survey questions

Q1: What is your/your child's favourite item within the playground? Is there anything you would like to remain or be replicated?

Swings were consistently the most popular item across all age groups, often mentioned alongside slides and climbing frames. Many respondents appreciated unique features like the green spinner, and the spider climbing structures. There was a strong preference for equipment that caters to both toddlers and older children, including sensory elements and imaginative play features. Items that allowed for physical activity and exploration, such as tunnels and climbing towers, were also well received.

Q2: What would you like to see improved within the playground? Do you have concerns or any considerations you would like us to make?

Respondents frequently requested more slides, climbing frames, and shaded seating areas. There was a clear desire for better maintenance, especially for broken or stiff equipment like roundabouts and swings. Suggestions included improving (safety) surfacing, expanding the play area to reduce overcrowding and adding water play. Accessibility and inclusivity were also noted, with calls for more equipment suitable for teenagers and quieter zones for children with sensory needs. Themes for imaginative play included animals, vehicles/boats and water related topics. Users mentioned playground courtesy of waiting their turn and sharing equipment, which could be supported by signage.

Q3: How would you like to see the playground improved for accessibility/inclusion? E.g. adults/children with physical disabilities, spaces for girls, neurodivergence, language barriers etc.

Many responses highlighted the need for wheelchair-accessible equipment, sensory play elements, and inclusive design. There were calls for quiet areas, shaded seating for carers, and features that support children with disabilities, such as soft surfacing and flexible play zones. Some respondents emphasised the importance of imaginative and tactile experiences, like sensory and musical features. A few mentioned the need for clearer boundaries, keeping the playground dog-free, and ensuring safety for all users.

Q4: What would the perfect playground look like for you? Colours, materials, age ranges, types of equipment, flow of space, seating, bigger/smaller etc

The ideal playground was described as colourful, varied, and inclusive, with a mix of natural materials and imaginative features. Popular ideas included large climbing structures, monkey bars, water play, and special features like zip lines, treehouses or tunnels. Respondents wanted spaces that cater to all age groups, from toddlers to teens, with plenty of seating, trees, shade, and picnic areas. There was also interest in educational and sensory elements, such as musical play, water fountains, and nature-inspired designs. There was no clear preference for either metal/plastic or timber as both were mentioned several times.

Q5: Do you have any other comments or feedback?

Additional feedback focused on improving the overall atmosphere and usability of the park. Concerns included unpleasant smells, lack of shade, and proximity to adult gym equipment. Many respondents expressed appreciation for existing features but emphasized the need for more equipment and better maintenance. Suggestions included more bins and clearer separation between age zones. There was also interest in seating for families, environmental education features and additional options to buy refreshments nearer the playground.

‘Have Your Say’ responses

What would you specifically like to see improved in your play area and what play pieces would you like to see? How could you make it more accessible and inclusive? What other parks do you like to visit and why?

I am a close resident of Markfield Park.

Please can you put a sand pit for kids

to play they love it and gives hours

of entertainment - it's so sensory and

relaxing - I hope you will understand

my request. It means So much to me

- no dogs should be allowed,

- Toilets

- ZIP line

- climbing frame

- nets (ball)

- Bike lane/roller blades + scooter lane/rent bikes

- more toys - lots of swings and slides

- would like a larger toddler/younger kids area

- The climbing frame by the younger kids should not include a fireman's pole as it could be a danger for younger kids who haven't mastered the skill,

- More swings in all sections of the park

- More waste bins across the playground area

- softer 'bump resistant' flooring - especially at the foot of the slide

- currently we like to visit the newly revamped playground on Clapton Common - the wood finish and clever design really spark the kids' imagination for hours of fun

I would like to ask that they're should be no

sand in the play area. And there should

be a seperate Playground for the

smaller ones with gates around

enclosed.

Thank you and looking forward.

The play area is wonderful however it needs good maintenance, & constant checks that all is in working order

A zipline would be amazing & plenty of swings!

We would like to have it cleaner + seasaws

We love this park yet we can't use it on weekend due to these massive groups of

football players which occupy the entire park - there's illegal trading, barbecues, music etc - it's very unpleasant and offputting - we usually stay away because of it.

Thank You for taking the time to listen

I go with a friend walking in the park almost

daily as he has heart problems. The smell

of people cooking on Sundays is very bad

for her health, it should not be allowed.

Also a bike lane is very very urgently

needed as I got knocked over by one + cut my leg very badly. Markfield Park is a wonderful park for all the walkers and joggers. Do NOT SPOIL IT. It has to have clean air.

Thank-you for letting us have our Say.

We look forward to the park improvements.

We would appreciate:

* No dogs be allowed !! (w/o a lead!)

The kids get terrified & this disturbs a day out!

* urgently required: w.c's on park premises! (That don't close early)

* Toys (not made of wood) They catch splinters on them.

Summary

Many comments expressed a strong desire for modernisation and more efficient use of the available play area, with repeated calls to update and repair existing equipment. Suggestions for more swings, climbing structures, and inclusive features for younger and older children were particularly frequent. Many noted that the current playground gets overcrowded after school and on weekends and lacks variety for different age groups.

Safety and cleanliness were recurring concerns, including issues with sewage smells, broken equipment, and antisocial behaviour near the park entrance. Respondents raised the need for improved safety, more bins, better maintenance, and accessible features such as roundabouts and basket swings. Suggestions included sensory zones, shaded seating areas, and nature-based play, with inspiration drawn from other popular play areas.

Regarding the look and feel, respondents were largely drawn to a more naturalistic palette, however there was a mixed response on whether equipment should be wood or metal, as although preference overall is for wood, the focus should be on durability and overall feel of the play space. Some respondents expressed a preference for bright colours.

There was a clear call for more inclusive design, including level flooring, integrated seating for families, and equipment suitable for disabled children. There was emphasis on the importance of engaging local communities to help address litter and vandalism, fostering a sense of shared responsibility.

High Level Proposal: Markfields Park Playground

Materiality/overall aesthetic:

- Robinia wood used for larger structures and play boat, but a mix of wood and (existing to be repaired) metal/plastic options overall; consistent naturalistic colour mix for surfacing.
- Bright colour accents to blend in with the existing colour scheme are welcome.
- Provision of complimentary planting beds and tree pits to provide shade and separation, and to soften some areas.

Safety surface:

- Mixed coloured brown/cream rubber mulch surfacing to be used throughout to give naturalistic feel; this might be extended into areas that are currently asphalt. This is aimed at making the available space 'work harder' to accommodate more play value while providing better spaces for carers and neurodivergent children to rest.
- Requires clear edge treatment – remove trip hazards
- Other surface – asphalt needs cleaning (algae etc)

Retain:

- Refurbish existing play where possible to be able to focus on high quality additions and maximise future play value/range of play features
- Green spinner (overhead rotator – lots of kids like it as per the handwritten survey responses)
- Ring – needs repair
- Inclusive roundabout – can be repaired
- Springers – could be kept with minor repairs
- Spring see-saw – functional, requires repairs
- Toddler swing: 2 Bay 4 Seat – minor repairs and add missing accessible seat
- Talk tubes – working fine
- Gates – repair where necessary
- Existing stepping stones near caterpillar bench – to be reused for path between seating area and large climbing piece

Replace:

- Multi Play (Senior) – requires repair, to be relocated elsewhere
- Multi Play (Junior) – remove
- Climbing frame – remove
- Space net - could be repaired but play value preferably integrated into new piece (net rope climbing, see below)
- Swing: 2 Bay 4 Seat (Flat) – to be repaired and relocated elsewhere

New play equipment:

- Large climbing piece with tower and twirly (tunnel) slide up to 4.0m height, integrate net rope climbing, climbing wall, monkey bars and smaller slide/ramp if possible
- Include small tunnel feature as part of large piece or elsewhere in the design

- Junior/toddler multi play with slide
- Small/accessible play boat
- Sensory/informal/natural play/nature trail with bark mulch path, to include e.g. boulders, logs, balancing pieces, structured surfaces etc
- Educational/local biodiversity signage/panel or similar (bespoke – opportunity to get local community involved)
- Accessible play features (but probably no space for new see-saw)
- Swings for older children including accessible seat, include hammock or basket swing if can be accommodated within the space and budget
- Trampoline if can be accommodated within the space and budget

Soft landscape/planting works:

- Provide planting beds for low shrub/hedge/climbers along eastern boundary to create more separation/obscure views from outdoor gym, also add planting along northern boundary to provide quiet areas
- Provide tree pits for additional columnar trees within the play area, place strategically for future shading of seating/resting areas

Other

- Informal seating in resting areas, incl. for children/teenagers, e.g. boulders, logs – option to use wood from a beech tree in the playground that has died and will need to be felled
- Additional picnic bench and one additional bin nearby
- Benches require minor repairs, consider moving some benches to shadier/more protected spaces, add one bench to match existing
- Caterpillar bench – replace or move to present less of a barrier/allow space for one or two of the other moved benches
- Consider space for buggies in or near toddler area
- Remove small graffiti
- Thermoplastic markers e.g. hopscotch, educational – consider where existing needs to be removed to extend safety surface or introduce planting, e.g. planets, compass, animals
- Bike racks outside the play area – this may not be possible within the budget
- Zip line/trackway – was requested a lot in consultation, however no space could be found unless outdoor gym was moved south of the east-west path – no other realistic extension of play area possible, this also falls outside of the available budget
- A shade sail and water play feature were ruled out due to maintenance/budget constraints

Markfield Park - Concept sketch zoning/items - indicative only

