



Fieldwork findings

City of Port Phillip: Adventure Playgrounds Research

24 March

Introduction

i.e. community was engaged by the City of Port Phillip to design and deliver research on the two Adventure Playgrounds in the municipality, St Kilda and Skinners (South Melbourne). The research was required as input into a review of a trial of extended operating hours, which began in October 2021 and finished at the end of January 2022.

Fieldwork was completed in the final two weeks of the trial of extended hours, from January 18 to January 30. The fieldwork included two research methods: observations and intercept surveys. Observations were designed to count the number of visitors to the playgrounds across the week. Intercept surveys were designed to capture who was using the playground and when, as well as opinions of the playground and the extended operating hours. Intercept surveys capture the views of the wide range of people who visit the playground, who may not engage with or be aware of Council's other engagement platforms. This aims to provide a cross-section of the views of playground users.

Methodology

Research design

The fieldwork schedule was designed to ensure coverage across the week (days and times) and was initially divided evenly between the two playgrounds (St Kilda and Skinners). Prior to fieldwork commencing, discussions with Council determined that use of Skinners was lower than expected and it was agreed to focus on St Kilda.

Intercept survey

The survey was designed by the City of Port Phillip and refined by i.e. community in consultation with Council. The interviews were conducted using iPads and all users of the playgrounds who were in attendance during the fieldwork were interviewed.

Our researchers approached adults using the playground and sought verbal consent for the adults and children's participation. Due to the fact that parents were supervising children, we were unable to complete some surveys.

During the two-week fieldwork period, 160 people were surveyed across the Adventure Playgrounds. The majority of these ($n=153$) were interviewed at St Kilda. Only seven surveys were conducted at Skinners in South Melbourne. In all, 121 adults and 39 children were surveyed.

Observation

Observations were used to collect data on the number of playground users at different times of the day and week. Two observation methodologies were used in tandem for robustness and comparison.



30 minute observation window method

Observation windows were designed with Council to break the day up into blocks. These are represented in the infographic below. For the 30 minute observation window method, our researchers counted the number of people present at the playground at the beginning of each observation window, and then included any additional who arrived within the 30 minutes.

Hourly headcount method

To supplement data collected using the 30 minute observation window method, hourly headcounts were also conducted. During fieldwork, on the hour, the numbers of adults and children in the playground were recorded.

These two methods are visually represented in the figure below.



Presence of Adventure Playground staff

During January 2022 the Adventure Playgrounds were operating usual drop-in programs over the school holiday period including 12pm – 4pm on weekdays (school holidays) and usual weekend hours 12pm – 4:30pm.

During staffed (program) times, there was a minimum of two Adventure Playground workers present onsite during which staff would play games, colour in, prepare snacks, play a ball-game etc. with enrolled Playground Members (drop-in service).

If a visiting member of the public approached staff to join these activities they would be included thus allowing non-program children to 'join in with a program/activity'. However this was not a common occurrence as visiting children are generally supervised by their guardian, and staff typically work with the children who are enrolled in the program.

Data on whether staff were present or not during the time of intercept surveys were collected, in order to explore whether this influenced perceptions of safety at the Playground.

Summary of findings

Who uses the playground

- The majority of St Kilda Adventure Playground users reside in the City of Port Phillip, while just under half live outside the municipality.
 - The top three suburbs within Port Phillip were St Kilda, St Kilda East, and Elwood.
 - Outside of Port Phillip, the top three suburbs were Brunswick, Caulfield, and Elsternwick.
- Just over half of children (57%) who visited St Kilda were within the target age of 5-11 of the playground
 - Of the children who were not within the target age range, most were under 5 years of age (40% of children).
- For all St Kilda Adventure Playground users, almost half had access to a backyard, approximately a third had a balcony and a third had a courtyard. A small proportion (7%) had no outside space at all.
 - Visitors who live in the City of Port Phillip were significantly less likely to have access to a backyard (29%) when compared to visitors from outside of the City of Port Phillip (65%)
- The majority of adults who visited St Kilda live with their partner (81%), and children (90%)
 - Around two thirds of children surveyed at St Kilda live with both their parents, while a third live with one parent.

Playground use

- Just over half of the visitors to St Kilda Adventure Playground indicated that mornings (9am-12pm) were the usual time they visited the playground (56%), particularly for families with young children, while 40% indicated they preferred to visit in the afternoon (2-5pm).
 - This supports the observation data which showed 12pm to be the busiest time of the day
- Visitors indicated that weekends were their preferred time of week for visiting the playgrounds (Saturday 43%, Sunday 39%), while many people indicated there was no particular day they usually visit (38%).
- The majority of adults visiting the St Kilda Adventure Playground indicated that this was their first time visiting (44%).
 - Those visiting for the first time indicated the playground was recommended to them, or had found about it online.
 - When comparing visitors who reside in the City of Port Phillip and non-resident visitors, residents of City of Port Phillip were significantly less likely to be visiting for the first time (23% compared to 69% of visitors from outside City of Port Phillip)
 - Visitors who reside in the City of Port Phillip were significantly more likely to visit daily (11%), or once a week (18%), compared to visitors from outside the City of Port Phillip (0% and 2% respectively)
- The most common reason for people visiting the Adventure Playground was that they love the playground, in particular because the play equipment is different to other playgrounds and has a



trampoline.

Perceptions of safety

- The majority of visitors to the St Kilda Adventure Playground felt 'very safe' (50% of adults and 54% of children) or 'safe' (25% of adults and 38% of children).
- There was no significant difference in perceptions of safety when comparing data collected when staff were or weren't present
- 41% of visitors indicated they preferred to visit the playground when staff were there (compared to 4% when staff are not there), 32% said they preferred to come when its quiet (compared to 8% busy), while 26% indicated they had no preference and would come to the playground at any time

Key insights

- The playground is used differently at different times of the day and year
 - During school holidays and/or periods of annual leave, people visit the playground more frequently, and at any time of day
 - Visitors with young children prefer to visit in the morning
- The playground is used regularly by residents of City of Port Phillip, but also cater to many visitors from outside of the City of Port Phillip, many of whom are coming for the first time
- The playground may serve a different function for those who reside in the City of Port Phillip compared to non-residents, with visitors from the City of Port Phillip having significantly less access to outside space compared to visitors from outside the City
- The extended hours could have been more widely communicated to the community and public, so the full extent of the benefits of the trial could have been experienced, with many people surveyed saying they were unaware of the trial
- Playground users generally feel safe at the playground, due to the enclosed nature of the playground, however some feel safer with the staff present
- Playground users are supportive of the extended operating hours for the greater accessibility and convenience they provide, but do not want them to impact or come at the cost of what they love about the playground, such as:
 - the different and adventurous play equipment
 - the staff and the programs they run
 - the feelings of safety and community at the playground.

Observation findings

To collect data on the number of visitors at St Kilda and Skinners Adventure Playgrounds, observations were conducted across the field work period at different times of the day and week.



Two observation methodologies were used to collect data on the number of visitors. These two methodologies were used for robustness and comparison.

The data on visitor count across different times of day and week are then used to extrapolate the busiest times of the day and week.

St Kilda Adventure Playground

We conducted observations 53 times over 10 days in the two week fieldwork period, counting a total of 452 people (180 adults and 266 children). Data was collected to capture a range of times of day and week. The data collected is used to estimate the busiest times of the day and week, as well as estimate the average weekly visitors to the playground.

To structure the fieldwork and ensure all times of day were captured, the day was divided into observation windows. These were:

Observation window	Time of day
Early morning	7:00am - 9:00am
Morning	9:00am - 12:00pm
Early afternoon	12:00pm - 2:00pm
Afternoon	2:00pm - 5:00pm
Evening	5:00pm - 7:00pm

Observation data analysis

Observations were categorised by type of day (weekday, weekend, public holiday), and averaged for each observation time. Data collected on the public holiday did not align with data collected on either weekdays or weekends, so was analysed and reported separately.

The weather during the observation period was highly varied, including many days of extreme heat, and thunderstorms. This may limit the generalizability of the data.

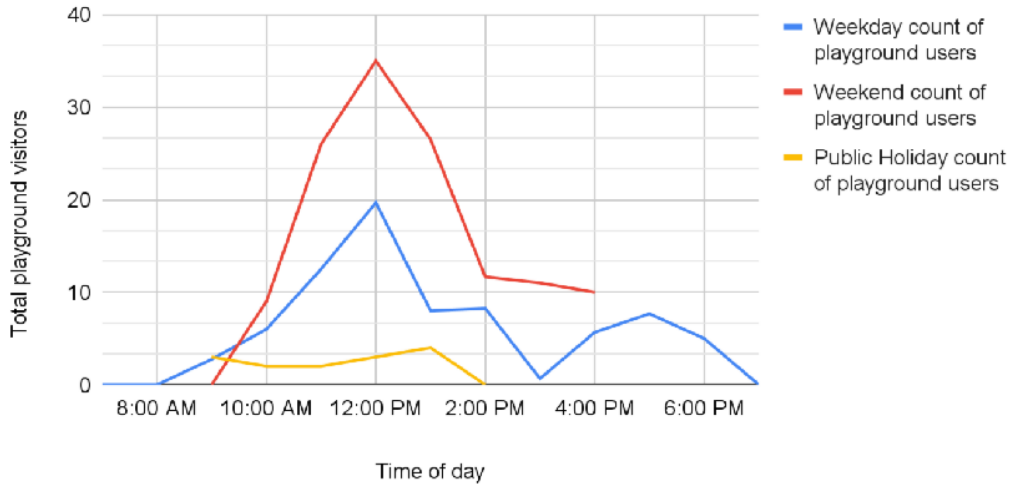


Estimating the busiest time of the day

This data presents the average number of people at each hour for each 'type' of day (weekday, weekend, public holiday), from 53 observations across the fieldwork period. '0' represents where data was collected but zero visitors were present at the playground. '-' represents no data collected at this time, due to fieldwork scheduling. This data is presented visually below.

Time of day	Average playground visitors by type of day								
	Weekday			Weekend			Public holiday		
	Adult	Child	Total	Adult	Child	Total	Adult	Child	Total
7:00 AM	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
8:00 AM	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
9:00 AM	2	1	3	0	0	0	2	1	3
10:00 AM	3	3	6	4	5	9	1	1	2
11:00 AM	5	8	13	12	14	26	1	1	2
12:00 PM	6	14	20	16	19	35	2	1	3
1:00 PM	3	5	8	12	15	27	2	2	4
2:00 PM	3	5	8	5	7	12	0	0	0
3:00 PM	0	1	1	5	6	11	-	-	-
4:00 PM	0	4	6	3	7	10	-	-	-
5:00 PM	3	5	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
6:00 PM	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
7:00 PM	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-

Average total playground users by type of day



On both weekdays and weekends, 12:00pm was the busiest time for visitors at St Kilda Adventure Playground during the fieldwork period.

Distribution across morning and afternoon periods was relatively even, with more visitors in the late afternoon and evening than early morning.

Comparing observation methods

In addition to counting the number of adults and children in the playground every hour, we also conducted a 30 minute observation at the beginning of each observation window. This involved counting the number of visitors at the start of a 30 minute period, and adding any visitors who arrived in the observation period.

Observation period	Average total visitors observed by type of day	
	Weekday	Weekend
7:00am - 7:30am	0	-
9:00am - 9:30pm	4	3
12:00pm - 12:30pm	8	24
2:00pm - 2:30pm	6	8
5:00pm - 5:30pm	4	-



Comparing the data from the two observation methodologies confirms the middle of the day as the busiest time, with a skew towards the afternoon compared to the morning. The skew towards the afternoon may be due to the morning observation being conducted at 9am-9:30, when our headcount data shows visitor numbers grow most between 10am and 11am.

The impact of extended hours on visitor count

To assess the impact of the extended hours on visitor count, and estimate the additional visitors due to the trial, a comparison was conducted of counts within the usual playground hours and outside the usual hours.

The usual Adventure Playground operating hours on weekdays (except Monday) are 3:30pm - 6:00pm, and on weekends 12:00pm - 4:30pm (referred to as “usual operating hours”). The observations conducted within usual playground hours are indicated below with a #, and observations conducted outside usual hours are indicated with an ^. This data was collected between January 18 to January 30 2022, and may not be representative of visitor counts outside of this time.

Time of day	Average total playground visitors by type of day	
	Weekday	Weekend
7:00 AM	0	-
8:00 AM	0	-
9:00 AM	3^	0^
10:00 AM	6^	9^
11:00 AM	13^	26^
12:00 PM	20^	35#
1:00 PM	8^	27#
2:00 PM	8^	12#
3:00 PM	1^	11#
4:00 PM	6#	10#
5:00 PM	8#	-
6:00 PM	5#	-



7:00 PM	0^	-
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Time of day	Average playground visitors by type of day	
	Weekday	Weekend
Usual operating hours	19	95
Outside usual operating hours	59	35

On weekdays, 24% of visitors captured during the observation were visiting during the usual operating hours. These results suggest that on weekdays during the fieldwork period, there may have been many additional visitors to the playground during the extended operating hours, with the playground accessible to around 200% more people on weekdays. This could also be reflective of the fieldwork period occurring during school holidays, when visitors are more able to visit the playground outside the usual 'after school' playground operating hours of 3:30pm-6:00pm, and therefore may not be applicable to school term times.

On weekends, 73% of the visitors captured during the observation were visiting during the usual operating hours of 12:00pm-4:00pm. However, a third of these were at 12:00pm, right as the playground usually opens, so it is likely not a realistic estimation of the user count at 12:00pm during usual operating hours. These results suggest the extended operating hours may have made the playground accessible to around 35% more people on weekends.



Estimating the busiest day of the week

Data collected in the fieldwork period shows that on average, weekends are the busiest time of the week at St Kilda Adventure Playground.

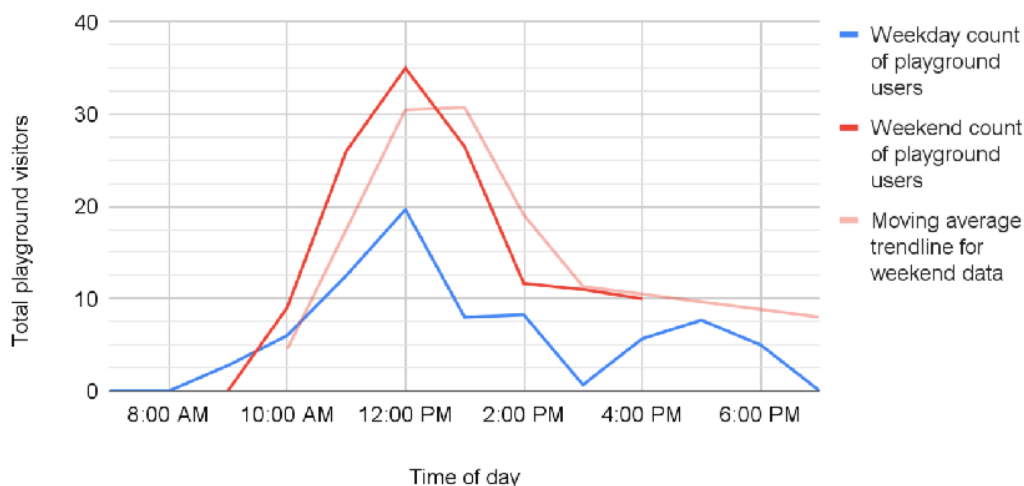
Estimating the average weekly playground users

The average total playground users by type of day can be used to estimate the average weekly visitor count.

For weekdays, as data was collected across the full time period of 7:00am to 7:00pm during the fieldwork period, the average total weekday visitors is used to calculate the weekly average.

For weekends, as the time period of 9:00am to 4:00pm was covered across the fieldwork period, a moving average trendline was used to extrapolate the data and estimate visitor count between 5:00pm and 7:00pm. Count between 7:00am and 9:00am is assumed to be 0.

Estimating weekly playground users



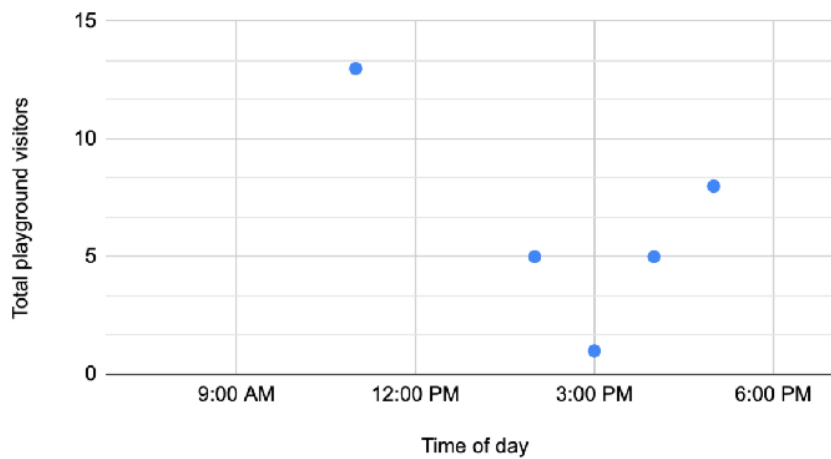
The calculation for estimating the weekly number of users visiting St Kilda Adventure Playground is presented in the table below.

	Estimated total playground visitors by type of day	
	Weekday	Weekend
Estimated daily visitors: 7am - 7pm	76	154
Multiplier (number of type of day in the week)	5	2
Total (estimated visitors x multiplier)	380	308
Total estimated weekly playground users (weekday + weekend)	688	

Skidders Adventure Playground

Observations at Skidders Adventure Playground were limited in number due to the focus of the fieldwork on St Kilda. 11 observations were recorded across 5 days within the two-week fieldwork period. No observations were recorded on the weekend.

Average weekday visitors by time of day



The data is too inconsistent to be extrapolated to estimate the busiest time of day, or week.



Survey results: St Kilda Adventure Playground

These are results from 153 intercept surveys conducted at St Kilda Adventure Playground.

Who is using the playground

Parents and/or guardians were asked “Who are you at the playground with today?”.

Most respondents ($n=114$) reported that they were at the playground with my children (89%), 6% were with a friend, 6% were with children that they were babysitting or caring for, 3% were with my parents and/or siblings, 2% were with my grandchildren. A proportion of respondents (10%) indicated ‘other’, with a variety of responses such as ‘family’, ‘wife’, ‘mother-in-law’, ‘husband’, ‘child’s friend’, and ‘my niece’. Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

Who are survey respondents at the playground with today?	Percentage (n=114)
My children	89%
My friend	6%
Children that they are babysitting/nannying	6%
My parents and/or siblings	3%
My Grandchildren	2%
Other	10%

Table 1. Who are survey respondents at the playground with today?

Percentage base: All parents/guardians surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground who responded to this question ($n=114$).

When comparing data collected from visitors who reside in the City of Port Phillip with non-resident visitors, adults living in the City of Port Phillip were significantly more likely to be at the playground with ‘my friend’ (11%) compared to non-resident visitors (0%) ($p= .05$, 95% CI).

How many children do you have with you?

Adults or guardians ($n=113$) were asked “How many children do you have with you today?”. 41% of parents and/or guardians had one child with them, 49% had two children, and 11% had three or more children with them at the playground. There were no significant differences in data from respondents residing in the City of Port Phillip compared to non-residents.

Number of children accompanying adults	Percentage (n=113)
1	41%
2	49%
3+	11%

Table 2. Number of children with parents/guardians at the playground

Percentage base: All adults (parents/guardians) surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground who responded to this question ($n=113$).

Age and gender of children at the playground

Parents and/or guardians ($n=113$) and children surveyed ($n=35$) were asked “How old is/are your child/ren and what best describes their gender?”.

Age group of child	Number of children	Percentage (n=190)
Under 5	76	40%
5	26	14%
6	23	12%
7	29	15%
8	8	4%
9	13	7%
10	5	3%
11	4	2%
12+	6	3%

Table 3. Frequency and percentage of age groups for children visitors

Percentage base: Total number of children whose age was shared by visitors surveyed (adults and child) at St Kilda Adventure Playground ($n=190$).



Gender	Number of children	Percentage (n=184)
Boy	104	57%
Girl	80	43%
Other	0	0%

Table 4. Frequency and percentage of gender for children.

Percentage base: Total number of children whose gender was shared by visitors surveyed (adults and child) at St Kilda Adventure Playground (n=184)

Age of adults visiting the playground

Adults surveyed (n=114) were asked "What is your age group?". They were predominantly (70%) aged between 35-49, 16% were aged 25-34, 9% were aged 50-59, 2% were aged 18-24, 0% were aged 60-69, and 4% preferred not to say.

Age group of adults	Number of adults (n=114)	Percentage
18-24	2	2%
25-34	18	16%
35-49	80	70%
50-59	10	9%
60-69	0	0%
Prefer not to say	4	4%

Table 5. Frequency and percentage of age groups for adults.

Percentage base: Adults (parents/guardians) surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground (n=114)

When comparing data collected from visitors who reside in the City of Port Phillip with non-resident visitors, there was a significant difference for some age groups. For visitors from the City of Port Phillip, 10% were from the 25-34 age group, which was significantly lower than non-residents (24%) ($p = .05$, 95% CI). The proportion of City of Port Phillip residents from the 35-39 age group (82%) was significantly higher than non-residents (55%) ($p = .05$, 95% CI). This may suggest that parental age within the City of Port Phillip could be higher than other geographical areas.

Home suburb of playground visitors

Adults and children surveyed at the playground were asked "What suburb do you live in". The suburb data was categorised into City of Port Phillip and non-City of Port Phillip for comparison. 57% of adults ($n=107$) and 57% of children surveyed ($n=35$) resided within the City of Port Phillip.

Municipality of respondents	Adult percentage (n=107)	Child percentage (n=35)	Combined percentage (n=142)
City of Port Phillip	57%	57%	57%
Outside City of Port Phillip	43%	43%	43%

Table 6. St Kilda Adventure Playground residents home municipality ($n=142$)

Percentage base: Total number of adults and children surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground. For adults $n=107$, for children $n=35$, and combined total $n=142$.

Top suburbs of visitors

The top eleven areas survey respondents come from (combined adult and children, $n=142$) are presented below.

The top three suburbs within Port Phillip were St Kilda, St Kilda East, and Elwood, indicated with an *.

The top three suburbs outside of Port Phillip were Brunswick, Caulfield, and Elsternwick indicated with an ^, not including visitors from interstate.



Top suburbs/areas of survey respondents	Percentage of combined survey respondents (n=142)
St Kilda*	35%
St Kilda East*	8%
Elwood*	5%
Balaclava	4%
Interstate	4%
Brunswick^	3%
St Kilda West	3%
Caulfield^	3%
Elsternwick^	3%
Armadale	2%
Ormond	2%

Table 7. Self-identified home suburbs of St Kilda Adventure Playground visitors.

Percentage base: Total number of visitors (adult and child) surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground n=142

Household makeup of visitors

Adults and children surveyed were asked "Who lives in your household with you?". Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

Adults playground visitors

81% of St Kilda adult survey respondents ($n=114$) indicated that they lived with their partner, 90% lived with their children, 4% lived with other adults, 2% lived with other children, and 6% indicated 'other', including 'nieces', 'alone', 'parents and siblings', and 'grandparents'.

Household members of survey respondents	Percentage (n=114)
Partner	81%
Children	90%
Other adults	4%
Other children	2%
Other	6%

Table 8. Household members of St Kilda Adventure Playground adult visitors. Percentage base: Adults surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground (n=114).

Child playground visitors

The majority of St Kilda child respondents ($n=36$) (69%) reported that they lived with both of my parents, 27% lived with one of my parents, 39% lived with other children, 6% lived with one or more other carers, and 6% indicating they lived with 'other', including 'aunt' and 'grandparents'.

Household members of child survey respondents	Percentage (n=36)
Both of my parents	69%
One of my parents	28%
One or more other carers	6%
Other children	39%
Other	6%

Table 9. Household members of St Kilda Adventure Playground child visitors. Percentage base: Children surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground (n=36).

When comparing the household members of visitors who reside in the City of Port Phillip and non-resident visitors, there was no significant difference between groups.

Outdoor space at the home of playground users

Both adult and child survey respondents were asked, "Do you have (tick all that apply)", and were able to select from either a backyard, balcony, courtyard, or no outside space. Respondents could select more than one response.



45% of adults ($n=109$) and 46% of children ($n=37$) indicated that they had a backyard, 34% of adults and 33% of children had a balcony and 27% of adults and 46% of children had a courtyard, while 9% of adults and 0% of children had no outside space.

Outdoor space type	Adult percentage (n=109)	Child percentage (n=37)	Combined percentage (n=146)
Backyard	45%	46%	45%
Balcony	34%	33%	34%
Courtyard	27%	46%	32%
No outside space	9%	0%	7%

Table 10. Characteristics of St Kilda Adventure Playground survey respondents' outdoor space at their home ($n=140$).

Percentage base: Total number of adults and children surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground. For adults $n=109$, for children $n=37$, and combined total $n=146$.

Respondents could select more than one answer, so this does not clearly reflect respondents with more than one of these characteristics, for example, some may only have a balcony while others have both a balcony and a courtyard.

Comparing access to outside space for City of Port Phillip residents and non-residents

When comparing access to outside space at the home of visitors from City of Port Phillip compared to non-residents of City of Port Phillip, there was a significant difference in access to a backyard in particular. Adult survey respondents from the City of Port Phillip were significantly less likely to have access to a backyard than adults who lived outside of the City of Port Phillip ($p= .05$, 95% CI).

Outdoor space type	Residents of City of Port Phillip (n=68)	Non-residents of City of Port Phillip (n=55)
Backyard	29%**	65%**
Balcony	42%	25%
Courtyard	32%	21%
No outside space	12%	4%

Table 11. Difference between adult City of Port Phillip residents and non-City of Port Phillip residents in access to outdoor space. **Indicates significance at $p= .05$.

Percentage base: Adults surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground who reside in the City of Port Phillip ($n=68$) and non-residents of the City of Port Phillip ($n=55$).



When the playground is being used

Frequency of playground visits

Adults and children surveyed at the playground “How often have you used the Adventure Playground in the last three months? Would it be...”, and read the following options: Daily, 2-3 times a week, Once a week, 2-3 times a month, Once a month, This is the first time, Unsure.

The largest proportion of visitors surveyed for both children and adults were visiting for the first time.

Playground usage in the previous three months	Adults percentage (n=113)	Children percentage (n=38)	Combined percentage n=151
This is the first time	44%	32%	41%
Daily	6%	13%	8%
2-3 times a week	17%	21%	18%
Once a week	11%	11%	11%
2-3 times a month	8%	8%	8%
Once a month	13%	13%	13%
Unsure	1%	3%	1%

Table 12. Frequency of playground visits in the previous three months for adults and children visitors to St Kilda Adventure Playground.

Percentage base: Total number of adults and children surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground. For adults n=113, for children n=38, and combined total n=151.

Comparing visitors who reside in the City of Port Phillip with non-resident visitors

Comparing adult survey data from City of Port Phillip residents with non-resident visitors showed that adult City of Port Phillip residents were significantly more likely to visit ‘daily’, ‘once a week’, and significantly less likely to indicate ‘this is the first time’. These results show that City of Port Phillip residents use the playground more regularly than non-residents. There were no significant differences for children.

Playground usage in the previous three months	Residents of City of Port Phillip (n=62)	Non-residents of City of Port Phillip (n=49)
This is the first time	23%**	69%**
Daily	11%**	0%**
Once a week	18%**	2%**
2-3 times a week	23%	10%
2-3 times a month	10%	6%
Once a month	15%	12%
Unsure	2%	0%

Table 13. Difference in frequency of playground visits in the past 3 months between adult City of Port Phillip residents and non-residents. **Indicates significance at $p = .05$.

Percentage base: Adults surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground who reside in the City of Port Phillip (n=68) and non-residents of the City of Port Phillip (n=55).

Additional comments shared in relation to this question included: that they had been previous regular users of the playground (e.g. used to come a few years ago) (5 comments), that this was their second time visiting (5 comments) that they come more often during school holidays compared to during the school year (3 comments).

Day of the week people usually visit the playground

Adults and children surveyed were asked "What day of the week do you most often come?", with the option to select just one or multiple days of the week or, no particular day.

Results show weekends were the most usual day to visit the Adventure Playground, as well as no particular day. No significant differences were found when comparing data from City of Port Phillip residents and non-residents, for either adults or children.



Day of the week respondents usually visit the playground	Adults percentage (n=109)	Child percentage (n=33)	Combined percentage (n=142)
Monday	23%	24%	23%
Tuesday	23%	24%	23%
Wednesday	30%	27%	30%
Thursday	28%	21%	27%
Friday	22%	15%	20%
Saturday	43%	36%	42%
Sunday	39%	36%	39%
No particular day	38%	39%	38%

Table 14. Usual day respondents visit the adventure playground, both adults (n=109) and children (n=33). Percentage base: Total number of adults and children surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground. For adults n=109, for children n=33, and combined total n=142.

Additional comments shared by respondents included: that people 'come more often during school holidays' (4 comments), 'depends on the weather' (2 comments), 'depends on when they are meeting friends here' (2 comments).

Time of day people usually visit the playground

Adults and children surveyed were asked “What time of day do you usually come to the playground?”

The time periods for selection correlated to the fieldwork observation windows, and more than one time period could be selected.

Results show that respondents most frequently indicated that mornings and afternoons were the usual times they visit the playground. These results differ from the observational data collected, which recorded actual visitor count at different times of the day, as opposed to the self-reported usual visiting time. The observational data showed midday to be the most frequent time of day to visit the playground.

No significant differences were found between data collected from City of Port Phillip residents and non-residents, for either adults or children.

Time of day visiting the playground	Adult percentage (n=112)	Child percentage (n=35)	Combined percentage (n=147)
Early morning (7am-9am)	13%	11%	12%
Morning (9am-12pm)	56%	60%	57%
Early afternoon (12pm-2pm)	25%	23%	24%
Afternoon (2pm-5pm)	40%	43%	40%
Evening (5pm-7pm)	19%	23%	20%

Table 15. Percentage of usage for time of day for adults (n=112) and children (n=35).

Percentage base: Total number of adults and children surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground. For adults n=112, for children n=35, and combined total n=147.

Additional comments shared by respondents included: Having the playground open in the mornings worked better for younger children (3 comments), who would often be napping in the afternoons, or before it got hot (3 comments).



Why and how the playground is being used

Reasons for visiting St Kilda Adventure Playground

To understand why people were coming to the Adventure Playgrounds, respondents were asked “Why did you come to this playground today?”. All responses were thematically coded to identify the top reasons for visiting the playground. This question was answered by 113 adults and 34 children (147 total).

<p>I love this playground</p>	<p>The most common reason both adult and child survey respondents visited the playground was because they love this playground, with 32% of adults and 56% of children surveyed indicating so.</p> <p><i>“It’s very cosy, feels safe, far from traffic, can leave the children unsupervised, It feels safe here with staff and a gate”</i></p> <p>Reasons respondents love this playground include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fact that the equipment was different to other playgrounds was noted by 20% respondents who were adults and as well as 9% of children as the reason for coming to the Adventure Playground over other playgrounds. <p><i>“Love that it’s not overly sterile, tree canopy and plants feels very organic and a different type of playground/vibe”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trampoline in particular was mentioned by 12% of respondents who were adults and 18% of children surveyed as the reason they came to the playground. <p><i>“It’s a great playground, great shade and lots of little corners to explore. My daughter loves the balls and the trampoline”</i></p> <p><i>“Great for teaching sharing, especially the numbering system on the trampoline”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18% of adult survey respondents indicated they had chosen to visit the Adventure Playground because of the shady environment. <p><i>“no where else in St Kilda has this much shade”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The imaginative and adventurous play that allows for risk-taking was also noted as a key reason they like the Adventure Playground. <p><i>“love this playground, good for different age groups, good for imaginative play”</i></p>
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	<i>"It's better than other playgrounds, more adventurous"</i>
It's near my house	Some playground users indicated they came to the playground as it was close to their home, with 28% of adult survey respondents and 18% of children. <i>"Live around the corner, the playground is amazing, love that it's all recycled things, very handy having it so close"</i>
I've been here before	Of the adults, 22% indicated that they had been to the playground in the past, with 18% of children also having visited before. Additionally, it was noted by 8% of adults that they had a historical connection to the playground, having come here as a child themselves, and that was why they liked to come to the Adventure Playground with their children today. <i>"Haven't come in ages, grew up coming here, very unique park"</i>
Meeting friends here	13% of adults and 3% of children surveyed said they came as they were meeting friends here.
Attending a program	4% of adults and 14% of children who were surveyed indicated they were at the playground today because of attending a program.
To meet different people	Meeting different people was the reason for visiting the Adventure Playground for 2% of adults and 3% of children. <i>"It's been wonderful and there is a real community here. Helped my wife to make friends here."</i>

Other common responses:

First time visiting	A number of respondents surveyed were visiting the playground for the first time. 12% of adults indicated they have come to the Adventure Playground after finding it via Google, through searching for things to do in the area, or searching for the best playgrounds in Melbourne. <i>"Heard about it online have been meaning to check it out, saw people posting about it recently in Residents in St Kilda , people talking about how good it was"</i> 15% of adults indicated they visited the playground as they were filling in time while in the area, so came by to check it out.
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	6% of adults surveyed indicated they were visiting the playground on the day of the survey after it was recommended by someone.
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Table 14. Common reasons for visiting the playground.

Percentage base: Total number of adults and children surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground. For adults n=113, for children n=34.

Comparing visitors who reside in the City of Port Phillip with non-resident visitors

Comparing survey data from City of Port Phillip adult residents with non-resident visitors showed that residents of City of Port Phillip were significantly more likely to be visiting the playground because it was close to their house (44% compared to 8% of non-residents).

Reasons for visiting the playground	Residents of City of Port Phillip (n=63)	Non-residents of City of Port Phillip (n=48)
It's near my house	44%**	8%**
Have been here before	24%	19%
I love this playground	40%	23%
Meeting friends here	17%	6%
Attending a program	5%	4%
To meet different people	2%	2%

Table 16. Comparison of reasons for visiting the playground for adult City of Port Phillip residents and non-residents. **Indicates significance at p= .05.

Percentage base: Adults surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground who reside in the City of Port Phillip (n=63) and non-residents of the City of Port Phillip (n=48).

Enrolled members of programs

St Kilda Adventure Playground users were “Is your child/are your children enrolled member/s of this playground?” or “Are you an enrolled member of this playground?” if they were a child.

For adults (n=113), 85% stated that their children were not enrolled members, while 15% said that their children were enrolled members.

For children (n=36), 78% indicated that they were not enrolled members, while 22% said they were.

Enrolled member of adventure playground programs	Adults whose children are enrolled (n=113)	Children who indicated they are enrolled (n=36)

Yes	15%	22%
No	85%	78%
Unsure	0%	0%

Table 17. Percentage of playground visitors with children enrolled members of the playgrounds. Percentage base: Total number of adults and children surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground. For adults n=113, for children n=36.

Comparing visitors who reside in the City of Port Phillip with non-resident visitors

When comparing adults residing in the City of Port Phillip with non-residents, there was significant difference in the proportion of enrolled members. 24% of adults residing in City of Port Phillip had children who were enrolled, compared to 4% of non-residents. ($p = .05$, 95% CI).

Enrolled member of adventure playground programs	Residents of City of Port Phillip	Non-residents of City of Port Phillip
Yes	24%**	4%**
No	76%**	96%**
Unsure	0%	0%

Table 18. Difference between adult CoPP residents and non-CoPP residents when asked if their children were enrolled members of the playground. **Indicates significance at $p = .05$. Percentage base: Adults surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground who reside in the City of Port Phillip (n=63) and non-residents of the City of Port Phillip (n=49).

Respondents who were, or whose children were enrolled, were asked what activities they normally participate in. The most common were:

- art and pottery activities (6 comments)
- community dinners (2 comments)
- drop-in sessions (2 comments)



Perceptions of safety at the playground

How safe do you feel at this playground today?

Playground users were asked “How safe do you feel at the playground today?”. Respondents could rate how safe they felt on a seven-point Likert scale.

Perceived feeling of safety	Adult percentage (n=113)	Child percentage (n=31)	Combined percentage (n=144)
Very safe	50%	54%	51%
Safe	35%	38%	36%
Somewhat safe	10%	0%	7%
Neither safe nor unsafe	1%	0%	1%
Somewhat unsafe	3%	3%	3%
Unsafe	1%	0%	1%
Very unsafe	0%	0%	0%
Don't know	1%	3%	1%

Table 19. Perceived level of safety of playground visitors

Percentage base: Total number of adults and children surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground. For adults n=113, for children n=31, and combined total n=144.

Analysis of the additional comments provided identified the following key reasons:

- Respondents like that the playground is enclosed, for safety (5 comments)
“Sensed that it was gated and rather enclosed so felt safe”
- Some respondents feel unsafe when it is not staffed (4 comments)
“Because staff are here I feel safe, if not staffed I feel unsafe. Some older children come when it's unstaffed which means it's not as safe for younger children”
- Some reported concerns about people attending the playground who shouldn't be (4 comments)
- Respondents feel they should, or need to, supervise their children in the playground, particularly young children (5 comments)
“Aware it's built for older children so need to supervise for safety”
- Some concerns regarding damaged equipment and safety. (3 comments)
“Most things are safe, some of the recycled things need a bit more love”
- Respondents always feel safe at this playground (3 comments)

- Respondents indicated they feel safer when staff are around (2 comments)

“We only come when it’s staffed for safety reasons”

The variance in the additional comments provided suggest that respondents interpret safety in different ways, with some reflecting on the physical environment of the playground including the equipment, and some thinking about who else is at the playground including staff. This also suggests there are a multitude of factors that influence perceptions of safety.

Staff presence and perceptions of safety

To understand whether staff being present at the playground at the time of survey influenced perceptions of safety, data collected when staff were present was compared to data collected when staff were not present. There was no significant difference between the two groups in adult survey respondents. Significance testing could not be completed between the two groups for children survey respondents due to small sample size for these groups. Comparison results are presented below.

	Staff present	Staff not present	Staff present	Staff not present
Perceived feeling of safety	Adult percentage (n=57)	Adult percentage (n=52)	Child percentage (n=18)	Child percentage (n=10)
Very safe	42%	54%	45%	60%
Safe	40%	33%	45%	40%
Somewhat safe	9%	12%	0%	0%
Neither safe nor unsafe	2%	0%	0%	0%
Somewhat unsafe	4%	2%	6%	0%
Unsafe	2%	0%	0%	0%
Very unsafe	0%	0%	0%	0%
Don't know	2%	0%	6%	0%

Table 20. Perceptions of safety when staff are present or not



Preferences for visiting the playground

To understand if there were factors that influenced when they visited the playground, survey respondents were asked “Do you prefer to visit this playground” and read the options: When staff are here, When staff aren’t here, When other children/families I know are here, When it’s quiet, When it’s busy, No preference or come anytime, or Other (please specify).

Do you prefer to visit this playground	Adult percentage (n=113)	Child percentage (n=30)	Combined percentage (n= 143)
When staff are here	40%	43%	41%
Other (please specify)	40%	10%	34%
When it’s quiet	31%	37%	32%
No preference or come anytime	30%	13%	26%
When it’s busy	5%	17%	8%
When other children/families I know are here	5%	13%	7%
When staff aren’t here	4%	3%	3%

Table 21. Percentage of playground environment preferences for adults (n=113), children (n=30) and combined (n=143).

Percentage base: Total number of adults and children surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground. For adults n=113, for children n=30, and combined total n=143.

Responses for ‘other’ include:

- Respondents feel staff are an important part of the Adventure Playgrounds for safety reasons, and for the programs and activities they run (10 comments)
 - “Staffed increases interest massively, can leave them here if necessary”
 - “We only come when it’s staffed for safety reasons”
- People who don’t mind whether it is staffed or not for their visit, but like the idea of having staff (8 comments)
 - “Don’t care if it’s staffed or not, but great that staff are on site”
 - “Like having staff but not essential”
- Like to visit when it’s quiet as it’s a better experience for the parent, and easier to supervise young kids (5 comments)
 - “Child still young and learning to play with others, better for that when it’s quiet”

“With little kids, if it was really busy, that would put me off, if big kids were running around”

- Respondents indicated they were happy to visit the playground whenever (7 comments)
- Like coming when its busy to meet other families and friends here so the kids can play (4 comments)

Significance testing between City of Port Phillip residents and non-residents indicated non-residents were significantly more likely to say they had 'No preference or come anytime' (41%), compared to City of Port Phillip residents (21%) ($p = .05$, 95% CI).

Benefits of extended hours

Visiting the playground prior to the extended hours trial

Adults were asked “Did you ever visit this playground with your child/children prior to the extended hours trial commencing (October 2021)” and children were asked “Did you ever visit this playground prior to the extended hours trial commencing (October 2021)?”

Playground visits prior to trial	Adult percentage (n=113)	Child percentage (n=34)	Combined percentage (n=147)
Yes	52%	50%	52%
No	48%	50%	48%

Table 22. Percentage of playground visits prior to the extended operating hours trial for adults (n=113), children (n=34) and combined (n=147).

Percentage base: Total number of adults and children surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground. For adults n=113, for children n=34, and combined total n=147.

Significance testing indicated that there was a significant difference between adult City of Port Phillip residents and non-residents in whether they had visited the playground prior to the extended hours trial. 63% of City of Port Phillip residents had been to the playground prior to the trial, compared with 38% of non-residents. Significance testing could not be conducted for children due to small sample size.

Playground visits prior to trial	Residents of City of Port Phillip	Non-residents of City of Port Phillip
Yes	63%**	38%**
No	37%**	62%**

Table 23. Difference between adult City of Port Phillip residents and non-residents in use of the playground prior to trialled extended hours. **Indicates significance at $p = .05$.

Percentage base: Adults surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground who reside in the City of Port Phillip (n=63) and non-residents of the City of Port Phillip (n=48).



Participants who indicated they had visited the playground before the trialled extended hours were asked if the extended hours had provided benefits to them.

Some common answers include:

- The increased accessibility provided by the extended hours was noted by many (28 comments), including the increased flexibility and convenience they provided
 - “Can come anytime, don't have to wait til it's open, more convenient”*
 - “Much better, could come after school, spend more time here, not have to leave at 6”*
- Visitors noted in particular, being able to come in the morning had been a big benefit, particularly as it is quieter at this time, and particularly for those with young children (9 comments)
 - “Allows flexibility, might be different for older kids, but for younger kids afternoons are about winding down and getting read for bed, so good that it's open whenever, being unstaffed is not different to any other playground”*
- Some respondents thought there was no benefit to the extended hours if it meant it was unstaffed (7 comments)
 - “No because the staff aren't here, if it was staffed during hours then I can see a benefit, but without staff there are unsavoury people around. The extended hours has lost its life and community aspects ... The staff are what connect everyone here, they are the heart of it”*
- Some respondents noted they felt the extended hours needed to be communicated better, as they were unsure or unaware of the hours (5 comments)
 - “Can come anytime, don't have to wait til it's open, more convenient”*

Support for extended hours

Adult and child survey respondents were asked “How supportive are you of the extended operating hours continuing?” Results show that playground visitors surveyed were supportive of the extended hours continuing.

“Overwhelmingly so, live in an apartment without a balcony, nice shady spots, great to get outside”

Support for extended hours continuing	Percentage (n=96)
Strongly support	45%
Support	42%
Somewhat support	0%
Neutral	2%
Somewhat oppose	2%
Oppose	2%
Strongly oppose	2%

Table 23. Level of support for extended operating hours continuing (n=96), Percentage base: Total number of respondents (adults and children) surveyed at St Kilda Adventure Playground n=196.

Despite respondents indicating a strong level of support for the extended hours continuing, many commented that they wouldn’t want the extended hours to change the things they like about the playground at present, including:

- Playground users like that it is staffed, for safety and for activities, and would not want the extended hours to mean less or no staffed hours.

“It’s boring when the staff aren’t here, I would support if it’s staffed during these hours”

“we only enjoy it when the staff are here, we love the programs, it’s more a community spirit and I get my own time, and I can feel comfortable knowing the staff care for her and I can relax a bit. It’s like our own backyard”

- Playground users like that the playground is special, equipment is different, and wouldn’t want the extended hours to change that.



“Changes would be fine if [a] sense of character was retained. Many other playgrounds [are] starting to look so manicured and sterile... not as fun or unique.”

Survey results: Skinners Adventure Playground

Due to the focus of fieldwork on St Kilda Adventure Playground, limited time was spent at Skinners Adventure Playground, and only 9 intercept surveys were able to be conducted (7 adults, 2 children). This limits the generalizability of the data collected to the broader user-base of Skinners.

Who is using the playground?

- All of the adults who visited Skinners Adventure Playground were there with their children, and one was also with a friend.
- Three of the adults had one child with them, two of the adults had two children with them, and one adult had 3+ children with them.
 - Eight of these children were under 5 years old
 - one child was 5, one child was 7, one child was 8 and one child was 9
 - Eight of these children were boys, and three were girls
- The majority of the adults (4) visiting were aged 25-34, while two adults were aged 35-49 and one 60-69
- Around half of Skinners users (9) were residents of the City of Port Phillip
 - The top suburbs were South Melbourne and Skinners Park
- Most of the adults surveyed lived with their partner (5) and children (6)
- One of the children surveyed lived with one parents, and one lived with both parents
- Three visitors to the playground had a backyard at home, three visitors had a balcony, three had no outside space, and one had a courtyard.

When the playground is being used

- Four of the adults surveyed were visiting the playground for the first time
 - Two adults visited 2-3 times a month, and one visited weekly.
- There was no particular day of the week respondents visited the playground
- Four of the adults surveyed indicated they usually come to the playground in the morning
 - Two adults indicated they usually come in the early morning, early afternoon, and afternoon.

Why and how the playground is being used

- Reason for visiting Skinners Adventure Playground
 - Three adults indicated they visited because they love this playground
 - Three adults said they were visiting as they had been here before
 - One adult was meeting a friend at the playground



- One adult shared they were visiting as it was near their house
- None of the people surveyed were enrolled members

Perceptions of safety at the playground

- Survey respondents generally indicated they felt safe, with six adults and one child saying they felt safe, and one adult sharing they felt somewhat unsafe.
 - Respondents shared some of the equipment was unsafe as it was risky, or damaged, or their kids were too young
 - One respondent commented that they felt safe because of the gate, and the staff

Preferences for visiting the playground

- When asked for factors that influenced preferences to visit the playground, respondents shared:
 - three adults prefer to visit when its quiet
 - two adults and one child prefer to visit when staff are there
 - one adult indicated they had no preference

Benefits of and support for extended hours

- Four adults and one child had visited prior to the extended hours. The benefits of the extended hours shared by respondents were:
 - Playground access in the mornings has been a benefit as its better for young kids
 - Visit the playground from far away so more hours is beneficial
- All respondents were supportive of the extended hours continuing