



Adventure Playgrounds

Trial of extended opening hours

Engagement summary report

April 2021



Contents

Executive summary	3
Introduction.....	3
Engagement approach.....	3
Key findings	3
Introduction	6
Background.....	6
Purpose of this report.....	7
Purpose of engagement.....	7
Communications.....	7
Limitations	7
Engagement approach	8
How we engaged.....	8
Who we engaged	8
Engagement findings.....	13
Survey results.....	13
Accessibility	13
Amenity.....	13
Safety	14
Benefits.....	14
Issues	14
Other (themes).....	14
Additional feedback.....	15
Next steps.....	15
Attachment.....	16
Verbatim responses.....	16

Executive summary

Introduction

Our two much-loved adventure playgrounds are over 40 years old and need some attention to meet contemporary standards and regulations. Council has allocated \$3.445 million towards their upgrade in its 10-year financial plan.

Until recently, the two playgrounds were only open when staff were on site running supervised programs - around 19 hours for St Kilda and around 18 hours for Skinners (South Melbourne) each week.

When recent COVID-19 restrictions meant staff couldn't be on site to run any of our usual programs at the playgrounds, Council decided to trial extending their opening hours to cover daylight hours, in line with our other play spaces across the City to enable families with young children in our community to have more flexible access to these play spaces. Both adventure playgrounds reverted to their regular operating model after 30 January 2022.

As part of its evaluation of this trial, Council sought feedback from local residents and playground users from 17 January to 13 February 2022.

Engagement approach

The engagement approach included a combination of general feedback, and onsite fieldwork. This report presents the findings of the general feedback received; fieldwork findings are presented in a separate report.

General feedback was sought primarily via a survey hosted on Council's *Have Your Say* online engagement site. Respondents were asked to share their thoughts and experiences of the trial extended hours. Forty completed surveys were received.

The consultation was promoted via Council's *Have Your Say* website and newsletter. Emails were distributed to the *Have Your Say* database and information about the trial and opportunity to provide feedback was shared with surrounding residents via a mailout. Posters were also on display at both sites.

Key findings

Forty survey responses were received during the consultation period. The following provides a summary of comments against each theme.

Accessibility (30 comments)

- Some support for extended hours, but several comments referencing need for corresponding supervised hours and programs
- Concern around allowing general access during non-peak times (with specific reference to evenings / after dark)
- Few comments referring to improving physical access to the playgrounds for those with additional mobility considerations (such as wheelchair access)

Amenity (24 comments)

- Several comments referencing deterioration of amenity due to lack of access to ancillary facilities (kitchen, art rooms)
- Some commentary referring to the park's character contributing to its sense of amenity
- Some references inferring deterioration of amenity related to unsupervised use of playgrounds

Safety (34 comments)

- Several respondents directly linked their reduced sense / perception of safety with lack of staff presence
- Some comments referred to antisocial behaviour resulting in vandalism and damage to equipment
- Number of specific references to increased rubbish (including syringes) and concern around perceived presence of lone adults and dogs on site

Benefits (32 comments)

- Increased access to playgrounds over summer
- More 'risky' / challenging play opportunities (if staff supervision also provided)
- Parent / carer respite opportunities due to programs / services offered at playgrounds
- Flexibility to accommodate use by different age groups
- Different play experience to standard playgrounds

Issues (32 comments)

- Antisocial behaviour perceived to be linked to increased site access
- Lack of supervising staff
- Removal / misuse of equipment (flying fox, trampoline)
- Safety concerns due to increased 'dangerous' litter (syringes)
- Decreasing opportunities for children to experience 'adventurous play'

Other (22 comments)

- Call for staffing during opening hours
- Lack of real data collection
- Reduction in playground services

- Safety concerns related to antisocial behaviour and unaccompanied adults on site
- Closing time too late (after dark)
- Inconsistent communications / information
- Loss of equipment / addition of adult exercise equipment
- Hybrid (supervised / non-supervised) hours

Additional feedback (31 comments)

- Loss of community connection
- Insufficient data collection and timing / extent of consultation
- Points of differentiation against standard playgrounds
- Lack of supervised (staffed) hours
- Impact of increased noise level on surrounding residents
- Maintaining the characters of the playgrounds

Introduction

Background

Adventure playgrounds differ from traditional playgrounds in some key ways. Adventure playgrounds, for example, are often built through processes that “encourage children to make decisions about structure, form and function” (Knight, 2016: 13)

The two adventure playgrounds in the City of Port Phillip were established to reflect these play principles. They were also established to act as ‘urban backyards’ for children and young people living in social housing. The St Kilda Adventure Playground was established in 1981 and Skinners Adventure Playground (South Melbourne) in 1978. The Skinners Adventure Playground is more locally focused and the majority of its attendees are children and families from the local area (from the near-by public housing estates in particular).

Both adventure playgrounds focus on delivering three key service delivery priorities to children and their families:

1. Recreation Opportunities (providing opportunities for young people to engage in play-based activities, controlled challenges and risks, and creative exploration through fun activities and play spaces)
2. Support System Linkages: creating soft entry pathways and making referrals for vulnerable and difficult to engage community members who struggle to connect with mainstream services
3. Leadership and Participation Activities: Providing strong adult role models and opportunities for young people to show leadership / be praised for showing leadership or taking initiative.

The adventure playgrounds have traditionally been used specifically for running programs aimed at 8 to 11 year olds. Families book into a program and are then allowed access to the adventure playground for the purpose of this program. Thus, the playgrounds opening hours have been restricted to when programs occur (approximately 19 hours per week). Both children booked into the programs and those not booked in are allowed access to the playgrounds while staff are there.

The Adventure Playgrounds recently temporarily changed their operating format – rather than being open at specific times when staff are onsite, they were open during daylight hours without staff supervision. This new format was prompted by Covid-19 restrictions, which prevented programs to run and also limited activities for children, and aimed to broaden the playgrounds’ inclusiveness to beyond those attending programs.

The extended opening hours were trialled until 30 January 2022, after which date both playgrounds reverted to their regular operating model.

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of feedback received through community engagement on a trial of extended opening hours at Council's two adventure playgrounds. It details the engagement tools and techniques used, and presents the findings from the engagement.

Purpose of engagement

The purpose of this engagement was to inform the community of the trial extended hours and understand what benefits and issues they believed the trial presented. This engagement is separate to future engagement with our community on upgrades to the adventure playgrounds and programs offered at the playgrounds, which will take place at a later date.

Communications

We communicated with our community about this consultation via Council's Have Your Say website and newsletter. Emails were distributed to the *Have Your Say* database and information about the trial and opportunity to provide feedback was shared with surrounding residents via a mailout. Posters were also on display at both sites.

Limitations

- Consultative engagement provides only a high-level snapshot of community sentiment and does not reflect any deeper deliberation of issues and challenges.
- Contributions to this consultation do not necessarily constitute a representative snapshot of our community, as people self-selected to participate.
- Findings from this consultative engagement form part of the broader evaluation of the trial, and should be considered in conjunction with results of other related engagement activities.

Engagement approach

This section details the community engagement approach in gathering feedback on the trial extended opening hours for Skinners (South Melbourne) and St Kilda adventure playgrounds.

From 17 January to 13 February 2022, Council sought feedback from playground users and surrounding residents of the (perceived and real) experiences of the trial. Feedback was collected via a survey hosted on Council's Have Your Say engagement site, with onsite signage and a mailout to surrounding residents promoting the opportunity to provide feedback.

How we engaged

This engagement was hosted on Council's Have Your Say website, with feedback channeled through a survey seeking feedback from the community on their thoughts on, and/or experience of, the trial.

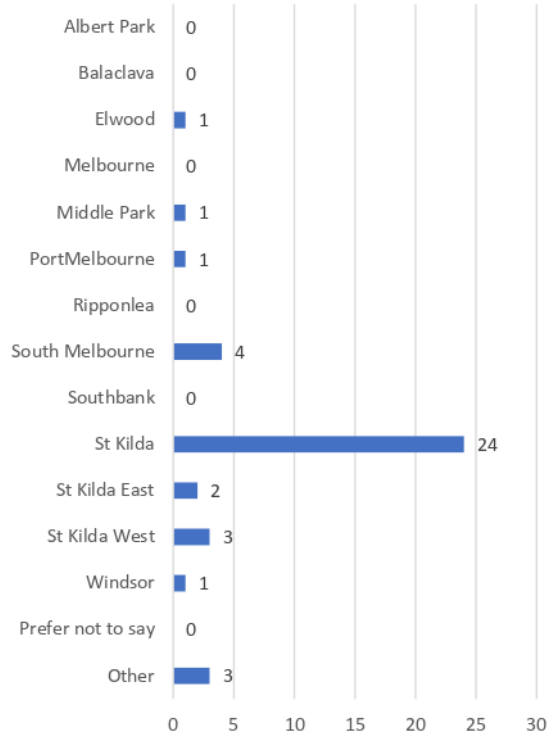
Who we engaged

A series of demographic questions were asked as part of the survey. Forty responses were received, and the following provides a summary snapshot of respondents

- Over half the survey respondents (24; 60.00%) resided in St Kilda.
- Most survey respondents (32; 80.00%) identified themselves as residents, and almost half (17; 42.50%) identified as ratepayers.
- Almost two-thirds of the survey respondents were female (24; 60.00%).
- Approximately one third of respondents found out about the consultation via word of mouth.
- Approximately two thirds of respondents (26; 65.00%) were couples with children.
- Almost all respondents (36; 90.00%) identified as non-Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- The majority of respondents (35; 87.50%) did not identify as a person with disability

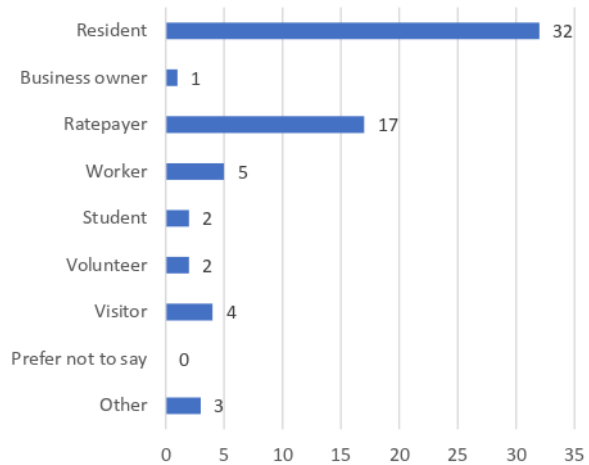
What's your residential suburb?

Albert Park	0	0.00%
Balaclava	0	0.00%
Elwood	1	2.50%
Melbourne	0	0.00%
Middle Park	1	2.50%
Port Melbourne	1	2.50%
Ripponlea	0	0.00%
South Melbourne	4	10.00%
Southbank	0	0.00%
St Kilda	24	60.00%
St Kilda East	2	5.00%
St Kilda West	3	7.50%
Windsor	1	2.50%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Other	3	7.50%



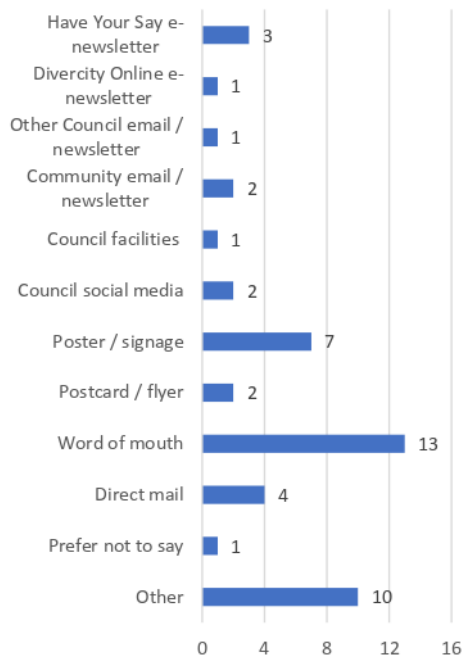
Which of the following describes your connection(s) to City of Port Phillip? (Select all that apply)

Resident	32	80.00%
Business owner	1	2.50%
Ratepayer	17	42.50%
Worker	5	12.50%
Student	2	5.00%
Volunteer	2	5.00%
Visitor	4	10.00%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Other	3	7.50%



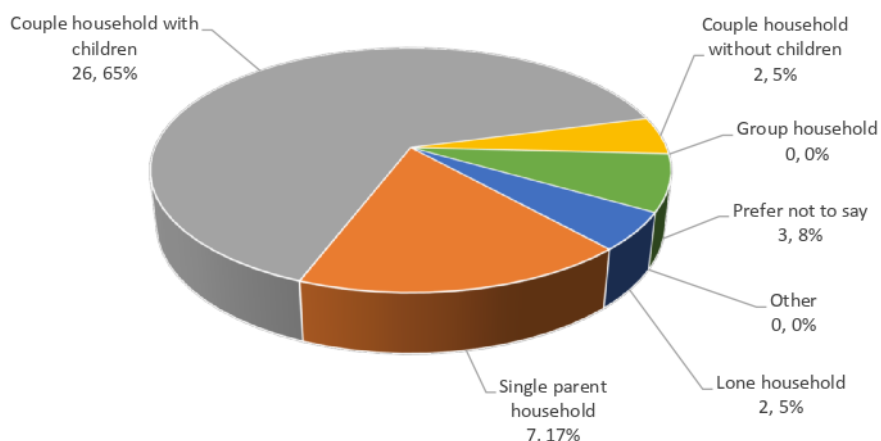
How did you hear about this consultation? (Select all that apply)

Have Your Say newsletter	3	7.50%
Diversity Online e-newsletter	1	2.50%
Other Council email / e-newsletter	1	2.50%
Community email / e-newsletter	2	5.00%
Council facilities such as libraries, community or children's centres	1	2.50%
Council social media	2	5.00%
Poster / signage	7	17.50%
Postcard / flyer	2	5.00%
Word of mouth	13	32.50%
Direct mail	4	10.00%
Prefer not to say	1	2.50%
Other	10	25.00%



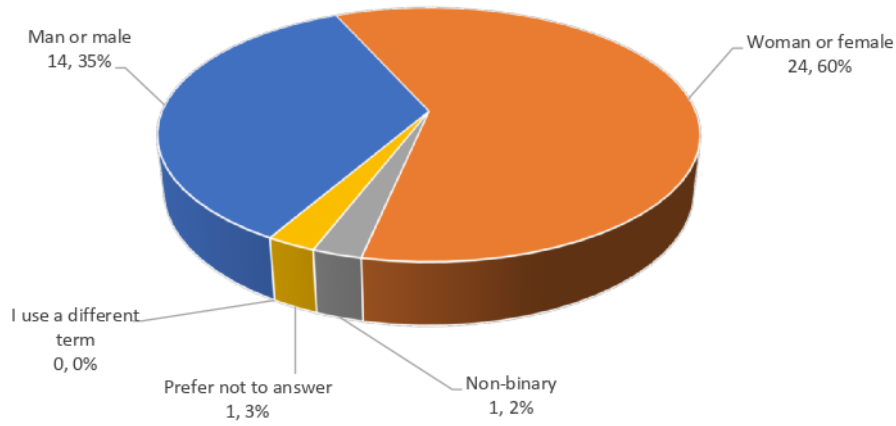
Which of the following best describes your household?

Lone household	Single-parent household	Couple household with children	Couple household without children	Group household	Prefer not to say	Other
2	7	26	2	0	3	0
5.00%	17.50%	65.00%	5.00%	0.00%	7.50%	0.00%



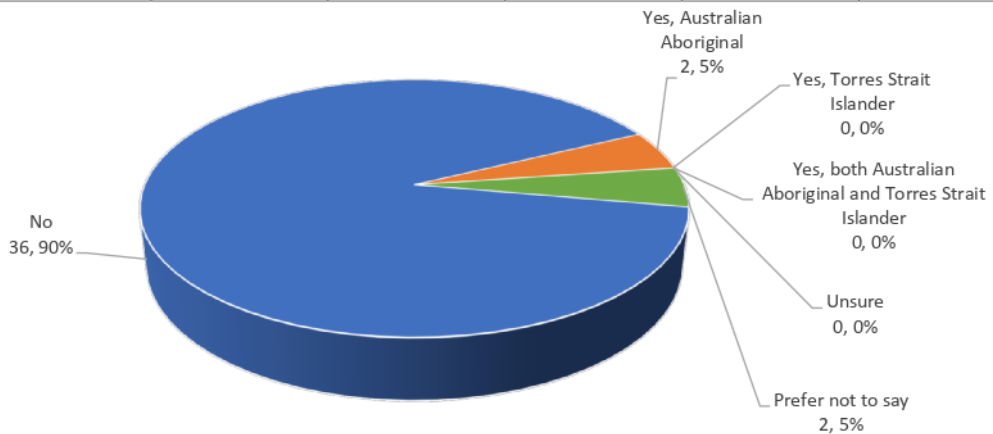
How do you describe your gender?

Man or male	Woman or female	Non-binary	Prefer not to answer	I use a different term
14	24	1	1	0
35.00%	60.00%	2.50%	2.50%	0.00%



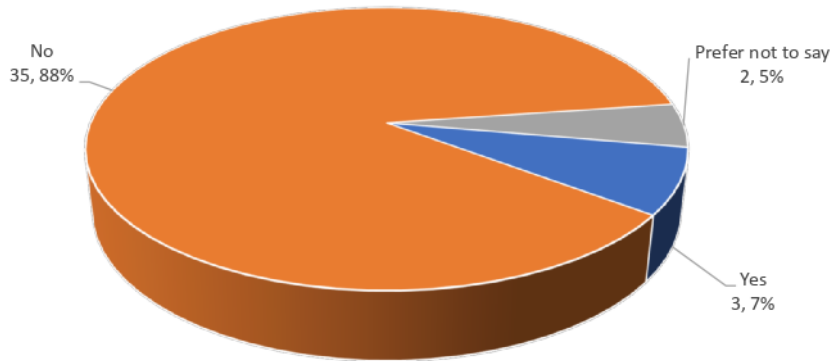
Do you identify as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person?

No	Yes, Australian Aboriginal	Yes, Torres Strait Islander	Yes, both Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	Unsure	Prefer not to say
36	2	0	0	0	2
90.00%	5.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.00%



Do you identify as a person with disability?

Yes	No	Prefer not to say
3	35	2
7.50%	87.50%	5.00%



Engagement findings

Survey results

Survey respondents were asked to share their thoughts or experiences in relation to the following themes:

- accessibility
- amenity
- safety

Comments were also sought on perceived or real (experienced) benefits and issues, as well as any other feedback respondents wished to share with Council about the trial.

Forty completed surveys were received. This section provides a summary analysis of responses, with verbatim responses provided as an attachment at the end of this report.

Accessibility

Thirty respondents (75.00%) provided comments.

Comments indicated some support for extended hours. However, this was qualified in many instances with a reference to need for corresponding supervision / staffing and programs. There was some general concern flagged around general access during non-peak times, particularly in evenings / after dark.

A few comments referred specifically to physical access, with one comment suggesting greater wheelchair access across the site.

Amenity

Twenty-four respondents (60.00%) provided comments.

Several comments stated amenity had decreased, and attributed this directly to unsupervised use of playgrounds. Some respondents suggested the lack of access to ancillary facilities (kitchen, art room) also reduced amenity and one comment reference the noise impact to residents.

Other comments referred to the park's (unique / dated) character contributing to their perception of its amenity.

Safety

Thirty-four respondents (85.00%) provided comments.

Again, staffing came through as a key theme linked to safety. Some comments suggested the lack of staff on site allowed for greater opportunities for antisocial behaviour to occur, resulting in vandalism and damage to the equipment.

There was also some concern around the increase in rubbish on site, in some cases specifically referencing syringes and underwear. Increased dog waste was also cited as a concern due to more dog owners allowing their dogs to enter the grounds.

Benefits

Thirty-two respondents (80.00%) provided comments.

Several benefits were suggested by survey respondents. Comments referenced the benefits of increased access opportunities over summer and the flexibility to accommodate different age groups at different times of the day. Other comments referenced opportunities for children to experience different and more challenging play than at standard playgrounds.

Other benefits cited by respondents include, and the respite that programs and services offered at the playgrounds provided to parents and carers.

Issues

Thirty-two respondents (80.00%) provided comments.

A number of survey respondents included increased antisocial behaviour and increased presence of lone adults on site, and the potential resulting risk to children's safety, as key issues. In many instances, this was directly attributed to lack of staff supervision during opening hours.

Equipment misuse and damage, increased 'dangerous' litter and loss of opportunities for children to experience adventurous play were also flagged as issues by some respondents.

Other (themes)

Respondents were invited to identify and comment on other themes. Twenty-two respondents (55.00%) provided comments.

Several comments reiterated commentary provided under the previous themes. New / additional comments included suggestions that the closing times were too late

(after dark). Some concern was flagged around potential reduction in playground services and loss of equipment, with one suggestion for some play or exercise equipment for accompanying adults.

There were some comments referring to inconsistent communication about the trial / consultation and about the playground in general, with some concern around the timing and duration of the consultation process, and the quality / quantity of data collected through the trial.

Additional feedback

Respondents were invited to share any additional feedback about the trial. Thirty-one respondents (77.50%) provided comments.

A number of comments / themes were repeated. These include:

- staffing / supervision during opening hours
- impact of noise on surrounding residents
- timing and extent of consultation on the trial
- character of the playgrounds and their points of difference compared to regular playgrounds.

Next steps

Outcomes of the trial and all feedback received through this consultation will be presented to Councillors as part of broader consideration later in 2022 of adventure playground upgrades, which will include the consultation process with the community, how to engage children in the process, the programs offered at the playgrounds and the hours of opening.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Verbatim responses

The following tables provide verbatim responses received through the survey.

Note, in some instances text has been redacted where it includes personally identifiable information or may be deemed offensive to a person or persons.

Accessibility

Short term accessibility has increased
Brilliant that it is open
I live close by the St Kilda adventure playground and so it is accessible to my grandchildren.
No access for persons who have physical disability/mobility issues.
the absence of staff attracts unwanted and potentially harmful people inside the venue. This park has been historically know to attract drug addicts which are not a nice match with kids
I live behind Skinners Playground but do not have an issue with accessibility.
No concerns with longer hours, If supervised programs and hours are maintained.
As a nearby resident I have noticed that very few families with children in the target 5-11 year range are actually using the playground in the early or late hours of the day. It would seem that need for greater access hours in out of step with provision
Prefer longer hours but not happy with it being unfacilitated - not safe
So close by and kids are loving being able to walk there
It is safer for children with accessibility needs to access the playground whilst it is staffed
We only go to the playground when staff are there so no change for us.
Allowed for unimpeded access for anyone to enter the playground. Low level of supervision with none in the early morning or afternoon to dark when vandalism occurred.
It's a nice change to not have to check the website or gate to see if open.
Excellent
Accessibility is good although unsupervised accessibility for extended hours has allowed for the wrong elements of society to enter the park (particularly of an evening) and misuse the equipment.
My children are school age. Extended hours mean nothing to Mr
This park is easily accessible to me and my sons
No change
I like the extended hours but not at the expense of maintaing the current spirit and structure of the playgrounds- I.e. their distinctive character as places where the atmosphere and equipment is not as sanitised as in ordinary playgrounds.
Easy
QR code
Shouldn't be open without supervisors
There is no need for access to any playground really early in the morning or late at night. This can only attract other public than the target (kids)
The park is perfect just as it is. I disliked the limited access to these wonderful community assets
too accessible

it is great to be able to access the playground when we choose- especially with restricted childcare hours. but i think the hours are to long- dawn till duak, and on occasion i have walked past at night and seen the gate still open.
It's been years since the community have complained to staff and council about lack of disability access and you've done nothing about it.
It would be great if a concrete path could be laid to make it accessible for wheelchairs and children or parents who may need assistance to walk
Would prefer longer hours on weekends, public holidays and during school holidays. I believe this should also be open for approx 2 hours during the day so Mum's groups may utilise it as a gather place with little people.

Amenity

Amenity has been lost, with equipment cordoned of or covered with decking, kitchen areas closed
Without staff the amneity has decreased as there is not welcoming
Absolutely love the artistic vibe of this park and our daughter loves all the features. Sad and disappointed to see that the aircraft and the trampoline have been removed. These features are what make this park unique.
Kitchen and space for children to make, create and play needs toalaobenaintained as a key part of the adventure playground experience.
My observation is the amenity of the plaground has been significantly downgraded by damage during early and late hours, unruly adolescents intimidating families, and individuals frequenting the playground.
Love this playground! Great creative space
Amenities have been very clean
Since extended (unstaffed) hour started, the place seems to be more worn and torn.
The St Kilda Playground has good amenities for young children
Wonderful. The st k park magic is partly in it's dated feel. Interesting and exciting play equipment rather than modern plastic equipment which is generic and lacks imagination
Amenity is good. Although, there is a lack of spaces to attract groups with noise barriers to reduce the impact of noise to residents from extended hours
Kitchen and art rooms not open. No sense of welcoming in a locked up facility
When staffed, the amenities are appropriate, however not whilst unsupervised
Highly degraded since trial begin (both park)
Ok
The toilets and the sanitizers are really appreciated
So many equipment have been destroyed since it's open without supervisors.
Due to access without supervision there is a massive risk of deterioration of the amenities
As being too accessible is losing its amenities
we love the risky play and adventure of this space- our daughter is filled with wonder - we love it
My kids (6 & 9) love the elements of risk some of the equipment has, making it different to other 'safe' playgrounds
Amenities are great but not safe without staff
The toilets and common areas are quite disgusting since the extended opening hours. Syringes, cigarette butts, empty alcohol bottles, used condoms, human and dog feces found around the kids playground. Yuk!
I love the playground, we've used it for years. And so have all of our guests who visit St K and used to stay in our Airbnb. However it needs to stay 'rustic'.

Safety

Safety has been reduced due to lack of supervision
Perfectly safe
Staffing is essential for safety
No longer safe without staff there during all opening hours- theft, damage, dangerous items such as used condoms disposed of, lone males wandering in whenever they like.
Safety of the features are in line with any attraction that need adult supervision. In terms of safety of the park this is reached when staff is present.
Closing fence at end of the day is important to ensure ongoing future safety, and limit occupation by local homeless people.
My observation- neither the adolescents now frequenting the playground or the adult can be relied upon to exercise safe use - eg dogs off leash, multiple people on the tramp, parents removing safety barriers to allow young children on a damaged trampoline.
Strange old men wandering around alone, needles and condoms and dog Poo found, not clean or safe. Have stopped going due to this
Safe as long as people adhere to the signs or marked off areas
I actually did a thesis on the impact of closing adventure playgrounds in England and found that when it happened drug use and crime went up and there was lots of drug paraphernalia at the playground, which means reduced safety for young people
I don't feel safe the place without staff. We had late-teens jumping on off-limited trampoline the other day and it doesn't look good for little ones.
Extended hours significantly decreased children's safety due to unrestricted access for non-core guests. Unleashed dogs in park and adolescents damaging equipment.
Given how close park is to sacred heart, safety of children and adults has declined. Unfortunately there is also more litter and damage to property. On several occasions I've seen members of the public without kids on the grounds and behaving strangely.
Fine but needles have been a problem before workers (or parents) have cleared it out
Safety has been greatly reduced with the extended hours. Non core guests enter the park and throw furniture off the fort and misuse and damage the equipment and trampoline.
It's not reasonable to allow community access without having staff on site for the entirety of the opening hours. Concerns around needles and [redacted] offenders.
Terrible. No staff to monitor actions of young people means they act deplorably and no one is there to help. I do not allow my children to attend unsupervised
I cannot leave my children here unsupervised as it is quite enclosed and hidden whilst not staffed
Degraded
Unsupervised means less safe
I would prefer extended hours but with staff on site at all times.
Ok
Adult's supervision
Supervised is best people having been bringing dogs and drinking and smoking. You feel safe when the supervisors are there and they check for people without kids to check no dodgy people come in
Terrible. So disturbing to see dirt like condoms and bottles in the playground. My child is scared of dogs. Some people walk their dogs.
The playground is located in an area where safety is really a concern. Restricting access to the target audience (kids) allows them to be safe. Unrestricted, extended access is not a good idea for safety
While supervision would be terrific it should not be mandatory. Adventure playgrounds should be excused/indemnified from liability
Very dangerous at the moment. Since the trial started we experienced many unsafe issues as finding needles, condoms, underwear, rubbish, things are stolen, police got involved a few times already with people entering the playground for other purposes.

Was little worse than before, with many things not in usable situation, sand pit, trampoline. Also Adults without kids made me go little worried. Few things thrown here and there made me little worried.
the only safety concerns we have are around the gate been open all the time- "dawn till dusk" although i personally believe that it isn't always locked from walking past at various times through the night or morning. i have seen condoms, syringes.
We've experienced no safety issues in our visits to St Kilda Adventure Playground, either while it was manned or more recently, not manned.
Not safe without staff. The entire back area is a trap. How can you put children and families at risk knowing full well how dangerous it is
As above: The toilets and common areas are quite disgusting since the extended opening hours. Syringes, cigarette butts, empty alcohol bottles, used condoms, human and dog feces found around the kids playground. Yuk!
It is NOT safe when anyone can wander in during the day (grown men, no children, dog feces, syringes, stolen bikes). St Kilda overall has become unsafe, this is the one sanctuary left that our children can play freely. CCTV is a MUST at the entrance.

Benefits (potential or experienced)

Access to the area improved, safety and amenity reduced.
Playground is open
Staffing allows it to be a true adventure playground and allows for more risky play items like the flying fox
No benefit if it means the playgrounds are no longer supervised Adventure playgrounds
Love the extended hours which give more use of the park during summer
It would be great to have kids attending the playground for longer hours. My own child would also benefit in being able to attend.
The adventure playground, in particular it's supervised services and dinner club is of huge benefit to our sole parent household. The respite for me and socialisation for my child, that this provides once or twice a week is hugely valuable.
I currently see very little benefit in the changes to access hour and unsupervised use of the playground. I do see great deal of misuse, unsafe activities, strangers wandering around and damage.
Ability to accommodate children's hours, in particular in the morning, early afternoon on the weekend
Younger children such as mine (always personally supervised by me!) can enjoy the playground without being bowled over by bigger kids, have time to enjoy so we don't have to go when it's busy (and then make it busier by being there ourselves!)
Benefit of being open during daylight hours is that I can take my little one there while the others are at school. He's absolutely fallen in love with the park and sometimes we're too busy after school with other activities to get there when he's really a
More accessibility for wider community but only if with staff.
Limited benefits as the hours in the early morning and after late afternoon have allowed for non core groups to enter and cause mischief and damage.
Uniqueness especially in a very built up area. Extended hours were brilliant especially given wfh means needing to entertain while working (in the park as I do)
Some additional access time for families within core hours (but observed that they were usually out of park by 5 to 6pm). The hours in the trial are too long.
None. You're cost cutting and fixing something that's not broken
When staffed the benefits are many, it gives me a respite from caring for my sons, one with special needs, that is very challenging. I know they are well looked after and fed.
None - Extended hours cover periods we wouldn't be at the park anyway

Extended hours are good but only one criteria and on balance I would say don't rate higher than previous arrangements
Extended hours allow for wider access and use of the playgrounds but the preservation of the character of the playgrounds should not be sacrificed for the sake of longer opening hours.
My kids love it here
Love the place great for kids imagination and challenging play
None.
Zero benefits (maybe cost for the council...)
Enormous for education, learning and development
none
Extended hours if were supervised would have been better
Access earlier in the day is better for children under 5, as can choose quieter periods when older children are at school to ensure younger children get access. 3:30pm and onwards not best time for younger children.
It's always a good thing to have interesting places for parents and children to play in a safe place.
No benefits if open more without staff. Extend opening hrs only with staff
Kids are able to come in during the day for a play.
Many families live in apartments in St Kilda, whether from low socio economic backgrounds or not, it allows kids to play in a diverse group where the focus is on them and their play time. Rough play is essential. You can get shiny play grounds anywhere.

Issues (potential or experienced)

It is no longer a 'safe' place monitored by staff, watching out for drug use, rough sleepers, animals and adults without children, as well as rubbish.
You will turn it into just another playground
Opening hours without staff lowers the enjoyment and ability to relax.
Safety- as mentioned above. also St kilda playground is in a secluded place- it is only a matter of time before someone is [REDACTED] there is unsupervised
Many unwanted people inside the venue in multiple occasion Found of harmful objects such as siringes and condoms inside the sand pit and close to other areas of play
We would have loved to use the South Melbourne facility more but the open hours were too few. We were happy to supervise our own child.
Cannot see any issues with this. We have lived here for 24 years and have NEVER experienced any problems.
There was damage to the trampoline due to adults using the space inappropriately. There was also other damage to items within the playground. There was dog feces in the sandpit and throughout the playground.
Potential use by homeless and drug users if gates are not closed or space is not monitored by staff.
The operating hours have gone from 17 hour of supervised use to over 100 hour/weeks of mostly unsupervised use. The noise intensity, duration and nature far exceed the level associated with previous use. Noise abatement needs to be seriously addressed.
Safety and cleanliness
If everyone does their part to look after the space and keep it tidy as if it were their own, it'll be great. Unfortunately this doesn't happen all too often
Safety issues, increase in risk taking behaviour in the area (drug use, [REDACTED] activity, vandalism)
No staffing means less security, especially with its location.

Many more hours of noise that is a nuisance for neighbours, vandalism of equipment and dogs in park due to park being open and not supervised for long periods. Easy access for homeless and drug takers.
Too many random adults without kids wandering around. More litter. Equipment looks unkept. No staff.
Extended periods of intrusive noise from screaming children, parents yelling and speaking too loudly and the constant noise from the trampoline. Lack of supervision was evident. Dogs in playground and homeless and drug users having access to the park.
Swearing. Smoking. Verbal abuse. No staff to monitor and set boundaries
Inconsistency in opening hours, no staff when it is advertised that it is supposed to be staffed. Needing more hours and days staffed
Very concern about the park: the play area has been degraded (dog poo in sandpit, damage to game area), I personally found drug vial and condoms wrapper in the park, I personally saw people with alcohol or dogs in the park, and some asocial behaviour.
Our kids miss the flying fox and other great equipment that has been taken away. Please reinstate this equipment.
Staff shortage
We have lost some grate play equipment the plane and the flying fox
Kids are not safe without supervisors. Some adults without kids are hanging around.
Safety, deterioration of the equipment, potential drug use at the site
the playground is getting ruined and is not safe anymore.
I felt the equipments or play areas are being misused if park is left unattended hence my kid could not play at all the places where she wanted to. Other day i saw 10 teenagers jumping on trampoline together. If there was someone to ask them not to do so,
port phillip has a big transient population- it is very easy to hide inside over night if the place is not checked properly- and if i was homeless this would be very appealing
The trampoline timer needs readjusting to 3 minutes. Currently it takes 5 mins 20 secs for the light to turn off which is a long time for a single user on the trampoline. I imagine this has gone unnoticed because the site hasn't been manned.
Syringes, condoms, homeless people and weirdos, rubbish and graffiti in the once safe Adventure Playground since open without staff
The culture of a safe space for kids to be adventurous is dying. It's not a place for parents with toddlers. There are so many playgrounds for that cohort. This place should be reserved for primaryschool aged kids. gates kept unwanted child predators out.
Strange men wondering in, dog feces, its being opened too early ie., could be opened at 12 noon until 7pm, opening it too early is not necessary and keeping it open all night is mad.

Other (please specify)

The trial seems to lack any real data collection.
You nearly have
Community ripped apart, no longer safe meeting place for both the adults and children of the community. when open without staff, it lost its llife and energy.
I think this is a great idea and would benefit all children who use this park. The fact that it is monitored makes it a safe place for kids to go.
I am concerned these changes may lead to reduced hours of supervised playground services. February hours have reduced since last year informing this concern.
The lack of security in the early hours of the morning and late a night has pushed the playground back to where it was before the security fences were upgraded. Unless addressed the playground with suffer the same level of vandalism it has in the past.

Need facilitators in morning too. Not to caretake young kids but to look after playground space. Should protect children first (especially from predators in the area - I've felt unsafe even as an adult more than once and have stopped going)
Staff is what adds the EXTRA value to the playground's safety and uniqueness. I don't think I'd take my kids outside of staffed hours.
There is a syringe dispenser within 50m of The St Kilda Adventure playground. ██████████ characters now have unimpeded access to the park. Syringe concerns now in park.
Prefer supervision but perhaps hybrid system works
Closure of the park was not at dusk as indicated but as late as 9:25pm (after dark). At this time there was generally adolescents in the park with 3 or more on the trampoline.
Communication is inconsistent
I lived in St Kilda for long and leaving this used to be safe space open like that is asking for it to become a ██████████ hanging place. It won't be soon before a child get wounded by a needle left behind.
My 5 years old daughter loves the playground.
It is good to have play equipment which is a little less safe but more challenging
Please stop destroying our playground and community
The special feature of the playground of being a safe haven for the kids with staff monitoring has gone. Families want it back. Port Philip is full of playgrounds open all day and accessible, we dont need anymore.
the ap is a st kilda institution, so important for lower sociobeconomic families living in small spaces like ourselves. a bright safe place where our commubity can thrive and kids can have healthy relationships with supportive trusted staff- this is vital
I sometimes wonder if some adult play equipment would encourage parents and friends to exercise together because I believe play is important for all of us.
Zero genitore care for what the community thinks. Shame.
St Kilda can be an unsafe place at time. This invaluable resource for families needs to be preserved. Not open to the anyone at anytime. Must be staffed at all times.
Please don't remove the equipment, parents know what is safe for their children not the Council. Parents are willing to be part of a working group to help maintain and improve the facilities by keeping it 'rustic'.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with us about this trial?

As a resident of the area for 30 years, and father of 2 grown children who used the Adventure Playground in Sr.Kilda as their backyardit is clear that the community connection to the area and its inhabitants have been adversely affected
Devastating that the council is even contemplating this. insufficient data collection on use of playgrounds. trial has been in place for 4 months- feedback- 2 weeks of consultants on site and a month or so on website.
We'd like to see extended hours with staff on to mantain the security of the park. Also would love more features to be added from local artist to set this park apart from the normal playgrounds, this is why it's called the adventure playground
Extended hours were better.
As long term neighbours directly behind the park at ██████████, we would like to give our full support.
I think the playground should not continue to be open for extended hours for a number of reasons. The location allows for increased vandalism as it is in a cul de sac, and with greater access to the site damage will continue to occur.
It is disappointing that the hours of the supervised Adventure Playground appear to have been reduced to only Wed and Thu mid week, which is really limited in flexibility for single parents like myself who regularly use this service.

The trail should not have been conducted without first notifying all surrounding residents. I have suffered 4 months over very unpleasant and unreasonable noise from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. This is not an acceptable way to run a trial.
Not open when we came on the 30 Jan at 12:20pm. Some areas of the playground were under renovation during the trial
Please pay the facilitators well and keep this precious creative and cultural space, while also keeping children safe
My kids have loved playing in all the different parts/sections of the park and love discovering something new each time we've gone.
I am a little worried about how much the community was consulted on this and if this is just a move to steer away from funding initiatives like this. There is lots of research in England about the impacts are of this, so definitely read up
Council failed to act on noise issues raised and instead proceeded with further extensions to the trial period. Poor communication and failure to ensure closure at dusk and monitor or manage poor behaviour in the park.
Regular hours are great. But the park must be staffed. Equipment increasingly unsafe or not open.
Big supporter
There has been a failure for Council to address the noise issues raised in October before the additional extensions to the trial were decided. Later correspondence on noise, dogs, misuse of equipment and closing the park after dark were largely ignored.
It was rushed, done without consultation, and clumsy. You should be embarrassed by the lack of professionalism
More hours and programs would be welcomed
Please end it as soon as possible and revert to what use to a great safe and friendly community place, not just a playground.
I would very much like to see the playgrounds maintained as places with a distinct character and ones that allow for more risky, complex, and varied play than more commonplace playgrounds.
We really appreciate the extended opening hours
Don't like how it has become open to all and unsupervised cigarette butts beer bottles dog poo in sand pit. It was different and special and should stay that way
"Trial" should stop immediately. Otherwise, it's going to be totally destroyed.
Please retain extended opening times with a blend of supervised and non supervised periods
The lack of transparency really hit me. Trial is nearly finished and has been started without consulting the community. has been extended without consulting the community. Families just found it out by word of mouth and had to deal with it.
I would suggest to open the park , whatever time you want to open but under safe hands and supervision, mainly because of the design and location of park. My kid and I love to be here and want to be here like before without any thought in mind :) thank yo
there is a lot of community trust generated towards copp from this trial- i would reconmend that staffing the playground is vital. longer opening hours are vital and maybe it doesnt need to be staffed the entire time- but dawn till dusk is almost sinister
Personally, we found the previous hours a bit restrictive so we welcome the extended hours.
Stop the trial and be honest with people about what you really are planning to do: turn the Adventure Playground in just another playground.
Not safe to be unstaffed! Not ever! Youth need to be protected from the ██████████ that are drawn to the area. I've seen it too many times. This adventure playground is different to other open spaces and needs to remain that way. Please !
Clean up St Kilda's streets and leave the Playground alone. If its unsafe, parents will report any issues as they arise.