

CITY OF CLARENCE

Clarendon Vale Social Heart Park Upgrade

Phase 1 Engagement Report

May 2026





Contents

- 1 BACKGROUND**
- 2 DATA SUMMARY**
- 3 CONCLUSION**

Background

Social Heart Playground has received new play equipment and landscaping works in recent years to improve the park for the community. However, the existing skate park and hard-court facility is ageing and lacks consistency in design, access, and function. A recent audit identified that the skate park has a limited life remaining and that this area needs renewing to create a more functional space.

A future opportunity to locate a new skate facility near, but separate from, Social Heart Park has presented itself. This creates an opening to rethink how the existing skate park and multi-court area can best serve the community going forward.

City of Clarence has identified a gap in providing spaces suited to the 'tween' age group across its parks and reserves. Social Heart Park is ideally located next to the neighbourhood centre, primary school, and childcare centre, making it well placed to address this need.

We have received a state government grant for the installation of a multi-court facility, which will be included in any concept designs and delivered as a priority as part of this project.

The overall scope is to develop concept plans through community engagement to inform the detailed design and construction of a new youth space at Social Heart Park. Engagement is being delivered in two stages:

- Phase 1 - targeted engagement with youth and key stakeholders to inform concept plans
- Phase 2 - broader community feedback to test ideas and proposals.

Engagement design

Purpose of the engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to gather the ideas and priorities of local young people to inform the development of concept plans for the Clarendon Vale Youth Precinct, so the future design of the space reflects how youth in the area want to use it.

A key objective was to understand what young people value about the existing Social Heart Park, and to capture their aspirations for what a redeveloped space could offer the Clarendon Vale community.

Feedback sought

- How young people currently use the space.
- What they value about the existing park.
- What activities and features they want in the future space.

Rationale for question design

A mix of written surveys, creative design tasks, and image-based voting was used to suit different learning styles and age groups across primary school, high school, and youth service participants.

Structure of the engagement

Engagement was delivered across three in-person sessions at Bayview High School, John Paul II Primary School, and City of Clarence's Youth Services facility in Rokeby using three activity types:

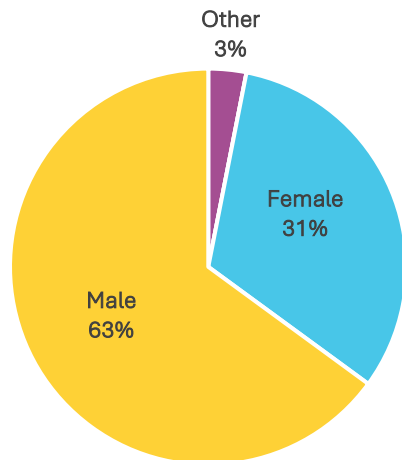
- **Survey:** captured how often participants visit, how they travel there, what they like, and what they'd improve
- **Design Activity:** groups sketched their ideal playspace and named it
- **Dotmocracy:** participants voted on visual options with stickers across two categories: Park Features/Amenities and Experiences/Activities

Data Summary



Demographics

Gender

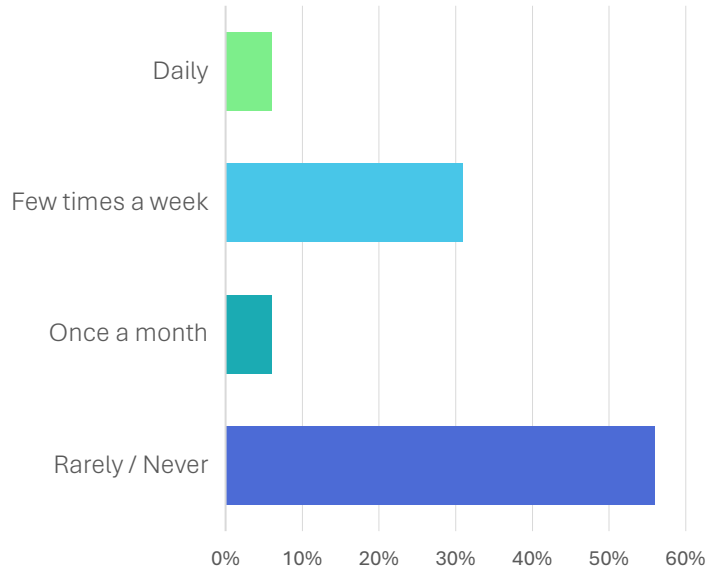


How we gathered information

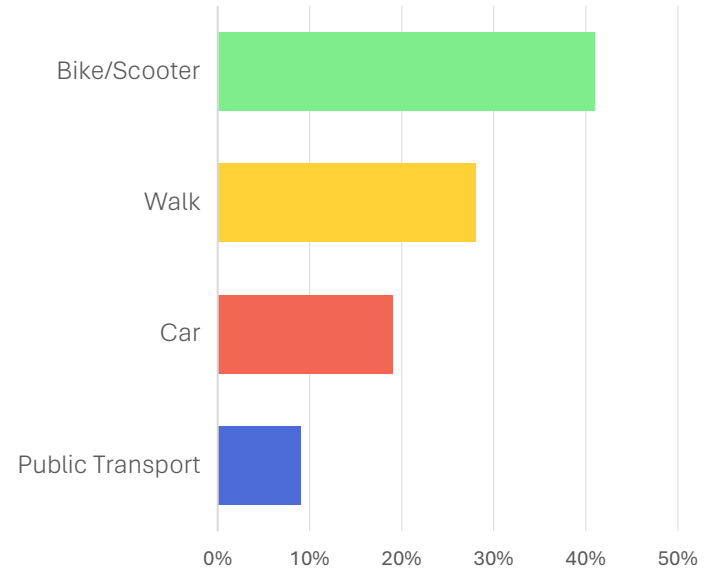
Activity	Participants	Age
School Surveys / Design Activity		
Bayview High	22	10-19
John Paul II Primary	10	5-14
Dotmocracy		
Bayview High	22	10-19
John Paul II Primary	10	5-14
Youth Services	18	-

About the existing park

How often do you visit?



How do you get to Social Heart Park?



What do you like about the Social Heart?

Students were asked what they liked/disliked about the current Social heart and how they would improve the space. Some common themes emerged around existing pieces of play equipment, or to improve the quality of existing amenities (skate, basketball facilities). Many responses called for **'bigger'** or **'more'** or **'better'** activities or things to do within the space.

Key themes:

• Spinner (7 mentions)

- The existing spinner was the most popular thing about the existing space
- Caters to multiple age groups & multiple users at a time

• Playground (7 mentions)

- Strong appreciation for the playground overall
- Frequent mentions of swings, slides and monkey bars
- Recognised as catering to a range of ages

• Skate (5 mentions)

- Strong appreciation for the skatepark
- Many suggestions to expand/upgrade existing facilities
- More prominent in responses from males

• Social (4 mentions)

- A place to be social with friends
- 'Gazebo' for shelter encourages more social
- gathering
- Appreciated the proximity to the Hub

• Ball Court (3 mentions)

- Many suggestions for improving height of ring
- More prominent responses from males

• Size (3 mentions)

- Appreciated for size of outdoor space and range of activities
- Positive perception of the open, outdoor feel

2 What could be improved?

Key themes

Theme	Mentions
More play equipment/climbing opportunities	11
More activities (volleyball, golf, parkour, rock walls)	7
More amenities (shade, trees, BBQs, seating)	7
Improve ball court (bigger, full court, higher ring)	6
Improve skate (bigger, modern skatepark)	2
Theme and colour	2

Activities

Rank	Theme	Mentions
1	Hang out with friends/Have fun	11
2	Basketball	7
3	Skate	6
4	Swings	4
5	Climbing/parkour	3
5	Hamster wheel	3
5	Jumping pillow	3

Features / Experiences

Rank	Theme	Mentions
1	Hamster wheel	6
1	Climbing/parkour	6
2	Bigger skate jumps/park	5
2	Improved ball ring / backboard	5
3	Multi-court	4
4	Swings / slides	3
5	Shade / seating	3

Activity outcomes

Design activity

Students worked in groups to sketch their ideal play space and suggest a name.

Top 3 activities by school:

- **John Paul Primary**
 - Swings (4)
 - Have fun (3)
 - Spinner / monkey bars (2)
- **Bayview High**
 - Hang out with friends (8)
 - Basketball (7)
 - Skate (6)

Names suggested for the new space:

CV Skate · Razor Park · Social Heart Park · Clarendon Vale Social Park · Clazza Park

Dotmocracy Results

Top 3 activities:

- Multisport court (26)
- Hangout nets / social hammocks (15)
- Social play spaces (12)

Male votes:

- Multisports Court (23)
- Hangout Nets (10)
- Parkour/ninja course & Mini golf (5 each)

Female votes:

- Social Play Spaces (8)
- Hangout Nets (5)
- Informal Hangout Spaces / Fitness Station (4)

By group:

Bayview High:

- Multisports Court (19 votes — dominant preference)
- Parkour/ninja course (3)
- Fitness, Mini golf, Climbing wall, Shade, Informal hangout (2 each)

John Paul Primary:

- Multisports court, Mini golf, Social swings, Parkour/ninja course, Climbing wall (3 votes each)
- Informal hangout (2)
- USB charging, Convertible stage (1 each)

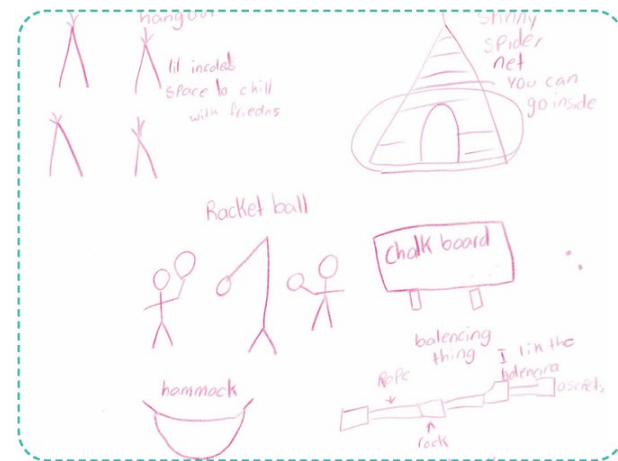
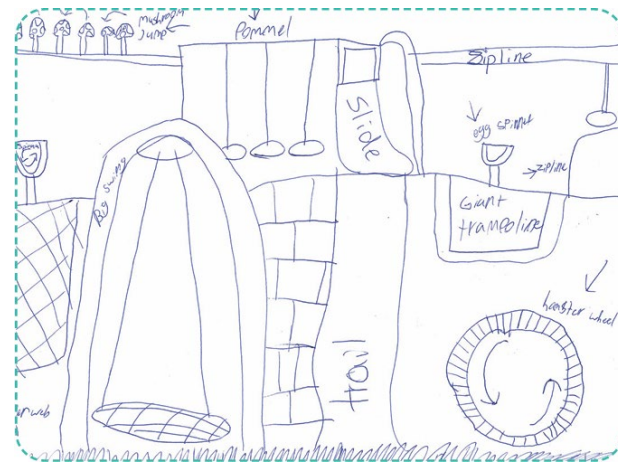
Youth Services:

- USB charging station (7)
- Fitness station (5)
- Multisport court & Informal hangout (4 each)

Vision / key themes

Top themes across all sessions:

- A multicourt, social hangout hammocks, and social play spaces were the most consistently requested features across all groups
- A space to gather with friends, play, and socialise was a dominant theme in every session
- Young people want more challenging equipment for older users — monkey bars, parkour, climbing walls, and flying foxes appeared across surveys, design activities, and dotmocracy
- Practical amenities — shade, seating, grassy spaces, BBQs, and paths — were consistently requested alongside play infrastructure
- While skate is valued, site constraints within Social Heart Park make a new skate facility impractical; a different, more suitable site is recommended for an improved skate space
- A multi-court and social hangout space better serves female users, whereas skateparks skew predominantly male in use



Conclusion

Clarendon Vale Social Heart Park Phase 1 engagement gathered feedback across a variety of young people within the local community of Clarendon Vale, providing a comprehensive understanding of how the existing park is used, what was most valued and what was most desired in a redevelopment of the space in the future.

Overall, the users identified positively with a range of the current play equipment, with suggestions for more challenging equipment for older users, e.g. monkey bars, parkour and climbing, and flying foxes appeared numerous times.

Other amenities such as shade, grassy spaces, paths and seating were also suggested for increasing and improvement.

Across both primary and secondary school users the most popular identified activities for the future space were:

- a multicourt
- social hangout hammocks
- social play opportunities.

A space to comfortably gather with friends to play, socialise and have fun was a dominant feature of each survey conducted.

Whilst it is acknowledged that skate is a part of the existing space and a larger skate space is desirable, the demand for a larger, improved multi-court, with integrated social play and hangout opportunities, outweighs the demand and the space limits the ability for a new skate facility to be included by the site constraints within the Social Heart Park.

A multi-court caters to a variety of ball-sport users – soccer being mentioned as a desirable activity for inclusion at the Youth Services session. A multi-court and social hangout space also caters more to the needs of female users, with skateparks being predominately male focused.

Together, the findings from the surveys, design activities and dotmocracy indicate that Social Heart Park should focus on improving the multisport court opportunities and provide a balance of active play and inclusive social spaces will encourage the youth community to engage, play and hang-out together.