

Date: Thursday 13 March 2025
Time: 10:00 am
Meeting Room: Howick Local Board Meeting Room
Venue: Library Complex
7 Aylesbury Street
Pakuranga

Howick Local Board Workshop

OPEN NOTES ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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Future investment into Howick Local Board's playgrounds.

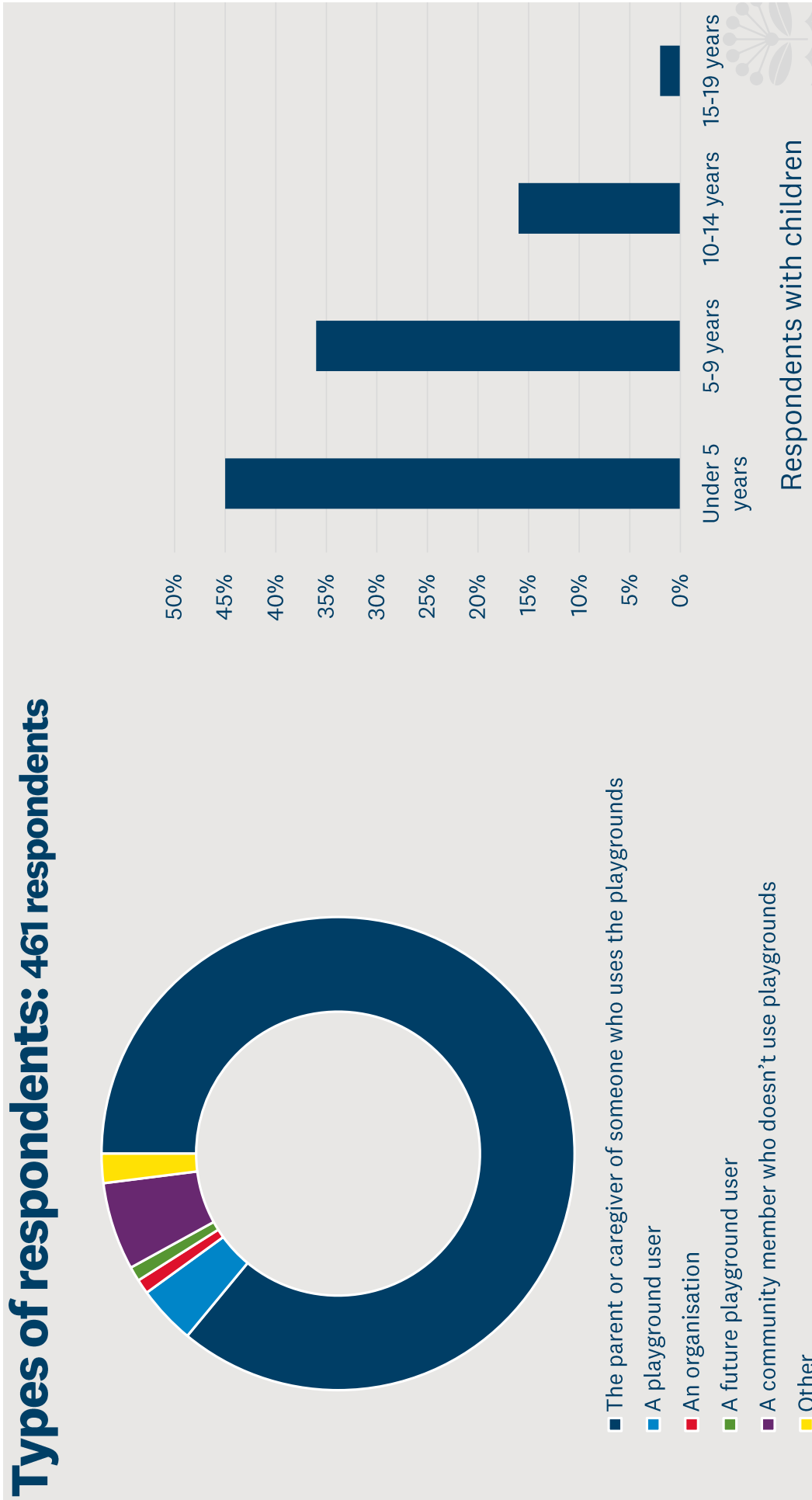
Summary/analysis of the community survey results

Emily Wagon: Parks and Places Specialist
13 March 2025

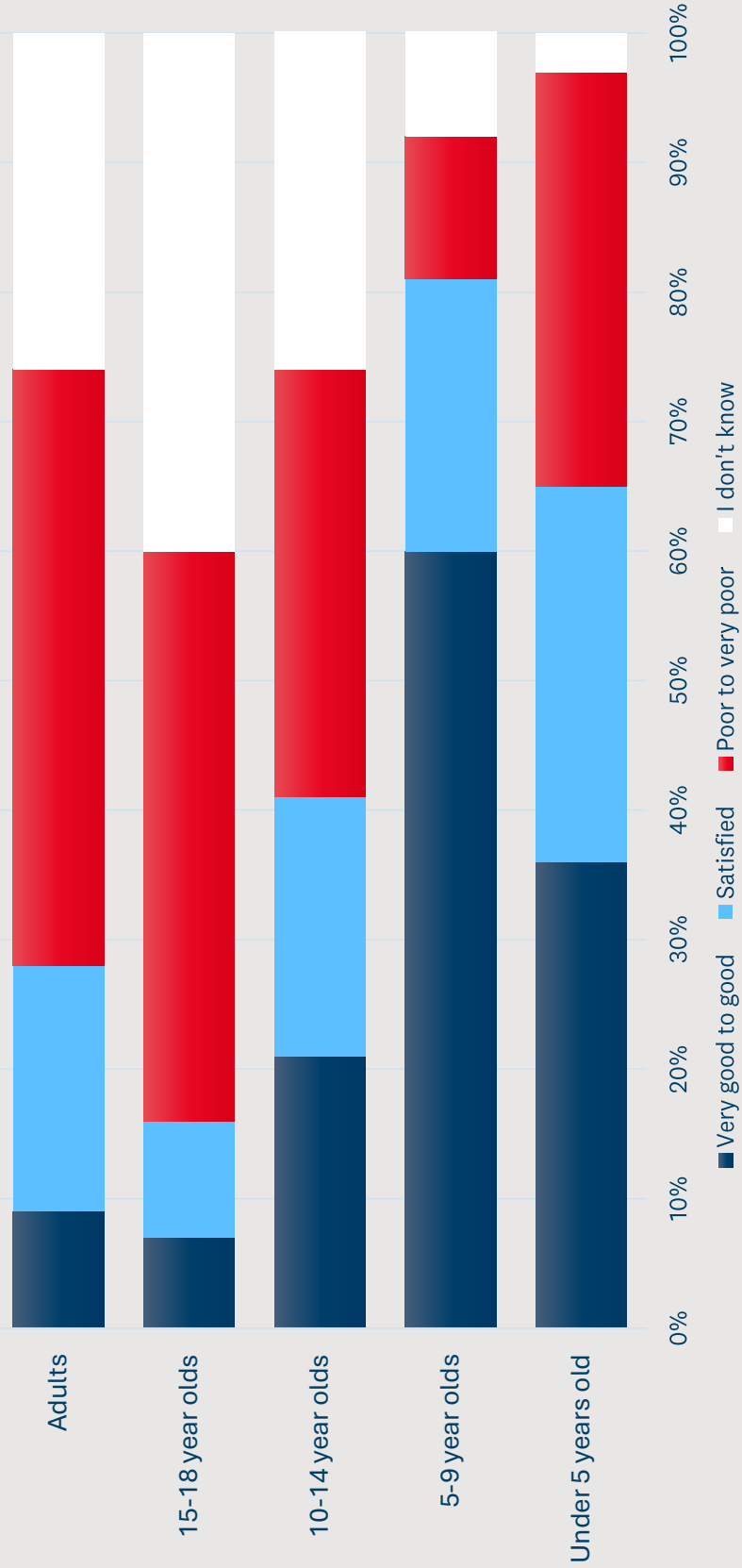


Purpose of today...

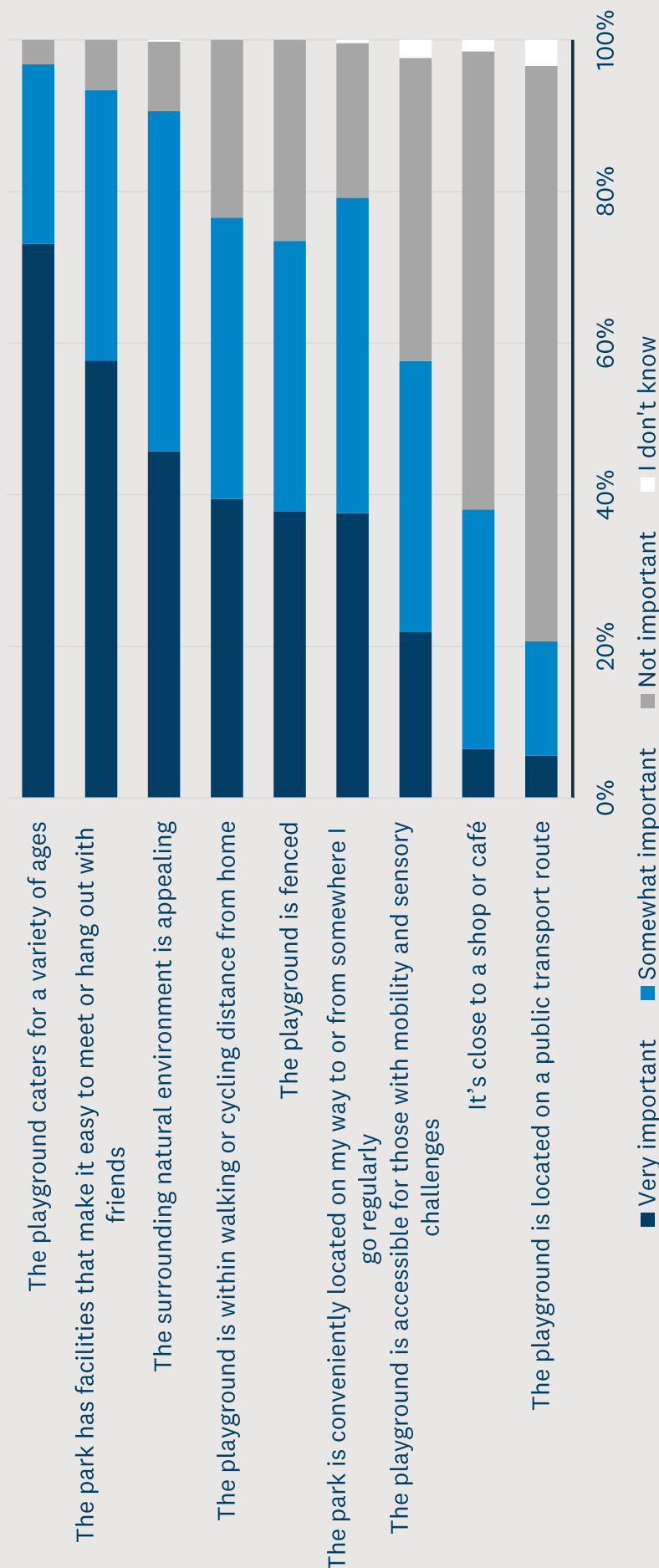
- To **provide** a summary/analysis of the Howick Playground Survey
 - Overall results
 - Age cohorts
- To **discuss** potential options moving forward, and how the board may want to prioritise playground planning.



On a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good), how well do you think the playgrounds in the Howick Local Board area cater to different age groups?

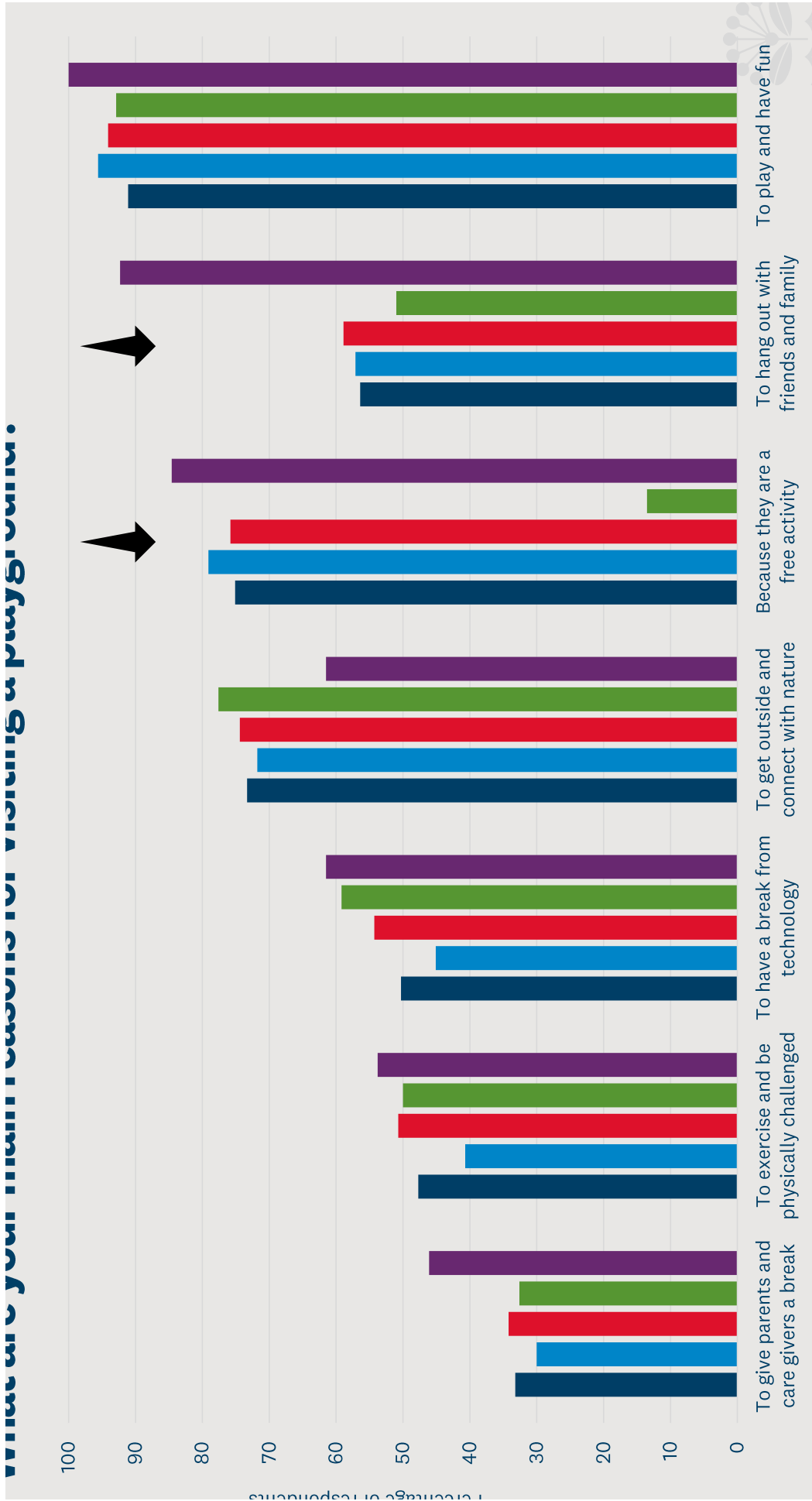


What is important to you when choosing a playground to visit?

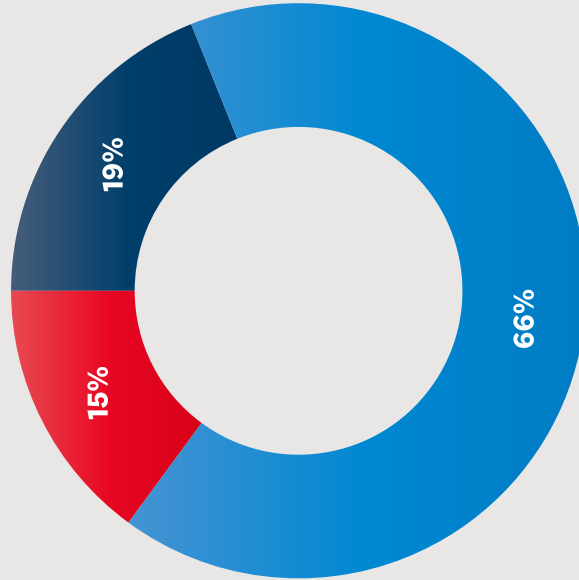


Item 3

Attachment A



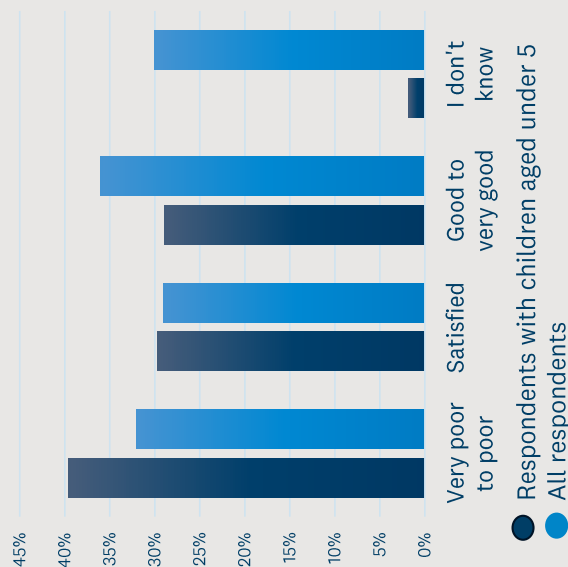
Skate parks and pump tracks are increasing in popularity among all ages. Would you prefer to see them as standalone facilities or next to other play elements?



- Stand-alone facilities with no other play elements around them
- In a larger park next to other play elements such as playgrounds
- I do not know / I have no opinion

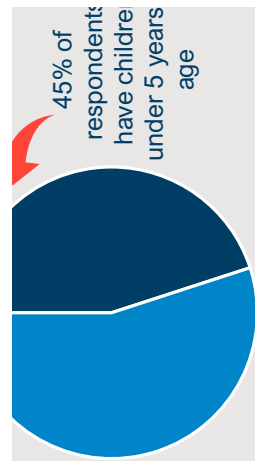
respondents with children aged under 5 years old

How well do you think the playgrounds in the Howick Local Board area cater to different age groups?



"There are not many playgrounds that cater well to kids under 5."

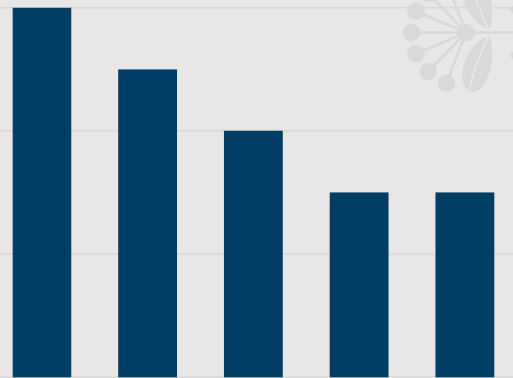
"Add in some role play options, like a wooden stall thing"

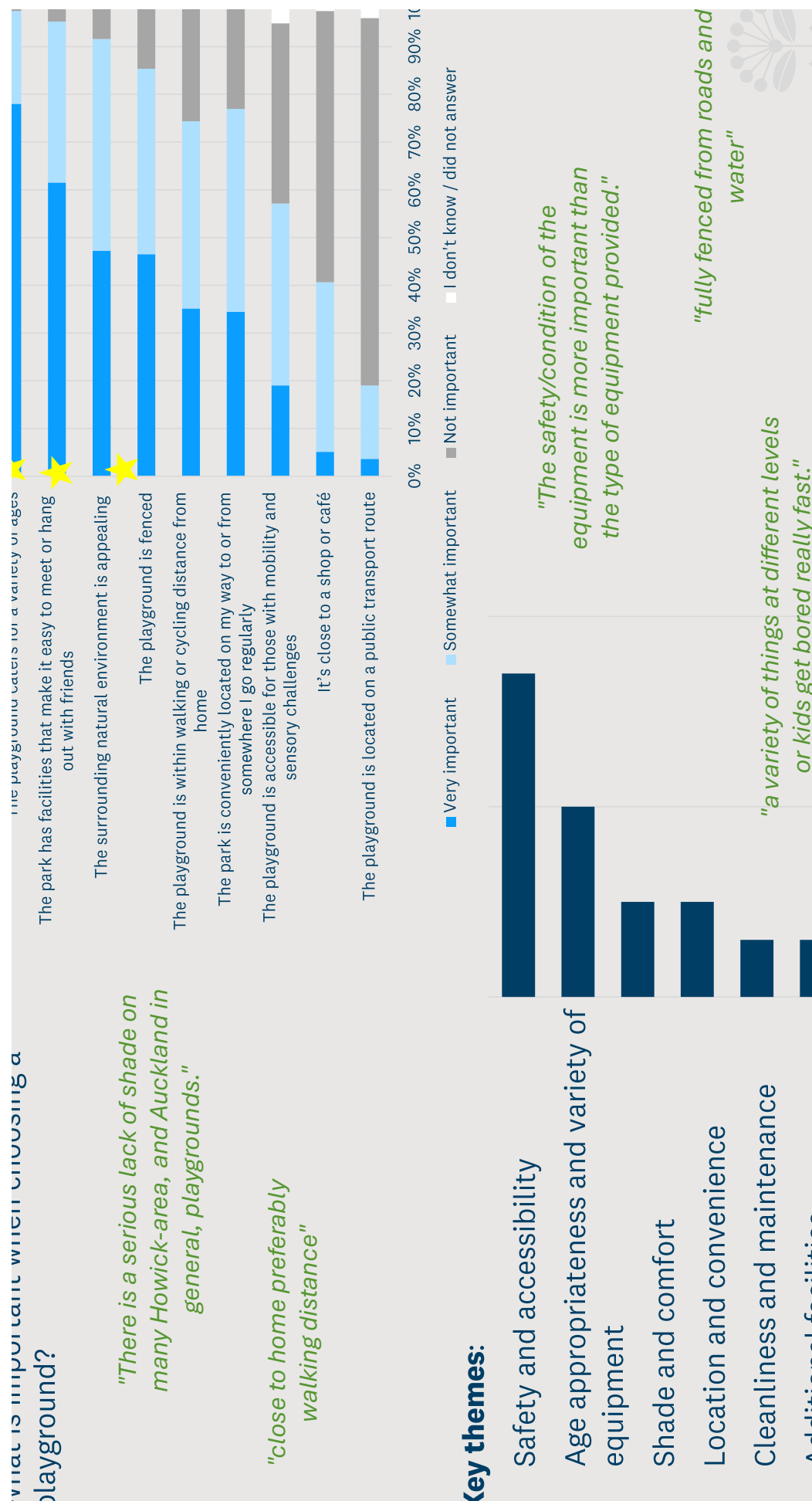


"Most playgrounds have very minimal areas for younger toddlers to play, and they end up using a lot of assistance"

Key themes:

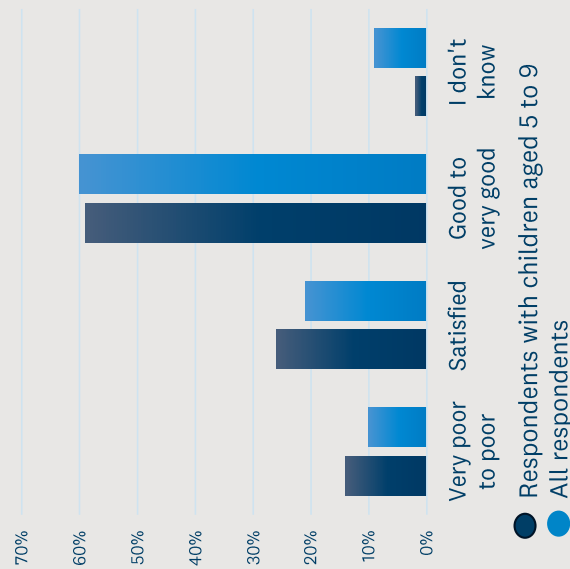
- Lack of equipment for under 5s and toddlers
- Equipment is too high/ challenging for young children
- Need for fenced and separate areas
- Desire for more inclusive and varied equipment
- Comparison to other areas





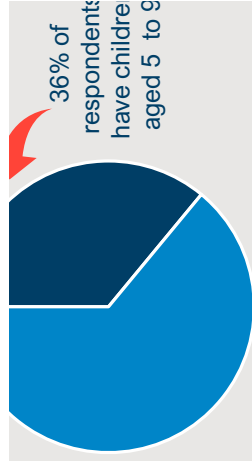
respondents with children aged 5 to 9 years old

How well do you think the playgrounds in the Howick Local Board area cater to different age groups?



“Adults want decent seating and shared areas to sit while looking after children”

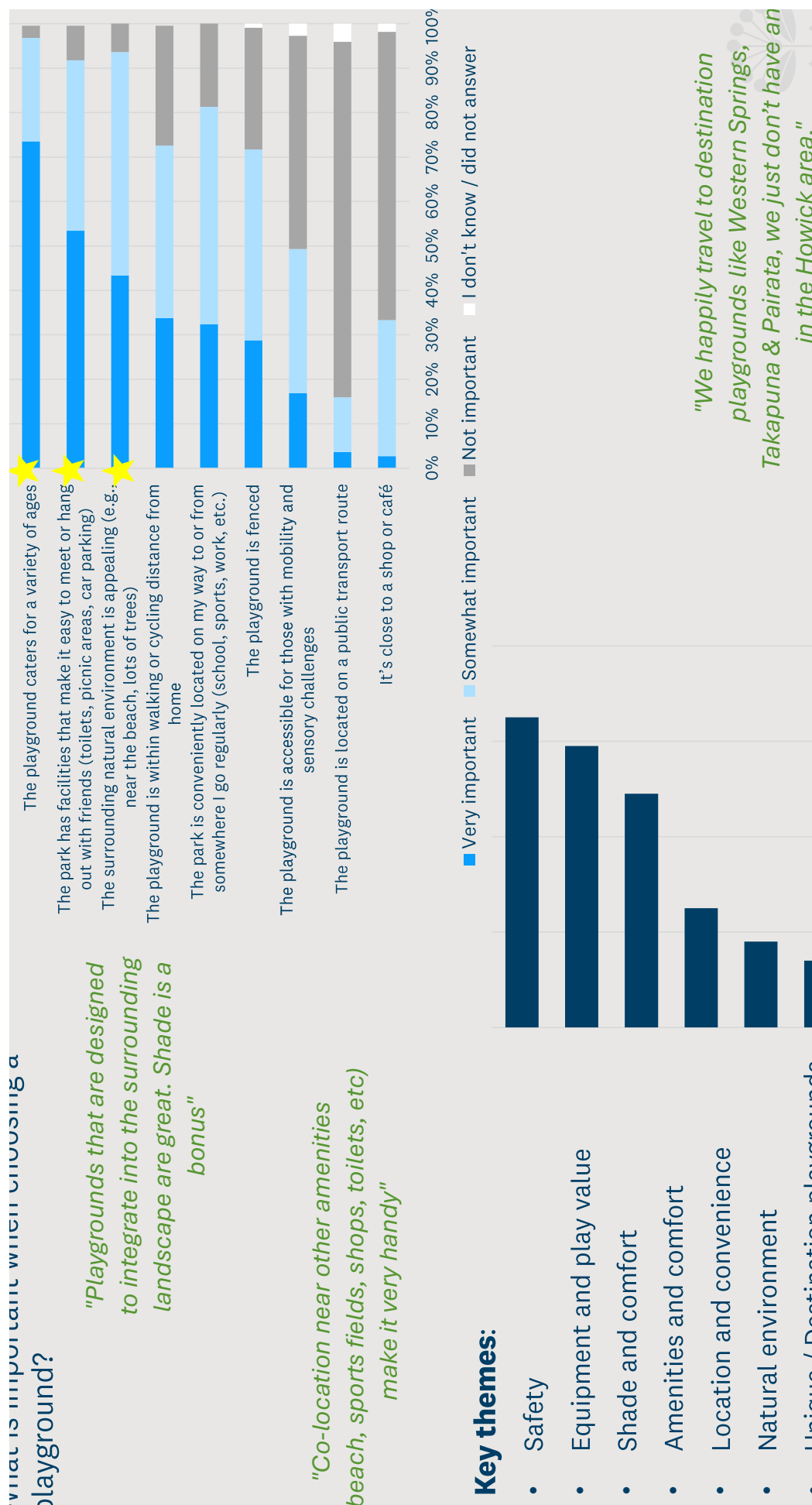
“Most playgrounds are tailored for 1 age group only. Anything for adults is non-



“the playgrounds have swings and slides and climbing things that suit an age up to about age six”

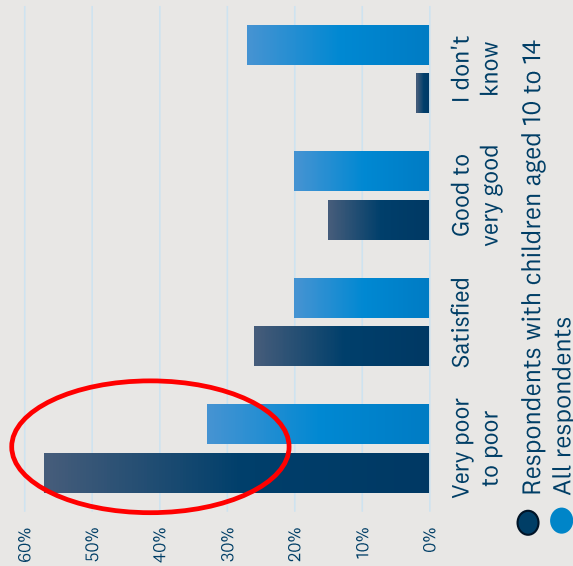
Key themes:

- Lack of challenge and engagement for older children
- Lack of facilities for older children and teens
- Safety and accessibility concerns
- Design and age appropriateness
- Inadequate variety and repetitive equipment
- Lack of amenities for adults



respondents with children aged 10 to 14 years old

How well do you think the playgrounds in the Howick Local Board area cater to different age groups?

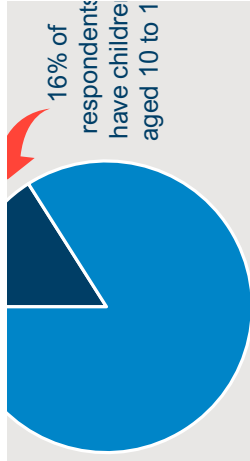


Playgrounds locally are designed to cater to younger kids"

"Not enough variety or exciting exercises or activities"

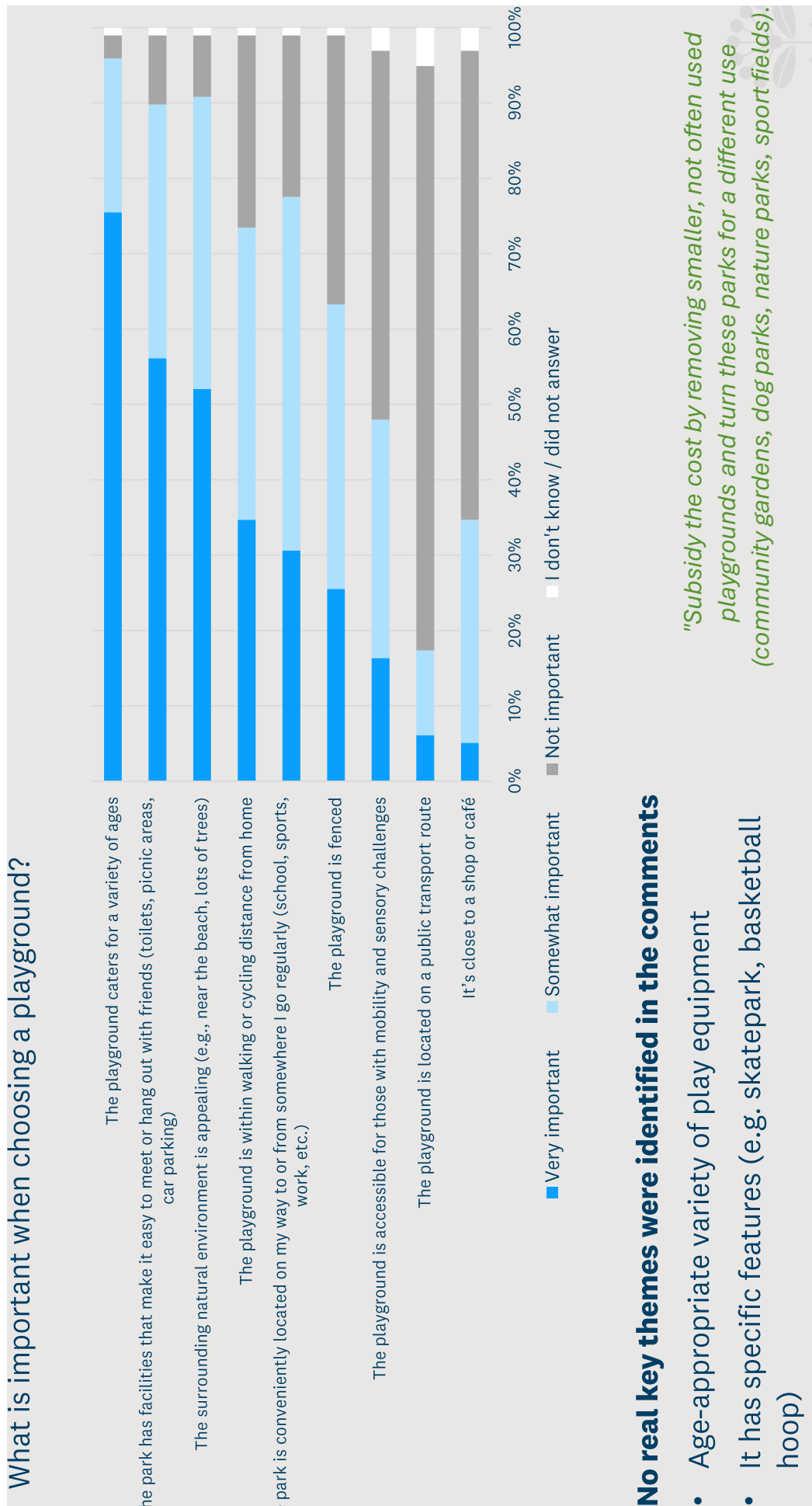
"Adults and young people like skate and parkour"

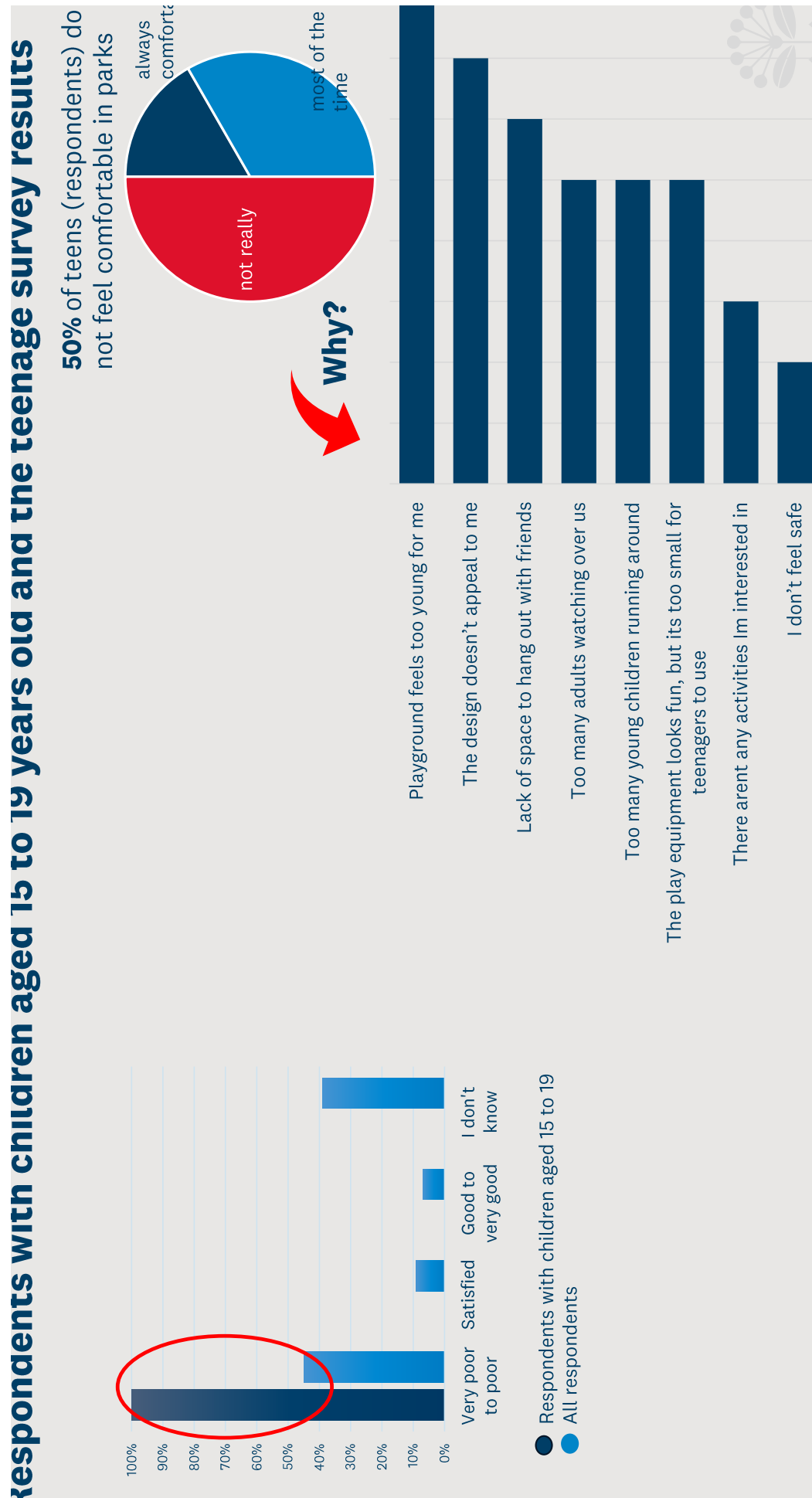
"It would be nice to have a path around the perimeter of the park, so people could utilise the whole park by walking or cycling round the whole park"

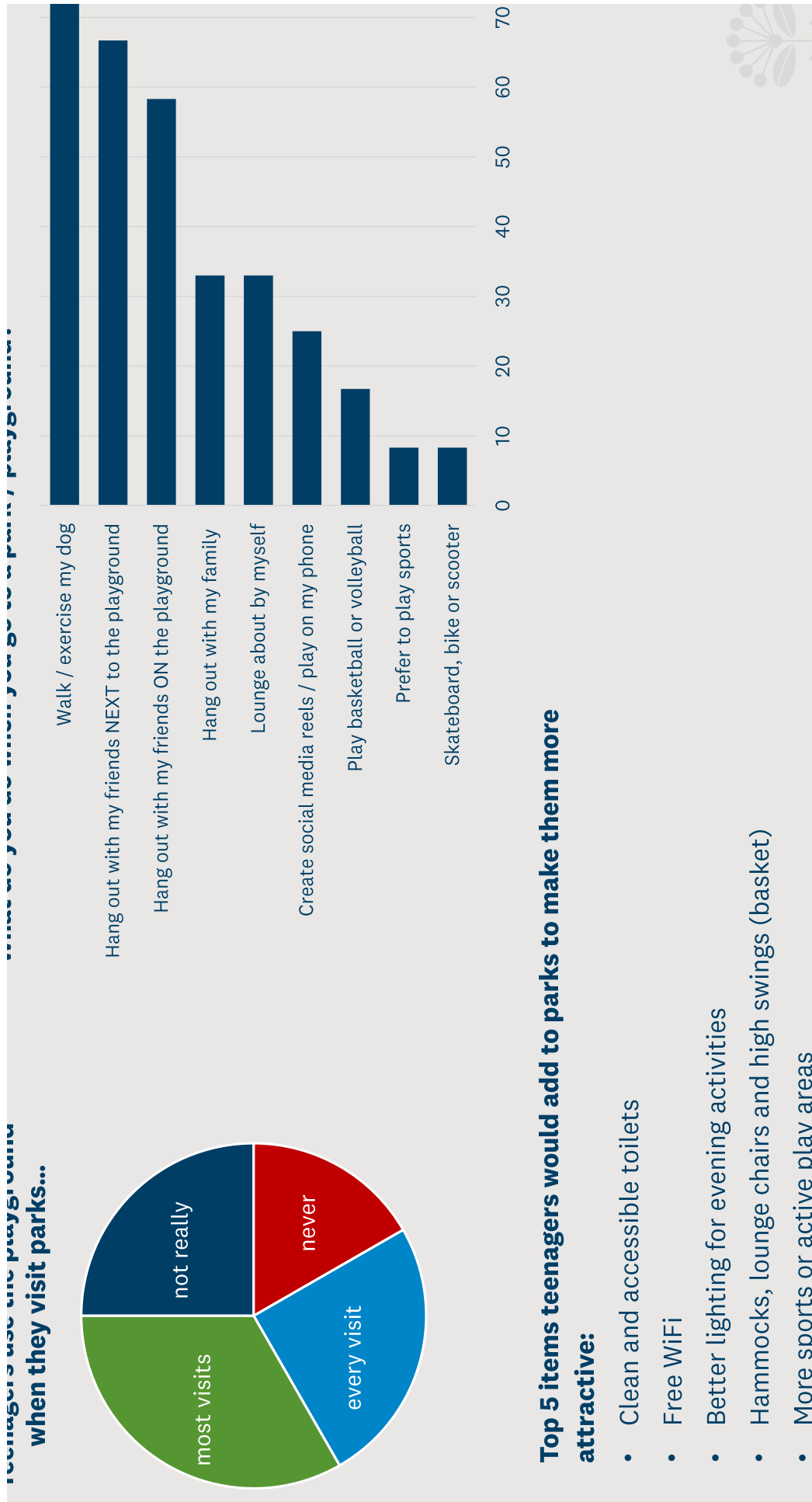


Key themes:

- Lack of age-appropriate equipment for older children / teens
- Dominance of younger children focus
- Desire for multi-generational spaces
- Need for specific facilities / activities
- Lack of amenities for adults







Overall key themes which came through the survey...

<p>Safety and maintenance</p> <p>Safety is the paramount concern. This includes ensuring equipment is well-maintained and free from hazards. Many of the hazards identified corresponded to the playground's location within the park: too close to the road and/or water, or users felt too isolated due to limited passive surveillance.</p>	<p>Playground quality and improvement</p> <p>There's a strong demand for upgraded and modernised playgrounds. The community wants high-quality, engaging play spaces that are comparable to those in other areas. This reflects a desire for investment in community facilities and a move away from outdated or inadequate playgrounds.</p>	<p>Shade and comfort</p> <p>Providing shade, especially in New Zealand's climate, is a significant priority. Comfortable amenities like seating, water fountains, and picnic areas are also important for enhancing the overall usability and enjoyment of playgrounds. Playgrounds are valued as community hubs and creating vibrant and welcoming spaces for families is important.</p>	<p>Variety and age appropriateness</p> <p>The community wants playgrounds that cater to a wider age range and offer diverse activities. This includes providing engaging equipment for older children and appropriate play areas for younger children.</p>
<p>Council responsiveness and planning</p> <p>The community wants the council to be more responsive, transparent, and accountable in playground planning and maintenance. This includes seeking community input and addressing concerns in a timely manner.</p>	<p>Broader park facilities</p> <p>While playground equipment is important, the community also desires broader park amenities, such as sports facilities, exercise equipment, and basic amenities.</p>		

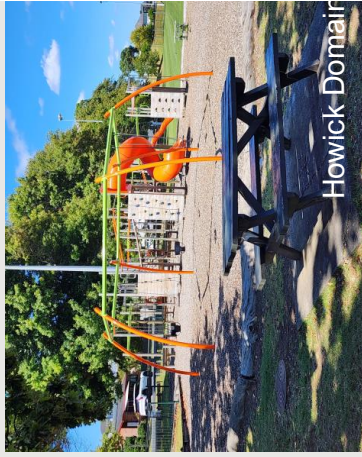
Most popular playgrounds



Blundell Park



Eastern Beach Reserve



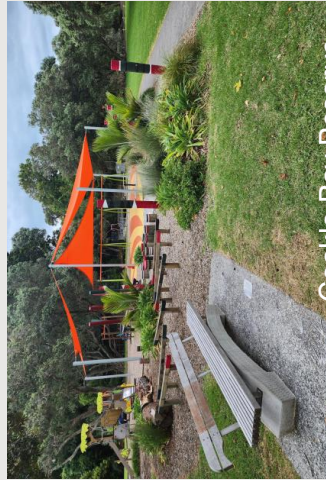
Howick Domain



Nixon Centennial Park

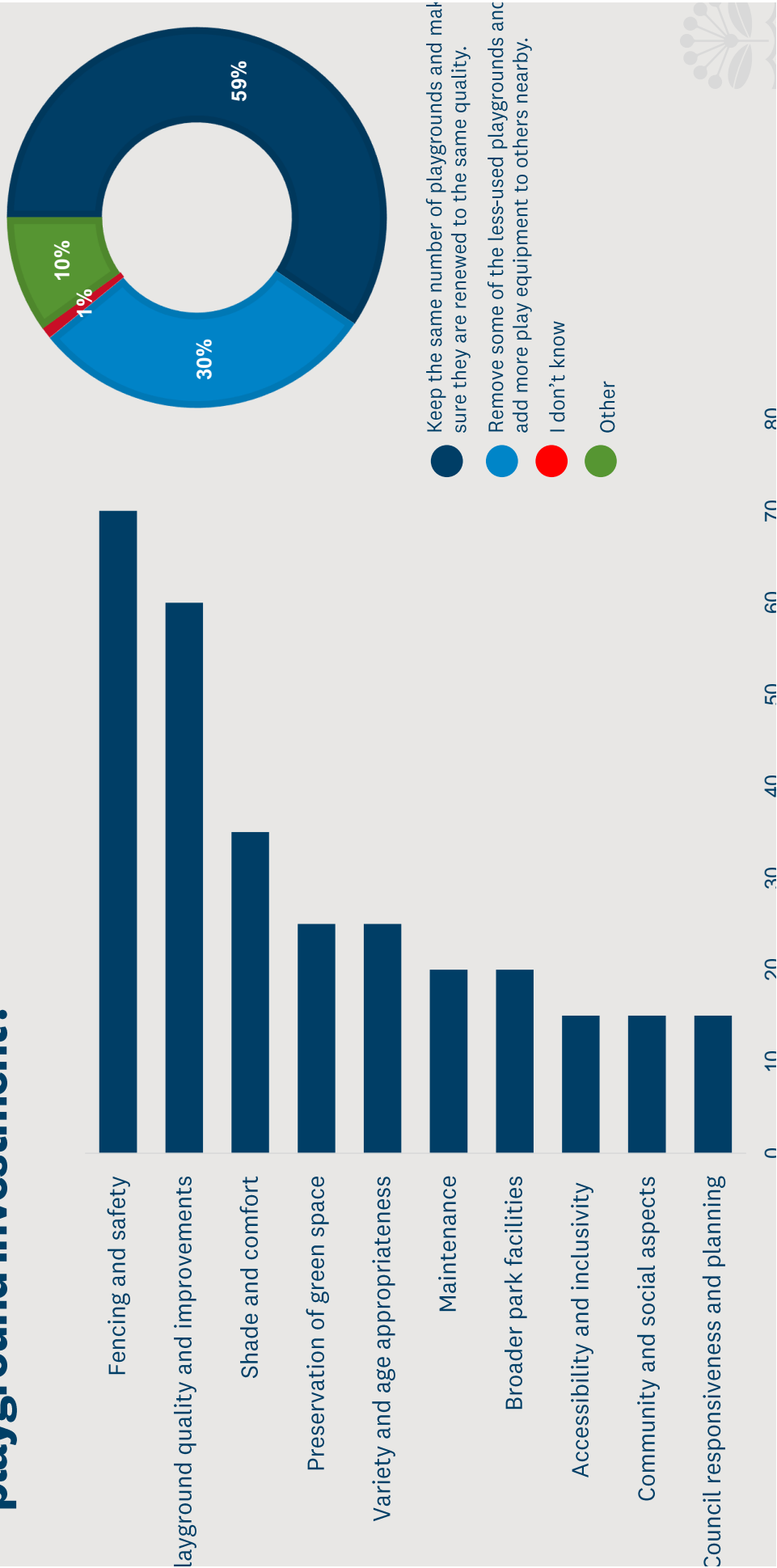


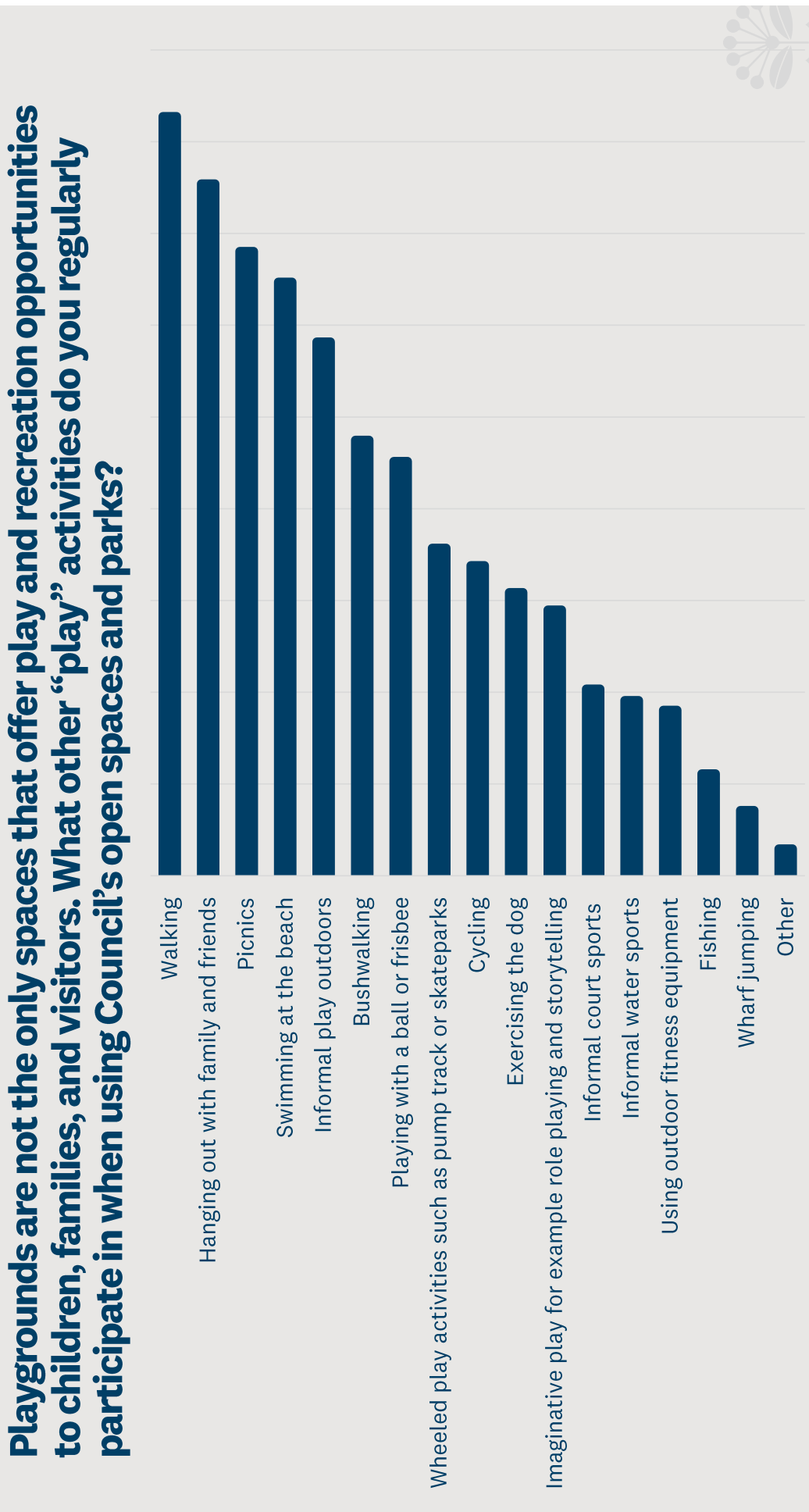
Lloyd Elsmore Park (Rugby end)



Attachment A
Item 3

How do you want the HOWICK LOCAL BOARD to prioritise our playground investment?





Next steps...

Option 1: Consolidation and investment in key playgrounds

Gradually remove or repurpose less-used playground and invest savings into larger, destination style playgrounds with more play variety, better accessibility and supporting infrastructure. This would work well in areas where there is an over provision and less used parks.

Pros:

- ✔ **Reduces maintenance burden** while improving overall playground quality.
- ✔ Aligns with **community preference for larger, well-equipped play areas.**
- ✔ Ensures **better investment efficiency** by concentrating funds on high-impact projects

Cons:

- ✘ Some neighbourhoods will **lose nearby playgrounds**, requiring **community buy-in.**
- ✘ **Potential resistance** from residents in areas where playgrounds are removed.

Option 2: Retain all playgrounds but recategorize them

Keep all 70+ playground but recategorize them into suburb, neighbourhood and destination and ensure the whole park meets the criteria.

Pros:

- ✔ **Retains all playgrounds**, ensuring **no loss of local access.**
- ✔ **Manages maintenance costs** more effectively without requiring closures.
- ✔ Aligns with **budget constraints** while improving major playgrounds.

Cons:

- ✘ Some small playgrounds may **remain basic** and lack variety. Equipment may be removed if the playground is over-serviced.
- ✘ **Unequal upgrades**—some neighbourhoods may have smaller, less well-equipped playgrounds.

Both options could look at combining the sport and recreation services, similar to Henderson-Massey local board area.

Notable Trees Proposed Plan Change - Additions to 'Schedule 10'

Ruth Andrews – Senior Policy Planner

Peri Buckley – Senior Heritage Information Analyst
Planning & Resource Consents

March 13 2025



Brief background to Schedule 10 – Notable Trees Schedule in the AUP

- Schedule 10 is an amalgam of all previous legacy councils' tree schedules
- Contains 3000+/- line items (i.e. approx. 3000 properties throughout Tāmaki Makaurau that have at least one scheduled tree or group on them)
- Anyone can make a nomination for a new tree to be added to the Schedule but all nominations must go through a Plan Change
- Several plan changes over the last few years have affected Schedule 10, but this proposed plan change is the first which addresses all nominations held in our database (2014-2024)



What is the plan change doing?

- Adding 160 new 'line items' to Schedule 10 representing approximately 169 trees and 27 groups of trees
- Both native and exotic trees on private land, council-owned land and road reserves (AT)
- Most local board areas are gaining new trees

What is the plan change not doing?

- Changing any of the rules or policy around notable trees
- Changing the criteria against which trees are assessed to be 'notable' or not
- Amending any of the other entries in the Schedule (such as removing the reference to trees that have been removed after resource consents granted etc)

How have the assessments been undertaken?

- All nominations and submissions dating back to the PAUP (2013/2014) have been triaged and assessed over the last 2-3 years by council planners, heritage experts, heritage arborist and consultant arborists
- ‘Triage’ ensured we only looked at eligible nominations and excluded:
 - Trees already scheduled
 - Duplicate nominations (and multiple nominations for 1+ trees on the same property)
 - Poor quality nominations with little information
 - Nominations for pest species
 - Trees that are not present on a site any longer
 - Nominations that are errors, rather than new trees
- All eligible nominations were then assessed on site against the criteria set out in the AUP (RPS Chapter B4.5 Notable Trees)

The criteria for notable trees include:

- heritage or historical association
- scientific importance or rarity
- ecosystem service or environmental function
- cultural association and accessibility
- their intrinsic values
- All trees are given a “score” (20 or more for intrinsic values means they are eligible for ‘notable’ status) and/or investigated against other ‘standalone’ factors that mean they may qualify for ‘notable’ status

The proposed notable trees for Howick Local Board area:

- 15 new 'line items in the Schedule, totalling 15 trees and 4 groups
- 15 new trees = 53% native and 47% exotics
- 4 new groups = mixed exotic and native
- Located across Howick, Pakuranga, Flat Bush, Bucklands Beach, and Cockle Bay
- 2 of the new line items are included on the basis of their Heritage values – these are in Cook St Howick (Pūriri), and Paparoa Rd Howick (native group)
- 8 of the new line items were from Howick Local Board PAUP views, the remaining are from public nominations



The proposed notable tree (Pūriri) in Cook St Howick

Next steps for the Plan Change:

- The plan change will be drafted, and a new ‘overlay’ developed to assist submitters and the public to see the locations of the proposed trees and groups
- A report to the Policy & Planning Committee on May 15 seeking approval to notify the plan change
- Public notification anticipated later in May
- Additional analysis will be undertaken following receipt of Local Board views
- After submissions close, a second report will provide an opportunity for Local Board views, which will then be included in a hearing report for the plan change decision-makers
- A Hearing is anticipated in the second half of 2025

