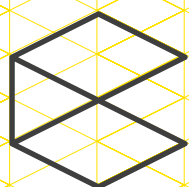




MAY 2020



Prepared for: City of Melbourne
JJ Holland Skate Park
Community Engagement Report
MAY2020
[VERSION 3]



CO
DESIGN
STUDIO



CONVIC

CONTENTS

PROJECT OVERVIEW	5
PROJECT CONTEXT	5
ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY	5
HOW DID WE ENGAGE?	6
WHO DID WE HEAR FROM?	7
WHAT DID WE HEAR?	8
PREFERRED SKATE PARK STYLE	9
WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT JJ HOLLAND SKATEPARK?	10
HOW COULD JJ HOLLAND SKATEPARK BE IMPROVED?	11
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS	13



PROJECT OVERVIEW

PROJECT CONTEXT

The JJ Holland Skate Park is located in Kensington. It sits in the western corner of JJ Holland Park, adjacent to the BMX pump-track, and is one of two sites that the City of Melbourne has identified as needing significant upgrading and/or replacement due to ageing infrastructure and heavy use.

The skatepark is constructed of precast concrete. It is a local sized facility that caters to the Kensington area. It is well located in close proximity to South Kensington Station.

The facility is divided into two clear areas. One consists of a large spine half pipe suitable for advanced skaters and BMX riders, the other is a mix of street style ledges, boxes and rails, with additional transition quarter pipes and banks at the eastern border.

The BMX pump-track comprises of two main runs and are made up of mounded dirt covered in granitic sand with lawn batters beside the track.

ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Consultation ran from 19 December 2019, to 14 February 2020.

The purpose of the community engagement was:

- > For participants to gain a greater understanding of the project and process
- > To better understand what users like and wish to retain
- > To understand what can be improved in the space
- > To explore and model what these ideas could look like in the space
- > To identify community members interested in being part of a reference group to work with council further on developing this project.

Multiple engagement techniques were undertaken, including:

- > 3 on-site informal 'Drop-In' sessions on 18 January 2020, 11-2pm; 4 February 2020, 3-5pm and 11 February 2020, 5:30-7pm.
- > 1 Design Workshop nearby at 'The Venny' communal backyard and play space on 6 February 2020, 5:30-7pm.
- > Information and opportunity to provide comments on the City of Melbourne's 'Participate Melbourne' online forum from 19th December 2019 until 14 February 2020.
- > Other means including comments on Instagram and correspondence with community members

Feedback was sought from all users of the park including skateboarders, BMXers, scooter riders, roller skaters and bladers.



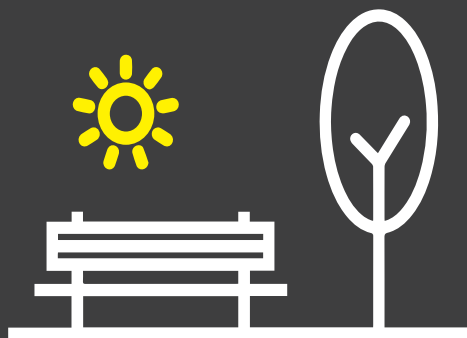
HOW DID WE ENGAGE PEOPLE?

WHAT DID WE ASK?

- > What do you love about skating at JJ Holland Skatepark?
- > How would you improve JJ Holland Skatepark?

WHEN?

- > From 19 December 2019 to 14 February 2020



3 ON SITE
DROP-IN
SESSIONS



1 HANDS ON
DESIGN
WORKSHOP



SOCIAL MEDIA:
> INSTAGRAM
> FACEBOOK
> TWITTER
> LINKEDIN

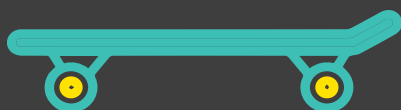


PARTICIPATE
MELBOURNE
ONLINE
FORUMS

WHO DID WE HEAR FROM?

43%

OF PARTICIPANTS WERE
SKATEBOARDERS



26%

BMXERS

23%

SCOOTER RIDERS

WE ALSO HEARD FROM
ROLLERBLADERS



UNIQUE
RESPONSES
WERE RECEIVED

413

78



FACE-TO-FACE
PARTICIPANTS



39%

SHARED FEEDBACK
AT A DROP-IN
SESSION ON SITE

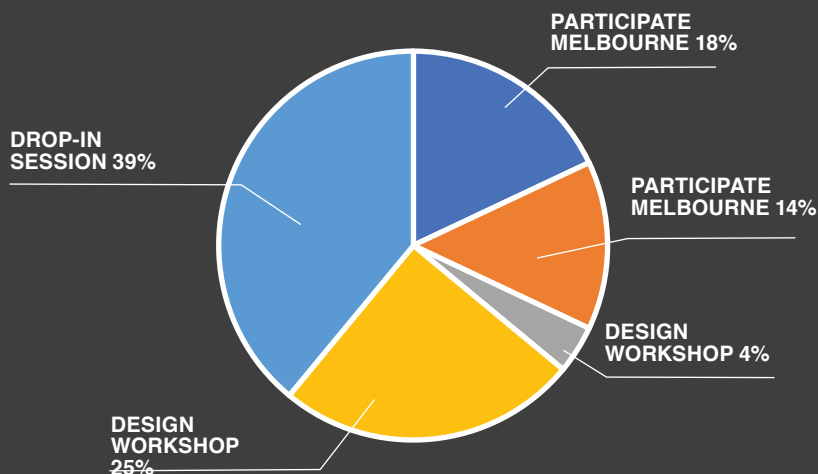
25%

SHARED FEEDBACK
AT THE DESIGN
WORKSHOP



32%

AGED **10** OR
UNDER



WHAT DID WE HEAR?

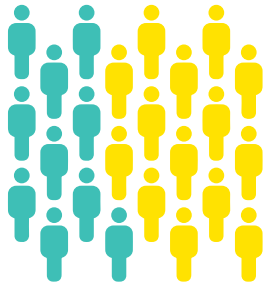


**BIG 357
IDEAS**

*Response to 2 x questions



**110
VOTES**
ON PREFERRED
SKATEPARK STYLE



25 OUT OF 52
PEOPLE VOTED FOR A
COMBINATION
STYLE PARK

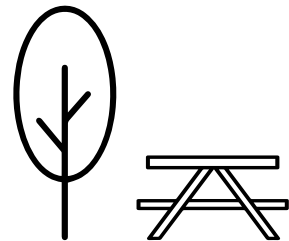
WHAT ARE THE TOP 3 THINGS PEOPLE LOVE THE ABOUT SKATING AT JJ HOLLAND?



**THE DESIGN
FEATURES, RAMPS,
OBSTACLES & FLOW**



**IT APPEALS
TO A WIDE
AUDIENCE**



**THE LOCATION &
SURROUNDS**

WHAT WERE PREFERRED SKATE PARK STYLES?



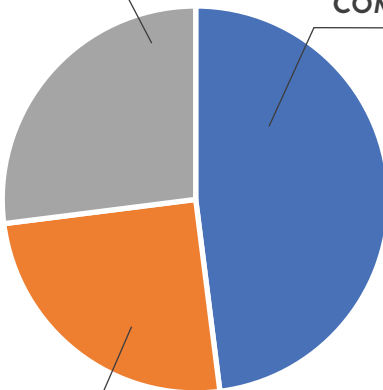
TRANSITION

More traditional in their form, transition style skate parks are usually flowing and fast, combining quarter pipes and banks to allow the user to pump and transfer without the need to push. Typically, more organic in their appearance than other styles of skate park, they often include bowls, ramps, quarter pipes, moguls, flat banks and more.

TRANSITION 25%

COMBINATION 48%

STREET & PLAZA 25%



COMBINATION

This style of facility combines the two more defined styles of skate park into one space allowing the user to experience a range of different styles of skate in one. For example, you may have a central street area that is border by quarter pipes or open bowls to allow the user to gain increased momentum or simply perform a wider range of tricks.



STREET & PLAZA

A more contemporary style of skate park aimed to mimic features and forms found in the modern urban environment. For example, they usually include stairs, ledges, rails and blocks, combined in a more linear fashion to allow the user to link 'lines' together from one feature to the next, often performing flat ground tricks or simply pushing in between. The features cater to a more slow paced and technical style of skating.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT JJ HOLLAND SKATEPARK?

The majority of responses related to specific design features within the park, its location, surrounding amenity, along with the community and people who use the park.

DESIGN FEATURES

Many participants suggested that they liked using :

- > The flat bar,
- > Wave ramp,
- > Mini ramp,
- > It was also suggested there is room to improve these elements in their size, location and quality.

LOCATION & SURROUNDS

Almost one in five responses to this question noted the skatepark's location, with a number also mentioning the proximity to South Kensington station.

Other nearby attractions raised include the pump track, The Venny, Kensington Community Recreation Centre and JJ Holland Park.

The skatepark's location within the larger park was also noted as a positive, adding a feeling of space, openness and exposure to nature.

Additional positives included shade from surrounding trees, easy nearby parking and good passive surveillance which is particularly important if observing more than one child.

COMMUNITY & PEOPLE

Interaction between users was noted as a positive, with park users providing support and encouragement of each other, regardless of skill level and experience.

There was a perception that the park does not get too crowded and enables a diverse range of users to utilise and coexist in the space. This provides a safe space to skate, socialise and meet other people.

WIDE AUDIENCE

The diversity of ages, backgrounds and skating experience is a real strength of JJ Holland noted in many responses. Some of the existing design features are particularly good for beginners.

AMENITY

A smaller number of participants were appreciative of the amenities that the skatepark provides, the surrounding space, nearby paths, green nature of the park and natural shade provided by trees.



“MORE ‘SPACIOUS’ THAN SKATE PARKS NEAR ME IN FITZROY”

“LITTLE HILLS- GREAT FOR LEARNING. SPACE TO LEARN”

“SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE MAKES IT ENJOYABLE TO BE IN FOR FAMILIES AND OTHERS”

“FRIENDLY PEOPLE”

“THE VIBE”

“LIKE THE WAVE RAMP > WAS GOOD TO LEARN TO DROP IN”

HOW COULD JJ HOLLAND SKATEPARK BE IMPROVED?

DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS

Key feedback included: greater provision of obstacles and experiences for intermediate level skaters to support skill progression.

Smaller obstacles are good for beginners and the higher/larger obstacles are good for more experienced skaters but they need updating.

Improvements to the flow of the layout (such as allowing circular use) was repeatedly suggested.

There was a notable desire for better use of the space that is available within the park's current footprint.

Suggestions to achieve this include:

- > Connecting obstacles so they work together as a whole. More transition and combination elements.
- > Providing space for setting up and landing tricks without interference of other lines and features.

Other suggestions:

- > Possible skate bowl, was noted by some respondents.
- > Opportunities for improvements in connecting active and passive spaces.

LAYOUT & FLOW

Improvements to the flow of the layout (such as allowing circular use) was repeatedly suggested.

There was a notable desire to better use of the space that is available within the park's current footprint.

Suggestions to achieve this include:

- > Connecting obstacles so they work together with consistent lines of flow

“EVERYTHING IS EITHER VERY SMALL (FOR BEGINNERS) OR VERY BIG WITH NO IN BETWEEN”

“OBSTACLES GOOD FOR GOOFY & REGULAR FOOT”

“RAMPS WITHOUT FLATTENED TOP, ‘MELLOWER HEIGHT’”

“CHANGEABILITY, NOT A FIXED DESIGN”

“NEEDS TO BE UPGRADED TO MATCH THE CURRENT STYLE AND PROGRESSION OF SKATING”

“RETHINK LAYOUT TO IMPROVE FLOW”

“MORE INTERCONNECTEDNESS BETWEEN SECTIONS NEEDED”



WIDE AUDIENCE APPEAL

A space that is welcoming to a broad audience came through strongly.

People proudly call the park a place for all and many want to see this maintained.

While some suggested that the skatepark caters well to beginner skaters, there was also a significant number of comments made suggesting improvements that would further enhance the experience and progression from beginner to intermediate level.

The need to ensure women, families, children and young people, feel welcome at the park was raised when thinking about what a welcoming space would look like.

AMENITY IMPROVEMENTS

More could be done to make the skatepark facilities and park surroundings better for users, whether skating or spectating.

Suggestions included:

- > More seating
- > Shaded areas to rest or watch,
- > Places to put belongings,
- > Drinking fountains,
- > BBQ area,
- > Landscape areas,
- > Bike racks &
- > Featured artwork.

Note: some of these amenities are currently provided.

Opportunities for improvements in connecting active and passives areas and promoting interaction and 'good vibes' were raised by some.

Comments were raised by some that proximity to the pump track natural surface 'debris' causes issues with skate park surface. Some people did not want to see the pump track sealed however.



“PUMP TRACK - DIFFERENT SURFACE?”

“FAMILY SPACE, MORE SEATING”

“MORE SEATING, PEOPLE TEND TO SIT IN THE SHADY PARTS”

“TABLES ON PARK SIDE OF RAMP SO CAN BE A PARTY VENUE”

“NATIVE FLOWERS / TREES - ATTRACT BEES + WILDLIFE”

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- > The need for improvement to the park was endorsed by all. The skate park feels outdated and is not in keeping with current skate trends.
- > People appreciate the intangible qualities of the park including the people that use the park, skate lessons and the diversity in user groups.
- > Continuing to encourage diversity and welcoming community was considered critical.
- > The quiet nature of the skate park was noted as a strength in providing a space for beginner skaters.
- > Comfortable places to rest, or spectate, with shade, seating and water will create a more holistic park design.
- > The original park was designed through a co-design process which was driven predominantly by users and there is desire for a similar approach again..
- > There is a cohort of long-term users of JJ Holland Skate Park. It would be important to engage with this group moving forward.
- > Improvements to flow and better connection between obstacles will significantly improve skatepark experience for users.
- > Flow between obstacles and features to allow them to work together creating lines.
- > More transition and combination elements.
- > Providing space for setting up and landing tricks without interference from lines off other features.
- > Inclusion of intermediate level experience and obstacles is currently missing, and will support skater skill progression.
- > The pump track could be sealed to alleviate mud and gravel being spread through the skate park and improve user experience. However, pump track users generally did not want the pump track to be sealed.

