

COMMUNITY
Engagement
**SUMMARY
REPORT**

Leicester Street Playground

Assets & Sustainability
August 2025

THE CITY of
Unley

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this report is to provide details of community consultation regarding Leicester Street Playground Upgrade. The existing play equipment, hard surfaces, and street furniture are scheduled for replacement. A concept design has been developed to guide the upgrade and engagement process.

The concept design for Leicester Street Playground was informed through the following means:

- City of Unley Upcoming Projects webpage was published on 20 May 2025.
[Leicester Street Playground Upgrade | City of Unley](#)
- Approximately 600 letters were dropped within a 400m catchment of the playground on 23 May 2025.
- Two corflute posters were installed at both playground entries on 6 June 2025.
- An open space design workshop has held with the Unley Active Aging and Living Young Reference groups as a part of quarterly meetings in which Wayville Reserve was used for a case study and for input. Approximately six people attended from the Active Aging Group and approximately fifteen young people from the Living Young Group plus three council facilitators. This was held on 2nd July 2025.
- Another workshop was held with the Unley Access and Inclusion Reference Group on 30th July 2025.

FINDINGS AND RESULTS

LETTER BOX DROP

A total of five (5) community members provided feedback via email. Their comments were grouped into the following themes:

Sports Facilities:

- Basketball Court Requests: Two users requested a basketball half-court due to lack of public courts and growing popularity of the sport.
- Cricket and Soccer: One resident noted frequent informal cricket and soccer games and suggested including facilities or space for these sports.
- Soccer goal placement: One user was concerned about the soccer goal placement (number 7) causing balls to overshoot into picnic areas (5 and 6), creating safety and comfort issues.

Picnic & Quiet Use:

- Preserve Quiet Zones: One user emphasized maintaining the park's quiet, family-friendly atmosphere, especially around picnic areas.

Play Equipment

- Concerns About Proposed Changes: One user opposed replacing the current equipment, especially highlighting its suitability for younger children.
- Criticism of Nature Play Elements: One user commented as less engaging for younger kids compared to traditional equipment.

Open Grassed Area

- Retention of Grassed Space: One resident shared strong support for keeping the large, fenced grassed area for older children's play and family use.

Proposed Table Tennis Table

- Question to Utility: One user expressed doubt about the table tennis table's usage and suggested it could be replaced with something more engaging.

Support for Toilet Facility

- Three users advocated for a unisex toilet to support longer visits, family events, and general convenience. Suggestion for an automatic toilet with limited hours to manage usage.

Community Engagement

- **Call for Further Consultation:** One user requested more community input before final decisions are made, noting that many families prefer the park to remain largely unchanged.

UNLEY ACTIVE AGING AND LIVING YOUNG REFERENCE GROUP WORKSHOP

During the workshop the following comments were gathered:

- **Play equipment suggestions:** adventure playground, sand pit for younger children, water play, music equipment, natural materials, and playful patterns or games painted on the floor to engage children were mentioned.
- **Sporting suggestions:** gender-inclusive sports equipment like netball and basketball hoops, retaining open lawns for sport, and exercise equipment for older years were mentioned.
- **Spaces for teenagers:** grouped seating arrangements and picnic settings, gazebos to hangout, good lighting at night, and less emphasis on formal play equipment were mentioned.
- **Age-specific play areas** were preferred instead of having one space catering for all ages.
- **Nature play** was very praised, with mentions to logs and boulders for climbing, jumping and balancing, including plants with different smells, textures and tastes.
- **Community raised garden beds** for growing food was suggested.
- **Bikes:** inclusion of more bike racks, and a bike repair station was mentioned.
- **Indigenous theme:** inclusion of Aboriginal art and murals, or inclusion onto the new park signage and gate.
- **Fences:** mixed support for both fence removal and fence retaining were noted.

UNLEY ACCESS INCLUSION REFERENCE GROUP WORKSHOP

The comments from this group were of a general nature rather than specifically about Leicester Street Playground.

- Paths in parks in general are a problem with conflicts with cyclists
- Sound signals like bike bells don't work for deaf people
- Tree branches can be a hazard across
- Leaf litter is also an issue for walking and wheel chairs along paths
- Tree roots can lift pavements – trip hazard
- Spray painted path hazards will not assist people with vision impairments
- Parks with fences can have latches to gates which are too high to reach
- Steep ramps and ramps without hand rails should be avoided
- Assistance dogs are not exempt in parks if they are off leash (off duty)
- Quiet spaces for wildlife

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- Sounds such as water flowing – sensory experiences
 - Bee hotels
 - Get the basics right
 - Consider the journey from the park to public transport
 - Use local artists for public art or a community event

CONCLUSION

The engagement letter drop resulted in approximately 0.8% responses (5 feedbacks received out of 600 letters dropped) demonstrating that the large majority of park users are happy or don't have concerns about the proposed upgrade.

The 5 responses collected as part of this engagement indicate relevant concerns and suggestions which will be considered as part of the design development.

From the workshops, a range of ideas were shared, reflecting the diverse needs of the community. The feedback highlights a strong desire for an engaging park that supports diverse play, active lifestyles and social connection across all age groups.

The suggestions will be considered to inform the next stage of the design.