



GORDON PLAY SPACE UPGRADE

REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

The ACT Government is committed to delivering better play spaces across Canberra and providing people of different ages and abilities with fun, creative and engaging play experiences.

Six play spaces will receive significant upgrades over the next three years across Canberra in the suburbs of Aranda, Chisholm, Gordon, Kaleen, Lyons and Ngunnawal.

Canberrans were invited to provide feedback from 25 March 2022 to 5 May 2022 on play space improvements in Aranda, Chisholm, Gordon and Ngunnawal to ensure the future upgrades meet the needs of the community.

Consultation on the remaining two suburbs of Kaleen and Lyons will follow later this year.

This report summarises the feedback we heard from the community on the upgrade for a play space in Gordon.

THE CONVERSATION

Online survey

An online survey was open during the consultation period on the YourSay website for the community to provide feedback on play space improvements in Gordon. A total of 125 surveys were completed.

Members of the community and stakeholders were also invited to provide feedback via email and social media.

Community pop-up

A pop-up session was held at Point Hut District Park on Saturday 9 April 2022 to promote the consultation and provide the community with an opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts. We spoke to approximately six people during the pop-up.

WHO WE ENGAGED

The consultation targeted regular users of Gordon play spaces including local residents, families, community groups and visitors from the broader Tuggeranong region.

We promoted the consultation via a number of channels including the Our Canberra electronic newsletter, signage at Gordon playgrounds, ACT Government Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, a pop-up at Point Hut Pond District Park, on the City Services website and via an email to key stakeholders including the Tuggeranong Community Council.

96% of survey respondents visited Gordon play spaces at least once a month, with 59% visiting weekly or more.

The majority of respondents visit Gordon play spaces with toddlers aged four years and under (66%) or children between the ages of 5 and 9 (53%). We also heard pre-teens, teens, adults and seniors visit Gordon play spaces.

70% of survey respondents were Lanyon Valley residents, including 57% from Gordon, 7% from Banks and 6% from Conder. All but one of the remaining survey responses were from the broader Tuggeranong region.



WHAT WE HEARD

The key insights below represent the most common themes raised across all feedback channels.

Key insights from the community

Play spaces in Gordon – upgrade location and current use

1. There is support overall for upgrading Point Hut Pond District Park, with the average level of support in the community survey at 87%.
2. The play space at Point Hut Pond District Park is also the most visited play space in Gordon – 91% of survey respondents are current visitors.
3. The next most visited Gordon play spaces are on Knoke Avenue and Evan Place, they are visited by 20% and 15% of survey respondents respectively.

Amenities for inclusion

4. You told us the top three amenities you'd like to see included as part of the play space improvements are shade sails; furniture for sitting, eating and studying; and picnic shelters.
5. We also heard shade trees and improvements to paths and access are important to you, including repairing trip hazards on existing paths and installing paths between equipment.
6. You told us you'd like to see a fenced play space to help supervise children and increase safety. This is also a priority for you due the proximity of the play space to water at Point Hut Pond.

Play priorities

7. Your top three priorities for additional play equipment/elements are nature play (55%), learn to ride facilities (46%) and all abilities play equipment (32%).
8. Climbing structures, slides and forts and fitness elements (including equipment that caters to seniors) are also a priority for approximately one quarter of survey respondents.
9. There's also a desire for improvements to the existing basketball court, including seating for spectators, and skating elements. Some of you would also like to see a tandem swing/swings and bike racks included.

Safety and accessibility

10. In addition to supporting a fenced playground, you told us improving safety and accessibility for toddlers and smaller children overall is important to you including providing sufficient, suitable play equipment to meet the needs of young children and babies.
11. You also had a variety of other suggestions for improving safety including lighting improvements, fixing the drainage in the grassed area and ensuring there are sufficient no smoking signs at Gordon play spaces.

General improvements

12. We heard some of you would prefer we refresh local play spaces in Gordon rather than (or in addition to) upgrading the play space at Point Hut Pond District Park. You told us about several smaller play spaces that are showing their age and in need of attention.
13. We also received a small number of requests for improvements to Point Hut Pond District Park more broadly including parking, toilet facilities (change tables), water refill stations, bins and barbecues as well as increased maintenance.
14. A number of suggestions were also received about making better use of the waterside location at Point Hut Pond, with suggestions for educational and/or interpretive signage on birds as well as boardwalks by the water.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Feedback from this engagement will help shape the initial design for the future Gordon play space improvements. We look forward to sharing the design with you later this year.

Updates will continue to be provided via the YourSay page. If you have any questions about this project or would like to be kept updated on its progress, please email communityengagement@act.gov.au.

Key Timings

24 March 2022: Community consultation starts on Gordon play space improvements

9 April 2022: Point Hut Pond District Park pop-up

5 May 2022: Community consultation closes

June 2022: What We Heard report released [**we are here**]

Mid 2022: Gordon play space upgrade design phase

Late 2022: Final design released for Gordon play space improvements

2023: Upgrades to Gordon play space underway

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

146

we received 146 pieces of feedback in total

125

a total of 125 people completed the survey

338

a total of 338 people visited the YourSay page

1

we held one pop-up and spoke to approximately 6 people

23,000+

we reached 23,778 people via ACT Government Facebook and received 17 comments

160+

we sent an email to 167 community members and stakeholder groups encouraging feedback

87%

the average level of support for upgrading the play space at Point Hut Pond was 87%

90%

the majority of survey respondents (90%) were satisfied with the engagement experience