

# SAMPLE REPORT

## Throsby Playground

Understanding Place.



# Understanding Place.

“Sometimes, the most valuable information you gather in a public life survey is something you observe, or a conversation you have, that simply comes out of spending hours at a time in a space.”

Gehl Institute c. 2018, *Using Public Life Tools: The Complete Guide*, Gehl Institute, New York

## About this document

This report collects user based data to locate demographic trends and understand changes of use over time. It provides an easy-to-understand snapshot of how we use spaces and how they influence us. The report charts a collection of **Public Life and Public Space** metrics (<https://gehl.institute.org/public-life-tools/>) that can influence public space design and inform recommendations for improvements to the public realm.

## Company contact

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# Audit

**Name**

Throsby Playground

**Timeframe**

Weekday 14 February, 2020

8:00am-7:00pm

**Location**

At the intersection of Bettong Avenue and  
Shingleback Street, Throsby



# About

## Place Auditing

The places we inhabit are not static. We move through them in a complex and layered manner, creating patterns of usage over time. Truly understanding how people use places contributes toward better design for a better quality of life.

Inhabit Place was created to help shape better places; through understanding how a space is actually used we can formulate an enhanced appreciation of what does and does not work, and create places that better suit their environment and their people. With the knowledge gained from an Inhabit Place Audit, planners, developers and government can call upon real data captured in situ to inform their decisions and create places that better serve and delight their citizens.

A Place Audit is shaped around an hourly cycle with a continuous data capture to demonstrate trends over time. Movement, Patterns of Movement, Time in Place and Interviews are documented for 30 minutes every hour as a snapshot of how the space is used.

Data is rounded to the nearest decimal point and in some instances this will result in totals that do not meet 100%.

The Glossary provides definitions on the use of terms and icons in the report.

## Site description

This Audit observes user behaviour and engagement at the Throsby Playground.

**Throsby Playground** is an award winning neighbourhood park located at the intersection of Bettong Avenue and Shingleback Street, Throsby, Canberra.

## Methodology

This report collects quantitative and qualitative information. Data was captured by auditors using the Inhabit Place app to map and monitor civic life using the framework of Jan Gehl's **Public Life and Public Space** Studies. By conducting a survey of public areas, we learn how, when, where, and why people are using public spaces.

The metrics of a **Public Life and Public Space** study include:

**Movement:** capturing demographic and mode information of those passing through the space and mapping their desire paths.

**Time in place:** capturing demographic and behavioural information of those people choosing to spend time in the space, mapping their activities to understand duration of stay and activation of different zones within the space.

**Interviews:** documenting people's impressions of the space through intercept surveys and conversations.

**Images:** visualises changes throughout the day to express the mood and feel of the space.

**Observations:** diarised notes of place auditors adding detail that is not otherwise documented.

**Frontages:** mapping activation of the building line that frames the site to understand the extent the building edge interacts with and contributes to the space.

**Inventory:** maps the physical infrastructure on site and makes condition assessments of each item.

**Glossary:** provides definitions on the use of terms and icons in the report.



# Overview



## Weekday

Fri 14 February,  
2020, 8:00am - 7:00pm

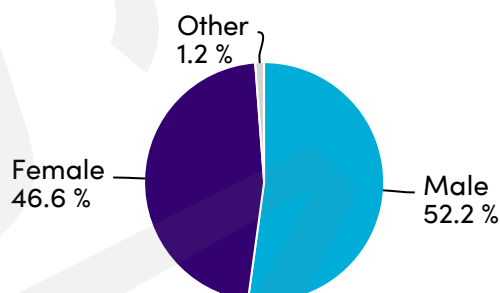
Total people:

253

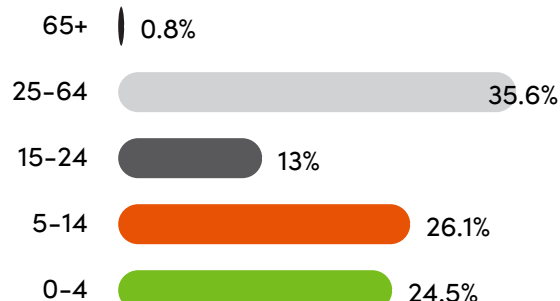
# Overview

The following provides an overview of data from across all audit days. Gender and Age in this section reflect the aggregate of Movement and Time in Place.

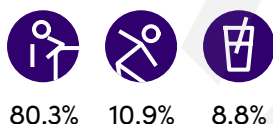
## Gender



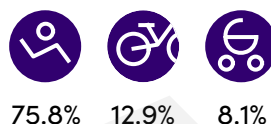
## Age



## Top Behaviours



## Main Modes

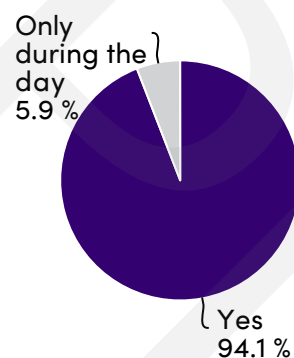


## Impressions

-

+

## Do you feel safe



## Improvements



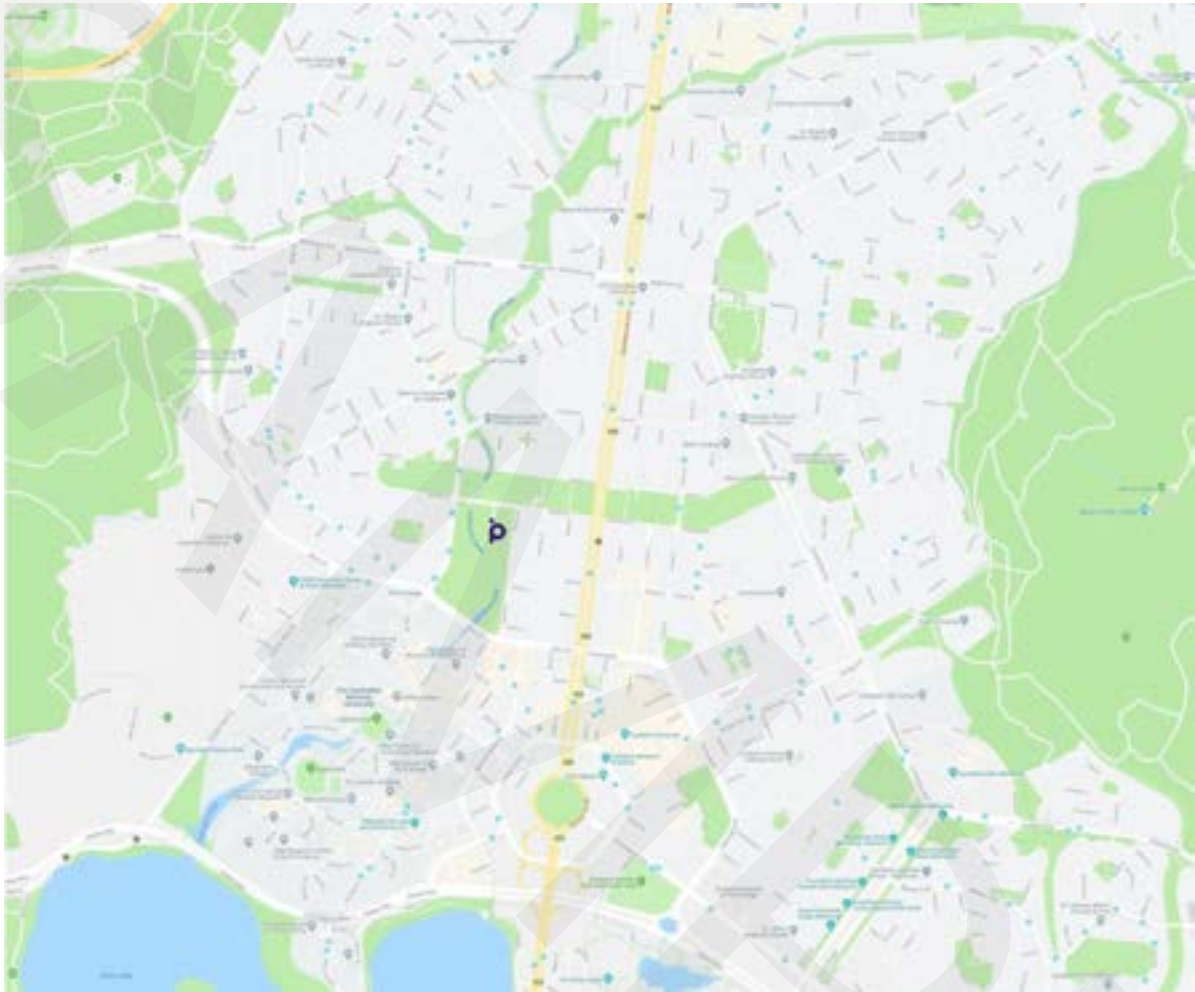
## Weather



14 February 2020  
Clear Sky

# Location

Throsby Playground is located at the intersection of Bettong Avenue and Shingleback Street, Throsby, Canberra.

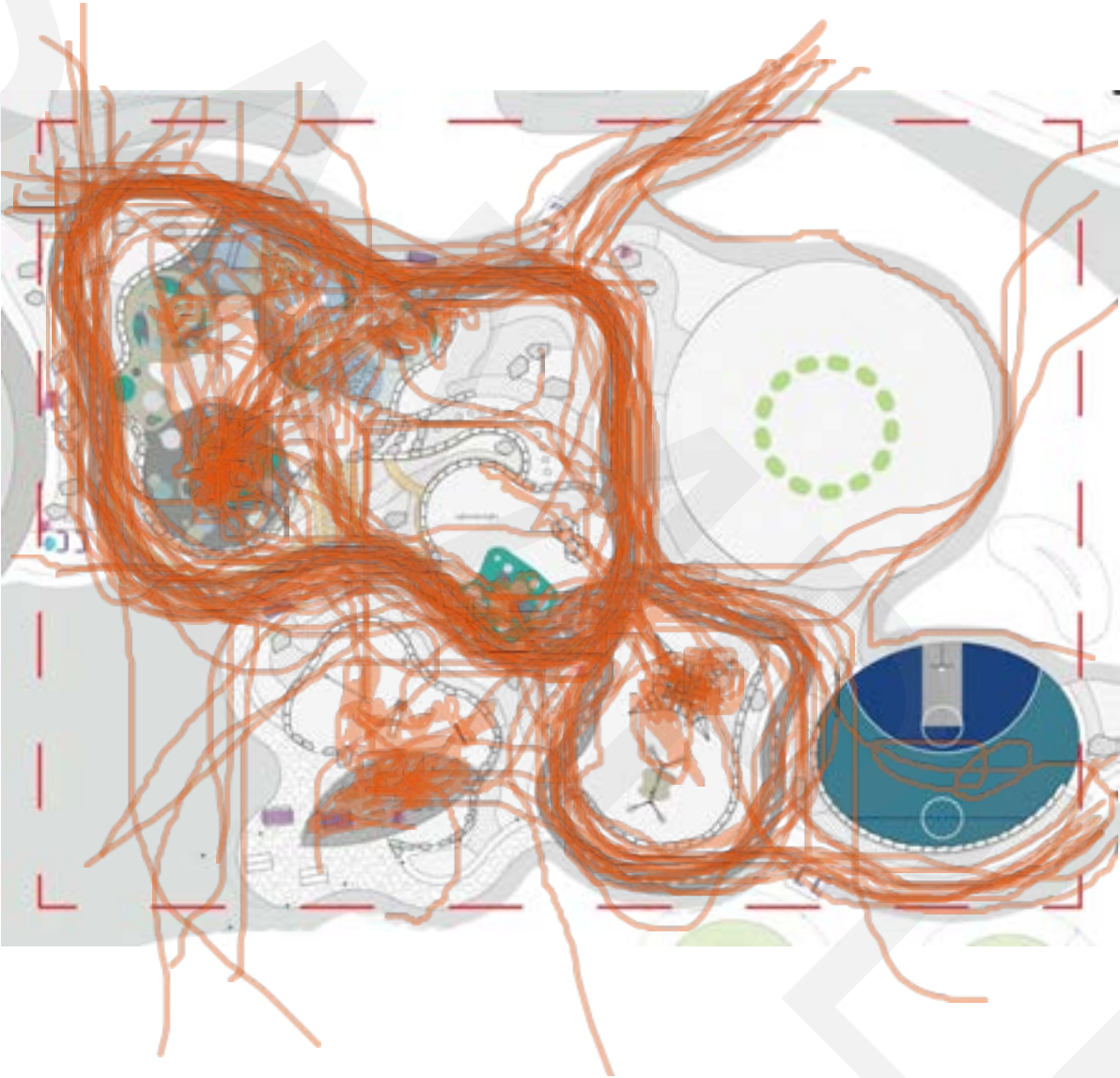




# Public Life Findings



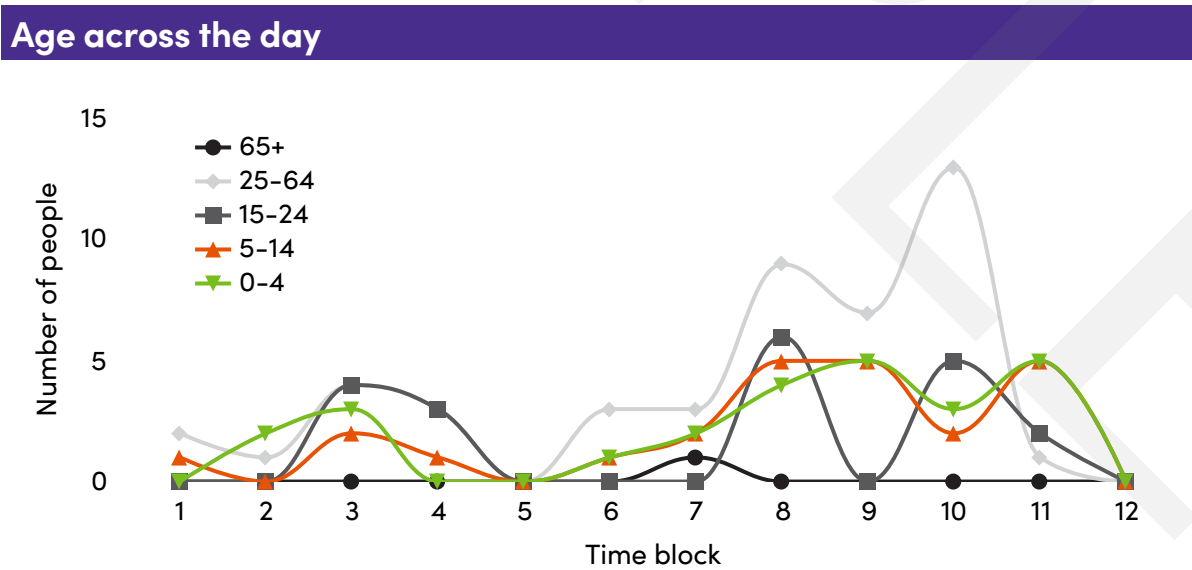
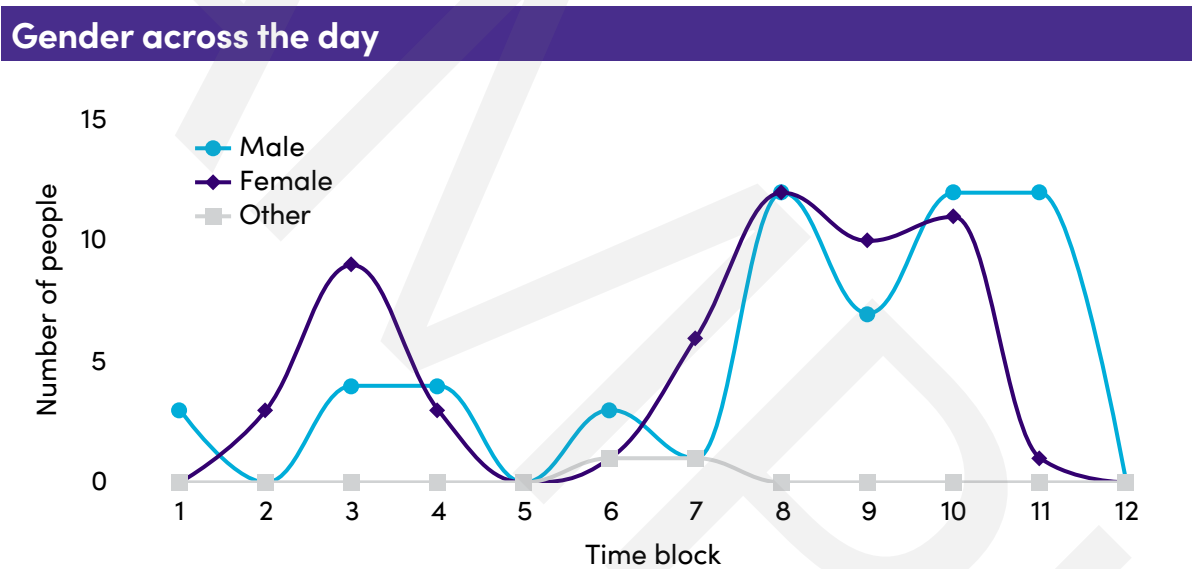
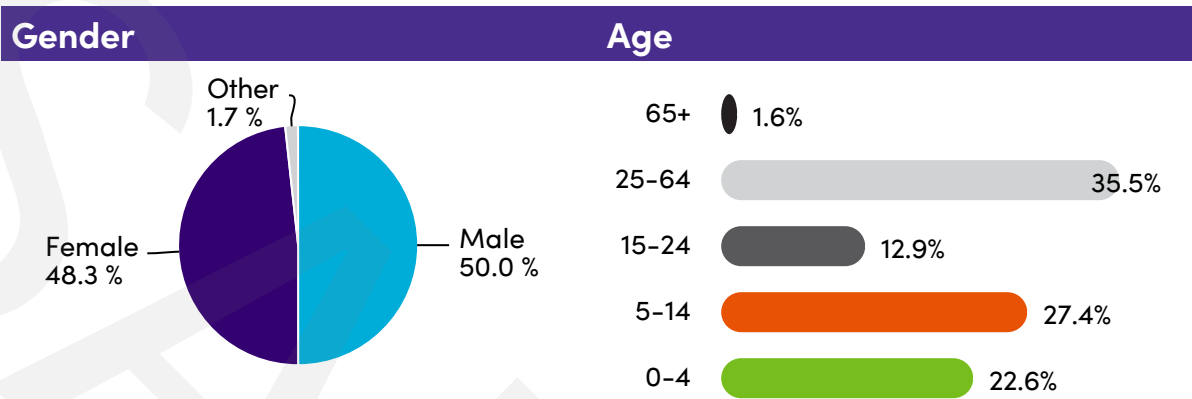
## Patterns of movement



## Mode

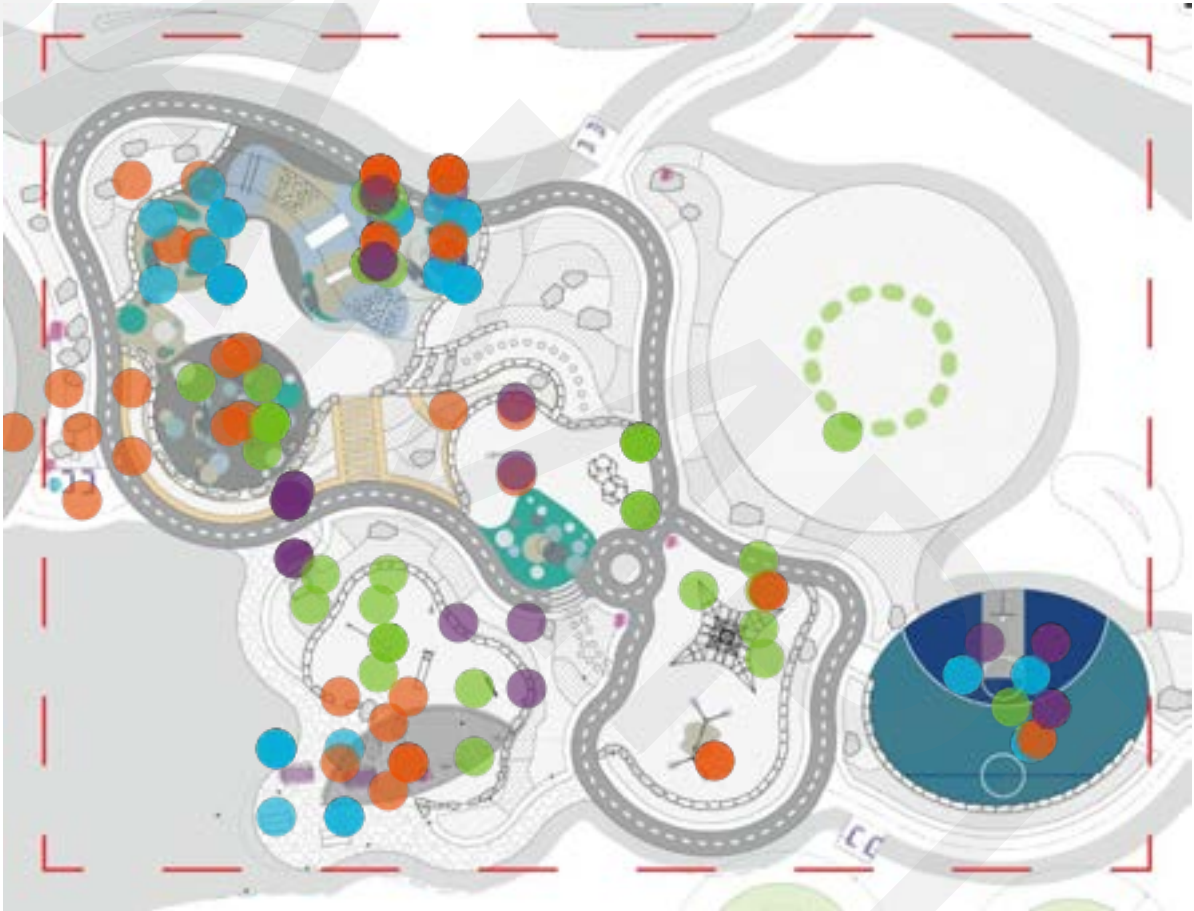


Daily total 116



## Activation of place

● < 10 mins    ● 10-20 mins    ● 20-30 mins    ● 30+mins



## Posture      Behaviour

    
110      15      12

    
110      15      12



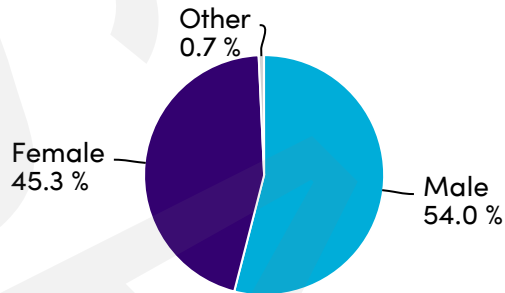
# Time In Place Weekday

SAMPLE REPORT,  
Throsby Playground

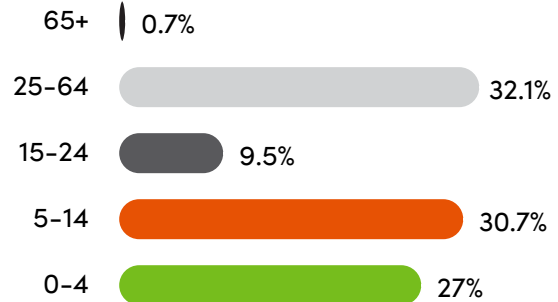
9

Daily total 137

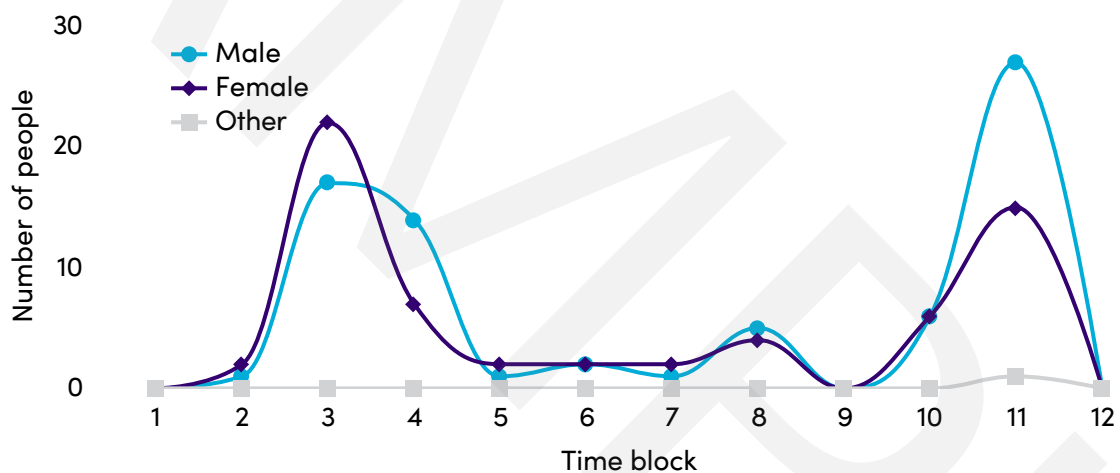
## Gender



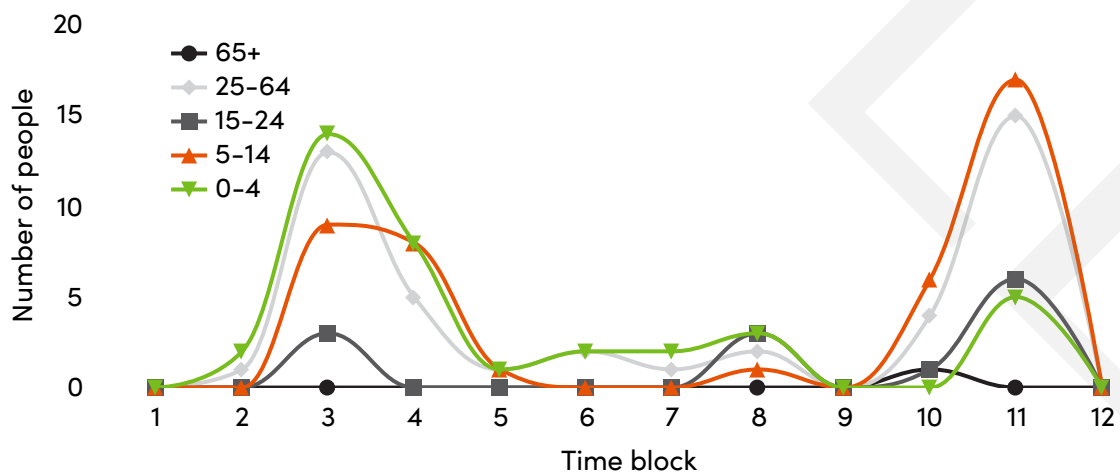
## Age



## Gender across the day



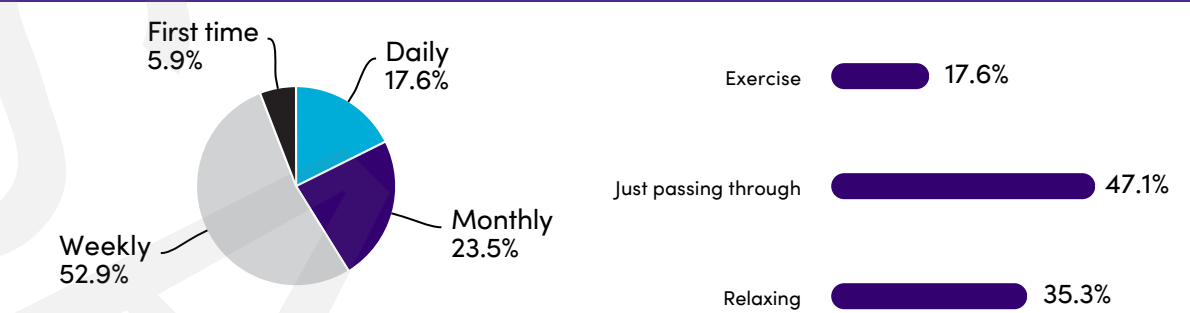
## Age across the day



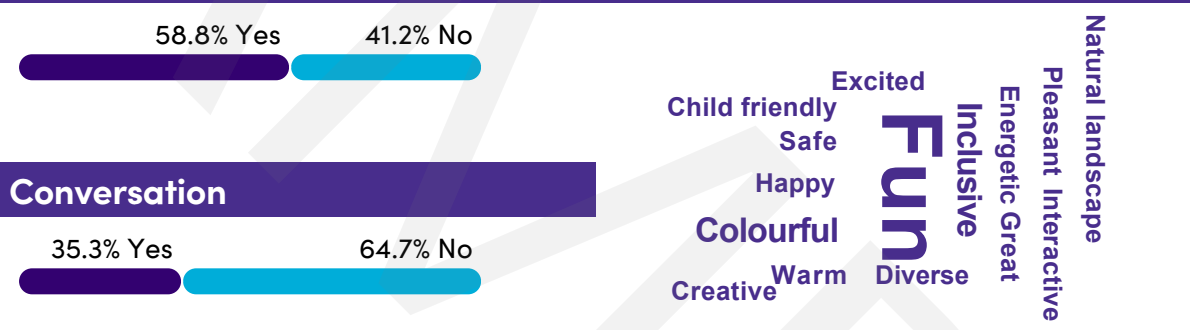


Daily total 17

FrequencyReason



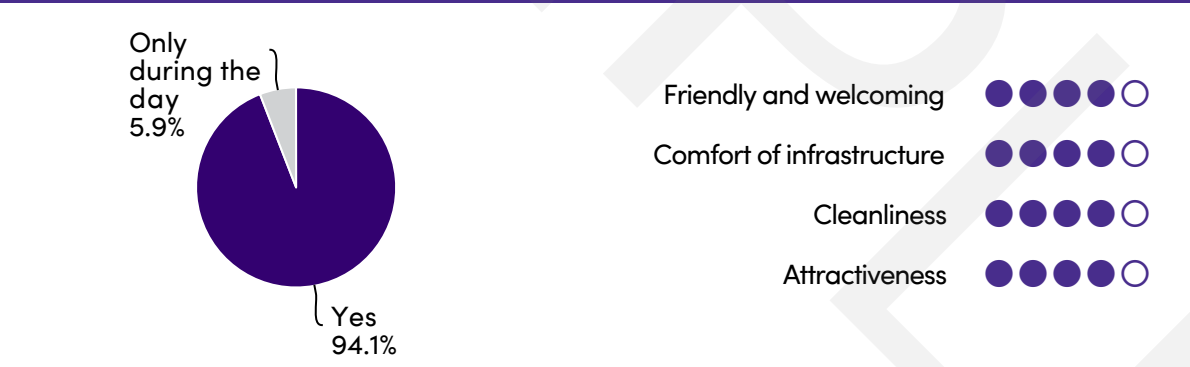
FamiliarityFeel



Do you feel safeImpressions

-

+



ImprovementsPostcodes



Comments are provided by survey respondents to an open question about their experience of the space and how they would like to see the space evolve.

09:36	Feels inclusive and safe.
10:35	Because we have to travel to the playground the lack of toilets means I cannot stay for very long with the kids and I cannot bring a picnic.
10:37	More trees for parents to sit under and watch the kids.
10:37	More shade over the equipment.
11:09	Lots of entertainment for little ones.
12:02	Really likes how the playground is next to the ponds as it introduces nature into the children's play. The two children spent some time standing at the fence watching the ducks swim in the pond from a distance.
12:02	Would like more cycle connections to get to the playground.
12:43	Walk my dog through here most days. Would like to see playgrounds include equipment that could be used as dog agility equipment so you can exercise both you children and dog at the same time.
13:39	It's a beautiful park but during the middle of the day it's too hot to use in summer as there is no shade over most of the play equipment itself.
13:57	We live in Franklin and come here about once a month. While here we also feed the ducks that live in the ponds surrounding the playground. Holding little events at the park to come along too on the weekend would be cool.
14:40	Love the bike track, my son enjoys riding his balance bike around it. The stop and giveaway signs are a nice playful touch too.
14:58	A young women was babysitting two little ones while their mum was doing a couple of things in Gungahlin. It's her first time here but the two children have been here many times before. The little boy and girl (aged 3 & 4) wanted to go on the metal slide but it was too hot.
15:13	Live in Amaroo and normally go to the Moncrieff and Taylor Parks. Loves how the space has pockets with different play areas.
15:44	Two brothers stop here sometimes after getting off the bus and shoot hoops on their way home.
16:18	First time here and was impressed by the quality of play equipment. Walked here with another friend and each had their young (1 & 2 year old) children with them. Children enjoyed playing on the drums and other musical instruments under the leaf shades. The two mothers came to the park to catch up with one another.
16:49	Expressed how nice it has been to get outdoors when Canberra is not covered in smoke. Son enjoys coming here to use the bike track. It's flat enough without too many challenging turns for little ones learning to ride their bikes.
18:45	We love coming here as our children can practice their English from other children in the park. It's a great opportunity to make new friends. We walk here from home, it's about a 10min walk.
18:55	They love walking the children here in the evenings to burn some energy before bed. Loves the variety of play equipment.

# Images Weekday

Images help illustrate the mood of the space as it changes over the day.

SAMPLE REPORT,  
Throsby Playground 12



11:05

All ages fun.



13:32

Updating posters.



14:22

Equipment in full sun.



14:31

Shady spot for the bags.



14:59

Shaded area.



14:59

Kids on swing.



15:15

Popular climbing frame.



15:27

Bird watching.



15:37

Exploring.



15:53

Short cut through.



16:03

Learning road rules.



16:07

Parents playing too.



# Images Weekday

Images help illustrate the mood of the space as it changes over the day.

SAMPLE REPORT,  
Throsby Playground 13



Shade for younger kids.



Everyone can play.



Hot at the swings for the parents.



Full site view.



Places to watch.



Bike track.



Play on the walk home.



Exercise loop.



Parkour.



Family walk.



Siblings playing together.



Waiting for the swing.



# Images Weekday

Images help illustrate the mood of the space as it changes over the day.

SAMPLE REPORT,  
Throsby Playground 14



Really popular.



Afterschool hoops.



Park commute.



Off the school bus.



Play on the way home from school.



Chill out zone.



After dinner walk.



Path network.



Wearing each other out.



Rest time.



Bike gang.



Neighbourhood basketball.



Observations are auditors notes on the events of the day adding nuance to the quantitative data collected.

12:32	Dog walker using bike path through the playground.
12:45	Lady is reading her book while sitting under the tree in the shade as her two children play close by.
13:04	Two bus stops are situated next to the playground along Bettong Street with frequent buses passing by.
13:29	Play equipment is really hot at this time and all play areas are in full sun. Particularly the metal slides.
13:35	Representatives from Mingle Community stopped by the park to update the community notice board with new posters.
13:44	Noise from the construction going on over the road can be heard clearly from the playground. Drilling and hammering is rather loud.
13:50	Parents interacting with one another as they watch their children play.
15:01	The leaf shades create playful shadows on the ground that move with the sun.
15:14	The trampoline and round swing are being used by both children and adults.
15:18	Children are stopping at the bubbler for a drink on the way home from school.
15:21	Foot traffic along the path network surrounding the playground is starting to pick up with after school children and parents passing by.
15:29	Bus stop along Bettong Street dropped off a large group of students.
15:33	Two male students got off the bus and stopped to play basketball on the court.
16:06	Bike riders passing by frequently stop at the bubbler to have a drink.
16:38	Many park visitors are driving and parking along Bettong Street.
17:13	Two boys are riding electric scooters around the bike track.
17:45	Clouds have come over now giving some relief from the sun.
18:00	Boys shared their nerf gun with another two boys at the playground.
18:07	Drone flew overhead the playground.
18:08	Groups of teenage boys are walking to the playground from nearby housing.
18:16	Children are running into school friends in the park.
18:22	Those who are walking here are entering and leaving from the same direction each time. Treating the playground as a destination.
18:23	The park is the busiest it has been all day in the cool of the evening.
18:30	Boys are playing hide and seek in the low scrubs around the playground.
18:46	A couple of evening dog walkers are walking past the playground.
18:46	Children have been bringing their bikes and scooters to the playground and racing each-other around the track.

# Public Space Findings



Facades categorise activation of the building line to demonstrate how the edges of the space contribute to the experience of the public realm.

## Facade activation

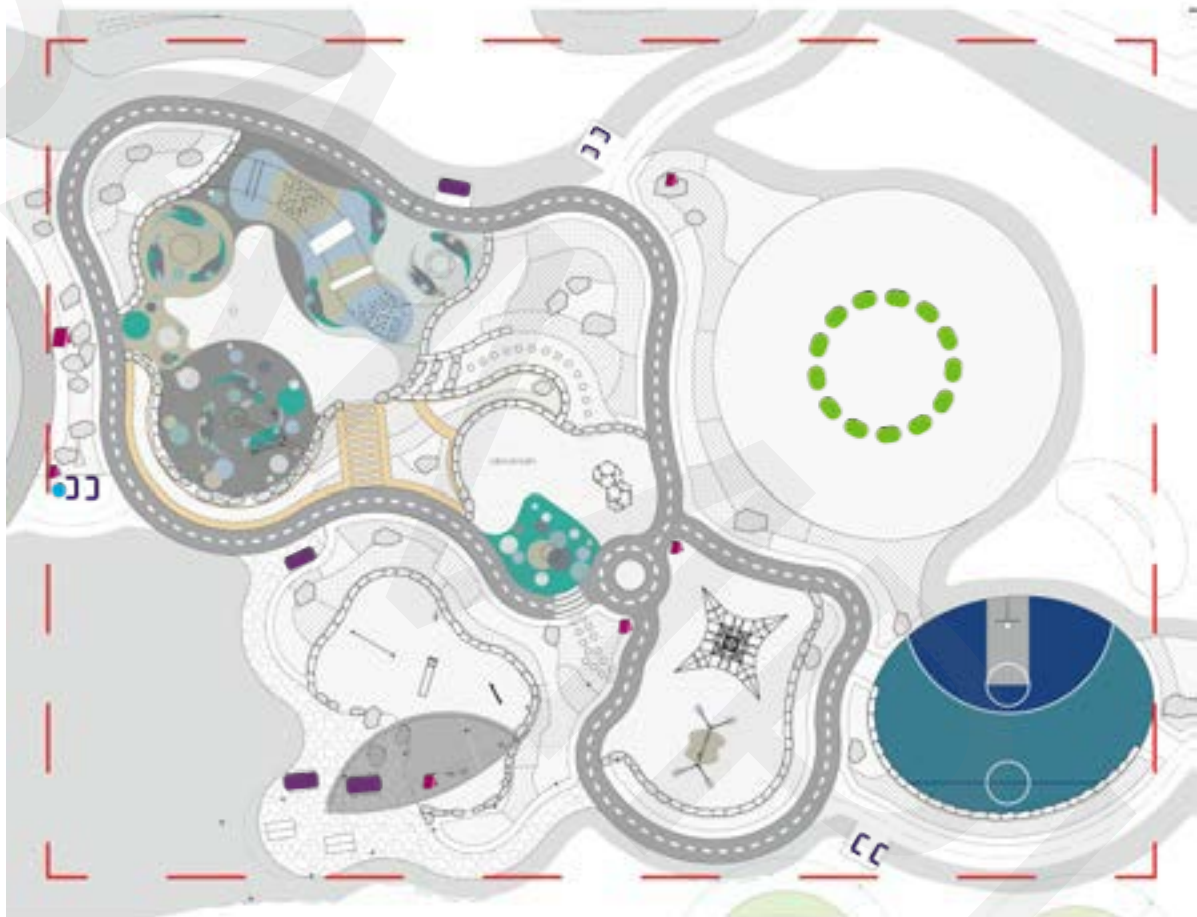


- Active frontage which make a positive contribution to the vitality of the space, and supports a pedestrian friendly public domain.
- Passive frontage that is neutral to the pedestrian experience of the public domain, is not active or lively.
- Blank frontage which makes no contribution to activity, nor passive surveillance or security for those in the public domain.

- Vacant frontage which has no occupants or is derelict.
- Service frontage which has a detrimental impact on the pedestrian public domain, either by being visually unattractive, the source of offensive noise, odour, runoff or exhaust, or by posing a safety risk during service or loading activities.

Inventory documents the provision of public infrastructure making a condition assessment of each item as Poor (in need of maintenance or repair) or Good (clean and well maintained).

## Infrastructure



Activation

-

\$ ATM

-

Bicycle racks  
6 Good / 0 Poor

Bins

-

Bus stops

-

CCTV

-

Drinking Fountains  
1 Good / 0 Poor

Flag Poles

-

Green Infrastructure  
1 Good / 0 Poor

Lights

-

Mailboxes

-

Pay Parking Machines

-

Pay phones

-

Public toilets

-

Sculptures

-

Seats  
4 Good / 0 Poor

Signs  
6 Good / 0 Poor

Temporary Seating

-

Vehicle Barriers

-

Water Feature

-



Inventory documents the provision and condition of public infrastructure in the space.

## Condition



08:25

Path network.



08:46

Smaller climbing.



12:46

Bike racks.



12:56

Learn to ride signage.



12:58

No shade at the water station.



13:00

Community notice board.



13:06

Signage.



13:12

Bench without arms.



13:16

Garden beds.



14:09

Rubbish in trampoline.



14:10

Slides too hot to use.



14:10

Climbing wall.



14:11

Popular hammock swing.



14:11

Play elements.



14:11

Peeling paint.



Inventory documents the provision and condition of public infrastructure in the space.

## Condition



14:12

Bouldering.



14:12

Climbing play.



14:12

No shade at swings.



14:13

Basketball nets unravelling.



14:15

Music maker.



14:16

Little kids slide.



14:16

Swings.



14:17

Shaded play.



14:17

Musical play.



14:18

Bench, mostly climbed on.



14:18

Shaded picnic table.



14:18

Shade structure.



14:22

Shadow.



14:24

Separation of play zones.



18:30

Bike path edge.

The Glossary provides definitions on the use of terms in the Inhabit Place platform and their application on site during an audit.

**Activation of Place** mapped for 30 minutes every hour this metric presents where people are spending time in the space and for how long

**Age brackets** adopted from Jan Gehl's Public Space Public Life Studies to ensure Inhabit Place data is relatable to global case studies, assessment is based on observation

**Audit hours** the duration of the place audit

**Place Auditor** data collector using the Inhabit Place platform

**Base Map** aerial perspective of the audit site with public inventory represented through symbols

**Behaviour** the main activity people are engaged in while spending time

**Daily Total** represents the total number of people counted

.....  
**Frontage** building line that fronts the public domain

**Active** - Frontage which makes a positive contribution to the vitality of the space and supports a pedestrian friendly public domain. Typically, continuous and transparent glazing, window displays, entries that provide for interaction between indoor and outdoor activities.

**Blank** - Frontage which makes no contribution to activity, nor passive surveillance or security for those in the public domain. Typically, heavily frosted glazing with no interactivity or visual stimulation

**Passive** - Frontage that is neutral to the pedestrian experience of the public domain but is not activated or lively. Typically, window displays that provide visual stimulus but no opportunity to engage, it may also include wall murals or artwork that provide interest to an otherwise blank surface.

**Service** - Frontage which has detrimental impact on the public domain, being visually unattractive, the source of offensive noise, odour, runoff or exhaust, or by posing a safety risk during use. Typically, service delivery entries, waste storage enclosures, air intakes and exhausts, public or tenant toilet entries or windows, and car parking entries that intersect pedestrian thoroughfares.

**Vacant** - Frontage which has no occupants or is derelict. Typically, closed business premises.

.....  
**Gender** assessments based on observation, where there is uncertainty auditors are instructed to mark 'Other'

**Images** taken by auditors to document mood of the space

.....  
**Interview Questions**

**Conversation** - Have you spoken to anyone new while you've been here?

**Familiarity** - Do you recognise anyone in the space?

**Feel** - Describe how the space makes you feel? (Word clouds generate the most common responses as larger text)

**Frequency** - How often do you visit the space?

**Impressions** - Rank responses as Very Poor, Poor, Neutral, Good, Very Good

**Improvements** - What would inspire you to spend more time here/ What would make your experience more comfortable? (Word clouds generate the most common responses as larger text)

**Interview Comments** - Further comment on the space

**Postcodes** - Where you reside

**Reason** - What brought you to this space?

**Safety** - Do you feel safe in the space?

.....

The Icon Glossary provides the definition for all symbols used within this report.

**Interviews** intercept survey conducted between auditor and user of the space

**Mode** the human method of transit

**Movement** recorded for 30 minutes every hour collecting the age, gender and mode of each individual crossing an imaginary line that transects the space, marked in blue on the site map

**Observations** auditors commentary on the events of the day

**Other** used for a person who has not been visually assessed as male or female

**Out of Area** non local residents

**Overview** a snapshot of metrics averaged across audit days

**Patterns of Movement** drawn for 30 minutes every hour capturing desire lines as people move through the space

**Posture** the position people adopt when spending time

**Public Life Findings** how people use and feel about the space inclusive of Movement, Time in Place, Interviews, Images and Observation data

**Public Space Findings** physical attributes of the space including Inventory and Frontage activation

**Time in Place** recorded for 30 minutes every hour collecting the age, gender and behaviours of those staying in the space

**Total People** is the combined footfall of people passing through and spending time in the space



Carried – children being carried



Cycling – riding a bicycle, in bike trailers or bike seat



Eating and drinking



Exercising – purposful active behaviours including stretching



Leisure activities such as people watching, reading, conversing



Mobility Scooter – motorised assistance device



Moving around – staying within the bounds of the space but in constant movement, such as playing



Other



Pram – being pushed in a pram or stroller



Sitting



Skateboard



Smoking



Standing



Waiting for public transport



Walking – includes jogging, running or walking a bicycle



Wheelchair



Scooter



Working



Sleeping

SAMPLE

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