



# West Ham Park

Registered Charity

## **Playground Refurbishment: Consultation feedback**

### **Project aims**

West Ham Park Playground has existed since 1937 and is visited by thousands of people every year, but it hasn't received a full redesign since 1986.

In 2010, ten items of equipment were replaced. Now, however, the remaining 15 pieces of equipment are over 20 years old and do not reflect changes to current health and safety standards; which is why we are looking to repair or replace them. We are also looking at alternative water play options to the paddling pool, including a splash pad or a set of interactive equipment for year-round water play.

We decided to run a public consultation over the Summer at West Ham Park to gain the thoughts and feedback from playground users/visitors on the future of the playground, so the City of London can bring the playground up to date for generations to come.

To do this, we displayed boards outside the playground with our project aims alongside the three potential options the team have put together.

#### *Option 1*

This option will have the shortest construction period and will replace any damaged/old play equipment and repair and retain the remaining existing pieces.

#### *Option 2*

This option will look to redesign the playground with a new water play facility and integrate more imaginative play as well as integrated play for all age groups.

#### *Option 3*

This option will look to redesign the playground with a new water play facility, play equipment whilst also expanding the playground with grassed areas and new entrances for ease of access. This will also include the refurbishment of the toilets and playground office into a coffee and ice cream concession.

These options ensure that the facility should be safe but also provide the appropriate level of risk and challenge required in the development of a child, meeting local, national and regional policies as well as guidance for outdoor learning and play. With the London Borough of Newham's population assessment suggesting a rise in young people and families in the area, access to play opportunities becomes a vital source of support for young people's social, emotional, creative and physical development – enabling them to gain confidence, build their connection with the park and mix with people of a range of ages and backgrounds.



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## **Findings**

Following face to face public consultations held in the park and during our Summer events, our staff have collectively spoken to around 400 users/visitors, including children, 187 of which have responded to our online survey with their views on the playground renovation.

Across all user groups, Option 3 was overwhelmingly the most popular, taking 82.17% of the recorded vote and the vast majority of the informal votes at the open days and the stall. This was expected to be the result, as it is clearly the most 'fully featured' and aspirational of the options.

Most of the other quantitative results mirrored this option, and the item which correlated with option 3 (expand the playground, add new equipment, incorporate a natural play area) was ranked the highest. A breakdown across different sectors (users versus non-users, sorted by different equalities monitoring questions) reflects this with no significant deviance.

Of the possible changes to the playground building, toilet renovation ranked in first place, a concession kiosk ranked second, and doing neither ranked third. This is, again, consistent across all user groups.

In relation to water play, we found that the votes favoured the introduction of water tables, pumps as well as landscaping; this was closely followed by 35.9% of votes towards the installation of splash pad with water jets and landscaping. The remaining 20.86% voted to have the paddling pool retained and repaired as water play provision for children.

The infographic summarises the key findings as well as the most recurring comments that resonated across respondents.