



Binalong Park Masterplan

Community Consultation Report

February 2021

KJA



an ERM Group company

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| 01: Engagement Summary | 3 |
| 02: Introduction | 4 |
| 2.1 Project background | 4 |
| 2.2 Engagement activities and program | 4 |
| 03: Summary of stakeholder meetings | 5 |
| 04: Intercept interviews summary | 11 |
| 05: Online survey results | 14 |
| 4.1 Survey respondent demographics | 14 |
| 4.2 Availability of car parking | 15 |
| 4.3 Relocating and reconfiguring the courts and the car park | 16 |
| 4.4 Amenities buildings | 17 |
| 4.5 Facilities | 18 |
| 4.6 What people love about Binalong Park and what needs to be improved | 19 |
| 4.7 Additional comments..... | 20 |
| 06: Social media responses | 21 |

Cover image source: Shutterstock

01: Engagement Summary



Key themes and feedback:

- Car parking:**
 There is strong support to increase the number of car park spaces and to change the car park configuration. This is due to the demand for parking during peak use and concern for the safety of drivers and pedestrians. Cost and potential crowding during peak times were raised as the most common objections. Other suggestions include opening the second car park more frequently to support demand for parking, and upgrading the signage and car park markings.
- Amenities:**
 General park users are supportive of plan to combine the two amenities buildings into one. However, some of the targeted stakeholder groups prefer two separate toilet facilities, noting it reduces crowding during organised sport training and events. Several general park users commented that the toilet facilities were usually locked during their visit.
- Indoor meeting space:**
 Organised users of the park such as Starlight Netball Club, Pendle Hill Football Club and Pendle Hill Cricket Club would use a meeting space regularly. For general park users this option had a lower level of priority.
- Storage:**
 Storage would be welcome and used by most sports clubs.
- Lighting:**
 Some users of the park raised lighting of the courts, car park and cricket pitch as an issue or opportunity. Upgraded lighting should be considered in the masterplan.
- Seating and shade:**
 Park users would like additional shaded seating areas and more trees.
- Additional exercise and play equipment:**
 A walking/circuit track and adult exercise equipment would be supported. A bigger playground with more play equipment for a broader range of ages was suggested by parents and children using the playground.

Users of Binalong Park love:

- Access to sporting activities
- The location and accessibility of the park
- The opportunity for families to play together
- The overall use of space

Users of Binalong Park want:

- More trees, parking and play equipment
- Maintenance for existing equipment and facilities
- New amenities such as more sporting activities, a café and better safety measures

02: Introduction

2.1 Project background

Binalong Park, located in the heart of Old Toongabbie, is a popular park for families, sporting groups and other recreational users. The City of Parramatta Council is developing a 20-year masterplan for Binalong Park as part of their commitment to the community to improve parks and recreational facilities across the local government area.

The masterplan will identify opportunities to improve the layout of recreational facilities, review existing amenities buildings, plan for future recreational requirements such as providing local meeting rooms/social spaces and guide delivery of sports fields and community assets. The delivery of this masterplan aligns with the Council's community strategic plan, the objectives of which include:

- Enable provision of infrastructure that supports healthy lifestyles, e.g. parks and sports fields, footpaths and cycleways
- Providing the community with open spaces including playgrounds, parks and sports fields.

Binalong Park must be fit-for-purpose now and into the future. The masterplan will be shaped by the types of uses the community tells Council they need today, as well as accommodate the changing community needs expected into the future.

This report summarises the responses and outcomes from the first phase of masterplan engagement – understanding community needs.

2.2 Engagement activities and program

Between 7 December 2020 and 4 February 2021 a series of engagement activities was undertaken with the local community and stakeholders. The activities were designed to hear from users of the park and others in the community what they need the park to deliver. The table below lists the activities and their timing.

| Activity | Timeline |
|---|--|
| Binalong Park website updated and survey uploaded | 7 December 2020 (survey closed 4 February 2021) |
| External communications: Social media Letterbox drop (with survey) | 7 December 2020 |
| Stakeholder engagement (interviews) | 7 December 2020 – 18 December 2020 |
| Intercept interviews | 5 or 12 December (from 9am) |

03: Summary of stakeholder meetings

Five stakeholder interviews were held in December 2020. Each stakeholder was asked the same questions. A summary of their feedback received is outlined in the table below.

| Theme | Pendle Hill Cricket Club | Mark Cowper Tennis Coaching | Parramatta District Cricket Association | Pendle Hill Football Club | Starlight Netball Club |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| General background | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90 Juniors 40 Seniors 30 – New juniors in modified format Sunday, Sept – March, except Jan for school holidays. Using Binalong Park for 40 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binalong most popular training facility – connection to the school and high quality courts are an asset. Many parents refer others to the coaching. Also cross-pollination with other sports that take place in the park. The last couple of years of improvements have been ‘incredible’. “It’s a much nicer place to work”. Also uses Gallery Gardens, currently being upgraded. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The association is the hirer, the space is passed on to the Colts – ‘spiritual home’. In use four afternoons, all day Saturday and Sunday. Informal games start at 7am, before formal games which start at 10am. Association trying to bring community cricket players in to join local clubs. Not enough fields to bring these community players in. If it doesn’t get booked, it will be used all day by community groups. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the main users of the park Number of members has dropped off this year | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have been using the court for 30 years Pushing Blacktown council to upgrade. |
| Storage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient room – mainly the soccer club using the space Cricket club has a little room to store general equipment. The room is full at the end of the season. They already have a separate storage space. If a single storey building was bigger it may encroach on the cricket, amenities building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment storage would be useful. The storage space could be quite small – currently it all fits inside a car: racquets, balls, mini nets for half courts. Security will be essential Easy access is also essential – PIN code Possibility to increase the attractiveness of the courts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A big difference between winter and summer sports. Winter sports - play for one hour Growth in women’s cricket may increase demand for storage. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used to be stored behind the cisterns. Told they couldn’t store it there because it blocks access for plumbers Has \$10k of gear stored in the building, but anyone can access at the moment – serious risk of theft. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share amenities block for storage, shared with soccer No lockable/dedicated space Kids throw all the gear in the room, there’s no organisation. Would be good to get cages or lockable cabinets. At the moment the showers can’t be used because the gear is stored there. |

| Theme | Pendle Hill Cricket Club | Mark Cowper Tennis Coaching | Parramatta District Cricket Association | Pendle Hill Football Club | Starlight Netball Club |
|----------------|--|--|--|---------------------------|--|
| | would need to go into the hill. No room to make it larger – will limit the boundary of the cricket/soccer field | for other tennis coaches if there's good storage facilities. | | | |
| Walking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lots of people walking – peak at 6pm-7pm, less in summer due to heat. A few dog walkers – eight or nine regulars. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct connection to the school would be an asset. Circuit path would be a very good addition, including for parents of tennis students. | | | |
| Growth | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennis is growing – looking at hiring more coaches. Would definitely hire a third or fourth court. There are lots of tennis coaches looking for good facilities to run their businesses, good opportunity for Council to capitalise on this growth. (see comments under Storage). “Council would get a return on the investment if they increased the number of courts.” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic is changing a bit, volunteers at the Colts are unwilling to accept growth. Other clubs are growing faster than Colts PDCA has 4,500 registered participants, 2,500 matches per season across 75 venues. Four new fields as suggested in Heart of Play would not support growth in cricket 2020: 7% growth in juniors, huge growth in women's cricket – expected exponential growth Combination of sub-continental communities, change in junior cricket format and women's cricket is driving growth in cricket Demand for space is outstripping what is available. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club is growing, needs more than three courts Gone from 14 to 18 teams Lots of interest for next season – registration opens on January 1. Finalise teams in February Pendle Hill only has one senior team. No other facilities in the proximity with full courts available. |

| Theme | Pendle Hill Cricket Club | Mark Cowper Tennis Coaching | Parramatta District Cricket Association | Pendle Hill Football Club | Starlight Netball Club |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| Safety / security | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Originally there were lots of break-ins, but the cricket club added steel bars around the canteens and meeting room. Council is talking about taking them down. Would like security features to stay. | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balls often go into the car park and kids chase after the balls into the full car park. |
| Seating | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spectators normally sit outside the canteen on the northern side. A lot bring their own chairs. There was a concrete slab next to the tennis court that people sat on. Trees – there used to be 120 trees, but they were pulled out. | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People have to stand at the back of the fields – most people generally stand or sit alongside the tennis courts No seating around 3pm. | |
| Drainage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage no major challenges – especially on the southern side. Cricket field 3 – gets very water logged as it's down the hill. Pitch is starting to subside, but is the least used pitch so not such a concern. Cricket field 2 – pitch can hold a little water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courts drain away really well. Can get slippery if they're a little wet. A slightly more textured surface when it is next resurfaced would assist in creating more grip when playing in drizzly conditions. There is a slippery corner where the water runs off. Gallery Gardens is the opposite, very slippery and lots of puddles. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket field 3 has very bad drainage Cricket field 2 also has poor drainage The layering over the concrete pitch every winter creates a bunt that collects water over time and ruins the pitch. Parramatta at Jones Park maintains the pitch a little better. Cover with a longer synthetic carpet. If the levels are done properly it doesn't collect water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The drainage at all fields can be a challenge. Fields 2-3 the water gathers at the southern end. Field 1 has always been a drama, Field 4 has been built on a dam. In 1990, the soccer club used to go up and dig their own drainage with a hoe after major storms. | |

| Theme | Pendle Hill Cricket Club | Mark Cowper Tennis Coaching | Parramatta District Cricket Association | Pendle Hill Football Club | Starlight Netball Club |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Conflict in use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket nets – Because other councils lock their nets up, the nets are always being used by casual users. Unintended consequence of other council's rules. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uncomfortable discussions with some people about using the court over the years. Since the introduction of the PIN code, it's become much clearer. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricketers use the nets in winter, when they drive the ball it can go out into the games – has become a hazard. No one injured so far, but certainly a risk. Cricket nets should be locked on game days to prevent injury, doesn't need to be locked during soccer practice | <p>Predominantly junior player club – lots of issues with people playing basketball / riding skateboards and scaring the young girls playing</p> |
| Parking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans to reconfigure the carpark may not get a lot of extra spaces. Angled spaces would make the parking area a lot easier to get into and out of. Cricket has sufficient parking Binalong has a lot more parking than many sportsgrounds. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 o'clock in the afternoon – mayhem in the carpark, in/out very good upgrade Difficult to get a park in winter when soccer is on, but Mark rarely hears actual complaints from parents. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making one big carpark would make a lot of sense: Winter sports higher number of games with higher turnover of participants. Cricket doesn't need parking. Cricket has a light footprint on the infrastructure, proper fields is the priority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soccer club supportive of in-out configuration Suggests a mirror is placed on the pole in the short term to alleviate some of the risk with cars trying to nose out on the street with cars parked on both sides People have been T-boned leaving the school, but hasn't happened at the park yet. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soccer and netball training occurs at the same time, so overflow is full. Full throughout weeknights. Finding a park on Saturday is impossible/very difficult. |
| Changes to location of courts / fields | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior vs Junior fields: Seniors play on the junior fields – which means 43m boundary. Rules specify 60m, 50 gives a decent game. Need more junior fields, reasonably accommodated senior fields... But they will be happy to play where-ever they can. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not appropriate given the poor lighting (see additional comments) Limited training space already, really need 4 courts rather than the three courts. People have to go past the basketball court to access the netball courts. Not appropriate from a child safety point of view. Some girls are |

| Theme | Pendle Hill Cricket Club | Mark Cowper Tennis Coaching | Parramatta District Cricket Association | Pendle Hill Football Club | Starlight Netball Club |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not supportive of moving the pitch to have only one senior pitch NSW Cricket is pushing influence on community cricket, to drive participation. One of the things they do they've changed the format, under 11s now play participation cricket 7 side (instead of 11 a side). This has created a demand for more parks, because the games are not sufficiently short to fit 2 games where there was previously 1. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> intimidated or scared by older boys/men playing basketball However, if it was a multi-use court, that would be acceptable – given the Netball club could book it Can they make the posts multipurpose? Don't even have the markings on the court to share the courts Netball pays for the lights, but people use the basketball courts at the same time. With younger children, prefer to book the full courts and have them exclusively |
| Change rooms / toilets / showers | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When 4-5 year olds need the toilet, he would need to stop coaching to walk kids over to the central building Pin code has made the toilets much easier | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't really need to get changed, will play at any park without any change rooms | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would use the change room |
| Meeting space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two storey building: change room / storage room / meeting room / canteen Meetings currently held at the bowling club Parks committee used to meet in the building, but the meeting room is now used for soccer club storage. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There's not a lot of business for the canteen with cricket - lower changeover and less participants / people hanging around. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet once a month, 20 people regularly, can be up to 40 or 50. Trophy cabinet – a source of pride for the club. Would be great to show in a clubhouse. "Club was formed in 1966, it would be great to have a history wall". Currently trophies are in the canteen, but this is open year round | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be good to have a meeting room. Meet at the local bowling club instead. Usually 20-30 people, monthly Separate meetings for coaches and end of season. AV facility to plug in a laptop / project onto a TV or projector. Run training sessions for coaches / managers. Info sessions coming up to finals. |

| Theme | Pendle Hill Cricket Club | Mark Cowper Tennis Coaching | Parramatta District Cricket Association | Pendle Hill Football Club | Starlight Netball Club |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | and there is a risk of damage/theft. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run player exams to get umpiring certificates |
| Additional comments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golf: Sometimes people are there practising driving, once a week roughly. Never anyone in danger. Maintenance: Facia board missing from the toilet building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General: The park is getting very busy, with after school informal play and sports. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting: Demographic growth means night games – need lights to support growth | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting: worst lighting position, not adequate, quite dark in patches COVID restricted the numbers, needed to have more training nights. Signage on the park: Permission to advertise that the club is taking registrations, “This is where Starlights trains”. |

04: Intercept interviews summary

30 in-park intercept interviews were conducted with users of Binalong Park on two occasions in December 2020. Approximately half of these interviews were conducted on a Thursday afternoon predominantly with parents and their children using the playground. The remaining 15 interviews were conducted on a Saturday, half with cricket club users and half with tennis or playground users.

The themes and feedback are summarised in the tables below.

General/other

| Don't change / elements that are liked |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Location near the school |
| Could be improved / added |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bicycle racks – ride to the park and leave your bike on a rack rather than lying on its side in the play areaToilets - two parents noted they have to leave the park early because the toilets are closed and a child needs to use the bathroom |

Parking

| Don't change / elements that are liked |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Parking generally adequate, can get full when the overflow parking is not openParking generally okay, but can fill up when overflow is closedParents using the playground often park on the street and access the playground from the gate on Binalong Rd. Parking near the gate on Binalong Rd is usually availableDuring winter parking is okay, in summer there are no problems getting a spaceSince COVID parking demand has decreasedParents not able to enter the school to pick up/drop off their kids, so more 'kiss and ride'More parents walking to pick up their kids |
| Could be improved / added |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Separate entry and exit for the car park is well supported by the community – all except one interviewee supported the ideaOnly reason not to support was due to the cost of constructing itOne parent noted they were once locked in the carpark. They were able to find someone to unlock the gate quite quickly. |

Safety / security

| Don't change / elements that are liked |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cutting the hedges around the outside of the park was the best thing Council ever did. Significantly improved the feeling of safety, and 'dodgy' things happening in the park. |
| Could be improved / added |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">There are lots of magpies in Spring, some can be quite aggressive in their swoopingSome 'dodgy' people hang around in the carpark – it would be better if the car park was moved further away from the playground for this reason. |

Toilets

| Don't change / elements that are liked |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Don't move the tennis/playground toilet facilities. Parents of small children need the toilets nearby |

- Central amenities block may get congested if being used by sports clubs, tennis club and playground users at the same time.

Could be improved / added

- Generally a bit shabby
- Needs better signage
- Kids have fallen down the steep staircase of the playground amenities building.
- If tennis/playground amenities building is removed – there needs to be a clear, accessible, safe walkway from the tennis courts to the central building. Safe enough for kids to walk by themselves.
- May need to improve sightlines from the playground to the amenities building.
- “I live nearby, so can travel home to go to the toilet – but that is very annoying, especially when there are two toilets right here in the park”

Playground

Don't change / elements that are liked

- The amenities block near the playground acts as an informal playground for some kids to climb and play on.
- Water station that was added to the playground was a great improvement.

Could be improved / added

- Playground could be larger – very busy after school on some days
- The park doesn't cater to a wide variety of ages – mainly low primary school age.
- Not safe for very young kids, lots of trip and fall hazards (especially the rock garden in the centre of the playground)
- Not interesting for older kids
- A big water park or water integrated into the play equipment (water obstacle course)
- A trampoline
- Tunnel and a kids cubby house (in the green areas)
- A separate play area or more equipment for smaller/younger children (e.g. preschool age)
- More swings (lots more swings) of varying types and sizes for different ages, e.g. swings for babies
- Higher fences around the park so kids can't climb over them, and some improved safety around the pole near the gate and the trees in the play area (e.g. timber cladding to stop kids climbing the trees – example given of Reynolds Park)
- A big long metal slide
- A slide for babies
- A sandpit
- More trees
- Fix up the unused spaces within the play area (especially in the corners) with additional play equipment
- Something to ride bikes and scooters on/around
- A climbing rope
- More bubblers with better plumbing – comment that sometimes the water comes out brown
- Toilets that are open – they need a code to get in and no one knows what it is
- Better maintenance – gates sometimes get stuck
- Remove the bench on the left of the gate from the carpark entrance and the white pole as well
- Covers that keep the rain off (sun shades are only protecting from the sun)
- A hall or space to hold a birthday party in
- A sign saying 'no littering' and more bins
- More signage about no dogs, or have a separate dog area – people bring their dogs into the play area and some kids are scared

Adult exercise equipment / Circuit track

| Could be improved / added |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An exercise place for parents was supported by numerous interviewees – in particular, parents of children who attend Toongabbie Public School A circuit track was support by many interviewees, including members of sports organisations. They didn't feel the walking track would detract from the sports fields. Add adult exercise equipment close to the playground for adults to work out while they can watch kids Adding a volleyball net, or polls for a net: There is a group of 20 people that have been playing every week for the last 5 years. Typically on Sunday from 2 or 4pm, for 3-4 hours. |

Shade / seating /BBQs

| Don't change / elements that are liked |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BBQs don't fit in with the use of the park Given the history of the park, they may get vandalised. |
| Could be improved / added |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seating and shade is needed. Not many places to sit out of the sun, in particular on cricket field 3. Parents often sit around the main amenities building, far away from their children's cricket games |

Sports facilities

| Don't change / elements that are liked |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket nets are well used |
| Could be improved / added |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestion to add a cricket training pitch – additional hard surface to practice, that doesn't need to be a full field to play games. Parent left the Colts cricket club because the cricket pitch was low quality and always flooded Some people are good about sharing cricket nets with another user – taking turns at using it. Others treat it as first come first served. Suggest prominent signage to promote sharing. |

Favourite parks

| Park | Reason why |
|-------------------------|---|
| Parramatta Park | A great park that caters to kids of all ages |
| Reynolds Park | A big variety of things to do Lots of climbing opportunities for slightly older kids Bike track is always heaps of fun. |
| Reynolds Park | Nearby – can walk to it. A variety of play equipment |
| Binalong Park | "Binalong Park is my favourite park because it is close to school and the kids are able to do all different activities and sports here, it's easy for me to watch my kids from one place" |
| Binalong Park | "Kids can play on the playground, dad can play volleyball and mum can chat (at Binalong Park)" |
| James Ruse Reserve Park | "Heaps of different activities for kids, and the waterpark is great" |

05: Online survey results

A survey was shared with local residents and users of the park between 7 December 2020 and 4 February 2021. In total 374 surveys were completed, with 341 received online and 33 hardcopies. There were some minor variations between some questions online and via hardcopy. These have been accounted for and noted throughout the following results.

4.1 Survey respondent demographics

Survey participants were asked three questions to establish their use of Binalong Park. Responses showed most people visit the park several times per week, live nearby, and drive their car or walk to the park. The responses to each question are shown in figures 1 – 3 below.

Figure 1 Response to survey question: How often do you visit Binalong Park currently?

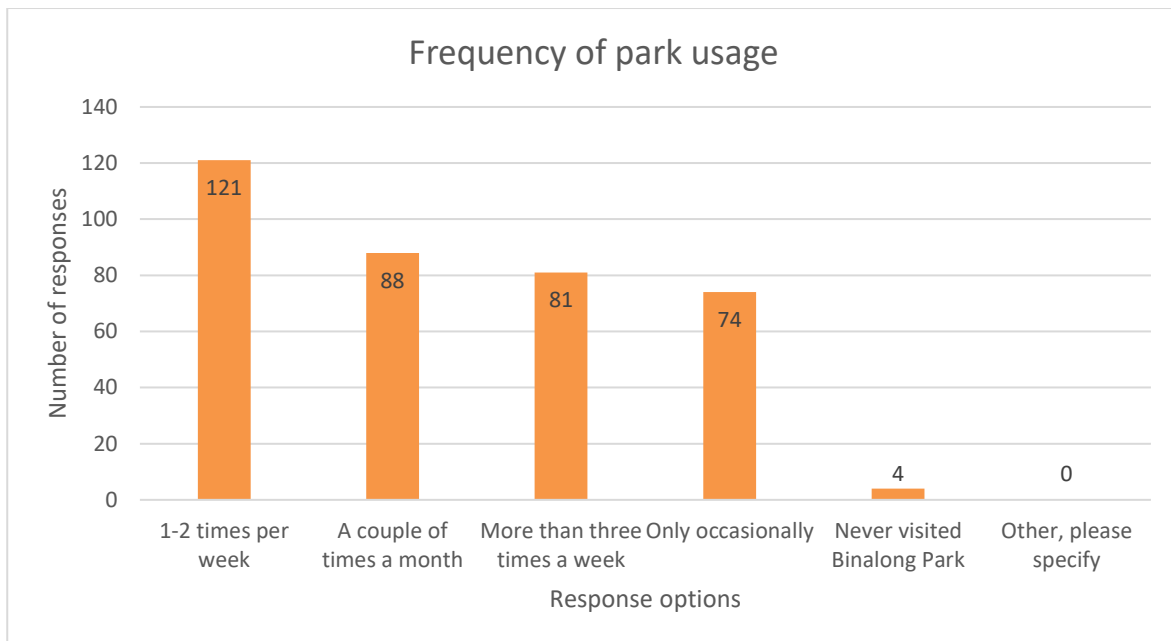


Figure 2 Responses to survey question: How do you get to Binalong Park? (Not included in hardcopy survey)

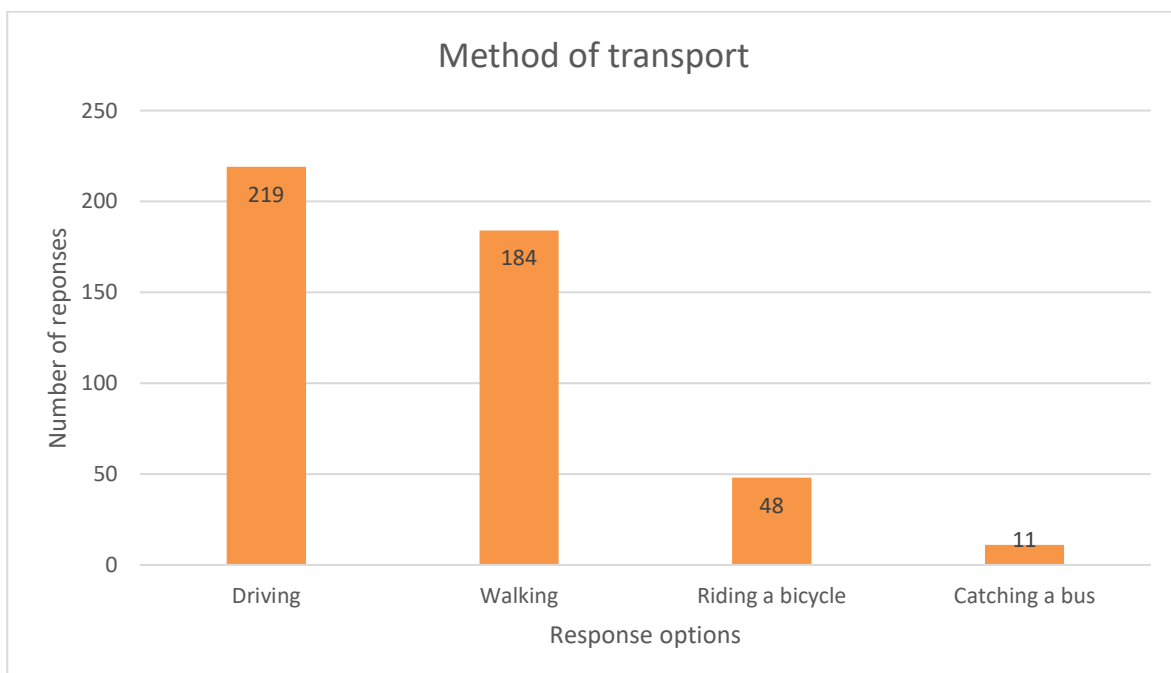
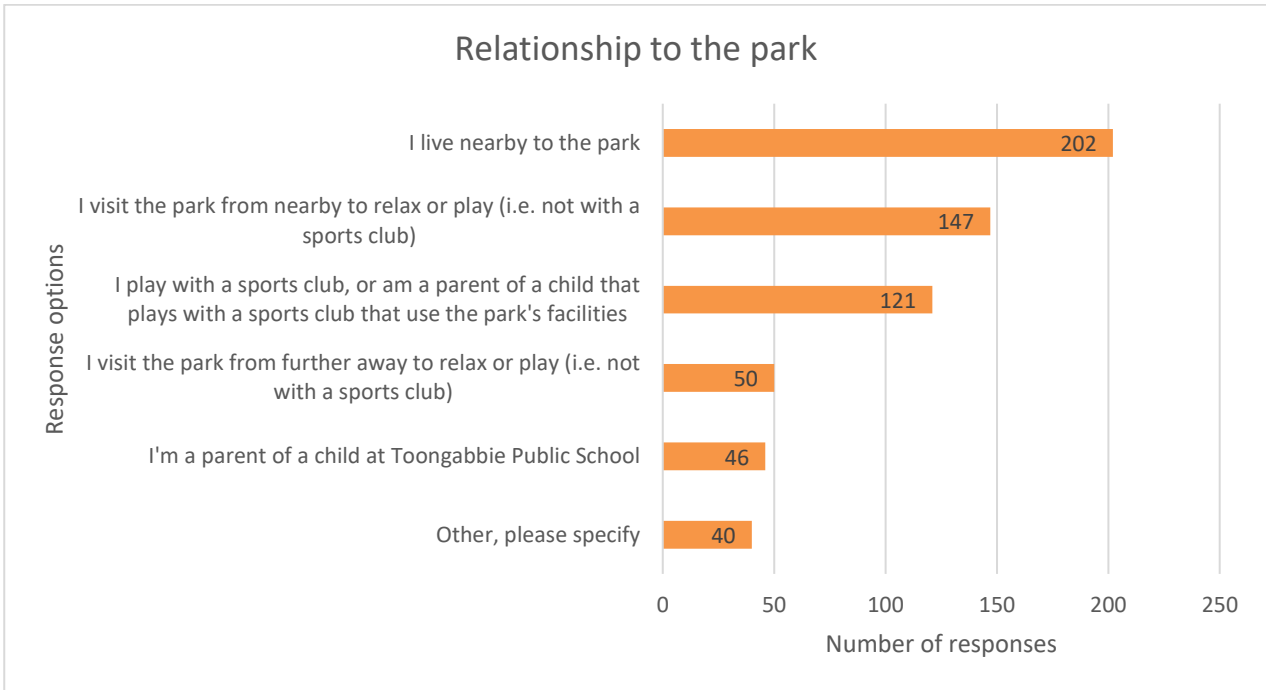


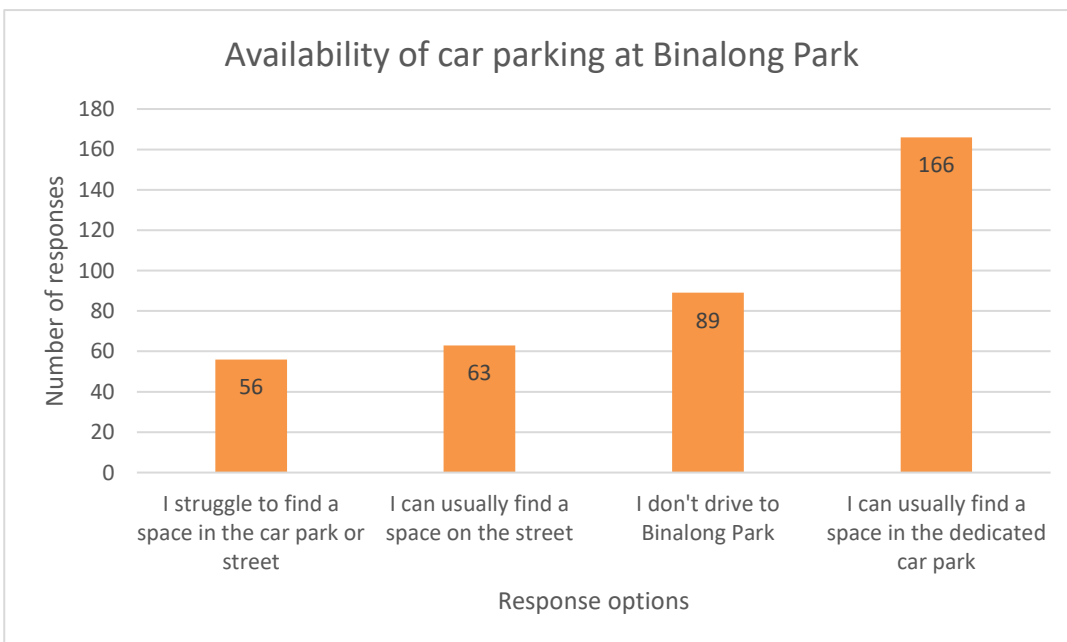
Figure 3 Responses to survey question: What is your relationship with Binalong Park? (Not included in hardcopy survey)



4.2 Availability of car parking

As shown in figure 2, 48% of survey respondents drive to Binalong Park. Most noted they could usually find a space in the dedicated car park or on the nearby streets, though 56 of responses noted they struggle to find any parking.

Figure 4 Responses to survey question: What is your experience of car parking at Binalong Park?



Survey participants made additional comments on parking at Binalong Park. The common themes among participants were:

- Parking congestion and overflow of cars during sporting events. Suggestions included more parking spaces and opening the second car park during these events.

- Confusion about car park markings and signage. It was commented that drivers do not use the entry and exit to the car park properly, and that maintenance to the pavement and new painted lines would be encouraging.
- Safety: lack of safe pedestrian crossings and signage to ensure safety, especially for children, as well as poor lighting at night during sporting events.
- Absence of traffic flow management. There is difficulty amongst drivers coming and going out of the car park, parking on the street when the lot is full, and lack of visibility when attempting to leave the car park.

Following is a sample of comments received:

- “ More parking required. Or at least access to all the parking all the time by removing emergency gate that blocks of half the parking, particularly for school pick up.
- It can be dangerous at night when netball and soccer training is happening it is not lit up enough and worried children will get run over.
- It's a bit hard getting out of parking when there are lots of cars parked in the street too - it's a bit hard to see oncoming cars.
- If I don't find a slot in the car park, I can certainly park in the adjacent parking area or along Binalong Road. Please don't waste public money on renovating car parks.

4.3 Relocating and reconfiguring the courts and the car park

The next survey question noted that the carpark at Binalong Park separates the basketball/netball courts from the tennis court and playground. Council is considering grouping these courts in one location within Binalong Park to improve sight lines and vehicle entry/access. Survey respondents were asked if they agreed with this idea. 83% of respondents agreed with this suggestion as shown at Figure 5.

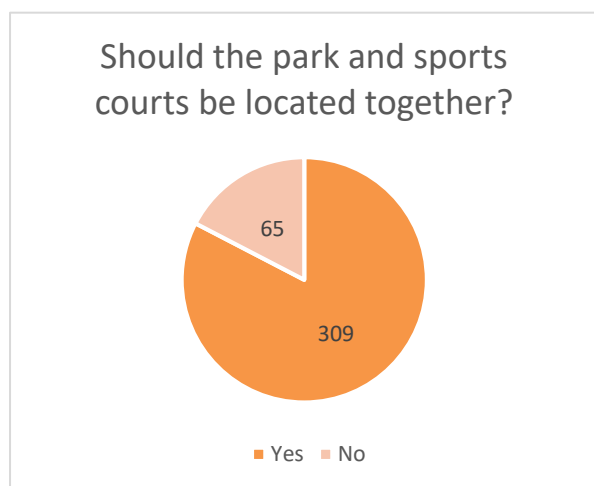


Figure 5 Responses to survey question: The car park at Binalong Park separates the basketball/netball courts from the tennis court and playground. Council is considering grouping the courts in one location within the park to improve sight lines and vehicle entry/access. Do you agree with this idea for improvement?

Reasons given for not being in favour of this proposal were:

- The expense/cost of this change;
 - Crowding of court areas / too many people and the potential for noise impact on one set of courts from another (e.g. on a tennis match when basketball or netball is being played);
 - Separate car parks avoid crowding and enable separated flow of people and traffic;
 - There is sufficient street parking already; suggestions of guardrails to demarcate parking and pedestrian or play areas;
 - Parking would be further away from the school, making it more difficult for students on hot/wet days;
 - The courts would be unavailable during the construction period / construction impacts;
 - Impacts to existing trees;
 - Retain the existing number of courts;
 - Impact to accessibility, e.g. additional walking distance from car park to recreational activities for elderly or disabled;
- Concerns for safety and conflict between user groups/different ages.

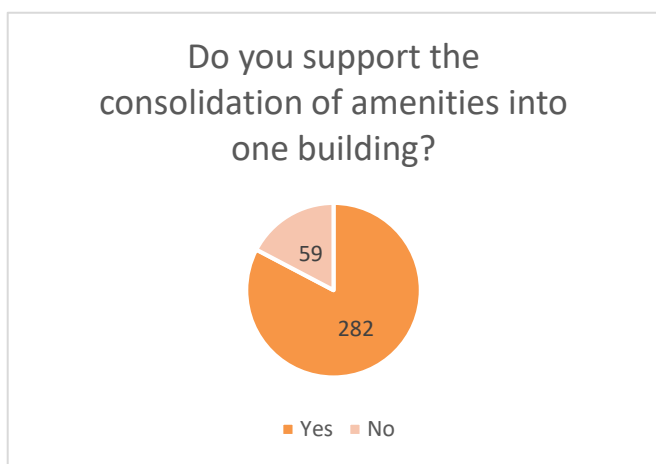
Those in favour did note the improved safety this option could offer, while others commented that more parking was needed. One respondent suggested using the netball/basketball court for parking. Some commented they did not understand what was proposed and would like to see a drawing/plan. One respondent noted to keep the active areas away from residents.

Additional facilities suggested include: more and better cricket nets and practice areas; more spectator seating; more bins; less areas taken up by sheds; more slides and flying fox for children; better lighting for tennis and netball courts; four netball courts with tall fencing; more tennis courts with plexi cushion surface; increase number of disabled parking spots; and an indoor basketball/volleyball court.

4.4 Amenities buildings

Online survey respondents were asked about their support for the option to consolidate the two existing amenities buildings into a new centrally located single amenities building to service the sporting facilities, courts and playground. 83% of respondents were in support of this option.

Figure 6 Responses to survey question: We are considering consolidating the two existing amenities buildings to one new centrally located amenities building which services the sporting fields, tennis/netball courts and playground. Are you support of this plan? (Not included in hardcopy survey)



Survey respondents were able to provide additional comments about the amenities buildings via a comments box. Key themes in the comments were:

- A single central amenity block will save space in the park and make more room for future builds and playground for children. The amenity building would need be central, easily accessible, and that as long as the scheduling of sporting events and activities was managed it would benefit the community.
- A new building will encourage and reassure users that maintenance is completed on a regular basis. Respondents commented that the current amenity buildings were old, outdated, and unclean.

- Better value for the park – this is considered for both the local community and government land use. Consolidating the buildings will create better and newer facilities, would make the space more user friendly, foster and grow community relationships, and creating an overall advantage to the current land use.

Following is a sample of comments received:



Frees up space for ground. Could consider multi-purpose clubhouse, including a canteen and function area. The freed up space could also help include additional crickets nets practice areas.

Ideally all clubs could share one major, improved, state of the art sports building. Funding could be compiled for better lighting, meeting room facilities for all clubs to use, kitchenette, a projector/ tv to display presentations for meetings and training for coaches and umpires, individual club storage facilities for equipment, upgraded amenities, notice boards and signage areas for clubs that use the ground

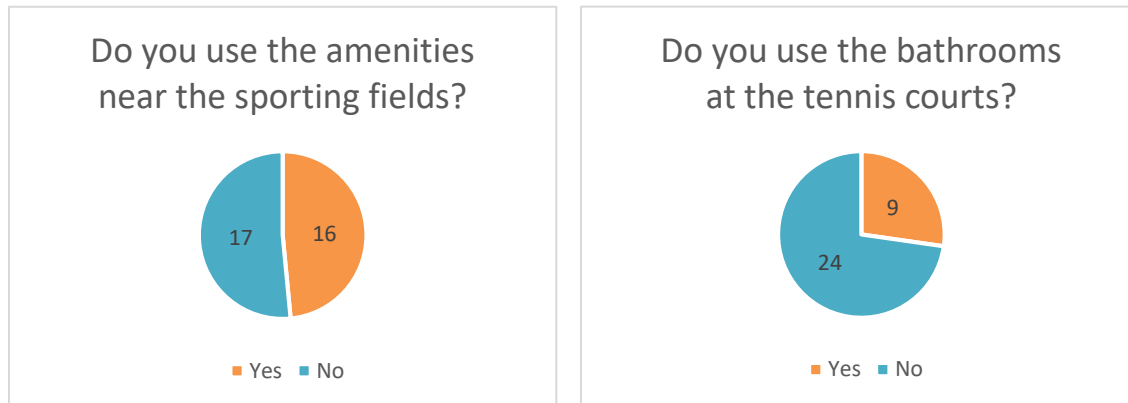
There will be less space taken by buildings and all will be in one space. However, toilets will need to cater for mums with children and babies including feeding area.

The tennis one is usually locked anyway. It makes sense to consolidate these amenities as long as there access after school hours so the children could use. It would be also be useful to have a unisex toilet so that parents could supervise young children while they go to the toilet

I don't think you need a new amenities block, just one that is open for people using the playground to access. Toilet access for kids and families is desperately needed.

Hardcopy surveys did not include this question, however respondents to hardcopy surveys were asked if they used the amenities near the sporting fields or at the tennis courts. Most respondents indicated they did not use either bathroom at the park. Those that did generally used the bathrooms near the sporting fields. Most feedback indicated that the bathrooms were often locked when they used the park.

Figures 7 and 8 Responses to survey questions: Do you use the amenities near the sporting fields? and Do you use the bathrooms at the tennis courts? Hardcopy surveys only.

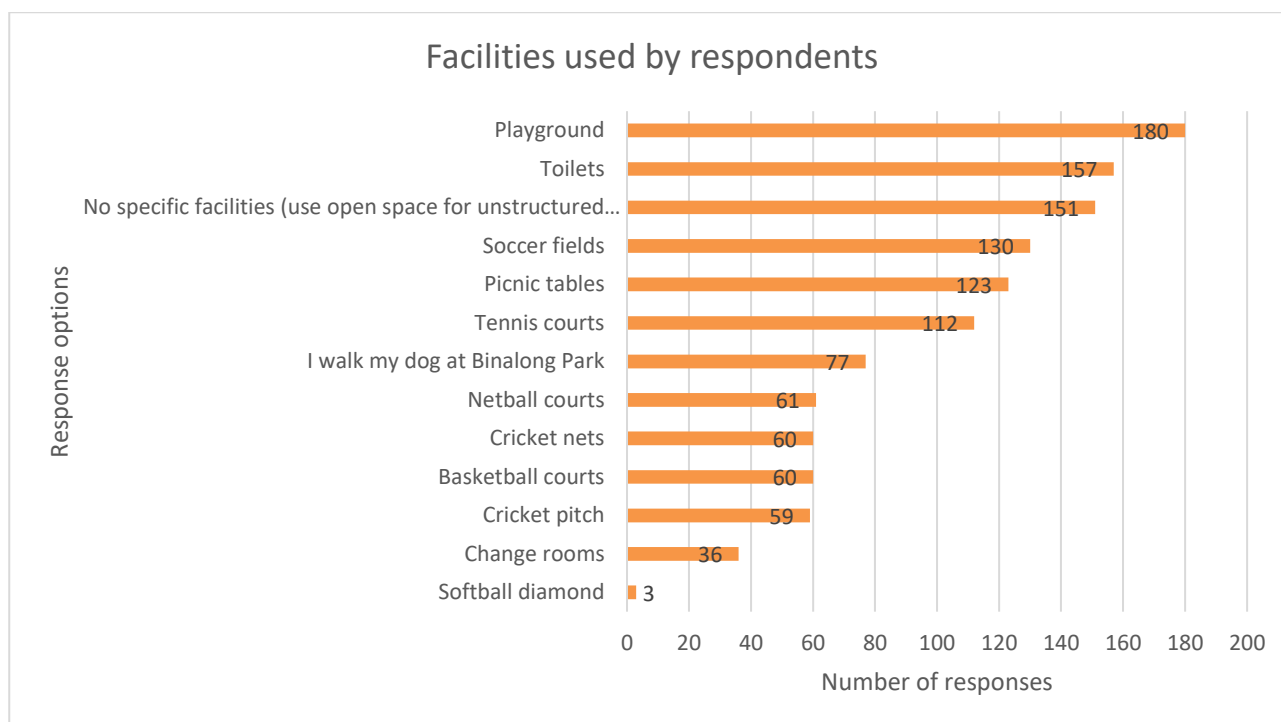


4.5 Facilities

Online survey respondents were asked to indicate which facilities they currently use when they visit Binalong Park. The top responses were, in order:

1. Playground
2. Toilets
3. Open space for unstructured recreation such as walking, jogging and relaxing
4. Soccer fields
5. Picnic tables
6. Tennis courts

Figure 9 Responses to survey question: Which of these facilities do you use when you visit Binalong Park? (Not included in hardcopy survey)



Survey respondents were asked to rank in priority order some of the improvements being considered by Council. Online survey respondents were provided with six options while hardcopy survey respondents had five options. Rankings have been developed separately for the different survey types to account for the variation in options. Rankings were established using a point system based on the priority/preference given by each survey respondent. Note the option to merge the overflow carpark was not offered as an option on the hardcopy survey.

The rankings from highest priority to lowest were:

| Online survey | Hardcopy survey |
|--|--|
| 1. More trees around seating areas | 1. A circuit track for walking around the park perimeter |
| 2. A circuit track for walking around the park perimeter | 2. More trees around seating areas |
| 3. Adult exercise equipment | 3. Adult exercise equipment |
| 4. BBQs and picnic areas | 4. BBQs and picnic areas |
| 5. An indoor community meeting space | 5. An indoor community meeting space |
| 6. Merging the overflow carpark | |

4.6 What people love about Binalong Park and what needs to be improved

Survey respondents were offered the opportunity to provide a free text answer about what they love about Binalong Park as well as what they would improve.

Responses were grouped into four main themes:

- **Access to sporting activities:** sporting events and courts in Binalong Park are important for the local community. The space allows for multiple sports to be played at once, with courts and pitches for sports like tennis and pickleball, netball, basketball, soccer and cricket. The popularity of the tennis courts was particularly referenced.
- **The opportunity for families to play:** families like to use the park together, and it is a great space that fosters community. The park has facilities for children of all ages, with responses praising the number of activities that inspire children to play, and the fencing for safety to ease parents and caregivers
- **The location makes it access for the community:** respondents noted they can walk to the park, with the locality creating easy access for local residents and visitors alike. The responses that referenced how close to home the park is was mentioned several times.
- **Overall use of space:** The size of the space, the use of trees and green space, and the children's play area are stated in their comments. Community members enjoy the open space of the park, the shade over the play areas, and children being able to enjoy the park and run around.

Following is a sample of comments received:



It's large and that allows me to enjoy it for many activities, even just to escape from the house some days and take a break. It's great because it doesn't cost me money to enjoy it and I don't have to travel far to enjoy an open space.

It is a great community space. My children have used the cricket, soccer and tennis facilities and it is part of the community. It is engrained in the local Toongabbie community.

Lived nearby 46 years, have often taken my 3 children and 8 grandchildren to the playground for play & activities.

Big space to walk and run. Cricket and soccer games are good here. Hiring tennis courts is easy and affordable. Netball rings have been good too. My family has used this park for all these reasons regularly over many years.

Survey respondents were asked what improvements they would like to see in Binalong Park. Responses are grouped into three main themes:

- **Increase in existing activities and infrastructure** to accommodate population growth. This included more trees, more parking and more play equipment. Respondents noted
- **Maintenance for current equipment and facilities.** Suggestions included drainage, upgrades to the existing buildings, better fencing, and better lighting.
- **New amenities.** This included additional sporting activities, a café for families, new safety measures, relocating courts or goal posts.

Following is a sample of comments received:

I think the park generally is under utilised, with exception of the sporting fields. The amenities building is under-utilised, the car park is patchy and the netball courts, tennis courts and playground are located all over the place. Without looking to reconstruct the entire park, I'd consider replacing the netball courts with parking, putting in trees and a walking track around the main oval. BBQ/picnic areas could be installed on the hill next to the canteen.

More covered seating areas. Toilet facilities available every day for people using park and passers by, say 5-7 daily.

The cricket nets do need some major upgrades. The exposed concrete means all the ball get ruined really quickly and it is damaging to the bowler running on the concrete. Plus the concrete is not flat and ball can take off from the cracks and hit people a lot. It was only like the other day my mate got hit by a returning ball in the head.

Indoor sports facility - like tennis, badminton, table tennis, etc. so that community can use facilities, irrespective of weather.

A cafe would be fabulous. The park / cafe combination is something our community is seriously lacking. It would make it even more of a meeting point.

Secure on-site storage for pickleball nets and equipment, light coverage for tennis courts need to extend beyond tennis baselines so that the full pickleball courts are lit for night time games, and additional pickleball courts to accommodate growing sport in the area/community.

4.7 Additional comments

An open ended question of the survey asked participants to leave comments, questions, or concerns not addressed in the survey. Several respondents noted the improved management of Binalong Park in recent years and were pleased the park upgrade was being considered. Others made suggestions for additional upgrades such as more tennis courts, cricket nets, water play, a skate park, and accessibility for all users.

Following is a sample of comments received:

Binalong is one of my favourite parks around the Parramatta area and is a really great community hub. My major concern is the lack of cricket nets as they do not accurately represent the demands of locals who are passionate about cricket..

The management of the park has improved tremendously over the past few years

Many elderly people use the park, their mobility needs should be considered.

More tennis courts please

I would like to Binalong Park to be inviting and well presented for the community to be proud of and for other people in different communities to come and visit and enjoy the space and facilities

I would really love to see a few small water activities incorporated into the playground design.

06: Social media responses

A competition was run on Instagram encouraging local members of the community to share photos of their favourite parks and use the handle #binalongparkmasterplan

Four entries were received, they were:





 **parraparents** • Following
Wangal Centenary Bushland Reserve

 **parraparents** NEW playground alert and she's a BEAUTY! Love  the nature based playground, with water and sand play, cute boat to sail away in, the best sounding park xylophone around and a fun wooden climbing play gym.  

Plus the views over Parramatta River are lovely, there's BBQs, toilets and a beach to play on. It's such a gorgeous spot... just be prepared to walk a bit if you're driving as there's limited parking near the park. Alternatively, you can park over at Putney Park and catch the free Mortlake Car Ferry across for some extra fun (pedestrians can go on it). Just make sure to check the timetable.

 Liked by **thesocialcanvas** and 81 others

DECEMBER 14, 2020


 Add a comment... 



 **angielve** • Follow
Parramatta Park

 **angielve** @atparramatta
#binalongparkmasterplan
#summerwhereitsat #sydneyfestival
#symphonyinthepark

2w

 Liked by **hamstagramma** and 1 other

JANUARY 23

 Add a comment... 



an ERM Group company

Sydney office

Level 15, 309 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
Locked Bag 3012, Australia Square, NSW 1215
T 02 9955 5040

Melbourne office

Level 6, 99 King Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
PO Box 16215, Collins Street West VIC 8007
T 03 9005 2030

E info@kjassoc.com.au | www.kjassoc.com.au